

Across the Dales  
*An Animated Fantasy Mini Series*  
by Wytemi

**This screenplay is paired with a completed OST, listen here:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBrTWOIR5hs&list=PL\\_uN6Ywd-e8gskrBCBNaJi5yE0l0CepOU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBrTWOIR5hs&list=PL_uN6Ywd-e8gskrBCBNaJi5yE0l0CepOU)

**Concept art and concept voice acting, see below:**  
<https://wytemi.com/albums/>

**DEDICATION**

In Memory of Mona Woodman, a beloved seminary teacher.

**MINI SERIES LOGLINE**

*A boy and his bird friend are on the run from a malicious netherrealm god who seeks to consume their essence. As they're chased from isle to isle, the boys discover disturbing secrets about who they are.*

Philadelphia, PA  
(208) 223-1950  
wytemi.co@gmail.com

**EPISODE I - PROLOGUE**

**OVER BLACK**

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)

In all of Dalefell, there is no  
light, except what a lantern can  
emit.

Sounds of coarse, cold GALES.

An ethereal light appears, shining light on a...

**EXT. DEAD FOREST POCKET**

of dead trees encapsulated by snow and ice.

The ethereal light simmers down to the snow and forms the  
body of PHOENIX(9); A black angel boy with black wings, a  
human frontside, and black feathers up and down his arms and  
backside. He has a crimson-red feather undercoat.

Phoenix is weak, falling face-first into the snow.

Sounds of course, cold GALES brushing Phoenix's hair.

Phoenix's body ceases shining ethereal light. The forest goes  
dark. **OVER BLACK.** No longer light.

Sound of dead CREAKING trees and BRISK WINDS brushing  
Phoenix's hair.

Sounds of CRUNCHING footsteps in the snow.

The swaying motion of a lantern slowly illuminates the  
forest. Sharp claws appear to be holding the lantern handle.

ENGELDAETH(60); a thin old man in a black shawl carrying a  
lantern, trudges through the snow.

Engeldaeth approaches Phoenix.

ENGELDAETH

Get up, child.

Phoenix struggles up, his wings, arms, and legs shaking from  
the cold.

PHOENIX

I can't.

Phoenix falls.

ENGELDAETH

Get up, or be trapped under ice for eternity.

He slowly lifts his body.

As he crawls forward, his wings and feathers are stripped from him, forming a separate birdman entity.

Phoenix moans and groans in agony during this splitting process.

ENGELDAETH (CONT'D)

Hurry it up.

Phoenix is upward on his knees, but his feathers and wings have been removed entirely leaving Phoenix's skin naked, and black hair on his head containing crimson red highlights.

Before him is AZURE; the personified wings and feathers of Phoenix, forming a birdboy creature with a beak. Azure has a striking crimson feather undercoat.

Engeldaeth removes his shawl, revealing all old and tattered all-black clothing. He tosses it to Phoenix.

Phoenix holds the shawl and looks at Azure in distress.

PHOENIX

What's happening to me?!

ENGELDAETH

You're cursed, boy. Welcome to Dalefell.

Phoenix feels a shiver and wraps the shawl over his body.

ENGELDAETH (CONT'D)

What will you name your wings?

Phoenix looks down to Azure, who is slowly coming too. Azure's eyes blink, his limbs twitching.

PHOENIX

...Azure.

ENGELDAETH

And you?

Phoenix thinks for a moment. Azure sits up and looks into Phoenix's eyes.

Phoenix inspects Azure up and down.

PHOENIX

...Phoenix.

ENGELDAETH

Never forget your name, boy.

PHOENIX

Who are you?

ENGELDAETH

There is power behind a name, one I shan't give freely.

Engeldaeth sets the Lantern down at Phoenix's knees.

ENGELDAETH (CONT'D)

In all of Dalefell, there is no light, except what a lantern can emit.

He turns to walk away.

PHOENIX

W-wait! Where do I...we...go?

Engeldaeth turns his head to his side.

ENGELDAETH

Avoid the vast, never-ending sea.

He disappears into the darkness.

#### **EXT. FOREST PATH**

Phoenix; holding the only lantern, and Azure walk through the snowy forest path.

The only light coming from their lantern.

Azure feels across his body and makes funny sounds. He plays with his beak and giggles.

