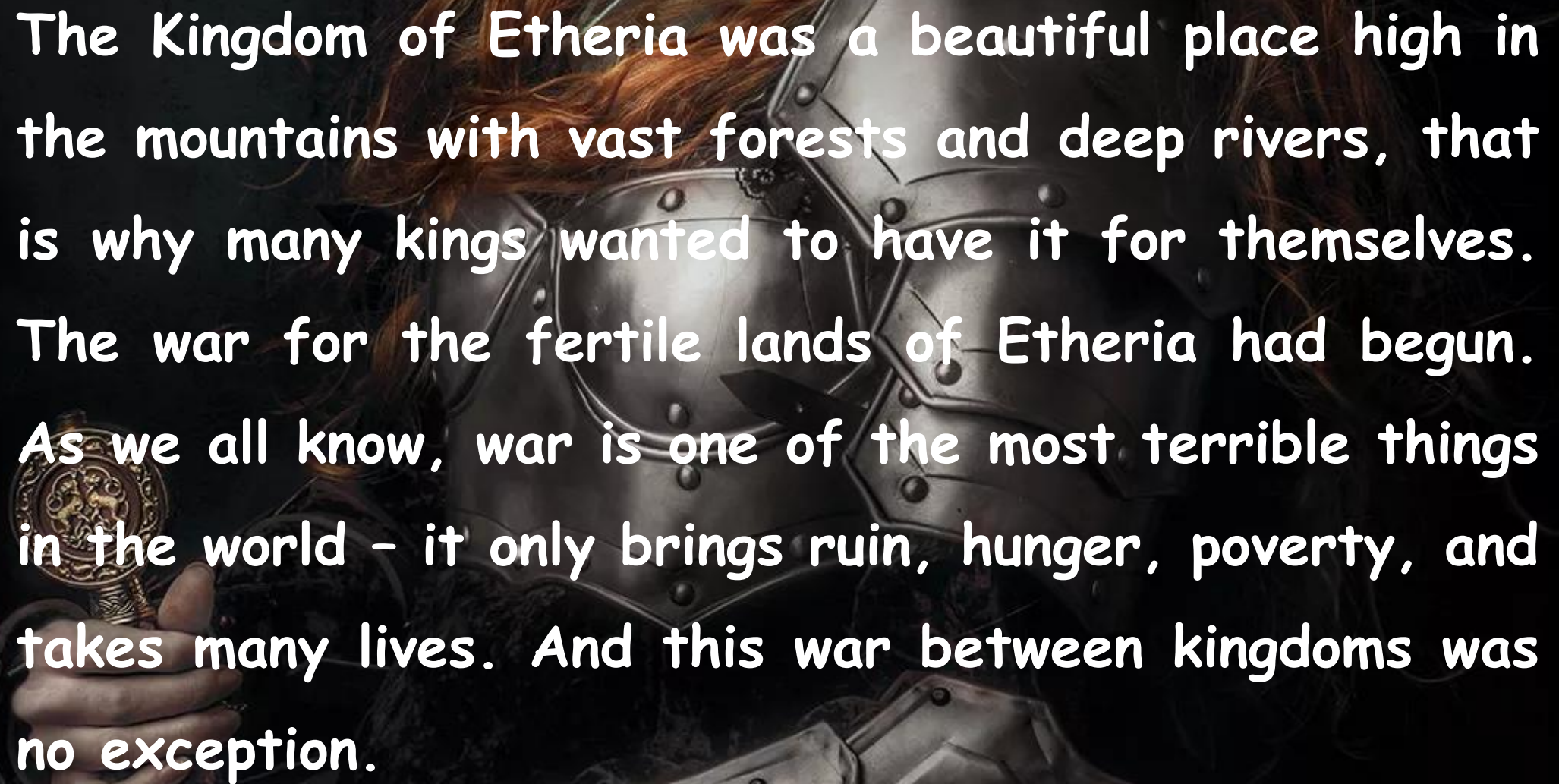


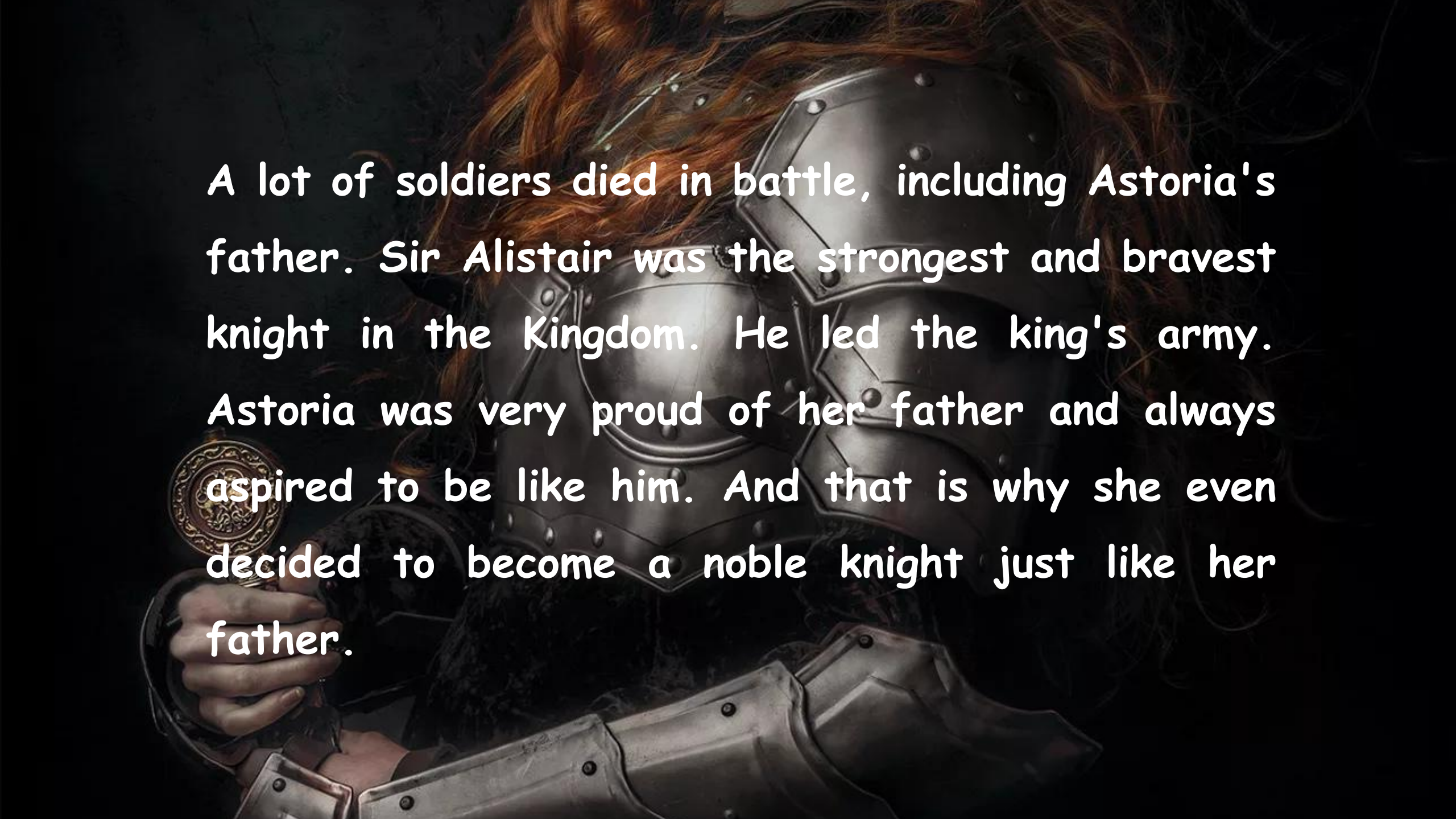


FALSE REVENGE
A FAIRY TALE

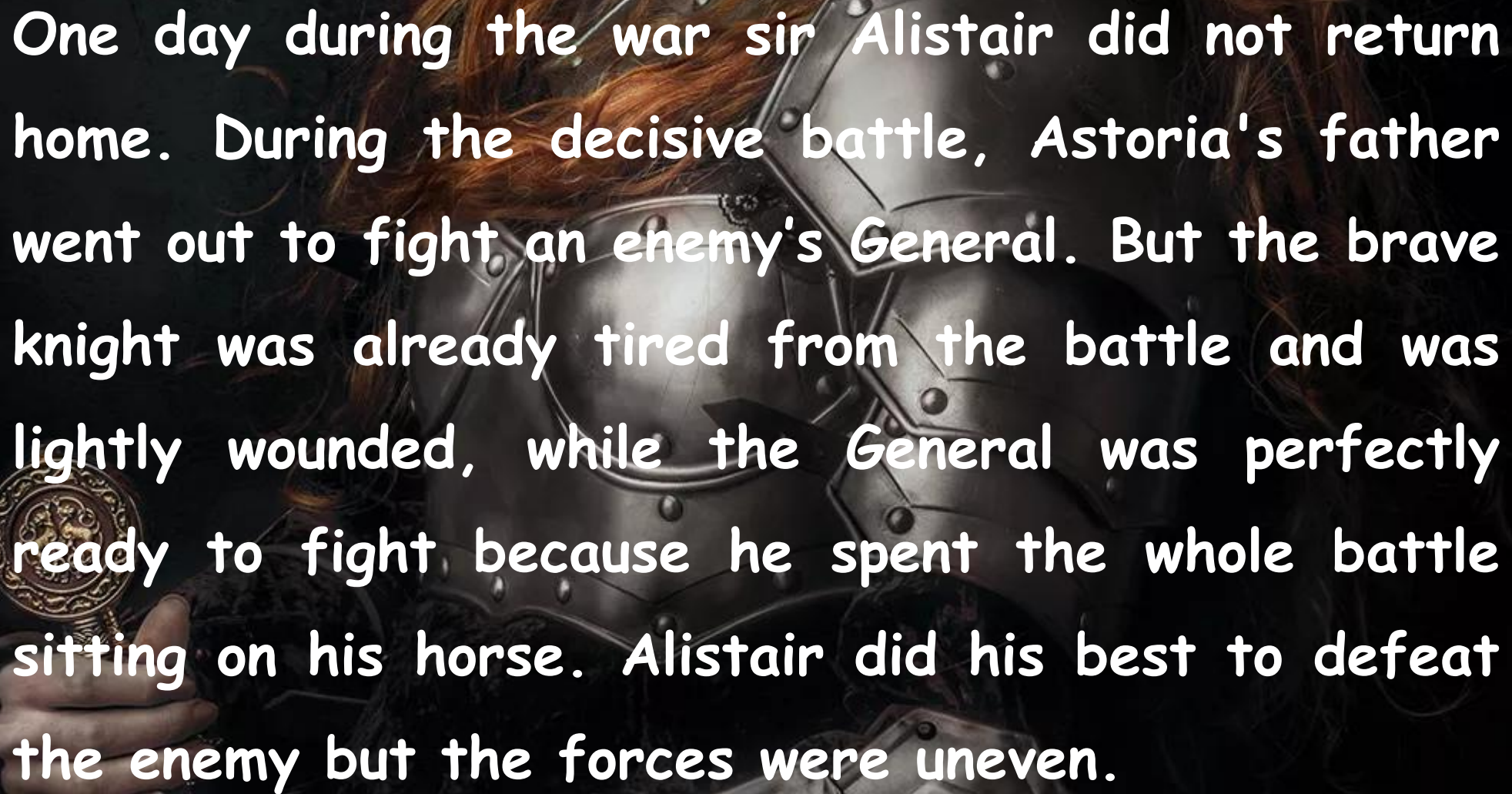
By Julia Semenikhina

The background image shows a person with long, wavy red hair wearing dark, segmented metal plate armor. The person is holding a large, ornate golden key in their right hand. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the armor and the hair against a dark background.

