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**--Chapter 6: Machinations--**

*The mysterious black bird flies around the nighttime sky in Marcuria. Kian is standing on a balcony with a mission partner, keeping a watchful eye on the building that the Azadi constantly guard.*

*If Kian killed the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

 LIKHO:

 “I fail to see the point in watching that house night after night. It's a house. It's not going to up and leave.”

 KIAN:

 “There's something odd about it. I'm sure there's—Look.”

 LIKHO:

 “Yes, Kian. People are leaving. Which also happened last night and the night before. It means nothing. This is a dead end.”

 KIAN:

 “Or is it connected to the Tower, and if we keep watching, we'll learn more about the tubes, and—You're probably right, maybe it's wishful thinking. Another dead end.”

 *If Na'ane is alive:*

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

LIKHO:

 “I saw you speaking with Na'ane this morning. What did you discuss?”

 KIAN:

 “She was telling me about some herbs she needs. I promised her we'd keep our eyes open.”

 LIKHO:

 “She's been acting strange since you arrived, not like herself at all. Is there something going on between the two of you?”

 KIAN:

 “I can assure you there's not. I have no interest in Na'ane. Or in any woman. Not in...that way.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Na'ane is imprisoned:*

 LIKHO:

 “I saw you visiting Na'ane's cell this morning. Why?”

 KIAN:

 “I brought her food. That's all.”

 LIKHO:

 “Forgive me if I don't trust you with her.”

 KIAN:

 “I was the Apostle. She was the informant. I don't see how this is relevant now.”

 LIKHO:

 “There was nothing going on between the two of you?”

 KIAN:

 “Going on? Likho, I can assure you I have no interest in Na'ane. Or in any woman. Not in...that way.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 LIKHO:

 “How do you deal with it?”

 KIAN:

 “Deal with what?”

 LIKHO:

 “With who you are. What you are. How you—How you feel about...You know.”

 KIAN:

 “You Dol-Azadi...Dol-Intiqua. You see how men and women are divided in our society, and you condemn us for something you do not understand.”

 LIKHO:

 “What I meant--”

 KIAN:

 “I know. There are some rules that cannot be broken. A soldier can't bed a priestess. If they're caught, it's exile for the woman...and death for the man. A Sister can bed another priestess. She can also take a civilian lover, as long as she's...discreet. A pregnant sister loses her robes. And a soldier can lie with another soldier. For some, it's a passing phase. For others, convenience. Soldiers become officers, or they leave the service, begin a civilian career. Marry, have children...For the rest of us...Our society doesn't condemn us. In the eyes of the Goddess, it makes us no less worthy. It's simply how we were born. You only see us Azadi as bigoted and reactionary. And in our treatment of magicals...perhaps we are. We are. We have our reasons for fearing magicals. Not good ones, but still. We have no reason to fear men who love men, or women who love women, and so we do not condemn or persecute them. I don't have to 'deal' with anything, Likho. I am who I am, and no one has ever thought less of me because of it.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Na'ane is dead:*

LIKHO:

 “The Zhidling still hasn't forgiven me.”

 KIAN:

 “For Na'ane.”

 LIKHO:

 “For taking her life. Enu doesn't look at me the same way. The same goes for Shepherd.”

 KIAN:

 “You must have known this might happen when you decided to cut Na'ane's throat.”

 LIKHO:

 “Do not pretend there's no blood on your hands, Kian. You're as much to blame for her fate as I am.”

 KIAN:

 “Perhaps. They're not comfortable with death, Likho. Sooner or later, that changes.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 LIKHO:

 “We're alike, you and I.”

 KIAN:

 “In...what way?”

 LIKHO:

 “In many ways. We understand the need to do things others would balk at. Pain and blood...what we do isn't pretty, but it must be done to keep others safe. And we are the only ones willing to do it.”

 KIAN:

 “Once I started down that path again, it felt...natural.”

 LIKHO:

 “As it should.”

 KIAN:

 “Should it? I'm not sure I--”

 LIKHO:

 “Shh. Someone's here.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian spared the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

ENU:

 “I'm cold. And hungry. And bored. And my butt's hurting. And I'm also thirsty. But hey, I'm not complaining, this is fun, I like staring at buildings all night, every night, until my eyes start bleeding.”

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

ENU:

 “Do you think Na'ane's been acting weird? I mean, she's always been a bit weird, but after she came back from Myria—Actually, since you arrived. Why is that? Have you noticed anything...weird?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Na'ane is imprisoned:*

ENU:

 “Did I tell you I visited Na'ane this morning? Well, I did. She's not doing so well. I feel bad for her. She did what she thought was the right thing.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Na'ane is dead:*

 ENU:

 “I still think about Na'ane every day. I mean, I know it's been months now, and I know she was a traitor, but...I can't help it. I liked her and it's horrible what happened. I don't feel the same way about Likho anymore. He...scares me a bit.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

 “Enu. Please pay attention.”

 ENU:

 “Oh, what's there to pay attention to. We've been watching that building for a week now. Nothing's going on in there. I almost wish Likho was here instead of me...but any chance he has to avoid going on a mission with you, he'll take. I can't believe he's still upset you didn't kill that officer. I mean, we've gotten good information from him. Likho's just being a real poop head.”

 KIAN:

 “He's upset about losing Oldtown.”

 ENU:

 “Yeah, but what could we do?”

*If Kian tortured the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

ENU:

 “I mean, you tortured the guy, we got the information, we chose to leave.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian didn't torture the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

 ENU:

 “I mean, he decided he couldn't trust your information. That's not your fault.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ENU:

 “Sooo. What else is going on with you? Hey, what happened with that woman, Anna. Didn't you and her—”

 KIAN:

 “Nothing happened. And I shouldn't have told you anything.”

 ENU:

 “You can trust me. I tell no secrets. Except to all my girlfriends, of course, when we get together over wine and—I'm kidding! I have no friends, you know that. Aside from you guys. You guys are my best friends and that's really sad I'm depressed now. But she's pretty. Anna, I mean. Beautiful hair, striking freckles, nice scowl. She'd make a fine...companion.”

 KIAN:

 “I'm not interested.”

 ENU:

 “Oh. Okay. So...is there anyone at all that you're—”

 KIAN:

 “Enu, I'm not interested in women.”

 ENU:

 “You're not interested in—? Sure, I knew that. Pft. Of course. That's fine. Perfectly fine. So who do you—”

 KIAN:

 “Look. Something's happening.”

 ENU:

 “Oh, yes. Someone's leaving the house. Call in reinforcements! People leave that house every day, Kian. They arrive in the morning and leave at night. Almost like it's a real business of some sort.”

 KIAN:

 “Doesn't look like a real business to me.”

 ENU:

 “You're too suspicious. Must be hanging around all that Azadi—”

 *(conversation progresses)*

BIP:

“What are you guys up to?”

KIAN:

“Bip? What in Shadow's name are you doing here?”

BIP:

“Uh...nothing? Oh, right, I have a message. It's from Ulvic. He says, come to the bar immediately, there's been Developments. I don't know what 'Developments' is, but Ulvic's face was frowny so it's probably important.”

KIAN:

“It always is. Good job, Bip. Let's not keep Ulvic waiting.”

*If Kian killed the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

LIKHO:

 “I'll run ahead. The two of us together will attract more attention.”

*If Kian spared the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

ENU:

 “I'll go first. We won't attract as much attention if we arrive separately.”

*A few moments later, Kian jumps down from the balcony. There is no one out on the streets at this time of night, and a lot of the city has been gated up. There are wanted posters all over town that are also visible in Chapters 8, 9 and 12. They say:*

*WANTED*

*by the Council of Six*

*VEGARD STENHJEM HAGEN*

*is a known Zhid criminal, wanted for bribery, disorderly conduct, drug trafficking, indecent exposure, public intoxication and exhibitionism*

*RAY CROMWELL*

*is a known heretic, and wanted for blasphemous teachings*

*ZANNA STURNUS*

*is a known dabbler in Witchcraft and keeper of magical familiars.*

*BORIS PASMAN*

*is wanted for embezzlement, extortion,...and manufacturing*

*LARS LINDGÅRD*

*escaped Friar's Keep on the 16th Eve of the Third Turning*

*He is a convicted Dolmari wanted for...and enchanting*

*APPROACH WITH EXTREME CAUTION*

*If you have any information regarding this person*

*please contact your nearest Azadi office.*

*There are also posters saying:*

*BEWARE MAGICALS!*

*If you have any information concerning magicals, or any individual siding, staffing or harbouring a magical, please contact your nearest Azadi office.*

*Examine: Access panel*

 KIAN:

 “This pipe has a hinged panel in it, but I'll need a tool to open it.”

*Examine: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “That's probably a maintenance hatch. But it's locked.”

*Examine: Paper dragons*

KIAN:

 “Those paper dragons are illegal. They've been arresting anyone caught running them, but new ones pop up every day.”

*Examine: Paper dragons*

KIAN:

 “Supporters of the magical resistance fly paper dragons to remind people of the Balance and the Draic-Kin. It's a powerful symbol.”

*Examine: Paper dragons*

KIAN:

 “They're beautiful, and the runners are brave. Foolhardy, but brave.”

*Examine: Window*

KIAN:

 “Sometimes I do envy those who can close their doors at night and find peace and joy in their homes. But that's why we fight, so they don't have to.”

*Examine: Window*

KIAN:

 “Behind every window, there are stories.”

*Examine: Shrubbery*

KIAN:

 “Shrubbery of some sort. I haven't studied my Marcurian plants, but they appear quite ordinary.”

*Examine: Shrubbery*

KIAN:

 “Your basic shrubbery. Shrubberish.”

*There are also posters of Onor Hileriss that say:*

*Onor Hileriss*

*for City Watch*

*Vote faith and family*

*Vote Onor Hileriss*

*Examine: Poster*

KIAN:

 “Onor Hileriss has posted these bills everywhere. He's serious about his run for office. Under his leadership, the City Watch will fester and rot.”

*Examine: Poster*

KIAN:

 “I know Bip's been tearing down these bills, but National Front supporters keep replacing them. There appear to be a lot of them, sulking in the shadows.”

*Examine: Poster*

KIAN:

 “The Tower's behind Hileriss' run for office. If they have their way, he'll be their little puppet inside the Watch. Another way for Vamon to exert his dominion.”

*Examine: Pumpkin*

KIAN:

 “A pumpkin. An odd vegetable, native to the Northlands. We have nothing like it in Azadir.”

*Examine: Pumpkin*

KIAN:

 “Apparently, the Reaping's the right time for pumpkins, and they're an important part of the celebrations. Goddess knows why, they're hideous things.”

*Examine: Bonfire*

KIAN:

 “They're building bonfires for Reapmoon's Eve next week.”

*Examine: Bonfire*

KIAN:

 “I've never experienced these festivities myself, but I hear you're supposed to throw an offering on the fire, to appease some sort of pagan god. 'The wicker witch'.”

*Examine: Bonfire*

KIAN:

 “Most traditions have ancient and practical origins. I have no doubt their 'wicker witch' existed. But such darkness is no longer part of our enlightened modern world.”

*Examine: Bonfire*

KIAN:

 “A bonfire, for the Feast of Reaping, on Reapmoon's Eve next week. They'll light up the city with pagan fires.”

*Examine: Gates (in the green)*

KIAN:

 “Since the raid on Oldtown, they've sectioned off more of the city at night. You can pass, but you need to answer questions.”

*Examine: Gates (in the green)*

KIAN:

 “My veil won't work if I approach the guards and speak to them. They'll see me, and they'll have questions.”

*Examine: Gates (in the green)*

KIAN:

 “These gates are kept closed after sundown.”

*Examine: Apples*

KIAN:

 “Are those...yams? N-No, they're only apples. (Sighs)”

*Examine: Apples*

KIAN:

 “In a world with yams, who needs apples?”

*Examine: Apples*

KIAN:

 “Plain, boring old apples. Apples are certainly no yams.”

*Examine: Bobbing barrel*

KIAN:

 “Barrel bobbing! There's a tradition we also have in Azadir. Of course, we didn't use apples. We used nettles. They stung fiercely, and the children would cry. It was enjoyable.”

*Examine: Bobbing barrel*

 KIAN:

 “Using apples for bobbing is probably a better idea than using nettles. Using yams would be an even better idea.”

*Use: Bobbing barrel*

KIAN:

 “A single bob won't hurt. I'm sure no one's watching...”

*Use: Bobbing barrel*

KIAN:

 “Ah, this brings me back. Although without the nettles, something's definitely lost.”

*Examine: Odd structure*

KIAN:

 “This is an historical landmark of some sort. Shepherd mentioned the name 'Abnaxus'. An ambassador of the Venar, she said.”

*Examine: Odd structure*

KIAN:

 “I'm surprised we didn't tear it down, but I guess there's nothing outwardly pagan about this building. It's just a hollowed-out, petrified tree.”

*Examine: Odd structure*

KIAN:

 “It's quite striking. I can only imagine what this Abnaxus creature looked like when it—when he lived here.”

*Use: Odd structure*

KIAN:

 “It's locked. I could probably force it open, but I have no business in there.”

*Examine: Decorations*

KIAN:

 “They've put up ornaments all over town, for the Festival of Reaping. Harvest season is important in the Northlands.”

*Examine: Decorations*

KIAN:

 “The children appear particularly excited about the Reaping. I've tasted the yams, I completely understand.”

*Examine: Decorations*

KIAN:

 “If I have time, I wouldn't mind trying my hand at making some of these ornaments for the Enclave. Everyone there could use a feast to look forward to.”

*Examine: Empty tables*

KIAN:

 “It's surprisingly quiet out. Usually these tables are busy until late at night. Granted, it is chilly and damp. Everyone's probably inside, carousing.”

*Examine: Empty tables*

KIAN:

 “It'd be easier to walk around unnoticed if there were more people about...but I do get to operate in peace.”

*Examine: Gates*

KIAN:

 “They're keeping Ayrede Avenue close at night, and the Tower Square remains inaccessible until next week's ceremony.”

*Examine: Gates*

KIAN:

 “For the unveiling next week, there's going to be a parade through these gates and up Ayrede Avenue, to the Tower Square. All for a web of metal pipes.”

*Examine: Wreath*

KIAN:

 “The wreaths are part of the harvest festival tradition.”

*Examine: Wreath*

KIAN:

 “Enu told me some believe the wreaths protect homes from Yaga, the wicker witch. You put a wreath on your door to show that you've made proper offerings.”

*Examine: Wreath*

KIAN:

 “I'm not sure what's supposed to happen if you put up a wreath without making an offering. Nothing good, I'm sure. Yaga comes and...admonishes the children, maybe? Or eats them.”

*Examine: Streetlamp*

KIAN:

 “Before our arrival, the streetlamps were lit with magic spells. They've been replaced with modern elyctricity.”

*Examine: Streetlamp*

KIAN:

 “I don't know how this light is created, or what truly separates Science from Sorcery. Maybe it's all philosophical. It's all miracles to me.”

*Examine: The Rooster and Kitten*

KIAN:

 “Without that proud cock and the delightful little puss riding on it, the resistance would be in a dark place indeed. I...ugh, Goddess forgive me. I keep doing that.”

*Examine: The Rooster and Kitten*

KIAN:

 “The Rooster and Kitten's been a safe harbour for us. I hope we can properly repay Ulvic after this is all over.”

*Examine: The Rooster and Kitten*

KIAN:

 “The Rooster and Kitten. An appropriate and tasteful change of moniker.”

*Examine: The Salty Seaman*

KIAN:

 “Likho says this used to be a popular spot with mariners and other men, but it was shut down after some business with an Azadi officer and a Dolmari sailor...”

*Examine: The Salty Seaman*

KIAN:

 “The Salty Seaman. Seaman. Sea-MAN. That's it.”

*Enter: The Rooster and Kitten*

*The Rooster and Kitten is all decorated for the Reaping. Two men named Göran Paues and Billy Privitera are sitting at a table in the corner. A man named Stefan Heidenberger is sitting at a nearby table.*

ULVIC:

“You see that gentleman sitting over there? Don't look, you simpletons! Balance... You lot don't know much about subterfuge, do you. The man's an Azadi mechanic. He drinks here most nights, but I didn't know that part until I overheard him speaking to his friend earlier about the pipes. Seems that with the pipe network up and running, there's a lot of tinkering to be done. Our man over there carries a tool to open maintenance hatches...”

KIAN:

“If we can get inside a hatch...”

ENU:

“We can maybe figure out what they're using the pipes for? That's brilliant, Ulvic!”

LIKHO:

“So we slit his throat and dump him in the bay.”

ULVIC:

“Not in my bar, you won't!”

*If Kian killed the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

 ENU:

 “Isn't that your solution to every problem, Likho? Cut, stab, maim, kill.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

“If they find out we've taken his tools, the information we acquire could turn out to be useless. No, we need to--”

ENU:

“Borrow his tools, open one of those pipes to have a look-see, and put the tools back before he notices. And that was probably what you were going to say when I interrupted you. Sorry!”

*If Kian killed the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

ENU:

 “I'm actually surprised you're not agreeing with Likho, seeing how much you enjoy killing people.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ULVIC:

“If you can do it without him noticing, I won't stop you. But...If the Azadi ever suspect that I'm collaborating with the resistance--”

LIKHO:

“That will not happen, Ulvic.”

*If Kian killed the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

LIKHO:

 “What do you suggest, Kian?”

*If Kian did not kill the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

ENU:

 “So what do we do, Kian?”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Take charge:

 KIAN:

 “We split up. We'll all look for a solution, and reconvene here later.”

 ULVIC:

 “That sounds better than what usually happens, you lot bickering and fighting over every little decision.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Defer to Ulvic:

 KIAN:

 “What do you think, Ulvic?”

 ULVIC:

 “Me? Well, I think you three are resourceful in...different ways. Instead of bickering about what to do, which is what usually happens, why not split up? There's every chance one of you will come up with something that doesn't involve murder, the total destruction of my pub, or blowing my cover.”

 KIAN:

 “I agree.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

LIKHO:

“We can't take too long. That man won't stay here forever.”

ULVIC:

“He's on his second drink. He usually doesn't leave until he's had at least three, and I can offer a few on the house to make him stay longer.”

KIAN:

“It's decided, then. We'll meet again here later this evening.”

ENU:

“Winner buys a round for everyone. No? No? It's not very motivating? Okay.”

*Examine: Pillar*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic had these wooden pillars carved in the style of the southern islands when he took over the place.”

*Examine: Pillar*

KIAN:

 “They represent the spirits of the hundred isles, their gods and goddesses, imps and devils.”

*Examine: Pillar*

KIAN:

 “I find them disturbing. Their eyes, they follow me. Light protect us from pagan beasts and sorcery...”

*Examine: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic is a good man. I enjoy his company. He's true to his word. I trust him with my life, and consider him a friend.”

*Examine: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic's even got me drinking ale. Goddess forgive me...I like it.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “Have you found anything yet?”

 KIAN:

 “I'm working on it.”

 ULVIC:

 “Enu and Likho are still out looking, and you're not. You should get to it.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “You're the only one not out there looking for a solution, Kian. That probably won't play well with the team.”

*Banners are up everywhere that say “Reapmoon's Greetings”.*

*Examine: Decorations*

KIAN:

 “They take their harvest festival very seriously. A whole month of excess, culminating in the Feast of Reaping on Reapmoon's Eve.”

*Examine: Decorations*

KIAN:

 “In Azadir, the harvest season is a deeply spiritual time. There are daily services and quiet contemplation before and after the day's harvest. Fasting is strongly encouraged.”

*Examine: Decorations*

KIAN:

 “I prefer the Marcurian harvest festival. Those yams are positively delightful.”

*Examine: Snacks*

KIAN:

 “Traditional Reapmoon snacks. Roasted apples, salted yams, sweetroots. Pungent, fermented Snapjaw eggs.”

*Examine: Snacks*

KIAN:

 “The snacks are free, as long as you're buying drinks. Ulvic comes down hard on those who don't.”

*Examine: Snacks*

KIAN:

 “Are there any yams left? Oh, good. Those yams are the best.”

*Use: Snacks*

KIAN:

 “I won't say no to a tasty bit of yam. Mmm. Delicious.”

*Examine: Marcurian patrons*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic doesn't have the most sophisticated or upscale clientele. And I'm sure he's happy about that.”

*Examine: Marcurian patrons*

KIAN:

 “At least they're not a raucous or unruly lot. Ulvic keeps them in check.”

*Examine: Marcurian patrons*

KIAN:

 “There are mostly labourers and dockworkers in this bar. It's the perfect cover for the resistance.”

MARCURIAN PATRON (near door):

“I should be getting home. Just one more. One more for the road. A bit of Dull Mary courage to help me get started, and then I'll head home.”

MARCURIAN PATRON (near door):

“The witch and the vicker had six shots of liquor and presently went for a walk. Come on, said the clergy, a man has his urges, but the witch only wanted to talk!”

MARCURIAN PATRON (near door):

“Balance be cursed! Oh, I'm gonna be feeling this tomorrow. Might as well have a few more since I'm already well and surely fucked!”

PIPE MECHANIC:

“You wouldn't believe the amount of work that's required to keep the network running smoothly. Oh, the engineering's good, but the assembly... (sighs) Don't put military men on a civilian job, is all I'm saying. This requires fine skill, not brute force. See, if the connection between the pipes are off by even a hair's breadth, the orbs can start rattling around and get stuck. If that happens? Shadow...Let's just say the Tower would be severely displeased. The official opening's in a week, and they want the ceremony to go as smoothly as possible. The Emissary would not take kindly to being embarrassed in front of the First. So that leaves me...and my workbox. (Burps)”

PIPE MECHANIC:

“The worst thing is crawlers in the tubes. What do they call 'em here? Rats? I had to clean out rat gizzards from a junction last week. Shadow take me, what a mess that was...See, once the blood and guts get into the engines, there's nothing for it. They need to be dismantled and every piece has to be scrubbed clean. Takes a full day, that does. I wish they'd put some sort of safeguards in place, there are rats crawling all over this Goddessforsaken city. You know how many times I've seen a crawler in Sadir? None. None is the times.”

PIPE MECHANIC:

“I hate this Lightforsaken city. Shadow take me if I don't. Marcuria smells like rat shit and rotten fish. Tahera's the place for me, friend. Southern Azadir.”

PIPE MECHANIC:

“I have a girl waiting back in Tahera. We're engaged to be married. Haven't heard from her in a while, but I'm sure she's been...busy. Yes, I'm sure that's it. Just busy.”

PIPE MECHANIC:

“I should probably head home soon. This one's my last drink, I swear it on the First Mountain!”

*Examine: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “He's a mechanic, working on the pipe network. And he has a workbox with tools.”

*Examine: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “We need to get a hold of his tools in order to access a maintenance hatch in the pipe network.”

*Examine: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “The question is, how to take his tools and return them without him noticing?”

*Examine: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “He's not military and he's not merchant class. I didn't mingle much with artisans in Sadir, but I recognise the style of clothing.”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “I could knock him over the head with the butt of my blade...but I don't think Ulvic would approve.”

*Talk to: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “Dar.”

 PIPE MECHANIC:

 “Light. What do you—Oh. I thought you were one of 'em. You know. The magicals. Goddess knows why there are still magicals in the city. I thought they'd been deported, all of 'em. Never mind. Take a seat, man, and I'll buy you a drink! Where are you from? You sound Azad--”

 KIAN:

 “My apologies, I need to be...elsewhere.”

 PIPE MECHANIC:

 “Oh. Right. Next time?”

*Talk to: Pipe mechanic*

PIPE MECHANIC:

 “Offer's still good. Sit down, man, and I'll buy you a drink.”

*Talk to: Pipe mechanic*

PIPE MECHANIC:

 “You sure you don't want to share a glass with me?”

*Talk to: Pipe mechanic*

PIPE MECHANIC:

 “If I wasn't such a great judge of character, I'd think you were sweet on me.”

*Examine: Workbox*

KIAN:

 “A workbox. That's probably where a mechanic would keep his tools.”

*Use: Workbox*

KIAN:

 “I'll just grab it and run? And keep running until this city and all of this is behind me?”

*Use: Workbox*

KIAN:

 “No, now's not the time.”

*Examine: The Black Cock*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic told me once of the legend of the Onyx Cockerel, High King of All Cocks. This proud fowl came to the aid of its owner when he was set upon by rabid, man-eating owls. Unfortunately, the poor cock-a-doodle was torn to shreds. Owls. Light... Sharks of the skies. Their thirst for human blood is legendary.”

*Examine: Doppelgängers*

KIAN:

 “They appear to be having a great time. Well deserved, too.”

*Examine: Doppelgängers*

KIAN:

 “They're good people, bless their generous hearts.”

*Examine: Doppelgängers*

KIAN:

 “I wish them all the happiness in the world.”

MARCURIAN PATRON (male):

“Those tubes should make our lives better.”

MARCURIAN PATRON (female):

“Really? How's that?”

MARCURIAN PATRON (male):

“Well, they're there for the...well, the...the betterment of humankind, aren't they?”

MARCURIAN PATRON (female):

“What does that even mean?”

MARCURIAN PATRON (male):

“Well...life's a series of tubes!”

MARCURIAN PATRON (female):

“I'll drink to that.”

*Examine: Cellar*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic's provided Bip with a cot down there, among the wine caskets and beer barrels. I believe the boy's acquired a taste for strong drink.”

