

THE HELLFIRE

Chapters 1 & 2: Three Version Outlines

Chronicles of Apocalyptica
Book 21 of 25 — Year 30

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1 Version 1: ORIGINAL (Warm & Whimsical Opening)

Color Palette: Orange, amber, warm tones

Tone: Domestic crisis escalating to war summons

Timeline: Present Day (Year 30)

1.1 Structure Overview

1.1.1 1. Opening Hook (Lines 173–221)

- *Bang, bang, bang!* Door pounding at dawn
- Guard delivers Prince Nodran’s order
- Relana wakes reluctantly to royal summons

1.1.2 2. Character Introduction: Relana (Lines 188–219)

- Old woman with gray-black curly hair, silver eyes
- Lives in cottage, uses walking stick
- Mentions Northern Springs and “what he has done to me”
- Opens letter bearing Prince’s seal

1.1.3 3. The Letter (Lines 223–250)

REVEALS:

- Order for 12 pies made from oozletuft berries
- 30 mages arriving by sundown
- **Xanther is coming** — knows about Alazar
- Relana’s son aligned with **Obsidian Cabal** (treason)
- Nodran has woken “the sleeping Giant”
- Knows where “the brothers sleep”

Stakes: Complete compliance demanded

1.1.4 4. Domestic Scene: Waking Landon (Lines 254–300)

- Relana visits upstairs bedroom
- Two beds: tall man (Windraven), young boy (Landon)
- Samuel the cat, Fluster the purple two-tailed dog
- Uses Gus’s (hippogryph) feather to wake Landon
- Sends him to orchard for berries
- **KEY LINE:** “You know why he is coming. He has found a way to take you.”

1.1.5 5. Character Introduction: Landon (Lines 273–310)

- Green commoner tunic, man bun
- Piercing emerald eyes
- **Bond with Prince Nodran** — excited he’s returning
- Takes buckets, Samuel, and Fluster to orchard

1.1.6 6. Comic Relief: Windraven (Lines 314–341)

- Huge buff warrior terrified of mice
- Squeals, drops sword on his toe
- Falls down stairs
- Relana tricks him with fake mouse threat
- Sent to help Landon collect berries

1.2 Analysis

PACING: Slow build, character-focused, mystery threaded through domestic tasks

QUESTIONS RAISED:

- Who is Xanther and why is he dangerous?
- What is Alazar?
- Who are “the brothers”?
- Why does Nodran need to “take” Landon?
- What is the Obsidian Cabal?

2 Version 2: NEW DARK (Political Intrigue Opening)

Color Palette: Dark red, deep shadows

Tone: Tense ceremony, forbidden love, mysterious forces

Timeline: Present Day (Year 30)

2.1 Structure Overview

2.1.1 1. Opening: Ballroom Surveillance (Lines 157–176)

- Prince Nodran (13 years old) watches from balcony
- First Shift ceremony (aging event, dragon transformation pending)
- King Dallan traveled 3 weeks to attend
- Nobles circling like “insects on a gameboard”
- **Mood:** “Should have felt like celebration. Instead, it felt like mourning.”

2.1.2 2. The Mysterious Adviser (Lines 175–189)

- **Renaldo** stands beside King Galendor (Nodran’s father)
- No birthright, no history, yet king yields to him
- Piercing blue eyes meet Nodran’s gaze
- Nodran feels “exposed, dissected, stripped to core of his flame”
- Hidden note in Nodran’s jacket lining

2.1.3 3. The Note (Lines 183–189)

- Two words: ‘**Deny her.**’
- No other context given
- Creates central tension

2.1.4 4. Brother Dynamics: Duval (Lines 192–218)

- Duval (Nodran’s brother) sent to retrieve him
- Warmth of touch “should have soothed” but doesn’t
- Chasm widening between brothers
- Duval: “You’ve been distant... you can talk to me.”
- Nodran wants to but fears “brambles” around his heart

2.1.5 5. Declaration Scene (Lines 221–232)

