



Dragon Age: Vows & Vengeance – 101 – Once A Thief TRANSCRIPT

EPISODE TITLE: Episode 1: Once A Thief...

EPISODE DESCRIPTION: Nadia Carcosa, a reformed thief, returns to her criminal roots after a wedding proposal goes sideways and her partner Elio, a revered mage in the Tevinter Imperium, gets dragged into a conspiracy with world-shattering consequences.

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EPISODE #: 101

TRANSCRIPT:

(MUSIC)

NARRATOR:

This podcast features adult language, violent imagery, and mature themes. Listener discretion is advised.

(NAUTICAL BELL RINGING)

(RAUCOUS TAVERN CHATTER, MUGS CLANKING, BAR PATRONS SINGING)

BAR MAIDEN:

All right, here's your last ale, Edmund. Remember, [inaudible].

(RAUCOUS TAVERN, BAR PATRONS SINGING)

PATRON 1:

You tell me.

PATRON 2:

They'd better hoard their boys like dragons in the den!

PATRON 3:

People have been saying the ground be feeling like it's going to give. Crikey! These days-

OLEN:

Listen up, yeah.

(CHAIR BEING PULLED UP)

OLEN:

There I am, treasure in one hand, blade in the other, about to make off with the biggest score of my life. And what's standing in my way but twenty-nine bloodthirsty, flesh-hungry Cue-nari?

PATRON 4:

Oh no!

OLEN:

Any of you ever crossed paths with a Cue-nari?

PATRON 5:

No, thank the maker. No.

OLEN:

Scary bastards. As fierce as dragons but smart too. And should you ever find yourself standing across from one, just remember: absolutely do not look them in the eyes. To them, there's no greater disrespect.

PATRON 6:

I will never. Do not look them in the eyes.

OLEN:

So, I find the biggest fucker and get nose to nose with him, eyes locked. I hold up my fists and say, "Which hand do you want me to kill you with?"

(CROWD GOING NUTS)

PATRON 7:

You're a mad man!

PATRON 8:

Come on, then! What happened next?

OLEN:

What happened next?

(CHUGGING DRINK)

That my friends is a story for another night.



PATRON 9:
Oh! Come on.

PATRON 10:
You can't just leave us.

OLEN:
(Laughing) Sorry lads, but I've had my fill of drink. And that coin bag is looking kind of light.

(COINS JINGLING)

Come back tomorrow and come back with coin, for a good story don't come cheap. I bled to bring you these tales. The least you can do is pay accordingly. Fear not, once the bag is full, I won't spare a single gruesome detail.

(DRUNKEN HEMMING AND HAWING)

(HEAVY FOOTSTEPS, SLAMMING DOOR)

(MUSIC)

SINGER:
Compel to forge on. What will we become?

(CLOCK TICKING)

OLEN:
(Singing) Oh, Grey Warden, what have you done?

(DOOR OPENING, KEYS BEING PLACED ON TABLE)

(WHISTLING, COIN PURSE BEING SET DOWN)

Bless the maker, that wind has got a bite to it tonight.

(FIRE BEING LIT, ROARING)

That's better.

NADIA CARCOSA:
There he is. The man with a plan.

OLEN:
Nadia.

NADIA:
Olen.

OLEN:
What are you doing here? Did anyone see you come in?

(DOOR SLAMMING)

NADIA:
I came to have a quick drink with my trusted friend.

OLEN:
Don't you know that every templar, guard, warden, and bounty hunter this side of Thedas is looking for the now notorious NADIA?

NADIA:
Hey, I said a quick drink.

(CORK POPPING)

OLEN:
There's no time for that. And I'm plenty drunk as is.

(DRINK POURING)

You've got to get out of here. (Nadia laughing) I damn near thought I was being followed home.

NADIA:
You set that job up. Now I want to have a drink. So, we are going to have a drink.

(BOTTLE SLAMMING ON TABLE)

OLEN:
(Sighing) All right then. One drink and then you're gone.

NADIA:
(Clearing throat) To Elio.

OLEN:

Look, Nadia. I had no idea the job would go down like that.

NADIA:

Shh, shh, shh. Go on, drink up.

(GULPING DOWN DRINK)

There you go. That's the spirit. Now, I'm going to need some answers.

OLEN:

(Coughing) I don't have any answers. I already told you I was sorry.

NADIA:

Actually you didn't. But that's okay, we'll get to sorry here shortly.

OLEN:

Nadia, you have to leave. I can't risk having you here.

NADIA:

Oh, but if I leave, how will you ever get the antidote?

OLEN:

(Coughing) What antidote? What are you talking about?

NADIA:

Do you really think that was an Orlesian ale you just sipped? Give it a moment. You should feel a tickle in the back of your throat.

(OLEN WHEEZING, GLASS DROPPING)

There you go. Now it's working. Next you'll feel your lungs getting tighter. Then you'll pray for air. But for now, we can talk.

OLEN:

I don't know anything.

NADIA:

Hm. Well, that's what we need to find out. Now, let's start from the beginning.

(TICKING CLOCK INTENSIFIES)

NARRATOR:

This is Dragon Age: Vows and Vengeance. Chapter One: Once a Thief.

(BIRDS CHIRPING)

ELIO:

Wake up. Nadia, it's me. Good morning. You with me now?

NADIA:

(Sighing) I'm always with you.

