

Social Magica

written by

Riley Nielson

E-mail: [Rileyanielson@gmail.com](mailto:Rileyanielson@gmail.com)

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ERM REALM - DAY

1

Pan across a fantasy realm.

VAERA (V.O.)

Welcome to the magical land of Erm.

Dragons, Unicorns, castles, and other fantasy elements pass by underneath.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And when I say Magical I mean magical. From royal castles and bottomless caves to evil lairs and sorcerous lookouts. From flying dragons and enchanting unicorns to courageous knights and mystical wizards. Erm has all the magical things. All of them. Every single one.

Pan up to the tallest mountain. Vaera (16) freeclimbs up Valoff mountain as a blizzard rages.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now some might think this is a blessing--an awesome chance for amazing things to happen--and they'd be right. But it also has its challenges. Especially for a 16 year old knight who's trying to make her way through life without disgracing those who care about her.

(She slips and nearly falls)  
Oh, or die too.

She climbs again.

2 EXT. VALOFF MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

2

Looking down at Vaera as she climbs. The wind picks up. She braces herself.

VAERA (V.O.)

Now, normally, quests are taken by a dragon and knight working together. Tale as old as time, right? But for our generation, what with how magic has added so much convenience to our lives, connecting with dragons has become, well, challenging.

The wind dies down and she continues to climb.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Of course, the previous generation doesn't understand this. In their minds, the process of bonding is a simple matter. A knight and dragon meet, go on a few quests, and then boom perform the epic bonding ceremony that would unite them forever.

She can't find a handhold in the mountain. She pauses and reaches for something on her belt.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now, I'm not saying it can't happen like that. Take my sister for example.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. SWAMPLANDS - NIGHT

3

Vaera's sister and dragon slay trolls and goblins.

VAERA V.O.

14 years old and only days away from her bonding ceremony with the first dragon she ever quested with. And as her luck would have it, they are truly the perfect match. My family couldn't be prouder.

BACK TO:

4 EXT. VALOFF MOUNTAIN - DAY

4

Vaera pulls out an axe and wedges it into the mountain. She continues climbing.

VAERA (V.O.)

As for me... well, they're just hoping I won't kill myself before I finally come to and pair off with a dragon. And I don't fault them for that.

The wind picks up and blows her off the mountain.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Because, as you can see, questing on your own has its problems.

She pulls out an amulet and it glows golden. A golden parachute appears. Her fall slows.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Luckily there's magic, which helps...

Ristran, a green dragon with black markings collides with her. She drops the artifact.

VAERA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

If you can keep a hold of it.

She crashes into the trees and lands face first in mud. Her bag vibrates and she pulls out a Text book. The book says: Mom - Time to come home. She looks up as the dragon flies away.

VAERA

So, what's a knight to do if she can't quest without a dragon? Well, I'll let you know when I figure it out...

Vaera gets out of the mud and heads home.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT 1

5 INT./EXT. VAERA'S PARENT'S COTTAGE - DAY

5

Vaera walks toward her parent's cottage, covered in mud. Her mother's dragon (pregnant) hangs armor on a line.

MOM'S DRAGON

Any luck?

Vaera shakes her head and enters the cottage.

Her brother plays a magical video game while her mom talks on a grapevine (phone).

VAERA'S MOM

(Talking on the grapevine)

Not to mention, he's already outlived several knights. Are you sure it was him?

Vaera walks past.

VAERA'S MOM (CONT'D)

(To Vaera)

Vera, hurry and clean yourself up. You'll be late.

(To the grapevine)

The went on how many quests this week?

Gets cheese out of a magical fridge.

VAERA

I told you I'm not going.

VAERA'S MOM

(To the grapevine)

I know it's not uncommon. Yeah, I'll check her status.

(to Vaera)

Your dress is up in your room. Your father will pick you up in twenty minutes.

Vaera eats a grape off the vine.

VAERA

Nah, I think I'm good.

VAERA'S MOM

(Sighing, to Vaera)

Please, just do this.

(MORE)

VAERA'S MOM (CONT'D)

It would make your father and I very happy.

(to the grapevine)

Oh, yes! The ceremony planning is great. We are so proud of her. Yes, her sister is going on a quest tonight, actually.

VAERA

(Rolling her eyes)

Fine. But I'm telling you, I won't find one I like. They'll all be desperate and awkward.

Her mother points and continues talking on the grapevine. Vaera leaves.

VAERA'S MOM

(on the grapevine)

Yes, I know all your children have dragons, you don't have to remind me.

Vaera passes her brother as she goes upstairs.

VAERA'S BROTHER

Dodge roll! Dodge Roll!

6 INT. VAERA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 6

Vaera enters her room. A battle dress is laid on her bed. She rolls her eyes.

7 INT./EXT. VAERA'S PARENT'S COTTAGE - DAY 7

Vaera walks downstairs in the battle dress.

VAERA'S MOM

(aweing)

Oh, you look so deadly!

Vaera shuffles in the armor.

VAERA

Can't I just wear my normal clothes? I can't even lift my sword over my head.

VAERA'S MOM

Nonsense. You look good enough to kill.

A dragon roars outside.

VAERA'S MOM (CONT'D)  
That will be your father. Hurry on  
out and don't forget to have fun!

Vaera shrugs and goes outside. Her Father flies in on his  
dragon and lands on the road.

VAERA'S DAD'S DRAGON  
You sure this is good for her? You  
remember what happened last time,  
right?

VAERA'S DAD  
(Waving his dragon quiet)  
Vaera, you look poisonous!

Vaera climbs aboard.

VAERA  
Can we just go?

