

A black and white, high-contrast close-up portrait of Cloud Strife. He has spiky, light-colored hair and is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark, textured leather jacket with a high collar and a zipper. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his hair and the details of his jacket against a dark background.

FINAL FANTASY XV
PROLOGUE
PARTING WAYS

SQUARE ENIX

SCENE 1. The Day before Departure

INT. NOCT'S APARTMENT - DAY

It is the morning of the day before NOCT's journey to Altissia, and he is fast asleep in his room. His cell phone alarm sounds and he blearily fumbles about for it before hitting snooze and going back to sleep. Shortly afterwards, the phone starts to ring and he eventually picks up.

NOCT

...Hello?

IGNIS (V.O.)

Good morning. Did I wake you?

NOCT

Well, the alarm sure didn't...

IGNIS (V.O.)

Then I was right to call.

Noct yawns.

NOCT

But it's so early...

IGNIS (V.O.)

I'm heading over regardless. Make sure you have everything in order before I arrive.

NOCT

Right...

IGNIS (V.O.)

And you had best be awake when I get there.

NOCT

I will be.

IGNIS (V.O.)

His Majesty should be eagerly anticipating your arrival.

NOCT

I know.

IGNIS (V.O.)

Good. I'll be there soon.

Ignis hangs up. Noct smiles wryly to himself.

NOCT

Guess I'd better get up.

SCENE 2. En Route to the Citadel

INT. "STAR OF LUCIS" CAR (AUDI R8) - DAY

The Star of Lucis speeds along the highway in the direction of the Citadel. Noct is on his way to see his father, King Regis, to talk about his upcoming journey. The prince will depart the following day for Altissia, where his wedding to Lady Lunafreya will take place. Ignis sits at the wheel, his eyes firmly fixed on the road, while Noct lounges in the passenger seat.

NOCT

Can't remember the last time I was in this car.

IGNIS

It would have been about a month ago, I think.

NOCT

Not much reason to use this one since you're always carting me around in yours.

Ignis sighs in mock exasperation.

IGNIS

Forgive me for working too hard.

NOCT

So why this car today?

IGNIS

Captain Drautos mentioned wanting to use it to ferry guests to the signing ceremony.

NOCT

You don't say.

IGNIS

After we arrive at the Citadel, I shall entrust it to him.

NOCT

I see... Well, I don't mind if he uses it for a little while. It's still practically brand new.

Ignis glances across at Noct, a grin forming on his face.

IGNIS

You haven't been behind the wheel for some time, have you? I recall you being rather eager to drive when you got your license.

NOCT

Yeah, well... There's traffic everywhere and it's not like I can just go wherever I want.
Having someone else drive is just easier.

IGNIS

And it allows you time to sleep.

NOCT

You know me so well.

Ignis chuckles.

NOCT

Are you gonna let Prompto drive the Regalia?

IGNIS

He seemed quite keen to take the wheel. And what of yourself?

Noct smirks.

NOCT

Think I'll pass. Probably best if you don't let him drive, either.

IGNIS

There's no guarantee I'll be much better. We're all beginners when it comes to driving
outside the capital.

IGNIS

I can't imagine what it'll be like out there.

Glancing at the time, Ignis puts his foot down, and with a roar of the engine, they speed off toward the Citadel.

SCENE 3. Captain Drautos

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE CITADEL - DAY

After parking the car, Noct and Ignis get out and make their way to the Citadel, where Captain DRAUTOS is waiting to meet them.

DRAUTOS

We've been waiting for you, Your Highness.

NOCT

Haven't seen you in ages, Drautos.

DRAUTOS

Ignis, where's the car?

IGNIS

In the parking lot.

DRAUTOS

I appreciate it. After your business here is finished, will you be returning home, Prince Noctis?

NOCT

That's the plan.

DRAUTOS

Understood. Then I'll have someone drop you off.

NOCT

Thanks.

DRAUTOS

Ignis.

IGNIS

Yes, sir?

DRAUTOS

Make sure you're available at all times. I can't say for sure when King Regis will be able to see you given his schedule.

Though he tries, Ignis can't quite hide his surprise at the unexpected change of plans.

IGNIS

I had no idea.

NOCT

Seriously? Whatever happened to meeting us *now*?

Drautos ignores Noct's impertinence.

DRAUTOS

His meeting probably dragged on longer than anticipated.

NOCT

Ugh...

DRAUTOS

I hope His Majesty has time to see you before your departure tomorrow.

The conversation seems to be at an end until Ignis breaks the silence.

IGNIS

Captain.

DRAUTOS

Yes?

IGNIS

Is the date of the signing still undecided?

DRAUTOS

Unfortunately, yes.

