

# **Dead to the World - Sacrifice**

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## Prologue

The rain was pouring down in all its might, buckets fell from heaven along with purple lightning that touched the ground. The purple colour during each flash gave the scene a non realistic effect. It was like staring into a different world, a different reality. This world, forsaken by God since the dawn of the new age, was home to a new breed beside humans. Monsters.

Lying in wait for his newest prey, a Greptodon, Kane was hiding just beneath a projected path the monster was taking. A beast, six meter in height. It was two legged and it had massive back legs, bristling with muscles. Its skin was a black leathery colour, very thick on the legs and lower body. The chest area was a light grey, stark in contrast to the rest of the body. It was very vulnerable at the center of its chest, in the middle of the light area where there was just skin and meat. It had unusually long arms with sharp claws at the end. The arms were covered in dark green scales, but they were still as flexible as a human beings. The only exposed area was at the joints, between its upper and lower arm, just a few centimeters. The neck was elongated and also covered in green scales, making it a safe spot for the thing. The head looked like a slab of stone. It was almost flat, eyes on top of its head and a very wide mouth, full of sharp, rending teeth. The tail was covered in small spiked areas, used to crush and pierce opponents at the same time. It was strolling casually through the plains, as if being its owner. Greptodonts were pretty rare, but that's what made them a nice target. The cost to payout factor.

Kane was as silent as the night, unmoving, unwavering. It walked right past him, almost crushing his head with its huge feet. The camouflage net he had laid on top of him had done its part, now it was time to get out and do something. He slowly pushed it aside and kneeled, observing its stride and behaviour for a few more moments.

"Soul forge, weaponize!" he yelled under his breath. Two long swords appeared a feet away in front of him, floating in mid air. He took the swords and stood up, getting ready for a sprint.

"Blood forge, incantation!" he said, a bit louder. His veins burst open and a small quantity of blood mixed with the weapons, going from a bright white to a light reddish colour. The weapons were glowing and vibrating in his hands, making for a strange sensation. It had taken him so many years of practice and self taught fighting to finally master soul and blood forging, but it was the one thing that kept him alive in this world.

The greptodon stopped walking and turned around immediately upon noticing Kane's presence, opening its mouth and snapping its jaws at him. Its legs were visibly tensing up up and folding in on themselves, partially. A second later, the greptodon launched itself towards Kane, mouth wide open, snapping its jaws as it was flying through the air. At the last possible moment, Kane ducked to the side, stabbing through the air the greptodon was traversing. Kane's swords connected and he got swept away accidentally, flying through the air for a dozen meter, still hanging from the monster's torso, connected through the swords that were sticking out of it, crashing to the ground just beside it, his hands still gripping the swords. The monster

was laying on the ground quietly, like nothing was amiss in the world, until Kane stood up and tried to pry his swords out. No luck there. The swords wouldn't budge at all. A slight nauseating feeling started creeping up his body, from his guts to his head. No matter how hard he pulled and prodded, not an inch. 'Shit' he thought to himself. 'Guess i have no other choice but to do this, u damn thing!' Kane yelled as he hit the monster with his foot. Slowly it was getting up and he had no other choice.