Her dad nods and they fly off.

8

EXT. ERM SKY - DAY

8

Vaera, her father, and her father's dragon sail through the  
clouds.

VAERA'S DAD  
(Sympathetically)  
It won't be that bad. You might  
even have a little fun.

VAERA  
I doubt it.

VAERA'S DAD'S DRAGON  
Vaera, don't be too closed minded.  
We just want you to be happy.

VAERA  
I am happy. I'm fine getting  
artifacts on my own.

VAERA'S DAD  
Really? Any luck with Valoff?

Vaera huffs and looks away. Dad and Dragon exchange glances.

VAERA'S DAD (CONT'D)  
Well, we found something you might  
be interested in. Look!

He pulls out a pocket watch with a shut eye etched into it.

VAERA  
And invisibility watch?

VAERA'S DAD  
(Nodding)  
Yup, ran into a clockwork chameleon  
on our way home.  
(He holds it out to her)  
Listen, if things get bad on one of  
your quests, use this to get away  
and text me. We'll come pick you  
up.

Vaera takes it and gives her father a hug.

VAERA  
Thanks, dad.

VAERA'S DAD'S DRAGON  
Oh sure, give the knight all the  
credit. It's not like I'm the one  
who actually killed the beast.

Vaera chuckles and pats her father's dragon on the neck. He  
purrs. She stores the pocket watch and they fly toward a  
large cave.

CUT TO:

9 INT. SPEED QUESTING CASTLE - NIGHT

9

Dragons and knights stand in the great hall in groups across  
from each other. Vaera stands in the back of the group of  
knights. A dragon and knight MC the event.

DRAGON MC  
Welcome, companion-seeking Dragons  
and knights, to our fall speed  
questing extravaganza!

The Knight MC claps with a few dragons and knights.

DRAGON MC (CONT'D)  
Each knight will be paired to quest  
with a dragon for twenty minutes at  
a time.

(MORE)



DRAGON MC (CONT'D)

When you hear the sound of the gong, the knights will move to their next partner and a new area in the castle.

The Knight MC waves her hands in circles accordingly.

DRAGON MC (CONT'D)

These quests have been designed by our committee with the intention of highlighting skills for both counterparts. Here we believe in the three P's of questing. Paired off, Planned, and Prepared for anything. Be sure to do your best on each quest to make a lasting impression.

Dragon 5 catches Vaera's eye and flexes. Vaera rolls her eyes.

DRAGON MC (CONT'D)

Now, good luck to each of you and happy questing!

The gong rings and each knight and dragon go to their assigned areas. Vaera checks the invisibility watch and sighs.

VAERA

Let's get this over with.

Vaera walks to her assigned dragon.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

10 INT. SPEED QUEST DUNGEON - MOMENTS LATER 10

Vaera and Dragon 1 walk down a dungeon. Dragon 1 is distracted by his Facescroll. Vaera maneuvers around a broken stair and bumps into Dragon 1. Dragon 1 pulls out a handkerchief and wipes where she touched him.

DRAGON 1  
(Anxiously)  
Please don't do that. There's a chance you could be carrying some nasty microorganisms and I could get infected.

VAERA  
(Confused)  
Oh, um... sorry?

DRAGON 1  
It's fine. Just don't do it again.

The dragon walks forward leaving a disappointed Vaera behind.

CUT TO:

11 INT. SPEED QUEST COURTYARD - LATER 11

Vaera bends over to investigate a clue. Dragon 2, wearing glasses, taps Vaera's rear armor. She stands up immediately, blushing.

VAERA  
(Alarmed)  
What are you--

DRAGON 2  
(To a colorful bird with WhoGull glasses, in her hands)  
All right Whogull, what armor is that.

WHOGULL  
Draconian armor. High level. Heavy and durable. Made in the smiths beneath Ragmar.

VAERA  
Uh, yeah, it's my mother's.

DRAGON 2  
 (putting away the Whogull,  
 disappointed)  
 Poor choice for your height and  
 weight. You should be wearing  
 Arthenian armor. Much quicker and  
 lighter, better for speed questing.

VAERA  
 (Uncertain)  
 I'll, uh, keep that in mind.

CUT TO:

12 INT. SPEED QUEST CAVE - LATER 12

Dragon three walks on all fours ahead of Vaera, growling to himself.

VAERA  
 The strong, silent type,  
 huh?

DRAGON 3  
 (Roars)

Vaera stops in her tracks, petrified.

CUT TO:

13 INT. SPEED QUEST TOWER - LATER 13

Dragon 4 talking on a portable grapevine as they move.

DRAGON 4  
 (on the grapevine)  
 ...Oh I totally saw that on Jitter  
 the other day. Of course I liked  
 it! No I haven't seen the rest of  
 her stuff.

VAERA  
 (Pointing down the cave)  
 Um, shouldn't we be questing?

Dragon 4 scowls and turns to hear the grapevine better. Vaera shrugs with disappointment.

CUT TO:

14 INT. SPEED QUEST WEST WING - LATER 14

Dragon 5 carries Vaera in his arms.

DRAGON 5

See, I told you, I'll take care of you if you take care of me.

VAERA

Please put me down. I can walk just fine.

DRAGON 5

Hah! That is just like a human to say. Think they have to something to prove. Leave all the heavy lifting to me, my knightling. Are you on Cinder, by the way?

Vaera folds her arms, annoyed.

BACK TO:

15 INT. SPEED QUEST DUNGEON - EARLIER 15

Further down cave 1. Vaera is scanning the cave.

