

Deleted Scene from ERAGON

This scene takes place shortly after Eragon returns from his wild flight with Saphira and finds the Ra'zac have invaded his home—leaving the house obliterated and his uncle, Garrow, mortally wounded. Here, Eragon is recovering in Gertrude the healer's hut.



A dark phantasm hunted him in an endless labyrinth, chasing him with quiet, pattering footsteps. He never escaped it, and it never got any closer. But it was always there, malevolent fingers outstretched, waiting for him to stop. The few times his mind wandered into pleasant domains, gleaming eyes filled the shadows, and he heard them whisper, "You can't stay here forever. Eventually you will have to face us. And then you will die."

He was miserable, yet slept on, too weary to wake. The bed shook as he tossed violently, twisting the blanket into knots. He was trapped in the frightening dream until a loud noise suddenly roused him. He opened bleary eyes to see Gertrude.

"I'm sorry," she said, bustling over, "I wasn't going to wake you, but the wind caught the door and tore it right out of my hand." She set a bundle of clothes on the bed and spread them out. He noticed they were his. "I washed and mended them yesterday," she said cheerfully. "They've been drying since then."

"You did a wonderful job," he said, fingering his shirt. He shook off the last vestiges of the nightmare and let it fade from memory. His stomach burned. It felt like his innards had disappeared, leaving only a void that needed to be filled.

Gertrude clucked her tongue in disapproval of his praise, but she smiled. "Well, it gave me something to do with my hands. Patients can be boring when they only snore." She looked pained. "I've had lots of practice getting out blood. But enough of that, do you want to eat?"

"Very much so!" he said, nodding emphatically.

She smiled again. "Then give me a few minutes." Humming a tune, she swiftly constructed a large meal of meat, potatoes, and fresh bread.

While she worked, Eragon asked, "How's Garrow?"

Her back stiffened, and he heard her take a quick breath. "He hasn't gotten any worse."

But that means he hasn't gotten any better.