

QUICK TIME HERO INTRO

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INT. PRINCE EMMET'S BEDROOM - DAY

The morning sun peeks through the curtains as EMMET, 15, rises from underneath the silk sheets of his bed. He stretches and yawns before making his way toward the window.

He opens the curtains and sighs.

EMMET

Another day.

A KNOCK on the door causes him to turn toward it.

SERVANT (O.S.)

Prince Emmet, are you awake?

EMMET

I am. I'll be ready in a moment.

SERVANT (O.S.)

Yes, Your Highness.

Emmet flinches as he walks toward the closet, holding his stomach as he leans against the window frame for support.

EMMET

Keep it together.

He takes a deep breath before approaching the closet.

INT. CASTLE HALL - DAY

A servant waits outside the door to the prince's bedchamber. The door opens and Emmet emerges, dressed in royal clothes befitting a prince.

SERVANT

Good morning, Your Highness.

They bow to Emmet, who smiles at them.

EMMET

Good morning to you as well. How are the preparations coming along?

SERVANT

Preparations are going well, Your Highness.

EMMET

Good to hear. What needs to be attended to --

As Emmet walks forward, he suddenly stops. His body shakes as he holds his stomach.

EMMET (CONT'D)

Ugh!

The servant approaches him, their hands over their mouth.

Emmet keels over, then falls to his knees. He struggles to breathe as his body continues to shake.

A maid enters with a breakfast tray in her hands. Emmet stops shaking as he falls to his side, causing the maid to drop the tray with a CLATTER.

SERVANT

Prince Emmet!

MAID

Oh my!

Both servant and maid rush to Emmet's side.

INT. CASTLE INFIRMARY - DAY

Emmet awakens on a cot, shrouded in a gentle green glow. The royal cleric SELENE, 17, stands at his bedside. She wields a silver scepter imbued with a mystical emerald shaped like a blooming flower.

The emerald emits the same green glow as Selene waves the scepter over him.

EMMET

Augh... W-Where...

SELENE

Prince Emmet! Thank the stars you're awake.

Emmet sits up and sighs. The glow around him and Selene's scepter dissipates.

EMMET

It happened again, didn't it?

SELENE

I'm afraid so, Your Highness.

EMMET

Of course.

He struggles to get off the cot. Selene offers him a hand as he leans on her for support. They walk to the entrance of the infirmary.

Emmet flinches with each step he takes.

EMMET (CONT'D)
How much longer must I endure this?

SELENE
You've endured the Curse of Pain
since childhood.

Emmet holds his stomach, breaking away from Selene to lean against the wall.

SELENE (CONT'D)
Tomorrow will change everything,
Your Highness.

EMMET
How? Every day is agony, every
movement I make slows me down. I
can't even hold a pen without
losing consciousness!

He slams his fist into the wall, lowering his head.

EMMET (CONT'D)
So how can you be certain that my
birthday will change anything?

A beat of silence fills the air. Selene approaches him and places a hand on his shoulder.

SELENE
Because I have hope. Once you make
your wish, all of this will be
over.

Emmet raises his head.

SELENE (CONT'D)
Don't lose hope yet, Prince Emmet.

For a moment, Emmet is silent. He then nods and straightens his posture.

EMMET
You're right. Thank you, Selene.

SELENE
Any time, Your Highness.

EMMET

Now, let's not delay any further.
There is still much to be done
before tomorrow.

Selene nods.

Emmet exits the room with Selene following behind.

EXT. KINGDOM OF LETTI - CASTLE - NIGHT

The sun sets as silhouettes of the servants run past the windows preparing for Emmet's birthday.

Watching the castle from a distance is a HOODED FIGURE, 20s. As the moon rises, the figure slinks away toward the village.

INT. BALLROOM - DAY

The prince's birthday celebration starts as nobles mingle with one another in their best dress. Gifts pile up in the corner as a servant greets each noble guest that enters.

Other servants serve food and drink to their guests.

EXT. KINGDOM OF LETTI - VILLAGE - DAY

A BELL RINGS throughout the streets, the people CHEER as they gather in the town square. Food and game vendors line in a row, musicians play their instruments while people dance, and children play while carrying balloons.

Wandering through the crowd is the hooded figure. Their movements are slow and precise. No one pays attention to them as they roam.

