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**--Chapter 12: Recall--**

*We zoom into Zoë's hospital room from the observation window across from the bed. She wakes up. Wonkers climbs onto her bed.*

WONKERS:

“Zoë, you're awake!”

ZOË:

“What...? Wonkers, get off me! Ugh. What time is it? Wait, where—Where am I?”

WONKERS:

“You're in the hospital, Zoë. In Casablanca. Don't you remember?”

ZOË:

“I...no.”

WONKERS:

“You got really sick and they brought you here to make you better. I've been watching over you. You've been in a coma for a long, long time.”

ZOË:

“I'm...I'm not sure... I'm confused.”

WONKERS:

“You just woke up, Zoë. It must be strange to be awake again. Don't worry, it'll pass. You just need to rest. Go back to sleep now. I'll watch over you.”

ZOË:

“Wonkers...? You don't sound like yourself.”

WONKERS:

“You've been very sick, Zoë. You can't trust yourself right now. Just close your eyes and go back to sleep. You'll feel much better afterwards.”

ZOË:

“No, I—I can't sleep anymore.”

WONKERS:

“I wouldn't recommend, that, Zoë. You're not well. You need to go back to sleep.”

ZOË:

“I need to get up.”

WONKERS:

“I wouldn't recommend that, Zoë. You're not well. You need to--”

ZOË:

“Stop it, Wonkers!”

*Examine: Wonkers*

ZOË:

 “Good, old Wonkers. For as long as I can remember, he's been there for me. Like a surrogate sibling and guardian. Best gift ever. But...There's...something not quite right about him. I can't put my finger on it, but he's not...not really Wonkers.”

*Talk to: Wonkers*

WONKERS:

 “Are you tired, Zoë? You must be tired. Let's go back to sleep. I'll stay right here. I promise I won't ever leave you.”

 ZOË:

 “No. I don't want to sleep anymore.”

 WONKERS:

 “You're not feeling well, I can tell. You're exhausted, and you're seeing things that aren't real.”

 ZOË:

 “I...I don't know what's wrong. But it's not me. It's this place. It's you, Wonkers. You're all wrong.”

 WONKERS:

 “That hurts my feelings, Zoë.”

*Talk to: Wonkers*

 ZOË:

 “You don't sound right.”

 WONKERS:

 “You're imagining things, Zoë. You're very, very tired. Sleeping will help you feel better. You should go back to sleep, just for a little while.”

 ZOË:

 “No.”

*Use: Bed*

WONKERS:

“Why don't you go back to sleep, Zoë? You'll feel much better if you do.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Go to sleep: *Maybe Wonkers is right. Maybe I'll feel better if I take a nap.*

 ZOË:

 “Okay.”

 *Zoë is awoken by a voice.*

 APRIL:

 “Wake up, Zoë! You must wake up!”

 *Zoë opens her eyes and sees a static-y April on the screen.*

APRIL:

 “Come on, Zoë. Get up! This place isn't real. You need to get out!”

 ZOË:

 “Was that...April?”

 *Use: Bed*

ZOË:

 “Something's very, very wrong. I'm not going back to bed again.”

Stay awake: *There's something very wrong about this, and if I go to sleep again...*

ZOË:

 “I've slept enough.”

 *(conversation ends)*

*Examine: Monitor*

ZOË:

 “Those vitals aren't too bad.”

*Examine: Monitor*

ZOË:

 “Not being in a coma probably helps.”

*Examine: Button*

ZOË:

 “The call button should really be next to the bed. Although...I guess they weren't expecting me to wake up from my coma anytime soon.”

*Examine: Button*

ZOË:

 “The magic nurse-summoning button.”

*Use: Button*

NURSE:

 “Someone will be with you shortly.”

*Use: Button*

NURSE:

 “Your call has been registered. We will send someone to your room as soon as possible.”

*Use: Button*

NURSE:

 “All nurses are currently busy. Please wait for the next available nurse.”

*Use: Button*

NURSE:

 “I'm sorry, but everyone's frightfully busy. Your patience is appreciated.”

*Use: Button*

NURSE:

 “Stop pushing that button! We won't get to you any quicker even if you keep pushing it.”

*Use: Button*

NURSE:

 “Stop. Please stop.”

*Examine: Display*

 ZOË:

 “Over two hundred unread posts? So I was more popular in a coma than when I was awake. Encouraging!”

*Examine: Display*

 ZOË:

 ““Get well”, “get better”, “please wake up”, “hope you recover”, “don't die”, “where's that book you borrowed”, “come back to us”, “all our love”...Where were these people before my coma?”

*Examine: Display*

 ZOË:

 “I spent my twenty-first birthday in a coma? That's just sad.”

*Examine: Display*

 ZOË:

 “Hey, a message from Emma. She finally opened her gallery in Europolis. Nice. I'll have to visit soon.”

*Examine: Display*

ZOË:

 “Jama sent me something. Knowing her, it's probably a list of exercises to get me back in the gym.”

*Examine: Display*

ZOË:

 “Oh, an invitation from CTU to come back and talk about my 'experiences'. What experiences? How not to succeed after graduation? Avoiding bedsores? Also, the event was six months ago. Fantastic.”

*Examine: Display*

ZOË:

 “My surprisingly large circle of acquaintances has been busy talking about me in my absence. Now that I'm awake I probably won't hear from any of them ever again.”

*Examine: Balloon*

ZOË:

 “It's from Reza.”

*Examine: Balloon*

ZOË:

 “I guess he stops by often. I mean, of course he does. I hope he's okay.”

*Touch: Balloon*

ZOË:

 ““Thinking of you.” I would hope so!”

*Examine: Greeting card*

ZOË:

 “Flowers, from Liv.”

*Examine: Greeting card*

ZOË:

 ““Hola sweetie! I hope these flowers will brighten your day. Love, Liv.” That's cute. Liv's cute.”

*Examine: Greeting card*

ZOË:

 “I'm so happy to have Olivia DeMarco in my life. And Alien the Cat is hands down the best electronic shop in Casablanca. I can't wait to go back.”

*Examine: Greeting card*

ZOË:

 “When was the last time I visited her shop? That was...ages ago. Did it close down? I—I remember something about...”

 *Reality becomes slightly static, like a glitching program.*

ZOË:

 “Uh, what just happened?”

*Examine: Greeting card*

ZOË:

 “Something happened to her. To Liv. Something terrible.”

 *Reality glitches again.*

ZOË:

 “Okay, that was not just in my head. Something's definitely going on.”

*Examine: Greeting card*

ZOË:

 “Olivia... She's dead. I know it. I feel it.”

 *Reality glitches once more.*

ZOË:

 “Shit! Am I losing my mind, or—Is reality...glitching?”

*Pick Up: Greeting card*

*Examine: Greeting card (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Liv had an accident. She's dead. She never sent me a get-well card.”

 *The card becomes static and turns back into its real form. Zoë can see that instead of Liv's message, it has printed on it “I hope you're feeling better, I miss you every day. I'm always thinking of you, So this is what I say: Get well soon!”.*

WONKERS:

 “What are you doing, Zoë You shouldn't be on your feet. Come on, I'll tuck you in and read you a little story. Just like in the old days.”

*Examine: Greeting card (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Liv didn't send this. It's not real.”

*Use: Wardrobe*

 *Zoë changes back into her clothes from Dreamfall.*

ZOË:

 “No, this isn't really me anymore.”

 *She changes back into her underwear.*

*Examine: Door*

ZOË:

 “This must go into the hospital hallway.”

*Use: Door*

ZOË:

 “It's locked. Why on earth would they lock a hospital room? That feels...unsafe.”

*Examine: Photo (near door)*

ZOË:

 “I'd almost forgotten this. I won a competition. Second place, I think? Jama was so proud. Prouder than my dad, perhaps. Definitely prouder than me.”

*Examine: Graduation photo*

 ZOË:

 “Graduation day, in front of Jammie Hall.”

*Examine: Graduation photo*

ZOË:

 “Cape Town University has the most beautiful views. I spent so many lazy afternoons with friends, sitting on Jammie Steps and looking out over the city.”

*Examine: Graduation photo*

ZOË:

 “I remember feeling like the end of my bioengineering degree was impossibly far away. I can't believe I actually made it to graduation. It's almost...almost like a dream.”

*Examine: Graduation photo*

ZOË:

 “Come to think of it, I don't remember much from that day. I was there, I was wearing a gown, but...who else was there? Dad? Reza? And what was the ceremony like? I just...can't remember. Weird.”

 *Reality glitches again.*

ZOË:

 “Now I'm officially freaked out.”

*Examine: Graduation photo*

ZOË:

 “Something's wrong. The whole graduation thing... Something's definitely wrong here.”

 *Reality glitches again.*

*Pick Up: Graduation photo*

*Examine: Graduation photo (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “I didn't graduate. I dropped out. I mean, sometimes I wished I hadn't, but—This is a false memory.”

 *In the picture, Zoë morphs from a gown and cap holding a diploma to her Dreamfall clothes.*

WONKERS:

 “You don't look well, Zoë. You're probably seeing things. Please lie down, just for a minute. I'll watch over you. I'll sing for you.”

*Examine: Graduation photo (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “I never graduated from Cape Town University.”

*Use: TV*

FEMALE NEWS HOST:

 “Thanks for joining us. Things are generally going very well today, wouldn't you say so, Marek?”

 MALE NEWS HOST:

 “Incredibly well, Rika! We'll soon be out of jobs, the both of us!”

 FEMALE NEWS HOST:

 “Ahahaha, I honestly wouldn't mind one bit, Marek. Following up on yesterday's heartwarming WatiCorp story, the company behind everyone's favorite Dreamachine has announced that customer satisfaction has reached an unprecedented 110%.”

 MALE NEWS HOST:

 “Impressive, Rika, but who can argue? The Dreamer has changed everything.”

 FEMALE NEWS HOST:

 “An end to war, an end to violence, an end to poverty. What are we doing here, Marek? We should be in Dreamtime, too!”

 MALE NEWS HOST:

 “You said it, Rika, you said it!”

 FEMALE NEWS HOST:

 “WatiCorp has also announced that surplus profits from the Dreamachine will go to sponsoring free Dreamers for children in need worldwide, giving them the opportunity to escape their dreary, pointless existence for a life of endless joy and happiness inside Dreamtime.”

 MALE NEWS HOST:

 “Outstanding!”

 FEMALE NEWS HOST:

 “Just another reason why WatiCorp is our favorite corporation, Marek! And they're not even paying us to say that!”

 NEWS HOSTS:

 “(Laughter)”

 FEMALE NEWS HOST:

 “But seriously, things are great. They are so, so good. Just trust us on that.”

*Examine: Photo (near outside)*

ZOË:

 “Jardin des Roses. Home, sweet home for most of my tumultuous teenage years.”

*Examine: Photo (near outside)*

ZOË:

 “Casablanca's a great place to grow up. Such an interesting mix of cultures, and very safe and clean. But...I'll have to move at some point, if I want a career in bioneering.”

*Examine: Photo (near outside)*

ZOË:

 “Maybe I'll go back to Cape Town. Or move to Europolis? I've always wanted to do that.”

*Use: Door (outside)*

ZOË:

 “Locked. All that beach and sunshine, and I'm locked inside.”

*Examine: Photo (near chair)*

ZOË:

 “Dad and me, in Casablanca.”

*Examine: Photo (near chair)*

ZOË:

 “Dad's been away a lot, traveling, but we're still very close.”

*Examine: Photo (near chair)*

ZOË:

 “I remember that day. We had one of our dad-and-daughter days. We walked around exploring the city, went to a museum, and then we ate an amazing buffet dinner at the WATI Plaza Hotel downtown.”

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me*

ZOË:

 “Our fifth anniversary. Reza and I took the Vactrax to Norway, and a hydrofoil to Svalbard. We spent a long weekend traveling around the island.”

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me*

ZOË:

 “We always talked about going to Svalbard. It's such an incredible place. So majestic, and so alien. And I was totally geeking out about going inside the Doomsday Vault.”

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me*

ZOË:

 “Five years together. Almost hard to believe. Things have been rocky between us from time to time, it's amazing that we—That we lasted...this long.”

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me*

ZOË:

 “I remember we stayed at the...uh, what was the name of that place again? And where was it? I don't... I don't remember. Any of it.”

 *Reality glitches again.*

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me:*

ZOË:

 “It's weird, but...I remember nothing from the trip, aside from talking to Reza about it, and taking this photo. We were there, and—And we've been together five years. Have-haven't we?”

 *Reality glitches again.*

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me*

ZOË:

 “No. No, this is wrong. This feels all wrong.”

 *Reality glitches again.*

*Pick Up: Picture of Reza and me*

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “We talked about going to Svalbard, but we never did. We broke up, and that trip...it never happened.”

 *The picture becomes static and morphs back into a photo of Zoë and Reza in front of their apartment at Sonnenschein Plaza.*

WONKERS:

 “This isn't helping anyone, Zoë. You're just going to ruin everything. Please stop. Please go back to bed. Go back to sleep, Zoë.”

*Examine: Picture of Reza and me (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “This isn't a real memory.”

*Examine: View*

ZOË:

 “The Atlantic Ocean looks perfectly serene from here. When the megastorms aren't raging, of course. Then...not so much.”

*Examine: View*

ZOË:

 “I wonder where this hospital is located. Must be on one of the quieter beaches in Casablanca. The real estate must cost a fortune.”

*Examine: Picture (near window)*

ZOË:

 “That's me, in Cape Town.”

*Examine: Picture (near window)*

ZOË:

 “This must have been Sandy Bay. Beautiful waters. Carefree days. I miss it.”

*Examine: Picture (near window)*

ZOË:

 “I remember this day vividly. Fine minutes after this picture was taken, there was a sudden influx of naked, seventy-year-old men. And that's when we realised what kind of beach this was.”

*Examine: Card from Karen*

ZOË:

 “It's a card from Karen.”

*Examine: Card from Karen*

ZOË:

 “Karen's nice. She's been a good friend. And she makes great coffee.”

*Examine: Family photo*

 ZOË:

 “Mum, dad and me. That was when we moved to Casablanca.”

*Examine: Family photo*

ZOË:

 “Mum and dad were always moving when I was growing up, because of their jobs. This must have been the fifth or sixth home we moved into.”

*Examine: Family photo*

ZOË:

 “I remember falling in love with the place as soon as we got there. It had all these nooks and crannies, a balcony...and my own room, with an awesome view.”

*Examine: Family photo*

ZOË:

 “There were so many hiding places. Me and...and mum, we played hide and seek, all the time.”

*Examine: Family photo*

ZOË:

 “When she came after me, she would stomp her feet and shout—What was it she'd say again?”

*Examine: Family photo*

ZOË:

 “I—I don't actually remember her voice that well...or her face. Or...that she was there, with dad and me.”

 *Reality glitches again.*

*Examine: Family photo*

ZOË:

 “Mum was—She wasn't—Where was she?”

 *Reality glitches again.*

*Pick Up: Family photo*

*Examine: Family photo (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Helena was never part of our lives. It was just me and dad. She abandoned us when I was an infant.”

 *Helena morphs out of the picture in static.*

*Examine: Family photo (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Helena was never in a family photo. It's a false memory.”

*Once all four inventory items have been examined:*

*The whole hospital room starts to fade out in static.*

ZOË:

“Oh my God...This isn't real. This place is a...a hallucination. Or a projection. I need to get out of here.”

WONKERS:

“Look what you've done. Why couldn't you just leave things be? We could be happy here together. The both of us, forever. I need you to go back to sleep, Zoë. Before it's too late. Before—Look what you've done.”

*Talk to: Wonkers*

ZOË:

“Something's wrong. This place, and...You. You're all wrong. You're not you.”

WONKERS:

“That doesn't make any sense, Zoë. Of course I'm me. I've always been me. Wonkers. Your old friend. Your best friend in the whole world.”

ZOË:

“You look the same, but you don't act the same, and you don't sound the same. It's like...Like someone put you together from memory, but they didn't get the details right. They didn't know you like I know you. And they probably figured it wouldn't matter. That's what's wrong with this whole place. It's made of memories, and some of them are...not right. Europolis, Arcadia... I wasn't dreaming. They were real. This is the dream, or—A dream made physical. By me. I made this! And I can see through it.”

 WONKERS:

 “But...I'm real, Zoë. Aren't I?”

 ZOË:

 “Of course you are, Wonkers. Of course you're real.”

 WONKERS:

 “Are you sure you don't want to play a game? We haven't played a game in so long.”

 ZOË:

 “I'm sorry, Wonkers.”

 WONKERS:

 “Okay, then. Promise to wake me up later?”

 ZOË:

 “I promise.”

 WONKERS:

 “Nighty night.”

 ZOË:

 “I'll miss you, too, buddy.”

*Wonkers fades out. Zoë can see through the illusionary room.*

*Examine: Window*

ZOË:

 “What's this? Is this a one-way window? Have they been observing me? Fuck.”

*Use: Door*

*Zoë finds the door behind the non-existent bed. She opens it and steps out into a white hallway. She makes her way down the hall until she comes to a forcefield. Suspicious, she stretches her arm through and finds it in new clothing. Zoë steps through, seeing that she has been in a white jumpsuit all along. Her head is shaved and has machine ports drilled into it, along with a huge port on her back.*

*Three days ago*

*Bip is eyeing the miniature statue of the Necromancer King in the Administrator's office on Ge'en.*

KIAN:

“Bip! Stop that. It's not a toy. You could kill someone! Someone you don't want to kill.”

ALESSANDRA:

“Send for a healer, you cretins! My legs are broken!”

KIAN:

“What do we do with her?”

HAMI:

“I haven't decided yet. We have enough on Sister Alessandra to perform a summary court martial, execute her. Or we send her to Sadir to stand trial. She'll face death...or worse. A solitary life sentence in the black hole. To be honest, I think that decision should be yours.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Death: *She's murdered thousands, and she believes she's righteous. Nothing will be gained from sparing her life.*

 KIAN:

 “Court martial and execution.”

 HAMI:

 “Very well. Hang her from the tower. May the Goddess have mercy on your dark soul, Alessandra.”

 ALESSANDRA:

 “You can't do this! I have the Council's approval! There are powerful people in charge! You'll all rot in Shadow, I swear to the Goddess! You'll burn! For eternity!”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Ge'en: *She must stand trial, but we don't know what's happening in Sadir. Someone may want to protect her. And we can't bring her with us to Marcuria...*

 KIAN:

 “What if we leave her here?”

 HAMI:

 “Leave her? Do you think that's a good idea, Kian?”

 KIAN:

 “Her crimes are against magicals. Let them decide what to do with her.”

 HAMI:

 “I can't imagine they'll show her any mercy...(Sighs) Very well, Kian. We'll leave Sister Alessandra in the hands of her prisoner. May the Goddess have mercy on her soul.”

 ALESSANDRA:

 “Let me go, you fools! You're doing the Shadow's work. Ow! Goddess help me, it hurts!”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Sadir: *Our people must know the truth. Alessandra needs to stand trial for what she's done, in Sadir.*

KIAN:

 “Let's send her home.”

 HAMI:

 “Good. We'll send a ship back to Azadir as soon as possible. Lock her up and keep her safe. She'll be going home to Sadir.”

 ALESSANDRA:

 “Let me go, you fools. You're doing the Shadow's work! Ow! Goddess help me it hurts!”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HAMI:

“What now, Kian?”

KIAN:

“We go back, and we end this. Can I count on your help?”

HAMI:

“You can. When I followed you here...I had no idea. I had my suspicions. I don't trust Vamon and Sahya. They've been lying to us, and they're planning something. But I was blinded by faith and my trust in the Council. I followed you so that I could arrest you, kill you if necessary. To have my eyes opened this way... A veil's been lifted, all thanks to you.”

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 HAMI:

 “And the Dolmari, of course. Your man Likho.”

HAMI:

“I've failed you. I've failed our nation. And I'm sorry for that, Kian. For distrusting you. I should have known better.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Forgive: *He should've known better than to brand me a traitor...but I understand why he made that mistake.*

 KIAN:

 “I gave you reason to doubt me.”

 HAMI:

 “I'm not so sure about that, Kian. I acted rashly and--”

 KIAN:

 “General. Hami. I forgive you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Forget: *Our friendship may never be the same, but we need to put this behind us and move on.*

 KIAN:

 “Let's forget the past, Hami, and focus instead on the future.”

 HAMI:

 “Agreed. We need to act quickly, before they learn what happened here.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Later: *I'm disappointed in him. He should know me better than to think I would willingly betray my own people...but I won't confront him about it until after the war is won.*

KIAN:

 “We need to move quickly. We have an advantage now, but precious little time.”

 HAMI:

 “I understand.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

“There's one thing I must know...”

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 KIAN:

 “Who told you that Likho and I had gone to Ge'en?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian did not take Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

KIAN:

 “Who told you that I had gone to Ge'en?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HAMI:

“Mother Utana. Don't ask me how she knew. She has her sources. She urged me to follow you.”

KIAN:

“She wanted you to see this with your own eyes.”

HAMI:

“Perhaps so. But how would she know what I'd find here?”

KIAN:

“She trusted me.”

HAMI:

“Yes... Although, if she already knew the truth, why did she say nothing? Wouldn't it have been better to keep me in Marcuria and arrest Vamon and Sahya?”

KIAN:

“I'm sure she had her reasons, Hami. Is your Cloudship ready to bring us back?”

HAMI:

“The fastest ship in the fleet. We'll be there in less than three days.”

KIAN:

“Enough time to lay plans along the way. I need your most trusted men to fight alongside the rebels, against Vamon's troops.”

HAMI:

“They will. There are fewer of us than there are of them, but we have the Light on our side. We'll follow your command, Kian. To the First Mountain, if it be so.”

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

HAMI:

 “What about the Dolmari, Likho?”

 KIAN:

 “He's speaking to the prisoners. He'll accompany us. I'll send for him. Likho will expect his people to be brought back to Marcuria, or given free passage to wherever they want to go.”

 HAMI:

 “I give you my word, as soon as the conflict has been resolved.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian did not take Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 KIAN:

 “What will happen to the prisoners?”

 HAMI:

 “They'll be freed, fed, cared for...They'll need to stay here until the situation in Marcuria has been resolved. After that, we can provide them with passage to wherever they want to go. We owe them that, and much more.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

“We'll have to leave young Bip with his parents, or I'm sure he'll try and sneak on-board our ship. Bip! Time to go!”

*Reapmoon's Eve*

*Sahya and Vamon are speaking to a hooded figure in Sahya's office.*

SAHYA:

“Everything's ready for the ceremony, your Excellency. The engineers have informed me that the Engine is ready. Whenever you wish to begin...”

VAMON:

“My men have been posted around the city, ready to handle any unrest...though I don't expect any. This being Reapmoon's Eve, most of the peasants will be too drunk to pay attention.”

SAHYA:

“Is there anything else you need, Prophet?”

PROPHET:

“You've done all I've asked. With the General away, there will be fewer...distractions to worry about. The Office of Scientific Progress has proven itself a loyal servant to the Goddess. The support in Sadir has been unwavering. I am pleased with your work.”

SAHYA:

“Thank you, Prophet. We live to serve the Goddess.”

PROPHET:

“Where is the First?”

SAHYA:

“In her room, praying for the success of our mission. She did not want to overshadow this ceremony with her presence. Her humility makes her a worthy One of the Six.”

PROPHET:

“You deserve all the glory tonight, Sister. You, and the Commander, of course. When I activate the Engine, a new era will begin. We will shape this world according to the wishes of the Goddess. Magic will finally be eradicated. The transition may cause fear and unrest, for a time, but I trust you to handle this with authority and efficiency.”

SAHYA:

“I must prepare. When I am ready, I'll send word to you. You will have the privilege of telling the people of this city they're witnessing the birth of a new era.”

*The Prophet leaves the room.*

VAMON:

“Hami has returned...with Kian. He's joined the Resistance.”

SAHYA:

“What? Who told you this?”

VAMON:

“They've been trying to recruit my men. Some have turned, though most have not.”

SAHYA:

“Why didn't you inform the Prophet?”

VAMON:

“And have him cast us from the top of the Tower? We'll handle this. The Prophet will never know.”

SAHYA:

“Mother Utana and the First... They can't know either. They might interfere.”

HAMI:

“You take care of them. I will take care of the Resistance, and Hami. Once and for all. Soon, it won't even matter. Tonight, once the Engine is active...”

SAHYA:

“We take control. Yes, I know. I-I just...We didn't need this. Not when we're so close. After all that we've--”

VAMON:

“Don't worry yourself, Sahya. Proceed as planned.”

SAHYA:

“Yes... Yes.”

***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**The Prophet**

**The Prophet has influenced the Azadi Council and the Six for a decade.**

**Claiming to be the voice of the Goddess, her eyes and ears on earth, the Prophet commanded the Azadi to travel across the Great Sea to the Northlands, to occupy Marcuria and begin construction on the massive Tower and the mysterious Engine.**

**The Prophet has paid regular, and usually unannounced visits to both the Emissary in Marcuria and the Six in Sadir. As administrator of the Engine project, Sister Sahya has learned first hand how manipulative and powerful the Prophet is.**

*General Hami is giving a speech on the upper level of The Rooster and Kitten, joined by Kian and either Shepherd or Likho, depending on who is alive. The crowd below contains magicals, a Dolmari woman named Lakel Falk, Azadi, Anna, Ferdows, and may or may not include Enu and Ulvic.*

HAMI:

“Long ago, when I was a boy, exploring the mountains close to my village, I met an old Dolmari man herding his stone-goats. Our two people were officially at war, but there were still Dolmari tribes near our village, and some trade between humans and magicals. The old man spoke with kindness, fed me dried fruits and goats' milk, and told me I had magic in me...just like his grandchildren. When I returned home and told my mother, she commanded me to never speak a word of this to my father. And then she leaned in and whispered something in my ear I'll always remember. Magic, she said, is a part of everything. Magic is in the wind and rain, the stones and the ocean. “It's in me,” my mother said, “and it's in you. You heart, your mind... Your blood.” We've been at war with magic for most of my life. But I've never forgot my mother's whispered words, and I've always felt it in me, felt that magic's a part of me. For deacdes, I've fought it. Denied it. Rejected it. Tonight, that fight ends, and another begins. This is no longer a war between humans and magicals. This is a battle for the very soul of our world. If you will have me, if you accept us, we stand with you all. We fight at your side.”

