

GAME OF THRONES

HOUSE OF THE DRAGON

Episode Guide

Episodes 001-010

Last episode aired Sunday October 23, 2022





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This booklet was \LaTeX ed on October 25, 2022 by footstep11 with create_eps_guide v0.69

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Season One

The Heirs of the Dragon

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday August 21, 2022
Writer: Ryan Condal
Director: Miguel Sapochnik
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Sian Brooke (Aemma Arryn), David Horovitch (Grand Maester Mellos), Gavin Spokes (Lord Lyonel Strong), Michael Carter (Jaehaerys Targaryen), Steffan Rhodri (Hobert Hightower), Elliott Tittensor (Erryk Cargyll), Garry Cooper (Ser Ryam Redwyne), Julian Lewis Jones (Lord Boremund Baratheon), David Hounslow (Lord Rickon Stark), Frankie Wilson (Captain Randyll Barret), Mikhail Sen (Mickon), Luke Tittensor (Arryk Cargyll), Hannah Flynn (Dancer), Chris Jarman (Triarchy Lieutenant), Alana Ramsey (Lady Lynesse Hightower)
Summary: Viserys hosts a tournament to celebrate the birth of his second child. Rhaenyra welcomes her uncle Daemon back to the Red Keep.



The episode begins with an introduction to our players amid a tale taking place 172 years before the age of Daenerys Targaryen. The ailing King Jaehaerys Targaryen assembles the Great Council at Harrenhal to name his successor. We see Viserys his wife Aemma Arryn, along with Lord Corlys Velaryon and his wife, Princess Rhaenys, seated around the dying king. Despite Rhaenys being the king's descendant, Jaehaerys names her cousin Viserys the next ruler of Westeros.

Later, nine years into Viserys' rule, we see Princess Rhaenyra riding her dragon, Syrax, across the skies of King's Landing. Ser Harrold Westerling oversees her arrival back to solid ground. Rhaenyra tries to persuade her BFF Alicent Hightower to soar on the back of Syrax with her, but Alicent is content with staying on land.

After returning to the Red Keep, Rhaenyra visits her very pregnant mother, Aemma. Aemma reminds Rhaenyra of the importance of childbirth and how it's their sacred duty to produce heirs to maintain the Targaryen line. However, Rhaenyra would rather ride a horse into battle than give birth to a child.

Meanwhile, Viserys holds a council session with his Hand of the King, Otto Hightower, Lord Corlys, Grand Maester Mellos, Lord Lyman Beesbury and Lord Lyonel Strong. Corlys mentions mounting alliance in the Free Cities under the "Triarchy" and their ridding of pirates in the Stepstones. Viserys doesn't view this as a cause for concern. The council discusses Prince Daemon's continued absence from their sessions.

Harrold leads Rhaenyra into the throne room, wherein Daemon sits on her father's Iron Throne. The uncle and niece chat with each other in Valyrian, and it's so wonderful to hear it spoken regularly outside of the few times we heard it on Game of Thrones. Daemon gifts Rhaenyra with a necklace crafted of Vayrian steel, much like Daemon's sword, Dark Sister. Not gonna lie; there's something about Matt Smith with long bleach blonde hair and a haughty disposition that does something to me.

Anyway, Alicent and Rhaenyra study for their lessons outside. Rhaenyra would rather shirk her academic responsibilities and ride dragons with her bestie. Alicent mentions the possibility of Aemma giving birth to a son, thereby eliminating the potentiality of Rhaenyra becoming Viserys' successor. Rhaenyra says her dad wants a son and has always longed for her to be a boy.

Next, Grand Maester Mellos oversees the medical treatment of an inexplicable sore on Viserys' back that's very much infected. He nonchalantly mentions it most likely came from sitting on the Iron Throne. Getting slashed by swords every time you sit on a chair doesn't sound fun.

Later, Viserys visits his wife, who finds comfort in bathing incessantly to get through this terrible pregnancy. Aemma apologizes for failing to produce an heir for him, but after this pregnancy, she's done trying. I'd say six pregnancies (seven including Rhaenyra) is enough.

Then, Daemon, Commander of the City Watch, sends his hounds to hunt for the night. We see the City Watch guards kill without justice, viciously dismembering citizens with impunity. Even the prince joins the maiming and mass slaughter. So, King's Landing is officially a police state.

The following day, Viserys and the council convene with the rare presence of Daemon. They reprimand him for his murderous stunt. Viserys defends his brother, asserting he gave Daemon control of the City Watch to act as he sees fit within the confines of the king's laws. However, there will be consequences if he performs such an act again.

Daemon hurls insults at Otto, who recently lost his wife, while Otto believes Daemon should return to Runestone to spend some time with his spouse, Lady Rhea. Daemon thinks sheep look better than her, which is just rude, dude.

Later, Daemon has some sexy fun times with his mistress Mysaria in a pleasure house. Daemon isn't entirely into it, so Mysaria comforts him. She reassures Daemon that Viserys won't replace him.

Now, it's tourney time! Viserys hosts a tourney in honor of Aemma giving birth to their child. We see knights from all over Westeros, including banners from House Baratheon, House Stark, House Hightower and House Lannister among the lists. Daemon makes his grand entrance being the showman that he is.

Daemon takes on Alicent's brother, much to her and Otto's dismay. Thankfully, the Hightower lad survives. Daemon seeks favor from Alicent as a means to burrow under Otto's skin. Meanwhile, Viserys stands by Aemma's side while she's in labor. Mellos pulls him aside to present a life-or-death scenario. They cannot flip the baby, and Aemma struggles to birth the child. No milk of the poppy is enough for the pain. Mellos tells Viserys that he has a choice — either he saves the baby, or they both die.

Daemon battles Ser Criston Cole, a knight from a poor family clawing his way up the ranks. After Criston bests him on horseback, Daemon draws his sword, hoping to take this duel in another direction. Criston and Daemon duke it out to the raucous cheers of the crowd. He rises victorious, urging Daemon to yield. Upon beating Daemon, Criston approaches Rhaenyra, asking for her favor. Alicent gasps when she realizes Criston's Dornish. Everyone from Dorne is attractive, and that's all there is to it.

Meanwhile, Viserys makes a tough decision. He orders Mellos and the team to save his child. We see them cut open Aemma's belly while Viserys tells her he loves her. Aemma screams in agony, pleading with Viserys to end it. What a way to go. Mellos holds Viserys' baby, who happens to be a boy. Unfortunately, Aemma bleeds out. It's awful and painful to watch as a woman.

Later, we see the family attend Aemma's funeral, wherein we learn that Viserys' son also died. Daemon gently urges Rhaenyra to give Syrax the signal to burn the funeral pyre. Rhaenyra calls out "Dracarys" to her dragon and watches in tear-streaked anguish as the pyre bursts into flames.

Next, the council assembles an emergency meeting. Otto believes it's high time they establish the king's heir. Corlys mentions Daemon, which Viserys shrugs off, claiming his errant brother has zero interest in ruling the realm. We see Daemon eavesdropping outside the chambers. Then, Corlys brings up his wife, the original heir of Jaehaerys. Additionally, she already has a son.

Otto counters this with a mention of Rhaenyra, to which the council balks at such a suggestion. A woman on the Iron Throne? What next, we give them rights? Viserys, emotionally fragile from literally burying his wife and son, storms out of the chambers.

Then, Otto sends Alicent to keep Viserys company. He urges his daughter to don her mother's best dress. Ew. This scene is so icky. He wants to send his underage daughter into the king's private bedroom for more than mere "comforting."

So, Alicent does as she's bid, bringing her favorite book to read with Viserys. Thankfully, this scene doesn't take a turn for the icky. Alicent gives her condolences to the king. She wishes folks would've done the same when her mom died instead of speaking to her in riddles.

Meanwhile, Daemon buys a few pleasure houses for his men to cavort in and imbibe. Mysaria pours him drinks while the City Watch guards drunkenly encourage Daemon to deliver a rousing speech. Viserys learns from his council that Daemon utilized a night of grief and mourning for celebration. He drank to Viserys' son, styled "The Heir for the Day."

Later, Viserys summons Daemon into the throne room for a chat. Viserys claims all Daemon does is throw everything in his face, from working various positions within the court to commanding the City Watch. Daemon retorts that all he ever wanted was to serve as Viserys' Hand. He calls Otto Hightower the c-word. Viserys orders Daemon to return to Runestone at once.

Then, Viserys meets with his daughter, and the pair discuss dragons and men, along with the fall of Old Valyria courtesy of the Doom. Viserys believes they should never have trifled with dragons. Targaryens are not gods. Viserys broaches the subject of naming Rhaenyra as his successor, which she accepts. Yay! Viserys warns Rhaenyra that no seat in the Seven Kingdoms presents a greater danger than the Iron Throne.

What transpires next is a lavish ceremony wherein the major players of the various Westerosi houses pledge fealty to Viserys and Rhaenyra when she takes the Iron Throne. Meanwhile, Daemon takes Mysaria for one last ride on his dragon Caraxes. Finally, before the court, Viserys names Rhaenyra Targaryen, Princess of Dragonstone, his heir to the Iron Throne.

The Rogue Prince

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday August 28, 2022
Writer: Ryan Condal
Director: Greg Yaitanes
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Gavin Spokes (Lord Lyonel Strong), David Horovitch (Grand Maester Mellos), Anthony Flanagan (Ser Steffon Darklyn), Nova Foueillis-Mosé (Laena Velaryon), Andrew Bicknell (Dragonkeeper), Daniel Scott-Smith (Prince Craghas 'Crabfeeder' Drahar), Antonio Galas (Gold Cloak Guard), Ketan Majmudar (Household Targaryen Guard)
Summary: Rhaenyra oversteps at the Small Council. Viserys is urged to secure the succession through marriage. Daemon announces his intentions.



The episode begins with the badass new intro complemented by the Game of Thrones theme song. Admittedly, nothing gets me more pumped for a trip to Westeros than the immersive opening credits.

Then, we see mayhem, gore and feasting crabs on the Stepstones courtesy of the Crabfeeder and his pirates. It ain't pretty. However, the effects look unnervingly realistic here. At Viserys' small council session, we learn about Ser Ryam Redwyne's passing and that Harrold Westerling will be his successor as Lord Commander of the Kingsguard.

Lord Corlys Velaryon bursts into the chambers, all fire and fury. He beseeches Viserys to act now regarding the uprising at the Stepstones. Should those shipping lanes fall, it'll spell peril for Corlys' seat, Driftmark, and Westeros.

Unfortunately, Viserys doesn't seem alarmed. He refuses to strike first without irrefutable probable cause. Meanwhile, we discover that Daemon has seized control of Dragonstone, the Targaryen ancestral seat, instead of returning to the Vale to reunite with his wife, Lady Rhea Royce.

As for the Stepstones issue, Rhaenyra, observing her father at work, suggests he send his dragonriders to intimidate the Crabfeeder — a.k.a. Craghas Drahar, a Myrish prince admiral — and his goons. After all, that's how Aegon and his sisters got most of Westeros to bend the knee: by utilizing their dragons as a tool for intimidation.

Viserys shoots down Rhaenyra's proposal, shooing her away, urging her to watch while Harrold picks Ser Ryam's replacement on the Kingsguard. Harrold introduces each potential candidate for the Kingsguard. Otto Hightower observes alongside the princess, offering her advice. Rhaenyra, noticing Ser Criston Cole in the crowd, makes her selection with haste.

Criston has battle experience, which Rhaenyra feels is necessary for anyone protecting her father. Otto tries to make a case for the knights from House Crakehall and Mallister, houses with a strong alliance with the Targaryens, but Rhaenyra will have none of it.

Meanwhile, Viserys spends more time with Alicent, and if you can sense the creepy, drastic-age-difference-y aura enveloping them, you're not alone. Despite Viserys seeming like a somewhat affable, not inherently insidious guy, this is still icky. Viserys schools Alicent on Old Valyria and what it was like before the Doom. He drops one of his dragon figurines, and it breaks, much to his dismay.

Viserys struggles with talking to Rhaenyra following Aemma's death (we're at the six-month mark here). Alicent encourages the king to approach his daughter and show his support so they can grieve together.

Later, Alicent and Rhaenyra pray together, and the former urges her bestie to pray to her mother. In an emotional moment, Rhaenyra silently delivers what she wants to say to Aemma. She tries to reconcile with the fact that her dad must remarry to ensure the survival of the bloodline.

Then, Corlys and Princess Rhaenys approach Viserys with a proposal — one of marriage. They wish Viserys to wed their daughter, Laena. She possesses Valyrian and Targaryen blood. She'll be a suitable match for the king and provide him with children to foster the longevity of House Targaryen. But guess what? She's 12!

Next, we see Viserys and Rhaenyra having dinner together. The pair try to mend fences, with Rhaenyra telling her father about choosing Criston Cole for the Kingsguard. Rhaenyra apologizes for her suggestion during the small council, but Viserys waves it off, claiming she's young and will learn. Someone's gotta work on their listening skills.

Viserys' pinkie finger, the one sliced by the Iron Throne, looks pretty repulsive and on the brink of rot. While sitting with his hand submerged in a pile of maggots, Viserys seeks counsel from his BFF Otto regarding marriage to Laena. Otto believes she's too young. That said, it would be a wise method of ensuring the impregnability of the line and forging a stronger alliance between Targaryens and Velaryons.

Then, Rhaenyra watches from afar while her father walks with Lady Laena in the gardens. She asks him what it was like to be the last person to ride Balerion the Black Dread before he died. Laena also wonders where Vhagar, Visenya's dragon, lives, prompting Viserys to state there's chatter that she resides near the Narrow Sea.

Viserys listens with suspicion as Laena makes her case for becoming his wife. Girl, go watch Paw Patrol! You're so young! He knows Corlys and Rhaenys fed their daughter these lines.

Speaking of Rhaenys, she delivers the cold, hard truth to Rhaenyra. Sure, some men swore fealty to her and her father, but Viserys' remarriage will, most likely, bear the fruit of a son. That son will overtake Rhaenyra as the heir to the Iron Throne. Rhaenyra vows to create a new world order, but Rhaenys, "The Queen Who Never Was," knows that no man is ready for a woman to rule.

