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Game of Assassins

By Adam Lawson

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Freeze! Freeze!

You're under arrest.

David, we gotta go!

What are you doing?

- Get out!

- You said it was over.

You promised me.

Freeze!

Get the fuck back, man.

Throw the gun down!

Drop the gun!

Stop screaming.

Put it down!

Shit.

Enough!

Don't move!

Who are you?

Why did you attack me?

Are you hurt?

No.

- Do you know where we are?

- No.

Is that the only word
you know in English?

I was born in New Jersey.

You got any idea
how you got here?

- No. I just woke up.

- You just woke up?

You just woke up,
you decided to kill me?

Well, I didn't know
who you were.

What's your name?

- Jin.

- Jin?

Jin, I'm David.

I let you up, Jin...

are you gonna be cool?

What is this place?

I don't know.

Last thing I remember, I was...

I was walking

down Beacon Street.
I live in Boston.
I was in New York.
I don't think we're in any
of those two places right now.
I don't think so.
This metalwork, it looks like...
6th century.
You get a brochure on the way in?
I was gonna be an architect.
Where'd you learn
how to fight like that?
From the movies.
My daughters say the same thing...
- about cuss words.
- Shh. Are you hearing that?
I think I know what this place is.
It's an incinerator.
Do you think-- do you think
it's gonna ignite?
I don't know, but I don't wanna
stick around and find out.
Do you?
Are we in a dungeon
or something?
I don't suppose that means
we're anywhere near an exit.
No.
I mean, who does this?
Huh?
You sure you don't know
who might've done this?
No.
You lying to me, Jin?
Hey, don't bullshit me!
This is not a fucking game here!
You know something,
spit it out!
You have any enemies?
Anyone who would've done this to you?
There were these men.
They came in one night,
I was closing.
Robbed me.

That wasn't the first time.
Gave me no choice, you know?
I mean, a man's
gotta protect his--
his property, right?
I don't think they were even
gonna do anything that night.
It didn't matter, because I was
gonna do something.
I've been trying to forget
that night ever since.
If anyone's done this to me,
it's their friends.
- How long ago was this?
- I don't know.
It's-- it's hard to say.
A couple of weeks, maybe.
Whether or not these thugs
did this to you,
we gotta get out.
I don't know, Jin.
I think we can rule out
the Jersey gangbangers
as possible masterminds on this.
Yeah, I think so, too.
- Think it's government?
- No.
Only government builds
something this ugly.
It ain't the government.
How old are your girls?
10 and 11.
Michelle and Anna.
They play for my wife
and I every Tuesday night.
The best concerts
I've ever been to.
What about you?
What do you do?
I was a cop.
I don't think...
we're alone.
Jin. J--
Just put the sword down.

Don't shoot.
We don't know anything.
Jesus. You're a kid.
Back off or I cut him.
You hurt him and I bust up
your boyfriend!
I'm not her boyfriend, asshole.
I'm glad we cleared that up.
Now drop the knife.
- Drop the sword.
- You first.
- Fuck off!
- It's gonna be like that?
Every step.
It's your turn.
Now Why'd you attack us?
Look at you guys. You look like
the fucking cleanup crew.
What the hell are
you two doing down here?
We're on our dream vacation.
How the fuck am I supposed to know
- what we're doing down here?
- A real smartass, aren't you?
Tyler, come here.
Get over here.
- You okay, kid?
- I'm fine.
When you bleed
to death in two hours?
Come here.
- So what are you, a doctor?
- Boy Scout.
It's not perfect,
but it'll stop the bleeding.
My name's Tyler.
David. This is Jin.
She's Emma.
Well, where are you headed?
We don't know.
Figure there's a way in,
there's gotta be a way out.
Yeah, okay.
Guess we'll see you around.

Take care of your leg, kid.
Okay, guys, look,
just wait, all right?
We're down here alone, okay?
We have no idea where we are,
we're just as lost as you, okay?
We just wanna get
the hell out of here.
What about you?
Just don't slow us down.
- Where'd you meet the kid?
- In a pile of corpses.
Jesus Christ.
They're not fucking around,
are they?
Never thought they were.
Who would do something like this?
You think
they beat her to death?
That chain on her neck--
it's direct pressure on the carotid,
it sends the heart
into cardiac arrest.
- They gonna kill us too?
- No.
It's not gonna happen.
This wheel mechanism
is connected
to these chains, to the ceiling.
But it looks like if you turn it,
it can tighten or loosen.
Now why, I have no idea.
What do you think
all these symbols mean?
They're signs
of the devil's students.
This place has been consecrated
for unholy teaching.
That's what they teach you
in Catholic school these days.
There's some writing here.
"Welcome to the end
of your lives.
For once you have

