

SALVATION

Written by

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FADE IN:

1. EXT. MAP OF ROMAN EMPIRE - (SUPER) 32 A. D.

NARARATOR (V.O.)  
When Rome ruled the world, the men  
of the Legions controlled the  
Empire through a combination of  
honor ferocity, and unmatched  
discipline.

2. EXT. WHITE CLIFFS OF BRITANNIA - DAY

Roman officers stand on deck of ship as it approaches two  
similar ships moored on the shore.

NARARATOR (V.O.)  
Imposing the will of the Emperor  
from the cliffs of Britannia.

3. EXT. GIZA PLATEAU - DAY

Three Roman officers ride past the Great Sphinx in chariots.

NARARATOR (V.O.)  
To the monuments of Egypt.  
Hardened warriors, feared  
throughout the known world by all

4. EXT. FOREST CLEARING IN GERMANIA - NIGHT

German tribesmen circle large fire dancing war dance as  
others pound drums suspended by ropes between two trees.

NARARATOR (V.O.)  
But one group of fighters. The  
tribesmen on the German frontier.

5. EXT. FOREST ROAD IN GERMANIA - DAY

MARCUS, SEXTUS, ARIAS, and REMUS ride at the front of a  
column of wagons and foot soldiers.

NARARATOR (V.O.)  
The men of the 13th Legion join the  
long line of Legions sent by Rome  
to polish their brass.

## 6. EXT. GERMANIA FOREST - DAY

Marcus and Sextus stand behind a line of Roman soldiers in formation facing a mob of agitated German tribesmen. Marcus nods to Sextus, who smiles, looks to his men, and raises his sword.

SEXTUS

For the thirteenth, for our honor,  
Fortis Formation!

Soldiers lock shields and stomp forward clapping their swords into their shields with each foot stomp.

Marcus mounts his horse and looks to the field.

## 7. EXT. BEHIND GERMAN LINE - CONTINUOUS

Tribesmen pound their weapons and shields as the Roman line creeps forward.

## 8. EXT. ROMAN REAR - CONTINUOUS

Marcus raises his hand, looks to Sextus, drops his hand and the sky fills with flaming arrows.

## 9. EXT. BEHIND GERMAN LINE - CONTINUOUS

Bolts of fire pierce the line puncturing leather and flesh. Germans absorb the torrent and surge towards the advancing Roman line.

## 10. EXT. STREAM BED WEST OF GERMAN POSITION - CONTINUOUS

Remus and Arias join their men, secure their head gear, and mount their horses.

REMUS

I'll be dammed, Sextus was right.

ARIAS

Just get on with it.

REMUS

Fine.

ARIAS

Look for the signal.

REMUS  
I think I'll have some German  
livers tonight.

ARIAS  
I think we ran out of  
onions.(smiling)

Soldiers laugh as they pull their swords and coil for the  
attack.

11. EXT. SKIRMISH FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Roman soldiers brace for incoming assault.

SEXTUS  
Shields!

Soldiers in front row link their shields while soldiers  
behind them link shields overhead, forming a island of  
shields with pikes and swords glinting in the sun.

Tribesmen pepper the Roman line with stones and manure filled  
bladders.

INFANTRYMAN  
They're throwing shit.

SEXTUS  
Hold the line.

Wait for the command.

Clubs and blades bounce off shields as Germans try to break  
the line with body weight and fanatical determination.

SEXTUS (CONT'D)  
Pikes.

Spikes penetrate heads and bodies as Romans bloody the field  
and pikes puncture helmets, breast plates and limbs. The  
Roman line grinds over German gore and bodies.

12. EXT. BEHIND GERMAN LINE - CONTINUOUS

German chief signals and the hoard surges towards the  
fighting.

13. EXT. STREAM BED WEST OF GERMAN POSITION - CONTINUOUS

REMUS

Sounds like they took the bait took  
the bait.

ARIAS

Prepare to charge.

Arias and Remus ride to the top of the hill followed by  
their soldiers.

ARIAS (CONT'D)

Charge!

Soldiers stream over the hill towards the German flank,  
leveling their pikes forming a moving wall of imminent death.

FADE OUT.

14. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - EVENING

Soldiers surround a group of prisoners, some of the prisoners  
are treating each other's wounds.

15. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Marcus, Sextus, Arias rest in their mounts as Remus  
approaches on horseback.

REMUS

It's a sad bunch, the real men fell  
in battle. There's a couple of cute  
ones in there if any of you have a  
fancy.

SEXTUS

Why must you always be so garish.

REMUS

We've been away from home for quite  
a while. I'll set aside a couple of  
nice ones for you and Marcus.

MARCUS

Is there any sign of the chief?

ARIAS

I lost track of him, once the heads  
started flying.

MARCUS

So we have no idea if he is dead or over the next hill plotting a counter attack.

REMUS

I'm sure he is not amongst the prisoners, and it's too dark to check the dead.

They ride forward and look over the gathered prisoners.

ARIAS

So what do we do with them?

REMUS

I will take the tender ones, the lads could use a bit of a go after the last few weeks.

SEXTUS

And the rest?

MARCUS

Kill the wounded, crucify the rest.

SEXTUS

Are you sure that's wise? It may enrage the survivors still in the wood.

MARCUS

Arias, you heard me.

ARIAS

And Remus?

MARCUS

As much as it may disgust me, he is right about the men. Let them have their fun.

REMUS

Hell yeah!

Arias and Remus turn and ride towards the prisoners.

16. EXT. GERMAN FOREST- NIGHT

A wild boar roasts over fire as Marcus, Sextus, and Arias toss their scraps into the flames.

MARCUS

I hate these people but their pigs  
grow tasty meat.

SEXTUS

You've been away from home too  
long, you need a different kind of  
meat.

MARCUS

Now you sound like that plebe  
Remus.

SEXTUS

Why do you hold him in such  
contempt?

MARCUS

That fact that he is an officer  
distresses me.

SEXTUS

You let his birth affect your  
opinion.

MARCUS

Why not?

ARIAS

I've never noticed you complaining  
about his blade in the middle of a  
fight.

MARCUS

I know he's your friend and I mean  
no offense, but you must understand  
the way of the world my young  
friend. Officers should be educated  
men of culture and breeding from  
the right families.

ARIAS

I understand courage in battle,  
that should be enough.

SEXTUS

Look, the falcon returns to the  
roost.

Remus enters from the darkness, cuts a slice of meat, and  
plants himself next to Arias.

REMUS

A good fight and a better shag,  
really builds up the appetite.

ARIAS

You've had your fill?

REMUS

I had to take a break. Gentlemen I  
still have some tender ones set  
aside for you.

He looks towards Marcus

REMUS (CONT'D)

I know how the hight born feel  
about such things, so I kept men  
away from the pretty ones for you  
lot.

Remus falls backwards in laughter. Marcus looks to Sextus.

MARCUS

Do something.

SEXTUS

Remus we are going to pass on the  
entertainment for the evening. Do  
as you will with them.

REMUS

You sure?

SEXTUS

Be quick about it, we march at  
first light.

REMUS

I will take my meat to go then.

Remus grabs a slab of pork, nods in turn to Sextus and Arias,  
before rendering a semi- salute to Marcus and heading back  
into the darkness.

17. EXT. MAGDALA JUDIA - DAY

PETER, and JAMES follow JUDAS through the market as he  
checks the different food items for sale. When Judas makes a  
purchase, he gives the items to Peter and James and watches  
them secure the food in their bags.



## 18. EXT. MAGDALA WELL - LATER

Peter, James and Judas, recline next to the well. Judas divides a loaf of bread between them and puts a dried fish on each of their mats.

Peter raises his hands over the meal as James and Judas lower their heads.

PETER

Lord we thank and praise you for  
this food and fellowship. Grant  
that we remain faithful to the  
word. Amen

The men tear into the fish and bread.

JAMES

A little wine would make this a  
feast.

JUDAS

You have coin for wine?

JAMES

Just making conversation.

JUDAS

Judas find a place, Judas get some  
food, I don't have the power of  
miracles. I have to make due  
through my wit and the generosity  
of others.

PETER

You're doing find Judas. Master  
trusts you above all others to  
handle our affairs. My brother was  
not complaining, were you.

JAMES

No, not at all. We all know you  
have the hardest assignment. We  
complain about the food to cover  
our exhaustion from a life on the  
road.

JUDAS

I'm fine. Do I need to find lodging  
for the 13?

PETER  
Master told everyone to meet within  
the week, they should all be in  
town tomorrow.

JAMES  
Then what?

PETER  
We go where he decides to send us.

JUDAS  
You two enjoy your meal I'm going  
to see about a place to stay, and  
some wine, for James.

Judas jumps up and walks away.

# 19. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - DAY

ARIAS, Remus and soldiers ride to a hill top, they look down  
at a stream intersecting the road.

ARIAS  
I don't like it.

REMUS  
Tell your brother and Marcus to  
stop the column so we can check  
this out.

ARIAS  
You know how he gets.

REMUS  
I rather take an ass chewing than a  
spear in the ass.

Arias turns and rides back towards the main body of Romans as  
Remus dismounts with his soldiers and looks to the thick  
trees surrounding the river crossing.

# 20. EXT. GERMAN FOREST- MOMENTS LATER

Arias gallops towards Marcus and Sextus.

MARCUS  
Now what?

SEXTUS  
Just doing his job.

MARCUS

If he keeps doing his "JOB!" we will be trudging through these god forsaken forests until we're old men.

ARIAS

We need to make a quick halt, to give Remus a chance to scout a river crossing.

SEXTUS

Again?

MARCUS

What's this about?

ARIAS

We bloodied their noses, and raped the survivors. We're not sure their chief is dead. If I were going to ambush a column, I would do it right over the hill.

MARCUS

Every stream crossing is a perfect area for an ambush, would you have us tip toe through the forest all the way to Rome?

ARIAS

I want to leave here as much as you.

SEXTUS

He may be right, I think this time we should wait for the scouting party.

MARCUS

The thing about an ambush is the bastards have to get close to us to cause any harm.

ARIAS

Yes Sir.

MARCUS

When they do, they are close enough for us to do them just as much harm. Tell Remus to brace the river, but we are coming through.

ARIAS

Yes Sir.

Arias turns and rides forward.

SEXTUS

You sure?

MARCUS

Don't you start in too.

SEXTUS

Your call.

21. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - DAY

Arias returns to Remus and waves his sword in a circle over his head. The riders break into two groups and move up and down stream.

REMUS

Well.

ARIAS

If they attack us, we can kill them.

REMUS

That works until it doesn't.

ARIAS

Just keep your eyes open.

22. EXT. STREAM CROSSING - DAY

Marcus and Sextus lead the column into the small clearing near the crossing point. Marcus stops the column with a wave of his hand.

SEXTUS

We're not stopping here are we?

MARCUS

Have all my officers lost their spines. Rome owns this forest.

SEXTUS

I think someone forgot to tell the current occupants.

MARCUS

That my friend, is why the Emperor sent the 13th, to remind the current occupants. The horses need water and I'm sure Remus has the river crossing secured by now.

SEXTUS

I will tell the men to make it quick.

### 23. SERIES OF SHOTS

- A. Flaming arrow slices Sextus through the neck.
- B. Multiple flaming arrows fly through the sky some hitting soldiers some hitting horses.
- C. Marcus' horse is injured by an arrow and he falls backwards and trapped by his horse.
- D. Hoard of German warriors charge from the tree line attacking the Roman formation.
- E. Remus runs to Marcus, kills two Germans, frees him from the horse and pulls him toward the Roman formation.
- F. Arias directs the surviving Romans to form a square and then runs forward to help Remus bring Marcus back into the formation.
- G. The soldiers close ranks as tribesmen throw themselves on the shields.
- H. A bladder explodes as fire and smoke cover the view.

END OF SERIES

### 24. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - LATER

Remus checks each wounded soldier in turn as he moves around the perimeter while Arias tries to staunch the blood oozing from a cut in Marcus' scalp.

ARIAS

Steady on Marcus, you have a nasty gash on your head.

MARCUS

I need to check my men, where is Sextus?

Arias restrains Marcus' flailing limbs.

ARIAS

Sextus has fallen, along with 13 others, 6 more will likely join them before morning. Also 15 who need mending, with 23 ready to defend the eagle. We also lost 12 horses.

MARCUS

Fucking disaster.

ARIAS

They won't attack again tonight if at all, we soaked the ground with their blood.

MARCUS

What am I going to tell my father.

ARIAS

Our standard is in tact, little else matters. My father on the other hand...

MARCUS

Forgive me, your brother has fallen and I am worried about father. The blood on your leg is that yours?

ARIAS

It's nothing, an axe or something. It hurts like hell, but I'll be alright.

MARCUS

Thank you, I owe you my life.

ARIAS

It was Remus, the plebe who saved your life.

MARCUS

Something I am sure he will never let me forget.

Marcus and Arias look towards Remus as he directs a group of soldiers who gather fallen Romans.

## 25. EXT. COAST OF GALILEE - DAY

Peter, Andrew, and Judas recline by a fire with the scraps of dinner scattered near the flames.

## 26. EXT. COAST OF GALILEE - LATER

Judas counts sacks of provisions.

ANDREW

Judas why are you always fussing about like a shop keeper?

JUDAS

First your brother now you. Think my job is easy why don't you do it.

PETER

Calm down Judas. Andrew was just giving you an opportunity to show your patients and tolerance. How can we free our people if we can't contain a little stress in our ranks?

ANDREW

I don't want to free our people tonight, I just want to get some sleep.

JUDAS

Get your rest, I'll take care of the this in the morning.

PETER

We all count on you Judas. Jesus, most of all.

JUDAS

You think he knows how hard I work for him?

PETER

Of course he does.

JUDAS

I don't feel as valued as the rest of you.

PETER

Would you like some help with your duties?

ANDREW

No one knows how to squeeze a shekel like Judas. We would starve without you.

JUDAS

We're all tired. I'm just glad to help holy man.

ANDREW

I should hope he is more than just any holy man.

JUDAS

I hope you're right, we gave up everything to follow him. I would feel like a fool if we don't remove the Emperor's boot from our peoples neck.

PETER

I'm bone tired, do me a favor, both of you get some sleep.

27. EXT. ROMAN SKYLINE - SUPER

ROME 32 A. D.

28. EXT. CHARIOT RACETRACK REVIEWING STAND - DAY

ISIS watches chariots racing in the arena, she covers her face with her hands and peeks through her fingers.

ISIS

Don't cut him off!