Ignis lets out a troubled sigh.

IGNIS

Unfortunate, indeed.

DRAUTOS

I understand your anxieties, but King Regis has said he'd like to proceed with caution.

IGNIS

Of course.

DRAUTOS

I'll let you know as soon as I do.

IGNIS

Much obliged.

SCENE 4. Iris Amicitia

INT. CITADEL ENTRANCE HALL - DAY

Noct and Ignis enter the Citadel. In the entrance hall, IRIS can be seen speaking with an ATTENDANT (who happens to be Ignis's uncle) of King Regis. As Ignis and Noct walk down the hallway, they overhear Iris and the attendant conversing.

IRIS

Any chance I could see him?

ATTENDANT

Not at present... Your father is still in a meeting.

Midway through the attendant's sentence, Iris notices Noct approaching from a distance.

IRIS

Hm? Oh, Noct!

NOCT

Hey, Iris.

Noct and Ignis arrive at Iris's side.

ATTENDANT

Prince Noctis. You look well.

NOCT

Hey, Mr. Scientia. Is my dad around?

ATTENDANT

Unfortunately, his meeting has yet to adjourn. You have my sincerest apologies,
Your Highness.

NOCT

No worries.

ATTENDANT

I'm sorry for the delay, Ignis.

IGNIS

It's not your fault, Uncle.

NOCT

Yeah, we've got other things to do anyway.

IRIS

Like getting ready for your trip?

NOCT

Yep.

IRIS

Thought so. Bummer I don't get to go with you and see the wedding...

NOCT

I'm sure you'd just get bored along the way.

IRIS

Well, do you mind if I tag along just today?

NOCT

Around here?

IRIS

No! Back to your place, silly.

NOCT

Maybe not a good idea.

IRIS

Why not? It's your last night in town. The four of you are gonna have a party, aren't you?

Ignis laughs wryly and shakes his head.

IGNIS

It's a moving-out party. Nothing but cleaning.

IRIS

Cleaning!?

NOCT

Yep. There'll be bugs everywhere.

IRIS

Eww, gross.

NOCT

So you're probably better off staying away. What're you doing here anyway?

IRIS

I brought a change of clothes for my dad. He's been so busy lately, he just sleeps at the Citadel!

IGNIS

Not even Master Clarus has been spared from the treaty preparations, I see.

Reminded of the pressure his father is under, Noct turns to the attendant.

NOCT

How's my dad doing?

ATTENDANT

Exhaustion aside, he seems to be doing just fine.

NOCT

Can he still walk?

ATTENDANT

But of course.

NOCT

Great.

ATTENDANT

Ignis, I will contact you once His Majesty has a moment.

IGNIS

Much appreciated. For now, we'll be on our way to the prince's quarters.

As Noct and Ignis turn to leave, Iris calls out.

IRIS

Noct.

Noct glances back at her.

NOCT

Hm?

Iris grins.

IRIS

Congrats on your wedding.

Noct winces slightly before flashing her a lopsided smile.

NOCT

Little early for that. See ya.

Noct nods to Iris, and he and Ignis stroll off in the direction of his quarters. Iris watches as they walk away, her expression betraying the merest hint of sadness.

SCENE 5. En Route to Noct's Room

INT. CITADEL HALLWAY - DAY

Noct heads for his quarters, accompanied by Ignis. A pair of GUARDS stationed in the hallway spot Noct approaching and greet him with a formal bow.

GUARD A

Good morning, Your Highness.

GUARD B

Good morning!

NOCT

Morning.

Noct lowers his voice.

NOCT

I can't stand that.

IGNIS

Being greeted?

NOCT

Not that. All the formality, bowing their heads all the time...

Their exchange is interrupted by the sound of rapidly approaching footsteps. Suddenly, two KINGSGLAIVE soldiers dash into view, heading in the opposite direction, and one bumps shoulders with Ignis as they pass.

IGNIS

Pardon me.

KINGSGLAIVE A

You okay?

KINGSGLAIVE B

Sorry 'bout that.

KINGSGLAIVE A

Eyes forward.

As the two soldiers hurry off, Ignis flashes Noct a wry smile.

IGNIS

It seems not everyone is capable of a proper greeting.

Ignis turns to look in the direction of the rapidly departing figures.

Those are Kingsglaive uniforms...

Intrigued, Noctis peers after them as well.

NOCT

Oh, yeah?

IGNIS

They aren't from the Crown City. Perhaps they don't know who you are.

NOCT

No way they'd see me if they're always hanging around the Citadel.

The pair resume walking, and Ignis assumes a thoughtful expression.

IGNIS

I imagine the empire's terms leave them with mixed feelings.

NOCT

Everything out there'll belong to Niflheim, huh.

