

Chapter 6 – Dying Embers

Travis

At the last possible moment, laus took the shot, which found its home in the back of Soren's leg... He could not see how much damage it inflicted as Soren vanished into the mist.

Kessi (Flygia)

That's a good shot.

David (laus)

Thank you.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

What the bloody hells going on? Soren, come back! I'm bolting it past these guys!

Kessi (Flygia) (flustered)

Don't run, don't go off into the fog!

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I don't have scissors it's fine! Ah crap... Damn my little legs. He's probably long gone.

Eypór (Sindri)

Father Westpike wakes up, very grumpily, throws himself up and starts sprinting after Rowena. He hears the conversation and everything that's going on. And as he approaches he grumpily says to her, please, put down your weapon Flygia. And then he casts a spell, command, on Soren Arkwright: Soren, Stop!

David (laus)

What does that do?

Eypór (Sindri)

If he succeeds he ignores my command, like a, like a jerk!

David (laus)

Well he just continued running off, like a jerk.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Like a dick.

Eypór (Sindri)

Alright, I stop and raise my hammer which I was dragging behind me and shout the word APPROACH! And he just keeps running, and there's like a visible like distressed look on my face like no, please, can't run.

Travis

Father Westpike is now in his night clothes, yelling.

Eypór (Sindri)

I totally have a night shirt!

Travis

And a very typically dwarven cap, I'm assuming, with a little white bulb.

Kaitlin (Sister)

I'm gonna collect my items, because if we're going to be running off after something, i do need to have my armor. So I just run out with like armor in my hands, and my, my sword, not my sword, my warhammer in the other hand. and I'm so angry looking because I just...

Travis

Her shield was also somewhere in the mix.

Kaitlin (Sister)

It's like slung over my back.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

It's like, it's like how you have all of your, all of your basic armor. You just have it all like sat on top of your shield, and you're holding your shield and your sword like...

Kaitlin (Sister)

It's like a serving plate...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah.

Kaitlin (Sister)

... with all my stuff in it.

Kessi (Flygia)

Ok, my turn... I turn myself back into a wolf, and try to run after Soren!

Travis

As Flygia ran her seamless transformation increased her running speed, allowing her to almost keep up with Soren. The rest of the party could only watch as her white form was quickly lost in the thickening fog.

David (laus)

Yeah, I'm going to be the voice of reason here and use my voice of reason...
Thaumaturgy: I'm gonna make my voice 3 times louder and just shout. "Stop! Don't we

remember the buddy system? This thing is trying to get us all apart! If we get separated we're all going to die!"

Kessi (Flygia)

I stop in my tracks and I look over my shoulder, hearing his voice, and I, I wag my tail, and I trot back to him.

Travis

Flygia witnessed Soren jump beyond the overturned corpse cart before giving up her chase. The faint jingle of Soren's bell audible as he passed to the far side.

Kessi (Flygia)

I'm a bit confused why he would do that but I go back to the group because that is what he just told me to do.... And why da' fuck are you all standing outside in the rain?

Kaitlin (Sister)

This does not count as a rest!

David (laus)

Did you see where Soren went?

Kessi (Flygia)

Ah ok sorry. Yeah than I saw Soren stop near that cart that we just, where we, that we turned over with all that dead bodies over there.

Travis

The bell jingled again.

David (laus)

I thought I heard something jingle. Anyone want to investigate that with me? Or do you want to go back to sleep?

Eypór (Sindri)

We need to find Soren.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I agree.

Kaitlin (Sister)

He just stabbed me! And we're going to go after him?!

David (laus)

Yeah but you're alright now...

Eypór (Sindri)

She said that ...

David (Ilaus)

I've seen worse.

Eypór (Sindri)

She said earlier that it wasn't Soren...

Kaitlin (Sister)

Wherever you grew up, remind me never to go there.

David (Ilaus)

Yeah, the Darklands, followed by Strahmann's Hold. You wouldn't like either really. Different flavors of horror but both were pretty abysmal.

Eypór (Sindri)

Earlier, the witch said that it wasn't Soren, she said it wasn't him. We have seen the Silent One take forms of other people before. What happened, how, did Soren just all of a suddenly stand up and just start stabbing Lady Cavernsfall?

Kessi (Flygia)

First he went out to the roof, and when he came back down, he looked at all the people, in the group, while they were sleeping, in a very creepy way. But I just assumed ...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Wait.

