

The Lost Tale of Kiro

By : AsiiDCoBra

The God Kiro kept his thoughts sealed inside the Book of Kiro. If this book got into the wrong hands, everything that ever happend in history, good and bad, that noone knew about would be realeased to the public, and even worse, the enemy. This novel takes place in the 1600s. All names are made up, parts of the novel will be complete if people want it to be. Enjoy reading!

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Chapter 1: Kiro and the Big Idea

As the warfare continued, Akilos and I we're bunkered down inside an abandoned hovel that night. The sounds of screaming, arrows cutting the air and fire burning our land were haunting our thoughts while we slept. Akilos is the god of water and sea bearing creatures, He is also the Duke of Moorlake. While I am the god of night, and shadows, I am Kiro, Duke of Hollowvale. Page 1 of Chapter 1, Book of Kiro.

-Dukes longhouse, Hollowvale-

"Sire! Sire! One of our scouts has found a missing page from the Book of Kiro!" "Let me see this page steward. Ah, the first page to my thoughts, maybe there is hope for us after all. Steward! Assemble the head of the guards and my military; we must plan for our first push against the enemy."

-War Hall-

"Welcome men, today we received a report that one of our scouts has found one of the missing pages to the Book of Kiro. This means that some of the book's fragments remain. Retrieving these pages will restore order between the lands of Ostburn once and hopefully, for all." "Lord how do you suggest we find these other pages of the book?" "Brilliant observation Jarl Theodus, but this has already been thought of, we will simply pillage all the other villages amongst the plains of Ostburn until enough pressure is thrown upon the enemy that they will rat out their leader, he will either have some of the pages, or know where they are. Any other questions men? No? Well be off with you then!"

-Training hall-

"What do you think Kiro has in store for us?" "I think he'll go on a rampage and destroy all of Ostburn." "Don't be a fool you two; you know Kiro wouldn't waste his time using his army if it wasn't important." "I guess you're right Jarl, although I still think he's a bit off his edge." "Give him time, he knows what he's doing, I hope." "Everyone listen up! The Duke has requested we gather out in front of the keep! Hop to it!" "This should be good." "Shut up you." "Yes, Jarl."

-In front of Keep-

"Everyone gather round! I have great news for you all! Tomorrow is the first ambush we will execute!" "Are you sure about this my league?" "Yes Steward, if we don't retrieve the lost fragments of the book of Kiro, many problems will occur within Ostburn, and even Hollowvale walls. I'm not taking that risk of letting centuries of memories and secrets escape and fall into the wrong hands, all hell will break loose." "So where is the ambush taking place Kiro?" "Akilos-

Chapter 2: A Lost Friend

"One should never forget thy friend." Page 41, Hallowvale Hymn of War.

-In Front of Keep-

"What are you doing here Akilos? You know I banished you from Hallowvale years ago." "My purpose here Kiro is to ensure you retrieve those pages you lost back in the 3rd war." "What makes you think we hadn't already found the pages to the missing lore?" "I know you better than that Kiro; you wouldn't be standing here and ambushing the enemy for no reason." "So why are you so worried about the missing fragments?" "It's not just you who wants to restore peace amongst Ostburn ya'know, Ostburn has been in ruins since the Book of Kiro has gone missing, And it's your fault!" "It was not my fault Akilos! And you know that! We are both to blame!" "But weren't you the one who the letbandits escape?" "Me? What were you doing while the bandits road off with the book? Napping I suppose?" "Both of you calm down! Right now it may be a sign that Akilos is here and wanting to help us with the ambush, arguing won't get the fragments back in our hand now will it?" "Aye, I suppose you're right Jarl, what do you say Kiro, want my help?" "Alright Akilos, you can join us, Jarl, meet me at the inn, I want to speak to you privately before the moon sets." "Yes my league." "Kiro, aren't you forgetting something?" "And that would be?" "The place of the ambush?" " Ah yes, I will announce that at sunrise, good day to you all."