PHOENIX

What are you?

Azure looks at Phoenix with a funny face.

AZURE

I'm Azure, and you're Phoenix. Just like you said.

Phoenix is dissatisfied with Azure's response. He stops. Azure turns confused.

AZURE (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

PHOENIX  
Those wings...and  
feathers...they're mine. And now  
they're walking in front of me.

Phoenix is a mix of emotions: cold, angry, scared, sad.

AZURE  
I was you?

Azure pulls at his wings, but they don't pull off.

AZURE (CONT'D)  
I'd give it back, but they don't  
seem to budge.

Phoenix keeps walking without a word.

Beat.

AZURE (CONT'D)  
Where did we come from?

Phoenix looks up at the pitch-black skies.

PHOENIX  
We came...we came.

Phoenix realizes he doesn't know the answer.

He stops, drops the lantern, and falls to his knees, pulling  
at his hair.

AZURE  
Phoenix?

PHOENIX  
I-I...don't remember.

Phoenix starts crying.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
I don't know who I am...or where  
I'm from...or why I'm here!

Phoenix balls. Azure wraps his wings around Phoenix in a hug.

AZURE  
Then why don't we find out  
together?

Azure picks up the lantern and offers it to Phoenix.

Phoenix looks into Azure's eyes and sees the reflection of his complete Angel form.

Phoenix nods. He takes the lantern and stands.

PHOENIX

But where do we start?

Phoenix shines the lantern around.

Their lantern reveals they've stopped at a snowy crossroad.

He spots an old rickety signpost nailed to a tree.

The signpost points in two directions. It reads: CITADEL (left), and DOCKS (right).

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

The birdman said not to go to the sea.

He leans the lantern towards the Citadel.

AZURE

Maybe the Citadel has some answers.

#### **EXT. CITADEL OUTSKIRT**

Phoenix and Azure exit the forest.

Before them is a gothic, vampire-esque, tattered citadel sitting alone in an open snowfield.

PHOENIX

There's got to be a thousand lanterns lighting that tower.

The Citadel's thousands of lanterns illuminate the sky, revealing nothing but black clouds.

AZURE

There's nothing but black clouds in the sky.

Phoenix and Azure walk down the path toward the Citadel.

**INT. CITADEL TOWER - TOP**

HEOLSTOR; a Birdman whose tattered wings have holes, a chipped beak, and eyeless sockets, is leaning against a desk full of scientific notes

Heolstor hears the distant conversation of the boys below. He lifts his head and looks out the window.

AZURE (O.S.)

Do you think someone's still there?

PHOENIX (O.S.)

Gotta be, how else would those lanterns be lit?

**EXT. CITADEL GROUNDS**

Phoenix stares upwards at the incredibly tall citadel.

PHOENIX

Wow. That's tall.

AZURE

I'm gonna scope it out.

PHOENIX

Wait, what?

Azure extends his wings and takes to the skies, flying around the vertical citadel.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

Isn't that a bit unnecessary?

Phoenix knocks on the door. ONE KNOCK and the door immediately creaks open.

Azure flies back down.

AZURE

Most of the windows are boarded...  
 (looks to the eerie open  
 door)  
 ...up.

Phoenix looks to Azure.

AZURE (CONT'D)

I don't like this.

PHOENIX

I'm sure it will be fine.

They step inside.

**INT. CITADEL**

There is a huge, torn, Hypostyle hall with a grand staircase spiraling up.

It's dark inside. Phoenix shines his lantern around.

PHOENIX  
It's so dark in here.

HEOLSTOR  
(booming)  
Who dares enter my domain?!

Lanterns suddenly illuminate in a grand line towards the spiral stairs.

At the base is Heolstor standing with his wings wrapped around him.

PHOENIX  
Um...Hello.

AZURE  
We were cold and hungry.

Heolstor disappears into shadow, then reappears through a puff of snow dust behind Phoenix.

Phoenix jumps.

PHOENIX  
D-d-do you have...food?

Heolstor leans in close to the boys.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
Where are his eyes?!

AZURE  
He smells!

Heolstor leans back and walks forward towards the stairs.

HEOLSTOR  
Plague...Follow me.

AZURE  
No...thank you.

Heolstor tilts his head to the side.



