

To the Advisor on the Vallorn, Siân Eternal,

My name is Rosalind Friedlin von Holberg; I am, as you may know, one of the senior researchers in the Department of Historical Research.

I am writing to inquire if you have heard from Eleri Sweetwater, who had been engaged under your direction these past few seasons with research into the nature of the Vallorn in Axos and so forth. From her last report it seems she was heading eastwards, into the Mountains of the Moon, and regretfully we have not heard from her since.

While I know that you had not engaged her services this last season, it does not seem unreasonable that she might have contacted you, or, though I hate to say it, that other forces – the Whisper Gallery – may have gotten to her and have sent messages taunting to that effect to you.

Please: keep your eyes and ears open and do let me know if you hear anything. She is a talented researcher – if prone slightly to prioritising adventure over scholarship – and all of us here are worried. Any information will be welcome; if we do not hear from her soon, we will assume her lost.

In virtue,

Rosalind

Urgent Report

Accia Silentspire here. As ordered have been embedded in northern Spiral in territory of Ossuary. Can confirm presence of Druj scouting forces here. Standard Druj scouting tactics.

Contacting now due to urgent situation. Saw across a valley a lone Navarri figure running between the trees of a copse.

Looking through telescope realised recognised: fellow civil servant, Eleri Sweetwater, Historical Research. No idea why in active warzone.

Druj forces active in area. Seen soon after I saw Eleri run on. Appear to be on hunt. Assessment from me is that they are looking for a little sport; were not actively scouting. Possible that they think Eleri is a scout and are attempting to cut her down.

(I trust that she is not a scout and we are not sending unarmed researchers into conflict zones nowadays.)

Eleri is on the other side of the valley to me. Few hours at least to get to her. I can see that she has slowed her pace. Do not believe I can reach her before the Druj do.

*She is near the entrance to the *Mine of the Bone Serpent, Ossuary*. Hopefully the heroes at Anvil can find a suitable conjunction. Suggest asking Navarri who may have some idea why she is here. Isn't she a Vallorn researcher?*

Sian,

I'm lost in a place I do not know, and there is darkness and madness in the air, and worse, worse than that: the Druj are here. I've escaped for now... but I think they'll find me again.

It feels awful here, an oppressive darkness, a madness in the air. They say Spiral can be like this, but how can I be in Spiral? I was on the other side of the mountains, in Axos, past the ruins of Solakha, and then, and then...

It doesn't make sense. And it's so hard to think. But I still know my way. The stars – it's the Solstice, isn't it? So I know you'll be at Anvil. If you can get here – wherever exactly I am! – or maybe send word to forces we have in the area, I don't know...

I can hear the Druj I escaped before. I don't think they're very far away.

If I don't survive this, Virtues I hope my next round in the Great Dance's not too long for waiting.

Eleri