

Hey, let me tell you a story.

Long ago, there lived a king, but he is not a normal king, for he raised havoc in his time and turned the world upside-down, slaughtering many of those who opposed him and bathe on their blood.

Burning villages after villages, onslaught here and there until he wiped out every single one of those foolish enough that fought against him.

There are rumors that he made a contract with the devil for a desire he's been longing for and for his greed for power to be quenched. Until one day, due to his thirst for carnage, he even turned his sword to the very devil that he made a contract with.

That time, he was feared by both man and demons, crowning him as the lord of tyranny and eventually became an immortal. Unable to even taste death, he lived for eternity, having both power and a curse, he continues on his strife to the realm.

His wrath spread to the entire continent until it reaches the other side of the world. His name was known among all races.

Then one day, humanity and the rest of the surviving races stood up against the oppression of the tyrant, and a hero blessed by the heaven and guided by divinities fought against the king.

After days of battle, the hero managed to land a fatal blow to the evil king, but the power of the king would never let him taste death that easy. Even losing one of his arms from battle, the evil king managed to land a lethal blow back to the hero and so is the hero to the king.

And with a flash of lightning and a loud raging roar of thunder, both the king and the hero fell down on their knees. The king spelled out his final words to the hero as that last blow concluded their long fought battle.

With a grin on his face, the tyrant declared his victory; but only has enough strength to maintain his eyes open, on the other hand the brave warrior dropped down on his back, lying dead on the ground.

Weaken so much, the king could not even stand on his own, as raindrops fell on him while the blood that is flowing out from his wounds is mixed with the rainwater on the ground.

Although it is too late, the companions of the hero arrived on their battleground and found the weakened king along with the dead body of the hero laying down on the ground in front of him.

By the use of heavenly powers, the king took a crushing blow from one of the divinities that accompanied the hero.

Knowing that he cannot die by any means and will just recover eventually after some time, they then decided to seal his soul instead. By dismembering the body of the king into five parts containing the fragments of his soul, they sealed it away for all eternity and declared that no

human, demons, spirits or divine entities from this world can break the seal and release him back to this world...

So the story says...

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'Just a few more minutes and I will be done typing this.' he thought, facing his computer while pounding the keys faster than he usually do yet slow enough not to sprain his fingers. The only sounds that can be heard are those which are produced by the keyboard.

Working overtime is not the norm for this guy, yet this time he stretches his luck due to a deadline he has with his work.

'Being lazy is totally not good for the health.' He thought while still typing the last few paragraphs of his work.

"A few more clicks and... voila! Made it in time." He then took a glimpse on the wall clock on his left side with an awe on his face; he just managed to finish his work five minutes before six o'clock in the morning! It is just less than an hour before the deadline.

He's been doing this for three days in a consecutively this week and he even made the office his bedroom while his desk is all messy due to the trash of food containers, plastic water and juice bottles he bought from the convenience store.

He felt depressed just by looking at it, but on his face you could see the content of finishing it on time.

"Alright, time to mail this to my boss's computer..." He said.

But before he could send the files, his heart skips a beat while his vision becomes blurry.

He thought that this might be the effect of the all-nighter he pulled out for three consecutive days and is now taking a toll to his body.

Slowly the light from the monitor of his computer is dimming, not because he pushed the power button to turn it off and the computer is shutting down, no, it isn't. It is due to his eyes that he can no longer retained open and is now slowly closing down.

"A heart attack?" he said to himself as he is blindly touching his desk trying to reach out for his phone to call for help but his action is too late, the wide-spread light from the monitor of his computer is now compressing to the middle of his field of vision until it shrinks into a tiny spec of light, the only light that illuminates the room now gone and what is left is total darkness.

"Did I just... Die?"

## Sequence one: Welcome to Ether

“I can’t believe it, after twenty eight years existing on the face of the planet; I just die because of over working? What a lame way to perish.” He said to himself, annoyed for the reason and the only thing he could see is total darkness.

He’s dead for sure, but he just can’t accept the way he died.

“I should have regularly called my mom if I knew this would happen. She’ll definitely...”

He stops on thinking for a moment when he realized that there is a mild tune passing by, a very familiar tune yet he is sure that the melody shouldn’t be here on his office.

‘A stream?’ he said to himself as he slowly tries to open his eyes – “Daylight?” he said aloud in surprise.

‘I’m outside?’

He gently stands up and is amazed from what he just perceives; the sound came from a stream just right next to him surrounded by thick woods on every corner of the place.

The place is quiet and tranquil; the warm sun touching his skin somehow rejuvenates his tired body while the calming melody of nature itself calms his soul. For sure, it is the first time he felt like this and he is somehow thankful for such a treat.

‘Am I in heaven?’

He touches himself to make sure that everything is not a dream and so he confirms it, he is neither dreaming nor he is dead.

‘Just where am I?’ he asked himself while looking around, turning his head left and right then kneels down and stares at the flowing water of the stream.

He is surprised on how clean the water is, but what surprises him the most is the reflection he has on the water.

‘I look ten years younger?’ he thought as he checks the vivid image of himself reflecting on the surface of the gently flowing water.

Still amazed, he keeps on looking at the water carrying his reflection, still confused on what is happening and doesn’t know what to do.

So for no reason, he plunges his face on the water, indulging his self on the cooling sensation of the stream. After a few seconds, he lifts his head out of the water feeling refreshed.

“Okay, I’m not dead nor I am dreaming.” He said.

The place is quiet, really quiet, that it is somehow deafening for some time and the empty feeling he has seems to widen more and more while he is still here in this forest of some kind.

He felt, a bit tired after all those consecutive overtimes he had at work so he plans to take a quick nap while. He doesn't care if it is outside, he even remembers the time when he was so tired after work he slept on a park bench and also the time when they had a party and he was so drunk that time he just drop dead on the side walk, after that, he realized that it was morning already.

For him, life is how you live it and it doesn't matter how people thinks about him because it's his own way of living his life.

But, before he proceeds on napping on the green-grassy ground, his ear twitches a bit, as he heard a cracking sound from a distance and in an instant, a swooping object instantly passes above the skin of his left cheek, leaving a light scratch on it and warm blood slowly flows out from the opening of the wound on his face.

The object landed on his left side and pierced itself on the ground.

Slowly, he moves his brown colored orbs towards the direction of the object and saw a slim stave with feathers on the top end and the other end that is buried on the ground will definitely be pointed that is hard enough to bury itself a few inches deep on the ground.

