

THE DRAGON HALF

by
Steven Hammon

Email: hammonscripts at gmail dot com

FADE IN:

INT. WET CAVERN - DAY

Light flickers like a ghost traveling through halls. Water trickles. Holding a candle is -

MCKAL, a pigheaded, dragon slayer apprentice, with a wooden sword and thin tattered clothing. A terminator-like gaze.

MCKAL

Mum will kill me if she finds out I
let you explore in here.

Beside him steps -

MOLINA, a diamond-like virgin, budding with the beauty of womanhood.

MOLINA

Then we'll come up with the perfect
story for her, won't we?

She prances past him like a glistening fairy. He smiles.

MCKAL

Just be careful, I don't want to be
saving your butt all the time.

MOLINA

In this little cave? What's the
worst that could happen?

She sees his smile fade. She stops as red glow grows on the side of her face.

McKAl darts to grab her as she looks to the side.

A massive electrically charged fireball melts the walls of the cavern as it engulfs her.

McKAl's hand burns as the blast blows him back. Her fraction of a scream disintegrates with the ashes of her body.

McKAl lays there in shock, holding his blistered fingers.

EXT. BURNING HOUSE - NIGHT

Voices mix with the sound of fire.

A red glow flickers overs McKal's scarred hand which lifts a wine skin to his mouth. Wine dribbles down as he falls from the horse, face first into a pile of horse dung.

A shadow nearby moves toward McKal -

EELIF, a humble Elvin thief, dark camouflage clothing, but he keeps himself held back, visually attentive and listening with the precision of an owl.

Like a snake, he slithers closer, not making a sound. He reaches for McKal's jewel encrusted sword.

Fingers nibble.

Whack!

McK'al's hand snatches the fingers. McK'al pulls himself from the dung and bends Eelif's fingers back. Eelif in pain, straightens up and his other hand fondles the butt of his concealed bronze dagger.

MCKAL

Do you always underestimate your victims?

McK'al sways as a piece of dung drips from his cheek.

People dart past with buckets of water, fighting the fire, oblivious of McK'al and Eelif who nervously smiles and relinquishes the blade. His hand rises.

EELIF

My truly humble apologies, sir, but I... I thought you were dead.

MCKAL

So you steal from the dead huh?

Eelif's eyes droop as McK'al glares.

Behind McK'al, a gorgeous smiling face turns to rage.

ALYSSA, beauty toned into a tomboy of unstable spontaneity. She's a rose lined with thorns. She spins McK'al around and punches McK'al with the force of a tank.

He barely feels it as his flexibility flows with the punch. He staggers but stays on his feet. Eelif slips away.

MCKAL

Hey sexy, you remind me of my wife.

Alyssa rages more. She grabs him and pulls him close to glare straight into his eyes.

ALYSSA

What? You go off for weeks on end,
come home, and treat me like this?

McKAl squints and realizes who it is. He gulps.

MCKAL

Ooops.

ALYSSA

Ooops. That's all you can say?

MCKAL

Hey I can take care of myself.

Alyssa pushes. She snatches a bucket and goes to the well.

ALYSSA

Yeah that's your problem. Always
you and your heroics. And what
about me huh? You're not alone you
know. You can't do everything
yourself.

A well bearer fills her bucket. She races back to the house.

MCKAL

Honey I'm sorry ok?

McKAl grabs a bucket of water and washes his face.

MCKAL

I'll make it up to you.

Alyssa throws water on the house which crumples ominously.
McKAl notices and springs alert.

ALYSSA

Oh? How?

The wall of the house collapses straight towards Alyssa.
McKAl charges in and vigorously snatches her out of the way.

Crash!

The burning wood smashes beside them as they fall.

People nervously look at them. All is quiet.

McKai rises as the center of attention.

MCKAI

What?

The people turn away, shy and fearful. McKai looks down at Alyssa shaking. He kneels down to help her up.

MCKAI

Are you ok baby?

Her teary eyes lift to his.

ALYSSA

I need you. I don't need a hero.

He cuddles, then kisses her tears away with epic tenderness.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

McKai squints as he staggers along.

House after house, burnt to the ground. People walk around in fear of everything. Something is seriously wrong here.

McKai sees a LITTLE GIRL.

MCKAI

Excuse -

The girl quivers with fear and flees in terror.

He sees a house window open and a YOUNG WOMAN spots him.

