

FREYDIS AND GUDRID

Written by

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Inspired by characters from  
Saga of Erik the Red / Saga of the Greenlanders



ACT I

SUPER: BRATTAHLÍÐ, EASTERN SETTLEMENT, GREENLAND. 1004 A.D.

EXT. BAY OF BRATTAHLÍÐ - DAY

An elderly, regal man, ERIK THE RED overlooks a famine-struck landscape at the Brattahlíð Settlement he settled in south-western Greenland. He picks up a dried flower and studies it. Not far behind Erik is his stoic wife THJODHILD, headstrong half-daughter FREYDÍS, and her imposing husband, THORVARD.

ERIK THE RED

Dying bud, withered barley, rancid  
wood, life is waning. I fade with  
the day, my life has but run...dry.

Thjodhild approaches Erik from behind, putting her hand on his shoulder. Leif looks out with a stoic face.

THJODHILD

Erik, this famine will not define  
our fate. Your sons still breathe  
in Brattahlíð. Do not let your  
light grow dim!

The silhouette of a knarr ship approaches in the distance and Freydís takes notice.

FREYDÍS

Look out and see...a ship.

ERIK THE RED

A ship?

FREYDÍS

Our sail!

The others step towards Erik, looking out towards the sea.

ERIK THE RED

Brave Vald, are you here to  
bring us help?

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

Brave Vald, brave Vald...

THJODHILD

Brave Vald is here to bring  
us  
help!

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

Brave Vald is here to bring  
us help!

Erik drops the dried flower from his hand. He looks into the sky, then to his side, where Freydís has arrived.

ERIK THE RED  
 Thunder god, your hand is good!  
 Freydís, my daughter, go down.

FREYDÍS  
 Thor kept him close. Father Erik,  
 come forth!

Freydís leads Erik a few steps towards the shoreline.

ERIK THE RED  
 He will thirst for mead!

FREYDÍS  
 So will the women!

Freydís smirks. Shot of the distant ship. Others look on in hope. Erik paces a bit.

ERIK THE RED  
 How bright is her beam, against the  
 bay! She keeps a straight course,  
 how swift she comes! Many times, I  
 have stood at the edge of the sand  
 and watched the tide bring word.  
 When you sailed to the west, to the  
 land of the wine, your heart was  
 proudly set. You would not stand  
 aloof while the pride of this place  
 was applauded. You would stay and  
 withstand. You would conquer the  
 coast Leif uncovered! With a head  
 of courage, with a cause to fight  
 for, you set a flame in the far  
 country!

Thorvard grimaces diabolically.

THJODHILD  
 Glory and honor, we will not go  
 hungry.

ENSEMBLE  
 He set a flame in the far country.  
 He subdued his foes, and now we see  
 clearly. He set a flame in the far  
 country. The pride of his father.  
 His pride is Vald!

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)  
 The jewel of our coast! The eldest  
 son of fame with a right to claim.  
 Long live Vald!

Erik turns to Thjodhild, smiling, then back again towards the ship, which has reached the shore now. KARLSEFNI, Gudrid's husband, arrives onto the scene.

ERIK THE RED

Now my royal son has returned.  
Cheer the proud, rightful  
heir...soon chieftain!

ERIK THE RED (CONT'D)

To look once again on her  
form. This steed is fierce  
and steady, without fear.  
What news have you brought?  
What brings you back? Where  
is my eldest boy? Where is my  
Vald? Where is my Vald?

FREYDÍS

There is no voice. I feel a  
void, in my veins...a void!

Freydís rests her hand on Erik's shoulder. Two Scottish freed slave siblings, HAKI and HEKJA, exit the ship with grim looks on their faces. Haki carries a cloaked object.

ERIK THE RED (CONT'D)

The victor...not a victim!

FREYDÍS

Haki, speak!

HAKI

Gone, gone, to the grave. No more  
ties, lost to touch. Far from this  
place, he feasts...at Valhall, in  
victory!

Haki unveils the cloaked object: Vald's axe, and presents it to Erik. Erik receives the axe as he would a baby, gingerly.

HAKI (CONT'D)

His blood...wasted by an arrow  
wound!

Freydís points her finger to Haki. Erik remains focused on the axe. Hekja comes to Haki's defense.

FREYDÍS

How can the slaves survive  
while their leader sinks?

ERIK THE RED

My Vald...

HEKJA

He could not be saved!

FREYDÍS

Leif was a fool to set you free!

ERIK THE RED

How cold the handle feels, fast in  
my frail fingers. My soul is low,  
and my strength cannot linger. Our  
Vald has slipped away, I can only  
weep. The gods have dealt a blow,  
to have taken him back. There is  
only one last son alive. If he  
should die, then our line will be  
lost!

In her anger, Freydís snatches the axe out of Erik's hands.

FREYDÍS

Enough! Enough! We find the killer.  
Enough! Enough! We show no  
kindness!

Freydís waves the axe around as she taunts Thjodhild, then  
Haki.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

(to Thjodhild)

What does grief gain?

THJODHILD

Let an old man mourn!

FREYDÍS

(to Haki)

Breaker of vows!

HAKI

Quit this unfair query!

ERIK THE RED

Do not blame so quick!

FREYDÍS

I can feel his flame, feverish now  
for revenge!

THJODHILD

How will you take vengeance?

THORVARD

Listen now and learn!

She addresses Erik (her father). She lifts her axe at "draw  
the blade".

FREYDÍS

We take a ship with weapons upon  
the wild.

(MORE)

## FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

Set a course for Leif's camp and lead the victory charge. They will pay the price in blood when we draw the blade. Bodies will sink, heads will be slain!

Freydís kneels to one knee, holding axe to sky. LEIF, Erik's headstrong son, arrives onto the scene.

## FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

I will make a pyre, when we find his frame. He will glide to the place of his fate and his fame, with his god Alfather!

Erik receives the axe back from her, noticing Karlsefni. Thjodhild tries to lift Freydis back up, but Freydís shakes Thjodhild off of her.

## THJODHILD

We commend your words, but I would also add this warning: we can show them our force, but we are famished, and with no food, there is no future.

## ERIK THE RED

Karlsefni: would you lead them west?

Everyone's attention turns back to Karlsefni. Karlsefni steps forward, making his way around the stage during his solo.

## KARLSEFNI

If we must depart, there can be no delay. If we take the chance, it must be certain. There is much to learn in the west land, but we must be swift. We cannot stay, and we must keep low.

Karlsefni draws near to Erik.

## KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

Unseen and ancient craft lies deep within their den. We take all caution to keep a peaceful crew. I would have your son, not your daughter...she would not sit still. We must avoid any undue danger. It may be our death. Some may see their final end of days, for we come unto a wild place, with trust in Providence!

