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# Fire & Ice

By Michael Konyves

My father's kingdom  
was a peaceful one.  
It was a land  
of prosperity, gentility,  
and an appreciation of freedom  
which my father valued  
above all else.  
Had it not been such,  
I would not be who I am.  
Instead of riding across open fields  
and hunting with my father,  
I would be sitting with my mother,  
hands folded,  
knitting stockings and such.  
And entertaining boring young men  
who would fulfill  
my mother's dreams for me  
to be the perfect princess  
in dresses and jewels,  
married of by the age of 18.  
But my father didn't see  
the world that way.  
As his only heir,  
I was able to enjoy  
all the adventure life had to offer  
as if I had been born a prince  
instead of a princess.  
So my mother  
lovingly frowned on us both,  
and hoped one day I would meet  
my match and come to my senses.  
Are you enjoying yourself, Augustin?  
Ah, my lovely daughter.  
Just in time for lunch.  
How was your morning ride?  
Wonderful. She's the best horse  
I've ever ridden.  
Mm, good. Just stay out  
of the Isma Woods.  
The tree people won't care  
if you are a princess.  
They'll rob and kill you either way.  
I know, Father.  
On, I'm starving.

Please, use your fork, Luisa.  
What would I do without you, Mother?  
Luisa, have you been in touch  
with the Duke of Tagendor?  
His mother said  
he's quite interested in you.  
We exchanged a few letters,  
but he's such a bore.  
Everyone bores you.  
Father doesn't.  
Flattery will get you everywhere.  
Luisa, you have to start thinking  
about marriage.  
It's not right for a young woman  
your age not to be married.  
Look at the way you dress  
and carry yourself  
like one of your father's  
stable hands.  
That's no way  
for a princess to behave.  
I'm not concerned  
with marriage, Mother.  
There are far more important  
and interesting things  
to put my efforts into.  
Like what?  
- Riding.  
- Fencing.  
Hunting.  
All right, enough.  
Is marriage such a bad thing?  
Not always.  
What was that?  
My King, Queen Remini,  
are you all right?  
Yes, we're fine, Paxian.  
Send some men to the village  
to tend to the injured.  
I'd like to go, too.  
I'm sure they can handle it.  
I'm sure they can,  
but I'd like to see for myself.  
I think it's good for Luisa

to be with her people.  
Oh, oh! Ohh.  
Luisa.  
Get inside. Inside now.  
Here, come with me.  
Hold on.  
This way, this way!  
Here, under here.  
Luisa's down there.  
Send some men to find her.  
As you wish.  
Cover your eyes.  
Don't look.  
We weren't prepared for this.  
Let's go. Come on.  
Your Highness,  
you should go back inside.  
Men, get ready!  
Do not fire  
until he's almost upon us!  
Wait.  
Get ready.  
Aim for the head.  
Fire!  
Luisa, are you all right?  
Find her parents.  
Thank God you're safe.  
Where did the dragon come from?  
Paxian, we haven't had  
a dragon attack in over 20 years.  
I don't know.  
Find out. I don't think it'll give up  
so easily next time.  
That day was only the beginning.  
The fire dragon returned to Carpia  
every few weeks.  
Sometimes to feed,  
sometimes it seemed  
just to inflict destruction.  
There was nothing  
my father could do.  
Within three months, our kingdom  
was almost destroyed.  
For the children.

Come back here! It's mine!  
People are turning on each other.  
They're starving to death.  
May I suggest there may be  
other things more appropriate  
for a princess  
to concern herself with?  
Really? And what do you consider more  
appropriate than my kingdom?  
- Luisa, that's enough.  
- But, Father, he's not...  
Come, let them speak alone.  
- But, Mother.  
- Luisa, please.  
You can't act that way  
in front of your father.  
I don't like Paxian.  
He treats me with no respect.  
Even if that were true,  
it doesn't mean  
you can behave in such a way.  
He is your father's advisor,  
not yours.  
Now, go to your room.  
- But...  
- Now.  
I've just received word  
that King Quilok  
is requesting a meeting with you.  
Quilok? What does he want?  
He is willing to open the doors  
of his kingdom to you and our people.  
But he wants you  
to surrender allegiance to him.  
That little snake.  
If I thought it were possible,  
I believe he sent this dragon  
after us himself.  
We've run out of options.  
We may have to consider his offer.  
Why hasn't the dragon  
attacked his kingdom?  
He must have something  
protecting him.

