

SECOND BORN

Written by

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INT. CASTLE MEETING ROOM - MORNING

JARRACK, 17, enters. A large table is set for nine. A smaller table to the side has cups and a wine pitcher on it.

Jarrack walks to the small table.

LORD CARRICK, 36, enters.

LORD CARRICK
Hail, Prince Jarrack.

Jarrack turns to Lord Carrick with the pitcher.

JARRACK
Lord Carrick, early as usual I see.
May I offer you a drink?

Jarrack pours two cups of wine.

LORD CARRICK
Milord, please. I can pour it.

Lord Carrick reaches for the wine.

JARRACK
That's too bad. It seems I have
already poured your cup.

Jarrack puts a cup into Lord Carrick's outstretched hand.

JARRACK (CONT'D)
You could, perhaps, dump that cup
and fill it again.

LORD CARRICK
And waste wine? Never, milord.

JARRACK
Come. The others are arriving.

They walk to the larger table and take their seats.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

A guard stands at a door.

MARSEM (O.S.)
My father is sick and I am the next
in line for the throne. I will not
tolerate such disobedience.

A servant falls into the hallway. The guard escorts him away.
The door slams.

INT. MARSEM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARSEM, 20, slams his hands on a table.

Papers fall. They read "Future Taxes" and "New Decrees".

MARSEM

Keller.

KELLER, 25, stands in the corner of the room.

KELLER

Yes, milord?

MARSEM

I will not simply be your king. I
will be your god.

INT. KING'S ROOM - MORNING

WILKUS, 63, sits up in bed. TOMKINS, 38, walks over.

TOMKINS

Sire, you need your rest. Please,
lie back down.

WILKUS

Do not tell me what to do, Tomkins.
I am not a child.

TOMKINS

Apologies, Sire.

Tomkins brings Wilkus water. Wilkus takes the cup and drinks.

WILKUS

Thank you, Tomkins. You're a good
friend. Pardon an old sickly man
for wishing to live.

TOMKINS

Of course, sire. I only wish for
your health to return.

Wilkus swings his legs off the side of the bed and coughs.

WILKUS

You and I both know that it won't.

Tomkins helps Wilkus to his feet.

TOMKINS

What are your plans today, sire?

Wilkus grins. He puts his hand on Tomkins' shoulder.

WILKUS

Get me my crown and my finest robes
and tell the cooks to ready a
feast. I have news for the kingdom.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

A fist slams the table.

LORD SAUL

This is an outrage.

Nine men surround a table filled with books and papers. LORD SAUL, 23, is the only one standing.

Jarrack takes a drink.

JARRACK

Lord Saul, what is upsetting you?

LORD SAUL

Milord... How can you expect me to
lower taxes in my land? I barely
had enough gold to keep my estate
running after I inherited it.

JARRACK

Not enough gold? Our fathers seemed
to think it would be fine.

LORD SAUL

I am not my father. Your father is
not here. I demand more gold.

Jarrack is taken aback. Lord Carrick stands.

LORD CARRICK

Still your tongue, Saul. Prince
Jarrack speaks for the king. You
should honor your father's word.

LORD SAUL

If he speaks for the king, Carrick,
why don't you let him speak?

JARRACK
Enough. We are done here. Return
home, all of you.

EXT. COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

DELS, 16, sits on a fence and sharpens a stone. He hops off the fence and heads toward the Fletcher's hut.

JARRACK (O.S.)
Dels. Calling it quits so soon?

Dels turns around. Jarrack runs up to him.

DELS
What took you so long?

JARRACK
There's this new lord of--

DELS
Blah, blah, blah. You know I don't
care for such things.

JARRACK
Show me your new trick then.

Dels grabs a bow and arrows from the hut.

He shoots three arrows that form a tight triangle on a post.

JARRACK (CONT'D)
Impressive. You must teach me.

DELS
You'll never be as good as--

MISHA, a bear, strolls through the nearby sparring grounds.
She looks at the two young men and heads that way.

JARRACK
Misha? Misha?

Misha sits in front of the men. A shout is heard. A man jumps out from behind Misha and attacks. Jarrack blocks.

DELS (CONT'D)
What in the hells?

ORIN, 19, reveals his face. He backs off of Jarrack.

ORIN
I thought I'd got you. I was
actually worried.

JARRACK
Orin, You're back.

The two men shake hands. Dels pets Misha.

DELS
Weren't you supposed to take
another few weeks?

ORIN
I got lucky out there. Found your
bird and it was easy to train.

Orin whistles.

An eagle flies down and lands on Orin's arm. He tosses it a
bit of meat from a pouch, then tosses the pouch to Dels.

DELS
Thanks, Orin. I'll name her Sylvia.

ORIN
You can name her whatever you want.

Orin turns to Jarrack. Dels plays with Sylvia.

ORIN (CONT'D)
Jarrack, what's this I hear about
your father making a speech?

JARRACK
My father is what?

ORIN
Making a speech. I heard a guard
talking about it on my way in.

Jarrack runs toward the castle door and exits.

INT. STAIRWELL - EVENING

Wilkus walks down the stairs. Tomkins helps.