KIAN:

“Tonight, we put aside our differences, our history, our grievances, and we stand united, as one. Humans and magicals. Azadi and Northlanders. We're all Arcadians. Our eyes have been opened to the truth of what's being done to magicals. The Prophet has deceived the Azadi people. The Engine is a weapon aimed at us all. We don't yet know what this ceremony will bring, but if we don't act tonight, in the face of death, we shall live to regret it tomorrow. General Hami will lead sorties against Vamon's men, force their surrender and push through to the Commander and Sister Sahya. Those who refuse to lay down their arms, we fight. As hard as it will be to strike at your own brothers, there's no other choice. Your goal is to apprehend Sahya and Vamon. Alive, if possible. Dead, if necessary. You'll take your commands from the General. Any misgivings you may have must be put to rest now. I trust Hami with my life, and tonight so shall you.”

*If Kian did not return the pipe worker's tools in Chapter 6:*

KIAN:

 “Anik will lead a team to Cold Stone to free Ulvic and the imprisoned rebels – along with Benrime Salmin, who risked her life aiding the resistance.”

KIAN:

“The Engine must be destroyed. We don't know what it's truly for or how it works, but the Prophet means to reshape the world using its powers. This isn't magic. It's something darker than sorcery. Something older and infinitely more dangerous. Let's stop it. Let's stop them all from destroying our world. From destroying magic. Let's do this in the memory of our absent comrades.”

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

KIAN:

 “Shepherd, Bob-who-can-see...”

*If Kian did not take Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

KIAN:

 “Likho, Bob-who-can-see...”

*If Na'ane is imprisoned or dead:*

KIAN:

 “Enu...”

KIAN:

“There's been enough death. Come back alive. You've received your assignments. Prepare to move out. And when this night is over, let's all return here to watch the sun rise on a new Marcuria.”

*The crowd disbands and prepares.*

HAMI:

“You know what to do, Kian?”

KIAN:

“Ferdows will shut down the Engine from the control room near the Green. In order to do that, he needs me inside the Tower.”

HAMI:

“You'll go alone?”

KIAN:

“I've been inside before. It'll be easier on my own.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

KIAN:

 “Anna and Enu will escort Ferdows and keep him safe.”

*If Na'ane is imprisoned or dead:*

 KIAN:

 “Anna will escort Ferdows and keep him safe.”

HAMI:

“I wish we could fight side by side tonight, but your task is more important...and more perilous.”

KIAN:

“You'll have the resistance by your side.”

HAMI:

“I couldn't ask for better company. My men won't flinch from their duty. When they learned what was being done to the nonhumans, what the camps were for...I wish there was time to spread the truth further, but instead we're forced to fight our own. We can only hope that most choose to surrender, rather than remain loyal to Vamon.”

KIAN:

“I'm sure they will, once they find themselves facing you. Civil war is a terrible thing, Hami. Most men shy from it. I don't envy you your task tonight.”

HAMI:

“We do what we must...Goddess protect you, Kian. If all goes well, we'll talk again soon.”

KIAN:

“We shall.”

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *Examine: Likho*

KIAN:

 “He's been hard on himself for going with me to Ge'en. And maybe he could've saved Shepherd...but chances are Likho would've died in the attack.”

 *Examine: Likho*

KIAN:

 “We fight different fights tonight, Likho and I. I'll...miss his company. Yes, it's a surprise to me, too.”

 *Talk to: Likho*

LIKHO:

 “That was a good speech. They will follow you to their deaths, if necessary.”

 KIAN:

 “I hope that won't be needed. It's enough to know that we stand united. It's what we've been fighting for. And I no longer have to feel torn between two worlds.”

 *If Kian got close to Likho on the cloudship:*

KIAN:

 “Thank you for trusting me, Likho. For...convincing me to bring you to Ge'en. I—I consider you my brother, Likho. Stay safe tonight.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 LIKHO:

 “Alright. Everyone looks ready. Let's do this.”

 *If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

KIAN:

 “For Shepherd.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Na'ane is imprisoned or dead:*

 KIAN:

 “For Shepherd. For Enu.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

LIKHO:

 “For Shepherd. For Bob-who-can-see. For all who were lost.”

 *If Kian got close to Likho on the cloudship:*

LIKHO:

 “For family.”

 KIAN:

 “Family.”

 LIKHO:

 “Take care, brother. May your Goddess smile upon you tonight.”

*If Kian did not take Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *Examine: Shepherd*

 KIAN:

 “Shepherd still blames herself for keeping Likho here...but it was my doing. And if he'd gone with me to Ge'en, she'd be dead now.”

 *Examine: Shepherd*

KIAN:

 “She's staying here to help tend to the wounded, and to coordinate the attacks.”

 *Speak to: Shepherd*

 SHEPHERD:

 “I'm grateful to your Goddess for bringing you back to me, Kian. Unharmed, in time to fight alongside your sisters and brothers.”

 KIAN:

 “I'm sorry for defying you, Shepherd.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Sorry? Child, you did the right thing! I was blinded by fear. I just wish Likho had disobeyed me and gone to Ge'en, instead of--”

 DIALOGUE CHOICES:

 Dead: *If he had, Shepherd would be dead.*

KIAN:

 “Then you would not be standing here tonight.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Perhaps. But he would be alive to fight tonight. What can I do?”

 KIAN:

 “Look around. Humans and magicals coming together. This wouldn't have happened without you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 Alive: *If Likho had joined me on Ge'en, he'd probably be alive.*

KIAN:

 “He is missed.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Most of all by me. He died to protect me, though I'm not sure it was a sacrifice worth making. Without Likho, victory tonight is far from certain...”

 KIAN:

 “And without you, we might not be here. You've brought humans and magicals together.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 Silence: *There's nothing I can say to ease her guilt.*

 SHEPHERD:

 “But so be it. We all make our choices, and live with the consequences.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 SHEPHERD:

 “Likho would have been proud to fight alongside you, Kian. And I am proud to call you my friend. You've come a long way from the broken man who arrived in the Enclave, many months ago.”

 KIAN:

 “You belived in me, Shephered. That's what saved me.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “I played only a small part. You began believing in yourself. That's what mattered the most. May your Goddess continue to watch over you. We need all the help we can get, from all the deities that watch over our mortal realms. Go now. Fight! Save us all from chaos.”

 *Talk to: Shepherd*

 SHEPHERD:

 “Anna awaits your instructions. They will not leave before you've spoken to them.”

 *Talk to: Shepherd*

SHEPHERD:

 “I'll stay here and help tend to the wounded. I won't be much good to you out there.”

 *Talk to: Shepherd*

SHEPHERD:

 “Go. Do what must be done, Kian. We shall speak again, soon.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

 *Examine: Enu*

KIAN:

 “If Na'ane hadn't been around to heal Enu... I don't want to think about what might have happened.”

 *Examine: Enu*

KIAN:

 “She was seriously hurt in the raid on the Enclave, but I can't tell. Na'ane did a good job. And Enu is tough.”

 *Examine: Enu*

 KIAN:

 “I'm glad Enu's with us, tonight. We need her.”

 *Talk to: Enu*

 ENU:

 “That was a really good speech. I'm sure someone's going to put that in a play some day. You know, one of those stirring, heroic monologues before the final act. Before...everyone...dies. I'm not saying everyone's going to die! I'm just saying--”

 *If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 ENU:

 “Shepherd. She would've approved.”

 KIAN:

 “I hope so.”

 ENU:

 “Oh, she would. She knew you'd step up and take over one day. And she...cared for you. As, you know, a friend! I don't think Shepherd would—I mean, you...and her? With you, y'know, and her, y'know? Major, major compatibility issues.”

 KIAN:

 “When this is over, we'll honor her memory.”

 ENU:

 “I'm sure Shepherd would care more about us seeing this through than being memorialized. She stayed behind when her people left the Northlands to give us magicals a chance of winning. Of surviving. That's all that mattered to her.”

 KIAN:

 “Tonight's for Shepherd.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian did not take Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

ENU:

 “Likho... Likho would have approved.”

 KIAN:

 “I hope so.”

 ENU:

 “Oh, I know so. He had so much respect for you, even though you boys...I'm not saying he liked you, but there was respect. He wasn't actually going to kill you, you know, after...this. That was just Likho being Likh--”

 KIAN:

 “Likho. I know. When this if over, we'll honour his memory.”

 ENU:

 “I think he'd care a lot more about us winning the war than receiving a nice eulogy.”

 KIAN:

 “Tonight is for Likho, then.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 KIAN:

 “For Bob-who-can-see. For all who were lost.”

 ENU:

 “And for those of us still alive. Let's not forget those of us still alive.”

 KIAN:

 “For all of us.”

 ENU:

 “Yeah...I'm really scared. I mean, I wouldn't tell anyone else, but I really am. I do not want to die. I know I keep telling people I'm ready to die, but--”

 KIAN:

 “I know. And I can't tell you that won't happen. Because it might.”

 ENU:

 “Great. Good to know. Very comforting. If I do die, then at least I died for something. Right? Something important. My life had meaning. That's...something. Right? Right. Well. Good luck, Kian. What is it your people say? I hope your Goddess smiles on you. And, to be honest, on me as well. I mean, she's not my Goddess, but I'd still appreciate a smile. Just the tiniest smirk. And maybe a wink. Basically, any kind of acknowledgment will do. I want to be in good standing with all gods, goddesses and non-gendered deities tonight.”

 *Talk to: Enu*

ENU:

 “You should talk to Anna. She's itching to head out as soon as you give the word. I'll do my best to help her and Ferdows do whatever they need to do.”

 *Talk to: Enu*

ENU:

 “Kian...please be nice to Anna? I know you two have history, and that it's complicated and stuff, and—Well. Be nice? Be gentle.”

 *Talk to: Enu*

 ENU:

 “You okay? You look a bit worried. I know, I know, big night, everything's at stake, failure not an option, blah blah blah. Cheer up! We'll endure. I know we will.”

 *Talk to: Enu*

ENU:

 “I...uh. Look, you're one of my best friends, Kian. Is that weird? I don't care. Whatever happens, that won't change. I trust you, completely. Everyone does.”

 *Talk to: Enu*

 ENU:

 “Go on! Don't waste time talking to me! We have a war to win!”

*If Kian returned the pipe worker's tools in Chapter 6:*

 *Examine: Ulvic*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic's put everything on the line for us. And he'll lose it all if we lose the fight.”

 *Examine: Ulvic*

KIAN:

 “He's been an invaluable ally. I owe him so much. I hope I can repay him some day.”

 *Talk to: Ulvic*

ULVIC:

 “I'll join Anik's team going into Cold Stone. If we can free the imprisoned rebels, we'll improve our chances. And if Benrime's still alive...I want to bring her home.”

 *Talk to: Ulvic*

ULVIC:

 “I'll see you in the morning, Kian. I'll prepare the mother of all breakfasts to celebrate our victory. And the ale's on me! At least the first round.”

 *Talk to: Ulvic*

ULVIC:

 “When this is over, I'm selling this place, buying a ship and heading south again to find my princess. I've had enough excitement! I want to feel the sun on my face and sand between my toes.”

 *If Na'ane is imprisoned:*

 *Talk to: Ulvic*

ULVIC:

 “It's a shame Enu isn't here to fight with us, but I hear she's doing much better. I'm sure Na'ane had to tie her to her bed to keep her from joining the battle!”

 *If Na'ane is dead:*

 *Talk to: Ulvic*

ULVIC:

“I pray that Enu pulls through. Fighting this battle without her feels like crossing an ocean without the stars to guide us. She keeps us true to our course.”

 *Talk to: Ulvic*

ULVIC:

 “Balance watch over you, Kian. You're a good man and a great leader. We'll follow you, wherever you choose to lead us.”

*Examine: Ferdows*

 KIAN:

 “So much is on that man's shoulders tonight. I hope they're stronger than they look. Those shoulders don't look very strong.”

*Examine: Ferdows*

 KIAN:

 “It's a good thing Hami had Ferdows hidden in a safe place, away from Vamon and Sahya. Without him, we wouldn't have much of a plan tonight.”

*Examine: Ferdows*

KIAN:

 “Ferdows will help us shut down the Engine. If we accomplish that, then the battle is half won.”

*Examine: Rebel*

KIAN:

“I'm proud of them. After the raid on the Enclave, I wouldn't have blamed them for giving up. But here they are, ready to finish the fight.”

*Examine: Rebel*

KIAN:

 “I'll pray for them, every single one of them.”

*Examine: Soldier*

KIAN:

 “Hami's men stand with us. But too many are still loyal to Vamon. It'll be brother against brother tonight.”

*Examine: Soldier*

KIAN:

 “They will stay true to our side, no matter what.”

*Talk to: Rebel [closest to the stairs]*

REBEL:

 “I stand with you, Kian. And I'm not the only one. Look around, these men and women would all lay down their lives for you.”

*Talk to: Rebel [closest to the stairs]*

REBEL:

 “If you trust the Azadi general and his men, so shall we. I'll follow him into battle, and fight alongside the Azadi.”

*Talk to: Rebel [closest to the stairs]*

REBEL:

 “Best of luck tonight, Kian. We'll see each other in the morning, and we'll celebrate our victory. With ale. Lots and lots of ale.”

*Talk to: Rebel [female]*

REBEL:

 “I—I'm sorry I ever doubted you. What you did for those poor prisoners on Ge'en... I'll follow you into the fires of the seven hells, if you ask me to.”

*Talk to: Rebel [female]*

REBEL:

 “After the massacre in the Enclave, I wanted to lay down my sword, leave Marcuria...but not anymore. Now I know what we're fighting for.”

*Talk to: Rebel [female]*

REBEL:

 “Thanks for giving us one last chance at victory, Alvane. Whether we live or die tonight, we do it with honour, and we do it for a reason.”

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *Talk to: Rebel [female]*

REBEL:

 “When we lost Shepherd and the others, I thought it was all over, that we'd never be able to recover. I'm glad I was wrong.”

*If Kian did not take Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *Talk to: Rebel [female]*

REBEL:

 “When we lost Likho and the others, I didn't think the Resistance would survive. They're all missed, but we're still here, thank the Balance.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

 SOLDIER:

 “If we'd known what they were doing to the magicals, we would've refused to take orders from Commander Vamon. They've shamed the Empire, him and Sister Sahya.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

 “We will gladly fight alongside the resistance in order to right the wrongs that have been committed here, Apostle. I harbour no ill will towards them, neither human nor nonhuman.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

 SOLDIER:

 “Light be with you, Apostle. And Goddess help those who walk with the Shadow tonight!”

*Examine: Anna*

KIAN:

 “We haven't had a chance to speak since that night I left for Ge'en. It's been...awkward.”

*Examine: Anna*

KIAN:

 “Alayna... I didn't recognize her. I wouldn't have, if she hadn't told me. So many years ago...”

*Examine: Anna*

KIAN:

 “All these years she's been looking for me. And now I've let her down. How can I fix that?”

*Talk to: Anna*

KIAN:

“Anna. Alayna. We haven't--”

ANNA:

“Yeah, it's fine, I'm not--”

KIAN:

“--talked, and—Sorry. What were you saying?”

ANNA:

“Nothing. Uh, don't worry about it, Kian. Really. I'm glad you're back and in one piece. We have a job to do. We can...talk. After.”

KIAN:

“Good. Yes. After. We really should--”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

ANNA:

 “Enu and I will escort Ferdows to the Engine house in the Green. We'll watch over him while he does...whatever it is that he needs to do.”

*If Na'ane is imprisoned or dead:*

 ANNA:

 “I'll escort Ferdows to the Engine house in the Green, and watch over him while he does...whatever it is he needs to do.”

ANNA:

“Kian, are you sure we can trust him?”

KIAN:

“Do we have a choice? Yes. I believe we can.”

ANNA:

“Okay. He'll be ready when you've found your way into the Tower.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Mother Utana: *Something Hami said... Utana learned of my trip to Ge'en from 'a trusted source'. I wonder...*

KIAN:

 “Did you tell Utana about Ge'en?”

 ANNA:

 “I—Alright, yes, yes, I did, it was—I did it to help you! I trust the Mother. I always have, ever since—Well. You know. You and her, you saved my life, half a lifetime ago. I'm sorry for trying to help.”

 KIAN:

 “If you hadn't told Utana, I'd be dead now. So...thank you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Move on: *Whether she is Utana's 'trusted source' or not, it doesn't matter now. We have other concerns.*

KIAN:

 “Thank you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ANNA:

“That's it? “Thank you”? We might never see each other again, and—”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Kiss the girl: *I can't give her what she desires most...but I can still grant her a kiss.*

ANNA:

 “Hey, woah. What?”

 KIAN:

 “I'm just trying to--”

 ANNA:

 “No. Just...no. That's not--”

 KIAN:

 “Sorry.”

 ANNA:

 “Don't do that. I am sorry for—All right. Uh...”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Reassure the girl: *I can't give her everything she's hoping for, but I can at least say something to make her feel better.*

KIAN:

 “We'll see each other again.”

 ANNA:

 “Really? Well, if you say so. You have a lot to learn about women, Kian. But I guess I shouldn't be surprised.”

 KIAN:

 “Alayna--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Silence: *Words can never bridge the gap between us...*

ANNA:

 “Anyway. I guess this is it.”

 KIAN:

 “Alayana. I'm--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

FERDOWS:

“Are we leaving soon? Because if we wait much longer, I'm afraid I'll just curl up into a ball and be of no use to anyone.”

ANNA:

“The streets are crowded with revelers and the Azadi are staying out of their way. There's no better time. This whole Reaping thing is giving them the willies. It's way too pagan for our pious occupiers.”

KIAN:

“I'll find a way into the heart of the Tower.”

ANNA:

“And we'll stand by and wait for you to contact us.”

KIAN:

“You still believe you can shut the Engine down remotely, Ferdows?”

FERDOWS:

“With your help, unless they've disconnected the pipes...Yes, I believe so. I know they're still waiting on the final calculations to be sent to the Tower, so if we hurry--”

KIAN:

“Then let's not waste any more time.”

FERDOWS:

“Just get inside the Tower, find the Engine and contact us via speaking tube. I'll walk you through the steps needed for me to take control, and then I'll force the Engine to crash.

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

KIAN, ANNA AND ENU:

 *“*Crash?”

 ENU:

 “What's happening now, why are we all saying 'crash', has there been an accident?”

*If Na'ane is dead or imprisoned:*

KIAN AND ANNA:

 “Crash?”

FERDOWS:

“If we feed it the wrong instructions, the Engine stops working. Like a Cloudship that, uh, that crashes. Into a mountainside. It's complicated...but really quite easy.”

KIAN:

“We'll have to take your word for it.”

FERDOWS:

“I've worked on the Engine for years. I know how it operates.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

 ENU:

 “Are you guys ready? I'm so ready! I mean, not really, because I have no idea what we're doing, but I'm as ready as I'll ever be. Not that I feel ready, I prefer fighting an enemy I can see and I don't understand what this Engine is or how Ferdows plans to stop it or what it's doing but...So, how about it, guys?”

ANNA:

“Let's go. Be safe, Kian. If you die, I'll be very cross with you.”

*Kian goes outside the inn. Marcuria is dark and rainy, but there are drunken celebrators, bonfires and there is music playing everywhere. A woman named Christine can be seen behind the Rooster and Kitten. A man named Ruben Andre' Breiseth can be seen in front of the bonfire near the tavern. A man named Martin Joakim Ulstein can be seen near the bonfire blocking the marketplace. A man named Kevin Clark and a man named Jordan can be seen in front of the bonfire near the fountain at the Benefactor's Gate. A man named Dr. Damian Schmidt can be seen in front of the fountain. A woman named Adaya Rotman can be seen near the fountain in front of the path up to the green. A man named Ralf Ruck is sitting on a picnic table at the edge of the fountain plaza. A man named Adrian Lam is in line for the ceremony. A man named Ali and a man named Simon Christiansen can be seen at the bonfire at the end of the green before going down to the fountain.*

MALE REVELER:

“Cheers, everyone! Bottoms up! The next round's on me! Reapmoon!”

WOMEN HAVING SEX:

“Aaah! Ah! Oh! Ohh! Oh, yeah, come on, don't stop, give it to me, that's it! That's it, keep going! Oh, Gods, that feels great!”

*Examine: Reveler*

KIAN:

 “Reapmoon's Eve must be very important to Marcurians, if they're willing to make such fools of themselves.”

*Examine: Reveler*

KIAN:

 “Everyone's drunk, uninhibited, agitated... This could go very wrong, very quickly.”

*Examine: Uncouth Reveler*

KIAN:

 “Goddess... The Reapmoon appears to turn man into beast.”

*Examine: Uncouth Reveler*

KIAN:

 “They've lost all vestiges of self-control. It's painful to watch.”

*Examine: Uncouth Reveler*

KIAN:

 “Disgraceful...”

MALE REVELER:

“Watch the Wicker Witch burn! Let the witch burn!”

*Examine: Burning pyre*

KIAN:

 “If burning wicker witches makes people feel safer...then so be it. I won't stand in their way. As long as they keep to burning straw puppets.”

*Examine: Burning pyre*

KIAN:

 “All this burning is sure to end in disaster at some point.”

*Talk to: Reveler (Male)*

REVELER:

 “I can't believe it's Reapmoon already! I've been counting the days and now it's here. I hardly know what to do with myself!”

*Talk to: Reveler (Male)*

REVELER:

 “This is my first Reapmoon's Eve in Marcuria, and it's even better than I imagined. Look around. It's amazing, isn't it?”

*Talk to: Reveler (Male)*

 REVELER:

 “Why aren't you dancing and drinking? We need to light more things on fire! Come on, man!”

FEMALE REVELER:

“Who's up for a dance, then? Come on, let's dance!”

FEMALE REVELER:

“Reapmoon's Eve is here! Five cheers for the Reaping! Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzz—oh, fill my cup up with wine.”

FEMALE REVELER:

“Light it up! Go on, mate! Light it on fire!”

FEMALE REVELER:

“Let her burn! Let the witch burn!”

FEMALE REVELER:

“Reapin's Greetings! Oi! You! Did you hear me? Reaping's Greetings!”

*Talk to: Reveler (Female)*

REVELER:

 “Hey! Where are you going, eh? Where's the rush? Come on, don't be a dullard! Let's dance, drink and be merry!”

*Talk to: Reveler (Female)*

REVELER:

 “Hello, tall and handsome! Ever heard the saying 'what happens on Reapmoon's Eve stay' – oh, wait – something like that! Fancy a – no? Are you sure? All right, then.”

*Talk to: Reveler (Female)*

 REVELER:

 “I heard there'll be plenty of free wine and roast wild pig at the ceremony. I can't say I care too much about the stuck-up Azadi and their silly old Prophet, or roast pig, but free wine! I'm in!”

SOLDIER:

“This bloody night will never end...I'll dig wells in the endless desert before I volunteer for duty in Marcuria during Reapmoon ever again.”

SOLDIER:

“If they're lucky, they'll burn the city to the ground, and then we can all go home.”

SOLDIER:

“Goddess damned heretics and their pagan rituals...”

*Examine: Soldier*

KIAN:

 “I don't envy them their guard duty tonight. I don't think they're enjoying the festival much.”

*Examine: Soldier*

KIAN:

 “They've been told to keep vigilant, but to not interfere with the festivities. I'm sure they'd rather be in their barracks.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

 “Move along. Move along.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

 “Happy Reapmoon's Eve.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

 “Go on, please. Not tonight.”

*Talk to: Reveler (on the fountain)*

REVELER:

 Oh, blasted Reapmoon. Everyone's drunk and so desperate to be drunk. It makes me absolutely miserable. This is an absolutely miserable night.”

*Talk to: Reveler (on the fountain)*

REVELER:

 “Wait a minute. Now you look positively sober. At least the drinking dulls the senses.”

*Talk to: Reveler (on the fountain)*

REVELER:

 “The harvest's been terrible this year. The weather's been too dry, and the Azadi have ravaged the city and absolved it of magicals.”

FEMALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“What's going on?”

FEMALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“We'll miss the start of the ceremony!”

FEMALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“Get a move on up there!”

MALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“When's the ceremony starting? They can't start before everyone's had a chance to get in! Why don't you let the rest of us go first?”

MALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“They're gonna burn this city to the ground!”

MALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“Keep this up and the Azadi are going to arrest you all for public drunkenness in the midday. What'll it be? Fuck you, mate!”

MALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“If you run out of wine before we get there, you'll have a riot on your hands!”

MALE REVELER NEAR QUEUE:

“You're all gonna regret this in the morning, mark my words!”

*Talk to: Reveler (in queue)*

REVELER:

 “This is so exciting. I love ceremonies!”

*Talk to: Reveler (in queue)*

REVELER:

 “I heard their prophet is going to be there as well. Maybe we'll finally get to see what he looks like?”

*Talk to: Reveler (in queue)*

REVELER:

 “I wish they'd get this line moving soon. I really have to pee.”

*Examine: Queue*

KIAN:

 “They're lining up for the ceremony in Tower Square. They must be curious.”

*Examine: Queue*

KIAN:

 “If they're willing to stand in line on Reapmoon's Eve, foregoing the celebrations... Everyone wants to witness the ceremony. Or perhaps there's free wine and food.”

SOLDIER (NEAR GATE):

“Calm down everyone, you'll get through before the ceremony begins!”

SOLDIER (NEAR GATE):

“Anyone caught jumping the line will be sent to the back.”

SOLDIER (NEAR GATE):

“There's no rush. The ceremony's not even starting yet. Just stay in line and have your papers ready.”

MAN IN FRONT OF LINE:

“That's me, I swear!”

SOLDIER:

“This says 'Amon'.”

MAN:

“Right.”

SOLDIER:

“But she called you Oldar.”

MAN:

“That's my middle name. See? That 'O' right there? After Amon and before Elden? That's my middle name.”