"Blood forge, blood surge!" Kane yelled and more blood was drawn out of him, the weapon starting to glow with a darker red hue, only a hint of white remaining. "Dont make me go to the next level u damned beast" Kane yelled again. He was starting to hyperventilate, blood rushing to his head, big drops of sweat running down his forehead, neck and eyelids. He took the swords again in his hands and tried pulling them out. Slowly they gave way and he managed to pull them out just as the thing stood up. The extra added amount of blood drawn from Kane had empowered the swords and they had begun vibrating violently, so the meat around the swords was ripped loose as he had pulled the swords out. As its legs and the lower body were huge, it had difficulties getting up, which worked to Kane's advantage. He jumped backwards for about a meter as the greptodon swiped the area where he stood a moment ago with its long arms and huge claws. It kept swiping at him until Kane crashed the arms to the ground with two hits from his swords, the long claws embedding themselves in the muddy soil, making it harder to pull them out. Kane ran up to the monster and jumped on top of its long arms, running upwards all the way to its head. The scales on its arms were a blessing, as they gave him the necessary foothold to run up without falling. As Kane was running up the arms, he tried to cut its torso, but he failed as he was in a bad spot, so instead he went for the head. He hit the neck once with full force, no luck there, the blow just deflected and he almost fell off. The greptodon managed to get one arm out of the muddy soil and slashed at Kane, straight with the claws extended. Kane jumped sideways at the last moment and the greptodon hit itself at the other arms joint, ripping its own arm off. It howled in pain as it thrashed around. Grey ooze spilling out from the wound together with a horrific sound, like cutting an animals neck. The greptodon started changing colour, as for why, Kane had no idea, nor did he care. All he wanted was for the greptodont to just die. Kane ran around the thing, towards its back, cutting at the kneecaps, making the giant stagger forwards onto its only hand, falling through with the force of the immense weight of the monsters body behind it. Kane jumped up on its back and carved his way up towards its head again, the thing trying to shake him off its back, but failing at the attempt. The lost blood was getting to Kane's head by now, so he needed to finish this as fast as possible. He jumped upwards one last time, placing his swords next to each other, bringing them down on top of its unarmored head. The swords dug in a dozen centimeters deep, stopping at its neck, the head splitting into three parts, a fountain of ooze spraying out. Kane started feeling dizzy and his sight was already becoming fuzzy. "Shit. I really overdid it this time. I have kept the blood surge on too long, but if i hadn't i would have died" he murmured to himself. He felt dizzier with the moment until he lost consciousness and landed next to the greptodon, hitting his head on a rock.

Everything was the same, every time Kane fell asleep. The same dream kept on creeping into his vision. A giant monster was ravaging the land and he stood there, swords in hand facing off against the demon. There were more shapes moving in unison with him, fighting the giant monster, but they were blurred out, everyone

except him. The whole group dies each time Kane closes his eyes, but each time differently. However, after wiping out the whole group except Kane, the demon faced him and smiled.

"It is almost time. You and me will meet very soon" the demon said and smiled, manically. The laughing kept ringing inside of Kanes eardrums, deafening him until he awoke. His head was throbbing and he was in a world of pain. There was dried blood in his hair and on his forehead and face. How long had he been out? And what the hell was up with that demon and the difference in the dream this time? Did it actually mean anything? Anything more than just a dream. A nightmare would fit the description far better. Kane shook his head and slowly tried getting up, his head a mess. His orientation was off and instead of pushing himself off the ground he just crashed into it again.

"What the fuck happened to me?" he groaned, laying on the ground, blood streaming down his head. He looks down next to himself and sees blood on a big rock. His head is still throbbing with pain and instantly his vision is blurred again. "Must have hit my head on the damn rock when i fell out of exhaustion" he said to himself. He tried to stand up but nausea floods him over. He falls down again and lays down for a while, staring up at the purple haze. Suddenly he remembers fighting the greptodon and he look around to see if its still there. To his relief it was laying unmoving a meter away from him. Good, all that trouble only to see it not there would have been a mighty blow to his ego. After all, greptodons had a few pieces that sold mighty good. Kane decided to lay down and rest for a bit longer.

His mind wandered off to the dream he just had. Twenty years have already passed since he was left alone. The helplessness he felt back then, the sorrow, the sadness. Soon he will have his revenge, just a bit longer. All the times he yearned for love, affection, for someone to take him in their arms and say "Everything will be all right, son", but there was no one. He just managed to ruin his own mood, how typical. So many times did he have thoughts about letting himself just die during combat, let his blood get used up and leave this God forsaken place. Tears started falling down his cheeks, he could not help it. There was just this empty void inside of him that could not be filled. His parents had left him as a seven year old and gone off to do the kings bidding. Ever since he had to look after himself, fend for himself, live alone, as an outsider.

After a few long heavy minutes, he tried sitting up again, this time succeeding, without the nausea and discomfort. He stood up and walked over to the greptodon. To his displeasure, a little wolfling was eating the head of the greptodon, where he had sliced it in multiple pieces.

"Why you little rascal, shoo, shoo!" he yelled at it. It just looked up at him with big yellow eyes and started growling. Damn the thing was cute. No way he could kill it. He tried kicking it to make it go away, but then, suddenly, it materialized a bigger version of itself in front of it.

