**ACT IV**

Valla’s sweat ran cold.

“Diablo has invaded Heaven”

Those words were not what she expected to hear when she woke up after the fight with Azmodan. Apparently, several days later. The days she had been out cold, a lot had happened. Leah had been revealed as Diablo’s daughter and Adria had betrayed them all, awakening him in her daughter’s body. Now Leah was no more and Diablo had the power of all evils.

* If only I had been…
* It’s not your fault — Said her friend, Eirena, the enchantress.

She had been called to help Valla and the others recover after the battle against Azmodan and now she was gearing for battle as well.

* You fought harder than anyone and thanks to you Azmodan himself was Vanquished!
* And now we’re in a worse situation.
* I know you are up to this task too.

Valla nodded. She had a new equipment ready. Her wounds had recovered enough. While she still felt sore, she was in a much better shape than she had started her previous campaigns. Though this time, the fight would be harder than anything.

As they approached, they could see the pitiful state of what was meant to be heaven.

* It’s your fault! — Had declared Imperius, rushing to battle as he cursed Tyrael and warned Valla and Eirena to go away.

Tyrael was certainly feeling as guilty as Valla had. No, he felt it more.

* This is not your doing, you would be a fool to believe him — Valla said, understanding now, that their only path was forward.

The fallen angel however, was not so easily cheered. He disappeared amidst the battle. No matter, Valla would walk forward. Soon enough, she found a new enemy, a dangerous one. His name was Iskatu, one of the most powerful minions of Diablo.

* You will not pass mortals! In the end, everyone will kneel to Diablo.

Valla smiled.

* If I lived to kneel to Diablo, then that means I win this fight.

Enraged the demon charged at Valla. She smirked, just like she wanted. Reading her crossbows, she released a barrage onto him only for Eirena to push him back afterwards. The demon however, was tougher than he looked.

Steeling himself up, Iskatu started to summon Shadow Vermin, a lot of them. Valla decided to save her big weapons for further fights, deciding to just shoot at them. Eirena used her magic to keep them back as well. The demons were numerous but quite weak. However, as they were busy with them Iskatu smiled. They had underestimated him.

One second Valla knew of his position, the next, he teleported right above Valla, hitting her hard with his tail and throwing her away. As the huntress fell to the ground, Eirena rushed to cast a shield on her so the Shadow Vermin wouldn’t overwhelm her. Taking this chance, Iskatu grabbed the enchantress by the hair and then connected a bunch of powerful blows of the woman’s midriff.

Eirena fell toe the ground kneeling and then curling up as she held her stomach in agony. It was clear she was out of the fight now. Valla Kicked some Vermin away and released a barrage around herself killing a bunch of them. However, they were now advancing to the enchantress, who was defenseless as she held herself in pain.

* Dammit! — Valla screamed.

The huntress then proceeded to shoot her cluster arrows to eliminate all the demons at once. Iskatu smiled. He attacked Valla head on, but she easily blocked him with her buckler and then kicked him back. As they struggled however a small meteor fell from above, fast and burning and clashed against Valla’s back. She screamed in pain, vaulting away.

Iskatu laughed as he called for more and more meteors, all as he called for shadows to desecrate the floor. Valla had to avoid him and his attacks. Shooting at him and any shadow beast that might emerge. She had to keep all the attention on herself.

Quick as the wind itself, she ran, jumped and rolled around avoiding the demon’s attacks. All while she shot at him attempting to kill him. Her aim was true as she hit him time and time again yet Iskatu didn’t falter. He was being weakened however, so she continued with this strategy. She only had to beat him before her own forces faltered.

It was too much however, avoiding and avoiding as she ran and shot. She vaulted around. As she reached the other side, she panted, her breath hard and heavy. She tried to aim but the sweat down her eyes didn’t allow her so. She cleaned her face but the demon wasn’t there. Soon a hit of his tail sent her flying around.

She tried to recover only for Iskatu to appear from above and hit her hard against the floor. Valla was knocked out. The demon panted, he had bolts stuck all over his body and had been greatly damaged but he had won. He laughed lifting Valla, pulling her by the hair and starting to hit her in the back. He then checked her face.

Iskatu spat on her mocking the fallen demon huntress.

* Hey you!

The demon turned around to see the enchantress aiming at him. Before he could react a wave of arcane energy pushed him back. Not only him however, the bolts in his body were pushed further inside. He cried as he was nailed all over breaking his insides.

Iskatu was destroyed.

Eirena panted as she rushed to grab Valla. She held the demon huntres, making sure to wait until she recovered. Attending to her wounds.

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Valla opened her eyes. Her body was much sorer now. Eirena hugged her.

* We beat him! — She said happily.

Valla nodded.

They advanced through the destroyed place until they met another angel, yet he seemed just inactive, contemplative. His name was Itherael, the angel of destiny, eh didn’t believe things could be changed, and yet he couldn’t read Valla’s destiny.

* It’s all in out hands — Valla said — You want to truly save hope for this place? We can only move forward.

Itherael nodded.