Kessi (Flygia)

... that's what they do. What?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Wait, wait, so you're telling me you took your eyes off him?

Kessi (Flygia)

Yeah, I was writing into my journal. I was just listening...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm going to look up at the roof, I assume he's not there.

Travis

Soren was nowhere to be seen.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Alright, ok, you took your eyes off him, he could have gone anywhere and he's not up on

that roof. So let's, start again with where we know you saw him last. And try to follow those steps, cause if that is a doppler like I think it is, then it doesn't matter where the doppler's gone, we got to find Soren. Means he's in trouble somewhere. So let's try and trace his steps from where you saw him last.

Kessi (Flygia)

I saw...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Is anyone really good at this tracking stuff? I don't wanna take any responsibility for finding him, or more importantly, not finding his tracks so...

Kaitlin (Sister)

Well, yeah I could, I've also got a lamp and some candles so we can get some light on everything. Especially as I can also make some flames brighten, and make it, like, so we can see a little bit better.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Let's go for speed and finding him.

David (Iaus)

Ok.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

... cause we, how, how long ago was it that you saw him for sure? I mean that last time you saw him for sure was when he was climbing on the roof, so...

Kessi (Flygia)

Yes.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

How long ago was that?

Kessi (Flygia)

I dunno. Maybe an hour and a half ago?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Ok then, we've got no time to lose. So. Cough You're a mighty tracker! and I'll give Iaus a pat on the back and I'll give him inspiration.

David (Iaus)

(Sarcastic) Oh, thanks!

Travis

Meanwhile, Soren awoke to find himself in a grave, buried under familiar decaying faces, the putrefying liquids getting into his hair and nostrils.

Peter (Soren)

I'm going to attempt to climb.

Peter (Soren)

A 16.

Eypór (Sindri)

That didn't even rhyme!

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

She's desperate!

Eypór (Sindri)

I wish you seem nimble, can you quickly climb on top of the roof and see if he is still there? Maybe lying down so we can't see.

David (Ilaus)

Yeah, can do. (moves to climb)

Eypór (Sindri)

If we are lucky he is simply unconscious.

David (Ilaus)

Yup, Make sure everyone keep an eye on me.

Travis

As he moved toward the building and set about climbing, the bell jingled again...

Eypór (Sindri)

I'm assuming the rest of us know what the jingle of the bell means?

David (Ilaus)

15 for the climb.

Travis

Ilaus had a difficult time making his way up the wet steep wall, and as he scaled, perhaps a dozen feet up, he clearly saw Soren stagger into the building through the far door and collapse into a corner, immobile except for heavy breathing. Notably, Soren was covered in black and red liquids.

David (Ilaus)

In that case I'm going to shout and again make my voice louder and tell everyone, "guys Soren's been painting the town red. He's, someone is back in the camp."

Eypór (Sindri)

Father Westpike, who had been thinking about starting towards the grave is now turning around like "what, how? How?!"

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah, I'll run inside, whatever the hell this is.

Eypór (Sindri)

I'm assuming the whole group moseys up into the camp.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Well yeah.

Travis

The team jogged into the shelter of the building and stood before a very disoriented Soren Arkwright, who was breathing heavily but had risen to a sitting position.

David (laus)

Yeah, I've, I've climbed down as well to make sure that I'm still, me. Buddy System! 😊

Travis

Soren's eyes were lightly unfocused as a mixed expression of fear and confusion overtook his face.

Kessi (Flygia)

I'm very suspicious, can I make a perception roll or something?

Travis

That would require a perception check.

Kessi (Flygia)

Oh natural 20 plus 4.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Damn.

Travis

Soren smelled like death itself, a mixture of rot, bile, and purification. However, Flygia's keen senses could detect that the smell was due to whatever was ON him, not his actual smell.

David (laus)

I don't see marks of where my arrow thunked into him, so this isn't the one I shot.

Peter (Soren)

What happened?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

What's the last thing that you remember?

Eypór (Sindri)

Well the...

Peter (Soren)

I, I was on the roof, I think I saw something out in the mist. The fog seemed to come closer and then I, I don't think I was, but I think I had a vision of hurting Flygia. I, I don't remember anything after that. Is everyone ok?