'An arrow? But why?' he thought, as he reaches out for the object slowly with his trembling hand.

But before he could grab it, another arrow landed next to the previous one, the one he tries to pull out. As if, it is telling him not to touch the arrows pierced on the ground.

In shock, he turns around to where the arrows came from, there he saw a person wearing a hooded cloak while holding a bow on his right hand and an arrow on the other and is just a few meters away from him, standing behind a tree.

He tries to snatch a look on that person's face but the lower part of its face is covered by a scarf, covering the person's nose down to its mouth so he can't accurately identify if the person is either a 'he' or a 'she'. But one thing is for sure, this person is definitely the one that launched those pair of arrows.

"I-I... don't mean any harm." He said, as he slowly raises his hands up in the air while sitting on the ground, trying not to offend his attacker that might launch another shot.

The person looks around for a bit then walks toward him in a phased manner. When he is just right in front of him, he utters words that the guy sitting on the ground can't comprehend.

"I-I'm sorry but, I-I can't understand a word you say." he said in a soft and stuttering way while shaking his head, signaling the person that he doesn't understand a thing he says, yet that person still continues on talking and this time with a raised voice.

He noticed that his voice is somehow and immature, telling him that this guy must still be in his early teens, giving him a bit of confidence because if it is the case then he can talk his way out of this mess.

He slowly stands up for a better chance for that person to hear what he is about to repeat on saying. As he stands straight, he realizes that he is a few inches taller compared to the person in front of him.

“Like I said, I can’t understand what you say.” He said again to the person in front.

The person stops on talking then he stares on his side with a displeased look showing from his eyes, the only visible part of his face. The person wearing a hood took a deep breath and exhaled in agony, that the other guy could actually hear the “hah” coming out of him.

The person pulls the scarf covering his lower face downward and also took off his hood, revealing an innocent looking girl around her teenage with a pale white skin and cherry colored lips, deep-green color eyes that is almost as glittery as a jewel and grayish hair flowing down to her shoulders while her bangs covers her forehead running down to her right cheek almost covering her right eye.

The guy is amazed, very amazed, it’s the first time he saw a beauty like this and what’s more, he saw her in a forest like some sort of movie where the protagonist meets the leading lady in a peculiar way.

There was a moment of silence for the two, and then the “he” who turns out to be a “she” opens her mouth and begins to speak once again.

“You don’t understand because you are not listening!” she shouted in an angry tone, scolding the guy in front of her.

‘Way to go older guy, you have just been scolded by someone younger.’ He thought, then a realization came busting in his head.

‘Did I just understand what she said?’

Surprised that he can finally understand what that person says and also because of the thought that he was trembling and almost wet his pants because of a cute little girl, the man breaks into laughter that almost sounded like an insult in front of the girl.

In the meanwhile, the girl stares at him and is somewhat amazed thinking that he might be a person who lost his sanity or maybe he just don’t understand the situation he is in.

“Well, now... I didn’t mean to mock you or something; I’m just surprised and relieved. I thought I’m going to die a moment ago.” He said, while wiping off the tears due to laughing hard on his eyes.

“So you think because I’m a woman, I don’t have the guts to kill you? Is that it?” she said while showing a smirk on her face as she walks closer to him then whispers these words.

“I intentionally missed those shots”

He stands frozen as he sinks down the meaning of what she just said into his brain.

“Lucky for you, I’m not here to kill people who pass by and from the looks of you... I won’t get anything even if I tie you upside-down on a tree.” She added as she pulls out the arrows on the ground.

“Y-Yeah your right, hehe...” he replied with a frightened tone and an obvious fake laugh.

“Are you a foreigner? Some weird clothing you have.” She said looking on him with an investigative eye, wondering what kind of country is represented from the cloths he wears.

“Anyway, you can run right?” she asked after pulling the last piece of arrow.

“Yeah why’d you asked?” he said while changing his view to her, he then noticed the serious face the girl is showing to a certain direction.

She then loaded an arrow to her bow and fired it to the direction she is facing, towards a bushy part of the terrain just across the stream. Then in a couple of seconds, a loud squeak was heard.

“What are you waiting for? Run!” right after she said it, a group of wild boars are charging towards them with tusk around fifteen inches long and three inches wide in diameter.

With the sudden impulse of preserving his life upon seeing the stampeding crowd, his body moves on its own, running away from the horde of incoming wild beast into the deep parts of the forest without even thinking if he could find his way back.

He runs desperately, not even looking behind him. For all he knew, all he has to do now is run as fast as he could away from them.

But when he turns around to check if he ran far enough away from them, in his surprise, the mass is already catching up with him.

He continues to run desperately when he suddenly heard a familiar voice from behind.

“Having a hard time?”

He turns his head to the direction of the voice and saw the girl from before now almost next to him, in shock he uttered these words while still running as fast as he can; “How... did you managed to catch up?!” he asked, as he catch his own breath while looking at the girl

“Oh, this? When you are doing this kind of job for years, you can run faster than you usually could.” she answers, then turns backwards and performs a back-run while loading her bow another arrow.

She jumps off the ground to a tree branch above her; then aimed for the one that is catching up with the guy who is currently running away to save himself from the rampaging crowd of wild boars.

She released the arrow immediately after aiming hitting the creature on its forehead and then jumps off the tree to accompany the fleeing man.

“How... did you just pull that off?” he said almost dropping his jaw after seeing the girl performed such act.

“I don’t think they will stop chasing us.” she replied to the man running next with her, noticing that the feral beasts are still chasing them.

She runs slower to have the save running phase as the guy, noticing the fatigue that is starting to run over her companion, she immediately devised an escape plan.

Even though as if she comes to the forest to hunt occasionally, but every time she do so, she sets traps of various kinds for different purposes.

Upon noticing that the terrain is somehow familiar, the thought came into her mind.

‘That’s it! It’s just around the corner.’

She grabs him on his arm then drags the fellow to a certain direction in the forest. While still running, she pulls out a knife from her side and cuts the rope that is tied on a tree.

Along the slashing sound created by the knife, a loud cracking of wood echoes throughout the entire forest.

She stops on running and stares on the direction of the boars that are chasing them. When the guy notices the sudden halt of the girl, he also reduces his speed and runs back to her.

“Why do we stop running?” he asked while catching his breath.

“Wait for it...” she replied confidently as if she is waiting for something dramatic to happen, then a loud snapping sound breaks alongside the swooping of leaves that can be heard from not afar.

In an instant, a huge tree around seven feet in diameter fell on the ground, smashing the horde of wild boars that are chasing them.

