

SPRING//KANATRIUM

We start this session fuming after the encounter with Willow and all processing the information in very different ways. Siggy has gone off to find a punching bag for a while, Vasira, Phoebe, and Harlow manage to stay focused and go to return to Travok's ring with no success and only insults (and a new weapon!) to show for it. After leaving the Dwarven Temple behind, they make their way back to the Headless Hydra to join up with Elska who plans on running up a tab on their last night that Willow is paying for...

Siggy goes looking for a punching bag to let out his anger. Following their own mental map of the city, they find the way to a public exercise area that has punching bags of all sizes. He gives off "do not even try to fuck with me right now vibes," and is left alone outside of a few curious stares at his humanoid physiology. After about 2 hours, he makes his way back to the Headless Hydra.

Phoebe leaves Vasira and Harlow at the Dwarven Temple to clear her head on a long walk around the city. After about 2 hours, she makes her way back to the Headless Hydra

Elska sits down in the main tavern room and thinks back to her time in Kjalla and tries to remember what she overheard/learned about the Consortium. Nothing much comes to mind besides the general elaborated stories that are gossiped about in the streets and through the news to gain some sensationalism.¹ They act as middlemen in the handling and passing of gems and other goods and are never the primary actors. Eventually after stewing in the information and her anger, she turns to Gresh and starts to just chat about the bar, his life as a former adventurer and of course, any cool scar stories before Vasira and Harlow return. As they come through the doors, Elska begins their rounds of drinks and goat platters to start to run up the tab for Willow. Harlow only has one or two drinks before waiting to make sure Siggy and Phoebe arrive safely while Vasira gets more drunk than she intends to and Elska starts to get a little buzzed/tipsy

Vasira: You're in a bad mood

Harlow: Yes

An Evening at the Bar

The Party all gathers in the bar, and while enjoying their last comped evening, they start to chat, bond and open up to each other. First they discuss what they all left behind by choosing to come to Kanatrium instead of staying in Thryam. There is some general worry about the upcoming Civil War but the general mindset continues to be "we do not want to be involved"

Elska: After all this, I almost regret leaving Thryam and the Rrystic League. I won't lie I'm curious about all the politics and everything happening over there now

¹ History Check: 14

Vasira: Let's not be. We can't understand politics no matter how hard we try

Phoebe: I mean I lived in Uyrn for years and not knowing what's going on is

Harlow: We can go back if you want. I'd just like to stay out of the way

Vasira: Harlow's making sense

Elska: I left that politics stuff back in Kjalla I don't want to go back to it

Harlow: You don't have to. You don't have to pick a side to be on

Vasira: Ya just write a letter to your local representatives

Harlow: Elska and I, we aren't citizens of the Rhystic League

Siggy: So fake some papers

Phoebe: Who's to say there are even representatives anymore?

Elska: Based on former events, even if we tried not to, we would get involved

Vasira: We could be farmers

Siggy: Do you know what farming is?

Vasira: I know what a vegetable is

Siggy: Ya but do you know how to plant it?

The Party then moves on to discuss what their future goals are, especially since all 5 have come to the conclusion that they are going to stick together. That means opening up about why they left home, and what they are all looking to do on the road

Harlow: What is it everyone wants to accomplish?

Siggy: We're starting with Vasira

Vasira looks at Phoebe

Siggy: Phoebe doesn't need to be your translator on this one

Vasira: I quit my previous job

Harlow: Not the circumstance I was talking about. What is your goal moving forward?

Vasira: Just not return

Elska: Why? Was it really that bad?

Vasira: Turns out people you think are shitty, are shitty

Elska, leaning forward: Well now I'm curious, what the fuck happened?

