**Goddess Save the Princess**

The Kingdom of Calanain is a buzz as their beloved Princess is preparing to be married to the Lord of Parran. There is hope that the marriage will be blessed by God of Stars and a male heir will soon come after. Some see this as a bad omen, as still whispers in the shadows speak of the darkness that is growing in the west. Several people are racing against time to get to Seakle palace, their intentions unknown.

**Plot points/Scenes**

Open on the view of the area of Calanain, people excited and buzzing. Have Corran and Songai riding through the countryside, passing small farms, entering small towns of people cheering their arrival, before making it to the city. City opens up with people peddling their wares and souveniers

**STRUCTURE**

**Exposition**

It has been well known that the imminent betrothal of Princess Finren is coming. The royal city of Calanain is bustling with an excited energy, there are been whispers that the groom was seen within the territory, after leaving Carran. Within Seakle Palace, the mood is mixed. Servants are working diligently to prepare for the meeting of the soon to be married. Guwidion weaves his spells of protection over the palace to ensure there will be no danger to the bride or groom. He prepares as all others, however, he has been given a request from the king to be the princess's escort during the festivities. He happily does his role, because it will get him one step closer to his own goals. To have the royal family on his side will make things much easier. The small smile on his face, becomes a grin as he continues on his way...only a matter of time now. King Cronos seems to be jovial as he has worked hard to create this new alliance and possibly to gain a male heir, one worthy of taking the throne. One that wasn't sullied by the blood of an ancient clan, that to this day, would not give up their lands or intergrate into proper society. It matters not now. Once the wedding has ended and consumated, he will begin plans on invading and subjegating the clans, but bring Karician to heel as well. His father was a fool to believe that peace was attainable with those of the old ways. Sometimes you had to drag them into the future by force. However, the Queen is far from happy that this marriage is happening. There were promises made to the clans, and now all treaties signed will be nullified by this. She fears for her daughter, the realm, and her people. Hopefully the message she sent to the High Priestess made it in time. She knows what will happen if this fails. What will be lost. Perhaps she could beg the king to wait to continue, but it hasn't worked before. It probably won't work now. Down a far corridor of Seakle Palace is a door that leads into a well furnished room. It is relatively dark as the curtains have not be drawn back to let daylight in. There is a vanity table on one end of a room, a sitting area by the hearth with velvet seats and small end tables. Next to the window are various weapons neatly placed against the wall. The rug in the center of the room, made of the best sheep's wool, is framed by the stone floor. Across from the hearth is a large sleeping animal that resembles a cat. It lays before a bed that houses a breathing lump. There is a knock on the door before a woman, in about her forties enters..."Fineran" Lady Barcato enters the room with three servants to prepare the princess for the day. There is discussion about the excitement of her being married and the celebrations to come. Fineran isn't too keen on this marriage thing, but gets it...she guesses. Either way, she's not going to give up herself just because she's being forced to marry. As she leaves the room, she is met by Guwidion, the son of Lady Barcato. They exchange plesantries and continue on their way to planned meeting place (private dining/meeting hall). Guwidion goes through the motions of what is expected of her when meeting the Lord of Parran (be respectful, do not tempt your father, remain polite, speak when spoken to, hold yourself not only as a Princess of Calanain, but a queen) She will meet with her father, Corran, Clarissia, and Songai. Guwidion and his mother will be present for most of the conversation.  
Cronos: Welcome Corran, I assume your trip was well. \*clasp arms\*  
Corran: Of course your majesty. It was without any conflict. \*turns to the queen\* You are as beautiful as ever my queen.  
Clarissia: \*smiles\* You flatter me as always. Welcome.  
Cronos: Might I introduce my daughter Princess Fineran.  
Corran: \*bows and kisses her hand\* It is an honor to meet you, your highness. You are as beautiful as they say, your mother's doing I'm sure. I look forward to spending more time with you in the future.  
(PC speaks, depending on response...)  
*Corran: You are a fiery one \*laughs\* I like her more already. It is fine, they do not call me marewhisper for nothing*  
**Corran: I know you are unhappy with this arrangement, but I promise you I will be a good husband to you.**  
(PC response...will have to improv response from here) Corran: Shall I introduce Songai. He is my page and will be my best man for the ceremony.  
Songai: \*bows\* It is an honor to meet the royal family. May the goddess have her blessed eye on you. \*Cronos furrows his brow\*  
Corran: \*chuckles nervously\* He was raised by his mother until she died. She still worshipped the old goddess. \*Cronos nods\*|  
Cronos: I'm sure he will convert soon yes? My wife also worshipped her until our marriage. She and I both give our service to the God of Stars. It matters not, we have a betrothal banquet planned, the wedding comes in the coming days. The blood moon to be exact. Please, my men will escort you to your chambers. We shall speak soon. \*the Mirthwanders are escorted out\* That went well enough, he is a proper choice...better than the alternative.

