

Scene 1:

At the neumenet tree. A fairy appears, Regulus disappears. The fairy tells Adelaide to take magic from the tree. Place her hand on the trunk and pull the magic out. She knows how, it's been done to her. She refuses. She doesn't want to be like the sorcerer. "I'm not a sorcerer. Sorcery takes. It steals and destroys to further your own power. That's why people say it's corrupted. It's been twisted from something that helps others to something that helps only yourself at other's expense. I won't get my magic back by becoming like him. Now where's Regulus?" Regulus appears, gagged and bound by a bunch of fairies. The fairy tells her to free him. She can't. The fairies' magic is stronger than hers. The fairy tells her to take from the neumenet tree. Save Regulus. Tears run down her face as she refuses and begs them to let Regulus go. Suddenly, the fairies holding Regulus disappear, along with his bindings. "You've passed the test." Power flows from the tree into her. The fairy offers to teach her to use her power. She tells her that because she and Regulus helped the sorcerer reassemble the Staff of Nightfall, they are responsible for stopping him and destroying the staff. However, if she wants fairy's help, she must leave Regulus and enter the world of the fairies. They don't know how long she will have to stay with them—a few days or a couple months. She doesn't have enough food for a couple months, and knows if she eats the fairy's food, she will become a fairy. She doesn't want to leave Regulus and is too worried about both the sorcerer and Nolan to leave right now. She declines. The fairy tells her if she ever changes her mind to come back to the tree.

Scene 2:

They are heading back to the Belanger estate when they find out that the king is still planning his ball and guess their messengers didn't get through. Then they find out Nolan has taken over and

Commented [SRG1]: Total word count of initial scene idea: 306
Total word count of final scene: 3,650, spanning the end of one chapter, an entire chapter, and half of a third chapter.

Commented [SRG2]: The order here changed. Regulus is revealed and used as a visual threat before the fairies tempt her to drain power from the neumenet tree.

Commented [SRG3]: I decided they just released him, rather than completely vanishing.

Commented [SRG4]: This was dropped entirely. There is no consideration about supplies, and this type of transformation is not mentioned, because it's not possible.

Commented [SRG5]: Her motivation for staying behind also become only focused on not being separated from Regulus, with a little wariness about magical deals she doesn't fully understand.

Commented [SRG6]: Word count of initial idea: 199
Word count of final scene: 2,047

captured her parents and half-brother and his wife—which further confirms the messengers were killed. She tells Regulus he has to go warn the king, she has to help her parents. Regulus points out the king likely won't even see him, but she's Alfred Belanger's daughter. The king will see her. She has to be the one to go to the king. He tells her he will get his men and save her parents. "He can't be killed, but he can be weakened. He can be brought to the brink of death. He can be captured. We'll free your parents." "He'll kill you! I can't let you—" "I'm more afraid of what he'll do to you. And you *have* to go to the king." "But—" "We're mercenaries. This is what we do." "Not against people who can't die." "I'm going to tell the men you doubted them and they're going to be very hurt." She finally agrees, and they part ways.

Commented [SRG7]: In my initial idea for this scene, I had no idea how they would find out that Belanger castle has been taken. I also changed it so that they haven't heard anything about the king, but base their assumption he doesn't know on Nolan's conquest of the castle.

Commented [SRG8]: When I was writing the scene, I realized this idea made no sense in context. The idea to split up became Regulus'.

Commented [SRG9]: Not only did all of this dialogue get changed (some just rephrased, some completely omitted), Regulus' initial plan shifted from the first draft to the final draft from "take the castle" to "stealth extraction," as that felt more reasonable and logical.

Commented [SRG10]: Example of a line getting rewritten for flow and voice: He gave her a look of deep hurt. "Glad to hear you have so much faith in me. The men are going to be offended, too."