PHOENIX

I think we're ok, in fact, we're  
not even hungry! We'll just head...

Phoenix turns, but the doors shut before him, cornering them.

Heolstor bows, and then gestures for the stairs with a flourish.

### **STAIRS**

Phoenix and Azure follow Heolstor up the stairs. The walls are covered in scratches and holes.

PHOENIX

Why are there so many holes in the wall?

Azure pokes his head into a hole.

Inside, he sees Demonic eyes staring right back at him. Sounds of heavy breathing.

Azure trips back scared.

AZURE

I-I saw something in there!

HEOLSTOR

Keep it coming.

PHOENIX

Mr...what are you?

Heolstor offers a wide smile

HEOLSTOR

I am Heolstor.

AZURE

You have wings just like me, do you have another half somewhere too?

HEOLSTOR

Not quite.

PHOENIX

What is Dalefell, and who was that other birdman in the forest?

HEOLSTOR

So many questions. Much to explore.

**TOWER**

The tower is utterly disturbed, full of frozen humans and frozen bird people. Tables full of various sharp tools, and an altar.

Phoenix and Azure stand at the doorway

AZURE

(whisper)

Phoenix...We gotta get out of here.

PHOENIX

(whisper)

How?

Phoenix looks at the lantern he's holding and moves it behind his back.

Heolstor lifts a curved knife.

HEOLSTOR

I'd like to ask you something,  
young Plague. How would you like to  
make history?

View of Heolstor's empty sockets reflection in the knife.

PHOENIX

What do you mean by that?

HEOLSTOR

You're red highlights, your half's  
crimson undercoat.

He flicks the tip of the knife, the knife PINGS and glimmers.

HEOLSTOR (CONT'D)

You're a...

Phoenix slams his lantern into Heolstor's face and it lights on fire. Heolstor SCREAMS a high pitch SCREETCH.

PHOENIX

Come on!

Phoenix grabs Azure's claw-like hand and rushes through the doorway down the spiral stairs.

Crawling from the holes, the stairs fill with DEMONS; bird creatures with black eyes, beaks, tattered wings, and oozing some strange, purplish-black liquid.

AZURE

Those creatures are waking!

Phoenix and Azure turn back, but Heolstor stands with a hand over his face enraged. He SCREAMS again.

HEOLSTOR

You will pay for this, Plague!

Heolstor rushes the boys.

Phoenix and Azure dodge and run through the doorway to the

### **TOWER ROOM**

Phoenix and Azure are cornered at the open window. Heolstor and his army of Demons storm block the exit.

HEOLSTOR

I'll be sure you suffer a thousand pains.

Phoenix grabs another Lantern from the wall and wields it in front of him.

Azure looks outside the window.

AZURE

Phoenix, grab my hand!

Phoenix grabs Azure's hand.

Azure jumps out the window and Phoenix is yanked out. He screams on the way down.

Azure unfolds his wings and they glide away from the tower.

They land on the snow.

PHOENIX

I'm surprised that worked.

Heolstor and his demons fly out of the tower.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

RUN!

Phoenix and Azure run through the...

**FOREST**

Phoenix's lantern reveals the boys rushing past the signpost and running the way toward the...

**DOCKS**

Phoenix and Azure make it to the docks. A bunch of rickety sailboats.

AZURE  
Which one do we pick?!

Phoenix looks at all the tattered boats. He focuses quickly on one.

PHOENIX  
Uh...that one!

Phoenix and Azure jump on the boat.

AZURE  
Do you know how to use this thing?

PHOENIX  
I don't know!

Phoenix naturally works the ropes and hoists the sail. It  
CREAKS.

Heolstor and hundreds of Demons close in on the docks.

AZURE  
Hurry, Phoenix!

The wind catches the sail and they sail quick from the docks.

The demons come into view at the edge of the docks.

PHOENIX  
They found us!

AZURE  
Take out the light!

Phoenix opens the lantern and snuffs out the light. **OVER  
BLACK.**

Sounds of boat floating.

Sounds of Demons scrambling.

Silence.

PHOENIX

Are they gone?

AZURE

How do we bring the light back?

PHOENIX

I don't know! You're the one who told me to take it out!

AZURE

Ooo! I feel something!

PHOENIX

What?

Sound of a match lighting.

The thin light of a match illuminates Phoenix and Azure.