29. EXT. ROMAN ARENA - DAY

ANGUS drives his chariot in front of a another chariot as they approach a sharp turn forcing the other chariot driver to yield.

He then angles his horses towards his mother, and brings his them to a dusty stop.

ANGUS

Mom, did you see that!



ISIS  
I saw you almost kill yourself on a practice run.

ANGUS  
I only race one way. Practice or final tournament I race to win.

ISIS  
You're so like your father. He was quite the driver and scared me as much as you.

ANGUS  
Dad, was a driver?

ISIS  
It isn't something he would bring up.

ANGUS  
He never mentioned it, not once, why not?

ISIS  
You'll have to ask your father when he gets home.

Angus restrains his horses.

ANGUS  
When is he coming home?

ISIS  
Before the great festival.

ANGUS  
I can't wait to tell him my news.

ISIS  
What news?

Horses stomp and snort.

ANGUS  
These horses are thirsty I'll tell you later. Bye mom.

Isis watches Angus drive his team into a cloud of dust.

30. EXT. FABIOUS FAMILY HOME - SUPER

HOME OF MARCUS AND CLAUDIA FABIOUS

## 31. INT. FABIVS FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

A large fire burns in the middle of a simply appointed room.

CASSIUS

I know these times are not easy for you.

CLAUDIA

Keeping the vipers from your son's throat, is never ending work.

CASSIUS

I've known you since birth. You're up to it.

CLAUDIA

Does he have to spend so much time away.

CASSIUS

Officers do not become generals leading parades in the Forum. They must sink their arms into the guts of the enemy.

CLAUDIA

I know but I don't have to like it.

CASSIUS

His first command on the German frontier will bring many opportunities for glory. And that glory will catapult him to the front of the line in competition for a prime spot on the general council.

CLAUDIA

As long as the glory does not get him killed. I'm too old to wait for your youngest son.

## 32. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - DAY

Pyres consume all but one of the fallen, as Marcus supported by two soldiers, Arias and Remus stand next to the remains of Sextus.

ARIAS

The dreams of my father go up in smoke tonight.

MARCUS  
You are worthy of your family name  
Arias.

Remus hands a torch to Arias.

ARIAS  
Goodbye brother.

Arias tosses the torch on top of the remains and the three men watch until Sextus is totally engulfed by flames. Marcus turns to Arias.

MARCUS  
We will leave at first light. You  
are second in command now. Make  
your father proud.

33. EXT. GERMAN FOREST - DAY

Arias rides forward and joins Remus at the front of column of horses, wagons filled with wounded, and foot soldiers.

REMUS  
How is he?

ARIAS  
Worried about his career.

REMUS  
His father will find a way to take  
care of him.

ARIAS  
The men fought bravely but we have  
different issues.

REMUS  
No time for remorse, we are not  
free of the danger zone.

ARIAS  
Check the advance party. One ambush  
per expedition is quite enough if  
you please.

Remus surges forward and looks back to Arias with a smile.

34. EXT. CAMP SITE EDGE OF GERMAN FOREST - NIGHT

A campfires crackle as soldiers devour loaves of bread and roast horse, a horse carcass roasts over the flames.

MARCUS

How are the men?

ARIAS

Tired but well fed thanks to a couple of lame mounts.

REMUS

They have the taste for German liver if you ask me.

MARCUS

The Germans will get what's coming to them, soon enough.

ARIAS

A few weeks here to heal up and we could go back to avenge our fallen.

MARCUS

I have no stomach for more fighting, but I want to thank you two for what you did.

ARIAS

We did our duty, and would do it again. Anyway, Remus is the real hero.

REMUS

I did my job.

ARIAS

You saved the man's life and he should know it.

MARCUS

What happen?

ARIAS

Flaming arrows filled the sky and the men followed their training. Just a little too late for Sextus. The they locked into formation to repel the arrows and ready for the attack.

REMUS

I sprinted down stream at full sprint nearly lost my head on a low branch.

(MORE)

REMUS (CONT'D)

Sextus was burning, you were not in sight and the men were slashing for their lives.

ARIAS

You were pinned under your horse. With the weight of Sextus holding you down. When Remus road in with his sword flashing and dropped god knows how many of those devils.

MARCUS

Remus?

ARIAS

One of them looked to smash your head, when Remus cut him down. The men followed Remus' example and no German was safe.

MARCUS

So my plan actually worked.

Arias and Remus exchange a bemused look.

REMUS

Oh it worked, they are dead. Sextus and a few others provided wonderful bait.

Marcus looks to Remus for a beat before turning to Arias and points to his bandaged knee.

MARCUS

You able to fight on that.

ARIAS

It hurts like hell, but I can fight.

REMUS

The devil who cut him, lost his head for his troubles.

MARCUS

Fitting end for him.

ARIAS

You need to get some rest, we have a long way to go, and we are not out of the hazard zone yet.

MARCUS

You're right, check the perimeter  
before you turn in.

ARIAS

Don't worry, Remus or I will be  
awake throughout the night, you get  
some rest.

Marcus sinks into his bedding, as Arias and Remus slip into  
the darkness.

35. EXT. CAMP SITE EDGE OF GERMAN FOREST - LATER

Arias and Remus eat dried fish and bread by a camp fire.

ARIAS

His bloody planned worked. My  
brother is dead and his plan  
worked.

REMUS

Eat your fish, what's done is done.

ARIAS

It's not done, he's still in  
command.

REMUS

This is the life we've chosen. We  
take orders we give orders the men  
follow them. That's how it works.  
End of story.

ARIAS

I didn't choose this life.

REMUS

What do you mean.

ARIAS

It was chosen for me. I'm following  
my father's wishes. I miss my wife,  
and watching Angus become a man.  
You know he is in the races now. I  
wanted to be in the races.

REMUS

Where you any good?

ARIAS

Hell yes, but my father would not  
hear of it.

REMUS

You gave up a life you loved, to do something that you hate. Why?

ARIAS

A son follows the will of his father, that's just the way it works.

REMUS

Again I say Why?

ARIAS

You wouldn't understand.

REMUS

You high born, and your noble rules.

Remus pulls his sword.

REMUS (CONT'D)

This is how I make my way in the world. I could use it in the arena as a slave or use it in the service to the Emperor, there was never a choice for me. I know you lost your brother today, but you lost a lot more than that long ago.

36. EXT. COAST OF GALILEE - DUSK

Peter, Judas and Andrew count baskets of fish and bread.

PETER

How many baskets is that?

ANDREW

Twelve all together.

JUDAS

How is that possible? I purchased five loaves and two fish.

Peter smiles.

PETER

I've learned to stop asking.

ANDREW

What kind of man can do this.

JUDAS

I think you know we're not following just any man.

ANDREW

What are we doing with these scraps?

PETER

Find a fisherman, have him take the loaves out to sea and toss them in.

JUDAS

You want to toss miracle bread into the sea.

PETER

That's exactly what we are going to do.

JUDAS

Why?

PETER

Because Jesus left instructions, and we are going to follow them.

JUDAS

This bread could solve our money problems. I wouldn't have to beg for food to fill your bellies.

PETER

We follow his words.

JUDAS

Easy for you to say, you're not out looking for our daily bread.

PETER

We don't live on bread alone. Trust in the lord to provide.

JUDAS

How about, trust in Judas to provide?

Judas tosses a loaf into the basket and walks away.

37. EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Marcus, Arias and Remus sit by a large fire, while soldiers arrange cargo on the wagons.



MARCUS

We're close enough to Rome to  
dispatch a rider, send this ahead  
on our fastest mount.

Marcus hands the scroll to Arias.

ARIAS

I'll send Remus to make  
arrangements for the men in the  
garrison.

MARCUS

This was no Teutoburg Forest  
disaster, but we still nearly lost  
the command, and your brother.

ARIAS

My father will be devastated, but  
we accomplished our mission. Chief  
Rhineheart is dead.

MARCUS

I should've listened to your  
warning.

ARIAS

What's done is done. In a day or  
two I get to break my fathers  
heart.

MARCUS

Have Remus depart at first light, I  
need to give my father time to make  
arrangements. And we need to take  
care of the men.

ARIAS

I'm sure he'll be glad to get back  
to the city.

38. INT. FABIVS FAMILY HOME - DAY

Cassias storms into the room followed by Claudia.

CLAUDIA

What is it? Tell me? Is Marcus  
alright?

CASSIAS

Trouble in the German forest.

CLAUDIA  
Is he alright?

CASSIAS  
A scratch or something. Seventy-five percent of his command dead or wounded, including Sextus.

CLAUDIA  
You said this would set him up.

CASSIAS  
I didn't realize I needed to send a wet-nurse with him.

CLAUDIA  
Father will know what to do.

CASSIAS  
Your position is secure, we'll figure this out. Your father and I will take care of this.

39. EXT. ROMAN HIGHWAY OUTSIDE OF ROME- DAY

Marcus looks to the messenger.

MESSENGER  
Sir, word from your father.

MARCUS  
Go on.

MESSENGER  
Strike your standard, send your men directly to garrison, and report to the high command.

MARCUS  
Tell the general I understand and will be with him shortly.

Messenger rides away.

ARIAS  
And so it begins.

MARCUS  
Take the men directly to the garrison. Remus must have everything in order by now. Then go home, I'll send for you when I know more.

ARIAS  
Don't worry Remus and I will take  
care of the men.

Marcus' wagon moves forward leaving Arias with the column.

40. EXT. ARIAS FAMILY HOME - DAY

Isis runs into the courtyard as Arias dismounts. The two join  
in a long embrace and then a deep kiss.

ISIS  
Why didn't you send word?

ARIAS  
I didn't have the words.

ISIS  
What is it? Is Sextus at general  
command? Doesn't he know how sick  
your father is?

ARIAS  
How sick is he?

ISIS  
A few more days and you might've  
missed him.

ARIAS  
Then I wish we were a few days  
later.

ISIS  
What happened?

ARIAS  
Sextus has fallen.

Isis grabs Arias in another hug.

ISIS  
Thank the gods you're okay.

ARIAS  
Well I'm sure this news will finish  
him. He'll wish it was Sextus  
telling him about me falling.

ISIS  
You don't mean that.

ARIAS

You don't know my father.

A servant takes the horse as Arias and Isis walk into the house.

41. INT. MAURICE'S DEATH BED - LATER

Arias watches his father weep. MAURICE looks to Arias and points to a chest on the side of his room.

MAURICE

Look in my chest and bring me the satchel.

Arias retrieves the satchel, hands to his father and watches his father remove a scroll and medallion.

ARIAS

What is this?

MAURICE

This should've gone to your brother but it falls to you. When I cross the river Styx, use it as you see fit.

ARIAS

I don't understand.

MAURICE

This disaster will be used by some to attack our name. I've got enemies I no longer remember. Scores will be settled.

ARIAS

What scores? I'm a soldier not a politician.

MAURICE (WHISPERS)

That medallion holds great power, just read. I'm sorry this has fallen to you. I know you are not prepared for this.

ARIAS

You're not making any sense.

MAURICE

Promise me, protect our name.

Maurice chokes and coughs violently.

ARIAS  
Someone get the surgeon.

Maurice pulls Arias closer.

MAURICE  
Arias you're the last hope. Keep  
our family name.

ARIAS  
I will. I swear.

Maurice emits a frothy gurgle and goes limp.

42. EXT. ARIAS FAMILY ATRIUM - DAY

Arias reads the scroll, drops it into the fire, fingers the  
medallion limps to and sits in a chair, buries his face in  
his hands and weeps.

43. INT. ARIAS' FAMILY ROOM - LATER

ISIS changes the dressings on Arias' knee.

ISIS  
What if you die in the next fight?

ARIAS  
Don't worry I'll always find my way  
home.

ISIS  
What's going to happen?

ARIAS  
He told me to see Cassias.

ISIS  
Do you trust him.

ARIAS  
I told him I would make him proud.

ISIS  
When is the send off?

Arias stands up.

ARIAS  
There is a protocol to these  
things, the legion will take care  
of the ceremony.  
(MORE)

ARIAS (CONT'D)

All I get to do is grieve and light the fire. This will be a great way to introduce Angus to the legion.

ISIS

His heart is set on the races.

ARIAS

Every man in this family has a path to follow. Angus is no different.

ISIS

So you will repeat the mistakes of your father.

ARIAS

I'm not my father, the boy can choose his path. I will just help him to make the right choice.

Arias pulls Isis to her feet.

ISIS

You think you can do that?

ARIAS

A hell of a lot better than my father did with me.

He pulls her towards the bedroom.

ARIAS (CONT'D)

I've been waiting for a long time.

#### 44. INT. PARADE GROUND ROMAN HIGH COMMAND - NIGHT

A blazing fire consumes Maurice's remains atop a marble platform, surrounded by Roman soldiers in formation on four sides.

Numerous generals and officers watch the fire from the reviewing platform including Cassias, Marcus and Arias.

Cassias looks to Arias and puts a hand on his shoulder.

CASSIAS

Your family helped build and defend this empire. I'm sick with grief that Sextus is not here to light your fathers pyre.

ARIAS

My father was holding on to see  
Sextus one more time. After the  
news of his death, he just let go.

CASSIAS

Did your father tell you anything.

ARIAS

Gaul.

Cassias blanches

CASSIAS

Have you talked to my son about  
this?

ARIAS

No Sir.

Cassias pulls Arias away from the other officers to the edge  
of the reviewing platform.

CASSIAS

Don't breath a word to anyone.  
There are three people who knew  
what your father meant, and one of  
them is turning to ash out there.

ARIAS

What's this all about.

CASSIAS

I've assigned you to the care of  
the third person who knows what  
your father meant. Pontius Pilate,  
governor of Judea.

ARIAS

So it's Judea? I've heard nothing  
good about the place.

CASSIAS

It's perfect for your situation.  
Pilate will take care of you while  
we repair your reputation in Rome.

ARIAS

Very well Sir. Thank You.

CASSIAS

Your father was a great man and an even better friend. Carry your name with honor.

45. INT. ROMAN HIGH COMMAND GARDENS - LATER

Marcus and Cassias walk through hall of heroes.

CASSIAS

How are your wounds?

MARCUS

My body is not the problem.

CASSIAS

I know your pride is injured, but I lost one of my oldest friends this week and you just so happened to get his son killed.

MARCUS

Why Judea, it's so far away.

CASSIAS

The location is the virtue. Far from the cut throats that slither through these halls. Don't worry, Pilate will sort you out.

MARCUS

I understand.

CASSIAS

A great deal rides on your successful rise through the ranks. Can you do me a favor and try not to bugger this up, for once.

