

Stars of Blood (Act 1)

Written by  
Aaron Kleinman

Aaron Kleinman  
(732)-609-3452  
aaronkleinman@gmail.com

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - COMMAND BRIDGE

Mars is visible through the giant viewport on the command bridge.

On the control console is ALISTA's severed left hand, blood trickling down the console as it begins to slide off.

It slides off.

Multiple bodies are littered throughout the command bridge, them being KALIN's men.

On the walkway in front of the viewport stands TERRY and KALIN, guns pointed at one another.

They are both visibly injured, blood staining their clothes.

Terry's revolver is shaking in his hand.

Kalin's hand is steady, despite being covered in blood.

KALIN

You've come this far Terry. You sure you can do what needs to be done?

Terry tightens the grip on his revolver.

TERRY

You wanna find out?

CUT TO: BLACK

Gunshots ring out

FADE IN:

TITLE CARD - STARS OF BLOOD

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - ASTEROID BELT

*Lies of Dragons* speeds through the asteroid belt, narrowly avoiding asteroids and laser fire. They are pursuing a ship slightly smaller than theirs.

CUT TO:

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - COMMAND BRIDGE

TERRY & ALISTA are at their own stations. ALISTA flying the ship, TERRY using his console to fire the ship's weapons at the vessel shooting at them.

Terry is a mid-20s man, with unkempt blonde hair. He's wearing a yellow t-shirt with a bright logo on it, jeans, and combat boots. On his hip is a holster with his revolver.

Alista is an early-30s woman with short, red hair. She is wearing a futuristic looking jacket with a black shirt underneath.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE - ASTEROID BELT

Multiple smaller ships surround the *Lies of Dragons*. They all begin firing on the much larger ship, only to be picked off one by one as the ship's guns take aim and fire upon them.

*Lies of Dragons* manages to catch up to the ship they are chasing, disabling it with laser fire, and wrangling it in with multiple tow hooks.

CUT TO:

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - COMMAND BRIDGE

TERRY leans back in his chair. A bored look on his face.

TERRY

Another day. Another bounty. Another thing that needs to be fixed on this ship.

ALISTA hits some buttons on her console, the engine seemingly turning off.

ALISTA

Good shooting. Let's tow our prize to the GL station.

TERRY

I'll let them know we're on our way.

ALISTA hits some more buttons, the engines whirring to life once again. Thought they now sound different from before.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIES OF DRAGONS

*Lies of Dragons'* external engines seem to open up slightly, plasma shooting outwards from them and propelling the ship forward at amazing speeds.

CUT TO:

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - COMMAND BRIDGE

TERRY gets up from his seat, grabbing the mug off of his console. He takes a sip, wincing at the heat of the drink.

ALISTA  
Where are you going?

TERRY walks past ALISTA, towards the door.

TERRY  
I sent our code through to the Galactic Law station outside of Titan. We've got at least 2 hours until we're there.

ALISTA spins in her chair to face TERRY. Her legs appear to be made of metal.

ALISTA  
The Mars station is closer.

TERRY turns to look at her before he leaves, smile on his face.

TERRY  
I know.

TERRY sips his drink as he walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - AIRLOCK HALL

TERRY is standing near the main airlock of the ship, his mug in his hand. He takes a sip, once again grimacing from the heat of the drink.

The ship's intercoms click on.

ALISTA (O.S.)  
Doors should be open any second now.  
Make sure not to piss anyone off this  
time.

The ship's intercoms click off.

TERRY chuckles to himself, the doors sliding open. He looks up, surprise crossing his face.

TERRY  
No way! Yaz!? They transferred you  
here!?

YAZ, a Galactic Lawman, is standing in the doorway. A look of annoyance on his face. He is a short man, standing just at Terry's shoulder's. He has a well-trimmed beard to match his neatly cut black hair.

YAZ  
Terry Talithon, of all the people I  
wanted to see today, you were the  
bottom of the list.

TERRY turns around to yell down the hallway of the ship.

TERRY  
Hey Ali! You'll never guess who it  
is! It's Yaz!

The ships intercoms click on.

ALISTA (O.S.)  
Hi Yaz, hope all is well.

The intercoms click off.

YAZ  
Hi Alista, I see you're still keeping  
this absolute clown around.

TERRY looks at YAZ in shock.