*Examine: Cellar*

KIAN:

 “Ulvic keeps all the liquor down there, in the cellar, under lock and key. He's protective of his spirits.”

*Talk to: Marcurian patron (upstairs female)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “I'm not here to speak with strangers. I'm here to drink foreign drinks with exotic fruits in them.”

*Talk to: Marcurian patron (upstairs female)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “Look, you're a tall, dark and handsome man, true, but I'm just not feeling it. Sorry.”

*Talk to: Marcurian patron (upstairs female)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “You're persistent, I'll give you that. But I'm going to ignore you now.”

*Touch: Marcurian patron (upstairs female)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “Are you trying to ask me up for a dance? A kiss? A quick grope in a dark corner? Come on, use your tongue, man!”

*Touch: Marcurian patron (upstairs female)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “I'm not going anywhere with you. It's like my mother always says: “A bushy beard conceals lustful daemons.”

*Touch: Marcurian patron (upstairs female)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “Hands off, big guy. I'm taken.”

*Talk to: Marcurian patron (upstairs male)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “What can I do you for, friend? Buy me a drink and I'll tell you my life's story. Buy me two, you can tell me yours. But me three, and anything goes.”

*Talk to: Marcurian patron (upstairs male)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “I've seen you at the Rooster before. You're not a drinking man. So why spend so much time here? For the ambiance? The company? The stench of sweaty leather?”

*Talk to: Marcurian patron (upstairs male)*

MARCURIAN PATRON:

 “Look, I'd love to chat but you're silent and weird, and I'd rather continue my conversation with the lady here. No offence, alright, but maybe work on your social skills?”

MARCURIAN PATRON (in corner upstairs):

“Fuckin' rebels, causin' trouble for everyone! What the hell are they thinking? Onor Hileriss is right, we're better off without them!”

MARCURIAN PATRON (in corner upstairs):

“Do I smell magicals? I think I smell magicals! Why are there magicals in this place? I thought this was a human establishment!”

MARCURIAN PATRON (in corner upstairs):

“Why isn't there any music and dancing going on, Ulvic? Start the music so that we can begin the dancing!”

MARCURIAN PATRON (in corner upstairs):

“Vote Hileriss! Vote faith and family. Vote National Front! (hiccup)”

PATRON (female upstairs):

“I do miss Oldtown. Marcuria's just not the same without the Magic Ghetto.”

PATRON (male upstairs):

“Shhh!”

PATRON (female upstairs):

“What?”

PATRON (male upstairs):

“Well, take a look around you. Is this the best place to lament the loss of magicals?”

PATRON (female upstairs):

“Well, we have lost something, haven't we! Is this town really better off without magicals? Be honest.”

PATRON (male upstairs):

“Honesty is the quickest way to the noose.”

*Exit to Marcuria*

*Examine: Angled pipe sections*

KIAN:

 “A crate full of angled pipe sections. 'Elbows', if I'm not mistaken.”

*Examine: Angled pipe sections*

KIAN:

 “They must be surplus parts, unless they're still expanding. And I don't believe they are.”

*Examine: Straight pipe sections*

KIAN:

 “A crate full of straight pipe sections. They call those 'arms', I believe.”

*Examine: Straight pipe sections*

KIAN:

 “Pipe sections. Surplus or spare parts, I imagine.”

*Examine: Gates (in the market)*

KIAN:

 “The ghetto's been burned to the ground. Whatever's left in there, it's ruins.”

*Examine: Gates (in the market)*

KIAN:

 “They keep this closed all the time. I guess they're still sorting through the rubble, looking for contraband.”

*Examine: Gates (in the market)*

KIAN:

 “I believe there are still magicals hiding out in the ruins, but it's not safe in the ruins of Oldtown.”

*Examine: The Council's Harbour Master*

KIAN:

 “The harbour master answers to the Council, but all ships that dock here need a letter of permission from the Emissary's office. So, in effect, the Tower controls the harbour.”

*Examine: Goat*

KIAN:

 *“*They can't be wild goats, not in the middle of Marcuria, but who owns them? The city? Maybe this is how they keep the grass in the Green trimmed.”

*Examine: Goat*

KIAN:

 “I'm not fond of goats. I shared a room with a goat once. It woke me up in the middle of the night, shrieking like a man possessed with demons.”

*Examine: Sleeping goat*

KIAN:

 “Goat eats leaves, goat falls asleep. Interesting. Wait, I remember someone talking about this a while back... The Mole, was it?”

*Examine: Plants*

KIAN:

 “What was that herb the Mole spoke of... Evensong? This must be it. It's an opiate. Consume enough and you fall asleep.”

*Examine: Plants*

KIAN:

 “That's Evensong. It's a flavourful herb that helps with insomnia.”

*Pick Up: Plants*

ANNA:

“What exactly are you doing to that goat?”

*If Kian did not kiss Anna in Chapter 5:*

ANNA:

 “Wait, does this have anything to do with why you rejected me? Goats? Honestly?”

 KIAN:

 “What do you mean by 'goats' and 'honestly'? I don't understand your words, woman!”

 ANNA:

 “Hey, I'm not judging anyone. I'm just surprised, is all.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian kissed Anna in Chapter 5:*

ANNA:

 “Should I be jealous?”

 KIAN:

 “Jealous? Of whom? I don't understand what you're saying to me.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

“Where have you been this past month?”

ANNA:

“Away. Far away. Traveling. So...This goat, what's going on here?”

KIAN:

“It's rebel business.”

ANNA:

“Clearly. How's that working out for you? Are you one of them now?”

KIAN:

“I'm atoning for my sins.”

ANNA:

“Right. But you are enjoying it.”

KIAN:

“I don't 'enjoy' fighting my own people.”

ANNA:

“Well, you seem to be good at it. Word is the resistance is gaining support, that people have hope now that you're there.”

KIAN:

“I'm doing what I can to help.”

*If Kian tortured the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

 *If Kian killed the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

ANNA:

 “I heard you went all out on our vile little Azadi officer. Torture and execution? You're colder than I thought, Kian. It might have been better to keep him alive...but I get it. I probably would have done the same in your place.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian did not kill the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

ANNA:

 “I heard you went the extra mile to...extract information from our vile little Azadi officer. I'm glad he suffered. Maybe it would've been better to kill him, but... A source inside the Tower? Could be useful.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ANNA:

 “And you got the information you needed. Your people fled Oldtown in time, even if it meant the Azadi met no resistance. At least that explosive spell tore off a few limbs and heads.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian did not torture the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

 *If Kian killed the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

ANNA:

 “I heard you executed our vile little Azadi officer. I don't disapprove, I'm just wondering why you didn't...extract information before ending his life. I mean, if you're going to kill him anyway, what's a little pain and blood to start things off with?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Kian did not kill the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

ANNA:

 “I heard you went soft on our vile little Azadi officer. If I'd known, I would've taken care of him myself. Not killing him makes some sense, a source in the Tower and all. But...foregoing torture? That's just a missed opportunity.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ANNA:

 “The thing about torture is that it's a seal of authenticity. It makes every piece of information more...reliable. I understand your friends didn't the officer's word for it? Well, even if you didn't pull out of Oldtown, at least the resistance put up a decent fight, before...The important thing is, many Azadi died that night. Chalice half full and all that.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

KIAN:

“What do you want?”

ANNA:

“Nothing. Nothing! I saw you, it's been a while, I wanted to say hello. I've missed...this. The one-sided conversations. The sullenness and suspicion. I've come to enjoy it quite a bit. Anyway...Goats?”

KIAN:

“We have a lead on the pipes.”

ANNA:

“Oh, that explains everything. I'll leave you to it, then. I'm going to the Rooster later tonight. I need to speak with Ulvic. Maybe I'll see you there.”

KIAN:

“Maybe.”

ANNA:

“This is what I love about you, Kian. You're such a people person.”

*Examine: Evensong (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “Evensong, a herb that makes the wakeful sleep.”

*Examine: Evensong (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “I picked this Evensong in the City Green. It might help with our Azadi mechanic.”

*Enter: The Rooster and Kitten*

*Give: Evensong to Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

KIAN:

“This is Evensong. It works on goats.”

ULVIC:

“Well then, it should work on the Azadi too, eh?”

*Ulvic brings the pipe worker a drink.*

ULVIC:

“One more ale on the house, Dar.”

PIPE MECHANIC:

“Ah, what a lovely head! This one smells different. Malty sweet, almost like the sugar-ale from southern Azadir. Now this is a brew, Ulvic! Tastes like home, this does. Brings tears to my eyes. Simply spectac--”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “He's out like an Irhadian sailor on Rose Eve. You can grab his toolbox now, but be subtle about it. The room has eyes.”

*Examine: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “He's dead to the world, knocked out by Evensong.”

*Examine: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “If I ever have trouble sleeping again, I'll know what to do.”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “Hey. Hey!”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “Are you awake?”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “You're not awake.”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “I can do pretty much anything I want to you right now, and you will never know.”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “I can even pull your ears up like this and—Ugh, you need to clean your ears. That's revolting.”

*Touch: Pipe mechanic*

KIAN:

 “If I had a marker, I'd write 'fool' across this man's forehead. A classic joke. Everyone would laugh, and it'd teach him to never take first sips from a cup of ale. Alas, I do not have a marker.”

*Open: Workbox*

*Kian obtains a maintenance map that has labeled:*

*Pipe map, City green, Marcuria*

*Walls*

*Gates*

*Buildings*

*The Bones*

*“Petrified Tree”*

*Magic Ghetto (Burnt Down!)*

*Too the Tower*

*Fountain*

*Pipes*

*Access points*

*South Gate Harbour*

*Examine: Pipe tool (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “A tool for opening the maintenance hatches in the pipes.”

*Examine: Pipe tool (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “I'll need to return this before the mechanic wakes. If I don't he'll raise the Shadow itself to get it back.”

*Examine: Maintenance map (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “It's a map of the pipe network, with maintenance hatches marked in red.”

*Examine: Maintenance map (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “Using this, I should be able to find one of the panels.”

ULVIC:

“Don't take too long out there. If he wakes up without his tools, there will be questions, and I won't have any good answers.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “You should get on with it. The Evensong's potent, but he will wake up before the night's over.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “You know best what to do, Kian. You have his tools, go open a hatch.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “What, do you want me to hold your hand? Balance be damned, that mechanic won't sleep forever!”

*Exit to Marcuria*

*Pick Up: Angled pipe sections*

*Examine: Pipe section (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “It's a pipe section. An 'elbow', I believe it's called, in the parlance of metal artisans.”

*Pick Up: Straight pipe sections*

*Examine: Pipe section (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “This is what's called an 'arm', in the parlance of the metal artisans.”

*Examine: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “That's one of the maintenance hatches from the mechanic's map.”

*Use: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “It won't budge. It needs a special tool to open.”

*Use: Pipe tool on Access panel*

KIAN:

“There's a powerful wind blowing from right to left, and it carries something with it. Too quick to see, too fast to grab.”

*Touch: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “I'll lose my fingers if I try and grab it. It's solid, and it's swift.”

*Use: Pipe section (straight) on Access panel*

KIAN:

 “That didn't accomplish anything. Whatever's in there just bounces off the pipe.”

 *Examine: Access panel*

 KIAN:

 “It's just blocking the tube now. This wasn't a great idea.”

 *Touch: Access panel*

*Use: Pipe section (angled) on access panel*

*A metal orb shoots out of the pipe.*

*Examine: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “Air's blowing out of the tube. This was a good idea.”

*Examine: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “Maybe they've built an elaborate system for the transportation of wind. It might be useful for drying wet hands and hair.”

*Examine: Metal orb*

KIAN:

 “A metal ball? That's what's flying through these pipes?”

*Examine: Metal orb*

KIAN:

 “That orb shot out of the tube like a ball out of a giant cannon.”

*Pick Up: Metal orb*

KIAN:

“Where did the orb come from? I should investigate where this pipe leads, hopefully to some answers.”

*Examine: Metal sphere (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “These orbs rattle through the pipes like bullets through barrels.”

*Examine: Metal sphere (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “It's light, for a metal ball. And these markings and studs, they're highly intricate. It's a beautifully crafted device.”

*Kian follows the pipe to the Engine house.*

KIAN:

“I need to find a way into that building tonight.”

*Examine: Mysterious building*

KIAN:

 “The pipe carrying the metal orb leads into that building. I knew it was important.”

*Examine: Mysterious building*

KIAN:

 “I was right! And there's no one around to tell! Shadow... A missed opportunity for a proper, righteous gloat.”

*Examine: Mysterious building*

KIAN:

 “I must find a way into that building.”

*Examine: Guards*

KIAN:

 “They're having a conversation. I might be able to listen in.”

*Examine: Guards*

KIAN:

 “The guards are talking, but I can't hear a single thing as long as I keep distracting myself.”

*Listen to: Guards*

GUARD 1:

“Were you here when we had that 'orrible mess the other day?”

GUARD 2:

“I don't think so.”

GUARD 1:

“One of them, what are they called, them ground-crawlers...”

GUARD 2:

“Rats?”

GUARD 1:

“That's it. Rats. One of them rats got into the pipes. Whoop! Got sucked right into the engine.”

GUARD 2:

“That doesn't sound good.”

GUARD 1:

“Light, what a bloody mess... Literally. Guts, bones, hair. Blood everywhere. Had to shut things down. And it was us who had to clean it. Engineers wouldn't touch it, said their hands are too valuable. I guess ours aren't?”

GUARD 2:

“It's a soldier's lot, isn't it. We do the grunt work, that's how it goes.”

GUARD 1:

“Well, I guess they think cleaning out rat guts is more important than us keeping watch and protecting them engineers in there.”

GUARD 2:

“Guess so.”

*Kian approaches the fountain square.*

BIP:

“Kian! So we meet again, Azadi! Prepare your blade for battle--!”

KIAN:

“Goddess... It's late, boy. You should be in bed.”

BIP:

“So should you. Whatcha doing now? Chasing rats?”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Busy: *I'm too busy to be talking to the boy, and he really shouldn't be out. The streets aren't safe for magicals.*

 KIAN:

 “Grown-up business. Go on home.”

 BIP:

 “It's a free city, I can be wherever I want.”

 KIAN:

 “I don't think the guards will agree with that.”

 BIP:

 “Still. Not moving.”

 *(conversation ends)*

Explain: *The boy appears genuinely interested. I've been told this is rare in children. Perhaps I shouldn't discourage him.*

KIAN:

 “Yes. That's exatly what I'm doing.”

 BIP:

 “Are you that hungry? Rats taste like sewage. Trust me. You're better off eating table scraps.”

 KIAN:

 “I—I'm not eating the rat! I need it for—It's work related. It is!”

 BIP:

 “Okay. Well, don't let me keep you from your rats.”

 KIAN:

 “Are you just going to sit there?”

 BIP:

 “It's not every night I get a chance to watch you catch a rat.”

 KIAN:

 “Fair point.”

 *(conversation ends)*

*Examine: Bip*

KIAN:

 “He never listens. He's risking his life being out in the open like this. But what can I do? I was the same at his age.”

*Examine: Bip*

KIAN:

 “Bip's been a great help. I'm not entirely comfortable with him working for the resistance, but he'll get in trouble regardless. He might as well get in trouble helping us.”

*Examine: Bip*

KIAN:

 “I hope I can reunite Bip with his parents some day. I hope his parents are still alive.”

*Examine: Bip*

KIAN:

 “Bip's a good child. Strong and clever, not weak and stupid like most children I've encountered.”

*Talk to: Bip*

BIP:

 “I'm sure the magicals would appreciate all your hard word, running after rats. I know I do.”

*Talk to: Bip*

BIP:

 “I thought being a rebel was supposed to be more exciting than this. I mean, rats? Really?”

*Talk to: Bip*

BIP:

 “(Yawns)”

*Talk to: Bip*

BIP:

 “You're taking way too long. I'm getting bored.”

*Talk to: Bip*

 BIP:

 “When are you going to do any fighting? I haven't seen any fighting for weeks.”

*Give: Pipe Tool to Bip*

KIAN:

 “I still need this, but maybe Bip can return it for me after I've used it.”

*Give: Maintenance map to Bip*

KIAN:

 “I should hold onto it for now.”

*If Kian has opened both hatches:*

 *Give: Pipe tool to Bip*

KIAN:

 “Bip, do me a favour? Take this back to the bar and give it to Ulvic.”

 BIP:

 “What is it?”

 KIAN:

 “Stop being nosy, or you'll lose it. Your nose, I mean. Ulvic knows what it is.”

 BIP:

 “I dunno. What's in it for me?”

 KIAN:

 “I won't smack you upside your head?”

 BIP:

 “You wouldn't do that anyway. What else?”

 KIAN:

 “Some day, you'll make a ruthless merchant. How about a coin? You'll get an iron coin when you're done.”

 BIP:

 “And perhaps a big cup of really strong ale?”

 KIAN:

 “You're ten? Sure, why not.”

 BIP:

 “You've got yourself a deal, Azadi!”

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

***A sign near the fountain says Habhaye Hane.***

***Examine: Habhaye Hane***

**KIAN:**

**“An Azadi grocery store. They sell foodstuffs from the motherland. It’s popular with homesick military men.”**

***Examine: Habhaye Hane***

**KIAN:**

 **“I’ve had Jakai pick up a few things from this store. Lentils, beans, purple taters. Once, he found a leg of dried and salted Yake’e meat. Brought tears to my eyes, that did.”**

***Examine: Habhaye Hane***

**KIAN:**

 **“It’s not the only store catering to Azadi soldiers, but it’s the best.”**

*Examine: Table*

KIAN:

 “There's food left on the table.”

*Examine: Table*

KIAN:

 “That's going to attract rats. And...owls. Bloodthirsty owls. Shadow...”

*Examine: Yams*

KIAN:

 “Ah, yams! A few weeks ago, I'd never tasted yams. Now I can't get enough. I'm a budding yam aficionado.”

*Examine: Yams*

KIAN:

 “Diced and steamed yams. There are so many ways to prepare yams. They truly are the king of foods.”

*Pick Up: Yams*

*Examine: Yam (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “These delicious things must hail from the western slopes of the First Mountain. Who knew a thing that grows in the earth could taste so heavenly?”

*Examine: Yam (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “I love yams. There it is. The truth, laid bare, for all to hear.”

*Examine: Cheese-and-meats plate*

KIAN:

 “It's a leftover cheese-and-meats plate. I've dined here, the food's good, I would've never let any bits uneaten.”

*Examine: Cheese-and-meats plate*

KIAN:

 “There's some cheese left, but that's all.”

*Pick Up: Cheese-and-meats plate*

*Examine: Cheesy bits (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “I recognise this cheese. It's made from pungent Elgwan milk, fermented in wooden vats in the salt caves by the sea.”

*Examine: Cheesy bits*

KIAN:

 “After the milk has fermented for a few months, they place tiny worms into it, and the worms digest the milk, excreting thick cheese from their tiny anuses.”

*Examine: Cheesy bits*

KIAN:

 “The Shadow itself would hesitate to eat food that's passed through a worm's digestive tract...but it's really quite excellent cheese.”

*Examine: Rats*

KIAN:

 “Ground-crawlers. Filthy rodents.”

*Examine: Rats*

KIAN:

 “I hate rats.”

*Examine: Rats*

KIAN:

 “I used to have a pet rat, and it abandoned me for another, cuter orphaned child. Shadow curse you, Ratigan. You broke my little heart.”

*Examine: Rats*

KIAN:

 *“*Scurrying rats, pigeons of the ground.”

*Examine: Rats*

KIAN:

 “Rats.”

*Pick Up: Rats*

KIAN:

 “Ah! They're too quick.”

 BIP:

 “You're not very good at catching rats, are you.”

*Pick Up: Rats*

KIAN:

 “This reminds me of the story of the Taheran rat-catcher. He too failed to grab the rats with his bare hands. Unfortunately, I don't remember how his story ended. Probably not well.”

 BIP:

 “So close! Well, not really.”

*Pick Up: Rats*

KIAN:

 “No, I'll need to be clever about this.”

 BIP:

 “This is more fun than throwing pebbles at Azadi guards.”

*Use: Yam on Rats*

KIAN:

 “How can you not want yams? You vermin are truly beyond all hope of redemption!”

*Use: Yam on Rats*

KIAN:

 “What's wrong with you? It's yams, you monsters. Yams!”

*Use: Evensong with Cheesy bits*

*Examine: Cheesy bits*

KIAN:

 “Cheese with Evensong. Not much, but enough to knock out a small creature, or possibly a child.”

*Examine: Cheesy bits*

KIAN:

 “I've drugged the cheese with Evensong. It's now Evencheese.”

*Use: Pipe section (straight) on Rats*

*Use: Cheesy bits on Pipe*

*Pick Up: Rat*

*or*

*Use: Cheesy bits on Rats*

 *If Kian combined Evensong with the cheese:*

 KIAN:

 “Here's some particularly potent cheese, filthy Shadow-spawn! Eat it. Eat it all!”

KIAN:

“They won't come close as long as I'm standing here.”

 *If Kian drugged the cheese with Evensong:*

KIAN:

 “Is it breathing? I don't know. And I don't care. It's a rat and it's not moving.”

 *Examine: Sleeping rat*

KIAN:

 “A comatose ground-crawler. Just what I need.”

*Pick Up: Sleeping rat*

BIP:

“You got it! I really didn't think you would. I'm impressed. Well, that was fun. What's next?”

KIAN:

“Next you go home and stop distracting me, or I'll tell the other street urchins you have fleas.”

BIP:

“I have no home, you know that. I sleep in the cellar of the Rooster and Kitten.”

KIAN:

“Good, it's the safest place around. So go back to your cellar and keep your head down. If I see you again tonight—”

BIP:

“Fleas. Got it. I'm sleepy anyways. That's why I'm going back, not because you're telling me to.”

KIAN:

“And don't throw pebbles at Azadi soldiers!”

*Examine: Rat (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “It's a ground-crawler. A snake-tail. A brown-fur. A street-pigeon. A rat. Beloved child has many names, soundly trounced.”

*If Kian drugged the cheese with Evensong:*

 *Examine: Rat (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “I hold in my hand a sleeping rat. I hope I don't have to hold it much longer.”

 *Examine: Rat (in inventory)*

KIAN:

 “I believe this thing is either in a very deep coma, or the Evensong killed it. I trust the latter.”

*Use: Pipe Tool on Access panel*

*Examine: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “Looks empty. There's a strong current of air flowing through it.”

*Touch: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “There's air flowing from right to left, like a tempest in a tube.”

*Touch: Access panel*

KIAN:

 “The gale's blowing from right to left.”

*Use: Rat on Access panel*

GUARD 1:

“What was that sound? It was a squishy sound. Sort of like--You've got to be kidding me. Not again. Shadow-damned ground-crawlers!”

GUARD 2:

“Guess it's on us to clean up the mess.”

GUARD 1:

“That bloody engineer in there's not going to do it. So yeah, it's on us.”

GUARD 2:

“Light... (Sighs) Well, let's get to it. No time like the present.”

*Enter: Mysterious building*

*Examine: Large Orb*

KIAN:

 “It's a massive chamber of some sort. It sounds hollow. It's rumbling, and there's steam coming out of it.”

*Examine: Large orb*

KIAN:

 “It's a huge metal orb, like the tummy of a giant mechanical man. I think I've had this dream once...”

*Examine: Worker*

KIAN:

 “Someone's down there.”

*Examine: Pipe*

KIAN:

 “More metal tubes, leading down to these odd tables.”

*Examine: Pipe*

KIAN:

“The sooner we find out what all the pipes are for, the closer we are to understanding what the Tower is up to.”

*Examine: Stations*

KIAN:

 “I don't know what these are, but they put me in mind of a lady's vanity. Except with...knobs. Lots and lots of knobs.”

*Examine: Stations*

KIAN:

 “These are probably worktables, although I've never seen worktables with gauges and meters and knobs before.”

*Use: Stations*

KIAN:

 “I wonder what will happen when I push one of these knobs. Oh. That's...ominous.”

*Examine: Metal orb*

KIAN:

 “More of those odd metal orbs. They're doing something to them here. Altering them.”

*Examine: Metal orb*

KIAN:

 “The orbs appear to be an important part of the machinery.”

*Examine: Metal machines*

KIAN:

 “More of the metal machines that have been put up all over town. But these look different. Bigger, shinier, more modern.”

*Examine: Metal machines*

KIAN:

 “It all looks very impressive. It must have taken a great many resources and a great deal of work to assemble these.”

*Examine: Metal machines*

KIAN:

 “I won't venture to guess what they do, but Modern Science is certainly involved.”

*Examine: Greenboard*

KIAN:

 “There's Mathematics on that board.”

*Examine: Greenboard*

KIAN:

 “I've learned the fundamentals of addition, subtraction and multiplication. But the numbers on that board are like Crystarian runes to me. Completely meaningless and somewhat disturbing.”

*Examine: Instruments*

KIAN:

 “I recognise instruments such as these from Cloudships. Gauges and meters for reading things like pressure, height and humidity. Why would they need that here, on the ground?”

*Examine: Instruments*

KIAN:

 “The instruments probably provide information relevant to the pipe network. If only I could read them.”

*Examine: Board*

KIAN:

 “The numbers are flickering. It looks like sorcery, but I'm sure this is Science.”

*Examine: Board*

KIAN:

 “What could it be? There's Mathematics involved, certainly, but I've never seen numbers changing so rapidly without someone doing calculations.”

