

Episode 1 - A Moment of Truth**Scene 1**

Morning of the first day. Place: The Rock of Truth, Zintaurus.

EORIK.

I am a cat named Eorik. That rhymes with.... historic! And, meteoric! But I'm not here to puff myself up. The real hero of this story, of the journey to save the state of Zintaurus, is my dog-sister Kaytaiya. I only helped. Everyone, everywhere, should know what Kaytaiya did and celebrate her courage. I am happy just to tell the tale.

The story begins on the morning of my first birthday. I sat at our kitchen table coloring placemats for my birthday party. The placemats had the outline of a medium-sized mouse. I was supposed to color just the mouse. No chance of that happening! I like to think "outside the mouse!" Kaytaiya had her back to me, standing at the kitchen counter. She had on an artist's beret. She was sculpting fishballs for the party, trying to make them as round as she could.

{sound effect - crayon bearing down on paper, noise getting louder and more aggressive}

KAYTAIYA.

How are the placemats coming Eorik?

EORIK.

"They're coming along great! Very colorful."

KAYTAIYA.

Are you coloring inside the lines?

EORIK.

"Inside the lines.... and then some! How are the fishballs going?"

{sound effect - palms slapping together}

KAYTAIYA.

I'd say they're rounding into shape.

EORIK. "Well, these placemats are great. Complete messes! No one's ever going to have to feel bad if they spill food on these, I'll tell you that. Let's see, that's eight, nine, ten. Enough for my friends. How many friends did you invite?"

KAYTAIYA. *[Pause. Drawing it out, hesitant.]*

We-ell...

EORIK.

"You invited friends, right?"

Kaytaiya looked uncomfortable.

"You didn't invite anybody?!"

KAYTAIYA.

Well, it would have been a tough sell. "Come to a party with a roomful of cats!"

EORIK.

"Hey!!"

KAYTAIYA.

Well, most dogs don't enjoy spending time with cats. [*Under her breath.*] We'd rather chase them, actually.

EORIK.

"*You* enjoy spending time with *me*."

KAYTAIYA.

Yes, but I've had practice!

EORIK. [*Imploring support.*]

"Queen Ravenna!"

We lived there with our person, Ravenna. Ravenna was, first of all, the Truth Upholder of Zintaurus, like her mother before her. She was also the queen of the entire land. But she was a queen without a throne, in exile. Ravenna was in her favorite chair with a book of magic in front of her. It was a large and very old book decorated with golden trim. That book covered her whole face and upper body too. She lowered it and shot Kaytaiya a look of warning. Don't tease him, said that look. Then she said to me:

RAVENNA.

There is truth in what she says about dogs and cats, Eorik. But also truth in that she loves you.

EORIK.

Well, that helped a little to take the edge off my hurt. Then Kaytaiya took off her beret, her large ears flopped down to their normal position, and she raced over to my growth chart, where I had stood so many times before.

KAYTAIYA.

Come on, let's see who is a cat and who isn't!

EORIK.

The growth chart showed my gradual progress towards cat-hood. The lower portion was colored yellow and labeled "kitten." The top portion was red, and labeled "cat." I had gotten closer to the red in the last few months of my young life, but had never broken into it. Now I stood before the chart for my reckoning. Kaytaiya picked up Ravenna's book of magic and placed it flat on my head. I stood on my tippy-toes and craned my head around and saw that the edge of the book was in the red!

KAYTAIYA.

Feet on the floor please!

EORIK.

I lowered myself by half.

KAYTAIYA.

Feet flat on the floor please! You know what we say in Zintaurus: “The truth matters.” Especially in this home, in the Rock of Truth itself.

EORIK.

I lowered myself reluctantly. I looked over my shoulder and saw that the edge of the book had slid down from just up into the red, cat zone, back down into the yellow, kitten zone. What disappointment! Kaytaiya looked disappointed too. She looked at Ravenna with a what- can-we-do-here look. Here’s what those two did. There was a red banner they had strung across the living room that said “Happy Birthday Eorik. One Year Old Today.” Ravenna raised her arm, motioned at the banner, and a piece of it fell away from the banner and floated down into Kaytaiya’s waiting arms. Kaytaiya caught it, stuck it to the chart using a fishball at each end, and, my head was in the red again!

KAYTAIYA.

The trouble with a kitten is that, it always grows up to be...

EORIK.

“A cat! Oh, Kaytaiya, today I am a cat!”

KAYTAIYA.

Happy birthday, little brother!

EORIK.

“Thank you big sister! Thank you for loving this cat!”

KAYTAIYA.

There’s nothing wrong with cats, I always say... as long as I don’t have to be one myself!

EORIK.

She didn’t mean that against me. She just can be that saucy way sometimes. Kaytaiya gave me a loving smile. Ravenna gave me loving smile. These two were saying, the truth does matter, but the truth is, you are a cat no matter how big you are, and not a kitten any longer. I basked in this loving moment. But it was not to last long. All at once Ravenna shuddered as if seized by a sudden chill, and her eyes turned inward. We waited a long moment before she was back with us again.

