



Statement taken from Cristo i Verra i Erigo

The following is a record of the interview with the owner of the lodgings where Guillmero i Marco i Riqueza's corpse was found. The owner was under the Focus of Wisdom anointing to aid with clarity in a stressful situation.

Can you please identify yourselves for the record?

I am Cristo i Verra i Erigo, and I run a lodgings house in Bramar.

Can you briefly describe your lodgings?

It is my house. With my husband passed into the Labyrinth, and my children at sea, I've had more space than I needed. Since Prosperity hates waste, I rent the spare rooms. There are three rooms available at any time. Short stays only. I like the space for when the family are back in port.

Are you acquainted with the deceased?

Guillmero? Yes. He was a regular. Whenever he came to Bramar, he would see if I had a room first before going anywhere else. Often he would send ahead first; he and Cain.

Cain?

The Highborn with the militia over there. Guillmero and Cain would often arrange to stay at my lodgings at the same time; usually once every three months or so. I always assumed they had business dealings with one another, but respecting their privacy is in the lodgings contract and they never caused any trouble for me. Good customers. Paid without fuss. Rooms in good order. I will be sorry to lose Guillmero's custom.

And, before you ask, it was a bit different this time. I could tell that Cain was not exactly happy with Guillmero. They didn't argue when I was around, but I could tell that they had. The tension and resentment. You know the thing; like an aura only without the liao.

Not that I would have pegged Cain to kill Guillmero – but then I wouldn't have pegged Guillmero to get killed, so what do I know?

What of the other guests?

Guests? I only had one other. The Navarr. Name escapes me, but it is on the contract, which you can have for a ring. First time staying at my lodgings, or in Bramar, I think. Paid upfront, but didn't say much. Pretty miserable sort, I think, and life is too short for such company.

As to the Hakima and the Sutannir, they were not at the house when I left. I've never laid eyes on either of them before, and they are neither of them guests of mine.

Ah yes, you claim you were not at the lodgings when the murder happened. Tell me about that.

Well, with three paying guests, I was feeling prosperous and headed out to the Doroteo parador, which is where I was all evening. There's plenty that can attest to my prosperous presence.

You left your lodgings untended?

I left a set of keys with Guillmero. He was a regular and I thought I knew him well enough to trust him. He was a loyal customer, and loyalty can go two ways. It was one evening and the three of them seemed set for a quiet night, or so I thought. When I returned, you and the other militia were already here.

Were you aware that Guillmero was wanted by the militia for questioning in relation to a criminal investigation?

Really? I was not. I cannot say it surprises me though. Guillmero always struck me as being able to afford finer lodgings than mine, in nicer areas. Plus this time around he was pretty agitated. I did ask what the matter was, but he brushed me off and I didn't push it. So if you tell me he was into something he shouldn't have been, I believe you.

You never thought to report suspicious behaviour? Are you lacking in the virtue of vigilance?

Prosperity is my path through the Labyrinth. Vigilance doesn't keep food on the table when the children are home from sea. Guillmero broke no laws in my presence, and it's no sin to rent cheaper lodgings to save coin for other purposes. I'll leave vigilance to you, thank you all the same.

You have my full co-operation though. Whoever killed Guillmero killed someone I liked, and a regular source of income. Have free access to the room, the two other guests and the two strangers, and my blessing. I hope you send whoever did it straight to the Labyrinth and they never make it out again.

We were able to verify Cristo's claim that he was at the Doroteo family parador, and intimate with one of the kohan visiting there, at the time of the murder. Consequently, we have eliminated him from the enquiries for now.

*Fernando i Vassa i Riqueza
Imperial Civil Service, Feroz*