Perhaps it's just luck.  
Your Highness,  
desperate citizens of Carpia  
have gathered outside the castle.  
Should we allow them entry?  
Absolutely not.  
They are starving out there.  
They are not our responsibility.  
Until King Augustin  
surrenders to our kingdom,  
his people will remain  
at the mercy of the elements,  
or the fire dragon,  
whichever comes first.  
My father could never see  
beyond our little province.  
It's all going to be  
so different so soon.  
I want you to put more men  
around the dragon.  
Yes, Your Highness.  
What about Knight Alador?  
Oh, with all due respect,  
that is not something to consider.  
Well, he's the only man  
to ever kill a dragon.  
He is a traitor.  
The Knight Alador was banished  
by King Quilok for treason.  
It's no secret that King Quilok  
was envious of Alador.  
Nevertheless, Alador's knighthood  
was taken from him...  
the most serious of punishments  
that can befall a knight.  
And it is in strict violation  
of our treaties  
to employ a knight  
which has been banished.  
I know what the treaties say,  
Paxian.  
My father was part of the counsel  
that wrote them.  
But the future of the kingdom

is at stake.  
Forgive me, Your Highness,  
but it's you who told me  
that when a king begins to choose  
which laws to follow  
to suit his own needs,  
he has been corrupted  
by his own power.  
Mother, you scared me.  
You're eavesdropping.  
No, I just didn't want  
to disturb them.  
Luisa, I already asked you once  
to go to your room.  
Now, please, do as I ask.  
Who is the Knight Alador?  
Luisa, stay out of it.  
If this is a man who can help,  
we have to find him.  
Now, who cares what he did?  
Half our soldiers are former  
thieves and criminals...  
what's the difference?  
Are you saying you know how to rule  
a kingdom better than your father?  
No more than Paxian thinks he can.  
Paxian is the King's Chief Advisor.  
Well, then he's not a good advisor.  
That's not your business.  
Father doesn't want to see it,  
but you know I'm right.  
Alador defeated an ice dragon  
for King Quilok I.  
After he died, King Quilok II claimed  
that Alador turned against him.  
I wouldn't believe anything  
Quilok says.  
That's beside the point.  
Alador is banished.  
Anyway, Luisa, go to bed,  
and it will slip my mind to tell  
your father about your spying on him.  
I don't want to hear anymore  
about this from you.

Good night.  
I'll send in your maid.  
What are you doing? You are supposed  
to be dressing for bed.  
I am going to the Isma Forest  
to find this mysterious Knight Alador  
everyone is talking about.  
You should not be going anywhere  
at this hour.  
Especially not to Isma.  
I am going, and I can protect myself.  
I know he must be in Isma.  
If I were Alador,  
that's where I'd be hiding.  
And that's where I'm going  
to find him.  
- Don't move!  
- Aah!  
A girl?  
A princess.  
I am Princess Luisa of Carpia.  
So you are.  
Did you know we had the Queen  
of Persia here only the other day?  
Lovely woman, spoke well of you.  
I am the Princess of Carpia.  
Yes, yes.  
Yes. Well, are princesses  
wearing boys' clothes these days?  
Our coat of arms.  
It certainly looks like it.  
I'm looking for the Knight Alador.  
Alador?  
Do you know him?  
What do you want  
with a man like that?  
I have a proposition for him.  
Yes. But it's not safe here.  
There's something coming. Let's go.  
Oh, could it be the Knight Alador?  
I doubt that very much.  
Now, come on!  
Tree people.  
What should we do?



Stand perfectly still.

- Will they leave us alone?

- No, they'll probably kill us.

Do you have a weapon?

A dagger.

Dagger? That's not a weapon,  
it's cutlery.

You took your time.

Who's this?

I'm Princess Luisa of Carpia.

I'm looking for the Knight Alador.

And who, might I ask, are you?

I'm the one

who deserves a thank you

before answering

any of your questions.

Is this blindfold really necessary?

