

A Tale of Good: Climactic Cutscene V2

written by

Kelsey Pham

kpham@usv.edu

EXT. AZURIAN PALACE FRONT GATE - DAY

ARIANNA stands tall at the palace balcony. She regards the approaching FLYING MITHRAN CASTLE with blue eyes as COLD AS FROST, SHARP AS A KNIFE. Watching.

Watching as HUNDREDS from the BLACK BEARS FORCES pour out from Mithran's castle... marching up the Azurian Palace for BATTLE.

Before long their forces SWARM the FRONT GATE, drowning the palace in the fat and blood of STRUGGLE as they clash with the EQUALLY MATCHED PALACE GUARDS.

CAMILLE (52) rides up in haste, CUTTING, SLASHING, and PIERCING ALL in her WAKE. LUCIOUS (64) and DAVID (mid-50s) follow suit, providing her cover with their MIGHTY SWINGS.

And at the heart of it all is AVERY (28). The leader of the charge.

AVERY
ARIANNA!

Unmoved, ARIANNA circles back inside. The HOWLING WINDS sending her cloak ASUNDER are all that answer Avery's cries.

As AVERY rushes through the crowd with their two-handed longsword (default weapon, customizable) in tow, STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW IN FLIGHT--

They take down a PALACE GUARD and then fell another! With that brief opening, they use the SKY SURFER to boost themselves up, chasing Arianna into the --

THRONE ROOM.

INT. AZURIAN PALACE THRONE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Where she stands before them with the AZURIAN SWORD, bitter as the autumn waters.

ARIANNA
I knew it. I fucking knew it.

AVERY
What the hell are you talking about? It doesn't have to be this way, Arianna.

Her eyes narrow into a glare, malice brewing like a STORM.

ARIANNA

"Doesn't have to be this way"!
Doesn't have to be this way...
Hah! Don't make me laugh.

AVERY

Arianna. Seriously. I trusted you,
and yet you--

ARIANNA

-- I gave you *everything* you
requested. An entire plot of land,
all to yourself. The highest title
of nobility in all of Elvaand.
Enough wealth to spare for
multiple lifetimes! Every payment
you wanted, it was yours. Yet,
that just wasn't enough for you.
What more can I give to sate your
bottomless desires?

Avery furrows their brows, fingers digging into their palms
like useless talons in RESTRAINT.

AVERY

At this point? I just wanted you
to have my back!

They stomp one foot forward. Hands tight around their
weapon.

And Arianna SHRINKS back.

AVERY (CONT'D)

But no! You fucking betrayed me.
You sicced your guards on me for
no damn reason!

Still, she stands her ground.

ARIANNA

Oh, really? How about you cut the
bullshit and tell me what you
really think? Let your true colors
fly and fess up already!

AVERY

Again, what the hell are you
talking about?

ARIANNA

About how you were only with me to
climb your way up to the top!

ARIANNA (CONT'D)

All this time, you've been vying to take MY rightful place on the throne. And since learning that you too are of Azurian lineage, you've worked towards winning the people over in secret and pitting them against me.

AVERY

That's not-- that's never been the case and you know that.

ARIANNA

Still denying it, I see. Was it not that long ago that you were saying... oh, what was it you told Lady Lorelaan? That my rule "wasn't even alright" and how good and right it would be to have you as our sovereign? I mean, the people are already clamoring for it, so may as fucking well, huh?

Avery's eyes owlishly widen as it all clicks, head shaking.

Their anger is ebbing away. Everything about this battle begins to sink in as they gaze upon the throne.

AVERY

I'm sorry.

Beat.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. But you... Your reign really has been hurting everyone. Far more than you can possibly imagine. There's no way I can sit back and let you break Elvaand apart after everything we've done to create a better place!

ARIANNA

So your solution was to storm into the palace without telling me anything? To plan and talk shit behind my back? You're right, it didn't need to come to this.

She BRANDISHES the Azurian Sword, leveling it so that...

ARIANNA (CONT'D)

So enough with the pretenses
already! You want the throne then.
Fine! Since you want it so fucking
bad! But if the throne was ever
meant to be yours, Father would
have never abandoned you in the
first place.

... all it would take is a swift thrust to pierce Avery
RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART, even as her hand uncontrollably
shakes.

Avery CHUCKLES, humorless and low.

And then--

Avery HEAVES a breath through their nostrils, readying
their own weapon towards Arianna.

Not even a second later, they dash towards each other,
beginning the fight to end all of Elvaand's strife!

THE END.