MCKAI

Hey can you -

She slams the window shutters shut.

He approaches a MEAT SALESMAN.

MCKAI

Excuse me but can you tell me what
happened here last night?

The meat salesman lifts a crossbow and aims it at McKai with a gesture to piss off.

EELIF
Lots of friends huh?

McKai slowly backs away and turns to see Eelif.

MCKAI
I don't need friends. I need a clue
to follow. You wanna point me in
the right direction?

EELIF
You promise to take me with -

MCKAI
Fine I'll find out myself.

McKai leaves Eelif standing alone in the middle of the street.

MONTAGE:

- McKai sneaking a look through house ashes, when the barbarian owner catches him. McKai slithers away.
- McKai checks out scratches on the ground, follows them to a farmer who is racking up straw with a sharp forked branch.
- McKai standing in the middle of the village, people avoiding him. Alone, he looks around with no idea where to go.

INT. VILLAGE TAVERN - NIGHT

Eelif drinks alone in the corner, watching everyone as the place goes silent to the sight of McKai, drunk. Eelif watches as McKai comes over. Eelif waits. McKai hesitates.

MCKAI
Let's make a deal. You help solve
this and I'll do what I can. Ok?

Eelif stands with a smile and offers his hand. McKai reluctantly shakes it.

EELIF
Well if you wanna take down Drark,
we best be teaching you how to fly.

McKai scoffs.

MCKAL

Fly. Ha. That's a good one.

Eelif doesn't laugh. McKal's smile fades. He storms outside.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - NIGHT

McKAL, pissed off, staggers down the eerily quiet street.

Whoosh! A shadow darts past in the moonlight.

McKAL looks up to catch a glimpse of a reflection. It's like a small dragon the size of a barbarian. Instantly, McKAL rips his sword from its sheath and charges. He watches as the dragon swoops down in between buildings.

MCKAL

Got you now.

As he rounds the corner. A shadowy claw thrusts toward him. He ducks and rolls and comes up to grab the claws. As he strains, he pushes the shadowy face into the light.

DRARK, scales for skin, body shape of a man but with dragon wings and tail. Vicious claws and teeth, compliment the crest that runs from his forehead, down to the tip of his tail. Drark snaps his teeth at McKal's drunk face but McKal smiles.

DRARK

Fine... I'll kill you later.

Drark thrusts his wings and dust billows into the air. He twists and breaks free. McKal swipes. The sword nicks Drark's arm. McKal darts forward as he hears a house wall smash.

He bursts through and toward the hole. A FLEEING MAN with a SCARED GIRL, bumps into McKal's shoulder. McKal prepares for battle as the two make their escape.

The sound of the man's footsteps fade. McKal sees an undisturbed room. Something's wrong.

A scream from behind him grabs his attention. As he spins around, he glimpses Drark dragging the scared girl into the foggy sky. She's gone!

INT. VILLAGE TAVERN - NIGHT

McKAL still drunk bursts in and charges straight up to Eelif.

MCKAL

What's this about learning to fly?

Eelif smiles.

MONTAGE:

- The next day, they make a saddle. Eelif shows McKal how to stitch the leather. McKal reluctantly sews as Eelif chuckles.
- Finishing the saddle, Alyssa hands orange juice to McKal and smiles. McKal shares a reluctant grin.
- Climbing the cliff face. They sneak into a cave covered with sticks - a griffin nest. Suddenly, they are thrown out by the winged lion with the head of an eagle. It roars!
- Offering the griffin a leg of lamb, it calms. Eelif pats the griffin. McKal stands cautious.
- McKal and Eelif carry the saddle into the cave. With a roar, they are thrown out again.
- McKal gently climbs onto the saddle and the griffin takes off without him. McKal plummets to the floor of the cave.
- With a pile of lamb leg bones in the corner of the cave, McKal climbs onto the griffin and pats it. He smiles. The griffin wrenches him out of the cave and into the air.
- McKal struggles to fly the griffin and nearly plows into the village but he gains control and pulls the griffin out of the dive. The griffin spirals straight up into the air and McKal cheers with the adrenaline rush!

INT. ALYSSA'S WEAPONIZED BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alyssa wakes up and rolls over to kiss McKal who is clean, sober, and loving the embrace he has with Alyssa.

ALYSSA

You know how proud I am of you?
Making friends, having fun. It's
like how you were as a kid.