I guess so.

I want to speak to Alador.

I know you know him.

Why are you stalling?

Why would the King send

his daughter to carry a message?

I volunteered.

You're still stalling.

- I don't believe you.

- Because I'm a woman?

Because as his only heir,  
you're indispensable.

A good King would send  
a messenger or a soldier.

- Or a pigeon.

- Right.

A fire dragon has been terrorizing  
our kingdom for the past few months.

It's brought destruction of a kind  
we've never seen before.

King Quilok says he will give  
our people shelter

only if my father surrenders  
his kingdom to him.

If Quilok gains that much power,  
none of us are safe.

Which is why I need

to speak to Alador.  
He's the only man  
who's ever killed a dragon.  
We need him to do it again.  
My father says he will reinstate  
his knighthood.  
I'm afraid he cannot accept.  
Why not?  
- Alador is dead.  
- How do you know?  
'Cause he was my father.  
You can sleep here tonight.  
Tomorrow you'll return  
to your castle.  
Well, Gabriel,  
what are we going to do?  
What are we going to do?  
Nothing.  
It's not our fight.  
No, it's not our fight.  
But...  
The last time my father  
fought for a kingdom,  
he was betrayed and abandoned.  
I won't let that happen to me.  
Gabriel, don't let your family's  
experience of Quilok  
color your attitude towards Augustin.  
By all accounts, he's a good King  
and a decent man.  
You're right.  
Yes, I am.  
But you're also smug.  
Yes, I'm afraid that's true, too.  
It's not our fight.  
It's not our fight.  
Bad dream?  
I was sure you'd left me.  
Leave you?  
Why would anyone want to leave  
this lovely place?  
Cup of tea?  
Why was Alador expelled by Quilok?  
Oh, I think you want to go

and ask Gabriel that.  
Where is he?  
He's outside.  
I'm not your typical princess.  
I see your weapons collection.  
Not exactly  
for ordinary fighting men.  
I also know that knights always pass  
down their knowledge to their sons,  
especially if that knight  
had such a particular skill  
like hunting dragons.  
So you're up.  
We'll escort you back.  
It's not safe for you to go alone.  
Thank you.  
No, thank him.  
It was his idea, not mine.  
Now, before we go,  
I want to show you something.  
I think you're going to find this  
rather impressive.  
You watching?  
Now that... that was just  
the mild mixture.  
With a concentrated mixture,  
I could bring down a mountain.  
That's always good to have  
as an option.  
- An option?  
- Let's get going.  
- You weren't impressed?  
- Let's pack up.  
Tell me you weren't impressed.  
You're taking everything?  
We are always on the move.  
However you can keep up.  
That's not a problem.  
Don't wait for me, carry on.  
Because of your relationship  
to my late father,  
I am making you this offer.  
If it was anyone else,  
I would have simply let

your kingdom wither away.  
Don't patronize me.  
This is extortion, pure and simple.  
You can qualify my offer  
any way you want.  
The simple fact remains,  
I can save your people  
and you cannot.  
You have two days to consider.  
Don't bother seeing me out.  
His father is rolling  
in his grave right now.  
What would you like me to do?  
Find me a miracle.  
Barring that, we may  
have to accept his offer.  
Let's wait.  
My father will be very grateful  
if you'd help us  
fight off the fire dragon.  
I do not fight dragons,  
or favor kingdoms,  
or the men who rule them.  
My father is a good man.  
His people love and respect him.  
He's willing to give up his throne  
for their sake.  
Doesn't that say something  
about him?  
Why would I care about your father?  
We need your help.  
Well, unfortunately,  
I don't need much from you.  
My father can make you a knight.  
How are things going down here?  
And I suppose you also  
don't need a large reward.  
Money?  
Oh, we like money.  
I remember what it looks like.  
Yes, money's good.  
Great.  
Perfect.  
Nice girl.