ELIO:

Good. Get dressed. I have a surprise for you.

(FOOTSTEPS)

NADIA:

Mmm, I do love surprises.

ELIO:

I'll be out by the table.

NADIA:

Wait, wait.

ELIO:

What?

NADIA:

Come here so I can kiss you first.

(FOOTSTEPS)

ELIO:

With pleasure. (Nadia laughing) Take your time. I'll meet you in the dining chamber.

(FOOTSTEPS, DOOR CLOSING)

(MUSIC)

(FIRE ROARING, THROAT CLEARING, PLATES AND SILVERWARE CLANKING)

(FOOTSTEPS)

NADIA:
What is all this? Are we having breakfast or a banquet?

ELIO:
I wanted us to celebrate a special day.

NADIA:
Those flowers are beautiful. What are they?

ELIO:
Andraste's Grace. I thought they'd be, I don't know, poetic.

NADIA:
You are so sappy. But I love it.

(COUGHING IN BACKGROUND)

ELIO:
You mean everything to me.

NADIA:
Okay, okay. Just tell me what are we celebrating?

ELIO:
You.

NADIA:
Me?

ELIO:
Yeah. I thought we'd commemorate your birthday. Real proper like.

NADIA:
Elio, I told you I don't know when my birthday is.

ELIO:
Exactly! So, I figured it can be any day. We'll just pick today.

NADIA:
(Sighing) Elio, I-

ELIO:

Wait! Before you say anything, let me give you a present. Here, open it.

(BOX OPENING)

NADIA:

What is this?

ELIO:

What does it look like?

NADIA:

Why would you give me this?

ELIO:

Generally speaking, there is but one use for such a thing. (Nadia sighing) Come on. It's perfect. What better way to honor your new birthday than with the start of a new life?

NADIA:

(Sighing) Why can't you just leave things be? You always have to push!

(FOOTSTEPS)

ELIO:

Nadia! Nadia! Keep playing. I'll be back. Nadia. Nadia! Let's discuss this.

NADIA:

Discuss this insane wedding ring that you gave me?

ELIO:

This ring is not insane. It was my great-grandmother's.

NADIA:

Elio!

ELIO:

What?

NADIA:

That's even crazier! I can't wear this!

ELIO:

Why not?

NADIA:

Look, I love you. I really do. But we cannot be that kind of couple!

(DOOR SLAM)

ELIO:

Nadia, I'm tired of this being a secret. It's time to bring us into the light.

(MUSIC)

NADIA:

Elio, I am a Liberati. You are a mage. And not just any mage! You are part of the Magisterium! This is already a recipe for disaster!

ELIO:

Whoa. Why are you getting mad?

NADIA:

Because! I adore what we have and I don't understand why that can't be enough.

ELIO:

Because you make me want so much more! Why can't you see that?

NADIA:

You may be used to getting everything you want but people like me have to live in a world filled with walls and ceilings and dead ends.

ELIO:

Nadia-

NADIA:

No, don't Nadia me. (Sighing) You always think everything is fine, that it'll all work out, no problem, no big deal. You'll sign some papers here, make a decree over there. But I am the one who will have to live with their stares and whispers. I don't fit into that part of your world. And if you really loved me, you would understand that putting this ring on my finger is like putting a target on my back!

ELIO:

It doesn't have to be like that.

NADIA:

It's like that! You can't just wave your title around and make everything okay and make up fucking birthdays and throw flowers on the ground. I know what I am. I am a nothing in this world and I'm okay with that. But I thought maybe just, maybe I could be something special to you and only you, but no. No, that wasn't good enough. You just had to push.

ELIO:

Hey, hey, hey. Come here.

NADIA:

No, no. Get off me.

ELIO:

Nadia.

NADIA:

No!

ELIO:

(Sighing) I'm sorry. Okay? I'm sorry. What else do you want me to say?

NADIA:

You know what? Look, I need some air.

ELIO:

Nadia. Nadia! Shit!

(DOOR SLAM)

(SEAGULLS, SHIP BELLS RINGING)

FISHMONGER:

Fresh oysters, fresh clams. Catch of the day, right here.

NADIA:

What's the daily deal?

FISHMONGER:

Oh, I got a special on pickled krone and rum.

NADIA:

Sounds disgusting. I'll take two.

(COINS JINGLING)

FISHMONGER:

(Laughing) Here you go.

NADIA:

Thanks Joren.

FISHMONGER:

Oh! Hey, by the way, you should know I saw some surly looking drag with a dead eye nosing about your houseboat this morning.

NADIA:

Hm. Thanks for the heads-up.

FISHMONGER:

You got it.

(MUSIC)

(FOOTSTEPS, CLIMBING INTO HOUSEBOAT)

NADIA:

Ugh. Ick! These pickled krone smell like last week's special. (Sighing) Elio, Elio, what am I going to do with you?

VIK:

Been waiting for you all morning.

NADIA:

So I gathered from Joren's description.

VIK:

Olen says he needs to see you.

NADIA:

Too bad for Olen.

VIK:

He says you owe him one.

NADIA:

I owe him shit.

VIK:

Fancy ring you got there. Maybe I'll just take that and see if it clears your debt.

NADIA:

You touch this ring and I'll pull your guts out like I'm threading a loom. (Laughter) What's the call, Vik?