IGNIS

Precisely.

NOCT

Well, they live in Insomnia now, right?

IGNIS

Even so, their homes will cease to be a part of Lucis. The news must be shocking to say the least.

NOCT

Yeah... Good point.

SCENE 6. Talisman & Sword

INT. CITADEL - NOCT'S ROOM - DAY

Ignis waits as Noct opens the door to his room. They enter, and Ignis closes the door behind them.

IGNIS

Do you still plan on using this room even after your return?

NOCT

Hm... Haven't really thought about it.

IGNIS

Please be mindful of the fact that you won't be alone when you get back.

NOCT

Think Luna will really come to Insomnia?

IGNIS

The realization has yet to sink in, I see. Has Umbra paid a visit lately?

NOCT

No, but I just sent the notebook back and Luna's probably busy anyway. Hey, Ignis, just pack whatever you think I'll need.

Ignis sighs wearily.

IGNIS

If you insist. But I expect you to sort through it later.

Ignis and Noct pack for a few minutes without exchanging a word, the rustle and thud of clothes and sundry objects serving to fill the silence. After a while, Noct pauses to take in the scene around him.

NOCT

I think I spent more time sneaking out of this room than I actually spent in it.

Ignis looks up from the bulging bag he is packing.

IGNIS

Indeed. And it wasn't uncommon for me to go with you. Every excursion was more nerve-racking than the last.

NOCT

Y'know, I remember *someone* there, but he was always in a bad mood, trying to get me to read.

IGNIS

I was young. And despite the different types of reading material I prepared, the most the prince ever showed interest in were...picture books, I believe.

NOCT

Oh, yeah?

IGNIS

I believe this loathing of all other literature was at fault for his absence here.

Noct's playful expression begins to fade.

NOCT

Oh, yeah...

He speaks quietly, half to himself.

NOCT

I hated being stuck in here. I couldn't get a moment alone.

IGNIS

Everyone was worried about you.

NOCT

Yeah, I know.

IGNIS

Before you sustained that injury, you were a much livelier child.

NOCT

I didn't really talk much after it happened, huh.

IGNIS

Even I was perplexed at your radical change.

NOCT

Really?

Ignis continues packing, but replies in a gentle voice.

IGNIS

Indeed. Which is why I had no choice but to accompany you whenever you left this room.

Noct lets out a short, slightly bashful laugh.

IGNIS

I always hoped these spontaneous “excursions” would one day come to a peaceful end...yet my hopes were dashed.

NOCT

I remember. You took the fall for everything.

IGNIS

I was reprimanded for “absconding” with you away from the Citadel.

NOCT

My bad. You were doing me a favor and got blamed for it anyway.

IGNIS

I was simply doing my job. I have no regrets on the matter—not even now.

Amidst the chaos of Noct's possessions, Ignis glimpses a curious little lucky charm: a wooden Carbuncle figurine.

IGNIS

Hm?

He takes the figure in hand.

I haven't seen this figurine in ages.

NOCT

Let's take it with us.

IGNIS

It's an important keepsake, isn't it?

NOCT

Yeah. I figure it'll at least keep us safe on the road.

IGNIS

I wouldn't take this little lucky charm so lightly. It brought you back from the brink of death, didn't it?

Noct shrugs.

NOCT

Maybe in my dreams, at least.

Noct's thoughts turn to packing again, and he mutters to himself.

NOCT

What else do I need...

IGNIS

A sword?

NOCT

Good call.

Noct opens his closet and takes out a sword.

NOCT

I remember training with this.

IGNIS

There was hardly a moment of peace around here after you received it.

NOCT

Yeah.

He laughs.

But no matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't get the blade-warp down.

IGNIS

If you hadn't sustained that injury, I imagine it might've been much easier for you. You did quite well for yourself regardless.

NOCT

I didn't really have much of a choice.

IGNIS

Certainly.

Ignis's phone rings. He gestures apologetically to Noct and answers it.

IGNIS

Hello? This is Ignis. I see... Understood. I'll be right there.

Ignis hangs up.

IGNIS

I've just been informed that His Majesty is too busy to meet with us today.

Noct looks at the floor.

NOCT

Huh.

IGNIS

I'm going to check on the baggage for the ceremony. Please sort through your belongings in the meantime.

NOCT

Got it.

Ignis departs, leaving Noct standing motionless in the middle of the room.

SCENE 7 - The Crownsguard

INT. CITADEL - CROWNSGUARD OFFICE - DAY

The sounds of wooden swords clashing, grunting, and men falling to the ground echo from the adjacent Crownsguard training hall. CLARUS is in the process of telling GLADIO (his son) about the security measures which will be in place during the forthcoming signing ceremony of the treaty between Lucis and the Niflheim Empire. Gladio seems troubled by what he is hearing.