-Violet Tavern-

"Welcome Jarl Theodus, how was your day?" "A bit shocking but still a typical day none the less, and you Sire?" "I wish it could be different, but it was alright. But now small talk is over, I wanted to meet you here because of Akilos, I want you to keep your best spy upon him, alright?" "Are you sure? Akilos was your friend, what happened back during the war to turn the both of you on separate paths?" "Now is not the time for stories Theodus, and I'm positive, keep your best spy on him, he cannot be trusted. Now, how about a drink jarl? On me." "That'd be kind of you Sire, thank you kindly."

-Meanwhile: Outside Hallowvale walls-

"Did you scout the weak point in Hallowvale?" "Yes my lord, our army is also being trained as we speak." "Very good, here is your pay, 100 gold pieces, as I promised." "Thank you my lord, I will send a spy to the Hallowvale towers to make sure Kiro isn't up to more than he should be." "Very well, now be off with you."

-War hall-

"General, I want you to send a small team of scouts to over watch Moorlake." "Is that all Kiro? No army? Just scouts?" "That is correct General, If Akilos makes a move, I want to be the first to know about said move, alright?" "Yes your honor."

-Outside Hallowvale walls-

"Captain! Captain! Kiro just sent scouts outside of Moorlake!" "Excellent-"

Chapter 3: The Unexpected

"Thy friend will not betray you, if it is truly thy friend." Speech from Jarl Theodus, 1548.

-On the cliffs beside Moorlake-

The noises of horses silently passing the trees while the gear from the scouts bounce around making clink noises creates an uneasy feeling for the scouts. "Wha'dya thinks of the night captain?" "Is a very fine night indeed, but let us not try to lose concentration on the plan." "And that'd be?" "Kiro has ordered us to over watch the kingdom of Moorlake; he doesn't trust his old friend Akilos." "And why is that?" "No one knows except him and Akilos, and I think Kiro wants to keep it that way, Hush! Someone's coming, everyone down!"

While the scouts from Hallowvale are alongside the musky scented brush, the spies from Moorlake are passing them and onward to Hallowvale on foot. "Hurry you fools! Akilos is counting on us to reach Hallowvale before sunrise. If we can eliminate Kiro before the ambush, we may be able to retrieve the pages with ease." "Is Akilos sure about this? Seems a bit harsh to kill an old friend over paper don't cha think?" "Akilos gave us his orders, don't question them."

The scouts now helping one another out of the brush. "Hurry men, retrieve a pigeon from the cages, we need to let Kiro know what is about to happen, if they get to Kiro before this blasted bird does, who knows what will go wrong next." One of the scouts attaches a scroll to the pigeon's talon and releasing it towards Hallowvale.

-Duke Kiro's Chamber-

The silent grey pigeon perches upon the stand outside Kiro's window and tap gently onto the glass window. "What is this? A message from one of my scouts?"

The letter reads: *Kiro, we have just overheard the spies of Moorlake upon the Cliffside of Moorlake, Akilos is planning your execution very soon, if you receive this message before it's too late, act now!*

"Well this isn't good, Steward! Forward this scroll to the General, and tell him to meet me in the war hall immediately!" "Will do sir." "However Akilos is planning to do me in, he have better plan to make sure I don't return, if I do, he won't."

-War Hall-

"I came as soon as I got the message, what do you order us to do?" "I want you to arrange Akilos's date with the gallows, his betrayal will not be taken lightly, I told the Jarl and Steward to let him be on his way while we had the chance, now there is war between Hallowvale and Moorlake, and for no reason." "And as for the spies?" "Rally a squad of archers to expel of them, the scroll said there were only about four spies amongst them, as well as the few spies along our walls." "You knew about the spies along the walls? Why didn't you order us to remove of them?" "I was trying to give Akilos a chance to do right, but clearly his mind is fogged with war, like it always was." "Alright Kiro, I'll get right to those order, good day Duke." "Very well then."

-Sunrise Following the Spies outside of Hallowvale-

"Alright men, now is the time to strike before the guards shift positions." "That won't be necessary rat, you're coming with us!" "You and what army Hallowvale dog!" "This one!" As the line of archer trek across the

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hills. "Now, is it death? Or prison for you?" "Death!"

