

I AM NOT AFRAID

EPISODE 204

V. 2/28/22

Written by

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The Roleplayers

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Based on CHALDEA by

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FADE IN:

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EXT. HADES - A STATE OF MIND

A VEIL OF DARKNESS shrouds the world and its sad inhabitants.

We hear the howl of winter wind and the chattering of teeth.

CLOSE ON HELIOS

Shivering, teeth clenched, he pulls his cloak close for warmth, but there is no warmth to be found here, in this place.

HELIOS

If only I had a fire. No, I hate fire.

He trudges slowly, leaning into the murky cold wind, his trusty axe slung over shoulder.

The millennia old stone path takes him around a boulder--

ONTO A JETTY, on the edge of a IMPOSSIBLY WIDE BLACK RIVER.

Moored to the rickety wooden structure is an equally rickety wooden skiff just big enough for two people.

A desiccated FATHER-TIME FIGURE stands in the bow, (long tattered white robes and even longer silver beard) holding a LONG PUSH POLE. From the end of that pole, hangs a LANTERN.

CHARON

Fancy a lift, friend?

Helios eyes the river warily.

HELIOS

3 I hate water.

CHARON

Tyche favors you then, it isn't water.

The man holds out a gnarled old hand to assist and Helios accepts getting into the stern.

CHARON (CONT'D)

5 I am Charon.

Helios is stricken to recognize the name from childhood tales: CHARON, The Ferryman of Hades and the River Styx. A soul guide to the place of the dead.

6	HELIOS Hades?	6
7	CHARON You are dead.	7
8	HELIOS I am not dead.	8
	Charon chortles.	
9	CHARON So say they all.	9
	A dead WHITE HAND from the river plucks at Helios' cloak. Another at his arm. Yet, another, his leg.	
	He flinches, staggers and almost topples. Eyes TERROR STRUCK.	
10	CHARON (CONT'D) Don't rock the boat.	10
11	HELIOS I hate boats.	11
	PULL BACK WIDE ON RIVER STYX	
	The skiff moves soundless through a dark void, the only light, the lantern lit from within with an ill-natural gl	ow.
	THE RIVER? A roiling mass of discombobulated haunted sou	ls.
12	HELIOS (CONT'D) I HATE DEATH!	12
	CUT TO:	:

EXT. THE ROLLING TARGONIAN IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING - NIGHT

A GHOST SHIP completely deserted, no sign of the captain, cook, or crew, except--

ON THE COMMAND DECK, Aggee, Bedia, and Rainbow huddle over a body--

HELIOS. On his back on top of crates, his axe rests on his chest. SALT and BURNING CANDLES arrayed in a circle around him.

Bedia kneels reverently beside the minotaur, busy chanting a SPELL ENCHANTMENT on endless loop.

BEDIA (low indecipherable chanting)

Worry creases Rainbow's kind eyes.

13	RAINBOW Is he dead, you think?	13
	She checks for a pulse while Aggee listens for breath.	
14	AGGEE He's breathing.	14
	A BANSHEE HOWLING ILL-WIND suddenly assaults the ship, screeching like a metal band of demons.	
15	AGGEE (CONT'D) No wonder Omba and the crew fled.	15
16	RAINBOW Maintain that salt, I'll protect the candle flames.	16
	BACK ON THE RIVER STYX	
	The ferryman propels the skiff with powerful strokes.	
	Haunted iridescent souls, a mixture of species, humans, giants, atars, and tritons, claw manically at Helios attracted to the purity of life, like bugs to flame.	
17	HELIOS What is that? What is that?	17
18	CHARON Damn those needy souls.	18
	The needy souls claw at the boat, trying to clamor aboard eager to get to Helios, to the warmth of his life essence	
	Helios quickly raps the hands, like a mother would a troublesome child trying to steal cookies.	
19	HELIOS No. No. (to Charon)	19
20	Are we there yet?	20
21	CHARON Depends. What is your destination?	21
	ON CUE, as if someone had read Helios' mind	

The TAPESTRY OF DARKNESS pulls back like a theatrical curtain revealing--

EXT. GREENER PASTURES - DAY

INSERT TITLE CARD: ACT ONE

The soul river gives way to grassy hinterlands spotted with colorful wildflowers capped with endless blue skies.