Kaitlin (Sister)

I give him the angriest glare.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm just gonna like, kneel down in front of and like *Are you sure that's everything? Because you, or something that looked like you, stabbed Sister Cavernsfall. And she didn't look too great when I left just now, she's much, she's recovered but.*

David (Ilaus)

I've seen worse.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Are you sure there's nothing else you remember?

Peter (Soren)

I certainly don't remember stabbing Sister Cavernsfall, I, I can only apologize. I'm sorry, I only remember fainting or passing out and I woke up in the pit, covered in the bodies we put in there. I, I don't know what happened.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

He doesn't have any marks from being hit with a hammer, nor the crossbow bolt.

Peter (Soren)

Smote.

Eypór (Sindri)

Soren, I'm going to ask you not to resist this. And I go and I grab his knife, I'm gonna take it out of wherever he has it, and I'm gonna inspect it for blood.

Peter (Soren)

I don't think it's really going to matter much in the long run, but enjoy yourself, I won't resist.

Eypór (Sindri)

Thank you.

Travis

As Father Westpike examined the knife, he could plainly see that the sheath was covered in blood, but as he pulled out the weapon he found the blade clean.

Eypór (Sindri)

He looks about right for if he had been in a pit covered in dead, decaying carcasses, that would probably fit the description of all of the mess that's currently on him.

Peter (Soren)

I'm...

Kessi (Flygia)

You say you lost consciousness while on the roof?

Peter (Soren)

I think so, I must have. I, I just blacked out, I don't remember.

Kessi (Flygia)

Did you see anything out while you were on the roof, before you came unconscious?

Peter (Soren)

I think I saw a figure out in the fog. I think it was the silent one with the eyes, but then it walked away. And I was debating whether or not to wake everyone up or not, when I, I don't know.

David (laus)

So let me get this straight, we, you climbed out of the pit, that's why we heard the bell jingle, but the bell was jingling at the same time I saw you coming into the camp. So if that wasn't you jingling the bell, what was jingling the bell?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

That could be doppler, or a Silent One: one of those two dicks...

David (laus)

And didn't someone...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

...I think if you were unconscious it looks like you were just laying the pit. It's not got any of your arrows wounds. Any of your hammer marks on you. Your knife's not covered in blood. So, whatever came in, did its did, and wherever you were, when you blacked out you must have been put in the bottom of that pit somehow.

Eypór (Sindri)

Are you wounded Soren?

Peter (Soren)

I don't think so.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm going to cast Preregistration on him, to clean him up, so that all this gunk and crap just comes completely off him so we can see what, everything underneath.

Travis

1 square foot at a time, Rowena used small blasts of magic to clean Soren's soiled clothing.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yes, pretty much, yeah the whole hair just flies back and everything you know.

Peter (Soren)

Thank you.

Kessi (Flygia)

So I need to turn back, Are we safe enough that I can turn back?

Kessi (Flygia)

I can only do this twice a day.

Eypór (Sindri)

I think we are fine. I think the Silent One has done his worst for now.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

You're very optimistic cousin.

Eypór (Sindri)

Comes with the territory. I still didn't get my full rest though...

Travis

Flygia returned to her tiefling form, her wounds from before reopening and bleeding.

Kessi (Flygia)

(cough) I have only 4 hp of 24 left.

Eypór (Sindri) & Kaitlin (Sister)

Oh my god.

Eypór (Sindri)

Well I can, can heal you up to 12, I can't go passed that with my abilities right now... (in Icelandic, casting a spell) "*Lord of Light please mend the wounds of this witch so that she can enact your will.*"

Kessi (Flygia)

(coughing) Thanks.

Eypór (Sindri)

Is anybody else on the team damaged?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Unusually I'm ok.

Kaitlin (Sister)

I brought myself back to normal after the lung puncture, so we're all good.

Eypór (Sindri)

It's good to see that you're safe, Lady Cavernfall.

Peter (Soren)

Lung puncture, Gods, I'm sorry!

Kessi (Flygia)

I will also heal myself real quick... I don't want to have any ugly scars on my arms or anything. I say (casting a spell) "gemuth irisv ve vur xurwk ve tiamo" and move my hands over the wounds to seal them. 11 HP recovered.

(Geh-muth Ears-v' vee vur (rhymes with 'word') zurwick vee tee-ah-mo!)