VIK:

Uh, just a job.

NADIA:

You know I'm out.

VIK:

(Sighing) We know. But this one is special circumstances.

NADIA:

Is it worth the salt?

VIK:

Come see for yourself. All I know is the coin's good. And Olen said he needs the best thief in Thedas.

NADIA:

Oh, did he say that?

VIK:

Yeah, but after they said no, he sent us to find you.

NADIA:

(Laughter) I've missed you friend.

(RAUCOUS TAVERN)

OLEN:

So, there I was treasure in one hand, blade in the other about to make off with-

NADIA:

The biggest scorer of your life!

OLEN:

(Laughing) Nadia. Oh, it's been too many moons. Ladies, can you give me and my dear friend here some privacy? We have some important business to discuss. Then I promise to finish telling you my adventures.

COMPANION:

Don't keep us waiting too long.

NADIA:

(Clearing throat) I think you mean my adventures, no?

OLEN:

Your adventures, my adventures. It's just a damn good story. And I live to entertain.

NADIA:

Yeah, yeah. So, what's the job?

(THUD ON TABLE)

OLEN:

I'm not going to perfume the pigpen. This is a rough one. The information is slim. The ask is impossible. And if anyone gets caught, we're all fucked.

NADIA:

But?

OLEN:

But this.

(COIN PURSE THUDDING ON TABLE)

NADIA:

That sounds heavy.

OLEN:

Gold and lots of it. This is just a taste to get things started. Delivery guarantees triple the bag.

NADIA:

Triple? What sort of fortress you got me breaking into?

OLEN:

(Sighing) Yeah, about that.

NADIA:
(Sighing) Olen.

OLEN:
You uh...(Coughing) you have to break into Arcanist Hall, The Archives.

NADIA:
I'm sorry, what?

OLEN:
Look, I know it sounds impossible.

NADIA:
(Gasp) No.

OLEN:
Come on. Just hear me out. I have a plan. And you owe me.

NADIA:
No, I meant, "No, it doesn't sound impossible." It sounds like just the thing I need: some fun.

OLEN:
(Laughing) And here I thought retirement would calm you down, but you sound crazier than ever.

NADIA:
Hey, I never retired. I just took a little break from reality, but we all got to wake up sooner or later.

OLEN:
I'll drink to that.

(CLINKING GLASSES, GULPING, GLASS SLAMMING DOWN ON TABLE)

NADIA:
So, what's the mark?

OLEN:
The Eye of Kethisca.

NADIA:
What in the world is the Eye of Kethisca?

(SHIP BELLS TOLLING, BUSTLING CROWD, LUTE PLAYING)

FISHMONGER:

Get your fish. Fish! The freshest from the sea today.

ELIO:

(Clearing throat) Pardon me. Excuse me.

MERCHANT:

Looking to win over the fair heart of your beloved?

ELIO:

No, no thank you.

MERCHANT:

Here, give this a try.

ELIO:

No. I said no. Thank you.

MERCHANT:

Excuse me, sir. Hello! You look like a man with a heavy heart?

ELIO:

If you only knew.

MERCHANT:

Oh, perhaps a nice bouquet of flowers will help mend your day.

ELIO:

(Laughing) Flowers are what got me into this mess. If you'll excuse me.

(FOOTSTEPS, CRICKETS CHIRPING, LIVESTOCK NOISES)

ELIO:

There's no need to follow me from the shadows.

NEVE GALLUS:

Magister Andante?

ELIO:

And you are?

NEVE:
Name's Neve. Neve Gallus.

ELIO:
Ah, I've heard that name.

NEVE:
(Laughing) In good context, I hope.

ELIO:
Always on the back of whispers.

NEVE:
So, probably not then. Makes sense. The powerful tend to look down on private investigators. They're not comfortable with anyone who's a friend to street urchins and scullery maids.

ELIO:
Not to mention you know where all the dirt is hidden.

NEVE:
And where all the bodies are buried? Yes, precisely.

(SHIPS BELLS TOLLING)

ELIO:
So, what is it that's brought you to me?

NEVE:
It's about Nadia.

ELIO:
You know Nadia? What's going on?

NEVE:
I've received word that she's about to do something quite reckless.

ELIO:
Hm. That is kind of her thing.

NEVE:
So I've been told. But now she's been tasked with stealing an ancient artifact.

ELIO:

Also kind of her thing.

NEVE:

You don't understand. She's going to break into the Archives and you have to stop her.

ELIO:

(Laughing) No, nobody stops Nadia, I'm afraid. When her mind is set, it's like stone.

NEVE:

Well, you're going to have to find a way to stop her because many lives depend on it.

ELIO:

What? Come again?

(CRICKETS CHIRPING, FOOTSTEPS)

GUARD 1:

(In the background) So, that's when I turned to me wife and I said, "Honey, I'd fight a whole legion of dark spawn if it would make you be with me forever." (Laughter) Oh, come on. She bought it entirely!

VIK:

(Whispering) This way.

NADIA:

(Panting) It seems like an awful lot of guards here tonight.

VIK:

When has that ever stopped you?

NADIA:

Good point.

VIK:

Besides, we got a man on the inside.

NADIA:

Clever.

(ARMORED FOOTSTEPS)

GUARD 1:

(In the background) Think about what it would be like to have your own guards.

GUARD 2:

(In the background) Instead of being one of the guards.