TERRY  
I'm hurt Yaz. After all we've been  
through, you insult me? Especially  
when you were the one who got Alista  
to take me in?

YAZ points a finger at TERRY

YAZ

Last time I saw you, you left me stranded on the Rings of Saturn as you took off after the perp I was chasing.

TERRY wraps an arm around YAZ, escorting him off the ship.

TERRY

Yaz! That's all the past!

YAZ

That was last month!

TERRY waves off his comment.

TERRY

This month, last month, 5 years ago. It's all the past. How about I treat you to a round after you book the guys we just brought in?

YAZ shakes TERRY off. They continue walking.

YAZ

Fine. But if you skip out on the bill, you'll be the next bounty I put away.

TERRY wholeheartedly laughs.

TERRY

I'd expect no different!

CUT TO:

EXT. GALACTIC LAW STATION TITAN - FUELING DEPOT

ALISTA is leaning against *Lies of Dragon*, fuel pump firmly attached to the ship.

ALISTA

300 Curu to fuel my ship. Absolute robbery.

CUT TO:

INT. GALACTIC LAW STATION TITAN - PUB

TERRY and YAZ sit at the counter of the bar, the stools looking anything but comfortable.

YAZ is sipping on a red colored drink in a clear mug, TERRY a simple bottled beer in his hand.

YAZ  
You know, Galactic Law could use  
someone of your skill.

TERRY chuckles, taking a small sip from his drink.

TERRY  
Yaz, we've known each other a long  
time.

YAZ  
Since we were kids.

TERRY  
Exactly! And after all these years,  
you think I'd want to join up with  
Galactic Law?

YAZ  
Better than hunting bounties, hoping  
they'll pay enough to afford gas and  
a meal.

YAZ sips his drinking, feeling he's made a point.

TERRY  
Yaz, the money isn't why I do it.  
Though it is nice. You ever been to  
the clubs on Mercury? Amazing!

YAZ  
You know those clubs are illegal and  
I should arrest you just for saying  
you've been to them, right?

Terry grins at Yaz.

TERRY  
Trust me, I'm aware.

YAZ sighs, downing his drink and signaling the bartender for  
another.

TERRY (cont'd)  
Aren't you on duty?

Yaz side-eyes Terry.

YAZ  
That ever stop me?

TERRY

Guess not. But as I was saying, the job isn't for the money. It's for the freedom. The freedom to pave your own way. To see what hasn't yet been seen!

YAZ

You sound like a Space Pioneer. Anyone ever tell you that?

YAZ holds his drink up, pointing a finger at TERRY

YAZ (cont'd)

You always were obsessed with those stories. Is that why you're out there scraping scum off the backside of the universe?

TERRY signals the bartender for another drink.

TERRY

Yaz, it doesn't matter why I do it. You just care that it makes your job easier.

YAZ

Trust me, nothing involving you makes my job easier.

As YAZ takes a sip, TERRY leans forward on the counter. His 2nd beer sitting in front of him, untouched.

TERRY seems serious

TERRY

Any leads you can throw my way?

YAZ sighs as he puts his drink down.

YAZ

I was waiting to see how long it would take you to ask.

TERRY looks at YAZ

TERRY

Am I that easy to read?

YAZ

Like you said earlier, we've known each other a long time.



YAZ takes a sip of his drink.

YAZ (cont'd)

Of course I have some leads. But I don't know if this is one I should give you.

TERRY looks shocked.

TERRY

What!? Think I can't handle it?

YAZ

Yeah. This is a much bigger fish than you.

TERRY

Just give me the info. I'll handle it.

YAZ

3.5 Mil.

TERRY

3.5 Million!? What did this guy do...

YAZ

Remember the Galactic Law Station near Pluto?

TERRY

Yeah, haven't been there in a while though.

YAZ empties his drink.

YAZ

Well, you won't be going there again anytime soon.

TERRY looks almost terrified.

TERRY

Are you telling me it's gone?

YAZ

Yup. This bounty wiped the whole thing out. We're scouring the wreckage for clues.

TERRY

Any idea what group was responsible?

YAZ  
It wasn't a group Terry. It was one  
guy.

TERRY gets up from his seat.

TERRY  
Send me the info. I want in.

YAZ  
That is a bad idea.

TERRY  
I know.

TERRY picks up his beer, leaving some oblong pieces of metal  
in its place.

TERRY (cont'd)  
I'm excited.

