

Arcanorum #1 - Until The Sleepwalker Awakens

Rough Draft By L.M. Walker

Logline

An ancient order, now in ruins, stands as humanity's only defense against creatures of darkness from beneath the surface of the Earth. To save mankind, several members break rank and obtain a powerful weapon - a prisoner named Orion - to help them hold back the darkness and rebuild their order.

Summary

***Arcanum** is an ancient order that protects humanity. Beneath the Earth's surface, creatures of darkness attempt to eradicate humanity. After a millennia, the organization has fallen into disarray and is on the verge of collapse.*

Adriana Corben is a member of this order, as her father was, and believes it is essential to humanity's survival. She enlists members Gabriel & Tyler Reese to help her free Orion, a powerful half-human member of the organization imprisoned for killing one of their own centuries ago. Together, Adriana believes the four of them can prevent Arcanum's demise and along with it, save humanity from extinction.

Page Summary

Adrian Croft, Gabriel & Tyler Reese arrive at the ruins of the Citadel and locate Orion within. There, they are watched by Castor Ambrose, The Last Sentinel of Arcanum. The group are barely able to meet Orion before they are attacked by Castor. During the battle, Gabriel detonates explosives at the entrance, sealing the group within. Orion expresses distrust towards the new arrivals, until a pleading Adriana Corben mentions the Tome of Travelers. Peeking Orion's interest, he reveals an exit and inquires for further information.

Page Outline

1. The backdrop depicts a Young Orion with blood all over his face happily peeking through a train-window as it passes through a forested area. Under guard of a crossbow, two priests briefly talk about bringing the boy back to their monastery.
2. *SPLASH/DOUBLE PAGE SPLASH: In the past, the Citadel was at its prime: a massive teaching monastery with it's own railway and a vengeful angel statue.
3. *SPLASH/DOUBLE PAGE SPLASH: In the present, the team arrives at the ruins of the Citadel.
4. Adriana, Gabriel and Tyler arrive at the treeline. They get out and get ready. Adriana & Gabriel talk about the mission ahead.
5. Adriana and Gabe step to the treeline. Gabriel surveys the area through binoculars while Adriana nurses a migraine. Gabriel consoles Adriana, while Tyler worries about after the mission.
6. The trio walk through the ruins, discussing the history of Arcanum, the Citadel and the Bloodborn.
7. The team comes to a crossroads. The team goes to the right. The Sentinel continues to stalk them.
8. The team arrives at a tunnel entrance. Adriana ignites her flashlight to investigate, but Tyler interrupts her and tosses out the Mother Eye orb, which scans the room.
9. *SPLASH: The orb emits an overlay of the cave they're in. It's a vast, crypt-like underground area..
10. The trio investigate the cave, while Adrianna determines where to go. She locates a cave entrance.
11. At the doorway, Gabriel realizes people have been traveling through the entrance. While discussing this, Gabriel announces they are not alone.
12. Orion appears, startling everyone but Gabriel.
13. Orion appears, warning against violence. Gabriel suggests hes been following them, but Orion corrects him.
14. The Last Sentinel appears, exclaiming that Orion still has no idea whats taken place over the last centuries. The trio prepares to escape.
15. Orion & The Last Sentinel begin fighting. Gabriel orders the trio into Orion's crypt.
16. Orion & the Last Sentinel Fighting, Gabriel Prepares Charges at Entrance
17. Orion & the Last Sentinel continue fighting. Gabriel lays down charges. Orion is kicked into the cavern. Gabriel activates a switch.
18. Gabriel's Charges Detonate. The Entranceway To Orion's Crypt Collapses.
19. Orion yells at Gabriel, who stands firm. Gabriel expresses that he doesn't appreciate being bait.
20. Adriana introduces herself and explains their purpose. Orion explains his.
21. TBD: Adriana tries to convince Orion to help them.
22. Orion opens a secret exit out of his crypt.
23. The four of them stand at the top of the entrance to the cavern beneath.

Characters

- I. [Adriana Corben](#)
- II. [Gabriel Reese](#)
- III. [Tyler Reese](#)
- IV. [Orion](#)
- V. [Castor Ambrose, The Last Sentinel](#)

Page 1, Panels 4

1.1: Long Shot

A train speeds along a track that winds itself around forested mountains somewhere in Central Europe.