(Spell) (Whisper the Casting in English while the Druidic is all epic/awesome: *Nature restore me and make me whole!*)

Eypór (Sindri)

Soren, I think you just were a victim of the silent one. I think you are not a bad person but the unfortunate consequences around you are piling up. I hope you understand that.

Peter (Soren)

I do.

David (laus)

I vote we tie him up for the rest of his watch.

Eypór (Sindri)

I vote that he doesn't get a rest of a watch.

Kaitlin (Sister)

I vote that I go back to sleep.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I agree.

Eypór (Sindri)

Yes please

David (laus)

Yeah me too.

Peter (Soren)

I have a set of manacles, does someone want to hang onto it for me, just in case.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I present my wrist.

Eypór (Sindri)

You have manacles?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

It's better you get tied to one of us.

Eypór (Sindri)

No, you, not... you know what Rowena, I trust you. Go ahead, shackle yourself to...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Now you say it...

Eypór (Sindri)

... him.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

...like that, I don't feel so comfortable.

Eypór (Sindri)

Wise choice. I simply shackles Soren's hands together...

Peter (Soren)

My wrists are their own buddy system.

Eypór (Sindri)

... And then I offer to help him find a comfortable position to rest in.

Peter (Soren)

Thank you.

Kessi (Flygia)

I want to go back to sleep.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

You have to finish your watch!

Kessi (Flygia)

No effing way! My watched totally ended the moment that Soren stabbed Sister Cavernsfall. Actually, I thought he was about to wake her up or something.

Kaitlin (Sister)

You must all be imagining that I'm still talking, because I'm most certainly asleep... But I'd like to take up a more defensive sleeping position this time. I'm like in a corner with my shield in front of me.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Defensive sleeping position! ...So, if I understand this correctly: Cavernsfall's asleep, Innskeep is asleep already. So out of the remaining 4 people, who's gonna sleep, or take watch. Flygia you say that your shift is over, but--

Kessi (Flygia)

--I, Yes.--

David (laus)

Oh, I'm already asleep... *fake snoring sounds* -Oh... Mr. Miller, we really shouldn't. Your wife could come back at any moment... zzzz....

Eypór (Sindri)

Witch, your watch is not over. I am very sorry but you're going to have to stay up. And Rowena, I am sorry to ask this of you, but you are younger, you are in your prime, can you please keep watch with her a little bit longer. You can sleep during our watch.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

But then you'll be doing the watch on your own!

Eypór (Sindri)

I'll have you just by my side and I will...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah but...

Eypór (Sindri)

... wake you up at a most inopportune time.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

(laughter as laus)

Yeah but, I don't want to be... Don't gimme that look... Ok fine, but you have to put your hat back on. And I sit down in a grump.

Eypór (Sindri)

Thank you Rowena!

Kessi (Flygia)

You brought this upon yourself.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

What me? I didn't do anything?

Kessi (Flygia)

You were born! (witch cackling laughter) -But seriously, I've seen your fortune and you've clearly done some stuff...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

No, no, no no No! You see, I think you have my fortune mistaken with someone else's. Maybe we can sit this watch out in silence? I think if ya' laugh like that again ye'll wake everyone up.

Kessi (Flygia)

Fine.. I'll open my book and I try to read some light poetry just to keep my mind off of what just happened.

Travis

Flygia opened her book of poetry and began to read: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate..."

Kessi (Flygia)

Wait, does that also heal my stress?

Travis

Over the course of reading, Flygia recovered 5 stress damage, her spirits lifted by distractions within those pages.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Wow.

Travis

However, Sister Cavernsfall's thoughts were haunted from her recent experience. It's not every day that a fellow traveler stabs you in your sleep, and the experience put her on edge...

Kaitlin (Sister)

Ok, give me a second.

Kaitlin (Sister)

16 plus...

Travis

Apparently, Sister Cavernsfall was used to being stabbed by her friends in the back, and found this to be no different... Meanwhile Rowena sat opposite of Soren and her cousin, crossbow at the ready, aimed at Soren... Her watch started off with a wide focus, but as Soren's dreams caused him visible distress her focus gradually narrowed to the man in front of her.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm not going to lie, probably.

Travis

Rowena was thus required to make a Constitution saving throw.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Well, that's, a, that's no, that's a 6.

Travis

As the minutes rolled on, Rowena glanced from Soren to her crossbow, and back up to Soren and blinked. She hardly noticed that her blinks gradually got longer and longer, and despite her best attempts after some time she was unable to open her eyes.