SOLDIER:

“Your name is Amono Elden.”

MAN:

“No, no! It's Amon. Amon Oldar Elden! Oldar!”

SOLDIER:

“It doesn't say 'Oldar' anywhere.”

MAN:

“But--”

SOLDIER:

“Sorry, can't let you in.”

MAN:

“Why?”

SOLDIER:

“Because these clearly aren't your papers.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

You're here for the ceremony? Get in line, friend. Everyone will get through eventually.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

 “Go on, back of the line. Soon as we've checked your papers, you can go through to the Tower Square.”

*Talk to: Soldier*

SOLDIER:

 “Are you deaf? Back of the line!”

*Examine: Gate*

 KIAN:

“The guards are checking everyone going through the Benefactors Gate to the ceremony in Tower Square.”

*Examine: Gate*

KIAN:

 “They must be worried about the resistance sabotaging the event. They’re right to worry.”

*Examine: Pyre*

KIAN:

 “The Wicker Witch is always burned on Reapmoon's Eve. Why, I have no idea, and I'm not sure anyone knows. It's an ancient tradition.”

*Examine: Pyre*

KIAN:

 “Hatred of magic and magicals goes back much, much further than our people's arrival in the Northlands. There's always been a divide, and racial violence.”

MAN ON ELGWAN:

“Good elgwan, nice elgwan, soft...well, anyway, good elgwan. You're such a good elgwan! I love you. I love you so much. We'll ride off into the wild, just you and me. We'll have so many adventures. We'll see the world! And my wife...my wife can go fuck herself. Of course, she won't have to fuck herself, will she? Because that gods damned, two-timing wife stealing Quinn is already doing it for her! You'd never screw around on me, would you? Course not. Cause you – you are a true friend. So it's just you and me now. You and me forever and ever. Forever and ever...and ever. Ever...”

*Kian approaches the center of the green. What was the first wicker witch in the city when he was last in Marcuria now has a cage on top of it with a large black bird in it. Onor Hileriss is holding a torch and is preaching to a crowd seated on the steps.*

ONOR:

“Gather round, friends! Gather round. A most joyful Reapmoon's Eve to you all. Witness! A magial abomination has appeared among us on this holiest of holy nights. It's an affront to decency and humanity. A foul, feathered, chattering...Fowl!”

CROW:

“Okay. Joke's on me. Open this cage right now.”

ONOR:

“It speaks with the voice of the great necromancer!”

CROW:

“The voice of that what now?”

ONOR:

“Hold your breath, feathered servant of the Shadow! Keep your obscene beak shut!”

CROW:

“Can't argue with the 'obscene beak' bit, but I'm not liking this whole bonfire thing you've got going on. I smell charred feathers.”

ONOR:

“Soon, the grand ceremony begins, and the great Engine ushers in a new age of reason, logic and humanity...and an end to sorcery! We cannot let this foul heresy poison the night with its squawks and feathery filth. This false fowl mocked me once before, and caused a fellow follower, a fair friend of the cause, great physical pain and discomfort. The man may never be able to drink without dribbling again, all because of this...this freak of nature! I, Onor Hileriss, candidate and faithful servant of humanity, will personally light the bonfire to rid Marcuria of this final remnant of diseased magic, honouring our ancient human traditions and--”

WOMAN:

“You gibbering coward! When are you going to shut up and just go away? People are sick and tired of your racist tirades! If anyone here should be burned on that bonfire, it's you! Killing that poor bird is the complete opposite of what the Reaping's all about. How dare you claim to represent humanity when there's nothing human about you at all?”

CROW:

“Hear, hear!”

WOMAN:

“And you! You're supposed to be keeping the peace, aren't you? When were you planning to put a stop to this? Are you just going to let that madman burn birds and incite violence in the city you've sworn to protect?”

GUARD:

“We do not intervene in local tradition, madam.”

CROW:

“Oh, do intervene. No one here would mind it one bit, I'm sure.”

WOMAN:

“Local tradition? Local tradition? This farce has absolutely nothing to do with local tradition! We don't burn poor, defenseless animals on bonfires on Reapmoon's Eve!”

GUARD:

“Well, it's not an animal, is it?”

WOMAN:

“What?”

GUARD:

“I mean, it's a magical. It's a talking bird. Not an animal...per se.”

CROW:

“Technically, the man is not wrong. I'll give him that.”

WOMAN:

“Of course it's an animal! Magical or not, it's a living creature, and you should put a stop to this right now!”

CROW:

“Uh, yeah, what she said!”

GUARD:

“Sorry madam, but unless an actual human is being harmed, we cannot intervene.”

WOMAN:

“Ruddy coward! That goes for the lot of you, especially that pig! Cowards!”

CROW:

“Help! Hello? Help me?”

CROW:

“Over here!”

CROW:

“Hey! Big guy!”

CROW:

“Eyes on the bird! Up here!”

CROW:

“I know you can hear me! I see your ears twitching!”

*Examine: Bird cage*

KIAN:

 “There's a bird. A caged bird. In a bird's cage.”

*Examine: Bird cage*

KIAN:

 “What's that poor bird doing on the pyre? Animal murder has nothing to do with the Reaping.”

*Talk to: Crow*

KIAN:

 “What do you want, bird? I-I don't have time for--”

 CROW:

 “I know you. I've seen engravings. You're Kian!”

 KIAN:

 “Keep your voice down! Where did you see those engravings?”

 CROW:

 “I spent some time in Sadir. I'm Crow, friend of April Ryan and Zoë Castillo--”

 KIAN:

 “You were a friend of April?”

 CROW:

 “Friend, partner, sidekick. I came back to Marcuria to find you, believe it or not! And since you're the reason I'm in this predicament, you have to help me! And quickly, because soon, if things go the way they appear to be going, I'll be very, very hot.”

 KIAN:

 “I'm sorry, bird, but I need to find a way into the Tower, and time is running--”

 CROW:

 “The Tower? The Azadi tower? Big, white, cloud-piercing edifice? I know a way into the Tower! A secret way. Get me out of this death trap, and I'll get you inside the Tower, I swear on my hatchling nest!”

 KIAN:

 “If you're lying, I'll snap your scrawny neck.”

 CROW:

 “Cross my beak and hope to die. Which is a distinct possibility. Quickly, now. That madman won't orate forever.”

*Examine: Bird cage*

KIAN:

 “The bird's stuck in there, and the pyre will soon be lit. If I do nothing, he will burn. And with him, my one chance at getting into the Tower, however remote it may be.”

*Examine: Bird cage*

KIAN:

 “I need to save the bird.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “What are you doing? Don't talk to me, find a way to save me!”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “I have nothing to contribute to this, other than...get me out of this cage, now!”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “You're wasting precious time! Stop the burning! Save the bird!”

*Examine: Onor Hileriss*

KIAN:

 “That...man again. When will he ever shut up?”

*Examine: Onor Hileriss*

KIAN:

 “He's a despicable little worm, afraid of his own shadow.”

*Examine: Onor Hileriss*

KIAN:

 “The world will be a better place without Onor Hileriss.”

ONOR:

“Humanity, honour, humility. Certain poor, misguided individuals seem to be of the opinion that we should be protecting magicals, rather than protecting humanity against magicals. But what sort of madness is that? What would incite a respectable woman to stand up and make a fool of herself in a crowd of decent, hardworking men in order to defend a magical? I'll tell you what. Sorcery. Dark sorcery, the-the shadow, the magical immigrant, necromancy! That's what. Before we burn this bird, let me tell you a few things about the magical...”

ONOR:

“Magicals are diseased things! They may be pleasing in appearance, some of them. Some may even be said to be, uh, beautiful. But they are carriers of foul fevers and sorcerous contagions!”

ONOR:

“Nonhumans have lower intelligence, less compassion and empathy than humans. It's a scientific fact! Learned scholars have measured skulls and come to this conclusion. You can look it up in books!”

ONOR:

“Soon, though, I shall put my torch to this pyre, and we shall watch the bird burn, along with this pagan symbol of witchcraft and wizardry – the Wicker Witch of the North! Death to magic! Death to magicals!”

ONOR:

“As we all know, I'm running for office in the city watch, where I can personally supervise the hunt for nonhumans and magic in Marcuria! When I'm elected, there shall be nightly burnings!”

ONOR:

“I, Onor Hileriss, pledge to you, the good people of Marcuria, that I will leave no cobblestone unturned, no cellar door unlocked, no privy unexplored to find the last remnants of magic in our fair city!”

ONOR:

“The only way to rid the world of magic is to burn it, to burn it with fire! The fire cleanses, the fire destroys the contagion. The fire brings the light of goodness to us all! And we shall embrace it!”

ONOR:

“This bird is only the meager beginnings of our crusade! We've been soft on magicals, and we've been soft on those who support sorcery and harbor nonhumans! No more! That ends tonight, with cleansing fire!”

*Talk to: Onor Hileriss*

ONOR:

 “Come to witness the burning of the necromancer's minion, have you? There's always room for one more witness!”

*Talk to: Onor Hileriss*

ONOR:

 “Stand over there, my good man. Keep your distance. This fire will burn and it will burn fierce.”

*Talk to: Onor Hileriss*

ONOR:

 “Sorry, what? I'm rather preoccupied. I have a sorcerous beast to slay and potential voters to woo. Perhaps we can speak later, eh?”

*Examine: Crowd*

KIAN:

 “I don't think they're here to hear him speak. They're just drawn to spectacle likes moths to, well, to fire.”

*Examine: Crowd*

KIAN:

 “The crowd's fired up. They're hoping for a show. Maybe I can provide them with one...”

*Examine: Guard*

KIAN:

 “He should get involved. That's what they're here for. But there's no sympathy for magical creatures.”

*Examine: Guard*

KIAN:

 “He obviously wishes he was elsewhere.”

*Examine: Kindling*

KIAN:

 “This must be the kindling they use to start the pyre.”

*Examine: Kindling*

KIAN:

 “Perhaps I can use this for something...”

*Use: Kindling*

 KIAN:

 “This seems like an obvious target for sabotage.”

***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

***Use: Pitchfork***

**KIAN:**

**“I could use this to grab the bird’s cage, but I’d be spotted immediately. And I can’t risk sabotaging tonight’s mission.”**

***Use: Pitchfork***

**KIAN:**

**“No, I need to find a way to remove Hileriss and the crowd of onlookers before I can grab the cage.”**

*If Zoë let Brian stay in the Abode in Chapter 9:*

 *Examine: Burning building*

KIAN:

 “What a tragedy. And the soldiers are just looking the other way.”

 *Examine: Burning building*

KIAN:

 “That must be the work of Hileriss's goons.”

 MAN:

 “Onor said to burn it, so we burn it! Anyone has a problem with that? Thought not! Look at it burn! It's so pretty! Burn it to the ground! Burn the bewitched place to the ground!”

*Examine: Beer keg*

KIAN:

 “'The Merry Minstrum'. Plenty of bitter beer for Reapmoon's Eve. From the state of the revelers, I can't imagine there's much left in those barrels.”

*Examine: Beer keg*

KIAN:

 “Marcuria's most popular beer. Strangely enough.”

*Use: Beer keg*

KIAN:

 “Empty. Not surprising.”

*Examine: Flagon*

KIAN:

 “Filthy as sin, all of them. They reek of foul spirits and human sick. Welcome to Reapmoon's Eve.”

*Examine: Flagon*

KIAN:

 “Empty flagons. Empty, filthy flagons.”

*Pick up: Flagon*

KIAN:

 “Which one's least filthy? No, they're all filthy. I feel unclean.”

*Examine: Empty flagon* [in inventory]

 KIAN:

 “There's a hard crust lining the inside of the cup. It probably contains a cocktail of every disease known to mankind.”

*Examine: Empty flagon* [in inventory]

 KIAN:

 “I'd say it was empty, but that'd be an insult to the thick crust of filth lining this cup. Ugh.”

*Examine: Merchant*

 KIAN:

 “There's one stall still open. It appears he even has stock left.”

*Examine: Merchant*

KIAN:

 “He's still got bottles left to sell. Perhaps no one wants his wine?”

*Examine: Grapes of Nehdrah*

 KIAN:

 “'Grapes of Nehdrah'. I'm unfamiliar with this wine.”

*Examine: Northlands Ruby*

 KIAN:

 “'Northlands Ruby'. Any wine that begins with the word 'Northlands' does not invite enthusiasm.”

*Examine: Marcurian Red*

 KIAN:

 “'Marcurian Red'. Plain spoken, but not particularly inspiring.”

*Examine: Purple Rose of the North*

 KIAN:

 “'Purple Rose of the North'. Purple rose? This is supposed to be a wine.”

*Examine: Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “'Dragon's Fire'. They've even put a little fireball on the bottle. I'm not sure if that's an invitation or a warning.”

*Examine: Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “Fire-wine. From the markings on the label, it looks like powerful stuff.”

*Examine: Goat's Hollow Winery*

 KIAN:

 “'Goat's Hollow Winery'? I...no.”

*Talk to: Merchant*

MERCHANT:

“It's Reapmoon's Eve, sir, and you appear to be un-inebriated. For shame! Public intoxication is practically mandatory this evening! You're in luck, sir! Most stalls have shut down for the evening, but we're open and will remain open until every last bottle has been sold. Which, from my experience, won't be too long now. The discriminating Northlander knows we're a notch above the rest! No Southlands imports here, sir! These bottles are tapped in the Northlands, with wine from the tart, purple grape of--”

KIAN:

“I'm sure your wine is more than adequate, merchant.”

MERCHANT:

“Oh! Oh. Very well. What can I get you tonight, most sober of sirs? Perhaps you want to sample a bottle before you buy?”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Buy: *I'll need more than a thimbleful. A bottle will serve me better.*

 KIAN:

 “I'm buying.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Which wine, sir?”

 *(Kian can examine and select wine)*

 *Select: Any wine other than Dragon's Fire*

 MERCHANT:

 “An agreeably tart wine, an excellent choice. Not that you could go wrong with any of my--”

 KIAN:

 “How much?”

 MERCHANT:

 “Ooh, the gentleman is parched! I understand, the evening's getting on and there will be no revelry for the abstemious, that's simply--”

 KIAN:

 “Come on, man! I'm in a rush.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Eighty-and-five silver.”

 KIAN:

 “What? That's preposterous! I don't have that kind of coin.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Well. Sir. As I told you, this is no ordinary wine. It's special.”

 *(conversation ends)*

 *Select: Dragon's Fire*

 MERCHANT:

 “Ah, that's no ordinary wine. That, good sir, is a bottle of Dragon's Fire, fermented using the finest, handpicked bottles in our collection, fortified with honey and malt. It's--”

 KIAN:

 “What's the price?”

 MERCHANT:

 “You don't want some proper background before you--”

 KIAN:

 “How. Much.”

 MERCHANT:

 “One hundred and twenty-five silver coins. Sir.”

 KIAN:

 “What? No. I don't have that much coin.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Well. It's between my stock and sobriety at this hour. That choice ought to make itself.”

*Taste: I'm not some barbarian, choosing wines merely by colour!*

 KIAN:

 “A small sample, before I make my decision.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Which wine, sir?”

 *(Kian can examine and select wine)*

 *Select: Any wine other than Dragon's Fire*

 MERCHANT:

 “Excellent choice, sir. This one's both tart and celebratory, a melancholy mix of--”

 KIAN:

 “Just pour the wine. Please.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Very well.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *Select: Dragon's Fire*

 MERCHANT:

 “Interesting! You want to sample the Dragon's Fire, our most potent wine, capable of reducing seasoned warriors to tears, and bashful maidens to--”

 KIAN:

 “I want to taste it now.”

 MERCHANT:

 “As you please. Sir.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If the sampling cup is still on the table:*

MERCHANT:

 “There. You. Go. Sir.”

 MERCHANT:

 “Give that a smell, a swirl and a sip.”

 *(conversation ends)*

 *If Kian has replaced the sampling cup with the flagon:*

 MERCHANT:

 “One. Two. Three! Uh. Four. Five...Eight? Nine. Ten! Odd. I don't remember the tasting cup being quite so...expansive.”

 *(conversation ends)*

*Examine: Thimbleful of wine* [not Dragon's fire]

 KIAN:

 “A thimbleful of so-called wine.”

*Examine: Thimbleful of wine* [not Dragon's fire]

 KIAN:

 “I think this is more than enough Northlands wine. No one could possibly need any more.”

*Drink: Thimbleful of wine* [not Dragon's Fire]

 KIAN:

 “Donkey's urine. That's what this is. Ass piss. And it kicks like a mule.”

*Talk to: Merchant*

MERCHANT:

 “Hello again. Changed your mind? Do you perhaps want a little sampler?”

 *(dialogue choices)*

*Talk to: Merchant*

 MERCHANT:

 “Can't stay away, can you, sir? Buy, or sample?”

 *(dialogue choices)*

*Talk to: Merchant* [with no sampling cup on the table]

 MERCHANT:

 “Have you finished sampling, sir? If so, please return the cup and we can commence our business.”

*Examine: Empty thimble*

 KIAN:

 “A thimble-sized taster cup. Dainty.”

*Examine: Flagon of wine* [not Dragon's Fire]

 KIAN:

 “I'm not sure which is more overpowering. The aroma of this wine or the malodor of the flagon.”

*Examine: Flagon of wine* [not Dragon's Fire]

 KIAN:

 “Wine. Altogether too much wine.”

*Drink: Flagon of wine* [not Dragon's Fire]

 KIAN:

 “This is what passes for wine in the Northlands? Weak, sour and offensive to the senses. Just like most Northlanders. Goddess save me...and the grapes that died an ignoble death for the sake of this tasteless swill.”

*Examine: Thimbleful of Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “The liquor is eating through the metal taster.”

*Examine: Thimbleful of Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “Even this amount can probably kill a grown man.”

*Drink: Thimbleful of Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “(Gasps) Shadow! (Coughs) It burns like fire! Ahhh! Tonight we fight like dragons!”

*Examine: Flagon of Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “This is a lethal amount of hard liquor. On the positive side, it's eating away at the filthy crust lining the cup.”

*Examine: Flagon of Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “A flagon of 'Dragon's Fire'.”

*Drink: Flagon of Dragon's Fire*

 KIAN:

 “Drink that? All of it? I'd prefer to die with honour, in battle. It'd be a lot less painful.”

*Examine: Merchant*

 KIAN:

 “There's no wonder he's still open and has stock left. If anyone tasted his wares, they'd avoid him like the plague.”

*Examine: Bird bath*

KIAN:

 “In this city, they have bathtubs for birds. The Northlanders are an odd folk.”

*Examine: Bird bath*

KIAN:

 “Bird...baths. Goddess.”

*Use: Empty flagon on Bird bath*

*Examine: Flagon of water (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “If anything, this fowl water has made the flagon even filthier.”

*Examine: Flagon of water (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “Water the color of sewage. So...sewage.”

*Use: Flagon of water (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “That was like...drinking the Shadow's sulphurous piss! I'm reasonably certain that had bird shit in it. I just drank bird shit. This was not a well-considered action by any measure of things. Why do I do this to myself?”

*Use: Thimbleful of wine or Thimbleful of Dragon's Fire or Thimbleful of water on Kindling*

KIAN:

 “That was barely two drops. I'll need a lot more for this to have any effect.”

*Use: Flagon of wine (not Dragon's Fire) or Flagon of water on Kindling*

KIAN:

 “This should be enough. Sounds like Hileriss is about to wrap up his mad ramblings. I'll just have to wait, and watch.”

 ONOR:

 “But enough talk! This bewinged daemon, this symbol of sorcery, this affront to humanity must burn!”

 CROW:

 “Must he? 'Must' is a very strong word, I'm not sure it's a word I'd use to--”

 ONOR:

 “Burn, you transmogrified necromancer. Burn!”

 CROW:

 “Oh, boy, here we go.”

 ONOR:

 “It's not... It's not lighting up. Oh, curse this cheap, imported hay. Probably purchased from nonhuman farmers. Oh, forget this.”

 *Onor lights the back of the pyre.*

CROW:

 “Phew!”

 ONOR:

 “Burn, feathered gargoyle.”

 CROW:

 “Gargoy—No. No! Nooo!”

 *The player is returned to the game before pouring anything on the kindling.*

*Use: Flagon of Dragon's Fire on Kindling*

KIAN:

“This should be enough. Sounds like Hileriss is about to wrap up his mad ramblings. I'll just have to wait, and watch.”

ONOR:

“But enough talk! This bewinged daemon, this symbol of sorcery, this affront to humanity must burn!”

CROW:

“Must he? 'Must' is a very strong word, I'm not sure it's a word I'd use to--”

ONOR:

“Burn, you transmogrified necromancer. Burn!”

CROW:

“Oh, boy, here we go.”

 *The fire shoots back on Onor and instantly engulfs him.*

ONOR:

“Gods save me! Gods save me! Help me! Help me!”

GUARD:

“You lot, break it up! Nothing to see here! Shadow... This poor sod's in a bad way... We-we need to get him to a healer, now! Goddess protect us, he'll be lucky to survive the night...Right, party's over! Go on, all of you! Go home. Be with your families.”

CROW:

“Good job, and now—GET ME OFF THIS BLAZING BONFIRE!”

*Touch: Bird cage*

 KIAN:

 “I...can't. I need something long enough to reach the cage.”

CROW:

“I can still see flames. The flames are getting closer. You may want to, you know—PUT OUT THE FIRE!”

CROW:

“Phew, it's getting toasty. Funny thing, too, since the sun's not out and—HEEELP MEEE!”

CROW:

“Aaaaaaah!”

*The player is returned to the game after Onor has been burned.*

*Use: Pitchfork*

*Kian opens the cage with a nearby pitchfork.*

CROW:

“Talk about cutting things close. I smell of singed plumage and smoke.”

KIAN:

“So were you lying to me about that secret entrance to the Tower?”

CROW:

“No! I would never! Well, I totally would. That would be just like me, lying to save my tail feathers, but I was actually telling the truth, I do know a way into the Tower...from below! No? Not making much of an impression on you? Okay then. Follow me, big guy, and lead you through the darkness into the light. The light, in this case, being the Tower. More specifically, that weird pillar of dreamy light rising into the centre of the Tower with all the rotating metal bits.”

KIAN:

“You mean...the Engine?”

CROW:

“Is that what they call it? The weird thing with the gears and the levers and the metal wotsits? Then yes, the Engine. What, you don't want to go there?”

KIAN:

“Lead the way, bird. And fast.”

CROW:

“Crow. And I'm useful again!”

*Roper Klacks is sitting in a cell in the Tower.*

ROPER:

“Imbeciles! Amateurs! Don't they know who they're dealing with? Don't they know who I--”

*The door slams open.*

ROPER:

“Finally! What took you so long? I've been in here for days!”

PROPHET:

“You fool...how did you manage to get yourself locked up?”

ROPER:

“Some people don't appreciate art!”

PROPHET:

“Come. You need to prepare the Engine for the ritual.”

ROPER:

“Yes, Master. About bloody time...”

*Crow takes Kian to the Journeyman Inn.*

CROW:

“Home, sweet home. I'm sure you remember this place. I mean, you raided it and arrested everyone and directly contributed to closing it down for good. Remember?”

KIAN:

“Yes, bird. I remember.”

CROW:

“Good. Yeah, it's a far cry from how it looked back in those happy days, but I've nested here, it's not bad. Also, it's Crow. My name is Crow.”

KIAN:

“What does this place have to do with the Tower?”

CROW:

“Okay, right, so there's a secret passage leading from the cellar into a ruined subterranean city below Marcuria. Both April and Zoë used it. I've been through there a few times myself. Purely for research purposes, of course. Not to look for...treasure.”

KIAN:

“Where's the cellar?”

CROW:

“Behind the bar and to the right.”

*Examine: Crow*

KIAN:

 “For a bird, he appears remarkably intelligent. Annoying, but intelligent.”

*Examine: Crow*

KIAN:

 “Beasts are not supposed to speak...but this one speaks well.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “The cellar door is behind the bar.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Do you think I could claim squatter's rights and take over this place? I could make it a birds only club. An exclusive hotspot for discerning fowls.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Your move, big guy. I thought we were in a rush?”

*Examine: Door*

KIAN:

“This is the cellar door?”

CROW:

“They've boarded it up? It wasn't boarded up the last time I checked. Or maybe it was. To be honest, I haven't been down there in ages. Well, I guess this is it. There's no way past those flimsy, wooden boards. How about grabbing a cup of ale and a front seat to the end of the world?”

KIAN:

“Hm.”

CROW:

“This is it, the end of our journey. And we came so close! I have to say, this turned out to be quite the twist. I forgot my purse somewhere, so I'm dead broke. Can you buy me a drink as we watch the world burn? Just let it go, Kian. There's no way past this impassable door. Foiled, by wooden boards! Oh, the humanity!”

*Examine: Door*

KIAN:

 “A flimsy thing. It won't stop me. Or my foot.”

*Kick: Door*

CROW:

“Okay! Violence! I'm not used to adventuring with people who resort to violence. I have to say it's very refreshing not having to look for keys or levers or trying to trick wizards into lowering bridges. We should've brought you along from the start. You would have saved us a lot of time.”

KIAN:

“Let's go, bird.”

CROW:

“Crow. Crow! Seriously. Watch your step, big guy.”

CROW:

“Here we are, this is it, the entrance to the grand underground realm beneath Marcuria!”

KIAN:

“Uh...”

CROW:

“It doesn't look so grand from this side, but believe me. It's grand.”

KIAN:

“There's nothing here.”

CROW:

“No-no, watch this, this next part is truly awesome. Ahem! (Sings) Look. Look! Not bad, eh? Just like with your foot upstairs, except with...my voice! Come on! What are you waiting for?”

KIAN:

“I can't get through there.”

CROW:

“Sure you can, it's just—Ooooh, yeah, no, I see what you mean. That would be a tight squeeze. You're bigger than I thought, big guy. Weird, when April and Zoë did it, they fit perfectly, and they're not that much smaller than—Wait, I know! You need to sing!”

KIAN:

“Sing?”