46. ARIAS FAMILY WORK AREA - DAY

Angus turns a sharpening stone while Arias works the sharp edge of his sword.

ARIAS

Thanks for helping me with this.

ANGUS

We use to do a lot of things together. I miss those times.



ARIAS

I've been meaning to talk to you  
about spending more time together.

ANGUS

You coming back to the races? Mom  
told me you were great.

ARIAS

No I mean for you to put this sword  
to use. It belonged to your  
grandfather.

ANGUS

I don't need a sword to race.

ARIAS

No. No you don't. But you will need  
one to join me in the legion.

ANGUS

Dad.

ARIAS

Just hear me out.

Angus stops turning the stone and Arias puts the blade back  
into the sheath.

ARIAS (CONT'D)

Our family has defended Rome since  
before the standing legions. The  
blood flowing through your veins  
helped to make this empire great.

ANGUS

That's all well and good.

ARIAS

You were going to hear me out no?

ANGUS

Okay.

ARIAS

When it was my time to serve, my  
father did not give me a choice. He  
made me join. I just could not  
disappoint him. So I joined.

ANGUS

Your brother gave his life to the  
empire, isn't that enough for one  
family?

ARIAS

It's because of his sacrifice and the promise I made to my father while he took his last breath, that I ask you to join me in the legion.

ANGUS

When do I have to decide?

ARIAS

The sooner the better. You don't want to get behind on your training.

ANGUS

I will make you a deal.

ARIAS

Yes.

ANGUS

You give me one good reason why I should give up what I know I want to do, and join the legion. One reason other than it's what our family does, and I will give up the races at the end of this season and join you.

Arias locks eyes with Angus for a beat and then exhales a deep breath.

ARIAS

You have a deal.

ANGUS

And if you can't then you will attend all of my races when you are home.

ARIAS

Come on, we still need to put a killing edge on your sword.

47. INT. ROMAN MILITARY HEAD QUARTERS - DAY

Cassias briefs Marcus, Arias and Remus.

CASSIAS

This area has never really been conquered. We can crush their armies but the people are nearly impossible to govern.

MARCUS

What makes them so difficult.

ARIAS

They are a religious bunch. Praying to one god who gave them the land that we and many others keep taking from them.

CASSIAS

Their god does not keep their army from falling but their fanatical beliefs fuel a resistance to outside control that's maddening.

MARCUS

Why not crucify them until they break?

CASSIAS

Because you'd run out of trees before they broke. We let them have a king who is our puppet and that seems to work. You just do what Pilate tells you and all will work out.

ARIAS

Don't worry, we'll come back with our honor in tact.

48. INT. MARCUS' DINING ROOM - DAY

Marcus and Claudia watch the servants remove the last plates from the table, fill their wine glasses and leave the room.

CLAUDIA

You have no idea how much trouble this is causing.

MARCUS

Forgive me dear, but those savages had a little to do with the outcome.

CLAUDIA

How are you going to make general if you can't subdue a bunch of club wielding savages?

Marcus throws his cup into the fireplace.

MARCUS

What do you know about it? They were armed with a bit more than clubs.

CLAUDIA

What I know is that our fathers have worked tirelessly to put us into positions of power, and I won't have you screw it up.

MARCUS

You sure you don't have any German blood in your veins?

CLAUDIA

You know my family is of Rome for centuries.

MARCUS

We are going to Judea. A place no one has managed to properly subdue. A place where the people revolt because of religion. I think I can figure out how to subdue a bunch of priests and fishermen.

CLAUDIA

You better. There're only so many strings our fathers can pull.

MARCUS

Did you ever love me?

CLAUDIA

Silly man, what place does love have in a marriage? No more black marks on your reputation, and my father's money is yours when he's gone.

MARCUS

You want the wives council that badly. I'll never understand why.

CLAUDIA

You don't have to understand why. Just play your part and everyone will be happy.

## 49. INT. GOLDEN BOOT TAVERN - NIGHT

Arias and Remus share a drink at a side table in bar filled with soldiers.

REMUS

So he asked you a question you couldn't answer. That's why you need me around.

ARIAS

Normally I could make the case, I just learned something recently. Something that has shaken me to the core of my being. It's hard to explain to Angus why he should serve right now.

REMUS

We serve for that special moment when the battle is over and the prisoners are lined up.

ARIAS

I know what you are going to say, but this is serious. I need to convince him to join.

REMUS

All kidding aside. This is not a life for a person who serves for the wrong reasons. You don't have to look far to see a prime example of that.

ARIAS

You know he is our boss.

REMUS

He outranks me but he will never be superior.

ARIAS

You going to help me with Angus or not.

REMUS

If he thinks the thrill he gets when he wins a race gets his blood flowing. Try winning a battle one time. Just one time and he will never look back.

ARIAS

Not sure that's going to get it for him but thanks.

REMUS

Well my friend we are leaving town tomorrow and I for one have some seeds that need sowing. I suspect you do as well. See you at the post?

ARIAS

You're right. See you at the post.

50. EXT. ARIAS FAMILY HOME - DAY

Arias and Isis hug as a soldier loads a pack onto a cart. They break their embrace and Arias gets into the cart.

ARIAS

I will send for you once I get settled.

ISIS

I'll be waiting for the word.

ARIAS

I love you.

ISIS

Goodbye my love.

51. EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF NAZARETH - DAY

Peter sits down next to Judas near the well.

PETER

Jesus wants to go to Jerusalem for Passover this year.

JUDAS

Finally some advanced notice, but it will be the death of me, trying to find a place for all of us.

PETER

Not sure why he wants to go this year. I thought he liked spending Passover by the sea.

JUDAS

I'll start working the arrangements. Do you know if we're all going together.

PETER

Not sure, but plan on everyone going, just in case.

JUDAS

Any idea where we are going after that?

PETER

You'll have to ask him when we meet tomorrow.

JUDAS

It's a great time to be in Jerusalem, I wonder why he changed his mind.

PETER

Just ask him tomorrow.

# **END OF ACT ONE**

52. EXT. ROMAN GALLEY PORT OF OSTIA - DAY

Marcus, Arias and Remus stand on front deck.

MARCUS

We need to make the most of this opportunity. Even if we are being banished to the dark side of the empire.

ARIAS

Second chances are hard to come by. I'm not sure this a second chance or a chance to be forgotten

Remus draws his sword waves it above his head.

REMUS

We can never go wrong with this in our hands. There's always someone who needs killing. They always going to need us around. No matter how many chances they have to give us.

MARCUS

Remus I want my officers to act  
like officers. Starting now.

ARIAS

Put that away before kill you  
myself.

Marcus stares at Remus then turns and walks away.

### 53. SERIES OF SHOTS

- The galley breaks through wind and waves.
- The galley sails on calm seas.
- Arias comforts Remus as he blows chunks over the side of the ship in rough seas.
- Marcus stands on the front deck at night.
- The ship strikes it's sails as the Port of Joppa comes into view.

END SERIES

### 54. EXT. PORT OF JOPPA - DAY

A row of Roman ships sway beside the dock while a mixture of Romans and local workers move cargo and passengers on and off the ships.

Marcus, Arias and Remus stand in a circle next to a formation of their men standing in formation.

MARCUS

Welcome to the land of milk and  
honey.

ARIAS

Bees sting when you take their  
honey.

REMUS

Then we give them the steel, and  
show everyone that we know how.

MARCUS

Our fathers served with Pilate, we  
will be just fine.



REMUS

A trip down memory lane will only protect us so long. We need to kick some serious butt. To gain a little respect in this part of the world.

MARCUS

You take care of the killing as you put it, and I will take care of the Romans respecting us part.

REMUS

My pleasure Sir.

Remus and Marcus lock eyes until Arias breaks the contest.

ARIAS

Remus, ready the men, I think I see our guide coming.

55. EXT. DOCK SIDE - MOMENTS LATER

A Roman officer walks to the three officers and salutes Marcus.

GUIDE

Welcome gentlemen, welcome the governor has been looking forward to your arrival.

MARCUS

I have a dispatch from my father, for the Governor.

Marcus hands the dispatch to the Guide.

GUIDE

I'll make sure he gets this at once.

REMUS

What can you tell us about the locals?

GUIDE

We're approaching the high holy season, but you will receive a full briefing. We need to get you settled first.

ARIAS

I'm sure there will be plenty of business when the time comes.

GUIDE

They're harmless enough, a few agitators and prophets, but not a legitimate military threat.

REMUS

An illegitimate knife can still cut your throat.

GUIDE

As I said, you'll receive a full brief once you are settled.

MARCUS

I want the men settled in the garrison before dark. How far do we have to travel?

GUIDE

We'll never make it back before night fall, but lucky for me, I have security.

56. EXT. ROAD FROM JOPPA - DAY

Guide leads the party on horseback.

REMUS

This place is the ass-end of the Empire.

ARIAS

Better here, than a German forest.

MARCUS

Here, here.

GUIDE

They're a strange lot, these Jews. They've been looking for someone to deliver them from us for a long time.

REMUS

If they spent more time learning to fight and less time praying for help, they wouldn't need their god to liberate them.

MARCUS

Lucky for us, they don't take advice from you.

ARIAS

I'm looking forward to sleeping in a bed every night. My back still hurts from all those nights in the forest.

MARCUS

How is your knee coming along. You hide your limp well but I know you are in quite a bit of pain.

ARIAS

I'll pull my weight, don't worry.

REMUS

What you can't I'll pull for you.

GUIDE

This is a good place to stop for the night.

57. EXT. ROAD TO JERUSALEM CAMP SITE - NIGHT

Remus joins the gathered officers around the camp fire, removes his helmet and places his sword on the ground next to it.

REMUS

There's no reason to believe we will be attacked tonight. No one knew we would be here, but I don't want to miss an opportunity to teach a lesson.

GUIDE

It's difficult to know when the troublemakers will strike, but I think this group is a little large for their tastes. And a blind man could see you are Infantrymen. Not the sort they like to attack.

ARIAS

We might have to look less menacing Remus if you're going to wet your blade any time soon.

MARCUS

I'm quite happy to avoid trouble, at least until we unpack our bags. Then you two can butcher as many locals as you like.

GUIDE

Funny you should say that Sir. I think you are slated for bone breaker duty.

MARCUS

Bone breaker?

GUIDE

Yes Sir, the usual treatments, floggings, spiking, and a personal favorite of the governor-crucifixions.

ARIAS

We're actually soldiers not butchers.

Marcus puts a hand on Arias' good knee.

MARCUS

What my friend means to say is that we will be proud to serve the emperor in the role the governor decides for us.

REMUS

Never crucified anyone before. Does it really take them three days to die.

GUIDE

If you do it right, they can last a week.

ARIAS

Can we get some sleep, we have a big day tomorrow.

MARCUS

That sounds like a very good idea.

58. INT. GARRISON MEETING ROOM - DAY

The adjutant points to the locations on the map as he discusses them during his mission briefing.

ADJUTANT

The 5th is responsible for lines of communication.

(MORE)

ADJUTANT (CONT'D)

The remnants of the 7th execute search and destroy missions of opportunity, and the 10th provides the action force behind the governors directives.

MARCUS

And our role?

ADJUTANT

You'll work crowd control, arrest warrants, and carry out sentences everything from exile duty to crucifixion.

REMUS

Glorified prison monkeys.

MARCUS

Steady!

REMUS

We're happy to perform any roll.

ADJUTANT

Deploy your men in the streets and get a feel for the people.

MARCUS

Arias see to it, as soon as they are settled.

ADJUTANT

I've taken the liberty to set up special training for you.

MARCUS

What training?

ADJUTANT

The death squad has been recalled to Rome. They will conduct training for you before they depart.

MARCUS

Very well. Arias, see to the deployment of the men. Remus you are in charge of the special training.

59. EXT. GARRISON TRAINING YARD - DAY

Two instructors hop on top of a platform as two soldiers drag a nude male prisoner into position on a lower platform next to them.

INSTRUCTOR

I am the chief bone crusher, and this is my second. We're going to teach you how to properly kill a man. From the looks of you, I'm sure none of you have done that before.

REMUS

I've hurt a few feelings along the way, does that count?

Everyone laughs.

INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)

It takes a real professional to hang a man so you extract every measure of agony his body can endure and he dies with his next breath.

CRUCIFIED MAN

Man struggles to breath while hanging on a cross.

INSTRUCTOR TWO (O.S.)

The key is prolonging death by using the body's natural reactions against itself.

INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)

To keep it breathing, even when additional breath only means more pain.

CHEST CAVITY OF CRUCIFIED MAN

A hanging sweaty and bloody chest quivers in with each breath.

INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)

We naturally move our bodies to alleviate pain, even if we just transfer the pain to another part.

LOWER BODY OF CRUCIFIED MAN

Legs push down on ankles that are secured to post by spikes and released.

INSTRUCTOR TWO (O.S.)  
We create a conflict, in the mind  
of the condemned. One that  
continues until he is too weak to  
struggle and he slowly suffocates.

CRUCIFIED MAN

Criminal trembles and convulses turning blueish shade.

INSTRUCTOR (O.S.)  
The Gypos were crucifying criminals  
before they built the pyramids. We  
use it because it works.

CRUCIFIED MAN

Criminal lurches and dies.

INSTRUCTOR TWO (O.S.)  
If you need to speed up the  
process, just break his legs and he  
will suffocate in minutes.

CRUCIFIED MAN

Soldier uses metal rod to break the legs of condemned, and  
the man immediately sags and begins to choke.

INSTRUCTOR (V.O.)  
Want to make it last longer, give  
the fool some water or wine. He  
will drink and prolong his torture.

CRUCIFIED MAN

Soldier offers a drink from a soaked sponge, the man greedily  
sucks the sponge.

INSTRUCTOR TWO (V.O.)  
They never understand, you are  
killing them with kindness.

## GARRISON TRAINING YARD

INSTRUCTOR

Done right, we make our point to  
the trouble makers.

INSTRUCTOR TWO

Muck it up, and we let them escape  
their fate.

REMUS

Note to self. Don't kill'em too  
fast. Seems easy, how can we muck  
it up?

INSTRUCTOR TWO

Make them bleed. If you use spikes  
always use a washer to keep the  
flesh from tearing.

INSTRUCTOR

If you hit a bloodline, they die  
before you finish erecting them. So  
use the approved spike points.

ARIAS

The approved spike points?

Soldier knocks the prisoner to the ground.

INSTRUCTOR

Anyone care to practice while I  
talk you through it.

Hands shoot into the air. A volunteer is selected and jumps  
on the platform. Armed with a spike and mallet he looks to  
the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR TWO

Better not hit a bloodline or  
you'll screw your buddies out of  
their chance.