*Examine: Board*

KIAN:

 “Whatever that is, I'm sure it contains the answers to all of our questions about the pipes and the metal machinery.”

*Examine: Worker*

KIAN:

 “He's one of the people who work here. I've noticed others like him entering and exiting. They're odd looking.”

*Examine: Worker*

KIAN:

 “He has the posture and dress of an academic, but he doesn't look like any scholar I've seen.”

*Examine: Worker*

KIAN:

 “He must be a Scientist. I've heard of them, but never seen one up close, in the wild.”

*Examine: Worker*

KIAN:

 “Whoever he is, he surely holds the answers to what's going on in here. I must interrogate him.”

FERDOWS:

“Uh, you're not supposed to be here? This place is for engineers, uh, only? Please leave or I'll be forced to call for the guards. I have a loud voice when I'm scared—”

KIAN:

“One sound, and you'll be standing on the slopes of the First Mountain, yelling at clouds.”

FERDOWS:

“Goddess. N-no problem. I'll be quiet as a...You're from Azadir. I've seen your profile in embroideries. I never forget a nose. You're the Apostle! Apostle Alvane. You're famous!”

KIAN:

“Maybe once. Now I'm just Kian. Your turn.”

FERDOWS:

“My-my turn—What?”

KIAN:

“Your name. Who are you?”

FERDOWS:

“Ferdows. I'm F-F-Ferdows. Lead engineer.”

KIAN:

“I don't know what that means. What do you do?”

FERDOWS:

“D-don't you know? I thought you would have known, you know, from back when you were—I'm in charge of the team that encodes the spheres that make the engine...tick.”

KIAN:

“What engine?”

FERDOWS:

“The engine that... Y-You know, the engine! There's only one engine. The one that encompasses the entire city. It's-it's what all the pipes are connected to. Didn't they tell you anything when you were...y-y-you know, before you were a traitor?”

KIAN:

“Assume that I know nothing. What is this engine for?”

FERDOWS:

“The engine calculates. That's why they call it the calculating engine. Big numbers. Complex equations. I—We, my team, we give the engine instructions about how and what to calculate. This is called 'coding'.”

KIAN:

“I-I understood none of that.”

FERDOWS:

“Y-You can't be here. You're a fugitive! And...and, um, this is a restricted zone. That's, like, two things that mean you shouldn't be here. And I can probably think of more, if you need me to?”

KIAN:

“I have a sword, and I'm bigger than you.”

FERDOWS:

“Those are two things that count in your favour, granted.”

KIAN:

“So what does this calculating engine do? What's its purpose?”

FERDOWS:

“I'm-I'm really not supposed to—Right. Bigger. And sword. As I said, it calculates. I mean, it does more than that, but that's what it was built to do. Its core functionality. It adds, subtracts, multiplies numbers, big numbers. And it...does things with those numbers. Like...um, like...Have you ever watched the stars in the sky at night?”

KIAN:

“I'm not just a man with a sword.”

FERDOWS:

“Of course. And you've seen how the stars move across the sky? Using a calculating engine, we can actually track those stars and predict where they're going to be a year from now, or a century. Or where they were a century ago.”

KIAN:

“Why are you tracking stars?”

FERDOWS:

“Well, we're-we're not. I mean, uh, it's-it's just an example. We're not...actually...tracking stars. I mean, sure, we could, if we wanted to, but—We're tracking dreams.”

KIAN:

“Dreams.”

FERDOWS:

“Dreams are very complex. Which is why we need a big engine with lots of ticking parts to make complex calculations and predictions.”

KIAN:

“Right, so the part about not just being a man with a sword? Assume that's all I am and start over.”

FERDOWS:

“Yes, fine, uh, those pipes crisscrossing the city? They're sort of like...like speaking tubes. Connecting a hundred sage masters, each with his or her own field of specialty.”

KIAN:

“So it's like a university.”

FERDOWS:

“I guess—Yes! Yes. This is a good comparison. A whole city filled with clever brains. The spheres pass messages between the different masters, and between them and us. We write messages, and we interpret messages. We tell the individual brains what to think about, and then they do the thinking and report back to us. This allows us to write ever more complex messages, until, finally, we have the code we need. The ultimate message. That one, we send to the Tower.”

KIAN:

“Why?”

FERDOWS:

“Because—because that's where the biggest brain of them all is located. This is the hub of the pipe network, the engine's core, its heart, the nucleus of the meta—Well. You understand. The fact is, this is the most advanced and scientific task anyone's ever taken on, and we're doing it. You should be proud!”

KIAN:

“Why are you doing it?”

FERDOWS:

“Well... I—I...I don't quite know? Because we can? Because no one else can do? Because the Prophet told us to and gave us the tools to do it?”

KIAN:

“So you don't know what it's for.”

FERDOWS:

“I write the instructions. I'm the, uh, the man in the middle. Someone tells me what they need, I tell the engine how to compute the answer. This is my job.”

KIAN:

“Who knows what the engine is for?”

FERDOWS:

“The Six, probably? The Prophet, certainly. Emissary Sahya, I would imagine? This is above my pay grade.”

KIAN:

“Above your--”

FERDOWS:

“I was hired to write instructions for the engine and compute the spheres, not to ask questions. And—And not to answer yours either, Mir. You really should go, before someone comes. We'll both be in terrible trouble. They usually check on me all the time. I wonder why they haven't...”

KIAN:

“I still don't understand. Why build all of this here, in Marcuria? Why not in Sadir?”

FERDOWS:

“Because of the Tower, and what's below it. Vast eddies of, uh, meta-energies.”

KIAN:

“Meta—Do you mean magic?”

FERDOWS:

“Magic? Magic! Of course not magic! This engine is-is the opposite of magic! It's the culmination of everything Azadir has strived for these last hundred years. An end to chaos and uncertainty. An end to superstition and irrationality. An end to magic. When the engine's fully operative and the programming complete, we won't need sorcerers or witchcraft anymore. We'll be able to do anything we want. With science. Reshape reality. Rewrite the laws of the cosmos. Remove death and disease, poverty and warfare. The world will be run by scientists, for the betterment of humanity.”

KIAN:

“What do dreams have to do with it?”

FERDOWS:

“The engine feeds on the, ah, on-on the building blocks of reality. Um, ideas. Stories. Dreams! Magic is highly detrimental to the systems. See, sorcery causes chaos, injects uncertainties and-and fallacies into our calculations--”

KIAN:

“So is that why magicals--”

FERDOWS:

“--are being relocated? We can't have them around while the engine's calculating. But as soon as we're done--”

KIAN:

“You believe they're being relocated.”

FERDOWS:

“Yes. Ye-Yes, of course! I mean, it's what they told us. Why would they lie? I-It's simple, the engine isn't compatible with magic, and we don't want anyone to get hurt. There's no room for sorcery in Marcuria. The magicals are better off in their new homelands.”

KIAN:

“They're being sent to prison camps.”

FERDOWS:

“Re-education camps. This is true, yes, but only temporary. Th-This is the first stop. Afterwards, they're given passage to their new homelands where they can--”

KIAN:

“Do you really believe that? What would the magicals be reeducated to do? Forget that they're magicals? No, Ferdows. That's not the truth. They're imprisoned. Killed. They're not given a new home.”

FERDOWS:

“But they told us—They said they were—They-They promised they'd be safe, and happy, and... Oh, light protect them.”

KIAN:

“So this is why we're sending all the magicals away from Marcuria. Because of the engine?”

FERDOWS:

“I—Yes. Yes, that's why. I didn't know—I didn't know. There are children.”

KIAN:

“There are.”

FERDOWS:

“They lied to us...”

KIAN:

“Do you need to remove all magicals before starting up this calculating engine?”

FERDOWS:

“It's already running. I'm... I'm not... As long as the thaumaturgical interference is below the acceptable threshold for--”

KIAN:

“Pretend that I'm a very small and, possibly, very stupid child.”

FERDOWS:

“Uh, no. No, they don't—they don't need to get rid of all the magicals. Just enough to not disrupt our calculations. We'll be done instructing the network in a couple of days. After that, they can pull the lever whenever they want. That's the last component of the engine, the Tower, the one that will start feeding on and molding the dreams, changing the world for the—For the better. Yeah. I, uh, I believe the official ceremony is a few days from now. The Emissary will be there together with the First and the Prophet, and, and—And please don't kill me.”

KIAN:

“I'm not going to kill you. But what you're doing here is not the will of the Goddess, Ferdows. Something is going on, someone's--”

HAMI:

“Kian... I had a feeling it was you.”

KIAN:

“Mir? Goddess, what are you doing here, Hami? Where are your men?”

HAMI:

“Right outside. They can be here in seconds. You. Engineer. What's your name?”

FERDOWS:

“F—F—F—F--”

KIAN:

“I threatened him. He played no part in this.”

FERDOWS:

“Ferdows. I'm F-Ferdows. You lied.”

HAMI:

“I beg your pardon?”

FERDOWS:

“You...promised they'd be safe!”

HAMI:

“I have no idea what you're talking about.”

KIAN:

“Go, Ferdows. This is not about you. Just remember what I told you. You're not doing the work of the Goddess here.”

*If Kian killed Warden Murron in Chapter 2:*

HAMI:

 “Were you doing the work of the Goddess when you murdered the Warden of Friar's Keep?”

 KIAN:

 “He was a monster. He deserved death.”

 HAMI:

 “That may be, but he still deserved a trial. You're not judge and executioner, Kian. Not anymore.”

 *If Kian killed the Azadi man in Chapter 5:*

HAMI:

 “And Dar Doniyal, was he a monster too?”

 KIAN:

 “How did you know that I—He exploited a Dolmari child. He would've been put to death.”

 KIAN:

 “He too deserved a trial. These lives were not for you to take, Kian. And you didn't stop there, did you. You've been busy, I've recognised your bloody handwork. You've shamed me. You've shamed Mother Utana, the Goddess. Your nation.”

 KIAN:

 “You should be looking at what the Emissary and--”

 HAMI:

 “Right now, I'm looking at you. And the young man of faith, honour and integrity I once knew appears to be long gone.

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian did not kill the Warden in Chapter 2:*

 *If Kian killed the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

HAMI:

 “Were you doing the work of the Goddess when you murdered Dar Doniyal?”

 KIAN:

 “How did you know that I—He exploited a Dolmari child. He would've been put to death.”

 HAMI:

 “After a trial. You're not judge and executioner, Kian. Not anymore. And you didn't stop there, did you. You've been busy, I've recognized your bloody handwork. You've shamed me. You've shamed Mother Utana, the Goddess. Your nation.”

 KIAN:

 “You should be looking at what the Emissary and--”

 HAMI:

 “Right now, I'm looking at you. And the young man of faith, honour and integrity I once knew appears to be long gone.

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian tortured the Azadi man in Chapter 5:*

HAMI:

 “Oldtown was a distraction. Vamon meant for it to be a struggle, for my men to die. He wanted me off the investigation...”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Kian did not torture the Azadi man in Chapter 5:*

HAMI:

 “I should've realised the taking of Oldtown was too easy. It was a distraction, designed to take my mind off the investigation...”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HAMI:

“Commander Vamon and the Emissary have been lying to me about your death. Why is that?”

KIAN:

“Because I'm a danger to them. And it's not the only thing they've lied to you about. This engine--”

HAMI:

“You betrayed us. You joined the enemy.”

KIAN:

“To stop Sahya and Vamon, not to fight our people. Not to fight you.”

HAMI:

“Sister Sahya is the Emissary. Commander Vamon is your superior officer. They are your people.”

KIAN:

“They are traitors, Mir! They have betrayed our nation, our faith, and--”

HAMI:

“You should have come to me first, 'Apostle'. You should have come to me.”

*If Kian did not kill the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

HAMI:

 “Instead, you've shamed me, you've shamed Mother Utana, the Six... The Goddess... Your nation.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HAMI:

“When I received word someone had been spotted entering this house, I had a feeling it was you. I entered alone for two reasons. One, as a courtesy to the Mother. It would break her heart again to hear that you perished in dishonour, fighting my guard. And two, you're living proof that Vamon has lied to me. I cannot reveal my hand to Vamon, but I also cannot let you go. You'll surrender to me now, without struggle, and you'll be brought to Sadir tonight, in secret. The courts will decide your fate. For the time being, while I sort out this mess, you'll be locked away under a false name. No one will know you're alive. When I'm ready to confront the Commander and the Emissary with their lies, I will reveal the truth about your survival. And you will cooperate, every step of the way.”

KIAN:

“Ask Sahya and Vamon about the camps, and what they're doing to--”

FERDOWS:

“You lied. You lied to us. You told us they would not be harmed. You told us they'd be safe. There were children!”

HAMI:

“Get off me, you idiot!”

FERDOWS:

“Go! Go, Kian! Make them pay for this!”

HAMI:

“Stop that, get off me! I'll have you beheaded for this!”

FERDOWS:

“Shadow damn you, man! Leave this place! Now!”

*As Kian makes his escape, Bip looks in through a window. Suddenly, he is pulled away!*

*Mother Utana is in her room in the Tower.*

MOTHER UTANA:

“Yes?”

GIRL:

“Mother. It's the General. He asks to speak with you.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Send him in, Child. Hami? Is anything the matter?”

HAMI:

“It's Kian. He's alive.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Oh...Goddess. Goddess be praised. How do you know this?”

HAMI:

“He broke into the engine room down on City Green.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Light... What was he doing there?”

HAMI:

“Speaking with one of the engineers. Ferdows, a young man from the southern provinces. Kian said—Well, it's of no consequence. He's a traitor. He's joined the resistance.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“But--”

HAMI:

“It is as I suspected. We've been lied to by Vamon and the Emissary.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“For what reason?”

HAMI:

“That I don't know. Yet. And until we do, we cannot confront them, Mother.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“I agree. We don't know how firm their grip is on the Tower. If they know that we know...What about Kian? Was he... How did he look to you?”

HAMI:

“He looked strong. Different. But strong.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“He must have his reasons for doing what he's doing, Hami. Kian would never betray Azadir or his faith.”

HAMI:

“Perhaps, but that's what he's doing. I gave him the honourable choice to turn himself in and face righteous judgment, but he fled like a coward when the engineer attacked me.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Attacked--?”

HAMI:

“I don't blame the man. Kian poisoned his mind with baseless lies. Me men detained him, and I've placed him somewhere safe. Somewhere he can't tell anyone what he saw and heard, out of Vamon's reach. We need to keep this between us, or we run the risk of alerting the Commander and Emissary Sahya. Much as I'd like to hunt down Kian myself and put him to the sword... We must be patient.”

MOTHER UTANA:

“Let's trust the Goddess, Hami, to illuminate our path and bring us to the truth.”

HAMI:

“I certainly hope she will.”

*Kian is back in The Rooster and Kitten. It is closed, and the only people in are Ulvic, Likho, Enu and Anna.*

ENU:

“Kian! Thank the Balance you're back. Bip's been--”

ANNA:

“They've taken him.”

ENU:

“--taken. Yeah.”

KIAN:

“Light... Are you sure it's Bip? I knew this would happen. We have no time to spare, we must get to him before--”

ANNA:

“The cloudship just unmoored and is already heading for Ge'en. It's too late.”

KIAN:

“Then we must follow.”

ANNA:

“And abandon your mission here? For one child's life?”

LIKHO:

“Is it because he's a magical, that he's not worth the trouble?”

ANNA:

“You're such an angry, angry man. Do you really want Kian to leave Marcuria and risk his life to save one boy? I thought so.”

*If Kian killed the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

ENU:

 “See? This is what happens when we murder Azadi soldiers just for the hell of it.”

 LIKHO:

 “That has nothing to do with it. They are taking all the magicals away.”

*If Kian did not kill the Azadi soldier in Chapter 5:*

LIKHO:

 “This is what happens when we let Azadi criminals live.”

 ENU:

 “Oh stop it, that's not what happened, and you know it. They're sending all the magicals away.”

KIAN:

“I know why, and I know what the pipes are for.”

LIKHO:

“What?”

ENU:

“Really?”

ANNA:

“Are you serious?”

KIAN:

“I'll explain later. Right now, we need to rescue the boy.”

ANNA:

“I couldn't care less what you do with your life, Kian. But if you die, the resistance suffers.”

KIAN:

“And if I don't go after him, Bip suffers.”

ENU:

“Can we really afford to lose more people?”

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

ENU:

 “We've lost so many already, and Na'ane has her hands full with those who've been injured. Soon, there won't be enough of us left to fight.”

*If Na'ane is imprisoned:*

ENU:

 “I mean, we've lost so many, and...and Na'ane's still in custody.”

 LIKHO:

 “She should be dead.”

 ENU:

 “Does your language even have a word for 'forgiveness'?”

 LIKHO:

 “Not that I'm aware of.”

*If Likho killed Na'ane:*

ENU:

 “I mean, we've lost so many already. Like Na'ane.”

 LIKHO:

“She chose her own destiny when she betrayed us. I did what had to be done.”

 ENU:

 “No one has to kill anyone. That's not a rule.”

KIAN:

“I need to think about this. I can't just abandon the boy, but—We can't stay here. The Azadi are hunting me. The general knows I'm alive.”

LIKHO:

“Hami? How did that happen? Did you approach him? Are you trying to curry favours with your former masters?”

KIAN:

“Curry favours? How would I even—I'm not trying to curry any fav--”

ENU:

“Stop it, the both of you! You're really annoying. And loud! Let's get out of here before Ulvic gets in trouble for harbouring a fugitive. Shepherd will want to have a say in the discussion.”

LIKHO:

“This isn't over, Kian.”

ENU:

“Oh, hush.”

****

**--Chapter 7: Hunted--**

*Thursday, September 28, 2220*

*Zoë is in her kitchen alone, cooking something in a pan. She is wearing a hoodie that says “Watilla” on the back. The TV is on. The Niyom: Eurokast logo can be seen on the screen behind the news anchor. Zoë's hair is cut short and combed to the side. On the right side of her face, there is a large high-tech dermal patch made up of shiny hexagonal cells, with one in the center a lighter color.*

FEMALE NEWS HOST:

“--following the terrorist attack on Propast, where eight EYE officers and five civilians were killed by Marxist party members. The Syndicate has promised to maintain heightened security across Europolis until after the upcoming elections. The Propast distrct remains under full EYE lockdown and twenty-four hour curfew. We're now joined by Marek Fara in Propast. And Marek, how are regular people in Propast handling this very difficult situation?”

*Buildings behind the man say “SEIZED”.*

*Stir: Pan*

*Use: Salt*

*Use: Pepper*

MALE NEWS HOST:

“Well, Rika, as you can see, the streets here are deserted, almost two months after the August attack on the EYE headquarters in Propast. There's security everywhere, and everyone who goes outside is subject to random searches and arrests. There is a twenty-four hour curfew in effect, but people are allowed to traverse the district, as long as they carry the appropriate paperwork and submit to any searches and questions.”

FEMALE NEWS HOST:

“What about essentials like food and water, Marek. Are any stores or restaurants still open?”

ZOË:

“I think this is done. Smells good.”

*Use: Plate*

*Use: Plate*

ZOË:

 “Eat standing up, like an animal? It hasn't come to that. Yet.”

*Use: Sofa*

*Use: Plate*

MALE NEWS HOST:

“Everything is closed, Rika, but rations are distributed to all residents of Propast on a regular basis, and medical personnel are on constant standby.” No one here is in any immediate danger of starvation.”

FEMALE NEWS HOST:

“Has there been any indication of how long this lockdown will continue?”

MALE NEWS HOST:

“The Syndicate is not saying, Rika, but spokespeople have hinted that Propast will remain under Syndicate guardianship until after the election in--”

FEMALE NEWS HOST:

“We appear to have lost our connection to Marek Fara in Propast. We will attempt to reestablish the connection. In the meantime, when we come back, we talk to someone very close to Marxist leader and terrorist mastermind Marta Ribas about her dark and violent history.”

*The TV shuts off and the apartment goes dark.*

ZOË:

“Shit! Power's out, again. I'm sure they're doing this just to screw with us. I'll have to check the emergency fuel cell in the kitchen cabinet. It should have kicked in by now.”

*If Zoë gave the data to Baruti in Chapter 4:*

 *Examine: Datachip (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Baruti left this for me. I picked it up after I left the hospital. It's got everything on Uminska, Wolf and WATIcorp. All the evidence we need to expose their corruption.”

 *Examine: Datachip (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “I need to get this data to Sully and the Hand. The story has to be told, even if it won't stop WATIcorp. I owe Baruti that. But as long as the Wire's down, there's not much I can do.”

 *Examine: Datachip (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “It's a hollow victory. Baruti's still dead and WATI's going to shrug this off. Uminska's career will be over, and Wolf...Well, I'm sure Wolf will survive this.”

*Use: Cabinet*

*Examine: Fuel cell*

ZOË:

 “It's my emergency fuel cell.”

*Examine: Fuel cell*

ZOË:

 “It's our emergency fuel cell.”

*Examine: Fuel cell*

ZOË:

 “This is supposed to kick in when there's, well, an emergency. Like...total darkness? That's an emergency.”

*Examine: Fuel cell*

 ZOË:

 “The cell must be dead.”

*Touch: Fuel cell*

ZOË:

 “I can jiggle it a bit, that sometimes works. Nope. That did not work. I guess I need a new one. And I know just the person.”

*Exit to Propast*

DRONE:

“Zoë Maya Castillo. Your district is subject to Syndicate mandated martial law. Please submit an approved destination or return to your home.”

*If Zoë resisted the EYE in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “I can find my own way, thanks.”

 *The EYE never forgets!*

DRONE:

 “Zoë Maya Castillo, you have a history of noncompliance. I will accompany you to your approved destination. Refusal to comply will result in automatic detention and persecution under--”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ZOË:

“(Sighs)”

DRONE:

“Thank you. The Pandemonium is your only approved destination. I will accompany you.”

ZOË:

“Please don't talk.”

*Examine: Drone*

ZOË:

 “First sign you're living in a military state? An armed drone escorts you everywhere you go.”

*If Zoë goes in an unapproved direction:*

DRONE:

 “This is not an approved direction. Please continue along your preapproved path.”

 “Your destination is not in this direction. This in an illegal direction. You must be lost. An immediate course correction is required.”

 “Any further deviations from your approved destination and the EYE in the Sky will be alerted. Non-compliance will be punished to the full extent of the law.”

*Examine: XOSEYE*

ZOË:

 “No more friendly banter from these guys. They're serious about the curfew. They actually shoot people now.”

XOSEYE:

“We're authorised to use deadly force against any perceived threat. If I perceive you to be a threat, I shoot you. Simple as that.”

*Examine: Queue*

ZOË:

 “They're lining up for rations. It's the only way to get food in Propast these days.”

XOSEYE:

“Stay close to your escort and don't deviate from your path. We're not fucking around anymore. We shoot to kill now.”

*Examine: Food cart*

ZOË:

 “Everything's closed. No customers, no permits.”

*If Zoë accepted Queenie's support for Uminska in Chapter 4:*

 *Examine: Queenie's Quintessentials*

ZOË:

 “I've been avoiding Queenie, since I...lied to her.”

*Examine: Queenie's Quintessentials*

ZOË:

 “I haven't seen Queenie around since I located Hanna for her.”

*Examine: Pandemonium*

ZOË:

 “Mira's not officially in business anymore, but she'll do...favours. Paid favours.”

*Use: Buzzer (Pandemonium)*

*If Zoë chose The Path That Was in Chapter 1:*

*Examine: Wit*

ZOË:

 “Wit made Kidbot. For that reason alone, I'll always have a special place in my heart for him.”

*Examine: Mira*

ZOË:

 “Mira's been helpful. She's not all bad. Mostly bad, yes, but not all bad.”

*Talk to: Mira*

MIRA:

 “Chicken tikka! You're back! I thought we'd lost you.”

 ZOË:

 “I didn't want to risk the curfew. It's been--”

 MIRA:

 “Believe me, I know. I've been stuck in here with Wit for weeks. I've reached my limit on one- sided conversations. It's like being stranded on a desert island, a really shitty island, without sun, sand or coconuts. Or Wire access. And with a mute halfwit as my man Friday. So you're here for your Dreamer?”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Zoë chose The Path That Might Be in Chapter 1:*

*Examine: Wit*

ZOË:

 “I'm going to miss Wit. I don't know why, exactly, since we never had a conversation, but I'll still miss the big guy. There's a lot going on inside that head of his.”

*Examine: Mira*

ZOË:

 “I don't miss working for Mira, but—That's all, I don't miss it. But I will miss her when she leaves. She's added spice to my humdrum life.”

*Talk to: Mira*

MIRA:

 “Look what the bot dragged in! Maybe it's something I ate, but I actually feel relieved to see you, petal. Are you alright?”

 ZOË:

 “I'm really not. You?”

 MIRA:

 “You know Wit, he's not exactly vivacious company. It's been quiet around here, since we closed shop. I apologize for firing you with a prerecorded message, by the way. Company policy.”

 ZOË:

 “Don't worry about it. You said you've closed shop?”

 MIRA:

 “There's no business. We don't even have Wire access! It's like being on a really shitty desert island, without sun, sand or coconuts. Or Wire access. We're actually thinking about heading back to Mumbai. Well, I'm thinking about it. Wit will tag along, wherever the road takes us. Anyway. You're here for you Dreamer.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ZOË:

“What?”