Helios reflexively leaps to the grassy shore, eager to be free of the boat.

HELIOS

(suddenly remembering)

Do I owe you a fee?

22

Charon smiles warmly.

CHARON

I'll collect on your next voyage.

23

The Ferryman pushes off from shore in search of his next fare.

HELIOS

24 But, what am I doing here?

24

The boat begins to fade, like a distant dream come morning.

CHARON (O.S.)

Sometimes you need to travel the river less paddled to get your soul right.

25

A beat later HELIOS IS ALONE, LOST IN HIS OWN MIND.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. GREENER PASTURES - SOME TIME LATER

Helios stands alone in a field of tall grass and wildflowers. The scene shifts like a mirage, slightly out of focus.

IN THE DISTANCE, echoes carry, the sound of rampaging hooves and heavy chuffing.

Helios strains, blinking, trying to bring clear his vision.

26	HELIOS Pa? Is that you?	26
	CLOSER NOW	
	The Minotaur snaps into sharp focus.	
27	HELIOS (CONT'D) You're not my Pa, you're you're me!	27
	It's Helios alright.	
	A DIVINE AVATAR. A perfect replica of our Minotaurus frie in every way, except, this faux version is the METAPHYSICA CONCEPT OF FEAR, dressed in Helios armor.	
	The construct is meaner and more bestial and in no way afraid, it raises its axe in challenge.	
28	HELIOS AVATAR Face your fears.	28
	Helios' eyes bugout.	
29	HELIOS Help somebody.	29
	Pop-Pop-Pop!	
	AGGEE, BEDIA, and RAINBOW magically appear answering his distress call. They are not however his mortal friends, kinstead stylized super figments of his imagination	out
	THE M&M CREW, "Mycanean Muses"	
	The three muses take in the situation.	
30	RAINBOW MUSE What's the situation this time?	30
	Aggee looks casually at Helios and then Faux Helios.	
31	AGGEE MUSE A bull. A bull fighter. It's a tragedy in three acts.	31
32	BEDIA MUSE You are so damn predictable. Can we try a different story structure for once, please.	32

A MINOTAUR charges over the rise, a full head of steam. It too, like the surrounding field, is fuzzy and out of focus.

33	AGGEE MUSE You'd prefer, what?	33
34	RAINBOW MUSE Dance fight.	34
	Rainbow squeals and pirouettes into action.	
35	BEDIA MUSE If I knew we were attending a dance, I would have wore my heels.	35
36	<pre>(to Aggee) Keep the beastie at bay, huh, I need to consult my spell book. See what's on the menu.</pre>	36
	Aggee grins madly at Helios.	
37	AGGEE MUSE I got your flank, flank steak.	37
	He CHAN LEAPS into combat, intercepting the charging beast	٠.
	The Helios Avatar lowers its horns, attempts to gore the monk, but misses just as Aggee leaps clear.	
38	AGGEE MUSE (CONT'D) Is that it, that your best shot?	38
	Helios stands frozen, mouth agape, awed by the spectacle.	
	The M&M Crew are slick and affective fighting force, augmented boldly by Helios' fertile imagination.	
39	BEDIA MUSE Helios, you like fire, right? That was called out in our pre-mission briefing.	39
40	HELIOS No. I hate, I hate fire.	40
41	BEDIA MUSE Oh, too bad. I'm afraid this situation calls for fire.	41
42	HELIOS No. No fire.	42
	Too late. The sorceress hurls a CHROMATIC FIRE ORB.	

Helios Avatar swiftly backhands the flying orb with his axe, returning serve, sending it exploding at Bedia's feet.