As the battle commences Akilos is watching from over the hillside against a maple tree, He then pulls out a pigeon and attaches a scroll to its talon, and sends it away. "If Kiro wants a war, he's got one now."

Once the battle stops, twenty of thirty archers are left, and only one spy, however the spy magnates to flee from death. "Lord, Lord Akilos! Is that you? Oh thank the stars it really is you!" "Yes it is I, and how come you're upon the ground like a mutt?" "Kiro sent archers to ambush us at the wall." "Did he now? Well you will be of no more use to me, goodbye rat." Following Akilos's words, is the spy's death and one of Kiro's scouts listening in on Akilos.

-Castle Galley-

"Mornin' sire! *sniff* is that mead I smell?" "Quite so Steward, any news on our scouts?" "Yes my league, Akilos hasn't sent out any troops so far, but we did see a pigeon with papyrus tied to its talon flying towards Moorlake. One of our scouts has also spotted Akilos watching his spies die outside of our walls." "This morning? When the archers ambushed the spies?" "Yes, Akilos also put down the only survivor of that attack, and it was his own spy he put down, with no mercy." "I see, Akilos is becoming more aggressive, we must act soon upon the parish of Moorlake before it's too late."

"Kiro! Kiro! *huffing and panting* Kiro!" "What is it General?" "It's Akilos; he's on a rampage inside the village!" "Get our guards to him right away!" "Yes sir!" "Scout, double the security amongst Moorlake, I want no one to leave that place unchecked, understand?" "Yes sir."

"I must contact my old friend very soon; I need advice on finding the other pages, my plans aren't working while that old goat Akilos is in my way, trying to eliminate me."

Chapter 4: The War Begins

"A king is nothing without his people, and people are lost without a leader." Wise words from Kiro.

-Market Square-

"Akilos." Said Kiro while ignoring the loud abundance of noise from the riot. "Akilos what is going on? "Ah Kiro, you're right on time old friend." Said Akilos with a sly grin on his face. "Akilos what are you up to?." While Akilos turns around towards Kiro the crowd is hushed. "Akilos! Answer me!". As an arrow hits the ground in front of Kiro, Akilos makes a run for it. "Guards! After him!" Ordered Kiro. While Akilos's archer attempts to fire another arrow, a peasant spots him and launches a tomato towards him knocking his aim off of Kiro and towards the melon stand. Kiro then takes his general's bow from his back along with an arrow and commences to fire at the enemy archer. "Nice aim sire!" said a squire. "Thank you squire, what is your name sir?" said Kiro. "Tom sir, Thomas Malington." "Sir! More archers along the North-East wall!" Yelled a scout. "Send a rally troop to clean them up. General, send roughly 20 knights, and 4 catapults to Moorlake, I'm done with Akilos." Ordered Kiro. "Anything else sire?" Said the guard. "Yes, before you attack and ransack Moorlake, give them a chance to surrender." "Alright sire." Said the guard. "As for you Tom, I want to see you in Violet Tavern, alright?" Asked Kiro. "Yes your honor." Replied Thomas.

-Hallowvale Gates-

"Guards! Stop Akilos!" Yelled the general. "Archers, now!". Along with the volley from the archers Akilos hits the ground while hit by an arrow. "Now! Finish him! Kiro is done with Akilos!" Yelled the general. While the head of the guards walks up to Akilos, Jarl Theodus comes running. "Stop! Don't kill him! Kiro wants to keep him in the prison until further notice." Said Theodus. "Alright men, you heard the orders, bring him to the prison." While being dragged across the ground, Akilos turns his head towards Theodus and grins.