Azure places the matchlight in a lantern.

The boys spread the light throughout the sailboat.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

I think we lost them...

Phoenix looks around his narrow surroundings of the open sea.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

I don't know where we are.

AZURE

Didn't the old birdman say not to go to the sea?

Phoenix slumps against a cabin wall.

AZURE (CONT'D)

Where will we go?

The boys' sailboat drifts in open black waters.

The only light within a mile radius is from the sailboat's lanterns, which flicker uncertainly.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)

In all of Dalefell, there is no light.

The boat's lanterns faintly reveal black clouds in the sky.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Black clouds shroud the sky in an  
endless void of darkness.

**EXT. BLIZZARD**

Engeldaeth walks through the lone tundra, it's a thick blizzard. He holds a new lantern, it SHAKES and RATTLES through the storm.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)  
Along the ice, my people roam  
forever damned; split in two.

Sounds of ROARING winds and ice SHOOTING through the air.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
For eons, our race of Angels have  
been cast down to Dalefell to  
wander in snow for eternity.

**EXT. CITADEL**

Heolstor stands in his tower enraged, growling, twitching.

He watches through his window his thousands of demon hoards toiling tirelessly dragging a colossal, decrepit ship across the snow. It looks like it hasn't been used in eons.

Sounds of CREAKING and CRACKING from the old ship being dragged through the snow.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)  
In all of Dalefell, there is no  
light, except what a lantern can  
emit.

He looks up at the black clouds in the sky and snarls.

His eye sockets tightened, as if as expressive as eyes.

**EPISODE II - THE OIL MINERS****OVER BLACK**

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)  
 In all of Dalefell, there is no  
 light.

**EXT. DALEFELL WATERS - BLACK CLOUDS**

The soft swaying lanterns of Phoenix's sailboat light the  
 surrounding waters and sky, showing black clouds in the sky.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)  
 Black clouds shroud the sky in an  
 endless void of darkness. No light  
 to be seen, but the mined oil from  
 a swaying lantern.

Phoenix works the sails.

AZURE  
 How do you know how to work those  
 things?

Phoenix looks at the sails

PHOENIX  
 I don't know. It comes naturally.

A lantern light flickers. Azure looks inside a crate and  
 finds it empty,

AZURE  
 Uh, Phoenix? We're out of oil.

The boys scramble for oil, but can't find any.

Their last lantern dies out.

PHOENIX  
 There's got to be some!

AZURE  
 I don't like the dark.

PHOENIX  
 Wait...I see a light!

Nearby, a glacier full of lit lanterns casts a shadow on the  
 boy's sailboat.

Distant MINING noises.

                    PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
LAND! We found land!

                    AZURE  
Land ho!

Phoenix hoists the sails and moves towards the glacier.

**EXT. GLACIER OIL MINING OP.**

A snow-blanketed glacier and gusts of HOWLING winds.

Birdmen and human crews mining oil; known simply as CREWMEN, all wear black shawls. **QUE TRACK: LANTERNS**

MONA(60), a beautiful elder bird woman decked with large black wings/feathers with a dark red feather undercoat, claws for fingers, and talons for toes, carries a lantern swinging atop a walking stick.

Mona's lantern contains a mystical green flame.

Mona sings as she watches the men and bird crew sing.

                    MONA  
♪ Lift up your lanterns to  
Ieldran's light! Show us your  
colors bright in the sky. ♪

Crewmen move mining equipment.

Some crew rolls empty barrels along the snow.

They harmoniously hum to Mona's singing.

                    MONA (CONT'D)  
♪ Warm light shall spread through-  
out the dark night. Lift up your  
lanterns, raise them up high! ♪

DIGGING, CRACKING, and POUNDING equipment into the ice.

                    MONA (CONT'D)  
♪ Through endless miles of night  
far and wide. Cold winds may chill,  
but hope is on high, ♪

Crewmen scatter pikes with lanterns to light the glacier.



IELDRAN MONA

♪ The ether shines serene on the  
tide. Lift up your lanterns, light  
up the sky. ♪

Crewmen drill mining equipment into the glacier. OIL  
sprinkles about.

Crewmen fill barrels with mined oil.

TALON(40), a bird crewman, drills into the ice when his  
drills crank up.