MIRA:

“I fixed it. You had your Dreamachine delivered to me. Because it was broken. About a month ago. Does any of this ring a bell? You friend, that German suit, said you'd come by to pick it up. He looked like a jäger. I thought he was here to blow my brains out, but he was very personable.”

ZOË:

“What was wrong with it?”

MIRA:

“An early batch, bad soldering. I've fixed several like it in the past. FYI, it's an off-the-shelf model that pings WATI's servers with a device ID and your biometric data as soon as you connect. That won't be a problem unless they've put an alert out on you or that particular device, but I went ahead and blocked it anyway. Still, it is a licensed product. There may be other security measures. I cannot be one hundred percent sure that it won't alert WATI. There are unlicensed Dreamers out there without any security chips, but Mr. London has that market locked up here in Propast. Given the trigger-happy toy soldiers out there, I wouldn't know how to get hold of one.”

ZOË:

“I'll be fine with this one.”

MIRA:

“As long as you know the risks. If you weren't here for that, then why the house call?”

ZOË:

“Oh. Fuel cell. The power went out, and I don't have a working backup.”

MIRA:

“That's not very smart, kutriya. Lucky for you, I'm up to my neck in fuel cells. Anything in particular you're in the market for?”

ZOË:

“The cheapest you have.”

MIRA:

“Grab one from that box over there. They're refurbished cells, but they'll keep your apartment going for a few weeks at least. Bring it back before it goes dead, I'll refill it for you.”

*Pick Up: Fuel cell*

ZOË:

“So how much do I owe--”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Was in Chapter 1:*

MIRA:

 “You still owe me for the last favour I did you.”

 ZOË:

“Right. And I guess you're about to call on that favour.”

 MIRA:

 “You know me so well, petal. You can repay me by going back home and staying there. The streets are not for you, kutriya.”

 ZOË:

 “Thanks.”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Might Be in Chapter 1:*

MIRA:

 “Consider it your severance package. If we're ever back in business, there will be a job for you. You're not too bad, kutriya. Despite appearances.”

 ZOË:

 “Thanks...I guess?”

*Talk to: Mira*

MIRA:

 “You should go back home before your escort drone gets impatient. I don't want the EYE knocking on my door with assault rifles.”

*Talk to: Mira*

MIRA:

 “I've been nice. I've been patient. Now I'd like to be alone with strong and silent here.”

*Talk to: Mira*

MIRA:

 “Are you still here? Gaaand, bhenchod! Don't be here. Be elsewhere.”

MIRA:

“Wait, what happened to that data I decrypted for you? Who did you end up giving it to?”

*If Zoë gave the data to the Hand in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “I gave it to the Hand, but before they could publish it--”

 MIRA:

 “They were shut down. Where's the data now?”

 ZOË:

 “With Reza, in Iceland.”

 MIRA:

 “Iceland. The final refuge of rogue journalists. You didn't keep a copy?”

 ZOË:

 “I didn't want to risk it. Stupid, I know.”

 MIRA:

 “You may have just saved your ass. Too bad about the story, though. When is your chorbo coming back?”

 ZOË:

 “I really don't know. When they feel it's safe, I guess?”

 MIRA:

 “That story needs to run, kutriya. Whatever it takes, make it happen.”

*If Zoë gave the data to Baruti in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “I gave it to Baruti, but...he--”

 MIRA:

 “Dead. Murdered, right?”

 ZOË:

 “Probably.”

 MIRA:

 “That's a damn shame. And the data? Let me guess, gone forever.”

 ZOË:

 “I have a copy. Baruti was smart. He left me a message, told me where to find it. But...I don't know what to do with it. The Wire's been shut down, I have no way of publishing it or sending it to Sully.”

 MIRA:

 “I'll help you. Soon as we get a connection to the Wire, I'll help you get that data out there.”

 ZOË:

 “I thought you said you didn't want to get involved?”

 MIRA:

 “That was before this place was shut down. I have no future here, so why not burn some bridges? I enjoy burning bridges.”

 ZOË:

 “Okay. Good to know.”

*Exit to Propast*

DRONE:

“You have exceeded your daily time out. I will now accompany you back to your registered domicile.”

ZOË:

“Don't bother, I know the way.”

DRONE:

“Every step you take, I'll be watching you, as mandated by martial law.”

ZOË:

“How about every breath I oh I give up.”

*Examine: Queenie's assistant*

ZOË:

 “If she's here, Queenie must still be around. I thought she'd left, I haven't seen her in ages.”

QUEENIE'S ASSISTANT:

“Ms. Castillo? Queenie is requesting your immediate audience.”

*If Zoë did not warn Queenie about Baruti's suspicions in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “Oh. Um. I don't think I have time to--”

 GIRL:

 “Queenie insists. She really does insist.”

ZOË:

“What about my, uh, my escort?”

DRONE:

“You have arrived at your approved location. Have a nice daaaaaa--”

QUEENIE'S ASSISTANT:

“You can come on board now.”

ZOË:

“Impressive.”

QUEENIE'S ASSISTANT:

“We do our best.”

QUEENIE:

“I'm glad to see you back on your feet, Zoë. I was hoping to see you again before I left.”

*If Zoë accepted Queenie's support in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “Oh, you're leaving?”

*If Zoë warned Queenie about Uminska in Chapter 7:*

 ZOË:

 “You're leaving?”

*If Zoë gave the data to the Hand That Feeds in Chapter 4:*

 *If Zoë did not warn Queenie about Baruti's suspicions in Chapter 4:*

 QUEENIE:

 “Your friend, Mr. Maphane... He never came to see me.”

 ZOË:

 “He left the city.”

 QUEENIE:

 “Yes. There are rumours that your candidate, Uminska, has accepted bribes from WATIcorp. But without evidence, who knows what the truth may be.”

ZOË:

 “I—There is evidence. I gave it to Sully at the Hand. But they weren't able to publish it before the Syndicate shut them down.”

 *If Reza did not leave at the end of Chapter 2:*

ZOË:

 “My boyfriend Reza brought it to Iceland.”

 *If Reza left at the end of Chapter 2:*

ZOË:

 “My ex-boyfriend Reza brought it to Iceland.”

 ZOË:

 “The data's safe there, but the Hand hasn't been able to publish it. I'm sorry. I should've been honest with you.”

 QUEENIE:

 “You should have, and I am disappointed. But we have more pressing things to discuss.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Zoë warned Queenie about Baruti's suspicions in Chapter 4:*

QUEENIE:

 “I heard the Hand was shut down. You had friends there.”

 *If Reza did not leave at the end of Chapter 2:*

ZOË:

 “Good friends, boyfriend...”

 *If Reza left at the end of Chapter 2:*

ZOË:

 “Good friends.”

ZOË:

 “The Hand was going to publish an article about WATIcorp conspiring with both Unity and European Dawn when the Syndicate shut them down. But they still have the evidence.”

 *If Reza did not leave at the end of Chapter 2:*

ZOË:

 “My boyfriend Reza brought it to Iceland.”

 *If Reza left at the end of Chapter 2:*

ZOË:

 “My ex-boyfriend Reza brought it to Iceland.”

 ZOË:

 “The data's safe there, but the Hand hasn't been able to publish it.”

 QUEENIE:

 “There's still a chance to make things right, then. This is why I wanted to speak with you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Zoë gave the data to Baruti in Chapter 4:*

 *If Zoë accepted Queenie's support in Chapter 4:*

QUEENIE:

 “I heard about your friend, Baruti Maphane. They say it was suicide.”

 ZOË:

 “It wasn't.”

 QUEENIE:

 “I didn't think so. My condolences. There are rumours that your candidate, Lea Uminska, is taking bribes. But, of course, without evidence...Do you know anything about this?”

 ZOË:

 “I—There was evidence. I gave it to Baruti, but before he could—They took the data. But he wasn't stupid. He left a copy. I'm sorry. I should've been honest with you.”

 QUEENIE:

 “You should have, and I am disappointed. But we have more pressing things to discuss.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

 *If Zoë warned Queenie about Uminska in Chapter 4:*

QUEENIE:

 “I'm very sorry about your friend, Baruti Maphane. They say it was suicide.”

 ZOË:

 “It wasn't.”

 QUEENIE:

 “I didn't think so. From what you told me... Powerful people are trying to hide their tracks.”

 ZOË:

 “They are. But they failed. There's evidence. I gave it to Baruti. That's why he—They took the data. But he wasn't stupid. He left a copy.”

 QUEENIE:

 “There's still a chance to make things right, then. This is why I wanted to speak with you.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

QUEENIE:

“You knew the woman who set off the bomb.”

ZOË:

“Nela.”

QUEENIE:

“You were there.”

*If Zoë ran toward Nela at the end of Chapter 5:*

ZOË:

 “I tried to stop her, but it was too late.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Zoë ran away from Nela at the end of Chapter 5:*

ZOË:

 “I couldn't stop her. I didn't even try. I...I turned and ran.”

ZOË:

“I don't believe she planned to kill anyone. She wasn't—Nela was a good person. She cared about people. She gave me something to keep safe. But I lost it in the explosion. Maybe it could've explained why...”

QUEENIE:

“Our lives are shaped by events beyond our control. The choices we make can point us down one road or the other, but where that road ultimately leads...Your friend's death was not of her own making. The device she used was rigged. It was meant to disrupt the EYE, not to kill anyone.”

ZOË:

“An EMP... How do you know this?”

QUEENIE:

“Nela needed someone to help her assemble the device. Hanna came to me after the bombing. She was distraught. Of course, she had no idea what they were doing. But she is the link. She may be able to connect the bomb to the Syndicate.”

ZOË:

“The Syndicate is behind the attack on their own people?”

QUEENIE:

“Everyone is expendable. It all leads back to WATIcorp, Zoë. They are consolidating their power and ridding themselves of loose threads. I'm leaving. This city is infected, rotting from the inside. You need to leave, too. But first, there's something you must do. Your memories--”

ZOË:

“They're coming back. I know what I need to do. The Dreamachine...”

QUEENIE:

“Be very careful. Powerful forces are converging, here and elsewhere.”

ZOË:

“How do you--”

QUEENIE:

“I've been around a long time. You learn to read the signs. You're fading, Zoë.”

ZOË:

“Fading.”

QUEENIE:

“Like a page that's been left out in the sun too long. Do what needs to be done. Do not hesitate any longer. I've given you time to regain your resolve, but we're almost out of it now. If we both make it through the storm ahead, I'll find you again.”

ZOË:

“I hope so.”

QUEENIE:

“I will. Now go home and do what needs to be done! Wake up!”

*Zoë leaves the boat.*

QUEENIE:

“You can come out now.”

HANNA:

“How long have you known I was here?”

QUEENIE:

“Do not mistake me for an old woman, Hanna.”

HANNA:

“You told her about--”

QUEENIE:

“There's no more time for secrets. WATIcorp must be brought down. What you know will make a difference.”

HANNA:

“But I don't have any actual proof they were involved. I only made deliveries.”

QUEENIE:

“You know enough. Find the evidence. Work together with Zoë.”

HANNA:

“How do you know we can trust her?”

QUEENIE:

“She's like you. Someone who shapes dreams.”

HANNA:

“I know. I mean, I guessed, when we met. But how is that even possible? I thought I was the only one.”

QUEENIE:

“Why do you think you were drawn together? Coincidence is a powerful force. Zoë needs your help. A terrible shadow has fallen over her.”

HANNA:

“How do you know this?”

QUEENIE:

“I don't. I'm not a fortune teller, and the future is never crystal clear. It branches and divides, indefinitely and infinitely. But there are patterns and signs, if you know where to look.”

HANNA:

“Do you have to leave?”

QUEENIE:

“They know I'm here now. WATIcorp has been looking for me a long time. I'm a...A loose thread. I promise I'll find you again, Hanna. Your journey is just beginning. There are wonderful things in store for you. For now, your job is to help Zoë finish her journey. Without that, without her, there will be no more stories. Afterwards, if the universe is still here, we can talk about the next chapter.”

*Zoë is back in her apartment.*

*Examine: Fuel cell (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “This should bring my apartment back to life.”

*Examine: Fuel cell (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “It's alive. It's alive! Yeah, I've been cooped up for too long.”

*Use: Fuel cell on fuel cell*

*Examine: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “For the life of me, I can't remember asking Mira to fix this. Am I losing my mind? I mean, I was in the hospital for severe trauma, and that's after spending a year in a coma...”

*Examine: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “But if I didn't give this to Mira for repairs, who did? And if I did, why don't I remember it? And if I don't remember it—Yup, I am going insane.”

*Examine: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “What am I going to do with this? Except the obvious. Which isn't...(Sighs) I don't have a choice, do I. The universe wants me back in Dreamtime.”

*Use: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

*If Zoë told Roman she wants to remember in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “I never knew my mother, but I've been told that in many ways she's the opposite of my father. Gabriel never makes hasty choices. Gabriel ponders, and when his mind's made up, he'll stick with his decision until the end. My mother's impulsive, mercurial. If the wind changes, she'll let herself be swept away with it, as long as it's to her benefit. She put me in a coma. I'm not a big fan. But maybe it's time I accept some risks. After all, I keep telling everyone I want to remember. I need to enter Dreamtime. I need to revisit the past. It's the only way to save the future.”

*If Zoë told Roman she wants to forget in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “I get my stubbornness from my father. Once he decides on something, he doesn't often change his mind. Since I woke from my coma, not a day's gone by without someone or something telling me I need to remember. So why keep resisting? Is it because I'm afraid? Or because I'm as stubborn as my father? Sometimes we have to yield. Sometimes our choices are made for us. I need to enter Dreamtime. I need to revisit the past. It's the only way to save the future.”

*Examine: Dreamachine*

ZOË:

 “Things didn't go too well the last time I connected to a Dreamer.”

*Examine: Dreamachine*

ZOË:

 “What is it doing to people's heads? I don't trust it, and I don't trust WATI.”

*Examine: Dreamachine*

ZOË:

 “Sooner or later, though, I may have to go back in there...”

*Use: Dreamachine*

*Zoë puts on and activates the Dreamer. She finds herself surrounded by white on floating stone platforms, like in her dream on July 31st. The large man, Abnaxus, appears.*

ABNAXUS:

“You returned but you will still not here. You must be here.”

ZOË:

“Is this a dream? I thought I'd actually travel across this time.”

ABNAXUS:

“You were here but never truly, not yet. But you must come to--”

*Suddenly, a mysterious black bird teleports into the dream.*

CROW:

“Aaaaaah! What. The heck. Was that. Oh hey guys, what's up?”

ZOË:

“Crow? You're Crow. You're Crow! I remember you!”

CROW:

“You do! I am! Wait, I remember you, too.”

ZOË:

“Of course you do, it's me, Zo--”

CROW:

“Don't say anything, I've got this. Lorelei? Baby-cakes? Shnoodle-bum?”

ZOË:

“Who? I'm--”

CROW:

“Agneta! I'm sorry. Uh, how have you been?”

ZOË:

“That's not—”

CROW:

“Look, Aggie, I apologise for taking off without a word of warning, I didn't have a choice, I was needed elsewh--”

ZOË:

“I'm not Agneta, I'm--”

CROW:

“Auntie Mae?!”

ZOË:

“No! Zoë!”

CROW:

“Where? Oh. Oh! Zoë! Yes! Yes, yes! The girl who was dreaming! You look different. Are you sure you're you?”

ZOË:

“Pretty sure.”

CROW:

“I don't know. You look a lot better than you used to, and your voice, it's...sultry? You sound like a Cinnamon Bird.”

ZOË:

“I don't even know what that means. I was in a coma for a while, maybe that's...What are you doing here, Crow? Are you really here?”

CROW:

“Let me check. Yup, all here, not a feather missing. Sooo...where is here exactly? Woah, Nelly! I didn't expect...that. You. You're...memorable. Wait! Auntie Mae? No? No.”

ABNAXUS:

“I was Abnaxus of the Venar.”

CROW:

“That's right! I remember you now. You were really annoying to talk to. Took ages to get anywhere. How have you been?”

ABNAXUS:

“I will not complain.”

ZOË:

“I don't get it. This is just like that dream I've been having. Except for you, Crow. You're new.”

CROW:

“And improved. It's that preening routine I'm following. I'm telling you, it's a game changer.”

ZOË:

“So why didn't I make it across?”

ABNAXUS:

“The connection was weak. Compromised. You were only half-dreaming. Only half-here. You will need to be all-here, and soon, or it was too late. But you had brought the bird over. The bird will be the key. If you can just--”

*Suddenly, the three of them hear banging noises. Zoë's dream fades and she wakes back on her couch, realizing she took the Dreamer off when she was startled. She sees a man in a dark suit pointing a gun at her, having broken down the door.*

CHOICE:

Dodge:

 *Zoë moves to the side, allowing the man to shoot straight through the helmet of an EYE officer that had appeared through the window right behind her.*

FALK:

 “You must go, now.”

 ZOË:

 “Wh-what's going on? Who-Who are--”

 FALK:

 “There's little time. They are coming.”

 ZOË:

 “But--”

 FALK:

 “The hallway is clear. Leave, Fräulein. Schnell!”

 *(scene progresses)*

Distract:

 *Zoë throws her Dreamer at the man. He is then shot by an EYE officer. Before the officer can shoot Zoë, the man in the suit shoots them dead.*

FALK:

 “The hallway is--(Coughs)--is clear. You must leave, now. They are coming.”

 ZOË:

 “What can I do to--”

 FALK:

 “Schnell, Fräulein!”

 *(scene progresses)*

*If Zoë lets the timer on the choice run out:*

 *Zoë is shot, presumably by the EYE agent, and the player is returned to the choice.*

*Zoë runs out into the hall and sees that the man has already killed four other EYE officers who were trying to break in. The elevator door opens and Hanna appears.*

HANNA:

“Zoë! Over here! Quickly!”

HANNA:

“This way.”

ZOË:

“Where are we going?”

HANNA:

“We need to get off the streets.”

ZOË:

“Did Queenie send you?”

HANNA:

“She said that you needed help.”

*If Zoë told Queenie Hanna didn't seem fine:*

HANNA:

 “Why did you tell Queenie I wasn't doing so well?”

 ZOË:

 “You weren't.”

 HANNA:

 “That's not the point. I said I was fine. It wasn't up for interpretation.”

 ZOË:

 “Sometimes, it's better to let people know, rather than just keep pretending.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Zoë told Queenie Hanna seemed fine:*

 *(conversation progresses)*

*If Zoë told Queenie Hanna's location:*

HANNA:

 “She's been keeping an eye out for me ever since you told her where to find me.”

 ZOË:

 “I'm sorry. She asked. I figured I could trust her.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

HANNA:

“The EYEs will be here soon. We need to go underground.”

ZOË:

“How's that going to help? We can't just hole up in one of those chambers forever.”

HANNA:

“Trust me.”

*Hanna and Zoë enter the tunnels below Propast.*

ZOË:

“What is this place?”

HANNA:

“The world beneath. A network of tunnels covering all of Propast, and beyond. I don't know how far it goes.”

ZOË:

“This is amazing. Is this how you guys get around?”

HANNA:

“For the most part. Some of the nests are only accessible from aboveground, but you can get pretty much anywhere from here. Come on.”

ZOË:

“Wait, where are we going?”

HANNA:

“You spoke with Queenie. You know I helped Nela with that...device. The one that killed all those people.”

ZOË:

“You didn't know. And neither did Nela.”

HANNA:

“You're right. But someone did. Someone does. And we're going to put it right. Mr. London has a warehouse down here. It's where I'd pick up and make deliveries. It was just a job, but...That's where we're going. To find evidence to connect WATIcorp to the bombing.”

ZOË:

“This warehouse... Is that where London keeps unlicensed Dreamachines?”

HANNA:

“He keeps everything in there. Why?”

ZOË:

“I need one. For after we clear Nela's name. Long story.”

HANNA:

“Tell me later. We need to go, it's only a matter of time before the EYEs start digging deeper.”

ABBY:

“I came as fast as I could. Are you okay?”

HANNA:

“Perfectly. You know Zoë?”

ABBY:

“Hey, Zoë. This is yours. You dropped it when-- Boom. I was...following you. I didn't know who you were working for back then. I saw what happened. The man who pulled you away, he didn't notice you dropping that.”

ZOË:

“I thought the EYE took it.”

ABBY:

“I've been wanting to return it.”

HANNA:

“What is it?”

ZOË:

“I don't know. Maybe nothing.”

HANNA:

“Let's get a move on, before the EYEs figure out where we are.”

HANNA:

“Fuck, we lost power to the gates.”

ABBY:

“They must know you're down here.”

HANNA:

“We'll have to use the manual overrides. It requires two people. Some sort of security measure. I'll show you how it works. Okay Zoë, you can pass through now.”

*Examine: Box (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Nela handed me this box minutes before the—Before the incident. I'd forgotten all about it until Abby gave it back to me.”

*Examine: Box (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “I have no idea what's in it.”

*Open: Box (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Why would this be so important to Nela? It makes no sense.”

*Examine: Pin (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Why would this be so important to Nela?”

ABBY:

“After this is over, can we please leave Propast and go somewhere that has an actual sun...and no battle-suits?”

HANNA:

“I promise.”

ZOË:

“You're not coming with us?”

ABBY:

“I'm going to make sure you have time to do what you need to do.”

HANNA:

“She'll take care of the EYEs.”

ZOË:

“Is that safe?”

ABBY:

“Don't worry about me. I've done this before, plenty of times.”

HANNA:

“See you soon, babe.”

ABBY:

“Be careful?”

HANNA:

“Always am.”

ABBY:

“Hanna, I--”

HANNA:

“Stop.”

ABBY:

“Love you.”

HANNA:

“Me too.”

ZOË:

“I'm happy to see you guys are okay.”

HANNA:

“What you said to Abby...It made a difference. She stopped using the Dreamachine. And after you found me, I realised I couldn't just...keep hiding. I promised Abby we'd get out of Europolis. I'm thinking Mumbai.”

ZOË:

“Why Mumbai?”

HANNA:

“Don't laugh, but I had a dream about it.”

ZOË:

“About those dreams--”

HANNA:

“Visions. They are more like visions. Right? Or...like peeking through a curtain. Across a...a...a Divide.”

ZOË:

“There's another world there.”

HANNA:

“I've seen it. Have you been there?”

ZOË:

“I have.”

HANNA:

“And you dream yourself across?”

ZOË:

“I can, but only by connecting to a Dreamachine. I thought I was the only one.”

HANNA:

“Me too. What does that mean?”

ZOË:

“I don't know, but we'll find out. Together.”

HANNA:

“Okay, so you know the drill. Once the gate opens, you need to go through and hold the lever down. Push it down.”

*Examine: Hanna*

ZOË:

 “She saved me. I guess Queenie told her to, but Hanna risked everything to help me out, so I owe her my life.”

HANNA:

“Alright, I'm coming through. Don't let go, or I'll be sliced ham.”

ZOË:

“So what happened? Nela, the device...”

HANNA:

“The detonator was supposed to trigger an electromagnetic burst. You know, to distrupt communications and mess with the EYE battle suits. But the EMP generator got switched out with an antimatter chamber.”

ZOË:

“Jesus...”

HANNA:

“Lucky for you, it had limited range. They weren't trying to wipe Kaprova off the map. I guess they just wanted to make a point.”

ZOË:

“Frame Manifesto. Remove another party from the election.”

HANNA:

“And shut down the city. Full curfew, everyone stays at home hooked up to their Dreamachines. WATI wins.”

ZOË:

“So where did the antimatter come from?”

HANNA:

“London's a stickler for detail. He'd always make sure everything that moved in and out of his warehouse is scanned and catalogued. Paranoia, maybe? Covering his ass? Anyway, when I picked up that final piece, the one that was supposed to be an EMP generator, I noticed it had a WATIcorp reference code in their system. I didn't think much about it. I mean, they make everything else, so why not? If we can find one of those antimatter chambers, along with the tracking information--”

ZOË:

“We may be able to connect WATIcorp with the device. We can prove they were behind the attack!”

HANNA:

“And the whole house of cards comes tumbling down. Or maybe we get killed. I'd say our odds are fifty-fifty.”

HANNA:

“Let's do this, same as last--”

ZOË:

“Do you hear that beeping? What is that?”

HANNA:

“I don't...Yeah, it's coming from you. You're beeping.

*Examine: Box (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Is it...? Yep, it's beeping. I don't like boxes that beep. I've been traumatised.”

*Examine: Box (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “It's beeping.”

*Open: Box (in inventory)*

*Inside is a pin that says “WATIcorp Watilla” on the back.*

ZOË:

“Why would this be so important to Nela? It makes no sense.”

*Examine: Pin (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “It's beeping.”

ZOË:

“What is this?”

HANNA:

“Some sort of holographic storage? I don't know, but it's reacting to something down here.”

ZOË:

“Let's track it down. Come on, follow me.”

*If Zoë goes too far in the wrong direction:*

ZOË:

 “The signal's getting weaker. We must be heading in the wrong direction.”

 “It's beeping less often. That's probably not a good sign.”

 “I think we're heading in the wrong direction.”

*They come across a machine.*

ZOË:

“I think this is it. Um. What is this?”

HANNA:

“It's a...a singularity, I think. One of the original Wire access points from before the Collapse. That's pretty cool. It must have fallen off the grid. Let me check if it's...It's active. So the Syndicate has no idea this exists! But I can't establish a connection to my IRIS. Old protocols, probably. It has a holographic port. It might be able to read physical data. And it's blinking at the same rate Nela's package is beeping. It's like it wants to connect.”