WILKUS
It has been too long since I have
walked these stairs, Tomkins.

TOMKINS
Yes, Sire. It has been some time.

WILKUS

Let me ask you something, Tomkins.

TOMKINS

Anything, Sire.

Wilkus stops and almost trips. Tomkins steadies him.

WILKUS

Which of my boys have proved themselves in my time of sickness?

TOMKINS

Sire, you ask me to judge your sons? It is not my place to do so.

WILKUS

I have a decision, Tomkins. One that will change the course of Mezgar. I need any help I can get.

TOMKINS

Yes, Sire. Jarrack seems to do well with regulating taxes. Though he may need to be more strict.

WILKUS

He will learn that in time. What of Marsem? I'm worried about him.

TOMKINS

Marsem? He's... put some laws into action. We have seen less crime, but trade is also low.

WILKUS

Yes, so I've heard. I think I know what this kingdom needs.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marsem and Jarrack stand near the throne.

A crowd forms. It fills the room.

VOICE #1

--crown the new king.

VOICE #2

Prince Marsem--

VOICE #3

--doomed.

Wilkus enters. He walks to the throne.

Wilkus sits and lifts a hand. The crowd is silent.

WILKUS

Many of you may know why I have
gathered you here today.

Wilkus coughs. Tomkins rushes in to his side.

WILKUS (CONT'D)

(to Tomkins)

I'm fine Tomkins. You may leave.

TOMKINS

As you wish, Sire.

Tomkins exits.

The crowd becomes loud. Wilkus lifts his hand again.

WILKUS

Before you are my sons. Prince
Marsem--

Marsem steps to Wilkus' side.

WILKUS (CONT'D)

--and Prince Jarrack.

Jarrack steps to Wilkus' other side.

WILKUS (CONT'D)

Before I crown the new king, I wish
to address you all. Mezgar is a
kingdom for it's people. If we are
to continue to thrive, we must keep
this in mind.

Wilkus stands and removes his crown.

He steps down between his sons. Jarrack steadies Wilkus.
Marsem kneels.

A crown is placed on a head.

WILKUS (CONT'D)

All hail, King Jarrack.

The crowd is silent for a moment before erupting in applause.

Jarrack freezes. Marsem jumps up and faces his father.

MARSEM

This is an outrage. How dare you
take away my birthright.

Marsem storms off through the crowd.

Wilkus steps forward.

WILKUS

Mars--

Wilkus starts a coughing fit.

He moves his hand from his mouth to show blood and collapses.

Jarrack helps his father to his feet. Tomkins rushes in.

TOMKINS

Sire, are you all right. King
Jarrack. I can handle it from here.
You enjoy your moment.

JARRACK

Alright, Tomkins. Father, rest
well.

Jarrack stands in front of the crowd.

Marsem stands at the exit of the room.

MARSEM

You will regret this, father.

Marsem exits.

Jarrack stands tall. The crowd is silent.

JARRACK

We will assemble again tomorrow.
Everyone, go home.

Guards open the doors and start filing people out.

A cheer starts the entire crowd cheering.

CROWD

All hail, King Jarrack.

The throne room clears. Jarrack exits.

INT. KING'S ROOM - NIGHT

Wilkus is in bed. He coughs. Tomkins is by his side.

TOMKINS

Sire, here. Have some water.

Tomkins tries to give Wilkus water through his coughs.

Jarrack enters.

JARRACK

Father, are you all right?

WILKUS

Son, please. I need you to give
your brother something.

JARRACK

What is it, father?

Wilkus coughs and points to a cabinet near the bed.

Jarrack opens it and finds a journal.

Wilkus takes the journal and marks a page. He coughs and
drops the journal.

TOMKINS

He's gone. Long live King Jarrack.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Jarrack gets dressed. There is a knock at the door.

JARRACK

Enter.

Tomkins enters.

TOMKINS

Sire, the lords are here.

JARRACK

This early?

TOMKINS

In light of recent events--

JARRACK

I understand.

Jarrack picks up the journal and exits. Tomkins follows.

INT. CASTLE MEETING ROOM - MORNING

Jarrack and Tomkins enter. Nine lords sit around a table.

The lords rise.

LORDS

Hail, King Jarrack.

Jarrack lifts his hand.

JARRACK

Please, be seated.

The lords sit. Jarrack walks to his seat.

JARRACK (CONT'D)

We all know why we are here today.

Jarrack stands behind his chair.

JARRACK (CONT'D)

My father is gone and I am your king... Where is Marsem?

Tomkins walks to Jarrack. He leans in close.

TOMKINS

He has not been seen since last night's announcement.

JARRACK

I need to go find him. Gentlemen, if you'll excuse me.

Jarrack exits.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Jarrack runs past several closed doors. He bumps into Keller.

JARRACK

Keller, where is Marsem?

Jarrack steps into Marsem's room.

INT. MARSEM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is destroyed. Papers are scattered throughout.

JARRACK

What is the meaning of this? Where
is my brother.

Keller shakes.

KELLER

He's gone, your grace. He left
hours ago.

