

In a Somali kingdom a long time ago, the lust for power sparked a violent war. All the while royals and militaries fought for the throne, one woman decided she had enough of men controlling her life and instigating violence. That woman was Arawelo. After being humiliated by her father and exiled from her village, Arawelo found a new home in an all-female village, where, without the presence of men, women lived independently. After that village too was threatened by men's bloodlust, Arawelo rallied peoples of all different genders and origins to fight back and created an army bent on creating a Kingdom of peace and equality. However, by doing this she too was corrupted by the lust for power and became more violent and desperate. Arawelo was so hellbent on maintaining her independence that she became terrified of weakness. Meanwhile, Liban, the Prince of the Kingdom, grew up doted upon and spoiled. He expected power to be handed to him. The war launched him into a different mindset, and realizing that his throne could be taken away, he decided to fight for his power. This all came to a head with the two realizing that Prince Liban was adopted by the Sultan in a coverup. As it turns out, the Sultan's wife had a daughter, but the real heir to the throne being a Princess was seen as weak. Arawelo believed that this lost Princess was herself and so only felt more entitled to power. Prince Liban, on the other hand, felt even more vulnerable and concocted a plan to kill the Sultan and take the throne for himself early. Aragsan, Arawelo's best friend and the true Princess, felt insecure and unwanted due to being abandoned by her parents at birth but slowly learned from Arawelo how to be a more assertive and capable leader. In the end, the reveal that Aragsan was the true Princess only made Liban crazier, and acted as a revelation to Arawelo. Now dedicated to putting her best friend on the throne, Arawelo saves Aragsan's life and dies herself, taking Liban out with her. Finally, Aragsan takes the throne and pledges to make a more peaceful society.

[5 Act Structure]

ACT 1:

Exposition - Arawelo and her father Warsame live a quiet life in Sool. Establish their relationship as strict but fair. Warsame is overprotective of his daughter due to losing his firstborn son and wife and doesn't let her have a lot of independence. Arawelo also has a secret relationship with Tanade, an older boy in her village. She is unaware that her father knows about this relationship and approves of this, thinking that she will need a man to protect her after he eventually dies. One day, while Arawelo and Tanade are out on a secret meeting, a group of soldiers arrive in Sool and confer with Warsame. They reveal that the tyrant currently threatening the Sultan's position is soon going to invade Sool. They say that they do not have time or resources to evacuate the entire town, but thanks for what Warsame did (use that wording but make it vague) so many years ago, the Sultan was offering to evacuate his family. According to Loyan, who goes unnamed right now, the safest city to go to would be Sanag, which is protected by the Sultan. However, that is an all-women's village, so Warsame would have to stay behind. He accepts this offer. Arawelo and Tanade return together, and Warsame puts on a show to make it seem as though Arawelo is being immodest. After he humiliates her, he says he will be exiling her. She is shocked and denies that he can even do this, as he orders the soldiers to take his daughter away. She questions whether they will even listen to him but they do. She begs Tanade to defend her honor but he says he has to listen to Warsame, who is his elder. Arawelo is taken away from Sool in shock and shame, beginning the course of our story

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ACT 2:

Cut to the palace of the Kingdom. Prince Liban - suave and good-mannered - is being doted on by his loving mother, the Queen. The Sultan passes by them and notes the Prince as “too soft”, but then leaves to go into a secret meeting with his right-hand, the soldier whom Warsame talked with in the previous scene, Loyan. Loyan tells the Sultan that the city of Sool has been taken by the tyrant, Daalim and that he is only growing in terms of land and military might. Loyan states that it’s more important now more than ever that the Prince establishes his authority as heir to the throne unless when the Sultan dies the Daalim might try to claim it. The Sultan begrudges the fact that they might soon enter the war when he is already so old and tired. Meanwhile, cut back to Arawelo. Arawelo is filled with animosity towards her father. She was publicly humiliated by him in front of the whole village. Tanade also didn’t do much to help her. She declares to herself that she will never rely on anyone to defend her again, that she doesn’t need anyone else. The soldiers drop Arawelo off at Sanag, the all-female village. She quickly learns that things are much more peaceful and, without the men around, the women here are much more capable and independent. She decides she wants to be just like them.

Arawelo meets Aragsan, another girl her age. Aragsan is very independent, as she has no family and was raised by the Chief, and also very kind. However, she also seems lonely and yearns to be loved. They form a quick friendship due to these similar traits. Arawelo slowly becomes more and more capable and eventually leads the next hunt and she has a thrilling moment when killing a wild predator animal and her bloodlust begins.