1.2: From the Waist

Inside the train cabin, a man in clergy robes, holding rosary beads in his right hand, walks down a train aisle towards an open train car door. To his right, he passes by a similarly dressed man.

1.3: Same Shot

As he enters the next room, we can see the back of a small child sitting in the seat, face near the window. A separate priest stands next to the child, his hand on his shoulder. The panel is split in two - on the right side, a man with a trenchcoat and a crossbow in his left hand. On the left side of the panel is the priest that entered the room with his rosary in his right hand. The two items both compliment and contrast each other.

1. Man With Crossbow: I'm not taking any chances with this thing.
2. Priest With Rosary: Nor should you. To call it an abomination would be lacking.
3. Priest With Boy: What would the Society think, devout members of our organization afraid of a child?
4. Priest With Rosary: If only that were **ALL** he were...

1.4: Full Shot

A boy staring gleefully out a train window. One of the first things we notice is the dark, dried blood all over his face and chin. Outside the window, a gorgeous Summer day illuminates the forests of Central Europe.

Page 2, Splash Page

Splash Page, Establishing Shot:

The opulence of the estate fails to convey a school of theology but instead that of lavish, bourgeois royalty. A 20 meter statue of a vengeful angel solemnly looks downward onto those who enter. A main building housing an immense tower off to its right stands as the centerpiece for the shot. Train tracks run in front of the main building, with the current train pulling in from the left hand side.

Note: An alternate version of this shot could be a double page splash. Both of the same large estate with the beautiful, large church in the center but one depicting it's vibrance and the other during it's ruination. The passing of time would be represented by all of the greenery in the area decaying, going from left to right. Even the weather itself shifts, from a cloudless beautiful sunny day to a morose downpour moving from left to right.

Page 3, Splash Page

Splash Page. Establishing Shot

The two splash pages are representing what was and what is, and must contrast each other in that fashion. While the former is a beautiful, well manicured estate of theology, the latter is a ruinous husk surrounded by an utterly devastated landscape.

The entire area is blanketed by rain. The sky is darkened gray. The grounds are riddled with debris of stone, bone, glass and charred ruins. Very little has been able to grow here. Numerous craters mark the area. The 20 meter statue of an angelic warrior now stands as the lone remainder of what used to be a prominent estate. That, and the tower in front of it, formerly attached to the larger building in **Page 2**. The angle should be slightly askew, like two people facing each other with a slight distortion of some kind.

1. Offpanel: We're here.

Page 4, Panels 5

4.1:

A small black armored personnel carrier, designed like a off road Rolls Royce Phantom 35', drives through the forest and pulls off road.

4.2:

The vehicle stops at the treeline.

4.3: Medium Long

The driver, a tall middle aged male, gets out of the vehicle. He has dark olive trousers and a military style black waistcoat. On his right hip is a tactical revolver in its holster. With a burly, dark brown mustache and tight, well kept hair, he looks like a military officer. His name is GABRIEL REESE.

1. Gabriel: Gear check, everyone. We don't have a lot of time to find this guy. Adriana, wake up Tyler and have em' do a sweep. Once we're clear, we'll have until sun up to grab the target and get out.

4.4 - Small Panel

In the back of the vehicle, a young man with long, shaggy brown hair raises his arm in protest from underneath his black, leather-like short jacket. His name is TYLER REESE.

1. Tyler: Nope, nope, don't come near Tyler. I'm awake, I'm awake....

4.5: Medium Close

A woman in her late twenties exits the vehicle from the opposite side. She has shoulder length, jet black hair and a long, form fitting sleeveless black duster with a hood. Her eyes are dark and powerful and she casts a mischievous smile. Her name is ADRIANA CORBEN.

4.6:

Everyone meets at the back of the suv. There, Tyler gives a huge yawn while Gabriel rummages through the gear in the trunk.

1. Tyler: *yawn* No worries. On a mission to free the murderer imprisoned for over a century. I got it.

Page 5, Panels 4

5.1:

Tyler digs through the equipment while speaking to Adriana, who hangs on the side of the car looking away solemnly.

1. **Tyler:** Seriously, though, I have some questions: for starters, this is THE Citadel, right? Two hundred years ago, thousands of men women and children **DIED** here. If he was still alive, why would he stick around?
2. **Tyler:** Sidenote: this place is a fucking **HUGE**.

