
Adventures of Naldela Isur'Ra Teleyal

Kromonos

October 17, 2020

Contents

Trigger/Content warning	4
Offtopic	4
Copyright	4
eBook publishing	4
The calendar	5
Flamerule 1, 1359 DR	6
Marpenoth 23, 1359 DR	6
Nightal 31, 1359 DR	7
Hammer 7, 1360 DR	8
Ches 21, 1360 DR	9
Kythorn 12, 1360 DR	10
Kythorn 13, 1360 DR	11
Kythorn 14, 1360 DR	11
Kythorn 18, 1360 DR	12
Kythorn 23, 1360 DR	12
Kythorn 27, 1360 DR	13
Flamerule 4, 1360 DR	14
Flamerule 5, 1360 DR	15
Flamerule 9, 1360 DR	16
Flamerule 13, 1360 DR	16
Flamerule 21, 1360 DR	17
Eleasis 21, 1360 DR	18
Uktar 18, 1360 DR	19

Uktar 20, 1360 DR	20
Uktar 18 - 20, 1360DR [From Nimris view]	21
Uktar 22, 1360 DR	22
Nightal 8, 1360 DR	22
Nightal 22, 1360DR	23
Hammer 3, 1361DR	25
Alturiak 10, 1361 DR	25
Alturiak 10, 1361 DR – Ykriil POV	26
Alturiak 15, 1361 DR	27
Alturiak 20, 1361 DR	28
Mirtul 1, 1361 DR	29
Kythorn 3, 1361 DR	30
Flamerule 5, 1361 DR	32

Trigger/Content warning

This ebook may contain content of an adult nature that some viewers may find offensive. If you are under the age of 18, if such material offends you or if it’s illegal to view such material in your community, please do not read the parts marked with CW and/or TW.

Trigger- and Contentwarning: This ebook may contain sexual assaults and/or violent phrases or allusions to such things, which may be triggers some people.

Offtopic

Copyright

The texts written by me are available at CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. You can find the full text of the license at <https://teleyal.blog/cc-license>.

The use of the texts, in parts or as a whole, on other platforms is only permitted under the naming, optimally with linking, of the original author.

The copyright for the character names, specifications and character sheets of my characters is owned by me. Their use for other characters or stories is **not allowed**, unless you I have permission! The use of the names, as well as clear variations, is **not permitted** in any case if they are intended to harm my characters or me.

eBook publishing

At the moment I will only publish the English version, because it’s much more work than I thought. I also will not publish a new version of the eBook directly after a new post.

The calendar

The dates given in the blog are based on the calendar from the Forgotten Realms. Hammer is thus comparable to January, Alturiak February, and so on.

Month	Name	Common name
1	Hammer	Deepwinter
2	Alturiak	The Claw of Winter
3	Ches	The Claw of the Sunsets
4	Tarsakh	The Claw of the Storms
5	Mirtul	The Melting
6	Kythorn	The Time of Flowers
7	Flamerule	Summertime
8	Eleasis	Highsun
9	Eleint	The Fading
10	Marpenoth	Leaffall
11	Uktar	The Rotting
12	Nightal	The Drawing Down

Flamerule 1, 1359 DR

“Seke khalith mii’n tluin hyrr’ol xuil dosstan. Rak’nes vel’drav klezn inbau dubo” were my father’s first sentences in the language of the Drow. In his language it would probably mean as much as “True courage means to be honest with yourself. Especially when it gets difficult”. While I go through the movements given by my mother, as well as my teacher in elemental magic and Kyone veldrin, with my staff on the training dummy, I always think a lot about these sentences and do not understand what he wanted to say to us, me and my sister Miara.

We still live in the small hut south of Menzoberranzan, directly on the Darklake, which my father built for us after he and my mother were banished from Sshamath. They wanted to start again here, but never got it made easy. Again and again our property was attacked by rebels. Faral was sure that they were hired by the houses in Menzoberranzan, but there was never any proof of it.

Today, however, it seemed quiet around the city. I granted myself a little break, pushed my blindfold up, supported myself with my staff and watched my sister take care of a new seedling. She seemed so peaceful and carefree that I envied her more than once for not possessing any magical abilities or even a talent for them. But she had a talent for growing trees where they never grew before. Her newest seedling is a Sussur and she is wildly determined to let it thrive there. Not far away, my mother cared for my father’s grave. Like every first day of a month, she puts a nightshade on the grave. She says it was his favourite flower and the first one he gave her. I never expected her to be so sensitive.

Marpenoth 23, 1359 DR

The stone is getting colder and I am looking forward to the theoretical class, because meanwhile I have pulverized the third mannequin and even if my mother seemed to be proud of me, she drives me further as if I was a useless golem.

After the ashes of the training dummy collapsed, she stood in front of me, ready to fight. I asked her, “What’s this going to be,” but she only tilted her head slightly and swung her staff, from which a spherical lightning came at me, which I could only barely avoid. “Do you want to kill me?” I shouted at her. “A doll is a too easy target. You should practice with someone who can defend himself” she replied calmly and already hurled another bullet at me. Unfortunately I could not avoid this time and she caught me at my arm. Determined, despite the pain, I pushed the lower end of the stick to the ground. The resulting sparks spread into a two-metre-wide carpet of lightning that moved towards my mother. At the same time I followed him and pulled out my staff to strike a blow.

When I came to myself again, I lay in the dirt. “What happened?” I whispered as I pulled myself together again. “You have forgotten your cover yourself” my mother warned me as she pushed her staff into my ribs. “Again” she demanded.

Nightal 31, 1359 DR

The cycle is drawing to a close. From the direction of the city one could already hear the celebrations, partly even see them. Mother always looked forward to the “event” in a relaxed manner. On this day we always had a mushroom soup, decorated with a Bigwig, and a good Gorgondy wine or, if she got through to one of her friends among the dwarves, Samman.

Usually such evenings are always quiet, but the five drunks who roared towards our property seemed to mean more trouble. Mother gave me her stave. A real magician focus. Even though we were getting angrier, I still seemed to smile. When I touched the stave, I felt its power flowing through me. I felt as if I could crush stone. When the figures were close enough, the first bottle of Ale flew towards Miara and smashed next to her on a stone. “Well, who have we here?” grunted one of the Drow. “The outcast with her two abnormalities. There were almost three of them, weren’t there?” whereupon he laughed gloatingly and the others pulled their daggers. Mother immediately took up fighting position and held the dagger ready, which father, on his way to the Underdark, got forged by the dwarves. “You’d better leave before I water our vegetables with your blood” she warned the figures, who obviously didn’t seem intimidated. “What do you want to do, love?” one of the Drow asked, who was apparently the leader and so close to her that he held his dagger to her neck. Apparently he hadn’t noticed that mother had already placed her dagger in his crotch. “She replied calmly and pressed the dagger more firmly into his crotch. While he laughed, the one who threw the bottle at Miara approached me.”With your black eyes you could almost scare me” he grinned stupidly and carved a hole in my top. “Leave her alone” Miara screamed as she rammed her fists into the ground. From her fists one could perceive a quake before two massive stones came out of the ground and flew towards the two stinking Drow. Mother’s Drow could barely avoid the stone, but his colleague was not so lucky and fell down unconscious on the ground. While I looked astonished at Miara, mother took the opportunity and cut the Drow’s throat. Two of the three others seemed to think that the effort was no longer worth it and fled, while the last one screamed at Mother. I didn’t think any further and hurled a bolt of bullet lightning at the Drow, which made him tremble and go to the ground. After Mother rammed the dagger into the trembling Drow’s skull on the floor, she threw it at me and said, “Finish it and get rid of the bodies”, she ordered to me and looked at Miara, "Miara, we have to talk!

While mother and sister disappeared in the house, my gaze wavered between the dagger and the unconscious Drow at my feet. I was unsure if I could do it, but I knelt down next to him and hesitantly put on the dagger. “You can do it” I whispered quietly to myself, closed my eyes and ... stabbed.

Hammer 7, 1360 DR

Just as I was going through some new movements with Mother, a voice rang out behind us. A deep, feminine voice. Mother seemed to know who she was, because she put a hand directly on the dagger on her belt. When we turned to the voice, I recognized her as well. Lysha Backdorn. A narcissistic sociopathic leader and teacher of the Magician Academy called Mallagea, which is more than obviously an indoctrinative training centre for assassins. And she wasn't alone either. A few feet behind her a group of different cultures gathered. Dwarves with battle hammers, Drow with magic staff and some elves with shield and sword. At first sight I couldn't see how many there are, but I could spot some banners of the Mybus Larco and Bigot’Fong. Apparently Lysha doesn't want to burn her own apprentices, so she brought her allies with. However, they didn't seem to be very battle experienced. Many of them looks nervous and insecure.

