

Lywood

written by

Collin Vickers

EXT. MONTAGE OF SKYHAVEN - DAY/NIGHT

VO: It's a quiet night in the country of Lywood.

We can see vast fields of trees, rivers winding from North to South, and mountains by the sea.

VO: This land was once made up of only villagers and farmers getting by on their own.

Farmers can be seen working fields with primitive tools. Wheat grows in the field and the villages are made up of a few wooden buildings.

VO: That is until the Skyborn family united the villages of Lywood and settled the city of Skyhaven.

Hundreds of people work to create a massive city. Stone buildings and roads are being erected. Wooden scaffolding can be seen in the middle for a huge building.

VO: From this grand city in the North, the Skyborns have ruled a peaceful country for hundreds of years.

A finished and brand new city stands majestic and alluring. At the center is the Skyborn's great castle. A tall man stands at the steps of the castle while the huge crowd of citizens surrounding cheer on.

FADE TO BLACK.

VO: But many years later, there is unrest in Lywood...

INT. BARRACKS

MALACHI SANGUINE, a stern looking man with greying hair in his 40s, comes around the corner into a small meeting room. He wears a black doublet with a red crescent moon crest on it. A group of mercenaries dressed in light grey leather armor and armed with swords gather around him and wait for their orders. Another man dressed in full iron heavy armor and shield with the same red crescent moon crest on it enters. Malachi leans in to whisper to this man.

MALACHI SANGUINE

(sternly)

They must both be taken out. Do not fail me captain.

The mercenaries and THE CAPTAIN start to leave. Malachi stops The Captain before leaving the room.

MALACHI SANGUINE (CONT'D)
(intensely)
Make certain you get the boy.

The Captain nods and exits the room.

EXT. ELISE BRIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In a clearing in the woods sits a small cabin home with smoke coming out of the chimney.

INT. ELISE BRIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Inside sits ELISE BRIM, a beautiful woman around 30 years old. Elise sits in her chair by the fire with her four year old son, GREER, in her lap. She smiles at Greer with a smile that lights up the room. Greer is a scrawny boy with dark brown hair and green eyes. Elise rocks her tired son in her lap while she finishes up a story.

ELISE BRIM
And even though the brave prince loved the girl, he had to make a hard choice. Go on the quest or leave it all behind for the girl he loved.

GREER
(inquisitively)
What did he do?

ELISE BRIM
He made the decision to go on the quest. Though it was hard for him, in the end it was the best choice for saving the kingdom.

GREER
What happened to the girl?

ELISE BRIM
She went out on her own quest.

GREER
What did she do?

ELISE BRIM
Well that's a story for another time.

GREER

(glumly)

I wish he would have stayed with her.

Elise Brim looks at her son with a soft smile.

All of a sudden HENRIK BRIM, Elise's brother, bursts into the door.

HENRIK BRIM

(frantically)

We have to get out of here! I just saw a group of men on the main road asking around for Elise Brim. They were armed.

A scared but knowing look crosses Elise's face

ELISE BRIM

I knew this day might come. Here grab him while I gather a few things.

HENRIK BRIM

There's not much time. Pack lightly.

Henrik lightly picks up Greer into his arms.

GREER

(groggily)

What's going on?

ELISE BRIM

(calmly)

Shh. It's fine Greer. We are just going on a little trip but we have to leave right now.

Elise puts the last of some food into a sack.

HENRIK BRIM

That's enough we have to go!

Greer struggles in his uncle's arms.

GREER

No, wait! I need something.

HENRIK BRIM

There's no time Greer.

Greer struggles out of Henrik's arms and runs to his bed. He picks up a small wooden whistle that had been carefully crafted by his mother. On the side, "Greer" is crudely scratched into the surface. Greer puts the whistle in his pocket and runs back to him.

GREER

I'm ready.

Henrik scoops Greer up before hearing the faint sound of horse hooves in the background.