GLADIO

So even Cor's on external patrol that day?

CLARUS

Yes, and the Crownsguard will operate as usual. Only the bare minimum will be on duty.

GLADIO

So we leave the Citadel to the Kingsglaive, huh? Guess they don't know what you're capable of.

Clarus laughs quietly.

CLARUS

Gladiolus, the Kingsglaive has seen more than their fair share of battles. They're more than capable.

Gladio is unconvinced, but smiles sympathetically.

GLADIO

No place for a Shield, huh.

CLARUS

The peace brought along many changes, including the role of the Crownsguard. Our place is with the people now.

GLADIO

So you're less of a "King's Shield," and more of a "People's Shield."

CLARUS

Precisely. Protecting the populace ensures their support for His Majesty.

Gladio frowns slightly, unsatisfied with this explanation, but knowing his father has little choice in the matter, grunts noncommittally.

GLADIO

Huh.

CLARUS

Whether one is a Shield or a Glaive matters not. The Amicitia family has but one duty: to safeguard and support the king.

GLADIO

Like I could forget.

Clarus looks his son squarely in the eye, and adopts a formal tone, speaking to Gladio not as his father, but as a royal advisor.

CLARUS

The ceasefire will bring about many changes in Lucis. No matter what happens, Gladiolus, you must keep Prince Noctis safe.

Gladio frowns, bemused that his father should feel the need to say this.

GLADIO

Of course.

CLARUS

Protect him not just as the next king, but as a comrade and a true friend. I will do the same within the Wall. I entrust matters on the outside to you.

GLADIO

Yes, sir!

There is a knock at the door.

CLARUS

Come in.

COR enters, leaving the door open behind him. Another figure is visible in the hallway beyond.

COR

Pardon the intrusion.

CLARUS

Cor?

PROMPTO walks in through the open door.

PROMPTO

And pardon me—wait, Gladio!?

GLADIO

What're you doin' here, Prompto?

COR

He's here for his Crownsguard uniform, so I thought it best he met the captain himself.

GLADIO

Makes sense.

CLARUS

Prompto Argentum, am I right?

PROMPTO

Y-yes, sir!

CLARUS

It's a pleasure to meet you.
No injuries from training, I presume?

PROMPTO

No, sir! It went just fine, I think. Probably. A-and I promise to protect Noct if something happens!

CLARUS

Very noble of you. However, you must first and foremost protect yourself on this journey—hence your self-defense training.

PROMPTO

R-right.

CLARUS

I understand you decided to undertake this journey as his friend. Take pride in your position at his side.

PROMPTO

Right! And, uh, thank you!

CLARUS

I appreciate your time today. I assume you have some preparations to take care of, so you may be on your way.

PROMPTO

Yes, sir!

GLADIO

I better get ready, too.

CLARUS

Understood. I'll see you soon.

Gladio and Prompto leave the room. The door closes and the atmosphere within becomes solemn.

CLARUS

Did you speak with Drautos?

COR

I haven't had a chance just yet.

CLARUS

He hasn't looked well lately.

COR

Indeed.

CLARUS

I suppose the alliance is to blame.

COR

Well, I doubt the Kingsglaive are happy about the territory terms.

Clarus lets out a world-weary sigh.

COR

Can nothing be done about my post tomorrow?

CLARUS

It is as I said: all of the plans have already received His Majesty's approval.

COR

Doesn't he think it suspicious? This is equivalent to excluding the Crownsguard entirely.

CLARUS

He knows.

COR

There isn't much time until the signing ceremony, Clarus. If anything should happen, we should be in the Citadel—

Clarus interrupts, his voice quiet but firm.

CLARUS

Calm down, Cor. If anything *should* happen, the citizens must be your priority. Your position was ordained by the king.

Cor gives Clarus a searching look.

COR

Is he expecting something to happen?

Clarus's expression remains carefully neutral.

CLARUS

His Majesty realized long ago that the options available to Lucis are few.

COR

You don't mean...?

CLARUS

He had his reservations about the Kingsglaive's position, but they're the only ones who can fight against the empire.

COR

All the more reason for me to be there. If experience is what you need, then put me at the king's side—

CLARUS

Don't forget, Cor: the citizens must be your priority should anything happen. King Regis wanted only the most capable to evacuate the people. I know you won't let him down.

SCENE 8 - Prompto and Gladio

INT. CITADEL - HALLWAY - DAY

Prompto and Gladio talk as they stroll through the Citadel.

GLADIO

You gonna wait for Noct here?

PROMPTO

Nah, think I'll head home for a bit.