Since I refused her invitation to the academy, she seemed very eager to maltreat the Teleyal family's reputation and apparently found favour with the simplicity of naive, meaningless groups. "Why haven't three of my scouts returned?" Lysha asked slightly angry, whereupon mother quietly replied "And why do you think you know that I know?" "Because they were here" it came demanding. "And why do you send scouts to my property?" wipes mother out. Obviously that wasn't the answer Lysha wanted to hear, because she took a big step back and gave a signal to the mob with her left hand, whereupon the dwarves started attacking us with a battle cry. Mother didn't hesitate for long and with a few hand movements she pulled the dagger from the belt and created a magic shield which protected us from the fireballs of the magicians. After a moment's hesitation, I swung mother's staff as she taught me and threw a large ball of energy at the dwarves, who trembled and fell to the ground. Meanwhile Lysha seemed to have retreated to the magicians. "Don't get your hands dirty yourself" mother mumbled and tried to come after her. After a few steps lightning seemed to form around her and all of a sudden she stood behind Lysha, past the wall of the rather small mages. Mother didn't hesitate long and rammed the dagger through Lysha's neck into her head. "You defamed our family the last time and your lying sociopaths, whom you call friends, are the next!" their determined voice was heard through the mob, whereupon the magicians turned around in surprise. Before they could swing their staffs, I remembered the carpet of lightning I had accidentally conjured up a few weeks ago and rammed the end of my staff into the floor, whereupon the spectacle repeated itself and shocked the magicians. The fact that Lysha was bleeding out of his mouth, kneeling in front of mother, and that the magicians were unable to fight seemed to doubt the Elven Archers and to take a few steps back. Mother still held Lysha on her knees and looked at the freshmen. "If you're smart, don't let yourself be taken in by such lower personalities. Make up your own mind instead of going blind in a war you have absolutely nothing to do with," mother taught the clearly intimidated followers. I think they heard the words, but for fear of ending up as outcasts, like us, they will continue to maintain their weak-willed, reprehensible personality and continue to play the perfidious games of the Academy. Mother pulled the dagger out of

Lyshas head and let the body fall to the ground. “Run before we change our minds and kill you instead of stupefying you” she demanded and put a kick in the dead body in front of her “And take your trash with you”.

So we let them collect the bodies and disappear in peace. “How did you do that?” I asked Mother, “That was impressive” I continued enthusiastically “Do you really think you are ready for this?” Why did she always think that I was not ready? “Why shouldn’t I?” I asked her confidently. “Well then. We’ll start training tomorrow, but now you’re going to bandage my wound. One of the archers caught me in the arm.”

Ches 21, 1360 DR

Although I don’t like to be the center of attention, I always loved my birthdays. A human custom introduced by father. Mother always sent us outside in the morning to collect so that she could take the kitchen apart in peace. She was a grandiose alchemist and elemental, but after baking or cooking the kitchen always looked like a Night Hunter had raged, which is why Miara or I usually took over. Even though she was a natural disaster in the kitchen, her cakes were always tasty.

When Miara and I came back from collecting, Mother had already decorated the house a little. Not much, since mother knew my dislikes, but it was obvious. A small garland and a festively laid table with a cake in the middle. Behind her place lay a great gift. About 4 feet in length, but very narrow. What could that be? “There you are finally” it came from the kitchen.

It was a festive meal. She had surpassed herself again. After we had cleared the table, mother fingered a bottle from the shelves. A 150 year old Samman from the Duergar. “I have kept this bottle for a long time” she says to herself, while she looks at the bottle slightly dreamy. “Your father brought it. I’ve always wondered how he got the grim pessimists to give him a bottle of their best ales,” she says, slightly snivelling and pours out 3 cups. “Your training is going well” she addressed to me “You have already proven your magic in several situations, so we should make your training more interesting. Miara, can you please?”. She pointed to the longish package that Miara gave me with a comment “Wow, that’s hard”.

Instead of what usual, I tore away the packaging and opened the box. My mother’s battlestave came out. “I can not accept that” I said as I slid my fingers gently over the stave. The jumping sparks from the stave into my fingers were not unpleasant, on the contrary. And although I touched the stave only gently, I felt the power flowing through my fingers into me. “Yes, you can. I have tuned it to you and it should serve you faithfully, as it did to me in the slave revolt of Sshamath”. When I took it out of the box, sparks poured into my arm and the crystal at the tip lit up. “It’s beautiful” came enthusiastically from me. “I will hold him in honour” I assured mother.

Kythorn 12, 1360 DR

The last few months have passed quietly. Mother says this is the calm before the storm and we should be prepared for everything. For this reason she also gave me the family dagger. “Always have it ready to hand. Even at night” she demanded when she handed it over to me.

On the night of the 13th day she hectically woke us up: “Get into your war clothes and grab your weapons!” she just shouted and disappeared again on the ground floor. The war robe? I wore it only once and then only so that Mother would see that it fit me.

As soon as Miara and I were laced up, a horn sounded, not far from our property. “Is that the sound of a war horn?” I asked Miara, who answered me with a trembling voice: “I have no idea. I hope not”. We grabbed our weapons and went to our mother, who was already waiting for us outside the door. “They come from the hill there,” she pointed to a small hill which it glowed up reddish. “This is the storm” she explained calmly, as if she had expected it. I wonder what’s coming towards us.

It didn’t take long until the first flag bearers could be seen. The flags of the Mallagea, Mybus Larco and Bigot’Tong. Why wasn’t I surprised? What surprised me, however, was that they apparently called together a whole regiment. For two and a half magicians. When they were only a few hundred feet away from our property, a Drow on a lizard approached us while the rest waited. It was Maris Nyr, the leader of the Mybus Larco guild, riding directly towards my mother. “Isn’t it enough?” my mother asked with a calm voice, while I held my staff slightly trembling. “We really tried to integrate you and your tala waess. But you had to kill everyone who tried to help you” “So you call the spreading of falsehoods and discredit an attempt of integration? How limited do you have to be in your mind to believe that?” Maris Nyr only slightly pulled his face and rode back to the group.

At the group he pulled his staff from his back and threw a fireball while he turns with his lizard in our direction. At the same moment the pack started moving with a roar. In contrast to Miara and mother I was undecided what I should do. While mother conjured up a shield, Miara made the earth tremble, which upset some of them. When the fireball struck the shield, I was shocked briefly, then took courage and summoned some lightning bullets, big enough to paralyze some of the attackers and throw them to the ground. “Miara, stone wall” mother called over to sister. Determined, Miara rammed her hands into the ground and created an 8 foot high and 20 foot wide stone wall between the attackers and us. “Naldela, now” I got to hear as mother began to put pressure on the wall with a storm. I didn’t try to think for long and did the same as my mother until the stones fell thunderously over the enemy. That we were spared the hail of arrows and the fireballs was due to the quick reactions of mother. She always managed to summon shields at the right moments. But it came as it had to come. Some of the fighters came through to us, despite the obstacles that we put in their way.

Mother implored a huge shield that locked us three, as well as a portal behind Miara that pulled her right in. “Run” she gasped exhausted. “I can’t hold both for long” she shouted in my direction. The pull

of the portal also caught me and slowly pulled me in. “What about you?” - “Don’t worry about me” and just at the moment when the pull of the portal completely caught me, mother’s shield collapsed and before I disappeared completely into the portal, I saw a blade piercing my mother.

Kythorn 13, 1360 DR

I woke up with a headache in a small cave. Apparently a dead end. From the open end of the cave it shimmered in a warm yellow light. “By Lolth, where did I end up here?” I whispered in a soliloquy. When I leaned down to get back on my feet, a stabbing pain forced me to ground again. An arrow apparently caught me on my arm when I was pulled into the portal. He not only ruined the leather, but also left behind a painful, deep cut. I provisionally bandaged the wound, straightened up and magically stowed my staff on my back, as mother taught me. I called “Miara” into the cave, but received no answer except an echo. Since there was no other way, I followed the tunnel towards the light.

The closer I came to the light, the brighter it shone. At some point the light was so bright that it burned in my eyes and I could only have gone on with my eyes closed. I withdrew into the cave and looked away for another one. But there seemed to be none. “What am I doing now?” I spoke slightly desperate to myself as I looked around. I tore a strip of thin cloth from my cape and blindfolded it. “Nothing helps. I have to get out of there” and with these words I walked towards the light again. The fabric was thick enough so that the bright light would not burn my eyes, but thin enough that I could see through it. “I ... I am at the surface” I thought perplexed. I pulled the half mask over my nose and wrapped my cape around me, so that only little of my grey skin was visible and made me on the way.

Kythorn 14, 1360 DR

For a few hours I just moved out straight so that I could find my way back to the cave. As the hunger slowly began to manifest, it began to get so dark that I couldn’t see through the blindfold. I gently lifted it and looked around, “It’s a good thing I didn’t truant the lesson ‘The Surface’ at school” I mumbled softly as I completely wiped off the blindfold. I looked up and spoke “A real star sky” to myself with enthusiasm. However, the rumbling of my stomach brought me back to my senses. I pulled out my dagger and went off the beaten path in the hope of being able to hunt something down.

It took hours, but I could kill a small animal and collect enough firewood for a small camp. As I sat there and looked at the fire as if spellbound, I thought about what had happened. Where was Miara? Did she also land on the surface, like me? I have to find her. She is the only one I have left.

Kythorn 18, 1360 DR

To spare my eyes, I only travelled at night. I hoped to find a nearby village where I could get supplies and ask for Miara, but except for a few small farms, I only found a small trail I followed.