"Men would sooner put the realm to the torch than see a woman ascend the Iron Throne." What a banger of a line. It also encapsulates how women are treated as less-than in this world. As secondary to those with a cock and balls. Also, it's time to put the patriarchy to bed ... in the dirt.

Meanwhile, Alicent presents Viserys with his dragon figurine, newly mended thanks to the stonemasons. Otto enters the fray, urging Viserys to attend an emergency small council session.

Then, a man chats with Viserys in High Valyrian. We learn that men acting on behalf of Daemon stole a dragon's egg — Dreamfyre, the one originally for Viserys' dearly departed infant son, Baelon (named after his father). Daemon sent a letter to Viserys, claiming he's the rightful heir to the Iron Throne. Oh, and Dragonstone belongs to him, and he plans to wed Mysaria, who's carrying his child. So, that's a lot.

Otto calls this sedition, and the group encourages Viserys to punish his brother. Daemon merely wants to get a rise out of Viserys. Otto volunteers to travel to Dragonstone in Viserys' place, taking members of the Kingsguard with him.

Before Otto departs, he shares an awkward, heavy moment with Alicent. It seems Alicent, underneath the artifice and amiable smile doesn't want to romance her best friend's dad. However, she does as she's bid.

Later, Otto, Criston and the Kingsguard arrive on Dragonstone, the ancient seat of House Targaryen. Daemon meets them on a parapet, with his Gold Cloaks and Mysaria behind him. Daemon holds the dragon egg for Dreamfyre.

Otto urges Daemon to hand over the egg, banish Mysaria and leave Dragonstone for good. We see Caraxes, Daemon's dragon, roaring behind him. Suddenly, Syrax bursts through the clouds, with Rhaenyra on her back. Rhaenyra sports a dragon-scaled gray getup similar to one Dany wore on *Game of Thrones*.

She chats with her uncle in High Valyrian, ordering Daemon to stand down. After all, Dragonstone belongs to her. Rhaenyra also tells Daemon to kill her if he wishes since she stands in his way of inheriting the Iron Throne. Daemon, fuming, tosses the dragon's egg toward Rhaenyra and departs in silence.

Later, Mysaria chastises Daemon for telling Viserys that she's pregnant with his kid and they're getting married. Mysaria fears the king's wrath, even though Daemon reassures her that Dragonstone is heavily fortified. She explains why she loves being with him — for security. She's tired of being afraid.

Viserys seeks advice from Lord Lyonel Strong, who tells him it's in his best interest to marry Laena. Then, Viserys confronts Rhaenyra for visiting Dragonstone without his knowledge. Rhaenyra informs him of her success in getting Daemon to give up the dragon's egg. Viserys notes how similar Rhaenyra is to her late mother. Viserys reminds Rhaenyra that no one can replace Aemma, and he'll always love her, but it's time to tie the knot (again).

So, Viserys gathers his small council, complete with Rhaenyra and Alicent, to deliver his official marriage announcement. He shocks everyone (and enrages Corlys) by stating he's not marrying Laena. Instead, he plans to wed Alicent, much to Otto's delight and Rhaenyra's dismay. Rhaenyra leaves in a hurry. Next, we see Corlys chatting with someone in a dimly lit room.

Said someone is none other than Daemon, and it seems Corlys hopes to forge a discreet alliance with the rogue prince. They must put a stop to the mounting battle in the Stepstones. The Crabfeeder lurks there, and folks, he looks mighty gross.

Second of His Name

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday September 04, 2022
Writer: Gabe Fonseca, Ryan Condal
Director: Greg Yaitanes
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Matthew Needham (Larys Strong), Jefferson Hall (Lord Jason Lannister / Tyland Lannister), Gavin Spokes (Lord Lyonel Strong), David Horovitch (Grand Maester Mellos), Ryan Corr (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong), Wil Johnson (Ser Vaemond Velaryon), Theo Nate (Young Laenor Velaryon), Steffan Rhodri (Lord Hobert Hightower), Solly McLeod (Joffrey Lonmouth), Jonny Weldon (Samwell), Daniel Scott-Smith (Prince Craghas 'Crabfeeder' Drahar), Edward Rowe (Ser Howland Sharp), Thom Ashley (Brett Lannister), Oscar Salem (Ser Addam), Aron von Andrian (Velaryon Knight (Bloodstone)), Kathryn Delaney (Wet Nurse), Chris Jarman (Triarchy Lieutenant), Matthew Carver (Laenor Velaryon)
Summary: Daemon and the Sea Snake battle the Crabfeeder. The realm celebrates Aegon's second nameday. Rhaenyra faces the prospect of marriage.



The episode opens with the fiery, gory battle in the Stepstones, with Craghas Drahar, a Myrish prince admiral leading the Triarchy, torturing some poor unfortunate soul on the opposition. Suddenly, Daemon swoops in to save the day on Caraxes as the mighty Blood Wyrms drenches the battlefield with fire.

Later, we're in the Red Keep, peeping in on a celebration for Prince Aegon, Viserys and Alicent's son. It's his second name day, y'all! Unfortunately, one seeks to ruin the fun by discussing the Step-

stones war with the king. Viserys won't have it, as it's not the crown's fight but Daemon and Lord Corlys's.

Meanwhile, Viserys is preoccupied with tracking down Rhaenyra because it's time to go a-hunting for her stepbrother's birthday shindig. Queen Alicent, who's very pregnant, finds Princess Rhaenyra sitting in the godswood while reading a book. A singer belts out her favorite tune in, seemingly, perpetuity. Alicent informs her stepdaughter regarding the hunting party's upcoming departure for the kingswood. You can cut the tension between Rhaenyra and Alicent with a rusty butter knife.

Rhaenyra joins the departing party, riding along with Viserys, Alicent and Aegon. Viserys reminds Rhaenyra that one day she'll marry, much to her annoyance. Once the gang from King's

Landing arrives at the kingswood, we see a host of Lannisters greet them. Jason Lannister, whose brother Tyland serves the king at King's Landing, brazenly asks for Rhaenyra's hand in marriage. He claims she'll want for nothing — he'll even construct a dragon pit for Syrax! Those prideful Lannisters are, well, prideful. Rhaenyra rejects him.

I'd like to note that here we finally meet Larys Strong, who plays a pivotal role in the Dance of the Dragons, and Ser Harwin "Breakbones" Strong, who also plays a part in the story to come. They're the sons of Lord Lyonel Strong, Viserys's master of laws.

Next, Rhaenyra confronts her father for sicking Jason Lannister on her. Their arguing escalates into a screaming match, at least on Viserys's end. The king reminds his tempestuous daughter that she must abide by tradition and duty. As much as Viserys didn't want to remarry after Aemma's death, he did so anyway. Hey, I'm Team Rhaenyra here. It's time to buck tradition and create a new world order.

Then, Rhaenyra flees, frustrated with her father's lack of understanding. Ser Criston Cole chases after her on his horse. Criston believes they should return to the encampment, but Rhaenyra wishes to explore the kingswood more.

Meanwhile, Otto Hightower informs Viserys about the spotting of a white hart, a portent for the prince's name day. Perhaps Viserys can kill the poor creature whose land the humans are invading. Jason Lannister gifts Aegon with a spear, hoping Viserys will use it to deliver the killing blow on the white hart. He asks about Rhaenyra, asserting that he'd provide for her. Much like a large portion of the realm, Jason was under the impression that Viserys would choose his son to succeed him on the Iron Throne.

Viserys tells Jason that he's sorely mistaken — he has no intention of supplanting his daughter.

Later, we see Viserys taking a liking to the wine at the party. Perhaps a bit too much. Otto presents another marital option for Rhaenyra. Since it's Targaryen tradition to wed brothers and sisters, why not pair her with her stepbrother, Aegon? Her two-year-old stepbrother, mind you. Viserys laughs off this suggestion and orders Otto to knock it off with the politicking.

Then, Lyonel Strong offers yet another choice for Rhaenyra. Sure, his proposed match with Lady Laena Velaryon was a bust, but this one is much better. How about Prince Corlys and Princess Rhaenys's son, Laenor Velaryon? Viserys appears to consider it genuinely.

Meanwhile, Rhaenyra and Criston set up camp for the night in the kingswood. Rhaenyra asks Criston if he feels the realm will respect her as queen. He wholeheartedly believes they will. We also learn that Criston fooled around a bit while his father served at Blackhaven. However, since joining the kingsguard, he has taken his vows of chastity seriously. Sorry, Rhaenyra. Make all the googly eyes you want, but Ser Criston keeps it chaste.

Suddenly, the pair spot a wild boar. You know, the creature responsible for killing Robert Baratheon. The beast bowls over Criston, making a beeline for Rhaenyra. Rhaenyra tries to defend herself, kicking at the boar with all her might. Criston stabs it. However, when the duo thinks the creature is dead, it tries to turn over, at which point Rhaenyra stabs the beast repeatedly in a bout of emotional fury.

Then, Alicent joins Viserys outside as the latter stares into a fire pit. He confesses his fears regarding the succession, wondering if it was right to name Rhaenyra as his heir. Considine kills it in this scene, injecting the king with tenderness, fragility and nuance.

The following morning, Viserys, hungover, tries to stab a hart with the spear from Jason Lannister.

Later, we see Rhaenyra and Criston staring out over a gorgeous expanse. The rare white hart approaches Rhaenyra. Criston draws his sword, but his princess orders him to stand down. She allows the hart to run free. I love the symbolism here. Whereas Viserys would've killed it, Rhaenyra would rather a free creature continue to live without constraints and restrictions. It's a physical manifestation of what she desires for herself.

Criston and Rhaenyra arrive at the encampment with the dead boar in tow. We see Harwin Breakbones leer at her while Viserys and Alicent stare in shock at the blood-soaked Rhaenyra. Rhaenyra saunters down that grassy runway like the badass dragonrider she is.

Then, the group returns to King's Landing. Otto meets with Alicent to discuss Aegon's place in the realm. He believes Viserys will listen to Alicent if she proposes the prospect of Aegon becoming the king's successor.

So, Alicent sits with her husband, and the pair chat about Rhaenyra's insolence. Alicent vouches for Rhaenyra, saying that she'll marry at some point. However, she must believe the match is her idea. Alicent finds a letter from Vaemond Velaryon, Lord Corlys's brother. Vaemond asks for the crown to send reinforcements on Daemon's behalf. The queen believes they should provide aid, even if Viserys doesn't feel he should get involved. After all, the Triarchy could become the king's problem if left unchecked.

Next, Viserys asks a knight to send a reply to Daemon. Rhaenyra pops in for a chat with her dad. It's fraught with emotion, bubbling with serrated-edge anger and stinging pain. The past three years have unraveled Rhaenyra and Viserys's bond. He claims he only wants to see her happy and would never replace her as his heir. Rhaenyra dances around the genuine reason for her unhappiness — that her father married her best friend. If Viserys wanted to wed out of duty, he would've accepted Laena as his wife.

However, like him, Rhaenyra must marry somebody to protect herself while she rules Westeros and to secure the bloodline. Rhaenyra departs, and while there's significantly more healing to be done, it appears they're on the right track.

Meanwhile, in the Stepstones, Lord Corlys, Vaemond and Laenor Velaryon strategize their next move. The Crabfeeder and his legions are kicking their collective ass. Vaemond feels Daemon is a liability, sullyng their efforts at triumph. Daemon arrives on Caraxes with his usual fiery flair. Yes, he's that person — fashionably late. The knight hands Daemon Viserys's letter, which the latter reads silently.

Then, Daemon proceeds to beat the snot out of the poor messenger. Thankfully, the Velaryons present step in before it gets deadly. As Daemon departs on a sailboat, we hear a voiceover from Viserys, reading aloud what his letter said. Viserys vows to send Daemon some support, but it seems meager compared to the forces they're facing from the Triarchy (an alliance between Lys, Myr and Tyrosh) and Dorne.

So, Daemon pulls into enemy territory, brandishing a white flag of surrender. We see Craghas Drahar emerge from a cave, along with a bevy of his soldiers lining the outskirts of the encampment. Daemon procures Dark Sister and offers it as a sign of defeat. One of the Crabfeeder's men approaches to take Dark Sister from Daemon. Suddenly, Daemon stabs the man in one fluid motion.

What transpires next is a bloody beeline for the Crabfeeder as Daemon slashes every man standing in his way. Lord Corlys leads his troops into battle as archers rain down a flurry of arrows on Daemon. Daemon takes at least three arrows — one in his leg and two burrowed in his side. However, that doesn't stop our rogue prince from accomplishing his mission.

Then, Laenor swoops down on his dragon, Sea Smoke, yelling "Dracarys!" as his beast incinerates the opposition beneath. Daemon spots the Crabfeeder standing in his cave, so he makes a break for it.

Daemon emerges from the cave, dragging what's left of Craghas Draghar behind him. We look closer at his corpse, which is mostly all entrails now. Daemon deposits the Crabfeeder in the water. Corlys and Daemon make eye contact, and the latter is caked in blood.

King of the Narrow Sea

Season 1
Episode Number: 4
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday September 11, 2022
Writer: Ira Parker
Director: Clare Kilner
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Jefferson Hall (Lord Jason Lannister / Tyland Lannister), Gavin Spokes (Lord Lyonel Strong), David Horovitch (Grand Maester Mellos), Ryan Corr (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong), Julian Lewis Jones (Lord Boremund Baratheon), Roger Evans (Ser Borros Baratheon)
Summary: After conquering all but two of the islands, Daemon declared himself King of the Stepstones and the Narrow Sea, being crowned by Corlys the Sea Snake.



The episode opens with Rhaenyra listening to a line of suitors as they make their case for her hand in marriage. It culminates in Rhaenyra departing early while a child, hoping to wed her, fillets a man from another house like a fish. While en route to King's Landing, Criston believes Rhaenyra's father won't be pleased that she ended her tour to find a husband two months early. You mean to tell me there's no Westerosi Match.com? It would certainly save the crown on travel expenses across the realm.