GLADIO

Why? Forget something?

PROMPTO

No, nothin' like that! Just thought I'd show my parents my new digs.

GLADIO

Heh, sounds good.

PROMPTO

It's kinda proof that I'm worthy to go on this trip, y'know? Just hope they're home.

GLADIO

Not much you can do if they aren't, huh.

PROMPTO

Nah. We don't see each other much, but it's been that way since I was a kid. Anyway, if they're not in, I'll come right on back!

GLADIO

Right. Well, I might be a little late. Got dinner plans.

PROMPTO

Do tell.

GLADIO

My family and I are going out to eat. Hardly ever happens, so I figured I might as well go along.

PROMPTO

Nice! Take your time, and send Iris my regards.

GLADIO

Oh, yeah. She mentioned she saw you the other day.

PROMPTO

Huh? Where?

GLADIO

In the park, taking pictures.

PROMPTO

Sounds like me. Why didn't she come over and say "hi" if she saw me?

GLADIO

Said she did.

PROMPTO

H-hold up. Seriously? Oh man, I can't believe I didn't notice.

Gladio assumes an earnest expression, but his voice betrays his amusement.

GLADIO

She was really worried about you.

PROMPTO

You should've told her not to worry!

Gladio laughs heartily.

SCENE 9 - The Kingsglaive

INT. CITADEL - KINGSGLAIVE BRIEFING ROOM - EVENING

Drautos enters the briefing room, where Libertus is waiting to receive his orders.

DRAUTOS

Thank you for coming, Libertus. Where's Nyx?

LIBERTUS

On his way. What's up?

DRAUTOS

I wanted one of you to see the prince back to his place in the city.

LIBERTUS

Seriously? Dropping off the prince? Are we babysitters now?

DRAUTOS

It's the price to pay for using his car.

LIBERTUS

To do what?

DRAUTOS

To safeguard our esteemed guests. It's the only one worthy of the task.

Libertus's irritation gives way to gloom.

LIBERTUS

It'll be a peaceful exchange, won't it? Any car should do.

Drautos laughs to himself.

DRAUTOS

I take it you're not a fan of the ceasefire, huh.

LIBERTUS

I dunno. I want peace just like anyone else. I should be happy if no one else has to get hurt like this.

DRAUTOS

But you can't be happy. Not with these terms.

Libertus looks even more downhearted.

LIBERTUS

'Course not. You know we're all thinking the same thing.

There is a brief lull in the conversation. Eventually, Drautos sighs quietly and changes the subject.

DRAUTOS

How's your leg?

LIBERTUS

Still need a crutch to get around.

DRAUTOS

I see. Sorry for calling you out here, then. Assignments have been updated, so have a look. After that, go home and rest that leg.

LIBERTUS

What about the prince?

DRAUTOS

Nyx'll handle it.

LIBERTUS

'Preciate it. Guess I'll head home then.

DRAUTOS

Take care, Libertus.

Libertus nods and hobbles out of the briefing room. Drautos watches him leave, his look of concern gradually giving way to one of blank indifference.

SCENE 10 - A Call from Ignis

INT. CITADEL - NOCT'S ROOM - EVENING

Noct is seated in his room, staring off into space. From his expression, one would struggle to tell if he was lost in thought or simply bored. Either way, when his cell phone rings, he picks up without a moment's hesitation.

NOCT

Hello?

IGNIS (V.O.)

Just me. Have you finished packing?

NOCT

Yep.

IGNIS (V.O.)

Then please be on your way home. I'm running a little late.

NOCT

No problem. Did something happen?

IGNIS

Nothing serious. There's simply more to do than I anticipated. It's just a matter of time until I can wrap things up here.

NOCT

All right.

IGNIS

Captain Drautos said there should be a car waiting for you outside.

NOCT

Got it.

Gladio will be late as well. It might be a good idea to start cleaning before we arrive.

NOCT

Right...

Noct hangs up.

SCENE 11 - Iris and Libertus

INT. CITADEL - ENTRANCE HALL - EVENING

His business at the Citadel complete, Libertus heads home. He walks with the aid of crutches, uttering the occasional pained grunt of exertion. Suddenly, he stumbles, and both crutches tumble from his grasp with a clatter.

LIBERTUS

Damn...

Iris, who has been watching Libertus's painstaking progress from across the hall, rushes over and picks up the crutches.

IRIS

Are you all right? Here.

She hands them to Libertus.

LIBERTUS

Thanks. Just can't seem to get the hang of these things.

IRIS

Guess it happened recently, huh.

LIBERTUS

Yeah, on the job.

Libertus heaves himself upright.

IRIS

So...are you one of the Kingsglaive?

LIBERTUS

Yeah, that's me.