Fish are rising.  
How could you promise such a thing  
in my name?  
Do you know what the penalty is  
for falsely representing the King?  
Yes, Father, I... I know.  
Quiet. Where is he?  
They're in the waiting hall.  
Should I send for them?  
No. Just go, now.  
What?  
Do not make me regret giving you  
free reign all these years.  
Please go.  
Augustin, at least speak with him.  
This is ridiculous.  
The son of a dragon slayer?  
No, no, no.  
The son of a banished knight?  
- This is not a plan.  
- We have to consider all the options.  
King Quilok is making an offer,  
no matter how unpleasant,  
that will save our people.  
And you are entertaining a fantasy.  
His terms are extortion.  
I have to think this through.  
Nice place.  
Why am I being made to wait?  
Oh, perhaps  
they're preparing appetizers.  
You're a fool.  
Gabriel, last night we slept  
in a hole in the ground.  
This is a palace.  
I'm not too eager to leave.  
Gentlemen, the King  
will see you now.  
My daughter made you an offer  
on my behalf,  
without my knowledge.  
I knew she was a liar.  
Careful.  
Can you do what my daughter

says you can?  
Can you kill this dragon?  
It was my father who did that.  
I'm not my father.  
You didn't answer my question.  
Do something!  
Well, dragon slayer,  
the dragon has returned.  
- Oh, that's too bad.  
- Do something.  
Do it yourself.  
Gabriel, tell me now.  
Can you destroy this beast?  
That doesn't really matter.  
Yes, it does.  
It matters to the people out there,  
and that matters to me.  
If you can kill this dragon,  
I will honor my daughter's promise.  
A King's ransom  
for the dragon's head.  
- You can't possibly consider...  
- Be quiet.  
You have my word.  
What say you?  
Come.  
Steady there, steady.  
Well done, my boy!  
Good shot!  
So, you finally got  
the smoke cloud to work.  
When did you test it?  
I didn't.  
It was far too dangerous.  
I decided I would let you  
test it for me. Thank you.  
Let's have a talk with these two.  
Your Majesties,  
judging by what I saw this afternoon,  
I think we can say with certainty  
that neither I nor any other man  
can defeat this dragon.  
You fought off the fire dragon today.  
Can't be impossible.

No, he said he thought it impossible  
for any man to defeat this dragon.  
Then why is Quilok's kingdom  
seemingly protected  
from the dragon?  
A dragon is the incarnation  
of malevolence.  
It will attack in an attempt  
to destroy anything and everything  
except a dracon.  
The dracon is the sphere  
we see between the dragon's eyes.  
The dracon is, in fact, a shell...  
the egg which holds  
the dragon's offspring.  
Quilok must have a dracon  
perched atop his castle.  
And how did Quilok come  
to get the dracon?  
My father.  
Gabriel's father killed an ice dragon.  
He cut the dracon out of it.  
He is the only man  
ever to have done so.  
Every dragon is born female  
and carries with it a single dracon  
for all of its life.  
Before a dragon dies,  
it will expel its dracon.  
Then the infant dragon emerges.  
It learns quickly.  
Within a few days,  
it can feed and fly.  
Then it abandons its mother to die...  
...and flies away.  
And the whole cycle begins again.  
A fascinating lesson.  
I'm sure the King would arrange  
a teaching position for you.  
How do we kill it?  
As I said, we can't kill it.  
But another dragon can.  
Another dragon?  
You can't trust Gabriel.

We have no idea  
what he intends to do.  
He will bring  
further destruction to us.  
He's a liar, like his father!  
What do you mean by that?  
When his father was a knight  
to Quilok I,  
it was no secret  
that he hated the prince.  
Quilok I held Alador  
in very high regard.  
They were very close,  
having been through  
many difficult times together.  
So why was he banished?  
After the King died,  
Alador remained as head knight.  
The young Quilok valued  
Alador's experience,  
but the feeling was not mutual.  
He questioned every decision  
the King made.  
Alador believed  
that he himself should be King.  
Quilok had much patience with him  
out of respect for the relationship  
he had with his father,  
but he was then told  
Alador was going to attempt  
to overthrow the King.  
Quilok then put a price on his head,  
and Alador fled,  
never to be heard from again.  
He was a man without virtue...  
or morals.  
And now it seems his son is able  
to sway you into trusting him  
the way his father swayed Quilok.  
For your sake, I hope the apple  
falls miles from the tree.  
You said what's on your mind.  
You can go now.  
- Wait. I'm coming with you.