- Nodran descends, takes **Mori's** hand (long black hair)
- Declares: "Father, I take Mori as my mate."
- **Ring won't come off his finger**
- Covers with humor, promises ring during feast
- Renaldo raises eyebrow but says nothing

2.1.6 6. Dance & Accusation (Lines 232–242)

- Nodran and Mori dance
- Mori whispers: "Have you betrayed me?"
- Nodran insists it's not his will
- Mori tries to remove ring — it refuses her too
- She believes him tentatively

2.1.7 7. Confrontation with King Dallen (Lines 243–253)

- Mori's father (King Dallen) furious
- Nodran growls (almost animal warning)
- Kings Dallen and Galendor herd them to conference hall

2.1.8 8. Conference Hall Showdown (Lines 254–278)

- Galendor raises hand to strike Nodran
- **Renaldo catches his wrist**
- Renaldo: "Don't." (air shakes with force)
- Renaldo: **"You will not touch what I deem as mine."**
- Private threat: "Or I will send you to Lilith."
- Nodran explains ring won't budge
- Galendor to Renaldo: "Is that your doing?"
- **Ends on cliffhanger** — Renaldo's knowing smirk

2.2 Analysis

PACING: Tense, atmospheric, mystery-heavy, no action

QUESTIONS RAISED:

- Who is Renaldo and why does he control the king?
- Why must Nodran deny Mori?
- What power made the ring immovable?
- What is Renaldo's claim on Nodran?
- Who is Lilith?

3 Version 3: BATTLE OPENING (Epic Spectacle)

Color Palette: Crimson, gold, battle fire

Tone: War epic, massive reveals, convergence of forces

Timeline: Present Day (Year 30) — Book 21 of 25

3.1 Structure Overview

3.1.1 1. Opening: Redkin's Arrival (Lines 168–174)

- Black knight in dark armor with gold runes
- Kneels before Nodran: “I am Redkin Sire”
- Mother gave him armor to fight alongside Nodran
- Narissorian confirms identity

3.1.2 2. The Army Assembles (Lines 175–180)

- 100,000 dragon-born soldiers in the fields
- Nodran shifts to sapphire dragon form
- Flies above army breathing fire
- Battle cries, war horns sound
- March toward East Elvarian King's land

3.1.3 3. Battle Chaos (Lines 181–192)

- Monsters running rampant, Elvarians scattering
- Dragon-born in small pockets, losing desperately
- Nodran's forces cut through with Ethereal weapons
- **Xanther and Haldor** watching from hillside
- Haldor opens **stargate** — 300,000 more horrors pour through

3.1.4 4. Redkin's Transformation (Lines 193–210)

- Separated, surrounded, fatigue setting in
- Calls: “Talveran, I need your strength”
- Armor glows with **ancient power from Ash Tree of Nexus**

- Sword blazes green, eyes glow with fury
- **REVEAL:** Talveran is ancient power within the armor

3.1.5 5. Angelo's Confrontation (Lines 212–240)

- **Angelo** (Nexus warrior) confronts Redkin
- Green pulse knocks Angelo back
- **Talveran speaks through Redkin:**
 - “You dare attack your King?!”
 - Sword transforms to **King's sword**
 - “My Host is your son. Child of Relana.”
 - **Angelo betrayed Queen Relana and Nexus**
- Angelo: “She never asked me! I LOVED HER she betrayed me FIRST!”
- Talveran attacks with cosmic fury
- **Green fire spreads — fallen soldiers RISE and heal**

3.1.6 6. Nodran's Forced Transformation (Lines 244–258)

- Huge horror has Nodran at mercy
- Armor glows orange with magical energy
- **Forced transformation:**
 - Wings sprout, horns erupt
 - Nine-foot blue tail
 - Pointed ears, body bursts into hellfire
- Takes to sky, sees devastation
- **Storm responds to rage** — tornadic winds, lightning, snow

3.1.7 7. Angelo's Submission (Lines 260–275)