-Violet Tavern-

"Sire, are you here?" Says Thomas worriedly. "Right here Tom, near the barman." Said Kiro. "You wanted to see me sir?" "Yes Tom, I wanted to ask you something." Said Kiro. "What is it?" Asked Tom. "Do you remember the time me and Akilos were like brothers?" "Of course I do Kiro." Said Tom. "But what split you two so far apart?" "The Third war Tom, after the Third war, Akilos was different after his sister died from the pillage." Said Kiro. Tom slides a piece of papyrus towards Kiro. "Is this something you wanted from me Kiro?" Asked Tom. While Kiro overlooks the paper his eyes glow in amazement. "You have a page to the book?" "Tom, thank you so much. But where did you keep this to all this time, and how did you find it.?" Said Kiro. "Well Kiro I kept it inside my horse's satchel, I came across it after seeing someone flee from bandits between here and Lake de Croix." "Thank you so much Tom. How can I ever repay you?" Asked Kiro. "You can finish off Akilos, and spare the people of Moorlake who aren't under Akilos's spell. That'll do everyone one a favour Kiro." Said Thomas. "I'll see to it Tom, and take care." As Kiro leaves he slides a pouch of coins under Tom's hand. As Tom opens the pouch he spots one hundred gold pieces. "Good ol' Kiro." Said Thomas happily.

-Inside Hallowvale Prison-

"Why did you spare me Theo?" Asked Akilos grimly. "You still owe me a favour Akilos, even death won't let you escape a debt." Said Theodus. "Well then, what is it?" Asked Akilos. "I want Kiro gone, along with my help you are going to fulfill that duty." Said Theodus. "Hah! Like that worked the first time." Said Akilos as he laughed and spit toward Theodus. "But now you have an insider helping you, someone who Kiro keeps close." Said Theodus. "Alright then, but why do you want him dead?" Asked Akilos. "For the ownership of

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Hallowvale, Kiro has been king for too long now." "Alright Theo ol' chap. I'll help ya, on one condition. You give me time to set up a camp and squad of loyal people." Said Akilos. "And-?" Asked Theodus. "And to be general of Hallowvale along with being duke of Moorlake still." Said Akilos. "Alright Akilos, you got yer self a deal. You'll be released tomorrow at dawn, you will board a merchant's cart and ride to Lake de Croix and rally yourself a squad to execute Kiro. Understood?" "Alright." Said Akilos.

-Duke's Longhouse-

Once again a pigeon perches and taps upon the glass of Kiro's window. "Another message?" Said Kiro to himself. The message reads: *All is fine around Moorlake sir. As of now we are sheltered to the West of Moorlake walls and will be here until your command says otherwise. But we have had a few inconveniences with merchants traveling back and forth, we have also found something mysterious, it seems to.* The letter then ends with a blood stain blocking the last few words. "Well this isn't good." Said Kiro.

"Kiro!" Said Theodus's spy. "Kiro, Theodus has betrayed you sire!" "What makes you think that?" Asks Kiro. "Yes, he told the guards to not kill Akilos and bring him to prison on under your name. He also went to the prison and was whispering to Akilos about something." Said the spy. "Alright thank you." Said Kiro.

"Steward, Tell the general to meet me in the war hall once again." Requests Kiro. "Will do your honor."

-War Hall-

"You wanted me sir?" Asked the general. "I want you to keep a few scouts to overlook the actions of Jarl Theodus, I think he is playing me for a fool." Said Kiro. "Will do sire." Says the general as he makes his way out of the War hall.

-Hallowvale Prison: Akilos's Thoughts-

So Kiro thinks he has won does he? I'll make sure he is done and over with before he knows it! And as for that gullible Jarl Theo, he will see it coming as well! I'll bribe the merchant to bring me to Moorlake so I can grab my loyal subjects then make my way to Lake de Croix and establish a base there for the time being.

-Kiro's Log book-

22:00, July 7th,

Akilos to be executed, along with his companion Jarl Theodus. I have also found a page to my book. But this is only the beginning.

Chapter 5: A Fallen Jarl

When I was a young boy, even before I cared about being the leader of a kingdom, I traveled on a merchant's boat with my father, until the one awful night when we were pillaged by a band of pirates. I then became a pirate myself in search of those who raided us that night. Page 3 of Chapter 2. Book of Kiro.