Karlsefni has reached Erik by now. Erik regains confidence as Leif looks frustrated.

ERIK THE RED

You can take your own throng, but my son must stay. Leif is the last stand in our family line. Let her prove her own feat, and forsake the past. You forget that she fights with a valiant pride!

Freydís hands Thorvard's axe to Karlsefni.

FREYDÍS

I will not disappoint you, my captain, in a worthy cause. You can be certain that my help is yours!

They line up and sing to the sky.

ENSEMBLE

Thor grant mercy, Thor grant strength; make them mighty when they strike. They approach a distant shore, to the wilderness they march! Now we raise our eyes from earth, to the ancient skies, we sing! Hear the cry of wounded hearts. May the Valkyrie bring Vald to thee, his bravery revered!

Cut to black.

INT. GREENLANDIC HOME OF KARLSEFNI

GUDRID sits at her and husband Karlsefni's home. Karlsefni prepares to leave for Vinland, laden with necessary items for the long voyage. Karlsefni paces around in thought.

GUDRID

I thought my life was safe at last; that my travail and pain was proven untrue.

KARLSEFNI

You are safe now. Let your sorrow alone.

Gudrid rejects Karlsefni's helping hand.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

But now, we have lost touch, and you provoke our great trust.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

My love is always near.

<p>GUDRID (CONT'D) My heart is filled with grief, I will not let you go. We have a family, we have a love that is free.</p>	<p>KARLSEFNI (CONT'D) Stay true. I will surely return. I know.</p>
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Karlsefni puts fist to chest at 'duty binds me' line.

<p>GUDRID (CONT'D) Search your heart and see. If you sail west, it may be one way. Karlsefni, do not leave now.</p>	<p>KARLSEFNI (CONT'D) But duty binds me, argue no more. Do not lack faith, or be fearful.</p>
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Gudrid rises to face him. Karlsefni pleads with her.

<p>KARLSEFNI (CONT'D) Gudrid, I must go. Stay and serve the church and pray for our crew. I may be leaving, but you have all my love.</p>	<p>GUDRID (CONT'D) Karlsefni!</p>
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Karlsefni draws close to her, heartfelt.

<p>GUDRID (CONT'D) You must not depart. Why must you decide? You must consider this deed. Will you let our great love die this day?</p>	<p>KARLSEFNI (CONT'D) It is my mission. I have a strong mind. You meddle with my words. You must obey my will!</p>
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<p>GUDRID (CONT'D) You move deep, but you miss the mark. You keep me in the future dark. The future dark. The future dark...</p>	<p>KARLSEFNI (CONT'D) You move deep, but you miss the mark. You keep me in the future dark. The future dark. The future dark...</p>
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Karlsefni, frustrated, storms towards the door with his things. He turns for the final line.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)  
Goodbye, Gudrid.

EXT. BAY OF BRATTAHLÍÐ - MORNING

Down at the bay, the same knarr ship makes ready to sail. Thorvard joins Haki and Hekja, who are tending to a rope line. Thorvard looks out towards the sea in confidence

THORVARD  
What a good, strong gale for a  
passing; to pursue our prey,  
proudly. My mind is glowing!

HAKI

Last time we sailed late: many  
grapes we could not gather. But the  
sun is shining. I expect the fruit  
is full fresh!

Thorvard snatches Haki's hand axe from him, admiring it.  
Karlsefni and Leif arrive together.

THORVARD

What a good, short blade to draw  
dark blood. When we bring them  
down, bravely, they will depart  
fast!

ENSEMBLE

We make ready...to go raiding!

HAKI

I will not forget that day,  
when he drew his final  
breath. They took his body  
and flung it to the dirt. May  
he be welcomed at Valhall's  
ancient hall to drink the  
horn.

Prepare for war!

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Remember this day. When they  
shoot, face death. Set your  
axe wild. Take your aim for  
war! We make ready...to go  
raiding!

Thorvard hastily returns Haki's hand axe.

THORVARD

Ready to go raiding and avenge our  
Vald!

Erik the Red and his son Leif appear near the shore on the  
embankment, looking on. Karlsefni takes Freydis aside,  
clasping her wrist privately to warn her.

KARLSEFNI

Give me your hand, look in my face:  
if you cause harm, it will be  
found!

Freydis shakes his hand off of her in defiance.

FREYDÍS

You would not dare! Call to  
mind the boy who once died.  
We raise our sail to the sky!

ENSEMBLE

Feet firm, we press forward!  
This is our fate; on the west  
wind we fly! We raise our  
sail to the sky!

Gudrid and Thjodhild join Erik the Red and Leif at the shore  
Thjodhild and Erik admire the ship.

THJODHILD  
How she gleams! She will  
glide!

ERIK THE RED  
Grand! With a gust of wind,  
they go! Once again she gains  
new ground, with a new goal!

Karlsefni, Thorvard, Haki, Hekja, and Freydis prepare to set out.

FREYDÍS  
Thor grant mercy.

ENSEMBLE  
Thor grant mercy, Thor grant  
strength!

Gudrid rushes to the ship before it departs.

GUDRID  
No more sorrow. Let me on the ship!

Karlsefni steps off the ship as Gudrid reaches him. They stand face to face.

KARLSEFNI  
We could face their fury!

GUDRID  
I would rather risk a life with you  
than live without love.

Karlsefni hugs her. Freydis nods towards Gudrid with respect, and they share a moment.

KARLSEFNI  
Then you have my help.

The ship's company (ensemble) continue onwards. As they sail away, Gudrid looks back at the shore, where Leif watches her, kneeling in defeat and overcome with emotion. Thjodhild's hand is on his shoulder. Gudrid watches as Leif recedes into the distance. Karlsefni instructs Hekja in taking care of Gudrid.

ENSEMBLE  
Take your place, keep to the  
widest part, settle upon the  
beam, do not approach the bow  
or the bridge. Take care that  
you obey his call. If we  
survive the storm, there will  
be hope for safety at sea.  
Keep low, steady your hand  
and lean, we are about to  
roll onto the rim. We fall  
then we rise!

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)  
Keep your clothing dry.  
Steady yourself, then join me  
if you dare.

## ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Keep to the widest part, settle upon the beam, do not approach the bow or the bridge. Take care that you obey his call. If we survive the storm, there will be hope for safety at sea. Keep low, steady your hand and lean, we are about to roll onto the foam, we rise than we...

THORVARD

We fall then we rise! We sail together.

FREYDIS

We set our sights on Vinland. The place where Leif was valiant!

As they sail on, a storm quickly rocks the ship and the crew struggles for some time. Karlsefni uses a sun-stone to direct their path forward. The storm then subsides extremely fast and they approach Leif's camp at Vinland (Newfoundland) in the distance. Haki points towards the breaking sunlight over the land.

