

The Write Path To Sword Out The Truth! by Adam Stark

## Chapter 1. A Long Weight!

A long time ago, back in the early age of human civilization, there lived a story. This story, lives more as an important lesson. A magnificent King ruled a large land overlooking many small hamlets. His name was King Norman, and he was defined by his brute strength, righteous attitude, and prosperous morals. He made incredible strides for a land previously occupied by scum. After he lost his wife, the Queen, to a deadly disease spread to her by a strange crop. 'Tis a mystery today how the crop was delivered to her, but it will remain unsolved. King Norman solved many conflicts with peace treaties, settled trade disputes with a diplomatic tongue, as well as prevented greed to form from taxation. The King's son was his closest ally, and a very important part of his gracious rule. Trent 'twas his name. He was also a fighter, strong like his father. But more than perhaps anyone known in that time period, a crafty writer. He used his quill to write many treaties, laws, battle strategies etc. for his father and the rest of the King's staff. Not to be done alone, his works of writing were helped by spreading out by the use of the press. He owns an unusual pet, a dark black wolf whom he rescued as a cub. Now I will take you to the time that the willpower of the land changed forever.

King Norman holds a meeting between his personal staff and family, important discoveries are coming! Trent is already there, having an early discussion with his father. "Father, I've grown to distrust that Marcus, our Crusher growls every time he comes around, and HE IS a smart wolf!" Trent exclaimed. "HA HA HA! Your buddy is probably hungry my son! Probably thinks Marcus would taste good! Now remember, we all have a job to do, a DUTY, we may not always get along or agree, but we need to have trust or we will lose our hope for the people." King Norman Preached. Suddenly, Marcus came to the meeting hall and made an interruption: "King! Sir! Our biggest prisoner offers you a freedom challenge!?" The King stands up and moves towards the middle of the room and takes out his long sword. "Bring him in and I'll explain the rules!" The King told the men holding the prisoner in chains. The prisoner wants to fight the King to death, as he knows that it is the only way to earn his freedom. The King begins to explain the rules: "Are you sure you want to risk your life? I am far more advanced with my technique..." The prisoner cuts in his speech: "LETS GO! YOU CAN'T BEAT ME! I AM MUCH STRONGER!" So the King gives the signal to let him go, and the prisoner pulls out a sword and a mace, which is against the rules of the freedom challenge. The guards try to hold him back and the King puts his sword on the floor while holding it with his right hand, and holds up his free hand: "'Tis okay, it shall not help him where he's going." So the King holds perfectly still like a statue while the prisoner is walking in circles around him swinging both weapons in the air! He walks closer to the King, one step at a time... closer... closer... closer... now he increases his speed and charges at the still King and... STAB! A fatal piercing through the prisoner's chest! The crowd, although relieved, are stunned at what they just witnessed. The prisoner was moving around so quickly, like he was dancing around the room, while the King was standing very still. In fact, the only thing moving was his eyes! As the prisoner lay there dead on the floor, the King decides to speak on it: "There's strong, and a heart full of malice, and there's trained with a heart full of life. He had no chance, all the fancy moves in the world can't kill someone who owns his strength, while this man's strength owned him. Be tighter on weapon barrack's security, this thievery could have been prevented in my estimation!! Now clean this mess up, and let's get to my meeting, please and thank you." The King's staff is still wallowing in astonishment over the quick '1 hit' kill that just occurred. It scared the men, but in a good way. It accidentally reminded them what a powerful leader can do, without brash decision making.

The meeting finally came to order. The most important members of the staff are in attendance. The King pulls out a golden cloth covering up something about a