**Conflict**

(this depends on what PC does)  
If Fineran is not combative during the meetings, she will be able to maintain her freedom long enough to learn about other NPC's. However, it is obvious that her mother does NOT like the idea of her marrying the person she has be promised to. She will herself, confront her husband about the situation in clear view of Fineran in the same room the original meeting was:  
Clarissia: Your Majesty, please reconsider this.  
Cronos: We have gone over this Clarissia. She will marry Lord Corran.  
Clarissia: This is too soon. She is far from ready to marry anyone, much less a lord from an infamous family.  
Cronos: Your point?  
Clarissia: They call him Marewhisper...he is known to have mistresses like his father. Do you really believe that you should hand your only child off to someone like that? Cronos: He is a man, he is entitled to his vices.  
Clarissia: When you married me, when I bore you a child, you promised my mother and my people that she would be one with the Dragon.  
Cronos: \*sneers\* You people and your superstitions. I will NOT be bullied by you or your witch of a mother.  
Clarissia: You have not see witch yet, husband. \*is violently grabbed by the throat\*  
Cronos: You go too far woman. Fineran WILL marry who I say, you will be quiet and responsive, and your mother will accept my rule or die. I swear this to you by the God of Stars, you will comply or I will publically hang you off the city walls. \*releases Clarissia and leaves the room\*

**Rising Action**

Clarissia, knowing that her daughter is no longer safe, waits for her mother's response to her message. As if hearing her daughter's pensive thoughts, Tempest enters the palace and is led to the Queen's chambers. She notes the brusing around her daughter's neck and sits down.  
Tempest: It is time then?  
C: \*nods\* I should have left her with you or my brother when she was younger.  
T: It is in the past child. We had no idea this would happen so soon. I would have wished she had more time to be a child. But the Melikina calls.  
C: I know. She must leave tonight. If we do not get her from here now, she will never be allowed to leave.  
T: \*stands\* Are you sure of this?  
C: I am certain. He lusts for absolute rule. I fear what would happen if she became with child. He has already betrayed our treaties, he plans for war.  
T: Very well child...\*embraces Clarissia\* I will send for her tonight. Come.  
The banquet goes on without much molestation of the characters. Songai is approached by Tempest and told of his mission. He understands that there is danger to the princess and will have to help her in the near future. Tempest lets him know that she will send for him and give him direction when the time comes. For now he is to pretend that all is fine and spend time with his "new sister in law". He spends most of the party interacting with Fineran. The night ends and everyone returns to their chambers...all except Clarissia, Tempest, and Songai.

**Climax**

Fineran beds down for the night before her room door is opened. Her mother and an elder elven woman enter, close and lock the door behind them. (roll an insight check to verify you know this person. DC 10) Clarissia begins packing things into a leather bag as she begins to speak...  
Clarissia: You must leave this place. You are no longer safe here.  
(response from PC)  
Clarissia: There is much to tell you and little time to say it. You must go with your grandmother...now.  
(wait for PC response)  
Tempest: I will explain everything when we are from this place, until then, do exactly as I tell you.  
A wall near the hearth opens and Songai enters the room..."We are ready mistress" Tempest nods and starts for the opening of the passageway. Clarissia guides Fineran to the passage and stops.  
Clarissia: I must stay behind. I have to give you time to escape.  
(wait to see if there is a PC response)  
Clarissia: My daughter, I wish I would have been able to see what would become of you. Know that I love you very much and hope accept the trials that are to come. They will be hard, but I have faith that you will succeed. May the Goddess give you glory. \*hands a small box\* Be well. \*pushes Fineran into the passage and closes it behind her\*  
PC being lead through a darkened passage way by Songai and Tempest. They are silent as they navigate their way into the crypt. So far, nothing. (everyone roll investigation for next marking) follow marked passage onto a darkened street. City guard has been doubled, but they are doing nothing. (roll perception DC15) see a darkened figure speak to the guards and they scramble. You hear them say: The princess is missing, we must find her. They believe that a page has kidnapped her. (must be stealthy to avoid being caught within the city...goal is to get out to the horses outside the walls) (roll series of stealth checks, higher DC each roll mutiples of 5, max 15)

