

FROM THE PATHFINDER CHRONICLES: ON THE CLIFFS OVERLOOKING CONQUEROR'S BAY RISES KORVOSA, THE LARGEST CITY IN THE FRONTIER WILDS OF VARISIA. ONCE AN OUTPOST OF IMPERIAL CHELIAX, KORVOSA BROKE WITH THE EMPIRE DURING ITS CIVIL WAR, NEARLY A CENTURY AGO.

CHRONICLER'S ADDENDUM: AFTER A PROLONGED ILLNESS, KING EODRED ARABASTI II PASSED ON. QUEEN ILEOSA ARABASTI NOW RULES KORVOSA FROM THE CRIMSON THRONE...

...AND NOT ALL IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

TIRO?!





WHAT
DID YOU DO
WITH MY
BROTHER!?



TALK, THUGS!

ANOTHER VARISIAN.



SHE MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING.

TRY TO TAKE HER ALIVE.



THAT'S NOT HOW ONE STARTS A CIVIL CONVERSATION.



YOUR FAITH DOESN'T PUT YOU ABOVE THE LAW.

YOU WON'T IMPEDE OUR INVESTIGATION.





QUITE.



ARREST THEM.

AT ONCE, SIGNIFER.

AND YOU SAID WE WEREN'T GOING TO HAVE ANY FUN IN KORVOSA.

YOU THINK THIS IS FUN?

I'M NOT BORED.



SIGNIFER. I'VE DEALT WITH THIS LOT BEFORE.

I WILL HANDLE THIS.

FINE. REMOVE THEM.



LET'S STEP OUTSIDE.

PLEASE.



YOU'D TELL ME IF YOU WERE WANTED BY THE HELLKNIGHTS, RIGHT?

WE MIGHT ALL BE WANTED BY THE HELLKNIGHTS IN A MINUTE, LOVE.



SO WHAT? WERE THE ODDS TOO EVEN IN THERE FOR YAP?



MORE FIGHTING WON'T BE NECESSARY.



DALGHAD!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU WELL, SEONI.

SINCE WHEN DOES SEONI KNOW HELLKNIGHTS?

SEE *PATHFINDER ORIGINS* #3.



AND I YOU. BUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

AND WHERE'S MY BROTHER?!



YOUR BROTHER...

THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.



I CAN'T SAY MUCH. THERE HAVE BEEN MURDERS. SIGNIFER LAZKU'S LEADING AN INVESTIGATION.



SO TIRO COULD BE...

PROBABLY NOT. THE MURDERER HAS NOT BEEN SUBTLE. IN THE CASE OF EVERY VICTIM, HE'S...

...BURNED OFF THEIR SKIN.



THEIR SKIN?

GROSS.

WHATEVER FOR?



WHO KNOWS? BUT IT NEEDS TO STOP. QUIETLY. IMMEDIATELY. SO THE NEW QUEEN CALLED IN THE ORDER OF THE NAIL.

I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH.



I NEED TO GET BACK. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS, SEONI. JUST KEEP OUT OF--

THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

--SIGNIFER LAZKU'S WAY. EVEN FOR A HELLKNIGHT, SHE'S... **RELENTLESS.**



THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. I CAN'T PROMISE THAT, THOUGH.

NOT UNTIL I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.



NOW THAT WAS A TRICK.



I CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER SEEN SOMEONE TALK THEMSELVES OUT OF GETTING ARRESTED BY THE HELLKNIGHTS.




WE WEREN'T BEING ARRESTED-- NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS.



YOU'RE RIGHT.

JUST LIKE HOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS HOW THAT GOON LIED TO YOU.



ALRIGHT, BUDDY. YOU SHOULD KNOW, I DIDN'T GET TO FINISH THE LAST FIGHT I GOT INTO TODAY, SO I'M ITCHIN' FOR SOME CLOSURE.

NOW, YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, OR WERE YOU JUST MOVIN' ALONG?



SON, YOU GOT A LOT OF VINEGAR.

USUALLY I LIKE THAT, BUT NOT WHEN I'M ON THE JOB.



NAME'S QUINN.

DETECTIVE IN SERVICE TO THE CROWN.

NOW, WHO THE HELL'S ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



MERI, THIS THING LOOK LEGIT?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE DODGED EVERY GUARD FROM HERE TO KELESH!



SURE, HON. BUT DOES IT?

YEAH, LOOKS PRETTY LEGIT.

DANG.



APOLOGIES FOR THE COARSE INTRODUCTION, DETECTIVE. AS MY FRIEND SUGGESTED, IT'S BEEN A TRYING DAY.