ZOË:

“I guess we should do what it asks?”

*Examine: HardWire connection*

ZOË:

 “It's an old HardWire access point.”

*Use: Pin on HardWire connection*

*A holographic video of Nela appears.*

NELA:

“(Garbled) –Nela Vlček, owner of Nela Bites. I'm leaving this message--(Garbled)--Manifesto part leadership has not authorised this operation. Marta Ribas has no knowledge of what's about to happen. I'm acting on my own free will, as part of a Manifesto splinter group. We're tired of...(Sighs) Marta Ribas believes in politics. She's an idealist. I wish more people were like her. But the truth is...Democracy is dead. The corporates won. The elections are a facade. It's all a big, fat, festering lie. A show put on by our Syndicate puppet masters to appease the proletariat. Whoever wins this autumn, it won't change a goddamn thing. They have made sure of that. They own them all. Everyone's corrupted. Everyone. We can't let this go on. We need to shake things up, start fresh. This is why—This is why I'm taking action today. (Deep breath) I've been asked to detonate a non-lethal EMP charge in front of the EYE headquarters on Kaprova. This custom built charge was designed to disable EYE communications, sabotage their operations, and immobilise their battle-suits. It's a...message. A loud, bold message. But--(Sighs) It's just another lie. The non-lethal EMP charge has been replaced with a very lethal antimatter device. The detonation will kill me, along with anyone else caught in the blast. There will be casualties. Military, and...and civilian. They'll accuse Ribas of harbouring radicals and inciting violence. Manifesto will be destroyed. They don't know that I know. If they did, I'd be dead. But...I need to go through with this, because if I don't? Nothing changes. If I go to the authorities or the press, they'll sweep it all under the rug and make me disappear. They're good at that. If I carry out their plans, however, everyone pays attention. They'll have no choice. And then, afterwards...Expose the cunts, the ones pulling the strings, the ones who built the fucking bomb. WATIcorp. I'll be a terrorist and a murderer. But so will they. And they have a lot more to lose. Lucky for me, they've been arrogant and sloppy. That's how I found out, and they've left evidence for someone to--(Garbled)--N-I-N-G. Penning. The chamber was swapped out before I could--(Garbled)--and track this part back to WATIcorp--(Garbled)--decrypt this message with a dead drop signal embedded in the local HardWire, which will be triggered the moment my IRIS goes dark. I'll have to trust that the right people will follow the right signals, down into the underground. I'm—I'm truly sorry that people are going to get hurt. Killed. I wish there was some other way. I just don't know what I can--(Garbled)--”

ZOË:

“Jesus... I can't believe Nela did what she did. The people she hurt, killed...I can't tell Hanna the truth, she'll just blame herself. We have to get WATI for this, or those people will have died in vain.”

ZOË:

“Most of it was garbled, but WATI's involved. Nela confirmed it. And there was one word, or maybe a name. 'Penning'.”

HANNA:

“A codename of some sort? I don't know, there's no Wire access so we can't look it up.”

ZOË:

“Maybe Mira can restore the rest of the recording.”

HANNA:

“If anyone can, it'll be her. If it helps establish a connection between Manifesto and WATIcorp...”

ZOË:

“She can help us connect the dots. And it's a safe place for me to dream.”

HANNA:

“Let's head to the warehouse. I don't know how long Abby will be able to hold off the troops.”

ZOË:

“Will she be okay?”

HANNA:

“She's resourceful. And smart.”

*If Zoë goes too far without Hanna:*

HANNA:

 “Hey, where are you going? Don't leave me!”

 “Are you just going to leave me behind?”

 “Zoë? Come back!”

ZOË:

“I'd forgotten about this other world until just recently.”

HANNA:

“That's what all this is about? Parallel worlds?”

ZOË:

“Sort of. There's something happening, in this world and the other, that threatens...the dream.”

HANNA:

“The dream?”

ZOË:

“It's what keeps reality...real? Without the dream, things stop existing. It's like a blueprint, for everything.”

HANNA:

“That makes as much sense as anything else, I guess. And you need to fix it.”

ZOË:

“I have to. WATIcorp and the Dreamachine play a part on this side of the Divide. I need to find out what's going on on the other side.”

HANNA:

“Is there anything I can do here?”

ZOË:

“If there is, I'll let you know. For now, I need a Dreamachine that can't be tracked or shut down remotely.”

ZOË:

“What is this place?”

HANNA:

“I don't actually know. Parts of it are really old, but those luminescent tubes...”

ZOË:

“I wonder if they have something to do with the not-vents above.”

HANNA:

“Not-vents?”

ZOË:

“Something Queenie said. There's something odd about all of this. I feel weird, like my bones are vibrating.”

HANNA:

“We're close, come on.”

ZOË:

“Why's my skin... Jesus, I am fading.”

HANNA:

“London's warehouse is the next door over.”

HANNA:

“This is it. Hold on, I'll open the door. Just follow me lead, and I'll—Fuck. EYEs.”

ZOË:

“Go ahead, I'll distract them.”

HANNA:

“The hell you will. You wouldn't last a minute. I'll take care of the storm-troopers, you get the antimatter device and your Dreamachine.”

ZOË:

“But I don't--”

HANNA:

“We're wasting time. You need to do this. Look for a blue box with the letters D-E-W on it. DEW. That's all I remember. Grab an antimatter chamber, scan it, download the tracking information from their systems and get the hell out of Dodge. But don't open this door from your side. Wait for me. When it's all clear on this side, I'll open it again. Okay?”

ZOË:

“I'm not—Yeah. Okay. Blue box, DEW. Good luck.”

HANNA:

“Never needed it. See you soon.”

*Zoë enters the warehouse. There are many henchmen, but it is dark enough for her to sneak around unnoticed. Mr. London is playing golf with an electric ball, trying to hit a tied up man.*

GOON:

“Mr. London's a compassionate man, soze. He don't like to hurt no one, not unless he has to. It pains him, see, pains him deep. But compassion has its limits, and you've reached it. You're just making this harder for everyone. Look, Mr. London's heartbroken. He's got tears in his eyes, he has. It don't have to be like this, soze. Go on, make it easy on yourself. Confess. Die with dignity, and let's all move on.”

GOON:

“Come on, soze. Mr. London's getting upset. You wouldn't like Mr. London when he's upset. He gets...chatty. See what you went and did? Now why would you want to keep doing this to yourself?”

GOON:

“Last chance, mate. It's only going to get worse the longer you hold out. No? All right, then. You think that hurt? Wait until the next one. Or you can tell us what we need to know. We'll kill you, and there's no more pain and suffering. What do you say?”

GOON:

“Come on, soze, Mr. London's getting angry. You won't like Mr. London when he's angry. Close one, sir. That was a close one. You got lucky there, mate. Mr. London never misses. Not unless it's on purpose.”

GOON:

“Ready to talk? It's getting late. Everyone's tired. Let's end this now, eh? Mr. London must have taken a liking to you, soze. It's a sign. Own up. I can put a bullet in your head, and we can all go home. Well, except you, of course.”

*Examine: London's goon*

ZOË:

 “He's in the worst possible place. I need to get him away from there.”

*Examine: London's goon*

ZOË:

 “One of London's goons. I never forget a face.”

*If Zoë goes into the crowd:*

GOON:

 “Who the hell are you? What are you doing here?”

 “Hey, dupa! Who the fuck are you?”

 *The player is returned to the warehouse.*

*Examine: Crates*

ZOË:

 “They keep the Dreamers over on that side of the warehouse. I have to find a way to get there, unseen.”

*Examine: Sign (left)*

ZOË:

 “I wonder what those codes are...”

*Examine: Sign (right)*

ZOË:

 “'DEW'. This sounds like the right section.”

*Examine: Scanner*

ZOË:

 “This is a fully equipped facility. That scanner should provide me with all kinds of useful information about London's merchandise.”

*Use: Scanner*

ZOË:

 “I'll need something to scan.”

*Examine: Bot*

ZOË:

 “It's inactive.”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Was in Chapter 1:*

 *Examine: Kidbot*

ZOË:

 “Hey, that's Ada's bot! Kidbot. What's she doing here?”

 *Talk to: Kidbot*

ZOË:

 “I knew Ada had to sell you, but I never thought you'd end up here. I'm so sorry, kiddo.”

 KIDBOT:

 “Unable to process your request, human. Rephrase your command.”

 ZOË:

 “No! No, you monsters! You killed Kidbot!”

 KIDBOT:

 “I do not believe I am a monster, nor have I committed any capital crimes. Please rephrase your command.”

 ZOË:

 “Oh, forget it. Just...forget it. This sucks. Everything sucks.”

 *Examine: Kidbot*

ZOË:

 “Kidbot's been wiped and reformatted.”

 *Talk to: Kidbot*

KIDBOT:

 “Your voice print is not in my list of authorised users. Please change user before issuing a command.”

 *Talk to: Kidbot*

KIDBOT:

 “I apologise, but I'm not authorised to speak with unlisted users.”

 *Talk to: Kidbot*

KIDBOT:

 “The requested personality is not installed. This is a blank slate personality. Please install relevant AsaDrone personality firmware.”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Might Be in Chapter 1:*

 *Examine: Shitbot*

ZOË:

 “It's Shitbot! What's he doing here?”

 *Talk to: Shitbot*

ZOË:

 “Shitbot! What are you doing here?”

 SHITBOT:

 “I don't know nobody by that name.”

 ZOË:

 “They wiped you? Those monsters! Well, to be honest, I understand why they wiped you, but still. It's a shame, you had personality.”

 SHITBOT:

 “Hey, I have a personality!”

 ZOË:

 “I preferred the old one...and I can't believe I just said that with a straight face.”

 *Examine: Shitbot*

 ZOË:

 “Shitbot's been wiped and reformatted.”

 *Talk to: Shitbot*

SHITBOT:

 “If the boss man catches you sneaking around, there'll be hell to pay.”

 *Talk to: Shitbot*

SHITBOT:

 “You're lucky I'm running in low power mode right now, or you'd be mincemeat.”

 *Talk to: Shitbot*

 SHITBOT:

 “Sorry, sweetheart. Thugbot answers to Mr. London only.”

*Examine: Personality module*

ZOË:

 “An off-the-shelf personality module. Plug-and-play for all compatible bots.”

*Pick Up: Personality module*

*Pick Up: Personality module*

*Pick Up: Personality module*

*All the personality modules say “ASAD Robotics” on them.*

*Examine: StealthBot (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 ““Give your AsaDrone ninja skills and say 'sayonara!' to your least favourite friends and colleagues!” Honestly?”

*Examine: KungFuBot (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 ““Ever fantasised about giving your AsaDrone the mad fu-skills of an ancient Shaolin master?” Not really, no.”

*Examine: HaulBot (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 ““For all your moving needs, the HaulBot enabled AsaDrone delivers!” But can it lift a piano?”

*Use: Personality module on Scanner*

ZOË:

 “The personality module comes from Asad Robotics.”

*Use: StealthBot on Shitbot/Kidbot*

STEALTHBOT:

 “Asad Robotics presents the AsaDrone stealth personality module. Now booting. Ready to perform any action you need, ma'am.”

*Talk to: Stealthbot*

STEALTHBOT:

 “I'm ready for your command, ma'am. I'll do what needs to be done.”

*Talk to: Stealthbot*

STEALTHBOT:

 “Reporting for duty, ma'am.”

*Talk to: Stealthbot*

STEALTHBOT:

 “Just tell me what to do, and consider it done.”

*Use: KungFuBot on Shitbot/Kidbot*

KUNGFUBOT:

 “Asad Robotics presents the official Shaolin brand AsaDrone. Your sparring partner in the art of kung-fu. Now booting. Greetings, apprentice. How may I be of service today?”

*Talk to: KungFuBot*

KUNGFUBOT:

 “Respectful greetings, apprentice. What would you have me do?”

*Talk to: KungFuBot*

KUNGFUBOT:

 “Are you ready to train in the ancient art of wushu?”

*Talk to: KungFuBot*

KUNGFUBOT:

 “Your teacher awaits your call, apprentice.”

*Use: HaulBot on Shitbot/Kidbot*

HAULBOT:

 “Asad Robotics presents HaulBot. For all your moving needs. Booting, please stand by. Got anything you need moved, lifted, hauled, lugged? Come on, boss! I ain't got time to waste.”

*Talk to: HaulBot*

HAULBOT:

 “What can I do you for, boss? Anything you need lifted?”

*Talk to: HaulBot*

HAULBOT:

 “HaulBot reporting for duty, boss.”

*Talk to: HaulBot*

HAULBOT:

 “I'm ready to do some heavy lifting, if you know what I mean.”

*Send: Bot to London's goon or Mr. London*

GOON:

 “Where are you going?”

 “Oy, rust bucket, where do you think you're off to?”

 “What are you doing, bot? Who gave you permission to move?”

*Send: StealBot to Crate*

ZOË:

 “Grab that box for me?”

 STEALTHBOT:

 “Yes, ma'am.”

 GOON:

 “What? Did that box just move. On its own. No, I didn't see that. I have to stop smoking that shit. It's messing me up.”

 STEALTHBOT:

 “I tried my best, ma'am, but I'm afraid I don't have the strength needed to lift the crate. The box is too heavy and my power reserves are being routed to the cloaking system.”

*Use: KungFuBot on London's goon*

GOON:

 “Ah!”

 GOON:

 'What—What's going on? Hey, we have an intruder!”

 *The player is returned to the warehouse.*

*Pick Up: Box*

ZOË:

 “Can't open it, not with the boxes stacked like this.”

*Examine: Boxes*

ZOË:

 “D-E-W. This is what Hanna told me to look for, but there are tons of boxes labeled 'DEW'. Which is the right one?”

*Examine: Box (other than Penning)*

ZOË:

 “That doesn't ring a bell.”

*Use: Box (other than Penning)*

ZOË:

 “There are so many boxes. I need to find the right one.”

*Use: Box (other than Penning)*

ZOË:

 “Nela mentioned a codename in her message... What was it again?”

*Clowes, Kercher, Blythe, Withers, Asher, Dalton, Patterson, Weller, Briggs, Haines, Hainsworth, Pearson, Bradford, Stanton, Baxter, Marsden, Penning, Blake, Coleman, and Paley are available boxes.*

*Examine: Penning*

ZOË:

 “'PENNING'. That sounds famil—Nela's recording. That's the codename she used.”

*Open: Penning*

ZOË:

 “I really, really hope this is it.”

*Examine: Antimatter chamber (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “PENNING. I hope this is what I'm looking for. I need to scan in and track down the shipping records.”

*Send: HaulBot to Crates*

ZOË:

 “Can you get me that box?”

 HAULBOT:

 “You got it, boss.”

*Open: Crate*

*Pick Up: Dreamachine*

*Examine: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “It took a lot of work to get this modified Dreamachine. I hope it pays off.”

*Examine: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “If the EYE tracks me down again, I don't think that German guy's going to pop up to rescue me. I have no idea who he is, but he saved my ass.”

*Examine: Dreamachine (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “Mira says London sells these hacked Dreamers. But to whom? And why do you they need modified Dreamachines?”

*Pick Up: Personality module*

*Examine: CatcherBot (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 ““For some of us, procreation's not an alternative--” no kidding “--so for that little tyke in your life to play catch with, look no further than AsaDrone's Throw&Catch module!” Jesus.”

*Use: CatcherBot on Shitbot/Kidbot*

CATCHERBOT:

 “ASAD Robotics presents the AsaDrone Throw&Catch personality module, designed for wholesome play. Now booting. Stand by. Hey, champ! What's up? Wanna play some ball?”

*Talk to: CatcherBot*

CATCHERBOT:

 “What's up, champ? Ready to toss a ball around?”

*Talk to: CatcherBot*

CATCHERBOT:

 “I'm ready to play ball anytime.”

*Talk to: CatcherBot*

CATCHERBOT:

 “Batter up!”

*Use: Dreamachine on Scanner*

ZOË:

 “Let's see where these things are put together...Central African Republic. That must be where they rewrite the firmware.”

*Use: Antimatter chamber on Scanner*

ZOË:

 “This is it. For Nela's sake, I hope—Yes. It's an antimatter chamber. This is it! And where did it—WATIcorp. They're made by WATI, and London got them straight from the factories in China. It's all here, the whole manufacturing and shipping chain. It's just like Nela said. Those arrogant pieces of shit. We're going to nail them for this.”

*Use: Antimatter chamber on Scanner*

ZOË:

 “WATI made this antimatter charge. They just sealed their own fate.”

*Zoë gets an Antimatter receipt in inventory that says WATI and Global Transport on it.*

*Send: CatcherBot to Man*

CATCHERBOT:

 “Play ball!”

 GOON:

 “Get out of the way! What the hell is this bot doing? Move you shiny metal ass, rust bucket!”

 CATCHERBOT:

 “That's a home run, champ!”

*Examine: Shockball*

ZOË:

 “It holds a powerful electrical charge. It's a bit disconcerting to see the bot handling it like it's no big deal.”

*Touch: Shockball*

ZOË:

 “No, that thing carries a powerful charge, I'm not touching it.”

*Send: CatcherBot to Mr. London or London's goon*

CATCHERBOT:

 “Oh hell no, I'm not about to just hand this ball back, champ!”

*Examine: Alarm*

ZOË:

 “Looks like they have an alarm system, probably to stop people from stealing any of London's hard-earned loot.”

*If Zoë tries to leave with the dreamachine:*

GOON:

 “That's the alarm. We've got an intruder!”

 “Oy, someone's here!”

 “Who's there? Get him!”

 ZOË:

 “Oh no! The alarm must've been triggered by the Dreamachine.”

 *The player is returned to the warehouse.*

*Send: CatcherBot to Alarm*

 *If Zoë doesn't have everything she needs yet:*

ZOË:

 “That might trigger the alarm, and I don't think I'm done here yet.”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Was in Chapter 1:*

KIDBOT:

 “Zoë!”

 ZOË:

 “Kiddo? Kiddo, you're back!”

 KIDBOT:

 “Affirmative.”

 ZOË:

 “I'm so happy you're okay.”

 KIDBOT:

 “Me too. Was I gone?”

 ZOË:

 “For a while, yeah. But it's all good now. How did you—Shit, someone's coming. Shit, shit, they're going to find me.”

 KIDBOT:

 “I'll lead them away from you, Zoë.”

 ZOË:

 “I can't ask you to do that, it's dangerous.”

 KIDBOT:

 “Zoë, I'm a bot. I'll be fine. Run!”

 ZOË:

 “I'll always remember you, kiddo. Thank you.”

*If Zoë chose The Path That Might Be in Chapter 1:*

SHITBOT:

 “Human female!”

 ZOË:

 “Shitbot! You're back!”

 SHITBOT:

 “Technically, I never went anywhere.”

 ZOË:

 “I'm just happy to hear your voice again.”

 SHITBOT:

 “Why?”

 ZOË:

 “Because—No, that's a good question. I have no response to that. So how did you—Shit, someone's coming. Shit, shit, they're going to find me.”

 SHITBOT:

 “I can contribute! I will distract these humans and ensure your continued survival.”

 ZOË:

 “You sure? Thanks, Shitbot. I appreciate it.”

 SHITBOT:

 “Remember meeeee!”

 ZOË:

 “I don't think I could forget you, even if I tried.”

*The door opens.*

ZOË:

“Oh, thank God. I was sure they got you.”

HANNA:

“It was close. Did you get everything?”

ZOË:

“I think so. This is it, right? The antimatter?”

HANNA:

“That's it. Be...be careful with that. If it breaks--”

ZOË:

“Yeah, I'm painfully aware of what happens when an antimatter bomb goes off. I didn't get this dermal patch and hairdo by choice.”

HANNA:

“So where to now?”

ZOË:

“The Pandemonium. Mira.”

HANNA:

“Follow me, we'll take a shortcut.”

*Hanna and Zoë climb out of a hole.*

HANNA:

“All clear. Come on. We're right next to the Pandemonium.”

*They go inside.*

MIRA:

“Petal? What the hell is going--”

ZOË:

“There's no time, I need your—”

MIRA:

“What are you doing here with--”

ZOË:

“Shut up! For once, please shut up and just listen.”

MIRA:

“Okay. I'm listening.”

ZOË:

“I need your help. Everything depends on it.”

MIRA:

“Now I really am listening, and I'm also intrigued.”

ZOË:

“The EYE broke into my apartment. They tried to arrest me. Or kill me. This is Hanna. She rescued me.”

HANNA:

“Hey.”

MIRA:

“We've met. What the fuck did you do?”

ZOË:

“Maybe it's because I connected to Dreamtime, and they know who I am and what I can do.”

MIRA:

“What you can--”

ZOË:

“Never mind that, we have evidence WATI's behind the terrorist attack.”

MIRA:

“What in the fuck--”

ZOË:

“Check this out.”

MIRA:

“Are you insane? You brought a madarchodding anti--”

ZOË:

“The same antimatter that was used in the attack. Manifesto was framed. That device right there connects WATIcorp to the bombing.”

MIRA:

“Oh, those fucking madarchods! I can run an analysis on this, compare it to the readings from the bombing. But how do you connect the two?”

HANNA:

“Here's a tip. If you're ever planning on running a criminal empire? Skip the paper trail.”

MIRA:

“Will this be enough to nail WATI for the attack?”

ZOË:

“Nela left something for us. A recording. It's been mangled, but we figured you might be able to--”

MIRA:

“Fix it? Probably, I'll take a look. Without Wire access, I'm not sure how useful it'll be.”

HANNA:

“Good thing we found a live access point in the tunnels.”

MIRA:

“You did what? How long were you guys down there?”

ZOË:

“Hanna will show you how to get there. I need to enter Dreamtime again. For real this time.”

MIRA:

“Like I told you earlier, petal, I don't have any unlicensed Dreamachines. If you hook up using a normal Dreamer, they'll probably track you down again.”

ZOË:

“Oh, right, I almost forgot.”

MIRA:

“Well, fuck me, an unlicensed Dreamer. What else do you have in there? A rabbit? A dozen white doves?”

ZOË:

“I need to use this now, and I need to do it here. I have nowhere else to go.”

MIRA:

“So is this going to bring down WATIcorp and fuck all the right people in all the right holes?”

ZOË:

“You'd better believe it.”

MIRA:

“You can use the sofa.”

*If Zoë gave the data to Baruti in Chapter 4:*

ZOË:

 “One last thing.”

 MIRA:

 “You're pushing it now, Petal.”

 ZOË:

 “Remember that data we talked about earlier? Here. You know what to do.”

 MIRA:

 “I'll use the access point in the tunnels and get this to Sully at the Hand That Feeds.”

*Zoë is lying on the couch in the Pandemonium.*

ZOË:

“It's going to look like I'm just sleeping, but if I'm right, if I...if I remember correctly, I'll be going somewhere else. Don't wake me or disconnect me. I just need to know that I'll be safe here.”

MIRA:

“As safe as anyone can be in Propast, petal. I promise.”

ZOË:

“Watch over me?”

HANNA:

“I made a promise.”

ZOË:

“Right. Here we go. See you all soon.”

*Zoë puts on and activates the Dreamachine. Instantly, her body disappears in a burst of light.*

MIRA:

“What the madarchodding what?”

HANNA:

“Uh, where'd she go?”

MIRA:

“Well, this shitting shitting shit just got real.”

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**--Chapter 8: Crossings--**

*Zoë awakes on a couch in The Journeyman Inn in new clothes. Her face is no longer scarred and all her hair has grown back. It is now long and braided all around her head into a bun on the back.*

ZOË:

“I've been here before...”

*Examine: Furniture*

ZOË:

 “There's dust everywhere. The inn must have closed down a while ago. I wonder what happened to the proprietor, Benrime. She helped me out the first time I came here.”

*Examine: Window*

ZOË:

 “It's too grimy to see anything through, but there's daylight, and the streets don't look too busy. These are both good things.”

*Examine: Hole in roof*

ZOË:

 “It doesn't look like anyone's taking care of this place anymore. I mean, that's an actual hole in the roof.”

*Examine: Hole in roof*

ZOË:

 “At least it's not raining.”

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

***Examine: Metal object***

**ZOË:**

 **“There’s something up there.”**

***Examine: Metal object***

**ZOË:**

 **“What is that?”**

*Examine: Bird*

ZOË:

“Crow?”

CROW:

“Ahhh!”

ZOË:

“Ah!”

CROW:

“What's the matter?”

ZOË:

“You scared me!”

CROW:

“You scared me!”

ZOË:

“What are you doing here? How did you find me?”

CROW:

“I didn't! I mean, okay, I did, you're standing right there so technically, yes, I found you, but...I wasn't looking. This is my nest. Don't judge, it's a roof over my head. Well, a semi-roof. A roof that once was.”

ZOË:

“Where are we?”

CROW:

“The Journeyman Inn. I mean, it was, once. Now it's a dump.”

ZOË:

“The Journeyman--? Of course. What about the innkeeper... Benrime? She was nice to me.”

CROW:

“Dead and gone like everyone else, I suppose. I have to admit, I thought you were dead, too. Last time I saw you... Poof! Vanished.”

ZOË:

“I'm still a bit vague on the details. I don't remember much from last year.”

CROW:

“Me neither. After your disappearing act, next thing I remember I was in Sadir. I just got back to Marcuria, which is why, y'know, this place.”

ZOË:

“Sadir?”

CROW:

“Home to the Azadi. Those armoured folks with exciting facial hair and a terrible allergy to magic.”