Eypór (Sindri)

This team, this team!

Travis

Meanwhile, as Flygia continued to read poetry, a small black and white rabbit, appeared

in the margins, wiggled its nose, and pulled itself up from the pages of her book.

Kaitlin (Sister)

Oh no.

Kessi (Flygia)

A rabbit?

Travis

It landed at Flygia's feet as it left the book, and looked up at her.

Kessi (Flygia)

A rabbit!

Travis

The black and white rabbit had unmistakable freckles on it, formed from the letters on the page it had freed itself. It began to hop toward the mist slowly. It hopped twice, then stopped. Then hopped twice more and glanced back at Flygia, it's nose wiggling...

Kessi (Flygia)

(more excited) A rabbit!

Travis

The rabbit looked down, discovering the only blade of grass Flygia has seen in the village, and it began to silently nibble.

Kessi (Flygia)

It's adorable!

Travis

Finished with its meal, the rabbit took three more hops toward the graveyard. It was clearly going to leave the safety of the campfire.

Kessi (Flygia)

It's ok, its what rabbits do.

David (Iaui)

It literally came out of your book! -I mean.. Um... zzzz... No, your wife can't join us. That's gross!...zzzz...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

It's good.... Zzzzz....

Kessi (Flygia)

Don't mind, that happens all the time.

Travis

The bunny hopped away into the mist. Did it have name? Did it have a poetic backstory and a legend of its own? Flygia could never find out because as she looked back toward the team, she noticed sister Cavernsfall struggling on the ground, violently grasping at her face. Her shield knocked over, the very flesh over her face appeared to have melted, covering her eyes, nose, and mouth.

Kessi (Flygia)

(alarmed) Holy fuck! Air holes! Air holes!

Travis

Flygia pulled her dagger and quickly carved into the flesh of Sister Cavernsfall's face, creating a breathing space for her mouth. However, in her zeal to rescue her friend, the dagger had knocked some of Cavernsfalls teeth out in the process.

Kessi (Flygia)

(alarmed) !! -uh! I can fix 'dose!... I have some wooden ones on me.

Kaitlin (Sister)

(gasping breath) (pained rasp)

Travis

The warm blood on her hands. Sister Cavernsfall could breathe again...

Kessi (Flygia)

Thank the Allshadow...

Travis

By some strange stoke of luck the bunny rabbit had also returned and was now licking the blood off Flygia's hand.

Kessi (Flygia)

Normally that'd be creepy, but I think I'm actually okay with it for right now... (to Sister) I'll get your new teeth in a moment, I just need a second to catch my breath because that was super-fucking-creepy. Don't get your face all covered in flesh or whatever.... Or... Oh... Um...

Travis

It was at this moment that Flygia woke up.

Kessi (Flygia)

What? I look around confused. Where am I?

Travis

Fygia looked around the cramped confines of the building and the camp they had made... Everyone was still present and Sister Cavernsfall still slept soundly with all of her teeth yet intact. As Flygia slowly returned to her senses she realized that the licking sensation on her had continued... and as she looked down she saw a hideous emaciated figure kneeling beside her, licking her hand – a sickening grin of rotten ivory over putrefied dripping black gums. The tongue seemed to loll uselessly, wedged between some of the teeth.

Kessi (Flygia)

(alarmed/scared) What the fuck!?!

Travis

As Flygia shoved the decaying figure away it bit her hand harshly, blackening the skin around the wound immediately for 7 damage, and 15 sanity damage. As she flailed and kicked, its lidless bloodshot eyes grew larger and larger until they formed the face of the Silent One, the tongue falling off its face like a flap of torn meat.

Kessi (Flygia)

(scream of pain as she's bitten) Ahh!

Kessi (Flygia)

Thunderwave time! (casting a spell, loudly as an attack) “vers di kepesk!”
(Verr +s dee Kep [like ‘kelp’ without the ‘l’] + esk [desk without the ‘d’])
(Spell) (Whisper the Casting in English while the Druidic is all epic/awesome: *Power of the Storm!*)

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Everyone's gonna get smashed in the face with a thunderwave. This is going to be terrible!

Travis

Everyone present, except Rowena, the spry dwarf on the other side of the room took 15 damage as the sound of thunder crashed through the room, sending gear, fire, and bodies flying in its wake. However, as the explosion of energy calmed and the heroes all awoke...