Rhaenyra spots Caraxes soaring above their ship as he zooms toward King's Landing.

Viserys stands in front of the Iron Throne, while Rhaenyra blends in with the court. Daemon makes his grand entrance, sauntering toward the Iron Throne while donning a crudely crafted crown with all the swagger of a self-made king. It's his sworn duty as the most extra Targaryen, and I love him for it.

We learn that after smashing the Triarchy at the Stepstones and slaughtering the Crabfeeder, Daemon was crowned King of the Narrow Sea. However, Daemon wishes to hand that crown to his brother, bending the knee before Viserys in fealty. Yes, Daemon — Viserys's most leal servant.

Viserys welcomes his brother home with open arms and the pair embrace. He thanks Daemon for his service. I would like to thank Daemon for his new haircut. It suits him quite nicely.

Later, Rhaenyra joins her father, Daemon and Alicent for a bangin' party. Otto observes from a distance, clearly more of a wallflower. Viserys imbibes heavily, while Alicent encourages her husband to give Daemon a tour of the tapestries he received from Norvos and Qohor. Rhaenyra, eager to spend alone time with her uncle, reveals she would like a grand tour.

However, Daemon doesn't seem all that into it, so Rhaenyra scurries off to the outskirts of the shindig. Alicent joins her, and it seems the once-BFFs have somewhat mended fences. Rhaenyra

asks if Viserys is frustrated by Rhaenyra's refusal to continue courting suitors. While, yes, he is irritated, Alicent is glad to see her again. Rhaenyra expresses her love for her bestie/stepmother. What a weird dynamic.

Then, Rhaenyra finds Daemon in the godswood. She asks him in Valyrian why he returned to King's Landing. Daemon merely reaches for the necklace he gifted Rhaenyra that still circles her neck, all silence and googly eyes. Rhaenyra believes Daemon came back to rub his victory in Viserys's kingly face.

Next, the duo discusses marriage. Daemon complains about his wife, Rhea Royce, while Rhaenyra notes that men have more freedom in marriages than women. For men, it might be a political arrangement, but for women, it's a death sentence.

Meanwhile, Viserys sits with his small council, and Otto informs him of Lord Corlys's doings. Corlys returned to Driftmark following his and Daemon's triumph at the Stepstones. Still sour over Viserys spurning his daughter Laena's hand, the Sea Snake is now chatting with the Sealord of Braavos, planning to marry Laena to the Sealord's son.

Later, Rhaenyra inexplicably finds a bag full of strange clothes, along with a drawing that illustrates a secret passageway behind her bed. She dons the clothes, moves the bed and sneaks outside the castle to find Daemon, who's boasting a cloak. He set up an elaborate, wordless means of getting her outside. He leads his niece into the streets of King's Landing.

Then, the pair watch a play, wherein the performers act out the battle for the Iron Throne. Will Rhaenyra take the crown? Or will Viserys give it to his son Aegon? Rhaenyra and Daemon observe while the crowd boos Rhaenyra, the Realm's Delight, in favor of her little brother. Daemon urges Rhaenyra to exercise caution. She might have inheritance on her side, but Aegon is a boy.

Next, Alicent learns that her husband requests her presence while she stares outside her window, looking the very picture of pensive. Rhaenyra and Daemon pretend the former is a thieving boy, and he chases her through the streets of the city. Harwin "Breakbones" Strong catches her but he seems to comprehend that she's sneaking around with an escort.

Viserys and Alicent do the deed; however, Alicent is 100 percent not into it. We can see the plethora of sores dotting Viserys's back from sitting on the Iron Throne.

Later, Daemon leads Rhaenyra into a brothel. She seems to find all the forking amusing, which is funny to me. Daemon explains what pleasure houses are and how folks come here to do whatever the hell they want. They start kissing passionately, and, honestly? Blood relation aside, it's kinda hot.

Suddenly, Daemon pulls away abruptly and vanishes. They don't seal the deal, which is in line with the book. Rhaenyra searches for him in vain. When she returns to her chambers, she finds Criston Cole standing guard before them. He asks if she's hurt. Then, he threatens to go to the Lord Commander. Rhaenyra, feeling feisty and heeding her uncle's words about taking what she wants, steals Criston's helmet.

Criston chases Rhaenyra around her quarters while she playfully conceals the helmet from him. She kisses him, taking him by surprise. While one would think he would strive to uphold the oaths he took as a knight of the Kingsguard, Criston breaks them. He kisses Rhaenyra as she removes his armor. The process of undressing probably took them at least 30 minutes. Look at all that armor. Apparently, Rhaenyra also knows how to unfasten everything, too.

Anyway, they strip down to their birthday suits and have some fun. I think I'm becoming a Criston gal. Little does poor Criston know that Rhaenyra's uncle got her hot and bothered before she and Criston tangoed.

Meanwhile, Otto receives a tip from the White Worm, but we don't hear what the messenger tells him. The following day, we see Daemon wake in the brothel with Mysaria concocting a hangover cocktail for him. He refuses it, claiming she's merely a "common whore." Mysaria bites back, revealing she's no longer engaged in that line of work.

Otto enters Viserys's chambers to relay what he heard from the messenger regarding Daemon and Rhaenyra. He tells the king the pair were spotted in a pleasure house. Viserys asks Otto to go into great detail. Dude, do you want a play-by-play? After Otto mutters the word "coupling," Viserys dismisses it as a bald-faced lie.

Later, Rhaenyra meets with Alicent in the godswood, who inquires outright if Rhaenyra had sex with her uncle. Rhaenyra vehemently denies it, claiming Daemon took her to see a show, got too drunk and she went home. So, she withholds the teensy-weensy detail about making out

with him in a brothel. Alicent seems to believe her, but she scolds Rhaenyra for allowing herself to fall prey to Daemon's wiles.

Meanwhile, Harrold Westerling and his knights seize a hungover Daemon after he stumbles half-dressed into the Red Keep. They toss him before Viserys in the throne room.

Viserys, enraged, kicks Daemon in the side and holds the blade of his sword to his brother's throat. He's infuriated with Daemon for deflowering his daughter. Daemon doesn't deny Viserys's accusation, even though he didn't have sex with Rhaenyra. Instead, he asks Viserys if he can wed Rhaenyra. I love that the dialogue here is plucked straight from the pages of *Fire & Blood*. Daemon wants to marry Rhaenyra, but Viserys orders him to return to the Vale where his wife resides. The king gives his brother the boot, claiming he doesn't want to see Daemon again.

Next, Alicent urges Viserys to talk to his daughter. She wholeheartedly believes that Rhaenyra is innocent in all this. I mean ... no. What happened in the brothel was consensual.

Later, Rhaenyra enters her father's chambers. She admires Aegon the Conqueror's dagger, which boasts an inscription that reads, "From my blood come the Prince That Was Promised, and his will be the Song of Ice and Fire." Viserys reminds Rhaenyra of the duty she holds as his heir apparent and how that duty will follow her when she ascends the Iron Throne.

Viserys addresses the Daemon of it all with Rhaenyra, who suggests her father check his sources. Otto Hightower cannot be trusted. Viserys reveals Rhaenyra will wed Laenor Velaryon, Corlys's son, which she agrees to do without complaint.

Then, Viserys confronts Otto, accusing the latter of lying his way into power. Sure, he served Jaehaerys well, but Otto would do anything to get his blood on the Iron Throne. Viserys reveals he didn't initially see how Otto orchestrated the meetings between him and Alicent, but now it's crystal clear. Viserys removes the Hand of the King pin from Otto's breast, thereby firing him.

Meanwhile, Grand Maester Mellos gives Rhaenyra a tea that's essentially the Plan B pill. Viserys wants her to drink the concoction to destroy whatever might grow in her womb. This move is surprisingly progressive for an era that despised women and treated them like property. Well, except that Rhaenyra must drink the tea on her father's orders, so there's that property thing, I guess?

We Light the Way

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Sunday September 18, 2022
Writer: Charmaine DeGraté
Director: Clare Kilner
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Matthew Needham (Larys Strong), Jefferson Hall (Lord Jason Lannister / Ser Tyland Lannister), Gavin Spokes (Lord Lyonel Strong), David Horovitch (Grand Maester Mellos), Ryan Corr (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong), Wil Johnson (Ser Vaemond Velaryon), Theo Nate (Young Ser Laenor Velaryon), Savannah Steyn (Young Lady Laena Velaryon), Steffan Rhodri (Lord Hobert Hightower), Kurt Egyiawan (Maester Orwyle), Solly McLeod (Ser Joffrey Lonmouth), Owen Oakeshott (Ser Gerold Royce), Gary Raymond (High Septon), Lucy Briers (Lady Ceira Lannister), Alana Ramsey (Lady Lynesse Hightower), Kathryn Delaney (Wet Nurse), Rachel Redford (Lady Rhea Royce), Anna-Marie Sullivan (Dancer)
Summary: Daemon visits his wife in the Vale. Viserys and Rhaenyra broker agreements with the Valeryons. Alicent seeks the truth about the princess.



The episode opens with Rhea Royce riding her horse through the Vale. Daemon saunters silently before her, donning a cloak to conceal his appearance. Rhea confronts Daemon, asking him if he's there to finally consummate their marriage. She also recites the myriad insults he's thrown her way throughout their union. Daemon, still silent, approaches her. Rhea suspects something's amiss, so she draws her sword.

Rhea's horse becomes spooked by Daemon's closer proximity and Rhea's suspicion, so he bucks, knocking Rhea off. Having broken her back/cracked her skull, Rhea lies there, paralyzed. Daemon walks away but turns back once Rhea calls him "craven" for not "finishing the job." He grabs a sizable rock and moves toward her.

Meanwhile, Viserys, Rhaenyra and the court sail to High Tide. Viserys suffers from sea sickness while paying a visit to the Sea Snake. Lyonel Strong, Viserys's new Hand of the King, hands the latter a handkerchief after a puking session. Rhaenyra observes her ailing father from afar with Criston on her arm.

Back at the Red Keep, Alicent tearfully bids farewell to her father, Otto, before he departs King's Landing. Otto believes Alicent could've prevented his sacking by preparing her son for the

Iron Throne instead of siding with Rhaenyra. Otto warns his daughter of the inevitable bloodshed that'll arise when Rhaenyra becomes queen. The masses won't accept her. Rhaenyra will undoubtedly kill Alicent's sons to secure her claim. Even this bro knows what's coming.

Next, Viserys, Rhaenyra and their crew arrive at High Tide, Lord Corlys's seat. We see Corlys's son, Laenor, who fought alongside Daemon and Corlys at the Stepstones, keeping himself in tip-top fighting shape with his very good friend and nothing else, Joffrey Lonmouth. I don't know about you, but I see/hear the name "Joffrey" and undergo intense, warlike flashbacks to the first few seasons of Game of Thrones. Anyway, Corlys's brother, Vaemon, and daughter, Laena, greet them.

Meanwhile, Alicent finds a companion in the godswood in Larys Strong, who contributes significantly to the Dance of the Dragons. Think of Larys as the Littlefinger of this time — cunning, eloquent and persuasive as hell. Larys lets slip that Grand Maester Mellos brought a tea to Rhaenyra's chambers. He wonders if she was feeling ill.

Later, Viserys presents his case to Corlys and Rhaenys, both of whom have the most stylish entrances in the episode. Side note: High Tide is ethereal, and the sea theme is envy-inducing.

Viserys proposes that his daughter wed their son, binding two houses of Old Valyria together. Corlys needs assurances, and Viserys asserts the Iron Throne will go to Laenor and Rhaenyra's children upon the queen's passing. They'll keep the name Velaryon, but once one of them takes the crown, they'll assume the Targaryen moniker. On another note: the trio chats about Rhea Royce's death. We learn it was a "hunting accident."

Then, we see Laenor and Rhaenyra walking the gorgeous coast together. Rhaenyra knows Laenor's not attracted to women (Joffrey Lonmouth is his secret boyfriend/lover), so she suggests they perform their marital duties to keep their fathers content. After that, they go their separate ways. After all, Rhaenyra did learn that marriages are inherently political from Daemon. So, Laenor can continue his relationship with Joffrey while Rhaenyra plays around with Ser Criston.

Meanwhile, Corlys and Rhaenys meet to discuss the details of Rhaenyra and Laenor's impending nuptials. Corlys just wants to do right by his wife, who should be sitting on the Iron Throne instead of Viserys. Rhaenys insists she's moved on from that, though. However, she warns that Rhaenyra's inheritance will come under fire. Even she knows that war is on the horizon. Not-so-side note: Corlys and Rhaenys forever. The power couple. Also, the ostensibly healthiest couple, relationship-wise, in all the realm.

Later, Laenor and Joffrey mull over the former's future as a king consort. Joffrey will accompany Laenor to King's Landing as his sworn protector. He's elated that they can continue seeing each other.

Next, while sailing back to King's Landing, Criston maps out a new destiny for Rhaenyra. He urges her to run away with him across the Narrow Sea. They could go to Asshai. They could even get married, as their stations will be irrelevant. Admittedly, I would say yes to this. Let me get materialistic for a moment: Ser Criston Cole can get it. He's dashing, handsome, kind and loyal. Plus, he genuinely loves her. They could wed for love, y'all.

However, Rhaenyra rejects him, citing that she must accept her inheritance as the future queen of the Seven Kingdoms. But that doesn't mean they can stop having fun. Criston doesn't like the idea of being Rhaenyra's plaything, especially since he soiled his white cloak for her. Okay, so he's a bit presumptuous here. He can't just assume Rhaenyra will abandon her royal duties for him, especially with "The Prince That Was Promised" prophecy on the horizon.

Later, Alicent watches from afar while Viserys collapses in the courtyard after he returns from High Tide. She summons Criston to her chambers to question him regarding Rhaenyra's "maidenhead." Unfortunately, while Alicent is curious about Rhaenyra and Daemon, Criston misinterprets her query, thinking it's about him and Rhaenyra. Crossed wires!