ARIAS

I don't need to see this. The boys  
will take care of this when the  
time comes.

REMUS

You ruin all of my fun, but okay.  
Let's go.

Arias and Remus turn and walk away as the prisoner screams.



## 60. EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - LATER

Arias and Remus walk into a large crowd of people who are waving palm leaves.

REMUS

What's this?

ARIAS

It looks like a Triumph. See the man in the distance on horseback. The crowd seems to be cheering him.

REMUS

Your eyes as bad as your knee? That's no horse its a donkey. But you're right they seem to be treating him like a returning general.

ARIAS

I wonder why the palm leaves?

REMUS

Beats the hell out of me.

The crowd thins as moves in the direction that Arias and Remus see the man riding away.

ARIAS

At least they're not boring people.

REMUS

Yeah, let's go look at this temple of theirs.

## 61. INT. TAVERN DINNER ROOM - LATER

Peter and James enter the room as Judas drops silver coins into the landlords hand. The landlord looks Peter and James over from head to toe before leaving closing the door behind him.

JAMES

This is the best you could do.

JUDAS

You must be joking. You have any idea how hard it was to find a place big enough for all of us during passover?

PETER

Everyone appreciates what you do.

JUDAS

Then they should start showing it.  
Or at least keeping their big  
mouths shut.

James moves towards Judas but Peter blocks his path.

PETER

Just calm down. You're doing a  
great job. How long did you get the  
room.

JUDAS

We have it through passover,  
including meal service the night  
of, and that took our last coin. I  
have no idea how we pay for what  
comes next.

PETER

I'll talk with Jesus about next  
week, but something is off about  
him.

JAMES

The people welcomed him like the  
messiah, but he refuses to take his  
place.

PETER

The high priest want to speak to  
him, they're not happy with that  
entrance.

JUDAS

He could free us from the power of  
Rome. He needs to take his rightful  
place and lead.

JAMES

I'm sure once they see what we've  
all seen. They will agree that he  
is the anointed messenger of the  
Lord.

JUDAS

You two are closest to him, why  
don't you convince him to meet with  
the Sanhedrin.

PETER  
He won't hear of it. Anyway, its  
not our place to guide him.

Peter places a hand on each of Judas' shoulders.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Just keep doing what you do, and  
Jesus will set our path.

The two men embrace then stand apart.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Great job finding this room, we  
will have a wonderful feast here.

62. INT. SANHEDRIN MAIN GALLERY - DAY

Judas stands before a group of priests, who are seated in a  
semicircle of large wooden chairs.

JUDAS  
You promise no harm will come to  
him?

CAIAPHAS  
We just want to speak with him.  
We've heard of the great works this  
Jesus has been doing. Why shouldn't  
we all come together as a people.

JUDAS  
I don't know.

CAIAPHAS  
You said yourself, you need money  
to support his followers. Well, we  
will help you cover the bills, and  
you will help forge a new alliance  
between your master and the people  
who sit in the Temple of the Lord.

JUDAS  
I'll find out his schedule and let  
you know the best time to meet with  
him.

CAIAPHAS  
Sometime when he is alone. We don't  
want people getting the wrong idea.

JUDAS

I'll figure it out and get back with you.

CAIAPHAS

Very good, you're doing the right thing. Your courage will never be forgotten.

63. INT. GARRISON MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Adjutant opens a scroll as Marcus, Arias, and Remus sit on the opposite side of a long table.

ADJUTANT

I have an arrest warrant that requires discretion. Some local priest or what ever has fun afoul of his fellow priests.

ARIAS

Why is this our business?

ADJUTANT

Rome is the law, we make arrests. We need to do this quietly, tensions are always high during the holy season.

MARCUS

We don't want to stir up trouble unless we have to. That's why I asked you to bring Remus.

ARIAS

Remus is known for his gentle nature and subtlety?

MARCUS

He is our best sword, and I want to send a small detachment. If something goes wrong, Remus can put things right.

REMUS

How will I know who to arrest?

ADJUTANT

An informant will point him out.

MARCUS

Don't cock it up.

ARIAS

You heard him, make it quiet, keep things calm and get back here without starting a riot.

ADJUTANT

Governor Pilate likes to cooperate with local leaders. He'll be pleased if this goes well.

MARCUS

When this goes well. You can count on us.

ARIAS

Just don't kill anyone, unless you have too.

64. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON - NIGHT

Remus and his detail approach Arias. Remus repeatedly places his hand over his ear and then looks at his hand then puts his hand back over his ear.

ARIAS

What's the story? Did you make the arrest?

REMUS

I still don't believe it.

Arias grabs Remus' arm to break his cycle of ear inspections.

ARIAS

Did you make the arrest?

REMUS

Yes we arrested him.

ARIAS

Then what's the problem? Why do you keep looking at your ear?

REMUS

The informant had a signal. He hugs the man, we make the arrest, done and done.

ARIAS

Yeah, and?

REMUS

Well we go up after the hug, grab the man. Before you know it, my ear is on the ground. One of the bastards sliced my ear off. I was in shock.

Arias looks to one of the soldiers.

ARIAS

Make some sense man.

SOLDIER ONE

I saw it and I don't believe it. We make the arrest, the ear is on the ground, before we put him in irons the man leans down, picks up the ear, returns it to Remus' head and the ear is good as new.

ARIAS

Have you all been drinking?

REMUS

I'm telling you what happened. His man cut my ear off. He bent over picked it up and put it back and bam, it's good as new.

SOLDIER ONE

By the gods I swear that's what happened.

ARIAS

Where is this magician now?

SOLDIER ONE

We turned him over to the Hebes and they took him to the temple.

REMUS

I don't want to see that man again. What ever business they have with him, I hope they keep it between them.

ARIAS

You're not making any sense. Remus get some rest. You lot come with me, we're going to the temple to see what's going on with this magician.

65. EXT. GREAT TEMPLE COURTYARD - LATER

Arias and his men march into the courtyard, their progress impeded by the large number of people milling around in the courtyard.

ARIAS  
Someone brought the circus to  
Jerusalem.

SOLDIER ONE  
Are they as blood thirsty as back  
home?

ARIAS  
Our magician better hope not.

CROWD MEMBER (O.S.)  
  
Hey, aren't you one of his  
followers.

PETER (O.S.)  
  
No, I don't know the man.

SECOND CROWD MEMBER (O.S.)  
You sure?

Arias heads towards the commotion.

PETER  
I think I know the people in my  
life and this man is not one of  
them.

Arias approaches Peter and his accusers.

ARIAS  
Do we have a problem?

CROWD MEMBER  
No Sir, no problem at all, just a  
mistaken identity.

Arias looks to Peter.

PETER  
I have no problem.

ARIAS  
Then move along before I become  
your problem.

## 66. EXT. PUBLIC SQUARE ROMAN GARRISON - DAY

The sound of a scourging reverberates through the square and Arias recognizes Peter standing in the crowd. He moves to stand next to Peter.

ARIAS

You seem to have quite an interest  
in a man that you don't know.

PETER

Look around you. Everyone is  
interested in this man.

ARIAS

Who is he?

PETER

A decent man, who lived to help  
people.

ARIAS

Why is he condemned to die, after  
enduring this hell.

PETER

You deliver the punishment and you  
ask me why. I don't know why Romans  
think they have the right punish  
torture and kill at whim, yet here  
we are.

ARIAS

I have a job to do, and I do it.  
I'm a professional, this is never  
personal with me.

PETER

Maybe you should start taking it  
personally. You're dealing with  
human beings, not cattle.

The sound of the flogging stops.

PETER (CONT'D)

Sounds like your people have  
stopped being impersonal in there.

ARIAS

Sounds like you're correct. Stay  
out of trouble, or some Roman will  
be forced to treat you  
indifferently.



Arias turns and walks towards the garrison, looking back at Peter just before disappearing inside the door.

67. EXT. ROMAN MEETING ROOM - LATER

Marcus, Arias, and Remus sit around the table while the adjutant opens a scroll.

ADJUTANT

Pilate ordered the execution of three criminals this afternoon, but we have a last minute correction to the roster.

MARCUS

The governor gave a pardon, that doesn't sound like him.

ADJUTANT

He attempted to release that holy man you picked up earlier, but the crowd opted to release a rebel leader in his place.

REMUS

Hold on a second. You mean we're meant to crucify the man I arrested?

ADJUTANT

Why do you care who we execute?

MARCUS

Yes, why does it matter to you Remus?

REMUS

Maybe because he's an actual good man.

MARCUS

Are you serious? Arias what's he on about?

ARIAS

Something happened during the arrest.

REMUS

It doesn't matter I'll take care of this.

ARIAS

You sure?

REMUS

I don't want anyone else to touch him.

ARIAS

Then it's settled. We'll make it happen.

ADJUTANT

I'll let the governor know this in your capable hands.

68. EXT. GOLGOTHA - LATER

Two criminals approach hilltop staggering before soldiers shove them to the ground and grab the tools of crucifixion.

ARIAS

Where is your magician?

REMUS

Still making his way up here.

ARIAS

Sounds like he might die on the way.

REMUS

That would be fine with me.

ARIAS

He really affected you didn't he.

REMUS

Something about the way he looked at me and the fact that he healed my dammed ear.

ARIAS

Well get him some help. It won't do for him to die before we can nail him up.

Arias walks to his horse.

REMUS

I'll send word. Where are you going?

ARIAS

To check with Marcus, I don't like  
the feel of this crowd, we may need  
to call out more help.

REMUS

They'll be crucified when you  
return, all nice and neat.

ARIAS

That's the Remus I know and love.

69. EXT. PILOTS BALCONY- LATER

Caiaphas interrupts Pilate, Marcus and Arias' dinner.

CAIAPHAS

If you don't secure the tomb, his  
followers will steal the body and  
claim he's risen from the dead.

PILATE

Why should we care about your  
nonsense?

CAIAPHAS

It's part of the prophecy. He will  
suffer die and be buried, on the  
third day he will be raised from  
the dead.

MARCUS

You believe this.

CAIAPHAS

It doesn't matter what I believe.  
If we let his followers turn him  
into a risen savior. One you cannot  
kill, then we all have a problem.  
You must guard the tomb!

PILATE

I see your point. How long do we  
need to stand watch over this  
corps?

CAIAPHAS

The prophecy calls for the Messiah  
to return to life on the third day  
so we keep in the ground four days  
and that should do it.

Arias laughs.

ARIAS

I've done a lot of fighting in my life, but I've never fought a myth.

CAIAPHAS

That's what makes them so dangerous, you can't fight what doesn't exist. But if people believe, then there is no stopping the unrest his followers may churn.

MARCUS

We get your point Priest.

PILATE

We'll post a guard for a week. After that this is on you. Marcus see to it.

70. EXT. GOLGOTHA - DUSK

Arias dismounts his horse in front of a detachment of soldiers who followed him on foot. Remus approaches Arias with a bloody spear in his hand.

REMUS

The magician died right before that strange lightning storm. I lanced him in the side to make sure.

ARIAS

It's just as well, we need to wrap this up before sundown, something about their holy day. Pilate wants to be sensitive.

REMUS

He wasn't being so sensitive when we put that sign over the magician. The Hebes got pissed when they read it.

ARIAS

You can speed this up, right.

REMUS

We just break their legs and they die in a few minutes.

ARIAS

Then break their legs. We need to arrange a detail to guard the tomb of the magician.

REMUS

It's not enough we have to kill a good man, we have to guard his body?

ARIAS

There's a prophecy that he will return from the dead after three days so we have to keep his followers from stealing him.

REMUS

Because if they steal him, he is a risen leader, and they can use his ghost to march all the way to Rome.

ARIAS

Yeah, this is important, we can't screw it up. I need you to make sure nothing goes wrong.

REMUS

I'll do it myself but you owe me dinner.

ARIAS

Pilate said a week, but the prophecy said on the third day, so don't worry.

REMUS

I'm not worried I'm going to eat like a high born Roman for a week.

71. EXT. JESUS' TOMB - NIGHT

Arias carries a tray to Remus as another soldier brings a bag of food for the guards.

ARIAS

This came from the officer's mess.

REMUS

Great, and the warm wench?

ARIAS

No time for that this week.

REMUS

I have to go a week without a woman?

ARIAS

There can't be any mistakes. If they steal that body, it will mean your heads.

REMUS

You could have let the detail bring my tray out, why did you come.

ARIAS

My father shared something with me that I wish he had taken with him across the river.

REMUS

This again. What on Earth did he tell you?

ARIAS

He gave me a scroll before he died.

REMUS

What's on that scroll.

FLASHBACK - GAUL - SUPER (20 YEARS EALIER)

Maurice, Pontius, and Cassias sit on horseback as farmers and merchants display chests filled with gold jewelry, wine castes, stacks of furs and sacks of grain.

CASSIAS

It looks like we came a long way to be tax collectors.

PILATE

Why did they wait until now to pay?

MAURICE

Something about the tax collectors taking more than they credit in the scrolls.

CASSIAS

There's no glory to be found here.

MAURICE

We'll be the laughing stock of the mess.

CASSIAS

Unless.

PILATE

Are you thinking what I'm thinking.

MAURICE

What are you thinking?

CASSIAS

We came here, they refused to pay  
their taxes and put up quite a  
fight .

MAURICE

What about this stuff.

CASSIAS

All I see here are dead men  
walking.

PILATE

We can create a story to set us on  
the path to glory.

CASSIAS

Not to mention, very fat purses.

MAURICE

We are soldiers of the 13th Legion,  
not common thieves.

CASSIAS

You want to remain in the 13th or  
make the general staff. All we have  
to do is come up with a story.

PILATE

And take the secret to our deaths.  
We have to buy off the men of  
course but this lot will never  
tell.

MAURICE

After that. We tell no one?

PILATE

You tell your oldest son when your  
time is short, but not before.

END FLASHBACK

## 72. EXT. JESUS' TOMB - NIGHT

Remus looks to Arias who has a tear running down his cheek.

ARIAS

I could have been a champion in the races but father wouldn't hear it. He went on about tradition and honor.

REMUS

What are you going to do?

ARIAS

What can I do, my family reputation is based on a lie. My position, the reason I serve all built on lies.

REMUS

You're still the man I would follow to the ends of the Earth. What they did, has no bearing on the man you've become.

ARIAS

I gave my word to a fraud.

REMUS

You keep your word, because its your word. Don't let anyone take that from you.

ARIAS

I think that magician changed you. You haven't mentioned word one about Marcus' family.