DRAGON 1

(Holding up a mystic spiderweb)

SpiderMed says if we stay out in the sun too long our scales will burn and that can lead to boils beneath our scales, which can become infected and ultimately kill us. There truly are so many ways to die.

VAERA

(Checking her pocketwatch)

Some things are worse than death.  
(Beat, She decides not to use her pocketwatch)

BACK TO:

16 INT. SPEED QUEST COURTYARD - LATER 16

Dragon 2 circles above Vaera as she climbs up a small ledge.

DRAGON 2

Snare plants are my favorite of course. Half my garden is filled with them. So clever, and yet so easy to tame. Just whistle to them and they'll start drumming in perfect time.

VAERA

Let me guess, you learned that on Whogull?

DRAGON 2

Well, yes, actually, but only because someone had put it on their Wintrest board.

VAERA

(To the Whogull bird)

Is there anything you don't use that bird for?

DRAGON 2

Well, no. It can find everything, after all.

Vaera pulls herself up over the ledge. Her pocket watch has come loose. Beat, she tucks it away.

BACK TO:

17 INT. SPEED QUEST CAVE - LATER

17

Dragon 3 walks far ahead of Vaera, who struggles to keep up. She stops and doubles over.

VAERA

(Panting)

Could you please wait up!

DRAGON 3

(Roars again)

Vaera huffs and continues forward, rubbing the pocket watch with her thumb. She decides not to use it.

BACK TO:

18 INT. SPEED QUEST TOWER - LATER

18

Dragon 4 continues talking on the grapevine. Vaera leads the way so she doesn't bump into anything. she palms her watch.

BACK TO:

19 INT. SPEED QUEST WEST WING - LATER 19

Dragon 5 carries Vaera as he wades through a flooded corridor.

DRAGON 5

See, you will never get wet again  
and turn all pruneey.

VAERA

But what if I like being pruneey?

DRAGON 5

That's a good joke. You're so  
funny. You should put that on your  
cinder.

Dragon 5 continues to carry her as she pats the pocket watch  
beneath her armor. Beat, she decides not to use it.

BACK TO:

20 INT. SPEED QUEST DUNGEON - EARLIER 20

Vaera and Dragon 1 reach a river of lava. A monster stands on  
the other side.

DRAGON 1

Oh no, oh no. This place is too hot  
to fight in. I'll get heat  
exhaustion and die!

VAERA

(Determined, pulling out  
her sword)

Then stay here. I'll take care of  
it.

She hops across floating rocks to confront the monster.

BACK TO:

21 INT. SPEED QUEST COURTYARD - LATER 21

Dragon 2 drops Vaera off in front of a monster and flies back  
up.

VAERA  
Aren't you going to help me?

DRAGON 2  
That's a class 2 Viridian Troll.  
Whogull says my claws and teeth are  
of little use against it's thick  
skin. I'll best help by coaching  
you from up here.

VAERA  
(Sighing, pulling out her  
sword)  
Whatever.

BACK TO:

22 INT. SPEED QUEST CAVE - LATER 22

Vaera climbs over a wall. A monster is waiting for them.  
Dragon 3 shrieks in fear and flies away.

VAERA  
(Pulling out her sword)  
And he acted so stoic...

BACK TO:

23 INT. SPEED QUEST TOWER - LATER 23

Dragon 4 continues talking on the grapevine. A monster  
appears ahead.

DRAGON 4  
(To Vaera)  
Can you take care of that? I need  
to finish this.

VAERA  
(Sarcastically)  
Sure, why not?

CUT TO:

4 SIDE BY SIDE SHOTS.

She attacks all the monsters. She defeats them and the gong  
rings.

BACK TO:

24 INT. SPEED QUEST WEST WING - LATER

24

Dragon 5 carries her out of an opening overlooking a forest.

DRAGON 5  
(Confused)  
This doesn't seem right...

VAERA  
I told you, we should have gone  
left.

DRAGON 5  
(Ignoring her)  
I could have sworn...

He places Vaera down and heads back into the cave mumbling to himself.

VAERA  
(To herself)  
Okay? Leave me here. Arrogant  
lizard.

DRAGON 5 (O.S.)  
I'll be right back, my knightling!  
Then we shall continue our quest.

She pulls out her pocket watch.

VAERA  
Not if I can help it...

She's about to use the watch when something rustles the trees in the forest. She turns to see what caused it.

The trees rustle in a line. The back of Ristran, a green dragon with black markings, is visible. She descends the hill after it.

Dragon 5 returns, excited.

DRAGON 5  
Don't worry, my delicate rider. I  
have found the way... Vaera? Vaera?  
(Dramatically)  
Vaera!

25 EXT. FOREST OF GIANT TREES - CONTINUOUS

25

Ristran makes his way through the forest. Something snaps behind him. He stops and looks behind. He sees nothing.



Vaera stands frozen in the middle of the path, invisible. Her boot is on a broken twig.

Ristran shrugs to himself and continues forward. Vaera sighs in relief.

Vaera continues to follow him through the trees. The trees get bigger. She comes around a bend and he's gone. She looks around, confused. She drops her shoulders, disappointed.

RISTRAN (O.S.)

If you're going to be invisible,  
you should learn to mask your  
smell.

Vaera turns around. Ristran sits perched in the trees above. She smells her armpit.

VAERA

(Turning visible)

Well you shouldn't run into knights  
when they're parachuting through  
the air.

RISTRAN

(Bowing his head)

That was you? What are the odds?

Ristran glides down from the trees and continues walking. Vaera follows.

VAERA

I could have died!

RISTRAN

(whispers)

Doubtful, you weren't that high up.

VAERA

And why aren't you flying now?

DRAGON 5 (O.S.)

(in the distance)

Vaera! Come back!

RISTRAN

I could ask you the same thing.

(mock sadness)

Your dragon sounds like he's  
missing you.

Vaera scowls and hurries past him.

VAERA

For your information, I don't have a dragon. And I don't need one either.

RISTRAN

Right, its not like they can save you when you're falling through the air.

VAERA

I was perfectly fine until you bumped me.

Ristran stops and looks at her.

RISTRAN

It was an accident, all right?

Ristran turns and continues walking.

VAERA

Fine, apology accept--

Ristran knocks her head with his tail.

VAERA (CONT'D)

What is your problem?

RISTRAN

(Sarcastically)

Another Accident.

Vaera huffs and folds her arms. Dragon 5 is heard again.

RISTRAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You should probably go back to your dragon. He sounds pretty desperate to find you.

Vaera thinks to go home, but decides to follow him instead. She catches up.

VAERA

I don't have a dragon. And I can take care of myself, thank you.

RISTRAN

(Bored)

Is that so?

Ristran swipes at her with his tail again. She ducks.

VAERA  
(triumphant)

Hah!

His tail comes back around, knocking her in the chest and sending her to the ground. She lays there for a moment. Ristran shakes his head and continues walking.

RISTRAN  
Like I said, go back, little knightling.

Vaera sits up and notices a wound on the underside of his wing.

VAERA  
What's wrong with your wing?

RISTRAN  
You better speak up. The world has little use for mumbles.

Vaera stands and catches up to him as he stops and rummages through a satchel on his chest. She points to the wound on his wing.

VAERA  
Your wing. It's crippled.  
(beat)  
You can't fly?

RISTRAN  
(focused on the satchel)  
Then, how did I get into those trees earlier? And what I was doing when you were free-falling.

VAERA  
(Pauses)  
Well, maybe you can fly a little, and glide, but it must hurt terribly.

RISTRAN  
And I thought I was just getting an artifact tonight. Thanks for the diagnostic doc, I'll pick up the prescription on my way out.

VAERA  
Does it hurt?

She reaches to touch it. Ristran shrugs her away and pulls out a scull that reads Instagrim on the forehead.

He activates it. Magical images appear showing people fighting monsters and showing off loot. He gets to one post and stops to study it.

VAERA (CONT'D)  
 (seeing his instagrim)  
 Is that an adult Hummerbeak?

RISTRAN  
 You know it's very rude to spy on other's social magica. But yes, it is.

VAERA  
 (realizing)  
 You're after a flying artifact!

RISTRAN  
 (Bracing himself)  
 Yes, and just beyond that line of trees it's stowed somewhere.

VAERA  
 I could use a flying artifact.

RISTRAN  
 Then I hope you know where another one is, because I've already dibbsed this one.

VAERA  
 Unless I get to it first.

Ristran ignores her and digs in his satchel. He retrieves several artifacts including a black sword that he equips it to his waist.

VAERA (CONT'D)  
 You're using weapon artifacts?

RISTRAN  
 It's not chivalrous to judge, especially when you use them all the time.

VAERA  
 But you're a dragon.

RISTRAN  
 And you're a wonder for the obvious.

VAERA

Dragons don't need weapon  
artifacts.

RISTRAN

Then I suppose I'm a lousy dragon.

VAERA

(feeling sorry)

Listen, what if we work together on  
this.

RISTRAN

(Laughing)

A quest? I don't think so.

VAERA

But I need the artifact to get on  
top of Valoff mountain, and then I  
promise you can have it.

RISTRAN

And I'm supposed to take you by  
your word? Forgive me if I decline.

A monster roars in the trees above.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

(Looking up, scared)

Actually, maybe I'll take you up on  
that. It is an adult Hummerbeak,  
after all.

VAERA

What, you scared?

RISTRAN

Not scared. Just wondering how to  
distract him so I can steal the  
artifact.

VAERA

(Confused)

Steal it?

RISTRAN

Yes, that's what I just said.

VAERA

But you can't steal artifacts. You  
have to defeat the monster. It's  
part of the magic of questing.

RISTRAN

Then it's a good thing this isn't a  
quest. Now, if you'd like to help  
then hold still for a bit.

She pauses and he tosses her out into the clearing. She lands  
right in front of the Hummerbeak. The Hummerbeak roars,  
slapping it's tail between Vaera and Ristran.

VAERA

Hi, uh Hummerbeak.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

26 EXT. HUMMERBEAK CLEARING - NIGHT

26

Vaera runs for her life around the clearing. The Hummerbeak drops it's tail blocking her when she tries to escape the clearing. She checks her invisibility watch, but it's still cooling down.

RISTRAN

Try to get him away from the middle!

VAERA

(Sarcastic)

So you can steal the artifact? I don't think so!

RISTRAN

Fine, just don't slow down.

Vaera sweats beneath her heavy armor. She sheds some pieces. The Hummerbeak's tail nearly slams her. She dodge rolls to the side and unlatches her chest plate.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Keep dodge rolling! That's a great way to keep him guessing.

VAERA

This isn't a magica game!

RISTRAN

(Shrugs to himself)

Yeah, well...

The Hummerbeak roars and attacks again. Ristran ducks beneath its tail. Vaera pulls out her sword and strikes, and runs again.

VAERA

(desperate)

Aren't you going to do something?

RISTRAN

(Shuffles in his satchel)

I was just thinking that. Catch!

Ristran throws an artifact ring at her. She catches it. It has boots with wings etched it.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Run like the wind, knightling!

Vaera activates the artifact and runs faster. Her confidence grows. She ducks beneath the tail and slices the hummerbeak with her sword again. The Hummerbeak roars in annoyance.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

You've almost got him!

VAERA

And how do you suppose that?

RISTRAN

Have you ever heard the story of the elephant and the mouse?

VAERA

Now might not be the time for bedtime fables.

RISTRAN

True. But there's something to be said about the cunning of the weak.

VAERA

(running past)

Did you just call me weak?

RISTRAN

Not at all. I said I was cunning.

VAERA

(She dodges and attacks)

More like cowardice.

RISTRAN

And 3, 2, 1...

As Vaera strikes with her sword, the hummerbeak slaps its tail on the ground and roars. The hummerbeak flies away, annoyed. Vaera stumbles and looks to Ristran.

VAERA

What happened?

Ristran hurries to the center of the clearing.

RISTRAN

Like trying to catch an uncatchable mosquito. He quit and left.

VAERA

Left?

(confused and tired)

But then... you knew he would give up?



RISTRAN

Hummerbeaks are known to rage-quit rather quickly. It was only a matter of time. Provided that you stayed alive long enough.

Ristran pulls an artifact with wings etched in it out of a hole in the ground. The ground sinks and shudders around them. He shrugs. Vaera stands fuming behind him.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

(placing the artifact in his satchel)

There we go. It's been a pleasure working with you, knightling. Good luck with your questing.

VAERA

(panting)

You mean, after all that... after putting me through this... you're just leaving? Without even a thanks?

RISTRAN

Oh, I've forgotten something, haven't I?

Ristran walks up to her as though about to apologize, but takes back the speed artifact ring.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Thank you, very much.

The ground rumbles again. Ristran notices. Vaera doesn't.

VAERA

(Loathing)

You are the worst dragon I have ever met. And that's saying something.

The ground shakes again. Ristran shows worry.

RISTRAN

(distracted)

I'll take that as a compliment.

The ground rumbles harder.

VAERA

(looking at the ground)

What is that?

RISTRAN  
 (Realizing)  
 We need to get out of-

A vine shoots from the ground, wrapping around Ristran's leg. He pulls against it as another shoots around his arm. One shoots around Vaera's torso.

VAERA  
 Let me guess, you didn't account for this, did you?

RISTRAN  
 Mercury spider snares? Of course not.

VAERA  
 Well, O cunning one, how do we get out of...  
 (Beat, Remembering)  
 Wait, did you say snares?

BACK TO:

27 INT. SPEED QUEST CAVE 2 - EARLIER

27

DRAGON 2  
 Snare plants are my favorite of course. Half of my garden is filled with them. So clever, and yet so easy to tame. Just give them a melody and they'll start waving in perfect time.

BACK TO:

28 EXT. HUMMERBEAK CLEARING - NIGHT

28

RISTRAN  
 Yup, though not deadly themselves, they won't let go until something stronger comes along. Which will mean the end for us.

VAERA  
 Maybe not... Do you like music?

RISTRAN  
 I don't think now's a good time for speed questing questions.

VAERA

Quick, think of your favorite song  
and sing it.

Vaera starts singing.

RISTRAN

You can't be serious.

The hummerbeak starts descending from above. Vaera nods at Ristran. Ristran rolls his eyes and starts singing. The shoots start to let go.

Surprised, Ristran sings louder. More shoots let go, bouncing in time to create a beat. Ristran is freed and runs out of the clearing. Vaera has one more vine to go.

The hummerbeak roars and a shadow covers the ground. Vaera's mouth is too dry to keep singing. She claps instead.

Time slows as the hummerbeak drops down on top of Vaera. The last vine won't let go as the Hummerbeak's claws drop above her. She closes her eyes. The claw closes around her, cutting the vine.

Ristran shoots in using the wing artifact, colliding with the Hummerbeak and knocking it over.

Vaera opens her eyes. The hummerbeak is dead with a giant broken tree in it's chest. Ristran is bleeding with a hummerbeak spike in his side.

Vaera rushes to him and gasps at the injury.

VAERA

Dragon? Are you alive?

RISTRAN

(Weakly)

The sword, on my belt. Pull it out.

Vaera pulls out the Sword of Uhndoo.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Stab me with it and say: Kahnt Rul  
Zee.

Shaking, Vaera holds the sword over his heart.

VAERA

Are you sure about this?

RISTRAN  
 (Seeing she's about to  
 stab his chest)  
 You'll kill me for sure that way.  
 Stab my arm or leg.

Vaera realizes and stabs his arm instead.

VAERA  
 Kahnt Rul Zee!

The sword glows white, illuminating the forest.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

29 EXT. FOREST OF GIANT TREES - MORNING

29

Ristran stirs and awakes. The Sword of Uhndoo lays beside him. His arm is bandaged.

RISTRAN  
 (To himself)  
 What happened?

His satchel buzzes. He fumbles through it and pulls out his facescroll. Inside is a message from Vaera reading:

VAERA V.O.  
 I saved your life, you saved mine.  
 We're even.

He smirks and another message appears.

VAERA V.O. (CONT'D)  
 Also, I'm borrowing the wing  
 artifact.

He digs through his satchel. The wing artifact is gone. He looks again at the message, especially Vaera's picture, with appreciation.

The scroll asks if he knows her. He clicks yes. The scroll changes to: Please describe your relationship. Different options appear. His thumb hovers back and forth between Friend and Enemy.

RISTRAN  
 Well played, little knightling.  
 Well played.

His thumb drops down to Frenemy and presses it.

CUT TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED

EPISODE 2: COLD OPEN

30 EXT. ERM DESERT - NIGHT

30

A scared knight runs through the sands. The shadow of a dragon passes over her.