Thus, Criston, being a man of honor, confesses to sleeping with Rhaenyra. He tells Alicent that she can sentence him to death, but the queen lets him go free. Oh, she's pissed. Rhaenyra lied to her.

Meanwhile, Viserys looks like sh*t. Let's be real. He's got one foot in the grave. Lyonel stands with his king while Grand Maester Mellos and Maester Orwyle tend to Viserys. Lyonel assures Viserys that he's upheld Old King Jaehaerys's values.

Then, we see the Velaryons arrive at King's Landing for the celebration. Laenor rides Seasmoke ahead of his father's ships alongside his mother, who sits atop Meleys the Red Queen. We finally get to see the Red Queen in all her glory. The throne room looks mighty spiffy as the court gathers

for a feast to ring in the week-long festivities leading to the wedding. Viserys and Rhaenyra chat with the lords of the great houses who come forward to pay their respects.

Rhea Royce's cousin chats with them, and Rhaenyra and Viserys offer their condolences regarding her passing. Lord Jason Lannister cracks some unsavory jokes. Ugh. Thank the seven gods Rhaenyra didn't marry him. The Velaryons enter the throne room in absolute style, being the regal badasses they are. Laena's dress is killer.

Suddenly, Daemon makes his triumphant return. Seriously, how many times has this fool been kicked out of King's Landing by his brother only to come strolling back as if nothing happened? Once Daemon sits with the wedding party, Viserys delivers a speech about the uniting of two significant houses. However, he's interrupted by the fashionably late arrival of his wife.

Alicent stuns in a dazzling emerald green gown. Get familiar with "the greens" and "the blacks," folks. These colors will mean something to you in the future. Larys whispers to his brother Harwin about the significance of the color green for House Hightower. It's the color of war. Here we go!

Next, Laenor and Rhaenyra take to the dance floor. Criston tries not to watch, as he's too angry. As more folks join the fray, Alicent reunites with members of her house. Her uncle, Lord Hobert, offers the support of Oldtown in the wake of Otto's firing.

Meanwhile, Rhea Royce's cousin not-so-subtly accuses Daemon of murdering Lady Rhea. Rhea was a fantastic rider and hunter — second to none. How was her death an accident? Daemon mentions that since the couple didn't produce heirs, Rhea's lands and titles fall to him. That means he stands to inherit Runestone. He plans to seek out Lady Jeyne Arryn in the Eyrie to make his case.

Then, Daemon and Laena lock eyes, and the pair decide to dance the night away together. I knew this was coming. Laena is gorgeous, so I don't blame Daemon for being taken by her beauty. Joffrey tells Laenor about Rhaenyra's secret — she was sleeping with Criston. Joffrey can tell by the expression on Criston's face. So, Joffrey approaches Criston, presenting the situation at hand. He proposes that they are the keepers of Laenor and Rhaenyra's secrets. Criston's like, "I'm on the clock, dude."

Rhaenyra and Daemon reunite while dancing. They chat it up in High Valyrian, and Daemon questions Rhaenyra's choice to wed Ser Laenor, claiming that while he's a noble man, he's "borrowing." Rhaenyra orders Daemon to fly her back to Dragonstone and marry her there. After all, her marriage to Laenor isn't official yet.

Meanwhile, we see Rhaenyra dancing with Harwin before the madness kicks into high gear. Suddenly, the crowd swells as folks push their way out of the throne room. We hear bloodcurdling screams. Harwin swoops up Rhaenyra, carrying her to safety, while Laenor notices that Criston is beating the snot out of Joffrey.

Unfortunately, Criston kills Joffrey. It's brutal, folks. And bloody. Again, this is a deviation from the source material. Criston does murder Joffrey, but amid a tourney, not during a feast. When the melee disperses, Laenor sobs over Joffrey's body. It's heartbreaking.

Later, we see Rhaenyra and Laenor wed immediately instead of waiting a week. Both parties are emotional as Laenor wipes tears from his eyes, mourning the loss of his love. Criston ventures into the godswood. He withdraws his sword and prepares to plunge it into his stomach when Alicent stops him.

During the private ceremony, Viserys collapses, and those present attend to him. As the camera pans out, we see a pool of Joffrey's blood on the floor. This is just the beginning.

The Princess and the Queen

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Sunday September 25, 2022
Writer:	Sara Hess
Director:	Miguel Sapochnik
Show Stars:	Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars:	Olivia Cooke (Queen Alicent Hightower), Matthew Needham (Larys Strong), Jefferson Hall (Ser Tyland Lannister), Gavin Spokes (Lord Lyonel Strong), Ryan Corr (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong), Leo Hart (Prince Jacaerys Velaryon), Harvey Sadler (Prince Lucerys Velaryon), Ty Tennant (Prince Aegon Targaryen), Leo Ashton (Prince Aemon Targaryen), Evie Allen (Princess Helaena Targaryen), Shani Smethurst (Lady Baela Targaryen), Eva Ossei-Gerning (Lady Rhaena Targaryen), John Macmillan (Ser Laenor Velaryon), Nanna Blondell (Lady Laena Velaryon), Kurt Egyiawan (Maester Orwyle), Paul Kennedy (Lord Jasper 'Ironrod' Wylde), Elliott Tittensor (Ser Erryk Cargyll), Alexis Raben (Talya), Arty Froushan (Ser Qarl Correy), Patrice Naiambana (Dragonkeeper Elder), Jordon Stevens (Elinda Massey), Dean Nolan (Prince Reggio Haratis), Sean Cernow (Black Cell Gaunt Prisoner), Arevinth V Sarma (Black Cell Prisoner 2), Gareth Morrison (Black Cell Prisoner 3), Rosie Ede (Older Midwife), Rosa Escoda (Younger Midwife), Ravi Aujla (Pentoshi Surgeon), Paul Hickey (Lord Allun Caswell), Anna Sari (Dragonkeeper Translator), Afolabi Alli (Dragonkeeper Acolyte)
Summary:	Ten years later. Rhaenyra navigates Alicent's continued speculation about her children, while Daemon and Laena weigh an offer in Pentos.



The episode opens with Rhaenyra in labor, striving to birth another child. When the baby spews forth, we see it's a son. Rhaenyra's maid enters, revealing that Alicent wishes to see her and the infant. It's not like Rhaenyra just gave birth or anything.

Laenor reunites with Rhaenyra outside her chambers and escorts his wife to Alicent's quarters. They encounter plenty of well-wishers along the way and an icy, stoic Criston Cole, who acknowledges his once lover curtly. Once inside the queen's

rooms, the couple interacts with the green-clad Alicent, who feigns shock at Rhaenyra being up-right despite calling for her stepdaughter.

Viserys hobbles into the room, looking the picture of frailty. He suffers from significant hair loss, complete with wrinkles and sagging skin. Viserys reaches for his grandson eagerly. When

asked about the baby's name, Laenor quickly dubs him Joffrey after his lover, the late Joffrey Lonmouth. Alicent remarks how the name doesn't suit House Velaryon. Before they leave, Alicent reassures Laenor that "soon or late, you may get one who looks like you."

Later, Rhaenyra chastises her husband for choosing their son's name without her consent. She comments on how he never used to show such an interest in their family. They return to their chambers to find Harwin, now the Commander of the City Watch, standing guard over Jacaerys, a.k.a. Jace, and Lucerys, a.k.a. Luke, Rhaenyra and Laenor's older sons. Jacaerys will sit the Iron Throne after his mother.

Harwin asks to hold Joffrey, which Laenor obliges. After he departs, Harwin and Rhaenyra have a moment alone. While they don't exchange many words, they know who Joffrey's biological father is — Harwin.

Meanwhile, Jace meets his new dragon, Vermax, while Luke, Aegon and Aemond watch the interaction. It's interesting how Viserys's sons all don green as in House Hightower. Jace learns how to behave around the beast and even yells, "Dracarys!" when Vermax is about to feed on a sheep. Then, Aegon, Jace and Luke play a trick on Aemond, who's still dragon-less, by introducing him to "The Pink Dread," a pig to whom they gave wings. So far, the boys don't seem to hate each other as much as their mothers do.

Next, Aemond ventures deeper into the dragonpit, hoping to glimpse one of the larger dragons. Unfortunately, he almost loses his life when the creature roars, unleashing a torrent of flame in his direction. Aemond escapes quickly. Alicent listens with disinterest while her daughter Helaena rattles on about what appears to be a millipede in her hands. Alicent looks like she'd rather watch paint dry.

hen, one of Alicent's maids escorts Aemond, informing the queen about her son's dragonpit exploits. Alicent scolds him while reassuring him that he'll get his dragon someday. Helaena, talking to herself, mentions how he'll "have to close one eye" in reference to the millipede, but for those who've read *Fire & Blood*, it's a prescient statement.

Alicent confronts Viserys regarding the tireless, perpetually moving Red Keep rumor mill. Viserys just wants to play with his model sets, but nobody will leave him alone. She remarks how one child looking nothing like his father is happenstance, but all three of Rhaenyra's sons bear a striking resemblance to Harwin Strong, not Laenor Velaryon.

Viserys refuses to entertain such a rumor, reminding Alicent that her accusation could pose dire consequences. He orders her not to bring it up again. Criston Cole is Team Green, even calling Rhaenyra a "spoiled c*nt." Somebody's changed his tune since ... 10 years ago. Alicent finds Aegon standing stark naked on the window sill in his quarters, tugging his member to greet the day.

Alicent reminds him of his duty as Viserys's firstborn son and how he will be king one day. Rhaenyra will have him killed if she ascends the Iron Throne, so Aegon must make sure he's ready to rule Westeros. However, at this point, Aegon isn't interested in becoming king.

Meanwhile, in Pentos, Daemon flies Caraxes while Laena soars above the skies on Vhagar. Yes, the famed she-dragon who boasted Visenya, the sister-wife of Aegon the Conqueror, as her rider. Vhagar is the last vestige of that time, of the Conquest. We see the citizens of Pentos watch in awe as the hottest couple ever circles the heavens on their dragons.

Later, Daemon and Laena entertain some guests with their twin daughters, Rhaena and Baela. Prince Reggio Haratis of Pentos proposes the Targaryen clan take up permanent residence in the city. Reggio vows to give them everything they desire. Daemon seems keen on accepting the offer, while Laena refers to themselves as merely long-term guests.

Next, Laena confronts her husband. She believes it's time they return to Westeros. She's super pregnant and wants to give birth to her child on Driftmark at her father's castle. However, Daemon has no intention of going home.

Back at the Red Keep, Viserys and Lyonel, his Hand, watch while Criston trains Aegon, Aemond, Jace and Luke. Harwin observes on the sidelines. Criston, obviously bearing enmity toward Harwin for, well, probably envy-related reasons, keeps his eye on the City Watch commander.

Then, Criston urges the Targaryen boys to square off against the Velaryon kids. However, Aegon fights dirty, shoving Jace onto the ground. Harwin steps in, ordering Criston to ensure the boys fight fairly. The training session escalates into a brutal brawl as Harwin punches the snot

out of Criston. Why? Because Criston ran his mouth, hinting at Jace and Luke being Harwin's sons. Honestly, knock him out, Harwin.

Later, Rhaenyra eavesdrops on a heated argument between Lyonel and Harwin. Lyonel rebukes his son for bringing shame to House Strong. Not only for beating up a knight of the Kingsguard but for fathering bastard sons.

Next, an inebriated Laenor stumbles into Rhaenyra's chambers with Qarl Correy on his arm. Qarl is Laenor's latest lover. After Qarl departs, Laenor informs Rhaenyra about the Triarchy forming an alliance with Dorne and causing mayhem in the Stepstones. War is on the horizon, and Daemon has abandoned his precarious seat as King of the Narrow Sea. Laenor wishes to fight, but Rhaenyra forbids him from doing so.

Meanwhile, young Rhaena laments not having a dragon of her own while she warms her egg by the fire, hoping it'll hatch. Laena gently reminds her that it's been eight years, and sometimes they don't hatch. Laena reassures her daughter that she'll have a dragon someday. Laena didn't ride one until she was 14, and now she sits atop Vhagar. Laena also comforts her daughter regarding Daemon favoring Baela over her.

Laena finds Daemon standing on the roof, looking out over the city. She tries again to persuade her husband to set his sights on home. He's incessantly pouring over Targaryen tomes, clearly pining to etch his name into his house's storied history. Laena misses her brother Laenor. She also reveals the birth of Rhaenyra's son, Joffrey. Even Daemon's in on "The Strongs" rumor.

Later, we see Viserys's small council is underway, with Rhaenyra and Alicent present for the proceedings. They discuss the calamitous Stepstones situation. Naturally, Rhaenyra and Alicent are on opposing sides. Rhaenyra then speaks her piece, apologizing to Alicent and hoping to let bygones be bygones. She proposes that Helaena wed Jace, and they can rule together when Jace ascends the Iron Throne.

Viserys is smitten with this idea, while Alicent claims they'll consider Rhaenyra's proposal. After the meeting, Alicent scolds Viserys for always siding with Rhaenyra and failing to see her for who she is. When they return to their chambers, Lyonel arrives with his resignation. He feels Harwin sullied the family name, and he can no longer serve the king. Viserys refuses to hear it, claiming that nobody has ever served the office with such objectivity, with no ulterior motives. That's a dig at Alicent's father, Otto.

With Viserys refusing to accept Lyonel's resignation, the Hand of the King asks if he can escort Harwin back to Harrenhal. Harwin is Lyonel's heir and must see to the duties of being a lord. Next, Alicent has dinner with Larys, her personal master of whispers. He's like Varys and Littlefinger rolled into one. Alicent vents about not having anyone support her in the court, and she misses having her father around.

So, Larys makes his next move — he frees a crop of criminals from the castle dungeons, removes their tongues and promises them their freedom if they do as he bids. Meanwhile, Laena is in labor, and it's not looking so hot. Daemon learns that the child won't come out. Daemon could allow them to cut open Laena and save the baby, but there's a significant chance the infant might die too. Laena will die either way.