Vasira: Am I still in the hot seat? Ok I was a hmmm a reputation manager of sorts. Maintaining the reputation of council member... Owen... Greysky. And you know, it was fine, good networking and all that and ya he's a bad dude. I learned more than I wanted to. You know he was involved in the Velvet Wars? If anyone asked I'd have to leave the room because they'd know I was lying if I said he had nothing to do with it. Now I'm just trying to lay low

Vasira realizing she said that a little too loud: MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Phoebe: Also given the whole correspondence with Flynn, that's a cause for concern

Vasira: Ya I'm not very pleased right now. So if we can just avoid... What if we pool our money and start a farm? Alright next person go

Phoebe: I can go. I studied at Iandel for many years. I was sent with the understanding of using what I learned and my gifts to- it sounds trite to say it now but- to go out and make the world better than it was. But I graduated 2 years ago and I stayed in the city. I wasn't ready to leave so I'm making up for lost time

Harlow: *I think that's a solid purpose. So we have to stay away from your former employer, and we try to do some good?*

Phoebe: *More or less*

The blondes of The Party realize they had a very similar start to their lives with their families, and Phoebe gives about the same amount of details that Vasira did about their coming together, but seems much happier to give up the information than Vasira was back at the tea shop in Thryam. Siggy reflects on coming back to this current material plane and something about that memory resonates

Harlow: *Elska, you just wanted to leave Skoldvatten, right?*

Elska: *Well, yes, I did want to leave since I had never been outside of Kjalla even, at least that I can remember.² I know I've said it a couple of times, but the nightmares were getting worse and then an argument with...an acquaintance? Confirmed that I just couldn't put my dads through it all again and that I had to leave. Then overheard some guys talking about Sleeper's Gift in Thyram. Which was a two-birds-one-stone deal since it was in some woods in the Rhystic League that my Dad found me. So I quit what I was doing, got a traveling partner, and well we all know how the Sleeper's Gift worked out...³ Anyways, Harlow followed me there and now I'm following them*

Phoebe: *I was also found alone by my moms!*

Vasira laughs: *Were you found in a basket? In a box? Or just raw out there?*

Phoebe: *I think at least I had a blanket?*

Elska: *I mean I was like 7 I was just... on my own? Walking around?*

Vasira: *Harlow, were you also found in a bog?*

Harlow: *My father had me with someone else and then got remarried.. So no, not a bog*

Vasira: *Siggy?*

Siggy: *No, I was not found in a box... I was found in a barrel though⁴*

Harlow: *What about you, what do you want to do?*

Siggy: *First, I have a question for Vasira or Phoebe, how did you 2 meet?*

Phoebe: *We were cabin-mates on the ship out of Uyrn!*

Siggy: *Interesting...Pirate or regular ship?*

Phoebe: *Just your standard ship*

Siggy: *So why stay together? Because to be honest I wouldn't be BFFs with a random roommate*

Phoebe: *Well Vasira made it clear she needed space soooo I obliged but there's no reason you can't be pleasant and by the end, we had clicked*

Vasira: *I like Phoebe*

Phoebe: *Aw I like you too*

Vasira: *That's embarrassing please stop*

Siggy: *And you got off in Thyram?*

Phoebe: *Yes*

Siggy: *That's not a far trip right?*

² Dryly laughs a little to herself

³ She trails off here a moment thinking back and realizing that she's slept pretty well lately, since the attack on the Buraria Estate... That's odd?

⁴ Elska laughs at this

Phoebe: *9 days ish? I didn't have a destination in mind, just looking to be on the road in general.*

Saying make the world better is a nebulous statement I know

Siggy: *Not for nothing but that seems to be difficult with us*

Vasira: *Maybe she's making us better people*

Phoebe: *I think our hearts are in the right place*

Elska: *So long as we don't get hired by Iris again*

Siggy: *I was just looking to see more of the world than a couple Islands. I grew up not being able to go much of anywhere, I wanted to see more of the world. Kinda hard to see more when well... At first when I was little, the islands were on a different plane of existence*

Phoebe: *You were alive for that?!*

Siggy: *Mmmhmm. I was born on a different plane*

Elska: *What was it like?⁵*

Siggy: *Not all that different. Just hazy most of the time*

Harlow: *How old were you when... you were back*

Siggy: *I was 4*

Phoebe: *Was that a big adjustment?*

Siggy: *I don't really remember it was just a lot of...I remember it being weird to see the sun and blue skies but I was only 4 so*