CROW:

“Makes perfect sense! Bird makes music, bird sized hole appears. Human makes music? Well, you do the math.”

KIAN:

“I—I can't sing.”

CROW:

“You have a sing-hole in your face. Blow air through it. Go on. The fate of the universe depends on it!”

KIAN:

“Fine. How does it go again?”

CROW:

“(Sings) Now you. Go!”

*If Kian sings an incorrect tune:*

 CROW:

 “No-no-no, that's all wrong! Try again.”

 KIAN:

 “Remind me how that song goes again.”

 CROW:

 “(Sings)”

*If Kian sings an incorrect tune:*

CROW:

 “That was awful. That was just the worst. Come on, you can do better.”

*If Kian sings an incorrect tune:*

CROW:

 “Is that the best you can do? Go on, give it another try. Think of the children!”

*If Kian sings the proper tune:*

***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**KIAN:**

**“Nothing. That was correct, wasn’t it? It sounded correct to my ears.”**

CROW:

“That was...uh, serviceable...so... Huh.”

KIAN:

“Maybe I need to do it louder.”

CROW:

“I don't think—Wait! There was something else. When April passed through here, she had some sort of, uh, egg.”

KIAN:

“Egg.”

CROW:

“A magic egg! It must still be down here somewhere. Unless someone's stolen it. Which is quite possible. It was a while ago.”

KIAN:

“How would a magic egg help?”

CROW:

“How could a magic egg not help! Come on, look for it.”

KIAN:

“This is ridiculous. I feel ridiculous.”

***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

***Examine: Wall***

**KIAN:**

 **“This is a wall. Just a wall.”**

***Touch: Wall***

**KIAN:**

 **“My suspicions are confirmed. It’s a wall. Just a wall. Really.”**

*Examine: Magic hole*

KIAN:

 “Crow-sized. Not man-sized.”

*Examine: Magic hole*

KIAN:

 “A magic hole, leading to a dark place.”

*Examine: Magic hole*

KIAN:

 “We need to find a way to make that hole bigger.”

*Touch: Magic hole*

KIAN:

 “I cannot squeeze through there, no matter how hard I try.”

*Touch: Magic hole*

KIAN:

 “I. Will. Not. Fit!”

*Speak to: Magic hole*

CROW:

 “Found anything yet? It's a sizeable egg-shaped thing, magical in appearance.”

*Speak to: Magic hole*

CROW:

 “I guess it could be a dragon's egg. I don't know if dragons lay eggs or what they would look like, but I imagine they'd look something like that egg.”

*Speak to: Magic hole*

CROW:

 “How many magic eggs can there be down here? Probably just one!”

*Examine: Hooks*

KIAN:

 “They were probably used to hang salted meats. Marcurians may fall short in many areas, but their salted meats are spectacular.”

*Examine: Broken barrels*

KIAN:

 “Once were barrels. Probably for beer or wine.”

*Examine: Lovely chandelier*

KIAN:

 “What a tragic fate for a lovely chandelier. This tavern must have looked grand back in the day.”

*Examine: Wines*

 KIAN:

 “Now this is the stuff. Real Southlands wines. None of that Northlands swill they serve in most taverns. I'd be embarrassed to even call it 'wine'.”

*Examine: Wines*

KIAN:

 “I'll have to come back here after tonight to...rescue these fine bottles from decay and obscurity.”

*Examine: Casks*

KIAN:

 “Ale casks, most likely.”

*Examine: Flask*

KIAN:

 “From the label, I'd say this probably held liquor once.”

*Examine: Flour sack*

KIAN:

 “A sad...sack. Flour, maybe.”

*Examine: Tools*

KIAN:

 “Tools. Rusted through and quite useless.”

*Examine: Tools*

KIAN:

 “They'd probably fall apart as soon as I picked them up.”

*Examine: Outside*

KIAN:

 “It's quiet out here. Most of the revelers are celebrating in the town squares or indoors.”

*Examine: Lantern*

KIAN:

 “There's something odd about that lamp. It doesn't match the rest of the...decor.”

*Examine: Lantern*

KIAN:

 “That's not an ordinary lantern.”

*Pick up: Lantern*

KIAN:

 “What's this? Some sort of...egg? The Goddess smiles on me tonight. I'll just need to be careful... Ah, Shadow... There. Got it. This certainly looks like a magic egg, whatever its true purpose. Hopefully it'll help me.”

*Examine: Magical relic (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “They used this ancient, egg-shaped artifact for illumination. I wonder where it came from?”

*Examine: Magical relic (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “It's clearly a magical relic. Hopefully this will help.”

*Use: Magical relic on Magic hole*

CROW:

“Hey, whoa, what did you do?”

KIAN:

“I used the egg. Weren't you watching?”

CROW:

“No. But see? See? I told you! The magic egg helped! I guess you needed a magic item you because you are so thoroughly un-magical. Me? I'm a magic bird. I'm my own, uh, magic egg. No props needed. And now there are magic symbols? Cool. Well, good luck with that.”

*Talk to: Magic hole*

KIAN:

 “Remind me how that song goes again.”

 CROW:

 “(Sings)”

*When Kian presses the symbols to play the proper song:*

CROW:

“Nice work, big guy. And nice work, me.”

KIAN:

“Onwards, bird.”

CROW:

“Crow. How hard is it to get that one right? Crow!”

*Mother Utana, the First of the Six, and Sister Sahya are all on the balcony of Sahya's office, looking down at the Marcurians gathered for the ceremony. The storm clouds are swirling, mixing with dreams. The Prophet watches the women from a nearby balcony annexed to their left.*

*Crow and Kian are deep beneath Marcuria.*

CROW:

“There used to be a lot of these creatures down here. Grubbers. But they've all vanished. I don't know where they could've gone, they wouldn't really fit in upstairs, especially not with the, uh, those new guidelines vis-à-vis magicals. So what we're looking for is—Right there. Floaty thing what you can row in.”

KIAN:

“A...boat?”

CROW:

“That's it!”

*If Kian pauses too long without rowing:*

CROW:

 “The entrance to the Tower lies on the other shore, so unless you're planning on swimming...”

 CROW:

 “I would strongly advise against swimming. There are nasty things in those waters. Slimy, tentacle-y, unpleasantly eldritch things.”

 CROW:

 “Hello? Hello? Ground control to Major Tom? Weren't you in a rush?”

 CROW:

 “I get that you're a man who has to think things through before committing, but this is getting ridiculous. Let's go! Let's row!”

CROW:

“Row, row, row your boat, gently across the, uh...the deep, dark, eldritch subterranean lake filled with all kinds of ancient tentacle-y weirdness and sleeping gods--”

KIAN:

“Please. Bird. Silence.”

CROW:

“Crow. And I'm just trying to lighten the mood, big guy. You need to laugh more.”

KIAN:

“I laugh when it's appropriate to do so.”

CROW:

“Show me.”

KIAN:

“What? No! I won't perform for you like a...a trained ape-man.”

CROW:

“Come on, you can do it. It's easy! Like this. (Laughs uproariously) See? Open your mouth, smile, push air through. I mean, I have a beak, I don't know how it works for you humans, but if I was going to guess--”

KIAN:

“Ha! Ha. Ha. Ha.”

CROW:

“That's, um... That's sad. Frankly, that was disturbing. Please don't ever do that again.”

KIAN:

“You have my word.”

CROW:

“Good. So, did you and April ever hook up? You know, mate? Copulate--”

KIAN:

“No! Bird, you need to learn common decency. And I am gay. I don't...mate. With women.”

CROW:

“Interesting. I prefer females myself, but it's not like there's a lot of us around, whatever my species is, and as long as I'm not starting a family of my own...who cares, really? Although I would like to start a family. I'm getting on. It may not show, but I've plucked some grey feathers. And I can feel it in my wings. Most mornings, they're stiff as dry twigs. I won't be around forever. It would be nice with a young wife to take care of me in my twilight years, to regurgitate my food and care for our hatchlings. I'd like to pass down some of the wisdom I've acquired through my journeys across the world. And all the jokes.”

KIAN:

“I'm sure you'll meet the right bird. Some day soon.”

CROW:

“(Sighs) I hope so. I really hope so.”

*Kian and Crow reach the other end of the cave and go inside the Dream Chamber.*

CROW:

“Here we are, this is it.”

KIAN:

“This is...unbelievable. It's beautiful. My skin's...My skin is tingling. There's a strange energy coming from that—These are dreams?”

CROW:

“That swirling blue pillar? If you listen closely, you can hear them. Thousands of voices. It is beautiful. This place was built by the Grubbers who lived down here, as some sort of container to store dreams. And now the Grubbers are mysteriously gone. There's probably some greater plot here that I cannot possibly wrap my little bird brain around. The Tower's right above us.”

KIAN:

“They built the Tower on top of this place... That can't be a coincidence.”

CROW:

“Oh, speaking of coincidences... I remember the temple that used to be up there, before they tore it down. Belonged to the Sentinel, the protectors of the Balance. Nice place. Beautiful murals. Shame it got destroyed. And like I said, probably just a coincidence.”

KIAN:

“That's my way up.”

CROW:

“I'll fly up and wait for you at the top. It'll take you a while to climb the whole way.”

*General Hami and two other soldiers are surrounded by an army led by Commander Vamon. Vamon watches with a smile as the men are taken down, Hami's lifeless body falling to the ground.*

*Soldiers try to break into the Engine house with a battering ram.*

ANNA:

“Shit, they're trying to break through!”

FERDOWS:

“Oh, this isn't good.”

CROW:

“That took longer than I expected. I had time for a wee nap.”

KIAN:

“Light... This is incredible. It must have taken years to build all this.”

CROW:

“It's pretty nifty! And oh-so shiny. You Azadi are really into metal, aren't you. So what now?”

KIAN:

“I need to access the Engine's central control panel.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

KIAN:

 “There should be a speaking tube there I can use to reach Anna, Enu and Ferdows.”

*If Na'ane was imprisoned or dead:*

KIAN:

 “There should be a speaking tube that I can use to reach Anna and Ferdows.”

CROW:

“I'm guessing that would be in the centre of this chamber—aaand there's someone there.”

KIAN:

“It's just one person. Can you see if he's armed?”

CROW:

“I don't think so. He looks really old and frail. You could probably kill him with your pinky finger. Actually, he looks...familiar. But I'm probably wrong. My eyes aren't what they used to be.”

KIAN:

“We need to be careful, or he may raise the alarm. Stay here, bird.”

CROW:

“Crow. Crow. It's Crow. It's-- (sighs)”

ROPER:

“Did you not hear me? Are you completely deaf, you incompetent nincompoop? I can have you beheaded, you know! I can have them tear you into tiny pieces and feed you to the air maggots! What? No, of course not, you dunce! Send me another misaligned datasphere, and I'll personally make sure your asshole is wide enough to receive it! Fools! Take your time! We have all the time in the world! The ceremony isn't about to begin any time soon, there's no crowd waiting in fervent anticipation, and emissaries standing by on the balcony awaiting my go-ahead, and the Engine's final cycle! Also, the Prophet will not rip my colon out through my mouth and feed it back to me if he learns we're even slightly behind schedule! None of these things will happen, so please, take all the time in the world, you absolute tit!”

*Speak to: Crow*

CROW:

 “So...what are we doing, big guy?”

 KIAN:

 “I need to remove that person over there.”

 CROW:

 ““Remove.” Why not just say “murder” when that's what you mean? You're going to murder that old man. In cold blood.”

 KIAN:

 “What? No! I'm not murdering anyone. I'm going to incapacitate him.”

 CROW:

 “In other words...assassinate. Butcher. Annihilate. Put him out of his misery. Dispatch him to the afterlife--”

 KIAN:

 “I could murder you.”

 CROW:

 “A murder of Crow? Point taken.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Go on, do your dirty business! I'll be over here.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Don't let me hold you back from liquidating ageing geezers.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 *“*I promise you I won't watch when you take him out. No witnesses, no crime!”

*Examine: Old man*

 KIAN:

 “It appears to be an old man. Is he an Engineer?”

*Examine: Old man*

KIAN:

 “He might not pose much of a danger, but he might call on the Tower sentries. I need to stay out of his sight.”

ROPER:

“What's that? A new asshole, you fool.”

ROPER:

“So what's the issue?”

ROPER:

“Yes, naturally, of course, I've already done that. The connectors are all connected, the gears are properly calibrated and aligned.”

ROPER:

“Did you try the flux capacitor? No? Then do that.”

ROPER:

“Well then do the other one.”

ROPER:

“No, that's not it.”

ROPER:

“What's that? Of course I didn't forget to set the receptors to receiving. What do you take me for, an amateur?”

*Examine: Controls*

KIAN:

 “Various controls for the Engine.”

*Examine: Controls*

KIAN:

 “Knobs and dials, levers and meters. I don't know what any of it's for.”

*Examine: Controls*

KIAN:

 “Dials.”

*Examine: Machines*

KIAN:

 “These are all part of the Engine, connected via pipes.”

ROPER:

“That should do it. I've equalized the relations of the current, channeling into the rift. You're lucky. I won't have you garrotted and devoured by air maggots after all. At least not today. Goodbye!”

ROPER:

“Tubular connectors are operating within established parameters...Pressure's holding. We don't want pressure to build up. That would be bad in so many ways...Dials are steady...Current is focusing...Equations are being equated...Splines are meticulating...The matrix is recomputing...Deviance threshold activated...Imaginary infrastructure fabricated...Dream tracks are being drawn...Trans divide vibrations are within accepted magnitudes...Informational tear has stabilized completely...Engine's humming along beautifully. Good work, Klacks.”

*Examine: Exit*

KIAN:

 “That door leads to the outer circumference of the Tower.”

*If Kian gets too close to Klacks:*

KLACKS:

 “Hey, what?”

 KLACKS:

 “Trespasser!”

 KLACKS:

 “Intruder!”

*Touch: Old man*

KIAN:

“No incantations. No sorcery. No suspicious wiggling of fingers.”

ROPER:

“I'm not a wizard! Not really! Honest to gods, I'm...I'm, uh, an engineer. Just an engineer.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Ge'en: *For some reason, his oddly shaped head brings to mind Ge'en.*

KIAN:

 “I've seen you before. Your misshapen head, it's familiar to me. Were you ever on Ge'en?”

 ROPER:

 “No, I, uh--”

 KIAN:

 “The truth now.”

 ROPER:

 “Not in a hundred years have I been to Ge'en. And that's the gods-honest truth.”

 KIAN:

 “That head...I could have sworn... What's your business here, old man?”

 ROPER:

 “What's my--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Business: *There's something familiar about him...but more importantly, what does he know about the Engine?*

KIAN:

 “What are you doing here, old man?”

 ROPER:

 “What am I--?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ROPER:

“My dear chap, I designed and built this Engine! This is all me! It's an accomplishment without equal in this world, and I--”

KIAN:

“So what does it do?”

ROPER:

“What does it--? Uh, it, uh... It calculates. It's a giant calculating machine. That's all.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Threaten: *He's not being particularly forthcoming, and there's no time for diplomacy here.*

KIAN:

 “I'll break each and every bone in your body until you start talking.”

 ROPER:

 “No! No. Please, I—I don't really know what they're using it for. I mean, it's an Engine designed to make infinitely complex calculations. Numbers. Equations. Beyond any mortal mathematician's skills. But I don't know what the Prophet and his Azadi Emissary are planning. I'm simply doing the Prophet's bidding. I didn't have a choice. I don't make the grand plans.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Lure: *The pickled turnip beats the rod-and-nails every time.*

KIAN:

 “It's an impressive piece of work.”

 ROPER:

 “Isn't it? A work of art! I got the idea for this after spending, uh, some amount of time inside a particularly insidious prison. Gods know what they're planning to use it for. I built the Engine, but I'm not the one with the grand plans. You'll want to speak with the Prophet and his Emissary. They're behind it all. I'm a, uh, merely a servant.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ROPER:

“As I said, just a humble engineer.”

KIAN:

“I find that hard to believe.”

ROPER:

“Believe what you—Oh, thank the cruel gods of old you're here! Finally! Please, save me from this barbarian brute! You'll be sorry you ever threatened me, foul lout!”

*If Kian looks away or waits too long, he is stabbed.*

*Punch: Old man*

ROPER:

“Ah!”

KIAN:

“Wizards...”

CROW:

“Good job taking out the frail old guy. Hey, Klacks!”

KIAN:

“What does that mean?”

CROW:

“It means, “hey, Klacks”. As in Roper Klacks. Wizard. Puppeteer. Writer. Entertainer. Slightly creepy geezer. What's Klacks doing here? Last time I saw him, he got arrested by the Azadi for doing a puppet show about magic. Don't ask.”

KIAN:

“It appears he's working with the Azadi, not against them...but it doesn't matter. I need to contact Ferdows.”

CROW:

“And I'll be perching right over here, keeping an eye on things.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “What's the plan?”

 KIAN:

 “I contact Ferdows via speaking tube, and he shuts the Engine down.”

 CROW:

 “And then we leave, unscathed? With plenty of time for a stiff drink and a nibble before bedtime?”

 KIAN:

 “Perhaps.”

 CROW:

 “Don't perhaps me. I require concrete plans and positive thoughts, or I might have a panic attack.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Clock's ticking, Kian. They'll be out of stiff drinks and nibbles by the time we make it out of here.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Not trying to rush you, but...can you please start rushing?”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Maybe you should speak to someone who can actually help?”

*Use: Lever (far left)*

VOICE:

 “Yes, mir. What do you need, mir? Uh...we didn't transmit the wrong spheres again, did we? I, uh, our apologies, mir. We'll take a look at it right away, mir.”

 CROW:

 “That didn't sound right.”

 KIAN:

 “It was not.”

 CROW:

 “Oh, okay. You should get it right next time.”

 KIAN:

 “Thank you. That's...very helpful feedback, bird.”

 CROW:

 “You're welcome!”

*Use: Lever (middle left)*

VOICE:

 “Clean-up, Daran here. What's your problem down there? Another rat get in the gears? Eh? Hello? Hello? Mir? Dar? Shadow be—Is the speaking tube blocked again? Hello? Can you hear me? Hello? Hello?”

 CROW:

 “Wrong again?”

 KIAN:

 “Yes.”

 CROW:

 “Should've taken my advice.”

 KIAN:

 “Yes.”

*Use: Lever (middle right)*

VOICE:

 “Entrance hall guard post, this is Beylar. Do you need someone down there, dar? Dar? Hello? Guess not.”

 CROW:

 “Wrong again?”

 KIAN:

 “Yes.”

 CROW:

 “Should've taken my advice.”

 KIAN:

 “Yes.”

*Use: Lever (far right)*

KIAN:

“Hello? Hello?”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

 KIAN:

 “Enu? Anna? Ferdows? Anyone there?”

*If Na'ane was dead or imprisoned:*

 KIAN:

 “Anna? Ferdows? Are you there?”

KIAN:

(Taps tube) “How does this Shadow-forged thing--”

ANNA:

“We're here, Kian.”

KIAN:

“Thank Goddess. So what now? Hello?”

ANNA:

“You don't have to speak so loud, Kian. We can hear your perfectly well. I'll put Ferdows on. One moment.”

FERDOWS:

“Apostle? I mean, Mir. Kian. Uh. Right, okay, so remember our first conversation? You're inside the core now, the heart of the Engine. And the chamber you're in, it's a...a battery. It contains all the dreams the Tower has collected. Millions of them. You've probably seen the big, glowing blue pillar? That's the manifestation of the dream energy. You're standing by the main controls to the Engine.”

KIAN:

“I don't need details, Ferdows. Just tell me what to do.”

FERDOWS:

“Sorry. So there's a way to control the Engine from where I am, but you need to give me direct access first. Right now, the Engine will be in automatic mode, because it's designed to be autonomous during the final calculations. You need to put it back into manual mode. There should be a panel to the left of the speaking tube. Locate the knob with a hand symbol on it. That indicates manual controls.”

*Press: Wrong button*

 FERDOWS:

 “Oh, uh, no. No, that's not right. That was clearly the wrong knob, Kian. You need to do this right, because otherwise, uh...Let's...not talk about the otherwise. Once again, here's what you need to do.”

*Press: Wrong button*

FERDOWS:

 “No, again, wrong knob. Listen carefully, Kian.”

*Press: Hand button*

FERDOWS:

“And we're in manual mode. Good! That's great work. Uh. We need to act fast, because warning lamps will be lighting up all over. Now that we've disabled automatic mode, you need to patch me directly into the Engine's controls. Do you see the panel on the, uh, I think the far wall behind you? Those are the pipes that connect to my location, to the, uh, the knobs on my console. You must switch that panel's redirector at the same time you switch the signal repeater on the main console.”

KIAN:

“Switch what with what? At the same time? That panel is on the other side of the chamber!”

FERDOWS:

“This operation usually requires two people...”

KIAN:

“Ferdows... I'm on my own here. You know that.”

FERDOWS:

“Yes. Right. Sure. It's still the only way to make this work, so, uh...”

KIAN:

“I'll figure something out. Hold on.”

*Speak to: Speaking tube*

KIAN:

“Ferdows, remind me again what I need to do.”

FERDOWS:

“Right. There's a panel on the far wall of the chamber behind where you're standing. You need to turn that panel's redirector switch at the same time you switch the signal repeater on the main console. Those two things must happen at the same time, or the connection will automatically terminate.”

*Speak to: Crow*

KIAN:

“Bird, we have a problem.”

CROW:

“Naturally. And since you're including me, Crow, in this conversation... What is it you need me to do for you?”

KIAN:

“Ferdows needs access to the Engine in order to reprogram it.”

CROW:

“Furry-Dows? Re-pro-gram? Those words sound like gobbeldygook to me.”

KIAN:

“Just listen. Ferdows, will Crow be able to switch on the redirector?”

FERDOWS:

“Crow? What crow?”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

 ENU:

 “Oh, it's that adorable bird that's friends with Zoë! Hey, Kian, are you with Crow? How did that--”

KIAN:

“Crow is a large and reasonably intelligent magical fowl capable of following basic directions. Can he turn the switch?”

CROW:

“'Reasonably' intelligent?”

FERDOWS:

“I, uh, I don't see why not. It's just a switch.”

CROW:

“'Reasonably'?”

KIAN:

“Good. So, Crow, that panel on the other side of the room... There's a switch. Ferdows, what does the switch look like?”

CROW:

“'Reasonably.' Really?”

FERDOWS:

“It's big and it's painted green, it should be easy to find. Even for a, uh, a bird.”

CROW:

““Even for a--” Just wait until I get my beak on you, fella! All right, point me in the right direction, and I'll flip your switch. Even a bird of 'reasonable intelligence' should be able to pull that one off.”

KIAN:

“Good. So you'll need to go...”

*Point: Crow – to switch*

KIAN:

“There. See that panel? Look for a green switch. Wait for my signal, then flip it.”

CROW:

“Gotcha. Wait. What kind of signal?”

KIAN:

“A signal! I don't know, I'll wave.”

CROW:

“What if you have to wave for some other reason? Could get confusing—Fine! Arm waving. I'll keep my eyes open for flapping arms. Wait, did you actually call me 'Crow' before? Not 'bird', but Crow?”

KIAN:

“I have no memory of that.”

CROW:

“You did. You love me! I can't believe you called me Crow!”

KIAN:

“Just do this, bird. Crow.”

CROW:

“There it is again! Consider it done, Kian! Partner! Best friend!”

KIAN:

“Crow's on his way to the other panel. What should I do on my end?”

FERDOWS:

“So let's see... There should be three panels where you're standing. And further right, another set of three panels. See the big lever on the first panel? That's the on you need to pull. There's only one. You can't miss it. Probably. Pull the level and hold it down while, uh, while the talking bird flips the switch on the other panel. Don't let go until I tell you to.”

KIAN:

“Understood.”

*Pull: Lever*

MOTHER UTANA:

“Goddess... Kian? Kian. What are you--”

KIAN:

“Utana? Mother...”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Light. Why are you here, Kian? How did you—I'm relieved to see you. Where's—Where's Hami? Is he here?”

KIAN:

“He's confronting Vamon's men...together with the resistance. Mother, we've seen the camps. We know what's been happening on Ge'en, and we--”

MOTHER UTANA:

“I know. I know. We need to talk. Urgently. But not here. We must leave now, before--”

KIAN:

“Wait. What are you doing here?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“I've...kept my eye on this Engine, trying to learn what it can do. Kian, I need to tell you something important and we don't have much--”

CROW:

“Okay, remind me again about that sign you're supposed to give me, Kian. Was it one arm above your head or—Oh, hello. Wait, what, you two actually know each other?”

KIAN:

“Crow...What?”

CROW:

“Does everyone know each other? How many people are there in the world? Five? I guess I should be used to this by now, I've been around you guys long enough, nothing should surprise me. So, Mother, how's the Office of Scientific Research going? You just let me know when you need another message delivered. I'm your bird--”

KIAN:

“The Office of Scientif—You...work for the Office of Scientific Research?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Kian...”

CROW:

“Works? Pft! Mother Utana runs the Office of Scientific Research! I know this because I've been a messenger bird for the Mother, both in Sadir and here in Marcuria. She's the top dog, numero uno. No one else above. She is the Office of Scientific Research.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“I was going to tell you, Kian. Just... Not like this. Not now. (Sighs) I guess it can't be helped.”

KIAN:

“You knew about the camps. About the magicals. About what...what Sister Alessandra was doing. How long? How long have you known? Wait... Are you behind all of this?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“I don't know what to say. Except...I am truly, truly sorry.”

*Mother Utana drives a dagger into Kian's chest.*

MOTHER UTANA:

“Shhh. Just...Just lie down. I'm sorry. Hold still. Don't die on me. You left me no choice.”

CROW:

“What—What did you do? Did you just stab him? Why? That's--”

PROPHET:

“What happened here? Who's that?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“An inconvenience. I took care of it.”

PROPHET:

“For your sake, I hope you're right. What's the matter with you?”

ROPER:

“That...goon. He—He sucker-punched me!”

PROPHET:

“And now you're back on your feet, so get to—What's the bird doing here?”

CROW:

“You? Aren't you—No-no-no, no, don't--”

PROPHET:

“Ow!”