GUARD 1:

(In the background) Yes.

VIK:

Now, over that wall.

(GRUNTING, LANDING THUD, HEAVY BREATHING)

NADIA:

You good, old man?

VIK:

I'm fine, dammit.

NADIA:

(Laughing) Want to make a little wager?

VIK:

(Laughing) Oh, 50 silver to whoever's over the south wall first?

NADIA:

You're on!

(BREATHING, SPRINTING)

VIK:

Hey, wait! Hey!

(GRUNTING, RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, BREATHING, LAUGHING)

You cheated! No one said go.

NADIA:

We never established that as a rule.

VIK:

Whatever. Here's your coin, dammit.

(COIN CLINKING)

NADIA:

(Laughing) Thank you. Now, give me a hand with this.

VIK:

(Grunting) Aim for the top of that wall.

NADIA:

Yes, I know how grappling hooks work, thank you.

(CLINKING OF GRAPPLING HOOK, TOSSING ROPE, HOOK CLINKING ON GROUND)

VIK:

You were saying?

NADIA:

Shut up. (Laughter)

GUARD 1:

(In the background) What was that?

VIK:

(Whispering) Quiet.

NADIA:

(Whispering) I can get it this time.

(ROPE SWOOSHING)

VIK:

No, just wait.

(NADIA GRUNTING)

NADIA:

Yes! Got it!

GUARD 1:

(In the background) You hear that? It's over there.

NADIA:
Oh, shit.

VIK:
Dammit. I told you to wait!

NADIA:
I thought you had a man on the inside.

VIK:
He just left the window open!

NADIA:
(Sighing) Well, guess we'd better climb.

VIK:
You're climbing without me.

NADIA:
What?

VIK:
I got to clean up your mess.

NADIA:
Vik!

VIK:
Just go! And remember, over the ledge, through the window, and the Archives are down the spiral staircase. Go!

Over here, you bastards! Try and catch me! (Laughter)

NADIA:
Crazy fool.

(CLIMBING, GRUNTING)

NADIA:
And there's the window. Thanks Vik.

(HORSE WHINNYING, METAL CLANGING)

GATE GUARD 1:
Someone approaches!

GATE GUARD 2:
Stop! Identify yourself at once.

ELIO:
It's just me.

GATE GUARD 1:
Magister Andante, sir.

GATE GUARD 2:
We didn't see you in the dark.

ELIO:
That's all right. Just doing your jobs. Try to stay warm out here, all right?

(FOOTSTEPS)

GATE GUARD 1:
It is after hours at the archives, sir. And our orders are to let no one pass.

ELIO:
Luckily for all of us, I am not no one.

(FOOTSTEPS)

GATE GUARD 1:
I'm sorry, sir. But we cannot let you pass.

GATE GUARD 2:
Yes. Yes, sir.

ELIO:
(Laughing) Let me see if I have this straight. You, a night watchman, are telling me, an Altus mage, where he can and cannot go?

GATE GUARD 2:

Uh, but our orders, sir.

ELIO:

And who gave those orders, hmm? The Magisterium of which I am a venerated member. The Magisterium, which funds this building and pays your salaries, which means those orders came from me. And now I'm giving you new orders to let me in. So, open the doors.

GATE GUARD 1:

Uh...yes, sir! Right away. Sir.

(GATES CREAKING OPEN)

ELIO:

Have a good watch.

(FOOTSTEPS, GATES CLOSING)

NADIA:

Wow, this place is massive!

ELIO:

How else do you expect it to hold every object, scrap of writing, relic, or antiquity that's even remotely interesting to the Empire?

NADIA:

Elio!

ELIO:

Evening, my love.

(FOOTSTEPS)

NADIA:

What are you doing? You can't be here!

ELIO:

Actually, no. I have every right to be here. It is you who trespasses.

NADIA:

(Sighing) I'm sorry. I needed to clear my head after this morning.

ELIO:

There are better ways to find peace than breaking into the Magisterium!

NADIA:

(Sighing) You wouldn't understand.

ELIO:

You're right. But how can I understand when you keep so much locked away!

NADIA:

I do that to protect you.

ELIO:

(Scoffing) You do it to protect yourself.

NADIA:

Elio, I...

(SOMETHING MAGICAL HUMMING IN BACKGROUND)

NADIA:

Wait, listen. Do you hear that?

(FOOTSTEPS)

ELIO:

Nadia. No! We have to go!

NADIA:

Look. Over here. It's this box. I think this is it. This is what I came for. It's the-

ELIO:

The Eye of Kethisca.

NADIA:

How do you know that?

ELIO:

Listen to me. You've been tricked. This isn't a simple grab and go for the money! There are bigger forces at play. We have to put this back and leave.

NADIA:

What? No, no. I could never-

ELIO:

Nadia, look at me! I speak the truth. This thing is dangerous. Please just put it down and come with me. We can go back to our lives like this never happened. No marriage, no complications. Just you and me. Please.

NADIA:

Okay, okay. I trust you. Let's go.

(FOOTSTEPS)

ELIO:

Oh no.

NADIA:

Really? You brought Templars?

ELIO:

They're not with me!

(ARMOR CLANGING)

TEMPLAR SERGEANT:

The two of you! Don't move.