MCKAL

You think that's having fun? I'll
show you fun.

McKall ravishes her with kisses as they slip under the sheets and giggle like children.

A dark shadow flashes past the window.

INT. ALYSSA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

McKai hums a tune as he plays with his sword like a circus freak. He grabs some meat on the bone and takes a bite. He has a swig of orange juice to wash the meat down.

INT. ALYSSA'S WEAPONIZED BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alyssa relaxes in her afterglow as McKai walks in.

ALYSSA

Back so -

MCKAI

(whispers)

Shhhh. Please come with me. I would like to show you a surprise.

He pulls her from the bed. Alyssa looks confused.

ALYSSA

But what -

MCKAI

(whispers)

Shhhh. The surprise awaits you.

He smiles at her. She smiles back.

EXT. ALYSSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alyssa laughs in disbelief as she runs in her nightgown, dragged by the hand of McKai. He stops.

MCKAI

Ever focus your dreams on the bliss of being whisked away into the heavens?

McKai points at the gorgeous full moon.

ALYSSA

McKai what's gotten into you? You know I hate heights.

MCKAI

Well you're sure to hate this.

She hears the door of the house open. She turns around to see McKal staggering outside from the door.

MCKAL

Hey Alyssa what the hell are you
doing out here?

Shock grips her as she spins around to see the transformation from man into the half-dragon of Drark!

Drark grabs her and jumps into the air. He spreads his huge wings as he takes off into the sky.

ALYSSA

McKall!

McKall drops the meaty bone and sprints after her but before he can do anything, she's gone. He slows. His focused gaze turns to the griffin stable. He sprints like a machine.

INT. GRIFFIN STABLE - NIGHT

Eelif cuddles the griffin as if it was his mother. Crunch! The stable doors burst open. Eelif jumps out of his skin. McKal races to the saddle and wrenches it ready.

EELIF

What the hell?

McKall slams the saddle onto the griffin.

MCKAL

Lizard got her.

With machine-like speed, straps are tightened.

EELIF

Who?

Reigns are locked.

MCKAL

Gonna kill him.

McKall climbs on board and Eelif jumps on the back.

EELIF

Drark?

McKall yanks the griffin to the open doors.

MCKAL
Get off.

EELIF
No.

McKAl sighs, then kicks the griffin in the guts. It roars, charges, wrenches Eelif into the air. He barely hangs on.

EXT. FOGGY SKY - NIGHT

McKAl yanks the griffin into a spin.

EELIF
I'm not getting off!

MCKAL
You can always fall off!

McKAl jerks the griffin. Eelif freaks as he nearly falls.

EELIF
You're crazy!

McKAl settles into a speedy cruise through the fog. Sparse bits of scenery come through the fog. A lake. A huge rock tower. Eelif leans forward and points to the right.

EELIF
Only place worth hiding around here
is old smokey.

McKAl turns that way. The fog clears as the warmth of lava comes up from below.

EXT. OLD SMOKEY - NIGHT

Before them, a volcano that rises up too high to see.

EELIF
Be careful. Don't fly to -

Suddenly, McKAl locks on and pushes the griffin down into a dive. Eelif freaks as they power down. The speed ripples the skin on their faces as they strain to hold on. A lava lake lies dead ahead. Eelif screams.

McKAl wrenches the griffin out of the dive and they glide over the boiling rock. Eelif finishes the scream. Ahead, Drark looks back to see them.

DRARK

Your hero sets out to save the
damsel in distress... Perfect.

Splutters of lava shoot up as McKal weaves in and out.

Drark dives into a cave. McKal follows.

INT. CAVERNS - NIGHT

Drark shoots fireballs into the walls of the cavern to light
the way. He also turns and launches fireballs at McKal who
skillfully dodges.

MCKAL

Last chance to get off!

EELIF

What's your problem huh?

McKal pulls the griffin to the side and only just dodges a
fireball. He struggles to recover as the griffin's wing tip
smashes through a stalagmite.

MCKAL

Too much weight. Now are you -

EELIF

No that's not it at all... You're
lonely. You don't fit in. And you
think being a hero is gonna give
you friends? Truth is you're too
scared to be a member of a team.
You're a coward!

McKal pauses.

MCKAL

Talk doesn't change the fact that
you're not coming in there with me.

Eelif's rage grows.