*Crow tries to fly away, but the Prophet pulls him into his grasp. Crow tries to peck at his hand, but it is no use, as the Prophet snaps his neck and tosses him into the dream vortex.*

PROPHET:

“We can't afford any more distractions. The dreams are restless, the Engine is ready. It is time.”

*Zoë steps out of the door at the end of the hall into another hallway. There are flashing red lights and an alarm going off. The word “JIVA” is on her jumpsuit and on the walls of the building as well.*

*Examine: Door*

ZOË:

“Okay, so I just passed through some sort of...holographic field. What the hell is going on?”

*Examine: Red light*

ZOË:

 “They're on some kind of lockdown. I'm guessing because of me.”

*Examine: JIVA*

ZOË:

 “JIVA. That sounds familiar. Wait—Helena Chang's company. My mother...”

*Examine: JIVA*

ZOË:

 “Helena started JIVA together with my dad. So that's where I am? Inside JIVA? In Mumbai?”

*Examine: Sign*

ZOË:

 “What do they do in this lab? Bioengineering, definitely, but...what, exactly?”

*Touch: Access panel (near Observation)*

ZOË:

 “Heavy-duty. They could easily lock down this entire place.”

*Touch: Access panel (near Observation)*

ZOË:

 “I have no idea where that goes.”

*Examine: Incubation lab*

ZOË:

 “Incubation.”

*Touch: Access panel (near Incubation)*

*Zoë goes inside the incubation lab.*

*Examine: Pod (far left)*

ZOË:

 “One-nine. Faith. Faith... As in, my half-sister Faith?”

*Examine: Pod (middle left)*

ZOË:

 “One-five. Hope.”

*Examine: Pod (middle right)*

 ZOË:

 “One-three. Hanna.”

*Examine: Pod (far right)*

ZOË:

 “One—One. Zoë. Jesus. What—what does this mean? Was that my incubation pod?

*Examine: Scanner*

ZOË:

 “They're scanning molecular structures. People. Brains.”

*Examine: Memo*

ZOË:

 “It's a notepad.”

*Use: Memo*

ZOË:

 “There's a message, from—It's from Helena Chang. My mother. Something about...This is about me. Some sort of physical status report. They've been monitoring me in that room. For months. What's been happening here?”

*Examine: Display*

ZOË:

 “They're scanning molecular structures. People. Brains.”

*Examine: Tubes*

ZOË:

 “What are those things?”

*Touch: Access panel*

*Zoë goes into the next hall as an EYE officer enters the door she came in through.*

*Examine: Window*

ZOË:

 “Where am I? Underground? And what are those blue lines?”

*Examine: Window*

ZOË:

 “At least I know which direction I'm supposed to be heading. Upwards.”

EYE:

“This is Unit 7, proceeding towards Sequencing. Affirmative, Central, we'll find Briar Rose.”

*Examine: Sequencing*

*Touch: Access panel (near Sequencing)*

ZOË:

 “Shit, I'm trapped.”

 VOICE:

 “We have a runner exiting Bioengineering. This is not Briar Rose. Shoot to kill.”

 MAN:

 “No, no, no-no!”

 EYE:

 “Target's down, repeat: The target's dead.”

 VOICE:

 “Affirmative. Head back to Bioengineering. There may be witnesses. Take care of them.”

 EYE:

 “Affirmative, Wati Central.”

*Examine: Dead body*

ZOË:

 “Poor guy...”

*Touch: Dead body*

ZOË:

 “I hate to do this, but—I need this more than you. I'm sorry.”

*Zoë picks up a JIVA Access card for Edmund A. Wiig, Molecular Diagnostics Technology, ID Number 5430999653300.*

EYE:

“Bioengineering is clear, repeat: We're clear. No survivors and no Briar Rose. Resuming patrol towards Sequencing, Central.”

*Use: Access card on Access panel*

*The door opens and Zoë immediately sees a bunch of JIVA employees shot dead by an EYE Agent. He doesn't see her and heads back through a door directly to her left on the same wall as the door she is looking through.*

*Examine: Dead body*

ZOË:

 “They're all—They're all dead. Jesus. This is horrible...”

*Use: Access panel*

EYE:

“Hold it! Central, I have eyes on Briar Rose. What do you want me to do with her? Affirmative. Night night, sleeping beauty.”

*Use: Access panel*

EYE:

“Briar Rose is running, Zone 3. All eyes on Zone 3.”

EYE:

“Hey...Hey, stop right there!”

*Touch: Access panel*

ZOË:

“Dad?”

GABRIEL:

“Zoë, don't--”

EYE:

“Stop! Don't move or I shoot! We got her. She's in the core. I repeat, target is in the core. Stay there. Everyone stay exactly where you are.”

HELENA:

“Hello, Zoë.”

EYE:

“Lady, I told you--”

ZOË:

“Mum... Helena? Dad, what's going on? What is this place?”

GABRIEL:

“You need to get out of here. Now.”

EYE:

“Everyone stop talking!”

*Helena stealthily dons a mask and presses a button. The entire facility is gassed.*

***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**Gabriel Castillo**

**Gabriel Castillo is Zoë’s estranged single father.**

**Gabriel raised Zoë on his own – first in London, then in Casablanca – and they were close. Gabriel was always there for her, and Zoë never really missed having a mother.**

**One year ago, Zoë learned that Gabriel had lied about the death of her mother, Helena. The fallout from this momentous lie, and from Gabriel’s involvement in the conspiracy that Zoë was embroiled in, created a rift between father and daughter that has yet to be repaired.**

**Despite his continuing efforts at reconciliation, Zoë has neither seen nor spoken with her father since she moved to Europolis.**

**Gabriel is currently working on a project in Mumbai, though he still owns an apartment in Casablanca.**

**Helena Chang**

**Helena Chang is Zoë’s biological mother. She abandoned custody to Gabriel Castillo when Zoë was still a toddler – a fact Zoë only learned of a year ago. Before then, she’d believed what her father had told her; that her mother was long dead.**

**Helena founded the bioengineering company JIVA – a subsidiary of WATIcorp – together with her then-husband Gabriel Castillo. She collaborated with WATIcorp on their Dreamachine project, but disassociated herself from the corporation when it turned out WATI had been using the Dreamachine for nefarious purposes.**

**After Zoë exposed WATIcorp’s plot, Helena drugged Zoë – for reasons unknown – and then she vanished. Here whereabouts were unknown…until now.**

*Sahya is standing on the balcony. The ceremony is about to begin.*

SAHYA:

“A new age...Goddess, protect me. I pray I'm doing right by you. We cannot let outsiders dictact the future of our empire. The Prophet is a tool, and so is this Engine. Your Light is eternal, Goddess. Under my watch, it will reach the darkest corners of this world...and beyond.”

*She steps up to the speaking tube.*

SAHYA:

“Behold, the mechanical revolution! An end to magic! The dawn of enlightenment! Witness the Engine and its awesome powers!”

*The clouds swirl over the Tower.*

*The soldiers outside the Engine house are mystified by the Engine's work.*

ANNA:

“Kian? Kian! Please respond!”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

ENU:

 “I don't think he can hear you, Anna. If he's hurt...We'll need a new plan.”

ANNA:

“Shit. We can't even get out of here, with those soldiers trying to break in.”

FERDOWS:

“Uh, yeah, about that. Is it just me, or is it--”

ANNA:

“Quiet. The soldiers must have left. Something's going on.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

ENU:

 “Something bad, if they've abandoned their posts.”

ANNA:

“We need to move. Now. If we can't get through to Kian, or if he's...dead, we need to get into the Tower ourselves.”

FERDOWS:

“But how?”

ANNA:

“If the Azadi really have abandoned their posts? Through the front door.”

FERDOWS:

“That sounds incredibly dangerous!”

ANNA:

“I'm sure it will be. Let's go.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret:*

ENU:

 “Wait. Okay. You two head for the Tower. I'm going to find the others. If the Azadi are running scared, we have an opportunity to strike back.”

 ANNA:

 “Alright. Stay safe, Enu.”

 ENU:

 “You too. I hope Kian's okay. I'm sure he's okay. Kian's always okay.”

*Zoë wakes up inside a pod in Helena's lab.*

HELENA:

“There you are.”

ZOË:

“...mum? What—Where's dad?”

HELENA:

“You must have a lot of questions.”

ZOË:

“Hey, why—Why am I locked up in here? Let me out!”

HELENA:

“I can't do that, but I promise I'll explain. Just...try to relax.”

ZOË:

“Please, I—Is that—Dad? Dad! Dad, what's happening? Let me out!”

HELENA:

“He can't, not yet.”

ZOË:

“What did you do?”

HELENA:

“I had to subdue him. There's so much at stake, I can't afford anyone getting overly emotional.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Anger: *Even though Helena's my mother, she clearly has little empathy for me. Pleading may be pointless...but maybe she'll respond to anger?*

ZOË:

 “Open this up right now. Let me go! Let me out, or I swear I'll--”

 HELENA:

 “Calm down. Getting upset won't help you, or your father. After we're done, you can leave. You and Gabriel. That was the deal.”

 ZOË:

 “Done with what?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Plead: *Whatever she's done to me, she is my biological mother. That must mean something to her...*

ZOË:

 “Please, let me out. Please! Please...(Sobs)”

 HELENA:

 “Oh, Zoë. Please pull yourself together.”

 ZOË:

 “(Softly crying)”

 HELENA:

 “After we're done, you can leave. You and Gabriel. That was the deal.”

 ZOË:

 “Done...with what?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HELENA:

“The culmination of thirty years of research. My life's work. Rebooting the world.”

ZOË:

“What?”

HELENA:

“I will explain, and hopefully you'll understand. But first I do need you to calm down and be rational. Nothing good will come from panicking.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Calm down: *She's right. There's no point fighting this. Not yet. All I can do is...breathe.*

 *(conversation progresses)*

Refuse: *Calm down?*

ZOË:

 “You've locked me inside a pod!”

 HELENA:

 “If you could just calm down for a moment, I'll explain why. Just...just stop fighting me.”

 *(player is returned to dialogue choices, Refuse is no longer available)*

ZOË:

“(Deep breath)”

HELENA:

“That's better. Deep breaths, Zoë. Now listen to me. For the past year and a half you've been in a coma, inside Jiva's labs in Mumbai. You've been dreaming.”

ZOË:

“No, that's not possible--”

HELENA:

“Hold on. I'm not saying it's all been a dream. Everything you've experienced has been real. That's what so amazing and exciting, Zoë! While you were dreaming, you projected a physical binary of yourself into the waking world. Think of it like entangled particles. One copy here, in my lab. And one in Europolis. You dreamed yourself a new life in Propast...and it came to be, as real as anything.”

ZOË:

“But...why?”

HELENA:

“Two reasons. Misdirection, to keep WATIcorp off our backs. And, more importantly, to trigger your memories and activate your latent powers. We needed you to return to that...that parallel otherworld, to find and absorb a primal source of dreaming energy. To fulfill your potential.”

ZOË:

“(Whispering) Lux... Are you there?”

HELENA:

“You have a unique skill. You must have realised this by now. You can reshape reality.”

ZOË:

“I'm a Dreamer.”

HELENA:

“There have always been stories of those born with the power to change the world. But I couldn't wait around for that to happen. So...Your father and I made you.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Father: *How's Gabriel involved? What did he do?*

ZOË:

 “My father?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Partners: *They were married. Of course they 'made' me. What does she mean?*

ZOË:

 “What do you mean by 'made'?

 *(conversation progresses)*

HELENA:

“We were partners. And you were the first experiment. Our first creation. We designed you. The first manufactured 'dreamer'. You were born in this lab. There were other experiments. Half-sisters. Faith, of course...The final girl. She was a mistake. And you met Hanna, not so long ago. She was the second experiment, after you. You were drawn to each other, and she was drawn here. To Eingana, to the dreams. I know she's in Mumbai, but she's not strong enough to affect anything. She poses no threat. None of them worked out, not the way we intended. And I didn't think you would either. So I let your father take you away when you were a toddler. He cared so much about you, he was willing to give up everything. His life, his career...me. How could I say no? It wasn't until you connected to a Dreamachine that I realised your powers were there, only latent. That's why I put you in a coma and brought you back here. I did it to protect you. If I hadn't, WATI would have taken you. Your father had no choice but to come along. He did what he had to do to keep you safe. We both did. We saved your life, Zoë. And we made a deal. Gabriel would help me finish what we begun. We'd be partners again, and then, afterwards...He could take you home. I'd leave you alone. The deal still stands. Once we've finished changing the world.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Changing the world: *Did she just say what I think she said?*

ZOË:

 “Changing what?”

 HELENA:

 “Changing everything...for the better.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Insane: *Helena is clearly unstable.*

ZOË:

 “You must be joking.”

 HELENA:

 “Of course not.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HELENA:

“I need you to understand this. We're going to remake the world, you and I.”

ZOË:

“How?”

HELENA:

“I don't have time to go into details, but...There's a place we go when we dream.”

ZOË:

“Storytime.”

HELENA:

“Different cultures have different names for it. The Aranda people of Australia call it Dreamtime. Think of it a the initial state of all matter and energy, in every possible universe. The blueprint. All realities originated in this initial state, and they remain entangled, evolving, one universe affecting another. Wave energies are fuelled by dreams. Particles in our world are entangled with particles in Arcadia, because they were created together in Storytime. Eingana has the power to change the wave field, and thus the observable universe...through dreams.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

WATI: *WATI, the Dreamachine... They must somehow be connected to Helena and Jiva.*

ZOË:

 “So what's WATIcorp's role in this?”

 HELENA:

 “WATI funded us, funded the development of the Dreamachine. We needed to collect and store dream energy. The Dreamachine facilitated that. They thought we were working for them, not the other way around. WATI just wanted brainwashed consumers. They wanted to sell their silly toy to billions, and rule over a virtual world. They have no imagination.”

 *(player is returned to dialogue choices, WATI no longer an option)*

Friends: *What about my friends in Propast? What about Reza? Were they just...dreams?*

ZOË:

 “If I dreamed myself into Europolis...What about Reza? My friends? Were they--”

 HELENA:

 “Dreams? No, you don't understand. They're real. All of it was real, Zoë. You were there, in Propast. A physical projection, walking amongst real people. A three-dimensional copy made flesh, using the power of dreams. And they never realized. Well, at least most of them didn't. I sent someone to protect you, in case anything went wrong. It's a good thing I did, too. Things spun out of control...”

 *If Zoë threw her Dreamachine at Falk in Chapter 7:*

HELENA:

 “It's a shame he had to die.”

 HELENA:

 “Falk Friedman saved your life. As for Reza, it's more complicated...He's been an unwitting agent of WATI. His reckless investigations caught their attention. They needed to manipulate the press, and they wanted to keep an eye on you. He was an easy tool. So they brainwashed him. We'll fix Reza, I promise.”

 *(player is returned to dialogue choices, Friends no longer an option)*

Arcadia: *How does Arcadia fit into the puzzle? If that wasn't a dream, then what is it?*

ZOË:

 “And Arcadia...?”

 HELENA:

 “One of many worlds spawned from dreams. A world of...(Sighs) I-I'm a scientist, I don't understand magic. It's chaotic, complex and unpredictable. Magic is dangerous, and it has no place in a rational universe. But...we needed it. We had to bridge the Divide in order to store these vast quantities of dream energy. We put things in motion to return you to Arcadia, but you did most of the work yourself. Of course, we had help on...on the other side. A partner. But he didn't—You did it on your own, Zoë. You were compelled to connect with the primal force that inhabited the initial state before this universe. That was only possible by crossing the Divide. Something called you there. Some...force guided you. I don't know how to quantify or explain it. But you succeeded. You absorbed the energy and it didn't kill you. You got stronger. Strong enough to wake up and break out. Sooner than anticipated, but...The timing ended up being perfect. You've reached your full potential. You're finally ready to interface with Eingana.”

 *(player is returned to dialogue choices, Arcadia no longer an option)*

*Once all dialogues have been selected:*

Eingana: *She's mentioned Eingana several times now. It sounds important...and familiar.*

ZOË:

“Eingana?”

HELENA:

“Meet Eingana. It took me decades to design and build her. She spands dimensions, taps into the dream energies...She's quite the thing. But she's actually not the first. WATI had the prototype. They used her to operate the beta-version of DreamNet. After she was destroyed, we built Eingana II. She operates the version of DreamNet currently processing and recording the dreams of hundreds of millions of Dreamachine users. And now we're reversing the process. With you as the conduit, connecting quantum fields, connecting Dreamtime with reality, Eingana will begin to alter our observable universe. Don't look so worried, Zoë. You won't need to do anything. She knows what to do. I've programmed her, and my template will guide her. Together, you'll make a better world. A world without sickness or death. A world without superstition, intolerance...A world where everyone's equal, where justice and compassion will prevail. A world not ruled by corporations or religions, but by science and logic, by rational thought. A better world.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Talk: *I need to stall for time, keep her talking until I figure out a way to open this pod.*

ZOË:

 “How will you accomplish all of this?”

 HELENA:

 “I know you have more questions, but we need to get started before those goons break down the doors and ruin everything.”

 ZOË:

 “Helena, wait--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Silence: *She's waiting for me to respond. I think she needs me to understand. If I don't say anything...*

HELENA:

 “I know this is a lot to take in, and I don't expect you to understand all of it right away, but in time...you will.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HELENA:

“Here we go.”

*Helena presses a button. Beams of light immediately hoist Zoë up.*

*Zoë finds herself in the clothes she wore in Storytime, laying on floating rocks in a dark void of swirling light. Everything is blurry.*

ZOË:

“Crow? Crow, is that you?”

CROW:

“I think so. I'm—I'm supposed to show you something.”

ZOË:

“What? Why? What are you doing here? And...where is here?”

CROW:

“I don't know. I don't even know how I got here, I'm—I'm, ah, a bit...a bit... I don't feel right. I'm not sure what happened, and...I'm not sure I'm all here. If that makes sense?”

ZOË:

“No.”

CROW:

“No, yeah, no, I can see how that makes no sense.”

ZOË:

“What are you supposed to show me?”

CROW:

“Oh! I almost forgot! So the ghost in the machine told me to do this thing. This one last thing. The ghost said that this has been my destiny all along. I don't expect you'll know what I'm talking about?”

ZOË:

“Crow, I don't even know where this is. A minute ago, I was inside a pod in a lab, and now--”

CROW:

“We're inside the quantum weave that makes all the stories. This is reality's blueprint. How did I know that? What does 'quantum' mean? What's a 'blue-print'?”

ZOË:

“Well. That explains everything.”

CROW:

“That was sarcasm. I detect sarcasm.”

ZOË:

“This...ghost in the machine. Who was it?”

CROW:

“No idea. I remember nothing before meeting you here...aside from a ghost telling me to show you what I'm about to show you. And I don't even know what that is.”

ZOË:

“Show me what? There's nothing here.”

CROW:

“Let's go find it.”

*Zoë and Crow walk until they find themselves in an old Tibetan monastery.*

CROW:

“Does this look at all familiar to you?”

ZOË:

“It looks like a monastery.”

CROW:

“There you go! Maybe that's it!”

ZOË:

“That doesn't really help. Hey, that looks like a diary.”

*Examine: Cell window*

ZOË:

 “Mountains, crystal clear blue skies... Where are we?”

*Examine: Journal*

ZOË:

 “It's a handwritten letter.”

*Touch: Journal*

BRIAN:

“I am at the crossroads between waking and dream. One path leads back to the world I left behind. The other path...The other path leads to a place of shadows. Between the familiar and the unknown, between certainty and doubt, my choice would seem obvious. Any sane man would turn around, return to the world he knows, forget what he has learned and live his life in blissful ignorance. But in truth, it is too late. My choice was made many years ago, when I first embarked on this journey. I cannot turn back. I am at a crossroads, but for me, there is only one path. I leave behind these words in the hope that, someday, they will serve as a map for someone else. To whomever reads this, Godspeed on your journey. If you ever decide to follow in my footsteps, look me up. Brian Westhouse.”

ZOË:

“Brian Westhouse? Our Westhouse?”

CROW:

“The plot thickens!”

ZOË:

“Thickens...or just getting more muddled. I don't know what this is supposed to tell us.”

CROW:

“That Westhouse is involved?”

ZOË:

“There's that, I guess.”

CROW:

“Come on, there's more.”

VOICE:

“We're ready, traveller. Your journey is about to begin.”

*Examine: Chimes*

ZOË:

 “I've seen stuff like that in films, but never in real life. This looks like a Buddhist temple.”

VOICE:

“The ritual is ready. Step onto the dais, traveller.”

*Zoë and Crow make their way to the end of the corridor and witness Brian Westhouse disappearing through a swirling vortex of light.*

ZOË:

“Okay, so, what just happened?”

CROW:

“Portals. They're all over the place. Let's follow him.”

ZOË:

“Through the—Wait!”

*Suddenly, Zoë and Crow find themselves on a cliff in the Storytime, overlooking the Vagabond's tree.*

ZOË:

“This is the Storytime.”

CROW:

“You know this place?”

ZOË:

“I remember... I was here. For a long time. It's the place between. I didn't want to wake up, and they—They needed me, the people who were dreaming. They were sick. I tried to help them...”

CROW:

“Uh-huh. Interesting. But we need to see what's going on. I'm supposed to show you this.”

VAGABOND:

“What are you doing here? You cannot be here. It will find you.”

BRIAN:

“I...don't...where am I? What is this place?”

VAGABOND:

“How did you get here? Go back the way you came. Quickly. You cannot stay.”

BRIAN:

“I—I don't—know how to go.”

VAGABOND:

“It is here. What have you done? What have you done?”

BRIAN:

“What do you mean? What?”

VAGABOND:

“The Undreaming.”

BRIAN:

“God... What is that? What? No. No! No!”

*Zoë and Crow watch as a colossal black darkness emerges and enters Brian. When it clears, he and the Vagabond are nowhere to be seen.*

CROW:

“What is that terrifying thing?”

ZOË:

“That's the Undreaming... I know it is. I feel it.”

CROW:

“Well, that's going to give me nightmares for a long, long time.”

ZOË:

“The Undreaming entered Westhouse.”

CROW:

“It sure did.”

ZOË:

“Was he looking for it? Is that why he came here? Or was it an accident...”

CROW:

“I guess that's what you're supposed to figure out. Come on, we have more places to visit.”

*In the Engine in Marcuria, the Prophet walks up to the center dais to look at the dream vortex. Taking off his mask, Brian Westhouse proudly surveys his work.*

**--Interlude IV--**

*Songlines*

*A 35 year old Saga steps into her room in The House of All Worlds from a blue portal.*

SAGA:

“Home, sweet home. The House feels...strangely quiet. It must be, what, a year since I last visited? And who knows how long it's been for the House. Could be a day, could be decades. Balance, I need to get moving. There's not much time until the Songlines align. Let's see... Elixir, a good rope... A spatula. Chop, chop, Saga.”

*Examine: Furniture*

SAGA:

 “I'm not sure what to do with the place. It's not like I can put it on the open market. “Transdimensional domicile for sale, fully furnished. Beware temporal shifts and transdimensional tears.”

*Examine: Furniture*

 SAGA:

 “I don't think I'm ever moving back. Maybe in my twilight years? No, there are better places. Warmer places.”

*Examine: Boxes*

SAGA:

 “I put away most of their stuff when Pappa left. What's the point in keeping things around? It's not like they're ever coming back.”

*Examine: Boxes*

SAGA:

 “I'll move those out of here. Some day.”

*Examine: Picture of parents*

SAGA:

 “They were happy here...for a brief time. And then-- (Sighs) Attachments are risky, especially when you live like we did, adrift between worlds. You just have to accept the risk.”

*Examine: Picture of parents*

SAGA:

 “Mamma and Pappa, in better days.”

*Examine: Guitar*

SAGA:

 “I got pretty good, to be honest. And it comes in handy. There's not that many people who can create Songlines.”

*Examine: Guitar*

SAGA:

 “Pappa's guitar. Mine now, I guess.”

*Use: Guitar*

SAGA:

 “I don't need to shape a Songline today. Today I have Paths to follow.”

*Examine: Painting*

SAGA:

 “I don't know if I like it.”

*Examine: Painting*

SAGA:

 “Where is that supposed to be again? It makes me a bit anxious to look at it, like...like poking a wound that hasn't quite healed.”

*Examine: Books*

SAGA:

 “I devoured those books when I was younger. It was all I had of the outside world. My books...and Uncle Galath. But he was careful not to say too much. He knew I was too curious.”

*Examine: Books*

SAGA:

 “I think I know most of them by heart still. I didn't have a lot of choices back then.”

*Examine: Saga*

SAGA:

 “Oh, I was a handful back then. It's a miracle Pappa didn't lock me in my room. Not that it would've done much good. Paths and portals everywhere...”

*Examine: Saga*

SAGA:

 “I miss it, sometimes. But only sometimes.”

*Examine: Picture of Mamma*

SAGA:

 “I barely remember her. And I barely think about her anymore. It was time to let go.”

*Examine: Picture of Mamma*

SAGA:

 “Mamma was beautiful. I guess I got my looks from Pappa.”

*Examine: Downstairs door*

 SAGA:

 “I still don't like to go into the downstairs. It's not anchored in the same way. There are...rifts, Aether vapours. Not to mention, ugh, void-beetles...”

*Examine: Hugsy*

SAGA:

 “I thought Pappa got rid of Hugsy. Did he find his way back? It wouldn't surprise me.”

*Examine: Hugsy*

SAGA:

 “Both creepy and comforting. Comfeepy. Cromforting. That's Hugsy for you.”

*Examine: Toys*

SAGA:

 “Too many memories. Was I happy here? I was basically a prisoner...but I guess I didn't know better.”

*Examine: Toys*

SAGA:

 “Just stuff. None of this means anything. We're not defined by things.”

*Pick up: Rope*

SAGA:

 “Rope, check.”

*Examine: Rope (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “This should be long enough and strong enough to get me where I need to go.”

*Examine: Front door*

SAGA:

 “All those years, wanting to walk out that door, pass through the turnstiles...and never come back.”