HENRIK BRIM

(intensely)

We have to move now and fast!

The group run out the door quickly into the night.

EXT. FOREST PATH - NIGHT

Henrik carries a scared Greer in his arms as Elise leads the way on a small path through the forest. An audible breaking sound can be heard from back at the house.

ELISE BRIM

(panicked)

We have to hurry. They're already in the house.

The two pick up speed trying to put as much ground behind them as possible. Greer struggles in Henrik's arms.

GREER

What's happening mother?

ELISE BRIM

Shh sweetie. Just stay quiet.

Hoof beats and armor clanking become audible in the distance. Henrik and Elise give each other a frightened look before picking up the intensity in their run. Voices can now be heard in the distance.

DISTANT VOICE (O.S.)

I think they went this way!

They keep running as fast as they can but the mercenaries are gaining on them. Elise looks into Greer's scared eyes and stops in her tracks. She looks at Henrik and then Greer with a sad look in her eyes.

HENRIK BRIM

Why are you stopping?

ELISE BRIM
We can't outrun them Henrik.

HENRIK BRIM
(forcefully)
We have to try!

Elise grabs Greer from Henrik and lets him down. She runs her hands through his hair softly before cupping his face and looking him in the eyes. Tears start to form in her eyes.

ELISE BRIM
I love you Greer. I always will.

GREER
(panicked)
What's going on?

The hoof beats and distant voices can now be heard more clearly.

ELISE BRIM
(assertively)
Listen to me. You have to run. Run as far and as fast as you can.

GREER
(panicked)
I can't leave you.

The Captain on his horse breaks through the brush.

THE CAPTAIN
Over here!

Elise grabs her son and shoves him forward.

ELISE BRIM
Go and do not look back!

Greer grudgingly starts to run away from his mother as he begins to hyperventilate. Six mercenaries quickly surround Elise and Henrik. Two mercenaries dismount and grab them while two others dismount and draw swords. Henrik tries to fight them off but they are quickly restrained and put on their knees.

Greer ignores his mother's advise and turns back for a brief second to see his mom one last time. The last thing he sees is Elise and Henrik positioned on their knees as The Captain draws his sword and swings down. Greer turns before seeing what happens and keeps running while crying uncontrollably.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Greer breaks through some brush to a road. He runs as fast as he can until he can barely breathe. Greer's eyes roll up into the back of his head as he passes out on the side of the road. Just then, a man coming by in a horse and carriage pulls up and sees Greer. ELDON GRINDLEWOOD jumps down from his carriage. Eldon is a hardened man in his 50's with long salt and pepper dreads and wears old clothes with black smut on them. Eldon checks to see if Greer is breathing. Greer shuffles slightly.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

There, there boy. It's alright I've got you.

GREER

(weakly)

They're coming for me.

Eldon quickly looks around surveying the surroundings.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

Who? Who is coming for you?

GREER

(choking through cries)

The bad men. They- my mother

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

It's alright, I've got you now.

Eldon picks Greer up and carefully places him in the back of his carriage. He then takes a blanket and carefully places it over Greer and tucks him in tightly. Eldon then goes to the front of his carriage and grabs the reigns to the horse. Suddenly a MERCENARY breaks through the brush and rushes up to Eldon's carriage.

MERCENARY

(frantically)

Have you seen a young boy come through here?

Eldon shakes his head casually.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

No, you're the first person I've seen in hours.

The mercenary stares at Eldon trying to discern if he's telling the truth.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD (CONT'D)

Well unless you have anything else,
I must be on my way.

The mercenary grudgingly steps to the side and lets Eldon continue on. He eyes the cart suspiciously before turning around and continuing his search.

