

"SILENT CONQUEST"

An Original Screenplay

By

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FADE IN TO A SHOT OF THE OCEAN

Roll CREDITS

EXT. PRINCE ANDULUS'S GALLEON - NIGHT

A Spanish galleon cuts through a choppy sea. We hear the sound of crashing waves as we approach it.

A SAILOR hurries on to the deck with a bucket. He reaches a barrel near the mid mast and hastily draws some water.

He turns and rushes back across the deck and down the slatted stairs into the ship. We hear the sounds of a woman in labor.

INT. MESS HALL - NIGHT

The kitchen cabin door swings open. PRINCESS ARIANA is seated, while LADY IN WAITING 1, and LADY IN WAITING 2 stand behind.

PRINCESS ARIANA

Not me, her.

The sailor turns and we see ELDORA in labor on the bare wooden messy room table.

SURGEON

Bring it here man.

The sailor brings the water over to a bare wooden table.

PRINCESS ARIANA

Can't you do something about the noise.

The surgeon nods to the sailor. He's baffled.

SURGEON

On the table. The wooden one.

The sailor grabs the small wooden board, and brings it to the surgeon.

SURGEON

In her mouth man, in her

mouth.

The sailor places the wooden board in her mouth and looks down. Eldora looks back at the sailor. Her eyes burn.

ARIANA touches her brow. Lady in waiting 1 rushes over to the bucket of water and soaks a handkerchief. She reverently hands it to the princess.

We hear repeated sounds of exertion, and a final gasps from Eldora.

PRINCESS ARIANA

Well?

SURGEON

It's a boy, your  
majesty.

The surgeon moves towards the women on the table.

PRINCESS ARIANA

Bring me my son.

The ladies in waiting take the child from the surgeon and shows him to ARIANA.

PRINCESS ARIANA

(Sniffs... (BEAT))

Get rid of her.

TWO SAILORS enter the room and grab Eldora. She screams and reaches for her son. The guards try to cover her mouth, but she bites one of them.

PRINCESS ARIANA

Savage.

The sailors drag Eldora, struggling at first but showing signs of exhaustion as they approach the deck... and throw her over board. We hear a splash as she hits the water.

A moment passes.

Eldora surfaces and starts to swim towards the ship.

Her strength start to fade, and she starts to drown.

ELDORA

My son... what have I done...

She sinks below the waves.

ELDORA

Mo-th-er.

EXT. MOUTH OF A CAVE - DAY

HIGH PRIESTESS RIA stands at the mouth of a cave worshipping the sun as it rises over the Amazon jungle.

To her left is the source of the Amazon river. It cascades from the rock into a deep pool below, snaking off into the rain forest.

The Amazon warrior council is seated behind her, it seats that have been carved into the rock.

HIGH PRIESTESS RIA

I greet the day with you. I honor the strength in you, and the source of that strength.

THE COUNCIL

Today we renew our pledge to defend the water that gives us life.

DRINA

(She throws a Spanish helmet onto the floor)

What is the meaning of this? First they captured the cities, and brought a new god, one that you cannot see...

Muffled laughter is heard in the council.

DRINA

How could they come so far into the forest? The farmers are afraid. What do the traders say to them?

TIA

They have heard rumors of Eldorado!

ELDORA

Me... why are they looking for me?

Muffled laughter comes again from the council.

TIA

They think you are a source of great wealth and power. They are searching for gold. When they do not find it they will destroy us...

ELDORA

How will they find us, no one but the Amazons knows this place.

RIA

The river will lead them to us.

A hushed silence falls over the council.

ELDORA

But they won't find anything.

RIA

They will come on the tide... the river cannot hold them back. If we are to survive, we must find a new way to fight.

EXT. - FORTRESS ON THE SEA - NIGHT

The full moon is high in the sky. DRINA,

TIA, ELDORA hide in the shadows.