Entering the square is JASPER, 19, the prince's personal knight.

JASPER

Make way for the Crown Prince!

The CROWD CHEERS as the royal procession marches forth with parade floats following behind.

Emmet leads the procession on horseback. He smiles and waves to the crowd.

Halfway through the streets, a child stumbles out of the crowd, collapsing in the middle of the street. Emmet slows to a stop and gets off his horse.

He approaches the child.

EMMET
Are you alright?

The child breathes heavily, unable to speak.

MOTHER (O.S.)
My baby!

A woman rushes out of the crowd, then cradles the child in her arms.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
I told you not to wander around
while you're sick! Oh, please
forgive us, Your Highness!

Jasper puts his hand on the hilt of his sword, but Emmet raises his hand. Jasper relaxes.

Emmet approaches the mother. He pulls out a pouch and rummages through it until he produces a few gold coins.

EMMET
Will this be enough for medicine?

The mother is taken aback as Emmet places the coins in her hands.

MOTHER
Y-Yes of course!

EMMET
I will pray for your child's
wellbeing. Take care, both of you.

MOTHER
We will. Thank you and happy
birthday, Your Highness!

The mother carries her child back into the crowd. Emmet waves them off before turning to Jasper.

Emmet flinches.

JASPER
Sir?

EMMET
I'm alright. I'm alright.

He pulls out a potion bottle and drinks its contents.

EMMET (CONT'D)
Ahem. Shall we?

As Emmet walks back to his horse, the hooded figure watches from a distance.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

The royal procession stops around the edge of a forest. Emmet, Jasper, and Selene move forward towards the mouth of a cave entrance.

JASPER
Here we are, Prince Emmet. The
Wishing Stone is just beyond this
point.

EMMET
Thank you, Jasper.

Emmet climbs off his horse.

EMMET (CONT'D)
This is it. After today, the curse
will finally come to an end.

SELENE
Well said, Your Highness.

Emmet walks toward the cave. As he approaches, a gust of
HARSH WIND BLOWS past him.

EMMET
What?!

JASPER
Prince Emmet!

SELENE
Prince Emmet!

CRACKLING THUNDER fills the air, a wall of ice forms over the cave, jagged rocks pierce over the ice, and lava seeps around the edges before hardening into molten rock.

The wind dies down.

EMMET
Hah... is everyone okay?

JASPER
We're okay, Emmet.

EMMET
Thank the stars for --

Emmet recoils in shock upon seeing the state of the cave.

EMMET (CONT'D)
What in the world?

He rushes up to the cavern, fists pound against the barricade.

EMMET (CONT'D)
How could this happen? Who's responsible for this?

HOODED FIGURE (O.S.)
Having trouble, Your Highness?

Emmet turns around. The hooded figure stands behind Jasper and Selene.

HOODED FIGURE (CONT'D)
It's a shame. I was *really* looking forward to you breaking your curse.

Emmet recoils.

EMMET
How did you know about my curse? No one outside the palace should know about it.

LIGHTNING CRACKLES once more as wind whirls around the hooded figure.

HOODED FIGURE
Doesn't matter, does it? You can no longer make your wish anymore, can you?

EMMET
No!

Emmet runs past Jasper and Selene, drawing his sword to attack the figure. Before he can reach them, he doubles over in pain and falls to his knees.

EMMET (CONT'D)
AHHH!

HOODED FIGURE
Look at you. So weak and pathetic.

The hooded figure floats into the air. More LIGHTNING CRACKLES.

HOODED FIGURE (CONT'D)
Your kingdom will do well with a
proper ruler. Farewell!

They soar into the air, making their exit.

Selene and Jasper rush to Emmet's side. Selene waves her
scepter, healing the prince.

JASPER
Emmet, are you okay?

SELENE
Speak to us!

Emmet stands, not answering them.

EMMET
The cave... my kingdom...

He holds his sword up.

EMMET (CONT'D)
I won't let that mage get away with
this!

Jasper grabs Emmet.

JASPER
You need to rest, sir. Your curse --

EMMET
-- Will be broken when I defeat
them. Don't try to stop me.

Emmet pushes away from Jasper. He rushes into the forest.

JASPER
Emmet!

Jasper runs after him.

Selene turns to the sealed cave, head lowered.

SELENE
Spirits, help us.

She follows after Jasper into the forest.

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