5.2: Same Shot, But Without Adriana

Tyler looks up from his dig towards where Adriana was. She's disappeared.

1. **Tyler:** Yeah, but what gives? I've been digging through the archives and...oh.

5.3:

Adriana walks to the treeline, where Gabriel is surveying the area through binoculars.

5.4: Three Quarter Shot

Gabriel surveys the area through binoculars. Adrianna looks down and rubs her head. Her long, jet black hair falling on either side of her face, obscuring her.

1. **Adriana:** What do you think Tyler would say if he knew how we got the Intel? If he knew about...**me**.
2. **Gabriel:** Nothing, cause I'd smack em if he said anything.
3. **Adriana:** Great. Turning brother against brother is just the remedy any woman needs for her headache.

5.5:

Reese lowers the binoculars, looking at Adriana paternally.

1. **Gabriel:** We're here for you, Adriana. You have a gift. You have a connection to these creatures in a way no one has ever seen, so it doesn't matter how you're here, only what you do while you've got the time.
2. **Gabriel:** Besides, if my own people are going to kill me, I want it to be worthwhile. What Command has us doing - scouring empty husks, cataloging abandoned lairs. I can't take another assignment watching over a coven of these things, when we should be getting rid of them.
3. **Gabriel:** You wanted to DO something, you had a plan, so here we are.

5.6

Tyler walks up to the duo from the SUV. His hands are cupped together, inviting a small, golden spherical device with wings to land inside them.

1. **Tyler:** Speaking of which, what's the plan when we make it back? *If* we make it back that is..
2. **Gabriel:** Watch your mouth, Tyler
3. **Tyler:** Noted. Palantir says the coast is clear, we can go.

5.7: Same Shot

The trio walk away from the area, in the distant background, within the trees behind the SUV, a pair of eyes can just barely be seen. They are both red.

Page 6, Panels 5

6.1: Long Establishing Shot From Overhead

We can now see the estate that exists beyond the front area we've seen for the last few pages. It's enormous and extends beyond the page. The trio make their way forward, with the occasional ruined building around them. The devastation is near wholesale.

Tyler: Look, all I'm saying is Command won't like what we've been doing out here. This place has been off limits since it fell, but I'm sure you already considered that when you roped my brother into this..

6.2: Medium Long

The trio make their way through the desolate estate. Tyler looks irritated.

1. **Adriana:** Why do you think Command doesn't want us here?
2. **Tyler:** This again?

6.3:

The trio continue onward past skeletal remains that solemnly lay against some rubble.

1. **Tyler:** Well, a few decades after all this came down, we came along. The poor imitation. The lackluster facsimile.
Tyler: They were never able to figure out what took place here, how the protective wards and bindings failed so miserably. Honestly, these guys should be venerated, not hidden. The people here should be venerated, not hidden.
2. **Gabriel:** I think that's what we're here to do.
3. **Tyler:** Oh yeah? I thought we were here to steal a walking, talking, literal living embodiment of evil. My mistake.
4. **Adriana:** You know he's not evil. Atleast, not exactly. He's still half human. The Sanguine could've been powerful allies to us, had taken heed of the Magister. This problem of stagnation has shown itself again, and I won't stand by and do nothing again..
Tyler: Again?

6.4: Same Shot

Tyler is left standing by himself, a puzzled look on his face.

1. **Tyler:** Wait, what?

6.5: Medium Close

Tyler catches up with Gabriel and Adriana. Gabriel is looking at Adriana questioningly, while Adriana smirks to herself.

1. **Gabriel:** Tyler, any theories about how the Sanguine got here?
2. **Tyler:** Subterranean tunnels? Flying eagles? Who knows. I still can't believe the bulk of the data regarding the Sanguine was lost when this place went down. I mean it, Gabe - you guys are here for the dhampir, but I'm here for the data.
3. **Gabriel:** My brave little brother, the intrepid explorer.
4. **Tyler:** Shove it.

Page 7, Panels 4

7.1: Over Head

We can see the trio at a crossroads of several remaining structures. To the left is a cobblestone path that widens. To the right lay more rubble, but what looks to be like a subway overhang nearby, indicating an underground structure. Behind the group, just barely within view, is a lone figure stalking the group.

