

Rachel Alejandro

"In The Raven-haunted Forests Of Darkenhold"

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The Words of the Forest-King on the Eve of the Nexus:

I am the immortal King of the Deep Woods,

Servitor of the Old Gods of the Forest...

I hear the whispered words of the trees...

Such ancient secrets they sing...

Swaying serpents ring my oak-hewn throne,

Night and shadow are my hunting dogs...

Ravenous, they howl to be unshackled,

That their maws may be glutted with the blood of my
foes.

Raven's claw... tooth of the wolf

Ancient trees my brooding sentinels,

Gnarled branches clawing the nighted heavens.

Spirits who dwell in shadow, unfurl thy darkling wings...

Awaken, o' elder creatures of this sylvan realm,

Stalk once more this ebon-cloaked eve.

I hear the whispered words of the trees,

Such ancient secrets they sing...

I stand now at the anvil,

Adamantine hammer in my hand,

In thunder-song the steel I smite,

A clarion heard throughout this land.

(Yawning wide beneath me...) the jaws of the worm...

(hearken, the spell is woven...) the call of the worm...

Raven's claw... tooth of the wolf

Ablaze upon the Altar of Stone,

The Sigil of An-rayuth, the summoning!

Folk of the Mist, Dwellers in Shadow,

The thrice-blessed wand of the Wood-Gods is
beckoning!

At the aeon-swathed Shrine of the Oak I kneel,

O' Oracle of the Great Forest, hear me this night...

The Sylvan Oracle Speaks:

The gods of the earth and sky are watching, the circle
is nigh on complete... the nexus is

At hand. But hearken... for a new enemy approaches

from the east... an enemy who hide

Their poisoned blades behind words of falsehood

sweetened with the ichors of carrion, to

Bind men's minds with fetters of deceit. Speak now, o'

Liege of the Deep Woods, Master

Of Darkenhold, and the enemy shall hear you...
The Forest-King:
Yes... I behold now the face of the encroaching foe...
Hear my oath! You, clad in gleaming
Robes of sparkling saffron, engorged with the
mindless adoration of countless thralls who
Bend the knee in flaccid obeisance... 'neath thine
vestments hides the rank stench of
Leprous corruption! Bring not thine cursed icons into
my ancient realm... your words of
Untruth shall not be heard here! My steel is honed and
thirsting for your life-ichors... aye,
And with my dying breath I'll spit defiance in your face!
Upon my great throne hewn of ancient oak I brood...
My mantle, the leaves stirred by the whispering of the
winds.
The elder gods of the Deep Woods gaze grimly down
upon me...
My blood courses through the trees and the earth...
And I watch in silence, ebon-eyed and raven-winged.
From every bough of my kingdom...
The Lament of the Trees:
Can you not remember? Have you forgotten the magic?
Sing to us your spells once more, and the ancient
forest shall dance to your words...
The Forest-King:
I stand now at the anvil,
Adamantine hammer in my hand,
In thunder-song the steel I smite,
A clarion heard throughout this land.
Can you not see the coils of the worm all about you?
Can you not hear the writhing of the worm beneath
you?
Can you not scent the breath of the worm riding the
wind?
Can you not touch the skin of the worm in all that
surrounds you?
Can you not taste the ichors of the worm upon your
tongue?
Do dreams of the worm not haunt your slumber?
The Forest-King:
I hear the whispered words of the trees,
Such ancient secrets they sing...
Lyrics: Byron
Music: Jonny and Chris Maudling

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