*Examine: Front door*

SAGA:

 “Pappa tried all the wards he could think of, but it made no difference. I was too strong headed.”

*Use: Front door*

SAGA:

 “Much as I want to, I can't just wander down random Paths today. I have prophecies to fulfill.”

*Examine: Upstairs door*

SAGA:

 “It's been so quiet up here since Pappa left.”

*Use: Upstairs door*

SAGA:

 “There's nothing I need in there.”

*Pick up: Spatula*

SAGA:

 “Spatula? Check.”

*Examine: Spatula (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “The humble spatula, queen of kitchen utensils.”

*Examine: Radio*

SAGA:

 “When was the last time I listened to that? I must have been, what, sixteen or seventeen. I was able to tune into the weirdest stuff, from all over the multiverse.”

*Examine: Radio*

SAGA:

 “The Radio of All Channels. Currently out of commission.”

*Use: Radio*

SAGA:

 “It stopped working years ago, and I don't know anyone who can repair that.”

*Examine: Potions*

SAGA:

 “I'm out of the elixir. Okay, I knew that. No worries, Saga, this is all part of the plan. I'm fairly certain the recipe's in the Compendium. There should be enough time to prepare a bottle. Prophecies can't be wrong. Can they? No. Right?”

*Examine: Flask*

SAGA:

 “Ready for elixir-making.”

*Examine: Compendium*

SAGA:

 “'The Hidden World of the Herbal Alchemist: A Compendium of Curious Cordials – Volume One'. The sequels were garbage.”

*Examine: Compendium*

SAGA:

 “I picked this up in mediaeval Europe, during a rare temporal hiccup. Five days in 15th Century Holland, never again. The greatest inventions of our time are deodorant and detergent. Also toilet paper.”

*Examine: Compendium*

SAGA:

 “There should be a recipe in here somewhere.”

*Use: Compendium*

SAGA:

“Let's see... “Elixir of extraordinary extra-human strength”, “elixir of multiple consecutive climaxes”, “elixir of selective remembrance”... Hmm. There. “Elixir of delayed onset of mortality”. That's the one. Keep tickin', after you've taken a lickin'. Page one hundred and eight...”

*The page reads:*

*Elixir of Delayed Onset of Mortality*

*(Keep tickin', after you've taken a lickin')*

*The* ***Elixir of Delayed Onset of Mortality****, also known as* ***Keep tickin', after you've taken a lickin'****, is a restorative potion that when drank can bring a person back from the brink of death.*

*Ingredients:*

*Dried blood-bog blossoms*

*Leaf of void-oak*

*Alcohol*

*Instructions:*

*Bring the alcohol to a boil.*

*Mix in fine dust of dry crumpled leaves.*

*Add whole blossoms.*

*And bring the mixture back to a boil.*

*(if done right there will be a small Poof!)*

SAGA:

“Dried bloog-bog blossoms, leaf of void-oak, boiled in strong liquor. Those things should be easy enough to find around here.”

*Examine: Compendium*

SAGA:

 “I need dried blood-bog blossoms, leaf of void-oak, alcohol.”

*Use: Door*

*Examine: Wall*

SAGA:

 “Pappa was so worried about the cracks reopening, he checked the wall every day for decades.”

*Examine: Wall*

SAGA:

 “My destiny begins right here. Well, behind that brick wall.”

*Use: Wall*

SAGA:

 “The Songlines are not yet aligned. And I need to get everything together before then.”

*Examine: Shepherd's Heart*

SAGA:

 “Shepherd's Heart. A powerful herb, but not what I need today.”

*Use: Shepherd's Heart*

SAGA:

 “If I was making a broth to cure Path-sickness...sure. Delaying death? Not so useful.”

*Examine: Flowers*

SAGA:

 “Isn't the House supposed to take care of all living things inside it? I didn't know I had to water the flowers. Oh, but, wait, maybe...”

*Touch: Flowers*

SAGA:

 “Dried blood-bog blossoms. Check.”

*Examine: Blossoms (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “Blood-bog blossoms. Smells...potent.”

*Examine: Typewriter*

SAGA:

 “I'm not sure I like that reminder. She haunted us for so long, and her ghost took Pappa away from me.”

*Examine: Typewriter*

SAGA:

 “It was Mamma's. But there's nothing of her left here now. Just...things.”

*Use: Typewriter*

SAGA:

 “I'm not a writer. I can play, I can paint...but I didn't inherit her talents.”

*Examine: Scratches*

 SAGA:

 “I remember something about being chastised... The House was holy. I was not allowed to harm it.”

*Examine: Scratches*

SAGA:

 “I made those. In another life.”

*Examine: Fireplace*

SAGA:

 “Before Pappa left, I don't think the fire ever went out. He wouldn't let it. He said it was the beating heart of the House...”

*Examine: Fireplace*

SAGA:

 “Does that mean the House is dead? Or just dormant? I can sense it still, beneath the boards and behind the walls. It's hibernating.”

*Examine: Wine*

SAGA:

 “Best wine I ever had. There were no grapes in that world, but the berries they used? Absolutely sublime.”

*Examine: Wine*

SAGA:

 “Like sex in a bottle, with no emotional mess to clean up afterwards. Only wine stains.”

*Use: Wine*

SAGA:

 “Great wine, but not enough alcohol for my purposes. Also, boiling this would be sacrilege.”

*Examine: Baijiu*

SAGA:

 “Jade-green Baijiu. High-grade stuff, too. I'd almost forgotten about this bottle of liquor.”

*Pick up: Baijiu*

SAGA:

 “This should be more than good enough.”

*Examine: Rice wine (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “This'll work as a base for the elixir.”

*Examine: Drawing room window*

SAGA:

 “Did Pappa change this before he left? I think it's pointing to the same place still.”

*Examine: Drawing room window*

SAGA:

 “I've been thinking about extending the House's sphere of influence, and pulling in some of the garden from elsewhen. Maybe when I retire.”

*Examine: Leaves*

SAGA:

 “What a mess, but... There should be void-oak leaves here.”

*Pick up: Leaves*

SAGA:

 “Leaf of void-oak. Nice and dry.”

*Examine: Dried leaves (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “Dried leaf of void-oak.”

*Once all ingredients have been obtained:*

SAGA:

“I think that's it. That wasn't too bad. And there's still time on the clock. Time to boil up some elixir.”

*Examine: Compendium*

SAGA:

 “Bring the alcohol to a boil. Okay. Mix in the fine dust of dry, crumpled leaf...add whole blossoms...and bring the mixture back to a boil. Easy as alchemy. Which is so much easier than science.”

*If Saga inserts a wrong ingredient:*

SAGA:

 “No, this doesn't look right. I'll need to double-check the Compendium.”

*Use: Rice win on Flask*

SAGA:

 “That's the alcohol heating nicely. (Sniffs) Mm, nice. Bit of a waste, but it's for a good cause.”

*Use: Dried leaves on Flask*

SAGA:

 “Dried leaf, crumpled to a fine dust...”

*Use: Blossoms on Flask*

SAGA:

“And whole blossoms. Perfect. Now it just needs to boil again. How do I know when this is done? Will there be a—Definitely a poof.”

*Pick up: Elixir*

SAGA:

 “Looks the right colour. And it's already cooled down. I love alchemy, so much easier than chemistry. Laws of science need not apply.”

*Examine: Elixir (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “This is it, the elixir. I hope it actually works.”

*Once all three items have been obtained:*

SAGA:

“Rope, sptaula...Elixir. Check, check...and check. I think that's everything. With only minutes to spare. You'd almost thing the stars were aligning on purpose. Except, no stars. Paths. Time to go knock down a wall.”

*Pick up: Sledgehammer*

SAGA:

 “This should do the trick.”

*Examine: Sledgehammer (in inventory)*

SAGA:

 “Looks sturdy. I could break down walls with this. And I will.”

*Use: Wall*

SAGA:

 “With my bare hands? No, Pappa did too good of a job with the masonry.”

*Use: Wall*

SAGA:

 “I'll need something to break it down with.”

*Use: Sledgehammer on Wall*

*Saga breaks down the wall leading to the room she was born in at last. The temporal tear has destroyed the entire room, leaving only the blue Aether beyond the wall. Saga finds the Songline she needs and opens the path leading to her destiny.*

*She arrives in the Engine underneath Marcuria.*

SAGA:

“You know that feeling when Paths don't line up with where you want to go? That feeling. In all fairness, when these Songlines were first sung, I don't think these walls were here. Or these metal gears. No worries, I come prepared, because prophecies.”

*Examine: Pipes*

SAGA:

 “I do love their style.”

*Examine: Pipes*

SAGA:

 “Someone must be tasked with keeping these pipes polished...where no one ever sees them. That's attention to detail.”

*Examine: Gears*

SAGA:

 “This is so enormous. I'm almost impressed. But I've seen too much. I'm just too jaded.”

*Examine: Gears*

SAGA:

 “It's like being inside a massive mechanical Swiss watch.”

*Examine: Gap*

SAGA:

 “There's a gap, and I can feel a draft. This is it, the way out.”

*Examine: Gap*

SAGA:

 “I'll need to stop those gears from moving, before I can squeeze through.”

*Use: Gap*

SAGA:

 “I'll be mincemeat, and then we'll all look very silly for trusting prophecies.”

*Use: Gap*

SAGA:

 “That's suicide.”

*Examine: Anything that Saga doesn't need, such as Gear Shifter or Differential Converter*

SAGA:

 “Not what I'm looking for.”

 SAGA:

 “Nope.”

 SAGA:

 “That's not it.”

 SAGA:

 “No, not that.”

 SAGA:

 “I don't think that's it.”

*Examine: Torque modulator*

SAGA:

 “This is it. I just need to switch it off. Luckily, I came prepared.”

*Examine: Torque modulator*

SAGA:

 “Hurray for very specific prophecies.”

*Use: Spatula on Torque modulator*

SAGA:

 “Second one from...Perfect fit. The spatula really is the queen of kitchen utensils.”

*Use: Handle*

SAGA:

 “I feel like I'm playing life on cheat mode.”

*Use: Gap*

*Saga walks through the passage until she emerges out of a large pipe overlooking the Engine.*

SAGA:

“That's him. I hope I'm not too late. No, we should be good. I'm on schedule.”

*Examine: Kian*

SAGA:

 “Hang in there, Alvane...”

*Examine: Kian*

SAGA:

 “He looks very dead. He's not dead.”

*Examine: Vortex*

SAGA:

 “It's one thing to read about it, but to see it up close? It's...impressive. It's pretty fucking awesome.”

*Examine: Vortex*

SAGA:

 “Millions, billions of dreams...and I can hear them. Crazy.”

*Examine: Railing*

SAGA:

 “This looks pretty sturdy. Sturdy enough for a rope...and me.”

*Use: Rope on Railing*

*Examine: Kian*

SAGA:

 “Shit, there's a lot of blood. I really hope I'm not too late.”

*Examine: Kian*

SAGA:

 “I need to fix him, and fast.”

*Use: Elixir on Kian*

SAGA:

 “Drink.”

*Zoë and Crow continue walking along the strange, blurry path. They come across Brian sitting on his porch.*

BRIAN:

“Shut up. Shut up, shut up, shut up! Will you not stay silent, for one bloody minute? I can't—I can't think, I can't sleep, I can't dream. I can't have you inside me. You're eating me up. Why are you not doing what I've asked you to do? You're supposed to give me power. You're supposed to serve me. Not—Not the other way around. Stop...whispering! Magic must be destroyed for the worlds to become one. For Stark and Arcadia to reconnect. For me to return home. You must help me accomplish this. You must listen to me. You see, if magic leaks into Stark, it'll cause chaos and mayhem. Millions will die. I—I don't have a choice.”

*Brian puts on the Prophet mask.*

BRIAN:

“We don't have a choice. It must be done.”

CROW:

“So Brian is the Prophet! That's a twist I didn't see coming. Who am I kidding, of course I saw that coming.”

ZOË:

“Brian's possessed by the Undreaming, he brings it to Arcadia. And then it starts...talking to him? Controlling him?”

CROW:

“Sounded to me like he wanted to control it.”

ZOË:

“But why?”

CROW:

“Uh, to destroy magic?”

ZOË:

“There must be more to it than that.”

CROW:

“I'm just repeating what he said. Come on, there's much more.”

*They come across the Dark People's library.*

ZOË:

“I've been here before.”

CROW:

“The Dark People's library. Something happened here that—Okay, here we go.”

THE WHITE DRAGON:

“Who's there? Hello? Funny bird, is that you? Oh, I didn't...see you. Are you looking for something? Wait, no, what are you--(Screams).”

*Brian stabs the White Dragon.*

ZOË:

“He killed the White Dragon...”

CROW:

“Yeah, and I was there. I saw Mr. Westhouse...And he saw me. He tried to kill me, too, but—I was struck with something from that pointy magic stick of his, and I—I blacked out. Next thing I know, I was stowed away on a ship to Sadir. I must've crawled into a barrel or something. I didn't remember any of it until...until the Prophet grabbed me. I hurt him, there was blood, and—That's what's helping me pull you into these memories. The Prophet's blood! Is that weird?”

ZOË:

“No weirder than anything else I've experienced this past week.”

CROW:

“Welcome to my life.”

*They come upon the Prophet and Mother Utana.*

PROPHET:

“Do you question the Goddess, Utana?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Of...of course not. I just want...I need to understand why all nonhumans must be destroyed.”

PROPHET:

“Magic is an aberration. It has no place in this cosmos. It's chaos. And chaos interferes with logic, with the Engine. With Her plans.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“This I understand. Reunification cannot happen as long as Arcadia is ruled by magic. But the nonhumans--”

PROPHET:

“If we are to fulfill the wishes of the Goddess, we must purify the world. Only then can the mechanical Engine serve Her. Do you understand now?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“I—Yes, Master. My office will establish camps and ship nonhumans to the islands. And I'll find someone to spearhead the program to...eradicate magicals.”

PROPHET:

“Good. I'll be leaving for the Northlands soon, to oversee the final construction of the Tower and the Engine. I trust Azadir is in good hands.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“The Masked Council answers to me only. The Six will continue to heed our advice. Sadir belongs to us, Master Prophet.”

PROPHET:

“And this new Emissary?”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Sister Sahya will join you. She's young, but clever. And loyal. She'll sere you well in Marcuria.”

PROPHET:

“I trust your judgement. Send word when the camps are ready, Utana.”

ZOË:

“Did you understand that?”

CROW:

“No, but that was Mother Utana. She took me in after I arrived in Sadir. I did some work for her. She helped me get back to Marcuria. Kian and her appeared to be very close, until...until she stabbed him. With a knife. To the belly.”

ZOË:

“She...what?”

CROW:

“That...that just happened. Out there. Before the Prophet wrung my neck and—Oh, Mother of Ravens, I remember now. I remember what happened! I—I think I died. Am I dead?”

ZOË:

“You're here. That's all I know. So, Mother...Mother Utana serves the Prophet, and the Prophet orchestrates the destruction of magicals. Which means Westhouse is responsible for—for actual genocide. God.”

CROW:

“I feel weird, Zoë. I don't like this feeling. I'm... I'm scared.”

ZOË:

“I'm sorry, Crow.”

*Zoë and Crow keep walking. They come across the interior of Roper Klacks's castle. The Prophet unleashes the Undreaming out of him and into the Soulstone.*

ROPER:

“That...place. It was—It was filled with...with numbers. And...calculations. And eternity of equations. I couldn't find my way out. It was terrifying. So much power—I owe you my life, sir.”

PROPHET:

“And now you will serve me.”

ROPER:

“How?”

PROPHET:

“You'll help me build something. A mechanical Engine.”

ROPER:

“Like that 'calculator' I was trapped inside?”

PROPHET:

“Something like it, but much greater, on a scale never before seen. In return, I'll grant you power.”

ROPER:

“Power... What kind of power?”

PROPHET:

“The kind you once knew, Necromancer King.”

ROPER:

“That was a long time ago... Another age, one in which Magic meant something. I accept your proposition. So what's next--”

*The Prophet shoves the soulstone into Roper and it immediately merges into him. He then takes off his mask.*

ROPER:

“What did you do? What did you put inside me?”

BRIAN:

“Something to keep safe. Something that must remain hidden.”

ROPER:

“It whispers to me...”

BRIAN:

“Don't listen to it. The Undreaming has ambitions. Best we don't let those ambitions loose on the world. Not yet. Tell no one of this. There are those who are willing to commit murder to get to what's inside you.”

ROPER:

“My—My lips are sealed, Master. I swear.”

BRIAN:

“Only the sceptre can shatter the shard of the soul-stone you carry within.”

ROPER:

“The soul-stone? My soul-stone?”

BRIAN:

“It was never yours, wizard...but yes. A piece of it. This sceptre and the soul-stone were forged from the same Dream, at the beginning of everything.”

ROPER:

“Is that—Is that the Silver Spear of Gorimon? Where did you find it? It harbours great and ancient magics. Could I--?”

BRIAN:

“No. And not magic. This is an object older than magic. It can be both control and destroy magic. It's capable of slicing through the fabric between worlds.”

ROPER:

“It's...so beautiful.”

BRIAN:

“I spent decades looking for it. I found it with one of the Draic Kin.”

ROPER:

“It looks...alive?”

BRIAN:

“It's been fed the blood of Dragons, charged with the oldest magic of them all. It's finally ready. And once my Engine has been built, the sceptre's true powers will be revealed. You'll stay close to me, in Marcuria. I'll call on you when I need you. With the help of the Azadi nation, you'll build my Engine. They're eager for the power they believe it'll grant them. They'll serve me...their Prophet. In exchange, you'll have everything you could ever want. You'll be there, next to me, reshaping worlds.”

ROPER:

“I look forward to it, Master.”

ZOË:

“I knew that wizard couldn't be trusted...”

CROW:

“I could've told you that. Wait! I did. He was there. Klacks. When the Prophet broke my neck. He's working for the Prophet!”

ZOË:

“So...Klacks has a shard of the soul-stone inside him. That must be the same soul-stone I brought to Lux. Why does the Prophet need to keep it safe?”

CROW:

“Something to do with the Undreaming?”

ZOË:

“The Undreaming...It's inside that shard. It's not inside Westhouse, because...because then it'd be controlling him. And he's the one controlling it. You were right, Crow.”

CROW:

“I was? I was! I think... I think this is what I was supposed to show you.”

ZOË:

“Okay, so what's next?”

CROW:

“We keep walking? I guess. I mean, maybe there's more to see.”

*Zoë and Crow finally come upon an 18 year old April, painting her image of the White Dragon's lair.*

CROW:

“April?”

ZOË:

“You. I should have guessed you'd be here. Or...It's not actually you. This place is strange. You're probably just a...an echo. A ghost. What was that whole thing about “find her, save her”? I found you. But I didn't save you. I didn't save anyone.”

APRIL:

“You did.”

ZOË:

“How?”

APRIL:

“I was trapped. You freed me.”

ZOË:

“You died.”

APRIL:

“And was reborn.”

ZOË:

“Reborn...how? You're not telling. Or this echo is incomplete. I know this can't be you, not really, because you're dead and this is just--(Sighs) So what do I do now? I'm supposed to save the Dream, but I don't know how.”

APRIL:

“What have you learned?”

ZOË:

“I don't know...Westhouse brought the Undreaming to Arcadia. First, it was inside him, but then he put it inside the soul-stone shard. He became the Prophet, and he manipulated the Azadi people and feed Klacks, and—Klacks. The shard's inside Klacks. Which means the Undreaming is inside Klacks. And the spear can shatter it.”

CROW:

“The one that killed the White Dragon?”

ZOË:

“The Silver Spear of...of Gorimon. That's what you were supposed to show me, Crow. The key to destroying the shard...and unleashing the Undreaming. The Undreaming isn't the real danger here. I mean, yes, it is dangerous, but only because Westhouse is using it. Controlling it. We need to unleash the Undreaming.”

CROW:

“That sounds a teensy weensy bit risky.”

ZOË:

“I know, but—This is what has to happen. I don't know why I know, maybe because Lux knows, and Lux is part of me now.”

CROW:

“We find the spear and murder Klacks and unleash the Undreaming, all by ourselves?”

ZOË:

“We can't. We need help. We need--”

APRIL:

“Kian.”

ZOË:

“Kian. If I can get word to Kian, then—There's still hope. But I need to get out of here. How do I get out of here?”

APRIL:

“Good luck, Zoë.”

*Zoë disappears into white light.*

APRIL:

“Hey, funny bird.”

CROW:

“April...”

APRIL:

“Are you ready to go now?”

CROW:

“I—Yeah. Yeah, I am. I've missed you, April.”

APRIL:

“I've missed you, too. Come on, Crow. We have a long journey ahead of us.”

*April and Crow walk ahead and disappear into light.*

**--Chapter 13: The Longest Journey--**

*Zoë wakes up.*

ZOË:

“(Gasps) I'm... I'm back. Well, my mind's back. I know what I need to do, but—Still in the fucking pod. I need to get out of the pod. Right now. Okay, so I don't think Helena knows I'm awake. Better keep it that way, or she'll just drug me again.”

*Examine: Controls*

ZOË:

 “That panel operates the pod, and—Ugh, it's right there. Only a thin sheet of plastic away. A thin sheet of very, very strong plastic.”

*Examine: Gabriel*

ZOË:

 “Dad! Is he okay? He looks unharmed, thank God.”

*Examine: Gabriel*

ZOË:

 “Helena must have tied him up. She's completely unhinged.”

*Talk to: Gabriel*

ZOË:

 “No. If Helena hears me, she'll drug me again, and then—That's the end of it. Of everything.”

*Examine: Helena*

ZOË:

 “Mother dearest. I can't believe that...bitch is my biological mum.”

*Examine: Helena*

 ZOË:

 “She looks preoccupied. I guess altering the observable universe requires focus.”

*Talk to: Helena*

ZOË:

 “No. If she hears me, she'll gas me again, and then—The end.”

*Examine: Vortex*

ZOË:

 “Dreams... Entangled dreams, existing in multiple worlds. Pure energy, capable of changing the universe.”

*Examine: Vortex*

ZOË:

 “That's pretty incredible.”

*Examine: Reality distortion*

ZOË:

“What's--? Looks like reality is...wavering. Breaking apart. The walls between dream and reality are starting to get thin near that vortex. It's Eingana's doing. And—And mine. Wait, does that mean I can—Yes. I'm on the border between waking and dream. Storytime's right here, a thought away. Which means...I can shape dreams. I can change reality.”

*Examine: Reality distortion*

ZOË:

 “It's a tear, between reality and dreaming.”

*Use: Controls*

 ZOË:

 “Locked. With a code. Of course.”

*Mind: Gabriel*

ZOË:

 “He's woozy, but—The only thing on his mind me. He's really worried. Hang in there, dad. I'll get you out of this, I promise.”

*Mind: Helena*

ZOË:

 “Come on, Helena. It must be in there somewhere, the code. You must have been thinking about it just—There. Got it. 7-9-1-4.”

*Use: Controls*

ZOË:

“Okay, so let's try this. 7-9-1-4.”

HELENA:

“What—This isn't right. You shouldn't be able to...”

*If Zoë waits too long to stop Helena:*

HELENA:

 “Hold on, Zoë. Just wait, let's—Let's talk this through. If you don't reconnect with Eingana, the wave fields will collapse before they've reached their assigned amplitude. Do you understand? This reality is perfectly entangled with the proto-reality! I need you back inside to make the necessary changes. Look, Zoë, I'll be happy to explain everything...once you've reconnected with Eingana.”

 *Helena gasses Zoë and the player is returned to having escaped the pod.*

*Use: Glass casing*

ZOË:

“Stop.”

*Zoë blocks the gas button and frees Gabriel.*

HELENA:

“Your...your powers are manifesting in observed reality, independent of the quantum field generated by Eingana...That's interesting. That means...The world is changing. You're in control. It's working. Zoë. It's working! It's beginning to--”

GABRIEL:

“Enough, Helena.”

HELENA:

“Oh, put that thing down, Gabriel. We both know you won't use it.”

GABRIEL:

“Our contract is void. WATI security is right outside that door, and you've set your insane project in motion. What's stopping me from killing you right now?”

HELENA:

“Her. You won't kill your little girl's mother in front of--”

ZOË:

“What's that? What's happening?”

*A huge portal begins to open up.*

HELENA:

“I...don't know? This never occurred in any of my models.”

*Zoë, Helena and Gabriel go upstairs to check it out.*

*Saga helps Kian up after he is healed enough.*

KIAN:

“The cut, it's closing up.”

SAGA:

“It's temporary. You'll need to have it looked at by a proper medic before the night's over, or you'll bleed to death.”

KIAN:

“Is this magic?”

SAGA:

“Who cares, it's saving your life. Delaying death.”

KIAN:

“Utana... She did this...Who are you?”

SAGA:

“Long story. How are you feeling?”

KIAN:

“Better. Good. I--”

SAGA:

“Great. We're running a bit short on time, so you'll have to excuse me.”

*Saga opens up a giant Path.*

KIAN:

“Very impressive. What school of sorcery is this--”

SAGA:

“Not magic. And shut up. I'm trying to focus. Hey.”

ZOË:

“Hey?”

SAGA:

“Nice outfit.”

ZOË:

“Thanks. You've opened a portal between Stark and Arcadia.”

SAGA:

“It's called a Shift.”

ZOË:

“You're a Shifter.”

SAGA:

“Not really. I usually walk Paths that are already open. To be honest, I'm not very good at this. I need to stay right here to keep this Shift open, so we'll have to skip the handshakes and move on to the main event. Kian, Zoë. Zoë, Kian. I know you guys are supposed to speak. That's why we're all here. So speak. And, uh, make it quick?”

ZOË:

“We've met before, in--”

KIAN:

“We have. We keep missing each other, and--”

ZOË:

“We do. You don't--”

KIAN:

“I'm just--”

ZOË:

“What?”

KIAN:

“You first. Zoë.”