ZOË:

“I remember the Azadi.”

CROW:

“Being a talking bird in a place where they hunt magicals for sport? Boy, lemme tell you, I'm--”

ZOË:

“Maybe later. I need to find a way out of here. Hey, do you remember meeting me in a dream?”

CROW:

“I remember dreaming about last ni—Wait. How do you know about my dream?”

ZOË:

“It was my dream, too.”

CROW:

“You're invading my dreams now? Oh. Oh, God of Ravens, I hope you didn't see the one with the chickens and—Ahem.”

ZOË:

“Did Abnaxus say anythng more after I left?”

CROW:

“The lumpy fella who looks like he's been repeatedly beaten with an enormous ugly-stick? Yes he did. To be honest, I can't follow what he says half the time, but it was something to the effect of: “Bring her here. You will have brought her here. You will bring her here. You have had will be, etcetera etcetera etcetera.” I believe the basic theme was, you know, something about bringing someone somewhere. But don't hold me to that.”

ZOË:

“That place in the dream... Where is it?”

CROW:

“You're asking me? I have no idea! I had a dream, that's all. It was a big white space. That could be literally anywhere. I'm guessing...the North Pole?”

ZOË:

“I don't think that's it.”

CROW:

“The South Pole?”

ZOË:

“Abnaxus said something about 'the Children of the Purple Mountains'. The...the Oular?”

CROW:

“Ooo-no, never heard of 'em. But the Purple Mountains? Those should be easy to find.”

ZOË:

“Oh, you know where it is?”

CROW:

“No, but come on, purple mountains? Most mountains are grey or white. Not a whole lot of purple ones around. I'm sure they'll be easy to spot.”

ZOË:

“Yeah, no, sounds like we'll need some help with that.”

CROW:

“'We'? Look, I don't know where this 'we' thing came from. I am doing just fine on my own. Also, I definitely don't need another adventure. I'm done with adventures. From now on, I'm an unadventurous bird. No, you go off and find help for yourself. It was nice seeing you agai--”

ZOË:

“Abnaxus told you to bring me there.”

CROW:

“In a dream. A dream! If I was going to start taking advice from my dreams, I'd be in a whole heap of troubles.”

ZOË:

“It wasn't just a dream. It was a vision.”

CROW:

“Dreams, nightmares, visions, hallucinations – they all belong under the same general heading of 'really bad ideas'.”

ZOË:

“Well, I don't have anything else to go on, so I guess that's where I'm heading. The Purple Mountains.”

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

**Crow**

**Crow is a wisecracking magical bird who spent several years traveling across Arcadia, and experiencing wild adventures, with his best friend, the human female April Ryan.**

**More than a decade ago, April rescued Crow from a fate as a caged sideshow. Together, they saved the Balance between the twin worlds, but they drifted apart before April joined the rebels. They briefly reunited and reconciled shortly before April’s death, and Crow still believes April is alive.**

**Crow met Zoë on her first trip to Arcadia, and though their friendship isn’t anywhere as strong as the one between April and Crow, they’re still fond of each other.**

*Examine: Crow*

ZOË:

 “Crow must be here for a reason. Or I'm where Crow is for a reason. It can't just be chance. I mean, he popped up in my dream-vision-thing. This means...something.”

*Examine: Crow*

ZOË:

 “I guess I need Crow's help to do whatever it is I have to do. He's my officially assigned sidekick. From what I know of legends and fairy-tales, every adventurer must have one.”

*Examine: Crow*

ZOË:

 “Talking bird, wisecracking companion of adventuring women, occasional chauvinist, but maybe the avian society is less progressive so I forgive him.”

*Examine: Door*

ZOË:

 “The only way out of here, unless I somehow gained the power of flight on my trip across. I did not.”

*Examine: Door*

ZOË:

 “The city of Marcuria's out there, waiting for me to enter...it.”

*Use: Door*

ZOË:

 “No handle. I can't open it.”

*Talk to: Crow*

ZOË:

 “Wait, how do I get out of here?”

 CROW:

 “Do you have wings?”

 ZOË:

 “Seriously?”

 CROW:

 “Then I dunno.”

 ZOË:

 “Right.”

*Talk to: Crow*

ZOË:

 “Why are you living here, Crow?”

 CROW:

 “Where else would I go? I'm a bird between nests. I haven't quite figured out my future yet. Basically, I'm homeless. Don't look at me! Don't judge!”

 ZOË:

 “I'm not judging. I'm homeless too. That's why I have to do this. I need to fix things.”

 CROW:

 “Fix what?”

 ZOË:

 “Reality. Dreams. The world. My life. Something, anything, everything, I don't know! Whatever I'm supposed to be doing to just...get back to being me.”

 CROW:

 “I can totally relate to all of that.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Have you found a way out of here yet?”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “If you concentrate real hard, maybe you can sprout wings and fly out.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

 “Not that I'm against guests...but this is my home and you're trespassing.”

*Point: Crow toward Metal object*

ZOË:

 “Hey, Crow, can you check out that metal thingy up there?”

 CROW:

 “What, the door handle I removed in order to get some privacy in h—oooooh.”

 ZOË:

 “Seriously?”

 CROW:

 “One door handle coming right up—I mean, down.”

*Pick Up: Metal object*

*Examine: Door handle (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “It must have fallen off, and Crow picked it up because...shiny? I don't know, he's a bird, they're inscrutable.”

*Examine: Door handle (in inventory)*

ZOË:

 “This handle goes in the door. Door opens, Zoë gets out of here. Everyone wins.”

*Use: Door handle on Door*

*Use: Door*

*Zoë is outside the Inn. Crow flies down to her. Stefan Heidenberger can be seen near an Elgwan at the middle of the steps. Alex Valero can be seen at the middle of the steps at the end of the upper street, in front of the map at the end of the lower street, and near the fountain. Je-Hyun Shin can be seen at the middle of the steps at the end of the upper street, at a picnic table near the fountain, and near the south market. Kevin Yockey can be seen near the lower steps, near the fountain, and outside the Rooster and Kitten. Evelyn can be seen near the fountain and outside The Salty Seaman. Peter Julie, James Privitera and Göran Paues are at picnic tables near the fountain. Rhianna is near the fountain.*

ZOË:

“I thought you were staying put.”

CROW:

“In this godforsaken pigeon's nest? I'm done living like a gnatcatcher and not having any adventures. It was fun for a while, but I'm ready to live again. Um...so what exactly is this thing that we're doing?”

ZOË:

“Uh...Finding someone who can help me get to the Purple Mountains and the First Dreamer.”

CROW:

“And what kind of adventure are we talking about here? A light stroll along safe, well-lit streets? Camping out in the woods under mostly clear skies? Facing potentially life-threatening dangers on perilous mountain paths?”

ZOË:

“I'd say that last one is a distinct possibility.”

CROW:

“Oh, great. That's great. Already regretting this.”

*Examine: Crow*

ZOË:

 “I feel better having Crow around, even though I'm not sure what he can do. Still, a useless sidekick is better than no sidekick. I-I'm not saying he's useless.”

*Examine: Crow*

ZOË:

 “I wish I had wings, I could just fly to the Purple Mountains. After I get some proper directions.”

*Talk to: Crow*

CROW:

“Is there a plan or are we just winging it? Ba-dum-ching. Ha ha!”

ZOË:

“Depends. Are the rebels still around?”

CROW:

“I have heard mentions of rebels, yes. Mostly preceded by cursing and followed by loud calls for slit throats and severed heads.”

ZOË:

“That's our plan, then. Find the rebels. Um. Any idea where we can find the rebels?”

CROW:

“I've only been back a couple of months and I've mostly been nesting, so...no, no idea.”

ZOË:

“Great. Wait, nesting? Isn't that something only—”

CROW:

“Stop! Let me stop you right there, and let's never speak of this again.”

ZOË:

“What's this?”

*Zoë notices a poster that says “The Journeyman is closed but all patrons and well-wishers are welcome at The Rooster & Kitten Located on Ayrere Avenue near South Gate! Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty”*

ZOË:

““The Journeyman is closed but all patrons and well-wishers are welcome at the Rooster & Kitten! On Ayrede Avenue near South Gate!” And here's a drawing of a rooster and a kitten, just to avoid any confusion, I guess.”

CROW:

“That's right. A pussy riding a—I mean, a kitten. On a cock. A-A rooster. Is it just me or is that, uh...?”

ZOË:

“Not just you.”

CROW:

“Good! Good. Good.”

ZOË:

“Well, this is as good a clue as any. To the Cock and—the Rooster and Kitten we go.”

ZOË:

“This is crazy, I'm really, really here. And I remember it all. Well, I remember some of it. Things do look a little different. But, you know, wow. I'm back. And it wasn't a crazy coma dream after all.”

*Examine: Poster (near Journeyman Inn)*

ZOË:

 ““The Journeyman is closed by patrons & well-wishers are welcome at the Rooster & Kitten! On Ayrede Avenue near South Gate!” Signed, 'Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty.' I guess the Rooster's our next stop. Also, 'Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty'? Does every name come with an adjective in this place? 'Zoë the Perennially Lost.' Right. To the Rooster and Kitten!”

*Examine: Map*

ZOË:

 “A map of the city! This could be useful.”

*Examine: Pipes*

ZOË:

 “These pipes are everywhere. I'm sure they weren't here the last time around.”

*Examine: Poster (of Onor Hileriss)*

ZOË:

 “I can tell from the etching that this man is dodgy. 'Onor Hileriss'? What kind of name is that? A very dodgy name, is what that is.”

*Examine: Poster (of Onor Hileriss)*

ZOË:

 “'National Front'. It all makes sense now. Reactionary right-wingers are not exclusive to my world.”

*Examine: Wanted poster*

ZOË:

 “They look shady. What did they do, steal a magic hammer or something?”

MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“I have to say I'll be relived when they're finally done with all this construction work. They've been building those tubes for years now, it feels like.”

OTHER MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“It's been about a year now, I think.”

MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“Well, that's progress for you. Progress is never silent.”

OTHER MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“Really? Is that like an aphorism?”

MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“Must be. Sounds like it.”

OTHER MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“Well. I hope it's worth it, whatever those pipes are for. Am I the only one who thinks they're a real eyesore?”

MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“Progress is never pretty.”

OTHER MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“That is not an aphorism. No one ever says that.”

MAN NEAR JOURNEYMAN:

“They might. It could be.”

*Examine: Machine*

ZOË:

 “It's connected to the pipes. Looks...steam-punky. Very retro-future. I can't even begin to guess what they're for.”

*Examine: Machine*

ZOË:

 “Shiny Azadi machinery. I remember seeing those the last time I was here, but there seem to be a lot more now.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at top of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “A shame the magicals torched Oldtown, but what did you expect? Those leeches wouldn't be happy unless they ran the city. And now they've been run out of the city instead. Heh. Good riddance.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at top of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Remember to vote, young lady. The National Front needs your support to get Mr. Hileriss into City Watch. Without him, there's no telling where we'll end up. He's the only man for the job!”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at top of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Look, it's not like I lack compassion for magicals, but they didn't belong here. Now that they're gone, we can celebrate the Reaping the way it's supposed to be celebrated. Without sorcery.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at top of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “National Front's having an assembly on Reapmoon's Eve. You're welcome to stop by. There'll be a proper banquet with good cheeses and meats, followed by a rousing speech by Mr. Hileriss himself.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at top of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Pretty thing like you, I can tell you're on the side of faith, family and humanity. If you haven't yet pledged your support to Mr. Hileriss and the National Front, we'd love to have you onboard.”

*Onor Hileriss is giving the same speech he gave in Chapter 3 in the middle of the city.*

ONOR:

“Look about. Look! Fear them, the enemy, for they are close! They are everywhere! I smell them! Do you not smell them? That foreign spice, magic! Filth! It warms my heart to see you standing before me, standing up for what's good and fair. Glory, cousins! Glory be upon ye, in the Light of the Goddess! Yes, yes! I spoke recently with our benefactors. I spoke to them about that immigrant, the magical. Yes, yes, yes. I spoke to them. I said “Listen to these humble brave folk, your cousins”. Humans brought to their knees by the magical. Driven to bankruptcy, to moral corruption. Simple, uncomplicated men and women led astray by the devilish, demonic magical, the necromancer. I said to them, I said “We need to make a stand! Now! Now! We need to rally! Behind our benefactors, behind our own!” And I said to them, I said, “What you need, what they need, what we need is someone to stand up and speak the human cause!” The true Marcurian! Someone not afraid of the magical and his foreign tongues. Yes, yes! You know me. You know me. You know I seek no fame, or fortune. I seek only truth. I seek the light. I seek justice for brave, humble human folk like you! Yes, yes, yes! I stand here before you as your servant. I stand here before you as your humble servant. Soon the city will elect a new council, a new leader, one that will take responsibility for the lawlessness that haunts these occult ill-lit lanes. Our benefactors do great work. They do brave work, important work! Illustrious work. But they can't be everywhere! They cannot protect all of you from your dark neighbors. And where the Azadi fall short, where their light doesn't reach, the City Watch can help! Take the paper dragons that fly above us as we speak. Yes, those blasphemous constructs that fly in the face of all decent, humble, hardworking human folk. Symbols of the magical, symbols of the-the Draic Kin. Phooey! Blasphemous betrayal of all of humanity! Phooey! Our benefactors, the Azadi, they cannot cut every line, arrest every traitorous child. They have more important things to do. This is the City Watch's responsibility! But what does the City Watch do? They stop good, honest, simple human folk from meeting out well-deserved justice! They stop us from punishing the magical, that immigrant, for his necromancy and illusionism! Why, only last night, a young cousin of ours was put in chains for laying righteous hands on a magical! A magical who'd cast a spell on our young cousin's sister! She'd fallen in with the magical, possessed with dark lust. An obscenity. And our cousin is thrown in the dungeon for doing what's right, what's just, what's moral! Yes! This is what the Watch does – punishes brave, simple human folk for doing what's right, for trying to save a young girl's soul from that demon, the magical immigrant! No, no, no! The City Watch needs leadership. Marcuria needs leadership! Someone who can stand up against the magical and say “This far and no further!” Someone who's willing to make sacrifices, to hammer in a few nails to build a home! The Watch is willing to hammer no nails to build no home. I blame their leader, that woman, with unnatural desires! And I blame her leaders, that boneless council, slaves to the immigrant, the magical! What can be done? There is only one solution: Change. Change. Yes. Yes! Vote faith and family! Vote blood, land, honour and humanity! Vote National Front and vote for your humble human servant – Yours Truly, Onor Hileriss! With my guidance and leadership, the magical, that subhuman immigrant, the dark necromancer and warlock, will be banished from our home! Our children will be safe to play once more, our womenfolk's virtue will be protected, and these ill-lit occult avenues will be lit by the light of the Goddess and crowned with sweet-smelling, homely herbs. Thank you, thank you all for coming. Thank you.”

*Examine: Guards*

ZOË:

 “The Azadi remind me of the EYE. Fascist soldiers are the same everywhere, even across parallel dimensions.”

*Examine: Guards*

ZOË:

 “This is the enemy. Well, not that guy in particular. I'm sure he's just doing his job.”

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

***Examine: Guards***

**ZOË:**

 **“Why do the worst people have the best uniforms? This is a universal truth.”**

*Examine: Street sign*

ZOË:

 “It's written in an alien language.”

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

**“I have no idea what that says. I guess the magical translations only works with voice.”**

*Examine: Strange beast*

ZOË:

 “What are those called again... Oldwane? Alewang? Something like that. They're docile, like giant...hippos. Wait, are hippos docile? Or are they deadly? I think deadly. Great.”

*Examine: Strange beast*

ZOË:

 “Dorothy, you're not in Kansas anymore. Maybe they do have creatures like this in Kansas, I wouldn't know, Kansas is a weird place.”

*Touch: Strange beast*

ZOË:

 “Nice...thing. Good boy or girl.”

*Touch: Strange beast*

ZOË:

 “Hey, it's soft. I thought it'd be hard like a tortoise's shell.”

*Examine: Marcurian* or *Doppelgänger*

ZOË:

 “I fit right in with the locals.”

*Examine: Marcurian* or *Doppelgänger*

ZOË:

 “I like their style. Maybe I can introduce a line of Arcadia influenced fashion when I get back.”

*Examine: Marcurian* or *Doppelgänger*

ZOË:

 “People look friendly enough...but I only see humans, no magicals. What happened to them?”

*Crow flies down past Onor Hileriss.*

*Talk to: Crow*

ZOË:

 “So what have you been up to since I last saw you, Crow?”

 CROW:

 “Like I said, after we parted ways, I woke up in Sadir. I have no memory of how I got there. I spent some time living wing to beak on the streets, disguised as a common cockatoo. That didn't go so well. I truly hate other birds. Fowl-brained tits...Eventually, I, uh, I got help and found a ride back to Marcuria. Then I moved into the Journeyman. Then I met you. Then we went off on adventures together! But enough about me. What about you? What've you been up to?”

 ZOË:

 “Coma, mostly.”

 CROW:

 “That sounds nice. Was it nice?”

 ZOË:

 “Wouldn't recommend it, no.”

WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“I have to admit, I'm quite relieved there's less sorcery around these days. Makes life a bit more...predicatble.”

OTHER WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“You don't know what you're saying.”

WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“I'm sorry?”

OTHER WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“That's like saying you're happy there's no more wind to make you freeze, or no more water to drown in.”

WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“How's magic comparable with wind and water?”

OTHER WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“Because magic is wind and water, earth and grass, stars and sound and light and life! Magic binds everything together. Without magic, there's...nothingness.”

WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“Well, I'll be happy when there's no more sorcery around to muck things up is all I'm saying.”

OTHER WOMAN NEAR LOWER STEPS:

“Were you even listening? Never mind. I give up.”

MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“So what's your take on this Hileriss fellow? I keep seeing his face plastered all over town. Never heard of him before recently. Barrister, is he?”

OTHER MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“The National Front guy? 'On my Onor'? Anyone who wants to lead the City Guard that bad is up to no good. And I think he's being a little harsh on sorcery in general. I mean, a little sorcery never hurt anyone, did it?”

MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“Doesn't even matter anymore, does it? There are barely any magicals left. The Azadi have done a thorough job with that.”

OTHER MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“They're better off on the islands.”

MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“I've heard they've been relocated to the Southlands.”

OTHER MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“Even better. Out of sight, out of mind. They can live peaceably there with their own. Northlands for humans, I guess.”

MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“So you're a National Front supporter?”

OTHER MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“Well, I suppose I am. Makes sense. Sure, why not? I'll cast my vote for Hileriss. He's probably a stand-up guy after all.”

MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“Are you actually going to cast your vote?”

OTHER MAN NEAR CLEARING:

“I doubt it. I mean, who has the time?”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at bottom of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Happy Reapmoon! Are you from the east? People do come from far and wide to join the festivities. Welcome to Marcuria!”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at bottom of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I don't have time to chat, sorry. There's so much to take care of before tonight's festivities. Maybe I'll see you there?”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at bottom of steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Oh, hello. Um, always nice to meet new people, I guess, but I'm actually on my way somewhere. Maybe another time?”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in clearing)*

MARCURIAN:

 “It's good to see tourists like yourself coming to the city despite the...unrest. All that business with the magicals? Shameful. That's not what this city is about.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in clearing)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I'm not saying I sympathise with the resistance. I mean, I don't condone violence. But I also don't believe this National Front is the answer. And the magicals, they deserved better.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in clearing)*

MARCURIAN:

 “We really shouldn't be talking about this out here in person. The Azadi have done good things here in the city. Great things. But this...this purge, that's not one of them.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in clearing)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I'm sorry, I shouldn't be talking about any of this. Welcome to Marcuria! Enjoy the Festival of Reaping!”

MAN IN CLEARING:

“Puppets! That's what they are! The Emissary, that “Ramon” person – Hileriss is one of theirs! A puppet on strings! Once he's elected--”

WOMAN IN CLEARING:

“It's the Reaping! Can't we just enjoy the festival like normal people?”

MAN IN CLEARING:

“While the Azadi are plotting to enslave us all and destroy the world? Hardly.”

WOMAN IN CLEARING:

“The yams are particularly tasty this sesaon.”

MAN IN CLEARING:

“Is that so? Could you recommend a particular stall?”

WOMAN IN CLEARING:

“There's this lovely rustic stall up on Highhall, run by a very friendly farmer from—”

MAN IN CLEARING:

“Puppets! That's all we are. Filthy puppets!”

WOMAN IN CLEARING:

“(Sighs)”

*Crow flies down below the engine house.*

*Talk to: Crow*

ZOË:

 “What can you tell me about Marcuria? What's changed?”

 CROW:

 “Not much. They burned down Oldtown. The Azadi have laid metal tubes everywhere. There are thousands of rats.”

 ZOË:

 “I noticed that. What are they for?”

 CROW:

 “Tiny pets, I'd imagine.”

 ZOË:

 “Not the rats. The tubes.”

 CROW:

 “Gymnastics?”

 ZOË:

 “Hm.”

*Examine: Decorations*

ZOË:

 “I keep overhearing people talking about the Reaping. This must all be part of the harvest celebrations.”

*Examine: Decorations*

ZOË:

 “If I have time after saving the world, I'll come back for some bread with jam and dancing around bonfires.”

*Examine: Bonfire*

ZOË:

 “They're preparing for a shindig of some kind. Any celebration that involves burning large stacks of hay is a guaranteed success in my book.”

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

**ZOË:**

**“Pyres for celebrations or human sacrifices? One of the above. It looks like they’re getting ready to celebrate Reapmoon’s Eve.”**

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

***Examine: Pumpkin***

**ZOË:**

**“Harvest festivals are the same everywhere. Pumpkins transcend interdimensional divides. It’s the vegetable that ties us all together.”**

***Examine: Pumpkin***

**ZOË:**

**“Are pumpkins vegetables? I’ve actually never seen one in real life before. I used to think they were just invented for movies, like laser swords and tigers.”**

***Examine: Jams***

**ZOË:**

**“Oh, jams! Is it safe to bring back food to Stark? Is that even possible? Probably not. Awww. Jams.”**

***Examine: Jams***

**ZOË:**

 **“’Goldenberry Conserve’. That looks scrumptious.”**

***Examine: Jams***

**ZOË:**

 **“’Honey and Sungrass Jam’. Yummy. Probably.”**

***Examine: Jams***

**ZOË:**

 **“’Elgwan Meadow-Muffin Sweetpaste.’ Mmm? Wait, what?”**

***Examine: Bobbing barrel***

**ZOË:**

**“Apple bobbing! Flashback to birthday parties and childhood crushes. Nothing beats half-eaten apples floating in murky water for awkward preteen courtships.”**

***Examine: Bobbing barrel***

**ZOË:**

 **“How do these traditions cross the divide between worlds? It’s fascinating.”**

***Examine: Wines***

**ZOË:**

**“They look like local wines. If I had more time here, I’d love to try one. Magical grapes probably taste…magical.”**

***Examine: Wines***

**ZOË:**

 **“Red wines, for the most part. Or at least red coloured wines.”**

*Talk to: Marcurian (in city green)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Did I just see you speaking to a bird? You shouldn't you know. Sorcery. There are National Fronters everywhere, and they'll turn you in. Or worse.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in city green)*

MARCURIAN:

 “See those dragons up above? If the guards catch the runners, they'll drag them to the Keep and throw away the key. They don't like being reminded of the resistance.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in city green)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I can see that you're from out of town, so consider this a friendly warning. Don't talk about the resistance, or sorcery, or magicals. At least not where the guards can hear you.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in city green)*

MARCURIAN:

 “If this is your first Reaping, you're in for a treat. It's the best time of the year to visit Marcuria. The food, the drink, the festivities... The fried yams!”

*Talk to: Marcurian (in city green)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Stay for the Feast of Reaping, on Reapmoon's Eve, if you can. It may not be the most important celebration, but it's definitely the most fun. And the fire-flowers are so beautiful.”

MAN IN CITY GREEN:

“I must admit that I'm getting rather excited about seeing their new-fangled tube network in action.”

WOMAN IN CITY GREEN:

“So when is this ceremony taking place?”

MAN IN CITY GREEN:

“Next week, isn't it? They're timing it to coincide with the Feast of Reaping. That makes sense, if they want us to celebrate the whole, um, switchin' the tubes thing.”

WOMAN IN CITY GREEN:

“What does that even mean? Does anyone know what they're for?”

MAN IN CITY GREEN:

“Well, I suppose to make everything more efficient, right? Just...more efficient in general.”

WOMAN IN CITY GREEN:

“Make what more efficient, and how?”

MAN IN CITY GREEN:

“Well, efficient, like...I don't know! Why are you asking me? I'm not a bloody engineer. I'm just excited about the ceremony.”

MAN AT ENTRANCE TO GREEN:

“So, how's business?”

OTHER MAN AT ENTRACE TO GREEN:

“Pretty good. I mean, Reaping's a great time for me. Plenty of customers, even if those farmers are tight-fisted. They bring their own food into the city.”

MAN AT ENTRANCE TO GREEN:

“They ought to do something about that.”

OTHER MAN AT ENTRACE TO GREEN:

“How? I mean, farmers bring food into the city, that's what they do. That's...you know, their whole thing.”

MAN AT ENTRANCE TO GREEN:

“Yeah, but still...”