HAKI

View it! Vinland!

Vinland land can be seen as the fog clears! The crew smiles. They sail towards Leif's camp. Fanfare moment as the wider shoreline appears.

POSSIBLE SUPER: FREYDIS AND GUDRID

EXT. LEIF'S CAMP - DAY

The ship's company slowly admire Leif's camp, which they have reached. Gudrid and Karlsefni admire the landscape.

GUDRID

I see newness in the leaves. Every branch and bough is living. All the trees are tall, like giants and the ground is good and tender; it bears its seed and shell. The air is clear and my skin feels clean. My heart is gladdened, for the sight is great!

Gudrid turns to Karlsefni.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

I can see within, as I look west; all the ancient fears are formless.

(MORE)

GUDRID (CONT'D)

I can feel the grief yielding new  
growth. From the ash of death, a  
hope dawns; it bears my soul to  
shores where love is bright, full  
of life and breath; unfading glory  
with our unseen Guide!

Gudrid sudden feels her baby coming, stumbling, but Karlsefni catches her. She holds her pregnant belly. Karlsefni leads her to their tent and helps her lie down on the blanket-covered ground.

KARLSEFNI

Lie down, my love.

She begins contractions.

GUDRID

The time has come, but I feel calm.

KARLSEFNI

Hold my hand, keep courage. Our  
first child is coming...

The ship's company surround their tent as the sky darkens. Gudrid gives birth (we see the silhouette through the tent). Karlsefni hands their baby to Gudrid, who sets the newborn on her breasts. Karlsefni opens the tent. Gudrid holds her baby in a wrap so we can't see it's a doll.

GUDRID

I can feel his heart beating  
fast.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

He looks sound and strong.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

We have a chance to bring  
hope to this child.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

We have a chance to bring  
hope to this child.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

A son is born, his future  
looks bright.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

In a land of light!

GUDRID (CONT'D)

I feel the bloom of spring  
abound!

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

I see the blossom of the  
spring abound!

Gudrid hands the newborn BABY SNORRI to Karlsefni, who receives him. Moonlight has fallen as they sing their final lines.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

Now that I see, I am sure that this  
is Snorri.

GUDRID KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)  
 Our son's name is Snorri! Snorri!

Moonlight has fallen as they sing their final lines.

EXT. LEIF'S CAMP - DAWN

Fade in. Everyone goes about their tasks (hammering, stirring as they build up their encampment...everyone except Thorvard, who waltzes around, eating fermented grapes. Thorvard tries to kiss Freydís, but she shoves him off of her. Then slowly, from the forest, three or four of a first nations tribe appear, but no one notices them until they are lined up in front of the camp. Once the Norse notice, they stand frozen, not knowing what to do. Thovard flings his remaining grapes away, wipes his mouth, and then cries out.

THORVARD  
 Now we fight back! We take their  
 skulls with our blade!

Haki, near Thorvard, defends them.

HAKI  
 Stop, do not strike! These are not  
 the same group we saw in the gray.

Freydis advances to fight, joining them.

FREYDÍS  
 You must be frightened. They came  
 to kill! I can see it in their  
 hands and face...

THORVARD  
 And their kin!

<p>FREYDÍS</p> <p>Show them your force, show          them your force!</p>	<p>THORVARD (CONT'D)</p> <p>Show them your force, show          them your force!</p>
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HAKI  
 Look at their conduct. They are not  
 cruel! Karlsefni, there is no cause  
 to condemn!

The First Nations standby stoicly while Karlsefni gives the plan to trade.

KARLSEFNI  
 We will stay our hand with the  
 forest tribe.  
 (MORE)

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

If they wish to trade, it may help.

Angry reaction of Thorvard.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

Put your blades away, come and show them comfort while they have their time and good will.

Gudrid, Haki, and Hekja nod in agreement with Karlsefni. Karlsefni directs them to begin the trading process. They prepare bowls, etc.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

Go and get to work, earn an honest wage. Set the table spaces and bring the skyr.

Karlsefni to Freydís.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

I told you not to be cross! You have no control. Count the cost! Where is your cunning or your craft?

Freydís scowls, flinging her axe to the ground. She reluctantly helps out, but Thorvard shakes his head, standing apart.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

We have one chance to keep peace, to prove that we are not careless! Perhaps we might even settle in these parts.

The Norse have laid out all of their items for trade by now. The FIRST NATIONS ELDER of the tribe motions for the FIRST NATIONS WOMAN to bring their offering. The two younger First Nations Men accompany her.

Meanwhile, the First Nations Elder performs an ancestral ritual.

After the woman drops off their items, she walks over to Gudrid, who is holding Baby Snorri. The woman kneels in front of Gudrid, pulling out a natural beaded necklace. Gudrid dips her head as the girl places it around her neck.

GUDRID

So you have come for peace. I wonder if this was made for me.

(MORE)

GUDRID (CONT'D)

I wish I could give you more. I  
have no other present.

Gudrid also puts a freed hand into her pocket and pulls out a triskele amulet, which she gives to the girl.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

Please tell me your name. I am  
Gudrid from the north. This is my  
son, this is Snorri. Come, take him  
near.

The other two First Nations Men trade peacefully with Karlsefni, Haki, Hekja, and Freydís. Gudrid lets the First Nations woman hold baby Snorri.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

Now I know that our prayers have  
been heard from heaven's heights.  
Grace abounds here, I am found  
here, in the presence of good. How  
gently he rests in your arms, in  
calm repose. You are an angel of  
day. This is the birth of an  
age...a new dawn!

Karlsefni, having noticed their exchange, smiles. Haki smiles towards Gudrid and the First Nations Woman. Thorvard takes notice of Haki with a look of distrust.

EXT. VINLAND FOREST - EVENING

Haki communicates with two of the same younger First Nations tribesmen. One holds out his tomahawk for Haki to admire. Haki and the First Nations men exchange smiles as they compare swinging methods. A tree stump can be seen behind them, nearby. Freydís and Thorvard notice them from a distance.

THORVARD

Look around over by the cliffside.  
Is that not Haki trading weapons?  
Do you think that he had crafted  
your brother Vald's own fall last  
winter?

Thorvard motions for her to remain while he sneaks to the other side of Haki and the First Nations men. Freydis approaches Haki and the First Nations men. Haki turns around, smiling, but suddenly changes his expression at her appearance. Freydís walks to Haki.

FREYDÍS  
You!

HAKI  
Freydís!

Haki steps forward in front of the First Nations men, as an unconscious shield.

