

A Screenplay  
for  
"Reign of Fury"

A Blender Short Film

*Draft Revision 3*

*May 31, 2011*

EXT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY, HOLY ISLAND - DUSK

BROTHER SERVIAN (a young initiate at the monastery) is running for all his life, clutching a collection of scrolls and the book of the illuminated Gospels.

We don't see his face, we hear his heavy breathing, and footfall, along with sound of yelling and battle in the distance.

Camera does a number of quick fades from black to shots of BROTHER SERVIAN running from different angles with camera shake.

EXT. NORWEGIAN FJORD VALLEY, FIELDS OUTSIDE VIKING VILLAGE - EARLY MORNING

We see the countryside with few trees, many stumps, and failing crop fields. A broken down wagon litters the area.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

My son, our people have grown weary  
of the harsh and unyielding land.  
We will till our futile soil no  
longer.

EXT. NORWEGIAN FJORD VALLEY, VIKING VILLAGE - EARLY MORNING

We see the buildings of the viking village, as men are loading their ships down at the dock and preparing to depart. Women and children mill about their regular chores and activities.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

The way for you now is on the  
water, your wealth awaits you on  
the back of the open sea.

INT. CHIEFTAIN'S GREAT LODGE - LIT BY TORCHLIGHT

We see CHIEF ARNVALDR on his throne, with ARNGEIRR (the chief's son) kneeling on one knee in front of him with both of his hands on the hilt of his sword which is pointing down to the ground where it is resting.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

My son, I tell you now that the  
blessing of Odin rests upon you.  
You will be Thor's mighty hammer,  
crushing those who rise against  
you.

EXT. NORWEGIAN FJORD VALLEY, VIKING VILLAGE - EARLY MORNING

We see the convoy of longships departing from the village docks.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

So, now depart, also with my  
blessing, sail into the wind and  
capture all the spoils of conquest  
that you can snatch from Fate's  
hand.

We see bow of one of the ships close up. Camera then moves up pointing  
down at the ship, moving up through the clouds until the ships  
disappear.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

Take our longboats, fast and  
powerful, rising like the wind  
above the water. They will give you  
swift victory, for we ARE the  
warriors of the sea!

EXT. SHORES OF HOLY ISLAND, OUTSIDE THE MONASTERY, DUSK

We see BROTHER FRANCIS at a well outside the monastery grounds. He has  
just brought up a pail of water and is raising a ladle of water to his  
lips. He pauses in the middle of his drink, and slowly looks up toward  
the ocean.

We see the ocean shore and the waves behind it. The sky is overcast and  
a dark fog is covering the water.

Then suddenly we see three ship masts and sails emerge out of the fog  
as if from nowhere. The ships continue to emerge from the fog until we  
can clearly see three viking longships, all weighed down with many men  
and torches. The dragon's head on the bow of each boat has flames  
billowing out of it's steel eye sockets.

BROTHER FRANCIS drops the ladle and bucket and turns to flee. As we see  
him running towards the monastery grounds, a cluster of arrows hit him  
in the back and he stumbles to the ground, mortally wounded.

INT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY, CHAMBER OF FATHER RONAN - CANDLELIGHT

We see FATHER RONAN, sitting at his desk writing a letter by candlelight. The room is filled with a collection of books, scrolls, and loose leaf paper and parchment. His bed lies against one wall and a chest of his belongings against another.

FATHER RONAN (V.O.)

My son, We have grown fearful in  
these dark and terror-full times.  
Our enemies surround us on every  
side.

EXT. SHORES OF HOLY ISLAND, OUTSIDE THE MONASTERY, DUSK

We see the vikings ships landing on the beach and the men pouring over the sides of the boats into the water, getting ready to attack.

FATHER RONAN (V.O.)

Their longboats are the shadows of  
the sea, appearing from the mists  
as dragons of fire and steel.

EXT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY - NIGHT

We see the raiders attacking the monastery and setting the buildings on fire. The flames of the fire lights up the night. We see monks being killed, as well as monks being tied up as prisoners. We see a close up of a money chest being tipped over. Monks are fleeing and the scene is pandemonium.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

My son, take what is theirs - it  
will be theirs no longer. Care not  
for that which they own - it will  
be theirs no longer.

Their land, their people, their  
silver, their gold,

All that they hold dear - will be  
theirs no longer

INT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY, CHAMBER OF FATHER RONAN

FATHER RONAN (V.O.)

My son, know that the blessing of our Lord dwells within you. In spite of our trials, you must preserve the word of our Lord that we have faithfully copied in our scrolls, our books and our manuscripts.

Give up what is yours, it was not yours to begin with. Care not for what you own or possess, for our lives are the claim of our Holy Father in heaven.

INT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY, THE SCRIPTORIUM

We are in the scriptorium looking towards the doorway. We see BROTHER SERVIAN come running up to the doorway, almost missing it. He dashes in and grabs the large book off the stone altar, the very special illuminated book of the gospels, as well as a few other scrolls he can gather before dashing out of the door and away.

FATHER RONAN (V.O.)

But do not surrender the treasure of the Gospels, the written word of the Lord, illustrated by our brothers here at Lindisfarne and dedicated to the memory of St. Cuthbert. When the time of trouble is upon us, do all you can to hide these treasures. Take them to safety and save them from destruction.

EXT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY - NIGHT

We are up on an elevated position looking down towards the carnage of the monastery. We are looking over the shoulder of ARNGEIRR, the leader of the raid. The camera pans slowly around him until we are looking up at him, with the reflection of the flames dancing across his form. A victorious smirk is on his face.

CHIEF ARNVALDR (V.O.)

Show no mercy, and leave no survivors. All that they have - all that they possess All that they have built - we WILL take.

We are the Varangians, the Vikings, the men of the Northern Mountains and WE ARE coming!

EXT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY - NIGHT

We see BROTHER SERVIAN running through the monastery grounds, as buildings continue to burn and fall apart. While looking back he runs into a viking raider, who grabs him and attempts to stab him with his knife. A burning rafter from the building beside falls at the last second, separating them, and enabling his continued escape. The viking calls for re-enforcements, signaling that someone has escaped.

We now see BROTHER SERVIAN running through the forest, as at the beginning, only now we see his face as he runs. He drops a scroll, but keeps on running.

The vikings almost catch up to him as he reaches a small stone safe house hidden in the forest with a short iron door. He rolls inside, triggering the spring-loaded release mechanism. As the door crashes down, the front cover of the book is pinned underneath. Desperate to close the door completely, he rips the book away leaving the cover to fall outside the door. The door slams shut.

INT. LINDISFARNE MONASTERY, CHAMBER OF FATHER RONAN - CANDLELIGHT

We see FATHER RONAN, sitting at his desk in prayer.

FATHER RONAN (V.O.)

We are the brothers of Holy Island,  
followers of Christ, and those  
called to his peace. Though our  
bodies be thrown to the fire, our  
love for Christ and His word will  
endure forever. Amen.

Suddenly a shadow looms across the desk. We then see (from FATHER RONAN's POV) a viking swing his axe at us with a scream, and then the screen goes black.

INFO SCREEN - about the reality of the attack on the Lindisfarne Priory and the importance of the Lindisfarne Gospels, the amazing illuminated book created at the monastery earlier, which did actually lose it's cover during a viking raid.

FILM LOGO

CREDITS