EELIF

You think you're the only one with
the right to go after Drark? The
bastard killed my entire family and
you dare say I can't go in there?

MCKAL

Even more reason for you to live.

Eelif growls with hatred.

Suddenly, Eelif grabs McKal by the throat. He squeezes as McKal struggles to fight back. Fireballs whiz past his head as Eelif squeezes harder. McKal turns blue.

McKalel elbows hard but he keeps hitting Eelif's bronze dagger. McKal reaches back, trying to grab the dagger.

EELIF

Nothing's gonna stop me killing
that bastard! Not you, not anyone!

McKalel's eyes roll into the back of his head.

Drark looks back to see them fighting.

DRARK

Can your hero see in the dark?

He smiles as he glides into the main cavern.

Eelif notices light fading as the fires are left behind.

EELIF

The only way I'll stop is if I'm
dead!

Crunch! The griffin smashes into a support pillar.

Eelif shudders, loses his grip and plummets to the cavern floor. McKal holds on for dear life but the griffin tumbles and hits the ground.

Rocks fall from the roof, smashing down near Eelif who starts to get up with a gaze of pure evil.

McKalel thumps to a stop. As he looks back, he sees Eelif reaching into his shirt for his bronze dagger. A huge rock crushes Eelif in a flash. More boulders come down.

McKalel clambers to his feet and races after the griffin. McKalel dodges rocks as the griffin shudders from the crippling blows. The griffin passes through into the main cavern. McKalel dives forward to join in the safety.

Thud! A rock smacks him in the head. He nosedives into dirt, grinding to a halt. Dust wafts over him as he passes out.

Silence.

Blackness.

INT. MAIN CAVERN - NIGHT

Splash!

McK'al's eyes burst open to see Eelif's bloody skull. A corpse. McK'al shudders up and back as he realizes his hands are tied.

ALYSSA

McK'al!

McK'al shrieks in fear but settles as he squints. He sees her. Relief. But then despair.

Torches flicker around the room and McK'al doesn't even notice the huge amount of gold and treasure that lies around him. Drark steps up behind McK'al.

DRARK

Pitiful. Such a powerful man with such a huge weakness.

ALYSSA

Shut the hell up you -

DRARK

Should I kill her now?

MCKAL

Should I resurrect you over and over until I get sick of killing your massacred corpse?

Drark grabs Alyssa and pulls her up.

DRARK

Now that's the evil I love to see. I think once I sever all your weaknesses, you'll become a truly free man. Never a worry about getting others killed. Never being tied down by anyone.

ALYSSA

Don't listen McK'al, you have me. I'm here for you always. I'm yours.

DRARK

But not for long.

He spins her around.

DRARK

Oh Mother!

They pause and wait. Suddenly, gold mounds up in the center before it falls to the sides. Up rises a fully grown dragon. It leans down close to Drark and smells Alyssa.

DRARK

Sorry mother, no virgin girls for you today.

McKai struggles with dread.

MCKAI

Take me!

ALYSSA

No way! Don't be a hero!

Drark pauses. He smiles.

DRARK

That sounds like a great idea. But there's something missing. Hmmm a little bit of dread.

He throws Alyssa to the ground. He picks up Eelif's corpse.

DRARK

Mother, show them the mess you're going to make.

He throws Eelif's corpse in front of the huge dragon which instantly dives down, mouth open wide. Her jaws snap shut. She lifts the corpse and flicks it back to crush more bones. Alyssa looks away but Drark forces her to watch.

DRARK

Observe the way your hero will die.

Blood splatters down and with each bite, more bones crush, more blood spills. Alyssa bursts into tears. McKai grits his teeth and forces himself to his feet.

ALYSSA

Please no I can't sit here and watch you being chewed to bits!

McKal looks at the dragon mother as she swallows the corpse, clothes, armor and all.

McKal smiles. He looks back at Alyssa as the mother dragon opens her mouth and lowers her head towards him.

MCKAL

Don't worry Honey, you won't see me
chewed to bits ok?

Her eyes light up with a bit of hope.

Suddenly, McKal sprints toward the dragon mother's mouth and leaps down her throat, whole. The dragon mother gags.

Alyssa and Drark watch in shock.

The dragon struggles before she swallows the massive lump. It travels down her throat as she regains her composure.

Alyssa watches the squirming in the dragon's throat which calms into a stagnant bump. Tears rupture from Alyssa's eyes.