Squeaking sounds of agony are heard, while the others that survived the tree slam made their retreat back into the woods.

“That was handy.” She said, seeing how effective it is.

“We did it... yeah...” he said, lifting both his hands to the sky while taking a deep breath then immediately drops his arms down after.

“Happy to be alive?” she asked in a teasing way with a smirk on her face.

“Of course.”

“Very well.” She said, as she walks towards the large timber,

“Where are you going?”

“Hauling.” She answered, and then proceeds on walking forward, back to the direction where they came from.

The guy, well since he doesn’t know where to go follows the girl as she leads the way. The girl noticed that the guy is following her so she took a glance to him making sure that he is not a hostile person.

He noticed the wary glance of the girl and so he shows him a somewhat peculiar smile, as if somehow, he doesn’t know what to do at the moment.

The pair walks back silently, when he decided to break the silence.

“Oh, hey wait... can I ask you something?”

“You’re asking now.” She answered, as she squats down to the game that she shot between the eyes earlier and started to tie its four legs together for carrying purposes.

“I mean, where I am now?” he asked, very confused on where on the face of the planet he is now.

“You’re in the forest, south of the hunting region.” the girl answered him politely.

“Oh I’m in a forest... what?!” he replied, confused from the answer of the girl. – “...And what are you wearing?” he added, questioning the clothes worn by the girl because even if she says it is traditional, he doesn’t remember about an ethnic group wearing this kind of an attire in his country.

For some reasons, it is the first time he saw someone wearing such clothing; he only managed to see such outfits in movies and books having the medieval and middle ages as their theme and is a very odd-looking kind of clothing to wear in this century.

“Well, I’m so sorry because I wear like this, what do you expect me to wear in a hunt, a ball gown?” she answered him sarcastically, although she felt insulted from what he just said, yet she made it sound as normal as she can.

“And the weird one here is you...” She points a finger to his chest. “...you went into a forest without anything to protect yourself.” She added.

“Look, I didn’t mean to insult you and I didn’t intended to do so in the first place. So whatever bad things I said, I’m sorry.” He said, trying to clarify the misunderstanding between him and his savior but somehow it doesn’t sound right when the girl hears it making her twitch her right eyebrow.

“Back to our topic, what do you mean by ‘south of the hunting region’, where are we exactly?” He said, probing her to give him the right answer.



"If you are referring to which country we are right now, we're in a country called Ceres located at the eastern part of the continent, slightly up north that's why you can feel the chills." She said – "And the capital city is Elysium." She immediately added.

"Oh..." he said with an 'I get what you mean' look.

"...wait, Ceres? Elysium?" he questioned the girl's answer and he is now really confuse of what she just said.

"What is that exactly?"

Amazed on how he responds to her words, the girl expresses a very jumbled reaction on her face; she can't believe that she is talking to a total idiot.

"The country and the capital, you don't look stupid though it seems you are." She answers him immediately while having the feeling that he is an idiot who doesn't know a thing about the world.

"Now if you'll excuse me, I still need to sell this wild boar to the market." She said, as she tries lifting the huge hunk of meat on her back. But since it is three time bigger and heavier than she is, she can't even make it budge.

"That thing looks heavier than you thought huh?" he said looking at her as she desperately lifts the heavy object.

"Well, yeah! As you can see genius." She answered him with an irritated tone for asking the obvious.

"Wait a sec." he said rushing back to the woods, on his return, he brought a sturdy looking tree branch around two meters long that looks almost like a pole, dragging it towards her.

"Now what?" she asked

"We'll use this to carry that." He said pointing to the boar that she tries to carry by herself.

He ties the legs of the pig on the branch he brought and asked her to grab the other end of the pole while he is holding the other.

"On the count of three, you place that end on your right shoulder okay?" instructing the young lady on how they are going to lift the thing. – "One... two... three..." As he said it, the duo lifts it and then placed it on their respective shoulders.

"Lead the way." He said in a cheerful way, as they start to walk forward.

"Just to make things clear, I am not paying you for helping me."

"Sure, anyway where are we bringing this?" he asked

"You said earlier you'll bring this to a market is there a village or a town nearby?" he added

“Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you, there is a village nearby, not much to expect compared to the other towns but you can grab some basic needs and services there if you can afford the price.” She answered with delight.

“About that, you see I don’t have anything with me right now, well... you can say I’m broke.” He said with hesitation and a hint of embarrassment.

“Like I said, I won’t pay you for helping me.”

“No, I didn’t mean it that way...” he answered but then interfered by her

“Don’t tell me you also have no place to stay?” she said, completing the idea that he is a hobo, but she didn’t really mean it.

“And also that.”

“What?!” she said, surprised that she is right about it.

“To make things clear, you’re broke and you’re homeless?” she said and he just nods affirming that what she said is true.

“Sigh, I can only offer you a place to stay the night, the least I can do for helping me carry this thing.” She added while tapping the load they are carrying.

“You just don’t know how glad I am right now.” He answered

“But you’re sleeping on the floor.”

“Don’t you have a couch or a sofa?”

“Dude, don’t push your luck.”

“By the way, the name’s Josh, and you?”

“They call me Cerise in our village.” She answered, tilting her head slightly looking at him on top of her shoulder.

“Okay then, thank you miss Cerise.” He said with a slight smile on his face.

“You can drop the “miss”, just call me by my name. It’s kinda... freaky.” She said.

## **Sequence Two: The Village and the Urn**

From afar, Josh saw a massive wall surrounding the village that Cerise told him about earlier. It has only two entrances, one from the south of the village and the other to the north.

The entrance has a gigantic gate that is shut down to prevent intruders on entering the village in case of an attack. Both the north and the south entrance have a pair of guards guarding and

checking those who are entering the village, but there are more guards stationed on every corner inside in case the need for them calls.

There are people coming in and out of the entrance, some with carts carrying goods to be sold while the others are hand carrying some items that they bought.

“Hey, Cerise, isn’t it a bit populated and large to be called a village?” Josh asked while he looks around at the unusual number of people and the land area covered by the village.

“It has been like this since the youngest daughter of the duke took over.” She answered

“She is more of an economist, if you ask me. Anyway, you better be careful when you are inside, they are very cautious and one wrong move you make might cost you your head.” She added.

As the two arrives at the village entrance on the south, the guards’ stares at Josh with malicious eyes.

Cerise and Josh slowly drops what they are both carrying on their shoulders and places it gently on the ground.