After hours of marching I finally arrived in a small village in the early morning hours. “I needed a shelter before the sun rose” I said to myself and looked around until I discovered a building with a jug on its sign. This must be a tavern, I thought to myself and headed towards it. Before I even reached the door, I saw another building with a picture of a needle and thread. A tailor’s shop? That would be perfect, then I could also repair the crack in my armor.

When I opened the door to the tavern, the pale smell of bad ale and the stench of rotting corpses immediately came towards me. I was unsure whether it would not be better to look for a cave in the forest, but a real bed would be a pleasure. So I faced the noise and carefully braved between the visibly drunk to that, I hoped, who could give me a room. I literally felt some glances following me. I approached the bearded man behind the bar and asked for a room. He wanted 2.5 gold pieces for it. Hopefully there will be at least one meal for it. When I took off the gloves in order to be able to reach for the coins better, suddenly a lady present shouted “A Drow”. Hectically I turned around to watch the reaction of the tavern visitors. Many of the women ran away in panic and the few men who could still hold a sword grabbed it. “I don’t want any trouble” I replied to the two swordtails. “Then crawl back into your hole where you came from” one grunted and pulled out to strike. I pulled out my dagger and could barely fend off the blade. “Please. For today I only need a place to sleep and to eat something, then you’ll get rid of me again” I asked and immediately I heard the host behind me “For Drow, 1 Platinum”, but I didn’t turn around to him and started to walk carefully, always looking to the swordtails, back to the door. I tore them open and fled to the nearby forest. Apparently they are not following me. So I thought, “Hunt something down again and look for a cave”.

Kythorn 23, 1360 DR

I really need a decent bath. The little river that flows through the wood is unsatisfactory and too cold. In addition, I feel observed, which is why I only did one small wash at a time.

After I broke off the small camp, I went on and it didn’t take long until I came across the next village. Hopefully not the same as before, at least the tavern looked very similar to the one from the previous village. When I entered the tavern I saw the same picture as before. Some drunks, a few women, some of whom were very lightly dressed and a bartender with more hair on his face than on his head. I headed straight for him and asked for a room. “You are lucky, young lady. We have only one free room” he replied with a deep, rough voice. He said “3 pieces of gold” shortly afterwards. This time however I did not take off the gloves and fished the coins from the bag. Only good that the currency here seems

to be the same as in the underworld. He accepted the coins gratefully and pulled out a key under the counter. “Follow me, I will show you where the room is. Do you also need hot water for a bath?” he asked me with a smile, to which I answered with a nod. “A bath is included in the price” he proudly mentioned, leading me up a few steps and opening a door near the stairs. As he held the key to me, he looked at me with his head slanting and almost whispered, “Please try to be inconspicuous, some guests are not so inclined towards the Drow as I am” I was surprised. Apparently, he was looking at me more than I thought and hoping. I confirmed him with a nod and entered the room. When the bartender closed the door behind me, I took off the mask and hood and took a deep breath before looking around. A small table with chair, a bed and a small, open wardrobe. Very spartan for 3 gold pieces, but better than another night in the forest.

It didn’t take long until someone knocked on the door. “Your bath is ready” sounded a young, shy woman’s voice. I followed the little brunette into a small room where the bath was deepened in the floor and filled with steaming hot water. “Milady” sounded from the servant who already laid a hand on my robe. I looked at her in surprise, but spread out my arms and let her undress me. She did not answer my question as to whether everyone here would be treated as if they were aristocrats. She constantly directed her gaze to the ground and did not even seem to consider even one look at me. Before I got into the water and leaned back relaxed, I looked at my clothes, which the servant neatly placed on a chair to check if everything was still there. I closed my eyes and leaned my head back. “Ah, that feels good”

Kythorn 27, 1360 DR

For days I have been waking up from these nightmares, bathed in sweat, in which I have again the pictures in front of my eyes of a sword piercing my mother. The small tavern in which I settled today was very lean compared to another one. No bath, bad service and pushy, drunken men.

I pulled a small picture out of my pocket. My mother hired an artist named Maider to create it. It showed my father as well as my mother, who held me in her arms at the age of 8 months. In the picture she looks so carefree, happy and, above all, very much in love. Since the death of my father I had never seen her like that again. I sighed softly before putting the picture back again.

“I have to go back to the Underdark. Miara will probably also be on her way there. I probably won’t find her up here” I whispered quietly. But where did I find an entrance? I fingered a map out of my pocket and looked for the next mountain. I think father once mentioned that he found most of the entrances at the feet of mountains. I didn’t have to search long either. The next mountain was maybe 3 days marches from here.

Flamerule 4, 1360 DR

I had been on the road for days, my eyes already adapted to the daylight, explored dozens of caves, but found none deep enough to reach the underworld. At dusk I stood in front of a narrow cave entrance, hoping that this path would finally bring me back home. Should I go inside now and hope, or should I go hunting again before, as my supplies were running low? I took the risk. At some point I had to be lucky.

The cave went deep into what gave me hope. I climbed 5000 to 6000 feet deep into the tunnel and couldn't believe how lucky I seemed to be. From my position I could get an overview of Menzoberanzan. So it couldn't be far to go home. I climbed down and ran, no, I ran. When I saw the charred remains of our house, I stopped. "No, please don't" I said to myself, shaking my head, before I set myself in motion again. After I got around the ruin, I couldn't grasp the view. They had hung Mother from one of the remaining beams of the house. I ran to her and fell on my knees. "Mom" - That's all I could get over my lips while holding one of her charred feet and staring at the floor.

I was startled when a voice suddenly sounded behind me. It was Miara. "By Eilistraee, you're still alive" but she didn't look very good. Judging from her shredded clothes, she must have been through a lot. I ran to her and hugged her relieved. "Leave me alone with Eilistraee. I certainly don't owe it to her that I'm still alive" she said coldly. I let her go and looked at her in amazement. "I've never seen you like this. What happened?", "Not now. Let us bury mother".

We buried mother next to father and laid both fresh nightshade flowers on their graves. The rest of the day we spent recovering from the ruins of our house what might have survived and found father's second dagger. Apparently the sister piece to the dagger that Mother gave me. "I didn't even know that father had two daggers" I whispered to myself as I looked at him. "Mother and father would have wanted you to have him" I said when I handed him to Miara. As soon as Miara accepted him, a protective stone skin formed around her arm, but I didn't get more than a gentle nod from her.

"I will make this il'neathe regret what they did to us" came resolutely from Miara as we sat by the fire waiting for our food. "It will be the last time they act like they are the law!" I could hardly believe what I heard from Miara. So much hate and finality. "What happened to you" I asked her carefully. "I was thrown into a tree. On the surface. Can you grasp that? My eyes were burning and I couldn't see anything. That I didn't fall from the tree and broke my neck is almost a miracle." - I listened to her silently - "It took me a few days to get used to this nasty light and I actually wanted to look up there for you, too, but I thought I'd have more chances if I came back here again. I didn't know we Drow were so hated up there." She gently shook her head "Again and again I had to flee from a group of human, dwarves and Upperworldelves, because they are too cowardly to mess with one at a time. Vith rath'arg" she cursed "Just like the gang that attacked us here."

We exchanged our experiences from the Upperworld until late and decided that only one of us would

sleep a few hours and the other guard. Because we had to be rested for Miaras plan to infiltrate the academy. She seemed wildly determined and I was thirsting for revenge, too. Mother always preached to us that revenge was not the solution to the problems, but ... no matter.

Flamerule 5, 1360 DR

Hoping for late risers in the academy, we left very early. We were lucky because even the guards seemed to be asleep and we could quickly find a gap through which we could slip in.

We sneaked through the corridors and found the wannabe Drow Barmaeril Bimrassar on the first floor. A pale Overworldelf who made a deal with the academy a few cycles ago, through which she could walk in and out of a Drow facility as if she were one herself. If one looked up her in the dictionary, he would find her under Opportunist. But she seemed to overestimate her own abilities, because Miara already stood behind her and rammed her dagger into the skull of the Magisters.

Arriving on the second floor, we could see light shining from different rooms. “How do we know who is in which room?” I asked Miara quietly, to which she only replied ice-coldly, “I don’t care. I say we slaughter them all!” I looked at Miara in surprise. Room by room we left. Miara left, me right, but so far no sign of the Zarethi, of whom Miara was convinced that they were behind the whole intrigue. Looks like they probably found themselves too formidable to live with the common rabble. We searched for a while until we found a door behind a 7-foot statue through which we entered a new wing of the building. A huge wing, decorated with gold, whose value could only be estimated. “By Eilistraee. How puny must their self-esteem be that they have to compensate for it?” I asked myself while admiring the golden masonry. Miara quietly demanded “Continue”. We crept to a giant, gold-plated double door that opened more easily than it looked. The sleeping chamber was splendidly furnished. Next to the huge canopy bed, of course decorated with gold, there was a bathtub, a very well equipped dressing table and a huge divan. “Seems to be more than just worthwhile as a hypocrite” Miara replied coldly as we approached the bed with the daggers ready.