"What the fuck?! It soul forged?" he yelled more to himself than anyone else present. It looked at him longingly. The weaponized version had a will of its own. It walked up to him and started licking his hand.

"By the Gods. What the fuck is going on here?" Kane murmured to himself. It drooped its head slightly to the side and shot him a glance, staring right into his eyes. "Does it understand what i am saying?" he asked himself.

"Hey little guy, do you understand me?" Kane asked. It nodded its head. What the hell is going on, Kane thought to himself again, thinking about what to ask next.

"Can you speak?" Kane asked again incredulously.

"Sure i can" it answered. Kane fainted at that exact moment.

"Wake up" a voice yelled. Kane's face was all wet for some reason. Was someone licking him? He opened his eyes to see the little thing licking his forehead. He screamed like a little girl and backed away from it.

"You! How the hell can you talk!" Kane yelled at the little creature. It was rather ironic how Kane did not find it strange to see a ten meter monster and kill it, but a talking wolfling made him squeal like a little girl. Right.

"I can not. We are communicating telepathically. Well, at least i am, you are just yelling around, mind you." it said and snorted. Kane just looked at it, incredulously and sighed. Man, he did not need any more things happening in his life that he could not explain. He had enough on his plate already. But then again, a wolfling who can talk, and, mind you, use soul forge, now that was rare as much as a behemoth, and those things are rare, like so rare that you can live a thousand lifetimes and not find one rare.

"Why did you not attack me while i was unconscious?" Kane asked confused. "I was easy prey, an easy meal for you."

"Why would i eat my master?" he replied even more confused then Kane was.

"Huh? Master? What the hell you talking about pup?".

"I do not know. I just came to be, right here next to you, beside this big dinner. You were so kind to prepare it for me, i was hungry as hell. Say, what is hell? I just say stuff i do not know what they mean, but they are in my head."

"You came to be? How the hell can you just appear?" Kane asked. He was silent, no reply. So was Kane for a long moment and then he decided to check his own soul forge.

"Soul forge, weaponize!" i yelled. A bright light erupted from his chest, forming into two swords. Nothing beside the light seemed any different. Kane took the swords in his hands, and they were lighter. He swirled them in his hands with ease. He went

over to the greptodon and tried cutting its neck. The swords cleaved through with ease, like a knife through butter. What the hell was going on?!

"Master, how should i call you?" the wolfling asked.

"Don't master me you, you, you thing. Whatever you are, you are not normal!"

"Neither are you, master. Should i just keep calling you master, master?"

"Stop it with the master already! My name is Kane, not master. By the way, am i the only one who can hear you?"

"Probably, Kane. I have no idea as of yet, but, what my mind tells me, yes, you are the only one."

"Can you hear me?" Kane thought to himself, sending the thought towards the wolfling.

"Yes i can" he replied. Neat. This was beginning to look good. A wolfling, and he was his master.

"He can soul forge, is annoying as hell, and we can communicate telepathically. Hell yes. The assassination will be a cakewalk" Kane said to himself.

"I will call you Alpha." Kane thought towards him.

"Thank you for naming me, Kane. This way we will function better."

"Tell me what you know about yourself? Any important memories?"

"What i know is, i somehow, am a part of you. I do not know how, but i came to be the moment you fell unconscious. I am your slave, and will follow any instruction you give me. I will give my life to protect yours. That is all i know and am programmed to do" he replied. A part of him? How? Hmm, somehow this didn't make any sense, but all right. He did not mind having such a handy beast with him.

"Kane, can i finish my meal?" he asked. Man he was so funny. He was not much bigger than a month year old pup. But he seemed so mature and serious.

"Sure you can Alpha. Dig in" Kane replied. "Make sure to leave the bone marrow and any gems you might find for me, it fetches an insane price if done correctly. O hell, he sure did dig in. Within a few minutes the whole, maybe eight ton greptodon was gone, only half a dozen small gems and a single large gem were all that was worth it from today's hunt. Kanes jaw almost hit the ground when he saw what had happened. With a loud burp, the wolf had grown about ten times its size, roughly a meter and a half in height and two in length. He was huge and looked menacingly. Kane liked it immediately.. He was amazing, and he was all his. "I will not ask where all that meat went, nor will i ask how u grew this big in a few minutes, all i will say is, i love you already. You sure will come in handy" Kane chuckled to

himself like a maniac. "Let us go" Kane said finally after he straightened his thoughts.

