

MAGEHAND

S1E1

"Hope Alone Won't Stop the Bleeding"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET

A grassy field scorched by war. Strewn swords and armored corpses litter the ground.

BOOM

Two warriors *smash* into each other at inhuman speeds.

One, a hulking man with an equally bulky hammer. GARTH, THE MOUNTAIN'S HAND (34).

The other, the image of a hero in shining armor and long waving hair, PARTHUS THE GALEWIND (40), strikes back with a glowing scimitar.

They fly back from one another. Parthus's blade glows, winds pick up at his feet.

Garth sees this. A jewel in the head of his hammer glows. He slams the hammer into the ground.

The earth shakes, the ground splits...

EXT. CASTLE WALLS - CONTINUOUS

...and a mile away, a line of marching soldiers in ramshackle padded armor stumble.

Their commander, a rich NOBLE adorned in armor atop a horse, barks commands at them. He bears a rich purple flag with an eagle's feather on it. Parthus's flag.

NOBLE
HOLD YOUR LINES, DOGS!

A group stands by him, trying to hold onto a large siege ladder. One starts to fall. A bright eyed young man named DOUGLAS FARMER (25).

He's caught at the last second by the woman next to him, holding him up with one arm and tucking the ladder under the other. A salt-of-the-Earth survivor named LORETTA FLETCHER (25).

LORETTA
Brace yourself. The shit is only starting.

She pulls him back to solid footing, then grabs hold of her helmet.

DOUGLAS

Gods am I glad we have Parthus to
face that beast.

Loretta scuffs.

LORETTA

Haughty bastards deserve each
other. Though I guess we're to pay
for their little prick measuring
contest.

DOUGLAS

(hushed alarm)

Loretta they may hear you!

Another tremor hits the group. Bright magic lights flash in the distance where Parthus and Garth fight.

But the army faces toward a castle bearing the dark maroon banner of Garth. Their target.

The Nobel waits for the last tremor to subside. He raises an ornate sword that's never been bloodied to the sky.

NOBLE

CHARGE!

He points the blade at the castle. The soldiers charge toward it as the Noble holds ground and watches.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Parthus dodges a shock waves from Garth's last blow. He swings his scimitar at Garth, and razor sharp wind gusts shoot out, cutting through falling debris like a hot knife through butter.

Garth grips the hammer tight and holds it in front of him. Its glow suffuses his whole body in light, and the gusts fail to cut him.

But he is pushed back, wincing at their force. Parthus smiles.

PARTHUS

You're tough, I'll give you that.
But you aren't invincible.

Garth growls back at him, charging forward. The glow returns to the head of his hammer.

EXT. CASTLE WALLS - CONTINUOUS

A rain of arrows come crashing down on the charging soldiers, Loretta and Douglas barely escape the first volley with their lives.

Those around them aren't so lucky. Scores lie on the ground, dead or dying.

Loretta scoops a shield from one fallen fighter without breaking stride, hoisting it over her and Douglas's heads as they keep charging toward the wall with the ladder.

She shouts back at the others holding the ladder with them:

LORETTA

Grab what you can, but don't stop!

The others follow her lead. Arrows ping off the metal shield over their heads, a few even pierce through. But so far they are unscathed.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The glow of Garth's hammer grows brighter as he swings it wildly at Parthus, each blow barely missing.

EXT. CASTLE WALLS - CONTINUOUS

Loretta, Douglas, and their group reach the wall. Arrows and hot oil descend in waves, killing scores of soldiers around them.

But they manage to hoist the ladder up.

Clunk

Metal arms latch themselves to the battlements. The ladder is secure.

The first soldiers start to scale the ladder. Douglas goes ahead of Loretta. Loretta hands him the shield as he passes.

LORETTA

Don't do anything stupid.

DOUGLAS

Aye.

Douglas goes up, shield over his head. Loretta is right behind him.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Parthus dashes away from Garth as he lets loose a wild swing, putting distance between them.

Garth holds the hammer aloft, its head glowing brighter than ever.

GARTH
FEEL THE FURY OF THE EARTH!

And he *SLAMS* the hammer down with a violent force. The ground shatters and a massive fissure cuts snakes toward Parthus.

Parthus grips his sword tight. It glows a blinding white and a gust of wind carries him at nearly the speed of sound around Garth.

The fissure doesn't stop, however, going all the way...

EXT. CASTLE WALLS - CONTINUOUS

...to the walls of the castle, just as Loretta and Douglas reach the halfway point.

The wall rumbles, stones falling all around them. Douglas and co white knuckle the ladder. Several soldiers fall to their deaths around them from both sides of the conflict.

An adjacent watchtower cracks at the base. But by some miracle, it holds.

LORETTA
CLIMB! WE GOTTA GET OFF THIS WALL!

Douglas pushes ahead.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Parthus stops behind Garth. Garth turns just in time to see him wind back, a tornado raging around him.

PARTHUS
Too slow.

And Parthus swings, letting loose a hurricane wind of force, blowing Garth away.

But the winds won't stop.

EXT. CASTLE WALLS - CONTINUOUS

Douglas is nearly to the top of the ladder, Loretta close behind.

But suddenly, a gust of wind hits them, pushing them hard into the wall, pinning them in place.

Soldiers atop the wall go plummeting into the castle courtyard to their doom.

The cracked watchtower can't withstand the winds. It starts to tetter over toward Douglas and Loretta.

Douglas clocks this. He looks up, sees the top of the ladder just within reach.

He looks down. Sees Loretta starting to lose her grip. She shouts up to him:

LORETTA
SAVE YOURSELF!

He looks back up. The tower is in free-fall straight toward them.

Without thinking, he manages to fight his way down and cover Loretta, holding her to the wall with his shield overhead.

LORETTA (CONT'D)
DOUGLAS WHAT ARE YO--

CRASH

The tower collides with the top of the wall. The wall splinters, people are sent flying. The ladder starts to fall backwards toward the Earth.

Douglas holds the shield tight over Loretta's head. Its not quite big enough to cover them both.

DOUGLAS
Stay stro--

They slam into the mud, debris thudding into the ground all around them, plunking off the metal shield, eviscerating the flesh of those who couldn't find cover.

CUT TO BLACK

END OF COLD OPEN