DRARK

Mother I'm sorry. I had no idea he
was going to do that. Are you ok?

She takes on a threatening stance. Drark sighs with relief.

Suddenly, her throat rips open as a bronze dagger pushes from the lumpy spot. The dagger peels open the scales as she roars in agony. Blood erupts from arteries as the shock smashes everyone's faces.

Out spills the blood covered hero who slams into the cavern floor. McKal vomits the bloody fluids before he gasps for breath. He stands as the head of the mother dragon slams down beside him, twitching in death throws.

Drark races to his mother, stricken with grief.

McKal races to Alyssa and cuts her ropes free.

Drark's rage builds as Alyssa backs away to safety. McKal charges in for the kill but Drark swings around and brutally backhands McKal across the ground.

Drark opens his mouth wide and blasts fire balls at McKal who rolls side to side dodging the attacks. Drark jumps into the air, flaps his huge wings up, and takes a deep breath.

McKai notices, looks for protection, but all he sees is Alyssa's face as the red glow builds. McKai darts to the side but the flames engulf him.

Suddenly, he punches out of the firewall. He rolls, putting out the flames. He grits his teeth in pain from the burns.

As he looks up, Drark powers down, claws ready. McKai rolls with the dagger and slashes Drark's ribs. Drark, stunned, scurries away and checks his wound.

McKai clammers to his feet, and forces a smile.

Drark's rage swells. He races over and snatches Alyssa.

DRARK

Time to watch the little bitch fry!

He sets her up in front of McKai who instantly throws the dagger to Drark's feet and stumbles back.

MCKAI

Alright alright! I'm unarmed! Take it all out on the person you really want to punish.

Drark pauses as he looks at McKai.

MCKAI

I swear I'll let you torch me.

McKai puts his arms out as a sacrifice to Drark.

Drark throws Alyssa and storms forward a few steps. He curls his arms and wings as he takes a massive breath. He breathes flame which swirls and builds in his grasp.

Alyssa watches in fear.

Electrical charged arcs sparkle from Drark's fingers. The fireball grows into the electrical charged killer - exactly like the one that killed McKai's sister.

McKai notices. Realization. A tear wells.

MCKAI

Molina...

He swallows his torment, closes his eyes. The tears fall.

As Drark roars, the bronze dagger punches through his chest.

He gasps, eyes wide in pain. He falls back as the fireball launches at the roof of the cavern. It explodes like a bomb, shuddering the entire area.

Alyssa pulls the dagger from Drark's back as Drark falls to the floor holding the hole where blood pumps with every slashed heartbeat.

Rocks cave in. McKal opens his eyes to see the situation. He races over and pulls Alyssa to the griffin.

She drops the dagger as they climb on. The griffin launches into the air. They fly toward a tunnel. McKal jerks the griffin side to side, dodging the roof as it falls.

INT. NARROW TUNNEL - NIGHT

They swoosh through as the entire roof plummets to the floor directly behind them. Crunches thrust wind forward. The gusts give the griffin small boosts.

The destruction gains on them.

Crunching closer.

Pounding.

Thump!

MCKAL

Noooooo!

EXT. OLD SMOKEY - DAY

The morning light shines from the heavenly sky and fluffy white clouds.

A rush of dust explodes out of the cave.

Another pulse of dust.

As the entire cave entrance smashes down, the griffin punches through, smashing into the rocks. The three tumble through the air and slam into the ground like rag dolls.

McKall struggles to get up, holding his ribs in agony. He races over to Alyssa who lies covered in blood.

His face cringes.

She's still.

He reaches to her face with his blood covered hand.

ALYSSA

Don't you dare touch me with that
filthy bloody hand of yours!

They smile in relief but then the pain kicks in.

INT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

Villagers bask in the gold treasure recovered from the cave.
People dance everywhere. The meat salesman races up to McKal.

MEAT SALESMAN

Thank you sir for freeing us from
the tyranny of that beast.

McKal smiles.

MCKAL

It was easy. All I did was close my
eyes and he was dead...

He grins at Alyssa's angry eyes.

MCKAL

... and Alyssa here was the one who
killed that bastard for you all.

Alyssa calms, stunned. McKal hands her over to the gratitude
of the crowd. He backs away with a smile and drinks his
orange juice.

MCKAL

Cheers.

FADEOUT: