1. Unnamed woman protagonist meets while in disguise

- Young woman around mid-30s

- Mid length dark hair thrown hastily into a knot on her head

- Mix of sweat and blood dripping down her neck under the heat of the sun

- Face caked with dirt, a few flesh wounds in varying stages of healing

- One arm ends in a stump wrapped in a filthy canvas material

- Tattered clothes with burned edges

2. You can see the veins on her thin trembling hands as she hands you the palm-sized photograph. It’s ripped in some places but in better condition than the clothes on the woman’s body. You try to turn away but the woman insists, pushing the photo closer to your line of sight. A young girl in pigtails grins back at you. She is wearing a pine green dress and clutching a bunny rabbit soft toy by the ears.

“My girl, he killed her.”

Despite your urge to ignore her and get back to your mission, which is the whole reason you’re here right by enemy lines, you entertain her. “Who?”

“Man with scar on neck. He bump into you just now.”

You remember him, a gruff soldier carrying a handful of rifles, probably heading towards the outdoor range. You had caught a glimpse of his face, but ducked from eye contact, lest he see your face and recognise you as a stranger, ruining your covert mission.

“You shoot him.” Your eyes widen in surprise and look up from the photograph into her dark unforgiving eyes. She’s not joking.

“Please. I pay you any way you want.”

You stay silent, staring at the photograph. You take it from her and flip it over. Scrawled in black ink in cursive are the words “Elise – 2004”.

“Please.” You hear the desperation in her voice. “I know people in city, I get you what you want. Girls? Drugs?” From the corner of your eye, you see another uniformed officer glancing at your exchange from afar; you’ve been talking to this woman for too long, it’s getting suspicious.

You want to help, you know many families like hers, families like yours. But doing this will definitely blow your cover and your chances of getting the codes undetected. It could even kill you. But you know what it’s like to be that person, mourning a loved one, a child no less.

# Stay in character, throw the picture on the floor and yell at her.

# Give the picture back, apologize and say you can’t help her.

# Take her offer, promise to kill him.