

Letter: My Darling 2

My darling,

I've safely delivered our beloved Illasaya into the hands of the Audish royal family, and I must admit, my love, that I'm not comfortable with the arrangement. No matter that you've foreseen that this marriage will improve our odds in the end, I can't help the pit of revulsion that afflicts me when I think of her with the nation's crown prince.

The stupid boy failed to greet her when we arrived! Eventually, I had to introduce the two of them, an embarrassment for all involved. I realize customs about women are different in Auden when compared to Lyzencroft but really. The insult was almost too much to bear.

As you may have noticed, the prince's accidental slight may have once more soured me against the man we must pin our hopes on. I'll concede that he's started to learn respect, taking his role somewhat seriously now, but he's still a self-centered brat.

Maybe I'm missing whatever it is you've foreseen in him. Maybe our princess will change him for the better. I certainly hope it's so.

In the meantime, what can you tell me about home? By the time this letter reaches you, I'll probably be back (and again, I must remind you that communication like this would be much simpler if you used your summoning magic), but I must know. What have our scouts been saying about the disturbances on the Haven's fringe? Is it *him*? Are our troubles soon to begin?

After our recent scare with the dissident uprising, I hesitate to place every random uproar at *his* feet, but I can't help my fear every time I hear of an Eselan village destroyed or a scouting party lost. Will this anticipation ever come to an end?

I'll be home soon, my love, and you can tell me everything I've missed in person. Until then, I remain faithfully yours.

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