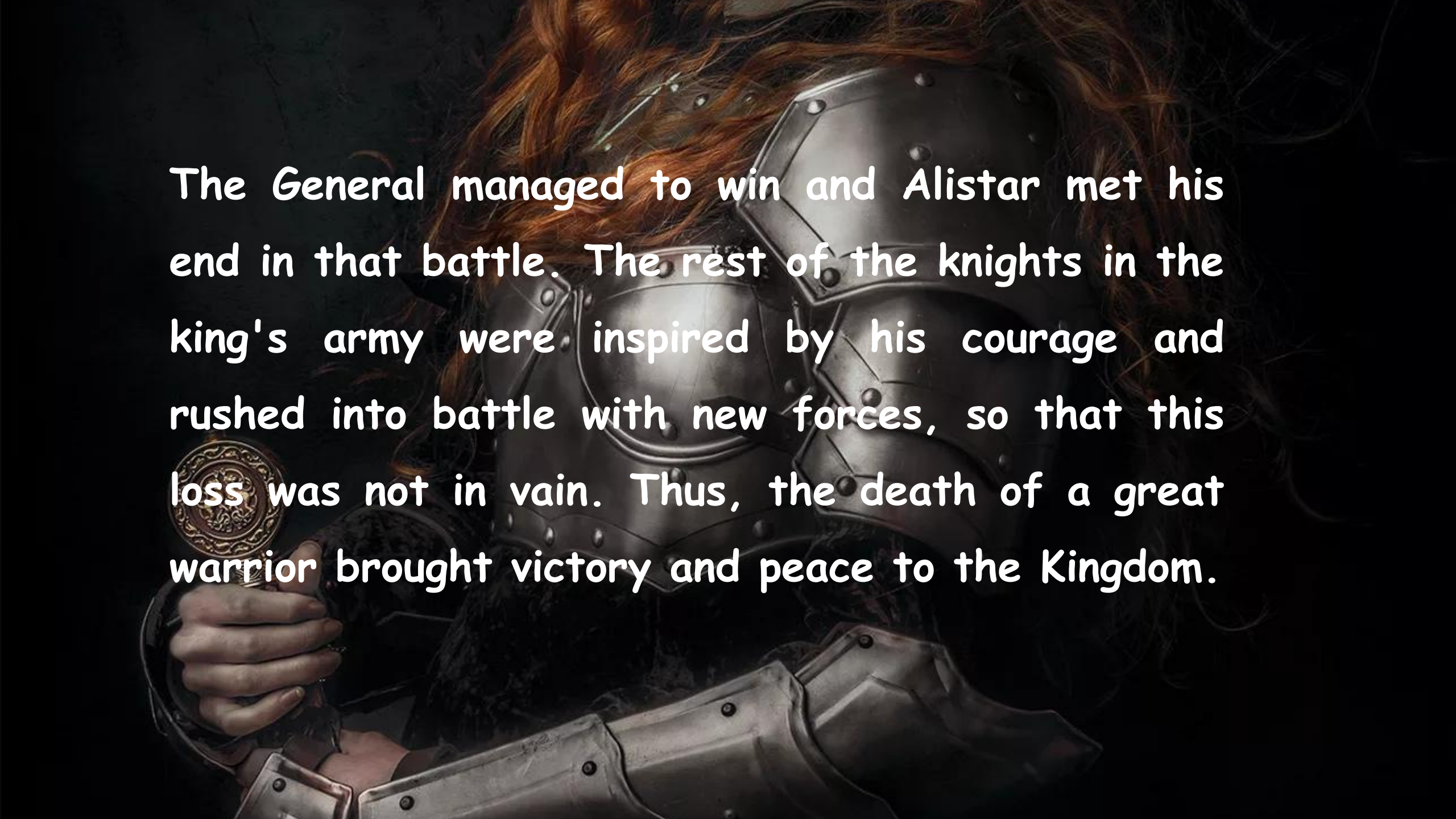
The Kingdom of Etheria was a beautiful place high in the mountains with vast forests and deep rivers, that is why many kings wanted to have it for themselves. The war for the fertile lands of Etheria had begun. As we all know, war is one of the most terrible things in the world - it only brings ruin, hunger, poverty, and takes many lives. And this war between kingdoms was no exception.

A woman with long, wavy red hair is shown from the chest up, wearing dark, detailed medieval plate armor. She is holding the ornate hilt of a sword with her right hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