There they were. Mister and Miss Narcissus. I could look Methyra straight in the face as I squatted next to the bed. Somehow she looked peaceful. When she suddenly opened her eyes and her mouth to scream, I rammed the dagger between her eyes in reflex. Miara looked up briefly, but did not torch for long and did the same with Meloth. “Now get out of here before the guards pass by with their round.” On the way out, we had to bypass some guards. Obviously, their routes were shorter than expected, because they were already looking for us.

We just got off the premises unseen. When we reached our old property, we unmasked ourself. Miara quickly started to make a fire and cook. “What do we do now?” I asked her. “I don’t know what you’re doing, but I’m going back to the surface. There is nothing here but misery and suffering. On my way here I met a group of mercenaries whom I will join” she replied resolutely. There’s nothing left here but

hypocrisy, envy and death. Is that different on the surface? I was unsure, at least the people up there don't seem to be very friendly to Drow. But maybe more friendly than the most Drow down here?

Flamerule 9, 1360 DR

Miara set off again the same night. Uncertain if I will ever see her again. But I stayed a few days longer, cleared away the rubble, covered the graves with stones and put fresh nightshade on them. “F’sarn taudl, ilhar. Usstan’bal ori’gato dos harl.” I spoke quietly to my mother’s grave and could not help but shed a few tears.

While packing a lot of old wooden boxes into my fingers, which survived the fire. When I opened it I saw mother’s jewellery. “Some of it must be worth a fortune” I said quietly while gently stroking the jewellery. When the earrings caught my eye, I couldn’t help but put them on. After a few hundred feet I looked back again and looked at the property. There, where I grew up, were beside 2 graves only rubble and ashes, because it could not bear so some that someone can be lucky, than she herself. I sighed quietly and continued to follow Miaras tracks to the surface.

Shortly before the exit I was thrown with small stones, but at first sight I couldn’t see anybody and moved further towards the exit. But there came more little stones flown. No big ones and they didn’t seem to be aimed, but definitely in my direction. I took out my staff and looked around. Then on a hill I saw a small animal, which still shot the little stones after me. I loaded up my staff and put it on the thing. “If you don’t stop, you’ll be my next meal” I warned, and then it stopped and stared at me with huge eyes, suddenly running at me and stopping in front of me. I tilted my head slightly as I stowed my staff and bent down to the little one. “Up there you looked much bigger” I said to the little being. A hand-sized, blue creature with a white belly, huge eyes and a tongue hanging out. It is very similar to a salamander, but it would be too big for that. But too small for a lizard. “What kind of thing are you?” I asked, although I knew I couldn’t expect an answer. When I approached him with one finger, he grabbed him and nibbled on it. I asked “You must be hungry” while I fingered with the other hand for a piece of bread from my pocket and held it out to him. It jumped at it as if it hadn’t had anything between its cheeks for days. I gave him some more bread and moved on towards the exit, but the little thing followed me. With the bread in between his cheeks, it staggered after me and stumbled over every stone in the way. I bent down to him again and held my hand to him, “Would you like to come with me?”

Flamerule 13, 1360 DR

I lost Miaras tracks on a small river, but my new little friend, who obviously listened to Nimri, seemed to have a direction in sight. He led me to a small clearing with a lake, trees full of fruit and game, which

looked particularly tasty.

I put down my backpack, pulled out my dagger and stalked towards one of the deer, while Nimri made himself comfortable in my backpack. But before I got close enough to the deer, it rushed between the trees, a huge deer jumped out and spurred towards me. “By Lloth, what’s . . .” and before I could even finish my sentence, the antlers caught me and threw me hundreds of feet away. I picked myself up and pulled my staff, but the deer caught me again and threw me into the water. Now I had not only lost the dagger but also the staff. When I tried to straighten up again I saw Nimri trying to bring me my dagger. He had his tongue wrapped around the handle and stumbled backwards towards me. The little worm was almost trampled by the huge deer when it stormed towards me again. But this time I was able to avoid the deer with the trick I learned mother. I clearly have to practice this storm ride more, because I didn’t really get far, but it was enough to reach my dagger and face the deer again. He was already standing before me. His skull, almost bigger than me, and with angry blinking eyes it stared at me as if it was waiting to see what I would do now.

I moved aside and grabbed the antlers with one hand. The deer’s shaking head gave me the momentum I needed to swing under the antlers and sit on its neck. I got caught in the fur and was about to stab the dagger into his neck when the deer rammed a tree and threw me against the trunk. I straightened up again and shook my head slightly dazed. The cattle had joined the other deer, looked at me briefly and then disappeared with the herd into the forest. After I collected my things and limped back to the backpack, I saw that Nimri had made himself comfortable with a few flies and insects on my backpack “Well at least you got your meat”.

Flamerule 21, 1360 DR

I fought my way north with Nimri. I hoped to find a village soon where I could get work and find something decent to bite. It was heartbreaking how Nimri always proudly brought me insects, but I cannot expect the little one to bring me a juicy piece of meat. And before he gets tasty and I think about barbecuing him, I would prefer one of these deer.

When I arrived at the edge of the forest, I could, thanks to the hill, have a wide view over the valley. I wonder who built the wall in the middle of a swamp? A few hundred feet below, I could see a wide passageway, as well as a bright light on the horizon at dusk. This could be a village where I could find shelter. But first I’d have to go through that swamp. “Do you think I could get through there before nightfall?” I’ve got to try.

The first few steps through the swamp were fairly easy. I found a small path, which I could follow for some time. When the trail ended, I waded through ankle-deep mud for some time. Nimri, always on my shoulder, tirelessly caught every insect that came even close to his tongue, which he almost always let hang out. The steps became heavier and heavier and the mud deeper and deeper. I stopped and

looked around a little. There must be some way I can keep going without sinking. I saw a small path, not far away, but as I tried to move I realized that I was stuck and slowly sinking. “Vith” I mumbled. The trees were too far away and the branches did not reach me. I pulled my stick from my back and tried to shovel branches towards me. “This won’t work” I murmured softly and saw Nimri jump from my shoulder and shovel small branches towards me. “You’re not the brightest either, are you?” I asked him. “You’d better look around the area to see if you can find someone who can help,” I ordered him, and he dashed right off.

“How was that again? ... ssuth?” I pointed my staff in the direction of the path and muttered “ssuth”, whereupon I felt the energy flowing through my body and the next moment, just before the path, I was stuck even deeper in the mud. “Oh, great. That worked well.” Another time brought me on the way. As I was tapping the mud, I saw Nimri coming towards me. He had his tail wrapped around the stem of a leaf where he had placed some insects. “You call that help?” I asked him in amazement, whereupon he stared at me with his big saucer eyes.

Eleasis 21, 1360 DR

I spent the last weeks taking small jobs in the village, which I found at the wall by the swamp. Lower level jobs where I didn’t have much to do with the mob. As it turned out, the people here didn’t want to be served by a Drow in the tavern, or were even disgusted when they learned that a Drow was washing dishes and cutlery. They mocked me, in my presence, spat at me and tried to beat me as if I was a lowly creature unworthy of life. I had to resist the temptation more than once not to send them all to their gods. Among all these men who treated me like a piece of meat here, groped me, spat at me, beat me, if I were one in the underworld ... Yes, what would I be? An unpopular half-breed who is despised and hunted even by his own race. Often enough the mob in the schools reminded me that I was not ›pure blood‹.

I have to move on, to a bigger city where hopefully Drow won’t be treated so badly. On top of that, I was so badly paid, it was barely enough for food and shelter. In the beginning they even wanted to enslave me, which I could only escape by beating one of them so soft with my staff and shock-starring another one with lightning bolts. It’s a wonder the guards didn’t lynch me directly because of that.

After I received the last coins, I packed my things and moved further north with Nimri. At the end of the village I met two guards »Where is our slave going to in such a hurry?« one of the two, obviously drunk, guards barked. »I’m not a slave« I answered him harshly. »Slaves are not paid« laughed the other, whereupon the first one came back »That still doesn’t answer my question! Where are you going to so late?« »Away« was all he heard in reply. He came closer and stood up in front of me. His drunken flag and his unkempt appearance were almost enough to make me nauseous. He looked down at me »If you won’t tell me where, there’s something else you can do for me« he demanded with a broad grin

on his face and grabbed my breast. Just at that moment I grabbed the hand that was touching my chest, pulled him towards me and rammed my knee between his legs. As he wriggled and moved away from me with a »you fucking bitch«, I pulled my stick and wiped it through his face. After he hit the ground unconscious, the other seemed to have realized what had happened and pulled his sword and shield. I watched him for a while, but as shaky as he held his weapon and stared at me with eyes wide open, he did not seem to have been in service for very long. I passed him calmly, loaded my staff and prepared for him to find the courage to attack me after all. But he didn't.

Uktar 18, 1360 DR

I now felt like I was on the road for an eternity. But as my gold was running out, I was lucky to find in a small village a client who sent me on a search for a missing child. The child had gone to the north to collect iceberries, whatever that might be. Anyway, he'll pay me 20 gold pieces when I bring the child back safe.

In this white something that the locals called snow, you could read tracks quite well. Unless more of it fell again or the wind blew new snow over it. To bear the cold, I had sewn wool into my coat. But it didn't seem to do much good. When I'm to survive this, I will either need more clothes or I will avoid such places. I would prefer the second, because who wants to live in such an uncomfortable environment?