“Hey Cerise! Who’s the new guy?” one of the guards asked

“A wondering merchant who got attacked by forest beasts and lost his merchandise out of the commotion.” She told the guards while looking at Josh, telling him to take the cover story. Josh, able to read the situation confirmed it to the guards.

“Yeah, I was attacked just a while ago, luckily Cerise come to my rescue.”

“Can I see your papers?” the other guard asked, not convinced on Josh’s statement.

“There are lots of bandits trying to sneak in and out of here and we must heighten our security especially that the daughter of the lord is currently visiting the village.” He added

“He left all his belongings on his cart in the forest and...” Cerise answered in place of Josh, but one of the guards intercepts her from talking then walks closer to Josh.

“Hey who told you to answer for him?” he said, as he gazes at Cerise with intimidating eyes.

“That’s one unique clothing you’re wearing,” he said while scanning Josh’s cloths carefully. “... Is this a new trend?” he added.

As you can see, Josh is currently wearing the casual office cloths he wears daily, a white V-neck shirt with his black suit’s sleeves rolled over up to his elbows while matching it with his dark colored jeans.

“Hey you two!”

Both of the guards turns to the direction to where the shout came from, startled because of the familiar voice that they know so well.

Josh rolls his eyes to the same direction where the guards are facing, what he saw is a man wearing a plate armor, and to everyone's surprise, it is the head of the guards that is currently patrolling the whole village.

"We are in a heighten alert because the daughter of our lord is currently here! And now I see you two slacking off? You better get serious on you job!" he said, angry to the guards guarding the gate.

"I-I'm... so sorry sir." One of the guards said with a frightened tone.

"You better be!" the head guard said, confirming them that they will be in trouble if he catches the two of them for the second time.

"So are you going to let us pass? My merchandise will deplete its value as time passes." Cerise said with an unpleased look on her face.

"Yeah, you both can go thru..." the guard who recently checked on Josh's clothes, said.

"...But I'm having my eyes on you young man." He added while starring daggers at him.

As they pass through the village gate, Josh kept on scanning the place. On that moment onward he is amazed of what the inside of the village reveals on his eyes, even if Cerise told him that it is a village, it is way too prestige to be called as one.

But the design somehow bothers him, because it is somehow mixed up in terms of timeline if he remembers it correctly, well for someone who is interested in building designs definitely, he knows when this kind on architectural design came out first.

'So, they look more around medieval Europe in terms of feel and designs for the houses and stalls, but some of the buildings are baroque inspired and they used bricks for the road to prevent it from getting muddy which is so not medieval, as for technology, renaissance perhaps?'

Then another realization came to Josh, he just go with the flow the whole time but he forgot something vital about what is happening to him, seeing the structures and the surroundings, the way the people live and their lifestyle, definitely one thing came in mind.

'Am I back in the past? If that so, how and why?' but he paused his train of thoughts and wonder where they are going.

He just walks carelessly and follows the lead of Cerise while they are both carrying the load this whole time, now he doesn't have a single idea where they are.

"Hey Cerise..." Josh said, as Cerise looks back to him.

"...where are we going?" He asked casually.

"I need to drop this first to a local butcher, he's a regular customer." She answered

'So she hunts for a living.' Josh thought as he stares on the slender back of the girl in front of him.

The pair walk on the main street of the village, then took a turn on an alley on their right.

As the two of them reached their destination, Cerise signals Josh to drop the luggage in front of an old-looking establishment.

The shop is in an average state, not too spacy yet not too cramped. You can even gaze upon their merchandise through a front glass panel outside.

Cerise took the initiative to open the door of the shop, as the girl opens the door a small bell rings signaling the employees inside that someone enters their store.

There, a young girl around the age of ten appears in front of them carrying a box that seems to be containing some of their products, stacking it over a crate on the floor.

"Welcome customer... Oh! It's Cerise, hey papa, sis Cerise is here." She immediately said after seeing Cerise.

A man around his middle age wearing an apron while holding a butcher's knife comes out from the door inside the shop that is next to the counter. His build is more or less average, he has a kinky long hair that he is tying into a ponytail with a split bangs covering the sides of his face.

"Oh, hey Cerise." He said as he places the knife on top of the counter near him.

"I brought your order. It's outside your shop." She said while pointing her right thumb to the front door of his shop.

"Well took you long enough." The man said with a smirk on his face. Then he changes his view to Josh that is standing beside her. He then dashes forward to Cerise, leads her a little bit further from Josh and then whispers in her ears.

"Hey Cerise, did you manage to snatch a boyfriend along the way?" he said.

"Wha-what?! No he's not!" Cerise replied, startled as on what he said, while her face turns a bit red as a reaction.

"Yeah right? Of course you would not..." he said while he gives off a hard laugh. "...who would even fall for you? You're mean, you get easily pissed and instead of greeting the people you just met, you shoot them with arrows instead." He added with an 'am I right' expression on his face that stinks to high heavens.

"You want me to do to you the last part you said?" She said while poking the tip of her bow on his chin.

"Come on now Cerise, don't take it seriously..." he said while waving both of his hands in front of her, telling the girl that everything he said is a joke.

“Now, now, honey, are you picking up on Cerise again?” a female voice intercepts them.

They both turn to the direction of the voice and a brown haired woman around her thirty’s revealed herself, walking closer to the pair.

After reaching the point where the two are, she raises her right hand and pinches the cheek of the man in front of her.

“Aww... alright, alright... I’ll stop it now.”

“I’ll take it from here. You go get the item she left for us outside.” She said while releasing her pinching fingers from the man’s left cheek. Then the man went outside their shop.

Josh scans the place, since he has nothing else to do.

Inside he noticed that there are a lot of meat products being displayed like sausages and other preserves. The interior is simple, an L-shaped counter just at the back facing the shop’s front door, then a door adjacent to it that leads to the storage room of the shop.

There are other merchandises as well, aside from the meat products that are arranged on top of the counter and on the shelves on the sides of the store and some wooden crates on the floor that are arranged accordingly.

The woman then went to the counter then searches under it, after a few seconds, she sprung up then calls on Cerise on the other side of their shop by waving her hand.

Cerise, seeing the call of the woman, walks closer to the counter, then the lady reaches her a small pouch containing the pay for the day. She checks its contents then closes the bag again.

The couple then departs from the store after a while, it is almost evening and the whole village is getting darker every passing minute.

Outside, the man teasing Cerise a moment ago saw the pair.

