

FENIX ASHES OF DEATH

Episode 1

"Guys, wake up, I have to go."

"What did dad say?"

"I said to get up! I have a busy day ahead of me and we need to go over the rules here while I'm gone."

"Come on dad do we really have to go over anything?" Tyler asked his father.

"Yeah dad it's still early; can't we just stay in bed a little while longer?" Austin followed his brother's question with one of his own.

"No you can't! We are in Rome, Italy; one of the most incredible places on Earth to visit and you want to sleep in?"

Calisto was eventually able to get his children out of bed and detailed what he expected from them while he was out on business. While the children Ashe and Fenix knew that the three of them had traveled to Rome for business they had no idea what it was. Neither of them have ever been kept in the dark of who Calisto was or the world of angels, demons, and magic that they were all a part of. However they never had a clear understanding of what their father really did.

Calisto traveled the world a lot for his work but this was the first time he had ever taken them with him. It wasn't a rare occasion because that would mean that it had happen from time to time. However over the past few days Calisto had seemed worrisome and overprotective of his children on a level never seen before. While Calisto loved his children and never wanted to see them hurt he always knew that their power would protect them from anything even death. Nonetheless something spooked him and he no longer had the confidence in their power and what it could do. Simple trips to and from school were closely watched and their time alone had become scarce.

While Calisto had brought them along on this trip he was not prepared to have them join him in his forthcoming meeting. Calisto was there to meet with members of the Tutela of Verum or Guardians of Truth. Calisto had been having nightmares or visions of something on the horizon that could spell the end for them and for the world that he loves so much. He could see the Book of Verum falling into the wrong hands and it bringing forth a power that would change the world forever. While Calisto is the only original member of that organization and he alone was entrusted with the protection of the book he did not have all the answers that he needed. While he had been connected and in possession of the book since its creation in 785AD there was information about the book that he was not privy to.

He told the children that they could take in the sights of Rome but they were to not use their magic to get around or do anything mischievous while he was gone. He expected the meeting to be quite long. As a result he gave the children more than enough money to eat throughout the day, take in the sights, and if they wanted some souvenirs from their trip. Calisto also told them that they were to contact him if there were any problems while he was at his meeting.

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Episode 2

Meanwhile on the other side of Rome it was just after 9:00 in the morning their time when the Roman Coliseum was suddenly closed off to visitors and tourist. It was odd since the Coliseum is open Mon-Sun from 8:30am to 6:30pm and to be closed off without prior notice was unusual to say the least. With the naked eye nothing seemed to be wrong with the Coliseum but the cause of the closure had everything to do with what was beneath the Coliseum not above it. In 2010, a network of subterranean passageways that was used for a variety of reason such as transporting animals and gladiators was opened to the public.

Underneath the coliseum in the subterranean passageways was none other than the demon lord Deathsong. However he was not alone. There were more than 30 demons with him preparing to search for something.

"Lord Deathsong, everything has been closed off. Security has been eliminated and replaced with our people. What is the reason for closing off the Coliseum to the public? We could easily take care of anyone that would enter here."

"You are right my friend however I am not worried about the humans. I am more concerned about drawing attention from angels and hunters. Our king wants us to be discreet in our search. If we draw attention to ourselves we will not be able to accomplish our mission. Tell them to begin, search every inch of this place and leave no stone unturned."

"Yes Lord Deathsong," he replied.

Calisto left for his meeting with the current members of the Tutela of Verum while Ashe and Fenix decided to take in the sites of Rome.

"Where should we go first?" Fenix asked his older brother.

"Well, I'm hungry so I think the first thing we should do is find some place to get breakfast."

"We can have breakfast here in the hotel; dad said there is a continental breakfast downstairs."

"Really" Ashe said to his brother.

"What do you mean really?"

"Dad told us that we are in one of the most incredible places in the world and you want to eat in. Not me brother, I'm finding a place where we can eat and look around."

Fenix agreed and the boys left their hotel and find some place close by to enjoy breakfast.

"Tyler everything is in Italian. We don't speak or read Italian remember."

"We might not but the menus and our server is about to learn English pretty quick."

"Dad said not to use our magic remember?"

"Relax, it's nothing major and we have to eat right?"

Fenix agreed and the two had a good breakfast and were now ready to take in the sites. Although they were told not to use their powers neither of them though that it would be a good idea if they used what money they had for transportation. They used their magic to cloak themselves from view and took to the skies. Unbeknownst to them this day of site seeing was about to become much more than they could have imagined.