JARRACK

Left? Where did he go?

KELLER

I am not sure, sire. He never told
me.

Jarrack moves to the window.

EXT. VALLEY - AFTERNOON

Marsem walks a narrow trail toward mountains.

Keller arrives on horseback.

MARSEM

What did you tell them?

KELLER

That you left and your whereabouts
are unknown.

MARSEM

Good. And what of my brother?

KELLER

He's taken the crown and organized
the lords. After a ceremony
honoring your father, he plans to
elect new advisors.

Marsem steps to the side of the trail and sits on a small
stone wall. He pulls out a scroll and hands it to Keller.

MARSEM

Take these to Garoth and make sure
they get to Febis. I'm trusting
you, Keller. Don't make me regret
it.

Keller takes the scroll from Marsem. He puts it in his
horse's satchel.

KELLER
It will be done.

Keller rides off toward the mountain.

INT. JARRACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jarrack sits on the edge of his bed. The journal from his father is inches away.

TOMKINS (O.S.)
Sire? Will you be needed anything
else for the night?

Tomkins walks to the bed and sets down a pitcher of water.

JARRACK
No, Tomkins. That will be all.

TOMKINS
Good night, sire.

JARRACK
Good night, Tomkins.

Tomkins exits. Jarrack pulls himself into bed. He drinks a glass of water.

Jarrack stares at the journal.

He picks it up and flips through the pages.

The top of one page reads: MARSEM.

Jarrack reads.

WILKUS (V.O.)
I fear that Marsem is too much like
my father. I remember his tyranny
as a child. He did not care for his
people. He only cared for himself
and the treasury. It took my entire
reign as king to bring Mezgar to a
glorious state for its people.
Jarrack must be king.

Jarrack gets out of bed. He walks to the door and opens it.

JARRACK
Tomkins, are you still there?

Jarrack pauses.

JARRACK (CONT'D)
We need to find my brother,
Tomkins. We need to find him...
now.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - MORNING

Keller rides in on a horse. Marsem steps out of a cave.

Keller hitches his horse to a makeshift post. He pulls out a scroll and hands it to Marsem.

KELLER
Good news, milord. Febis responds.

Marsem pulls off a wax seal and opens the scroll.

MARSEM
I understand your predicament and I
am willing to grant you refuge...
(to Keller)
I won't let my crown be taken from
me so easily. With Garoth backing
us we will take it back.

Marsem closes the scroll and hands it back to Keller.

MARSEM (CONT'D)
Let us depart.

KELLER
Yes, sire.

INT. CASTLE MEETING ROOM - MORNING

Jarrack sits at a table with six lords.

Jarrack stands.

JARRACK
Where are the others?

LORD CARRICK
Patience, sire. We have time.

JARRACK
Carrick, thank you, but I need
answers. How can I expect to lead
if reports of my men turning up
dead are strewn throughout the
kingdom.

LORD CARRICK
We will get to the bottom of this,
sire. You have my word.

INT. OUTSIDE MEETING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A GUARD stands at the door as a MAN approaches.

GUARD
Halt. You may not enter here at
this time.

The man stumbles toward the guard and collapses on the floor.

MAN
I'm a scout, from the Priya
district. I have urgent news to
report to the king.

The guard helps the man to his feet.

GUARD
Are you hurt?

MAN
That doesn't matter now. I need to
see the king.

The door behind the guard opens and Jarrack steps out.

JARRACK
What is the meaning of this?

Jarrack looks at the man being held up by the guard.

GUARD
He says he's a scout from the Priya
district, sire.

JARRACK
Priya? In the mountains?

MAN
Yes, sire. We've been attacked.

EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

Jarrack stands with eight of the lords.

JARRACK

I need you all to get back to your estates and rally whatever forces you have.

LORD SAUL

Sire? Will you be needing all of our forces?

JARRACK

Not all, Carrick. Leave enough soldiers to protect yourselves.

LORD CARRICK

Won't that expose our civilians?

Jarrack turns to Lord Carrick.

JARRACK

Worry not. I will have scouts patrolling your land and they will report here if there is any disturbance.

LORD SAUL

Fine with me. As long as I am safe.

LORD CARRICK

Sire, the amount of time it will take to--

JARRACK

What I say goes, Carrick. Is that clear?

Lord Carrick looks down at his feet. Lord Saul smirks.

LORD CARRICK

Of course, sire.

INT. CASTLE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Jarrack sits at the head of the table. Tomkins pours him a glass of wine.

JARRACK

I don't understand, Tomkins. Who is attacking my people?

TOMKINS

There is something I wish to speak with you about, sire.

Tomkins sits next to Jarrack.

JARRACK

What is it, Tomkins? Do you know
our enemy?

TOMKINS

It's not about your enemy, sire.
It's actually about you.

Jarrack jumps up from his seat.

JARRACK

Me? What about me Tomkins?

TOMKINS

Excuse me for saying this, sire.
You seem to have forgotten your
father's wishes.

Jarrack slams his fists on the table.

JARRACK

What do you mean?

TOMKINS

We must protect the people at all
costs, sire. It is what your father
would have wanted.