When one of these snow storms came up, I sought shelter in a small cave nearby. However, it seems, that I wasn't the first person in this cave. The campfire I found was still glowing gently. I continued looking around and saw a small flu, which I approached carefully. When suddenly a small, green hand jumped out of the flu, I recoiled for a moment, but then continued to approach. I was amazed to see a little green thing lying in the flu, which seemed very peaceful despite the small tusks on its lower jaw. It grabbed my finger, which I held out to it, and squeaked happily. Green and tusks on the lower jaw? Father once spoke of them and called them Orcs. Their greatest weakness was their fierce aggression. In the corner of my eye I could see something big, green grunting came at me. But before I could get out of the way, this huge mountain of flesh caught me and threw me against the wall.

I wouldn't go up against that mountain, and who knows if it's alone. I decided to flee and headed for a narrow entrance through which I might still be able to crawl, but the orc was faster than expected and so I only hoped to reach the passage with time. I dropped to my knees and slipped through the rift. When I looked back, I saw the orc break through the wall as if it was made of paper, overlooking the big hole in the ground through which I fell.

Uktar 20, 1360 DR

When I woke up again, Nimri licked my face with his unusually long tongue. I wonder how long I was unconscious. The fish, wherever Nimri had got it from, lying next to me, to judge, not just a few hours. I pulled myself up again and stowed away the fish.

I looked up through the hole. It was no short fall, it was a miracle I survived. The bloodstains at the spot where I landed indicate that I didn't survive the fall completely unscathed either. A short grab to the back of my head also quickly brought out the spot where I injured myself. That explained the bad headaches.

After I took Nimri on my shoulder, I walked further through the corridor, which ended in a huge vault after only a few meters. The ledge where I came out didn't feel very stable. I got on my knees and looked down the ledge. The figures there seemed quite small to me, either because of the height, or they are those disgusting little Minions. But from the fireplace they seemed to be dancing around, I could tell that one person seemed very different from the others. I wonder if this is the child I should be looking for?

I picked up Nimri again, who somehow managed to get his tongue frozen on an icicle. »You're something« I said softly to him and he answered me with the seemingly only look he had - he stared at me ignorantly with his huge eyes.

When we came downstairs, I could see them clearly. Minions. Those little cowardly creeps. They only perform in groups because individually they are cowards. They're constantly fussing as if the herb they smoke has been bad for centuries. Normally they always have a leader to follow, usually a necromancer. But this group seemed to act alone, or at least he's not visible. I crept closer to take a better look at the person who was different from the Minions and could see that this was indeed the child I was supposed to find. »What should I do now?« I asked myself quietly as I looked at Nimri, whose staring gaze still seemed completely crazy. Again he was not much help to me. But what can I expect from a little animal?

I pulled my staff from my back and loaded it. »Let's get the kid« I said to Nimri, who nodded wildly. But just as I was about to attack the Minions, I saw something bigger and I hid again. The necromancer? I looked slightly out of hiding and could hardly believe my eyes. A ghoul. I had only seen a ghoul once and that was in Menzoberranzan. Mostly they are used as assassins against targets who flee to the surface. They are described as very intelligent, aggressive, strong and above all ruthless. I spied out of my cover again and looked for the monster, but I did not find it. Instead, there was now a young woman, shoulder-length black hair, in a long black coat, chasing the Minions around. Astonished, I looked for the ghoul, but couldn't find him anymore. »I can handle one human and a few Minions« I whispered and stormed out of my cover. I was able to throw the first wave of Minions against the wall with a targeted »Su'aco«, a decent gust of wind. When I reached the child, the human seemed to have noticed what was going on and came rushing towards me. »Run« I requested the child to run, after I

could untie her and noticed that the woman who came towards me turned into a ghoul. I cursed with a loud »Vith« and could just about strengthen my armor with »Faer ky’ostal« before the cattle caught me and threw me backwards. When I tried to straighten up again, the ghoul was already standing with one foot on me and prepare for a swing with her claws. But before I knew it, Nimri crawled up the ghoul and stuck his tongue in his eye. Nimri fell to the ground while the ghoul staggered backwards away. I took the chance, stood up, grabbed Nimri and hurled a lightning ball at the ghoul, which obviously didn’t impress him much and stormed towards me again. With a »Ssuth« I could barely avoid it and had the child in my sights who was trying to free himself from a Hord Minion. So I let off the ghoul and spurred towards the child. After kicking some of these creatures away, I took the child by the hand and ran with her into a tunnel.

After a few hundred meters, the child was out of breath and I had to carry her on my back. Luckily we seemed to have gotten rid of the Minions and this ghoul. I wonder if they were following us at all?

Uktar 18 - 20, 1360DR [From Nimris view]

OT: This contribution describes the events between Uktar 18, 1360DR and Uktar 20, 1360DR from the view of Nimri

What a fall. However, bipeds do not always seem to land on their feet. When I saw her lying unconscious, I started to worry a little bit. What if my pretty one doesn’t wake up again? I could never look into her sparkling black eyes again, which are both intimidating and seductive.

Food. That must be it. When I eat, I feel much better as well. I walked down the hallway and came across a camp with submissive Minions, all throwing themselves around a ghoul and worshipping. But they have fish. My Naldela will surely be happy if I bring her some of them. I walked back and forth unseen a few times and every time I arrived at Naldela and she was still lying there unconscious, I was a little disappointed. There must be something I can do to get her awake again. She must be cold. It must be this. So I pulled on her cape, tried to wrap her in it and tried hard not to be distracted. Why is clothing always open in this particular area? Sure, nice for me, but with her it distracts me from important things. When I finally wrapped her in her cape, I kept looking around and made sure those Minions weren’t following me. We really don’t need these little nags right now.

I curled myself up around at her neck and tried to sleep. She smelled so good of lavender and mint, and is so warm.

I could only sleep a few hours and my pretty one still hasn’t recovered. So slowly I lost all hope that I could help her at all. Out of desperation I just started to lick over her face and lo and behold, my princess woke up again. »I must have a magic tongue« I thought for a moment and almost rolled over with joy.

Uktar 22, 1360 DR

It took us 2 days to get out of the vaults when the child suddenly collapsed from exhaustion. I wrapped her in my cape and lifted her onto my back. We had to find a shelter, because even though I’m an elementalist, the natural cold is very hard for me too.

Just before sunrise we found a small, seemingly abandoned house with a fireplace. Completely frozen we broke into the house with the help of Nimri and thanks to Lolth there was also dry firewood next to the fireplace, which I lit directly.

After a few hours we were both thawed out and it took some time until I could calm the child down again and convince her that I really only wanted to help her, not to mention until she finally ate something. Against all expectations Nimri, unlike me, seemed to get along well with children, because somehow he managed to make the little girl smile now and then, even when the wind was shaking the shutters of the windows.

At noon we were woken by dull knocks on the door. Quickly the child was hiding in a wardrobe and I positioned myself with my staff next to the door, which also gave way shortly afterwards and flew off its hinges. »Please not the ghoul, please not the ghoul« I hoped quietly, before a two meter tall mountain of meat in heavy armour and a claymore man entered the house with a roar. But before I could cast a spell, a shield hit me and threw my head against the wall.

When I regained consciousness, I was standing in a partially destroyed house in front of three people lying unconscious in front of me. »By Lolth?« was all I could get out when suddenly the kid grabbed my hip. Quite excitedly she told me about that suddenly my eyes started to glow and a storm directly in the house made it go very fast to hit the three attackers to the ground. I had been trying to control this state for years and I thought I had finally made it. »Vith« I cursed, hoping the child did not understand the language. But she did not seem to be afraid of me, but it felt more like admiration for whatever reason. »Come, we must go on« I asked the child and threw my cloak around her again »It shouldn’t be much further to the village«

Nightal 8, 1360 DR

We had been back in the village for some time and apparently I gained the trust of many a person after I brought the child back. Even the child still followed me for a while, for whatever reason. I didn’t get the promised 20 gold pieces but it was enough to buy a small, finely cut crystal from a travelling merchant. In the small apartment, which was made available to me in gratitude for saving the child, I tried to tie the crystal to my staff, as mother once showed me. »Why couldn’t I pay more attention to her« I grumbled and tried it a fourth time, whereupon the violet crystal shone in bright white light, shattered

at one edge and started glowing softly purple. I started to laugh, but quickly stopped again when I realized that I must sound like a lunatic. While I wrapped the crystal around my hand with a cloth, I removed myself from my staff, turned around after a few meters and directed my hand with the crystal towards the staff. »Come on« I prayed and thought only that the staff should come to me, but it didn't. Frustrated, I started to unwrap the cloth and just at the moment when crystal became partially visible, my staff flew towards me and hit me on the head. »Vith nindol shu« I cursed loudly and took a closer look at the crystal while I could see in the corner of my eye how Nimri was rolling on the floor laughing. »The connection is already broken by a simple cloth?« I murmured softly to myself and raised one eyebrow.