OTHER MAN AT ENTRANCE TO GREEN:

“No, that makes no sense at all. I mean, that's what the bloody Reapin' is all about. Farmers harvest their crops, bring their produce into the city, sell it and, come Reapmoon Eve, we all enjoy the Feast of Reapin'!”

MAN AT ENTRANCE TO GREEN:

“I know, but...is that what we really want from those peasants?”

OTHER MAN AT ENTRANCE TO GREEN:

“Well...yes! Yes, it is!”

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

***Examine: Fountain***

**ZOË:**

**“I’d love to read up on the history of Marcuria. Last time I came here, I think someone told me it’s thousands of years old. But how much has been rebuilt over time?”**

***Examine: Fountain***

**ZOË:**

**“There’s so much to see here, so many places to explore. I wish I had more time to just wander, and look.”**

***Examine: Gates***

**ZOË:**

**“I remember this gate. It leads up to the big tower. Why is it closed? Maybe it has something to do with this ‘Reaping’ thing.”**

***Examine: Gates***

**ZOË:**

 **“I’m pretty sure that leads to the Tower Square.”**

*Crow flies down near the fountain.*

*Talk to: Crow*

ZOË:

 “So where would the rebels be?”

 CROW:

 “From what I've heard, they were pushed out of Marcuria after Oldtown burned to the ground.”

 ZOË:

 “There must be some remaining. If the resistance is still alive--”

 CROW:

 “Probably shouldn't talk too loudly about the ee-sistance-ray, Zoë.”

 ZOË:

 “Right.”

WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“I don't know how we'll have everything ready in time for this evening. Petras invited everyone in the office to our house for dinner.”

OTHER WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“Then make him cook the bloody food!”

WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“It's the Reaping. I'm not going to let him ruin my good reputation. No, I'll just have to serve enough apple wine to make everyone forget about the food.”

OTHER WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“That's an excellent idea. Can we come?”

WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“Oh, what's another two people at this point? But bring something.”

OTHER WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“More sweet apple wine?”

WOMAN AT FOUNTAIN:

“Perfect.”

***Content added 7/21/2017 in PC version:***

**TOWN CRIER:**

**“Oh yay! Oh yay! Oh yay! We honor today the Benefactors of the City of Marcuria for their honorable contributions to the welfare of our great capitol! Adam Sisemore! Alexander J Banks! Alexander Stasenko! Alexey Verkhorobin! Allen Parsenau! Baron Mortuai! Benjamin Bonnet! Bettina Filius! David Ahmanson! Dr. Greymould! Emmanuel Arandiga! Friederike! Gaël Depreeuw! Gal Shemesh! Gaute Tor Eide! Glyph! Halil Ibrahim Yildirim! Hilde Hafnor! Jolly Bill the Swagman! Joseph Bednarik! Joshua Moline! Karl Hörnell! Karlsen! Kian Lissenburg! Kimberly Pollock! Korovin Pavel Mikhaylovich! Kristian Risa! Langdon Ulger! Matthew Francis! Nicholas ‘Melveny’ Yakovlev! Niklas Herrlin! Ole Morten Sørlie! Palindrome Bob! Peter Overgaard! Rolf Thomas Hansen! Scholar Inilien! Shoob! The Vet surgeon! Thomas Merz! Tom-Erik Ovesen! Tom Lougee! Trickster of Clexakru! Val & Eric O’Sullivan! Werner Enz!”**

*Talk to: Marcurian (at stall near fountain)*

MARCURIAN:

 “First time in Marcuria? You missed your chance to visit Oldtown. It was the heart of the city, one of the few neighbourhoods that hadn't changed for a thousand years.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at stall near fountain)*

MARCURIAN:

 “You know what else I miss about Oldtown? The sand-witches. They were so tasty. And that lovely Dolmari lady who made them... But we're not supposed to speak of these things.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at stall near fountain)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I'm sure you know that we're celebrating the Festival of Reaping. An entire moon of events, leading up to next week's Feast of Reaping. It's very exciting!”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at stall near fountain)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I wish I could see Marcuria again for the first time. After twenty years, I'm still in love with the city. I'd never go back to Nedrah, despite the occupation.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (at stall near fountain)*

MARCURIAN:

 “The Azadi aren't so bad. For the most part, they just ignore us. But these National Front people... They're the ones you have to watch out for. They're not good people.”

*Examine: The Rooster and Kitten*

ZOË:

 “The Rooster and Kitten. This is it, my first stop. Hopefully someone here will know something about the resistance.”

*Talk to: Crow*

ZOË:

 “I'm going inside. Wait for me?”

 CROW:

 “What else can a free bird do? I need the open sky over my head. Or at least a proper hole in the roof. I'll be right here. Or over there, where there's cheese and, oooh, is that a bread crust? Don't look at me.”

 ZOË:

 “I'm not, I'm going in.”

*Enter: The Rooster and Kitten*

*Examine: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ZOË:

 “That must be Ulvic the, uh, 'the Ever-Thirsty'. He does look like he could drink a lot.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

“Welcome to the Rooster and Kitten.”

ZOË:

“Hey, um. Greetings. Well...uh...met.”

ULVIC:

“What?”

ZOË:

“What? I don't know. I'm...foreign.”

ULVIC:

“You don't say. From where exactly? I'm a traveler myself, but I can't quite place the accent.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Up north: *I have no idea.*

ZOË:

 “I'm from the...north. North of here. Far, far north.”

 ULVIC:

 “Is that so. Across the Border Mountains then, I reckon?”

 ZOË:

 “Across them, and across the next ones too. Do you know the Arctic Circle?”

 ULVIC:

 “Can't say I've heard of it.”

 ZOË:

 “Inside that circle. It's quite desolate. And cold.”

 ULVIC:

 “Right. Well, I'm not a man who enjoys cold weather, me. The warmer, the better.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Down south: *I'm just going to wing it.*

ZOË:

 “South. Southwards. Like, all the wards, way south, as far as south goes. Nowhere near this place at all.”

 ULVIC:

 “Nowhere south is near here. South goes all the way to the other side of the world. Whereabouts in the south would this be, then? The islands? The Southlands? Further still?”

 ZOË:

 “Further. Much further. It's very hot down there, you've probably never been.”

 ULVIC:

 “Oh, I enjoy the heat. Even Marcuria in summer isn't hot enough for me. I've traveled the Southlands quite extensively, so maybe I've--”

 ZOË:

 “Then you've probably been, yes, but I don't like talking about it. Family...blood. Bad blood. I'm happy to have left all of the bad blood behind me.”

 ULVIC:

 “I see. Well, I don't want to rip open old wounds.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Out east: *I wish I'd taken those improv classes now.*

ZOË:

 “East. Way out east. Where the sun rises.”

 ULVIC:

 “I've always wondered about that. I haven't traveled that far east myself. What does it look like when it rises, the sun?”

 ZOË:

 “It's enormous. You don't realise how big it is until you see it up close.”

 ULVIC:

 “Ah. I'd like to see it for myself one day. Maybe I'll take the trip, when I retire. What's this land of yours called?”

 ZOË:

 “Um. Chai-Na.”

 ULVIC:

 “Hm. Never heard of it. But I'll make a note.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Back west: *Say something. Say anything!*

ZOË:

 “West. Just...back west. Far, far back.”

 ULVIC:

 “What, Azadir?”

 ZOË:

 “Further left. West. Further west.”

 ULVIC:

 “I didn't think there was a further west. I thought Azadir was as far west as west goes before it's east again.”

 ZOË:

 “Right, well, you know. East, but by way of west.”

 ULVIC:

 “That makes no sense to me, but then there is much that I haven't seen yet during my travels. What's this land named?”

 ZOË:

 “Americ...anada.”

 ULVIC:

 “Amer'i-kan'ada?”

 ZOË:

 “Yep. Home, sweet Americanada.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ULVIC:

“So what'll it be today?”

ZOË:

“I'm sorry, what?”

ULVIC:

“You know, you're not the first person confused by that question, even though, by all appearances, this is a drinking establishment. I don't know what I'm doing wrong. Is it my demeanor? Do I not appear appropriately...barkeepish?”

ZOË:

“No! No, you're absolutely...barkeepish. You exude...publicanism. Um, drinks.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Sweet and fruity: *There appear to be festivities going on in the city. When in Rome?*

ZOË:

 “I wouldn't say no to a festive drink with a tiny umbrella in it.”

 ULVIC:

 “I beg your pardon? Why would liquid need cover from rain?”

 ZOË:

 “Should've seen that one coming...Do you have something tall and sweet and not too strong? Preferably with pieces of fruit attached to it?”

 ULVIC:

 “How about a mug of watered-down apple cider with an onion in it.”

 ZOË:

 “That also works.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Cool and sparkly: *These clothes are warm and itchy, and I'm in dire need of refreshments.*

ZOË:

 “Do you have something cold and bubbly?”

 ULVIC:

 “Cold? Bubbly? My ale's warm, flat and bitter. You can have a cupful of that.”

 ZOË:

 “I...sure. Yes. Why not.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Setting appropriate: *What do you order in an old-timey tavern?*

ZOË:

 “Mead.”

 ULVIC:

 “Mead?”

 ZOË:

 “No. Ale. Warm, dark, bitter ale, thick as porridge. In a metal chalice of some sort, suitable for drunken tossing.”

 ULVIC:

 “You're sure about this.”

 ZOË:

 “Yes. I have been to an establishment such as this before. I know my ropes.”

 ULVIC:

 “Clearly.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

Beer: *Beer.*

ZOË:

 “Um. Beer?”

 ULVIC:

 “Coming right up, my dear.”

 *(conversation progresses)*

ULVIC:

“Are you certain you're in the right place?”

ZOË:

“Not at all.”

ULVIC:

“Honesty. Ha! I like it. It's all too rare these days. From your attire, and...and, well, all of you, I'd say you're probably looking for a place up Highhall, not down here dockside. This is a rough neighbourgood, and...Well, you do stand out in my usual crowd of ne'er-do-wells. And standing out isn't always a good thing these days.”

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Right place: *I'm certain this place has some connection with the resistance. I should keep him talking.*

ZOË:

 “No, this is my kinda place. I'm into dives. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to say that--”

 ULVIC:

 “That's the nicest thing anyone's said about my pub in a long time.”

 ZOË:

 “Really? Maybe it's a language thing...”

 ULVIC:

 “So what else can I help you with, young lady?”

 *(proceed to Dialogue Choices below)*

Wrong place: *Maybe he's right, or maybe he's just trying to get rid of me. I can always explore for a bit and come back later.*

ZOË:

 “Right, this establishment doesn't look...me. I mean, it's nice. You have a nice place. But I should probably just...Thank you!”

 ULVIC:

 “Anytime, my dear.”

 *(conversation ends)*

*If Zoë told Ulvic she was in the wrong place:*

 *Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “Back so soon? Are you lost?”

 ZOË:

 “No, I... Questions. Can I ask them? Do you mind?”

 ULVIC:

 “Certainly not. I'll be happy to help.”

 *(proceed to Dialogue Choices below)*

DIALOGUE CHOICES:

Marcuria: *The city has changed quite a bit since my last visit. Fewer non-humans, and more...pipework.*

ZOË:

 “It's been a while since I was here last. What's new?”

 ULVIC:

 “Given your age... Pardon me, I didn't mean to presume—Ahem. Perhaps your last visit wasn't so long ago.”

 ZOË:

 “Oh, a year and a half, at least.”

 ULVIC:

 “At least—Well, there's no Oldtown anymore. They burned the ghetto to the ground and shipped non-humans off to the islands. Also, the Azadi have built a network of metal tubes. It's everywhere. No one knows what it's for, but there it is. It's supposed to make things Efficient. And they finished their Tower. It's cordoned off until next week's grand ceremony, but it's an impressive structure. Tallest in all the Northlands, they say.”

 *(return to dialogue choices)*

The Rooster and Kitten: *This pub was not called the Rooster and Kitten the last time I was here.*

ZOË:

 “Didn't this used to be the, uh, the--”

 ULVIC:

 “(Sighs) The Cock and Puss. Someone's bright idea of a joke. Oh, we all get it. The cocky cockerel with a permanent frown on his face. Clever wordplay. Look at us, aren't we punny.”

 ZOË:

 “Yeah—Wait, what?”

 ULVIC:

 “I didn't approve. Too clever for its own good. But the painting of a tiny pussycat with a big smile riding on top of a proud capon? That idea I could get behind. It's sweet. It's sincere. It's family friendly. It's how I like my clientele to see me.”

 *(return to dialogue choices)*

Azadi: *I saw some soldiers on my way here. I wonder if the Azadi still have a big presence in Marcuria.*

ZOË:

 “The Azadi are still running the city?”

 ULVIC:

 “Oh, they're not—The Council runs the city, the Emissary is... She's an advisor. Her advice is invaluable. Of great value. To all of us.”

 ZOË:

 “Sounds like a good arrangement. And the soldiers everywhere...?”

 ULVIC:

 “For our protection. And benefaction. They keep us safe, from enemies outside and...and inside. From rebel terrorists and the like.”

 *(return to dialogue choices, Rebels is now available)*

Magicals: *I've only seen humans so far. There used to be blue people, furry people, non-human people. Where are they?*

ZOË:

 “Where are all the magical races?”

 ULVIC:

 “You don't know? Well, you are foreign. They've been...what's the word? Repatriated to their original homelands. It's for their own good. Marcuria's a human city now. There's really no need for sorcery anymore. The magicals are better off in the south, I'm sure.”

 ZOË:

 “You don't sound convinced.”

 ULVIC:

 “I am sure.”

 *(return to dialogue choices)*

The Reaping: *There's some sort of festival going on. The Reaping? I could use a primer.*

ZOË:

 “I keep hearing about the Reaping, Reapmoon, Feast of Reaping...”

 ULVIC:

 “I thought this was why you came to Marcuria.”

 ZOË:

 “Yes. I did. This is the reason for the coming...to Marcuria. But—I didn't read the literature before booking everything, and...well.”

 ULVIC:

 “The Reaping is the harvest festival. It's when the farmers bring their produce to the city markets. We celebrate this occasion with an entire month of reveling, culminating in the Feast of Reaping, on Reapmoon's Eve. It's a giving of thanks to the earth and sky, the Balance, the gods and goddesses for providing food for the dark months ahead. And it's a fantastic excuse for eating and drinking as much as you can stomach.”

 *(return to dialogue choices)*

Grand ceremony: *He mentioned something about a ceremony at the Tower...*

ZOË:

 “What's the grand ceremony about?”

 ULVIC:

 “It's the official unveiling of the tube network. I reckon it's where they'll tell us all about how things will be Efficient in the future. The ceremony's taking place next week, on the day of the Feast of Reaping. The Emissary probably thought it'd contribute to the celebrations. Won't make much of a difference to us Marcurians, to be honest. We'll still eat too much, drink too much, and pass out in the gutters when the sun rises. I mean, it's tradition! And tradition must be honoured.”

 *(return to dialogue choices)*

Kites: *I wonder why they're flying those kites above the city.*

ZOË:

 “Are the red kites significant in some way?”

 ULVIC:

 “Kites? You mean the dragons? They're...traditional. But it's frowned upon. See, these days they're more of a...a symbol. They represent magic. The Balance. The... The Draic Kin. And they represent resistance. To the Azadi, to the new laws. To the exile of magicals. If you're caught with a dragon, or even if you stand too close to someone flying a dragon, the guards will arrest you. You will be punished. Best to ignore them and avoid trouble. Because that's what those dragons are. Trouble.”

 *(return to dialogue choices, Rebels is now available)*

Rebels: *If this place has a connection to the resistance, this man would know. Hopefully, he won't kick me out if I ask...*

ZOË:

 “What do you know about...(Whispers) ...the resistance. You know, rebels. Rebel movement. The-the magical...insurgency? No?”

 ULVIC:

 “We don't discuss terrorists here, madam.”

 ZOË:

 “Oh. Right, I'm sorry, I didn't mean—I was just curious.”

 ULVIC:

 “Tell you what. There's someone you might want to talk to, over in the smithy in City Green. It's on the far side, close to the gate into the Bones. Go knock on the door, tell them you're there to inquire about the library. But now I'm afraid I have some work to do. I've been neglecting my other customers for too long.”

 ZOË:

 “Oh, I'm sorry. Thanks for all your help.”

 *(conversation ends)*

*Jakai nods to Ulvic and leaves the bar.*

*Examine: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ZOË:

 “Ulvic seems like such a lovely man. He reminds me of Sully. I miss Sully.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “I'm afraid I'm very busy. Try the smithy on City Green.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “I'll see you again soon, I'm sure.”

*Talk to: Ulvic the Ever-Thirsty*

ULVIC:

 “Not now, I'm sorry. I've told you everything I know.”

*Examine: Patron*

ZOË:

 “People drinking in pubs look the same everywhere. Aside from the clothes. And the drinks. And the whole ambiance.”

*Talk to: Patron (male on bottom floor)*

PATRON:

 “Hello, love. Pull up a chair, have a drink. Let's sing sad songs and reminisce about lost loves and better days.”

*Talk to: Patron (male on bottom floor)*

PATRON:

 “If I were twenty years younger, I'd ask you up on this table for a dance. But I won't mind if you do.”

*Talk to: Patron (male on bottom floor)*

PATRON:

 “First time in the Rooster? Don't order anything that don't come out of a bottle. Stay out of the bog, no matter how badly you need to go. And for the love of the Balance, do not eat the snacks.”

*Talk to: Patron (female on bottom floor)*

PATRON:

 “I've been drinking since noon...four days ago. See, I'm getting into the spirit of the Reaping. There's no Reaping without heavy drinking, that's what my dear old gammy would say.”

*Talk to: Patron (female on bottom floor)*

 PATRON:

 “I can see that you're not drinking. This strikes me as very odd, seeing as it's only a week left until Reapmoon's Eve and thus not enough time to get truly pissed.”

*Talk to: Patron (female on bottom floor)*

PATRON:

 “Some drink to remember, others drink to forget. I drink to remember to foget...or was it forget to remember? Those may be interchangeable. I should remember to write that down but I'll probably forget.”

*Talk to: Patron (female on bottom floor)*

PATRON:

 “Ulvic should really stop serving me drinks, but he is called the Ever-Thirsty for a reason. We could be siblings, him and I. Seeing as we have the same surname. If you see what I mean. No? No.”

PATRON NEAR DOOR:

“Do I smell magicals? I think I smell magicals! Why are there magicals in this place? I thought this was a human establishment!”

PATRON NEAR DOOR:

“Why isn't there any music and dancing going on, Ulvic? Start the music so that we can begin the dancing!”

PATRON NEAR DOOR:

“Fuckin' rebels, causin' trouble for everyone! What the hell are they thinking? Onor Hileriss is right, we're better off without them!”

PATRON NEAR DOOR:

“Vote Hileriss! Vote faith and family. Vote National Front! (hiccup)”

MALE PATRON UPSTAIRS NEAR STAIRS:

“Everyone should vote for Onor Hileriss.”

FEMALE PATRON UPSTAIRS NEAR STAIRS:

“He seems like a slimy little turd to me.”

MALE PATRON UPSTAIRS NEAR STAIRS:

“He says a lot of smart things. The road forward is self-rule and cooperation with the Azadi. No point in trying to work against them.”

FEMALE PATRON UPSTAIRS NEAR STAIRS:

“He wants to get rid of all the magicals.”

MALE PATRON UPSTAIRS NEAR STAIRS:

“So? Most of them have left already. It's not like we can do anything to change that. It's a new age. The age of humans.”

FEMALE PATRON UPSTAIRS NEAR STAIRS:

“Mm, I don't trust the man. Honour and humanity? It's a pile of elgwan dung if you ask me.”

*Talk to: Patron (female in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “I absolutely adore that coat. Where did you get it? Is it one of Madame Vivienne's creations? She has the best boutique in Highhall.”

*Talk to: Patron (female in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “I'm excited about the Harvest Festival. Aren't you? Oh, I don't really care about the actual harvest, but it's an excuse to drink, eat and dance until sunrise. Yes, please!”

*Talk to: Patron (female in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “You're not drinking? You really should be drinking. I recommend the pumpkin brandy. It burns like fire, but the world looks so much better after.”

*Touch: Patron (female in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “Yes? Can I help you with anything?”

*Touch: Patron (female in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “If you're trying to pick my pockets, you're making a dreadful mess of it.”

*Touch: Patron (female in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “I appreciate that the Harvest Festival is a time for revelry and merriment, but I have to draw the line somewhere. I'm not letting you take me anywhere.”

*Talk to: Patron (male in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “A fresh face at the Rooster, eh? This place needs a fresh face and some normalcy. Too many weirdos and warriors and magicals hanging about, if you ask me.”

*Talk to: Patron (male in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “Have you ever heard the story of the Onyx Cockerel, proud owl-fighting rooster of the north? Buy me an ale later tonight, and I'll regale it to you in rhyme and song.”

*Talk to: Patron (male in corner upstairs)*

PATRON:

 “You're a beauty. What are you doing down here, by the docks? Only whores, soldiers and sailors here, present company not included, of course.”

FEMALE PATRON PAST FIREPLACE:

“Have you paid your dues to Yaga yet?”

MALE PATRON UPSTAIRS:

“The Wicker Witch of the North? I don't care much for childish superstition.”

FEMALE PATRON UPSTAIRS:

“I wouldn't call her that if I were you.”

MALE PATRON UPSTAIRS:

“You think she's listening? Here, in Marcuria? Ha! Don't make me laugh.”

FEMALE PATRON UPSTAIRS:

“Her tendrils are everywhere in the spirit world. Her magic is old, older than the Balance. Older than the Twin Worlds. You speak ill of Yaga and some day she might speak ill of you. And when she does...You should just pay your dues on Reapmoon's Eve with the rest of the city and pray that your name never passes her lips.”

*Exit to Marcuria:*

ZOË:

“I got a lead on the resistance. While I'm looking into that, there's something I want you to do. A mission.”

CROW:

“Mission is my middle name. No, that's not true. It's Edward. Nope, also a lie. I just always wanted to be an Edward.”

ZOË:

“I need a bird's eye view of things.”

CROW:

“Are you trying to get rid of me, Zoë?”

ZOË:

“Of course not, but I'll feel much safer if you're watching out for me up there while I'm following up on our lead down here.”

CROW:

“I feel a swelling in my chest cavity that can only mean one thing.”

ZOË:

“Pride?”

CROW:

“No, an imminent burp. But I will do this thing that you ask of me, and I will feign pride if you need me to!”

ZOË:

“Knock yourself out.”

CROW:

“Geronimo! Except in reverse! Ominoreg!”

*Talk to: Marcurian (near south gate)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I don't know why people believe magicals burned down Oldtown. Why would they do that? It makes no sense.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (near south gate)*

MARCURIAN:

 “That National Front mob... They're nothing but hooligans. If they had their way, they'd hang every last magical in the Tower Square.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (near south gate)*

MARCURIAN:

 “The Azadi want to get Onor Hileriss elected to the City Watch, so that they can continue to pull strings and still claim there's democracy.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (near south gate)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I refuse to attend the ceremony in Tower Square next week. I have a bad feeling about it. Those tubes? They won't tell us what they're for, but it's some sort of dark science.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (near south gate)*

MARCURIAN:

 “The moment they switch on their tube network, we'll be brainwashed. Turned into mindless slaves. Or maybe mudslugs. The Azadi aren't human. They're demons. The rats told me so.”

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

***Examine: Mill***

**ZOË:**

**“Oh, hey, I remember this place! This is where I scared one of those large, turtle-cow things and freed a furry dog-thing. Ah, memories. Broken, fragmented memories.”**

***Examine: Mill***

**ZOË:**

**“I remember visiting this place when I was here last. It’s all coming back. Well, some of it, at least.”**

*Talk to: Marcurian (male at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “You must be from out of town. Here for the Festival of Reaping, then? You're early, but it gives you a chance to see the city. Marcuria's stunning this time of year.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (male at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Shame about the magic ghetto. Oldtown, I mean. I'd recommend a visit, but now it's—Well. Closed off. Burned down. There was some rioting, some unpleasantness. It's all very unfortunate.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (male at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I don't know why the magicals had to go and ruin things for everyone. Burning buildings, throwing rocks, killing soldiers... They only have themselves to blame for being expatriated.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (male at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “You're a tourist? You might want to visit the Bench at night, to see all of southwestern Marcuria and the bay. It's lovely, one of my favourite spots in the city.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (male at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “What's worth seeing in Marcuria... The Tower, of course, although they've closed that off until the inauguration ceremony next week. That's when they officially open the tube network.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (male at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “Those tubes are impressive. Modern technology, eh? It's amazing what their engineers can do. I mean, no one knows what the tubes are for, but it's incredibly impressive.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (female at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “You are not from here. You have the face of an outsider. Beware the watchers. Hide yourself from them.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (female at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “You are human, but you aren't. There's magic in you, but you're not of magic. What anchors you to this realm?”

*Talk to: Marcurian (female at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I wish I had time to read your paths, to decipher your past and future, but you need to be elsewhere. Every moment counts.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (female at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “You're bright with dreams. I envy you.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (female at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “If you don't go where you're needed, the sky will unravel and all that's done will be undone.”

*Talk to: Marcurian (female at top of city green steps)*

MARCURIAN:

 “I'm sorry, I don't know what came over me. Please don't tell anyone I said that.”

MARCURIAN ON STREET TOWARD HILERISS:

“The National Front? I'm all for it. It's about bloody time we started taking control of the city back from the Azadi.”

