

Let There Be Blood

A Declaration to the Alternian Empire

Manifesto by Eiross Glaice

It is not enough to be angry. It is not enough to hope. It is not enough to endure.

The Alternian Empire has been in a state of decay for far too long. We languish in what is known because we fear the unknown. We grit our teeth and bear it because suffering has been the foundation upon which our lives were built. We hear the thought, *This isn't right*, yet we dare not to speak it aloud. We know that something is deeply wrong, but nobody knows where to begin to fix it.

I'm here to cast the first stone. I will give you every tool and resource, every opportunity, every reason you've ever needed to give voice to your rage and your grief. I will not rest until we have dismantled the chains that bind us to the fates our predecessors said that we must accept and destroyed the cage that blinds us to what could be. I will not die quietly with the rest of the world. I will have blood before I give mine to an empire that never deserved it.

Much of the legislature and systemic oppression so many trolls face tonight is the residue left over from a regime that rose to power too long ago for anyone to remember. We live in an archaic echo chamber that silences change before it begins, an eternal event horizon we cannot escape because it keeps dragging us back under without mercy. The only way forward, the only way to progress past the clutches of history that hold us down, is to stand as a united front and say, "Enough is enough. Let there be blood."

Revolutions have ended as quickly as they began because we are a fractured species. We have been indoctrinated to distrust one another and lash out when we feel threatened. This violence is a disease. It is the epitome of what is wrong with our empire as a whole. If we don't like something, we crush it. If we don't like someone, we cull them. Time and time again this has been the excuse we give ourselves to perpetuate our own destruction, never questioning *why* it is impossible for any of us to exist alongside our own discomfort. How can we ever hope to evolve past the barbaric structure of our society if we continue to let these impulses consume and control us?

The simple answer is that we can't and we won't unless something changes *now*. The only fate any of us are heading toward is certain doom if we don't overcome our baser instincts and challenge ourselves to be better. To be more than animals. We can rise above the senseless brutality we've all come to accept. We must.

I dream of a future for everyone. Not just for the empire, not just for highbloods, but for *everyone*, for everyone has a right to life and *nobody* has the right to take it from you. We were not hatched to kill each other. Our sole responsibility is to ourselves and whom we decide to become. We don't need an empire to tell us who we are. We already know that. It's time to let ourselves be heard, by whatever means necessary.

I'm not your heir. I'm not descended from the matriarchy. My blood runs much deeper than pretty titles. My blood is your blood. If it is to be spilled, it will be to defend you. To fight for you. Until my dying breath.

This is why I offer truce to my competition. Not everyone will choose to accept it. To those, I offer my condolences, for I have no intention of giving up on my people. I will fight and I will kill and I will rain Hell upon all who resist the coming of the dusk, but I will mourn the loss of those futures. I would like to say it doesn't have to be this way, but that would be a lie. There is no other way forward, so I will be the one to break the chain. I will be the one to set us free. All that I ask in return is that you follow me until you can learn how to live on your own. It will take time and it will not be easy, but it can be done.

Until then, let there be blood.