I thought about what a decent glove would look like, and since it contained metal, I wanted to visit the dwarf Galder, who already forged the daggers Miara and I own. Only from him I will get the quality I want.

When I came out of the house fully packed, this child came running towards me and clutched around my waist. »Can't you stay here and protect us?« she asked into my clothes. After she detached from me, it held a drawing out to me, which represented a small lizard on closer inspection. Judging by the color and shape I assumed that it was probably meant to be Nimri. I kneeled down to the girl and took the painting thankfully with me. »I promise I will come back« I assured the child, wiping her a tear away. Before I set off south, I saw Nimri running towards the girl with a flower in his mouth and dropping it at her feet. She picked it visibly touched up and stroked Nimri's back with a finger before he crawled up to my shoulder and made himself comfortable.

Nightal 22, 1360DR

Content/Trigger warning for this “day”

It took me 14 days until I finally found the dwarf Galder and luckily he had just enough time to take care of the frame. He was very enthusiastic when he heard my name and showed me euphorically that he still had enough of the Mythril he had from my father to forge my frame for me. Besides, he could not resist talking a lot about father. It sounded a bit like admiration.

While I was waiting for the dwarf to make the frame for my crystal, I was approached by a young, attractive Drow who introduced himself as Tarlyn Dyrr and told me about an oasis he found on the surface. He offered to invite me there for a picnic and since I was already a little attracted to him by his unobtrusive flattery, I agreed. So while I was still waiting for my glove, he went shopping. He said that he would prepare a kitchen of humans, because they had lots of fruits that I should definitely try.

When I paid Galder a few hours later for his work and tried on the glove, Tarlyn came back with a huge basket. He led me to his oasis on the surface, which was more than just strange. Because although there

was snow everywhere, this place seemed to be untouched by it. Trees and plants grew magnificently, the water in the lake flowed slightly steaming and the sun kept this place warm enough that you could make yourself comfortable with casual clothes. I wonder what kind of magic keeps this place so beautiful?

We talked for a very long time over cheese, grapes, bread, ham and wine, until he came up with the idea of going swimming at dusk. »But I didn’t bring any things to swim with me« I said in surprise, after which he just came with »So what? I don’t either« and took his clothes off. The more this black-haired Drow undressed, the more attracted I was to him. I shook my head slightly, whispered »What kind of thoughts are these?« bit my lower lip and kept watching him. As he slowly climbed into the lake, stark naked, I began to slowly and unsteadily undress down to my underwear. »That’ll have to do« I called over to him, whereupon he turned around to me, the red in his face even with his dark skin tone becoming apparent and stammering »Yes, definitely«. I went into the lake and swam towards him »And now?« I asked him, whereupon he took me in his arms and started kissing over my neck. »What are you doing?« I asked him, not realizing that he was pushing me to a place where I could easily stand. »Don’t you like it?« »I didn’t say that« I whispered softly, my head tilted to one side.

When we went back to the picnic I lay on the blanket exhausted. Shortly afterwards I heard a rustling in one of the bushes near the place and jumped up. Reflexively I slipped back into my clothes and looked for my staff. »What are you doing?« I asked Tarlyn, who was swinging my staff a few meters away from me. »What do you think? There’s a bounty on your head and on your sister and I’m going to get half of it« When I was about to charge at him, something on my cape tore me backwards and hit me on the back of my head, which made me fall forward. I rolled on my back and saw a 7-foot Tiefling swinging with a sword straight at me, which I was just able to avoid and re-position myself. »We need her alive, you idiot« I heard Tarlyn shouting to the Tiefling, who only reacted grumpy with a »I don’t care« before he struck again with his sword and caught me in the leg. I wipe further back and watch the Drow and the Tiefling, who came cunningly grinning towards me. »Without your staff you are obviously not so strong anymore, aren’t you?« Tarlyn mocked me, who obviously didn’t know what the crystal on my glove was for. I reached my right hand for the staff and saw that the Drow was struggling to hold my staff, which obviously wanted to come to me. But he was able to hold it and while I concentrated on my staff, I noticed too late that the Tiefling was getting close enough to send me with a punch into my face to the ground. As he grabbed me with his paws on my side I tried to roll away, causing him to slip and cut his claws through my flesh. While I was dealing with the Tiefling, the Drow had time enough to approach me from behind with his baton and knock me down with a blow on my head.

Hammer 3, 1361DR

A few days ago I came back to myself chained up in a tiny, mouldy dungeon where my previous tenant did not seem to have had much luck. I saw my weapons through the barred door on a table through which I also heard the Tiefling and his disgusting little Minion murmuring.

When the voices got louder, I passed out. Judging by the footsteps and the creaking of the gate, they entered the room and seemed to pattern me. »Do you think they’d buy the Drow as a slave?« the Minion asked his master, who apparently just grumbled. »Otherwise we’ll just keep her. As a toy and« he went on and briefly paused »other pleasures« it sounded excitedly from him. »I’ll give you other pleasures right away« I hissed indignantly at the little bastard, whereupon the Tiefling only began to laugh.

As I pinched on this small, rutting drooling, Minion, he wiped back jerkily. How would I love it to kick this lecher across the room, but due to the lack of decent food and the ordeals they inflicted on me, I was too weak and a spell around the dungeon prevented me from doing magic. Not even my wounds had been bandaged and every time they started to heal they tore them open again. »Stand down« Tarlyn asked the Minion »We will not sell her as a slave, nor will we keep her!« Tarlyn continued »Descendants of the Zarethi want her, dead or alive. And alive, she’ll bring us twice as much.«

»Greedy hypocrite« I grumbled softly at the thought of this Drow, while this Minion rubbed my leg again. »Get lost you worm« I shouted to him, which he also followed by running to his master. »Master?« he started with his squeaky voice, running after the Tiefling, »I think the Drow is pregnant« »I am what?« I muttered surprised and desperate at the same time and looked down on me »I’m not ready for that« I whispered shakily and only noticed Tarlyn when I saw his boots. »Oh, we could start our own house« he said enthusiastically while the Minion tried to explain to the Tiefling that he would smell that on me. »It’s just a pity it’s not worth 400 gold pieces to me« Tarlyn continued, whereupon he heard only a »lucky me«. If the chains wouldn’t hold me back, he would suffer from lack of oxygen now, but I could only produce a few small, harmless sparks. »You can be temperamental after all« he laughed as he took a step backwards »Untie me and I’ll show you my temperament« I growled at him, whereupon he only turned around laughing and went to the Tiefling outside the dungeon »When will the sent of the house finally arrive? I want my gold« Tarlyn asked impatiently »I don’t know, it was your messenger cattle, not mine!«

Alturiak 10, 1361 DR

»Your damned messenger has surely gotten lost« the Tiefling shouted to Tarlyn, »The Drow costs us nothing but food and patience. She is rebellious, uncooperative and she spits on us every time we get close enough.« - »Sounds like the perfect woman for you« Tarlyn mocked the Tiefling, who then made noises as if he was going to be sick.

I could hardly keep my eyes open and fell asleep briefly every now and then, but the spikes they attached to the clamps of the chains and the fork they had attached to my neck had kept me awake for days. When I looked up briefly, I saw a man with pure white wings and a softly glowing aura standing in front of my cell door looking at me. I have heard of the Aasimar, but I’ve never seen one before. It was said that they were actually very peaceful. When he disappeared, all I heard was a short »Who are you?« from the Tiefling before a bright light briefly flooded the corridor and the Minion flew past my cell door as if he had gotten his well-deserved kick. Besides the breaking of glass bulbs, the shattering of steel against stone, and the smashing of larger objects, one could hear the battle cries of the Tiefling and Tarlyn, to the groans of both as they apparently hit the ground.

After the scuffle was apparently over, someone opened the dungeon and came towards me. I closed my eyes before he came out of the shadows and whispered faintly »Leave me alone, I have nothing to say to you« while I pulled the chains in an attempt to keep him away from me. »Calm down, I only want to help you« he said softly, took me in his arms and loosened my chains before he put me on the floor to nurse my wounds. His hands that he put on my wounds felt warm and I could feel a soothing energy that seemed to flow through them into my body. »Everything will be okay again« he seemed to keep trying to calm me down with his smoky voice before he lifted me up.

He took me to a young woman who seemed to be his sister, even though they bore little resemblance. The last I heard from him was »Please take very good care of her, little sister. She’s been through a lot.« - »But Ykril. She is a Drow and pregnant on top of that« - »That’s not important Sunih!« »By the gods, what has the cat dragged in?« it suddenly came from another male voice, whereupon the Aasimar, obviously Ykril, only annoyed replied »Now stop it, both of you. She needs help and won’t get any if not from us.« - »All right, all right, take her to the guest room, I’ll prepare warm water and clear towels« the young woman finally gave in.

Alturiak 10, 1361 DR – Ykril POV

It seemed to be a quiet day. No guild was calling because someone broke his arm again and there was nothing to do at the farm. When I was about to make coffee, a small blue lizard sat on our kitchen table and ran excitedly towards me and away from me again. It seemed as if he wanted to show me something, so I followed him and was amazed at the speed the little one was going. It seemed to be very important to him.