Soldiers from the Sultan’s army began to arrive in Sanag. They’ve heard word that the tyrant is coming to invade Sanag, and the Sultan has decided to make a stand there, potentially starting a war. The women begin to feel as though the soldiers are restricting their freedom and independence. Arawelo feels angry at the tyrant for continuing to invade her home. Loyan arrives in the town and Arawelo learns that he is the right-hand for the Sultan. She is confused why he would follow the orders of her father. Loyan reveals that her father did what he did to keep her safe.

The tyrant’s forces invade Sanag. The Sultan’s forces are outmatched and the remaining number, as well as the women, hide inside of a fortified building. Arawelo decides that enough is enough and she’s tired of both the tyrant and the Sultan restricting her freedom and continuing this bloodlust, power-driven battle. She rallies the remaining number and they can formulate a plan which drives the tyrant’s forces out, leaving Sanag under Arawelo’s control. Aragsan is her right hand in this and forms an admiration for Arawelo’s assertiveness.

ACT 3:

Cut back to the Sultan, who is being briefed by Loyan. The Sultan worries about the new conflict formed with the tyrant and also the threat Arawelo’s uprising poses since she caused many of his soldiers to turn against him. The Sultan decides to send the Prince to manage this threat and proclaim his authority. Then, the leader of the Darood clan arrives in the palace and proclaims he has an offer for the Sultan. Meanwhile, Arawelo’s army has been growing due to the spreading word of what happened in the battle for Sanag. Prince Liban shows up and tries to use charm to convince them to rejoin the Sultan’s side but Arawelo refuses to listen to him. The Prince becomes angry. During the conflict, Chief Hawo reveals that Liban isn’t the true prince, but instead, there is a princess who was “put under my protection by the royal

guards!” The Prince then kills Hawo out of anger and leaves. Later, Arawelo and Aragan are talking in a tent. Arawelo reveals to Aragan that she believes she (Arawelo) is the true Princess due to her father’s strange connection with the Sultan’s right-hand man and the fact that the royal guards took her to the village. Aragan questions if it even matters but Arawelo says it does because it gives her power. Aragan worries about this going to her head. Arawelo goes outside and proclaims to her troops that she is the rightful Queen.

It is announced that the Sultan is embracing religion. In return, the forces of the Darood clan will be joining his side in the war. The Prince becomes desperate and crazed now that he realizes he wasn’t born with power. He confers with his mother, who now remembers the truth of what happened and confirms that there indeed is a Princess, but she doesn’t know who it is. The two hatch a plot that isn’t clear to the reader. Meanwhile, Arawelo’s army has become more violent. Arawelo, once believing that women are peacekeepers, has now become the instigator. She has decided to head to the royal palace to claim her rightful spot on the throne. Her troops are questioning her growing lust for power while growing closer to Aragan, who is Arawelo’s guiding light. Aragan is also learning from Arawelo to become more assertive.

ACT 4:

On the way outside the palace, Arawelo’s army comes into contact with the entirety of the tyrant’s army. Arawelo, the Sultan’s forces, and the Darood clan temporarily form a truce to beat the tyrant once and for all, which they do. Meanwhile, we see Lohan inform the Sultan of this victory. He goes to his private quarters to celebrate, only for his wife to hold him down. We see in his final moments he tells the Queen and Liban the truth about what happened to the princess, but the reader doesn’t see the text. The Prince then kills him. The Prince, now Sultan due to the succession, proclaims that the assassin was a member of Arawelo’s army, and states that she is a threat to the crown and must be executed.

Arawelo arrives in the palace prepared to kill the Sultan, finding that he is already dead and Liban has taken his place. It is just Arawelo, Liban, and Aragan in the room. Arawelo proclaims that she is the true queen but Liban laughs. He then starts to tell them of what happened, showing as a flashback through the Sultan’s perspective. It is revealed that Arawelo and Liban are siblings, while Aragan is the true Princess. Liban proclaims that a weakling like her could never rule, only a man could. Arawelo proclaims that Aragan would be a better ruler than him any day. Liban then tries to strike down Aragan with his sword but Arawelo jumps in the way in time, also striking down Liban with her weapon.

ACT 5:

Aragan is instated as the Queen. She proclaims that the war is over and becomes known as the great peacekeeper. She visits Arawelo’s grave in the end and states that it wasn’t her blood that made her queen, it was Arawelo’s great effort, it was everyone’s great effort.