IRIS

Are you Nyx?

LIBERTUS

Nah, name's Libertus.

IRIS

Oh... My mistake.

LIBERTUS

You got business with Nyx?

IRIS

Well, no, I just heard he'd be with the prince, so...

LIBERTUS

And who're you?

IRIS

Iris Amicitia.

LIBERTUS

Amicitia? You mean—?

IRIS

Yes, my father and brother are in the Crownsguard. Noct and I are friends.

LIBERTUS

Huh. So you have business with the prince? And you're waiting here for him?

IRIS

Yep! I heard someone's coming to pick him up.

LIBERTUS

Sorry to say, but I think you missed him.

IRIS

What?

LIBERTUS

He should probably be home by now.

IRIS

Y-you don't say... Thanks for letting me know.

LIBERTUS

Was it important? I'll call the driver and see where they are now.

IRIS

What? No, you don't—

Without waiting for Iris's answer, Libertus calls Nyx.

LIBERTUS

Hey. Where are you now?

Iris makes out the tiny sound of Nyx speaking at the other end of the line, though his words are unintelligible.

LIBERTUS

And the prince?

Nyx answers briefly.

LIBERTUS

'Course he is.

Nyx speaks again.

LIBERTUS

Nah, it's nothin'. Later.

Libertus hangs up.

LIBERTUS

Seems His Highness is back home already. Sorry.

IRIS

Thank you for checking anyway.

LIBERTUS

Well, if he's your friend, why don't you just meet up with him tomorrow?

Tears well up in Iris's eyes, and she speaks in a choked whisper.

IRIS

I guess...

Libertus is taken aback by Iris's sudden display of emotion.

LIBERTUS

Or...maybe not.

IRIS

It's just...today is a special day.

LIBERTUS

Ohhh, I see. Didn't know the prince was that kinda guy.

Iris forces a smile.

IRIS

I guess he is...

LIBERTUS

Well, it might be hard to get a hold of the prince, but I'm sure he'd take a call from a friend.

IRIS

Huh?

LIBERTUS

If it's urgent, why not?

IRIS

Well, I've never called him before.

LIBERTUS

But you have his number, don't you?

IRIS

Yeah, but...

LIBERTUS

Then what're you waitin' for?

IRIS

My brother'll get mad at me if I do...

LIBERTUS

Then you leave him to me! If today's really so special, you better call him before it's too late.

Iris looks at Libertus uncertainly.

LIBERTUS

You'll regret it if you don't.

Apparently convinced, Iris takes out her cell phone and calls Noct.

NOCT (V.O.)

Hello?

IRIS

Hello, Noct?

NOCT (V.O.)

Iris? What's up? Something wrong?

IRIS

No, I just wanted to tell you...to be careful out there. And I...wish you all the best.

NOCT (V.O.)

Oh... That it?

IRIS

Yeah!

She laughs awkwardly.

That's it.

NOCT

I appreciate it. Anyway, I'm gonna go.

IRIS

Okay, bye.

LIBERTUS

Did you get it all out?

Iris sniffles, gulps back her tears, and attempts a smile.

IRIS

Yeah.

LIBERTUS

Good to hear.

IRIS

I'm sorry for all the trouble.

LIBERTUS

Nah, I'm the one who butted in to begin with. I have something of a little sister myself, so I couldn't help it.

Hearing this, Iris laughs with genuine feeling.

IRIS

No kidding!

LIBERTUS

Anyway, hope you're feeling better now.

IRIS

I am!

LIBERTUS

See ya.

IRIS

Thank you, Libertus! Please take care of that leg.

LIBERTUS

Will do!

Iris smiles appreciatively as Libertus turns and hobbles away.

SCENE 12 - Help Arrives

EXT./INT. NOCT'S APARTMENT BUILDING - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Night has fallen by the time Ignis arrives at Noct's apartment building. As he approaches, he greets the GUARD stationed at the front desk.

IGNIS

Good evening.

GUARD C

Good evening.

Having just arrived, Prompto calls out to Ignis from a distance.

PROMPTO

Hey, Ignis!

Recognizing the voice, Ignis turns.

IGNIS

Prompto.

Prompto runs over.

PROMPTO

Did you just get here?

IGNIS

Indeed.

Prompto nods to the guard.

PROMPTO

Evening, sir!

GUARD C

Good evening.

The pair enter the building together and the automatic door closes behind them. They make their way toward the elevator.

IGNIS

Were you able to see your parents?

PROMPTO

Nah, they weren't home.

IGNIS

That's unfortunate.

PROMPTO

No biggie. I'm used to it.

Prompto calls the elevator, and chats with Ignis while they wait for it to arrive.