Kessi (Flygia)

Do I...?

Travis

The Silent One was nowhere to be seen.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm jump up like, (ready for battle) *Okay, what's happening!*

Kessi (Flygia)

(nervous, breathing heavy) Ok, I know this looks bad but I can explain.

David (Ilaus)

Yeah, please do.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

What did you do?

Kessi (Flygia)

I saw a guy, I think it was the faceless one, -the silent one.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Right.

Kessi (Flygia)

It looked like a disgusting human, and it grew, they, eyes grew bigger and it filled his whole face and it was terrifying. He bit my hand so I woke everyone up...

Kaitlin (Sister)

With a deafeningly painful spell.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Well it's over now, so it's all good.

David (Ilaus)

You both fell asleep didn't you?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeeeeaaaah.... I'm not gonna lie to you, but...yes. I might have fallen asleep. Look I'm really...

Kessi (Flygia)

Sorry about that.

David (Ilaus)

You know some people can take watch and not actually fall asleep.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah, don't get me wrong you're not, you're not wrong there but I've got this don't worry.

Eypór (Sindri)

I put my hand on Rowena's shoulder Do you got this?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I've got this. I'm fine. I've got this, I've got this! I mean you know people slip and fall you know, that sort of thing. Are you guys ok?

Kaitlin (Sister)

You know, before I meet you guys, I was able to sleep without getting hurt. And then I showed up here.

Kessi (Flygia)

Come on! It's only been like 1 day!

Eypór (Sindri)

Let me, let me cast a simple prayer of healing and then we'll go back to sleep. The two of you please, please try and stay awake.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

How long has she got left of her shift?

David (Ilaus)

An hour.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Ah my god, we're all going to die.

Eypór (Sindri)

Alright I'm gonna to cast prayer of healing, it'll take 10 minutes so I'm assuming the rest of the group will go back to sleep?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Not me, I'm not going to sleep, I'm gonna get up and walk around.

Eypór (Sindri)

[Sindri says a prayer of healing to the lord of light in Icelandic/Dwarven, maybe interjecting a phrase in common here or there... 3-4 lines. – Father of Light please heal my friends. Our journey is filled with trials and we need your blessings to overcome them. Please allow us to be successful in our cause, to rescue the children, and please keep them free from harm.]

Travis

Father Westpike prayed for those around him to be healed, for their mission to be successful, and for the children to be free of harm, and as he did so their wounds began to heal, and the pains and aches began to dull... Ten minutes passed.

Eypór (Sindri)

“Out of Character, everyone will get 11 healing.”

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I needed that.

Eypór (Sindri)

Alright, I try to go back to sleep for my last hour of rest.

Kessi (Flygia)

As Rowena starts doing her walk around the camp, I pull out my book of poetry.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yup, I'm walking.

Eypór (Sindri)

If, If I see the witch's little book of poems I grab it and close it, and I give it back to her like “No reading, please. That defeats the purpose of having you on watch.”

Kessi (Flygia)

It was the only thing keeping me awake.

Eypór (Sindri)

(muttered) I know a little bunny that would say otherwise...

Kessi (Flygia)

(grunt of annoyance) hmf... I guess I will just wait and look out into the mist and keep an eye out instead of looking at my books.

Travis

With great difficulty, Flygia was able to maintain her grip on consciousness by following Rowena's slow walk around the perimeter and chewing on individual pieces of hay she kept in a satchel. Despite her intolerable boredom, the hour passed by without incident, earning Father Westpike his 8th hour of sleep.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Whoop whoop whoop whoop!

Eypór (Sindri)

(waking up) (yawn!) You know, I no longer feel exhausted!

Kessi (Flygia)

(rushed, trying to pass her duties to the next person) Hour's up! Ok, who will take the next watch?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Me and him. Before he wakes up I'm going to, in his gear somewhere that I can hide it, I'm going to put my lucky caltrop.

Travis

In, in who's gear?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm going to put it into Father Westpike's gear. But I want to try and hide it so he doesn't find it.

Travis

Now this is not like in his shoes, is it?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

No, no, no. no cause that he might notice. I wanna try and hide it somewhere like within like the soft padding or something. So that it's, it's in a place that the armor wouldn't sit on, but somewhere he necessarily wouldn't notice it.