foot long. The staff takes a bow and Trent stands by his father. The King starts: "Great news! I have an announcement to make, an invention! I will formally make this announcement public tomorrow. My son has created a new weapon! It takes a long time to make, and a lot of materials, but the plans are soon to be made the standard! It shoots a projectile out at a vast force, its similar to a cannon, but faster than an arrow! It puts a real dent in it's victim! You can carry it around in battle, or in the town for security. And I am going to give this first one to YOU my son! Tomorrow in front of everyone in town, and I'm going to make you a General! You have always written great battle strategies and I can begin to manufacture more and more of my new weapon for our soldiers!" A loud applause came right after he spoke. As the meeting adjourned and everyone left, Marcus walked to the adjacent room and quietly vented his frustration: "Ugh! I give the damn prisoner two weapons and he still can't kill that monster!! I can't take this, I can't keep living underneath that thing called the King! Not anymore! NOT ANYMORE I TELL YOU!" And Marcus sees one of the staff walking with the new weapon in the cloth and he tells him: "Excuse me, King Norman needs me to do some field testing with it before we announce it tomorrow!" He hands it to Marcus. Holding it upside down he finds the trigger mechanism and fires it at the other guy! \*BANG! He dies instantly. Everyone hears the loud sound of the weapon firing, and they storm every room trying to locate where the King went off to, for he is the first priority of protection. The King turns around in his bedroom to find Marcus pointing the weapon at him! The King tries to plea: "Marcus! How do you see fit in your act? This won't help anyone, I'm sure we can work something out!" Marcus hoists the weapon to the King's chest and says: "I'll be sure to mention that in the next meeting! Now kiss the floor!" \*BANG! The King falls down fast and part of his sword falls out of its sleeve. Trent enters the room next and takes his sword out, pointing it at Marcus! The weapon is thrown at Trent and he catches it while quickly holding it on it's side for confirmation that it is depleted of all ammunition. "TRAITOR! You will pay for this, greatly! By my father's will, you shall be slain!" Trent shouts. All of the sudden the guards come in the room and fill it up pretty quickly. Marcus yells while pointing at Trent: "Betrayer! He murdered the King!" The guards look perplexed, in shock and disbelief. Trent now decides to rebuttal: "Impossible! I wouldn't kill my dad! HE DID IT! I merely just arrived!" Then Trent notices the guards looking at the weapon in his hand, and panning their views over to the King's corpse. Marcus confidently makes a claim: "You see! He used his new weapon, none of us know how to even use that evil contraption! He wrote the instructions for making it, and knew that his father's swordsmanship was superior, so he cheated death by shooting him! Traitor! Traitor!" The guards are start to scream in anger! They all pull out their swords and run towards Trent! Trent knows he is no longer capable of reasoning with anyone so he starts to sprint towards the hallways! He takes a lit torch off of the wall and lights the drapes on fire and throws it on the floor of the entry way! He starts running a few feet and then stops, turns around and throws the weapon making instructions in the fire. He fears that if he dies, these plans would only help Marcus. Trent sees a guard by some battle horses and points to one of them. "This horse okay? I'm in a real hurry! There's been an emergency!" The guard is unaware of when just transpired in the King's room so he hands it over. Another guard pulls out a sword and charges Trent! Crusher jumps on the guard and bites him very hard in the left are, leaving him weak and bleeding all over the place. Trent sees another guard take Crusher and he takes off on the battle horse alone towards the forest.

## Chapter 2. Bank Corrupt

Trent is staying on the move. He spots a river and is trying to convince the horse to cross it. Unfortunately, the horse is being stubborn. Trent takes off the horse's armor to relieve it of some weight. Trent decides to cross the river slowly by swimming against the current coming from an irregular angle. To his surprise, the horse actually follows him. It is this escape path, that he hopes will make Marcus's cohorts believe that he went along the river and not through it.

Back at the castle, Marcus is rallying the people: "Citizens! We must not any longer be cut short of great virtues by these traitors! A man who would kill his own father deserves no such grace as to live! I will provide you all! I will feed you all! Soon, each and every one of you great folks will eat and live like Kings yourselves, under my guidance! There is no longer any worries, I AM the King! I AM the provider! I will get us all to a high state of wealth!" The crowd of the town erupts in cheer. They are emotionally taken for a ride to find that King Norman was killed and that Trent was behind it. Though it wasn't true, Marcus was sly enough to convince them. Marcus is now busy renovating the King's castle. The guards now take many shifts protecting him, which wasn't the case before but there is no real trust anymore. Unfortunately, Crusher is now behaving more like a sheep than a wolf because he is tied up by a chain all day everyday. King Marcus sends off a team to kill Trent, with promises of great rewards. Also, he writes a great big letter to the King of the next town over, King Kromsted of Nathleen. He writes a story in his distorted view of events that led to his new royalty status. He sends the letter through a mail carrier using one of the deceased King's favorite horses.

