

The night before the festival starts you dream fitfully.

You have dream but more than that, you remember.

Just over three years ago you received a letter from your aunt, Gabriel's wife, Julia, wrote to you.

"Dear Serena.

I am writing to you with hope that you will be able to come see us soon. I have a secret to tell and I think you may appreciate it.

I could tell you now but far be it for me to spoil the anticipation of the surprise or to expect you to have to keep such a secret from other members of the family.

When I return to Regario I'll be getting the rest of the family together then so I can tell everybody at the same time.

It would be wonderful if you could be there with Gabriel and I.

All my love

Aunt Julia".

You remember reading it again when the news of Julia's death in Skarsind arrived.

The Thule have taken so much from the empire.

Just another line in a ledger that has yet to be paid.