<p>FREYDÍS Take back your weapon and show me that you are willing to make your next move. If you miss, it will not bode well. Hold the axe tight, in your hands, and prove yourself true!</p>	<p>HAKI (CONT'D) Why this fury?</p>
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HAKI (CONT'D)  
I will not use force! They are not at fault.

FREYDÍS  
Did you save your teeth? Was it worth the price of the trade?

HAKI  
What you want is false! They are not our foes.

The First Nations men retreat as the argument has heated up. Haki doesn't notice this.

FREYDÍS  
You were always weak, you avoided war!

HAKI  
These weapons are for timber wood!

FREYDÍS  
Now the dim light falls...they have left you free!

HAKI  
If I must tell the truth, your brother broke our trust! When he failed, men fell!

Thorvard surprises Haki, axe in hand. Haki is frightened.

THORVARD

Stop your pack of lies. Prepare to  
fight, you slave! Now feel my  
weapon sting as vengeance for  
Vald's life.

Haki stands up to Thorvard bravely, weapon raised against  
Thorvard's raised axe. Freydís falls into a trance, on her  
knees with weapon raised to sky.

FREYDÍS

Brother, my Vald, we have found  
your foe!

THORVARD

Be appeased with his blood!

Freydis snaps out of it at "blood", rising up again.

FREYDÍS

Not to death!

HAKI

May I die...Odin's friend!

Friend!

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

Thorvard swings, but misses Haki. Haki steps back, but slips  
onto the ground. He exposes his back to Thorvard's final  
strike. Thorvard's raises his axe once more.

THORVARD

Bear now our blame!

Thorvard hacks Haki three times in the back with his axe.  
Haki lies still, dead. After a moment, Freydís falls to her  
knees, seeming to be back in reality.

FREYDÍS

Stillness...I feel cold and sick.

THORVARD

It had to be done. It was for  
Vald's own death.

A beam of sunlight illuminates the tree stump and Freydís  
realizes Haki is innocent.

FREYDÍS

Look, the trees. He cut fresh  
timber!

THORVARD

We did no wrong. Now let him rest.  
We have a reason to start the war!

Thorvard and Freydís take Haki and drag him into a shady area. Thorvard takes a ring off of Haki's finger as evidence of his fake disappearance. Thorvard places Haki's ring into the hand of Freydís.

FREYDÍS  
Dark news tonight.

EXT. LEIF'S CAMP - DUSK

Freydís and Thorvard appear before the main group, who sit or stand around a fire.

FREYDÍS	THORVARD
The sun was low when we found this in the bushes. There was a trail of blood, still warm. It had not been long. Then suddenly a pool...we fear he was sacrificed!	The sun was low when we found this in the bushes. There was a trail of blood, still warm. It had not been long. Then suddenly a pool...we fear he was sacrificed!

Freydís takes out Haki's ring and gives it to Karlsefni. Hekja, seeing Haki's ring, covers her mouth in shock.

KARLSEFNI  
My heart is hot. How could they do him harm? Did he not say these were not the same tribe who slew our Vald?

Hekja is in tears, as Haki was her brother. Thorvard fakes grief. Freydís notices Thorvard and scowls at him.

THORVARD  
It is easy, when fighting, to forget the form of your enemy.

Hekja grips her fist. The others stand up, weapons in hand (except Gudrid and Hekja). Thorvard grimaces in secret victory.

KARLSEFNI  
Now rise and come. We will make our claim. I will appear before their chief. Come take the torches and keep them aflame. We walk by twilight to meet their force! For some, this may be your last stand!

Gudrid shakes her head in disagreement. Karlsefni puts Gudrid and Snorri inside their tent and hands Hekja an axe to guard them.

ENSEMBLE	KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)
Come, now, we have a clue. We must cross to their camp. While we have a chance, let us find out the cause. They have but one choice.	Stay...keep them safe.

HEKJA	KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)
They are secure.	We strike back for your brother.

The rest of the company travels into the night. Karlsefni carries his lit torch to guide them at the front, and Thorvard holds his at the back. Thorvard secretly breaks off from the rest of the group to sneak around the backside of the First Nations tent.

ENSEMBLE	KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)
We travel into the dark. The passage is filled with danger. We take our torches into the deep.	Prepare to depart! Make no delay!

The rest of the group, bearing axe and shield, reach the First Nations camp: main tent, few furnishings. No one is present. Meanwhile, we're with Thorvard, at the back of the main First Nations camp. He holds his torch.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)  
Make no delay! Make no delay!

THORVARD	ENSEMBLE
We will take this flame and set their camp on fire. They will shoot their arrows, but we shall swing the axe!	We travel into the dark. The passage is filled with danger. We take our torches into the deep!

FREYDÍS  
Must we? They will!

With the main group, at the entrance to the tent, the First Nations Elder appears. He makes a gesture of peace.

EXT. FIRST NATIONS CAMP - NIGHT

KARLSEFNI  
I see the Chief approaching. He looks to bring peace! They did not do this deed. Put your weapons down!

Karlsefni turns angrily to Freydís.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

I know you provoked this challenge!  
Your pride has brought this curse!

Suddenly, smoke rises from the First Nations tent.

FREYDÍS

Smoke! Their camp smolders!

The First Nations Chief motions for his men and the two other First Nations men appear with weapons in their hands.

KARLSEFNI

They are forced to fight!

The two First Nations men move forward towards Karlsefni. Karlsefni puts up shield and tries to force the men back. The First Nations Chief initiates a tribal war dance. Karlsefni, Freydís and the others enter combat with the First Nations men. Thorvard fights the two younger First Nations men. Karlsefni and Freydís take cover behind a tree.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

You lied, to our hurt! Where is  
Haki? His blood is on your hands!

Freydís pulls Karlsefni away from a First Nations man before he strikes.

FREYDÍS

Look here! He takes his aim at your  
heart!

Freydís pushes Karlsefni away from flying arrows (or axes), under cover of a tree.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

Behind you, there are two men  
hiding in the woods to bring us new  
harm!

Arrows fly past as they take cover, close together.

KARLSEFNI

I will not forget this turn of aid.  
That arrow was rightly aimed, but I  
need an honest answer. You saw the  
Chief, his manner was of calm. It  
was a mistake to come. Now the  
flame you lit brings great cost!

FREYDÍS

By his design!

KARLSEFNI

Where is Haki?

FREYDÍS

Come see the spot.

Freydís takes Karlsefni to the place where Haki fell. It is a misty dawn by now and the fight is over. Freydís points to Haki's leaf-covered dead body in the distance.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

There he lies, hewn down by  
Thorvard in the dark light.

KARLSEFNI

By your scheme! You should be  
filled with shame!

Freydís blocks Karlsefni from getting closer to Haki's covered body nearby. Freydís tries to seduce Karlsefni to get him to go easy on her.