“Hey Kiddos.” He said while both Cerise and Josh looks on his way. He walks closer to them and stares at Josh thoroughly as if he is inspecting every fiber of his being.

“You are not from here are you now kid?” he said, examining Josh while he holds his chin with his thumb and index finger.

He then walks closer to Josh invading his personal space and whispers on the side of his head in an interrogative and cold manner, Josh can even feel the strong intent to kill from this person, and then he said...

“Are you... somehow here for the Urn?”

### Sequence Three: Let it Burn

The clanking sounds of plates being delivered from every table, the noise of people talking covering the whole area with their laughs and woes, the scent of alcohol reeking the whole room, the dim lighting and the warm atmosphere makes this whole tavern feels like I am back in time!

Well, actually, if you compare this to the world I was in, this is definitely something we have in the past! So here I am experiencing the old school way.

Why I am here? Well, Cerise decided to treat me for dinner since I helped her earlier today and the buyer added a few extra coins for it. But what is bothering me the most is what that guy told me back then. What does he mean by an 'urn'?

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"Are you... somehow here for the Urn?"

"Err... what do you exactly mean by an Urn? Are you referring to an urn for ashes?"

"Nothing, just be careful on everything you do out here kid, you might accidentally change something, in a bad way"

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I was very shocked to what he just said, I don't even know what it means, and to be precise I am totally lost to our conversation. I remember looking at his face and he is giving me that cold gaze that I know for sure, if I didn't give him the right answer he needed, it'll be bad for me.

"Hey Josh!"

I looked in front and there Cerise is looking curiously, she even has this bothered face on her. I totally spaced out that moment that I didn't noticed her calling for me though we are just facing each other on the same table.

"Oh good, you're looking my way now. I've been calling for you like three times in a row." She said.

"Are you still bothered by what that guy told you earlier?" she added, giving off a smirk on her face.

"Hey, does an 'Urn' rings a bell to you?" I said to her

"Nope, not even the slightest hint..." She answered immediately

"Oh, okay. Maybe it's just me over thinking..." But before I finish my word

"...But I do know a certain 'urn' that is kept on the mansion of the duke here in our village." She immediately intercepted me.

"So this 'urn' actually exists?" I said to myself then thought deeper on why would that guy suspects me to have an interest to "that" thing, and I don't even know about it in the first place.

"But he probably doesn't mean that urn right? I mean, that thing arrived here just two days ago." She said resting her head on the palm of her hand.

“Excuse me”

A gentle female voice interrupted our conversation

“Here’s your order ma’am,” she said while placing the plates gently on the table.

What catches my attention the most is the thing on the plate she placed carefully.

The odor it spreads that tickles my nostrils, its glazy color, and the juices it extracts and the sizzling sound it makes. It is just a regular T-bone steak with all the vegies on the sides but, what is this? I feel like I never smelled such an aroma before. It was so intense that my mouth is drooling, just by smelling it takes me to dreamland!

The dumbfound face I am expressing catches the eyes of Cerise and she gave off a chuckle. Embarrassed of what I just did, I poised myself and act the normal way I would while tidying my wrinkled cloths. But later on, I noticed that the waitress returned carrying a familiar looking drinking cup although it is made of wood I know that it’s definitely it. Bubbles are oozing from its rim and as if I can hear the fizzing sounds it makes.

‘That smell that I am accustomed with and the color, definitely! It’s beer! I’ve been yearning for it for three days now!’ I said to myself

While the waitress placed the beer steins on the table, Cerise grabbed the stein on her side of the table and slowly raised it towards me.

“I don’t really want to treat you for dinner but consider this as something a normal person will do when he found a new acquaintance.” She said.

“Well, you are the first person I knew in this place. So yeah, an acquaintance it is.” I then raised mine and bumped it on her beer stain.

“Bottoms up!” I added, then we both chug it down our throats.

“Ha! Now that hits the spot!” I said almost finishing it with one shot. Then I started munching the meal in front of me.

“Hey, it is kinda late to ask, but where are you from?”

I was halted from what I am doing then thought to myself, ‘if I explained to her my situation, that I am not originally from this land, not from this world to be exact. How would she react? Will she burst out laughing then think that I am a mentally retarded person?’ I’ve been thinking about it for some time now, and I don’t want her hanging by a moment.

Wait, what am I thinking? It’s not like I’m proposing to someone right? Well, it is really hard to say the truth especially if I told to her that I am not from this world. Anyway, it’s better to tell the fact than to make something out.

“Well, you see... I am...” but before I could finish, the door of the tavern opens along a loud slamming sound. Then a man catching his breath shows up with a horrified look on his face.



“W-welcome sir... how may I help you?” One of the waitress of the tavern said. The man walks closer to her and then holds one of her wrist firmly.

“Ouch... sir you don’t need to grab my wrist that hard.” She said, complaining on how hard his grip on her wrist is.

“They...” he said still catching his breath

Seeing the pain of the waitress, one of the customers interrupted him.

“Hey bud, I think you’re gripping her too hard.” A man near the waitress said.

“Hey mister, if you are just going to scare our lady over there, something bad will happen to you.” a customer shouted from afar, then the other male regulars burst out on laughter after hearing it.

But there is something weird about this guy. I can’t say it directly but there is some kind of liquid flowing from his back, I can’t clearly identify it due to the dim lighting of the tavern, but definitely, there is something dripping down from his back down to his legs, and he is sweating really hard, he even looks paler for every moment that passes.

“You idiots, they are coming...” he said, but this time he seems to be in pain, like he is suffering from something.

He took a deep breath then shouted as loud as he can with his remaining strength.

“A horde of orcs are coming this way!” after shouting his final words, he pukes out blood and spill it on the tavern floor, then falls on the ground revealing a massive slash wound crossing from his right shoulder all the way down almost covering his whole back.

The waitress screams and the pub’s customers are startled, even Cerise is shocked from what she just heard that she immediately stands up from where she is sitting.

Then in a split of a second, the terror began. The battle horns of the guards are sounded along with the loud chiming sound of the church’s bell, echoing throughout the whole village, giving off a warning that a bloody battle will soon occur.

The people inside rushed out of the tavern in panic, bumping the tables and chairs as they run for the door. The whole place is now a mess.

Cerise waited for a while for the people to exit the vicinity before she steps out. I also rushed out as soon as the door is clear to see what is going on, and what I saw with my own eyes terrifies me.

People running here and there screaming while looking for a place to hide, children being dragged by their parents, even if the child stumbles and falls on the ground from running, their parents still pulls them like a baggage.