survived these halls,
you will no longer be
who you once were.
You have begun the first
of four levels of the gauntlet."
"Each has a test and a choice.
Like Gideon's escape...
there is one exit,
and one way of opening it.
Begin."
What the hell is that
supposed to mean?
- Great, Emma, what'd you do?
- I didn't do anything.
Fuck.
What the fuck is going on?!
Why are you doing this?
What, is this some rich bastard's
idea of entertainment?
- It's a science experiment.
- We are gonna die down here
- without any food and water.
- Look, it doesn't matter!
All that matters
is getting out of here.
It's a game.
They want us to play their game,
that's what we're gonna do.
I just want a smoke.
What do you think this is?
I think it's a blood trough.
A what?
It needs blood to work.
You sacrifice someone,
blood drips into these grooves,
turns the trough.
- Jesus.
- Hey, guys.
Come take a look at this.
Any guesses?
That's 6-6-6.
That's a satanic code right?
Nothing.
Just about a million

different possibilities.

What is that?

I don't know.

Father?

I won't forget.

7-10-7.

What?

7-10-7.

What is that,

your old locker combination?

It's the number of the dragon.

The devil.

Okay.

Now we're getting somewhere.

Shit! Fuck!

Oh shit. Wait, all right.

Stay still, Jin. I got you.

I'm gonna lift you.

All right, it's moving.

It's moving.

All right, put your weight on me.

Tyler, I need you.

Tyler, I need your help. We gotta take the pressure off his leg. Come here.

- No!

- Get your ass over here! I need you!

- Come on, move it!

- Help me!

Stay with me, man, okay?

Put your arm around him.

He's gonna lean on you, all right?

Okay, don't let him

fall over, okay?

Hang in there, Jin.

What's your wife's name?

- What's her name?

- What?

What's her name? What's your wife's name? What's her name?

- Megan.

- Megan? Just think about Megan, okay?

And think about your

two beautiful girls, all right?

- All right. Tyler, you got him?

- I got him.
Okay. Emma!
I need your help.
- We gotta do this.
- What?
- You gotta help me.
- You've gotta be fucking kidding me.
Look, Jin is gonna bleed to death
if we don't help him.
- Now help me.
- I'm-- I'm not gonna bleed a dead body.
Look, I don't want to do it either.
I know you don't give
a shit about Jin, but I do.
- Now help me.
- This is so fucked up.
If you wanna save your own ass
and get outta here...
help me.
On three.
One, two, three.
Push. Push.
Stop. Stop.
Push it the other way.
Spin it the other way.
Spin it.
Damn it!
We killed her.
Did you hear me?
We fucking killed her.
They set us up.
Why would they
set us up to do this?
David, please.
Come on. Push.
Hold him still.
Now this is gonna hurt.
Come on.
- Who are you?
- Please don't hurt me.
- You a part of this?
- No, I'm not.
- I need help.
- How'd you get in here?

I don't remember.
I was thrown in a van and...
there were other voices.
They were almost chanting.
Then everything went dark. Then...
then I found myself here.
How many people are in this thing?
Yeah, and where are they now?
Look at you.
You're covered in blood.
Obviously, it's not yours.
They tried to kill me.
They went crazy.
Look at that girl.
They hung her up...
in the chains.
And I was lucky to escape
before they got to me.
I don't buy it, David.
She needs help.
Leave her, man.
Fair enough.
You can come,
but you stay in front.
What do you want us to do?
You want us to leave her behind?
How do you know that
she didn't spring that trap?
And now Jin is
probably gonna die
- because of--
- Shh.
Whatever.
Doesn't look good, man.
You gonna be all right?
I might lose a leg,
but other than that
I'm okay.
I just wanted to say
if you need help
with your leg...
I can help you out walking
the rest of the way.
All right.

I see you got some ink there.
You a big drinker or those
actually mean something?
You don't have to pretend
that you give a shit about me. Really.
I mean, we're all
stuck down here.
You think we can play
on the same team?
My battle scars.
What, you don't got any?
- Not a scratch.
- Oh yeah, you're so full of shit.
A girl, right?
- Me?
- Mm-hmm.
Oh, that's right.
You went to Catholic school.
I forgot.
I bet you weren't there by choice.
I didn't really choose much
of anything in my life.
To be honest with you,
sometimes I wish I could just...
start over as somebody else.
My father's voice is what haunts me,
if you're really asking.
When's the last time you saw him?
When I was eight or maybe nine.
Dropped me off
at the runaway shelter...
then he walked away.
That was it.
Oh.
Smells awful.
Oh fuck.
You've gotta be kidding.
Let's keep moving.
Let's go.
This can't be the right way.
I don't think we have
a lot of options here, guys.
How can you walk through
that dead water?