Trent is feeling overcome with fatigue, emotionally speaking. The loss of his father, the loss of his position of power, and being departed from his pet wolf is hurting him. He looks for a place to go for help. He remembers a town that he once made trade and treaties with through the leadership of his father. A town that can be seen underneath the mountains, Nathleen. They have been walking for hours, he gets off the horse to let it drink from some water and eat some grass. Trent sits on the ground and keeps drifting to sleep and tries to fight it, but fails. He sleeps for what must feel like a few minutes and the horse makes a loud shouting noise waking him up in a hurry! He pets the horse and looks over the distance to see a figure. It's someone on a horse, carrying a bag. Trent doesn't know what is going on but he fears that it is someone heading to Nathleen too. He gets on his horse and heads to Nathleen again. He lost track of the other horseman but he made it to the town. He greets the guard outside of the town gates: "Guard! 'Tis Trent, I come to warn your great King of something bad that happened! King Norman was assassinated!" The guard runs up the steps and goes inside of the King's tower. A few minutes pass by. The guard comes back with a bow and starts shooting arrows! "NO! I was framed! I would never kill my father! He did so much for your town..." Trent yells and gets interrupted when an arrow hits his horse. The horse is jumping in a panic and throws Trent off and runs away. Trent gets up and pulls out his sword. He runs up to the steps and stands underneath them. The guards come down the steps. Trent jumps out at the last guard to come down and slits his throat! He takes the guard's dagger out from his pocket and throws it at the next closest guard, piercing through his abdomen as he falls down slowly. The last guard there turns around and extends his sword out right where Trent's head was and he ducks! He puts his sword up clashing with the guard's sword and shoves his arm towards the right side! The guard uses his free arm to elbow Trent in the rib cage! Trent takes a leap backwards and thrusts his sword forward and the guard uses his sword to block it. Trent puts his sword all the way up high behind his own head, then thrusts his sword straight down and the guard tries to put his sword in the way and it forces his body down to a crouching position. Trent holds his sword out acting like he's going to strike on the left side and quickly changes the motion to attack on the right side. By the time the guard notices it was a trick to make him block the wrong side, it was too late! Trent has killed him, just as more arrows shot out! Trent fled in the opposite direction, feeling as though he was exiled again from another town.

### Chapter 3. Corn on the Cobwebs

Trent sits on the dirt by some trees, thinking. He wants to get revenge, but he knows that there is just no feasible way. He's cooking some deer meat on a fire. He's daydreaming about when he used to play with Crusher, he would throw some rocks

over the wall and into the water and Crusher would swim just to fetch them. Then he remembers a funny conversation he had with his dad when Crusher was still just a cub. His dad asked him: "Why that name? Crusher? Why not something scary and sinister like 'Killer' or Witch hound' or something?" And Trent remembers responding to him: "Remember what he used to do with those frogs that would sneak in our castle?" Then his dad inquired: "Well he'd kill them, of course!" And (at the time) Trent would laugh and tell him: "No but remember he would just calmly walk up to them and push his paws on them until they would squish! Goo would spill all over!" They would both laugh and then Trent's dad would suggest: "Oh right right! I say a good name would be squisher for him then!" And both of them would laugh together. The memories come and go every so often with Trent, and the worst ones would be his mother passing away. It's not that the memories of her were sad, it's BECAUSE the memories of her are of a wonderful mother that he hates the idea of her non being around anymore. She just became extremely ill and she warned everyone to stay away from a strange crop. It's unknown to this day what it was, but its effects are clear: death to any with such contact. Trent is currently finished eating and he is nodding in and out of consciousness. Trying his hardest to stay awake for he wants to see if there are hunters around or any more guards. Trent finds himself unwilling to keep his eyes open any longer and snores away sleeping. Now he feels a cold chilling sensation on his Adam's Apple... he opens his eyes and sees a man holding a sword to his throat! "TRAITOR!" Trent starts crawling backwards and puts his hands up as if to signal a surrender! Trent begins to beg: "Woah I can explain! Please don't do this, I was framed!" The man walks closer with his sword still extended straight forward and says: "Framed? By whom? Who else could have killed King Norman!" Trent takes a big breath and answers: "Marcus! He did it! He was mad that my father made me the next General and he also made a weapon for me to start distributing, I didn't do it! I would never!" And the man puts his sword away and quietly utters: "I believe you... King Marcus tried to hang me. I refused to follow his orders! He said some family was late on their mission and I told him there would be a delay with these damn storms! Wagons aren't perfect you know!? So he wanted to me arrest his family that was still home, I said how could you be such a monster! He put me in shackles the bastard! He has a whole new group of new knights who put the rope around my neck, and when they took my shackles off I noticed these new guys were amateurs, they didn't even finish making a complete knot so I quickly shook it off of me and just ran as fast as I could for the closest way out! Look I'm sorry I accused you, I had to make sure I could trust you. This new King Marcus is a horrible problem, he is!" Trent hears this and has a quiet sigh of relief. Trent asks the man: "Well you know my name, what's yours?" He answers: "I be Gorn, I was a knight in training under your father." Well, immediately after hearing this Trent's thought echoes out of his mouth simultaneously: "Are there any others? Others who are being mistreated under the new King who served my father?" Gorn closes his eyes and answers: "Unfortunately, yes and your not going to believe me but, they are all dead... DEAD! Died in vein, just like your father if I may so boldly declare. And when I say vein, I mean it, they died for something that couldn't have made any sense, to a REAL King! The faction of knights were on a mission to the Chapel at West Horn, and that was all it took to have them labels as traitors and killed." Trent immediately jumps up in the air after hearing this and becomes euphoric saying: "THATS ABSURD! Marcus KNOWS that my father has them go there! It's the place where there's the best water in all the land! We've had great business with them!" Gorn looks at the ground and quietly says: "I never knew that place was where we got the- but none the less he is betraying the people. It must be everything that your father did is what he is un-doing!" The men are enraged together, on the same wavelength. They start to walk down some grassy meadows.