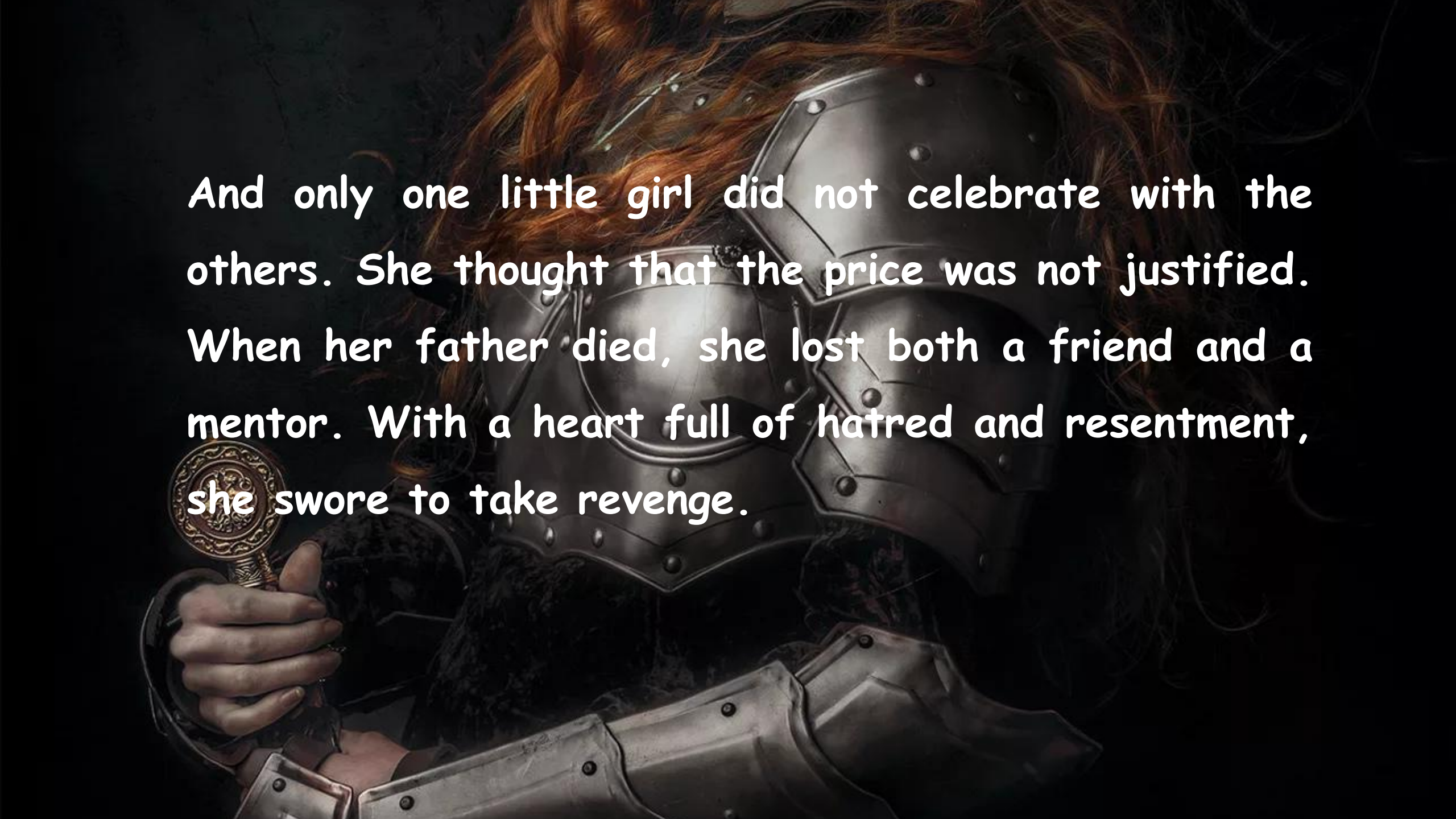
A lot of soldiers died in battle, including Astoria's father. Sir Alistair was the strongest and bravest knight in the Kingdom. He led the king's army. Astoria was very proud of her father and always aspired to be like him. And that is why she even decided to become a noble knight just like her father.

A knight in full plate armor with long red hair, holding a sword hilt. The knight is wearing a helmet with a visor and a breastplate. The background is dark and textured.