-Roads to Moorlake-

"Alright men, prepare the catapults to attack the northern end of Moorlake, archers, climb upon the walls after the knights give you the go ahead. Everyone ready?" Ordered the general. "On my count, one-, two-, three-, hold your fire! There's an incoming galleon from the east entering Moorlake. Change of plans men, knights, barge into the village after the catapults hit the front gates, archers will stay up here to protect the catapults, once you're in you will find and take hold on the ship then wait for further orders."

-On board the Crimson Spirit (Merchant Vessel)-

"Everyone get to unloading the cargo of the ship! We don't have all day!" Ordered Captain Charles. As toll bells ring from the church, Akilos's steward walks aboard the Crimson Spirit. "You there! What do you think you're doing here?" Asked the steward. "What do ye mean what is I doin? I'm unloading the cargo from other voyages. Why do ye ask?" Said Charles impatiently "I ask this because all trades and travels from and to Moorlake are under inspection. And no one has been aboard this ship to check if you are hauling the troops of Kiro." Answered the steward. "The troops of Kiro ye say? What makes you think I have a connection with Kiro anyways?" Asked Charles. " "It don't matter if you do or don't, you need to be inspected or leave." Said the steward boldly. Before Captain Charles can answer, the church bells ring again symbolizing emergency. "Emergency, Everyone! Get to the keep right away!" Yelled the steward. "I'll be fine upon my ship thank you-, whoever you are." Replied Captain Charles. "Your death peasant." Said the steward.

After the battle to enter Moorlake, the knights approach the Crimson Spirit. "Aye! You aboard that boat! Get down here at once!" Ordered a knight. "Are you a knight from Kiro's army?" Replied Charles. "Yes we are, now come down!" "Alrighty then mate! I'll be down in a jiff!" Said Charles excitedly. Charles looks into the eyes of the knight and asks, "Can I come with ye to Hollowvale? Kiro is a old friend of mine, and I think I could be of great use to him?" "Alright, but we are going to check your boat first, then we will board it and you will bring us to Lake de Croix, we will then message Kiro to meet us there alright?" Asked the knight. "Will do ol bean." Said Charles.

After all the army and Captain Charles's crew boards the galleon, they then set off to Lake de Croix. "Tally ho men! And off to Crossed Lake!" Yelled Charles.

-Market Square, Hollowvale-

As toll bells ring from churches everyone is silent watching the approach of Jarl Theodus and Kiro, walking to the gallows. "Everyone! Today we are about to be rid of a traitor! A good friend of Kiro, but now is a rat and companion to Akilos!" Says the steward. As the crowd roars in excitement Kiro then says, " Yes, and after the execution of this rat, we will then finish off Akilos! Then returning Moorlake to peace with Hollowvale, and crowning a new Duke to Moorlake." The crowd roars in more excitement. "You're making a big mistake Kiro!" Yelled Theodus. "It is you who made the mistake Theo, Executioner! Now is the time." The executioner then lets the floor drop under Theo's feet while he is on the gallows. Once again the crowd roars with excitement, and little depression. "Now, I most go take care of Akilos, it is too risky to bring him to public again, I apologise my people, but this is how it must be." Said Kiro.

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While walking to the prison Kiro notices a messenger pigeon upon the perch of his window. "Steward, run and fetch me that letter please." Asked Kiro. After the steward returns with the letter Kiro then states that the letter is labelled with the title, *A old Chap*. The letter reads, *Aye, Kiro, it's ye old friend Charles, Captain Charles now though, I just wanted to let ye know that me and a few of yer men is off to Lake de Croix, and they wanted to meet you there, mainly because they don't trust me, and the only way I can send this message is if they sign it and read it before it is sent, I heard that you are searching for dem pages again, I may be of help to you with this, since I have a boat and all, Reply Swiftly, yer chap, CC*. The letter is also followed by the signature of the general. Kiro then take out his quill and papyrus and replies, *Will do old friend, we will see you in Lake de Croix in two days, take care, your friend, Kiro*. This letter is also followed by the royal seal of Hollowvale. "Looks like Akilos's death will have to wait for now men, right now we must prepare to trek to Lake de Croix, I have important business to take care of there first." Said Kiro. "Alright sire." Replied the soldiers behind Kiro.