"Where are we going?" he asked in return.

"To kill a king" Kane replied. "That is, after we made some preparations and i tie up some loose ends."

"Oh my, how kinky" he said as he chuckled. Damn, he frightens me. He has a sense of humour and is dangerous. I love it.

Two figures were standing atop of a hill overlooking the scene that had taken place, unnoticed by anyone.

"Finally you did it" one figure said. "I can't wait to see what you are gonna do. What you will make for yourself, my son".

"Our son, Nemesis. He is not just your son. Remember that very well!" the other person said with a certain tone in her voice, as if threatening. Whatever, my dear. He will be a marvelous asset when he grows enough to do what he was destined to. The two figures laughed and disappeared with a gush of wind.

## Chapter 1 - Homitage

As Kane was walking back towards the town of Homitage, Alpha at his back, he saw more and more people walking the roads. Homitage was a decently sized harbour town located to the east of Kravnje. It housed roughly about thirty to forty thousand citizens with a decent standard. There weren't many poor citizens, mainly because anyone who wanted to work, could actually find something to do and be paid for it. The group of people Kane just passed by seemed to be some type of merchants. Their horses were pulling long wagons that were covered by a fabric so he couldn't guess what they were carrying. He greeted them as they passed each other, the merchants shooting them wary glances, hurrying past them to avoid the big wolf walking just behind him. Kane chuckled and shook his head, loving the wolf more by the moment. Neither talked to each other, Alpha not as to avoid drawing attention, Kane to avoid strange stares.

As they walked up to the guard house, just outside the city gates, they approached but stopped and drew their weapons as they noticed the big wolf.

"Is that your wolf?" One of the guards asked, stepping a meter closer than the others. He must be the guards captain, but Kane wasn't impressed at the sight of him. He stepped up to the captain and looked into his eyes.

"Yes he is. Any problem with that, captain?" Kane asked, rather sarcastically. The captain gave him a nasty look, as if talking to a beggar. The fear, however, didn't leave his face and Kane knew it. The anger on the captain's face grew and he looked like he would explode. Luckily for him, he just turned around and waved him off, sticking out his hand, palm down. The universal gesture for bribe. Kane shook his head slightly, took a piece of silver out of his satchel and put it into the captain's hand, closing his hand around the captain's and squeezing. Kane was disgusted by the corrupted officials, but he had to play their little game. For a while longer that is.

As Kane and Alpha walked under the castle gate, a busy atmosphere replaced the previous. The streets were full of people, workers, merchants, servants, horses and other animals. Alpha walked up beside Kane and sent mental note.

"Can i eat them?" He asked with a hint of anticipation. Kane stopped in his track and stared at Alpha in amazement.

"Ofcourse not! You can't eat just anything you like, you stupid wolf" Kane yelled. The crowd around him stopped and stared at him. "What?!" Kane yelled and stomped forward, heading to the guild house. The guild house was located at the far end of the town, at the harbour. The reason being that Kane was going there without first stopping by at his own home was to gather the money the kill would bring him. He had gathered some parts that were in extreme demand and would probably net him a months pay hunting smaller game. As he was walking through the streets with Alpha walking behind him, the gasps nor the staring seemed to stop. Everyone noticing the wolf behind him stopped and gaped at the big wolf who was trailing him. Kane smiled inwardly, glad about the envy the others felt for him.

As they walked up to the guild house, Kane stopped just in front, searching for something with his eyes. He took a moment to appreciate the sheer beauty of the building every time he visited. It was just marvelous. The guildhouse looked like a miniature castle with a keep. There was a one meter moat dug around it, six towers and the gate. The gate looked far heavier than it was, and he could easily lift it himself, but he never longed to show off his strength, it would just attract problems, problems he didn't need right now. Kane and Alpha crossed the little bridge and through the big door into the guildhouse.

