

TYRION





YOUR GRACE, YOUR BROTHER HAS THE RIGHT OF THIS. IF WE ATTEMPT TO SILENCE THIS TALK, WE ONLY LEND IT CREDENCE. BETTER TO TREAT IT WITH CONTEMPT, LIKE THE PATHETIC LIE IT IS.

AND MEANTIME, FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.

WHAT SORT OF FIRE?



A TALE OF SOMEWHAT THE SAME NATURE, PERHAPS. BUT MORE EASILY BELIEVED. LORD STANNIS HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS MARRIAGE APART FROM HIS WIFE. NOT THAT I FAULT HIM, I'D DO THE SAME WERE I MARRIED TO LADY SELYSE.

NONETHELESS, IF WE PUT IT ABOUT THAT HER DAUGHTER IS BASEBORN AND STANNIS A CUCKOLD, WELL...THE SMALLFOLK ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO BELIEVE THE WORST OF THEIR LORDS, PARTICULARLY THOSE AS STERN, SOUR, AND PRICKLY PROUD AS STANNIS BARATHEON.



HE HAS NEVER BEEN MUCH LOVED, THAT'S TRUE. SO WE PAY HIM BACK IN HIS OWN COIN. YES, I LIKE THIS.

BUT WHO CAN WE NAME AS LADY SELYSE'S LOVER? ONE OF HER UNCLAS HAS BEEN WITH HER ON DRAGONSTONE ALL THIS TIME...

SER AXELL MIGHT SERVE FOR SHIREEN'S FATHER, BUT IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE MORE BIZARRE AND SHOCKING A TALE THE MORE APT IT IS TO BE REPEATED.

STANNIS KEEPS AN ESPECIALLY GROTESQUE FOOL, A LACKWIT WITH A TATTOOED FACE...ONE WHO IS UTTERLY DEVOTED TO THE GIRL AND FOLLOWS HER EVERYWHERE.



LORD PETYR, YOU ARE A WICKED CREATURE.

THANK YOU, YOUR GRACE.



AND A MOST ACCOMPLISHED LIAR.

WE ALL HAVE OUR GIFTS, MY LORD.

CUCKOLDED BY A HALFWIT FOOL! STANNIS WILL BE LAUGHED AT IN EVERY WINE-SINK THIS SIDE OF THE NARROW SEA.



WHORES LOVE TO GOSSIP, AND AS IT HAPPENS I OWN A BROTHEL OR THREE. AND NO DOUBT VARYS CAN PLANT SEEDS IN THE ALEHOUSES AND POT-SHOPS.

VARYS... WHERE IS VARYS?



I HAVE BEEN WONDERING THAT MYSELF, YOUR GRACE.

THE SPIDER SPINS HIS SECRET WEBS DAY AND NIGHT. I MISTRUST THAT ONE, MY LORDS.



AND HE SPEAKS SO KINDLY OF YOU.

AS IT HAPPENED, HE KNEW WHAT THE EUNUCH WAS ABOUT, BUT IT WAS NOTHING THE OTHER COUNCILLORS NEEDED TO HEAR.



PRAY EXCUSE ME, MY LORDS. OTHER BUSINESS CALLS.

KING'S BUSINESS?

WOULD YOU SPOIL MY SURPRISE? I'M HAVING A GIFT MADE FOR JOFFREY. A LITTLE CHAIN.

WHAT DOES HE NEED WITH ANOTHER CHAIN? HE HAS GOLD CHAINS AND SILVER, MORE THAN HE CAN WEAR. IF YOU THINK FOR A MOMENT YOU CAN BUY JOFF'S LOVE WITH GIFTS--



WHY, SURELY I HAVE THE KING'S LOVE, AS HE HAS MINE. AND *THIS* CHAIN I BELIEVE HE MAY ONE DAY TREASURE ABOVE ALL OTHERS.



IN HIS BEDCHAMBER, HE FOUND HIS SQUIRE LAYING OUT CLOTHING ON THE BED. PODRICK PAYNE WAS SO SHY HE WAS FURTIVE.

TYRION HAD NEVER QUITE GOTTEN OVER THE SUSPICION THAT HIS FATHER HAD INFLICTED THE BOY ON HIM AS A JOKE.

TYRION LANNISTER, HAND OF THE KING.

GOODMEN, I KNOW YOU ARE ALL BUSY, SO I WILL BE SUCCINCT. POD, IF YOU PLEASE.

I HAD THESE MADE AT THE CASTLE FORGE. I WANT A THOUSAND MORE JUST LIKE THEM.

THUNK

A MIGHTY CHAIN.

MIGHTY, BUT SHORT. SOMEWHAT LIKE ME. I FANCY ONE A GOOD DEAL LONGER. DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

THEY CALL ME IRONBELLY, M'LORD.

I WANT EVERY FORGE IN KING'S LANDING TURNED TO MAKING THESE LINKS AND JOINING THEM. ALL OTHER WORK IS TO BE PUT ASIDE.

WHEN I RIDE UP THE STREET OF STEEL, I WANT TO HEAR HAMMERS RINGING, NIGHT OR DAY. AND I WANT A MAN, A STRONG MAN, TO SEE THAT ALL THIS IS DONE. ARE YOU THAT MAN, GOODMAN IRONBELLY?

MIGHT BE I AM, M'LORD. BUT WHAT OF THE MAIL AND SWORDS THE QUEEN WAS WANTING?

THAT WORK CAN WAIT. THE CHAIN FIRST.