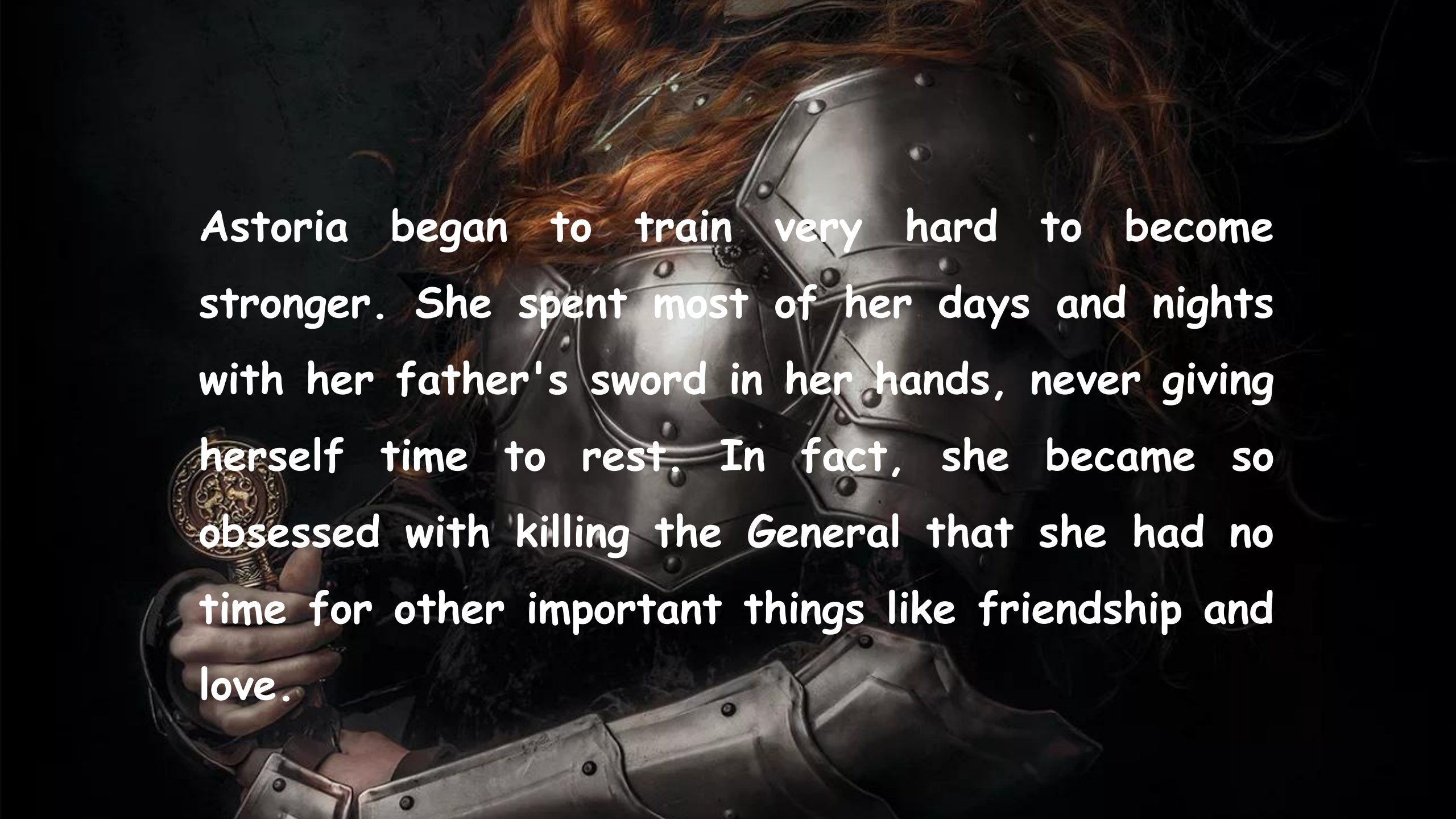
One day during the war sir Alistair did not return home. During the decisive battle, Astoria's father went out to fight an enemy's General. But the brave knight was already tired from the battle and was lightly wounded, while the General was perfectly ready to fight because he spent the whole battle sitting on his horse. Alistair did his best to defeat the enemy but the forces were uneven.