ZOË:

“I know who the Prophet is, and I know how to stop the Undreaming. Or at least I think I do. It might not work, but it's all we have, and—Roper Klacks. He's the key. He has a shard of the soul-stone inside him, but we need the Silver Spear of Gorimon to destroy it, and that's--”

KIAN:

“Zoë...slow down. The...Undreaming?”

ZOË:

“A destructive force, capable of...of unmaking the universe. The Prophet's using it to destroy magic and reunite the worlds.”

KIAN:

“And this magical spear?”

ZOË:

“The Silver Spear of Gorimon...The Prophet used it to kill the Draic Kin, charging it with dragons' blood. He needs it to destroy magic and alter the Dream. The spear is the only thing that can shatter the shard inside Klacks.”

KIAN:

“Of course. And where do we find the spear?”

ZOË:

“The Prophet carries it with him. I don't think he lets it out of his sight.”

KIAN:

“So find the Prophet, find the spear.”

ZOË:

“And, probably, Klacks.”

KIAN:

“Klacks was here. I punched him...but he got away.”

ZOË:

“Someone survive being punched by you?”

KIAN:

“I held back. He called himself an engineer.”

ZOË:

“The Prophet's been using Klacks, like he's been using your people.”

KIAN:

“But why does he want to kill magicals?”

ZOË:

“Maybe in his own, twisted head, Brian believes he's doing the universe a favour.”

SAGA:

“Could you guys get a move on? I'm not sure how long I can keep this doorway open.”

ZOË:

“We need to stop the Prophet, Kian. And we stop him by destroying the shard of the soulstone Roper Klacks carries inside him.”

KIAN:

“You're certain this will stop the...the un-dreaming?”

ZOË:

“I think so. It...it feels right. Besides, what have we got to lose?”

KIAN:

“Nothing. Everything. But if we can stop the Prophet by taking his spear and killing a wizard...This is something I can do.”

ZOË:

“I'm coming with you.”

KIAN:

“No--”

SAGA:

“No, you can't. We're not done here.”

KIAN:

“I'll see the two of you afterwards.”

SAGA:

“No you won't...”

ZOË:

“What?”

SAGA:

“Nothing. I'm Saga.”

ZOË:

“I'm Zoë. But you know that.”

SAGA:

“Listen, this may look easy...but it's not. Weight of worlds on my shoulders, the pull of alien gravities, knees buckling, etcetera. So you need to not distract me.”

ZOË:

“Uh, okay. Sorry. What should I--”

SAGA:

“We wait. I opened the Shift, you spoke to Kian, that's why I was sent here. What comes next...it's not up to me.”

ZOË:

“How do you know all this--”

SAGA:

“Because that's how the story goes, and it's been written, and we can't change that. Now shush.”

ZOË:

“Okay. Okay.”

*Kian climbs to a high point in the Engine room.*

*Examine: Vortex*

KIAN:

 “The energies appear to be agitated. They're moving faster.”

*Use: Lever*

KIAN:

“Something's happening. The air is shimmering. And there's a deep hum that's making my bones vibrate.”

*Touch: Walkway*

*Touch: Way up*

*Kian climbs his way to the top of the Engine and rides a mechanical chain up.*

*Ferdows and Anna join Saga and Zoë.*

FERDOWS:

“Woah. Sorcery.”

SAGA:

“Not really, but great that you could make it.”

ANNA:

“Who the hell are you?”

SAGA:

“Is everyone going to ask me that question? Who am I kidding, of course everyone's going to ask me that question...I'm just the woman keeping the doorway open, because I was asked to do so and I couldn't really say no. I have no idea who you are, lady, so I'm going to guess you're not that important, but him? He's got a job to do.”

FERDOWS:

“Is that...Stark? Is that Stark through there?”

ANNA:

“Is it?”

ZOË:

“Yep. Hi. Zoë.”

ANNA:

“Anna. This one's Ferdows.”

FERDOWS:

“I always believed the stories about a mirror world, but this—It's...incredible.”

ANNA:

“Where's Kian? Is he all right? We lost contact with him.”

ZOË:

“He went after the Prophet.”

ANNA:

“Of course he did.”

ZOË:

“I'm sorry, but... Saga, how are these two going to help?”

SAGA:

“I don't know. I'm a glorified doorkeeper. Why don't you ask them?”

ANNA:

“Don't look at me. He's the star here. Ferdows? Ferdows, stop staring at that bloody portal!”

FERDOWS:

“Oh! Uh. Yeah. Um. Hello.”

ANNA:

“Tell this one what you're planning.”

FERDOWS:

“I—Ah, I was going to feed the Engine a-a series of, uh, calculations designed to make it, um, well, to-to force it to, uh...Well, um, stop.”

ZOË:

“You mean, crash it?”

FERDOWS:

“Crash--? Yes! Yes, exactly! How did you know? Do you also code spheres?”

ZOË:

“Spheres?”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Was in Chapter 1:*

ZOË:

 “I've...considered a career in 'spheres'.”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Might Be in Chapter 1:*

ZOË:

 “Uh, I guess...you could say that.”

ZOË:

“So you can force the Engine to crash?”

FERDOWS:

“Yes. I mean, no. I could have. Not anymore. It—it stopped taking new instructions when it began running the final calculations, and--”

ZOË:

“There's no way to get in?”

FERDOWS:

“No, it's a closed system. Once the final set of instructions are running, there's nothing that I...I mean, I didn't write the core operational code. If I knew more about how that code functions, then-then maybe I—”

ZOË:

“Do you have schematics? Diagrams?”

FERDOWS:

“Diagrams? Of-of the Engine? Uh, I don't, but they keep diagrams right here. You know, I can probably find--”

ZOË:

“Get them. I happen to know the most brilliant programm—Engineer there is. In Stark, at least. If anything can wrap their head around a steampunk calculating engine, it's Wit. Saga, can Ferdows pass through the Shift?”

SAGA:

“No idea, but you made it through without being torn into a billion pieces, so the odds are decent.”

FERDOWS:

“Got them. Uh, what was that about a billion pieces?”

ZOË:

“Let's go.”

FERDOWS:

“Huh?”

ANNA:

“Friend of Kian's?”

SAGA:

“Not really, no.”

ANNA:

“So this is some sort of magic portal between worlds?”

SAGA:

“Something like that.”

ANNA:

“Huh.”

FERDOWS:

“Va ven? Keo en teka-logika?”

ZOË:

“The most advanced engine there is, yea—Wait. You're not speaking English. I guess you weren't speaking English in the first place, but...I still understand you. Do you understand me?”

FERDOWS:

“Uh... Ko'e?”

ZOË:

“(Sighs) I guess that was expecting too much. Well, we're going to have to make this as simple and as visual as possible.”

*Zoë summons Mira's face on the console.*

ZOË:

“Mira? Put Wit on. No—Shut up. No discussions. Do it. Now. Please. Wit? Zoë. I need your help, and fast. Hold on, I'm sending you some schematics. I need you to figure out a way to get this system caught in an infinite loop. And Ferdows? Watch. Hey, watch this!”

*Brian and Roper approach the vortex.*

BRIAN:

“Everything is ready?”

ROPER:

“Everything's ready. Master. The Engine is operating within parameters. The Well of Dreams has been activated. The Tower is focusing the current. And the Tear is expanding. You need only tap into the Well with your sceptre, and then... You can shape the Dreaming to your will.”

BRIAN:

“Good. You'll receive your reward, Klacks. I promise.”

ROPER:

“Master...”

BRIAN:

“At long last. They'll understand, when they witness the new world. They'll understand that I was merciful and kind. That I acted in the best interests of all of humanity. Sometimes, people have to die, for the rest of us to live on...And...I can go home again. After all these years. Home.”

*Brian places his sceptre in the vortex. Its sheath is unmade, revealing the spear inside it. Reality starts tearing apart with even wider cracks all around the room. The same thing happens in the lab in Mumbai. Zoë looks up at the distortion. Kian finally climbs to the top of the Engine.*

KIAN:

“Goddess, it feels like...like reality itself is coming apart. We don't have much time.”

*Examine: Vortex*

KIAN:

 “Something's happening. The air itself is...vibrating.”

ROPER:

“Aren't you dead yet? Doesn't matter, you're too late! We've already won! And you'll be properly dead.”

*If Kian dodges all of Roper's attacks while running toward him, Roper pushes Kian off the platform, but he catches onto the pipes right below it and pulls himself up.*

ROPER:

“Ha! What did I tell you? Dead! Brainless barbarian. I just need to make sure...Where did his body land? The Neanderthal must be dead, he couldn't possibly have survived that fall. I should be able to see his body, though. I just need to make absolutely sure...Where in damnation is it? It must be here somewhere. My eyes never betray me. Eagle-eyed Klacks, they used to call me. Hmm. Can't see him. But there's no way he survived the fall. Odd. Did the wind take him? Maybe he fell into the current. Torn apart by dreams. A fitting end.”

*If Kian climbs up a coupling near Klacks:*

ROPER:

 “How many lives do you have, man?”

 ROPER:

 “There you are!”

 ROPER:

 “Die, you fool!

*If Kian climbs up a coupling across from Klacks:*

*Touch: Spear*

KIAN:

“Aaaah! (Intense pain)”

BRIAN:

“No. No! Give me that. You don't know what you're doing. It'll eat you up. It will destroy you! It's channeling the dreams of an entire world. I'm on your side, you idiot! I'm trying to eradicate magic!”

KIAN:

“Nnngghhh! (Intense pain)”

ROPER:

“What are you—Don't.”

*Kian throws the spear into Roper's chest and passes out.*

ROPER:

“Oh. Damnation.”

*The Undreaming passes into Brian, sending him through the vortex...*

ZOË:

“Do you understand me now?”

FERDOWS:

“Yes, perfectly. On that side, you were speaking...gibberish.”

SAGA:

“Um, Zoë...”

ZOË:

“English. It was English. But did you pick up on what Wit was showing you?”

SAGA:

“Zoë, you need to hurry. The Shift's starting to contract.”

ZOË:

“Okay. So did it make sense to you?”

FERDOWS:

“The instructions? Yes. Yes, uh, it made sense. A special set of instructions, fed directly into the Engine, designed to mask itself as part of the final instructions, but with erroneous calculations. Calculations that will cause the Engine to enter an infinite loop and burn itself out. A--”

ZOË:

“A virus. We call it a virus.”

FERDOWS:

“Like...Like a disease? This makes sense. This makes a lot of sense.”

SAGA:

“Now, Zoë!”

ZOË:

“And can you do it?”

FERDOWS:

“Ah, well, I don't know if I--”

*The Shift collapses.*

SAGA:

“Ah! Fuck. So...can you?”

FERDOWS:

“Uh, now that I understand the fundamentals...yes. I'll need to feed a series of manual instructions directly into the Engine. It'll take some time, but--”

SAGA:

“Time, we don't have. Just get started.”

FERDOWS:

“Goddess... Uh, all right.”

*Commander Vamon surveys the scene. Anna looks up at him. He turns away. She's not going to let him get away this time.*

ZOË:

“How do we shut it down?”

GABRIEL:

“Only she knows.”

HELENA:

“We won't be shutting anything down, even if you threaten to shoot me.”

ZOË:

“We're not shooting any--”

*Suddenly, Brian Westhouse materializes out of Eingana and is hurled into the room.*

ZOË:

“Mr....Mr. Westhouse? What are you—Oh, God.”

HELENA:

“What are you doing? You're not supposed to be here! You betrayed me! You're trying to destroy everything I've--”

*Brian grabs Helena telekinetically and begins choking her. He pushes Gabriel against a wall with ease.*

BRIAN:

“You were a tool, Helena. Nothing more. Did you think I'd let you play god? Existence is an accident. It was never meant to be dreamed. There was just Dreaming and Undreaming. For every creation, a destruction. Infinitely in Balance. It's time to end this diseased Dream.”

*Action: Helena*

ZOË:

 “No... He's too strong for me. I can't help her.”

*Force: The Prophet*

*Mind: The Prophet*

*Light: The Prophet*

*Time: The Prophet*

ZOË:

“Let her go!”

*Zoë pulls the Undreaming out of Brian. It envelops her vision and all she sees is blackness. Lux is beside her.*

ZOË AND LUX:

“You're not supposed to be on your own. You've been causing so much grief. They don't understand you. They don't understand that there needs to be Balance, in all things. Life and death. Light and darkness. Creation, destruction. Dream...and un-dream. All things in Balance. It's time to come home...and to dream new dreams.”

*A dark Lux emerges from the shadows. It puts its hand up to meet Lux's, and they merge.*

FERDOWS:

“It's working. It's working! The Engine is spinning back around, reversing the instructions. The Vortex is winding down! Thank Goddess, it's working.

*Sister Sahya is frantic on her office's balcony.*

SAHYA:

“They're here, Vamon. Hami's men, the rebels, and your men, too. Deserters. Goddess save us, they're here...How did this happen? Were your men not supposed to remain loyal? Did you not make me that promise?”

VAMON:

“I killed Hami, but his men must have got to mine...They saw the tide turning. They were spooked when the Tower lit up. Sorcery. They believe it's sorcery, and they blame us.”

SAHYA:

“So do something about it!”

VAMON:

“What exactly do you want me to do? Convince them to change sides again? It's over, Sahya.”

SAHYA:

“Everything's falling apart...Goddess, why have you abandoned me? I thought... I thought I was doing your work...So we stay here and we face them when they come. You and I. Together. We tell them we were misled by the Prophet, like so many others. That we believed we were acting in accordance with the wishes of the Goddess. Perhaps the Light will shine upon us, and we'll be spared. Or at least we die with our heads lifted to the sky, redeemed in Her glory. Vamon...we can walk the slopes of the First Mountain. Hand in hand. You'll do this for me, Vamon, because you love me and you wish to protect me. We share the responsibility for this. We--(Gasps)”

*Vamon pushes Sahya off the balcony.*

VAMON:

“I am not staying here to be arrested, tried, and executed in ignominy. Her shame was too great. She jumped. She'd misled everyone, including the Commander...I will let you take credit as the sole architect of our grand scheme, Sahya. I grant you that gift.”

*Saga walks toward the center of the well of dreams. The vortex is all gone and it is dark. Coming across Crow's dead body, she puts her headphones on and presses the button on her 1980s Walkman. After all these years, she's finally met Crow, but she's too late. She picks up his body. In Mumbai, Gabriel holds Zoë's body. Helena and Brian are nowhere to be found. Saga opens another Path and takes Crow with her through it, and it closes, leaving the chamber dark once more.*

*Mother Utana approaches Kian at the top of the Engine.*

MOTHER UTANA:

“Oh, my darling boy...I'm sorry you were caught in the middle. I'm returning to Sadir. This has been a setback for us, but we will persevere...without the Prophet. The Council is ours. We control the army. We may not be able to rid the world of magic yet, but we can cleanse Azadir. We can prepare for the war ahead. I'm doing what needs to be done to save the soul of our nation. To save our people. To save you, Kian. When you reach the First Mountain and look down on us all, you'll understand.”

*Commander Vamon tries to run to Shady Quay, but he is surrounded by rebels. He ducks into the alleyway toward the Mole's house and runs into a sword.*

VAMON:

“Ah. Wh—what...you?”

ANNA:

“That's right. You left me to die on a street, once. I'm just returning the favour.”

VAMON:

“But you were nothing! Just a--”

ANNA:

“A slave girl? I'm free now.”

VAMON:

“Ah! No... No-no-no!”

*Anna watches as the rebels brutally kill Vamon.*

*One week later*

*Kian is sitting on a bed in the Enclave. It is dark, for it is night. The Balance symbol is visible through the hole in the ceiling of the Enclave. The White Dragon mural and the library have been destroyed.*

*Examine: Rebels*

KIAN:

 “Their war isn't over yet, and there's much to do before Marcuria is truly at peace...but they deserve respite.”

*Examine: Rebels*

 KIAN:

 “They've gained their second wind now. The restoration won't be painless, but the hardest part is over.”

*Examine: Dragon's head*

KIAN:

 “They cut it down, but they weren't able to drag it with them. This head belongs here.”

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**KIAN:**

**“Whatever they decide to do with the Enclave, this will remain here as a symbol of the resistance and our struggle.”**

*Examine: Memorial for Hami*

KIAN:

 “Hami...”

*Examine: Memorial for Hami*

KIAN:

 “I was never able to call anyone father. But if I had, it would be you. You made me the man I am today, and for that I'll always be grateful.”

***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

***Examine: Memorial for Hami***

**KIAN:**

**“I’ll see you again, Hami. On the sun-kissed slopes of the First Mountain. No formalities shall divide us then. And I will be proud to call you father.”**

*Examine: Memorial for rebels*

KIAN:

 “So many fallen. If I hadn't gone... But then we wouldn't know the truth. I wouldn't know the truth. And we probably would have lost this war.”

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

 **KIAN:**

**“The dead will be remembered by the living, and their souls will find a home in the Light. Goddess embrace them all.”**

*Examine: Memorial for Bob-who-can-see*

KIAN:

 “Bob-who-can-see... I'd say 'rest well', but I know that whatever awaited you on the other side, you didn't sit still for long. Whichever deity rules your afterlife is probably tearing their hair out.”

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

 **KIAN:**

**“The General lived a long life, filled with both triumphs and regrets. But he ended it his way, standing tall and proud…and foul mouthed.”**

*If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *Examine: Memorial for Shepherd*

KIAN:

 “You guided us, Shepherd. You guided me. And you believed in me, when no one else did. When I didn't believe in myself. You saved me, and this is how I will remember you.”

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**KIAN:**

**“I’ll never again meet anyone like her, but I’ll carry her song within me, and perhaps share her wisdom with others in turn.”**

 *Examine: Likho*

 KIAN:

 “It's time to face him. We have unfinished business, Likho and I.”

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**KIAN:**

**“He swore to kill me once. I hope his feelings have changed somewhat after what we’ve been through together. Our relationship is…complicated.”**

 *Speak to: Likho*

 KIAN:

 “Are you going to kill me now?”

 LIKHO:

 “I did swear an oath, Azadi.”

 KIAN:

 “You did. And if you choose to do so, I won't fight you.”

 *If Kian and Likho got close on the cloudship:*

KIAN:

 “I won't fight my brother.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 LIKHO:

 “I believe the gods may be willing to turn a blind eye to my commitment.”

 KIAN:

 “Good. I'm glad you have forgiving gods.”

 LIKHO:

 “I share the sentiment.”

 KIAN:

 “So, what now, Likho? Where to next?”

 *If Kian and Likho got close on the cloudship:*

LIKHO:

 “This war is just starting. You need people you can trust standing with you. I thought maybe I'd join you in Azadir.”

 DIALOGUE CHOICES:

 Stay here: *He's needed here, in Marcuria, more than I need him in Sadir.*

KIAN:

 “We need good people who can help rebuild Marcuria and restore the relationship between humans and magicals. Without Shepherd, the resistance is weakened. The war may be over, but there are wounds that need healing. And Enu can't do it on her own. I trust you to do it right, Likho.”

 LIKHO:

 “If you need me here, I'll stay. When do you leave for Sadir?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 Join me: *I could use Likho's help in Sadir, and we've grown close.*

KIAN:

 “I think that sounds like a good idea. We need to unite my people and yours, and I can imagine no better man at my side than you, Likho.”

 LIKHO:

 “Likewise. So when do we leave?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 KIAN:

 “As soon as possible. Utana fled the city with the First. I don't believe the Six have any idea they've been deceived. Even without the Prophet, the Masked Council has amassed enough power to make them a formidable enemy. Utana will be in control of Azadir when she returns there. We can't pull the entire Azadi army out of Marcuria without creating unrest. Half the troops will have to stay behind, to ease the transition...but it will have to make do. We have the Light on our side. Civil war seems inevitable. But we walk with the Goddess, and our enemies are blinded by the Shadow. We will prevail. And the Mother will have to pay for her crimes...”

 *If Na'ane is alive:*

 *If Kian is taking Likho to Sadir:*

 KIAN:

 “We're bringing Na'ane. She asked to come along. She can be of good use to us. I'm going to ask Enu to step up and take over some of Shepherd's tasks here in Marcuria.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian is not taking Likho with him to Sadir:*

KIAN:

 “I'm bringing Na'ane with me. She asked to come along. She can be of good use. I'm going to ask Enu to step up and take over some of Shepherd's tasks here in Marcuria. The two of you will make a great team.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 LIKHO:

 “A wise choice.”

 KIAN:

 “I believe so. If she accepts.”

 LIKHO:

 “She'll do anything for you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 KIAN:

 “The restoration will take time, and it won't be complete before all the magicals are back to the city. The ones who want to return...But perhaps that's for the best. Trust between humans and nonhumans will need to be restored first. I wish I could stay, to help, but— My mission isn't here. I need to look west now.”

 *If Kian is taking Likho with him to Azadir:*

 LIKHO:

 “Just say the word. I'm ready, Kian. Brother.”

 KIAN:

 “We'll leave soon. I just have to say my goodbyes first.”

 *If Kian is not taking Likho with him to Azadir:*

LIKHO:

 “This isn't goodbye, brother. We will see each other again.”

 KIAN:

 “We will, Likho.”

 *If Kian and Likho did not get close on the cloudship:*

 LIKHO:

 “I'll stay for a while to help the resistance rebuild. And then I intend to return home.”

 KIAN:

 “To Azadir?”

 LIKHO:

 “To Intiqua-Aba, yes. My people need me.”

 KIAN:

 “I hope we don't end up on different sides again, Likho.”

 LIKHO:

 “We'll just have to make sure that doesn't happen, Azadi.”

*If Kian left Likho behind in Chapter 8:*

 *Examine: Memorial for Likho*

KIAN:

 “You were a good man, Likho. And you died an honourable death, protecting someone you cared greatly for. This is how we will remember you.

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**KIAN:**

**“I’ll miss him, despite all of our differences. Maybe because of them. Likho forced me to confront a past I’ve tried to forget, and I’m grateful for that. I just wish I’d been able to…to tell him.”**

 *Examine: Shepherd*

 KIAN:

 “It's time to say goodbye.”

 ***Content added 5/5/2017 in console version and 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**KIAN:**

**“I will miss Shepherd dearly. She helped me see beauty in magic…and she helped me come to terms with who I am.”**

 *Speak to: Shepherd*

 SHEPHERD:

 “I'm not good at farewells...”

 KIAN:

 “It won't be forever, Shepherd.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Perhaps not, but...I must follow the herd before they're forever lost to me. I hear their songs every night. I can still pick up their scent on the morning winds. But it's getting fainter by the day, and they are farther and farther away from me. If we meet again, it will be when the herd returns to the Northlands. The world is changing, and there may not be room for us here anymore...”

 KIAN:

 “If not in this life, then in the next. We will walk the green slopes of the First Mountain together, and speak of other things than war.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “We will. I wish you were staying, Kian. But I understand that you must go.”

 KIAN:

 “Our war isn't yet over.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “And neither is the restoration, but...I can't stay, Kian. I know I should, but I can't. I miss my own and I was never...This life was never for me. I'm not a warrior. But there was no one else.”

 *If Na'ane is alive:*

 KIAN:

 “Enu will step up in your absence. It's time.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “It is. She will do fine.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Na'ane is dead:*

 KIAN:

 “Enu may still return.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Her wounds are serious, Kian. Even the best healers in Marcuria can only do so much.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 KIAN:

 “I'll ask the Goddess to watch over her.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “I thought you'd lost your faith, Kian.”

 KIAN:

 “In those who claim to speak for the Goddess, yes. But my faith in her is stronger than ever. She guided us all to where we needed to be.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “And now She is guiding you to Sadir?”

 KIAN:

 “I believe we have the Light on our side, Shepherd, and that our enemies walk with the Shadow. False prophets and those who follow them...There will be a reckoning.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Will you return with the entire Azadi army?”

 KIAN:

 “There will still be unrest, for a while. Half the troops will stay behind, to help with the restoration. The rest will join me. The Six were deceived by the Prophet and Utana, and their so-called Masked Council. Even without the Prophet, Utana still pulls the strings in Azadir. I'm not sure we can avoid civil war. The Mother won't relinquish her power easily...It will be an uphill battle.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “Then, the sooner you can get there, the better.”

 *If Na'ane is not dead:*

KIAN:

 “I'm bringing Na'ane. She asked to join me. She wanted to repay a favour. I hope you'll forgive me for not asking you first.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “First Likho, now Na'ane...But she can do more good in Azadir than she can here in Marcuria. And we have Enu. It will do.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

 “Have you seen Alayna? Anna. After last night--”

 SHEPHERD:

 “She left. I think she needs some time away, but you'll see her again. I don't think she can stay away from you for very long, now that she's found you again. So. Farewell then, Kian. Until next time. And thank you. For everything.”

 KIAN:

 “I should be the one thanking you, Shepherd. For giving me a second chance.”

 SHEPHERD:

 “That was all you. Keep Likho alive in your heart? Bring his song back with you to his homeland, to yours.”

 KIAN:

 “I promise.”

*If Na'ane is alive:*

 *If Na'ane was imprisoned:*

KIAN:

 “I'm happy to see you back on your feet.”

 *If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 ENU:

 “Oh, it was touch and go for a while. I guess I got lucky. Either that, or one of the nineteen deities I loudly cursed while bleeding to death finally paid attention. Once they got Na'ane out of her cell, she was able to do her magic. There's still pain, but...it could've been worse. So much worse. (Death noises)”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian left Likho behind in Chapter 8:*

ENU:

 “Thanks to Na'ane. She stopped the bleeding and the whole, you know, dying horribly from a festering gut wound thing. Yay sorcery. It's a good thing she was around. If she hadn't been...(Death noises)”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ENU:

“Anyway. I’m sorry I wasn’t there to see things through to the end. I feel like I let everyone down.”

 KIAN:

 “We wouldn't have made it this far without you, Enu. You let no one down.”

 ENU:

 “Thanks...you. Um.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 ENU:

 “Don't leave.”

 KIAN:

 “This war isn't over.”

 ENU:

 “I know, but-- Don't leave! We can't fix things here without you!”

