

Ego is behind the door, listening and ready to fire her railgun at the Dragonborn with lots of guns should they look like they're going to shoot. She'll shoot the rifle out of their hand.

Izar stays hidden behind the barrel, watching and listening and trying to message Ego.

A new voice is heard saying, "Enough we have work to do. Go unload the cargo so we can get out of here."

The dragonborn holsters his gun and starts heading toward the cargo bay entrance.

Then the same voice gets significantly quieter and can't be heard

Idunn: "You leave her alone..."

—then she is cut off mid-sentence as the sound of the butt of a rifle against skull is heard—

Dorinda, over the comm link, says to Hrothulf, "We have to keep a low profile we don't know what's going on and we should either fly really high or really low so they don't see us." The gryphons have made it clear they don't have a lot in them because of the heat.

Hrothulf flies a little on the high side, intending to circle the ship and see what's going on.

Dorinda does the same. Dorinda does a quick scan to find recognizable people. She finds two—Idunn and Rage, both being tied to the mast and of questionable consciousness—but she doesn't recognize any of the other four. And the other ship vanishes.

Ego swings the door open and says, "Barlow, I need words with you." Her weapon is lowered and she's showing herself non-combative.

As she steps out she ducks a punch thrown at her face from the massive magman whose arms are not glowing (but the rest are). He grabs Ego and holds her a solid two feet off the ground. Ego turns to slaad form.

She can now see this massive magman, trident maglady, dragonborn, feathered hat, and up above where the helm is, there is Elys, around Elys' shoulder, there is a dragonborn for a second, but as soon as Ego turns to slaad his arm comes off Elys and there's a wave of fire from two to head and he shifts also into slaad form. (A little different from Ego, who has a wave of pitch black wash over her with new form close behind when she changes.)

"Well, well, well what have we here?"

He is a gray slaad with a prosthetic limb. Left arm from elbow down is mechanical.

Izar casts *sleep*, but it takes no effect.

The maglady with the trident eyes Ego up, eyes flickering with the same electrivity as her trident tips.

The guy with the plumage is stifling laughter as the gray slaad they call Barlow says, "Who are you and where are you from?"

"I don't know, and I'm hoping you can help me with that?"

"How did you, with your convenient amnesia, come to find yourself on this ship?"

"Well that I know. We needed passage to the salamander lands on a quest of our own. I call myself Cercata, among other names, and my earliest memories are on Genussa, but I have never met one of our kind so below that I know little."

"That's a touching orphan tale." He gives a short whistle. The dragonborn guy pulls out a couple guns and heads down to cargo.

"You said 'we'. How many of you are there on this supposed passage?"

"The others went to the pools of Canaz. I stayed behind as I am an engineer."

The trident lady holds up her trident and it blasts with light. She moves it around searching the ship.

Hrothulf is irritated to see Elys, a little girl of his species, held by this hostile slaad. He wants to attack.

Dorinda gives a thumbs up to Hrothulf's plan as she and Serafina go invisible, maintaining stealth while looking to line up shots of her own.

Pulling out watermelon's wail, Hrothulf rides Poyraz toward the center of the ship. When they get close Hrothulf jumps off with a hero landing.

Hrothulf directs Poyraz to trident maglady but Poyraz doesn't have it in him with the heat and exertion, and he zips to space.

Hrothulf strikes at Barlow and lands the sword across his throat. Barlow grasps at his throat, blood pouring out, one arm flashing to magman and a leg flashing to salamander and back.

"Have at thee!" Hrothulf exclaims.

The burly magman holding Ego loosens his grip a touch seeing this, but not so much that Ego is able to free herself.

Dorinda takes her shot at Barlow, invisible from the air, and blows apart his good arm. Now his prosthetic arm is holding his throat to stop the bleeding.

"Don't just stand there, you morons!" Barlow yells through blood.

Ego screams, "Nooooooo!" She squirms free, taking a glancing blow from the magman, and running to Barlow.

As she moves her way up, she notices Elys is still sitting there on the edge and her eyes are completely glazed over in a fog, staring off into nowhere.

We'll pick up next time with Ego at Barlow's side, and Izar ready to make his move to try and protect Elys...