TERRY takes a sip of his beer as he goes out the door.

YAZ is left sitting alone. He pulls out his communicator.

YAZ  
Good luck.

He places the communicator on the table after sending Terry  
the info.

YAZ (cont'd)  
Alista is going to hate me.

He signals for another drink as he finishes off his current  
one.

CUT TO:

EXT. GALACTIC LAW STATION TITAN - SPACEWAYS

TERRY is walking, immersed in the holo-scroll in his hands.

It's the info YAZ sent him.

TERRY is mumbling to himself.

TERRY  
Kalin, Kalin, Kalin...Where have I  
heard that name before?

CUT TO:

EXT. GALACTIC LAW STATION TITAN - FUELING DEPOT

ALISTA is wiping scorch marks off the sides of *Lies of Dragons*. She looks irritated by the task.

ALISTA  
I need to invest in better armor plating.

TERRY approaches suddenly from behind her. ALISTA doesn't notice.

TERRY  
Don't worry! We'll be able to buy a new ship soon!

ALISTA jumps and spins, nearly punching TERRY in the face.

ALISTA  
Terry! You idiot! I could have killed you!

TERRY just laughs.

TERRY  
If you say so.

Terry smiles at her as she continues her work.

TERRY (cont'd)  
Anyways, I've got a lead on one hell of a bounty! Finish that up and I'll tell you about the score of a lifetime.

TERRY makes his way towards the entrance of *Lies of Dragons*.

Alista grunts in annoyance.

ALISTA  
Always some form of theatrics with him.

She puts the rag she is using to clean with into her pocket and walks inside.

CUT TO:

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - KITCHEN

TERRY is standing at the counter, making himself a drink in his mug.

ALISTA walks in and sits down at the table.

TERRY lifts the mug to his mouth, taking a sip. He grimaces once again.

ALISTA

If you'd let it cool for a moment,  
you wouldn't burn your tongue every  
time you take a sip.

TERRY pulls out a chair and sits down. He places the mug on the table in front of him.

TERRY

You know patience isn't my thing.

ALISTA shakes her head

ALISTA

Yeah, I'm aware.

TERRY leans back, crossing his arms.

TERRY

How does 3.5 Million Curu sound to  
you?

ALISTA raises an eyebrow.

ALISTA

Sounds too good to be true. Whoever  
gave you that info is probably  
sending you on a goose chase.

TERRY nods his head and reaches for his mug. He lifts it to his mouth.

TERRY

It was Yaz.

TERRY sips his drink and places the mug back down.

TERRY (cont'd)

So it's legit.

ALISTA leans forward.

ALISTA  
What does someone do to warrant that  
big of a bounty?

TERRY looks her in the eyes.

TERRY  
They wipe a Galactic Law Station off  
the Star Charts.

ALISTA covers her mouth in thought as she leans back. She  
seems calm, yet unnerved.

ALISTA  
That would take some serious fire  
power. Not just anyone can do that.

Alista gets up from her seat and walks towards the counter,  
reaching up to grasp the handle of a cabinet. She stops  
before grabbing it.

ALISTA (cont'd)  
Our bounty have a name?

She grasps the cabinet handle, opening it and reaching in to  
grab some type of wrapped snack.

Terry speaks, his back facing her.

TERRY  
His name sounds familiar. Maybe  
you'll know it. It's Kalin Juptune.

There is silence.

Terry turns as he hears a loud crack. Alista is standing  
there, the cabinet door in her hand at her side. She is  
breathing heavily, her face slowly contorting to rage.

Terry looks concerned.

TERRY (cont'd)  
Alista? You okay?

With a shout of anger, Alista whips the cabinet door at the  
wall past Terry, who narrowly avoids getting hit.

TERRY (cont'd)  
Whoa! What the hell is up with you!?  
Nearly took my head off!

Terry quickly stops shouting as Alista seems to calm down.

ALISTA

Kalin is dead. We're not taking him  
in alive.

She begins walking to the door, Terry quickly getting up to  
stop her.

TERRY

You gonna tell me what's up with this  
guy? I've never seen you lose it like  
that.

Alista pushes Terry aside, walking out the doorway.

ALISTA

Get ready for take off. We are  
heading to Pluto and we are looking  
for clues as to where Kalin is. As  
well as what he wanted.

Terry watches her walk off down the corridor. He seems  
worried for Alista. Letting out a sigh, he follows her  
towards the bridge.