7.2: Medium Close

The trio goes to the right. In front of them lay burnt trees, soot and rubble.

7.3: Medium Close

In the same area, we can see parts of the cross-roads but from the knees of an unnamed individual. We can see the figure's cloak stops at his knees. A sword sheath glimmers in the night next to weathered boots with strange markings.

7.4: Medium Close

The figure walks down the right path, following the trio. We can only see him from behind, shrouded in darkness, his hood up.

Page 8, Panels 7

8.1 - From The Front

From inside the cave, we can see the trio standing at the entrance.

8.2

Adrianna turns on her flashlight.

8.3

Tyler holds a small, dark, golden orb out in front of Adrianna.

1. Tyler: Observe.

8.4 - Inset Panel

The orb unfurls its wings from earlier, hovering into the air from Tyler's hand.

8.5 - Worm's eye.

From the ground, the orb hovers in the air and emits multiple points of light from its core.

8.6 - Same View

The orb suddenly ceases all activity.

8.7 - Same View

The orb emits a bright flash

Page 9, Splash Page

9.1:

The group has entered the cave only slightly. Inside, the orb has emitted a light neon green silhouette of the cave in its immediate vicinity. The silhouette is an overlay of the complex: an exact diagram of the area before its destruction. Even the small portion rendered by Palantir is enormous and resembles the surface - ruinous, desolate and empty. The orb's green overlay matches every detail: every stone, every skeleton, every crevice.

1. Adriana: Impressive.

Page 10, Panels 5

10.1:

Tyler types away on a small, console-like device on his arm. Adriana and Gabriel look upon the cave in wonder.

1. Adriana: Ok, Tyler, what is this?
2. Tyler: It's the last living snapshot of the area. Anything and everything can be seen here - organic and inorganic.
3. Gabriel: Jesus. We're only at the tip of this thing and there must have been hundreds of people here.
4. Adriana: And all of them died here, too. There's even children here.
5. Gabriel: Some would consider that a luxury.

10.2: Medium Long

Neon green silhouettes of robed people reading books, tending to long tables and moving about. Children run about, chasing each other. In the center of the shot, Adrianna walks among them, silently observing them.

1. Adriana: Why did they stay after the wards were broken? What compelled them - the knowledge kept here? Were their secrets worth even the children...

10.3

Adriana points her flashlight at an open entranceway. All the green figures are moving about to her right, but none where the entranceway is, as if they are avoiding it altogether.

1. Adriana: Here. They all seem to be avoiding this area.

10.4

Gabriel is kneeling besides Adriana, rummaging through his pack. Tyler continues to press buttons on his tablet. The green figures around them have begun to dissipate, now only partially visible, as if cut off at the waist. They are reverting into nothingness.

Page 11, Panels 5

11.1:

Gabriel does a flashlight check, turning it on and pointing it away

11.2: Close Up

Gabriel points the flashlight at his feet, aiming it near a footprint on the ground.

Gabriel: Someones been here...recently.

11.3:

Tyler put Palantir away inside of his shoulder bag. Adrianna points her flashlight at the edges of the entranceway, reading its mysterious carvings. Gabriel looks around, suspicion growing on his face.

Tyler: Not a chance. It would've come up on the scan. Those tracks have to be from long ago.

Gabriel: How long ago?

11.4: Medium Long

From below the waist, we again see from the angle of the stranger from before but this individual is barefoot and without a cloak.

Offpanel: Not long enough.

Page 12, Panels 3

12.1 - Medium Close

Orion the Dhampir debuts. He stands before the trio shirtless, wearing torn trousers. His chest bears several deep scars that remain barren of hair. Resembling a shipwrecked castaway, his disheveled braids fall alongside his face and hide his features.

12.2 - Side Shot

The trio on the left stand off with Orion on the right. Between them is the entranceway. Orion's body is only partially visible due to the only light source being Gabriel's flashlight, which is pointed at his face. Adriana and Tyler stand, horrified, but Gabriel looks fiercely determined.

12.3 - Medium Long, From The Front

Gabriel stands at the ready, his flashlight still pointed forward, but his other hand reaching for his sidearm.

Page 13, Panels 5

13.1: Close Up

The light illuminates Orion's face. He's snarling, a predator eager to strike.