REMUS

There will be plenty of time for me to enjoy this news. Right now I'm worried about my friend. You better get going, or you will miss the officer's mess.

## 73. INT. OFFICER'S MESS ROMAN GARRISON- NIGHT

Pilate, Marcus and Arias enjoy a meal. Pilate waits for the servants to leave the room and then looks at Marcus and Arias until they stop eating.



PILATE

I've wanted to have a word with you about something that happened a very long time ago.

ARIAS

It has something to do with three medallions?

Pilate and Marcus try to hide their surprise.

PILATE

How much do you know?

MARCUS

Who told you?

ARIAS

My father left me a scroll and our family medallion.

PILATE

We were just kids, even though your father was the oldest and our leader. It was our first real opportunity to prove ourselves.

ARIAS

This was the mission where my father earned the staff of honor.

MARCUS

And our families were made secure for a generation.

PILATE

Now you know the truth, and why are families are bond together from now until the end of time.

ARIAS

I'm not sure what I think about this, but the secret is safe. I've only shared this news with Remus.

MARCUS

You did what?

ARIAS

We can trust Remus, he would give his life to protect either of us.

MARCUS

Sometimes you are so simple.

PILATE

Marcus, if Arias trusts him, then we all trust him. Bonds forged in battle are as good as blood.

MARCUS

I hope you're right about his loyalty.

ARIAS

Remus and I will take care of the soldering, I will leave the politics to you.

Marcus moves to reply but is silenced by a wave from Pilate.

PILATE

Its been a long week and I need sleep. I will see you for breakfast Marcus, correct?

MARCUS

Yes Sir.

PILATE

Then let's adjourn. I'm sure our secret is quite safe.

74. INT. ARIAS' QUARTERS ROMAN GARRISON - DAY

Remus interrupts Arias mid-stroke as he shaves.

REMUS

You won't believe it!

ARIAS

Believe what, what are you doing here?

REMUS

The tomb, Jesus, the tomb.

ARIAS

What are you babbling about?

REMUS

There was a flash of and boom.

ARIAS

Tell me what happened.

REMUS

I am telling you, an explosion of sorts, blinded me for a moment and knocked us to the ground. When I recovered I saw a broken stone. I swear...

ARIAS

You swear what? You are not making any sense.

REMUS

He's gone, he's gone, god help me the body is gone.

ARIAS

Why didn't you stop them?

REMUS

Stop who? How do you stop a flash.

ARIAS

This has to be the worst joke you've ever tried to tell.

REMUS

I'm not joking. It's the truth. One minute we were talking about breakfast and the next we are flat on the ground, and the tomb is empty.

ARIAS

You volunteered to guard the tomb. Did his followers get to you some how? That magic trick screw up your head?

REMUS

On my name, I swear, what I'm telling is what happened.

ARIAS

Pilate will have our heads on pikes.

REMUS

I was in charge not you.

ARIAS

Listen carefully, get every man even the cooks and scour this city from top to bottom.

(MORE)

ARIAS (CONT'D)  
They'll try to hide it, so find it.  
I'll tell Marcus.

75. INT. MARCUS' QUARTERS, ROMAN GARRISON - LATER

A shaving bowl shatters against the wall.

ARIAS  
We'll fix this.

MARCUS  
Where is he now?

ARIAS  
Looking for the body.

MARCUS  
How is he going to find something  
that he couldn't guard when it was  
sealed in a tomb? Find that body!

76. INT. GOVERNOR'S QUARTERS ROME- DAY

Marcus takes a deep breath and looks to Pilate.

MARCUS  
We have a problem.

Pilate looks up.

PILATE  
What?

MARCUS  
It's about the tomb of the prophet.

PILATE  
Go on.

MARCUS  
Well, those incompetent fools that  
I trusted with the detail, must  
have fallen asleep on duty.

PILATE  
Get to the point Marcus.

MARCUS  
The body of the prophet is missing.  
I have my men searching, and we  
will recover it.

PILATE

I don't care about some corpse. How did my best soldiers allow a bunch of religious zealots to steal his body right out from under their noses?

MARCUS

We'll fix this, you have my word.

PILATE

This is a serious mark on our reputation.

MARCUS

I'm sorry to let you down. What are we going to do about Caiaphas?

PILATE

I don't care about his feelings. I'm not pleased with the discipline of your soldiers. Fix that and I'll deal with Caiaphas.

77. EXT. JERUSALEM MARKET - DAY

ARIAS

Any luck?

REMUS

We've scoured the city, and found nothing.

ARIAS

Marcus ordered us back to the garrison. I'm sure he will square things with the governor.

REMUS

You think so?

ARIAS

Of course, you saved the man's life.

REMUS

I don't know.

ARIAS

He'll square this. You're going to do some crap details for a while but all will be fine.

REMUS

A crap detail is how I got into  
this mess.

ARIAS

I don't know what to say.

REMUS

Sorry.

ARIAS

Recall your men. We'll go see  
Marcus.

78. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON TRAINING ROOM - LATER

Marcus sits facing Arias and Remus who stand at attention on  
the other side of the table.

MARCUS

Pilate ordered the detail be put to  
death.

ARIAS

You realize that means Remus.

MARCUS

What do you want me to do? Every  
Roman knows the punishment for  
sleeping on guard duty.

ARIAS

He claims they were not sleeping  
and I believe him.

MARCUS

I don't care what you think.  
Perhaps I should add your name to  
the list.

Arias draws his sword and Remus stands between them.

REMUS

Arias, I failed, not you. I know  
what must be done.

Remus stalks out.

79. INT. GOVERNOR'S QUARTERS ROME- DAY

Marcus and Pilate eat dinner.

PILATE

You really want to execute your man?

MARCUS

The rest will learn from his example.

PILATE

This Remus, he fought with you in Germany did he not?

MARCUS

He was there, but we had to carry him. He is tight with Arias, or I would have dropped him a long time ago.

PILATE

It's your call, but I trust Arias' judgement in fighting matters. If he respects his sword maybe we should find a way to keep him around.

MARCUS

You did say it's my call?

PILATE

Make your decision Marcus, but be ready to live with it.

80. INT. MARCUS' QUARTERS- NIGHT

Marcus points to a chair.

ARIAS

I'm sorry about earlier, we have to figure out how to save Remus.

MARCUS

I argued the point all afternoon, and he wouldn't budge.

ARIAS

We can't let Remus die. The man saved my life more times than I can count, and yours.

MARCUS

I owe him my life Arias but what do you want me to do.

ARIAS

Tell the Governor that you owe him  
a life debt.

MARCUS

Pilate made the decision and it is  
final.

ARIAS

You get to pick the method, yes?

MARCUS

Yes.

ARIAS

We'll give him mortal contest.  
That way he can have a chance.

MARCUS

It wouldn't be fair, Remus could  
slaughter any man in the garrison.

ARIAS

Any man but me.

MARCUS

You would do that?

ARIAS

I owe him.

MARCUS

Very well, a contest it will be.

81. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON CREMATION YARD - NIGHT

Arias and Remus watch fires consume the bodies of guard  
detail.

REMUS

This sword has their blood on it. I  
want you to use it on me.

ARIAS

You're going to need it in the  
morning.

REMUS

Why?

ARIAS

You have been granted a mortal  
contest.



REMUS

I have enough blood on my hands, I could slaughter any man in the garrison. Any man but you...

ARIAS

Yeah.

REMUS

No. I won't do it.

ARIAS

We owe you an honorable death, and if we put on enough of a fight, Pilate may be moved to grant you a pardon or the men may demand it.

REMUS

That's some plan but you are forgetting one small detail. Your knee.

ARIAS

I can beat you on one knee.

REMUS

This is madness.

ARIAS

One of us is going to die in the morning. What do you say we enjoy that feast I owe you.

REMUS

We're might to fight to the death in the morning and you want to share a meal.

ARIAS

Yes.

REMUS

Why?

ARIAS

Why not? You have something better to do.

REMUS

One last night?

ARIAS

One last night.

## 82. ROMAN GARRISON COURTYARD BALCONY - NIGHT

Arias and Remus share a feast, remnants of many food items litter the table between them and several wine containers lay on the table.

REMUS

It takes a death sentenced to get you to buy me decent meal.

ARIAS

I'll buy you another one just like it tomorrow night.

REMUS

Not sure I'll be as lucky as the magician, or should I say you wont. You know you can't take me with that knee of yours.

ARIAS

You've never been on the business end of my sword, don't worry about me, or I'll slice your fool head off.

REMUS

Why didn't you just talk with Pilate about this? There must be something we can do.

ARIAS

I tried to talk to him. He told me in this situation he was respecting the chain of command. Although, I suspect a darker reason at work here.

REMUS

Darker than me dying?

ARIAS

Yes, the secret. He and Marcus may be concerned about you knowing the secret.

REMUS

I don't want to kill you. You've been a brother to me. But right now I want to strangle you for telling me about that bloody medallion.

ARIAS

Look. It's just like Rome, we put on a great show, we take a few scratches, but in the end we both walk away. The men will demand it.

Remus fills both glasses.

REMUS

Well if you do kill me. I'm going to haunt every drink you take the rest of your life.

ARIAS

Stop being so dramatic, I'm telling you this will work. Just defend yourself. Don't hold back, because I won't.

REMUS

Well here is to fighting your best friend without killing him.

They tap their cups and empty them in one gulp.

83. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON COURTYARD - DAY

Pilate and Marcus look over the courtyard where Arias and Remus face each other. They're surrounded by soldiers who create a wall of men, swords and shields.

Pilate raises his hand and drops a white ribbon to the ground. All eyes follow the ribbon until it hits the ground.

REMUS

Do your best you old fool.

ARIAS

Back at you.

84. SERIES OF SHOTS

A. Arias lunges towards Remus with a lightning attack. Remus sidesteps the blade just missing his head, returning with a swipe of his blade that Arias just manages to block.

B. They separate and circle each other twice before Remus charges and is tripped by Arias. Remus hits the ground uses his momentum to launch back to his feet and blocks the blade angling for his liver. His counter causes Arias' knee to buckle, both men notice and pause for a beat.

C. Arias screams and unleashes a feral attack which Remus blocks as he gives ground. When Arias slows Remus launches a flurry of blade strikes which drive Arias back to the center of the circle.

D. The cheeks of a soldier holding the line are streaked with tears as the sound of blade strikes echo throughout the courtyard.

E. Pilate watches with a mixture of fascination and disgust before standing tapping Marcus on the shoulder and walking away. Marcus watches Pilate leave then looks back with a hatred burning on his face.

F. Arias trips backwards and Remus straddles him ready to deliver the killing blow. He looks towards Marcus who does not move and Remus freezes in place. After a moment Arias drives his sword deep into Remus' side, until blood erupts from his mouth.

G. Remus drops his sword and staggers backwards, Arias pulls his blade from Remus as Remus staggers. Remus falls to the ground just as Arias gets to his feet, favoring his injured knee.

H. Arias walks over to Remus' still body then looks up to Marcus.

END OF SERIES

85. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON CREMATION YARD - LATER

Arias weeps as he watches the smoke and ashes from Remus' pyre rise into the sky.

ARIAS  
Goodbye old friend.

86. INT. GARRISON TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

Marcus sits across from Arias.

MARCUS  
He was a good soldier and a good friend.

ARIAS  
You call him a good friend. You hated him.

MARCUS

The governor made his intentions clear, Remus and the others had to die to send a message to every Roman soldier under his command.

ARIAS

Now what?

MARCUS

You need to get away from this place. Get out and soldier find some companionship if you must, but don't drag around. Remus wouldn't.

ARIAS

You are right about two things. Remus would not want me to drag my sword, and I need the touch of a woman.

MARCUS

That's more like it.

ARIAS

I'm thinking about having Isis join me here.

MARCUS

I'll send a dispatch first thing in the morning.

87. EXT. HEBRON - DAY- SUPER (FOUR MONTHS LATER)

Peter stands on a platform next to a well with a small crowd gathered around him, as Arias rides into town with a detachment of soldiers, he points to Peter.

ARIAS

Find out what he is doing, and bring him to me, I'm getting out of this sun.

SOLDIER ONE

Yes Sir. Should he resist?

ARIAS

Figure it out.

Arias dismounts his horse and walks to some covered tables and finds a seat. The soldier brings Peter who raises two hands in greeting.

PETER

I only seek to spread the good news  
of my Lord.

ARIAS

I know all about this your Lord, I  
was there the day he died.

PETER

I remember you at the temple.

ARIAS

I remember you denied knowing him.  
Why the change?

PETER

My denial brings me more pain than  
that which causes you to walk with  
a limp.

ARIAS

You didn't answer the question.

PETER

Jesus was more than a man, he was ,  
the son of the living lord. I live  
each day trying to atone for my  
weakness when he suffered most, by  
sharing his message.

ARIAS

His message. What's this message?

PETER

Love your neighbor as you would  
love yourself and redemption is  
available for all who would receive  
it.

ARIAS

What I care about is my best friend  
dying at the end of my blade  
because you found a way to steal  
his body, and claim him risen from  
the dead!

PETER

I saw Jesus walking these streets  
several times after you put him to  
death.

ARIAS

Where is he now?

PETER  
He ascended into heaven.

ARIAS  
How convenient for you. Get out of my sight before I send you to meet him.

88. EXT. VILLAGE IN PALESTINE - DAY

PAUL directs soldiers to several people standing near the village well. Arias walks over to Paul.

ARIAS  
What are you doing? Why are you arresting these people?

PAUL  
I'm a citizen of Rome but I don't require your assistance to remove these heretics.

ARIAS  
Remove them?

PAUL  
Those are followers of Jesus.

ARIAS  
I don't understand why this is your business.

PAUL  
The followers of Jesus are heretics. They claim they should not pay taxes to Rome. As a Roman you should be offended by them rather than interfering with me.

ARIAS  
Mind your tone, citizen or not.

89. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON - NIGHT

Marcus and Arias share a meal.

MARCUS  
These followers of Jesus are driving me crazy.  
(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

They stir up the priests, the  
priests agitate Pilate and I hear  
can't have a peaceful meal.

ARIAS

I think about Remus and what he  
said.

MARCUS

About what?

ARIAS

He died swearing the man walked  
away. Maybe there is something more  
to Jesus.

MARCUS

Nonsense.

ARIAS

His followers are basically  
harmless. Who cares if the high  
priest get into a twist over them.

MARCUS

We benefit when people follow the  
rules. When someone comes along  
telling them to live another way,  
that sort of idea is felt all the  
way back to Rome. It's the last  
thing we need if we ever want to go  
home.

ARIAS

What are my orders?