- I don't think so.  
I order you to take me along.  
I'm not a knight of your court  
just yet.  
I don't take orders from you.  
Sorry, Princess.  
I think I should send both of you  
to charm school.  
You know, my boy,  
if our plan doesn't work,  
we will have only put  
many more lives in peril.  
Well, unless there was a bit  
of my father's blood in me.  
Now, wait for my signal.  
When you're done,  
meet me back here.  
Be careful, there. Good luck.  
What do you want?  
I want you to stop treating me  
like I'm useless.  
You again?  
What are you doing here?  
Helping you.  
Now, do you see  
I can keep up with you?  
- I've tracked you down twice.  
- Helping me?  
You're sure you're not here  
to tell me more lies?  
Almost killing me isn't helping me.  
I am as capable as any man.  
Please. I've heard it before.  
Besides, I know nothing I could say  
could make you turn back.  
Well, at least you're learning.  
Just stay close  
and try not to get yourself killed.  
I'll try.  
There, there.  
I'll be back soon.  
Stay.  
Why are we stealing the dracon now  
instead of under the cover of night?

There's a changing of the guards  
in the morning.  
It's when the dracon  
is the least defended.  
And I'm going in alone.  
I want to go with you.  
I need you here. It's the best place  
to spot me when I exit.  
You then start the signal  
to Sangimel.  
Inside is all you'll need  
for the signal.  
How will you get inside?  
I grew up here.  
I know this castle  
and all its shadows.  
You be careful,  
there's tree people everywhere.  
You know I can take care of myself.  
Put down the dracon  
and surrender your weapons.  
Paxian.  
Let go of me.  
You aren't in charge here, Princess.  
I know you.  
You are the son of Alador.  
I recognize your amulet.  
Does that mean  
you're going to let me walk free?  
I'm afraid not.  
I knew you couldn't be trusted.  
How insightful of you.  
You would have made a good Queen.  
Such a waste.  
Why are you doing this?  
Augustin is weak.  
His kingdom is run by laws.  
But no law can control  
the will of man.  
All Quilok needed was a little help  
from a fiery friend.  
You're responsible  
for the fire dragon.  
It wasn't hard to do.

The fire dragon was hibernating.  
All I did was wake it from its sleep.  
You're a murderer.  
Yes. Finish her off.  
No!

- What happened?

- Paxian.

He's been conspiring with Quilok  
to destroy my father.

And they're using the dragon  
to help their cause.

- Are you all right?

- I'm fine.

We need to get back  
to the castle to warn my father.  
There's one baby that doesn't  
give you a motherly feeling inside.  
What's that?

Another one  
of Sangimel's inventions.

Given enough time,  
he can make almost anything.

What are you doing?

Letting the ice dragon know  
where to find us.

Are you sure about this?

Perhaps we should take  
the dracon back to Carpia.

If it protected Quilok,  
it will protect us.

Then the innocent people  
in his kingdom would be destroyed.

Is that what you want?

You want to be like Quilok?

As long as Sangimel's awoken it,  
this will bring it here.

Why?

It will sense one of its own kind  
in danger.

Once we endanger the dracon,  
its scent changes  
and it sends out a distress signal.

The ice dragon will follow it.

Seeing as the dragons of different

species can't abide one another,  
when the ice dragon sees  
the fire dragon,  
all hell will break loose.  
But how can you be sure  
the ice dragon  
will defeat the fire dragon?  
Sangimel's seen them both.  
He believes the ice dragon  
to be the more powerful.  
Is he sure?  
It's not something you can measure.  
If you know anybody  
with more experience,  
then I'm more than happy  
to defer to them.  
How did you allow this to happen?  
We have lost our only protection!  
You have put our kingdom  
in jeopardy as well!  
All right, this is very simple.  
Find Gabriel.  
Find him and kill him!  
Then bring me back the dracon.  
Do you think  
you can do that for me?  
Yes.  
Or is the thought of killing  
your former captain's son  
a difficult one?  
Yes.  
Honesty. I like that.  
However, if you don't think  
you can bring yourself to kill him,  
then kill yourself!  
It will make everything easier  
on the both of us.  
Go.  
This should be enough.  
Get the box.  
The box is made of lead,  
so it should block any scent or sound  
the dragon can pick up on.  
Don't we want the dragon

to be able to find it?

