

Little Secrets

written by

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FADE IN:

**EXT. FOREST - EVENING**

The brutal encounter at the edge of the forest seems to have ended exceptionally violent, leaving a macabre scene for any passerby. About a dozen patrol knights, and a cloaked man scatter the wooded area, blood and limbs are everywhere. Dwarven-runaway slave and mercenary, DANMONLIR, composes himself on the rock nearby. His companion, the bard EDWARD, stumbles out from behind a massive tree with a look of confusion and disdain.

EDWARD

(bewildered)

What in God's name happened here?

DANMONLIR

(nervously grabs a drink  
out of his engraved flask  
and talks to himself)

Ah bollocks, ah bollocks, I can't believe I did that. Shouldn't have done that, definitely not the move. Had to bring in the donkey, eh? Couldn't stop at the short jokes, could ya?

Danmolnir begins to pace in circles around the particular corpse with drink in hand. Edward eventually steps in front of Danmolnir to stop him, he gently puts his hand on him.

EDWARD

How in the world did you fuck this up while I was micturating!? We were supposed to hand over the bounty, Danmonlir, not kill the patrol and target himself! I left you alone for less than 15 minutes, what happened?!

DANMONLIR

Oh boy, that's cold as a witch's tit. Gavin is going to flip out. I just saw red, Eddy. I couldn't stop. I couldn't stop.

Danmolnir takes another drink and looks around the chaos.

EDWARD

Where is the mark? I can't even make out which one of these sad bastards looks like him.

(MORE)

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
 (he carefully starts  
 examining the remains of  
 bodies all around)

Screen pans to Danmolnir as he grabs his head in dismay.

DANMONLIR  
 I do my pushups, my squats, my 7  
 mile morning run, but the one day I  
 forget my daily affirmations--I'm  
 tested. I can't believe I did this  
 again!  
 (he begins to punch his  
 helmet ferociously)

DANMONLIR (CONT'D)  
 WHY? WHY? WHY?

EDWARD O.S.  
 Ew, ew, ew. Is that a tooth or my  
 button? This isn't blood, just lots  
 of wine, lots of sticky, smelly,  
 gooey... wine. Wait, did you just  
 say "again?!"

Danmolnir's strikes become more aggressive and eventually,  
 Edward slowly drags a battered and blooded cloaked man toward  
 him. As each step drags on, Edward's struggles continue to  
 exacerbate until he drops the body in front of Danmolnir.

EDWARD  
 There, there, there. We can fix  
 this whole thing, together, old  
 chap. Chin up!

DANMONLIR  
 (close to weeping)  
 But how, Eddy?! That was the guard  
 that was supposed to escort us to  
 the checkpoint! I killed the bounty  
 too, Gavin is going to be furious!

EDWARD  
 Oh relax, what do you care what  
 that oaf thinks?

DANMONLIR  
 He's the guild leader, Eddy. He  
 hired me to make him money, not  
 botch bounties.

EDWARD  
 (scoffs)  
 Gavin is no leader, my good fellow.  
 (MORE)

EDWARD (CONT'D)

He could not hold court in a room full of inbred drunkards, and I should know, I've watched him try to recruit dropout knights at pubs before.

Danmonlir shoots back a look of dismay. If looks could kill, Edward would be six feet under.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Ah, yes, back to the saving your little hide part. I can do that for you, you know?

Danmonlir's eye shoot up, a vein bulges from his neck. Edward doesn't seem to notice. He gets closer, bending down to get eye level with Danmonlir.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

What if I told you I had a tiny plan that would let us get paid, AND stay out of trouble?

Danmonlir hands ball into a fist at the phrasing. He takes a deep breath and then unclenches his hands. His face unfurls at the thought.

DANMONLIR

How's that gonna work?

EDWARD

I'll tell you...IF you give me half your reward AND do my laundry for the next month as I've ruined my favorite musing outfit.

DANMONLIR

HALF? But, but, I won't have enough to send back to-

EDWARD

Half! That's the deal - and the laundry part - almost as important, really. I never realized how vile dead men smelt until I was this close.

Danmonlir taps his helmet a few times and concedes with slumped shoulders.

DANMONLIR

Okay...fine, you can have half my cut o'the pot if you keep me out of hot water.

EDWARD

And....

DANMONLIR

I'll wash your musings outfits for the remainder of our next job...

EDWARD

Splendid news! Now, the way I see it. We still have our target right here.

(lifts the cloaked man's head from the ground to reveal a badly bruised face and drops it quickly)

We can bring the body to that nearby checkpoint. He still passes for the wanted poster, I think?

Danmolnir reaches over and looks at the man, then looks at the poster in his pouch, he nods in agreement.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

These other bodies though, they've got to go. Let's think...