 *If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *If Kian is taking Likho with him to Sadir:*

 ENU:

 “And without Shepherd...and with Likho going away with you...I mean, who'll be in charge? Who's going to make the right decisions and secure peace between humans and magicals and--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian is not taking Likho with him to Sadir:*

ENU:

 “And without Shepherd...It's just me and Likho now.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian left Likho behind in Chapter 8:*

 ENU:

 “And without Likho...I mean, who will help us make the right decisions and deal with the Azadi and secure peace between humans and magicals and--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 KIAN:

 “You will.”

 ENU:

 “I—What? Me. How? What?”

 KIAN:

 “You're the strongest and bravest person I know.”

 *If Kian took Likho with him on the cloudship in Chapter 8:*

 *If Kian is not taking Likho to Sadir with him:*

 KIAN:

 “With you and Likho here, the resistance will do fine.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *(conversation progresses)*

 ENU:

 “I don't—But, you see, I'm—I haven't—Huh?”

 KIAN:

“The others trust you and admire you. They'll listen to you. You've proved yourself.”

 ENU:

 “Okay, now you're going to make me cry. That's not fair.”

 KIAN:

 “You'll be fine, Enu.”

 ENU:

 “Oh, okay, here we go. Floodgates wide open.”

 KIAN:

 “Goodbye, Enu.”

 ENU:

 “I love you! I mean, in a friendly way, I mean—Oh, screw it. Goodbye, Kian Alvane. Prophet. General. Whatever else you're going to accomplish with your life, and I'm sure you'll accomplish a lot. Good luck with...with everything. Go save your nation! Okay. Okay. All right. We have so much work to do!”

*As Kian goes to leave, a portal opens. Saga steps out.*

SAGA:

“Hey.”

KIAN:

“Who are you? Where do you come from?”

SAGA:

“The Aether. I followed the songlines here. I walk between worlds. I'm Saga.”

KIAN:

“Saga...Thank you for saving my life, Saga.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Paths: *The choices I've made led me down this path, to Kian Alvane, at the right time. Every action played a small part in saving his life.*

SAGA:

 “You're welcome.”

 KIAN:

 “Without you, I wouldn't be here today. The resistance would have failed.”

 SAGA:

 “Perhaps. Anyway.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Fate: *I guess you could say it's fate, that I ended up where I was supposed to end up...not due to any actions on my part, but because the universe decided.*

SAGA:

 “Thank fate, not me.”

 KIAN:

 “I don't believe in fate. I believe in actions. You decided to help me.”

 SAGA:

 “Okay, well.”

 (*conversation progresses)*

Random: *Fate, choices, I don't know? It might have played out differently, if not for a whole lot of coincidences along the way.*

 SAGA:

 “I got lucky.”

 KIAN:

“Perhaps luck played a part, but you chose to help me. And I thank you for that.”

 SAGA:

 “Sure. I guess.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

SAGA:

“Thanks for saving the world, then.”

KIAN:

“I think our friend Zoëdeserves much of the credit for that.”

SAGA:

“I hope she pulled through.”

KIAN:

“I'm sure she did. If not...I would know. We all would. She's--”

SAGA:

“Important? Oh yes.”

KIAN:

“How did you know to be in the right place at the right time?”

SAGA:

“Does it matter?”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

What happened: *“Does it matter?”*

KIAN:

 “Of course it matters! You showed up with the medicine I needed. Did anyone send you--”

 SAGA:

 “It'll take a while to explain. We can cover it on the road the Sadir.”

 *(conversation progressess)*

Saga: *Who is this woman? Her secrecy and lack of respect is frustrating!*

KIAN:

 “Who in Shadow's name are you?”

 SAGA:

 “Saga, I already--”

 KIAN:

 “I know your name! Who are you?”

 SAGA:

 “It's going to take a while to explain. Luckily, we'll have plenty of time before we get to Sadir.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Not Important: *Whatever the reason, maybe I don't want to know.*

 KIAN:

 “Why are you here now?”

 SAGA:

 “We're going to Sadir.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

“Sadir?”

SAGA:

“Capital of the Azadi empire? Situated where the six rivers meet the--”

KIAN:

“Stop playing games, woman!”

SAGA:

“I'm coming with you.”

KIAN:

“I—What? Why?”

SAGA:

“Because that's how the story goes. It's been written, and we can't change that now. We have a war to win, and then, in another decade or so, there's going to be an even bigger war. You'll definitely need me for that one. Us. You'll need us. It's been foretold, Bloodless King. For thousands of years. Seriously, I promise I'll cover all of it when we have some quality time to ourselves. Oh, and...and one last thing. You may not like this one. Yet. You're going to, uhm to adopt me.”

KIAN:

“Adopt... What?”

SAGA:

“I'll need a name, in Azadir. A surname. Otherwise I won't be useful to you. No one listens to a nameless person. And...It's not like we can just get married. So you adopt me and bring me into your family and I take your name and become a princess. Saga Alvane. I like the sound of that. I've never had a surname. We didn't need one.”

KIAN:

“What...are you talking about?”

SAGA:

“Again, I'll explain, soon as we leave. And we should leave soon. Because Sadir needs you.”

KIAN:

“I...Goddess...Yes. Yes. To Sadir. But unless you explain everything, everything, I'll toss you overboard before we're halfway there. Understood?”

SAGA:

“I can live with that.”

KIAN:

“Good. Adopt?”

SAGA:

“Mmhmm.”

KIAN:

“Also, how did you get here? How did you know I was in the Enclave? What was that portal? Can you open portals anywhere? Why not just--”

SAGA:

“Everything. I pinky promise.”

*Zoë wakes up in the hospital room yet again, in her underwear but with her head shaved. The ports are gone.*

GABRIEL:

“Good morning, sunshine.”

ZOË:

“Uh...Oh, no... Not again...”

GABRIEL:

“I promise you, it's for real this time. Do you need anything? Do you need water? Um, the curtains closed, or--”

ZOË:

“No. It's okay. The sun... It's good.”

GABRIEL:

“The doctors said you'd be waking up. I-I wanted to be here when you did, to...Well, to explain.”

ZOË:

“Did we win?”

GABRIEL:

“We're still here. The bad guys are gone, so, I guess we did.”

ZOË:

“What happened, at the end? There was a bright light, voices, and—Nothing. Darkness. And then...Well. This.”

GABRIEL:

“I don't know. That...that thing that came through. It wasn't...wasn't human. It tossed me aside, like I was nothing. I'm lucky I wasn't killed. I tried to get back on my feet, but then there was a blinding flash of light. When it faded...It only took a second or two, and then there was just you. No one else. I thought you were dead.”

ZOË:

“And...Helena?”

GABRIEL:

“Gone. Perhaps that thing...Anyway, she won't be back. If she survived, she'll stay away. Too many people want her locked up...or dead.”

ZOË:

“WATIcorp--? Are they still after me?”

GABRIEL:

“Oh, no, they've got enough problems on their hands. Your friend Sully broke the story. They've been linked to the suicide bombing in Propast, to political payoffs, corruption...and their plans for the Dreamachine were exposed. No one's going to want to log back in anytime soon. The Syndicate's under pressure from the other corporations because of their relationship with WATI. The EYE's under investigation, too. They've pulled their operatives from Europolis. That article made shockwaves. Sully sounded really happy when he called. He'll be even happier when he hears you're awake. WATIcorp will probably survive. The Dreamachine will not. And without that, they couldn't care less about you. About us.”

ZOË:

“That's good. And...and Reza? Is he...?”

GABRIEL:

“When Eingana was destroyed, Dreamnet was shut down. WATI could no longer control him. He's okay. Confused, but okay. I called him this morning. He's on his way down.”

ZOË:

“Oh... Okay. Dad... What were you doing in Mumbai, with...with that woman?”

GABRIEL:

“(Sighs) I didn't know any other way. Unless I cooperated, WATI was going to...was gonna take you away. Helena convinced them to let us bring you to the lab. They believed we were working on improving Dreamnet, while Helena was secretly working on our—on her project. Altering reality.”

ZOË:

“How?”

GABRIEL:

“Use entangled particles to affect the quantum state of dreamtime, in order to reshape the physical universe...Change dreams, change reality. Helena spent thirty years on this project. We were partners. But it was always her project. Her theories. I'm not sure I ever believed it would actually work, but she was determined, and I--”

ZOË:

“You made me?”

GABRIEL:

“We did. I don't know if you'll ever forgive me for not telling you the truth, but...You began life as an experiment. Our goal was to create an individual capable of existing in both realities. The physical, and the dreaming. Someone who could change the world with a single thought. With dreams. But it didn't work. You were...you were just a child. To your mother, you were an asset she could use and discard, but I—You were my little girl. That's why I left. You were only two years old. Helena had given up on you. In exchange for my share of Jiva, she let me take you away. I thought it was over. I didn't know she'd come back for you.”

ZOË:

“(Sighs) There's too much to process right now. I can't...I'll need time. And I'll need the whole story, from beginning to end. All the way back.”

GABRIEL:

“Of course. I'm really sorry, Zoë. I let you down again, and--”

ZOË:

“Dad. Stop. You did what you had to do to save me. I still need to understand exactly what happened...but I don't blame you. Where are we? Still in Jiva's Mumbai lab?”

GABRIEL:

“No, no. No, this is the real deal. We're back home—Back in Casablanca.”

ZOË:

“Okay. Good. I want to stay.”

GABRIEL:

“In the hospital?”

ZOË:

“I want to go home, to our house. I miss home. I miss you, dad.”

GABRIEL:

“I've missed you too. Of course you can come home, sweetheart.”

ZOË:

“But I'll be asking tons of questions, and I expect honest answers. No more protecting me from the truth. Okay?”

GABRIEL:

“Okay.”

ZOË:

“Right now, though, I just want to...to sit here and watch the sunlight. I'm sick of sleeping. Sick of dreaming. I want to be awake.”

*The door opens and Reza appears. He and Zoë look at each other.*

*Five years later*

*Saga and Kian look over their kingdom of Sadir. They are joined by Likho, Na'ane or no one depending on choices made. A small newly reborn Crow is on Saga's shoulder.*

*Zoë sits peacefully on her balcony in Casablanca with Wonkers and an obvious baby bump showing. She rubs it and then notices someone coming up to her.*

ZOË:

“Hey, you.”

**--Epilogue--**

*Those Who Walk Between Worlds*

*A long, long time from now*

*An old woman enters the den in the House of All Worlds from the entryway. She is wearing her grandmother's locket. Blue eyeshadow goes across her eyes and her white hair has the faintest traces of blue in it. Her skirt has the symbol of the Balance on it as well as a familiar pattern of moons and stars. The tops of the doors have been cut off.*

LADY ALVANE:

“Every year it gets colder. Let's see if we can't put some life into you.”

*Examine: Painting (near door)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “One of my older works. I must've painted that when I was in my late teens.”

*Examine: Painting (near door)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Come to think of it, that was an actual place. I visited there to get in touch with my ancestry. It was a...a strange and powerful experience.”

*Touch: Painting (near door)*

LADY ALVANE:

 *“*I won't mess with this one, but I think I'd like to revisit this particular scene in a painting. Perhaps something that goes further back, to the beginning of the journey. Dragons and dreams...”

*Examine: Memento (underneath painting)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “One of the Silfen worlds. Beautiful and peaceful, as always...so, naturally, I grew bored. Again.”

*Examine: Stick*

LADY ALVANE:

 “One day I'll get rid of that accursed thing. It's stained with the blood of Dragons. But it's too dangerous to simply discard.”

*Examine: Stick*

LADY ALVANE:

 “The Silver Spear of Gorimon... Older than the Twin Worlds, forged in the fires of the First Earth. Created for one purpose, the destruction of magic. Some days, I use it as a walking staff.”

*Examine: Stick*

LADY ALVANE:

 “If we do end up taking one last journey, it'll probably be because of this blasted stick.”

*Use: Stick*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I don't much like holding it anymore. It's thick with the blood of Dragons, and heavy with broken dreams.”

*Examine: Memento (near spear)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “The dead walked in that world. They were exceedingly polite, but it still creeped me out not end.”

*Examine: Memento (right)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I prefer my worlds three-dimensional, thank you very much.”

*Examine: Memento (left)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “One of my favourite worlds. Vast and beautiful. It took me days to walk there, across treacherous Songlines, avoiding Discordants and Bellstrikers.”

*Examine: Memento (left)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I probably would never have gone, unless I'd picked up on those rumours about a Midgardian woman who suddenly appeared in the City of Three Moons. I thought...”

*Examine: Memento (left)*

 LADY ALVANE:

 “I was hoping I'd find here there, but the woman had left years before. I stayed a while, it was a wonderful place, but I grew bored...as I always do.”

*Examine: Photograph*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I like to think pappa found mamma in the end, and that they lived out their lives together somewhere green and beautiful.”

*Examine: Photograph*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Pappa never gave up hope, no matter how hard I tried to convince him otherwise. If anyone deserved a happy ending, it was him.”

*Examine: Photograph*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I wish mamma had come back to me, just to say goodbye. For too many years, I was so angry with her for leaving.”

*Touch: Photograph*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I miss you guys so, so much.”

*Touch: Photograph*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Perhaps I'll see you again, some day soon.”

*Examine: Typewriter*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Why did you never come back to me, mamma? Were you really not able to find your way, or did something else happen? Did you forget about us?”

*Examine: Typewriter*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I refuse to believe she stayed away on purpose, and I never really believed she was dead. She might've been lost in time, like pappa always said. That would explain why she couldn't make it back.”

*Examine: Typewriter*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I've read her stories. They're beautiful. I've collected them all... Maybe I should try to get them published, somewhere.”

*Use: Typewriter*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I could never write as well as she did, so I stopped trying.”

*Examine: Glasses*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Oh, pappa. Trying to keep me here with wards and old magic. I must have been such a handful for him, and a royal pain in the ass.”

*Examine: Glasses*

LADY ALVANE:

 “He left his glasses when he packed his rucksack and walked out the front door. Where he was going, he didn't need spectacles.”

*Examine: Glasses*

LADY ALVANE:

 “At least I got to say goodbye to him.”

*Use: Glasses*

LADY ALVANE:

 “They wouldn't do me much good. Those wards are long gone.”

*Examine: Painting (near fireplace)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I had to visit Lettoch. I couldn't just let that mystery be. But the Paths didn't lead me to them, or to that time, and I found nothing.”

*Examine: Painting (near fireplace)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “It was a beautiful place, though. And I left a memorial there, for the two of them.”

*Examine: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Still so many worlds unvisited, so many universes left to traverse. But time's running out for me.”

*Examine: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I've kept track of all my travels over the years. The multiverse is big, but I haven't done too badly. I don't think many have walked as far and as wide as me.”

*Examine: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “People keep telling me I should put together an annotated map of the Multiverse...but who has the time at my age? There are more important things.”

*Touch: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “There. Oh, yes, I remember that place...an that strapping Corokanth farm boy. It was an enjoyable two weeks. Until his wife returned.”

*Touch: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Let's see... Ah! Almost found myself in jail that time, accused of whatever passed for 'witchcraft' in that backwards place. Like Poetry could possible open Gateways. You need music for that.”

*Touch: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Hmm. Was this where I found that Godling and nursed him back to health? I believe he ended up wandering down Songlines himself. He promised he'd stop by some day, but...gods. Can't trust 'em.”

*Touch: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “What's this one again? Oh, that place gave me a headache. There was something about the odd angles that messed with my mind. That, and the transdimensional cephalopods.”

*Touch: Map of the Multiverse*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Wherever I put my finger, there'll be a memory. I could keep doing this for days.”

*Examine: Comfy chair*

LADY ALVANE:

 “It's...the comfy chair! (Chuckles)”

*Examine: Comfy chair*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I never could get rid of that old thing.”

*Examine: Comfy chair*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I've travelled so many worlds, across so many ages, but I never found a chair quite as comfortable as that one.”

*Use: Comfy chair*

LADY ALVANE:

 “If I sit down, I don't know if I'll be able to get up again today.”

*Use: Comfy chair*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Not yet. When I do, I'll stay seated.”

*Examine: Teacup*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Rose loved to tinker with her creations. Now where did those dragonflies of hers go?”

*Examine: Teacup*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I haven't thought of Rose for nearly half a century. Where did she end up after Reunification? She always spoke about going post-physical and being with her Alvin again.”

*Examine: Teacup*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I would love to hear that story one day. Knowing Rose, she got what she wanted.”

*Use: Teacup*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll make some tea to go with the shortbread later, after my...guest has left.”

*Examine: Keepsake*

LADY ALVANE:

 “The people of Stark got a sneak peek of what Reunification would be like with the Collapse. For most, it was not a pleasant experience.”

*Examine: Books*

LADY ALVANE:

 “'The Secret Lives of Stickmen'.”

*Examine: Books*

LADY ALVANE:

 “'Paths, Ways and Songlines'.”

*Examine: Books*

LADY ALVANE:

 “'Time is a Spiral'.”

*Examine: Books*

LADY ALVANE:

 “'Reincarnation for Beginners'.”

*Examine: Books*

LADY ALVANE:

 “'The House of All Worlds'. My one and only book. And it is, truly, one book only.”

*Use: Books*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll sit down and read later, with a good cup of tea from a floating teacup.”

*Examine: Relic*

LADY ALVANE:

 “She came to me when I was a child. She spoke to me, comforted me...”

*Examine: Relic*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I believe we'll meet again, and maybe then the mysteries will become clear to me.”

*Examine: Relic*

LADY ALVANE:

 “The White Dragon... April... Me. Life's not a circle. It's a spiral. And there's an end to it, eventually.”

*Examine: Memento (near globus)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Worlds like that one are jarring, everything just slightly off. It's like it was designed to keep me on edge. And I have such a hard time understand post-physicals.”

*Examine: Globus*

LADY ALVANE:

 “The Twin Worlds became one, and decades of strife and unrest followed. Many perished...but it had to be so. Magic and science could not be Divided forever.”

*Examine: Globus*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I haven't been back in decades. New Earth reminds me too much of friends long gone. But maybe I'll pay one last visit to those who remain.”

*Examine: Globus*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Some call it Starcadia, but not me, for it is a silly name.”

*Examine: 'The War of the Balance'*

LADY ALVANE:

 “'The Complete History of the War of the Balance and the Reunification of Worlds', volumes one to thirteen. I've yet to make it all the way through, I'm afraid.”

*Examine: 'The War of the Balance'*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I helped Galath with the details while he was writing it. I was there to witness it all.”

*Examine: 'The War of the Balance'*

LADY ALVANE:

 “At least Galath was able to complete it before he Traveled on to the stars. It's an impressive achievement, that history. I really should read it. Some day.”

*Use: 'The War of the Balance'*

LADY ALVANE:

 “That's a tale for another occasion.”

*Examine: Guitar*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Thank the worlds I learned to plat the guitar, or I might never have discovered the Songlines.”

*Examine: Guitar*

LADY ALVANE:

 “When I play, I see ghosts of old songs in the air, guiding me to Paths and new worlds. Pappa was right about taking time to the learn the guitar.”

*Use: Guitar*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'm too busy to call on the Songlines tonight. Perhaps another day, when my legs don't hurt.”

*Examine: Feather*

LADY ALVANE:

 “His feathers are a lot greyer these days, poor thing. He hates growing old even more than I do.”

*Examine: Feather*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Did I pluck it? He never sheds. Or if he does, he hides it well.”

*Examine: Feather*

LADY ALVANE:

 “My lucky feather, from my best friend and faithful companion.”

*Touch: Feather*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll leave it be.”

*Examine: Picture*

LADY ALVANE:

 “It's hard, sometimes, to separate my own memories from what I've read and heard. April's journeys are vivid to me, but also dreamlike...”

*Examine: Picture*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I've spent so many years trying to make sense of our connection. I don't think I ever will.”

*Examine: Picture*

LADY ALVANE:

 “She's a part of me, and she always will be, but how, and why... That's a mystery.”

*Touch: Picture*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Some day, at the very end, maybe we will meet face to face...before the cycle begins anew.”

*Examine: Talisman*

 LADY ALVANE:

 “This was April's. I'm not sure how that's possible, or how it ended up here, but...”

*Examine: Talisman*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I feel her presence in this. I mean, I always feel her presence, that's inevitable. But there's something about this Talisman...”

*Examine: Talisman*

LADY ALVANE:

 “The ending and the beginning will connect. They always do.”

*Touch: Talisman*

LADY ALVANE:

 “So much energy... Her chi is in this.”

*Examine: Chart of Songlines*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Now that my life's winding down, I feel like I'm just beginning to understand Songlines. But at least here they are, charted and documented. Someone may benefit from my experiences.”

*Examine: Chart of Songlines*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Perhaps I'll take one final walk along a winding Path, and listen to the songs and stories. Perhaps one day soon, when the spring between worlds thaws the frost on the turnstiles.”

*Examine: Chart of Songlines*

LADY ALVANE:

 “(Hums idly) There's one passing right through this room now. I think I've heard this Songline before. It beckons me. But I have shortbread in the oven, and my guest will be here soon.”

*Use: Chart of Songlines*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I would so like to go, but...not now. Not today.”

*Examine: Hugsy*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Hugsy! He's the only creature in this little world of ours older than me.”

*Examine: Hugsy*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I used to think he spoke to me...and I do believe I was right about that. There's a spirit inside him, old and shy. I think mamma put him there, to watch over me when she was traveling.”

*Examine: Hugsy*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll have to make sure Hugsy is free to leave before I—Before my time comes.”

*Touch: Hugsy*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Oh, dear, old Hugsy. You're barely holding together.”

*Tallk to: Hugsy*

LADY ALVANE:

 “What's that, Hugsy? You miss pappa? I miss him too, old buddy.”

*Talk to: Hugsy*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll release you, when the time comes, and you can float on the Winds until you find another stuffed toy in another little girl's room.”

*Examine: Memento (near Hugsy)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Brave Zoë. It couldn't have been easy, getting caught up in events and wanting nothing more than a quiet, normal life.”

*Examine: Memento (near Hugsy)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I believe her daughter is still alive in the Continuity...along her with grandchildren and great- grandchildren.”

*Touch: Memento (near Hugsy)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “From what I've heard, she lived a long and fulfilling life. And I know she passed the Dream on, or all this...wouldn't be.”

*Examine: Drawings*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Not bad...for a seven-year-old with no idea of what was happening to her and why she was having such vivid dreams.”

*Examine: Drawings*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Arcadia, Crow, the Rolling Man... The beginning of a long, long journey...”

*Examine: Drawings*

LADY ALVANE:

 “That's her story...experienced with my own eyes. I still can't wrap my head around that one.”

*Touch: Drawings*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll leave them up. After all, Pappa isn't around to tell me to clean up and bring them to my room. (Chuckles)”

*If Kian took Likho to Azadir:*

 *Examine: Drawing*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Now there's a face I haven't seen in a long time.”

 *Examine: Drawing*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Likho stayed true to Kian until the end, though, to be honest, I always thought they were going to end up killing each other.”

 *Examine: Drawing*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Kian wouldn't have lived half as long without Likho by his side. That man must have saved Kian's life a dozen times...and he always claimed to regret it.”

 *Examine: Drawing*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Perhaps it was for the best that Likho didn't live to see Reunification. I'm not sure the new world would have been to his liking.”

 *Touch: Drawing*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I'll leave that hanging where it is.”

*Examine: Painting (near drawings)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Our 'Bloodless King'. (Chuckles) He did not enjoy that throne, but he never complained. Not to me, at least. Even my endless teasing couldn't faze him.”

*Examine: Painting (near drawings)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Oh, Kian... I miss you dearly. Not a day goes by when I don't think of you.”

*Examine: Painting (near drawings)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “He's been gone so long, I have a hard time recalling his voice and smile. I loved him, with all my heart. I always will.”

*Touch: Painting (near drawings)*

LADY ALVANE:

 “My dearest Kian... I miss our long conversations. I even miss how every single one of my jokes passed over your head.”

*Examine: Symbol*

LADY ALVANE:

 “It's such a beautiful design, and it keeps the House anchored, in perfect Balance between all worlds and times.”

*Examine: Symbol*

LADY ALVANE:

 “Will this continue to work when our family is all gone? Mamma and pappa always said the House is a living thing, so maybe it'll live on without us.”

*Examine: Symbol*

LADY ALVANE:

 “I hope the House can stand forever as a bridge between worlds. The multiverse would be poorer without it.”

*Use: Fireplace*

*The old woman starts a fire just by moving her hand. Then she hears a knock at the window.*

*Use: Window*

*An old, white Crow emerges from the snowy Aether.*

CROW:

“It's freezing out there! You should not have let me go outside. Brrr!”

LADY ALVANE:

“You're a big boy. What in Balance were you thinking?”

CROW:

“Fresh air, and I was going a bit stir crazy inside--”

LADY ALVANE:

“You know very well it's not safe. Paths shift with the winds between worlds, and the Songlines are fragile things at the best of times. One Discord, and you could end up lost forever, just like--”

CROW:

“You worry too much, old woman.”

LADY ALVANE:

“Old woman? Hm. You're no spring chicken yourself, bird.”

CROW:

“Don't 'bird' me! I've survived worse. Anyway, time to dry my cold feathers by a roaring fire while I enjoy a saucer of sweet sherry.”

LADY ALVANE:

“Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot to tell you. You can't.”

CROW:

“I—What? I can't what?”

LADY ALVANE:

“Be here.”

CROW:

“You're not serious. You're serious.”

LADY ALVANE:

“I'm receiving a visitor, and she musn't see you. There'll be too many...questions. Questions I can't easily answer.”

CROW:

“And who, pray tell, is this very important visitor?”

LADY ALVANE:

“I will tell you. Afterwards. Go upstairs and warm yourself by the chimney. It won't be too long.”

CROW:

“After all these years, I get no respect. No! No, don't say anything! It's fine! I'm going upstairs. Just don't expect me to come back down again later. Or ever.”

LADY ALVANE:

“I'm making shortbread.”

CROW:

“Call me when it's ready.”

*Crow flies upstairs.*

*Use: Comfy chair*

*The old woman sits down in the comfy chair. The dining room door soon opens. A weary young traveler rushes in.*

LADY ALVANE:

“Welcome, April Ryan.”