Empathizing with Siggy, Elska shares her earliest memory at being overwhelmed by the world and now fully tipsy, laments on her missing chunk of life, whereas Phoebe shares that her origins don't bother her, she is exactly where and who she needs to be! Vasira worries that she is watching Phoebe and Elska live out the iconic 2000's movie, The Parent Trap

Elska: *I have a similar early memory! The earliest I can ever remember is just standing in that forest, and being so overwhelmed and in awe about the brightness and life of the world around me, and Thorsten walking forward*

Siggy: *There is lots more color here too*

Elska: *And so much warmer! It's so nice*

Harlow: *Speak for yourself*

Phoebe: *My first memory is of a song. I just remember when one of my mothers found me. It was getting dark and cold, and Ursula always says she's not much of a singer but she sang a lullaby as we walked through the woods*

Siggy: *Do you ever wonder about it? Your lives before?*

Phoebe: *No not much. The Velvet War had just ended and in the chaos and I think my birth parents probably either died or left me. I was 2, I've only known a life with my moms*

Elska: *I think being older makes it a little different. Don't get me wrong, I absolutely adore my fathers and love them and am so grateful for all they have done for me, but I can't help but wonder sometimes... Was I just lost and my parents basically just kidnapped me and*

⁵ Both Elska and Phoebe are starry-eyed/in awe

my birth parents have been looking for me all this time? Or was I just abandoned to become someone else's problem⁶

Phoebe puts her hand on Elska's shoulder

***Elska:** I think missing memories is the part that bothers me the most about it all. Like there's supposed to be something there but instead there just...isn't*

***Siggy:** I don't think that's odd. Most kids don't have their memories from a young age*

***Elska:** I'm curious now, how do your moms mark your birthday? Is it the day they found you? Or just a random day? We do the day I was found which is the longest day in summer*

***Phoebe:** We do the same thing and mine is the same day!*

As they laugh over having the same birthday, a drunk Vasira looks concerningly to Harlow to see if they are *also* concerned over the chance that Phoebe and Elska might be long lost twins. Harlow is not bothered at all. Vasira looks back and studies the 2 very intently looking for similarities and finds 3!

1. Pale Skin
2. Light Hair
3. Freckles Across the Nose

The similarities stop there and the conclusion is that there are not enough similarities for them to be secretly related to each other⁷

Getting back on track, Elska decides it's Harlow's turn to share what their goal is, and The Party slowly starts to build a game plan to start to address some of the...personal issues that have been pushed aside while The Party focused on earning some money and fighting some elementals. Siggy also wonders about how quickly mail really travels these days

***Elska:** To get back on track, Harlow, what do we do next? What's the goal for your pilgrimage?*

***Siggy:** Lets table "what we're doing next" for now*

***Harlow:** I think I'm in a position similar to Phoebe actually. Just trying to do some good⁸*

Siggy looks to Phoebe to gauge her reaction and everyone laughs⁹

***Harlow after a beat and a not-so-stealthy inhale and topic switch:** So stay away from boss, do good figure out nightmares and get siggy more recipes...that's the goal?*

***Phoebe:** In sum it seems to be*

***Siggy:** We're going to put something on the table, just an addition to the list. We do have another objective if we wanted to*

***Vasira:** Get Harlow a haircut....sorry Harlow I'm trying to make a joke I think your hair's fine¹⁰*

⁶ In case you were curious why she got a lil heated back on the docks of Thyram when we were looking to ID Fake Argum and Siggy said something along the lines of "people go missing all the time and no one bothers to look for them"...Now you know!

⁷ Investigation Check 19

⁸ Insight Check 23: The statement itself is true, but Harlow is definitely holding something else back

⁹ Phoebe nods along and agrees with the goal and has a surprising non-reaction. This is still suspicious to Siggy

¹⁰ Elska laughs

Phoebe: We should probably find out what's going on with your eye

Siggy: WE should. I think it's important. I don't know about the rest of you... I think it's important

Harlow looks down: ...if it's something you want to help with you can but I won't ask that of you

Elska mirroring the hand-to-shoulder that Harlow gave her on the boat:¹¹ We're here for you

Phoebe: based on this, I think our next gal is finding someplace to get some answers for the things affecting Harlow and Elska

Siggy: Which would likely mean going back north

Harlow: I checked what they had at the temple and they had nothing in the texts so going north might not help me but Elska was found in the woods near Skoldvatten right?

Elska: Rhystic League

Siggy: I wonder if your Dads remember more than you do or has experienced things you don't remember yourself

Elska: I don't want to involve them and worry them anymore than I have to

Siggy: Alright so then the Rhystic League. Where?

Elska sheepishly: You'd have to ask Dad

Harlow: A letter?

Elska: It takes a while

Siggy: Harlow, has your letter come back?

Harlow kind of stutters out an excuse

Elska backing up their lie: Well you know how the mail is, takes time. Especially with all the unrest in the Rhystic League, I mean I haven't gotten anything from my dads yet and also, they would have no idea where to even send the letter to write back! We sent those well before we knew about this establishment

Siggy: I'll just call up Iris then and ask if anything has been delivered for us there

Elska: You want to talk to Iris?

Harlow: I think, correct me if I'm wrong, the want is to not return to Kjalla to avoid putting them in any danger?

Elska: I just... lied to them that's all. I just don't want them to worry

Siggy: The question is whether or not you want to know about the nightmares, shadows, and ability¹²

Elska: Look, it's fineee! honestly, sleep wise, things have been pretty good largely so maybe it was just a weird regression and now things are going back to how it should be?

Siggy: That sounds like bullshit

Elska taking another drink: I fucking know


Phoebe: Let Siggy know in the morning after thinking on it

Siggy: Are they as adverse to magic as you?

Elska dryly laughing again: No...although maybe it would be more productive to communicate through Papa's shop assistant? And then my dad's don't have to know about everything¹³

Vasira: I might be kinda lost...I don't understand why the shadow demons have to come up in the conversation at all?

Elska: I just don't want my dads to think I left home to get away from them

¹¹  Elska Sharing Nightmares with Harlow

¹² At the word 'ability' Elska stiffens up a little and gets a little deflective

¹³ It is decidedly even LESS productive to go through Lars

Vasira excuses herself to go pee and Elska goes with her to ask more privately about the rising tensions breaking out in the Rhystic League. Siggy looks on with pride and Vasira accepting the companionship and really growing with the new found team

Vasira: *I gotta pee*

Elska: *How concerned are you about the Rhystic League and everything happening?*

Vasira: *Very, why?*

Elska: *I'm curious with your knowledge if a war would affect the whole world? Or if it would stay localized to The League and things might settle down?*

Vasira: *I mean, hometown pride, Rhystic League is in my opinion, a big deal. So if it's having issues, then everyone is having issues...I think we should not get involved... I have a team now I have to worry about*

Siggy from afar watching them talk: *Wow what a character are*

Meanwhile back at the table, Harlow and Siggy have a dispute over how to handle the shadows and Elska's opinions while Phoebe very pointedly stares at her drink and inspects the surface of it, very intensely studying all of the aspects of it

Harlow: *Listen I understand you're trying to help and I want to help her as well, but I think we need to be careful about how willing we are to get involved in relationships we don't know the details of*

Siggy: *I understand it's a fragile relationship but unfortunately her fathers and the assistant and likely her grandma are the 4 people who could give information about her as a child. If she wants to know more about herself...*

Harlow: *Then she'll come to it herself*

Siggy: *I disagree. Not everyone is like you Harlow. I understand your thing is your thing, but not everyone acts that way, not everyone understands that way, and I'll drop it all together, it's fine. I just don't know what other purpose I have here besides to help my friends. I want to travel the world and I've been blessed to find people to travel with and I just want you to be happy. I could just drop it, but I'd rather see you happy¹⁴*