MARCUS

Keep an eye out for Jesus. If he  
walks the earth, where is he? If  
you find him arrest him.

ARIAS

Short of finding the walking dead?

MARCUS

Convince the rest of them, that  
keeping the status quo is in the  
best interest of everyone.

90. MONTAGE - ARIAS LEADS HIS MEN THROUGHOUT JUDEA

- Arias encounters Peter preaching to a small crowd by the  
sea and signals to him to stop and leave.



- Arias separates two arguing merchants in a marketplace.
- Romans stand guard over a tax collection station.
- Arias leads a raid on a gathering of Christians in the middle of prayer.
- Arias rides next to a wagon filled with prisoners.
- Arias surveys a mass crucifixion as an empty wagon rolls out of site.
- Arias stands overlooking mass crucifixion site and shakes his head, before mounting his horse and riding away.

END MONTAGE

91. INT. ARIAS' FAMILY HOME JERUSALEM- NIGHT

Isis and Arias eat supper.

ARIAS

These followers of Jesus multiply like weeds. You cut one down and three take his place.

ISIS

I've met some of them in the market, they seem completely harmless.

ARIAS

Remus might not agree with you.

ISIS

I know you're still hurting. I miss him too, but these people didn't take Remus from us.

ARIAS

They stole his body and I had to kill my best friend.

ISIS

There's also the other possibility.

Arias slams the table with his plate.

ARIAS

You really want to start that again!

ISIS

Shout all you want, but there's something to this Jesus and the people who follow his teachings.

ARIAS

Jesus was just a man, I know he died because Remus put a spear in his side.

ISIS

You believe Remus when he said he was dead, why can't you believe Remus when he said he is alive?

ARIAS

You sound like one of his followers and it scares me.

Isis walks around the table takes Arias by the hand and guides him into an embrace.

ISIS

I'm always on your side my love. Why don't we find something that we both agree on.

They kiss.

92. EXT. SEA SIDE VILLAGE PALESTINE - DAY

Arias and several soldiers relax as their horses drink water, and a woman runs through the street waving her arms. Arias has a soldier bring the woman to him.

JEWISH WOMAN

He's a prophet, he healed my nephew.

ARIAS

Who is a prophet?

JEWISH WOMAN

Peter, my nephew couldn't walk, but Peter prayed over him and now he walks. Look, Peter is coming.

The woman points to Peter who is walking towards Arias followed by a small crowd. At the sight of the soldiers the crowd disperses and Peter approaches Arias.

PETER

I see you're still in pain.

ARIAS

Really, my knee is feeling pretty good today.

PETER

Perhaps your knee could be helped but I speak of a different pain.

ARIAS

Why are you so concerned my pain?

PETER

Jesus forgave the Romans on that day, you carry a special blessing.

ARIAS

It takes a special man to help the men who put him to death.

PETER

He's much more than a man.

ARIAS

How did you heal the child?

PETER

I have no power of my own. The power of his love can heal all who have faith.

ARIAS

Then how can you heal any part of me?

Peter looks at Arias with a blank look that turns into a soft smile.

ARIAS (CONT'D)

There are many in Jerusalem who would want your head on a spike. Why do you continue to walk the streets openly?

PETER

I'll do the Lord's work until he calls me to his side. Can I help you with that knee?

ARIAS

I'm sure you can't help me. I'm equally sure that you need to leave this place and do it soon.

PETER

Why should I leave I'm doing the  
lords work?

ARIAS

You believe Jesus is the son of  
your god?

PETER

Yes.

ARIAS

Then you can go someplace else and  
do his work. I assume he is god  
there too.

PETER

I suppose I could.

ARIAS

Then go, leave today, the next time  
I see you, there may be cause not  
to let you go.

93. EXT. VILLAGE MARKET - DAY

Roman soldiers arrest a group of Jews who display the symbols  
of followers of Jesus. Arias approaches on foot and notices  
that Paul is one of the people being arrested.

ARIAS

Why are you arresting him, he is a  
Roman?

ROMAN SOLDIER

He says he is one of them.

ARIAS

What's going on? I thought you  
arrested these people.

PAUL

I'm a Roman, and I've come to my  
senses.

ARIAS

What the hell happened to you?

PAUL

The farthest thing from hell  
happened to me.

ARIAS

You're not making sense.

PAUL

I was riding to Damascus when I was knocked from my horse by a shockwave and blinding light. Then Jesus told me to stop persecuting his people.

ARIAS

So your horse throws you, you hit your head and now you think a dead man is speaking to you.

PAUL

It matters not how it sounds, I know what I must do.

ARIAS

I watched Jesus die. His followers stole his corpse, and cost me my best friend. You didn't hear his voice.

PAUL

I don't expect you to understand or believe but I follow Jesus the Christ. These people are his followers, and they are under arrest.

ARIAS

Yes they are.

PAUL

Then I'm under arrest as well.

Arias faces the soldiers.

ARIAS

Take them away.

ROMAN SOLDIER

What about him?

ARIAS

He is a Roman, it takes a warrant to arrest him. Leave him and take the others.

PAUL

This changes nothing.

ARIAS

Maybe not, but you are free to go.

PAUL

Why are you arresting any of us?

ARIAS

I bet you are going to tell me.

PAUL

The message of Jesus speaks to the equality of man under the love and protection of one God. His message doesn't reject the authority of Rome it dismisses the authority of the Emperor to rule when all men are equal.

ARIAS

How would we govern without an emperor?

PAUL

We return Rome to the people. Make her a republic again. And the conquered lands we free the ones that don't want the protection of Rome.

ARIAS

Talk like that will cost you your head.

PAUL

I'm prepared to give witness to the word of my Lord.

ARIAS

What's wrong with you people? There will always be conquered people and someone will always need to do the conquering.

PAUL

You don't have to wield the Emperors sword.

ARIAS

You know nothing about me. Your citizenship gives you protection. I suggest you use it and walk away.

94. INT. ARIAS' FAMILY HOME JERUSALEM- NIGHT

Arias and Isis recline by a fireplace.

ARIAS

These Jesus people finally earned the attention of the empire.

ISIS

What do you mean?

ARIAS

Marcus gave orders today to arrest their leaders and to break up their gatherings.

ISIS

You've been doing that for months. What's changed?

ARIAS

Before we arrested them only if they resisted paying taxes or caused trouble. Now we arrest them just for being followers of this Jesus.

ISIS

What happens when you arrest them.

ARIAS

They will enjoy the same fate as Jesus.

ISIS

You can't be serious, the more I hear from these people, the more sense they make.

ARIAS

I suggest you stay away from them, you are a Roman?

ISIS

I'm just saying Rome, doesn't need to worry about the teachings of a man whose only crime was saying you should love your neighbor as you love yourself.

ARIAS

I don't make policy, I just enforce it.

## 95. EXT. SEA SIDE VILLAGE PALESTINE - DAY

Arias meets Peter in the streets.

ARIAS

I'm serious, leave Judea or the next time I see you, I'll place you under arrest.

PETER

What have we done to become such a threat.

ARIAS

I'm not here to debate with you, leave now or face the consequences.

PETER

Why don't you arrest me today?

ARIAS

I guess I don't want any more blood of good men on my hands.

PETER

Brother, let me help you with your pain?

ARIAS

I'm not your brother, and I don't need your help, leave Judea. I don't want to see you again.

## 96. EXT. ROMAN GARRISON COURTYARD - DAY

Governor Pilate places symbol of rank on Arias' head during promotion ceremony and turns to assembled soldiers who wave their swords in salute. Isis give Arias a kiss and a hug while Marcus looks on with reserved look on his face.

## 97. EXT. ATHENS PARTHENON - DAY

Paul sits at the base of the building with surrounded by a small crowd and waves the people closer to him.

PAUL

It's time for me to move on, but I am confident you can stand witness to the words and lifestyle of our Lord and Savior.



## 98. EXT. ROAD TO ROME - DAY

Peter rides in the front seat of a wagon as it approaches a sign that indicates Rome is several measures away.

## 99. EXT. ROAD TO CORINTH - DAY

Paul approaches city on horseback. He stops dismounts and kneels beside the road in silent prayer before remounting his horse and riding into the city.

## 100. EXT. JEWISH SECTOR ROME - DAY

Peter and a small group of followers walk through the streets looking around excitedly as they move from stall to stall.

## 101. INT. ROMAN CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Peter raises wooden cup during celebration of mass, while a small group of followers surround him on their knees.

## 102. INT. ARIAS' FAMILY QUARTERS - EVENING

Arias drops a scroll and looks to Isis.

ARIAS

You won't believe it, we've finally been called back to Rome.

ISIS

When are we leaving?

ARIAS

As soon as possible.

ISIS

We can be home for the start of racing season. We can finally see Angus race.

ARIAS

He's become quite the champion.

The couple embrace.

103. EXT. ARIAS' FAMILY HOME ROME - DUSK- (SUPER) THREE MONTHS LATER

Arias and Isis approach their family home, Angus stands in the road.

ANGUS

Welcome home, so good to see you.

All embrace and Arias stands back appraising the man standing before him.

ARIAS

You've grown. I'm very proud of you.

Isis hugs her son again.

ISIS

I'm so glad to see you little one.

ARIAS

He's a grown man now.

ISIS

He'll always be my little boy. When do you race again?

ANGUS

In a few weeks. Let's get inside I'm sure you must be tired and thirsty.

104. EXT. MARCUS' FAMILY HOME - DAY- LATER IN THE WEEK

Marcus and Arias share a drink in the atrium.

MARCUS

Much has changed in our absence. The changes are the reason we've been called home. Unrest in the Jewish quarter.

ARIAS

What's going on in the Jewish quarter?

MARCUS

A fight between the Jews and the heretics who follow our old friend from Nazareth. To be honest I think he is looking for a scape goat.

ARIAS  
So what's the plan?

MARCUS  
Nero isn't stable, he is likely to order a purge of the whole lot. We were called back because we're the experts with these people.

ARIAS  
My role in all of this?

MARCUS  
Father has a position for me on the general staff, you will take over field operations, and supervise the direct action.

ARIAS  
Remus would've loved this mission.

MARCUS  
His sword would have been perfect for these times.

ARIAS  
I'm not sure how much longer I want to do this, we've been away for so long. I missed seeing my boy grow into a man.

MARCUS  
The Legions are in your blood.

ARIAS  
Perhaps you are right. I will get this done, but don't be surprised when my request for severance is delivered to the general staff.

105. EXT. ROMAN FORUM - DAY

Herald mounts the podium.

HERALD  
Imperial decree, the supreme ruler has outlawed the sect of people who fashion themselves as the followers of Jesus the Christ. All loyal citizens of Rome will assist in the removal of this sect from Rome and from Roman society.

(MORE)

## HERALD (CONT'D)

The penalty for failure to comply  
with this order, is death.

106. EXT. ROMAN STREETS - DAY

Arias leads a detail of soldiers into the grand market.

ARIAS

Is everyone in place?

TITUS

Yes Sir, they gave me the signal.

ARIAS

Then let's get on with it.

Titus jumps on top of a stall.

TITUS

By order of the Emperor all  
followers of Jesus, suspend all  
activities associated with the  
Jesus sect. You are warned that  
those carrying symbols of the sect  
or attending gatherings of the sect  
will forfeit all rights, property  
and your lives.

The soldiers scan the crowd and arrest the Christians who do  
not attempt to hide.

ARIAS

Look at them lining up for  
slaughter.

TITUS

Don't they realize what is in store  
for them?

ARIAS

Apparently not, can you wrap this  
up? My son is racing this afternoon  
and I would like to see him race.

TITUS

No problem, they're not putting up  
resistance. Do you worry about him  
racing.

ARIAS

I wish he had picked career with a  
longer life expectancy. There are  
very few old racers.

TITUS

If he's anything like you, then he  
will excel.

ARIAS

I hope you're right. Very well,  
take over.

Arias walks away.

107. EXT. ROMAN RACING ARENA VIP SEATING - DAY

Arias and Isis walk into the section and find Cassias sipping  
a drink. He stands and bows, politely to Isis.

ARIAS

Good Afternoon Sir.

CASSIAS

Isis, you're a pleasure for tired  
eyes.

ISIS

It's so good to see you again.

CASSIAS

The honor is mine. I believe your  
son is racing today. You must be so  
proud.

ISIS

Proud yes, but I worry so.

CASSIAS

Interesting that Angus didn't go  
into the family business.

ARIAS

Angus loved the arena from birth,  
it is in his blood.

CASSIAS

His blood?

ARIAS

I made a fair showing when I was  
his age.

CASSIAS

But you gave that up as expected.

ARIAS

A sacrifice I did not require of my son as my father did of me.

CASSIAS

Interesting. So, how are things on the streets.

ARIAS

They sacrifice themselves like sheep, these followers of Jesus.

CASSIAS

The emperor feels they're a bad influence on Rome. Every day their numbers grow, and there are rumors.

ARIAS

Rumors, what rumors?

CASSIAS

Rumors of well placed Romans joining their ranks.

ARIAS

I have experience with them, I've met their leaders. They're sincere in their faith, but I don't think they pose a threat to the might of Rome.

CASSIAS

These Christians are simply the latest in a long line of distractions we use to keep the mob from festering on their own problems.

ISIS

Seems a cowardly way to run a government.

Arias glares at Isis.

ARIAS

It's almost time for the racing, we should let everyone find their seats.

CASSIAS

Of course Arias, enjoy the races, and may Mercury carry Angus to victory.

Trumpets herald the arrival of Nero.

108. EXT. ROMAN ARENA - DAY

Nero slinks into his chair and casually flicks his hand to the side.

The crowd sits as soldiers drag prisoners into the arena along with teams of horses.

ARIAS  
What's this all about.

CASSIAS  
We have a special treat for the mob, you might recognize some of the entertainment you arrested them.

Guards bind prisoners to teams of horses.

ISIS  
What's this.

CASSIAS  
This entertainment provided by your husband's excellent work this morning.

Arias shuffles in his seat.

Whips crack, horses lurch, and prisoner's arms are snapped into deadly tension.

ARIAS  
I came here to watch my son race, not this.

CASSIAS  
I'm surprised to find you squeamish, you betray your reputation.

ARIAS  
I'm a warrior not a monster.

CASSIAS  
Mind your words. Our friendship can protect only so much.

THE AREANA - The horses continue to strain until limbs fail and blood gushes into the air. Trumpets signal the end of the spectacle as the crowd cheers.

Slaves run out equipped to clean up the mess as some horses run under the stands pulling severed limbs in their dust.