FREYDÍS

Let my husband feel the heat! What  
is finished must not be found. We  
could break free, rule this land.  
Now embrace fate and feel my soft  
lips.

Freydís suddenly kisses him, but after a moment he pushes her away from him in rejection. He walks away and she remains, a look of sadness in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Hekja and Gudrid, holding Baby Snorri, have left their tent as the fight is over, and arrived at the First Nations area, unnoticed. They survey the nearby fallen: a few bodies lie motionless on the ground.

GUDRID

Such loss. Such waste. It leaves my  
soul wanting.

Meanwhile, the First Nations woman has appeared close to Karlsefni.

FIRST NATIONS GIRL

Gudrid...Snorri...

The First Nations woman hands him something, but it is obscured from our sight (possible she covers it with the other hand). The First Nations woman then turns and walks away into the misty forest. Then we see a close-up of the triskele amulet in his hand. It is the gift that Gudrid gave the First Nations woman that has been returned.

Cut to black.

**END OF ACT I**

ACT II

EXT. BAY OF BRATTAHLÍÐ - DAY

Fade in. At the same bay in Brattahlíð, now lush with green growth, they exit their ship as Leif and Thjodhild greet them. Leif stands before them, dressed in Erik the Red's chieftain's attire and walking with regality. He extends his hand towards a table with bowls of skyr and cups of mead for them.

LEIF

My heart is glad to see you  
returned safe. Come and refresh  
yourselves. The day is young and we  
have much store of grain for you.  
The famine has recessed. Our  
fortune is regained. The ground has  
yielded much in Greenland this May.

Gudrid notices Leif with interest and curiosity. Baby Snorri is in Gudrid's care.

LEIF (CONT'D)

You have a child, a boy, at your  
breast. Was he born upon the craft?

GUDRID

Snorri was born near the shore in  
the land you settled.

LEIF

Forever, he will be...the first.

Gudrid hands Snorri to Karlsefni. Leif admires baby Snorri in his arms. Meanwhile, the ship's crew unload their things. Thjodhild and other townspeople join the group.

GUDRID

It was a voyage of fright. Our ship  
was failing, then we saw bright  
sand and forest shelter. Every  
river and vale was rich and vast.  
As we took in the view, I knew this  
was Vinland! It was heaven. I was  
home there where my boy first took  
his breath. All was silent. All was  
stillness when they came upon our  
camp. There was peace in that  
place. We felt love in its light.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

But we paid a great price  
when Haki lost his life!

HEKJA

But we paid a great price  
when Haki lost his life!

Gudrid shoots Freydís an angry look. We see Hekja processing the pain. Leif takes a knee in honor of Haki, as the others have now joined them.

KARLSEFNI

Not only did Haki die, but two  
others departed. Now they take  
their final rest beyond all human  
reaches.

Leif bows his head. Then, he hands Snorri back to Gudrid at "beyond all human reaches".

LEIF

As you can guess by this robe, Erik  
has passed on to the place where  
nothing grows pure, to the palace  
of rest where men ponder!

THORVARD

Still, we won his war!

A smirk crosses Thorvard's face. Freydís bows her head in embarrassment. Hekja notices Freydís' expression and eyes her with suspicion.

INT. HOME OF ERIK THE RED

Leif sits on a throne-like chair in his chambers. He faces Karlsefni, who stands at the entrance.

KARLSEFNI

Leif, I must tell you of a  
treachery. Three lives were lost  
because Freydís lied.

LEIF

I am not surprised. She had a cause  
to settle.

Karlsefni displays Haki's ring.

KARLSEFNI

It is worse than you wish: I found  
our good Haki in the forest hedge.  
She claimed he was captured, but we  
found his back bore a deep axe cut!

LEIF  
So they stole his axe!

KARLSEFNI  
It was long before the brawl.

LEIF  
She was forced to fight!

KARLSEFNI  
No, they were friends! They brought  
us food!

LEIF  
Friends, you say? As a fool you  
speak! I sense a falseness inside  
you to force my sister to yield.

Leif stands up at: "I sense a falseness inside you..."

LEIF (CONT'D)  
How dare you charge her with this  
deed? How dare you come for her  
death!

Leif points his finger at Karlsefni.

LEIF (CONT'D)  
I know what you did years ago, when  
she deeply grieved.

Karlsefni steps back from Leif at: "I know what you did...",  
taken by surprise.

LEIF (CONT'D)  
I always knew the truth why you  
left without a trace! My anger  
burns for the grief it brought.  
Then you came back when your need  
was great.

Leif steps closer to Karlsefni in accusation, "and you took  
my love...my Gudrid!"

And you took my love in your grasp,  
my Gudrid, when you cheated our  
ruler, Erik the Red!

Leif grabs his axe, but Karlsefni backs away.

LEIF (CONT'D)  
My father was blind to boast in  
your ability.

(MORE)

LEIF (CONT'D)

You led my friend to his end. You left the fight! What did you earn?

Karlsefni preparing for Leif to confront him face to face.

LEIF (CONT'D)

Now, keep her close. Protect your claim. If she is hurt, you will lose your head!

KARLSEFNI

I fear you not! You have no sense!

LEIF

Keep your weapon near and sharp!

Leif rushes Karlsefni. Karlsefni quickly exits before Leif attacks him. We follow Karlsefni (from behind) into the mist. He disappears. From the same mist, Freydís appears, walking toward Karlsefni and Gudrid's house.

INT. GREENLANDIC HOME OF KARLSEFNI

Freydís enters Gudrid and Karlsefni's house as Gudrid sits alone by a small fire. Baby Snorri lies in his crib. Freydís enters unnoticed. Gudrid notices and then recognizes Freydís. Freydís announces herself. Freydís paces around the room.

GUDRID

Lady near the door. Freydís! Come and sit down.

FREYDÍS

Gudrid. There is a rumor on the ground that my husband and I did a deed I cannot repeat. Do not heed their hunches; they are dangerous to recount or declare.

GUDRID

I know the tale is true. Prepare to face retribution!

FREYDÍS

Will we? I also know a tale. Perhaps you should be told.

GUDRID

Tell your myth to me!

Freydís laughs.

FREYDÍS

It happened before you came here,  
when the face of man looked west. A  
merchant from the mainland came  
upon this inlet. He and I were  
closely attached.

GUDRID

It was agony. He told me the truth  
long ago. I know all.

FREYDÍS

You should hear my side!

Gudrid stands up to defend Karlsefni.

GUDRID

Why let you speak?

FREYDÍS

Because there is more he may have  
missed! We had a boy, Thorgest, but  
he died in birth.

Gudrid is taken aback, hand over mouth.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

Then your husband departed, that  
brute! He deserted! When he came  
back, after many years, his heart  
was black. He chose you to claim  
his baby!