Travis

Unbeknownst to Father Westpike, Rowena had hidden her lucky caltrop under the inner pocket of his gambeson, offering him advantage on death saving throws. As Father Westpike woke up, he could still feel some of the weariness in his old bones as his sleep was-

Eypór (Sindri)

Yes, there was, were a lot of... dist... I don't know.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Disturbances.

Eypór (Sindri)

Disturbances! Big words.

Travis

As Rowena and Sindri began their watch they both needed to make constitution saving throws to stay awake.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

17

Eypór (Sindri)

21

Travis

And thus began the dwarf phase. What were they doing during their watch?

Eypór (Sindri)

I'm gonna, like place some kind of a rock or something and I'm going to be looking out at the rain over the graveyard. I assume it's basically just outside.

Eypór (Sindri)

I place another rock by my side and I like pat it telling Rowena to come.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Alright. I sit down on the rock. I'll the cloak a bit more about me. I assume it's cold, and wet and 'orrible.

Eypór (Sindri)

Yeah, it really is. So you're both just sort of staring outward from the giant open spot in the wall...

Eypór (Sindri)

And when she pulls on the cloak, Father Westpike gives her a concerned look. And says "I, I've seen the cloak move twice now."

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Did you? she's blatantly not looking at him like uh-uhh, uh-uhh.

Eypór (Sindri)

Maybe going senile in my old age but I have not lost my mind yet, so how about we drop the pretenses?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah. It did. I'm gonna pull the cloak up, and pull one of my sleeves up to show him that the the veins are like all blue and horrible and have gotten much worse over a shorter space of time.

Eypór (Sindri)

He tenderly touches your hand, but pulls back when he feels like the bulging veins. How old are you again?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Me? I'm like in my early 70's I think.

Eypór (Sindri)

You're just a child.

Hem (Speaking as Rowena)

Yup.

Eypór (Sindri)

This cloak does this to you?

Hem (Speaking as Rowena)

I didn't know how much it did until I, really, really used it.

Eypór (Sindri)

I'm assuming you haven't had the need to use something so destructive before?

Hem (Speaking as Rowena)

I've felt it once before, when I was in danger it, like whenever I take, whenever I bleed, it kind of... see you're gonna make it sound worse than it is! It -it absorbed some of the blood and then it can do things, can attack on its own. But whenever I do it, it just, I don't know, I just feel drained. But this last time that I used it it just seemed to have a lot more power than before and that's when this happened. And then she points back to the arms.

Eypór (Sindri)

You know, that is the sign of aging, the one thing that magic can't cure. You're withering away.

Hem (Speaking as Rowena)

I'm, I'm fine, I mean, I'm fine, it's not a problem. But that's not everything. Last time I ate, everything just, I mean I tried to hide it but, last time I ate everything just tastes like rot, like dead things.

Eypór (Sindri)

Like ash in your mouth?

Hem (Speaking as Rowena)

No, definitely rot. That kind of like, sporey feeling when you breathe in spore mushrooms, just eating that just, everything. It's all I can taste. I got the cloak from dad's stuff when I left...

Eypór (Sindri)

Your father?

Hem (Speaking as Rowena)

Aye.

Eypór (Sindri)

Hmm.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I don't know why he had it, but I grabbed the nearest thing when I got told to leave, so I did and this was it.

Eypór (Sindri)

Rowena you know your father is, he deals with, the unkindly sort?

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I suspected. But...

Eypór (Sindri)

I personally not met your father but I've heard many stories of him. I've heard less, less, what should I say, he's of the Kordarlum race, he is of the Kordarlum clan. They aren't good people. They are greedy people.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Oh.

Eypór (Sindri)

While I don't partake in this part of the clan's actions, they trade in stolen goods, artifacts from vaults and from traders from other countries. Cursed items. I don't know why they do this, I'm assuming there's gold in it.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Well, that's all they ever seem to be interested in, is gold and pushing that whole thing on me. That's not me. I couldn't care less.

Eypór (Sindri)

I'm glad to hear it, I'd rather you be your own lady than be the daughter of your father...

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Aye, I mean...

David (laus)

Unbeknownst to the others, I woke up a few -about 30 seconds ago, having heard the word Kordarlum. That's not, that's not a word I like to hear. But I kept my eyes closed and listened... hand unconsciously moving toward the crossbow, tail twitching toward the dagger.