- Not while we're holding it.

- Right.

We just need it to draw the dragon into the general area.

Once here, she and the fire dragon will fight each other.

Now, come,

we've got to move quickly.

Where are we going?

There's an abandoned farm up ahead where we can hide.

I can't find Luisa.

Did you ask her maid?

She hasn't seen her since last night.

She wouldn't have gone out knowing the danger.

Wouldn't she?

She's your daughter.

You are the one that told her she could behave like a man.

This is the price you are paying for letting her behave like a son instead of the princess she should be!

I would never tell her to risk her life.

No, she would do anything to prove to you that she is capable of being your heir.

She must have followed Gabriel, and she's out there in the midst of all this danger.

We're going to have to wait.

They're too close.

What about the dragon?

They can't sense it in the lead box.

At the moment, they're too concerned with trying to kill one another.

And we're safe for now.

Try and get some rest.

You'll need it.

So did your father

always want a son?  
He wanted a child.  
Your father, what did he want?  
He wanted his honor back.  
My father changed  
after his dismissal.  
Service to his kingdom  
was what defined him,  
and without any,  
he slowly became more withdrawn.  
He felt empty and ashamed.  
And though he didn't need to,  
he tried his best to keep it from me.  
He still taught me everything  
he knew about being a knight.  
But even without the title,  
I was the son of a knight,  
and I should behave as such.  
May I ask how he died?  
Well, he actually died  
from having no purpose.  
He just sort of... withered away.  
He had you.  
I'm sure that comforted him.  
Yeah, well, I guess  
that wasn't enough.  
I think he would have been  
very proud to see you now.  
We can go now.  
Halt! We've been instructed  
to take you prisoners of King Quilok!  
Lay down your weapons,  
or we'll be forced to...!  
Do you really want to take your shot?  
Good choice.  
Go back to your village.  
Hello, Princess.  
We have to hurry back to the castle.  
Oh, you're welcome.  
Princess!  
Princess!  
Princess.  
Princess.  
Now, your smartest move would be

to turn around and ride home.

You'll still have time

to save your life!

- Princess, you all right?

- Yes.

Get out of here. That dragon

will be back in a minute.

- We're all going.

- No, no, no.

There's not enough room

on the horse.

No.

Look, you go.

I'll hold them off for a while.

Go!

Go!

Good-bye, my boy.

My Lord, if I may be blunt,

I think we've made

a terrible mistake.

Paxian, have you seen Luisa?

I have no idea where she is.

Perhaps with her mother?

It's not too late

to accept King Quilok's offer.

Your Highness, wait!

Stubborn oaf.

Luisa, we've been worried sick.

Are you all right?

I see you found the dracon.

Father, Paxian's a traitor.

He's been working with Quilok

all along.

Paxian? Impossible.

It's true. He nearly killed

your daughter.

Gabriel saved me.

He was just here trying

to convince me to give in to Quilok.

How could I have been so blind?

I'll go and find him.

No, you stay here.

Find a way to deal

with these dragons.

I'll take care of him myself.  
Send one of your sentries.  
Don't go after him yourself.  
He tried to kill my only child,  
and he betrayed me.  
No, this is my battle.  
Luisa, you cannot leave.  
I'll not lie for you anymore.  
Please, Luisa,  
don't put me in this position.  
It's my father. I must go.  
Please, don't tell my mother.  
I must tell her.  
I will tell her  
if you don't stop right now.  
I have no choice.  
And if you don't return,  
what will happen to me?  
It will be on my head.  
Please.  
Don't tell my mother.  
Things are bad enough already.  
Do this for me.  
I trusted you.  
Spare me the "How could you?"  
monologue.  
Your routine became tiresome  
long ago.  
How dare you.  
You have always been a weak King.  
How much strength does it take  
to plan the murder  
of innocent people?  
You were bound to be destroyed  
at some point.  
Why not by Quilok?  
I'm simply taking what I can.  
It's been a while  
since I've killed a man.  
But this shouldn't be too hard.  
You don't have the guts.  
I'm expecting a hollow echo  
when I pierce your heart.  
Finally.



