

YEAR OF PATHS - PRESENT

Lentia was doing so good as an Apprentice Peacekeeper. Her impulsivity and emotions had proven to be a danger to her and her comrades (most of the time), but she always got the job done. Her relationship with Rohayu Shir-Del is very strong, the two were inseparable, and have a sister-like relationship. They are probably the most chaotic duo in the Peacekeeper history.

She also met a lot of people, especially on the Year of Paths. She made more friends, close friends, comrades, and enemies. Her views on the military have slightly changed, she doesn't despise them that much anymore. She was even in a relationship, for a time.

However, war was hard on her. The very reason why she became Peacekeeper is to keep others safe by maintaining the peace around Alva. She felt helpless to stop the war. She was frustrated, angry, and felt that she failed, especially when Snow had fallen victim to the siege on Belport. She began to question her allegiance, should she be standing with the side that starts the war? But she couldn't simply change her allegiance because all the people that mattered for her were there, either in Bratkovice, or in Song Lu. And then she realized that it wasn't about picking sides between the Empire or the Kingdom, but about the person next to her, the comrades and the people who always have her back, even so far to risk their life to save hers. Both the Peacekeeper and Song Lu have her loyalty.

This dedication, along with her strong passion to protect others, combined with her skills and expertise, were recognized by her superiors and the Chancellor of Song Lu herself. She was promoted as a Full Fledge Peacekeeper after the Harvest Eve incident, and appointed as the 3rd party witness on all Iadlain negotiations. A task she should be proud of, but ended up with her looking at the Count of Iadlain in a new light. Horror.

When she returned, Tor'ang Wehir, after consulting with Orlan Chu'Wol, appointed her a new task in the palace, the details were classified that not even her comrades and closest confidant knew about it (they were just asking her to look for spies really, nothing grand).

For a while, things were fine. Lentia was settling in in Song Lu, she moved in with Andros and Rohayu and Rohayu's adoptive son, Shuyi. She found a mentor who helped her polish her fighting skill. She even found a stray fushi that she ended up adopting, Xiaobo. And despite being half blind after getting sniped down in Belport, she found a friend who helped with her eye therapy and medication. This has made her life and allows her to fight easier.

And then there was the Estraude Ball, there was hope for peace.

The young woman reunited with her mentor, Alvor. She helped with his funeral. After everything that happened, and after Alvor's last encouragement, she felt like she was ready to open the letter. But things took a horrible turn, and Yuri, her former gang leader, found, kidnapped, and tortured her with the intention of killing her in the end. Thankfully, Andros managed to intercept the ship and murdered Yuri instead, in cold blood, in front of Lentia. Shocked, the woman's view

on the mercenary has changed forever. However, she knew that Andros did what he did to save her. They mutually liked each other and have grown so much closer before that. After the tragedy with Yuri, she and Andros have officially started their relationship.

Trying to get her mind off from the war and violence that she experienced for a year or so, Lentia returned her focus to the letter. It turns out that the letter was written by her biological mother, and the content was both shocking, and bittersweet. Her parents were also Peacekeepers. They didn't plan to have a child (at least not very soon), but her mother got pregnant and they decided to keep the baby. However, this line of work is dangerous, more so when the members have children. So they wrote her a letter, just in case something happened to them. As their daughter, Lentia couldn't help but feel responsible to find out what happened to her parents. She asked for a break from Peacekeeper boss, Orlan, and went on with her private investigation.

This investigation led her to an old house in Song Lu, a place where her grandparents used to live, and a servant, who was willing to confirm her identity. He told her that the young master (Lentia's father, a Song Luan native) and his wife had to leave her with his parents because the mission was dangerous. They were last seen in Song Lu after they dropped her off. A year after their disappearance, her grandparents, who were never approved of his Cantor-born wife, couldn't bear the sight and the sadness whenever they're looking at baby Lentia. They asked the servant to find a new home for her, preferably somewhere far. And that's how she ended up Bratkovice.

Lentia then dug deeper on the Peacekeeper old archives, she found out that her parents were Missing In Action, and also the details of their mission. With Xiaobo at her tail, she tried to retract that case, hyperfocusing, afraid that the report missed something.

Eventually she arrived back in Linhythe, where she found a man who used to work with the gang that her parents last investigated. That man was skinny, probably around Orlan age-- and he agreed to be interviewed on one condition, Lentia wouldn't arrest him (that he's to be interviewed as witness) and will pay him some money. Noticing that Linhythe is still rebuilding and everyone's life is difficult, the young woman agreed. It was for her parents after all.