Look, it's either we go this way
or we go back the way we came.
What if you're wrong?
Then we're wrong.
Come on, let's go.
You can relax. He's all right.
It looks like he knows
where we're going.
Well, he doesn't.
We're just as lost as you are.
Look...
my father has a lot of money.
If you were to rescue me,
he would reward you.
Is there anything--
anything- that I can do
to make you remember
how to get out?
No.
There isn't.
You sure I can't
drink this water?
Yeah, I'm sure.
I don't think we're
gonna get out of here.
I'll fucking kill you.
Give me the...
Okay okay.
- What is it?
- Huh?
David.
Yeah.
What do you got?
Come here.
Take a look at this.
Okay, you remember
in the altar room
the stone that had
the combination dials on it.
It was much bigger and larger
than the others around it.
- Okay.
- Okay, now we've searched
every inch of the walls here

and there are no dials for this level.

- Yeah, saying there are some.

- You see, I think

it's on the floor,

which would

be impossible to find,

but if you look at the ceiling...

every tenth stone

is wider and larger.

It's part of the design.

- You said the floor.

- You see, the early stoneworkers

had different grooves

for the ceiling and the floor.

And in order to solve the debate,

they decided to mirror

the ceiling to the floor.

Okay, so we search

every tenth stone for the dials.

Right, but only in the center line.

Okay, let's get to work.

Oh!

Kim, who is that?

Uh... I don't know.

Is he one of the people

you were with?

No. I-I-- I don't know.

Is he one of the people

you were with?!

You know what? She's been shady

since the moment we met her.

Let's just ditch her

and get the fuck out of here!

Kim, you gotta

come clean with us, okay?

I'm s-- I'm sorry.

Let's get outta here.

Please.

Please.

You won't understand.

Try us.

There was this man.

His ugly fat ass.

He was the most disgusting freak

I've ever seen in my life.
Every girl's nightmare.
He showed up
to my class every night.
When I ask him to leave,
he wouldn't listen.
Hey! Go! Go! Eh!
He just stood there
and watch...
and watch.
One day he just
showed up from behind...
with his camera.
He was just-- he was...
He was-- I was just--
something inside-- I just--
I was just snap!
Am I being punished?
Whoever's doing this,
they're toying with us.
They want us to suffer.
One, two, three, four...
I'm sorry about earlier.
I was confused.
It's-- uh, it's all right.
Don't worry about it.
You don't look at me
like other men.
Well, um...
Where did you meet her?
- Online.
- Online?
- Yeah.
- You're kidding me. Online?
Look, you know, I can lie to you
and pretend that
I have this exciting
and original life and all that,
but... the truth is far from that.
I'm gonna be 30 next year,
and I still don't know
what I want to be,
except that I don't want
to be what I am now.

G-guys, I got it.
I think I got it.
- Really?
- Come here! I think this is it.
Yeah, that's it.
So how do we read it
to know where we're going?
Hmm?
What about a circular dam?
We're gonna need more.
In here.
Ooh.
Let me see. Let me see.
If we met out in the real world,
do you think we'd be friends?
More like a fling.
A fling?
Looks like there's some writing.
"Gideon looked and beheld death.
And the act of seven times 70..."
"...brought the harbinger of hell."
It's a riddle of some kind.
What do you think it means?
I don't know.
What's seven times 70?
- 490.
- Okay.
What is it?
It's a key of some kind.
Think it's for the exit?
So where's the door?
Everybody pick a corner,
search for anything--
something small like a keyhole,
something we missed.
Let's go.
Tyler.
- Tyler, what happened?
- Tyler, what just happened?
The the the--
the door just-- Tyler!
- Hey, Tyler, you all right?
- Guys, the water!
- Help, guys! Help!

- On three, okay? One...

Guys. help me!

Stay calm. We're gonna
get you out of here.

- Emma!

- It's not even moved an inch.

- Open the door!

- Come, look over here! Here!

Look, this way!

Guys, don't leave! Don't!

- Don't leave, please!

- Ty, it's okay. It's okay.

- Who are you?

- Morgan.

What the fuck you doing here?

I was out...

and from nowhere,
someone hit me.

I woke up here.

It's been days.

Please. Please help me.

Please help me.

Help me.

- They want us to swap.

- Swap? Swap what? What?

The girl for Tyler.

We unlock her,
we throw her in the crevice,
Tyler gets free.

Wait a minute, David.

How do you know this?