ELIO:

Gentlemen, this is all a misunderstanding. I am Elio and-

TEMPLAR SERGEANT:

We know who you are, Magister. And your treasonous deeds have been brought to our attention. Believe me when I say that you and your little thief partner will hang for everything you've done.

ELIO:

Sergeant, I'd advise you to watch your tongue.

TEMPLAR SERGEANT:

And I'd advise you to come quietly. Otherwise, you'll suffer far greater than a rope.

NADIA:

On my count. Get ready.

ELIO:

We should just surrender. I can explain things to the council.

NADIA:

Look at them. Do they look like they want to listen?

ELIO:

Nadia-

NADIA:

I'm sorry but I won't let you pay for my mistakes. Now watch out for the stacks.

(SHELF TIPPING OVER, CRASHING TO THE FLOOR)

ELIO:

No! The relics!

TEMPLAR SERGEANT:

No!

NADIA:

Do you think we can get away?

ELIO:

Not that one!

TEMPLAR SERGEANT:

Save what you can! Kill the traitors!

(STRUGGLING, FIGHTING, DAGGERS CLASHING)

NADIA:

Elio! Forget the damn relics!

ELIO:

I can't believe you just did that!

NADIA:

Would you rather I let us die? Come on!

TEMPLAR SOLDIER 1:

Watch out! Flame blast!

(SPELL CASTING, SCREAMING)

NADIA:

Whoa! Have you always been able to do that? Whatever that was?

ELIO:

Of course. I'm a bloody mage.

NADIA:

Look out!

(FIGHTING, STRUGGLING)

ELIO:

Oh, impressive moves, my dear.

NADIA:

Thanks. Now can we please get out of here?

(FOOTSTEPS)

ELIO:

Lead the way.

(FOOTSTEPS, DOOR CLOSING)

NADIA:

I have an escape route on the roof at the top of those stairs.

ELIO:

All of this because I wanted to celebrate a birthday.

NADIA:

Now is not the time!

ELIO:

It never is!

NADIA:

Just be quiet and skip every third step. And don't touch the walls.

ELIO:

What? Why?

(FOOTSTEPS)

NADIA:

(Grunting) I installed some surprises, just in case.

(EXPLOSIONS)

ELIO:

My lady. I don't know if I should be impressed or scared.

(RUNNING FOOTSTEPS)

NADIA:

Probably a little of both. Come on, that window is our ticket out of here.

TEMPLAR SOLDIER 2:

Halt! Take another step and we shall rain death upon you.

ELIO:

(Out of breath) Archers.

NADIA:

Of all the cursed luck. The escape is right there!

ELIO:

Hold on, I've got this.

NADIA:

What are you doing?

ELIO:

(Grunting) Firestorm!

(ROARING FIRE PROJECTILE)

NADIA:

You- you missed them!

ELIO:

Missing them was the point.

(SCREAMS)

NADIA:

They're retreating.

ELIO:

You don't always have to kill. Now, how do we get out of here?

NADIA:

Follow me.

(RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, RAPID BREATHING)

Hold tight. We're going down this rope fast and hard.

(SLIDING DOWN ROPE, GRUNTING)

NADIA:

Are you okay?

ELIO:

Yeah.

NADIA:

Elio!

ELIO:

We are going to have a long talk as soon as we get back to the estate.

NADIA:

No. No, they'll be looking for you. We need to go to mine, to Dock Town.

ELIO:

(Out of breath) Okay.

(MUSIC)

(SHIP BELLS RINGING, CRICKETS CHIRPING, FOOTSTEPS TRUDGING)

NADIA:

(Panting) It's not much further. Just up...(grunts)

ELIO:

(Panting) What's that glowing in your bag?

(MAGICAL HUMMING)

NADIA:

It's this, the Eye.

ELIO:

I told you that thing is dangerous! Why would you take it?

NADIA:

Because in case you didn't notice, we're both outlaws now.

ELIO:

(Sighing) They're not going to stop, are they?

NADIA:

(Sighing) I'm afraid not. And I will make up for that later. But right now we need to get some coin and plan our next move, which means we're going to finish this deal. Danger be damned.

(FOOTSTEPS)

NEVE:

I'm afraid I can't let you do that.

ELIO:

You!

NEVE:

Hello again, Magister.

NADIA:

Who's the hat?

ELIO:

This is Neve Gallus, private investigator. And I presume the one who tipped them off?

NEVE:

Tipped who off?

ELIO:

The Templars. They ambushed us in the Archives, swords drawn, talking treason.

NEVE:

That explains the light show all of Minrathous just saw on the rooftop.

ELIO:

Was it you?

NEVE:

It wouldn't really be good for my business if I earned a reputation for tipping off the law. But I suspect I know who it was.

NADIA:

Mind sharing that information?

NEVE:

Have either of you ever heard of the Dread Wolf?

(GROAN FROM THE SHADOWS)

ELIO:

What was that?

NADIA:

Show yourself!

(GROANING, PANTING, FOOTSTEPS)

VIK:

Nadia!

(COLLAPSING, EVERYONE GASPING)

NADIA:

Vik!

(COUGHING, LIQUID GUSHING)

NADIA:

No! No, no, no, no, no.

ELIO:
Who is this?

NADIA:
His name's Vik. We're old friends. He works for the guy who gave me this job.

NEVE:
He what?

VIK:
They're coming for you.