The interview eventually arrived at the story where two Peacekeepers were caught red handed by the gang, how it went south so quickly for the couple. And that man, he was the one who's in charge of disposing them. He claimed that he was sorry for what he and the others had done to them, and that he's a better man now and just wants to help to rebuild Linhythe into a better city. But he noticed Lentia had grown so quiet and pale, and so, in his attempt on making small chit chats because the situation had turned a little strange, he said 'Who are you again? A Peacekeeper, right? The guild really cares about the members, eh? Even the missing ones. Hope this can give them some closure.' Shocked, and having her heart feel like it had just been ripped out of her rib cage, Lentia spontaneously answered, 'I'm their daughter.' Suddenly, even the grave is louder than the room where the two have sat for hours, and the man's face twisted

into horror as he realized that Lentia does resemble the male Peacekeeper he murdered in the past, a lot.

In a flurry of panic, thinking that Lentia was here to avenge the two, the man attacked her and attempted to escape. Lentia, still shocked and unable to process her grief yet, tried to stop him. But he got even more scared, fought her again, and things were spiraling out of control.

Lentia remembered every detail of it. She remembered how she killed him, in probably, the longest, but also the quickest, gruesome battle of her life. Xiaobo was protecting her at first, but ended up trying to stop her, but it was futile.

The young woman, who had sworn that she would never take another life, not even this pathetic man, was shaken to the core. She sat with the body for hours before eventually turning herself in to the Linhythe City Guard. But they dismissed her, saying that it was a self defense on her part, and that the prison was full, and they'd rather house a more serious crime or criminal. Lentia, traumatized from the horrible deed she did just hours ago, was even more shocked that she's allowed to walk away.

She had committed a horrible crime. She was ashamed, she was confused, and feeling an enormous guilt. There's no way she returned to Song Lu. She had no courage to face her fellow Peacekeepers. Something in herself snapped, and whatever sanity she had left, it had led her back to Bratkovice, to the home of her foster father. Xiabo remained loyal next to her, tugging at her clothes whenever she blanked for too long or going in the wrong direction.

At her home coming, Molvhain had begun to sing, luring a lot of people deep in the forest, and Lentia, almost became one of them. Thankfully, Theo heard Xiaobo barking non-stop and saw her before she entered the woods. He had to tackle Lentia and carry her to the house. His daughter didn't answer any of his questions, her eyes were empty, and Gods know she hadn't been eaten for days. Not long upon entering the house, Lentia broke down. She was hysterical and violent, thrashing and throwing herself on the floor, and smashing and breaking everything to the ground. Her screams can be heard miles away that Theo had to drug her to calm her down, and call for the druid.

The druid said that her mind is broken and isn't going to repair itself anytime soon. Caleb had flown home from Koben, and both he and Theo cared for Lentia since then. The two were contemplating on alerting the Peacekeepers, or her friends back in Song Lu, but upon hearing this the young woman got even more hysterical, even did some unthinkable things and begged them to just let her 'hide' in here. She even threatened that if they let her friends and co-workers know, they'd never see her again. Theo and Caleb, who had never seen Lentia in this state before, chose to agree and comply, knowing that it wasn't just an empty threat she gave them.

Days have turned into months, and even though the hysteria subsided, Lentia had stopped talking. She helped around the house, she drank, she ate. But her eyes were hollow, and it's like the body moved in an auto pilot mode. Not wanting to make things worse, and because they

deeply cared about her, Theo and Caleb moved at her pace. They never forced her to speak, and had stopped prying about what happened. The two decided that they're just gonna be there for her.

All kind of news reached Bratkovice, a shocking death of King Giovan, a lot of anomalies around Alva, Tusa is in a brink of revolution, Koben is preparing for another war, Iadlain is threatened by Reluir, a mysterious plague abroad, and there are many regarding Song Lu and the Peacekeeper. However, content with her situation now, Lentia had looked away and closed her ears upon the news. She knew that what she did was cowardice. She felt an enormous guilt for leaving behind her co-workers, comrades, and friends to deal with whatever happened in Song Lu.

But at least here, she is safe. No more deaths. No more pain. No more fear of being left behind or knowing the people you care about, die. The mood is also joyous in Bratkovice, there are extravaganza and other festivals. She never went, but she can hear the euphoria from the city. A city that never sleeps, and always filled with celebration and happiness. It's warm, it's safe, it's anything she could ever ask.