There were about forty people scattered around the guild room, most drinking at the bar, a few sitting at the lounge and some delivering items and cashing them in. After the door slammed close behind them the whole room became silent as a grave. Everyone was staring at them, some were whispering between themselves. Kane strode casually towards the exchange as if nothing was amiss. Alpha stopped a meter behind him, sitting on his bottom, his head swiveling around, checking for trouble which never came.

"I would like to exchange these items" Kane said as he threw down the pieces of the greptodon which were valuable. The exchange clerk looked at him, baffled. Not knowing what to do he ran off and a few moments later the manager came waltzing behind him. When he saw who it was his tension evaporated but renewed upon seeing the wolf sitting behind him.

"Mister Kane, what a pleasure to see you today. I see you have found some... company?" he managed to utter after a few unpleasurable moments later. Kane just smiled and nodded his head.

"The money, would you?" Kane added. The manager, a thick, short man with a large mustache bowed three times in succession, hurriedly and motioned for the clerk to open the door and let Kane in. Kane was unsure of how to proceed but decided to follow the short man into his private office. Alpha stood up but waited in front of the door, pacing around impatiently. Kane just sent him a mental wait for me and Alpha sat down again, yawning. It was a few long moments before the crowd went back to semi normal. Chatter sprang up again slowly, but the topic were Kane and his new companion.

"Please take a seat" said the manager as they entered the room. Kane did so and even poured himself a drink, which the manager frowned to but didn't say anything. He took his seat opposite Kane and put one hand into the other. He put up a fake smile and started. "These items are of high value. Would you care to tell me how you got them?" Kane frowned, annoyance showing on his face.

"I killed a greptodont. That is how i got them" he said with a strong voice. The manager almost flinched at the power behind Kane's words, but did good to hide it.

"Please, forgive me. There have been others who had claimed similar things but brought us stolen goods. We do know that you are our esteemed customer, but still, when it involves such outrageous numbers we have to make sure, you understand, yes?" the thick man said hurriedly. Kane lifted one eyebrow and asked in return.

“How outrageous?” and leaned back on his seat. The guild manager put on a sly smile and replied.

“We have a request for the item at a thousand gold coins. Even a finders fee for my poor self, of ten gold coins if the item is delivered within time” he said openly. Kane barely managed to hide his shock and awe. A thousand gold coins? That was more than he had made for all these years combined. His total savings were two hundred and seventy five gold coins and three hundred silver coins. Who would have posted such an outrageous amount for greptodon ingredients? The king? He laughed inwardly, maybe that would be his ticket inside, to finally do what he longed for all this time.

“When will i receive the money?” Kane asked calmly.

“As soon as you give me the ingredients i will hand out your money, mister Kane” the manager said, touching his mustache in a sadistic manner. How irritating and ugly for a sight that made, Kane thought to himself.

“Show me the money, manager” Kane said, putting the items in front of him on the table. The managers eyes became golden coins, Kane would have sworn if he hadn’t known better. The money reflected in them as soon as the manager saw the items. He stood up and went over to a vault, turned a few valves in opposite directions and the vault opened. The manager walked in and took out two big bags which he laid out in front of Kane.

“Here you go. Pleasure doing business with you, as always” the manager said, going for the items.

“Not so fast. Let me count the gold first and see if its the real thing. Something about this deal seems off. I assume you have no issue against it?” Kane said as he pushed away the managers hands. The manager showed a face of incredulity, insult and outrage at the same time. But he nodded and sat back down. Kane took one of the bags and turned it over on the table, examining the heap and biting into random gold coins to see if it really was gold. The first bag counted exactly five hundred pieces and every piece tested was real. Kane then turned over the second bag and poured the coins onto the table as well. Much to his surprise, three poisonous snakes were also a part of the bag and they immediately went for him, launching themselves towards him, mouth open, fangs out. Luckily for him, his reflexes were out of this world and he never had problems dodging anything, so this was also not an issue for him. He grabbed the snakes in midair and hurled them at the manager, who squealed like a pig as the snakes injected their deadly poison into his bloodstream. Mere moments later, the bites became blue and the area around the bites went from a light to a dark blue colour within the minute. The poor manager first started breathing heavily and then convulsing, throwing up all over himself as he choked on his vomit and died. Guards came running into the room, weapons raised. Kane just put up his hands and kept sitting on the chair, not moving a muscle as not to provoke the soldiers. He could easily take them out, but it wasn’t in his own interest to make a scene here. He rather liked the harbour town and enjoyed its women even more. One of the guards came over and examined the dead manager and at that

exact moment a crash was heard from the vault. The guards turned towards it and approached it slowly. The words that followed were a shock for everyone present.