They are rushing towards the southern entrance. So one thing is for sure, the attack started on the Northern part of the village.

We are currently on the central district so it is easy to determine where the attackers are.

Smokes are covering the night sky, flames illuminate a certain part of the village, and a loud roar can be heard from not afar.

“Josh watch out!” Cerise’s screamed, seeing her rushing towards me caught my attention. As I turn my gaze to where she is looking at, a seven foot tall buffed beast wielding an axe appeared in front of me, swinging his huge double-edged battle axe up and is about to split me in half.

Hearing its loud roar terrifies the soul out of me, all I can do is to cover myself with my hands. In that instant, I am trembling in fear that my knees and legs are shaking. I closed my eyes then held my breath thinking that this may be the end for me. Then I heard a splattering sound followed by a loud thud and a clinking sound of metal. At that time, I somehow felt the ground shake a bit.

I opened my eyes and to my surprise, nothing bad happened to me. Although confused, I am certainly happy that I am still breathing.

In front of me, the beast is now dead on the ground with a large slash wound on its neck, blood spilling out from it.

“Having a hard time kiddo?” a man holding a pair of daggers said just next to the body of the dead orc in front.

And as I look closer, the view surprised me that I replied instantly.

“You’re that butcher guy in the meat shop!”

## **Sequence Four: Mayhem**

“You’re that butcher guy in the meat shop!” surprised as he is, Josh could only manage to point his finger towards him.

“Please, don’t call me like that.” The man in front of Josh said while touching his forehead due to the unexpected reaction of Josh.

“And you should at least say ‘thank you’ instead of pointing your finger to me.” He added.

But the idea that this man could slay a terrifying creature easily still bothers Josh’s thoughts. The first time he met this person, his first impression was ‘a nasty guy who likes to tease young girls’. But now, he looks more like someone who has a lot of experience in fighting with a talent on landing an instant kill to the enemy.

His perspective for this person sure did changed after seeing what he can do, as he looks to the body of a dead orc with a deep wound on its neck.

“Cardel, what are you doing here?” Cerise asked, curious about the reason why he is here, most of the time it could be a coincidence but to appear exactly when they needed is another.

"I was taking my family to an evacuation area provided when I saw you guys in trouble." He answered while walking closer to the two and stops to where Josh is.

He lifts his hand that is currently holding a dagger and points the tip of the dagger to Josh's throat.

"What's more interesting is..." He said while pointing his dagger to Josh's neck.

"The moment you arrived in this village, soon after, this crisis happens to our place. Why is that?" he added staring daggers to Josh while still pointing the actual dagger on his neck.

Though the last sentence was meant to be a question, but the facial expression he has says that he doesn't need an answer.

"Well, I don't really know..." Josh answered while having a worried face.

"Huh? Can't clearly hear ya." Cardel said coldly while almost trusting the dagger on Josh's neck while closing in his face to Josh.

"...Coincidence maybe?" he added, as he gulps down his saliva knowing that things are getting serious.

There is a moment of silence for the three, while Cardel's expression remains the same. Cerise is about to intervene, when suddenly out of nowhere, a small 'pttf' came out from Cardel.

"Ha! I caught you this time kid!" he said laughing like crazy.

"I didn't had the chance to tease you back then." He added still laughing

And the pair was dumbfounded and annoyed seeing his reaction, especially Cerise that looks so irritated at the moment.

"Hoooh! That was rich. You should see the looks on your faces." Cardel said still laughing like crazy.

"That's it; I'm going to take down this clown first." Cerise said, loading her bow with an arrow and points it to Cardel.

"Hey, hey, Cerise calm down a bit. He doesn't mean it, it's a joke anyway." Josh said blocking Cerise sight on Cardel, both surprised and relief that everything was just for this guy's entertainment.

But Cerise seems to be fixed on her resolve, every time Josh blocks her view on Cardel, she moves on her sides to have a better view on her target

"Anyway, Cerise, I need your help." Cardel said, turning the hilarious moment to a serious one

"And you too kid." Turning his head to Josh.

"Huh?" was all Josh could say

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"How's the barrier doing?" a female voice said

"It is currently stable for now, but I don't think our mages can handle it until reinforcement arrives my lady." An old man answers.

"Tsk!" was all that is heard from the female while she walks towards the front door of the mansion to check the status of the battle raging on while an old man follows her silently.

Outside, she noticed a huge crowd of orcs beyond the barrier, desperately attacking it just to get through. But the barrier created by her mages is strong enough that any means of attacks are deflected, the orcs are just bouncing off as they hit the barrier like a ball hitting a wall. But the soldiers inside can engage an attack to the beasts which gives them the tactical advantage.

But though it seems like a 'perfect protection' for the humans inside, it may crumble any moment because of the tired mages unable to sustain it.

"Just by looking at our mages, I think they can only sustain it for about an hour or less." The old man from earlier said.

"I know I'm not blind. I can see how tired they are." She replied, getting annoyed because of the situation of the battlefield.

"So what will you do?" the man said

She looks at the man with irritation, the question the man asked her was simple, "What are her orders for them" but to her it sounded like a provocation questioning her ability to command her troops.

"Ready the archers!" She commanded, and in an instant two diagonal line, composing of ten archers each appears behind her. Raising her hand as a signal, the line of archers loaded their bows with arrows.

"Fire!"

With her command, a hail of arrows flew above her to the area where the enemies are packing up, hitting multiple foes on different areas of their body. Some on the head, others on the chest, a few on their necks while others are hit from the opening on their mouths piercing through the back of their necks. Splattering sounds are heard everywhere.

The barrage of arrows continues until some of the archers runs out of ammunition. Even though it seems like they have the upper hand, the enemies just seems to stack up again now in a much greater number than before.

"Just how many of these ugly creatures are out there?!" she exclaimed, seeing the multiplying numbers of orcs coming near the barrier.

"Stop firing! Save your arrows!" she ordered and her command was passed down from one person to another.

"Men! Prepare your weapons and eliminate everything that comes near the barrier especially those who doesn't look like a human being!" She commanded.

As soon as she said it, the remaining guards pulls out their sword and picks up their spear, went close to the barrier and started stabbing everything that moves beyond the barrier.

Confident on the capabilities of her soldiers, she turns her back on the battle and walks away towards the mansion door.

'If we can maintain this phase of the battle until reinforcements arrive, then...' she thought while reaching the knob of the mansion's door.

But before she could clasp the knob a loud explosion shook the whole ground while smoke made of dust are covering the view beyond where the impact was felt.