However, her tiny bubble of peace doesn't last long. Conflicts soon emerged around Alva. Bratkovice, tucked safely behind Koben, has turned into a refugee center. And as much as the city wants to deny it, more and more people are missing in the mountains.

Lentia couldn't really say that she's shocked when Theo was determined to open their home for the refugee. Those big empty farms will do well for a camp. She didn't object, but also didn't get involved. Although, that didn't last very long. Theo had his hands full, and with Caleb working as a guard in the city, it's up to Lentia to lend a hand, which in the end, she did. As time went by, blood didn't really faze her anymore. Too many injured had come, asking for aid. She had helped mending countless wounds she barely flinched anymore. Some would die, some would heal and go back to whatever was left of their home. Some of those people would never come back, but most of them do, since the fighting appears to be endless. But at least she doesn't know these people, and by helping them she finds a little comfort for herself.

The children managed to get her to talk again, and after a year, the shadow of her old self had become apparent. She would cook, she would clean, and she would fetch water with the refugees, with Xiaobo happily tailing them. And even though she had never used her katana again, she polished them at least once a month. A little activity that she finds very soothing and comforting. She loves how the blade glows under the moonlight.

One day, she found Theo burying a close friend of his. She asked him how he could be so calm? How can he control his emotions? In which he answered, that the only thing that he can control, is his emotion and himself. He can't control how other people act, or their fate. Lentia found that statement to be true, a huge burden had been lifted from her heart that night.

Just a few months later, Molvhain went out of control. Lentia instructed her father and the refugee to evacuate, while she, Xiaobo, and whatever military troops The Serdar can deploy, stayed behind to keep the forest at bay. It was a futile attempt, the forest won't stop and keep advancing until it's nearing the city walls. It was a desperate time, but also a time, where Lentia got a new found drive; to fight again.

When the Serdar gather whatever man power left in the city to march to the forest, Lentia is one of those people. She fought bravely, side by side with the people who used to bully her at school. Together, they managed to seize back more land. Her valiantness wasn't missed and being recognized by the Bratkovan she helped, and finally, after years of living there, Lentia felt welcomed in Bratkovice.

Suddenly, anything outside these walls doesn't really matter for her. What she has to do now is to make sure the city and the people in it, safe. When the Gods awakened, when Alva plunged into chaos, she stood her ground and protected the civilians with her newfound Bratkovan allies. The old Lentia would leave, trying to find Iridius, insisting that she have to see her with her own eyes. The present Lentia knew that these people matter more than her encounter with the Divine. Many of her allies fell in battle, some people she knew have become casualties. It was harder when they were children, especially the children she knew, and the small ones. But Lentia doesn't dwell on her grief for too long, and she found her excessive self blaming had... gone. Just like Theo said, what matters now is how she acts, how to help the living.

Eventually, everything calmed down. She doesn't really understand what's going on, but to be simply put, it seems that the Gods have returned to their slumber. She heard whispers of cities being built, of ceasefire and new alliance, of peace.

Except in Song Lu.

Caleb was told by his friends that Song Lu is still in shambles and no one seems to know what is the source of the trouble, not even the Three. Restless but doubtful, Lentia tries to push her anxiety at bay. She hates it when her senses begin to numb less. It made her feel again. It made her think about her friends and comrades, about who's still alive, and who doesn't.

Her anxiety doesn't pass Theo's watchful eyes. That night, her father told her to go, that it's finally time to leave Bratkovice. Lentia told him that she couldn't bear the possibility of knowing her friends died or missing in battle. And if they're still alive, they wouldn't forgive her for running away. However, Theo convinced her that if she doesn't go now, she will regret it forever. And after seeing her daughter fight for the past year, he just knew that Lentia should use her power not only in Bratkovice, but also outside, where she can help and do more. As for her friends, he told her that however they'll react, whatever their fate is, they are beyond her control. The most important thing is that she wants to be there for them, right now, in the present.

With her mind sorted out, Lentia bid good bye to Theo and Caleb. She promised them she'll try to visit as much as she can, that she'll keep in touch. But for now, her main goal is to go to

Koben, to find out more about what's happening in Song Lu, and to see if her friends and comrades survive. The Peacekeepers are strong, she's confident that some managed to get out. She will find them, and she hopes that they will take her in like they did years ago, or at least letting her help.

And together, they will get Song Lu back.