I'll meet you back at the palace  
to figure out  
how we'll get back the dracon.  
No, Father!  
Congratulations, Paxian.  
You have managed  
to destroy our entire plan.  
Augustin may be dead,  
but the kingdom of Carpia  
is worth nothing  
with all the dragons attacking it.  
Their kingdom will be destroyed,  
and our kingdom will be next.  
I promise you I will.  
Your promises are worthless.  
I'll take care of it.  
We made a deal.  
You were to get your share  
for getting me their kingdom.  
Half of nothing is nothing.  
You have failed miserably.  
You think you should be  
rewarded for that?  
Of course not.  
But if Gabriel is able to defeat  
the ice dragon, it will all be fine.  
Who do you think you are  
telling me what to worry about?  
We need to get back the dracon.  
That is your job.  
And there is nothing in the world  
that will make me help Gabriel.  
Nothing.  
Why do you hate him so much?  
On his deathbed,  
my father told me  
that only by blood  
did I come by the throne.  
If it were by merit,  
he would have given it to Alador  
without hesitation.  
You had a simple task...  
to conjure the fire dragon  
so they would come to us

for protection.

Where are we now?

I can't believe that the son  
is turning out to be  
a bigger problem than the father.

How many Robin Hoods  
can one family produce?

We don't even know  
if their plan will work.

Don't be so sure about that.

Gabriel's father has killed  
an ice dragon before.

And I'm sure that his son probably  
knows all of his little tricks.

I want you to go down there,  
kill him yourself,  
and bring me back my dracon!

Myself?

Pontiero!

Yes, Your Highness.

Take this worm and track Gabriel.  
Make no mistake, you are worthless  
to me if you fail again.

I will not leave  
until the King returns.

So what's your plan?

First, I have to get the dragon  
away from the kingdom.

For her own safety,  
Luisa should stay here.

You should know by now  
that Luisa has a mind of her own.  
She doesn't listen to anyone  
but herself.

Mother.

Where have you been?

What happened?

Where is your father?

Shh, shh, shh.

It took no time for the ice dragon  
to sweep through our kingdom  
and drive a new fear into our people.

With Sangimel dead,  
Gabriel had little chance

of succeeding on his own.  
He had only a story told to him  
by his father  
of how to kill the beast.  
But with the pride of a true knight,  
he refused to show  
any fear or doubts  
as he began to put  
a plan into action.  
I'm coming with you.  
No, it's too dangerous.  
I have to go.  
My father is dead.  
He's dead  
because I brought you here,  
because I convinced everyone  
to go along with this.  
Because of me, I...  
Because your father is gone  
is exactly why you and I  
must be strong.  
Everybody is looking to us  
for decisions and guidance.  
I want to go with him.  
I need to.  
Then, go.  
Let's go.  
We have to draw the dragon  
out of the Mountain of Selot.  
What will you do?  
You'll see.  
Come on.  
Stop right there!  
Hand over the dragon,  
and your lives will be spared.  
How thoughtful.  
Pontiero, any time you  
and your men are ready,  
I'll be happy to watch  
our new friend die.  
Pontiero, that was an order  
from King Quilok.  
Do these men understand  
that if we don't defeat the dragon,

we all die?

If we're going to survive,  
we have to work together.

I think my position on that matter  
is pretty clear.

Yes, it is.

Just so you are clear on my position,  
this is where I stand.

Return and side with your King.

Anyone who goes with them  
will be killed.

To hell with all of you.

You'll all be dead  
in a few minutes anyway.

I apologize for not having lived up  
to the true spirit  
of a knight sooner.

I served under your father.

He was a good man  
and wrongly banished.

It was all a fabrication of Quilok.

I should have stood up for him then.

Thank you.

Do you know where we are going?

To the salt mine.

Queen Remini,  
your kingdom is mine now.

Really? I didn't hear  
that proclamation.

Do you think it was just bad luck  
that brought the fire dragon  
upon you?

I'm not like my father,  
who was happy sitting around  
and keeping things the way  
they've been for hundreds of years.

A kingdom, if it's not growing,  
is dying.

You bastard! You did all this!

In moments, your last chance,  
your half knight will be dead.