After a long hour of traveling, they hear the trotting of some horsemen. Gorn pulls out his bow and climbs up a tree. Trent pulls out his sword and waits for the guards to get closer. The head horseman puts his hand up in a motion to signal the group to stop. The head horseman has on a big knight's helmet and pulls out a giant

spiked war hammer. He makes demands towards Trent: "Shall you surrender now, no one needs to get blood on their hands! If you don't put your sword away, I will shove it down your throat and cook you for dinner, wicked one! What shall it be?" Trent holds the sword with two hands tightly, and starts to walk slowly backwards. Gorn is setting up his arrow between the branches of the 'y' shaped tree and fires an arrow to the back of the group! It went straight in the side of the guard-archer's throat and he dies dropping his bow! The head guard uses his momentum to charge and fling the war hammer on Trent. Trent makes a quick leap to the side, the guard pulls the hammer to the side and it knocks Trent on the ground! The head guard picks up his war hammer all the way up getting ready to crush Trent all the way to hell... then as another guard with a sword comes next to him, Trent kicks that guard's knee and he falls forward slightly while Trent pulls on his arm with the sword and maneuvers him towards the motion of the war hammer... it hits the guard's sword and shatters it half way down! The war hammer is being picked up and Trent rolls over to the side and sees an arrow from Gorn strike the guard with the broken sword in the arm piercing his skin all the way through. That guard goes into shock and bleeds heavily falling on the ground. Meanwhile, Trent grabs the shards of broken sword pieces and chucks them at the head guard. Some pieces bounce off of his armor while some cause cuts on his arms. Trent finally has a chance and he stands up, taunting the guard: "You really think that thing is going to stop me?! This sword has fought for my father's battles many times and your too dumb and blind to see that I was framed! Shame on you, heathen!" The guard pushes the war hammer forward as if he was in a joust, but Trent circles around him and grabs the top part of the war hammer and spins it, forcing the head guard holding it snap his wrist and he drops it! He screams in agony briefly. Trent holds him arms from behind him and kicks him very hard which puts him on the ground face first. "Say your last words!" Trent demands. He gets no answer, pulls back his sword and says: "That last scream will do then!" And punctures his vertebrae from behind him killing him! He turns around to see Gorn is fighting a guard surrounded by a couple of dead ones. Trent runs over and Gorn peaks at the corner of his eye, their two swords clash in mid air. Gorn grabs the guard's hand and Trent tackles the guard to the ground subduing him. Trent throws the guard's sword and yells: "How many more are you? What is Marcus up to? Give me answers! Answers!" The guard can't look Trent in his eyes, he looks to the side and when Trent yells at him again he starts to speak: "I, have received more gold then I ever have working under your father! Go to hell and tell him I want back pay!" Trent harshly pulls of the guard's armor chest plate and throws it. Trent gets in position to stab him and yells: "I am going to rip your heart out and see how small it is!" The guard closes his eyes and Trent stabs him in the chest killing him. Gorn walks around collecting his arrows that had missed during combat. Trent tells Gorn: "Look, I found all of this gold in his pocket! He was telling the truth you know... yikes, this is worse than I thought! This means that Marcus IS paying his guards and knights way more than the budget could possibly allow! And with that bad water situation... Wow, the people have no idea what's coming, they won't be able to afford food, clothes, they'll get sick from the different water, they won't be able to buy better weapons and armor or to use the blacksmith's services... DAMN! This is a disaster! We MUST do something!" Gorn nods his head in agreement and they take all of the gold out of the dead guard's pockets. Now they jump up on their horses and head out for food.