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Episode 3

"The Pantheon was built in 118 AD by Emperor Hadrian as a temple for all the pagan gods..."

"Did you feel that?" Tyler asked Fenix.

"Feel what, I'm trying to listen to the tour guide."

They continued on with their tour of the Pantheon but Ashe once again had the same feeling that he just had. There was something in the Earth that Ashe was feeling that no one else could. There were shifts, rumbles in the ground that only he could feel. As much as he wanted Fenix to believe him what he was feeling there no way that he could. Ashe had a special connection to the Earth as his father Merlin knew he would hence why Ashe was chosen as his name.

Ashe couldn't convince his brother that there was something wrong with ground beneath his feet. However something would change that would convince his brother that something was wrong. They headed to their next attraction Circus Maximus (where popular chariot races were held.)

Back at the Colosseum Deathsong's search went on.

"Lord Deathsong; are you positive that what we are looking for is here?"

"It is here and we will stay here until we find it. Question me again and I will rip out your heart and eat it. Is that understood?"

"Yes my lord, my apologies. All of you bastards move faster and work harder, now!"

As Deathsong's demons worked harder the minute tremors in the Earth became more apart to Ashe but still to no one else. However it would not be the movement of the Earth that would make Fenix aware but something completely different. Fenix had his own unique attachment to the world but with him it was not the Earth but with fire and the air also the reason he was given his name.

While the demons continued to work the smell of fire and brimstone although unable to be smelled or sense by anyone else suddenly overwhelmed him.

"Did you fart?" He asked Ashe.

"No, I didn't fart, what's wrong with you?"

"You don't smell that?"

Ashe had no idea what he was talking about because according to him he smelled nothing. Nonetheless it didn't take the two boys to realize that the smell and the minute movements in the Earth were related. Using their connections to these elements wasn't enough alone but they soon realized that combining them would give them answers to what they had been sensing. They got away from the tour and out of sight of anyone. They faced each other; in Ashe's hands a ball of light brown energy emerge and in Fenix's a ball of blue light. They pushed each of those lights together into one ball of magic. Not only did it connect them to one another's senses but amplified them a 1,000 fold.

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Once they were connected they were able to pin point the origin of the disturbance that they had been sensing. They had no idea that they would be visiting the Colosseum due to the fact that it was closed off. However that is where what they were feeling was originating and they were determined to find out what was going on. They headed to the Colosseum and once they got there the feelings were definitely stronger.

They landed in the middle of the Colosseum and soon realized that what they were feeling was coming from underneath them. They headed down to the subterranean passageways but they did so with caution. As they got closer they could hear the sounds of labor and both could smell the strong stench of brimstone. They could see dozens of what at first they thought were men but quickly realized were demons digging through the passageways. Fenix turned and looked around and immediately grabbed his brother by the arm.

"Holy crap" he said in a quiet frenzy. "Look over there; do you know who that is? It's Deathsong!"

Ashe was just as startled. They had never seen Deathsong close up. They had been told about him and shown pictures and warned that he was not someone that they ever wanted to meet. There was no doubt that as confidence and powerful as the two sons of Merlin were they were terrified of this man.

"We need to get out of here and call dad." Ashe whispered to his younger brother. He got no argument from Fenix and the two slowly began to walk away from their discovery. As they were exiting Fenix composed a text to their father Calisto apprising him of the situation; however just as he was about to send the message they were greeted by the Demon Lord himself.

"Well, well, well, what do we have here?"

The two boys looked up at this large man and couldn't help to be intimidated. Deathsong's look may not have changed over the years but to see him in

person as opposed to a photo was something entirely different. Deathsong ordered them to be taken into custody. All of their possessions were ordered to be taken away and destroyed. Fenix quickly hit send on his phone just as it was being crushed. He only hoped that the message got through before his phone was smashed.

"I never believed that I would meet the sons of Merlin face to face. Oh yes I know exactly who the two of you are and from your expressions I can see that you know exactly who I am as well. Why are you here and who else knows that you've come?"

Neither of the two boys answered his questions. He continued to ask them but still not response. He looked at two of his demons and shook his head. Both demons punched each of the children in their faces.

"I am well aware of what the two of you are about. I know that death does not come easily to you but I have the power to change that. Now answer my questions!"