	Greener pastures quickly turn to redder pastures as flar spread.	nes
43	HELIOS (CONT'D) See? Never play with fire.	43
	Helios tap dances, attempting to avoid growing flames.	
44	BEDIA MUSE You think that was a mistake?	44
45	(chortles gaily) I twist plans within plans.	45
	SAME TIME	
	The Aggee and Rainbow Muses, consider their options.	
46	AGGEE MUSE My role calls for me to die, in sacrifice, valiantly.	46
	He attacks, striking the Helios Avatar with his bo-stick	۲.
47	RAINBOW MUSE Poor thing, he just needs love.	47
	Rainbow takes the edge of the beast's cloak, spinning.	
48	RAINBOW MUSE (CONT'D) Hey, friend. Do you want to dance?	48
49	BEDIA MUSE You really should accept, she's a free spirit on the dance floor.	49
50	RAINBOW MUSE That's not the only place I'm a free spirit.	50
	Aggee, also a free spirit, tap dances on the Minotaur's	face.
	RAINBOW MUSE (CONT'D)	
51	(counting Minotaurs) One. Two. Huh?	51
52	<pre>(calls to Bedia) Does two half-minotaurs make a whole?</pre>	52
53	BEDIA MUSE You are a pathetic mathematician.	53

54	RAINBOW MUSE I'm a writer, remember. That's why I'm tasked with inking this epic ballad.	54
	Rainbow continues to dance, spinning	
55	RAINBOW MUSE (CONT'D) Lulla Lulla Lulla.	55
	Helios Avatar gentle takes her dainty hand and for a months they are prince and princess engaged in a romantic wal	
	BUT THEN	
	He tosses her, HARD	
56	RAINBOW MUSE (CONT'D) Wheee	56
	Rainbow flies twenty-feet performing a majestic ballet	jeté.
	SHE STUMBLES THE LANDING. Jeers rain down from the gain the universe mocking her roundly.	llery,
	She gets up embarrassed and angry, nose raised to the	camera
57	RAINBOW MUSE (CONT'D) You try dancing with someone who has no feet, huh? See how well you do.	57
	Seeing her friend tossed like garbage, Bedia rolls her	eyes.
58	BEDIA MUSE I guess it's up to me to end this dance battle.	58
	She casts FIRE BOLT at the feet of Helios Avatar.	
59	BEDIA MUSE (CONT'D) Dance like your balls are on fire, cretin.	59
	Bedia cackles, cartoon full-throated villainy at its modiabolical, enjoying the cow's hot-foot two-step.	ost
	LET'S CHECK IN ON AGGEE MUSE	
	With his Bo-stick a blur, Aggee plays the Minotaur's holike a triangle dinner bell.	orns

62

BEDIA MUSE (CONT'D)

Aggee, remember. If you kill him, 60 he can't kill you. Don't change the script.

RAINBOW MUSE

We're in Hades, he'll find a mouth to jump into.

The Helios Avatar performs embarrassing shame damage open palm slap to Aggee's chest driving him to the ground.

Aggee refocuses the kinetic energy Aikido style, performs a kip-up, bouncing back straight into the Minotaur's face and headbutts him violently.

AGGEE MUSE

This is Helios World and you weren't invited to this lavish do.

The HELIOS AVATAR ROARS SAVAGELY.

Aggee mimics him, roaring back. ITS A ROAR FACEOFF.

CUT TO:

SAME TIME - WORLDS AWAY ON CHALDEA PRIME

Helios' friends barely maintain order as wind and spirits try to disrupt Helios.

Bedia continues the chanting unabated while Aggee and Rainbow struggle to maintain salt and flame against the supernatural wind.

RAINBOW

Something is very angry with 63
Helios.

BACK IN HADES, IN THE PIT OF HELIOS' MIND

Rainbow recovers from her embarrassing dance dismount and throws a special spell at her former dance partner.

TASHA'S LAUGHTER.

TASHA'S HIDEOUS LAUGHTER.

TASHA'S UNCONTROLLABLE HIDEOUS LAUGHTER.

TASHA'S-

61

62

63

Rainbow turns, hands on hips, stares into the camera.

