

*They say strength in numbers.*

*That's why you do this work in families. A queen needs heirs.*

**BANG  
BANG  
BANG**

*They say you need everyone on your side you can get.*

*They say it's harder to do this alone.*

**CREEAAK**

*Could have fooled me.*

*"Grief is not very different from illness..."*

## FIRE

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"...in the impetus of its fire, it does not recognize lords, it does not fear colleagues,

"it does not respect or spare anyone, not even itself."

Eleanor of Aquitaine to Pope Celestine III, regarding the return of her son from captivity.



DON'T. BROKEN BONES.

CROC, WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?

THE LOOKOUT NEAR YOUR HOUSE.

DIDN'T REALIZE YOU EXPECTED CASUALTIES.

*Killer Croc. We go way back. Wouldn't call himself my ally, but he can't leave the lost behind. Maybe that's enough.*

MYSELF, NOT--

*This was Sionis. Punches like a pile-driver.*



I'VE LOST PEOPLE I CARED ABOUT, SELINA. NO POWER-IN-TRADE IS WORTH IT.

SHE'LL LIVE. BUT THIS WAR--

I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO REMIND ME OF MY FAILURES, CROC.



SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE DEFENDED YOU.

*I agree.*



SHE'S AWAKE... BUT DON'T LET ME STOP YOU FIGHTING.



EIKO. I'M SO SORRY. I'LL KILL SIONIS FOR THIS.

I'M FINE, THANKS.

WHY DID YOU--



HE WAS LOOKING FOR CATWOMAN.

AND YOU LET HIM THINK HE FOUND HER.

WHAT ELSE COULD I HAVE DONE?



I HAVE TO GET BACK. MY FATHER WILL BE LOOKING FOR ME.

I'VE ALREADY RISKED TOO MUCH TONIGHT.

EIKO, JUST GIVE UP CATWOMAN. PLEASE. IT ISN'T SAFE.

IT WASN'T SAFE *BEFORE*, EITHER.



PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND HERE COULD HELP ME GET HOME.

OF COURSE.

I HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE ROOF--IT'S THE ONLY UNGUARDED ENTRANCE TO THE PENTHOUSE.

MY CLIMBING DAYS AREN'T OVER YET, MISS. DON'T WORRY.



THANKS. YOU'RE A REAL GENTLEMAN.

YOU'D BE THE FIRST TO SAY SO.



EIKO.

I KNOW. I'LL BE CAREFUL.



THAT'S NOT--

--WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY.



I was distracted by Batman. I was fighting with Family.

And Eiko nearly died.

I can't change what's happened...

...but I have to plan an exit before I end up planning a eulogy.



THANK YOU, CROC.

ANY TIME, MISS HASIGAWA.



Sooner or later, he'll see something he wasn't supposed to see.



EIKO. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HOME. I'D HAVE GREETED YOU.

I TRAINED TOO HARD. CAME HOME TO SLEEP IT OFF.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE COMMITTED TO THIS CAUSE.

TO THE FAMILY. BLACK MASK'S CAUSE ISN'T PART OF OUR FAMILY.



GOOD ANSWER.



SLEEP WELL, DAUGHTER.

GOODNIGHT, FATHER.



YOU NEARLY LOST HER TONIGHT.

I HAVE LOST HER. SHE'LL REALIZE THAT. IT'S SAFER.

WHAT ELSE WILL YOU RISK? WHAT LOSSES WILL YOU ACCEPT TO HOLD ON TO THIS CITY?

NONE OF THEM.

THEN YOU MUST KNOW YOU'LL FAIL.

YOU ALSO SAY THAT IT'S WEAKNESS TO GIVE UP. DECIDE WHY YOU HATE ME.



IF I HATED YOU, I'D HAVE LET HER DIE.

FAIR ENOUGH.

I OWE YOU FOR THAT.



*When things are bad enough, even queens beg.*



I'M DONE, CROC. I NEED TO GET OUT CLEAN, WHILE I CAN.

TOO LATE. NO MATTER WHAT, YOU'LL LOSE SOMETHING.



*I know that.*