Laena stumbles outside toward Vhagar, crying out, "Dracarys!" as she moves closer to her dragon. Laena knows this is it, and she did tell Daemon she'd rather die a dragonrider's death than as a "fat lord." It appears Vhagar might not comply with her rider's wishes. However, as Daemon finds his wife, Vhagar opens her jaws and lets out a blast of fire. No! I knew this would happen, but it sucks nonetheless.

Then, Harwin bids farewell to the Velaryon boys, lingering a little longer in his goodbye to Rhaenyra. Jace watches forlornly while Harwin leaves, then asks his mother if the former City Watch commander is his biological father. Uh-oh. Rhaenyra finds Laenor in the yard and demands they return to Dragonstone. He can even take Qarl with them. They'll need all the swords they can get.

Lyonel and Harwin arrive at Harrenhal with their retinue. Unfortunately, a massive fire breaks out, claiming the father and son's lives. We see a slew of hooded men present, and it's safe to assume they carried out the act.

Next, we hear a voiceover from Larys while Rhaena and Baela mourn the loss of their mother, with Daemon staring listlessly out at the city. Viserys kisses Aemma's ring and weeps. Rhaenyra arrives at Dragonstone with her family.

Larys now sits with Alicent; wherein he reveals a startling truth — he ordered the murder of Harwin and Lyonel. His own flesh and blood. That's why he freed those criminals. Why? He thought it was what Alicent wanted. She missed her father, and now she can invite Otto back to King's Landing and reinstate him as Hand. Alicent insisted she didn't want anything of the sort.

Driftmark

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired:	Sunday October 02, 2022
Writer:	Kevin Lau
Director:	Miguel Sapochnik
Show Stars:	Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars:	Olivia Cooke (Queen Alicent Hightower), Matthew Needham (Larys Strong), Wil Johnson (Ser Vaemond Velaryon), Leo Hart (Prince Jaecerys 'Jace' Velaryon), Harvey Sadler (Prince Lucerys 'Luke' Velaryon), Ty Tennant (Prince Aegon Targaryen), Leo Ashton (Prince Aemond Targaryen), Evie Allen (Princess Helaena Targaryen), Shani Smethurst (Lady Baela Targaryen), Eva Ossei-Gerning (Lady Rhaena Targaryen), John Macmillan (Ser Laenor Velaryon), Phil Daniels (Maester Gerardys), Alexis Raben (Talya), Arty Froushan (Ser Qarl Correy), Haqi Ali (Maester Kelvyn), Bijan Daneshmand (High Priest), Bill Bekele (High Tide Page)
Summary:	As the families gather on Driftmark for a funeral, Viserys calls for an end to infighting and Alicent demands justice.



The episode opens with the Targaryens and Velaryons gathering at High Tide for the funeral of Lady Laena Velaryon. Vaemond delivers a moving address in Valyrian about how Laena returns to the sea from whence she came. Then, Vaemond veers into shade territory, ostensibly geared toward Rhaenyra and Laenor's sons. It's about how Velaryons choose to keep their bloodline pure. Daemon chuckles, clearly picking up what Vaemond's putting down.

Meanwhile, amid the eulogy, Corlys and Rhaenys comfort their grandchildren, Baela and Rhaena. Aegon looks

dreadfully bored, while Viserys and Alicent seem unfazed. Otto is also present. We see him adjust the Hand of the King pin on his coat.

Later, everyone gathers for post-funeral beverages and — let's be real — to stare uncomfortably at each other from afar. So much is left unsaid in this scene. You can cut the tension with a rusty butter knife. Aegon tells his brother Aemond that he doesn't want to marry their sister Helaena because she's weird. Well, I kinda got this prediction right. While we didn't see an official betrothal by way of Viserys, Aegon and Helaena will wed someday.

Then, Jace asks Rhaenyra why they can't go to Harrenhal to mourn Harwin and Lyonel. Ugh, my heart. He knows the identity of his real father. She encourages her son to comfort Baela and

Rhaena in their time of grief. Corlys reminds Luke that one day he'll be the Lord of the Tides, inheriting Driftmark. Luke expresses disinterest in taking High Tide as his seat, believing that everyone would have to perish for him to become a lord. Children inherit generational trauma, y'all.

Next, as at any party, one person gets a little too inebriated. Aegon is in his cups and probably getting handsy. Otto finds him in a drunken stupor and demands he sober up. Laenor mourns the loss of his sister in the sea. Corlys, irritated at his son for causing a scene, gruffly sends Qarl out to fetch him.

Viserys tries to mend fences with Daemon, offering his condolences while urging him to return to King's Landing. The king could give Daemon a place at court. However, Pentos is Daemon's home now.

Later, Rhaenys and Corlys have a tense conversation by the fire. Corlys still has his sights set on the Iron Throne. He hopes his scions sit upon it one day. Legacy is everything to him. Conversely, Rhaenys couldn't give two flying forks. Sure, she was passed over for Viserys ages ago, but she's over it. Rhaenys pushes her husband to offer Driftmark to Baela instead of Luke, as a way to honor Laena's memory. Plus, Baela is pure, unadulterated Velaryon.

She reminds her lord husband that, unfortunately, the Velaryon boys are not Laenor's biological sons. I love this scene. It highlights the differences between Corlys and Rhaenys's ambitions. Corlys fights for names while Rhaenys battles for blood. In addition, Toussaint and Best dole out show-best performances here. Understated, nuanced and punchy.

Then, Rhaenyra and Daemon, a.k.a. her father's brother who she's 100 percent not attracted to, take a nightly stroll on the beach. Rhaenyra discusses the difficulties of marriage to Laenor. They tried doing the whole sex thing, but Rhaenyra garnered zero pleasure from it. This line calls to mind their scene in the brothel in episode four, wherein Daemon taught Rhaenyra that sex should be pleasing to both parties.

Next, Rhaenyra gets down to brass tacks — she wants to bang her uncle. As much as I love me some Matt Smith getting sexy, we cannot become desensitized to incest. Targaryen or no. I refuse. That said, Rhaenyra and Daemon's sex scene is starkly different than what we've seen on Game of Thrones. It feels like it's shot via a feminine lens. There's no leering male gaze quality to it. They also don't show a ton of skin, making it feel more intimate, in a way.

Now, compare that to Daemon's sex scene with Mysaria in the first episode. The difference is undeniable; Daemon loves Rhaenyra whereas Mysaria is someone with whom he has fun. Speaking of, we haven't seen much of Mysaria of late. Thankfully, she has her part to play in the Dance of the Dragons.

Meanwhile, Aemond gets a bit ballsy. He approaches a slumbering Vhagar with the intent of mounting her. Initially, she's irritated. Then, that irritation culminates in fire-inducing rage as the great beast opens her jaws to burn the little green snot alive. However, Aemond whips out some Valyrian commands. "Dohaeras" means "serve." "Lykiri" translates to "calm." Lastly, he says, "Soves," meaning "fly." And fly Vhagar does.

Vhagar takes off with Aemond clinging to her saddle. Unfortunately, she's massive and he's still a little thing. He almost falls off but manages to stay put for the most part. The scenery here is ethereal, especially one shot where we see Vhagar silhouetted against the moonlit sky.

Aemond claiming Vhagar doesn't go unnoticed. Baela and Rhaena wake Jace and Luke, while Daemon and Rhaenyra spot the dragon in the sky post-coitus. Sex in shipwrecked remains, might I add! Later, Aemond encounters Baela, Rhaena, Jace and Luke. Rhaena puts Aemond in his place, reminding him that she should lay claim to Vhagar as the dragon belonged to her late mother. Aemond hurls insults at the Targaryen girls and the Velaryon boys. He refers to Jace as "Lord Strong." Oof.

Suddenly, the quintet breaks out into a bloody, gruesome skirmish. It culminates in Luke slashing Aemond's eye with a sword. It finally happened! Cue the rise of Aemond One-Eye. Harrold puts the kibosh on the fighting and tends to Aemond's wound.

Next, Viserys tears into Harrold, wondering why the Lord Commander of the Kingsguard didn't put a stop to a fight between princes. Corlys and Rhaenys cling to their granddaughters while Rhaenyra embraces her sons. Rhaenyra informs Viserys that Aemond called her sons "bastards," prompting the king to question his son sternly regarding where he heard such a rumor. Aemond almost throws his mother under the bus. Instead, he offers up Aegon to his father.

Aegon tells Viserys that everyone just knows — look at them. Those boys are not of the seed of Laenor Velaryon. An enraged Alicent believes a debt must be paid. An eye for an eye. She employs the use of her sworn protector, Criston, to remove Luke's eye. Viserys forbids it, and even Criston balks at the idea of mutilating a child.

Suddenly, Alicent grabs Viserys's blade and makes a break for Luke. Rhaenyra impedes her path as the crowd swarms around them, attempting to pacify the two flaring tempers in the room. We finally hear the line "Now they see you as you are." This scene is so intense. Finally, Alicent strikes first, slicing Rhaenyra's arm with her blade. Shocked, she drops it. Aemond tells his mother he feels it's a worthy exchange: an eye for a dragon. I love how we see "the blacks" and "the greens" on their respective sides in this scene — an invisible divider looming between them. Also, Corlys situated behind Rhaenyra to support her after Alicent assaults her is rather symbolic.

Later, Otto visits Alicent in her chambers as they prepare to depart for King's Landing. Alicent believes her father is disappointed in her. Her actions did not befit her station. She embarrassed House Hightower, blah, blah, blah. However, Otto is as cunning and manipulative as they come. He beams with pride at Alicent. Otto's genuinely glad she's in it to win it. He urges Alicent to stay in the game and remain focused.

Meanwhile, a maester tends to Rhaenyra's arm. Laenor wanders in, bewildered to find his wife and sons looking like they were in a bar brawl. Laenor apologizes profusely for not being at Rhaenyra's side. He understands their arrangement but wonders aloud whether happiness and duty can coexist. He's not so sure they can. Thus, he vows to become 100 percent dutiful. No more affairs. Laenor wants to raise his sons to become the best princes they can be. He curses the gods for making him as he is, but Rhaenyra reminds him of his inherent goodness and kindness. Love is love, baby! Rhaenyra's not a homophobe. This makes me happy.

Then, Rhaenyra and Daemon watch while Viserys, Alicent and their crew sail away to King's Landing. They discuss how Targaryens are forged in fire, but perhaps Velaryons have the way of it. Maybe water is better. Alicent chats with Larys, who she has been avoiding since he admitted to slaying his own kin for her happiness.

Larys reveals he's ready and willing to serve her, and Alicent vows to use him when she needs someone who's discreet and skillful. Rhaenyra asks Daemon to marry her in Valyrian. Admittedly, hearing Rhaenyra and Daemon speak Valyrian is pretty hot. Anyway, Rhaenyra believes wedding her uncle will secure her claim to the Iron Throne. Her inheritance would be undisputed. Daemon addresses the legitimate obstacle that is her husband. Laenor would have to die. She has a plan for that.

We see a hooded Daemon approach Qarl in what looks like Spicetown, paying the latter gold aplenty to kill Laenor with witnesses. Next, Qarl and Laenor battle it out with swords near a roaring fire in High Tide. By the time the fight ceases, however, Corlys and Rhaenys find Laenor's charred corpse in the flames. Rhaenys lets out a bloodcurdling scream, crumpling to her knees. I feel so bad for Corlys and Rhaenys.

With Laenor out of the equation, Rhaenyra and Daemon marry. There's some blood swapping and drinking involved in a traditional Targaryen ceremony. Their kids bear witness, looking the picture of uninterested. Then, they watch an uncle and niece make out.

Meanwhile, Qarl flees Driftmark on a boat. We see a hooded companion in said boat with him. Qarl's rowing buddy drops his hood, and we see it's Laenor, alive and well, sans hair. Laenor and Qarl make their escape across the narrow sea.

The Lord of the Tides

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired:	Sunday October 09, 2022
Writer:	Eileen Shim
Director:	Geeta Vasant Patel
Show Stars:	Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars:	Olivia Cooke (Queen Alicent Hightower), Jefferson Hall (Ser Tyland Lannister), Harry Collett (Prince Jacaerys 'Jace' Velaryon), Tom Glynn-Carney (Prince Aegon Targaryen), Ewan Mitchell (Prince Aemond Targaryen), Bethany Antonia (Lady Baela Targaryen), Phoebe Campbell (Lady Rhaena Targaryen), Phia Saban (Princess Heleana Targaryen), Elliot Grihault (Prince Lucerys 'Luke' Velaryon), Anthony Flanagan (Ser Steffon Darklyn), Wil Johnson (Ser Vaemond Velaryon), Phil Daniels (Maester Gerardys), Kurt Egyiawan (Maester Orwyle), Paul Kennedy (Lord Jasper 'Ironrod' Wylde), Luke Tittensor (Ser Arryk Cargyll), Elliott Tittensor (Ser Erryk Cargyll), Alexis Raben (Talya), Jordon Stevens (Elinda Massey), Max Wrottesley (Ser Lorent Marbrand), Paul Hickey (Lord Allun Caswell), Haqi Ali (Maester Kelvyn), Maddie Evans (Dyana), Kieron Jecchinis (Dragonsone Elder), Bo Ponomari (Kings Guard)
Summary:	Six years later. With the Driftmark succession suddenly critical, Rhaenyra attempts to strike a bargain with Rhaenys.



The episode opens with Rhaenys sitting on the Driftwood Throne in Corlys's stead at Driftmark. Baela stands next to her grandmother while Vaemond fills Rhaenys in on the extent of Corlys's injuries. We learn she hasn't seen her lord husband in six years, as he was fighting in the Stepstones. After taking a dagger to the throat, he fell into the sea and succumbed to fever.

Of course, with the Sea Snake clinging precariously to life, Vaemond calls into question the line of succession. Baela believes her grandma looks quite comfortable perched atop the Driftwood Throne.

Rhaenys reminds Vaemond that Corlys named Lucerys as his heir. However, Vaemond believes he's more suited to the role as Corlys's brother.