They still didn't answer him. The pain that they were feeling from the continued strikes had done one thing. The fear that they were feeling had changed into anger and with those two boys anger was not something that anyone demon or not wanted to encounter.

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Episode 5

"My lord, should we still be here? If anyone else knows that we're here we may not have much time. We must assume that their father the immortal know that they are here."

"Calisto is not someone that I am concerned about. He has no power and he won't risk the lives of his children in warning anyone else. Continue searching for the artifact. One more thing..."

Deathsong was true to his word. He had warned his second in command not to question him again. Before the demon could turn around Deathsong buried his hand through his back and ripped out his heart. He turned the demon around (who was still alive), bit into to his heart and swallowed it whole. "I warned you." He said and then placed his right index and middle finger on the demon's forehead. The demon burst into a black and red flame and was gone.

"You, Rostov is it; you are now my second in command. I would choose wisely what I say and do, is that understood."

"Yes Lord Deathsong."

Deathsong ordered Rostov to continue the search. Rostov agreed without hesitation. Deathsong looked toward the children, blood dripping from his mouth and teeth and questioned them again. The boys were intimidated from what they saw but their anger of seeing each other tortured was keeping their fear at bay. With no answers to his questions Deathsong tried another approach.

"Alright, let us try something different. Hmm, which one of you is younger? Ah yes you 'the Fenix', bring him here."

Two of his demons grabbed Fenix and took him over to Deathsong. Ashe screamed to let him go, to take him instead but his pleads fell on deaf ears.

"This is what we are going to do. You are going to tell me what I want to know (piercing one of his steel like black nails through Fenix's chest) or I will kill your brother right in front of you. I know what you're thinking, I can kill him and then he will cheat death once again and rise from the ashes. Well you're wrong boy. You cannot cheat death if it comes by my hand. Death is my bitch and bows to me. When I deliver death there is no coming back!"

Ashe looked over at his brother who was in agonizing pain, he looked back over at Deathsong, and then again at his younger brother. His anger turned to rage; the Earth began to move but only at their location. Dust and small pieces of debris began to fall over all of them. The two demons that were holding Ashe were almost covered in it. That dust and debris began to constrict and crushed the two demons to death, hence releasing him. The same happened to the demons holding his brother. The actions taken had no effect on Deathsong.

"Now it's our turn!"

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Ashe picked up his brother who had collapsed on the ground and the two disappeared. Within a few seconds a bright red flame appeared and the two boys (Fenix now seemingly healed from his injuries) walked out.

"Do you want to know who death really bows to?" Ashe asked Deathsong.

"Us" Fenix replied.

Out of the Colosseum arena's entrance a ball of fire exploded out landing in the middle of the arena floor. When the flames dissipated Deathsong was on his back, his clothes smoking heavily. Ashe and Fenix flew out of the passageways and followed the Demon Lord outside. When they emerged they could hear a faint laughing coming from the fallen Deathsong. There was no doubt that Deathsong was hurt by the blast that he had taken but he did find it amusing.

He got up and patted himself down. However his effort to clean himself up was in vain. Deathsong himself burst into a dark flame and within a second he was now cleaned and back to his old self.

"I underestimated you too. I heard that the two of you were tough. I also heard that the two of you were mischievous as well. This is not a game children it would be best if you surrender now."

"We're not here to play," Fenix told him

"We're going to kill you!" Ashe yelled out, disappeared and reappeared in back of Deathsong. The two raised their hands and engulfed him in a fiery ball. The ball began to contract and become smaller. They were true to their word just as Deathsong was to his; they were trying to kill him.

From inside the ball Deathsong could be heard screaming in pain. He was trying to combat their power but it seemed to have no effect...or did it? The screams of pain and changed to laughter once again. Deathsong stretched

out his arms and legs and pushed out the ball. Ashe and Fenix were now the ones struggling to keep the ball intact. They tried with everything they had but they couldn't keep the fiery ball stable and Deathsong broke free. Ashe raised his hands and a piece of Earth threw Deathsong into the air. Almost immediately and burst of flames in the shape of a hand slapped him back down. The two boys wouldn't let up and Deathsong was being thrown around and back and forth like a rag doll.

Deathsong retaliated. He hurled himself down to the Colosseum arena floor to create an earth quake that would knock them off of their feet. However right at the point of impact the ground opened up and like a dog biting swallowed him whole. The two boys gathered in the spot where he was eaten.

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"That was easy," Ashe said.