Orion: Don't. Not before you answer my questions. Then you can die.

13.2: Medium Close

Tyler: How about a second option?

Gabriel: Are you the dhampir?

Adriana: Everyone, wait..!

13.3: Close up

Orion's face, his eyes narrow.

Orion: I wasn't talking to you.

Page 14, Panels 5

14.1 - Worm's Eye, From The Side

The boots and cloak from earlier stride forward across the page, making the rats scurry away.

14.2 - Medium Long

The figure is a slender man, with an athletic body. An iron mask on his face glimmers. Around the mouth area, jagged metal protrusions make the area look like jaws with teeth. He wears form fitting armor, akin to a chainmail tunic, a dark blood red in color. Shrouded in a ragged black cloak, he stands at nearly seven feet. With a slender, athletic body, the figure is Castor Ambrose, The Last Sentinel. He walks towards the group, hand on the hilt of the long sword sitting at his side.

14.3 - Close up

Castor shouts at Orion.

TLS: The time has come for your answers, Dhampir, just not to the questions you ask. Your ignorance is no longer useful nor entertaining. ~~You will have your answers, but not to the questions you seek—the humans here can help you with this.~~

14.4

Adriana and Tyler look at each other, panicked. Gabriel, still facing Orion, looks over his shoulder towards TLS.

Tyler: Anyone know what the fuck he means by that?

Adriana: Not a clue. Stay focused.

Gabriel: The cave behind us...

Tyler: ~~holyshitwhydidicomefuckshit~~

Adriana: Ready.

Offpanel: Answer me, Sentinel!

14.5 - Medium Close

Orion, again reverting to a growling, almost feral like state. Eerily, the growl seems to be almost curling into a smile.

1. Orion: 78 years. That's how long it's been since the last time I saw you, Sentinel. We have a lot of time to make up for. ~~WE HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO MAKE UP FOR!~~

14.6

As Orion leaps at TLS, Gabriel dodges out of the way, shoving Adriana & Tyler through the nearby entranceway.

Page 15, Panels 5

15.1 - Close Up

Gabriel shouting orders.

Gabriel: Stay in the cave! Stay alive!

Gabriel: Tyler, satchel!

15.2

Tyler tosses the satchel to Gabriel.

Tyler: ~~What are you doing!?~~

Gabriel: ~~Making sure we aren't the followup, now go!~~

15.3 - Inset Panel

Castor drawing his sword from his hilt.

15.4

In an instant, Castor has drawn his sword, swinging it in a wide, wreckless arc. Orion ducks underneath, moving forward towards his opponent.

15.5

While Castor is falling, Orion continues forward and behind him. His inhuman speed is depicted in blurred after images of his body in motion. The final "image" is Orion behind Castor, grabbing him by the throat and arm.

Page 16, Panels 6

16.1 - Long Shot

Orion slams Castors face against the cave wall.

16.2

While Orion has him pinned, Castor's eyes flare with anger.

1. Castor: You...nhggg...want to know where that harlot is? YOU SHOULD BE ASKING ABOUT WHOEVER KILLED THE MAGISTER! He was our protector and you let him DIE!
2. Orion: Lies! I have nothing to do with that! TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!

16.3 - Medium Close

Gabriel kneels on the ground, rifling through the satchel.

16.4 - Inset Panel

Gabriel removes a small square explosive from the satchel.

16.5

Gabriel places charges at shoulder height along the wall inside the small cave entranceway. While doing that, he shouts over towards his right.

Gabriel: Get back and get down!

16.6 -

Heading back out, Gabriel pulls out a revolver.

Page 17, Panels 5

17.1 - Medium Close

Orion now has Castor against the wall, but facing him. The two are a breath away from each other, Orion bearing his fangs at Castor.

Orion: I'm listening, Sentinel. Tell me what I want to hear.

Castor: His death could have been prevented. Even still, you are and always will be meant for something more than this. You and I both know that.

Orion: Wrong answer.

17.2 - Close Up

Orion expands his mouth revealing 4 large fangs poised to bite. He's pulled back Castor's cloak to expose his neck.

17.3 - Inset Panel

Gabriel fires his revolver.

17.4 - Small Panel

A bullet grazes Orion's face, drawing a small amount of blood.

