

## **Chunks - Week of Nov 18:**

### Library Visit

*Featuring Calron and Zee*

The sound of the thick wooden door opening caused Zee to look up from the papers on his desk. The sight of a familiar face stepping into the library brought a smile to the Crook's face.

"Good afternoon, Calron!" Zee greeted the other Crook who smiled and signed back, "*Greetings, friend. How are you?*"

"Doing alright," Zee responded, "How about yourself?" Calron shrugged.

"*I'm O K,*" He signed with a lighthearted smile that made Zee nod as Calron neared the desk. "That's good," the darkly colored Crook said, "How can I help you today?" he asked Calron.

"*Looking for books on architecture,*" Calron informed his friend who hummed in thought. "What kind of architecture?" Zee asked for clarification. Calron's response was signed quickly as he gave many examples of the era of time, places, and aesthetics he was looking for. However, Zee just blinked in response, "Could you... sign that again but slower?" He asked shyly to which Calron smiled with understanding before nodding and starting again, but slower.

Zee watched intently as Calron signed before the librarian brought a hand to his chin and let out a sound of thought. "Hmmm," he pondered, "I think your best bet is the section in that direction." He said and pointed off in one direction of the library. "Farthest bookshelf on the wall, to the right of the aisle, second shelf from the top." Zee instructed dutifully, "Should find a few options around there." he finished with a smile.

Calron nodded and walked in the direction Zee had given. After spending a few minutes browsing the shelves at his leisure, Calron picked out a couple books, and headed to the desk to check out.

"Find something?" Zee asked with a smile after looking up from papers at his friend's approach. Calron nodded and handed the books to Zee who began ringing them up dutifully. There was a moment of silence before Calron asked, "*You holding up okay here?*" Zee shrugged with a slightly sadder expression.

"As best as I can," he responded with a shy smile, "Have to clean up a lot, but I manage." He handed the books and a card with the return date written on it to Calron, "But you're all good to go, friend. Thank you for stopping by and enjoy!" Calron picked up the books with a smile, nod, and quickly signed, 'thank you' in response before heading to the door.

However, he stopped a couple feet in front of the door while thoughts about the recent tremors and earthquakes that had been felt as of late danced in his head. Calron turned back towards Zee who watched him curiously.

“*Stay safe, Zee,*” He signed to the librarian with a sad smile. Zee smiled warmly and called out gently, “You too, Cal. If you and Spripe ever need anything, you’re always welcome here!” Calron smiled gratefully, gave a nod, and walked out the door.

After taking a few steps, Calron paused again. He took a deep breath and let his attention travel below the ground under his feet. With gentle encouragement, he influenced the weave of earth magic beneath the library, hardening the stone and dirt, solidifying it in areas, and making small unnoticeable changes to the strength of the earth below. After he was satisfied, he started walking again, beginning the trek home.

*It’s not much,* Calron thought to himself, *But hopefully... Hopefully that’ll help make the foundation stronger.* Calron looked up at the bright blue sky above with trepidation. Something inside him was scared of what these quakes meant for Skire and what the future would hold, but he hoped and prayed to any god above and even Eeridi itself that his friends would stay safe...