He led me into a small prison vault with just 3 cells. The small one stopped in front of one of these cells. As I looked inside the cell, I found a beautiful Drow with pitch black eyes that gave me a poisonous look. Judging by her condition, she has been chained there for a while and she seems to be pregnant.

But before I could get her out of there, I first had to take care of the voices that talked to each other a little further. I approached carefully and looked around the corner. A Tiefling and a Drow. If my guild

finds that out, I’m screwed. »No interfering in the affairs of the races of the Underdark« came straight to my head. My gaze wandered briefly to the cell over the small one on my shoulder, whose gaze seemed to express a concern better than I had ever seen in any creature, again to the two men who started making fun of the Drow. But before they could say much, I stepped forward and spread my wings. An old friend once showed me how I could dazzle my opponents with a blindingly bright light and flood the room with light just at the moment the Tiefling got his two-handed sword.

From then on it was easy for me to switch them off and accidentally kicked a Minion through the hallway. I opened the cell of the Drow and slowly approached her.

»Leave me alone, I have nothing to say to you« came faintly from her, tugging at the chains as I approached her. »Calm down, I only want to help you« I tried to calm her down, kneeled down in front of her and took her in my arms so that she would not fall to the ground when I free her from the chains. »She is so beautiful« I thought for a moment when I saw her lying on the floor in front of me, before I healed her wounds with small healing spells. Unfortunately, I couldn’t do anything for the child inside her, whose heartbeat seemed to be very weak.

This little lizard always had me in its sights and kept pressing its head against the Drow. I wondered what connection the two must have had that the little one ran all the way to our farm for her. He seemed to have no magic at all. Maybe the Drow keep these little things as pets?

I brought her and her equipment, which I found on a table outside her cell, to our farm in hope that my sister Sunih could help her.

»But Ykril... She is a Drow and pregnant too« Sunih said dismissively

»By the gods, what has the cat dragged in?« added my brother Zalen

»Now stop it, both of you. She needs help and will get none if not from us« I tried to rebuke them.

Sunih gave in, and after I laid the Drow on the bed in the guest room and gently wiped the blood from her lips and dried her tears, Zalen arrived with a letter

»A courier has just brought it. The guild demands that you report to them immediately«

Alturiak 15, 1361 DR

I had been lying in this bed for several days, mostly unconscious or lethargic, and was always woken by a furry little quadruped that always chasing Nimri across the room. Sinah, the sister of my rescuer Ykril, didn’t talk much and skillfully ignored my questions about the Aasimar. Although she had initially expressed concern, she still seemed to care about me.

When I was alone in the room, I tried to sit up and gently grabbed my slightly swollen belly. »I don’t want this baby« I started to murmur shakily. I checked my body, especially the places where I was cut deeply and the wounds tore open again and was amazed that the wounds had healed completely and not even scars remained. After I got up, I felt a stabbing pain in my stomach and saw an unusual

amount of blood running down my leg. I cried out in pain for a moment and then to the floor where I curled up and before I knew it, Sinah was kneeling next to me and calling for Zalen, her brother, to bring water and towels. »What’s wrong?« I asked her shakily and got a short »You are giving birth - way too early« as an answer, while she helped me onto the bed. After several painful hours, it was finally over and I could breathe normally again and closed my eyes.

When I woke up again, Nimri was sleeping next to my head and Sinah was sitting on the edge of the bed. »Ah, you’re awake« she started quietly »I was not sure if you would survive the blood loss« she continued while I sat up. She looked at me and began to stammer slightly »Your child didn’t make it« and took my hand. But I just did not know what to feel. On the one hand it would have been my flesh and blood, on the other hand an unwanted bastard child and put my free hand on my stomach.

We sat on the bed in silence for a few minutes before Sinah jumped up »You must be close to starvation. I only hope you can tolerate the food here« and disappeared from the room without further ado. I had to put up with such side blows for a while. I shook my head briefly and looked at the slumbering Nimri »We have to get out of here« I whispered to him »Even though she seems to care about me, she can hardly hide her resentment. I straightened up and leaned against the wall so that I wouldn’t fall down again and looked for my clothes, but only found my weapons. When Sinah hardly entered the room with a tray again, I tried to cover myself shamefully and lost my balance. This time, however, she took her time and put the tray down comfortably before she helped me up again »You need a few more days and you’ll stay in bed for that long« she said demanding and threw a silent »I promised Ykri!« in addition while she pushed the tray onto my lap.

Alturiak 20, 1361 DR

The longer I lay around, the more my resentment rose against those who did this to me. If only Miara were here. She would make short work of those, just like she did at the academy. »Why did this Aasimar actually let them alive?« I asked quietly in the direction of Nimri while, still slightly weakened, I crawled out of bed and slipped into the dress Sinah had prepared for me. Wistfully I stuffed my broken armor into my backpack and muttered »I look ridiculous". If they would paint me white and trim my ears, I could pass as a human. Besides, it pressed unpleasantly in the chest area.

When I tried to climb out the window, I whistled »Come on little friend« shortly after Nimri

Since I couldn’t go into the underworld with this outfit, Nimri and I first made our way to the next bigger city to look for a tailor. But it took us a few hours, because Sinah lived on a farm far away and the next bigger civilization was not even visible on the horizon.

A few hours west we found a town called »Paford«. It was not a metropolis, but the houses and roads were all made of stone. But the way to the tailor was more than unpleasant. In the blue/white dress of Sinah I was apparently more conspicuous than in my purple cape. I didn’t understand why everyone

looked at me as if they were about to attack me, especially the women, since I wasn’t even the only Drow in town.

So after I got everything from the tailor, I retreated as soon as possible to the next tavern, which was called »The Lazy Gypsy«, not very inviting, but seemed to be the only one.

Mirtul 1, 1361 DR

It took me a few moons to follow the tracks they left behind. At least the Tiefling didn’t make much effort. There were wanted poster of him in every major city. 2000 gold pieces on him, alive. In contrast, the 500 that were on me looked puny and insulting. But I only wanted him dead, even if I miss the bounty.

After many conversations in taverns and on marketplaces, I found a dwarf in ›Duleduhr‹ at the Underdark, who could give me exact directions to where this Tiefling was hiding.

A few thousand steps further, I could already hear his voice from a sinus, when a small Minion with a handful of food ran past me, stopped for a moment, seemed to sniff and then ran on. If that was his, I hope he did not recognize me. I sneaked up behind him until I could see the Tiefling, too. Yes, that was him. Angrily, I grabbed my staff harder and kept watching him. He seemed to be alone with his Minion, working on a workbench.

As I slowly approached, I could hear another voice. Very rough, almost sounded like a heavy drinker. I took cover again and waited.

»Tell me Ebrus, what actually became of this black-eyed Drow? What was her name again? Naldela?« the smoky voice began

»Shut up« hissed the Tiefling »I already told you that Tarlyn is looking for her and that damned Aasimar.«

»This babe really did it to you« the laughter started

»Be quiet« whereupon a bottle seemed to smash shortly afterwards »She is still a child. We will find her.«

{{ thumbor(‘teleyal/naldela_rage-by_AunyxArt.png’, fitIn=[‘350’, ’], class=‘img-fluid’, div=[‘float-right’], copyright=(‘c) Art by Aunyx’) }} I looked briefly out of my cover and saw next to the Tiefling an approx. 1.90m tall male, with shorn head and free, scarred, muscular upper body. One blow from him should be enough to take my picture for hours. But when the Tiefling went on about how much he would have liked to tear off my clothes and let his Minion take a shot, it was too much for me. Angrily I left my cover and stormed towards them. On my way to them my vision faded. Instead of seeing them as usual, I could sense their aura. I felt energy flowing through me and strengthening me. However, when I aimed my staff at the human, I seemed to swing a whip of energy at him, which bound him and with a short jerk I seemed to float faster towards him. After I kicked him, he fell back, hit his head on the wall and knocked himself unconscious to the ground. Reflexively, I wiped the dagger stroke of the Tiefling,

swung the whip around his legs and brought him down. Grumbling angrily, I sat on him with my knees on his arms, held his head by his horns and put a thumb on his eye. »Where is Tarlyn?« I shouted at him, while exerting light pressure on his eye »Where is he? I didn’t know what got into me, but somehow I enjoyed it, even though I couldn’t control my body. As if I was being controlled by someone else.

"He is looking for you« it came tearfully from the Tiefling »but I don’t know where he is. And even if I did, I wouldn’t tell you!« it seemed to come out of him more confident again. I approached his face while pulling my dagger out of its shaft and sniffed at it closely. I could literally smell his fear. »Then you are worthless to me« and before I rammed the dagger into his neck, I let my tongue wander over his lips and gave him a gentle kiss.

I sat down on the lap of the human, laid my head slightly tilted and waited until he woke up again. »Yoo-hoo. This babe is here.« came briefly from me, and just as he was about to make a startled stand, I rammed my dagger through his jaw into his head and watched amusedly as the dagger’s flashes briefly lit up his eyes and open mouth.

Kythorn 3, 1361 DR

When I arrived in ›Cesterfield‹, I booked a room at ›The Guardsman‹ and threw the bag I had wrapped this disgusting Minion in into a corner. The last days he hardly said a word. All attempts to get the location of Tarlyn out of him failed. This little beast is tougher than it looks. The only thing I got out of him so far were immoral offers that were more than freezing cold.