CUT TO:

INT. LIES OF DRAGONS - COMMAND BRIDGE

Terry sits in his seat on the bridge. Alista is running pre-  
flight diagnostics as she hits a few buttons and swivels in  
her chair.

Terry flips a switch or two at his console before speaking  
up.

TERRY

So, I got some more info from Yaz.  
Death count is a few thousand. That  
includes pigs, civs and skids.

A small hologram suddenly pops up on Alista's console,  
catching her off guard. It's an image of a burning building.

ALISTA

What am I looking at?

TERRY (O.C.)

The charred remains of the PPB.

Alista continues to look at the hologram, though it quickly flickers off.

ALISTA  
PPB?

TERRY  
Pluto Planetary Bank.

Terry flips another switch and swivels in his chair to look at Alista.

TERRY (cont'd)  
He took enough Curu to buy an army's worth of munitions.

ALISTA  
Or buy off any politician he wants.

Terry turns back to look at his console as Alista begins to fly the ship out of port. He speaks with some concern in his voice.

TERRY  
So...You seemed to flip when I mentioned Kalin's name. Wanna talk about it?

Alista hits a couple buttons as the ship leaves port. The engines slowly begin to get louder.

She remains silent.

TERRY (cont'd)  
Alright then. Not in a talking mood.

Alista flips a couple more switches as the ship levels out on its trajectory. She is straight-faced.

ALISTA  
The thief mark.

Terry spins in his chair upon hearing her voice.

TERRY  
What's up?

Alista holds up her left hand so Terry can see the back of it.

ALISTA  
The thief mark on my hand. Kalin is why I was branded.

Terry raises an eyebrow, reaching for his mug as he maintains eye contact with Alista.

ALISTA (cont'd)  
The gang I used to be a part of,  
well, Kalin was the muscle. I was the  
pilot.

Terry sits, holding his drink, listening intently.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. UNKNOWN BUILDING - HALLWAY

Alista is dragging along a bloodied body, with a helmet on its head. She is struggling due to her own injuries.

ALISTA (V.O.)  
It was only meant to be a simple job.

A hail of gunfire fills the hallway, catching Alista in the legs. She crumples to the floor, dropping the body.

A GALACTIC LAWMAN walks over to her, gun smoking. He has a smirk on his face. He kneels down next to Alista, who is now barely breathing and is in shock.

GALACTIC LAWMAN  
Alista Ledracor. The Pilot. You're  
the one I was supposed to let live.

He puts his gun to her head.

GALACTIC LAWMAN (cont'd)  
But maybe I shouldn't. After all,  
you're probably more trouble than  
it's worth.

Alista spits at the Galactic Lawman. Her spit coats the visor of his face shield.

GALACTIC LAWMAN (cont'd)  
Welp.



He wipes the spit off using the back of his hand. He puts his gun against the underside of her nose, pushing her head back slightly.

GALACTIC LAWMAN (cont'd)  
Hope you had fun. Cause the game is over.

KALIN (O.C.)  
Yeah. It is.

The Galactic Lawman is shot dead before he can pull the trigger. Kalin walks over and looks down at Alista. She doesn't say a word. Kalin looks down at her and then to the body next to her.

KALIN  
All he had to do was give me the lead. That's it. Then none of this would have happened.

Alista wiped some blood from above her brow that was starting to mess with her vision.

She speaks up, barely able to talk.

ALISTA  
What are you on about?

Kalin points his gun at Alista. She crawls back slightly, seeing how serious he is.

KALIN  
Jastity. All he had to do was leave the gang to me. But he chose not to. Instead he wants to leave it to you.

Kalin lowers the aim of his gun and fires one shot into each of Alista's thighs.

She screams in pain.

KALIN (cont'd)  
But now, everyone is dead. Soon, you will be too.

Kalin turns and begins to walk off down the hall. Alista is screaming in pain, words barely coming out between the screams.

ALISTA  
I'll end you! You hear me Kalin!?  
You're dead!

Sirens can be heard in the distance as footsteps begin to approach from off screen. Alista looks scared and angry.

A group of Galactic Lawmen approach her. They yank her up by the arms and begin dragging her away as she tries to pry herself free. She's too weak from her injuries.

One of the Galactic Lawmen knocks her out with the butt of their gun.