64	RAINBOW MUSE Okay. Okay. We got it.	64
	TASHA'S SUPREME UNCONTROLLABLE HIDEOUS LAUGHTER fizzles	
	It was all setup with no punchline.	
	Helios Avatar chuckles, not because of the spell. Just because he's amused at wee humanoid thing casting spells.	
	SUDDENLY AN AXE COMES INTO FRAME AND HELIOS AVATAR BLOCKS	IT.
65	HELIOS Who are you?	65
	Helios Avatar sneers at Helios, pure unadulterated hatred anger.	and
66	HELIOS AVATAR I'm what you should be if you weren't so afraid.	66
	Helios motions to Bedia.	
67	HELIOS Bedia, showtime.	67
	Bedia drops the MOTHER OF ALL FIRE ORBS on target.	
	KA-BOOMBO!!	
	Bedia staggers back, startled and kinda impressed.	
68	BEDIA MUSE Whoa! Well, ahh (adjusts her dress, calls)	68
69	That big enough for yuh?	69
70	AGGEE MUSE (thumbs up to Bedia) I got it from here.	70
	Aggee continues the assault against the now burning avatar	
	FINALLY, beaten to an inch of his life, Helios Avatar drop his axe and then to one knee, burning, bloody, and bruised	
71	HELIOS I think he's had enough, Aggee.	71
	Aggee kicks their adversary sharply in the chest sending hass-over-teakettle onto his back.	im

72	AGGEE MUSE This is Helios World and he is your benefactor. You will show him respect.	72
	Through the burning pain, Helios Avatar looks up.	
73	HELIOS AVATAR Forget. Everything. And. Run. (winces)	73
74	Face. Everything. And. Rise. The choice is yours.	74
75	HELIOS <u>I AM NOT AFRAID!</u>	75
76	HELIOS AVATAR You are still a beast at bay.	76
	The Helios Avatar and Greener Pastures fades to darkness.	
	BACK IN THE REAL WORLD on the Rolling Targonian	
	ECU ON The Helios Axe - the runes on the handle illuminate a NEW RUNE appears.	e as
77	RAINBOW You see that? It's working.	77
77		77
77	You see that? It's working.	77
77	You see that? It's working. Bedia shakes her head knowingly and continues to chant.	77
77	You see that? It's working. Bedia shakes her head knowingly and continues to chant. FADE OUT:	
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77	You see that? It's working. Bedia shakes her head knowingly and continues to chant. FADE OUT: FADE IN: EXT. THE VOID - RECESSES OF HELIOS' MIND - OUTSIDE OF TIME	
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81		BEDIA MUSE Not for lack of trying on someone's part.	81
	We hear sh	nuffling.	
82		HELIOS Owe! You're kicking me. Stop pushing.	82
83		AGGEE MUSE That wasn't me.	83
	We hear a	SPLASH OF WATER and a LOW GROAN.	
84		HELIOS There is something alive in here.	84
85		RAINBOW MUSE We're in Hades, nothing is alive in here.	85
86		AGGEE MUSE I'm alive I think.	86
87		HELIOS Wait. I see something. Do you see what I see?	87
88		BEDIA MUSE Depends upon what you see.	88
89		HELIOS I have darkvison and I can't see shit.	89
90		AGGEE MUSE I can't see shit either, and I have true sight.	90
91		RAINBOW MUSE I have lucanor's miraculous sight.	91
92		BEDIA MUSE I have god sight. I can see between the tapestries of worlds. Gaze across the astral, the ethereal and into the shadow realm.	92
93		HELIOS Nevermind.	93

Helios sniffs.

94	HELIOS (CONT'D) You smell that?	94
95	AGGEE MUSE Yeah, that's the south end of a northbound stygian worm.	95
96	HELIOS Worm, eh?	96
	ON CUE, as if someone had read Helios' mind	
	The TAPESTRY OF DARKNESS pulls back like a theatrical curt revealing	ain
	EXT. STYGIAN BOG - DAY	
	INSERT TITLE CARD: ACT TWO	
	Helios and his three muse companions stand in the middle of the most heinous murky damn swamp ever imagined.	f
97	BEDIA MUSE Ohhh, these were my best slippers. Couldn't your imagination have taken us some place nicer?	97
98	RAINBOW MUSE Like the Elysian Fields. My uncle Finn has a fine halfling hole there.	98
	WIDE ON STYGIAN BOG	
	A GRAND SWAMP to the horizon, saltgrass, pickleweed and mo covered cypress. And the worst of it, everything covered brackish, green pond scum, and mucus that could have only come from the nose of a Cthulhuian elder.	
99	AGGEE MUSE Ewww it's squishy.	99
100	RAINBOW MUSE Do you mind? I am the shortest. 1	L00
	Rainbow climbs onto Helios' back and shoulders.	
	Something moves in the shadows followed by a splash.	
101	HELIOS	0.1
101	(pointing)	101
102	I hate swamps.	L02

112

	Beneath the water, something oddly alien sweeps fast past the gravers, causing them all to leap in fear.	
103	AGGEE MUSE Is it faux Helios, again? 103	
104	BEDIA MUSE It's a foe alright, but not that 104 kind of faux, you know?	
	Bedia crouches into a low wand dueling stance. Then casts FIRE BOLTS rapidly every which way.	
	Spectacular explosions of fire erupt wherever she points, but doing little perceived damagemore bark than bite.	
105	RAINBOW MUSE What's the point in that? 105	
106	BEDIA MUSE A preemptive strike at the heart of 106 fear, yes?	
107	AGGEE MUSE No. You're just gonna run out of 107 spells.	
	Bedia winks at her companion muses.	
108	BEDIA MUSE (whispers) It's okay, my arsenal is endless. 108 Helios doesn't understand spellcraft.	
	A ridged back from that of a prehistoric swamp creature arcs, pushing above the surface ten-feet distance, and then disappears again.	
109	HELIOS We are not alone. 109	
110	RAINBOW MUSE It's okay, Helios. Don't be 110 afraid, we wont abandon you.	
111	AGGEE MUSE	

Should I attack it?

BEDIA MUSE

Wait your turn to die, Aggee. First, let me see if I can arouse it with my foreplay spellplay.

111

112

	Rainbow and Aggee perform an amused slow clap.	
113	RAINBOW MUSE Your paper tiger shock & awe campaign is most impressive.	113
114	HELIOS Tiger! I hate tigers.	114
	Voompt!	
	Bedia suddenly DISAPPEARS, sucked violently under.	
115	RAINBOW MUSE Bedia!	115
116	AGGEE MUSE This water is only ankle deep. Where could she have gone?	116
117	RAINBOW MUSE This is Helios' world remember? In his mind. You seriously expecting rational planar constants?	117
118	HELIOS I'm in my mind?	118
	Bedia suddenly reappears, splashing and gasping for air.	
119	BEDIA MUSE It's a bog spirit.	119
	The bog spirit's serrated spiny dorsal protrusion continuto rise and fall as it stalks our heroes, circling them.	ies
	Bedia pushes her hands into the water and casts SHOCKING GRASP. Violent electricity arcs and fizzles the water, sending static energy radiating	
	EVERYONE SHAKES Teeth rattling as they are electrified.	
	One beat two beat three agonizing beats later.	
120	RAINBOW MUSE What are you doing?! Trying to fry us?	120
	Bedia shrugs sheepishly.	

Bedia orchestrates a few more FIRE BOLTS into the bog, that explode like erupting geysers but do little else.

121	BEDIA MUSE The bog wouldn't burn, so I thought, hmmm, maybe electrify.	121
122	RAINBOW MUSE And us	122
123	HELIOS I know water is an excellent conductor of electricity, Bedia. Never stand in water during a lighting storm, my Pa used to say.	123
124	BEDIA MUSE Well, shit.	124
	The SHOCK however, did have it's desired affect on the k spirit. It breeches, revealing it's full true nature	og
	A PLANT CROCODILE UNHOLY UNION.	
	The crocodilian, a METAPHYSICAL CONCEPT OF FEAR, is lize like with stubby snout, long tail, and short limbstree limbs that is.	
125	BOG SPIRIT FACE YOUR FEARS!	125
	The creature bolts directly at Helios, its long tail thrashing violently.	
	AGGEE LEAPS	
	coming down on the abomination, in an effort to subdue, exerting every ounce of strength in a massive bear hug.	
	The crocodile goes into a DEATH ROLL, taking Aggee with thrashing the monk mercilessly.	him,
126	BEDIA MUSE Aggee is a true blessing and gift from the gods.	126
127	HELIOS With a terminal death wish.	127
	Rainbow leaps off of Helios' shoulder and flings her mag	gical
128	RAINBOW MUSE Chakram chakra!	128

129	HELIOS I hate bog monsters. Especially imaginary ones from my imagination.	129
	He CHARGES using RAGE as fuel	
	hacking and slashing. Each swing of his axe churns up wo sap, and stygian gore.	od,
	NOT FAR AWAY, Bedia casts GUIDING BULL.	
	She turns casually to the camera like a Rubenstein Practitioner to a class of minor wizards, explaining the of magic.	art
130	BEDIA MUSE Guiding Bull is a lesser used spell related to Guiding Bolt. Admittedly, it has limited uses as it's emphasis is on guiding bulls. But since my good-friend here is a bull	130
	A FLASH OF LIGHT streaks toward the bog creature and	
	MISSES shooting wide over it's head.	
131	BEDIA MUSE (CONT'D) Wait for it	131
	The flash of light arcs and comes back around hitting the croc in the back in a RADIANT EXPLOSION of rainbow light.	
	Bedia returns to the classroom lecture.	
132	BEDIA MUSE (CONT'D) And that folks, is how it is done proper. Because I have a divine soul which makes me Favored by the Gods. Look it up.	132
	Rainbow side-steps slowly into frame:	
133	RAINBOW MUSE Ummm, which gods, exactly, Bedia. Mycenean? Norse? Anum?	133
134	BEDIA MUSE All of them. Go away.	134
	BACK TO THE DEATH ROLL	
	The bog-croc is on high spin cycle. All we can see is spinning vortex of water, teeth, fists, tail	

	It's all too much to grok.	
135	HELIOS Its so confusing.	135
	The bog-croc's thick wooden tail whips out and slaps Helic sending him sailing 10-feet.	os
	Rainbow attempts a SNEAK ATTACK, but how do you sneak up or crocodile on high spin. EXACTLY RIGHT?	on a
	The chakrum goes into the churning mess and gets spit out.	
136	RAINBOW MUSE Okay, that was pointless. (to Helios)	136
137	Get up you big oaf and dispose of this thing. Its your quest. Why am I doing all the heavy lifting?	137
	Helios charges past her hacking at the creature's tail liblumber jack. BAM, BAM, BAM!	ce a
	Finally, the tail comes clean off.	
	In the tumult of agony, the bog spirit jettisons Aggee flinging him like a rag-doll	
	landing awkwardly at Rainbow's feet.	
138	AGGEE MUSE (exhausted) You see that? It was like wrestling a mountain.	138
139	RAINBOW MUSE You fancy yourself, Hercules now, huh? Some kind of legendary hero?	139
	She reaches down to help him up.	
140	AGGEE MUSE Why not, I think I could.	140
	Bedia gathers with them, in support of Helios, as he stand over the dying bog spirit.	ds
141	HELIOS What are you?	141
	The bog spirit stops twitching and gazes up at the minotau	ır.

BOG SPIRIT Everything you fear.