PROMPTO

By the way, Gladio packed a ton of stuff for the road.

IGNIS

The camping equipment?

PROMPTO

Well, he had a bunch of stuff out, and when I asked what he needed it for, he said "cooking."

Ignis sighs.

IGNIS

I suppose he intends for me to use them.

The elevator finally arrives and a woman emerges from inside. Prompto greets her somewhat nervously.

PROMPTO

E-evening!

FEMALE RESIDENT

Good evening to you, too.

IGNIS

Good evening.

The pair step into the elevator and the doors close. After the elevator starts to move, Prompto continues.

PROMPTO

Do you cook a lot, Ignis?

IGNIS

I wouldn't say "a lot."

PROMPTO

Y'know, Noct let me have a bite of his dinner once.

IGNIS

And?

PROMPTO

It was amazing!

IGNIS

Is that so?

PROMPTO

Yeah! I was hopin' that's what it'd be like at camp, but you usually cook in a real kitchen, right? I can't imagine what it's gonna be like on the road.

The elevator stops and the doors open. The pair exit and walk down the hallway.

PROMPTO

So I asked Noct, and he said there was nothin' to worry about. Now I can't wait to have more of your meals, Iggy!

Ignis chuckles.

IGNIS

Well, I certainly don't want to disappoint. I might as well ask your preferences.

PROMPTO

Well, I like sweets, but real food's good, too. Spicy food and...well, I'll eat anything, really. Even weird stuff.

IGNIS

Understood. I was hoping to experiment with local ingredients, so I'm glad you can keep an open mind.

Prompto grins enthusiastically.

PROMPTO

No problem at all!

The pair stop in front of Noct's room and Prompto pushes the button on the intercom.

NOCT (V.O.)
Be right there.

SCENE 13 - Cleaning

INT. NOCT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Somewhat later than planned, Ignis, Prompto and Gladio are busy helping Noct clean his apartment and prepare to move out. Noct's remaining possessions lie strewn about in haphazard piles, and while progress is being made, the place looks messier than ever. Prompto is rather half-heartedly running a cloth over a bookshelf when something catches his eye.

PROMPTO

Whoa! Never thought I'd see this again.

Noct looks up from behind a nearby pile.

NOCT

What?

Prompto retrieves a comic book from an open box next to the bookshelf.

PROMPTO

This! I never noticed, but you've got a ton of comics!

NOCT

Some of 'em are yours, too.

Prompto shoots him a disbelieving look.

PROMPTO

Seriously?

Noct wanders over and withdraws another comic book from the box.

NOCT

Hey, look at this.

PROMPTO

Oh! Man, I really wanted to read it one more time.

NOCT

Why don't you?

Prompto grins mischievously.

PROMPTO

If you insist.

GLADIO

Hold it. You don't mean *now*, do you?

IGNIS

Neither of you has made any progress in cleaning. I understand you'd like to reminisce, but now isn't the time.

Ignis lets out an exasperated sigh.

PROMPTO

But isn't all this gonna get taken to the Citadel?

GLADIO

Yeah.

PROMPTO

Well, once that happens, I'll never be able to see it again!

GLADIO

Can't you just take what you want?

Prompto gives Noct a hopeful look.

PROMPTO

Can I?

NOCT

No.

GLADIO

It's all going in a box you won't open again anyway.

Noct is unmoved.

NOCT

I'll open it and check. Thoroughly.

IGNIS

And who knows how long that will take.

PROMPTO

See?

GLADIO

Just give up and go back to cleaning.

They all resume their respective tasks, and the room falls silent.

INT. NOCT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (LATER)

It is some while later and the room looks unrecognizable, with only a few larger items of furniture remaining in place. Gladio deposits a final box on the pile by the door and turns to admire their handiwork.

GLADIO

Looks like we got it all squared away.

PROMPTO

Finally! I never realized how big this place is.

IGNIS

And this is the last you'll see of it. When we return, Noct will begin his new life.

PROMPTO

Hard to imagine.

GLADIO

His Highness will be married.

NOCT

It hasn't hit me at all. I'm sure it'll all work out, though.

PROMPTO

You mean you aren't nervous?

Noct considers this for a moment, betraying no hint of concern.

NOCT

Hmm... About waking up on time?

Ignis smirks.

IGNIS

Certainly.

PROMPTO

Yeah, good point.

Gladio shakes his head.

GLADIO

You haven't thought about it, have you?

NOCT

Give me a little more credit than that. Still, thinking about it's not gonna change much, is it?

Gladio nods sympathetically, conceding Noct's point.

GLADIO

I get ya.

PROMPTO

Not easy being the prince, huh?

Ignis tries to lighten the mood.

IGNIS

First things first: completing our journey.