Gudrid bowing in shame at this news.

GUDRID

My soul is heavy. I cannot bear  
this news! How could he show such  
hate to a person so near?!

Thjodhild and Hekja enter suddenly, with Snorri in Hekja's  
arms.

THJODHILD

What has happened?!!

GUDRID

Is it true? Her baby Thorgest?

Thjodhild bows her head in shame.

THJODHILD

Yes!

Gudrid, to Hekja.

GUDRID  
Stay with Snorri!

Gudrid rushes out. Freydís suddenly feels confused and a bit ashamed.

HEKJA  
Gudrid!

Hekja throws Freydis a nasty look. Gudrid rushes out and we follow her into the mist. Thjodhild watches Gudrid in dismay. Gudrid disappears.

INT. THJODHILD'S CHURCH

Inside of Thjodhild's church, Gudrid kneels at a pew bench in despair. Leif happens to enter, noticing her. Leif approaches her unnoticed until he sings out.

LEIF  
Gudrid, are you well? Do I hear you weeping?

Gudrid turns her head up at Leif with tears in her eyes.

GUDRID  
Did he leave? Did my husband disappear on the day their son was lost?

Leif kneels beside her, taking her hand.

LEIF  
That was a dark time. She was never the same, for my close sister became cold and tarnished.

GUDRID  
I knew she had a warmth underneath her wild nature!

LEIF  
As do I for you, but my pride in youth took its place. For the past, I yearn...

Leif raises her and himself up after: "For the past, I yearn..."

LEIF (CONT'D)

I always thought when the time was right that we would be safely wed. But I was rash and time moves rapidly, for it cannot change its will.

Gudrid listens to Leif with rapt attention and emotion.

LEIF (CONT'D)

Your husband came with strong force. He brought my father stock and food. I was away, to the west, when he obtained your hand with oath.

Leif paces around. Leif makes eye contact with her as he moves back closer to her.

LEIF (CONT'D)

When I returned, I was full with rage but I could not claim your right. I took a faith and I chose forgiveness, but I truly could not forget my sorrow for Freydis nor my feelings of love for you, sweet Gudrid!

They embrace at the hands or wrists.

GUDRID

I sense your storm. You live in the shadow of yourself. But I must restrain my soul, for I gave my heart away years ago!

LEIF

You have my heart today. Let it not die!

Leif closes in to kiss Gudrid when Karlsefni bursts in.

KARLSEFNI

Gudrid? Leif!

Gudrid tries to defend Leif, standing in front of him, but Leif gently moves her aside.

GUDRID

Stop! He was just confessing his past!

LEIF

Not just my past. My present too!

Leif and Karlsefni face to face!

KARLSEFNI

Move away from my wife! Come and  
face me, my friend! We'll settle  
this outside!

LEIF

Gladly!

Leif and Karlsefni exit the entrance.

GUDRID

Stop! Resist your rage!

Karlsefni's head turns around just for this line.

KARLSEFNI

We must...fight!

Outside, Leif taunts Karlsefni, as Thjodhild, Hekja, Freydis and Thorvard have arrived onto the scene. Leif picks up a sword and Karlsefni, after some deliberation, chooses an axe.

ENSEMBLE

Choose the weapon of your  
choice if you want a chance.  
Beware that you keep close  
watch! If you take up axe,  
make sure that you are able  
to bring your best! Beware!  
Beware!

LEIF

Choose the weapon of your  
choice if you want a chance.  
Beware that you keep close  
watch! If you take up axe,  
make sure that you are able  
to bring your best into the  
battle!

They exchange strikes, each of them blocking or avoiding the blow. Gudrid appears from within the church, awakened from shock.

LEIF (CONT'D)

You possess clumsy skills!

KARLSEFNI

It takes only one stroke to win!

After Karlsefni misses his swing, Leif gets the upper hand, kicking Karlsefni onto the ground. Karlsefni loses his weapon in the fall.

ENSEMBLE

Time is turning, time is turning.  
Both are blind with rage, with a  
force robust; fury, outrage, death  
draws near, dreadful night. Fear!  
Wrath! Outcry! And for what cause?

Leif raises his arms to strike Karlsefni a death blow, but Gudrid rushes out and stops his raised arm with her hand. Meanwhile, Freydís arrives onto the scene.

GUDRID

Stop! Let my husband survive!

LEIF

Bring your hand back! Let my axe bite!

Leif shakes Gudrid off. When he turns around again, Freydís is now blocking his path to Leif, an axe raised in her arms as well.

LEIF (CONT'D)

You?! He wished for your worst!

FREYDÍS

All the threats you made were wrong. This was the work of Thorvard, of my husband Thorvard!

GUDRID

How can you cast all of the blame on your senseless husband? You both are guilty!

Thorvard's angry face.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

He wanted a war, he said someone must hurt; poor Haki!

LEIF

You must share blame, for Haki's blood is hot upon your head!

FREYDÍS

I made no plans. He struck him down, so he deserves to pay the price, not me!

Leif raises his sword at Freydís menacingly.

LEIF

He will. But you will lose as well!

Karlsefni rushes to his feet and steps in front of Freydís.

KARLSEFNI

Give her no trouble. She saved my life twice.

Leif turns his sword on Karlsefni again, but Freydís steps around Karlsefni. Freydís turns to Karlsefni.

FREYDÍS

Thrice if you count today.

Freydís takes Karlsefni's hand. Leif addresses Karlsefni. Meanwhile, Gudrid clasps Leif's shoulder.

LEIF

If only you had stayed with Freydís  
and I had not been gone, forgotten.  
If I could turn back time, I would  
have stayed. I would have stayed!

FREYDIS

There is no evading destiny!

Gudrid hugs Leif and they all remain for a moment, Freydís with Karlsefni and Gudrid with Leif.

INT. GREENLANDIC HOME OF KARLSEFNI

Gudrid sits, Karlsefni paces in their home, a repeat of Act 1 Scene 2 staging.

GUDRID

The secret you hid is a stain on  
our home. Your lie left a lesion.  
If you bend the truth, our trust  
will break!

Karlsefni tries to hold Gudrid, but she turns away.

KARLSEFNI

Give me a chance to show you  
change!

GUDRID

If we let darkness conquer  
light, peace will depart,  
concealing our love!

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

If we let darkness conquer  
light, peace will depart,  
concealing our love!

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

Let my deeds prove that I have  
changed. Let me come and draw you  
close!

Gudrid turns back to Karlsefni. She stands confidently.

GUDRID

Move onward to the meeting. And may  
your deeds say more.

Karlsefni exits. Hold on Gudrid's stoic face.