A door in the castle wall opens and PRINCESS ARIANA and her LADY IN WAITING 1 hurry out. They pause, and then hurry into the woods.

The Amazons follow them.

The PRINCESS and her lady in waiting approach a clearing. Waiting in the clearing is LADY IN WAITING 2 and a SEER.

LADY IN WAITING 1

Her majesty would like to speak to you on a delicate matter. It is of the utmost importance that our conversations are in confidence.

The Seer nods her head

LADY IN WAITING 1

Her majesty needs divine guidance. She wishes to show her love for her husband by giving him a son. Can you help us bring about her majesties wish?

SEER

Her majesty wants to conceive a son. And what does the Royal physician say?

LADY IN WAITING 1

He has examined her majesty, and proclaimed her to be ready for child bearing.

SEER

Ahh, I see. Tell me does her majesty bleed with the cycles of the moon?

The lady in waiting nods.

SEER

Then her majesty must have relations with her husband in the mid point of the two cycles of the full moon. During this time, she must bed her husband 2 or 3 times for several days... it is important... they must have relations more than once each day. And most important of all, she must make sure that her husband pleasures her before he is done...

LADY IN WAITING 1

And this will mean that her majesty will conceive a son?

The Seer walks to her majesty and feels her stomach...

SEER

I see a son in her future...

We hear a rustle from the trees...

LADY IN WAITING 1

Who's there?

She turns to her majesty.

LADY IN WAITING 1

We must leave.

Ariana and her ladies in waiting leave the clearing. The Amazons run silently off into the woods. Eldora turns and waves to the old seer who waves back shaking her head. She looks up at the moon.

INT. PRINCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight streams in through the bedroom window. A large bed is in the middle of the room, opposite a fireplace. Creeping in the shadows are three Amazon warriors.

Drina signals to Eldora to guard the door,  
and motions to Tia to move to the other side  
of the bed.

Tia takes her position and silently strains  
her bow on the sleeping prince. Tia looks at  
Drina who nods. Tia prods the prince with  
her bow.

TIA

Wakey, wakey...

We see the prince stir and look up at Tia.

PRINCE ANDULUS

Ah an Amazon...

Then he looks around and sees Drina.

PRINCE ANDULUS

And an Amazon princess!  
I am intrigued by your  
highness's appearance in  
my bedroom in the middle  
of the night.

DRINA nods to TIA who pulls back her bow.

ANDULUS

By the fire... shall we.

He rises and pulls on a robe. Drina follows  
him.

Tia heads towards the door.

Andulus sits in the chair facing away from  
the fire.

ANDULUS

The Captain of the Guard  
will be sorry to have  
missed you. He's been  
anxiously reporting  
sightings of women  
warriors for weeks now.

DRINA

Yes, we are aware of  
their presence in the  
forest.

ANDULUS

We assumed as much.

DRINA

Why has your father sent you here?

ANDULUS

Why does that interest you?

DRINA

Perhaps he thinks you might be able to bring him back an heir?

ANDULUS

And how would you know this?

DRINA

Call it women's intuition.

There is a pause as ANDULUS observes Drina.

ANDULUS

And you would like to provide me with an heir?

Drina laughs.

ANDULUS

I see you have someone else in mind.

DRINA

An Amazon princess, of course.

ANDULUS looks around the room, and fixes Drina with a stare. His eyebrow raised..

ANDULUS

Interesting, you hope to put the son of an Amazon princess on the throne of Spain. Tell me, why do you think that I would agree to this?

There is a pause..

DRINA

Nobody wants to  
disappoint daddy?

A wry smile comes across Andulus's face.

ANDULUS

Perhaps.

DRINA

My daughter, Eldora will  
provide you with a son.

ANDULUS

And how does Eldora feel  
about this?

DRINA

We have no need of men  
in our tribe. Male  
children are given away.

Prince Andulus stares into the fire.

ANDULUS (VO)

So Eldora will provide  
Spain with an heir and  
Ariana with a son!