(WHEEZING, DEATH RATTLE FROM VIK)

(ARROWS RAINING DOWN)

NADIA:
Take cover! Templars found us!

NEVE:
Those aren't Templars.

ELIO:
Assassins!

(SPELL CASTING)

ELIO:
Frost magic?

NEVE:
You're not the only mage here!

(FIGHTING, CLASHING)

ELIO:
Neve! Behind you!

(FIGHTING, BOULDER SLAMMING INTO GROUND)

NEVE:
That's a nice trick, Magister.

ELIO:
Stonefist. One of my favorites.

(FIGHTING, MAGICAL HUMMING GROWING LOUDER)

NADIA:
Uhh guys, the Eye thing is being weird. Is this bad? It seems bad.

ELIO:
Nadia, not now.

NEVE:
Elio, stop. Don't draw any power from the Fade-

(SONIC WAVE BOOMING)

NADIA:
(Grunting, panting) Elio. Elio! Elio, wake up.

ELIO:
What happened?

NADIA:
The Eye went boom. Now come on. Here's our chance.

ELIO:
What about Nev?

NADIA:
Let her figure it out.

(CLIMBING ONTO BOAT)

NADIA:
Untie that rope. I'll raise the sails.

ELIO:
So, this is the boat you never let me see.

(PULLEY RAISING SAILS)

NADIA:

Now is not the time. (Grunting) Come on, already. Damn blasted pulley. Hurry. Push this off.

ELIO:

Right. On it. (Grunting)

(SHOVING BOAT AWAY FROM DOCK, WAVES LAPPING BOAT)

NEVE:

Come back! You don't understand what you're doing!

NADIA:

Bye-bye, now.

NEVE:

I won't let you leave!

(SPELL CASTING)

ELIO:

Maker's breath! She's trying to freeze the bay.

NADIA:

Shit! Grab an oar and help me get this thing moving.

ELIO:

I have a better idea.

(BLAST OF WIND)

NEVE:

The Eye will destroy you!

NADIA:

Hey.

ELIO:

Hey what?

NADIA:

You're amazing. Thank you.

(KISSING)

ELIO:

So, uh, where to now?

(WAVES, SEAGULLS)

NADIA:

To find this buyer of Olen's. He said he's an elf with a fancy tongue.

ELIO:

Oh great.

(MUSIC)

(HORSE TROTTING, WAGON WHEELS)

NADIA:

Elio, we're here. How are you feeling?

ELIO:

(Grunting) Like I've been left out to rot in the sun. Oh, the Silent Plains, as barren as ever.

NADIA:

I don't know. It's prettier than I thought it would be, peaceful too. Nothing at all like Minrathous.

ELIO:

Yeah, well, I don't suppose that'll be a problem anymore, seeing as neither of us can ever go back.

NADIA:

I said I was sorry.

ELIO:

I know. I just... All those relics, the history, the knowledge.

NADIA:

Elio, I didn't know what else to do. I did it to protect you.

ELIO:

What's done is done. I- I'm sorry. Look, when I proposed, I told you all I wanted was to be with you. Now I have that. So, we'll figure the rest out together. I promise. I just need time.

NADIA:
Me and you, Elio.

ELIO:
Me and you.

ELIO:
What's that?

NADIA:
What's what?

ELIO:
That glimmer. Is that-

NADIA:
Your grandmother's ring? Yeah.

ELIO:
You kept it.

NADIA:
I did.

ELIO:
But you wear it around your neck and not your finger.

NADIA:
Got to start somewhere.

(HORSE WHINNYING)

NADIA:
Whoa, whoa! Shh, shh, shh. What's got you spooked, girl?

ELIO:
Probably just that ominous-looking chap in the road just ahead. Is that your guy?

NADIA:
I'm not sure. Hood's up. I can't see his face.

ELIO:

Think he's safe?

NADIA:

Let's go find out. Keep an eye for bandits just in case.

(HORSE TROTTING, SNORTING)

NADIA:

You! Stranger! Do you know of Olen?

SOLAS:

Nadia, I presume. I am Solas. And I am, I believe, the one that you seek.

NADIA:

You have the gold?

SOLAS:

If that is what matters most to you.

NADIA:

It's what matters to the world.

(COINS JINGLING)

SOLAS:

Perhaps.

NADIA:

Looks good to me. Elio, give him the Eye.

ELIO:

(Whispering) Are you sure about this?

NADIA:

(Whispering) What other choice do we have?

ELIO:

One moment.

(MAGICAL HUMMING)

SOLAS:

Steady yourselves. There is nothing to fear from this relic.

NADIA:

You didn't see what this thing did back in Minrathous – unleashed a wave of energy or something. Tore the ground up. Almost killed Elio.

SOLAS:

I will demonstrate. (Speaking strange tongue) Ar dirthan'as ir elgara... Ma'sula e'var vhenan...

ELIO:

How did you do that?

SOLAS:

The Eye was made from a rare gem mined here in the caves beneath us. It was crafted centuries ago by a powerful dreamer.

ELIO:

So, it's connected to the Fade.

SOLAS:

Do you feel a connection to the Fade, Magister?

ELIO:

You know who I am.

SOLAS:

Among other things. I know you well.

NADIA:

What is this? What- what game are you playing?

SOLAS:

I do not play games. But if you seek answers, then come.