NOCT

Right.

PROMPTO

I can't believe it's tomorrow already. I'm so excited! Did you study up 'bout the outside?

IGNIS

Briefly. I hadn't time to dedicate myself thoroughly to the task.

GLADIO

Yeah, too busy with your own preparations.

PROMPTO

I had a look at some maps. But even if you ask around, nobody really knows anything.

NOCT

It's a whole new world out there, huh...

PROMPTO

There're all kinds of wild animals on the outside, right? Think they'll just walk on up to us?

GLADIO

Dunno. All I heard is that it's different than Insomnia—least that's what my old man says.

IGNIS

The culture is similar to that of Insomnia thirty years ago. Like a sprawling landscape from an old photograph.

PROMPTO

I'm so psyched, but so nervous! Don't know if I can sleep like this.

NOCT

Well, if you can't sleep...

Noct pulls out his phone and taps the screen, booting up his favorite game.

PROMPTO

Great idea!

Prompto follows suit.

IGNIS

You can't be serious. At a time like this?

GLADIO

Well, why not? We gotta be there for His Highness, don't we?

Gladio joins in.

NOCT

Besides, this is the last time we can do this here.

With a slightly theatrical sigh and a resigned shake of the head, Ignis pulls out his own phone and begins playing.

SCENE 14 - Comrades

INT. CITADEL - REGIS'S ROOM - NIGHT

A weary-looking REGIS sits down heavily in his chair, having just returned from an interminable meeting. Moments later, he is joined by Clarus, who looks only marginally less exhausted than his king.

CLARUS

I had no idea meetings could be so taxing. My back aches.

Regis manages a short laugh followed by a long sigh.

CLARUS

How are you feeling? I imagine you must be exhausted.

REGIS

Indeed.

Regis laughs ruefully.

CLARUS

And what of Noctis?

REGIS

I hadn't a moment to see him.

CLARUS

I see... After you send him on his way tomorrow, why not rest a little? Let me handle the more trivial matters.

REGIS

I can't have that. If I leave the kingdom in your hands even for a day, I won't have a place to return to.

Clarus laughs.

CLARUS

You make it sound like a bad thing.

They both laugh.

REGIS

But you needn't worry about me. I'm doing just fine.

CLARUS

Have you had time to contact Cid? If not, I'd be happy to drop him a line.

REGIS

That won't be necessary. I managed to call him today.

CLARUS

How was he?

REGIS

Fine. But he demanded a personal visit in exchange for looking after my son.

CLARUS

Not the attitude one would normally take toward a king.

REGIS

There must be something on his mind for him to be so insistent.

CLARUS

What did you say?

REGIS

That I couldn't see him.

CLARUS

An honest king.

Regis scowls.

REGIS

Honest? Even when I couldn't tell him anything?

REGIS

I couldn't even be honest with my own son...

Clarus's expression becomes slightly pained, and he sighs before answering earnestly.

CLARUS

It's not something that can simply be said. When the time came, I couldn't do it either. But there are no right words for such a circumstance—to send them on their way, that is.

REGIS

Clarus...

CLARUS

You've done more than enough, Regis. They're no longer children. Someday they will understand.

Regis gives his friend a heartfelt smile.

REGIS

Thank you.

Regis's smile fades, and his tone becomes grave.

REGIS

Many sacrifices must be made for the future. Perhaps it's too much to hope for the understanding of my people. But my will is to protect those of the present, and on the path I have chosen, the options before me are few. I have thrown away my pride. Perhaps I'll even be ridiculed as a fool.

He pauses for a moment before continuing.

The name of Amicitia, in the service of Caelum, will be sullied. For that, I must beg your forgiveness, Clarus.

Clarus shakes his head.

CLARUS

You needn't apologize. To me, you are more than a king: you are a true friend.

He looks Regis in the eye.

No matter what happens, that will never change.

SCENE 15 - The Morning of Departure

IINT. NOCT'S APARTMENT - DAY

It is the morning of Noct's departure, and birds can be heard chirping outside the sun-speckled window. The chorus is interrupted by Noct's alarm. Ignis, who is already awake, walks over to rouse the sleeping prince, while Gladio and Prompto blearily open their eyes. The latter sits up, stretches his arms above his head, and yawns widely.

PROMPTO

Morning already?

GLADIO

Guess I fell asleep...

Ignis sighs impatiently.

IGNIS

Indeed. Wake up, Noct.

Noct grunts incoherently, lies completely still for a moment, then heaves himself upright.

IGNIS

Everyone, please get ready. We have to head to the Citadel right away.

NOCT

Got it.

Noct scoops up his cell phone and deftly turns off the alarm.

FINAL FANTASY XV

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