- Angelo yields to Talveran/Redkin
- Redkin shows compassion, takes control from Talveran
- Redkin: “Son of Supreme Sorceress Queen Relana”
- Angelo pledges loyalty
- **Angelo summons NEXUS ARMY** — 20 astral gates open
- Uncountable warriors in Lumina armor pour through
- Horrors fall between Nodran's storm and Lumina warriors

3.1.8 8. Lilith's Entrance (Lines 280–303)

- Valdor urges Lilith to wake white dragon
- 10,000 eldritch horrors appear (sent by Kiss of Death)
- **Portal opens — enormous OBSIDIAN DRAGON**
- Lilith lights sky with hell's fury
- Xanther and Haldor: "FUCK!" and flee

3.1.9 9. Transition: The Cottage (Lines 306–369)

- **Angelo bursts through Relana's door** with dying Redkin
- Relana at cauldron with potion ingredients
- Redkin burning up, **Talveran is poisoned**
- Relana: "He is dying... only you can save him"
- Takes him to bed, performs healing spell
- Cool rag, swirling potion given
- **Mystery:** What creature could injure Talveran?
- Relana: "I have a feeling I do, but Goddess, I hope I am wrong."

3.1.10 10. Final Beat: The Shed (Lines 371–396)

- Angelo sent to well for water
- Finds strange building near well — door rattles and shakes
- Relana catches him: "What do you have in there?"
- Relana: "You lost the right to be in my closets many years ago."
- Angelo: "I will make you mine again."
- **Relana slaps him hard**
- Returns to cottage, back to cauldron

3.2 Analysis

PACING: Rapid, action-heavy, massive reveals SHOWN not told

KEY REVEALS:

- Talveran = ancient king bonded to Relana's armor
- Angelo = Redkin's father who betrayed Nexus
- Redkin = son of Supreme Sorceress Queen Relana
- Nexus has vast army waiting to be summoned
- Lilith commands obsidian dragon with hell's fury
- Xanther allied with Apocalyptica to create horrors
- Something unknown can poison/injure Talveran

4 CHAPTER 2 — Version 1: ORIGINAL (Oozletuft Berries)

Color Palette: Orange, amber, warm tones with green accents

Tone: Magical wonder, domestic tasks, character tensions

Timeline: Present Day (Year 30) — continues from Chapter 1

Theme: “Magic is a finite resource. It can be restored by yummy berries.”

4.1 Structure Overview

4.1.1 1. Meeting Gus the Hippogriff (Lines 180–189)

- Large hippogriff slides to stop in front of Landon
- Eight feet tall, horse tail wags like puppy
- Razor-sharp beak nudges Landon (he falls on butt)
- Gus rolls over for belly scratches
- Eagle talons, folded wings

4.1.2 2. Journey to Mother Guyla Tree (Lines 190–210)

- Landon and Windraven travel to orchard
- **Mother Guyla** — larger than other trees, gives all others life
- Landon kneels reverently before her
- Vine wrapped around trunk and limbs
- Landon prays to Lumina for permission to take berries

4.1.3 3. Magical Berry Harvest (Lines 206–220)

- Wind rustles leaves in response
- **Vines shoot from ground at base of every tree**
- Flowers bloom and die into fruit with unnatural speed
- Vines release berries into buckets one at a time
- One berry bounces out, hits dirt, shrivels with hiss
- **Rule:** Berries cannot be gathered from ground
- Sun peaks over horizon as they finish

4.1.4 4. Return Home & Pie Making (Lines 222–225)

- Return to Relana who is almost ready
- Landon helps wash and prep berries
- Windraven watches
- Finish pies together

4.1.5 5. Redkin & Angelo Arrive (Lines 226–258)

- **Redkin** (28 years old) comes downstairs
 - Sandy blonde hair with black streaks
 - Thick black eyebrows
 - Intense emerald gaze
- **Angelo** follows silently
 - Long black hair
 - Black and gold tunic
 - Dark tree tattoo: roots at chin, trunk around eye, leaves across forehead
 - Smirks at Landon
- Windraven and Angelo trade barbs
 - Windraven: “No one likes you?”
 - Angelo mocks Windraven’s squeaky voice
 - Windraven threatens to send Angelo to Underworld
- **Landon defends Windraven:** “He is here because he is my friend”
- Angelo: “Of course, my grace, I meant no disrespect.”
- Relana sends Redkin and Angelo to feed pigs