- Are you sure?

- No.

We have no time to waste.

Tyler's gonna die.

- We have to do something right now.

- No. No.

Emma?

I know-- I know why I'm here.

What are you talking about?

Oh, he always said
he was gonna do it.

He always said it.

The school thinks you're nothing more

than a stale piece of shit
- and you know that.
- What do you mean?
We make them know we exist.
I never believed him.
So why are you putting bullets in?
No no, Ron, we're scaring the shit
out of the football team,
then we're walking away, okay?
Listen, listen, you're in this.
There's no backing out
no matter what.
Okay, just shh. It's all right.
Everything's all right.
I knew what I had to do.
He deserved it.
He deserved it.
Listen, it's not your fault.
This is why I'm here.
This is what I deserve.
- What? What's going on?
- Come on, we gotta go.
Tyler, Tyler,
I'll be right back.
Emma.
I tried to stop him.
I told him.
I tried to stop him. I did.
Who is she, Emma?
Come on, you've got to talk to us!
I knew it wasn't right.
I knew it wasn't right.
Calvin didn't tell me
what was going on. I didn't know.
Please. Plea--
- You've got to believe me.
- Sh-sh-- shut up.
- Shut up.
- Please?
- I didn't know.
- Shut up!
- Please! Please!
- Shut up!
Do you understand?

Either she has to die
or Tyler's gonna die!

- We have no time.
- We have no choice.

Please.

Guys.

David.

- Give me the key.
- No.
- Do it, David.
- David.

No.

David. We got--
we gotta do this.

- Give me the key.
- No.
- David.
- Come on!

No! No no no!

Please! What are
you doing to me?

I don't wanna die!

Please! No!

No! No!

Please help me!

Help me, please!

Please!

I don't wanna die!

Please! I don't wanna die!

Emma! Emma!

Help! Please!

Emma, please help me.

Oh, Emma, please help me!

Please help me! Please help!

Please!

No! Help help!

Please, no no!

What happened? Wha...?

Oh man.

Jesus Christ.

Holy shit.

Who was Morgan?

I don't wanna talk about it.

You Okay?

Actually, I'm fine.
Well...
I did what had to be done.
The strange thing is...
I, uhm...
I don't feel any guilt.
I don't know what's happened to me.
Do you have any idea
what we did down there just now?
Yeah, but we're alive,
Tyler's alive and that
the price we had to pay.
Who was it?
Who'd you kill?
No one.
Somebody you knew well?
Was it a stranger?
- Fuck off.
- Emma, stop...
hiding from me.
You're a killer, Emma.
It's why you're here.
I've been playing shitty bars...
eight years.
And the only applause I get is
"Show me your tits."
Vice President of A&R...
he takes me into his little, uh--
his little fuck room.
All I had to do to get out was...
you know,
just shut off my feelings
for an hour and be done with it.
But I just can't.
And this guy isn't gonna
take that from me.
You know, when you ram
an ice pick
into a man's throat...
there's a lot of blood.
I mean there's a lot of fucking blood.
And that little innocent girl
that we just killed?
She put me in that room.

Get off of me.
And she left me there.
Do you think that Kim's right?
Do you think that...
this is our punishment?
I think we've all done things
we can't forgive ourselves for.
Guys, guys,
come here, come here.
What do you got?
"He was given the keys
to the nine gates
where he left those he held dear."
Nine gates, nine levels...
in hell.
What do each
of these levels mean?
Level one was for the unbaptized.
Level two for the lustful,
three for the gluttonous.
The worse the crime,
the higher the level.
So what crime fits us?
Murder.
Who goes to level nine?
Traitors.
Hey, you guys smell that?
I feel-- I feel dizzy.
What?
- There's something in the air.
- Yeah.
We gotta find a way out.
There's something in the air.
No no.
- No.
- Come on.
Don't leave her.
Don't leave her.
- God damn it, come on, Jin.
- No, David!
Where-- where's David?
How did the cage fall?
I must've pressed
a button or something.

So where do we go now?
Let's go home.
"The tear shed by the soldier
of the lamb"?
What the hell is
that supposed to mean?
David.
How did you know
those numbers?
He shed a tear for each one
of his soldiers that he killed.
David, what the fuck is going on?
David, who is in that painting?
Tell me.
Talk to me.
Tell me. Tell me.
Gideon.
He was the finest warrior
of the Israelites.
After a great battle,
he and his men were murdered
by the Midianites while they slept.
But instead of going to heaven,
they were all sent to hell.
You see,
unknown to each other,
they'd all wrongfully killed
throughout their battles.
Gideon made a deal with the devil...
who agreed to let one of them free.
Gideon felt assured
that his men would pick him.
But the devil...
had a different plan.
He gave each of them
a weapon and said,
"The last heart beating will be
the one allowed to leave."
Gideon slaughtered
his own soldiers.
His friends...
that he fought next to
his entire life.
Eventually he walked out of hell.

