

## Treatment for *Stars of Blood* by Aaron Kleinman

Finalized 4/26/22

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### Opening Sequence:

Multiple bodies are littered throughout the bridge of Terry and Alista's ship, *Lies Of Dragons*. The control consoles are covered in blood, a severed hand sitting atop the directional inputs. It is Alista's left hand, her thief marking very clear on the back of the hand. The hand slides off the console, hitting the floor with a thud. While the hand is on the bridge, the rest of Alista is nowhere to be found. But Terry, he's there on the bridge, and not alone. He stands on the viewport walkway, Jupiter in full view outside in the deaf and dark hellscape of space. He is holding his gun up, pointed at the man he and Alista have been hunting— Kalin.

Kalin is standing, his gun held up at Terry. The both of them are staring into each other's eyes, waiting for the other to make a move. Kalin speaks up, breaking through the silence. "You've come this far Terry. You sure you can do what needs to be done?" Terry tightens the grip on his revolver before speaking. "You want to find out?"

### Summary of Act 1:

#### 2 Weeks Earlier

*Lies of Dragons* is speeding through the asteroid belt, space rocks absolutely pelting the ship. Laser fire is whizzing by the ship just as rapidly as it is being bombarded by rocks. Alista and Terry are on the bridge, tracking a group of single person ships through the asteroid belt. One by one, *Lies of Dragons*' weapons take out the single vessels thanks to Terry's shooting. Eventually they catch the much larger ship that these single vessels were a part of. After a long shootout between ships, Terry and Alista manage to wrangle the ship they've been hunting. Using the *Lies of Dragons* to tow the enemy ship, they bring it to a nearby Galactic Law station. They're given the bounty for the ship and crew they've captured/disposed of. Another week. Another bounty. While Alista is fueling up *Lies of Dragons*, Terry goes searching for another bounty. He hears chatter of a 3.5 Million Curu bounty. A bounty amount that is unheard of. It's too good to pass up.

### Plot Point 1:

Alista is preparing for takeoff when Terry tells her of the 3.5 Million Curu bounty. Going into detail, Terry discloses how the bounty they're after is a man named Kalin. He single handedly destroyed a Galactic Law station orbiting Pluto. The death count was within the thousands. Then he went on to rob the Pluto Planetary Bank. That was all 3 and a half weeks before Terry came

across the bounty. While Terry is telling the info of the bounty, Alista seems to be not there in the moment.

After Terry finishes explaining, Alista seems to go into a rage and breaks the handle off a nearby drawer. She goes on to tell Terry about her history with Kalin. He was the reason she bore the thief mark on her hand. Kalin and her had been on a team together for some time. She was the pilot of the team, and he was the muscle. A day came where that team got into some seriously deep water. The day when Kalin betrayed them and left for dead. Alista was the only one taken alive by Galactic Law and she was left with her mark. As well as a need for vengeance. Alista's revenge and the money are enough to get the two on their way to hunting Kalin.

### **Summary of Act 2:**

Terry and Alista begin their hunt for Kalin. Their first stop is Pluto. They may be a week behind their bounty, but they need to do some research. Upon arriving at Pluto, the carnage is apparent. The destroyed station has still not been cleaned up. Even bodies still litter the debris field. Terry scours the wreckage for a few days, seeking some form of clues. Clues to what caused the destruction. Clues to where Kalin may have gone.

After finding nothing in the wreckage, the two move to their next stop. Pluto Planetary Bank. Galactic Law has already done their sweep of the place, so they'd have no resistance. They speak with the bankers and other employees, trying to find out if Kalin said anything about where he was going or what he was planning to do next. But they hit a dead end, with everyone giving them the same answer. "We already told Galactic Law everything we know."

Considering that avenue to be a bust, Terry suggests they start trying to find information elsewhere. So they begin looking elsewhere for information. Terry takes a small travel vessel and goes to speak to some of his own sources. While Terry is gone, Alista decides to use her own resources to find Kalin. Which only leads to trouble.

While Terry is off gathering information on his own, Alista makes her way to Io. There she sneaks into an old hideout her and her former team used to reside in between jobs. She found exactly what she was looking for. Kalin, hiding out and surprised to see her. But it isn't enough. Despite being caught off guard, Kalin can still get the upper hand. In between running for her life and exchanging gunfire, Alista sends a message to Terry for him to get to Io as soon as possible. But he's at least an hour away at full speed. So that leaves her on her own. Alone with a killer capable of tearing her limb from limb if he wanted.

### **Plot Point 2:**

Terry is fast approaching Io in his ship. It has been over an hour since he got Alista's message. So many thoughts run through his mind. Is she dead? Is she alive? Will he make it in time if she is? He gets there around an hour and a half after he first got her message for backup. He makes his way into the base, revolver in hand. There is no real plan. Just a goal. A goal to rescue Alista. There is no sound of gunfire whatsoever. It's quiet. Scarily quiet. He makes his way through the hideout and comes across what appears to be a room full of medical supplies. He quickly notices a puddle of blood and runs over. Alista is sitting there, propped up against the wall. She has wrapped her abdomen with bandaging. Her left hand is also missing. She's barely alive. Terry knows what he has to do. It's not about the bounty anymore. It's about getting even.

### **Summary of Act 3:**

Terry brings Alista back to *Lies of Dragons*, placing her in a bed in the medbay. After hooking her up to life support, he makes his way towards the bridge to see if he can get the ship off Io. He isn't sure how to pilot the ship, but he'll figure it out. But before he can get there, the ship begins its take off sequence. No one can activate the ship's navigational system unless they have access. Terry rushes to the bridge, revolver drawn. Standing outside the bridge are two armed men. Catching them off guard, he shoots them dead and bursts onto the bridge.

Gunfire erupts on the bridge and he takes cover behind a console. Kalin is standing on the viewport walkway, staring out as the ship leaves Io's orbit and settles around Jupiter. He isn't fazed by the gunfire filling the bridge. They were just hired guns getting killed by a man he was going to end the life of.

Within a few minutes, the gunfire dies down and it's just Kalin and Terry left alive. Terry makes his way to the viewport, gun drawn. Kalin has his gun pulled as well, and now we're back at the beginning of the film.

The opening sequence plays out. Both fire their weapons and Terry takes a bullet to the abdomen, while Kalin gets one through his left shoulder. Both men stagger back before firing their weapons again as they start distancing themselves from each other.

Terry takes a bullet to the right shin and falls off the walkway and onto the floor below. Kalin himself has also taken a couple bullets, but is still standing. He is pointing his weapon down at Terry from the walkway. That is, until he is shot in the chest by someone else. Alista is standing in the doorway, gun held up at Kalin. She collapses to the ground as Kalin coughs up blood all over himself.

**Closing Sequence:**

Terry crawls over to Alista, both of them barely alive. Kalin's lifeless body is sitting up against the viewport, blood staining the glass. Terry and Alista lay there, not talking, trying to conserve energy. Help wouldn't come anytime soon. They just had to hope for the best. *Lies of Dragons* would just float through space until someone came across it. Across them.