**Falling Action**

Should they successfully exit the city walls. The party reaches the outside of the city. Tempest whispers a small prayer as Songai retrieves the horses. The alarms within the city go off as he aids the elder elven woman onto her horse. He motions to Fineran to ask if she needs aid, before mounting his own horse. Without another look, he urges the animal into a sprint away from the kingdom. Tempest follows knowing that this will be the last time she will see her daughter. In the distance there is a sound of persuit. Songai readies his crossbow, just in case he will have to shoot an asailant. (roll athletics to make sure we stay far enough away (DC15), Songai roll nature DC 15) The sounds get closer(further) as they continue on. After a moment, they reach a river with a barge waiting. Approacing the barge they see a human individual. He his around 50, his short manicured beard is graying, yet it retains some of it's orangish hue. The hair on his head is short and messy, and resembles the colors of a red wolf. He nods his head as you reach him and speaks.  
Wolf: We must hurry milady...it will be a matter of time before they realize that we had a hand in this.  
Tempest: They will already know. I was there. The boy however, he is now a fugitive.  
Wolf: \*nods\* Milord will protect him as well. \*looks at Fineran\* I apologize that everything came to this, please, let us go.  
Tempest nods and guides everyone onto the barge. The man boards and pushes off to cross the river.

**Resolution**

(Fineran will probably have questions...answer nothing until they reach Karician) When dawn breaks, the group has made it to the lands of Karician. A province that is loyal to the Chakara clan. They are lead by the older man until about mid morning, when they reach a moderate estate house. At the door is a tall man around his late 30's, his blond hair intricately braided and pulled into a long ponytail. His white tunic is designed with gold thread to resemble foxes, while he wears black pants. Beside him is an elvish man who slightly resembles Queen Clarissia. His bright green eyes darken around the pupil, resembling leaves on an oak tree. His dark hair is also intricately done, however it falls freely against his green and black robes. They quickly greet the group and ushers them inside without a word.

**COMPONENTS**

**Goals**

For this plot, Fineran's entire goal is to get out of the palace and not marry.

**Hooks**

During the banquet, Songai seems to be pumping her for info, in her periphery she sees what she thinks is a spectre that resembles an elven woman. And the word RUN

**Stakes**

Should she ignore it, she would be married. However, there is no guarentee she will make it to the throne. Something about that word, shows her the realm falling to ruin and destruction

**RELATIONS**

**Protagonists**

Fineran: Princess of Calanain Songai Mirthwander

**Allies**

Tempest Eletcot Queen Clarissia

**Neutrals/Bystanders**

Lord Corran

**Adversaries**

Guwidion King Cronos XII

**BACKDROPS**

**Locations**

Calanain city proper: A bustling metropolitan city under the shadow of Seakle palace. The more central area has maintained cobblestone roads, and beautiful stone buildings housing shops and inns. As you push further out to the walls of the city, it is more urbanized. Whilst having cobble stone, they are in need of some repair. The buildings are more hastily made, while still being presentable. There doesn't seem to be low-peseants visible inside the city. Most of the small villiages a few miles out and some of the farmlands house the low peseants, they rarely enter the city. The river that separates Karician and Calanain. Approx. 600ft across depending on the time of year, can be significantly dangerous to ford. There is no bridge, as Karician refuses to allow it on their lands. The only way to cross is by barge, that has to cross from the Karician side, to move from Calanain to their territory. Karician, a green lush land, with many orchards, farmland for livestock, and beautifully maintained townships. There are modest houses that look to house mayors and such. Smaller homes that house families, none look rundown. The area is pretty egalitarian, everone helps everyone. There is a estate that is close to the forrest that is percieved to be the seat of power in the province.

**Threats**

The palace guard, the city guard. (for this plot point only)

**Encounters**

Discussion, Meeting several NPC's and speaking with them...properly. Should they be too unruly, they will be sent to their rooms until the next scene. Negotiations during a banquet, and being pursued at the end DO NOT GET CAUGHT.

**Past Events**

The Crypt that leads into the city proper. Within this Crypt are remnants of the Melikina, kings, and chieftains that came before them. There is much to explore here, however, there is little time. Amongst the dead are many ceremonial items (bowls, goblets, crystals, incense, etc). Much of it undisturbed.