

*The following letter arrived by unknown means as you travelled to Anvil. Appearing wedged in a container you are certain you packed yourself.*

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*Dearest Senator - please find below a letter for our mutual friend, Ematius, Archmage of Winter. My thanks.*

*Archmage,*

*A season has passed and two remain and as per our agreement many brave citizens of the Mark lie dead and frozen on the summer tundra. None of them found the meat that might have staved their hunger, none of them heard a whisper that would lead them to shelter: each felt hopelessness, terror and then nothing at all.*

*Neither do the Jotun look out fearfully from their barricades - there are no eyes in the dark, nor lonesome howls on the storm winds. They move with impunity through the deepest forests, across the thinnest ice and parade as if my stayed hand is their victory. It is a testament to my word that every poisoning, or murder or act of desperation over these last days sprung from the imagination of those whose hands are bloodied by them - neither I, nor my heralds have helped any slip those chains, nor shown them how to take what they must to keep living.*

*I have kept my word - but I wonder if you have kept yours - I obliged the hospitality of the Wise Hag's parley and kept to her rules. Did you? I am deeply offended that yet another gift - this more earnestly given than any other - crafted by my own talons from the bones of one useful to me - has been locked away to moulder with neery a look. Does all of the Empire pride itself on such ignorance? Where is the wisdom in blind fear? But I digress...*

*Two more seasons will my compact with you be sustained. Perhaps if your people can impress me again we can come to a similar agreement in the future - I care not for rules, save those that benefit or amuse me. On this, it seems that we are not so different.*

*Send my finest regards to the Suag and let them know the progress of our work together. I am sure they will cherish the cunning and skill at which their ends were achieved.*

*A*