(he takes a brisk spin to observe and finalize his thoughts)

You'll use those muscles and schlep what's left of these...chaps a bit deeper into the forest. I'm sure some ravenous wolves will be looking for a midnight snackie, no?

Danmolnir drops his gear immediately and begins dragging one of the corpses deeper into the forest.

DANMONLIR

Who needs an after-dinner run after this, eh Eddy?

He continues to drag the body along seamlessly until he looks up and notices Edward sitting down on the rock writing with a quill on paper.

DANMONLIR (CONT'D)

Hey, Eddy. I need your help moving these bodies so we can hoof it to the checkpoint in time.

Edward puts down the writing apparatus and shoots the dwarf a stoic look.

EDWARD

Seeing the havoc and violence your little tantrum has leveled has left me paralyzed; however, I am inspired to write a song examining the meaning of life after all of this. Missing limbs and all.

Danmonlir drops the body and begins to charge over toward Edward with readied fists when the bard suddenly drops his poetry and picks up a near by rock to hold above the corpse of the bounty.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Ah, ah, ah! Be careful, my short-tempered friend. I'd hate for our mark to appear too mangled for the exchange. Plus, we need eyes and ears to cover you while you're leaving kibble for the wolves, right?

Realization of his situation sweeps over him. Danmonlir slowly lowers his weapons of mass destruction (his fists) and proceeds to move the bodies further into the woods as Edward picks up his quill and paper to write more.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. FOREST - LATE NIGHT**

Edward has just finished penning his latest masterpiece as Danmonlir walks back from dropping off the final body.

EDWARD

You know, I wonder if anyone has ever written about death and life, how they're really just two sides of the same coin. It's all just leading us on a Pathway To Hell.

(he puckers up and laughs  
at his own quip)

That should be the title to this epic ballad!

DANMONLIR

All right. I'm done, no more hauling bodies caked in shite and blood.

EDWARD

We've done excellent work together,  
I've almost completely forgotten  
that little incident after penning  
this masterpiece!

Another vein stretches across the dwarf's bulging neck. He suddenly stops.

DANMONLIR

Deep breaths, remember the  
affirmations. I am bigger than the  
whims that bind me to this mortal  
plane.

EDWARD

Really, that's the words we comfort  
ourselves with daily?

Another icy gaze shoots from Danmonlir's red eyes. The deep breathing techniques seem to be working for the moment. Both men begin to gather their belonging and drift towards the main road. Edward tucks his newest song into his pouch as silence overcomes the two of them. Finally, the bard breaks the silence with a simple question.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

What started the entire bloodbath  
anyway, old chap?

The insects chirp in harmony with their footsteps in the night. A gruff sigh escapes the dwarf's lips as he stops walking, the bard stops shortly after. A montage begins.

WIPE TO:

MONTAGE (VOICEOVERS PLAYS DURING ANIMATION)

- 1) Captain is talking with Danmonlir and uses hands to measure him, Danmonlir shows signs of anger
- 2) Captain suddenly recognizes the dwarf and looks at his fellow patrolmen and makes sexual gestures toward Danmonlir
- 3) Close up of Danmonlir's face reveals a bulging, throbbing vein protruding across his neck and forehead
- 4) We see a shot of captain air humping something and cackling with his patrol when suddenly, we see blood splat against the captain's armor, the massacre begins

DANMONLIR O.S.

Well, the head patrolmen was being  
a wee bit of a prick by asking me  
how a little man like myself was  
going to spend such a big reward.

(MORE)

DANMONLIR O.S. (CONT'D)  
 And then... he recognized me from a  
 job I had with a certain...caravan  
 before I worked with Gavin.

EDWARD O.S.  
 And what kind of job was that?

DANMONLIR O.S.  
 It, uh... I don't want to talk  
 about it.

EDWARD O.S.  
 Oh come on, I saved the day and the  
 reward, I deserve the juicy  
 details!

DANMONLIR O.S.  
 He...might have thought I worked at  
 a donkey show with some of the  
 other exiles from Jadespine

WIPE TO:

**EXT. FOREST - LATE NIGHT - BACK TO SCENE**

EDWARD  
 (slightly bewildered)  
 And were you that same dwarf from  
 the donkey show a few years back in  
 Highsgrove?

There are no words spoken, crickets continue to chirp over  
 the dead silence. The viewer can make out a slow, affirmative  
 nod. There pair continue walking, the sounds of nature and  
 dim embers from the torches guide their way to the  
 checkpoint. Suddenly, The silence is broken with a  
 condescending tone.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
 Maybe this can be our little  
secret.

FADE OUT.

THE END