(FOOTSTEPS THROUGH ROCKY DEBRIS)

NADIA:

Maybe we should turn back. This cave has a dark energy. I don't like it.

(BATS SQUEAKING)

SOLAS:

Energy is neither dark nor light. It is just energy. And it is not the cave responsible for what you feel. It is the Fade. The veil is fragile here.

ELIO:

I can feel it.

SOLAS:

What about the Eye? Can you feel that too?

NADIA:

You said you had answers about what happened. Tell us.

SOLAS:

(Sighing) I suspect that when Elio summoned his magic back on those docks, he unknowingly formed a bond with the eye and it amplified his powers.

(BLADE UNSHEATHING)

NADIA:

You better choose your next words very carefully.

ELIO:

What are you doing?

NADIA:

We never said it was at the docks.

SOLAS:

Kindly remove your blade from my neck.

NADIA:

You start talking. I'll decide if I move it.

SOLAS:

Do you think the threat of a knife brings truth?

NADIA:

The knife is just a promise.

ELIO:

Nadia, put it down.

NADIA:
Fine.

(BLADE BEING SHEATHED)

SOLAS:
I heard word that the Venatori had plans for the Eye. I hired Olen to retrieve the relic before that could happen.

(WIND HOWLING)

ELIO:
Why would you do that?

SOLAS:
Because they do not understand its power...or yours, Magister.

ELIO:
Mine?

SOLAS:
There are things in motion that neither of you can fully grasp. And it is up to me to ensure that we arrive at the best possible outcome. But in order for that to happen, yes, I will need your help.

ELIO:
Why me?

SOLAS:
Because you are a powerful Rift Mage and your bloodline is tied to this relic. The dreamer that forged the eye bore the name of An'Dante.

ELIO:
My family created it?

NADIA:
It was no accident that Olen hired me, was it?

SOLAS:
You're sharper than you let on.

NADIA:
It's a gift.

SOLAS:
It's a frailty.

ELIO:
I was told that the Eye would end the world, not mend it.

SOLAS:
Some people confuse a reckoning as an ending.

ELIO:
So you seek reform?

SOLAS:
I seek regeneration.

NADIA:
I've heard enough of this dreck. Let's go, Elio. Elio!

ELIO:
I'll do it.

NADIA:
Umm...can I speak to you for a moment?

(FOOTSTEPS)

NADIA:
(Whispering) Are you crazy? There is no way we can trust this guy.

ELIO:
(Whispering) I understand your concern, but my purpose in the Magisterium was to help the people, to invoke change. I can't do that now. That life is over. This could be my last chance to make a difference. And to find out that the Eye was born by my ancestors' hand! I- I have to do this. It was fated.

(MUSIC)

NADIA:
Why must you be so noble?

ELIO:

We are who we are, my love.

(FOOTSTEPS, MAGICAL HUMMING)

NADIA:

What is this place?

SOLAS:

An ancient chamber, once home to unspeakable acts. Many were sacrificed on these grounds and the blood that was spilled weakened the barriers between our worlds.

ELIO:

And the Eye will help us fix that?

SOLAS:

More or less.

NADIA:

And you're sure this is safe?

SOLAS:

As safe as we make it.

NADIA:

I don't know. I've got a bad feeling about this.

ELIO:

Would it help if I told you that ring around your neck is imbued with a protective spell?

NADIA:

Maybe. Is it?

ELIO:

Maybe. (Nadia laughs)

SOLAS:

The relic is ready. Prepare your mind. Begin.

SOLAS and ELIO:

(Chanting in Elvish) Heruamin litirien. Alai uethri maeria. Halurocon yalei nam bahna. Dolin nereba maome...

NADIA:

Guys. Guys, this does not feel right.

SOLAS:

Silence, please.

SOLAS and ELIO:

(Chanting in Elvish) Ame amin. Halai lothi amin. Aloamin Heruamin. Heruamin oh lonai. Imwe naine beriole...

(ROCKS BREAKING, CAVE CRUMBLING)

NADIA:

Elio! Elio, I really don't like this! Elio!

ELIO:

It's working, Nadia. I can feel it!

SOLAS and ELIO:

(Shouting in Elvish) AME AMIN! HALAI LOTHI AMIN! ALOAMIN HERUAMIN!

NADIA:

Elio!

ELIO:

Solas, something is wrong!

SOLAS:

Keep your focus.

ELIO:

Solas, please! We must stop!

SOLAS:

Keep your mind steady.

ELIO:

I feel something. What is this?

NADIA:

Solas, you have to stop this!

SOLAS:

This is all to be expected. Remain firm.

ELIO:

I can't hold on!

SOLAS:

If you let go now, the Eye will explode.

NADIA:

Elio!

ELIO:

I'm here!

NADIA:

Where? (Elio screaming)

(CAVE COLLAPSING)

NADIA:

Elio! Elio!

SOLAS:

We must flee. We must flee. Now! Hurry!

NADIA:

Elio!

SOLAS:

Nadia, here, take my hand.

NADIA:

Save Elio!

SOLAS:

He has crossed over.

NADIA:

Elio!

SOLAS:

We must escape. I'm sorry.

(BREEZE RUSTLING, HORSE WHINNYING)

NADIA:

(Grunting) Elio. Elio, are you there? Elio! Solas! Hello! No!

(CLOCK TICKING)

NADIA:

I will ask you one more time. Did you know about the Venatori?