EXT. BAY OF BRATTAHLÍÐ - EVENING

Karlsefni sits at the assembly, having arrived already.  
Others sit or stand.

LEIF

I call the witness forward.  
Karlsefni, what did you find?

Karlsefni stands up and walks to the center of the circle.

KARLSEFNI

I was led to the body of our fallen  
friend, Haki. His back was broken  
by the axe.

LEIF

Our own?

KARLSEFNI

No mistake. Someone made the call  
among our men. Thorvard knows most!

Karlsefni points to Thorvard. Thorvard and Freydis stand up  
and sing over each other.

THORVARD

Let me speak! It was her  
scheme, her suggestion.  
Freydís wanted to strike.  
Karlsefni wanted to settle,  
so she forced me to take that  
swing, spill his blood, to  
make him silent...to force  
the battle!

FREYDÍS

He sunk his axe. He forced  
the act. It was his plan to  
bring them pain. I felt sick!  
He took an evil step!

LEIF

Stop now, for I have the knowledge  
I need to bring conclusion to  
Haki's case!

Leif suddenly lifts Haki's axe and shows it to everyone.  
Freydis nods to Leif. We understand that she sold Thorvard  
out. Thorvard grabs Freydís' shoulder with angry realization,  
and she struggles to pull away from him.

LEIF (CONT'D)

Thorvard, you hereby are banished  
from Brattahlíð! Freydís stays  
here, she did not strike. Now take  
your guilty hand off my good  
sister!

Leif shoots Thorvard a fiery eye. Thorvard releases the grip he has had on Freydís' wrist. He begins to leave, but stops to face Leif first.

THORVARD

I see your eyes of malice, filled  
with hate for me.

Thorvard then turns to Karlsefni.

THORVARD (CONT'D)

Do not forget this moment; you have  
become my foe. I will return with  
fury and you will see my face. I  
will arise and reap my reward. My  
right!

Thorvard departs. After a moment, Gudrid and Hekja, holding baby Snorri, appear near Karlsefni.

GUDRID

Now that he is gone, I announce  
that we are leaving Greenland.

Karlsefni's look of surprise. Then, he nods.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

We are sailing to Iceland to  
settle, to raise Snorri in a nest  
of safety.

Leif rises, walking towards Gudrid and nodding in agreement with her plan. Leif takes Gudrid and Karlsefni's hands and clasps them together.

LEIF

Farewell my friends of many moons.  
My heart is heavy with this news.  
This evening has become a night.  
But even darkness ends in morning.

Karlsefni takes out Haki's ring and places it into Leif's hand. Karlsefni and Leif nod at each other with respect.

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

Gudrid, Hekja, and Karlsefni sail upon the ocean.

EXT. ICELANDIC HOME OF KARLSEFNI - DAY

Gudrid, Hekja (who is holding Baby Snorri) and Karlsefni stand before their new unfinished house in northern Iceland.

Crop fields grow around them. Sunlight illuminates Gudrid's face.

GUDRID

I feel sunlight in my heart as our ship arrived, steady. Such grace reaches us on earth, with a kind embrace, gleaming.

Karlsefni and Gudrid admire their new landscape and unfinished house.

KARLSEFNI

All the crops are growing. Everything feels new. All the good things we need are within our grasp!

GUDRID

This is a chance to raise our child in a home that is calm, secure, unchanging!

Karlsefni looks into the sky.

KARLSEFNI

My heart is humbled by a pure love. It lingers!

Camera pan up to the sun.

Camera pans down from the sun. Many years have passed. Karlsefni works on finishing the chapel facade. He appears weak and disoriented.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

We work fast and the buildings take form. The beams are mighty and firm. My back hurts and my head is sore and hot, but my spirits are high!

From nearby, SNORRI (the boy, around 12 years old now) appears, bringing Karlsefni a hammer.

SNORRI

Father, are you faint?

KARLSEFNI

The sun is strong.

SNORRI

Mother said you must rest. You look red!

KARLSEFNI

We are almost...finished!

Karlsefni keeps working, but he becomes more dizzy and off-kilter. Karlsefni suddenly collapses, falling down and lying motionless. Snorri is in shock for a moment before crying out.

SNORRI

Mother! Mother!

Gudrid rushes onto the scene, panicked. She falls to his side and tries to awaken Karlsefni, who is unconscious.

GUDRID

No! No, please! Do not pass!

Gudrid looks up into the now cloud-dark sky.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

Hear my plea! Hear my plea! Hear my plea!

Karlsefni regains consciousness for a moment but he cannot rise. He takes out the amulet that the First Nations woman returned to him, a gift from Gudrid. Gudrid is shocked upon recognizing it.

KARLSEFNI

Gudrid, my love. I slip into the light. Be strong...my soul is leaving...

Karlsefni turns his head to Snorri.

KARLSEFNI (CONT'D)

Snorri!

Karlsefni drops his head, dead. Gudrid kneels over his dead body. Snorri bends down, taking the amulet out of Karlsefni's hand. He studies it.

EXT. ICELANDIC HOME OF KARLSEFNI - EVENING

A few more years have passed. Gudrid sits by Karlsefni's grave stone, which is engraved with a Christian cross. Snorri stands in the near distance, observing her.

GUDRID

The pain is still real, but time pushes you away. My love remains, but you have left me wanting.

(MORE)

GUDRID (CONT'D)

In my dreams, I see your face and I  
dare not leave your side, but I do,  
then...you fade.

After a moment of reflection, Snorri walks to a nearby tree stump with axe embedded into it. Gudrid slowly rises from her contemplation..

SNORRI

You sit by the same stone, talking  
to him, but he sleeps sound in the  
heavens. He cannot hear.

Snorri paces around the tree stump with ax embedded into it.

SNORRI (CONT'D)

I cannot wait...I want his weapon!

GUDRID

Not until you are twelve.

SNORRI

I have the will! You must not  
worry.

GUDRID

Do not argue! You must be able!

SNORRI

I am!

Snorri wrestles the axe out of the stump. In the background, we see a male figure approaching on foot, but they do not notice him.

GUDRID

Stop! Snorri! Do not make me mad!

SNORRI

I will show you my strength!

GUDRID

It will sting!

SNORRI

Let me steal one swing!

Snorri sets up a wooden block. The figure seen in the background has arrived just out of their view.

GUDRID

Snorri, stop! Bring it back!

SNORRI  
Watch me break this block!

GUDRID  
I did not raise you to rebel!

SNORRI  
See it shatter!

Snorri swings, shattering the block. The figure is Thorvard who, smiling, announces his presence to their surprise.

THORVARD  
He swings hard! That blow was heavy! If he goes viking, his foes will vanish!

GUDRID  
Thorvard! What is this?!