CUT TO: BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. GALACTIC LAW PRISON MERCURY - MEDICAL BAY

Alista slowly stirs awake. She goes to move, but is strapped to a cot. She is hooked up to multiple machines that are feeding her nutrients.

She speaks, her voice hoarse.

ALISTA

Where am I?

She turns her head to see a Galactic Lawman sleeping next to her. His nametag reads Yaz. This is a young Yaz, with no beard and shoulder length hair.

His rifle is resting next to his chair, his arms crossed over his chest.

A DOCTOR walks in from a nearby door. She smiles.

DOCTOR

Ah. You're awake.

She notices Yaz and sighs.

DOCTOR (cont'd)

But it would seem Yaz is not.

She lightly kicks Yaz's chair, startling him awake.

YAZ

I'm up!

The Doctor begins looking at a machine that is hooked up to Alista.

Yaz picks up his rifle and places it on his lap, hand wrapped around the stock.

YAZ (cont'd)  
How's the prisoner Doctor?

Alista looks back and forth between Yaz and the Doctor. She looks confused.

DOCTOR  
Confused. As is to be expected. Her vitamin levels are almost back to normal. Blood levels are also evening out. She'll be good for transfer soon enough.

Yaz sighs, shaking his head.

YAZ  
No prison for this one. Check her hand.

The Doctor raises an eyebrow and looks at Alista's hands.

Alista's eyes follow hers, though she can't see what they see as she is strapped down.

She speaks weakly.

ALISTA  
What's on my hand?

The Doctor pokes Alista's hand, causing her to wince.

DOCTOR  
A brand. And a rather new one based on your reaction. Seems Universal Judgement has deemed you worthy of living.

Alista shakes her head in confusion.

ALISTA  
What?

Yaz yawns. The Doctor gives him a look.

YAZ

You've been branded a thief. They said something about a pilot being not high enough on the food chain to kill.

Yaz looks Alista up and down. She simply glares in response.

YAZ (cont'd)

Though I'm surprised they gave ya upgrades.

Alista raises an eyebrow at Yaz. She still sounds confused.

ALISTA

Upgrades?

Yaz motions to Alista's legs and she lifts her head to look. Her eyes widen as she sees her legs. They are now fully mechanical from her hips down.

She starts to struggle against her restraints. Yaz jumps up to hold her down.

ALISTA (cont'd)

What have you people done to me!?

The Doctor places a hand on her shoulder, trying to calm her down.

DOCTOR

Alista, please calm down. We had to replace your legs to save you. The damage done to your arteries was severe. It was either bleed out, or replace your legs.

Alista slowly begins to calm down as the Doctor speaks. She closes her eyes and sighs.

ALISTA

The man who shot me. What happened to him?

Yaz seems to tighten up at the change of conversation. He grips his gun as he takes in a breath.

YAZ

Kalin Juptune was shot and killed soon after you were found.

Alista grits her teeth as if trying to hold back a scream. She stares up at the ceiling as she seems to calm down fully.

ALISTA  
When can I leave?

The Doctor looks at her clipboard. After flipping through a couple pages, she looks up at Alista.

DOCTOR  
You'll be good to leave tomorrow.

Alista lets out a sigh and closes her eyes.

ALISTA  
Good.

FADE TO  
PRESENT:

Int. Lies of dragons - command bridge

Alista is looking down at her console.

ALISTA (cont'd)  
We met a few years after that.

She leans back in her chair, staring at the ceiling.

ALISTA (cont'd)  
This whole time, I thought Kalin was dead. That I would never get the chance to see him die.

She looks to Terry as she leans forward in her chair.

ALISTA (cont'd)  
He's alive though. And all I feel is this anger I haven't felt in years.

Terry puts down his drink, spinning in his chair to face his console.

He looks serious.

TERRY  
That settles it.

ALISTA  
Settles what?

TERRY  
We're gonna find this Kalin guy.

I'm gonna collect a bounty and you're gonna get your revenge.

Terry looks back at Alista with a smile.

TERRY (cont'd)  
We're about to kill a walking talking piece of shit, and get rich at the same time.

Terry chuckles to himself.

TERRY (cont'd)  
Sounds like one hell of a way to spend a few days.

Alista flips a switch and grabs the steering controls. She grins.

ALISTA  
I wouldn't spend it any other way.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

*Lies of Dragons* slips into Quickspace and disappears.