* Perhaps, we can change our fate.

Valla smiled as she advanced to rescue Auriel, the archangel of hope whom, she had learned, had been taken by one of Diablo’s minions. She knew he would be a hard foe as soon as she saw him. His name was Rakanoth, the lord of Anguish. Trapped behind him was Auriel, the female archangel had fallen in battle, absolutely defeated, she looked completely beaten down.

The demon huntress readied herself throwing grenades at the large beast. Rakanoth soldiered through them charging at Valla and attempting to cleave her. Valla vaulted, nothing that doing so really hurt her back. She was straining her muscles to much and her back in particular was very damaged after the fight against Iskatu.

Eirena used her Erosion spell on the demon causing Rakanoth to roar in anger. He suddenly teleported to the enchantress.

* Pitiful mortals, I’ll enjoy killing you — He declared as he punched her hand throwing the woman to the floor.

Valla used a barrage of missiles causing him to react in anger. The demon flung himself into the air as he released a barrage of magic blades. Valla and Eirena both did their best to avoid the attack but ended up getting some cuts and burns around their bodies.

Taken the chance to teleport to the enchantress hitting her hard. His blade destroying a large portion of her armor. He ten grabbed and tossed her against the wall. Only to then follow up by kneeing her a few times against it. Eirena cried in pain before passing out from the beating.

Before he could kill her however, Valla dispatched her seeking arrow. The projectile bounced around him striking him on the face. A bunch of rockets did the rest. The demon was now coated in burns and blood.

* Damn you bitch!

The lord of anguish suddenly opened a portal summoning three Soul rippers. Valla had to do her best to avoid and shoot at them. But as she was occupied eliminating them, he teleported right behind her and slashed her with fury.

Valla screamed as she fell down. Her back further damaged now. She attempted to Stand up but he quickly stepped on her head and squished her against the floor. Valla was out cold.

Rakanoth laughed. He dragged Valla’s irresponsive body by the hair, took Eirena and did the same. He lifted them up to see the fallen heroines faces. His collection was growing. Even if his body had ended in such a bad state. He let the blood from his open wounds fall on them. They would pay.

As broken trophies he tossed them at the side of Auriel. The three women now lied there beaten down by him, their armor broken and their bodies bruised and sullied.

He panted, resting on the floor for a bit, his wounds were very great after all. He never saw it coming when Itherael fell from above with his sword cutting the demon in half and ending him once and for all. He saw the women and freed them. He tended to them for a while, Auriel was the first to wake up.

* Hope rings eternal — She said, looking at the heroines.

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Once they had woken up, Auriel had restored them as much as it was possible. Valla’s back had been at the brink of breaking but now she could fight again. Altough she still fell the soreness running though her body. Eirena’s armor was broken, she only had her underarmor on now, but she decided to go forward with Valla, just as she had promised once, follow her to the end.

Itherael and Auriel had been fighting to retake Heaven when Valla saw another fighter there. Tyrael had returned.

* I understand now — He said — You fight so hard, even knowing you could fall, I’ve seen you get hurt so much but you continue on. It’s you who makes me realize, the true value of being mortal.

The words would’ve made her blush, she was simply happy to have her ally at her side again. And so, they marched forward together. This time however, the enemy they encountered was quite personal to Tyrael.

Izual the betrayer, a former lieutenant of Tyrael now a demon. The trio rushed at him. They had no time to lose. Laughing, Izual charged back.

He was large and a competent fighter. As Eirena armored them with her power. Tyrael took him on and Valla circled around filling him with bolts. Izual roared. This caused a bunch of minions of hell to appear and help him. The creatures took the attention of Tyrael and Valla which gave time to the betrayer to charge at Eirena.

The enchantress could do nothing as he was in close range. Without her armor she was unable to withstand his attacks. One blow, then another Eirena cried as she once more grabbed her hurting midriff. He then grabbed her by the head and smashed the woman against the ground. Lifting her, he kicked her up into the air letting her fall to the floor with a resounding echo. Eirena was out.

* Pathetic, this is the kind of companions you surround yourself with now? — He mocked Tyrael.
* You bastard!

Tyrael charged at him but all the minions rushed to the previous angel. Tyrael was now having to fight them all.

* They will keep him busy, I’ll leave Tyrael for last, first I deal with you Nephelem!
* I’ll make you pay for that!

Izual charged at Valla, the demon huntress avoided him. Valla threw a few grenades hurting his face as he roared. He attacked and she blocked him then kicking him on the face and filling him with bolts. It was clear Valla was going to take him on. But he still had a trick.

Valla got ready to shoot once more but then, Izual threw something at her. She avoided the projectile but a wave of magic was released from it. It was frost magic, it quickly froze part of her leg.

* Aaargh! — She groaned.

No time to even dwell in how that felt, more came close and she barely dodged, but the after shock kept freezing her. She was very slowed down now. She felt cold, so cold. Valla was trembling, panting as she tried to warm herself up. She braced herself.