"Guild master?" the guards yelled at the same time. Kane looked over and to his surprise, the guildmaster was laying sprawled on the floor, his hands and feet tied up, a gag in his mouth. "Untie him, hurry up!" one guard yelled to the other. What a fuss, Kane thought to himself. And all i wanted here was just my money.

Some half an hour later, Kane was sitting in the guild masters office, across from the guild master who looked better than half an hour ago.

"You sure saved me, mister Kane. I have no idea how to ever repay you" he said. Kane bowed slightly and smiled.

"No need to thank me, i honestly was just protecting myself. I am glad that the circumstances were as they were, otherwise i might have found myself in quite the mess, guild master" Kane replied. "I rather like to avoid trouble, but i do not mind getting into trouble if it means helping others, or in this case, the whole guild. Speaking of which, what happened?" Kane asked sincerely. The guild master leaned his old back to the leaning chair and sighed.

"The greptodont ingredients really are worth the money he told you. When i told the manager about the request we had gotten, he put me out stone cold, as his clerk had entered the room we were sitting in, tied me up and put me into the vault. I... am getting old, my dear child. I trusted the wrong person and that was it. That is the whole story, nothing fancy. I am damn happy that you were the one bringing the items and not some scoundrel or i would have been dead for sure and he gone with the money" the guildmaster explained.

"What stopped him from just taking the money and leaving with it?" Kane asked in return.

"You see, anyone leaving the guild house gets checked. The employees get checked even worse than the manager or me. No one can bring out such a quantity of money and be employed at this place without a very strict document. He couldn't get it as i have to be the one to put it together. No one even knows it exists, hence there is your answer" the guild master replied.

"I see. The amount would be too big for him to be available to carry out of her by himself, and if he had tried to, there would have been a reckoning. But i still don't get why he tried to kill me. Obviously, he would have had the same problem" Kane replied.

"Not really. He might have said you tried to kill him but got bitten instead and he automatically inherits whatever you have here at the guild. A guild managers word weighs a lot, so we probably would have believed him. How wrong i was. The greed of mankind weighs heavy on this world shoulders" the old man said and sighed, drooping his head and shoulders. "Maybe the Gods left us for that reason, among a few others. We are a hungry, selfish, greedy, warmongering breed. All we desire is this world's pleasures. Of course, not every single one of us is like that, but most are.

Please, forgive this old man's ramblings. It is not every day i get to talk to people, especially those willing to listen" he finished and stood up, holding his hand out. Kane sent him a warm smile and took his hand, standing up.

"Thank you for sharing your wisdom, guild master, and for explaining what had happened. I am glad i was of service and even more that it saved someones life. Now, if you would excuse me, i have a lot of gold to spend" Kane said and laughed, taking the gold bags with him. He waved once more to the old man and left the room. Alpha was silently awaiting his return at the entrance. Again, upon his entry the room went quiet. He didn't give it any thought as he walked out of the guild house, Alpha following him closely.

"What now?" Alpha asked.

"Now, my new friend, we go celebrate" Kane said and laughed out loud. "I will buy you the biggest cow or bull or whatever you would like to eat, and as for myself, i will eat and drink until i die.

## Chapter 2 - Complications

That evening as Kane and Alpha were indulging themselves in this world's pleasures inside of the taverns, the door crashed open and a man came crashing in. The tavern's mood dropped to zero instantly upon seeing the man. He was cut up and bleeding everywhere. He managed another few steps and fell over, probably out of exhaustion. One of the tavern maids came running up to him and another two customers stood up and helped her put the man on the chair, slapping his face to wake him up.

"What has happened to you?" one of the men asked when the torn up fellow woke a few moments later. The poor soul started to cry and hit himself, tearing at his hair and the two men had to restrain him in order to protect him from his own actions.