A few hours pass by and Gorn makes his horse trot slowly. He spots some wildlife! He puts two arrows on his bow and pulls it back for about ten seconds... \*Fling! Direct hit on the backside of a big deer! It starts to run off and the men make their horses hurry up. They sprint on the trail of the dying deer. Once they get there, Trent starts to make a fire and Gorn starts to skin the deer. The men begin to reminisce: "I really miss that corn your father used to serve us, oh my.... I also miss the way he would always seem to catch the biggest fish, remember that?! I could come up with a good catch 'bout the size of my bow and I'd get everyone to cheer for me, then in a few moments later your father would stun us all with a very big behemoth! Very delicious. I wish Marcus would be sleeping with

those fish!" Gorn said. Trent looks at the fire long and hard as he speaks: "My dad wasn't just a King, or some guy, he was a fighter, a cook, a hunter, a blacksmith, I mean he was a whatever, anything! I have never seen a better fighter in my life... He used to train me when I was small and he would let me win once in awhile but, hell I knew better once I saw him engage in serious combat. He was so fast, so good at defense, I would watch him fight and get a cold rush down my arms and my spine being thankful that he is on my side. So fast! He knew he would only have to strike a few times to come up with a kill! He didn't believe in 'keep swinging until someone is down' or just keep clashing swords together, no no no! None of that, he truly was a one or two thrust- per battle believer! I've seen it! I've never seen anything like it." Trent said. Trent loves to look back but he gets upset with the situation of him being assassinated and he throws some rocks at the fire. Gorn takes a bite of the deer meat and says: "You know, he wasn't just a good fighter he could tell his opponent what mistake they were making. It's actually scary to me if I'm being honest. There was a battle going on right outside of the Eastern farms where these cattle farmers asked your father for their protection and he gladly insisted, didn't even ask them for gold or for goods or anything, he just helped them because he felt it was right! Anyways so he went with about ten of us or so and we had these cattle poachers surrounded and we could've just slaughtered them, then your dad asked for their leader, he came out with a heavy spiked-mace set, and then I couldn't believe what your father said! He pulled out a bag of gold and said 'fight me in a one on one duel, and if you kill me keep the bag, if you don't want to fight, I'll give you half and you are forever exiled from this land' and the guy started circling his mace around and around and your dad looked at him with full concentration only moving his head really... and as soon as the guy flung his mace your dad took a crazy fast side step, and rolled a few feet and stabbed him to death in one quick stroke! I was so amazed, then he made the other poachers be workers on those farms in exchange for not being locked up in the castle's prisons." Trent gets excited and says in return: "See, and that's what I mean, no other kings would have helped those farmers! It would've been a job that would only get done from a king's knights if those farmers gave him a lot of gold! Ugh! It sickens me! My dad was all about setting an example for the land of nothing less than good natured acts. I can only imagine what Marcus is doing... oh this is a horrible change for the world!" The men eat the rest of the deer and go to sleep on opposite sides of the fire.