A close-up photograph of a knight in full plate armor. The knight has long, wavy red hair that falls over their shoulders. They are wearing dark, polished metal armor with visible rivets and plates. In their right hand, they hold the hilt of a sword, which features a prominent circular guard with intricate, embossed designs. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the knight's armor and hair.

The General managed to win and Alistar met his end in that battle. The rest of the knights in the king's army were inspired by his courage and rushed into battle with new forces, so that this loss was not in vain. Thus, the death of a great warrior brought victory and peace to the Kingdom.

A woman with long, wavy red hair is shown from the chest up, wearing dark, intricately detailed medieval plate armor. She is holding a large, ornate golden key in her right hand. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

And only one little girl did not celebrate with the others. She thought that the price was not justified. When her father died, she lost both a friend and a mentor. With a heart full of hatred and resentment, she swore to take revenge.

A person with long, wavy red hair is shown from the chest up, wearing dark, segmented plate armor. They are holding the ornate hilt of a sword in their right hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

Astoria began to train very hard to become stronger. She spent most of her days and nights with her father's sword in her hands, never giving herself time to rest. In fact, she became so obsessed with killing the General that she had no time for other important things like friendship and love.

A knight in full plate armor with long red hair, holding a sword with a gold hilt. The knight is looking down at the sword. The background is dark.

With all her endless training, she became the new strongest knight in the Kingdom. The rest of the warriors always compared her to sir Alistair.

Eventually, the day of her revenge came. Astoria finally felt strong enough and went to look for the General's house. After a few days of wandering, she found the place she was looking for. Drawing her father's sword, Astoria called out to the owner of the house. A man came out of the house.

A woman with long, wavy red hair is shown from the chest up, wearing dark, detailed medieval plate armor. She is holding the ornate hilt of a sword with both hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

“Do you recognize this sword?” the girl asked, looking determined.

“Ah” the man gasped, looking at the sword. “I could never forget that sword. It belongs to a man whose death had brought defeat to my kingdom.” the old man answered.