"What was that?!" she asked, immediately turning her around in surprise.

"From the amount of force it gives off, it's probably a second tier explosion magic." One of the mages shouted while still holding its position to maintain the barrier.

"What? How could these savages obtain such ability? And to evoke magic? Don't mess with me!" she immediately responded, startled by the fact that if it is true, then it can definitely change the tide of the battle.

"But as far as I know, it is definitely a fire type magic my lady." The mage replied

As the smoke outside the barrier slowly settles down, a huge shadow forming from a distant walks closer to the barrier, gradually revealing itself.

The female commander's eyes widen from the sight while her men trembles in fear seeing the creature beyond the barrier that protects them.

A huge orc bigger than the normal ones revealed himself after the dust cloud settles, wearing a black hooded cloak with an elaborated design while holding a wooden staff with skulls as decorative on it.

"I-it's... A-a..." a voice of a trembling man said

"...An orc warlock!" One of the mages said while he stutters his words.

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The scent of burning flesh along with the cracking sound produced by some scorched wood fills the nostrils of Josh, as bright crimson flames lit most of the parts of the village; their eyes are filled by the sight of burning houses one after another while dead bodies of both humans and orcs are found on almost every corner.

Three shadows could be seen from a distance running on the burning streets of the village.

"Hey guys, can we slow down a bit?" Josh exclaimed to the two running ahead of him while he catches his breath as he tags along.

"We need to hurry kid or we won't be able to obtain what we intended there." Cardel said, looking back to the exhausted boy behind him.

"Where are we going anyway?" Cerise asked while maintaining her running speed. Cardel points to an uphill where a huge mansion is located.

"There." He said.

While the three are getting closer to the mansion, Josh notices something that is glowing that resembles a transparent wall that surrounds the ground of the mansion.

“What’s that high-rise purple light surrounding it supposed to be?” Josh asked in confusion, maintaining his sluggish running speed.

“Seems like a barrier.” Cardel answered, unsure if it is or it is not.

“What are we after there anyway, Cardel?” Cerise asked while still sprinting

“A damsel in distress.” Cardel said with a smile on his face.

“Oh, you mean your mistress?” Cerise said with an arching eyebrow. “I better report this to your wife.” She added.

“No it’s not!” he answered Cerise with a troubled look yet still maintaining his comical personality as he responds to her.

But the three of them stops on running after hearing a loud explosion followed by a thick cloud of smoke on the side of the glowing purple light.

“We’re running out of time, move it kiddos!”

They continued on running towards the mansion but took a little detour on a higher ground on the side to have a safer distance and a better scouting place for them to assess the situation.

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Raising his staff a red colored magic circle with runic writings on the exterior surrounding the whole circle appears before the warlock and after a few seconds, a massive fireball shoots out from the circle and hits the barrier protecting the humans inside. The impact shook the entire wall protecting the mansion and its ground.

The trembling of the ground made the people inside stumble and fell on the ground.

Noticing it, the warlock again fired another round, hitting the same area where the previous one hits, he do it repeatedly until a cracking sound is heard after the recent explosion.

Everyone is shock, including the female commander leading them when they saw a wide dent on the barrier that is slowly spreading as time passes by. Noticing it, the warlock continues on assaulting the wall that protects the humans inside.

“God, if this continues on, the barrier will shatter.” One of the mages said

“Hold the barrier as long as you can!” the man beside the commander said.

“My lady I think you need to flee now.” The man said worried for her safety.

The female didn’t say a word for a couple of minutes; she just stands there with an agonized look on her face.

“Gearfried, did I just failed again?” she said in anguish, knowing that this will cost the life of his men.

“You did your best my lady.” The man replied, but his answer also confirms her that they are losing this skirmish.

The woman commanding the army that is protecting the mansion could only clench her teeth upon hearing it.

Being hit repeatedly, the dent of the barrier widens until it almost covers the entirety of the barrier that’s protecting the scared soldiers who are slowly losing their morale to fight.

Knowing that if the barrier is breached, the orcs can now attack them directly and just by looking at their numbers, it will definitely be a massacre.

As the orc’s warlock raises his arm that is holding the staff to launch the final attack to break the now cracked barrier, a flashing light on his side coming from a distance passes through the warlock then hits on a tree nearby snapping it into two.

Due to it, the orc halts his attack and changes his view to the direction where the projectile landed and saw an arrow pierced deep on the ground.

But before he could turn his eyes to where the arrow came from, a warm red-shower starts to spray on his face followed by a tremendous pain he felt on his shoulder. The warlock screams in agony due to the immense pain and realizes that he lost his whole arm on the process.

Crippling in pain, he desperately points to the location where the projectile came from and ordered the other orcs near him to go to the location he is pointing.

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“Looks like you pissed him badly.” Cardel said

“I think so, I just did what you told me.” Cerise answered while holding her bow.

“Can you cast another one on that area?” Cardel added, while pointing to a horde of orcs charging on the side of the mansion.

“You’ll be paying me big time for this. And I won’t accept goods as payment.” She said while frowning.

“Sure, sure. Whatever you say.”

Cerise then loaded her bow with another arrow then pulls its string as hard as she could. While stretching her bow, a small bluish-white magic circle appears on her left eye just enough to cover its entirety, followed by a bigger one in front of her arching bow. The circle in front of her bow created another one bigger than the other and then followed by another until it creates three layers of magic circles that the latter is larger than its predecessor is.

Using the magic circle on her left eye as a vision amplifier, she can clearly see the enemies and now has a higher accuracy to hit them because of the zooming effect it has.

After stretching her bow far enough, she releases her hold on the arrow and in an instant the arrow flies in light speed as it creates a straight line of bluish-white light.

Upon impact, the horde running towards the side of the barrier that is being targeted by her scatters like a mound of leaves blown away by the wind.

“Based on the impact and damage, I’ll give it a perfect ten.” Cardel said with meticulous eyes observing the destruction made by the arrow.

“But for your posture... probably a seven.” He added while squatting, observing Cerise’s posture after releasing the arrow, with a ‘yeah, probably around that range’ look.

“Quit joking around. A crowd of orcs are going this way.” Cerise said loading another round on her bow.

“Do you think he’ll be alright?” she added while looking on the approaching orcs and stretching her bow to fire again.

“Who? Your man?” Cardel said, still not taking the situation seriously.

“You want me to shoot that goofy face of yours here and now?” Cerise said recalibrating the bow to Cardel’s position.

“Don’t worry, He’ll be fine... I hope so.” He answered.