They wake up and find their horses drinking water from a puddle. The men saddle up on the horses carrying their weapons and gold. As they head out to the town of Jurden, they soon find themselves on a water transport dock. They want to use it to get to the town of Jurden, but Gorn warns Trent that it may be better to save all of their gold for later. So the men jump in the lake and swim over to the boat! They brush up against it on the side. Gorn starts to climb slowly and he sees that there is a hole in the boat for storing large cannon balls. He points to Trent signaling him to move over as far as he can. Gorn waits for all of the passengers to get aboard and for it to launch. A few minutes later they feel the vibrations of the boat starting up! The boat starts and the anchor was pulled in by the crew. Once it just started to float away for just a few feet, Gorn opened up the hatch over the hole and it opens up. All of the cannon balls inside of it fall out and splash in the water below! They both are thinking the same thing: "I hope the timing was just right... so that no one on the boat noticed since it was a bumpy launch..." They eventually, slowly but surely, climb their way up and get inside the storage hole. Several hours pass and at last, they arrived at Jurden. They jump back in the water and swim for awhile to the side so they don't look suspicious as being the only passengers that are soaking wet. As they swim, Gorn becomes more and more nervous about being near King Cramshaw. The thought of being recognized is a scary thought.

Chapter 4. Twelve Inches in the Grave

Trent and Gorn grab on to the side of the grassland and pull themselves up on the ground. They start walking to the castle. Trent asks Gorn: "Have you been to this castle before?" Gorn shakes his head and replies: "No, not inside." Trent tells him: "Well we must be sure to keep our weapons sheathed. This King is one who is a good man but he is ALWAYS on edge. We'll be careful and have our gold ready." The sun is starting to set, and the breeze is slowly increasing. The castle appears ahead. There is guards standing by the outside of the castle gates. The men walk up to them and the guards say: "State your business! Do not come any closer!" So the men stop and pull out the bag of gold as Trent says: "We've come to give King Cramshaw an offering." The guards look at each other at a glance and walk up to the men. "Your weapons, on the ground, NOW!" The guards demand. So the men put their weapons down and take a few steps back. The guards quickly confiscate the weapons and then open up the gate. They have one guard in front and one in the back as they lead them through the castle. Once they make it downstairs, the guards point to the cell and tell them: "Get in." Trent quickly rejects and says: "I beg your pardon? A CELL? We have an offering and I am Trent, King Norman's son and-" (Trent gets interrupted by the guard holding the cell door) "Ah this doesn't matter to me, your story will wait. The King is in a meeting and he will not be changing his plans to service YOUR needs. You will wait HERE until he comes!" The guard blurts. So the men get inside of the cell, still holding their bag of gold and the guards shut the cell door and walk upstairs. Gorn looks at Trent, as if he was going to say something but never actually does. Trent looks outside of the cell and says quietly: "This is where Marcus belongs. And, dead or alive."

A long wait passed by. Trent is still standing up, leaning against the cell door, while Gorn is sitting on the floor. Gorn decides to start up a conversation to make the time go by faster (in his hopes.) "Hey I wonder if you've heard all of your father's stories!" Trent looks over and replies: "Oh? A challenge?" Gorn laughs and asks: "Did you know about the time he threw the corrupt trade manufacturers in the water?!" Trent smiles and says: "Yeah! It was before my time but yes." Gorn thinks long and hard... he snaps his fingers and says: "Oh okay what about the time your father made a bet with the horse trader that he could shoot arrows better and he made the target with his first shot and the horse trader made the shot in six tries and got really mad?!" Trent thinks for a moment and says: "Wait, was he the one who was stealing the animal skins from people and selling it back to them? Haha then my dad caught him doing it to my mom or something?" Gorn laughs really loud and answers him saying: "Oh my that was some venture! He went to prison for that. It might've been your mother but I'm not entirely sure of that. I know one thing, no other King would have made a gamble or a challenge before locking up a scoundrel like that! Most kings, if not ALL of them, would just order his knights to kill em' or lock them up. Hey what about the time that creepy man with the beard went around town handing out papers asking if they would help him kill the King? Do you know that story?" Trent loses his smile and quickly shouts out: "Huh?! What?! Pray-tell!" So Gorn clears his throat and tells him the story: "So this man was walking around the castle, oh did I mention he had a long beard? Anyway, he was handing out papers saying 'help me kill the King!' and on it, it had his location. How dumb! Stupid! What a fool, and he went around talking about his so called plan so much that one of the guards on patrol eventually heard about it and they immediately told your father! SO! He simply asked for his looks so he would know what he looked like, and luck would have it for him, no one else knew of anyone with a bigger beard so it was easy to spot him! So your father actually took off his armor, and put on a peasant's clothes and headed outside! He walked by the man with the beard and he told him he wanted to help 'kill the King' with him haha! So then he followed him to the spot written on his paper for the plot to be planned out I guess, and luck would have it, it paid off for that crazy blood mashing father of yours... there was ONE OF HIS OWN GUARDS at the meeting! I couldn't believe it when he told me that! So as soon as the bearded man started saying the plan out loud, your father took his disguise off and knocked the man out, and whistled for a horse guard to carry him off to prison. But that's not all! The