"They have them!" he yelled out, crying. "They have our women and daughters! They even killed most of the women and children!" the crying and yelling kept on going.

"Who has done what to where?" one of the men dared to ask.

"Ithice. They burned it down to rubble and killed all the men and older folk outright, then they raped and pillaged what they could. My dear girl, they have her. Someone has to go help her! I beg of you!" the man pleaded. The two men just shook their heads and murmured something. In the meanwhile, the tavern owner had come out of his room and was standing at the counter, looking over the whole crowd, spotting Kane and walked over to him with heavy footsteps, adding to the effect.

"Mister Kane, we all know your courage, strength and fierceness. Is there any way we could convince you to check out this man's story and verify it. If it is so, we need to do something about it! Immediately the whole room was staring at him, hope in their eyes. Kane just went on eating as well as did Alpha, downing the roast goat he ate. What seemed an eternity, the food was gone and Kane looked up.

"Sure" he answered as he stood up, all eyes on him. Kane walked over to the crying man and kneeled beside him and whispered in his ear. "What do you want me to do to the bandits?" The man looked over at him, incredulously as if he was saying he was a monster and was going to eat him.

"Kill them all?" the man whispered back. Kane nodded and said

"Consider it done" and walked out of the tavern, not even paying his food bill. He knew it would be awaiting him so no need to walk back in and ashamed himself after the cool exit he just made.

Outside Alpha looked up at him and asked

"How do we proceed?"

"Ithice is some fifty kilometres to the southwest. It is a small town in between bigger ones where travelers usually spend the night, rest or just get food and be on

their way. In other words, the perfect target for bandits. We go sleep for a few hours and then we run. I have decent stamina so i think i could run the stretch within a few hours” Kane replied in strides as they walked towards a small house to the side of the bigger buildings all around it.

“I don’t need any rest” Alpha said and Kane snapped back at him

“But i do. I’m just a human being, wolf!” Immediately he was sorry at the rebuke but he kept his quiet. He opened the door to his home and strode in, leaving the door wide open for Alpha to join him inside. Alpha just did so and closed the door behind him with a flick of his long tail. Kane turned on some candles and sat down on his bed, staring at the wolf. He was magnificent. He was black as the night, red eyes gleaming in the dark. Snow white paws which looked somehow strange, more like hoofs. His whole body was muscled ending with a white tail. What a strange sight to behold, he was sure. There was something noble about the creature, but Kane thought better of it than to talk now. “We talk tomorrow during our trip. Get some rest, even if you don’t need it. In approximately four hours wake me up. Can you do that?” he asked Alpha who just snorted and curled up on the floor beside the door.

As Kane and Alpha were walking down the road, Kane was telling Alpha about his past, well, more like sending thoughts over, but it was easier and better that way they had figured out. People might think he was crazy, or well, crazier than he already was. Alpha was listening patiently, only howling softly whenever something sad or painful was said. It was as if they were two parts of a single whole.

“So our lifes goal is to assassinate the king?” he asked.

“I guess so. He is the biggest fault my parents left me as an orphan. I was forced to fend for myself my whole life, the past 20 years”. He drooped his head a bit and howled again as if in pain as well. Kane’s soul felt burdened as well in a weird way. It was such a long time ago, but it still hurt whenever he thought about it. All his life he had been a loner, and now suddenly he had a companion, a friend.

Some running and more time later they arrived at Ithice, or at least where Kane thought it would be. Instead of a village he heard the sound of a waterfall. “Let us go take a bath” Kane said anxiously, starting to walk faster. Alpha jogged after him, catching up easily. As they arrived at the riverside they were stunned by its beauty. A small waterfall was pouring down into the river. Chiseled rock and plants, trees and flowers and wildlife all living in harmony at the same spot.

A two meter fish jumped out of the water and back in, leaving droplets in the air, falling down after the fish. It was as a sight out of a fairytale. Both Alpha and Kane were gazing at the sheer beauty, their jaws dropping almost to the floor. Before long Kane was naked and rand headfirst into the water, Alpha on his tail, longing for the big fish he had just seen pop up. The water felt almost divine. Exactly the right temperature, not too cold nor to warm. Kane swam towards the middle where he saw some bubbles coming out to the surface and dove down to see what was coming up. There was hot water coming out of a big gap in a rock and the hot water mixed with the cold coming down from waterfall to create this heaven on earth, or rather, in water.