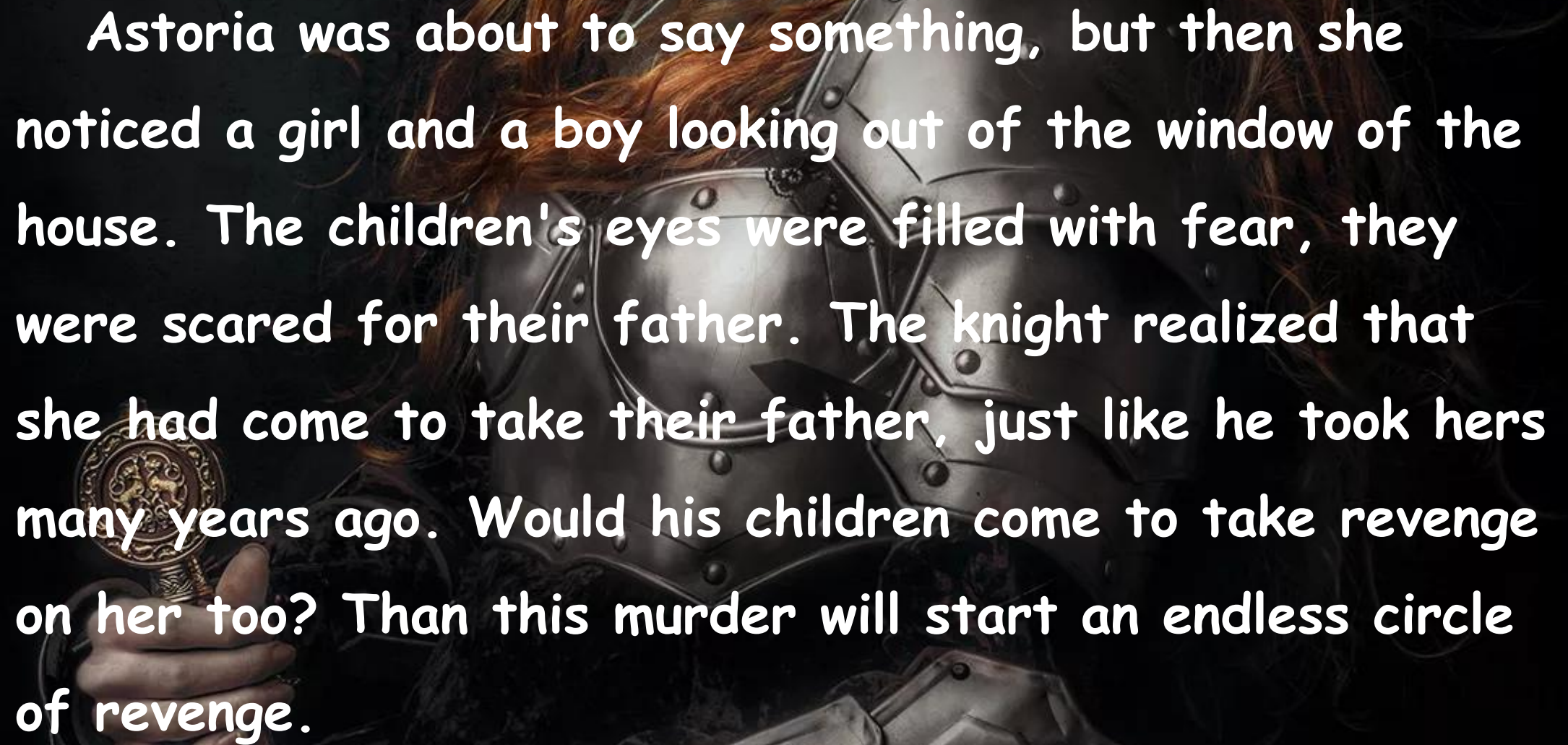
“And now I, sir Alistair's daughter, came to take revenge.”

“Revenge?” the man laughed, looking at Astoria. “There is nothing to avenge, girl. We were at war and it was a fair fight. But I'm sorry for your loss”