4.1.6 6. Relana’s Warning (Lines 260–268)

- Relana tells Landon: “Everything is changing today”
- Must go to Northern Springs
- Landon: “Nucklavee haunt that area. Dark one controls them.”
- Relana dismisses as rumors
- Sends Landon to get cleaned up for Prince’s arrival
- Windraven gives warning growl before following Landon

4.1.7 7. Mother & Sons Discussion (Lines 270–303)

- Redkin questions why Relana allows Prince to take Landon
- Angelo almost speaks but Relana’s eyes silence him
- **THE RING revealed:**
 - Landon wears ring that cannot be removed
 - Bears magic of **Valdos and Apocaliptica’s eldritch magic**
 - Relana has tried to remove it — cannot
- Redkin complains about Windraven staying 12 years
- Only **Renaldo** has power to make Windraven leave
- Angelo almost mentions “Q—” before Relana cuts him off
- Discussion of “**The Order**” searching for “the hellfire”
- Redkin confused why they think he’d know where it is
- Relana hides knowing smirk

4.1.8 8. Cliffhanger: The Pies (Lines 294–305)

- Redkin places pies outside to cool
- Questions why Prince needs so many pies
- Relana refuses to question the Prince
- Noise from outside catches attention
- **Pigs eating the pies!**

4.2 Analysis

PACING: Magical wonder, domestic rhythm, building tension

KEY REVEALS:

- Mother Guyla tree produces magical oozletuft berries
- Berries restore finite magic resources
- Landon wears cursed ring bearing Valdos & Apocaliptica’s magic
- Only Renaldo can dismiss Windraven
- The Order seeks “the hellfire”
- Redkin may know more than he realizes

5 CHAPTER 2 — Version 2: NEW DARK (The Price of Loyalty)

Color Palette: Dark red, deep shadows

Tone: Moral crisis, systemic injustice, paralysis by duty

Timeline: Present Day (Year 30) — shifts focus to Duval

Theme: Inaction is acceptance; loyalty demands complicity

5.1 Structure Overview

5.1.1 1. Market Square Atmosphere (Lines 137–151)

- Duval (Nodran’s brother from Chapter 1) moves through alleys
- Burnt meat and rotting refuse in the air
- People move like shadows, avoiding his gaze
- Resentment and barely concealed hatred
- Duval feels uncomfortable tightness in chest
- People hate the crown but fear its power
- **Tonight feels different**

5.1.2 2. The Old Woman (Lines 145–156)

- Hunched in corner, ragged clothes
- Face twisted in agony, muttering
- Eyes wild and fevered, skin barely clinging to bones
- Grasps Duval’s sleeve: “Help me, young master... they’re coming for us all.”
- Duval recognizes her — beggar for years
- Dark whisper in his chest
- **KEY LINE:** *“The price of loyalty was to ignore the suffering around him.”*
- Duval coldly: “Move along, old woman. You’re just another burden on this city.”

5.1.3 3. The Darker District (Lines 157–166)

- Streets grow darker
- Isolated part far from nobles and guards

- Here the rot is even worse
- True horrors of kingdom come to light
- Figures huddled in filthy corners
- Not just beggars

5.1.4 4. The Beating (Lines 162–176)

- Young girl (barely more than child) in corner
- Hands bound in thick rope
- Clothes torn, sobbing quietly
- Man looms over her, laughing darkly
- Raises rod high, ready to strike
- **Duval reaches for blade — stops himself**
- Cannot intervene
- Taught since childhood: interference is treasonous
- To question kingdom's will risks his life and family's
- Should turn away but can't

5.1.5 5. Internal Conflict (Lines 173–176)

- Part of him burns with anger at injustice
- Feels powerless
- Trained to know his place
- Know when to speak, when to stay silent

5.1.6 6. Xanther's Man (Lines 177–191)

- Voice from behind: "Go back to the castle, little prince."
- Tall figure in black at edge of alley
- Eyes gleam with unsettling orange hue
- Hands stained with blood
- **One of Xanther's men**
- Chill runs down Duval's spine

- Loyalty to father/kingdom means nothing against this dark reality
- Xanther's influence creeping into kingdom
- Man taunts: "Do you want to play hero, young prince? Or will you just keep pretending your hands are clean?"

