

The Inglenook, Laurel Grove, Highmark
3 Aurum

Dearest Mother,

I write to you in the hope that it is as sunny here as it is in the back garden here at Inglenook. The accommodation here is more than adequate, although I know Magga had hoped for something a little more lively.

I should have hoped to have more positive news for you, even after only two events. The Sehanine masquerade seemed more quiet than I would have expected, though that may have been my mood as much as anything else. Magga came to the foosball yesterday, and while the games were not as distracting as one might have hoped, it was fair enough.

Nenea has been most busy tracking down lists of candidates, acquiring information on the most likely prospects, and generally making herself a nuisance in the cause of our family's joy. I am eternally grateful for the ties between the Spargos and Palatines that brought her into our orbit. At the moment there is a young Machel fellow who looks not too bad, though perhaps not as reliable as we would like. There are some who were around when I first was out, but that should cause us all pause - anyone who has not found a match by this point probably has something wrong with them.

It is sometimes hard, the burden of this mark. Yesterday I took myself inside the sphere for almost an hour, until it hurt, until the tears came freely. Just like when I was a little girl, you remember? Just to be away from the decision, even though it is the reason why the decision must be made. And I know it must be me who makes it. For the good of the mark, I tell myself. I must stay firm for Magga. This is hard enough on him, and I cannot bear to show him any ambivalence. The arrival of his niece Yadda - Hruggek's granddaughter - has made it a little easier, honestly, as it makes me feel less out of place. I can attend to her needs, and sort out my own in the quiet pauses.

Send all my love to Grandmother. I read in the briefs yesterday that the Senate is at a impasse over the latest budget, which seems both hopelessly tiresome and ridiculously important at the same time. I know she will be eager to hear more news from me, and I will write her directly, once I have something of importance to say. For now, I will attend to my matters, knowing that even at great distance, you remain my strongest supporters, and I remain

Your loving daughter,

Leonora