My kingdom will be  
the only safe haven  
for you and your people!

Do you really think  
we're going to just roll over  
and accept you as your King?  
You're naivet is only surpassed  
by your stupidity!  
Now get the hell out of here!  
I like a little bit of spirit  
in my Queen,  
but everything within reason.  
Make this easy on yourself.  
Besides, you can have  
a younger man now. Come to my...  
That was for my husband.  
Stay with the soldiers,  
they'll protect you.  
And who will protect you?  
I'm going up there with you.  
No, please. For once, just listen.  
Stay here.  
This will protect me.  
If the dragon comes near, fire on it.  
Princess, our arrows do no good.  
I don't care. We can't stand here  
and do nothing.  
Is this what you're looking for?  
Help.  
Of course, the salt.  
Salt melts ice.  
Come and get it.  
Come and get it.  
What's happening?  
Go get him, quickly!  
I'm a representative of the King.  
Let me pass, and I promise the King  
will remember this favor to him.  
No, no!  
How are you feeling?  
Alive.  
You sound surprised.  
I am.  
Well, had I known you were  
so confident in your plan,  
I don't think I would have been  
so eager to vouch for you.

Well, had I known  
any of us would survive,  
I would have asked for more money.  
I'm sorry about your father.  
How's the Queen?  
She's a strong woman.  
We've already begun rebuilding  
and joining the two kingdoms.  
Both will be richer and more secure  
than ever before.  
The doctor says  
it will take some time  
for you to heal completely.  
Yes, but I should be able to ride  
within a couple of days.  
I don't wish to overstay my welcome.  
Your welcome has no limit here.  
It's a beautiful kingdom.  
Worth saving.  
And its people?  
Especially its people.  
This is a sad day for our kingdom,  
but it is also a hopeful one.  
Gabriel, you are exactly  
the kind of knight  
I wish to have leading my court.  
I hope you've decided to accept.  
It would be my great honor.  
And my first request as head knight  
would be to ask Knight Pontiero  
to join us.  
We could use a knight  
with some real experience.  
It would be my honor.  
Congratulations.  
If I may say so, you look different.  
I hope that's a good thing.  
Oh, I would say yes.  
I guess I had a couple of these  
in my closet after all.  
Today it seemed more appropriate than  
my riding boots.  
You look perfect.  
That's not to say I won't be riding.

Well, of course not.  
And I suppose this means  
I will be taking orders  
from you from now on?  
It's about time.  
Once news  
of Gabriel's success spread,  
life as we had known it  
slowly returned to Carpia.  
The dragons were gone,  
Quilok was gone,  
and we began rebuilding  
both kingdoms into one land  
without fear of either kind of beast.  
My mother filled my father's shoes  
with grace and dignity,  
and ruled with the same fair hand  
that he had ruled with.  
As for me, she never stopped  
trying to arrange every detail  
of my future the way she wanted it.  
Only this time, for once,  
my mother and I agreed.  
What do you think of those two?  
- May I speak freely?  
- Always.  
I think they are both incredibly  
stubborn and incredibly brave.  
Two qualities necessary  
to survive marriage.  
I feel as though  
my mother's watching us.  
Yes.  
What does she expect to see?  
It's like every time I'm seated  
with a young man  
she wants me to kiss him  
right then and there.  
Every time? How many men  
have you been inviting over?  
Don't start.  
I didn't, you did.  
To the valiant men and women  
who've helped save our people.

Both those who are among us  
and those who now occupy  
our memories.

To Sangimel, without whom  
we would truly not be here.

To our King, to my King,  
who will always be our guiding light  
down the road we now travel upon  
without him.

# Tell me that just a kiss  
breaks the ice #

# Sometimes, in your eyes #

# I'll be saved

by the sword of a knight #

# Take me tonight #

# Hold me tight #

# Give me light #

# Be my knight #

# There's no right #

# We doubt fight #

# I'll be saved

by the sword of a knight #

# Don't tell me lies #

# There's no sacrifice #

# I see in your eyes #

# Fire and ice #

# Fight in the skies #

# Hell, paradise #

# Fire and ice #

# Take me tonight #

# Fire and ice #

# Fire and ice #

# Fire and ice #