

Excerpt of Jonathan's book, *Flaming Fury*

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Prologue

In the year 1075, a knight of an order called The Order of the Red Rose was falsely accused of striking a deal with a dragon. The dragon was known as Neborex and wasn't the friendly type. He lived within a volcanic mountain called Fire River Mountain since it had multiple rivers of flowing lava. Neborex was a fire-breathing black dragon who had a reputation of raiding the village of Golden Rock, which was the knight's hometown.

The deal was that the dragon could raid the village at night. Neborex was the last dragon. The knight was known as Arthas the Dragonkiller. He was a mounted knight, who's horse was rumored to run as fast as the dragons if chased. Everyone was shocked when they heard of the accusation and some now chased Arthas with pitchforks

and spears. There was more to the accusation than just raiding. It also said that he would lie to his own men and tell them Neborex was attacking the capital city, Victory-Bay, a coastal city on Wash Water Peninsula, a calm peaceful area. Only one event disturbed the peace there, the invasion of a tribe called the Terrorvarsons, a barbaric people who served loyally an evil chaotic order called the Twilight Gods. Neborex was one of the Twilight Gods and had sent the Terrorvarsons there.

There were sixteen Twilight Gods left, including Neborex. Neborex was the third most powerful, most powerful being Nethervortex, a demon who had twisted countless numbers of worlds into burning, barren deathscapes. He was Nethervortex the Corruptor. The good thing was he was banished out of the physical realm by a wizard called Alanoras. The bad thing is that he isn't dead. An even worse thing is that Alanoras was slain by Neborex while putting a shield up around Fire River Mountain, Nethervortex's prison. The dooming news is it's only a matter of time before Neborex finds his

prison and realizes his presence. Luckily the prison was magically sealed and the key was within the prison. Bad news is there's another of the key.

Chapter One

Fleeing

"Humgh...liar...dirty, underhanded, liar!" Arthas stated to himself packing his belongings. "Ooo...so unright, so wrong, so very wrong! If I find the one who spread the rumor..."

Arthas hurried out of the village under the cover of darkness. King Marven the IV had outlawed him two days ago and sent 150 knights to hunt him down and bring him his head. Arthas managed to elude the village guards, barely. He threw a rock at a tree that's bark was so tough the rock bounced into a bush making a rustling sound. The guards chased the sounds and triggered a trip. One hit a stick that dropped a two-handed swipe axe that was replacing a wood

wall stick. The axe landed on a guard's foot (luckily he had his armor on) and pushed his foot into a massive trap hole. The other guard tried to pull him out but he grabbed a bear trap. Meanwhile, Arthas had slipped out of the settlement and got away.

"Com'on, don't tell me the militia are out... they'll only worsen everything!"

"Hey, I heard something!" Militia #1 stated.

"I don't," Militia #2 responded.

"Me, either," Militia #3 agreed.

"Forward!" the Militia Commander ordered.

Arthas quickly ran up a tree as quietly as possible and waited for the militia to go by. Pu. Pu. Pu. Pu. Pu. Pu.. Pu.. Pu.. Pu.

Huu...

"Something very bad is going to happen... I sense it... I know it!" Arthas whispered to himself. "First I'm outlawed, and now outlanders are marching toward Mapleleaf Village!"

Chapter Two

It All Makes Sense.

"It all makes sense!" Arthas almost shouted. "It was to deprive them of their best knight! Soon the rest of them will follow! King Marven does things too fast! Soon when the nation is deprived of its best knights and the Royal Army is chasing them, the invasion will really begin!"

Once this much was figured out, Arthas quickly had to assemble the order and rally anyone still loyal to him and them. Arthas quickly explained.

"Very well detailed, but it's missing one thing," Lord Davian Alexander Mathan stated.

"What?" Arthas responded.

"Who's banner is the army under?" Lord Davian asked.

"Haumph... the Wing of Neborex," Arthas said, sighing unhappily.

"Then it's settled! We must attack them before they get past Lion Echo Pass!" Lord Barot declared. "It is easily capable of being a defensive position."

"Impossible, even with an army they outnumber us 75-2! We need to defend vital strategic points such as Sea Deep Canyon and Mammoth Forest."

"No, Mammoth Forest must be burned!"

"I agree," Lord Barot responded.

"We cannot hit what we cannot see so our muskets and fire cannons (a catapult that launches barrels of explosive spices that burn a 15 ft x 15 ft radius although slow firing) cannot hit something without a location..."

Ssshooooooooookk!!!

"Did you hear and feel that?" Arthas asked.

"Yes," Lord Davion answered.

"I did s well," Lieutenant Knight Marthas responded, having just walked in.

"Lieutenant..." Arthas began.

Shooksh!!

"I have disturbing news, your majesties. The army is approaching Cif City... more disturbing, they have passed Lion Echo Line. Over 50% of our forces are dead, another 15% are POW's and sacrifices. We need to recover and recruit loyalists, lest this world be strifed and burned to death!" Lieutenant Marthas warned.

Chapter Three

Recall to Vanderhal

Arthas and his allies quickly rode to Vanderhal, to plan the defense of the wealthiest city in the empire. With the enemy numbering in the 15,000s, it would be an unforgettable battle. With a garrison of 250, reinforcements would be vital! With only two reinforcements at hand with 500 in each, timing is so important, you

could lose just by calling reinforcements too late or too early... but who ever said they'd be doing the fighting?

Time was off the essence and they had to secure what they could.

"What in the..." Arthas said, stooping the rest of knights and gazing up and the dragons flying across the sky.

"Continue, we don't have time for this!" Lord Davian commanded.

Weehehehu! They could hear them panicking in Vanderhal!

They had planned the defense, Vanderhal has the tallest tower in the world. They planned on popping the dragons as they came in with a crossbow that fired like lightning, piercing the veins and going on to the next target (if you're smart then you might know it's a rapid scorpion) firing 45 5-foot arrows a minute. With the town square, the most valuable point is that the eight towers around it were occupied. The few magicians they had made several magical barriers to repel the enemy. Several lines were set: lines that would go on a map. Timber Road Bridge was entrenched heavily since it was the only way to get

into the Lower Lands. As long as Vanderhal was held Timber Line would be held, the longer the better. Vanderhal would be a key position for tracking Neborex's movement and preventing attack on the five towers.