

Trinkett: The Queens Greeting

[**FAE-342**] - **WORD COUNT: 716**

+700 words - 7 shards
Prompt Entry - 4 shards
NPC Faelidh [Treasure, Rudra] - 4 shards
Monthly Prompt - 1 ethereal shard
=====

Total: 15 shards + 1 ethereal shard

The sun had just finally begun to set when Treasure and Trinkett finally reached the Highwind Caravan. Most of the rogues had long settled into their comfortable cliffside dwellings, eating or recently having finished dining. Their stares lingered for an uncomfortably long period of time as they passed- curiosity, hostility, concern? Perhaps they were just uncomfortable with random outsiders passing through their main encampment. Whatever it was though, the moment their eyes fell on Treasure, they seemed to look away and go back about their business.

"Comfort in seeing a familiar face while leading in a guest? Or the knowledge that looking too deeply into things won't bring anything good" Trinkett's fur bristled slightly, as she followed a bit more cautiously after her guide, starting to wonder if it had been better to risk offending the Queen of Rogues than answering this summons. They continued to wander up several twisting paths that slowly dipped downwards until at long last they reached a cliffside dwelling with a large opening.

Treasure just stood outside the entryway without moving for several long moments, Trinkett stopped right behind them. When Trinkett didn't push past them and enter Treasure moved towards the side of the door and sat down.

"What are you doing?"

"Waiting."

"For What?"

"You to Enter."

"Wait- You're not coming with me?"

"Oh that would be entirely unnecessary. I was paid to merely deliver Queen Rura's summons and lead you back to the Highwind Caravan" She wasn't particularly fond of that statement- did that mean that she would have been compelled or forced to meet with the queen whether she liked it or not? It only added to Trinkett's trepidation.

"Well go on then." Treasure gestured towards the door with the flick of a raised paw. Reluctantly Trinkett entered the large den. It was a wide and cavernous space- but still somehow felt comfortable and cozy. In the center of the room was a table with some pillows to sit on and beyond that two paths curved upwards- she looked from side to side, proceed forward into the queen's den or wait until she was given permission to enter further?

“Ah! Just the Fae I wanted to see!” A voice called from up above. It seemed the curving paths led to a lofted part of the den. Queen Rudra spread her wings, allowing herself to slowly drop to the space below with a few graceful flap “What took you so long?”

“My apologies Queen,” Trinkett dipped her head quickly out of respect “My home is quite far from here and I was not anticipating your summons, I was not home when your messenger first arrived.”

“I see, well- then I’m glad to see that you arrived before nightfall. Please come take a seat.” Trinkett did as she advised, choosing the seat closest to the door. “How much did Treasure tell you on the way?”

“Nothing other than you requested my presence. He didn’t dare assume the thoughts of the Highwind Caravan’s Queen” Rudra snorted.

“How curious he’s gone and rediscovered his manners now,” she remarked dismissively “Then allow me to be straightforward- The Highwind Caravan would like to temporarily hire you to assist us in crafting the gembond tokens bound for Andras this year.”

“My queen- I’m not sure if I am qualified for-”

“You are more than qualified.”

“How can you be so certain?”

“Just a moment.” Rudra stepped away and returned with a bag whose contents were then scattered across the table. They were crystals of different colors. Several pieces were red and pink, while there were others green, blue, and orange. “Can you sort the shards into piles?”

It was an odd request, but Trinkett obliged, separating the shards into piles based on their color.

“Why did you sort the shards like that?” Rudra asked curiously.

“You asked me to sort them so I grouped them by color.” Trinkett replied uncertainly, not sure where the Highwind Queen was going with her line of questioning.

“With that- you’ve proven you’re qualified!”

“How do you figure?”

“The shards you just sorted is Faerielite.” Trinkett’s mouth snapped shut. “It only ever comes in one color- yet you saw many different colors” Rudra replied with a fanged grin. “Which means you’ve got the skills that I’ve been looking for.”