TALON

(stutters)

BAH! C-C-Curse this d-d-damned  
machine!

Talon pulls up the drill and digs at the ice with a small  
trowel.

TALON (CONT'D)

Ugh...C-C-Curse it..it...it all! W-  
W-What now?!

He finds the frozen bodies of a human and birdman pair deeply  
buried and frozen to the core.

TALON (CONT'D)

Uh! HEY! HELP! ANOTHER SOUL...T-  
THEY...G-G-GAVE UP!

Crewmen crowd the buried human. They all help in excavating  
the frozen bodies.

Mona approaches the crew and continues to watch.

MONA

Another?

(sighs)

Add him to the pile and we'll bury  
them in the tomb.

Crewmen surface the frozen bodies and carry them to a wagon.

Phoenix and Azure walk past the busy miners.

AZURE

Do you think they're friendly?

Some miners get distracted and stare at Phoenix with  
perplexed looks.

PHOENIX

I don't know. Many of them look...

AZURE

Mean.

More miners get distracted and stare at the boys.

Phoenix spots a woman standing in the center.

PHOENIX

She looks nice.

The boys approach Mona.

MONA

(softly)

What's a child doing in a place  
like this?

PHOENIX

We ran out of oil

AZURE

It was so dark, but luckily, we  
found this glacier!

MONA

You must be tremendously blessed to  
have drifted here. Those seas are  
lonely and dangerous.

Mona turns and makes a calling gesture

MONA (CONT'D)

Talon! Grab my wagon, please.

Talon grumbles but hurriedly guides a wooden wagon drawn by  
peculiar animals called SNOW FAUNA; four-legged creatures  
covered in snow, no mouth, only cute and inviting eyes.

MONA (CONT'D)

This is Talon. Say hi, Talon.

TALON

I'm Talon...Talon...I'm...uh...  
wait, did I just forget my name...  
what's my name?

MONA

Talon.

Talon stutters, but then takes a bow. Mona chuckles.

AZURE

What are those creatures?

MONA

They're creatures of Dalefell. Nice and docile. They help us out a great deal.

Her feathers and wings spark dancing flames and emanate a warm fire across her body.

PHOENIX

I'm Phoenix and this is Azure.

MONA

I'm Mona, and I'm like you.

**BEGIN MONTAGE**

**INT. WAGON**

**QUE ♪ TRACK: LANTERNS, ORCHESTRAL**

- They lie on the wagon.
- Phoenix notices Husks of frozen humans and birdmen being carried in an adjacent wagon by Talon. Talon covers it with a blanket.
- Phoenix leans on the railing near Azure, arms dangling.
- Azure yawns and leans on Phoenix, but he pushes him away melodramatically.

AZURE

Mona?

MONA

Hm?

AZURE

You said you're like us. How?

MONA

You don't know? Your hidden red feathers says it all.

- Mona snaps her fingers, and her feathers ruffle and flicker bright. She shines a thin fire.
- Phoenix and Azure are shocked. Mona laughs.

- Azure rubs his feathers confused. He lifts his wing to see his red undercoat.
- He snaps, but nothing happens.
- Snow Fauna's feet clap on a snowy path
- Phoenix gazes at the black sky, cold gales breeze his hair.
- Mona's lantern sways with the goat clamps. She hums.
- Large, dead trees stand tall with long icicles.
- Mona leads the wagon up a hill.

They reach a circular plaza with a huge bonfire in the center. Buildings are positioned around based on cardinal direction.

- The Snow Fauna halts by the bonfire.
- VILLAGERS; both human and Birdpeople alike, sit by the bonfire.

**END MUSIC W/ MONTAGE**

**EXT. VILLAGE**

Phoenix and Azure sit by the fire next to Mona. There's lantern poles scattered around the plaza.

MONA

Why didn't you use fire to replenish your lantern?

Azure looks confused at Mona.

PHOENIX

How do we do that?

MONA

My boy, do you not know who you are?

Phoenix and Azure shake their heads.

PHOENIX

I woke up in a forest and the next thing I knew, my wings split off from my body.

AZURE

I'd give it back, but I dunno how.

MONA

Azure, hold out your hand.

Azure holds out his clawed hand. Mona holds it.

Mona lifts up a feather on Azure's arm, showing a red color underneath.

