

Oath Breaker: Old Wounds

[F4A][Part 3][Knight Listener][Demon Princess][Arguing][Traveling]

Before the princess could return home, she is attacked once again, only to be saved by her captive who managed to break free of their restraints. Upon realizing that the Knights did not betray her, she promises the last knight to travel with them to the nearest town. The two arrive, but they are sidetracked as the princess is intrigued by the world of humans and their livelihoods. After a brief visit to the local festival, the Knight convinces the princess to continue her journey to the summit, in hopes to end the war. She reluctantly agrees in hopes that they will protect her.

In this part, the two will exchange in some heavy dialogue. The Knight will travel through their home town and visit their brother's grave, the one they took the knife from. Before that is revealed, the two will argue over which side has seen the most brutal of casualties. As a result, the two will become closer and may actually become friends.

<...> - Pause

[...] - Action

{...} - SFX

(...) - Tone of Voice

[Knight and Princess ride through the countryside]

{Horses walking}

So, let me see if I got this right. You have two warriors mount horses on two different ends, then charge each other with weapons. And if you stay on your horse, the prize is a kiss?

[Listener responds]

What if I wanted something else?

[Listener responds]

I'll never understand you humans and your ideas of competitions. If I were hosting this, "joust", the winner would become my personal guard for life.

[Listener responds]

What do you mean?! The Royal Guard is the most coveted role among demons. Many of my kin have battled each other just to tell me their names.

[Listener responds]

Yes! Demon warriors want to become my guards. You say that as if it were a punishment.

[Listener responds]

Well then, I guess we will have to agree to disagree.

<...>

How much longer till we make it to the temple?

[Listener responds]

That far? Your shortcut has proven itself useful. Although, not as dangerous as you described it. I thought you said there were rebels everywhere on route.

[Listener responds]

Only if you know where areas to avoid? Alright then, where to next?

[Listener responds]

Yes, I see it. That town just behind those hills. Seems simple enough.

[Princess moves forward, but Listener stays still]

Knight? What's wrong?

<...>

The town is giving you pause. Do you see something?

[Listener responds with no]

No? Okay then, no time to waste.

[Princess begins to ride off][Listener reluctantly follows]

<...>

[Princess and Listener make it to town]

{Horses walking}

Goodness. This place is nothing more than walls and whispers. I thought human towns were always lively, like the festival.

[Listener responds]

Oh, it's been like this for years? I'd assume you travel through here often to know, but the way you hesitated on the outskirts tells me that you don't.

<...>

I don't like how quiet it is. Let's just get out of here as fast as we can. Which direction are we heading in?

<...>

Knight?

[Listener responds]

The church? Yes, I can see it.

{Horse walking}

Knight, are you alright? You look as if you have seen a ghost.

[Listener responds]

You were here when this town fell? But, the Kingdom is so far away. Why would you be here at all?

[Listener responds]

Protecting the people from an attack. I didn't know every town was protected. What happened?

[Listener recounts what happened]

Demons did this?

<...>

I'm sorry, but are you sure that is what happened?

[Listener looks princess with a deadly stare]

No, I didn't mean anything by it. It's just, my father told me he never hurt innocent people.

<...>

I'm sorry. I interrupted. Continue, please.

[Listener responds]

<...>

I guess that explains some of the scorch marks. Only demon blaze can burn something like this. But, if my father attacked, it must have been justified.

[Both stop at the church]

{Horses stand still}

The church. It's... surprisingly beautiful. It's intact for most of it. As if the war never even glanced at it.

<...>

So, which way-

[Listener dismounts]

Knight? Where are you going?

<...>

Knight!

[Princess dismounts and chases after]

{Running}

[Princess finds Knight standing in graveyard]

It's not safe out in the open. We need to go back to the horses and-

[Princess tries to put a hand on listener's shoulder]

{SLAP}

[Listener slaps Princess's hand away]

Did you just-

[Listener walks further into grave]

HEY!

[Princess follows]

How dare you slap my hand! If I wasn't relying on you for safe passage, I'd have half the mind to-

[Listener barks back]

What? Of course I meant what I said. My father didn't attack for no reason. It must have been something.

[Listener asks a question]

I don't know! Maybe there were prisoners being held here, or a supply depot for one of your sieges.

[Listener disregards her]

Oh, like your leaders are so kind hearted. Whatever you think my father did here, double that for my kind.

[Listener responds]

{scoffs} The stories of you humans spread far. Fields scorched till you could harvest nothing but ash. Homes quickly turned into tombs. And those who even lived long enough to tell the tale, are no longer themselves.

<...>

And what about those rebels of yours? Whatever your king forgot to do to us, they have made up for it and then some more. My mother....

<...>

You think demons are evil, but think about who really is the monster here.

[Listener responds]

We may be proud warriors, but we're not liars. My father would have never stooped to your level. So, quit saying it.

[Listener asks why]

Because my father was an admirable and heroic leader. Not some bloodthirsty soldier.

[Listener responds]

He led the raid on the town? Right, and I am secretly a unicorn wearing a jester outfit.

[Listener responds]

No, you weren't lying before about the ambush. But what you're suggesting here is impossible. Besides, what makes you so certain that my father was behind this? Hmm?

[Listener describes the leader]

He used an obsidian ax? Just like the demon king did? Th-that still doesn't mean anything. Besides, even if he did attack the town, surely he wouldn't hurt anyone needlessly. Y-You must have been distracted fighting as he let the town go.

[Listener points to a grave]

Huh? What does pointing to a random grave prove tha-

[Listener explains its his brother's grave] [Princess's tone changes from accusatory to careful]

It's...your brother's? Wait, I thought you said your brother was waiting for you at home.

<...>

You are home. No, that can't be true. Was your brother important to the war? A spy? A tactician?

[Listener explains]

A farmer? What about his knife?

<...>

Used for his crops.

[Princess sits down in disbelief]

I...this can't be real. Father promised. He said he never harmed anyone who deserved it.
He swore on my mother!

<...>

He swore...

[The Princess breaks down in tears]

{Crying}

<...>

[Listener walks over and sits next to the princess]

I wish my mother was here. She'd know exactly what to say right now.

[Listener apologizes about her mother]

Oh, don't feel the need to apologize. It happened so long ago, but...I appreciate it.

[Listener asks about her mother]

What was she like? She was...kind. Kinder than most demons. When she held you, you could feel as if everything was right in the world. Her eyes never looked down on anyone. And she's the most beautiful woman I have ever known. Father always wanted her nearby, but she often couldn't help but to slip away and care for those who needed it.

{light chuckle}Even one time, she snuck out of the royal dinner, just to give all the food in the kitchen to the people. Oh how my father was embarrassed.

<...>

I...I'm sorry. For everything.

[Listener waves off the apology]

No, really. My mother would be disappointed with me right now. She taught me to always believe in the good of everyone. And ever since I met you, I have done nothing but treat you with cynicism and distrust.

<...>

And yet, you have stuck with me all this time. Why?

[Listener replies]

{chuckles} Your kind is truly unpredictable. I don't deserve your kindness.

<...>

I know it's late for me to say this, but thank you, friend. For everything.

[Princess stands]

It's getting dark. We should make camp in the church.

[Listener responds with concern]

Oh, please. If your churches could harm us, wouldn't all your homes be churches by now? You get the horses, I'll start a fire inside.

END