VIP SEATING - Isis covers her eyes and Arias comforts her as he looks back to Cassias who looks away.

109. EXT. ROMAN ARENA - MOMENTS LATER

Angus strains to contain his horses as several drivers exert similar effort to keep their horses contained.

110. SERIES OF SHOTS

- A. The umpire drops his flag.
- B. Angus drives his horses into the lead.
- C. Five chariots scorch the straits and cut the second turn.
- D. The chariots rip past the finish point.
- E. Umpire dips the first of three lap markers.
- F. Angus and rival grind and skid into the first turn.
- G. The rival leads Angus from the second turn, and lashes his horses as Angus sizzles on his heels.
- H. Umpire flips the second dolphin.
- I. Angus takes the lead heading into the turn.
- J. Rival holds his course and Angus' lead mounts are tripped.
- K. Angus flies from tumbling chariot and crumples to a stop.

END OF SERIES

111. INT. ARIAS' HOME- LATER

Stoic surgeons stare at Isis.

ISIS  
This is just like my dream.

ARIAS  
What are they saying?

ISIS  
I don't know, they're not saying anything.



Arias stares at Angus.

ARIAS  
He looks so broken.

DOCTOR # 1  
We set several bones, but his inner  
humor is out of balance.

DOCTOR # 2  
We've done all we can, and I can't  
tell you if he will make it.

ARIAS  
So there's nothing more?

The doctors shake their heads as Isis buries her head into  
Arias' chest.

ISIS  
What are we going to do?

ARIAS  
Make an offering, his fate is in  
the hands of the gods.

ISIS  
The gods? Our son is dying and you  
are going to make offerings.

ARIAS  
What more can I do, you heard the  
surgeons, prayer is all we have  
left.

ISIS  
You should pray to a God that might  
answer your prayer.

Arias gives Isis a puzzled look and then hugs her again.

112. INT. ARIAS' HOME DAY - LATER

Arias finds Isis sitting next Angus.

ARIAS  
I made the offerings.

ISIS  
Do you really think that will work?

ARIAS  
It's all I can do.

ISIS  
I've heard that he is here in Rome.

ARIAS  
Who is here?

ISIS  
You know who I'm talking about,  
Peter.

ARIAS  
Peter? You want me to find the  
magician to help our son.

ISIS  
You know he can help.

ARIAS  
A wanted criminal that I've been  
ordered to arrest.

ISIS  
You could've arrested him many  
times before, you didn't.

ARIAS  
I didn't arrest the man, because he  
was harmless and unworthy of my  
attention.

ISIS  
You might have to arrest me because  
I'll do what it takes to save my  
son.

MESSENGER enters room.

MESSENGER  
General Marcus wants to see you in  
the council room at once.

Arias looks at Angus.

ISIS  
Go see what your master wants,  
you're not doing any good here.

ARIAS  
Tell the General I'll be there.

The couple embrace and Arias follows the messenger.

113. EXT. MILITARY GARRISON ROME- DAY

Arias finds Marcus briefing officers.

MARCUS

Sorry to pull you away from home at a time like this.

ARIAS

What's going on?

MARCUS

Nero ordered an acceleration of the purge. We're to begin at once. I want you find and arrest the leaders.

Arias points to the others.

ARIAS

We've been away for many years, any one of them must know Rome better than I.

MARCUS

Yes, but none of them know your old friend as well as you.

ARIAS

Old friend?

MARCUS

Come now Arias, we both know you and Peter enjoy a curious, if not ill advised relationship.

ARIAS

What information do we have on his location.

TITUS

We know that Peter and his followers infest the catacombs.

MARCUS

A fitting place for a religion that worships a man we put to death.

ARIAS

I'll do my duty, but I must attend to Angus.

MARCUS

Of course, take care of Angus, but  
take care of this mission first.  
The purge begins now.

All exchange salutes.

114. INT. ARIAS' HOME - LATER SAME NIGHT

Isis comforts her son.

ISIS

What did he want?

ARIAS

Nero advanced the purge of the  
Christians.

ISIS

This is a blessing, you can find  
Peter and bring him here to save  
Angus.

ARIAS

If I find Peter, he will face  
certain execution, I doubt he'll be  
in much of a mood to save our son.

ISIS

You know he's not like that, Peter  
is filled with compassion. You just  
have to find him and ask.

ARIAS

You don't understand my position.

115. MONTAGE SOLDIERS CONDUCT THE PURGE

- Soldiers break into home and bring out family.
- Soldiers chase men and women through the streets of Rome.
- Soldiers separate a mother from her children and toss her into the back of a cart.
- Soldiers raid Christian service.
- Soldiers escort chained Christian prisoners through the streets.

END MONTAGE

116. INT. ARIAS' HOME - NIGHT

Isis changes the dressings.

ARIAS  
He getting any better?

ISIS  
A little less pale but the surgeons  
won't say if he'll ever wake up.

ARIAS  
I don't have much time I came to  
eat and rest a bit, and still no  
sign of Peter.

ISIS  
He's in town, you have to find him,  
he's our only hope.

ARIAS  
I'll do my best.

Arias slinks out.

117. INT. GARRISON BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Marcus walks to the podium, as Arias and other officers take  
their seats. Marcus waits for quiet before he begins.

MARCUS  
We're making great progress and we  
may have the location of the head  
of the snake. Titus.

TITUS  
After some questioning our source  
mentioned we should look in the  
Thurmac catacomb region after dark.

MARCUS  
How reliable is this source?

TITUS  
Considering the amount of  
cooperation he was persuaded to  
give, I think it reliable.

MARCUS  
Arias, take a detail and find  
Peter.

ARIAS  
Consider him captured.

118. EXT. ENTRANCE TO CATACOMBS - EVENING

Arias dismounts along with a detachment of soldiers, who light their torches from a lantern.

ARIAS  
Keep your squad here and scoop up  
anyone that sneaks out. You lot,  
come with me.

Arias grabs a torch and leads two squads of soldiers into the dark passage.

119. INT. CATACOMBS - LATER

Arias approaches Peter while he is lighting candles on an altar in front of a gathering of worshipers. Peter looks back when he notices the flames and recognizes Arias.

PETER  
Our paths finally cross again old  
friend.

Arias looks startled by Peter's calm and the other Christians.

ARIAS  
Give it up old man, there is no  
place to run.

PETER  
I'm not going to run, my fate was  
sealed the night we met.

Soldiers bind Peter and the other Christians. They lead the others out first, leaving Peter and Arias standing alone. Arias looks to the last soldier.

ARIAS  
Tell Marcus we've captured Peter.

120. INT. ARIAS' HOME - EVENING

Isis sobs as she greets Arias at the door.

ISIS

He's taken a turn for the worst I don't know how much longer he can fight.

ARIAS

Angus is strong, if anyone can make it.

ISIS

I want my son to live. Did you find Peter?

ARIAS

I found him.

ISIS

You found him, why didn't you bring him here, your son, don't you care about Angus?

ARIAS

Bringing Peter here could mean death for us all.

ISIS

Your son is dying and you can do something about it. Save my son!

Arias walks past Isis as she continues to cry.

121. INT. ARIAS' HOME-NIGHT- LATER

Arias prays at his family shrine, then stands and walks away.

122. INT. MARCUS' FAMILY HOME- NIGHT

Arias interrupts Marcus as he feasts on roast trout and oysters.

MARCUS

Arias, sit, we need to celebrate your success.

ARIAS

It wasn't a big victory, Peter was not hiding as much as he didn't turn himself in.

MARCUS

Be that as it may, you did well today. I know you have a heavy heart but have dinner with me.

ARIAS

I can't eat.

MARCUS

What troubles you.

ARIAS

Angus may not make it through the night.

MARCUS

I heard his condition is grave.

ARIAS

I need to see Peter.

MARCUS

You captured the man, question him all you like.

ARIAS

Isis believes Peter can help Angus.

MARCUS

I wasn't aware this Peter is a surgeon, is he specially skilled?

ARIAS

She thinks she has the power to heal Angus. She's desperate and grasping for anything.

Marcus moves around the table and sits next to Arias and leans close to him after looking around conspiratorially.

MARCUS

Listen to me, we've been through a great deal together, and for that reason alone, I'm going to pretend that you came here tonight for the trout.

ARIAS

I know this sounds crazy but maybe he can help.

MARCUS

Enough! You can't see it now but I'm doing you a favor.

(MORE)



MARCUS (CONT'D)

Eat my fish or go home. I'm sorry about Angus, but there's nothing Peter is going to do about it but get you arrested.

123. INT. WARDENS OFFICE - NIGHT

Prison warden and several guards snap to attention when Arias enters the room.

PRISON WARDEN

Sir, this is an unexpected honor, how may I be of service?

Arias waves the soldiers back to their seats.

ARIAS

I need to question the prisoner I captured this evening.

PRISON WARDEN

Up here or in one of the cells?

ARIAS

Bring him to the patio.

124. EXT. PRISON BALCONY - NIGHT

Two guards frog march Peter to Arias and step two paces back.

ARIAS

Remove his shackles, I'm not worried about an old man running away, then wait inside.

PRISON GUARD

Sir, that's not the protocol.

ARIAS

Do you know how bland food tastes after your tongue is cut out?

The soldiers move to free Peter and then leave him alone with Arias.

PETER

I've been waiting for you.

ARIAS

Let me guess, me coming here is part of some prophecy you have known about since the day your were born.

PETER

Did you come tonight to mock me?

ARIAS

What makes you think. Never mind, my wife thinks you can help my son.

PETER

What's wrong with Angus.

ARIAS

He was injured in a race and the surgeons say he is going to die soon.

PETER

Of course I will help your son.

ARIAS

How do you know his name? Let's go.

They walk into the darkness.

125. INT. ARIAS' HOME - LATER

Peter prays over Angus while Isis and Arias watch.

PETER

I've done what I can, it's up to the Lord now, he needs to rest and I need to talk to you outside.

They leave Angus' room.

126. CONTINUOUS

Peter, Arias and Isis walk into the room and sit around a table.

PETER (CONT'D)

Healing requires faith. Faith from all concerned.

ARIAS

What do you want from me, I just want you to help my son.

PETER

I want to help you although I don't sense as much pain in you as when we first met. But I can still help you with that knee.

ISIS

My husband is very stubborn, thank you for your prayers.

Angus walks into the room and Isis leaps to hug him.

ARIAS

Easy with him.

ISIS

My love won't hurt him.

Angus tries to maintain his balance as Arias looks to Peter.

ARIAS

Thank you.

PETER

You're welcome.

ARIAS

Walk away, do it now leave Rome tonight.

PETER

My destiny resides in Rome I will not leave.

ARIAS

I'm not giving you a choice old man, leave now or you will leave at the point of my sword but you're not going back to prison by my hand.

Peter passes a messenger as he walks into the night.

MESSENGER

Sir, you've been ordered to report to head quarters.

Isis grabs Arias by the arm.

ARIAS

Don't worry. Tell them I'm on the way.

MESSENGER

Yes Sir.

127. INT. ROMAN HIGH COMMAND - LATER

Arias finds Paul standing in chains in front of Cassias and Marcus.

CASSIAS

Arias you are just in time, please join us.

MARCUS

Do you know this man.

ARIAS

Yes, we met in Judea. He's a citizen who made a name for himself hunting down followers of Jesus.

CASSIAS

It seems he had a change of heart along the way.

ARIAS

On the road to Damascus as I recall.

CASSIAS

You met this man. Why didn't you arrest him.

ARIAS

We weren't authorized to arrest citizens without a warrant, and I didn't see him as a threat.

Marcus looks to Paul.

MARCUS

You know why you are here?

PAUL

Because I'm under arrest.

CASSIAS

And why are you under arrest?

PAUL

Because I stand witness to my lord and savior Jesus the Christ. Other than that I have no idea.

CASSIAS

You and your fellow heretics made a mess in the Jewish quarter, and that disrupted the trade in the markets. When the markets are broken the mob becomes restless. Bottom line. People aren't happy and Nero needs someone to hold responsible.

PAUL

You mean he needs someone to divert attention from his failings.

CASSIAS

Nero outlawed your religion and you stand there, proud in your defiance.

PAUL

If my only crime is that I am a Christian then I stand convicted.

MARCUS

Your existence is a threat. You a citizen of Rome of noble birth. If you can be corrupted, anyone can be corrupted.

PAUL

What corruption, we follow a doctrine of love.

MARCUS - Love your neighbor as yourself.

CASSIAS - Treat your neighbor as you want to be treated.

ARIAS - Give to the poor, and protect those who cannot protect themselves.

CASSIAS

You have a silver tongue but your words won't change your fate.

MARCUS

You're formally charged with treason, Arias, will escort you to the same prison where your friend Peter awaits his fate.

PAUL

Then I consider myself blessed on multiple counts.

MARCUS

See to it that he is properly secured with special circumstances.

ARIAS

As you wish.

CASSIAS

Arias, great work finding Peter, your father would be proud of you.

Arias turns and walks out as two soldiers direct Paul to follow him from the room.

128. INT. ARIAS' HOME - DAWN

Arias, Isis and Angus enjoy breakfast.

ISIS

What are you going to do about Peter.

ARIAS

Don't worry about that, we have our son back.

ANGUS

What are you two talking about, what happened and who is this Peter?

ARIAS

What do you remember?

ANGUS

I remember crashing in the middle of the race and I remember waking up in my room feeling a bit stiff.

ISIS

You had a terrible accident and the surgeons thought you were going to die. We thought you were going to die, so your father brought the man you saw when you work up.

ANGUS

What did he do to me?

ARIAS  
He healed you.

ANGUS  
Is he one of those people you've  
been meeting Mom?

Arias glares at Isis.

ARIAS  
What people have you been meeting?

ISIS  
I met some of the followers of  
Jesus back in Jerusalem and I like  
what they had to say.

ARIAS  
What does that mean?

ISIS  
Well don't pretend you weren't  
affected. You could've arrested  
Peter many times back Judea, yet  
you didn't

ARIAS  
There's a big difference between  
letter an old man avoid arrest and  
buying into what he is selling.

ANGUS  
I still don't understand what's  
going on here.

ARIAS  
Nero has declared war on the man  
who saved your life and the people  
like him. I'm going to answer for  
bringing him here, but I would do  
it a thousand times over, because  
he gave us another chance with you.

ISIS  
What are you going to do.

ARIAS  
I am going to feed my son, and  
after that go see Marcus and figure  
something out. If they don't come  
looking for me first.

129. INT. MAP ROOM - DAY

Arias walks into the room and Marcus dismisses the other officers with a wave of his hand.