17.5 - Small Panel

Castor headbutts Orion, causing blood to spray from his nose.

17.6

Castor kicks Orion, sending him forward.

17.7 - Close Up

As Orion falls into Gabriel, Gabriel's arm is outstretched, holding a detonator. He activates the switch.

Page 18, Splash

18.1 - Splash

Gabriel's charges explode at the entranceway, collapsing it in and blowing Castor backwards.

Page 19, Panels 6

19.1

Gabriel and Orion are on all fours on the ground, coughing. Behind them, the entranceway has completely caved in.

19.2 - Close up

Orion looks towards Gabriel, snarling.

19.3

Gabriel stares at Orion, sitting back on his butt and resting himself against the cave wall

19.4

Orion stands to his feet, walking towards Gabriel, who's still recovering

1. Orion: There are no words for what's about to occur to you, rest assured.

19.5

Gabriel stands to his feet, revolver again in hand.

1. Gabriel: That wouldn't be the first time I've heard such a thing, dhampir.

19.6

Orion stops, raising an eyebrow.

Page 20, Panels 5

20.1 - Medium Close

Adriana holds her hands up in submissions. Behind her, Tyler stands, horrified.

1. Adriana: I know who you are, Orion. I've been reading about you my whole life - trust me, we haven't come this far to harm you. ~~I've read about you.~~ I'm Adriana. We aren't here to hurt you.

20.2 - Over Orion's Shoulder

Adriana moves towards Orion, still holding her hands up. Orion stands still, observing her closely. Gabriel and Tyler begin to move towards each other, Gabriel still pointing his revolver.

1. Adriana: We've come here for you, sir. To find you and bring you to the surface. I know you've been down here a long time...and that was wrong.
2. Adriana: A lot has happened since you've been here, and we want to help you understand. We are not here to hurt you.

20.3 - Medium Close

Orion grimaces at the thought, barking in response.

1. Orion: Bring be back? It was Arcanum that put me here in the first place and made him my jailer!

20.4 - Same Shot

Adriana moves her hand to lower Gabriel's arm, still pointing his revolver at Orion.

1. Adriana: Your jailer? No such thing exists at Arcanum, Orion. We no longer have prisons, jailers or executioners. The organization had to reform after what happened here.
2. Orion: Now tell me the real reason you're here?

20.5

Orion lowers his guard, still keeping his eyes focused and piercing.

1. Orion: Castor doesn't care. His orders are eternal, for he is the last of his kind. A Sentinel even in death.
2. Orion: And to think I even wanted to be one of them...
3. Tyler: I told you he wouldn't believe us. All this time down here, are you sure he'd even be any good to us?
4. Gabriel: We came here for him. We can't leave without him.
Tyler: Won't matter if he kills us.
5. Adriana: You won't kill us, will you, Orion? Because that's not who you are.

Page 21, Panels 6

21.1

Orion stands in the semi-darkness, a brooding, imposing figure. He moves deeper into the shadows, obscuring himself slightly.

1. Orion: You have no idea who I am.

21.2 - Medium Long

From above, the trio huddle close together, searching the dimly lit cave for Orion. Orion speaks from the darkness around them. He has disappeared completely.

1. Orion: And you shouldn't have come here.

21.3

Tyler looks at Gabriel, who still stands sternly but is pointing his revolver at nothing. Adriana, hands at her side, remains steadfast.

1. Adriana: Then tell us! We came here for a dhampir that was taken into the Citadel. We know that it's you.
2. Orion: How do you know I won't kill you?
3. Adriana: We don't.
4. Orion: Then why take such a risk?

21.4 - Medium Close

Adriana's face is stern, focused.

1. Adriana: Because Arcanum has no idea that the Councils are seeking the most dangerous weapon in the World. For nearly 200 years, we've allowed them to fester both beneath and among us. In that time, they have managed to gather Pages from a powerful book..

21.5

A fully dark panel.

1. Orion: The Tome of the Travellers.

21.6

From the darkness, the edges of a doorway begin to emerge as light from the other side crosses over.

1. Orion: Come.

Page 22, Splash Page

23.1. Splash

Orion, Adriana, Tyler and Gabriel stand at the top of a long staircase, leading into a vast cavern well lit with torches.

Orion: Tell me more.