"Hardly," Deathsong said from behind the two boys and blasted them both in the back. They were hurt and paralyzed. He walked over to them and spoke.

"The two of you put forth a valiant effort but the two of you don't have the power to beat me."

He picked both of them up by the neck and told them goodbye.

"Release them!" A voice from behind yelled out.

When Deathsong turned around he saw none other than the boy's father Calisto.

"Ah the parent; alone I'm disappointed."

"I'm here for my children, I don't care what business you have here."

"Oh I'm sorry but they stuck their noses where they shouldn't have and there is no way they or you are leaving here alive."

"I won't say this twice Uri, release them or I will take them if necessary."

"Ha, ha, ha, you are the last person to issue threats here. You have no power and immortal of not I can end your life."

"This is your last warning...release them!"

Deathsong smirked at him and then began to crush the children's necks. The sounds of thunder filled the sky and a bolt of lightning struck Deathsong. He released the children which in turn fell to the ground of the area. Deathsong was getting tired of getting burned and set on fire. He looked up and saw Calisto now kneeling tending to his children. He got up and shot a blast of energy at the three of them.

Just before the energy could hit them Calisto stood up, turned around, and deflected it with a staff. Deathsong looked in surprise as the boys did as well. Austin turned his head toward his brother and spoke.

"Do you know what that is?" he asked in a weakened voice.

"Merlin's staff," Ashe replied.

Calisto jumped into the sky and came down with the staff onto the ground. The Earth cracked open and headed toward the demon lord and knocked him off his feet. Calisto teleported from where he was standing reappeared near Deathsong. The two began to fight. Both were using physical attacks but Calisto was also using magic while Deathsong was using his demon abilities. Calisto's ability and technique with the staff was incredible and he was fast.

The children watched on and they could not believe what they were seeing. After all; their father never showed signs that he could fight nor did he show signs of any magic. However the children should have known that after being a live as long as Calisto had been he would know how to defend himself. They were right about one thing though; Calisto did not have magic abilities but Merlin's staff did possess magic. Shortly before Merlin died after the battle with Maddox Blood; a spell was cast on the staff that would hide it from sight for a long time.

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However the spell that was cast did more than just hide the staff. Upon Calisto's arrival at the portal to await the boy's arrival the staff reappeared. Merlin's intention was that the staff reached his hands in hopes that the power within it could aid Calisto in keeping his children safe. Along with the staff came the knowledge to use it. Although Calisto had this staff in his possession for some time now he rarely used it. He had been training with it since the day he got it and became a father. He may not have magic but he was the only one that the staff obeyed. As a result Calisto had become the staff's master. He had never used the staff in a battle; his use of it was for nothing more than his training. So much so that not even his children knew about it. Calisto never believed that the first time using this powerful magical tool in battle would be against the demon lord Deathsong.

The battle continued and although Calisto was doing quite well the children knew that he couldn't keep that up forever. They picked each other up, put their right hands on each other left shoulders and went up in flames. Calisto was already agile and fast but the power to the staff made him even more so. With every attack that Deathsong threw, Calisto countered with the magical artifact. He may have been in possession of one of the most powerful weapons in history but he wasn't going to win this fight. The only thing he could do was keep him at bay.

The Earth once again began to shake but this time with a fury that shook all of Rome. An explosion ripped through the skies in the arena causing the battle between Deathsong and Calisto to pause. From the fire left from the explosion two people walked out but not just any two but Ashe and Fenix. They had once again risen from the ashes of defeat and walked toward the two men. Deathsong moved away from Calisto while his two children (one on each side) joined him. Deathsong took his stance and although there were now three

potential threats he was still smiling. Calisto put Merlin's staff in front of him and the two boys grabbed it as well.

Out of the corner of his eye, Deathsong saw his second in command Rostov. Rostov gave him the signal that they had found what they were looking for. The tip of the staff began to glow in a blue fire. Deathsong got out of his stance and stood straight up. A magical beam of light shot out of the tip of the staff at Deathsong. It was as blinding as the sun and when it was over Deathsong was gone.

"We did it, he's toast." Ashe said out loud.

"No he isn't," Calisto responded.

"Huh" the children said simultaneously.

Calisto knew that they had not defeated him. Deathsong left and let them believe that they had beaten him but Calisto knew better. For the moment the threat was gone but the question remained why they there and what were they looking for? Unbeknownst to the children; their actions when they arose from the ground unearthed what they were looking. Of course there was no way they could have known that.

The end...?