Harlow unconvincingly: *This isn't about me. I'm just saying maybe push a little less*

Siggy: *I just won't push at all for now but thank you for that*

As they come back, they all come back and work very creatively to try to come up with a name for the group, and to replace the term "mercenaries" that seems to follow The Party around, much to their chagrin. After much back and forth and many lists full of various combinations of adjectives and random terms for "adventurers," The Party seems to be most comfortable with The Wayless Wardens.¹⁵

¹⁴ God I love Siggy so much this ramble broke my heart just a lil bit

¹⁵ As of 05/13/2023. See the Campfire Discord chat

Eventually the joking dies down and Vasira heads off to bed, and the rest of the Party tries to finalize plans for the morning.

Phoebe: *Well Siggy, I think regardless of our opinions on Iris, reaching out for general questions about where we might be able to start to investigate. Under normal circumstances I could get us to Iandel, but we've already established we are trying not to head back to the Rhystic League*

Siggy: *I don't want to be on Iris' agenda. I'd rather get the information from anyone else*

Phoebe: *I know that circumstances are tested right now but Willow is an option?¹⁶*

Elska: *No*

Harlow: *She lied*

Siggy: *Should I prepare Sending tomorrow or not.*

Elska very quietly: *Yes, it would be nice to get in contact with them but we don't need to act on the information anytime soon*

Siggy: *That spells can keep prepared any day we don't have to do it tomorrow. As long as I sleep then I can prepare it. I would lie, I'd like to do it tomo- doesn't matter what I like, just let me know the night before*

Elska: *No let's do it tomorrow...I feel bad not being honest with them after everything. And I know they wouldn't care, they'd do anything they could to help me...I just feel bad asking even more of them*

Siggy: *Sometimes guilt like that shows us how much we love people. It's a two way street I'm sure they'd feel the same way*

Elska looking down at her empty glass: *I'm just not used to actually feeling the weight of my lies*

Siggy: *I haven't had friends in a while. I don't mean to push but if I didn't push, you'd be in the harbor¹⁷*

Elska: *I also haven't had friends in a while and I'm not upset at the pushing. I'm happy we met you*

Finally all the remaining members of The Party retire to their rooms for the evening. On the stairs up however, Phoebe stops Harlow and Siggy to try to schedule a meeting

Phoebe: *I didn't necessarily want to have this conversation tonight since I know we are all winding down, but if you 2 have time for a talk tomorrow I'd appreciate it*

Siggy: *Lemme just put that in my schedule*

Phoebe laughing: *Wait, do you have one?*

Siggy: *One, where would I get one? And two, where would I keep it?*

Harlow: *Maybe it got lost in the barrel?*

Phoebe: *I think if you're collecting recipes... we should find one somewhere it'd be fun.*

Harlow: *Everything alright?*

Siggy: *Ya, what are we talking about?*

Phoebe: *Just a debrief of the Nexus*

Siggy: *You don't want Vasira and Elska there for that?*

Phoebe: *No... Do you have time to talk tomorrow?*

¹⁶ Calix Magical Institute auditor is coming.....

¹⁷ Harlow lets out an exhaling laugh

Siggy: *I told you I didn't have a schedule so yes*

Phoebe: *Well we just got back to the city*

Siggy: *Let me tell you a secret, cities are big and scary I don't like them too much*

Phoebe: *I felt the same when I first saw them. It gets easier but not by much. Can we talk?*

Harlow: *Yes..uh...yes*

Siggy: *Do you want to talk before breakfast? You can come to my room? We can go to yours?*

Phoebe: *I sleep in...trying to be better so if you came to my room and knocked that would work best*

The trio part ways, and The Party all find themselves very excited to fall asleep in a real bed after camping the past 12 days in a row. Phoebe writes a letter to her moms before falling asleep as well