“Anyway, let’s welcome these visitors that we have first.” He added while he starts on unsheathing the daggers he has that are strapped on his sides.

Cerise fires another shot with the same level of destruction to the mass running towards them, greatly reducing the amount of orcs coming their way. Seeing it as an opportunity, Cardel took the initiative to attack the remaining forces.

Dashing towards the orcs outnumbering him, Cardel charges forward with unbelievable speed, as he slash the one running ahead from the group with his blades and immediately kills it then dashes forward again, taking down a few more.

The orcs then started so surround him, creating a circle to block any means of escape. Seeing this as a form of challenge, Cardel, instead of being troubled by the act of the orcs is now all fired up and excited.

“So, you wanna dance?” he said with a grin on his face while being surrounded.

An orc initiates an attack using his club, swinging it madly, but the only thing he hits was air because Cardel dodged every single one of his swings. Then at the same time another one attacked using his axe but Cardel just dodged if gracefully.

Cardel jumps towards one of the beasts that attacked him and slashes its neck quickly, as he lands on the ground the blood coming from the neck of the orc he just slashed is spraying the others nearby. The spurting blood was so sophisticated that the neck of the orc resembles that of a fountain.

Although it is not normal for this savages, the remaining orcs then coordinated their attacks. A swing of an orc’s axe when dodged is followed by another one wielding another weapon and so on, this continues on for some time but Cardel managed to dodge it while taking down an orc one at a time.



“Hey is that all you got?” He said while jumping backwards to distance himself from the barrage of attacks the orcs are sending him. But as he landed, he slips one of his foot.

‘A puddle?’ he thought, but he remembers that it didn’t rain the whole day, so it would be imposible for a puddle to exist.

But when he took a quick look on his foot that slipped, he then realized that it is not due to spilled water that there is a puddle nearby, it is due to the blood of the orcs that he slayed and has already moisten the soil around them, making it both slimy and muddy.

The orcs noticed that Cardel lost his footing and finds it as an opportunity initiated an attack, but before they could even come closer, Cardel flings one of his daggers hitting the orc advancing on its head then with the use of his other foot, he pushes his body forward tackling the orc in front and slamming him on the other two orcs that are waiting to attack behind.

As the four of them crashed on the ground, Cardel immediately pulls out the dagger he threw with his right hand on the orc’s forehead and stabs it to the other orc underneath on its face while the remaining one was stabbed directly on its eyeball by the other dagger he has on his left hand.

Feeling victorious and tired, Cardel puts his guard down and sat on the dead bodies of the slain orcs, breathing deep and hard. But when he looks up, a shadow blocks his view of the night sky. Alas! Another orc was standing behind him, ready to swing his sword to split him in half!

But in his surprise, the orc was immediately neutralized by a shot on the head with a piercing arrow penetrating through its skull, leaving a huge hole on its forehead then falls down quickly to the ground.

Knowing that it was Cerise who helped him out, he lifts his hand and gave Cerise a thumbs-up.

“Jerk.” She said looking at Cardel sitting on the dead bodies of the orcs.

“I hope he made it.” she thought while looking on the mansion.

\*\*\*

Just a few meters away from the battle, Josh managed to enter the mansion grounds unnoticed by both the orcs and the humans inside. Creeping and hiding on the bushes and other dark parts of the mansion, Josh looks for a possible entrance to get inside.

‘Why did I even say yes in the first place?’ he thought getting worried and scared of what he is doing now.

Worried on being caught either by the humans inside the barrier or by the orcs outside, he carefully infiltrates the mansion and was able to find a way inside when he discovers an open window.

He slowly slips one of his leg inside followed by other leg until more than half of his body length got through. Just as he’s about to slips his head in, an explosion along with a strong racking of the ground occurs and by that, Josh accidentally bumps his head on the window frame and slides inside the mansion.

‘Damn that Cardel, he should be the one doing this!’ he taught, holding the bump on his head as he walks inside scanning the area.

The whole interior of the mansion is almost covered by dark shadows especially the corners; if not for the lighting provided by the windows on the sides the whole place would be pitch-black.

Since the people guarding the mansion are busy fighting outside there are no guards on standby, making it easier for Josh to search the whole area.

'Hmmm... if I remember carefully Cardel told me to...' he thought while recalling what Cardel told him.

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*"Listen kid, that barrier only allows human to pass through it."*

*"Look for a girl around her teens inside the mansion."*

*"She's definitely on the second floor... then tell her this..."*

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'Oh now I remember!'

Josh then starts on looking in every room in the mansion's second floor, opening it slowly one by one looking for the girl Cardel vaguely mentioned.

"Nope, not here." He said to the first door he opened

"Neither here." He said on the fifth door

"Not also in here."

And after a few more minutes, he arrives on the last door on the inner most part of the second floor.

'This is the final room in this floor.' He said to himself and slowly opening it.

"Hello?" he said while slowly opening the door wider until it is completely open.

'Hmmm... looks like no one's here.' He thought and then turns around to walk away from the room.

"Who's there?" a soft, gentle voice stops him from walking further away. He turns around but saw nothing in the room.

'This is getting creepy.' He thought, not seeing a single person inside the room.

"Uhm... Where are you exactly?" Josh said, while scanning the room.

"I'm under the bed." The voice replied

"What are you doing under the bed?"

"I hid myself after hearing a lot of explosions." she answered

"Oh, makes sense."

"Can you help me out? I'm somehow stuck." The voice pleaded

"Sure, I'll get you out of there."

Josh slowly walks inside the room, he gently kneels down near the bed then carefully lifts the skirts of the bed and found a blond haired girl on her early teenage hiding under, wearing a cute looking white nightgown while hugging a large pillow. He helped her get out under it, and assisted her to sit on the edge of the bed.

“Are you one of the guards?” she asked calmly as she looks straight to him without blinking.

“Well... no, sad to say.” He answered while waving his hands in front of her continuously.

“Oh I see, then, how is it outside?” the girl said, still looking straight at him

“Well, it’s... kinda messy if you ask me.” Josh answered stopping the thing he is doing then takes a side step, but to his surprise, the girl is still looking straight on his previous position without even moving her eyes then answers him normally.

“Is that so?” she said with a worried tone and an anxious face.

“But I’m sure the guards can pull this one off.” He declared, assuring the child that everything will be fine.

“Anyway do you happen to know a girl named Stella la Berviere?” Josh asked the girl.

The girl just smiles in front of Josh and gently responds to his question.

“That would be me.”