Meanwhile, on Dragonstone, Daemon fetches three dragon eggs for his and Rhaenyra's children. He receives a note from Baela on Driftmark, informing him that Vaemond plans to sail to

King's Landing to make his case to the king. Inside the castle, Rhaenyra watches with amusement while Jacaerys tries to learn High Valyrian from Maester Gerardys. We see young Joffrey playing in the corner.

Daemon enters with the note from Baela. Rhaenyra asserts that Vaemond will poke holes in Luke's inheritance of Driftmark and her claim to the Iron Throne. Daemon suggests he and his wife make a beeline for King's Landing. On a separate note, I love Rhaenyra's dress in this scene.

Later, we see Alicent and Otto in a small council meeting, listening to Lord Beesbury drone on about the Stepstones. Grand Maester Mellos is no longer with us, but Orwyle now fills that role. Alicent learns about Rhaenyra's arrival, and the council briefly bickers about the line of succession to the Driftwood Throne. Beesbury defends Luke's right to hold his future seat, as it's Corlys's wish.

Then, Rhaenyra and Daemon visit Viserys in his chambers. Oof. He looks rough. The makeup department deserves an Emmy just for doing Considine's makeup in this episode. Viserys seems to forget who's before him until Rhaenyra reminds him. She also introduces him to his new grandsons, Aegon and Viserys. Initially, Daemon looks shocked by the sight of his brother, but his features soften once it wears off, and we see only love there.

Rhaenyra encourages her father to support her claim, reaffirming the title he gave her nearly two decades ago. Daemon informs Viserys about the resumed fighting in the Stepstones since the Triarchy made a comeback. Meanwhile, Alicent comforts a serving girl, Dyana, who Aegon raped. I hate him so much. Alicent believes her and gives her moon tea. Admittedly, I was so scared for Dyana. I thought Alicent was going to kill her or order her death.

Next, Alicent rebukes her son Aegon for his actions, emphasizing that everything he does falls back on her. Plus, Aegon refuses to think about his wife, Helaena. Helaena asks where Dyana is, as it's time for her to dress the children. At this point, I'm assuming she's given birth to her twins, Jaehaera and Jaehaerys.

Alicent finally reunites with Rhaenyra and Daemon in Viserys's quarters. Daemon puts Alicent in her place as only Daemon can, finding it disrespectful that Alicent wasn't there to greet them. I love that he doesn't stand for Alicent nor address her as "Your Grace." It also doesn't sit well with Rhaenyra and Daemon that Alicent and her father will oversee the succession case. Also, why is the Red Keep bereft of the Targaryen standard?

Meanwhile, Jace and Luke watch while Criston dukes it out with Aemond. Aemond spots his nephews and wonders if they're there to train. However, the doors open, and Vaemond enters with his retinue from Driftmark. Vaemond meets with Alicent and Otto to discuss his claim. Otto ostensibly supports Vaemond inheriting the Driftwood Throne.

Rhaena reunites with her grandmother Rhaenys, and hot on their heels is Rhaenyra. Rhaenyra chats with Rhaenys in the godswood. She asks the latter to support Luke's claim to Driftmark. Rhaenys sees right through the princess's ruse, mainly because she utilizes Rhaena as a buffer to soften the blow of her request. Rhaenyra proposes a betrothal between her sons and Rhaenys's granddaughters — Baela will wed Jace, and Rhaena will marry Luke. Rhaenys rejects the proposal.

Then, Rhaenyra sits beside her father while he slumbers that night. She begs him to guide her. We finally see the burden of becoming queen weighing on Rhaenyra's shoulders, especially the decades-long conflict between her and Alicent. D'Arcy shines here. She asks Viserys if "The Song of Ice and Fire" is true, but he's in too much pain and in a haze of confusion to answer.

Later, Otto observes while the maesters dress Viserys's wounds. We see the full extent of his leprosy. Seriously, give this department all the accolades. Viserys wishes to sup with his family that evening and asks Otto to arrange the event. Otto sits on the Iron Throne to oversee the succession debacle. Vaemond steps forward to make his case first. He claims that it's about blood, not houses. He's a true Velaryon, while Luke isn't. The tension between everyone is so thick you can cut it with a rusty butter knife.

Rhaenyra stakes her claim next, but she's interrupted by the arrival of a latecomer. Viserys hobbles into the throne room, donning his royal finery. He wears a mask that conceals half of his face. Yes, I'll refrain from making Phantom of the Opera jokes. It's too easy. Nobody assists him until he gets to the steps before the throne. Viserys insists on going it alone, but Daemon's there to help when he stumbles. Daemon and his brother ascend the stairs together, and the former places the crown on the king's head. I'm not crying; you are.

Viserys reminds the court that Corlys made Luke his heir to Driftmark as the king made Rhaenyra the heir to the Seven Kingdoms. He asks Rhaenys to speak on Corlys's behalf. Not only does she throw her support behind Luke, but she approves the betrothals between Rhaenyra's sons and her granddaughters. Plot twist! Vaemond is irate. He speaks insolently to the king before turning his ire on Rhaenyra and her sons. Vaemond calls his nephews "bastards" and the princess a "whore."

Viserys shakily procures his blade, threatening to have Vaemond's tongue for his treasonous language. However, Daemon swiftly removes Vaemond's head with Dark Sister save the latter's tongue. "He can keep it," Daemon says. Admittedly, it's a badass line. Later, Rhaenys watches in stony silence while the silent sisters prepare Vaemond's body for the voyage back to Driftmark. That poor woman. She's experienced more loss than anyone.

Next, we see the family gathered for a feast. Viserys arrives on a chair, and he's carried to the table. Jace sits next to Baela, his betrothed, with Aegon on the other side. Aegon incessantly pesters Jace about having sex for the first time. Baela urges Jace to ignore him. Viserys stands and removes his mask. We see he's missing his right eye and a good chunk of the right side of his face. He delivers a moving monologue about wanting his family, the most important people in his life, to let bygones be bygones. Mend fences! He won't be around forever. Everyone around the table, save maybe Aemond, looks genuinely touched by his words. This is Considine's Emmy submission.

Rhaenyra is hot on his heels in the speech department, delivering her remarks regarding Alicent and her loyalty to the king. Rhaenyra apologizes for the rift between them. Alicent, moved, also gives a toast to Rhaenyra and her house. Toasts all around! Aegon makes another unsavory dig at Jace, and he almost reacts angrily. However, he turns it into a toast to his uncles. Helaena provides a toast to Baela and Rhaena, telling them that marriage isn't so bad because "he ignores you." Admittedly, this candid statement made me laugh out loud.

Then, Jace asks Helaena to dance with him, much to Aegon's dismay. Aemond One-Eye watches the display in silence. Rhaenyra and Daemon laugh together. Otto smiles while Alicent laughs. Yes, full-on smiles. It's a Christmas miracle. Aemond stands, offering a toast to his nephews. He rattles off a list of descriptors for them. Before he gets to "strong," we see Alicent silently plead with him not to say it.

Anyway, he calls them "strong," prompting Jace to act. Jace, Aegon, Luke and Aemond battle it out, but Daemon steps in before it gets too ugly. At this point, Viserys already went to bed. Rhaenyra orders her sons — and Baela and Rhaena — to go to their chambers. Alicent urges Rhaenyra to stay. She reaches for Rhaenyra's arm. The layers of enmity peel away, revealing the center of what used to be a treasured friendship underneath. After seeing her family home to Dragonstone, Rhaenyra vows to return to King's Landing on Syrax.

Meanwhile, Talya, a maid of the Red Keep, meets with Mysaria. It appears she's one of Mysaria's informants, who keeps an eye on the royal proceedings. We return to the king's chambers, wherein Alicent comforts an ailing Viserys. She feeds him milk of the poppy to alleviate his pain.

Viserys tells her that Aegon's Dream, "The Song of Ice and Fire," is true. Aegon saw it all — he saw what would happen in the North. "The Prince That Was Promised" will protect the realm. Alicent misunderstands her husband, thinking he's referring to their son, not Aegon the Conqueror. Unfortunately, Viserys believes he's talking to Rhaenyra, not Alicent.

When she departs, Viserys lies there, his breathing ragged and shallow. He whispers, "No more." Then, he reaches out his hand. I think he sees Aemma here. Finally, he utters, "My love," before his breathing stops.

The Green Council

Season 1

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Sunday October 16, 2022
Writer: Sara Hess
Director: Clare Kilner
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Olivia Cooke (Queen Alicent Hightower), Matthew Needham (Lord Larys 'The Clubfoot' Strong), Jefferson Hall (Ser Tyland Lannister), Tom Glynn-Carney (Prince Aegon Targaryen), Ewan Mitchell (Prince Aemond Targaryen), Phia Saban (Princess Helaena Targaryen), Kurt Egyiawan (Grand Maester Orwyle), Paul Kennedy (Lord Jasper 'Ironrod' Wylde), Luke Tittensor (Ser Arryk Cargyll), Elliott Tittensor (Ser Erryk Cargyll), Alexis Raben (Talya), Sean Cernow (Black Cell Gaunt Prisoner), Michelle Bonnard (Brothel Madam), Oliver Grange (Jon), Paul Hickey (Lord Allun Caswell), Simon Chandler (Septon Eustace), Nina Barker-Francis (Jayne), Tripti Tripuraneni (Helaena's nurse), Miriam Lucia (Lady Fell), Paul Clayton (Lord Merryweather), Nick Davison (Fight Pit Spectator), Richard Stanley (King's Landing / Flea Bottom Citizen)
Summary: While Alicent enlists Cole and Aemond to track down Aegon, Otto gathers the great houses of Westeros to affirm their allegiance.



The episode opens with the empty corridors and halls of the Red Keep right at daybreak. A young boy tracks Talya in the kitchens and whispers in her ear. Talya informs Alicent about Viserys's passing. Alicent orders her to tell no one before rushing to her father's chambers.

Then, Alicent tells Otto that Viserys disclosed with his dying breath that he wished for Aegon to succeed him on the Iron Throne. Of course, we know Alicent misconstrued what her late husband said. Although, admittedly, I think she's being wilfully obtuse at this point. She

knows Viserys harbored no love for their son.

Later, Alicent and Otto assemble the small council early to share the news. We see Ser Tyland Lannister, Grand Maester Orwyle, Lord Jasper "Ironrod" Wylde, Lord Lyman Beesbury, Criston and Harrold Westerling are present. After dropping that bombshell, Otto rallies the council to act quickly so they can secure Aegon as king. It's here that Alicent learns of the long-term machinations brewing before her eyes. You know, without her consent.

Otto believes they must kill Rhaenyra, Daemon and their family on Dragonstone. Alicent puts her foot down, vehemently ordering the council to refrain from committing murder. She hopes Rhaenyra will cooperate of her own accord without anyone resorting to slaughter. Beesbury, a staunch Rhaenyra supporter and someone who's known Viserys the longest, doesn't buy that the late king would suddenly change his mind. He believes the whole affair reeks of treason and theft. We've always supported Lyman Beesbury in this house!

Unfortunately, Beesbury doesn't make it out of the council room alive. Criston orders the older man to sit while forcefully pushing him into his seat. Criston pushes so hard that he kills Beesbury.

Next, Harrold withdraws his blade, thrusting it in Criston's direction. Harrold orders him to remove his cloak and stand down. However, Criston's empowered by a blinding desire to serve Alicent at all costs, so he responds by brandishing his sword. Harrold reminds Criston that he's the Lord Commander. Alicent persuades Criston to lower his blade. Harrold tears off his white cloak and storms out, refusing to heed anyone but the king.

Later, Alicent finds Helaena in her quarters with Jaehaerys and Jaehaera. She asks Helaena about Aegon's whereabouts, but the latter doesn't know where he is. Alicent tries to tell her daughter about Viserys's death, but Helaena repeats a phrase we've heard her say about the beast beneath the boards. Aemond saunters into Helaena's chambers and learns of the news about his father.

Meanwhile, Otto dispatches Ser Erryk Cargyll to find Aegon and to take his brother Arryk with him. Once they find the future king, they're to bring him to Otto and only Otto. They also must disguise themselves while out in the city. Shady! Then, we see Rhaenys waking in her bed to the sound of someone locking her doors. Realizing she's trapped, Rhaenys tries to find a way out. The servants of the Red Keep, including Talya, are ushered into the dungeons. Presumably, to avoid the spread of Viserys's death. Larys watches in silence while this happens.

Alicent asks Criston to travel outside the Red Keep in search of her son. Aemond volunteers to travel with Ser Crispin, claiming he knows where Aegon would go. Then, we see Aemond and Criston walking through King's Landing in disguises. Aemond explains that Aegon used to take him to the Street of Silk so that the former could "get it wet." Criston rattles about respecting women like The Mother, but that sounds like baloney coming from him.

The pair ask a local brothel madam if she knows where Aegon is, but she claims he hasn't frequented her doorstep in years. While Criston turns away, she looks at Aemond and comments on his growth. Something tells me she's seen her fair share of Aemond (and little Aemond). Meanwhile, Otto informs the gathered lords and ladies in the throne room about Viserys's death. He asks them to swear fealty to Aegon. We see most of them kneel in obeisance, but a few refuse to bow, reminding Otto about their vow to Princess Rhaenyra. They're escorted to the dungeons promptly.

Erryk and Arryk wend their way through the crowded alleys of King's Landing while donning brown cloaks. They stop at a fighting pit in Flea Bottom featuring children with sharpened teeth and nails brutally beating each other to, presumably, death. This part is pretty book accurate. While Aegon isn't present, the two Kingsguard knights and identical brothers find themselves at a moral crossroads. Erryk is no fan of Aegon, while Arryk reminds him that he's served the future king all this time without complaint.

Jayne approaches the knights and persuades them to visit her lady, the White Worm. She knows where Aegon is. Naturally, this knowledge comes at a price. Ergo, Mysaria wants to confer with Otto. Meanwhile, Aemond vents his frustrations regarding his older brother to Criston. Aemond legitimately wants to sit on the Iron Throne. He toils away at his studies and swordwork. Yet Aegon gets the Seven Kingdoms handed to him on a silver platter. Criston empathizes with Aemond.