143	HELIOS I am not afraid.	143
144 145	7	144 145
146	HELIOS I choose to leave this place.	146
	BACK ON THE ROLLING TARGONIAN	
	ECU ON the Helios Axe. The runes on the handle illuminate a NEW RUNE appears.	e as
147	RAINBOW There's another one. See it? I don't know what's going on in there, but it's working.	147
	Bedia smiles, continuing to chant.	
	Aggee pours more salt onto the circle as insurance.	
148	AGGEE How do you imagine he's doing it without our help?	148
	FADE OUT:	
	FADE IN:	
	EXT. THE VOID - RECESSES OF HELIOS' MIND - OUTSIDE OF TIME	Ξ
	Helios' mind is EMPTY, DARK, and ANGRY HOT	
	and yet, somewhere in the hot void we hear low indiscerning voices in conversation, like thoughts debating.	ole
149	AGGEE MUSE Bloody hell, it's hot in here.	149
150	BEDIA MUSE Where we be this time?	150
151	RAINBOW MUSE Better not be a labyrinth, I know you minotaurs love labyrinths.	151

152	HELIOS No, we don't. That's a popular misconception. My people hate labyrinths.	152
153	RAINBOW MUSE Really? Do tell.	153
154	HELIOS Hello? Prison. Confined to wondering around lost in the dark forever, like this bloody hole.	154
155	RAINBOW MUSE Huh? There you go, you learn something new everyday.	155
156	BEDIA MUSE Where to now?	156
157	AGGEE MUSE Act three. We face the crucible.	157
158	HELIOS Uh-uh, there is no we, I'm going it, alone.	158
159	RAINBOW MUSE Is that wise?	159
160	BEDIA MUSE Are you quite certain?	160
161	HELIOS Yes, I have to face my own fears, alone. I can't stand behind you my whole life. I'm tired of being afraid.	161
162	AGGEE MUSE I'll cover your flank, buddy.	162
163	HELIOS No. I appreciate it. I must go alone.	163

ON CUE, as if someone had read Helios' mind--

The TAPESTRY OF DARKNESS pulls back like a theatrical curtain revealing--

EXT. THE TINDERBOX - DAY

INSERT TITLE CARD: ACT THREE

Helios stands on the edge of an angry active volcano.

ON HELIOS -- A FORTRESS OF COURAGE.

Heroic music swells as reddish orange glow of superheated lava illuminates his determined defiant features.

He steps close to the edge, hooves on the brink--

	HELIOS	
164	(sotto) Whew. It's hotter than I remember.	164
165	AGGEE MUSE (O.S.) No shit, it's the Tinderbox? Not exactly your favorite place.	165
	Helios spins to fine the M&M Crew.	
166	HELIOS What are you doing here?	166
167	RAINBOW MUSE We said, we wouldn't abandon you.	167
168	AGGEE MUSE Come away from the ledge, Helios.	168
	Bedia leans out looking into the crater. She nudges a rowith her toe sending it falling slowly into the lava.	ck
169	BEDIA MUSE You fall in there, forget about any healing spell saving you.	169
170	RAINBOW MUSE Lava is the hottest kind of fire. You hate	170
171	HELIOS Fire. I know. (face softens)	171
172	You are my friends. I appreciate what you're doing, I do, but I must do this alone. I must.	172
173	RAINBOW MUSE You insist?	173

174	HELIOS Aye, I do.	174
	Aggee gives Helios a love-tap to the arm, yanks a thumb.	
175	AGGEE MUSE I'll be backstage, if you need me.	175
	Aggee disappears.	
	Bedia kisses Helios tenderly on the cheek, nods at the halfling, indicating it was time to go and disappears.	
176	RAINBOW MUSE Nothing is ever quite as scary as the images we conjure in our minds. Remember that, Helios.	176
	A MOMENT LATER Helios stands alone on the precipice once more, a tiny speck against the immensity of the Tinder Bo	ox.
	INSIDE THE LAVA FILLED CRATER	
	A HULKING SPARK, A CONSTRUCT OF FEAR rises out of the law and around it, kindlings by the hundreds.	7a
177	SPARK FACE YOUR FEARS!	177
	Helios looks at his axe, feeling the weight of his oldest ally and friend.	5
178	HELIOS I guess it's just you and me.	178
	HE LEAPS INTO THE CRATER.	
	AS HELIOS PLUMMETS - BACK WE GO TO THE ROLLING TARGONIAN	
	Helios in a fevered dream state thrashes about, arms and kicking and flailing.	legs
179	HELIOS (CONT'D) (raving) I'm not afraid. You don't scare me.	179
180	RAINBOW Aggee, hold 'em down.	180
181	AGGEE I'm trying.	181