5.1.7 7. Walking Away (Lines 188–192)

- Duval stiffens but doesn't respond
- Wants to act, save the girl, change things
- But duty and loyalty tie his hands
- Turns and walks away
- Girl's cries follow him, echoing in mind
- Reminded how deep the rot runs
- Doesn't stop, can't stop
- **Not yet**
- Price of loyalty weighing heavily on heart
- Kingdom broken, held together by man too afraid to face truth

5.2 Analysis

PACING: Slow descent into moral horror

THEME: This chapter explores the cost of loyalty through Duval's eyes. While Chapter 1 showed Nodran's impossible position ("Deny her"), Chapter 2 shows Duval's complicity in systemic injustice. Both brothers trapped — Nodran by mysterious forces, Duval by his own fear of acting.

KEY REVEALS:

- Kingdom is rotting from within
- Poverty and violence widespread
- Xanther's influence already infiltrating
- Duval trained to ignore suffering
- Intervention equals treason
- Royal family's complicity in oppression
- Duval's hands already stained through inaction

6 CHAPTER 2 — Version 3: BATTLE (Darkness is Spreading)

Color Palette: **Crimson**, **gold**, battle aftermath

Tone: Aftermath crisis, medical emergency, mysteries deepen

Timeline: Present Day (Year 30) — continues immediately from Chapter 1 Battle

Tagline: “Inaction is often times acceptance, so action is refusal to accept your fate.”

6.1 Structure Overview

6.1.1 1. Relana’s Fear: The Vonacks (Lines 187–192)

- Relana’s silver eyes express worry
- “I do not know how the Vonacks could have made it here, or why”
- Won’t have long before “he knows I am here”
- Spell she used will have consequences even she cannot stop
- Angelo asks: “What are the Vonacks?”
- Interrupted before she can answer

6.1.2 2. Roku’s Arrival (Lines 193–202)

- Urgent, familiar voice: “Relana! I came as soon as I heard!”
- **Roku** arrives
- Relana throws arms around him
- “I had no choice; I broke my vow to the Keepers.”
- Roku brings news from Prince Nodran — a letter
- “If everything goes as he desires, he will only be a day or so behind me.”
- Roku: “Things will work out.”
- Relana: “We are not ready for my grandson.”

6.1.3 3. Prince Nodran’s Letter (Lines 205–217)

- Addressed to: “Relana Wavelander, Keeper of the Solhain Trees”
- Needs twelve pies
- Hopes she can get berries from **Ether vines**

- Solhain forest “out here is already dead”
- **“The Horror has evolved, and we have colossal problems.”**
- “On the losing end of this”
- May have to seek out **Teathies** for plan B
- **“Obsidian Cabal is on track to obtain their goals”**
- “Desperate need of the Hellfire in her full glory”
- Will tie up loose ends and arrive soon

6.1.4 4. Relana’s Exhaustion (Lines 221–229)

- Cursing, returns downstairs
- Aches return as adrenaline drains
- Leans over sink, sighs
- “I am so tired. I often wonder if this life is really worth it”
- “All the fight; I just don’t know that I have what it takes”
- “I just feel so old.”
- Roku: “You won’t give up. Can’t leave just when about to succeed.”
- Needs berries from Nodran

6.1.5 5. Trust Issues with Angelo (Lines 229–240)

- Relana not comfortable leaving Redkin with Angelo
- “I do not trust him.”
- Roku agrees: “Not after what he did twelve years ago.”
- Roku will stay with Redkin
- Angelo sent to collect berries with Relana
- Two wooden buckets made of ash wood
- Roku hands one to Relana, takes other to Angelo