I left him in the corner, went to the tavern, ordered a hot mint tea and sat down at a free table in front of the fireplace. I was not given 5 minutes rest when 2 men joined me at the table. One man, about 1.80m tall, short, black hair and a slightly taller Tiefling, whose horns turned sweepingly around his ears with his dark blue hair and stood out from his purple-grey skin with a deep brown. Both seemed to be very proud of their well-toned bodies as they presented them. »What’s a pretty one like you doing here all alone?« the Tiefling started with a deep voice, whereupon he only got a slight grumble from me. I tried to ignore them and concentrated on my tea.

»Hey sweetie, my buddy is talking to you!« hissed the human

»Go away, I’m not in the mood« I reminded both

»Oh, come on. I could make your night unforgettable« smiled the Tiefling

»Make it unforgettable for yourself« I replied, staring further into my tea, when the human suddenly grabbed my arm

»What are you bitching about? You won’t get anything better than us here« the human demanded, and I looked at him with a nasty sparkle, ignoring his flag of alcohol.

I felt the energy flowing through me again, like it felt with that Tiefling in his cave. Also my vision faded again and her auras became visible to me. But their auras were different. The human being glowed

bluish, but the Tiefling shone in a dangerous red. »Let off from me and you will survive the night« I poisoned him, but he seemed to stare further at me and even strengthen his grip. Neither the sparks that jumped from my arm into his, nor my gaze seemed to impress him, and just as I was about to storm over the table in anger, he received a blow from the side on his skull. »No means no you idiots« shouted a female voice while the human fell to the ground and the Tiefling jumped up to a fighting position. The blow must have been right, because the human kept lying on the ground and I only saw the woman rushing towards the Tiefling. I could only stand there and watch them both being thrown out of the tavern.

When I calmed down and sat on a chair again, I could clearly see my surroundings again and saw that it was a muscular Drow with a belly top and matching skirt that put them both outside. However, on closer inspection, it was clear that this was not a normal Drow.

»Miara?« it came astonished from me, whereupon it came with a pleased grin »Nali darling«, before I felt her fist in my stomach

»It's nice to see you again, too« I just got out of me, gasping for breath, before she finally hugged me

»What are you doing here?« she asked, while she gave one of the servants a sign with one hand

»I ... I'm looking for someone« it came out of me only slowly, marvelling at what had become of her. How hard she must have trained for such a muscular body? A little disappointed I looked down at myself and was interrupted by a waitress who gave Miara a beer and tea for me. »Thanks Miara. These two have been making trouble here all the time and so far nobody has dared to face them« she addressed to Miara.

We talked the whole night. She told me that after she left the Underdark, she visited a sword master and started her training with sword and shield. She also told me that all the scars came from her training because her master was not very squeamish with her, which she enjoyed very much and was the reason for her deeper relationship with him.

This is no longer the Miara I knew. She used to be so gentle and she would never have taken part in a brawl. Especially not starting it.

When I told her about Tarlyn and Ebrus, she switched between »Show me these idiots, I'll kill them« and »Oh, tell me more about the Aasimar« in seconds. When her aggression got the upper hand, I showed her Ebrus Minion. She roared at the cattle with a pitch of voice that would make any male Tiefling green with envy. Every time he wanted to say salacious jokes, stupid comments or just nothing, Miara threw him in the sack against the next wall until the sack was soaked with his blood. Eventually he started talking and told us where we could find Tarlyn.

»I have to deal with Tarlyn alone« I asked Miara, and she didn't argue for long, but just nodded briefly. »If you don't need him anymore, I'm sure I'll find a good cause for him« she asked me with a broad grin, holding up the blood-soaked sack

»Whatever. I can't listen to his immoral offers anymore« I waved off

»I’ll make him stop that!«

Back at the tavern I started thinking about what the Minion said. So ›Ramshorn‹ - Miara told me that it was a huge metropolis and rumor has it that a human woman with pitch black hair and several Drow Inquisitors are walking around there. If this is the ghoul I’ve met before? Miara recommended that I should only act there in secret and also gave me some tips how I could control my aggressions better.

»Oh, I have something for you. Wait here!« she suddenly called and ran out. A few minutes later she came back with a big grin. »I think you want this one back, don’t you?« and held my old spiderling stuffed toy Shrokka up to my nose. I could hardly hold back my tears and took him shakily.

»Where did you find him?« I asked, touched

»I was at home again. I thought I was ready. But I wasn’t. I found him not far from our parents’ graves.«

I hugged Miara crying and the only thing I could get out of me was a silent »thank you«

Flamerule 5, 1361 DR

After what felt like an eternal march to the east, I finally reached ›Ramshorn‹ in the early morning hours, a city that was already visible on the horizon a day’s march before. As I stood in front of the huge gate where a dragon could get through, I looked along the seemingly endless wall that protected the city. At the gate itself I found a small hole at eye level through which someone stared at me. »What are your concerns in the city?« asked a grumpy male voice, to which I replied with a brief »trade and repairs«. It took a few seconds before the huge gate opened by a crack. Just enough for me to pass through. »Go on Drow. And no foolish things! We’ve got an eye on you!« came a grumpy voice from the elderly man, who, judging by his eyes, must have been the one behind the hole. I didn’t react, however, and just kept walking down the street where trash was gathering left and right and people in shabby clothes were begging. Especially Tieflings, Githyanki and Gnomes. Father would probably give them every gold piece he had.

A good walk later I hit a wall again. I wonder what is hiding behind it. I payed duty at another gate and quickly found out that those who could afford it settled here.

It took a few seconds before the huge gate opened by a crack. Just enough for me to pass through. »Go on Drow. And no foolish things! We’ve got an eye on you!« came a grumpy voice from the elderly man, who, judging by his eyes, must have been the one behind the hole. I didn’t react, however, and just kept walking down the street where trash was gathering left and right and people in shabby clothes were begging. Especially Tieflings, Githyanki and Gnomes. Father would probably give them every gold piece he had.

A good walk later I hit a wall again. I wonder what is hiding behind it. I payed duty at another gate and quickly found out that those who could afford it settled here.

After I got my replacements from a tailor, I walked towards the tavern ›The Maiden and Chain‹ and was jostled by a human.

»I’m sorry« he apologized hastily as he bent down to pick up his documents.

»Nothing happened« I assured him and helped him.

On the papers I found drawings of weapons, extraordinary armor and unknown symbols. A little astonished, I took a closer look at the man as I handed him his papers. Blue-grey eyes behind round glasses, short brown hair, a 3-day beard, a soft, warm aura and well dressed. He seemed confused and distant. Babbled almost through incomprehensibly to himself. When he had all his documents back, he looked at me briefly with sparkling eyes, then down to the floor and started to stutter slightly »I beg your forgiveness again«. His nervousness was hard to overlook. »Forgive me milady« came from him again before he turned around and hastened on. ›Why did the young man look so familiar to me? I began to think and noticed in the corner of my eye that he turned briefly in my direction again, smiled at me and brought a gentle smile on my face.

I had just opened the door to the tavern and was not quite inside when I saw the first couple who seemed to be enjoying themselves. Apparently she was having a lot of fun kneeling in front of him and ... I caught myself looking there longer than I wanted to. No, I had to get out of there. I’m sure it didn’t have much to do with a maiden and I returned on the doorstep. Maybe I had just misunderstood the tavern sign?

A short walk further on I found the next tavern, which also offered rooms. ›The Filthy Fish‹. If this is another tavern like the one before, I’m going crazy. Carefully I opened the door and took a quick look inside. No naked women, no lecherous men. Perfect. The woman behind the counter assured me a room, which I booked for the next 7 days. When she heard my stomach rumbling, she recommended the ›Deep-Fried Sweet Potato Wedges‹, whatever they might be, and gave me a cup of tea to welcome me.

I was just sitting at the table, a young Tiefling with a tight top and a small brown jacket jumped around me, whose energy seemed to be endless and didn’t even let me answer a question.

»You are a Drow? Are you? Are you?«

»Well spo...«

»What are you doing here? You surely experience many adventures? What is that animal on your shoulder? Can I pet it?«

›Why can’t I sit somewhere and have my peace and quiet?‹ I thought angrily and tried to ignore this shrill voice when someone from the bar shouted »Sanise, leave my guests alone! What do you always do in this district?« but instead of answering the one at the bar, she seemed to think I wanted to listen to the answer.

»You know« she began, when she finally sat down, »I just don’t want to live like this anymore. I want to get out, have adventures, see the Underdark, like you. All this gold just corrupts and everybody here already know me.«

»What do you want from me?« I could finally get out and looked into her eyes

»I want to accompany you. May I? May I? Your eyes are beautiful, by the way. Did you know that? How do you get your hair so beautiful?«

Even though she kept asking me questions all day long and was annoying, it had the advantage of having someone with me who knew the way around this labyrinth of streets and similar-looking houses. Finally I gave in and allowed her to accompany me for the days I was searching for Tarlyn in the city, on condition that she went home to sleep or booked her own room.