SCARED KNIGHT  
(On a grapevine)  
Corvin? Corvin, where are you?

She hangs up and keeps running. A dragon, Drake, lands in her path. It's rider, Stoica, jumps into the sand.

STOICA  
Well, well. You are quite the distance runner, aren't you.

SCARED KNIGHT  
What did you do with Corvin?

DRAKE  
(Bearing teeth)  
He's alive... barely.

The scared knight falls to the ground.

SCARED KNIGHT  
Please, whatever you want you can have it. I just want my dragon.

Drake laughs. Stoica admires her blade in the moonlight as she walks toward the knight.

STOICA  
You know what I want. So give them to me, or riding your dragon will be that much harder.

She points the blade at the knight's knee.

STOICA (CONT'D)  
How does that sound?

The scared knight looks from Stoica to Drake, then closes her eyes and reaches behind her back.

SCARED KNIGHT  
All right... Here you go.

She grins and activates the artifact. Wind and sand surround her, forming a wind golem. She picks up Stoica by her waist.

SCARED KNIGHT (CONT'D)  
Tell me where my dragon is!

Stoica yawns.

STOICA  
I'd rather not.

She pulls out a black artifact and activates it. It glows purple. The wind golem slowly diminishes. The scared knight is confused.

SCARED KNIGHT  
What is this?

Stoica bushes sand off her armor.

STOICA  
Artifact neutralizer, don't leave home without it. Now, will you please cooperate?

She holds up three more artifact neutralizers. The knight drops her head and hands up a bag of artifacts.

STOICA (CONT'D)  
That's better.

She swipes the bag and snaps another artifact to life. Cords shoot out of it, tying up the Scared Knight. The scared knight falls onto the sand.

STOICA (CONT'D)  
Oh, we'll need you to come with us also. Don't want you blabbing this all over social magica.

She climbs back on Drake. Drake lifts off, hovering in the air and picks up the scared knight with his claw.

SCARED KNIGHT  
What about my dragon?

STOICA  
He's wounded and unconscious about three miles that way. If he's lucky, he might die before a monster shows up.

Drake and Stoica fly off. The scared knight cries, looking in the direction Stoica pointed.

END COLD OPEN

EPISODE 2: ACT 1

31 INT. VAERA'S BEDROOM - DAY 31

Vaera studies the wing artifact she took from Ristran. The artifact needs a week to cool down.

She places the artifact on her desk and picks up a wooden plank. It glows and show's several pictures of artifacts and creatures. She searches for flying artifacts.

VAERA

Come on! Please find something!

Her sister bursts into the room and swings a white armored dress around.

PYE

Look what came today! Isn't it great?

Vaera ignores her. A pair of winged shoes pop up. She clicks on it, and a map appears with a pin in the desert.

VAERA

Bingo.

Pye see's that Vaera is distracted. She sits on her bed.

PYE

Well aren't you going to tell me what happened last night?

Vaera freezes.

VAERA

Last night?

CUT TO:

32 EXT. HUMMERBEAK CLEARING - BEFORE 32

Flashback to her saving Ristran with the sword of Uhndoo.

BACK TO:

33 INT. VAERA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 33

PYE

Yes! How was speed dating?



VAERA

Oh that. It was fine.

She stows the board into her utility belt.

PYE

(Excited)

Well, I just happened to get on  
facescroll this morning and look  
what I found.

She holds up her facescroll. It show's Ristran as her  
frenemy. Vaera scoffs.

VAERA

He would put us as frenemies.

PYE

I was wondering about that. But he  
looks like a good one.

VAERA

Just one problem, he can't fly.

Pye looks defeated.

PYE

Oh... oh well.

(starts pulls out her  
wintrest board)

If you'd like, you can come  
firework shopping with Gary and I.  
We still have so much to get. I  
can't believe it's only a few more  
days.

VAERA

I think I'll pass. But thanks for  
the offer.

PYE

(Distracted by wintrest)

Uh huh...

Vaera throws over her hood and exits the room. Pye stays  
behind, distracted by wintrest.

34

EXT. ERM FOREST TRAIN STATION - MOMENTS LATER

34

Vaera waits for the train. A group of single-knight activists  
gather around Callin shouting from a soap box. A sign behind  
him reads: Bonding is Bondage.

CALLIN

Aren't you tired of being told you need a dragon in your life? That you're worthless unless you're bonded?

Vaera rolls her eyes and turns away.

CALLIN (CONT'D)

We won't be freed unless we stop giving in to their demands. And so, join us, worthy knights. And find the fulfillment you've been longing for.

Another activist starts handing out pamphlets. The Activist Speaker notices Vaera and approaches. He holds out a pamphlet to her.

CALLIN (CONT'D)

Be a part of something. You don't need to give into their lies.

VAERA

Thanks, but I don't need your club to reassure my worth.

CALLIN

It's not a club. It's a movement. And it's already revolutionizing the world.

VAERA

And who said the world needed to be changed?

Callin chuckles.

CALLIN

Let me guess, you're still hoping to pair with a dragon.

(Dreamily)

And Quest happily ever after.

VAERA

No, I just want some certain artifacts.

CALLIN

And therein lies the problem. You think getting artifacts and going on quests bring you joy.

(MORE)

CALLIN (CONT'D)

But what if I told you it was all a fabricated lie, all for the gain of others?

VAERA

And what would we do otherwise?  
Stand on boxes shouting at people?

Callin laughs again.

CALLIN

We do more than just shout at people, miss...

VAERA

Vaera.