Next, Lord Caswell is caught trying to escape the Red Keep on horseback. Larys brings Caswell to Otto. The lord insists he wasn't departing to relay the news of Viserys's death to Rhaenyra. Otto doesn't believe him, so he sentences Caswell to death. Before Larys leaves, he offers his services to Otto. What a grimy, crummy little weasel. Alicent watches while the silent sisters prepare Viserys's body for a traditional Targaryen funeral. After they scamper off, she tearfully places his crown atop his corpse. Alicent breaks down at that moment.

Then, Alicent visits Rhaenys, and without the former uttering a word, she knows Viserys is gone. Alicent wants to ensure that Rhaenys won't side with Rhaenyra. She urges her cousin to

throw her support behind Aegon, even playing the "you should've been queen" card. Rhaenys shoots back that Alicent plays her part to the whims of the men around her. There's no real power in that.

Mysaria sits with Otto, who's cloaked, and the Cargyll brothers. Criston and Aemond spy them from afar. After receiving her payment, Mysaria offers Aegon's location, but on one condition: the king must abolish pit fighting with children in Flea Bottom. They're just kids! Otto agrees to her terms.

The Cargyll brothers find Aegon stowed away where Rhaenyra and Alicent prayed together after Aemma's passing. He throws a temper tantrum like a petulant child, refusing to go with them back to the Red Keep. They chase him outside, where Criston and Aemond lie in wait. Criston draws his sword again, aiming it at Arryk. Erryk watches from afar, steering clear of the confrontation. While Arryk and Criston duke it out (because Criston wants to deliver Aegon to his queen and not give Otto the upper hand), Aemond tries to restrain Aegon.

Aegon reminds Aemond that he doesn't want to be king. He's well aware that he's not suited for the role. He pleads with Aemond to allow him to sneak off on a ship so he can sail far away from Westeros. Arryk stands aside (Erryk disappears) and lets Criston and Aemond deliver Aegon to Alicent. Meanwhile, Alicent has a life-altering conversation with her father. She accuses Otto of playing her like a puppet — his chess piece to move about the board as he sees fit. Finally! Open your eyes, girl.

She reminds her dad that she has Aegon, so they will proceed with her plan. Alicent will send her terms to Rhaenyra on Dragonstone and offer the latter the chance to back off quietly.

Later, Larys reveals his findings to Alicent, spewing vague metaphors and cloaked language about Alicent's safety. The White Worm's informants are everywhere. He does mention Talya as one of her spies, though. Throughout this exchange, we see Alicent remove her socks so that Larys can jerk off to the sight of her feet. That's his payment — he's got a foot kink. Someone introduce this man to Quentin Tarantino. Y'all, I'm not sure I needed to see this scene. If you need me, I'll be washing my eyeballs with soap.

Next, Erryk sneaks into Rhaenys's room and breaks her free. The pair leave the Red Keep undetected. Rhaenys begs Erryk to take her to the Dragonpit so she can depart on Meleys, but Erryk informs her that it's too dangerous. They must flee via the Blackwater Bay. Then, we see one of the brothels on fire courtesy of a cloaked figure.

Once day breaks, we see throngs of people bustling toward the Dragonpit. Rhaenys loses Erryk in the melee. Meanwhile, Alicent and Aegon ride to the latter's coronation in their carriage. Aegon sulks in the corner, despondent. Even when Alicent mentions Viserys's last words, Aegon doesn't believe he's meant to be king. That is until Alicent reveals Viserys's Valyrian steel dagger. Aegon will also acquire Blackfyre, Aegon the Conqueror's sword, before ascending to the Iron Throne.

While Aegon marvels at the sight of the dagger, Alicent urges him to spare Rhaenyra and her family. He must not resort to murder and violence and keep the realm as peaceful as possible. However, Aegon's not listening to a word she says — he's absorbed by the dagger. He asks Alicent if she loves him. She calls him an imbecile. This moment was kinda funny. I still loathe Aegon, but I cracked a smile here.

Then, we see the crowd flood the Dragonpit as Otto informs the King's Landers about Viserys's passing. Rhaenys watches in secret, taking care to conceal herself from prying eyes. Otto introduces Aegon as the new king. We see him walk through the crowd toward the dais. The High Septon anoints Aegon with oils and proclaims him King Aegon, the Second of His Name. Well, after Criston, the new Lord Commander of the Kingsguard, places Aegon the Conqueror's crown on his head. At this point, Rhaenys has slipped out quietly.

Aegon rises to cheers from the crowd. He whirls around to face his family. Otto, Criston, the High Septon and Alicent bow with no issue, but when Aegon's eyes fall on his wife Helaena and brother Aemond, the duo hesitates for a moment before nodding. And they say there's no humor in this show.

Aegon seems reluctant to rule until he hears the crowd enthusiastically cheering for him. Then, he puts on a show, withdrawing Blackfyre and lifting it high for all to see. Suddenly, large chunks of debris fly about, sending people fleeing in all directions. When the smoke clears, we see Meleys the Red Queen storm into the center with none other than Princess Rhaenys Targaryen on her back. Meleys inches closer to the royal family on the dais. Alicent orders Criston to protect

Helaena while she stands in front of Aegon. Aegon hunches behind her in fear as Meleys lets out a beastly roar in their faces. Rhaenys makes eye contact with Alicent but doesn't say a word. She directs her dragon out of the Great Sept and flies away, presumably toward Dragonstone.

The Black Queen

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Sunday October 23, 2022
Writer: Ryan Condal
Director: Greg Yaitanes
Show Stars: Paddy Considine (King Viserys Targaryen), Matt Smith (Prince Daemon Targaryen), Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Rhys Ifans (Otto Hightower), Steve Toussaint (Lord Corlys Velaryon / The Sea Snake), Eve Best (Princess Rhaenys Velaryon), Sonoya Mizuno (Mysaria), Fabien Frankel (Ser Criston Cole), Milly Alcock (Young Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen), Emily Carey (Young Alicent Hightower), Graham McTavish (Ser Harrold Westerling), Robert Ryan (Household Targaryen Guard), Bill Paterson (Lord Lyman Beesbury)
Guest Stars: Harry Collett (Prince Jacaerys 'Jace' Velaryon), Ewan Mitchell (Prince Aemond Targaryen), Bethany Antonia (Lady Baela Targaryen), Phoebe Campbell (Lady Rhaena Targaryen), Bijan Daneshmand (High Priest), Phil Daniels (Maester Gerardys), Elliot Grihault (Prince Lucerys 'Luke' Velaryon), Rosie Ede (Older Midwife), Luke Tittensor (Ser Arryk Cargyll), Elliott Tittensor (Ser Erryk Cargyll), Kurt Egyiawan (Grand Maester Orwyle), Roger Evans (Lord Borros Baratheon), Anthony Flanagan (Ser Steffon Darklyn), Nicholas Jones (Lord Bartimos Celtigar), Jordon Stevens (Elinda Massey), Max Wrottesley (Ser Lorent Marbrand), Megan-Rose Barter (Floris Baratheon), Mark Collier (Nobleman), Laura Lake (Ellyn Baratheon), Ketan Majmudar (Household Targaryen Guard), Robert McCrea (Kings Guard), Emma O'Hara (Cassandra Baratheon), Rui M Tomas (Targaryen retainer)
Summary: While mourning a tragic loss, Rhaenyra tries to hold the realm together, and Daemon prepares for war.



The episode opens with Lucerys standing in front of the Painted Table. He traces the letters in "Driftmark," clearly thinking about his future seat. Rhaenyra enters the room, her hand resting on her stomach. Luke divulges his fears regarding his inheritance of Driftmark. Rhaenyra explains that Viserys named her heir when she was his age (14), and she didn't feel ready either. Rhaenyra vows to guide Luke through this process. It's a sweet, tender scene between mother and son.

Next, Rhaenys arrives on Dragonstone after crashing Aegon's coronation. She informs Rhaenyra and Daemon about Viserys's passing and the greens' slapdash bid to crown Aegon. Daemon wonders aloud why Rhaenys didn't burn the greens then and there, but she asserts it isn't her war to start. Rhaenyra, overcome with grief and anger, starts going into early labor. Daemon seems simultaneously numb and seething with venom.

Then, Rhaenyra paces back and forth in her chambers, navigating contraction after contraction. Maester Gerardys is present. Rhaenyra refuses to accept help from anyone, almost deter-

mined to extract the baby herself. Meanwhile, Jacaerys and Luke are training with swords by the water. Rhaenys summons the boys to their mother's side.

Rhaenyra tells Jace and Luke about their grandfather's death and Aegon's subsequent usurping. Before the brothers depart, Rhaenyra asks Jace, her heir to the Iron Throne, to ensure that Daemon doesn't retaliate while she's abed. We see Daemon playing at war with lords sworn to Rhaenyra — including Lord Bartimos Celtigar, an ancient house with Valyrian ancestry — as they all surround the Painted Table. They're trying to determine their allies in the coming fight. He ignores Rhaenyra's calls for him.

Jace storms into the room, ordering Daemon to stand down as a conduit for Rhaenyra. Daemon takes Jace outside to teach him a lesson about loyalty. We see the pair stand before Ser Lorent Marbrand and Ser Steffon Darklyn, formerly of Viserys's Kingsguard. Daemon poses an ultimatum: either they swear fealty to Rhaenyra or die. Caraxes lumbers behind them and roars. Naturally, the knights choose Rhaenyra.

Later, Rhaenyra claws the premature baby out herself. Unfortunately, the child is stillborn. While Daemon watches from afar, she cradles Visenya. After Rhaenyra wraps Visenya, Daemon, their children and their sworn lords attend a burning for the child. Ser Erryk Cargyll arrives with a crown, one worn by Jaehaerys the Conciliator and Viserys the Peaceful.

Erryk kneels before Rhaenyra and swears his loyalty and sword to her. He hands the crown to Daemon. Then, Daemon crowns his wife, and we see everyone present bow before her. Well, everyone save Rhaenys. I love this shot — The Queen Who Never Was standing opposite the rightful ruler of Westeros. After the hasty coronation, Rhaenyra joins her black council around the now illuminated Painted Table. I seriously need one of these. Quick, someone pull up Etsy!

A brainstorming session is underway as those present continue to assess their ally situation. Daemon hopes to bring some of his former buddies from the City Watch into the fold. Gerardys already sent ravens to Lord Grover Tully of Riverrun. House Stark doesn't break its oaths, while House Baratheon should remain loyal to them by blood alone. Of course, the Lannisters aren't their friends, but that house isn't friends with anyone. Rhaenyra hopes to have the support of House Velaryon, but Rhaenys remains mum on that.

Celtigar believes they don't need stacked armies to fight the greens, as they have more dragons than they do. Daemon rattles off the dragons on their side and mentions the riderless ones in the Dragonmont — Vermithor and Silverwing. Seasmoke still resides on Driftmark. Erryk informs Rhaenyra of some unexpected visitors sailing under a green three-headed dragon banner.

Outside, we see Otto, Grand Maester Orwyle and some Kingsguard knights. Daemon arrives to greet them with Dark Sister sitting on his hip. Otto claims he comes at the behest of the Dowager Queen Alicent to confer with Rhaenyra. Rhaenyra makes her grand entrance astride Syrax, landing on the parapet. She's donning her crown. Otto refuses to address her as Her Grace. He hands her the torn page from the book we last saw in the pilot, wherein young Rhaenyra and Alicent were studying. Otto reveals that Alicent hasn't forgotten her friendship with Rhaenyra. We see our queen tear up at the sight.

Otto presents Aegon's peace terms — Rhaenyra gets Dragonstone and Jace inherits it after her, with Luke taking Driftmark and Aegon the Younger and Viserys scoring high positions at court. Hot-blooded Daemon withdraws his sword, planning to kill Otto on the spot, but Rhaenyra orders him to stay his blade. She claims she'll present her answer the following day. Before Otto departs, Rhaenyra calls him a traitor and rips off his Hand of the King pin.

Later, while standing around the Painted Table, Daemon accuses Rhaenyra of going soft. Their enemies are itching for a war, so why not give them one? Rhaenyra pulls Daemon aside and discloses the prophecy Viserys imparted, a.k.a. "A Song of Ice and Fire," Aegon the Conqueror's Dream. Daemon, angered that Viserys withheld this info from him, starts choking Rhaenyra.

She insinuates that Viserys didn't tell Daemon about this because he didn't trust his baby brother. Daemon storms out. I don't like this bit at all. That said, I do believe it fits Daemon's character. He's volatile and unpredictable. "The Black Queen" puts them at odds with one another: Rhaenyra wishes to keep the peace and hold the realm together while Daemon longs to wage war. At the end of the day, Rhaenyra is her father's daughter.

Next, Rhaenys sits next to Lord Corlys, whose fever has just broken. I'm glad we're seeing him again. Rhaenys fills Corlys in on what he's missed while communicating how hurt she was by his six year-absence. They lost two children, and she needed him. Rhaenys also informs him of Vaemond's death, and that Daemon killed him. Corlys swears off his pursuit of the Iron

Throne, citing that heedless ambition is an inherent Velaryon trait. However, Rhaenys addresses the Rhaenyra development and how their grandsons stand to claim the Iron Throne after her. She also commends Rhaenyra for exercising restraint and pragmatism when all the lords want her to go to war.

Then, the Sea Snake and Rhaenys make their grand entrance while Rhaenyra and her council continue preparations for the war. Rhaenyra expresses her relief that Corlys is on the mend. Just when we think he might steer clear of the oncoming storm, Corlys and Rhaenys swear their allegiance to Queen Rhaenyra, with the might of House Velaryon at her beck and call. We see Baela and Rhaena stand next to their betrothed boys, Jace and Luke.

Rhaenyra believes they should send ravens to the lords most likely to support her. However, Jace urges his mother to send him and Luke as envoys. Dragons are faster and more intimidating. Rhaenyra allows it, giving Jace the longer route since he's older. He'll start at the Vale to treat with Lady Jeyne, then end at Winterfell to treat with Lord Cregan Stark, a.k.a. the Wolf of the North. Meanwhile, Luke will make a beeline for Storm's End to deliver a message to Lord Borros Baratheon. Daemon plans to head to the riverlands on Caraxes.