6.1.6 6. Discovering Redkin's Condition (Lines 241–269)

- Angelo just stares at Roku (eyes narrowing)
- Roku shifts attention to Redkin
- Touches forehead — concerned
- Armor no longer covering body
- Roku notices something interesting
- Shifts Redkin's shirt revealing:
 - **Scar over heart**
 - **Black veins pulsing to their own rhythm**
- “RELANA!” (fear in voice)
- Relana comes quickly, out of breath
- Fingers trace thick black vessels pulsing with life
- **Side effect of soul sword used on him years ago**
- Veins have gotten bigger
- “Perhaps because his genetics are unlike any a poetic has given a heart to?”

6.1.7 7. The Heart Mystery (Lines 260–278)

- Turn Redkin on his side (he groans in pain)
- “This is not right. Something strange here.”
- Fear escalates
- **“He is going to die, and so will Talveran”**
- Only **Hellfire's magic** can counter this poison
- His heart is under attack
- Only alive now because of “nature of his heart”
- Roku: “What is the point if we have all this power and cannot save the ones that mean the most to us?”
- Relana will search her books for solution
- Roku prays: “I am so sorry, my boy. I pray we can save you.”

6.1.8 8. Angelo vs. Roku: Whose Son? (Lines 279–287)

- Angelo growls after Relana leaves: **“He is mine, Roku.”**
- Roku laughs: “That all depends on how you look at it”
- **“Does he have your heart or mine?”**
- “Funny you waited till she left to make that claim”
- “His transformation is almost complete.”
- Angelo: “He is my son. My loyalties are to him.”
- Roku: **“Correction. Your loyalty is to Talveran, not to your son.”**
- **“You killed your son a long time ago.”**
- Angelo scowls, takes bucket, storms out: “Let’s go, Relana.”

6.2 Analysis

PACING: Tense medical crisis with deepening mysteries

KEY REVEALS:

- The Vonacks exist and their presence is significant
- Relana broke vow to the Keepers
- Prince Nodran is Relana’s **grandson**
- The Horror has evolved (colossal problems)
- Solhain forests are dying
- Obsidian Cabal close to achieving goals
- Redkin has heart transplant — but whose heart?
- Soul sword wounded him years ago
- Black veins = poison spreading
- Only Hellfire can save Redkin and Talveran
- Angelo did something terrible 12 years ago
- Roku claims “his transformation is almost complete”
- Angelo’s loyalty to Talveran conflicts with fatherhood
- Angelo “killed his son a long time ago”

7 Comparative Analysis — Chapters 1 & 2

Element	ORIGINAL	NEW DARK	BATTLE OPENING
Opening Scene	Cottage door pounding	Ballroom ceremony	Battlefield arrival
Primary Character	Relana (old woman)	Nodran (13-year-old prince)	Nodran (adult dragon king)
Timeline Feel	Domestic/humble	Political/tense	Epic/war
Reveals	Letter hints at crisis	Ring mystery, Renaldo's power	Full-scale war, all players shown
Tone	Warm → tense	Dark → darker	Explosive → crisis
Reader Entry	Mystery through mundane	Mystery through ceremony	Spectacle through action
Stakes	Personal (sons threatened)	Romantic/political (Mori)	Cosmic (kingdoms at war)
Questions	Who is coming and why?	Who controls whom?	What can kill a god-king?

7.1 Summary

ORIGINAL: Builds slowly, character-first, mystery unfolds naturally

NEW DARK: Psychological tension, power dynamics, intimate scale with cosmic implications

BATTLE OPENING: Epic scale immediately, visual reveals, context for cottage crisis

All three versions end with **crisis at Relana's cottage** but readers arrive with completely different emotional frameworks and levels of contextual understanding.

The ORIGINAL asks readers to trust the mystery and builds investment through character bonding.

The NEW DARK creates investment through political intrigue and forbidden romance with supernatural overtones.

The BATTLE OPENING establishes massive stakes first, then zooms into the intimate crisis with full understanding of cosmic implications.