CALLIN

Well, Miss Vaera, there's a whole world outside of questing that I bet you've never seen. But I could show you.

VAERA

Actually, I have seen it, thanks to social magica, and I'd honestly rather not.

Train pulls into the station.

VAERA (CONT'D)

Now, I'm sure you have more people to manipulate so don't let me hold you up.

She leaves him and boards the train.

35

INT. TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

35

She makes her way down the aisle and sits. Callin holds a card through the nearby window.

CALLIN

Well, if you change your mind, here's my social magica account information. Give me a squish if you ever want to talk.

VAERA

(Looking away)  
Borderline stalking now.

Callin shrugs and drops the card. It falls beside her feet. He backs up as the train pulls away.

36 INT. TRAIN CAR - LATER

36

Vaera checks her wintrest board and eyes the card. She reaches down to pick it up, when the car shakes. She's thrown off her seat with the other passengers.

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)  
 (over the intercom)  
 Ladies and gentlemen, do not be alarmed. It seems a dragon has decided to hitch a ride with us. We will do our best to remove him.

Vaera regains her seat and looks out the window and sees the shadow of a dragon aboard their train. Several men are knocked off the train's roof. The tail of a green dragon with black markings is visible for a moment.

CONDUCTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Ladies and gentlemen, it seems the dragon will be riding with us for the foreseeable future.

Vaera shakes her head and goes back to her wintrest board.

VAERA  
 Ready to be beaten again, Ristran?

37 EXT. TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

37

Ristran makes himself comfortable on the train roof, checking his wintrest board. It shows the same artifact Vaera is after.

END ACT 1

EPISODE 2 ACT 2

38 EXT. ERM DESERT TRAIN STATION - LATER

38

Vaera sleeps on the train. The carriage jostles, waking her up.

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)

Approaching Erm Desert Station. And it appears we are freed from our stowaway dragon.

Vaera searches the window. Ristran runs away from the train. Vaera jumps from her seat and hurries to the nearest door.

The train stops at the station. Vaera bursts out and runs through the station. She bumps into people as she runs.

She secures her utility belt and checks her GPS. It shows her dot and a pin of where the artifact is. Desperate, she looks around for a faster way to get there.

A man with a sand scooter approaches.

VAERA

How much to borrow your scooter?

SCOOTER MAN

What?

VAERA

I need your scooter, sir. Just for the day. How much?

SCOOTER MAN

Well I, um, this is unusual...

VAERA

(Rolling her eyes)

Listen, here's 5 gold pieces. If you need more you can have it when I come back.

SCOOTER MAN

What?

Vaera pushes her way onto the scooter and speeds to the desert.

VAERA

(Over her shoulder)

Thank you!

39

EXT. ERM DESERT - CONTINUOUS

39

Vaera mounts her GPS to the scooter and revs it faster. Ristran appears in the distance. She catches up to him. Ristan looks over his shoulder and scowls.

RISTRAN

Oh, great it's you. Come to steal another artifact from me?

VAERA

I didn't steal it. I'm only borrowing it.

RISTRAN

Well, this one is mine, all right?

Ristran flies a little to get ahead, then keeps running. Vaera catches up again.

VAERA

Just so you know, I wouldn't even be here if you hadn't used the wing artifact last night.

RISTRAN

That's funny. I thought you'd show a little appreciation, being that I saved your life with it.

VAERA

Hey, we're even on that score. Even though it was your fault we were trapped in the first place.

A light shines from the east distracting Vaera. She stops to look at it.

RISTRAN

My fault? Listen little kni-

He looks down but Vaera isn't there. He stops and turns back. Vaera stands facing the east. She's distracted by the light.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Just so you know, knightling, I was fine by myself. You're the one who kept insisting you help me.

Vaera doesn't respond. She walks toward the east. Ristran watches her. The light blinks several times again.

VAERA

Someone's hurt!

Vaera revs her scooter and hurries toward it. Ristran stays behind.

RISTRAN

Well, that answers who get's this artifact.

He starts again, frowns, turns and follows her.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Chivalry.

He catches up to Vaera. They speed across the desert to the light.

40

EXT. SMALL DESERT OASIS - MOMENTS LATER

40

A flame shoots into the sky from an oasis. They find an injured dragon there. Vaera gets off her scooter and tends the dragon. Ristran stays behind.

VAERA

What happened?

CORVIN

My knight and I were affronted during the crest of moonlight.

VAERA

By a monster?

Corvin shakes his head and tries to stand. Ristran folds his arms impatiently.

CORVIN

A dragon and his rider.

Ristran scoffs.

RISTRAN

Not likely. Bonded knights and dragons aren't allowed to attack dragons and knights. It's against the bonding magical contract.

CORVIN

We were not expecting such an attack, to be sure.

Vaera rummages through her pack.

VAERA

Why haven't you called for help?

The dragon shrugs embarrassed.

CORVIN

My knight stowed all my social  
magica and artifacts on her person.  
I had hoped for her return by now,  
but I fear the worst has happened.

Vaera pulls out an artifact with a plus sign and ignites it.

VAERA

I can keep you alive for now, but  
we need a cleric to heal you  
properly.

CORVIN

Thank you very much, little knight.  
Thank you both.

Ristrand holds up his hands defiantly.

RISTRAN

Don't look at me. She's the one to  
thank.

The dragon looks confused.

CORVIN

Are you not her dragon?

Ristrand and Vaera both laugh.

RISTRAN

Not on her life.

VAERA

No, we aren't each other's dragons.  
We don't even like each other.

RISTRAN

It's a mutual loathing, to be  
honest.

CORVIN

But aren't you questing together?