funniest part happened next! The guard that was there who was to betray your father tried to tell him that he was only there to see who else would show up! Your father said he believed him, then that guard turned around and your father knocked him out too and had him put in prison as well!" Both men laugh hysterically.

Their bones as well as their spirits are getting more and more weak from the hard floor with the cold air. But, at long last, King Cramshaw arrives! The men both stand up and bow to him with the bag being held up in front. The King speaks: "Men! An offering? Offering you say? What's the meaning of this? Oh... wait a minute now, AHA! Trent! 'Tis you traitor! I need not hear one word from these heathens, hang them in the dungeon at once!" The guards open up the door and grab Trent and Gorn putting their hands behind their back! Trent and Gorn yell while slightly jumping in desperation: "Wait! No please help! That isn't true!" And as soon as they start yelling, the King's son comes in and stares at Trent for a few seconds. He calls out to Trent saying: "Trent? King Norman's son? What is the matter of his death sentence father?!" The King looks at his son while waving his index finger in annoyance shouting: "Boy! He has slain his father! Betrayal! Murder! The devil is in this boy! He should be ashamed to have served such a great man and he had to die in vein!" Trent starts to tear up and yells in the King's son's direction: "No! No I would never do that! I was framed by Marcus you have to believe me! My dad was everything to me!" The King's son is drawn to Trent's story when he sees his tears. He looks at the King and says: "Father, he has to be telling the truth. I would never betray you and neither would he betray his father! He brought offerings, we owe him a chance at the very least!" The King grunts an angry sound. He tells his guards: "Let them go... and give me my gold. We will get to the bottom of this... if you are lying to me... I will place your bones on my stairs as my new railing!" Trent and Gorn are holding their arms where they are sore while nodding their heads in agreement. The King leads them inside of one of his libraries. He pulls out some paper and a quill. He writes something, while the whole room is completely silent... The King holds up the paper and breaks the silence saying: "Here is the deal. You see, I've already collected letters from Marcus before, so I will have them here to make sure it is his handwriting! Now, I'm sending him this letter, asking for the truth. I will wait three sun downs and if I don't get a letter back I will destroy you both with my bare hands! And if you lied to me, same thing! You may stay in my captain's quarters. No weapons allowed, good DAY!" And the men are rushed and hurried away from the library.

#### Chapter. 5 A Knight to Remember

Waiting becomes a painful task. The men are being served some very fine chicken that the King's son snuck in for them. The door to the captain's quarters opens up and slams against the wall! The King makes an announcement as he sweats very badly. King Cramshaw shakily announces: "WELL! Well well well! I don't know how to say this but, I am forced to believe you are correct. In this letter, Marcus changed some of the details in his story and I honestly can not believe him! It's not hard to remember how things happen when it's fresh in your mind, nonsense! That damn brute. So, I won't have to kill you 2." Trent looks at Gorn very quickly and now he looks back at King Cramshaw. He calmly asks: "Does this mean you will help us fight? And take by my father's town and, and and restore peace?!" The King takes another step closer to Trent and doesn't even blink while taking a deep breath. He tells Trent: "If you think... for one dull blade of a moment... that I would risk having war with your King Marcus then you must be as rotten on the inside as your father's corpse boy! I would never put my men or my town of wonderful citizens in harm's way!" Gorn decides to cut into the conversation and says: "We need help, we need to take back our town... think of the effect it could have if his evil thoughts spawn an evil army and they March in Jurden's direction!" The King turns his head and clears his throat. He moved his head back and forth facing both men. He tells them: "This battle is personal. I will not help you fight. I will give you the tools you need to win the battle for yourselves. Trent! Here is some quills and

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