182	HELIOS I will not live in fear.	182
	Together the two try to keep Helios subdued, but the mind is bucking like a bronco and much too strong for the pair	
	A hoof kicks wide disrupting the protective salt line.	
183	RAINBOW Fix the salt.	183
	Aggee pours more salt, but loses his leverage on Helios.	
	The big man's hand flails and almost knocks over a	
184	AGGEE (pointing) CANDLE!	184
	Rainbow quickly puts it to rights, before it falls.	
	The demon inside Helios is more than what they can contain	n.
185	RAINBOW Bedia?	185
	Bedia just shrugs and continues to chat, afraid to stop.	
	Helios almost sits up	
186	AGGEE We're losing him.	186
	SOMETHING LARGE lands on Helios' chest pinning him. It's	5 ——
	SNAGGLE.	
	The Gekkon's weight and downward pressure is sufficient tkeep their friend from doing any more harm.	co
187	SNAGGLE Fodder.	187
	IN THE TINDERBOX CRATER, Helios is mid-death plunge.	
	All the planar constants are function normally, including gravity propelling him at terminal velocity.	ſ
	He falls fast and true, straight at the spark, like one of Bedia's Favored by the Gods fire spells.	of
188	HELIOS I. AM. Not afraid.	188

ECU ON HELIOS AXE -- The last remaining RUNE comes to life.

HELIOS (CONT'D)

I do love, fireworks.

189

He raises the axe, ready to strike--

WIDE ON THE CRATER

197

Helios and the spark together in a TITANIC EXPLOSION, setting off volcanic fireworks.

The Tinderbox erupts like FOREVER MOUNTAIN WHEN ICHOBOD AWAKENS. That's a reference to a future super event, a bit of a spoiler. Sorry.

ON THE ROLLING TARGONIAN

Helios sits bolt upright, finding, weirdly, Snaggle on top of him.

Everyone lurches, staring at their wild-eyed friend.

190	HELIOS (CONT'D) I am not afraid anymore.	190
191	RAINBOW Are you, okay?	191
192	BEDIA How are you feeling?	192
193	HELIOS Feel? I, I feel like a cow.	193
	The four friends laugh, stress released, relieved their is back.	buddy
194	HELIOS (CONT'D) Hand me that candle.	194
195	RAINBOW Huh, why?	195
196	HELIOS I'll show you.	196
	She hands him one of the candles and he immediately stick the flame to his hair.	ks

HELIOS (CONT'D)
See? See! I'm not afraid. 197

	Aggee and Rainbow clap like idiots as smoke from burning rises.	hair
100	BEDIA	100
198	That's great, Helios (yanks back the candle)	198
199	you're not afraid, but you are still flammable.	199
200	HELIOS Owe!	200
	Bedia giggles and places a loving HEALING HAND to his fac	ce.
201	BEDIA You did it. And alive too. I'm so proud of you.	201
202	HELIOS	202
202	Look. (shows everyone his axe)	202
203	It's complete!	203
	Everyone leans close to inspect the finely crafted weapon	n.
204	AGGEE I thought there for a moment, you were going to leave us.	204
205	HELIOS	205
205	I did leave you. It was a real place	205
206	(points) You were there, and you, and you.	206
	They all laugh.	
207		207
	SUDDENLY, A COLUMN OF LIGHT cascades down from the heavens casting Helios in a halo of starlight.	
	Everyone gazes skyward to see	
	ARTISAN, larger than anyone has seen before, hovers directive over the ship and Helios.	ctly
	And for a beat HELIOS and ARTISAN lock eyes.	
	He stands raising his axe.	
208	HELIOS (CONT'D) FATHER, Pa-pa. I DID IT! I went to Cowhalla and I'm not afraid.	208