MONA (CONT'D)

Your feathers are special. Born from fire. All you gotta do...

Mona snaps, and her finger ignites.

MONA (CONT'D)

Is to have a burning passion in your heart.

Mona taps Azure's feathers and his body ignites. Azure jumps up scared.

AZURE

AH! Get it off! Get it off!

PHOENIX

What did you do?

Mona laughs

Azure is jumping up and down, patting himself when he realizes he doesn't feel any burning feelings.

AZURE

Wait...I feel warm, but it doesn't hurt.

PHOENIX

Can I do that?

Phoenix holds out his hand. Mona takes it and feels his palm, but her smile fades.

MONA

Unfortunately, your flame gift has been split off to your wings.

PHOENIX

Oh...

Phoenix folds his arm jealously.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

Yet another thing taken from me.

MONA

Why were you two adrift the endless seas? Weren't you warned not to?

PHOENIX

We were being chased. We had no choice but to run to the sea.

MONA

Who were you running from?

PHOENIX

We were running away from Heolstor.

**INT./EXT. HEOLSTOR'S DEMON SHIP**

Demons toil at sails and work hard labor tasks across a tattered ship.

Heolstor unfurls his massive wings, then wraps them around his body like a vampire garb.

Heolstor listens to echoes.

PHOENIX (O.S.)

(echo)

*We were running away from  
Heolstor...Heolstor...Heolstor.*

Heolstor opens his eyes and turns his head. To the left of the ship is a distant glacier lit with lanterns.

**EXT. VILLAGE**

AZURE

Mona, why am I...separate?

MONA

You're cursed. Upon coming to Dalefell, you split in two.

PHOENIX

But why? How did I get here?!

MONA

I'm afraid you'll have to come to that answer yourself. Only you would know what happened.

Phoenix tears through his hair.

AZURE  
Mona, can I ask you something?

Mona looks to Azure

AZURE (CONT'D)  
We're lost and we don't know where  
to go. We want to find out who we  
are. Can you help us?

MONA  
Have you ever heard of the Aurora?

Phoenix looks up to Mona as if it sounded familiar, but not  
sure why.

PHOENIX  
What's the Aurora?

MONA  
Hold out your lantern, both of you.

The boys lift the lantern together.

MONA (CONT'D)  
Then call for the Aurora.

	PHOENIX	AZURE
Aurora!		Aurora!

Azure's body ignites in flame, their lantern turns a green  
mystical color, and a thin ether spews from their lantern.

The ether spins and flows into a river-like borealis above  
them.

MONA  
The Aurora holds the answers to  
everything. It can tell you who you  
are.

Phoenix excitedly calls out to the Aurora.

PHOENIX  
Aurora! Where did I come from?

Nothing happens. Mona chuckles again.

MONA  
Not quite. This isn't the true  
Aurora. You must find it.

Phoenix's eyes glimmer at the beautiful array of colors.

PHOENIX  
How do we get to the Aurora?

MONA  
To get to the Aurora, one must...

Mona is interrupted by a SCREECHING SCREAM.

Phoenix looks to the screeching and spots Heolstor's ship on the south side of the Plaza.

PHOENIX  
...Heolstor.

A 2nd EAR-PIERCING SHRIEK. Cannons shooting in an Arch.

Phoenix and Azure stagger up.

Frantic crowds.

The skies fill with flying Demons and cannon fire.

MONA  
Boys! Follow me!

Phoenix grabs Azure's hand and follows Mona.

They rush away from the plaza towards the docks on the north side.

Bird villagers are picked up by Demons one by one.

A cannon blasts, felling a tree in front of the boys.

Demons jump up and stand on the fiery tree branch. The boys run.

Heolstor crashes through the snow before the boys and KICKS Mona away hard. She cries out.

HEOLSTOR  
(maniacal laugh)  
Plague.

PHOENIX  
Heolstor...

Phoenix looks up terrified. Heolstor picks up Phoenix with his fingers and Azure with his toes.

AZURE!  
(sobbing)  
NO!

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
(angrily)  
DEMON, LET ME GO!



Heolstor raises them and slams them on the ground.

A fire BLASTS at Heolstor's face, stunning him.

Mona emerges. She shoots more fireballs at Heolstor, he lets go of the boys and jumps backward.