Ristrand and Vaera look at each other.

RISTRAN

No. She's following me.



VAERA

Don't listen to him. He's just scared I'm going to steal his artifact.

RISTRAN

Wouldn't be the first time.

Vaera finishes healing Corvin and stands.

VAERA

Well, that's about all I can do for now. I'll send out for help and make sure they send a cleric.

She turns to leave. The dragon walks with her.

CORVIN

I shall not wait around for some fateful creature to appear and finish me off. I shall join you.

Ristran scowls.

RISTRAN

You shall stay here and wait for a cleric. You'll only endanger yourself, not to mention, slow us down.

Corvin shakes his head.

CORVIN

No, I shall accompany you. And perhaps discover what happened to my rider.

VAERA

No, I agree with him, it will be better if you just stay here.

CORVIN

I swear, on the hearts of all dragons, I shall not slow you down. You must take me with you.

Ristran turns to Vaera

RISTRAN

Can I talk to you for a moment.

Vaera huddles with Ristran.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

I don't know what you're trying to do here, being all kind and caring to him, but there's an artifact that has my name on it and I don't plan to let some posh dragon stop me.

VAERA

I was just trying to help. I never meant for him to come with us.

RISTRAN

Then you'll stay here and help him while I go get the artifact.

VAERA

Or you stay here and I'll go get the artifact. He's your kind, after all.

RISTRAN

Not by choice.

Vaera turns back to Corvin.

VAERA

Dragon, what was your name?

CORVIN

Corvin the III, at your service.

VAERA

Well, Corvin, Ristran here has volunteered to stay with you while I'm away. I shouldn't be gone too long.

Ristran is appalled. Vaera grins at herself and heads back to her bike. Before she can get to it, a giant hammerhead sand shark bursts out of the sand, eating the bike up.

CORVIN

(In dismay)

Hammerhead sand sharks. Never come at a good time, do they.

Vaera is stunned. Ristran bursts out laughing.

RISTRAN

Looks like you're not going anywhere, little knightling.

Vaera turns back.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)  
I'll let you know how nice this  
artifact is when I get it.

Ristran takes flight and leaves Vaera and Corvin behind.

CORVIN  
If you wish to follow him, I  
believe I can sustain flight long  
enough to get outside the sand  
shark area.

VAERA  
No, we shouldn't strain you like  
that. We'll stay here and wait for  
a cleric to come.

She walks into the oasis and begins unpacking her pack. She  
looks back after Ristran.

CORVIN  
He'll be alright, ma'am, I'm sure.

Vaera grimaces.

VAERA  
That's what I'm afraid of.

41 EXT. ERM CANYONS - LATER

41

Ristran lands outside the canyons. He's cheerful. He pulls  
out his wintrest board and checks it.

RISTRAN  
Sure, she's nice to him. What about  
me? Why am I the victim of her  
wrath?

A shadow passes on the cliff above.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)  
Okay, yes, I did use her as bait  
last night, but its not like she  
couldn't handle it. In fact, she  
did better than I expected.

Ristrand shakes his head.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)  
Don't think about her. Focus on  
what you need. You're that much  
closer to sustained flight.

The shadow moves above again.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

In fact, if you hadn't saved her last night, you'd have your wing artifact and be flying free now. Well, once a week at least.

The shadow drops from the cliff, landing beside Ristran. He's unfazed as he looks at his wintrest board.

RISTRAN (CONT'D)

Oh, hey Stoica.

Stoica removes her hood, revealing her face.

STOICA

I never get the jump on you, do I?

RISTRAN

You humans always forget how much you smell.

STOICA

Well you could at least act happy to see me.

Ristran stops and looks at her, as though seeing her there for the first time.

RISTRAN

What are you doing here?

STOICA

I could ask you the same thing...  
(looks at his board)  
But its probably the same thing you're always doing. Trying to fix your wing.

RISTRAN

And you wonder why you don't have many friends.

STOICA

At least I have Drake.

RISTRAN

Oh yeah, how is that firehead, anyway? You two look like you've made quite the team, judging by all those artifacts you have.

Stoica rolls her eyes.

STOICA  
Oh, you're jealous. I'm flattered.

Ristran looks around.

RISTRAN  
Where is he, anyway?

STOICA  
Off running an errand.

Ristran eye's her, untrusting.

STOICA (CONT'D)  
What?

RISTRAN  
Well you should probably go back to  
him. You know I prefer to work  
alone--

His text book rings. He sighs and opens it. Ristran's text  
reads: Vaera - The dragon's come back to finish Corvin off!  
Please come help!

STOICA  
Oh, and who is that?

Ristran slams the book closed.

RISTRAN  
No one.

STOICA  
You found a rider? And I thought I  
was the only one who'd break you  
down.

RISTRAN  
She's not my rider. I told you I--  
(Beat)  
Wait, what did you say Drake was  
doing?

Stoica smiles wryly.

STOICA  
Running an errand. Why?

Ristran focuses on her stash of artifacts. He groans in  
realization.

RISTRAN

You're the one who attacked him.  
You've been attacking knights and  
stealing their artifacts.

STOICA

You always were a smart one.

RISTRAN

I have to go back and help them.

Stoica steps in Ristran's way and draws out her sword.

STOICA

And yet so foolish.

Ristran pounces and lands on her.

RISTRAN

I have no problem fighting you.

STOICA

That's why I liked you so much.

She activates an artifact, giving her strength to punch him  
off. He slams into the canyon wall, then jumps again.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT 2

If you'd like to read more  
please email me at  
[Rileyanielson@gmail.com](mailto:Rileyanielson@gmail.com)

Thank you!