That's us.
I mean, we're all killers here.
How do you know that story?
My father used to tell it to me
when I was a kid.
So it comes down to this.
We can't kill each other.
All right, come on.
We're a team now.
If I have to shoot
a thousand people, I'll do it...
but not you guys.
Come on, we'll outsmart it.
- All right? We always do.
- No, we won't, Tyler.
Can't you see that? Huh?
I mean, they are getting exactly
what they want from us.
All of us.
We're the devil's students.
Now we're learning his lessons.
So that's it?
Hmm?
We're one fucking step away
from getting home
and we're stopping now?
No way.
Shh shh shh.
They're designed
to hear heartbeats.
When there's only one heart beating,
the doors'll open.
Are you sure that--
Maybe you read it wrong.
Maybe it's something else,
a different story.
Is there something
we're missing here, Jin?
It's-- it's Tuesday, isn't it?
What?
My daughters are playing.
Tyler, get out of here.
Get out of here!
Fuck!

Do you remember
what I told you, Jin?
I didn't know what I wanted to be?
You might be the only person
I've told that to,
and here we are.
In the middle of hell
I chose to open up
to a total stranger.
You were right
about this place, Jin.
And do you know
what I've learned
from this-- from this
beautiful experience?
What I want to be?
When I killed that man,
it was the best feeling
I've ever felt.
And then when I killed the others.
That's right, I lied.
I didn't run away. I killed them.
I killed them one by one!
All of them!
Then I waited for you guys to come,
and I was going to kill all of you too.
Then the curiosity took over.
I wanted to watch.
I wanted to watch how you guys
were gonna make it.
I was afraid in the first place...
what I was feeling.
But not anymore.
I'm a killer, Jin.
That is what I want to be.
That is what I truly am.
I'm sorry, Jin...
we have to say
goodbye this way.
I have no choice.
Will you stand and fight me?
I'm sorry, Kim.
What?
I was the one

that pulled the lever.

What did you say?

I just wanted to see
my kids again.

I won't fight you.

I won't.

I'm not gonna become
what they want.

Do you hear that?!

Jin.

Is Jin dead?

Throw me the sword, David.

- Tyler.

- Do it.

Is there another way
out of this, David?

Please tell me there is.

I don't know, Tyler.

- I need help, David.

- I'm trying.

I'm trying, buddy-

I'm sorry to spoil
the heart to heart.

- Okay okay.

- Okay?

David, what have you done?

David. David.

Emma.

Jesus Christ, you're all right.

Stay back.

No, you don't understand.

I believed you.

Emma, please.

Move.

- What?

- I said turn around and move.

- Emma.

- Now!

Get your hands up.

- I'm not gonna fight you.

- Shut up.

Keep walking

and get your hands up.

Higher.

Stop.

I hope your singing career works out.

I really do.

I can't do it.

I can't do it.

Why Tyler?

- He was just a kid.

- It was Kim.

I couldn't save Tyler.

I couldn't save Jin.

I'm not a killer, Emma.

Help me.

No!

Emma, come on.

Come on!

Come on!

You saved me?

I figured it was gonna be lonely.

- Who are you?

- This is the gauntlet.

It is our mission

to break the backs of pride.

It was built so you would know what Gideon felt

when he walked out of hell.

He thought he was God's servant.

But on his journey,

he came to know his true calling.

Just as you will, David.

Father.

I had to be someone else

when you were a boy

to keep the secret.

Now you get to meet

your real father.

See, I've watched you

every step of the way.

You remembered.

You remembered

everything I taught you

- about how to get through.

- You killed those people.

You ruined their lives.

You turned us
into killers for a game?
David...
this is what
you were born to become.
Everyone in that gauntlet
was handpicked to test
your leadership,
your ingenuity
and your resolve.
We are the bringers
of God's wrath,
and you will be
our hands of death.
You will bring light
to the dark world.
You're home.
You're home, David.
David.
No.
And you know the rules
of the gauntlet.
You still have one final task.
David.
All I ever wanted to be
was what you wanted me to be.
Not what you're
asking me to be now.
Emma. Emma!
Kill me, my son.
Kill me.
Take my place in here.
Do it!
Do it. Do it.
Look at you.
Look at what you just did.
This is what you are.
Who will accept you?
You no longer fit in that world.
You've become something else.
You're right.
I have.