"I could make a fortune with this" Kane said out loud. Alpha laughed mentally and Kane laughed with him, liking the sound of Alphas laughter. It sounded so innocent, but when Kane looked at him, shivers ran down his spine. He was huge, and he didn't even want to imagine what Alpha was capable of doing to him if he wanted.

"No need to worry, Kane. I am your slave, i am part of you. I will never harm you" he said. Shocked, Kane looked up at him. Alphas face was one of bewildered amusement, to a certain extent.

"U can read minds now too?" Kane murmured inwardly.

"Why yes. Did i not mention this before?" he said with a grin.

"Somehow it slipped your mind, i guess" Kane said . Not that it mattered much, even easier. Just think about it and he knows. How practical. "How about catching some fish, Alpha" Kane said. Immediately he dove and disappeared under water. Few moments later he appeared with what looked like the big two meter fish from earlier, clenched between his teeth. "Now that is what i call a catch!" Kane yelled in joy.

Kane swam towards the shore and walked up towards where he left his clothes, deciding not to put anything on before he dried as the weather was something you could only wish for. He walked around, gathering firewood. As he bent over to gather a few bigger branches, taking them in his arms, there was this gorgeous angel standing in front of him when he stood up again. She was standing there, innocently, staring at Kane's body. He had forgotten he had nothing on, but didn't seem to mind much as he regained his posture. She was a gorgeous brunette, with big round eyes, the colour of a dark abyss. I saw myself drown in her eyes just before she looked away. She was slim and seemed to have a rather fit physique. Her large breasts were showing through the white, wet shirt she had on. Beside it, she just had a ribbon around her neck, the rest of her body in plain view for all to enjoy. At that instant, Alpha joined me and as she saw him, she gasped at the sight of him and tried to turn around and run off, but tripped over a large branch, face planting into the muddy ground, her bare ass mooning at the world.

## Chapter 2 - Complications

That evening as Kane and Alpha were indulging themselves in this world's pleasures inside of the taverns, the door crashed open and a man came crashing in. The tavern's mood dropped to zero instantly upon seeing the man. He was cut up and bleeding everywhere. He managed another few steps and fell over, probably out of exhaustion. One of the tavern maids came running up to him and another two customers stood up and helped her put the man on the chair, slapping his face to wake him up.

"What has happened to you?" one of the men asked when the torn up fellow woke a few moments later. The poor soul started to cry and hit himself, tearing at his hair and the two men had to restrain him in order to protect him from his own actions.

"They have them!" he yelled out, crying. "They have our women and daughters! They even killed most of the women and children!" the crying and yelling kept on going.

"Who has done what to where?" one of the men dared to ask.

"Ithice. They burned it down to rubble and killed all the men and older folk outright, then they raped and pillaged what they could. My dear girl, they have her. Someone has to go help her! I beg of you!" the man pleaded. The two men just shook their heads and murmured something. In the meanwhile, the tavern owner had come out of his room and was standing at the counter, looking over the whole crowd, spotting Kane and walked over to him with heavy footsteps, adding to the effect.

"Mister Kane, we all know your courage, strength and fierceness. Is there any way we could convince you to check out this man's story and verify it. If it is so, we need to do something about it! Immediately the whole room was staring at him, hope in their eyes. Kane just went on eating as well as did Alpha, downing the roast goat he ate. What seemed an eternity, the food was gone and Kane looked up.

"Sure" he answered as he stood up, all eyes on him. Kane walked over to the crying man and kneeled beside him and whispered in his ear. "What do you want me to do to the bandits?" The man looked over at him, incredulously as if he was saying he was a monster and was going to eat him.

"Kill them all?" the man whispered back. Kane nodded and said

"Consider it done" and walked out of the tavern, not even paying his food bill. He knew it would be awaiting him so no need to walk back in and ashamed himself after the cool exit he just made.

Outside Alpha looked up at him and asked

"How do we proceed?"

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