Eldon's carriage slowly moves down the lane. Greer pops his head up from the back and Eldon gives him a warm smile to let him know it's going to be okay.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: LYWOOD

TITLE: 17 YEARS LATER

EXT. ELDON'S SHOP - DAY

A sign that reads "Shackle Smithing" hangs above a young man who pounds down a hammer on smoldering steel. The young man stops to wipe sweat from his brow revealing that it is Greer who is now 21. He now has hair that falls down to just above his shoulder and a lot of muscle in his body from hard work at the forge. Also hanging around his neck is a necklace that has his whistle attached at the end. Greer tosses the hammer to the side and takes off his brown smithing apron. He wipes the sweat from his face and walks over to a door leading to an adjacent building.

INT. ELDON'S SHOP - DAY

Inside, there is a shop space set up for customers. Past a curtain in the next room there is a small sitting area next to a fireplace. In the corner is a ladder leading to an open second level that serves as Greer's bedroom. It is a small cozy home. Eldon is reclined in the sitting area. Long years of working the forge have aged him. His hair is grayed and deep lines run across his face.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

How goes that sword Greer?

GREER

(smiling)

It's going well. I think I can
handle a sword on my own after all
these years.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

(jokingly)

When I found you, you could barely pick up a hammer. I'm just making sure it isn't still too heavy for you.

GREER

I've gotten a lot stronger since then Pa.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

Yes... I can see that. Probably due to all that swinging around you like to do with the swords.

GREER

I'm practicing.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

Ahh. Is that what it is.

Eldon smiles at Greer.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD (CONT'D)

Come over here and help me up.
There's somewhere I want us to go.

Greer carefully pulls Eldon up from his chair and goes to grab his cane.

GREER

Where are we going?

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

There's something that I think is time to show you.

Eldon grabs his cane and they walk out together.

EXT. MARKET AREA FLOWER STALL - LATER

Greer and Eldon stop at a flower stall in Skyhaven's market area. Eldon picks out a bouquet of flowers and buys them.

EXT. HILL OUTSIDE OF THE CITY - DAY

Eldon and Greer walk up a small hill with a large oak tree at the top. Under the shade of the tree, a tombstone rests that reads "Lyanna Shackle".

Eldon has a solemn look on his face before tenderly laying the bouquet of flowers down in front of the tombstone and removing some dead ones that have been laying there for a while.

GREER

This was your wife?

Eldon nods with a loving smile.

GREER (CONT'D)

Why have you never told me about her?

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

It was too hard.

GREER

But now?

Eldon pauses a moment to gather his words.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

Greer. When I found you, she had just recently passed to an illness she'd been fighting for a time.

A beat.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD (CONT'D)

I had given up. Was planning to sell everything I had, giving the money away and then... then well that is until I found you on the side of that road. She always wanted a child. We both did. But she especially always wanted to be a mother.

A beat.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD (CONT'D)

Then you came to me, no family left, and I knew I had to raise you...for her.

Greer wipes a tear from his eye.

GREER

I would have liked to have met her.

Eldon puts his hand on Greer's shoulder.

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

She was an incredibly strong person. You remind me so much of her. You are a kind and brave man Greer. She would have loved you.

Greer takes a moment to process the weight of what he's been told.

GREER

So why did you bring me here now?

ELDON GRINDLEWOOD

I'm getting old Greer if you could not tell. I want the shop and the house to be yours when I am gone if you will have it...

Greer grins softly.

GREER

I would be honored to.

Greer and Eldon embrace for a hug. When they pull away, Eldon's hands rest on Greer's shoulder as he gives him a big grin back.

EXT. ROAD LEADING INTO SKYHAVEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Greer and Eldon walk together as they travel back to the city. Greer spots a strange looking man sitting on a short wall connected to an archway leading into the city.

As they get closer, Greer notices the man has a black mask wrapped around the bottom half of his face and four black semicircle tattoos running up his forearm. As they are about to pass THE MASKED MAN, he hops down from the wall and approaches them quickly.

GREER

Listen, we don't want any trouble.

THE MASKED MAN

(snidely)

Fortunately for you, I don't want any either. Just give me anything you have and I'll be on my way.

Eldon scoffs at the man.