I AM KYRA, DUTIFUL SERVANT OF THE DAWNFLOWER. WITH ME ARE SEONI, MERISIEL, AND VALEROS--ALL NEWLY ARRIVED VISITORS TO YOUR IMPRESSIVE CITY.



MMMHHM. KEEP GOING.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE FOR SOMEONE. SOMEONE CLOSE, AND IN NEED OF HELP.

WE WERE ALARMED TO COME UPON THE SCENE WE DID.



WELL, IF YOUR PAL WAS HUNKERED DOWN IN THERE, YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF RIGHT TO BE WORRIED.

AND WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

SEONI, PLEASE...



IT MEANS THE HELLKNIGHTS AREN'T WORKING THIS CASE--NOT FOR THE QUEEN AT LEAST.

LIKE I SAID, YOU GOT LIED TO.



DALGHAD'S A GOOD MAN... OR, AT LEAST, HE'S NOT A LIAR.

THE BEST LIARS ARE THE ONES WHO THINK THEY'RE TELLING THE TRUTH.

BUT HE DIDN'T TELL YOU COMPLETELY WRONG.

WHOEVER THIS TIRO GUY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS, HE'S UP TO HIS NECK IN TROUBLE.



NOW, HE OBVIOUSLY MEANS SOMETHING TO ALL OF YOU. IF YOU TELL ME WHAT THAT IS, MAYBE I CAN HELP.



HE'S MY BROTHER.

HE WROTE ME, ASKING ME TO COME TO KORVOSA. SOMETHING ABOUT A KILLER ON THE LOOSE.

SOMEONE KILLING PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

VARISIANS, YES.



NO, KILLING PEOPLE *JUST* LIKE YOU. VARISIANS...

WITH THOSE TATTOOS.



MY TATTOOS...

OTHER FOLKS HAVE MARKS LIKE YOURS?

EXACTLY LIKE MINE, NO. BUT SIMILAR, CERTAINLY.

THEY'RE A TRADITION AMONG MY PEOPLE, MARKING THOSE WITH SORCEROUS BLOOD. SOME CALL THEM AN HONOR...

GODS KNOW IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR ME TO WARM UP TO THAT IDEA.



SO, IF THE KILLER'S AFTER SORCERERS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, DETECTIVE?

SOME VARISIANS HAVE GONE TO GROUND SINCE THE KILLINGS STARTED--YOUR PEOPLE SURE KNOW HOW TO LAY LOW WHEN THEY NEED TO.

WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF OTHER PEOPLE BLAMING US FOR THEIR PROBLEMS.



YEAH. WELL, IT'S MEANT IT'S BEEN A REAL CHALLENGE TO GET ANYONE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE SEEN.

MY PARTNER AND I HAVE BEEN KEEPING OUR EYES ON A FEW SAFE HOUSES.

THIS ONE CLEARLY ISN'T SO SAFE ANYMORE.



NO, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN A WASTE OF TIME.

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE BOTH LOOKING FOR VARISIANS WHO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE BETTER LUCK GETTING THEM TO TALK THAN I WOULD.

AND IF THAT HELPS YOU FIND YOUR BROTHER AND HELPS ME PUT AN END TO THIS WHOLE MESS FASTER, SO MUCH THE BETTER.



MY PARTNER'S KEEPING AN EYE ON ANOTHER SAFE HAVEN. LET'S HEAD DOWN THERE AND SEE WHAT THERE IS TO SEE.

HECK, MAYBE SHE'S COME ACROSS YOUR BROTHER ALREADY.

I DON'T SEE THAT WE HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS...



WE'RE WITH YOU, SEONI.

WHATEVER IT TAKES.

THANKS, YOU GUYS.

"THIS WAS NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING..."



...BY 'SAFE HAVEN.'

THEN YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T BEEN HIDING WELL ENOUGH.

THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT WHEN IT COMES TO HIDING SPOTS.

EITHER HIDE IN THE LAST PLACE THEY'D EVER THINK OF GOING. OR HIDE IN THE LAST PLACE THEY'D EVER GO-- PERIOD.



SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN ON THE RUN BEFORE.

RUNNING'S THE BEST WAY I KNOW TO KEEP IN SHAPE.



MERI...

MAYBE YOU JUST HAVEN'T BEEN CHASED BY SOMEONE AS GOOD AS YOU.

AND I DON'T EXPECT TO BE. CAN'T HAVE TWO FOLKS BEING THE BEST, NOW CAN YOU?



WE'RE GETTIN' TO BE THE BEST AT TRUCKIN' THROUGH SEWERS, THAT'S FO--



URK!