OLEN:

(Choking) No, I swear.

NADIA:

And Solas, did you know of his plan for Elio?

OLEN:

(Choking) Who's Solas?

NADIA:

What do you mean, "Who's Solas?" He's the guy you sent me to meet!

OLEN:

(Coughing) We never met in person. My contact only referred to him by title.

NADIA:

And what was that?

OLEN:

The Dread Wolf.

NADIA:

Son of a bitch!

(FIST SLAMMING TABLE, FOOTSTEPS)

OLEN:

Nadia, please.

NADIA:

Where can I find this wolf?

OLEN:

(Coughing) I don't know.

NADIA:

Well, that's too bad for you.

OLEN:

Wait. Wait. (Coughing) I overheard my contact speaking to another about his plans to visit ancient burial grounds in the Hinterlands. But that's all I know. By the maker, I swear!

NADIA:

There's your antidote. Careful not to choke on it.

(GLASS VIAL ROLLING ACROSS TABLE, CORK POPPING, CHUGGING)

OLEN:

I really am sorry, Nadia. Truly.

(COINS JINGLING, THINKING ON TABLE)

NADIA:

That's for Vik's family. Make sure they get it. And if they don't, I'll be back.

(FOOTSTEPS)

OLEN:

I shall, on my grave.

NADIA:

Then we never need to see each other again.

(DOOR CLOSING, WIND BLOWING, HORSE NEIGHING)

NADIA:

Shh. Easy, girl. We got a long ride ahead of us.

(SMALL, EERIE RINGING)

ELIO:

Nadia!

NADIA:
Elio?

ELIO:
(Screaming) Nadia!

NADIA:
Elio, where are you? Are you okay?

ELIO:
I can't escape without you. You must- you must find a way!

NADIA:
Don't worry. Don't worry, I'm coming. What do I do? Like- like how do I get to you?

ELIO:
(Screaming) I'm here! (Words echoing)

NADIA:
Elio!

ELIO:
Nadia! (Words echoing)

NADIA:
Elio! Don't worry, my love. I'm coming for you. Hyah!

(MUSIC)

(HORSE CANTERING, CRICKETS CHIRPING)

(MUSIC)

NARRATOR:
Dragon Age: Vows and Vengeance is a production of Electronic Arts, in association with Pod People, based on the award-winning video game franchise from BioWare. Learn more about the world of Dragon Age and its latest game, Dragon Age: The Veilguard, by visiting DragonAge.com. Rated M for Mature.

Directed by Matt Sav. Written by Will Melton and Jeremy Novick. Featuring the voices of Mae Whitman as Nadia, Armen Taylor as Elio, Gareth David-Lloyd as Solas, Jessica Clark as Nev. Also

featuring Damien Gerard as Olen. Additional voices by Sabrina Fest, Roslyn Gentle, Jillian Kinsey, Daniel Lench, Isaac Gonzalez Rossi, Sean Thomas Simmons, Charles Halford, and Brandon Gill as Narrator.

Creative and narrative direction by Todd Stallkamp. BioWare narrative development and support by Mary De Marle and John Epler. Editorial direction by Will Melton. Producers for Electronic Arts: Alex Bader and Chris Beckett. Production Management by Bryan Rivers. Assistant direction by Ashton Carter. Story development by Todd Stallkamp, Will Melton, Matt Sav, and Jeremy Novick.

Associate producing and script supervision by Hannah Rae Leach. Casting by Alaine Aldaffer, Lisa Donadio, Lindsay Ploussard and Alex Vikmanis. Sound design by Michael Aquino, Morgan Foose, and Carter Woghan. Dialogue editing by Michael Aquino and Carter Woghan. Mixing and Mastering by Morgan Foose. Featuring original music by Hans Zimmer and Lorne Balfe. Executive Producers for Pod People: Matt Sav and Rachael King. Electronic Arts brand and marketing leads: Kari Hale and Olivier Tse. Electronics Arts Design: Hugo Ugaz and Jacob Meyer.

BioWare special thanks to Ashley Barlow, Cody Behiel, Hilary Hidey, Steve Lam, Crystal McCord, and Patrick Weekes. Electronic Arts special thanks to Kevin Maher, Jacklyn Gilson, Rick Dressler, Marcie Galea, Krista Trezise, Joe Gatdula, Jon Bailey, Greg Joson, and Ritual Khanna.

Dragon Age: The Veilguard, a single-player RPG, launches Fall 2024 on Xbox, PlayStation, and PC. Begin your adventure at DragonAge.com. Rated M for Mature.

Next time on Dragon Age Vows and Vengeance...

NADIA:

There are just two things you get to be: alive or dead. Decide quick which one you prefer.

(DEMONIC CHANTING)

SPEAKER 1:

Tonight we shall teach these heretics what it means to defy the Deathless One.

SPEAKER 2:

You should have never come here, dwarf.

LACE HARDING:

This is a fine mess you've gotten yourself into, Harding.

SPEAKER 3:

On my mark. Pull!

NADIA:

(Grunting) That's it. Press forward! Everyone, form one giant line and push! I don't have time for a little side adventure. There's somebody else who already needs me.

SPEAKER 4:

Help us and I'll help you find the Dread Wolf.

SPEAKER 5:

It would appear you have nothing left but excuses. (Nadia sighing)

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