OTHER MARCURIAN ON STREET TOWARD HILERISS:

“I agree. I mean, it's a shame about magicals. The city feels emptier without them, but they're better off in the south with their own.”

MARCURIAN ON STREET TOWARD HILERISS:

“Marcuria belongs to humans. The Northlands is no place for magicals. I have nothing against them, but I'd rather not have to be around them, right?”

OTHER MARCURIAN ON STREET TOWARD HILERISS:

“Completely. Out of sight, out of mind.”

MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“Are you saying the magicals didn't destroy the ghetto?”

OTHER MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“Why would they do that? They were safe in there. Their homes, their businesses – why would they burn that down?”

MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“Well, they're magicals. Sorcery is unpredictable, it corrupts.”

OTHER MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“It does not corrupt. When did you first hear that? After the Azadi came? We had sorcery for thousands of years before that, and Oldtown didn't burn down.”

MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“Well, actually, it did, on a number of occasions. Mostly because of sorcery.”

OTHER MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“Y—Fine, but those were unfortunate accidents. This was not an accident. The Azadi wanted all non-humans shipped off to their death camps.”

MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“Death camps? Now you're just being silly.”

OTHER MARCURIAN ON LOWER STREET:

“We'll see who's right when the truth comes out, and the truth always comes out in the end.”

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

***Examine: Boards***

**ZOË:**

**“Wait, this was the entrance to the magic ghetto, right? Or, what was it called, Oldtown? Yeah. And it’s boarded up now? Huh.”**

***Examine: Boards***

**ZOË:**

 **“The entrance to Oldtown has been boarded up. That’s…not a good sign?”**

FEMALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“The city feels all wrong without magicals around. I barely see any Dolmari or Zhid in the streets these days, and you can forget about the more exotic ones. They're long gone.”

MALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“Aye, it is strange. I mean, I grew up here. To me, Marcuria was always a city of both humans and magicals. A city with a sorcerer's soul.”

FEMALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“Well said, that's exactly right! A sorcerer's soul. That's lost now.”

MALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“But it didn't happen overnight. The Azadi have been here for ten year! They've always condemned magic. It's been on the cards, hasn't it, if we wanted to do somethin' about it?”

FEMALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“True. Well, I mean, there is the magical resistance--”

MALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“Let's, uh, not talk about that in public. You never know who's listening. I don't want anyone to get the wrong idea. It's not like we condone terrorism.”

FEMALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“Certainly not. So, uh, what are you folks doing for the feast this year?”

MALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“Two words: Decorative yams.”

FEMALE MARCURIAN NEAR OLDTOWN:

“Classic.”

*Examine: Strange house*

ZOË:

 “Rustic. Like something out of a Miyazaki movie. I could see myself living here.”

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

***Examine: Strange house***

**ZOË:**

**“It’s a beautiful house. I wish I had time to explore this city more, I’m sure there are some amazing sights here.”**

***Examine: Strange house***

**ZOË:**

 **“A perfect little hobbit-house.”**

*Open: Strange house*

ZOË:

 “I don't think anyone's living here, but it can't hurt to check.”

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

***Examine: Giant moth***

**ZOË:**

 **“Ugh!”**

***Examine: Giant moth***

**ZOË:**

**“That is just a big, nasty “nope”. I don’t care if it looks pretty, it’s a giant insect. And, ugh, nope.”**

*There is a sign that says “Smithy green”.*

*Examine: Smithy*

ZOË:

 “Ye Olde Smithy. No, that's not what it says. It just says 'blacksmith'. This is not a renaissance fair, Zoë.”

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

**ZOË:**

 **“No magical or mediaeval town without a blacksmith. That much I know.”**

*Use: Door (first)*

ZOË:

 “There's no one home.”

*Use: Door (second)*

ZOË:

 “This can't be the right door.”

*Use: Door (third)*

*Jakai answers the door.*

ZOË:

 “Hello, I'm here about the...the library? I know, it's a weird opener, but I was told that this is— Okay. We're...going inside.”

*Commander Vamon approaches Sahya on the balcony of her office that night.*

VAMON:

“Hami knows.”

SAHYA:

“Knows what exact--”

VAMON:

“That Kian is alive! And Shadow knows what else he told the general...”

SAHYA:

“They...spoke?”

VAMON:

“My men saw the general entering the engine room in the Green. Alvane was spotted leaving the house soon after. They were alone in there with one of the engineers. Ferdows, I believe his name is. He's nowhere to be found. Hami must have stowed him away somewhere. A witness!”

SAHYA:

“So he knows that you've lied to him...He will not confront you with this yet. Not until he knows why, and what we're planning.”

VAMON:

“Yes... Hami's as clever as a rock snake, and twice as deadly.”

SAHYA:

“We need to get rid of him. Mother Utana, too. He must have told her.”

VAMON:

“They're thick as thieves. The only question is if they've informed the First.”

SAHYA:

“Not without more evidence. There's still time.”

VAMON:

“You're speaking of assassination.”

SAHYA:

“What else would you suggest? We crossed a line long ago, Vamon. There's no way back.”

VAMON:

“I can't just walk into Hami's cell and cut his throat!”

SAHYA:

“It needs to look like an accident...The ceremony--”

VAMON:

“It's a week from now. We can't afford to wait!”

SAHYA:

“We can't afford to be hasty! Until he has concrete evidence of our treachery, the general will continue his investigations. The ceremony, then. We kill them both and make it look like the work of the resistance.”

VAMON:

“But if he acts before then, I need to be ready. I need to inform those who are loyal to--”

SAHYA:

“Hush. Come here, my sweet. Don't worry. We will survive this. We always survive. We've worked too hard to fail now. The engine will be ours. The Northlands will be ours. The general's men will pull back to Azadir. The Council will not mount another campaign. They can't afford it. They lack the support of the people. And then we return in triumph carrying the Light of the Goddess, and we destroy our enemies. We rule Azadir, as we've always planned. We will not fail, my love. I will be Empress, and you my supreme commander. This is the will of the Goddess. I know it is. I know it!”

*A rebel is leading Zoë up the stairs to the Enclave.*

ZOË:

“What is this place? Where are you taking me? Can someone please say something? You are the resistance, right? You know, instead of abducting me, you could have just asked nicely. I would have come with you. I wanted to come with you. Not talking? Fine. Take me to your leader. I've always wanted to say that.”

REBEL:

“Shepherd's busy. She'll talk to you later.”

ZOË:

“So now you are speaking to me? Good. I'd like to—Wait, I remember that man, isn't that--?”

REBEL:

“Stop talking, keep walking.”

ZOË:

“But I know him--”

REBEL:

“Shut. Up.”

SHEPHERD:

“Absolutely not! No! You cannot leave Marcuria now. If you go to Ge'en--”

ENU:

“What if they find you? They'll kill you!”

KIAN:

“So they kill me. I understand the risks, Enu.”

SHEPHERD:

“I know you want to protect him, but he is one child. If you end up dead, what do we do?”

KIAN:

“You carry on. You're stronger now. You can fight them.”

SHEPHERD:

“You know that's not true. The general has brought more troops from Azadir. Our situation is precarious.”

LIKHO:

“I'll go with him and make sure he stays alive.”

KIAN:

“What? You will not.”

SHEPHERD:

“And we lose the both of you?”

*If Kian tortured the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

 SHEPHERD:

 “We were lucky we didn't lose more people when Oldtown burned. It's only a matter of time before the Azadi make a decisive strike against us.”

*If Kian did not torture the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

SHEPHERD:

 “We lost enough of our people when Oldtown burned.”

 LIKHO:

 “If Kian had done his duty, those people would still be with us.”

 KIAN:

 “If you'd listened to me, they'd still be with us. Torture isn't the only road to truth, Dolmari. Isn't that one of your sayings?”

ENU:

“Boys, I'm as softhearted as a Zhidling schoolgirl, and Bip's my friend, too, but...I agree with Shepherd. We can't risk it.”

*If Na'ane is imprisoned:*

ENU:

 “I mean, we don't even have a healer anymore. How long is Na'ane going to rot in that cell?”

 LIKHO:

 “Until she shrivels to dust. She betrayed us!”

 ENU:

 “You know, I am so sick of hearing about traitors-this and betrayal-that. We're wasting our time fighting each other instead of--”

*If Likho killed Na'ane:*

ENU:

 “We don't even have a healer anymore. With Na'ane—”

 LIKHO:

 “Do not speak her name.”

 ENU:

 “Why? Because you feel bad about what you did? Well, you should, because you're a bad man.”

 LIKHO:

 “You know nothing about how I feel, Zhidling.”

 ENU:

 “That's because you keep it all bottled up inside that stupid head of yours, and--”

KIAN:

“It's not just about the boy. If I go to Ge'en, to the camps, I will find evidence of what they're doing to the magicals. And if General Hami and Mother Utana learn the truth of what's being done to innocent creatures, perhaps they'll--”

*If Kian killed the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

LIKHO:

 “You've proven that you see magicals as people. I'd appreciate the same consideration now.”

*If Kian did not kill the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

LIKHO:

 “Creatures!”

 ENU:

 “He didn't mean it like that. Right, Kian? You didn't mean it like that.”

 LIKHO:

 “He's shown that he doesn't consider magicals to be people. We still remember that child- molesting Azadi officer you let go.”

KIAN:

“People. Women, children. The defenseless. If Hami and Utana learn the truth, they may have a change of heart. They may pull their support. We can't win this war on our own. Vamon and Sahya are too strong. With Hami's men on their side... They'll be unbeatable. But if we undermine this support, even if Hami does not join our side, our chances will improve. Force me to stay, and we only delay the inevitable. Let me go...and we could win this war.”

SHEPHERD:

“(Sighs) You don't make it easy for me to lead, Kian. But maybe it's time I let you make the decisions. I won't stand in your way.”

ENU:

“I don't like this one bit. When are you leaving?”

KIAN:

“Right away, if I can sneak onboard a cloudship leaving for the islands tonight. Which means there's not a lot of time.”

ENU:

“Well, don't let me stand in your way. Go be a hero, or whatever.”

*If Kian killed the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

 *Examine: Enu*

KIAN:

 “Enu's still disappointed in me for killing that officer...and for the other deaths I've been part of since then. She's young, inexperienced. She doesn't yet understand war.”

 *Examine: Shepherd*

KIAN:

 “Shepherd doesn't approve of the violence and the killings. We are often at odds, and I understand why. She's a woman of peace, forced to do war. Murder is not in her heart.”

 *Examine: Likho*

KIAN:

 “Likho has warmed to me in his own, inimitable way. He still hates me, he still swears he'll murder me when this is over...but at least he respects me.”

*If Kian did not kill the Azadi officer in Chapter 5:*

 *Examine: Enu*

KIAN:

 “I've spent more time with Enu since I spared that officer's life, mostly because Likho's been avoiding me like the Dolmari Plague.”

 *Examine: Likho*

KIAN:

 “Relations between us have been strained since I spared that officer's life.”

*Examine: Enu*

KIAN:

 “Enu's become a better soldier these last few months. I'm proud of her. But I also worry. I don't want this war to change who she is.”

*Examine: Enu*

KIAN:

 “She has such a promising future ahead of her. It's for people like Enu that I continue to fight. She deserves every opportunity she can get.”

*Talk to: Enu*

ENU:

 “That thing I said about being a hero or whatever? That came out all wrong. I'm sorry. I—It's scary how easy it is to forget about individuals when you're so wrapped up in fighting for the so-called greater good. There's all this talk about our case and the big picture, and...and...You have to go. That's what makes us people. It's not really about the greater good. It's about all those little goods we do every day, to each other. And this is that greatest little good of them all. One boy's life. It matters. And I'm sorry.”

 KIAN:

 “You don't have to apologise to me, Enu. But thank you.”

 ENU:

 “Just...don't die? That's all. Don't die, and I'll be fine.”

*Examine: Mural (samare)*

KIAN:

 “Beautiful. These murals bring light and colour to this dark place.”

*Examine: Dragon's head*

KIAN:

 “A stone dragon's head. It represents one of the Draic-Kin, I believe. We don't have anything like that in Azadi legends. Our only celestial being is the Goddess.”

*Examine: Shepherd*

KIAN:

 “Shepherd must long for her herd and the northern plains where her people have roamed for centuries. She tells me they've moved on, and that she wants to follow.”

*Talk to: Shepherd*

SHEPHERD:

 “There's nothing more to be said. You've made your case, Kian, and I cannot argue, even though I still believe the risk isn't worth it.”

*Talk to: Shepherd*

SHEPHERD:

 “I understand why you're going, but do not expect my benediction.”

*Talk to: Shepherd*

SHEPHERD:

 “I pray the spirits of our ancestors will watch over you until you return. We need you to win this war.”

*Examine: Mural (elgwan)*

KIAN:

 “Elgwan. What ridiculous animals. Comfortable to ride on, though.”

*Examine: Mural (draic kin)*

KIAN:

 “I've been told that this is the White of the Draic-Kin. The White Dragon. An important part of the ancient faith of the Order of the Balance.”

*Examine: Mural (draic kin)*

KIAN:

 “In some ways, she reminds me of the Goddess...but that's heresy. Our Goddess is without comparison, without equal. This White of the Kin is a mere reflection of her glory.”

*Examine: Banner*

KIAN:

 “The symbol of the magical resistance. A dragon...or Draic-Kin, as they're called in the mythology of the Balance. It's a powerful icon.”

*Examine: Bookshelves*

KIAN:

 “Most of the books were burned or otherwise damaged. Some were stolen, removed, hidden away...”

*Examine: Bookshelves*

KIAN:

 “I know they've been working to recover the lost books, to someday rebuild the Grand Library of the Sentinel Order.”

*Examine: Bookshelves*

KIAN:

 “I'd love to see the library returned to its former glories, and to have the time to peruse these shelves. I could spend weeks and months just reading.”

*Examine: Books*

KIAN:

 “There are still enough books here to fill hundreds of long evenings and sleepless nights. I've read a number of them, though many are written in languages I've yet to learn.”

*Examine: Books*

KIAN:

 “My favorite stories are traveler's tales, describing journeys across the Northlands, Southlands and the islands. Places I've yet to visit.”

*Examine: Books*

KIAN:

 “I also enjoy some of the books about food preparation. The illustrations are often mouth watering.”

*Examine: Books*

KIAN:

 “I have to admit that I sometimes sneak off with one of the children's books, to read stories about magical creatures and made-up lands. They give me joy.”

*Examine: Mural (Enclave)*

KIAN:

 “This used to be a library. It was destroyed by the Tyren, before we drove those beasts out of Marcuria.”

*Examine: Mural (Enclave)*

KIAN:

 “The Sentinel Order of the Balance built and maintained the Great Library...but they are no more. Most of the priests who survived the Tyren attack were arrested. The rest fled the city.”

*Examine: Mural (Enclave)*

KIAN:

 “The Enclave is truly ancient. It's heartbreaking to see the state it's in. Hopefully one day it can be rebuilt to its former glory.”

*If Kian kept Na'ane's secret in Chapter 3:*

 *Examine: Na'ane*

KIAN:

 “Na'ane's been useful to us since she returned from Myria, since I decided to keep her secret.”

 *Examine: Na'ane*

KIAN:

 “It's never easy to know whether a decision is right or wrong, or what may have happened had I decided otherwise...but she's been useful. I don't regret giving her a chance.”

 *Examine: Na'ane*

KIAN:

 “She still fears that her deception will be revealed, but I won't be the one to expose her.”

 *Talk to: Na'ane*

NA'ANE:

 “You are doing the right thing. Shepherd, she's...Shepherd carries a great load. It's hard for her to lift her eyes beyond this moment. She's afraid of losing you, Kian. Having you here has given everyone hope.”

 KIAN:

 “I trust you will keep that hope alive.”

 NA'ANE:

 “I have not forgotten. I will do my part while you are gone. I owe them this.”

ZOË:

“So when is your 'Shepherd' going to talk to me? I don't need to be locked up like this. I'm not an Azadi spy. I'm—Oh, forget it, it's a long story, what's the point, you don't make the decisions, this is a waste of everyone's time. Just know that every minute I spend here is another minute lost trying to save the world. I mean, no rush, just a friendly FYI.”

*Examine: Cell*

KIAN:

 “Whenever we bring someone in, they're questioned in there. If they refuse to answer, they're brought downstairs. Not everyone's comfortable with the screams.”

*Examine: Cell*

KIAN:

 “I believe they've just brought someone in. Another spy, no doubt.”

*Examine: Cell*

KIAN:

 “There's someone in there, being interrogated. But I have no time for that now.”

*Use: Cell*

KIAN:

 “Normally, I'd join in the questioning, but I don't have the time now.”

*Examine: Once-Blind Bob*

KIAN:

 “The general's keeping this place operational. He's tireless. And louder by the day. Must be his hearing.”

*Talk to: Once-Blind Bob*

ONCE-BLIND BOB:

 “So you're heading off on a little cruise across the sea, are ye? I know Shepherd has her reservations, but I'm with you on this one, boy. We can try and preserve the status quo here for as long as possible, or we can go and do something foolhardy and dangerous...and maybe win this war. So get your ass to Ge'en, save that boy, find the evidence and come back with your limbs intact. Or at least most of 'em. And let's end this thing, once and for all.”

*Examine: Likho*

KIAN:

 “Likho's an important asset, but his anger and impulsiveness can sometimes put us at risk. He needs someone to hold him back.”

*Examine: Mural (Maerum)*

KIAN:

 “Shepherd told me the story of the Maerum, and how April Ryan visited with them below the ocean. Sounds like a fairy tale, but she swears it's true.”

*Examine: Mural (Maerum)*

KIAN:

 “From what I've heard, April Ryan traveled across Arcadia and met with many of the magical races in order to recover pieces of a stone disc. Someone should really write that story down.”

*Talk to: Likho*

LIKHO:

“You're not leaving without me.”

KIAN:

“You're needed here, Likho.”

LIKHO:

“Those prisoners, they are my people!”

KIAN:

“Imprisoned by mine. This is almost certainly a suicide mission. If the resistance loses us both, they stand no chance against the Tower.”

LIKHO:

“We can't lose you.”

KIAN:

“They'll still have you.”

LIHKO:

“I will never be their leader. You have proven yourself. We need you.”

KIAN:

“To have any chance of defeating Sahya and Vamon, we need to show General Hami what's happening to the magicals.”

LIKHO:

“(Sighs) Try not to get yourself killed, Kian.”

KIAN:

“You still plan to kill me after?”

LIKHO:

“Of course.”

KIAN:

“Well, I wouldn't want to miss that.”

*Examine: Door*

KIAN:

 “The commons are through there, along with the kitchens, and more cells and storage spaces. The Enclave is a big place.”

*Use: Door*

KIAN:

 “There's no time for that now.”

*Use: Boat*

*Kian arrives at the Marcuria harbor. A platform near the top of the wall is being raised into a cloudship.*

KIAN:

“They're bringing magicals through that gate and onto the Cloudship. That Cloudship's headed to Ge'en with a new batch of prisoners. I must get onboard.”

*Inside the market, a portcullis is lowered behind magicals in front of the gate to Friar's Keep.*

GUARD 1:

“When's this ship taking off?”

GUARD 2:

“In a few minutes, I think. It's fully loaded, barely any room in the hold.”

GUARD 1:

“Is that the last of the magicals, then?”

GUARD 2:

“From the ghetto, yeah. I mean, there are still stragglers. I see 'em around, walking freely like they're actual people, and not animals. It's disgusting.”

GUARD 1:

“Well, they're not really...animals, are they? They're, like, intelligent. At least some of them.”

GUARD 2:

“No, they're filthy animals. Good riddance to 'em.”

GUARD 1:

“I don't know, I had a long conversation about farming with a Dolmari last year at the Rooster. She seemed niced.”

GUARD 2:

“You'll want to be careful talking about your love for magicals. There's a reason they're being shipped off to the camps, y'know.”

GUARD 1:

“But I—Never mind.”

GUARD 2:

“Anyway, you should be up there keeping watch, not down here talking to me.”

*Examine: Iron gate*

KIAN:

 “They led the magicals through that gate to the cloudship.”

*Examine: Iron gate*

KIAN:

 “It must lead to the staging platform that takes prisoners and supplies up to the ship.”

*Examine: Lever*

KIAN:

 “That lever operates the portcullis.”

*Pull: Lever*

GUARD:

 “What are you doing? You know, I'm standing right here.”

*Use: Lever*

GUARD:

 “Hey, hands off that lever.”

*Use: Lever*

GUARD:

 “How many times do I have to tell you? Scram!”

*After a few moments, the guard turns away.*

*Use: Lever*

GUARD:

 “Hey. Hey! We've got a rebel here!”

 *(The player is returned to before pulling the lever.)*

*Examine: Guard*

KIAN:

 “He's not paying attention. I could probably sneak up on him.”

*Examine: Guard*

KIAN:

 “If I take him out, I might be able to get past the gate.”

*Kill: Guard*

*Use: Lever*

ANNA:

“Kian. Where are you--? Oh, no. No. You're not going after him. He's not your responsibility. None of this is on you, Kian.”

KIAN:

“It's not just the one life, Anna. It's not just Bip. The Azadi take the magicals to the islands. They're not given passage to the Southlands, and they never come back. It's all a lie. The old and the young. Families. Sent away to die. Forgotten by everyone. That ends now. I refuse to forget. The resistance will persevere without me. I'm not really one of them. I never was, I never will be. I'm Azadi.”

ANNA:

“You're Azadi. So what? I'm not saying what they're doing is acceptable...but—Are you going to free every magical on your own? Take on the entire Azadi army single-handed? You're being stupid and emotional and... And you're being selfish! You're leaving us when we need you the most. You're leaving me, again!”

KIAN:

“What do you mean by--”

ANNA:

“My name isn't Anna. I use a different name in every city. It's safer that way. In Sadir, I was Alayna, but—I never told you my name. You don't recognise me. That's fair, I've changed. You haven't, except for the, you know...It's a good look for you.”

KIAN:

“You're the girl I saved from Vamon's gang.”

ANNA:

“Yeah, I'm the girl. What, that's it? I spent every day these past twenty years thinking about you...and I'm 'the girl'? I feel so special now.”

KIAN:

“Forgive me, Anna—Alayna. I do remember you. Vamon was trying to--”

ANNA:

“Hurt me. And they would've killed me, too, if it hadn't been for you. You risked everything, and you stood up for me. That was the first time anyone had shown me any kindness. You brought me to Mother Utana, and she took care of me for a while. I watched you from a distance for years, until I was...forced to leave Sadir. But I knew I'd find you again, some day, Kian Alvane.”

KIAN:

“That was a...a long time ago. I was a different person.”

ANNA:

“No, you were a different person in-between, but now...Now you are the boy I knew from all those years ago. The boy with his eyes and heart wide open. The boy who risked his life for others. The boy who—Oh, gods damn it! This is why you have to go. Not because you're Azadi or because you're the Apostle or the great hero of the resistance, or because of your Goddess or—Or because you're selfish. You have to go because this is who you are. The boy who saved my life.”

KIAN:

“Will you help them while I'm gone?”

ANNA:

“This isn't my war, Kian.”

KIAN:

“Maybe not. But it is mine. And I believe what happens here will change the Balance for all time to come.”

ANNA:

“I didn't know you believed in 'the Balance'.”

KIAN:

“I didn't. Will you help the resistance in my absence?”

ANNA:

“Fine. Fine! I'll help them.”

*If Kian didn't kiss Anna in Chapter 3:*

ANNA:

 “You're not pulling away this time.”

*Anna kisses him.*

KIAN:

“What was that for?”

ANNA:

“For love, you idiot. I've loved you since you lifted me out of that gutter and saved my life. I've loved no one else.”

KIAN:

“I don't know if I can--”

ANNA:

“It's taken me over twenty years to find you. You'd better fucking come back, or believe me, Kian Alvane, I will go to the First Mountain and drag you back, kicking and screaming, to the world of the living.”

*To City wall*

*If Kian gets too close to the guard:*

AZADI SOLDIER:

 “Civilian, you're in violation of martial law!”

 “Stay right there! You're under arrest!”

 “Hey. Hey! There's no walking on the wall at night!”

 *(The player is returned to reaching the top of the wall.)*

*Kill: Azadi Soldier*

*Examine: Bell*

KIAN:

 “From what I've learned traveling on Cloudships, this is a ship's bell. They use this to signal the crew when a load of cargo's ready to be hoisted up.”

*Examine: Bell*

KIAN:

 “A ship's bell, used to signal a new load of cargo.”

*Use: Bell*

LIKHO:

“Kian! Do not leave without me! Quick, pull me up!”

CHOICE:

Grab Likho's hand: *I could use his help on this mission.*

KIAN:

 “Take my hand! Hold on!”

 LIKHO:

 “Why did you pull me up?”

 KIAN:

 “You begged me to.”

 LIKHO:

 “You're infuriating.”

 KIAN:

 “Because I pulled you up?”

 LIKHO:

 “Because you continue to give me no reason to hate you.”

 KIAN:

 “Aside from murdering your father in front of you.”

 LIKHO:

 “Well. Aside from that.”

 *(scene progresses)*

Leave Likho behind (or let the timer run out): *No, the resistance needs him here!*

KIAN:

 “No, I—I'm sorry, Likho.”

 LIKHO:

 “You bastard!”

 *(scene progresses)*

*The platform is raised into the cloudship and it flies off into the night.*