Rhaenyra imparts advice to her boys before they leave on dragonback. She clutches Luke's hands, and, folks, I don't know if I'm gonna be okay. My baby Luke! Daemon doesn't depart quite yet, as he's hellbent on getting Vermithor and Silverwing on their side. Vermithor was last ridden by King Jaehaerys, while Silverwing was Queen Alysanne's mount. Daemon sings a High Valyrian lullaby to Vermithor, a.k.a. the Bronze Fury. We see the great beast emerge from the darkness, letting out a fiery roar before inching closer to Daemon. I'll never get over how impressive the dragons are on this show.

Then, Luke lands at Storm's End with Arrax, his dragon. He tells the knights on duty that he bears a message for Borros from the queen. Luke spots Vhagar lurking outside. He sees none other than Aemond inside the castle, having beaten him to the punch. Borros sits on his throne. Aemond is perpetually giving face.

Borros's maester reads Rhaenyra's message, which enrages the Lord of Storm's End. He asserts he doesn't need reminding of the oath his father swore to Rhaenyra all those years ago. Aegon came with an offer: the allegiance of House Baratheon for a betrothal. Aemond is there to choose one of Borros's daughters to wed. Borros asks Luke if he'll marry one of his daughters as well. Luke informs him that he's already betrothed to another. Borros sends Luke on his way.

However, Aemond pursues Luke, calling out to "Lord Strong" with a request. Aemond removes his eyepatch, and we see a sapphire glowing in his eye socket. Admittedly, it looks hot. What can I say? I love a good complex baddie. Aemond asks Luke to put out his eye before he goes. Aemond only wants one, as he doesn't want to blind Luke. A literal eye for an eye. Luke refuses, reminding Aemond that he's present under a peace banner. Enraged, Aemond lunges at Luke but stops in his tracks when Borros orders them to leave. He'll have no bloodshed under his roof.

Luke exits and runs toward Arrax. The storm around them worsens considerably. Luke speaks to his dragon in Valyrian to calm him. I want an Arrax. On a separate note, Grihault's Valyrian is so well executed here. Luke and Arrax take to the skies amid the storm. Suddenly, Aemond looms into view atop Vhagar. The size disparity between the two dragons is staggering. Aemond laughs maniacally while he and Vhagar swoop after Luke and Arrax. Arrax is a young dragon and faster, but the storm hinders him quite a bit.

A chase unfolds between the dragons. At one point, Luke and Arrax appear to out-fly their pursuers, arriving in a patch of peaceful, cloudless sky. But Vhagar reappears, and Arrax lashes out by unleashing a stream of fire in her face. Luke orders Arrax to listen to him. Vhagar retaliates, swooping in for the kill. Aemond does the same as Luke — he demands that Vhagar stand down. Unfortunately, it's too late. Vhagar takes a swift bite out of Arrax. We see pieces of the dragon fall into the depths of Shipbreaker Bay below. Luke is nowhere to be found, but it's a given that he fell with his dragon.

Aemond sits in shock, indicating that Luke and Arrax's deaths were an accident resulting from his provocation and Vhagar's unruliness. While the outcome in the book is the same, the motivation behind Aemond's actions is quite different.

Meanwhile, Daemon enters Rhaenyra's council chambers to deliver the news about Luke. She turns toward the roaring fire, her back convulsing in pain and grief. Daemon holds her hand. Rhaenyra whirls around to face her council, tears streaking her cheeks, with a look of war in her

eyes.

Actor Appearances

A

Haqi Ali	2
0107 (Maester Kelvyn); 0108 (Maester Kelvyn)	
Evie Allen	2
0106 (Princess Helaena Targaryen); 0107 (Princess Helaena Targaryen)	
Afolabi Alli	1
0106 (Dragonkeeper Acolyte)	
Aron von Andrian	1
0103 (Velaryon Knight (Bloodstone))	
Bethany Antonia	2
0108 (Lady Baela Targaryen); 0110 (Lady Baela Targaryen)	
Thom Ashley	1
0103 (Brett Lannister)	
Leo Ashton	2
0106 (Prince Aemon Targaryen); 0107 (Prince Aemond Targaryen)	
Ravi Aujla	1
0106 (Pentoshi Surgeon)	

B

Nina Barker-Francis	1
0109 (Jayne)	
Megan-Rose Barter	1
0110 (Floris Baratheon)	
Bill Bekele	1
0107 (High Tide Page)	
Andrew Bicknell	1
0102 (Dragonkeeper)	
Nanna Blondell	1
0106 (Lady Laena Velaryon)	
Michelle Bonnard	1
0109 (Brothel Madam)	
Lucy Briers	1
0105 (Lady Ceira Lannister)	
Sian Brooke	1
0101 (Aemma Arryn)	

C

Phoebe Campbell	2
0108 (Lady Rhaena Targaryen); 0110 (Lady Rhaena Targaryen)	
Michael Carter	1
0101 (Jaehaerys Targaryen)	
Matthew Carver	1
0103 (Laenor Velaryon)	
Sean Cernow	2
0106 (Black Cell Gaunt Prisoner); 0109 (Black Cell Gaunt Prisoner)	
Simon Chandler	1
0109 (Septon Eustace)	
Paul Clayton	1
0109 (Lord Merryweather)	

Harry Collett	2
0108 (Prince Jacaerys 'Jace' Velaryon); 0110 (Prince Jacaerys 'Jace' Velaryon)	
Mark Collier	1
0110 (Nobleman)	
Olivia Cooke	4
0106 (Queen Alicent Hightower); 0107 (Queen Alicent Hightower); 0108 (Queen Alicent Hightower); 0109 (Queen Alicent Hightower)	
Garry Cooper	1
0101 (Ser Ryam Redwyne)	
Ryan Corr	4
0103 (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong); 0104 (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong); 0105 (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong); 0106 (Ser Harwin 'Breakbones' Strong)	

D

Bijan Daneshmand	2
0107 (High Priest); 0110 (High Priest)	
Phil Daniels	3
0107 (Maester Gerardys); 0108 (Maester Gerardys); 0110 (Maester Gerardys)	
Nick Davison	1
0109 (Fight Pit Spectator)	
Kathryn Delaney	2
0103 (Wet Nurse); 0105 (Wet Nurse)	

E

Rosie Ede	2
0106 (Older Midwife); 0110 (Older Midwife)	
Kurt Egyiawan	5
0105 (Maester Orwyle); 0106 (Maester Orwyle); 0108 (Maester Orwyle); 0109 (Grand Maester Orwyle); 0110 (Grand Maester Orwyle)	
Rosa Escoda	1
0106 (Younger Midwife)	
Maddie Evans	1
0108 (Dyana)	
Roger Evans	2
0104 (Ser Borros Baratheon); 0110 (Lord Borros Baratheon)	

F

Anthony Flanagan	3
0102 (Ser Steffon Darklyn); 0108 (Ser Steffon Darklyn); 0110 (Ser Steffon Darklyn)	
Hannah Flynn	1
0101 (Dancer)	
Nova Foueillis-Mosé	1
0102 (Laena Velaryon)	
Arty Froushan	2
0106 (Ser Qarl Correy); 0107 (Ser Qarl Correy)	

G

Antonio Galas 1
 0102 (Gold Cloak Guard)
 Tom Glynn-Carney 2
 0108 (Prince Aegon Targaryen); 0109 (Prince Aegon Targaryen)
 Oliver Grange 1
 0109 (Jon)
 Elliot Grihault 2
 0108 (Prince Lucerys 'Luke' Velaryon); 0110 (Prince Lucerys 'Luke' Velaryon)

H

Jefferson Hall 6
 0103 (Lord Jason Lannister / Tyland Lannister);
 0104 (Lord Jason Lannister / Tyland Lannister);
 0105 (Lord Jason Lannister / Ser Tyland Lannister);
 0106 (Ser Tyland Lannister); 0108 (Ser Tyland Lannister);
 0109 (Ser Tyland Lannister)
 Leo Hart 2
 0106 (Prince Jacaerys Velaryon); 0107 (Prince Jacaerys 'Jace' Velaryon)
 Paul Hickey 3
 0106 (Lord Allun Caswell); 0108 (Lord Allun Caswell);
 0109 (Lord Allun Caswell)
 David Horovitch 5
 0101 (Grand Maester Mellos); 0102 (Grand Maester Mellos);
 0103 (Grand Maester Mellos); 0104 (Grand Maester Mellos);
 0105 (Grand Maester Mellos)
 David Hounslow 1
 0101 (Lord Rickon Stark)

J

Chris Jarman 2
 0101 (Triarchy Lieutenant); 0103 (Triarchy Lieutenant)
 Kieron Jecchinis 1
 0108 (Dragonstone Elder)
 Wil Johnson 4
 0103 (Ser Vaemond Velaryon); 0105 (Ser Vaemond Velaryon);
 0107 (Ser Vaemond Velaryon); 0108 (Ser Vaemond Velaryon)
 Julian Lewis Jones 2
 0101 (Lord Boremund Baratheon); 0104 (Lord Boremund Baratheon)
 Nicholas Jones 1
 0110 (Lord Bartimos Celtigar)

K

Paul Kennedy 3
 0106 (Lord Jasper 'Ironrod' Wylde); 0108 (Lord Jasper 'Ironrod' Wylde);
 0109 (Lord Jasper 'Ironrod' Wylde)

L

Laura Lake 1
 0110 (Ellyn Baratheon)
 Miriam Lucia 1
 0109 (Lady Fell)

M

John Macmillan 2
 0106 (Ser Laenor Velaryon); 0107 (Ser Laenor Velaryon)
 Ketan Majmudar 2
 0102 (Household Targaryen Guard); 0110 (Household Targaryen Guard)
 Robert McCrea 1
 0110 (Kings Guard)
 Solly McLeod 2
 0103 (Joffrey Lonmouth); 0105 (Ser Joffrey Lonmouth)
 Ewan Mitchell 3
 0108 (Prince Aemond Targaryen); 0109 (Prince Aemond Targaryen);
 0110 (Prince Aemond Targaryen)
 Gareth Morrison 1
 0106 (Black Cell Prisoner 3)

N

Patrice Naiambana 1
 0106 (Dragonkeeper Elder)
 Theo Nate 2
 0103 (Young Laenor Velaryon); 0105 (Young Ser Laenor Velaryon)
 Matthew Needham 5
 0103 (Larys Strong); 0105 (Larys Strong); 0106 (Larys Strong);
 0107 (Larys Strong); 0109 (Lord Larys 'The Clubfoot' Strong)
 Dean Nolan 1
 0106 (Prince Reggio Haratis)

O

Emma O'Hara 1
 0110 (Cassandra Baratheon)
 Owen Oakeshott 1
 0105 (Ser Gerold Royce)
 Eva Ossei-Gerning 2
 0106 (Lady Rhaena Targaryen); 0107 (Lady Rhaena Targaryen)

P

Bo Ponomari 1
 0108 (Kings Guard)

R

Alexis Raben 4
 0106 (Talya); 0107 (Talya); 0108 (Talya); 0109 (Talya)
 Alana Ramsey 2
 0101 (Lady Lynesse Hightower); 0105 (Lady Lynesse Hightower)
 Gary Raymond 1
 0105 (High Septon)
 Rachel Redford 1
 0105 (Lady Rhea Royce)
 Steffan Rhodri 3
 0101 (Hobert Hightower); 0103 (Lord Hobert Hightower);
 0105 (Lord Hobert Hightower)
 Edward Rowe 1
 0103 (Ser Howland Sharp)

S

Phia Saban 2
 0108 (Princess Heleana Targaryen); 0109 (Princess Heleana Targaryen)

Harvey Sadler	2
0106 (Prince Lucerys Velaryon); 0107 (Prince Lucerys 'Luke' Velaryon)	
Oscar Salem	1
0103 (Ser Addam)	
Anna Sari	1
0106 (Dragonkeeper Translator)	
Arevinth V Sarma	1
0106 (Black Cell Prisoner 2)	
Daniel Scott-Smith	2
0102 (Prince Craghas 'Crabfeeder' Drahar); 0103 (Prince Craghas 'Crabfeeder' Drahar)	
Mikhail Sen	1
0101 (Mickon)	
Shani Smethurst	2
0106 (Lady Baela Targaryen); 0107 (Lady Baela Tar- garyen)	
Gavin Spokes	6
0101 (Lord Lyonel Strong); 0102 (Lord Lyonel Strong); 0103 (Lord Lyonel Strong); 0104 (Lord Lyonel Strong); 0105 (Lord Lyonel Strong); 0106 (Lord Lyonel Strong)	
Richard Stanley	1
0109 (King's Landing / Flea Bottom Citizen)	
Jordon Stevens	3
0106 (Elinda Massey); 0108 (Elinda Massey); 0110 (Elinda Massey)	
Savannah Steyn	1
0105 (Young Lady Laena Velaryon)	
Anna-Marie Sullivan	1
0105 (Dancer)	

T

Ty Tennant	2
0106 (Prince Aegon Targaryen); 0107 (Prince Aegon Targaryen)	
Elliott Tittensor	5
0101 (Erryk Cargyll); 0106 (Ser Erryk Cargyll); 0108 (Ser Erryk Cargyll); 0109 (Ser Erryk Cargyll); 0110 (Ser Erryk Cargyll)	
Luke Tittensor	4
0101 (Arryk Cargyll); 0108 (Ser Arryk Cargyll); 0109 (Ser Arryk Cargyll); 0110 (Ser Arryk Cargyll)	
Rui M Tomas	1
0110 (Targaryen retainer)	
Tripti Tripuraneni	1
0109 (Helaena's nurse)	

W

Jonny Weldon	1
0103 (Samwell)	
Frankie Wilson	1
0101 (Captain Randyll Barret)	
Max Wrottesley	2
0108 (Ser Lorent Marbrand); 0110 (Ser Lorent Mar- brand)	