

TWO SERPENTS RISE (TRAILER)

Written by

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INT. BAR - DAY

Music. Swing time.

Flutters of bright fabric and cloth: an elegant woman spins through a sharp turn.

She dances with CALEB, a young man in a sharp suit. He grins, turns, slips, stumbles, grabs for her hand-

EXT. PYRAMID PEAK - NIGHT

CALEB leans against an iron fence at the top of a stepped pyramid. Beneath him stretches a city, half pyramidal metropolis, half Blade Runner Los Angeles.

Crystal slivers the size of buildings hang in the sky.

A FEATHERED SERPENT, half dragon, half Nazgul mount, flies past.

WOMAN (V.O.)

I never took you for a religious man.

EXT. LAKE PLATFORM - DAY

CALEB, sweat-streaked and dirty, clothes torn, dodges an immense barbed tentacle of shadow.

It tears a trough on the metal platform where he stands.

He recovers, terrified-

A silver streak crosses the camera-

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Cards shuffle; Caleb's dealing.

Blue-green light swirls above the deck, and takes the shape of a woman. She opens her mouth. She has pointed teeth.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - NIGHT

Caleb falls, tumbling, toward a crystal heart the size of a planet.

EXT. ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

CALEB sprints through a roof hung with bloodstained sheets after a running figure.

CALEB (V.O.)
I'm not.

He reaches the edge, jumps—

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Caleb sits in silhouette on the edge of an immense tree stump. Stars shine bright overhead. He grins a "You got me" grin.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Trust me, more religion is the last
thing I need in my life.

The next cuts come fast, a few seconds per.

EXT. RUINED SQUARE - DAY

A monster of dark water and ice looms overhead. It swings for Caleb with a BIG SCARY CLAW but he DODGES, spins around, strikes with something—

EXT. PYRAMID PEAK - DAY

Caleb hangs in midair, spread-eagled, wracked by lightning. A SKELETON ROBED IN RED watches him, with coffee mug in one hand.

Caleb screams.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

An enormous centipede-centaur made from mirrors and razorblades wrestles with a terrifyingly buff warrior man. The creature roars with inhuman fury.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

A deep drop, a huge Fellowship of the Ring-style chasm, and at its bottom, burning:

A single lidded EYE.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

And we go back to Caleb, on the stump. A bit defensive.

CALEB

Besides, I can take care of myself.

INT. BAR - DAY

And then back to normal—a slow cut of Caleb falling on the dance floor. He throws out his hand, grabs, catches—

Nothing, which takes the form of a gleaming silver rope held in his dance partner's hand. She has arrested Caleb's fall. He's impressed.

His partner smiles.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

WOMAN (O.S.)

Can you?

EXT. CITY - DAY

A closeup on a mouth large enough to swallow a battleship, with diamond fangs. It screams. Think Godzilla.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

CALEB

Sure.

EXT. CITY - DAY

The MOUTH lunges forward, covers the camera and we

CUT TO TITLE

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THE NEW NOVEL FROM MAX GLADSTONE

OUT TODAY