Eypór (Sindri)

Can I roll a perception check to see if I notice if his breathing changes?

Travis

With a 22, Father Westpike noticed his sleeping companion tense up at the word

Kordalum, and shift uneasily, clearly feigning sleep.

Eypór (Sindri)

I pat Rowena on the back, gently. I'm not going to tell you to take the cloak off, I'm not going to tell you to leave it behind, but I want you to think twice about ever using it again.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I only used it because I didn't think I had an option. I don't know...

Eypór (Sindri)

This is not going to sound, to sound kind, but death is a better option than the corruption of evil.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

You think I should not...

Eypór (Sindri)

Don't let the flame in, don't let the flame in your heart go out in the pursuit of power.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I don't, I don't want power. I've never... Power becomes responsibility and that's definitely not me. I don't I, I don't like that in anyway shape or form. I don't even like doing these watches, I mean, what if something goes wrong and it's all my fault? I don't want to be here doing that. I don't know what to do.

Eypór (Sindri)

It's like... Father Westpike is like gently stroking your back. Don't worry about it, don't worry about it. I, would not be sad if I saw that cloak left behind.

David (laus)

So I've taken note of what I've heard, and it sounds like even though they're related to the Kordarlums, it doesn't sound like they're actively working for them at the moment, so while I'm gonna be suspicious of the cloak for now, I'm gonna go back to sleep because I deserve it.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

I'm just gonna like rest my head on his shoulder.

Eypór (Sindri)

I'm assuming she's gonna drift off to sleep.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah.

Eypór (Sindri)

Yeah, and I'm gonna say a prayer. Þessi ljúfi lækjarniður. Laðar, gefur ró og frið.

Hugurinn á hógværd þíður. Að hafa áfram sólskinið. Blómin spretta og ilma aftur, Anginn í loftið fer. Öllu stýrir æðri kraftur, Yndislegt lífið er. (Translated) This pleasant babbling brook, Draws, gives calm and peace. The mind mildness requests, To keeping the sunshine. The flower sprouts and scent returns, Aromas enter the air. Everything controls higher power. Wonderful life is. And I repeat that over and over again as she drifts away. And I keep repeating it as I stare into the fog, help.. holding hard to my hammer, ready to strike anything that dares comes close to her.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

What does the prayer mean?

Eypór (*Sindri*)

It's a, like a spring prayer of sunlight and like the growth of plants.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

(Yawn) ... zzzz.... (snoring)

Travis

Nothing happened during Father Westpike's shift, silent beyond the conversation that had taken place and the quiet prayer, repeated by the old priest. The team awoke to a slightly brighter scene, however, heavy cloud cover and the repressive fog still blocked out the majority of the light.

Kaitlin (*Sister*)

(urgent, excited) I put my chainmail on!

Travis

The team collectively began to put on their armor and prepare their spells for the day while eating a quick breakfast. All ate, except for Rowena who couldn't find the strength to overcome her affliction.

Eypór (*Sindri*)

(eating breakfast, morning, cheery) So, we saw the track of children and men through the town past the inn. I'm assuming we're going to follow that and continuation of this. And ignore the loss of Colm.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Cole.

Eypór (*Sindri*)

Cole.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

The sword and I had a little chat last night while I was pacing and it sort of told me where

to go.

David (laus)

Just let me take in all my rope and bell first.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Reclaimed rope.

Peter (Soren)

(sort of joking, serious toward the end) Buddy system, you should reclaim the rope using the buddy system. That *thing* is probably still out there.

David (laus)

Umm hmm. Lady of Bunnies can come with me, right?

Kessi (flygia)

Sure. I was gonna sleep in but whatever.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

What do we want to do about Soren?

Eypór (Sindri)

I gotta unshackle him.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Are you doing better?

Kaitlin (Sister)

He is not my buddy in the buddy system.

Peter (Soren)

Well I don't feel any different, but I certainly don't want to stab Sister Cavernsfall any more so.

Eypór (Sindri)

Did you ever want to?

Peter (Soren)

No, of course not.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Insight check... 16.

Travis

Rowena felt like he was telling the truth.

Hem (*Speaking as Rowena*)

Yeah he's on the level.

Travis

And with that, Soren's hands were unbound and found themselves unconsciously drawn toward the cursed dagger on his hip. But they could not linger there for too long as the team quickly began to pick up camp...