The demon seemed to be spasming. Valla saw her chance and readied to shoot, but then a large wave of frost exploded from him. It hit her in full. Valla felt so cold, it was too cold. It got through her armor to all her most intimate spots. She couldn’t feel any warmth. It hurt. She trembled. She felt her bloodflow slowing down.

As she curled up in the floor, she once more passed out.

Izual laughed. He approached Valla and and lifted her body up. He slapped her side to side.

* Pathetic Demon hunter — He said putting her standing on the floor and then pushing her down. Watching her slide through the ice until she hit the wall.

He laughed. Though releasing wave had greatly reduced his power. Coupled with the damage he had received he was not ready for a fight. He turned back to see Tyrael charging at him. De demon attempted to avoid but he slid on his own ice. Tyrael cut him down. Cursing the Angel, Izual disappeared in ashes.

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Valla and Eirene had recovered after a while, regaining consciousness. Tyrael had helped them get out of that place and now they were closing in on diablo. However, they were spotted by Imperius. The archangel had decided to eliminate them first, but before he could do anything he fell in pain. Diablo was close to winning.

* There’s no more time, I have to go. — Said Valla, tough she still felt her body cold.

She was still shaking a bit, while Eirene had most of her outfit broken and her head was spinning. Still the enchantress would stick to the demon huntress. Tyrael told them it was Valla’s trial now. He couldn’t go with them.

With her weapons charged. Valla charged on to the fight. She glowered, seeing Leah’s body, what it had become. But there was no time to dwell on it.

Diablo smiled.

* Demon hunter…you are cold I see. Perhaps I can warm you up!

A wave of fire was shot at them. The women avoided the attack. Valla had to thank the demon for starting with that. It did help her warm up for the fight.

* I’ll never let you conquer heaven! — She declared.
* There’s nothing that can stop me now…

Both girls attacked him. Shot after shot, spell after spell. The demon seemed to be able to just tank everything they had, but they wouldn’t give in. Diablo was mighty, his stomps made the floor shake as cracks appeared through the place.

Not only that but spikes appeared around as well. The women couldn’t attack as they had to constantly dodge him. The platform was a mess now. He grabbed the enchantress and threw her away as he charged at Valla. She vaulted aside, grounding her teeth as she felt the pain of her bruised body after Izual had kicked her around. She soldiered through it shooting a barrage of bolts at diablo.

The Demon jumped on to her and clawed at her body, Valla was still feeling her muscles strained and was too slow to dodge but Eirene protected her with a magic reinforcement. He charged against the enchantress. As Eirene did her best to run from him, Valla took the chance to set up some turrets, they were far away from the demon but she would get his attention. Soon enough she shot rockets and cluster arrows at him, stopping him from reaching Eirene.

He was furious.

* Fine then. Fall onto your nightmare!

With that yell, Valla saw herself falling. She didn’t know where she was, but it was dark and filled with smoke. Before her a diablo, apparently made of shadows appeared. That was her nightmare. Her plan didn’t go as she wanted. She had to beat him.

Meanwhile Diablo was now alone with the Enchantress. Eirene attempted to go towards the turrets but diablo caught her first. He took her head and then smashed her face against the floor. She was now bleeding but it was far from over. He clawed at her from every side. The woman was wounded all over, basically naked now. Groggy she attempted to stand up.

Diablo laughed, grabbing her and throwing her around. He kicked her and head-butted at her. He grabbed her and smashed her against the wall. He completely brutalized Eirena. Afterwards he tossed her to the ground. Broken. She was alive but bleeding all over and completely unconscious.

Diablo laughed. He had won.

And then a portal opened. Valla had returned from the terror realm.

* You…you beat the shadow?

Valla was panting. She had some broses and her armor was a bit clawed but she had beaten it. However, she looked around to see her friend, made a mess of blood on the floor. Diablo smiled. Filled with rage she summed all her remaining strength. She would end him.

The woman commenced to spin at high speed, releasing a storm of bolts all over the place. Diablo was immediately nailed with countless shoots. He roared as his flesh tore up. It was too much, even for him. He covered himself but it kept going time and time. Until she ran out of ammunition. It hadn’t been enough.

She looked at him. Too tired to do more. Diablo charged, grabbed her and tossed her onto the floor. Valla was knocked out. He lifted her in the air. A symbol of his victory.

He tore her hood apart and tossed it away. Then he slammed her against the floor. And another time more.

He laughed and laughed but as he did, he felt something. Suddenly the floor broke. His stomps and assaults had been to much. He tossed Valla away and used his now free hands to grab ahold of the remaining platform. He climbed up but as he did, something triggered. He was now in range of Valla’s turrets.

A new barrage of bolts nailed his face. It was too much, even for diablo. He fell down from heaven. As he was casted back to hell, the pressure made good use of his founds and his body was torn apart, turning to ashes. Diablo had fallen.

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The archangels had retrieved both heroines. Brutalized, and unconscious, it took a long time for them to recover but they would eventually do so. Meanwhile Tyrael regained his seat among his kin but decided to stay as a moral as a new era dawned upon the world.