Snorri walks towards Thorvard with Gudrid's axe still in his hands. Thorvard bears a sword.

SNORRI  
How sharp is your sword?

THORVARD  
See for yourself.

GUDRID  
Snorri, step aside!

Snorri has reached Thorvard.

THORVARD  
Here, Snorri, take it by the hilt!

Snorri drops Gudrid's axe and receives Thorvard's sword. Initially, Snorri cannot handle the weight of it, but he finally raises it.

GUDRID  
Do not bother my boy!

Gudrid rushes to protect Snorri, but Thorvard gets in her way. They converse.

THORVARD  
Keep calm and let him choose!

GUDRID  
Why did you come?

THORVARD

You know my cause!

GUDRID

His father has fallen. Forget your foe!

THORVARD

I came this day for another deed: I would bring discipline.

Thorvard solo, as he encircles Gudrid with pomp. Snorri continues admiring Thorvard's sword in his hands, transfixed.

THORVARD (CONT'D)

Your fields are flat and lean and forest is lacking. You need help and a disciplined hand. I can live here and bring health! A woman like you needs a man with will, who can keep his word. I would seek his best. I put the blame on Karlsefni, that dim beast!

Thorvard points to Karlsefni's grave at "that dim beast!". Snorri looks concerned.

GUDRID

Never! No, never will you ever be near my son. Go home to Freydís. You cannot stay!

Gudrid and Thorvard sing as she stands up to him.

THORVARD

Let me have the chance. I will join your church. Do not deny a sinner support! I am certain I can set him straight and satisfy your soul!

GUDRID (CONT'D)

Get away from my son. We are not your slaves. You have no control, no chance. I am convinced of your cruelty!

Thorvard takes his sword back from Snorri, who has been fearfully holding it. Meanwhile, Hekja arrives unseen onto the scene from inside the house. Snorri tries to walk away to Gudrid, but Thorvard catches him.

THORVARD (CONT'D)

Fine. If you do not comply, I will take this child as payment for the pain you caused when you put me in the cold! Hear his cry!

SNORRI

Mother, help me!

GUDRID

No, he did nothing! You murderer,  
you are no man!

Thorvard throws Snorri to the ground opposite Gudrid and pins his chest with his foot. Hekja rushes behind Thorvard unnoticed, yet determined.

SNORRI

Mother, quick. In the mud!

Meanwhile, Gudrid picks up her axe, but Thorvard smiles at her, as it is too late. Hekja tries to push Thorvard off-balance from the side, but Thorvard pivots and Hekja falls to the ground. Thorvard quickly grabs Snorri again, raising his sword towards Snorri's throat. Gudrid has rushed up behind him. Thorvard addresses Hekja.

THORVARD

Now watch me, slave. My sword,  
indeed, is sharp!

Before Thorvard can finish the death blow, Gudrid screams out a war cry, swinging her axe into Thorvard's head. Thorvard falls to his chest, stone dead. After a beat, blood drains from his head. Gudrid, in shock, drops her axe.

GUDRID

Look away, Snorri, from this sight.

Gudrid hugs Snorri. Hekja continues to watch Thorvard bleed.

Fade out.

EXT. ICELANDIC HOME OF KARLSEFNI - MORNING

Gudrid, Snorri, and Hekja sit by two overgrown graves: Karlsefni's and an unmarked stump for Thorvard. After a few moments, Snorri notices a figure approaching on foot.

SNORRI

Look, I see someone. There; a form,  
astir.

GUDRID

It must be Freydís and I am fearful  
she comes to fight!

After a few moments, Freydís arrives, axe in hand.

FREYDÍS

I see two graves covered with  
grass.

(MORE)

## FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

It must have been an even match.  
Now that both men are gone, we can  
make amends!

Gudrid holds her own axe in anticipation. Hekja looks on with determination, an axe in her hand as well.

## GUDRID

They did not fight, but I was  
fierce! My husband died of a deadly  
fever many months before Thorvard  
came down. He tried to force me to  
marry. He took my Snorri in his  
hands. He raised his sword towards  
Hekja! I could not miss!

Freydís shoots Gudrid a look of devilish surprise.

## FREYDÍS

You?! Dealt the death blow?

## GUDRID

I had to move in the moment!

## FREYDÍS

You must have made quite a mess!

## GUDRID

I thought my son would be slain!

## FREYDÍS

How like an angel you are! You were  
deep in doubt, in distress...

## GUDRID

Yes!

Freydís turns and addresses Hekja.

## FREYDÍS

And he had to drop!

## HEKJA

Yes!

Freydís turning back towards Gudrid.

## FREYDÍS

He deserved death. And I am glad it  
was dealt, Gudrid.

Freydís conveys heartfelt emotion. Gudrid's expression turns from fear to surprise. Freydís drops her axe as she turns towards Thorvard's grave.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

I think back to the day he arrived.  
How regal were the lines of his  
brow.

Freydís paces around. She ends up next to Gudrid.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

I was soaring, free of thought, and  
my soul cried "Thorvard!". But in  
time, he made me hate, so my heart  
grew thin and he made it break!  
Will you forgive my faults? Or did  
I fall too far?

Freydís is face to face with Gudrid. Gudrid picks up Freydís' axe and hands it to her.

GUDRID

Not beyond reach!

Freydís receives her axe. Freydís' eyes are also filled with tears.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

Let your heart return...Freydís!

They hug, then hold hands. Hekja also draws near to them.

GUDRID (CONT'D)

I must travel to Rome, but Snorri  
needs rearing. Will you help him  
with my friend, sweet Hekja?

FREYDÍS

(to Gudrid)

Your heart is my heart. Your child  
is my child.

(to Hekja)

In loss or life.

Freydís, to Hekja. Hekja puts her hand over their clasped hands.

FREYDÍS (CONT'D)

The past is over. The future  
onward. This time is ours!

GUDRID

The past is over. The future  
onward. This time is ours!

HEKJA

This time is ours!

All three standing, holding hands. Snorri watches them with a smile.

Fade out.

Fade in, panning from sky to earth. Gudrid stands at the entrance of her house, laden with items for far travelling. Freydís, Hekja, and Snorri watch her from outside as she slowly walks to them.

GUDRID

Now I leave with nothing but my sight. I seek peace across the great sea. May the lamp of heaven light my path and yours for many nights. I pray we can...

FREYDÍS

Return and start new!

GUDRID

Return and start new!

HEKJA

Return and start new!

They all hug, Snorri included. Then, Gudrid begins her pilgrimage. Freydís rests her hand on Snorri's left shoulder, and Hekja rests her hand on Snorri's right shoulder. Gudrid turns back once to them once more, a knowing smile on her face.

**AND HERE THE SAGA ENDS**