-Lake de Croix alley way, night time-

"Alright there lil' princess, yer comin with us now-." Scowls a bandit. "Let me go you oaf!" Screamed the princess. "Halt, thieves!" Yells a guard as an arrow is fired at the bandits thus freeing the princess from the grasp of the bandit. "Are you alright miss?" "Yes, thank you so much." Replied the princess. "How old are you lass?" Asked the Guard. "Twenty." Replied the princess. "Best be off to the castle then miss, don't want to be hanging around here at this time of night." "Will do, thank you sir." Replies the princess as she runs back to the castle.

Chapter 6: Fallen City

"Never forget what is to be done." Royal speech from Kiro.

-Akilos's Jail Cell, Dusk-

"Akilos." Said a voice, "Akilos. Come on Akilos wake up-" As Akilos awakes and rises from his resting area he peers out the cell window and notices a dark figure. "Who are you?" States Akilos. "I be one of yours Akilos, we're here to set you free." Says the figure. "And how do you suppose you go about doing that?" Asks Akilos. "I have arranged for a catapult distraction, while guards are away fighting, we can spring you out of here, and back in command of Moorlake once again." "Kiro took Moorlake from me?" Said Akilos with jealousy. "Yes, but there is no time to discuss that here sire, please, get ready to leave now." Orders the Voice. As Akilos is getting ready to evacuate the cell multiple loud booms come from afar. "The catapults already?" "Asked Akilos. "They shouldn't of this early, something is wrong. Let's go, now." The Voice says while prying the bars of the window apart to fit Akilos through. "Go, run now, towards the east and get into the merchants cart with the white horse." "A white horse?" Asked Akilos. "No time for questions! Run!" Demands the Voice. As Akilos is running through the city of Hallowvale he notices that the soldiers that are attacking aren't his men, but nonetheless, he still continues to run for the merchant's cart. "Hop in Sire, quickly." Said the Merchant. Akilos then hops into the bundles of hay in the back of the cart, both the Merchant and Akilos begin to make their way out of the city.

-Aboard the Crimson Spirit, Dusk-

"Morning Captain, You'll be coming with us now." Said one of the guards aboard the ship. "Where are ye taking me to?" "To the brig, where you shall remain until we reach port." Replied the Guard. "But this is my ship! You, you scoundrel!" Yells Captain Charles as they throw him into the brig of the ship. "You just wait until Kiro finds out about this!"

"Alright crew, I be your new captain for now, until port." States the General. "Right now it looks as if we're about to hit a storm, so let's get everything tied down men! Now!" "But what about Cap'n Charles? Where is he?" Yelled the crew. "Your captain be resting in his bunk for now, he's not feeling well, and wanted me to take charge until he's better, or we hit port." Replied the General.

-Resuming the attack on Hallowvale, Night-

"Kiro! We must get you out of here Sire!" Yelled the Steward. "Why is this? What is going on?" Asked Kiro. "It be the knights of Fort Pinewoods, they be attacking Hallowvale, we must get you out of here while you still have the chance!" "Alright, just let me grab a few things before we leave." While Kiro is grabbing his sword and page's to the lore, the room around him starts to feel warm. "What is this Steward?" Asked Kiro. "They be burning your castle Sir! We must flee, now!" Says the Steward while the room begins to bear smoke. "Alright Steward, through the window we go!" Yells Kiro. "Must we Sir?" Asks the Steward worriedly. "There's no time like you said, now let's jump!" replies Kiro as he grabs the Stewards hand and jumps through the paned glass window of his quarters and lands with a tuck and roll. "Are you alright Steward?" Asks Kiro. "Nothing but frightened sir." Replies the Steward as he brushes himself off. "I will make my way to Lake de Croix now before it's too late. Are you coming with me Steward?" "I'm sorry Kiro, but I must stay here and protect my family." Replies the Steward. "Alright then, I best be off for reinforcements, Good luck friend." Said Kiro as he signals for his horse. "You too Sire, You too." Replied the Steward.

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