MARCUS

I hear that you had an interesting evening after you left my home last night.

ARIAS

What did you hear?

MARCUS

That you conducted a special mission to release Peter so he could lead you to more of his followers.

ARIAS

I was hoping to keep that operation secret until we succeed.

MARCUS

You've strapped us both to a burning barge and I have no idea why I don't have you arrested.

ARIAS

Because it wouldn't look good for you, and that's the only reason. You always put you and your name first.

MARCUS

Speaking of family. I was so concerned about Angus that I stopped in to see you this morning. I must've missed you.

ARIAS

What did you do?

MARCUS

I was so pleased to find Angus and Isis enjoying breakfast, I was overcome with joy.

ARIAS

What did you do?



MARCUS

I invited them to my home to spend  
some time under my protection while  
you complete your special mission.

Arias grips the hilt of his sword.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Dear friend, you know I'll do all I  
can to keep your family safe.

ARIAS

You took them from my home?

MARCUS

I had to, things are going to get  
very dangerous during the purge and  
I want you to be able to  
concentrate on your duties.

Arias pulls his sword out a few inches.

ARIAS

You know what I can do with this?

MARCUS

That's precisely why Nero wants you  
to lead the purge. Your family name  
still carries weight in this city  
and you're going to make me look  
good because I gave him my word  
that you were up to the task.

ARIAS

Why did you take my family?

MARCUS

To keep them safe, I'm sure you  
will do your duty as a Roman  
Officer as long as you know that  
I'm keeping Angus and lovely Isis  
safe.

Arias storms out.

130. EXT. STREETS OF ROME - LATER

Arias walks through the streets and as groups of soldiers  
pass with prisoners and others stop and knock on different  
homes.

131. EXT. STREETS OF ROME - LATER

Soldier slaps a woman in front of her children.

ARIAS

What are you doing? Why are you treating them like that.

STREET SOLDIER

They're followers of Jesus.

ARIAS

This woman and child are not worth the effort.

The soldiers look puzzled.

ARIAS (CONT'D)

We're after bigger fish. Go find some of the men to arrest. Do it now.

The soldiers salute and run away.

WOMAN

Thank you Sir.

ARIAS

Get your children off the streets and tonight leave Rome and don't come back.

The woman and children run away.

132. EXT. STREETS OF ROME - LATER

Two soldiers attempt to sexually assault a woman. Arias clubs a half nude soldier and dispatches a second as the third soldier runs away putting his clothing back in order.

Nude woman runs away carrying her clothing.

ARIAS

You're welcome.

133. EXT. LATER

Arias encounters a group of soldiers.

CAPTAIN

Sir, I need you to come with us.

ARIAS  
Captain do you know who I am?

CAPTAIN  
We know who you are Sir, General  
Marcus wants to see you at once.

ARIAS  
Very well.

Arias follows the officer followed by the soldiers.

134. INT. MAP ROOM - DUSK

Officer walks out and doors slam shut.

MARCUS  
We've caught a break, I happen to  
know where you can find Peter.

ARIAS  
Why don't you arrest him?

MARCUS  
I'll tell command your plan is  
working and you uncovered more  
fugitives.

ARIAS  
We're scooping up people all over  
Rome. Why are you so dead set on me  
doing the dirty work.

MARCUS  
Because I've always hated how you  
and your brother thought yourselves  
my better.

ARIAS  
You owe me your life.

MARCUS  
Our past is the only reason I'm  
giving you this chance to make  
things right. You'll arrest,  
interrogate and execute Peter.

ARIAS  
My family?

MARCUS  
They continue to enjoy my  
hospitality.

ARIAS

Only if you give me your word, Isis  
and Angus will be okay.

MARCUS

You have my word. Do your duty and  
no harm will come to them. They're  
my guest after all.

Arias turns and walks from the map room.

135. EXT. STREETS OF ROME- NIGHT

Arias leads a mounted patrol to entrance of private home. He  
dismounts and walks to the door.

INSIDE THE HOME

Peter faces the door when Arias enters.

PETER

How is your son?

ARIAS

He is well. I told you to leave  
Rome.

PETER

My journey ends in Rome.

ARIAS

They're going to kill you.

PETER

An appointment made many years ago.

ARIAS

Where do you get your courage to  
face death so calmly?

PETER

I had a dream.

ARIAS

What dream?

PETER

Rome was burning and friends told  
me to leave town, so I took their  
advice and headed for the hills.

ARIAS

Vivid dream.

PETER

Outside Rome I saw Jesus walking into town. I cried out, "master where are you going", he told me that he was going to take my place on the cross.

ARIAS

More than a dream?

PETER

Does it matter, I can't deny my fate. My life is in God's hands not your emperor.

ARIAS

Nero may disagree with you.

PETER

The falcon has taken flight my friend.

Arias shrugs and signals the soldiers to shackle Peter.

134. EXT. ARCHERY RANGE - DAY

Marcus and Arias practice bow shooting.

MARCUS

The emperor ordered Peter's execution, he will be crucified tomorrow at dawn.

ARIAS

I think he is ready to die.

MARCUS

Then you won't feel so bad when you direct his execution.

ARIAS

What do you hope to gain by making me do this.

MARCUS

I hope to show everyone your loyalty.

ARIAS

Just make sure my family remains safe.

MARCUS

I told you, Isis and Angus are my guest, and as comfortable as any guest in my family home.

Arias hits a bull's-eye and walks away.

137. INT. ROMAN PRISON - NIGHT

Peter looks over a table of food at Arias as he chews.

ARIAS

You have a good appetite

PETER

Won't you break bread with me on my last night?

ARIAS

You didn't have to stay.

PETER

Jesus could have commanded a host of angels to save him from the cross and he remained to die for our sins. How could I leave? You know it's not too late for me to help you with your pain.

ARIAS

Not again about my knee.

PETER

I'm not talking about your knee, I'm talking about the pain you carry inside.

ARIAS

You think you know me? You think you can help me? You don't know me.

PETER

What I do know is that we met when I was at the low point of my life. I was denying that I even knew Jesus. Tomorrow I atone for that sin and I feel whole. What is making you feel empty inside?

ARIAS

I directed the execution of Jesus.  
I killed my best friend in the  
aftermath of his death, now I have  
to kill you.

PETER

I'm ready to accept my death.

ARIAS

I'm not ready to kill you.

PETER

Why are you going to?

ARIAS

Marcus is holding Isis and Angus  
under threat to insure that I  
preform my duty in the morning.

PETER

Jesus forgave you for executing him  
while he was on the cross. I  
forgive you before I hang on the  
cross. Save your family, do your  
duty.

ARIAS

Just like that, I do my duty.

PETER

Yes, but do me one favor if you  
will.

ARIAS

Of course.

PETER

I'm a sinner and unworthy to die on  
the cross in the same manner as  
Jesus. Can you hang me another way?

ARIAS

The only other way is upside down,  
and you will beg for death hours  
before it comes.

PETER

Then grant me that one request, old  
friend.

ARIAS  
I will instruct the detail tonight,  
you will be crucified inverted.

PETER  
It will be hard for you to keep up  
with Angus with that bum knee of  
yours.

Arias smiles at Peter's obvious attempt to lighten the mood.

ARIAS  
For the last time leave my knee  
alone.

PETER  
Then one last request.

ARIAS  
What is that?

PETER  
Pray with me, or at least hold my  
hand while I pray for you and your  
family.

Arias holds Peter's hands.

138. INT. ARIAS' FAMILY SHRINE - LATER

Arias stands in front of his shrine.

He kneels and lowers his head for a beat then stands and  
walks to the alter and opens the gold case on the alter and  
removes his family's portion of the treasure medallion.

He hangs the medallion around his neck, retrieves his sword  
before looking over his shoulder at the shrine and walking  
away.

139. INT. CASSIAS' SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

A servant closes the door behind Arias as Cassias looks at  
the medallion around his neck before indicating that he  
should sit with a tilt of his head.

CASSIAS  
This is unexpected, why are you  
here and why in the name of Apollo  
are you wearing that.



ARIAS

I didn't want to waste any time as  
the hour is late.

CASSIAS

Well?

Cassias locks his eyes on the medallion as Arias handles it  
casually.

ARIAS

I know what this means to you and  
my father. I want no part of it.

CASSIAS

I think it might be a little late  
for that.

ARIAS

I want to get as far away from this  
and everything it stands for.

CASSIAS

You think it's that simple

ARIAS

Of course, I give this to you. I  
give you my vow of silence, and you  
release my family.

CASSIAS

Your family?

ARIAS

Marcus is holding them to make sure  
I don't embarrass him.

Cassias releases a long tired breath.

CASSIAS

If my son had half your substance.  
You don't need to forfeit your  
share I'll have them released at  
once.

ARIAS

I want to leave the city. Go south,  
love my wife and raise horses. You  
can keep our names in tact, I just  
want out.

CASSIAS

You sure?

ARIAS  
Anyway my knee is getting stiffer  
with each passing day, I can't lead  
men on one leg.

Arias removes the medallion and slides it across the table.

CASSIAS  
On one condition.

ARIAS  
Name it.

CASSIAS  
I will hold this in trust, you must  
tell Angus and if he chooses, it  
will be his to claim.

ARIAS  
You have my word.

CASSIAS  
What does Marcus want so badly from  
you.

ARIAS  
I must direct the execution of  
Peter in the morning, or Isis may  
have an accident.

CASSIAS  
My son is an idiot?

Beat

ARIAS  
I'll keep my word.

CASSIAS  
Very well, your family will be  
under your roof before this Peter's  
body goes cold.

ARIAS  
Thank You.

CASSIAS  
Rome will miss you. We will need  
many more like you in the days  
ahead.

ARIAS  
I won't miss Rome.

Arias stands and presents a sharp salute to Cassius. He holds it until Cassius stands and returns the salute. Arias drops his salute turns on his heel and limps from the room.

140. EXT. VATICAN HILL - DAWN

As the sun crests the horizon Peter is brought forward with his hands shackled behind his back.

His escorts walk him to the base of his cross.

PETER

May I have a moment to pray.

TITUS

Take off his shackles. Did you figure out how to hang him upside down?

The head executioner nods his head several times as Peter kneels in prayer before standing and looking at Titus.

PETER

I am ready.

Titus nods and Peter is stripped, his feet secured to the vertical beam, feet pointing skyward.

Executioners secure Peter's hands to horizontal bar.

TITUS

He must have pissed someone off to get this hanging.

The executioner and escorts laugh. Peter also smiles.

141. SERIES OF SHOTS

A. Arias walks towards Vatican Hill, looks up and can see Peter hanging inverted on his cross.

B. Peter trembles, convulses and coughs.

C. Arias approaches the base of Vatican hill and looks directly towards Peter's face.

D. Peter makes eye contact with Arias who nods for the guards to take Peter up the hill.

E. Arias stumbles up the hill to get closer to Peter, one of the soldiers helps him climb the last few steps to the base of the cross.

F. Peter looks directly at Arias, smiles, laughs, coughs up a stream of blood, and goes limp.

G. The executioner checks for a pulse, looks to Arias and indicates his death with a thumb across his throat.

H. Arias turns, walks quietly and quickly down the hill.

END SERIES

142. EXT. BASE OF VATICAN HILL - LATER

Soldiers remove Peter from the cross as Arias approaches Titus.

ARIAS

When you finish wrapping the body,  
bury him at the base of the this  
hill. What is the name of this  
place.

SECOND OFFICER

Vatican Hill Sir.

Arias smiles and walks away.

144. INT. ROMAN GARRISON PRISON - NIGHT

Arias walks into the room and sits across from Paul who is shackled to the table.

PAUL

Is he gone?

ARIAS

Earlier today.

PAUL

He rests with Jesus in paradise.

Paul bows for a moment then looks up with a smile.

ARIAS

You don't seem too broken up about  
it.

The two lock eyes.

PAUL

Peter found his salvation today and  
I will follow him shortly.

ARIAS

Salvation?

PAUL

I think you know what I mean.

ARIAS

I saw a man die with a smile on his face. I think he was trying to laugh.

PAUL

He knew his journey was over.

ARIAS

Do you really believe what you are telling everyone?

PAUL

I have since Jesus commanded me to stop persecuting his followers.

ARIAS

You bump your head and hear voices and perform magic tricks. It does not mean the man was god.

Paul reaches for Arias and is stopped short by his shackles.

PAUL

I know you believe.

ARIAS

How?

PAUL

Why are you here?

ARIAS

You two were friends and I thought it was the least I could do. Look the man who is going to take your head in the morning is sharpening his blade down the hall. If you believe all of this fine, you and Peter can joke about it tomorrow night.

PAUL

We're not doing magic tricks and I know you believe. Your wife believes.

ARIAS

Leave her out of this.

PAUL

Every day your son walks this earth  
is proof that he believes.

ARIAS

Maybe.

PAUL

Why are you denying what is as  
plain as the nose on your face? Why  
does it hurt so much to admit you  
believe.

ARIAS

I don't know. Maybe I want to be  
angry about Remus until I die.  
Maybe I don't want a new god, I was  
happy with the ones I had. Maybe  
it's one more way I disappoint my  
father.

PAUL

I know your father loved you  
because he raised you to be the man  
you've become. Surely he would be  
proud of you.

ARIAS

You didn't know the man.

PAUL

The healing power of Jesus is felt  
by those who believe in his message  
for mankind.

ARIAS

Peter said that to me many times,  
what else is new.

Paul starts to laugh.

PAUL

It will come to you my friend.

ARIAS

What's wrong with you people that  
you face death with laughter.

Paul laughs even harder.

PAUL  
Don't you see it?

Paul keeps laughing and Arias gets angry look on his face.

ARIAS  
I know if you keep laughing at me I  
might cheat the executioner of his  
fee.

Paul laughs a deeper laugh.

PAUL  
You said he was laughing as he  
died, I know why.

ARIAS  
You're crazy old man.

Arias stands and walks towards the door.

PAUL  
Haven't you noticed, you're not  
limping anymore.

Arias tests his leg.

ARIAS  
The old fool healed me.

PAUL  
No my friend, your belief healed  
you, and he smiled because he could  
tell he accomplished Jesus' last  
command with his last breath.

ARIAS  
Thats why he made me walk up that  
hill to see me walk without a limp.

Arias and Paul laugh together.

ARIAS (CONT'D)  
Say hello for me when you see him  
tomorrow. And tell him thanks, will  
you.

PAUL  
Count on it.

The hold each others gaze for a beat before Arias turns and  
knocks on the door.

ARIAS  
Guards I'm ready.

FADE TO BLACK.