RAVENNA.

I am afraid we are going to have to cancel your party, Eorik. After three long years of this exile, Cete has decided to finally move against Zintaurus. I must hurry to the Power Chamber.

EORIK. “Cancel my birthday party??!!”

KAYTAIYA.

Cete does nothing for three years, and now he’s going to move against us on Eorik’s birthday? They don’t call him an evil king for nothing!

RAVENNA.

Dearest, it is a shame, just a rotten shame. I am terribly sorry. But I must go into trance and find the plan that will defeat Cete. Now that he is finally moving, he may make a mistake, and we may be able to turn his momentum against him. Look, he has already made a mistake: He has waited to attack us until you were a cat! Grown and ready to fight. You will be important. He may regret having you in the array against him.

EORIK.

Well, that made me feel a lot better! A grown cat! Important! And with that, she slowly went up the stairs to the Power Chamber atop our home.

{Steps ascending}

RAVENNA.

Now ascend me to the power chamber
I will go to ascertain the danger
Since the training of my youth
I've been waiting for this **moment of truth**

As a girl I sensed the truth of things
Right and wrong, what the future brings
Mother said child here you lie
And these powers they will amplify

Where energies from rock and stars collide
Making supernatural
What you naturally are inside

Mother told me child when you are older
You'll succeed me as the Truth Upholder
And the day will come it's true
That the future will depend on you
Our whole future will depend on you

Since the training of my youth
I've been waiting for this moment of truth

{Door to Power Chamber closes.}

End of Scene 1

Scene 2

That same morning. Place: Zintauran Air Force Headquarters.

EORIK.

In her youth, Queen Ravenna had spent many hours in that Power Chamber, undergoing amplification of her natural abilities. At the same time, all the way across the country, at the very end of the vast land that stretched out beyond our Zintauran Mountains, guess what! The young prince Visalius was spending hours of his youth in a second Power Chamber! It was in the Rock of Kings. What were the natural tendencies of Visalius? I will tell you. They were to plan, build, and create. He loved to play with his toy planes, so it was no surprise that when he grew up to be a powerful and good ruler, he would create remarkable planes. How they could fly! They had a will of their own. And he gave them speech! They could talk!! When Cete overthrew Visalius, half of those planes fell under Cete's spell and stayed with him in the capital. The planes of Visalius that resisted flew off into exile, carrying his Queen, Ravenna, and his little puppy, Kaytaiya. On that morning of my first birthday, those planes were waking up like usual and preparing for their usual day's routine. But it was not to be a usual day!

BIG PLANES.

We are planes most loyal to Queen Ravenna
And we defend this state Zintaurus
Day and night we keep a finely tuned antenna
For any danger that could rise before us

Ravenna was the Truth Upholder by decree
And King Visalius ruled the land
She travelled from Zintaurus just to meet the king
'Twas fate he'd fall in love and ask her hand

PLANE #1.

She took her place, the fairest queen
King Viz governed strong and wise
His brother Cete watched from the wings
Gazing on the throne with jealous eyes

PLANE #2.

Cete did scheme against King Viz
Cunning in his treachery
To seize the crown that was not his
He cast his brother into the raging sea

TOGETHER.

From the tumbling coastline to the mighty forest
Beneath the great Zintauran Mountains
We guard the queen from evil Cete, the abhorrent
In Zintaurus, three years and counting

PLANE #2.

Planes of Zintaurus, start your engines!

{Engines of planes roar to life. They go into an idle that Eorik speaks above.}

EORIK.

Here was the problem. Visalius was not the only one who was training for the future in the Power Chamber in the Rock of Kings. His younger brother Cete was stealing in to it also! Unobserved. A sneak from the word go. And the Power Chamber amplified his pre-existing tendencies, which were to lie, cheat, and steal. He developed a supernatural power to cast a spell that could make you forget your own truth and what was true in everything else. If you were a plane and were under his forgetting spell, that meant, you would forget how your own engine worked.

{The engines of the Planes sputter and die.}

PLANE #2.

What happened?

PLANE #1.

What's wrong with our engines?

PLANE #1 and #2. Look! It's Cete!

EORIK.

Sure enough, a projected image of Cete had magically appeared. Cete's face hovered in front of the planes. It had a cruel and satisfied smile.

CETE.

Ah, that's better. Nice and quiet in here now. I could hardly hear myself think!

CETE.

Give me your attention
I already have your engines
I'll make war on you
I'll mop the floor with you

I'll pulverize the Rock of Truth
Listen while I tell you
Truth is a commodity
That now has lost all value

In one week I'll make war on
Every last Zintauran
I'll make war on you
I'll mop the floor with you
I'll mop the floor with you

End of Scene 2