Mona appears, pulling the boys out. Her lantern sways.

MONA

Get to your feet!

Mona hands Phoenix a lantern.

AZURE

It's the demon! That Demon is chasing us!

PHOENIX

Heolstor!

Heolstor growls and stands.

MONA

RUN!

Phoenix, Azure, and Mona run from Heolstor to the...

## **DOCKS**

A flock shreds a fleeing boat and yanks the escapees skyward.

PHOENIX

They shredded a boat!

AZURE

Why are they doing this?!

Heolstor dives down in front of Azure and grabs him by the legs.

He dangles Azure upside down

AZURE (CONT'D)

AHH! PHOENIX!

Phoenix runs to Azure.

Mona and Phoenix are surrounded by demonic Hrafns.

She spews fireballs at them.

A demon scratches Mona and she heals instantly. Her lantern swings dangerously.

PHOENIX  
AZURE! Give him back!

Mona sees Phoenix charge Heolstor wielding the lantern, it begins to glow.

MONA  
(reaches out)  
PHOENIX, NO...!!

Phoenix screams a raging cry.

The lantern ignites a powerful black flame, shattering the lantern.

As Phoenix jumps for Azure, he's engulfed in a black flame.

When he grabs Azure's leg, the two boys combine into a twisted black creature that looks as if a plague doctor had wings with a black fiery effect.

An explosion from Phoenix, a sphere of fire engulfs the village.

Demons turn to ice.

MONA (CONT'D)  
(braces)  
NO!!!

The blast throws Heolstor into the sea.

Phoenix and Azure split apart and fall to the snow disoriented.

AZURE  
(dizzy)  
Uuuugh. What just happened?

Phoenix and Azure look around them. Everyone in the small village has turned to black ice.

PHOENIX  
(terrified)  
What did we just do?

Phoenix goes to the ice statue that was once Talon. He's frozen in place.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)  
We did this.

MONA  
 (distant, faded)  
 Phoe...nix...

Mona is slowly freezing under the ice. Her lantern atop her pole sways with the wind.

AZURE  
 MONA!

Azure reaches for her hand, but her icy body is too cold.  
 Her voice cuts in and out.

MONA	<i>FOR CLARITY</i>
(flickers, tears)	<i>Stay together! Find</i>
Stay...togeth... find...	<i>Dalefell's Gate and find the</i>
Dalefell's Gate... Aurora...	<i>Aurora.</i>

Mona fully freezes under the ice. Azure falls to his knees.

AZURE  
 (bawls)  
 MONA!!!

Phoenix surveys the ash-ridden, razed wasteland.

PHOENIX  
 It's all gone.

Frozen husks of demons scatter about. The boys face back to back. He hands the lantern to Azure.

AZURE  
 What do we do now?

Phoenix sees Heolstor writhing in the water screaming.

### **MINING DOCKS**

Phoenix and Azure rush to their sailboat back at the oil mine.

Phoenix runs by a crate of oil and stops.

AZURE  
 What are you doing?! He's coming!

PHOENIX  
 Help me carry this!

Azure and Phoenix carry heavy crates full of oil vials.

They board their sailboat, drop the crate, and frantically sail away towards...

### **OPEN WATERS**

PHOENIX

Azure, grab that rope and yank it!

The sail turns in that direction. The wind catches the sail and they take off. Sounds of Heolstor ROARING behind.

Phoenix leans back against the cabin and lets out a big sigh.

The air is cold. Only the ship's lanterns light the way

Azure picks up a lantern with shaky hands and Phoenix grabs a vial of oil. He fills the lantern and it lights up.

The boys fill other lanterns across the ship.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)

(tears)

Mona said to go find Dalefell's gate.

AZURE

But why?! I thought she said to find the Aurora.

PHOENIX

Maybe Dalefell's Gate leads there?

AZURE

But where do we even start?

Phoenix and Azure drift aimlessly in sad silence.

ENGELDAETH (V.O.)

For eons, our race of Angels has been cast down to Dalefell to wander in snow for eternity.

### **EXT. VILLAGE**

Frozen human and bird villagers stand in eerie stasis around the plaza.

Sounds of howling winds.

Mona's lantern fire dissipates. As the flame dies, Mona fades away slowly in a flicker. *She's the only one to do this.*