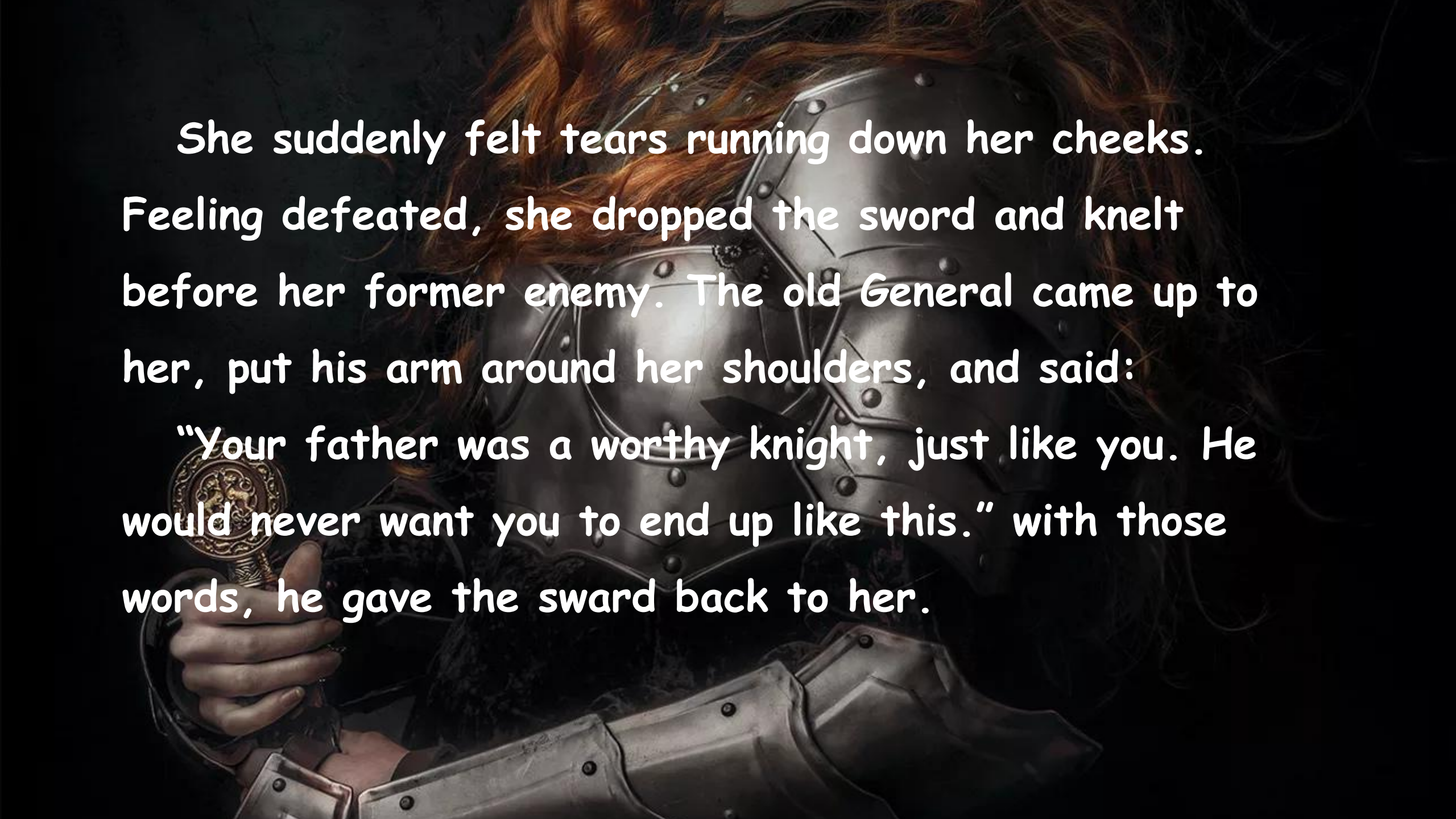


"You're lying! He was wounded! The fight was not fair!"
the girl shouted.

"And yet he chose to fight me. He was the strongest warrior I had ever known. Your father was an example of true courage and bravery not only to his army, but also to me" he sighed, looking down at his feet. "I won't fight you and will let you kill me now, if you think that is what I deserve."

A knight in full plate armor with long red hair, holding a golden key. The knight is looking down, and the background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

Astoria was about to say something, but then she noticed a girl and a boy looking out of the window of the house. The children's eyes were filled with fear, they were scared for their father. The knight realized that she had come to take their father, just like he took hers many years ago. Would his children come to take revenge on her too? Than this murder will start an endless circle of revenge.

A close-up photograph of a woman with long, wavy red hair, wearing dark, intricately detailed medieval plate armor. She is holding the ornate, golden hilt of a sword in her right hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

She suddenly felt tears running down her cheeks. Feeling defeated, she dropped the sword and knelt before her former enemy. The old General came up to her, put his arm around her shoulders, and said:

“Your father was a worthy knight, just like you. He would never want you to end up like this.” with those words, he gave the sword back to her.

A person with long, wavy red hair is shown from the chest up, wearing dark, segmented plate armor. They are holding a large, ornate golden key in their right hand. The background is dark and out of focus.

“But what am I supposed to do now?” Astoria asked through her tears.

“you just need to fight for your Kingdom, Help those who are suffering, try and bring happiness to people, make some friends, dance, celebrate, laugh and cry, you just need to live”

A close-up photograph of a person wearing dark, intricately detailed armor. The armor features various plates and rivets. A hand is visible, holding a sword hilt with a circular, ornate guard. The background is dark and out of focus.

Astoria looked up, met the eyes of a man she wanted to kill and whispered: "Thank you."

"Well, you can thank me after you try the pie my wife just made," the old man stood up, smiling down at her, and held out his hand.

Accepting the General's hand, Astoria finally felt relieved. She forgave him.

THE END

