

# Once Upon A WASTELAND

Season Three: "Beyond the Veil"

Episode 3  
"Whence Twofold Grief"

by

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"WHENCE TWOFOLD GRIEF"

ACT ONE

1 **INT. CORBENIC LIBRARY, MORNING** 1

*BETH is sitting at a table, reading.*

*SYLVIA enters.*

1 **SYLVIA** 1  
Good morning! How are you feeling?

2 **BETH** 2  
Better, Sylvia, thank you. Can't really say I'm feeling *myself* since I still don't know who I am, but I'll take "better."

3 **SYLVIA** 3  
It's a good start. And speaking of good starts, have you had breakfast?

4 **BETH** 4  
I haven't. I... still don't quite know my way around, and found myself here. Started reading and, well, kind of forgot about food for a bit.

*SYLVIA chuckles.*

5 **SYLVIA** 5  
The library is an easy place to lose yourself. I should know.

6 **BETH** 6  
Oh?

7 **SYLVIA** 7  
This place has always been kind of a refuge for me. Being a Corbin is *great*, it really is, but it comes with a *lot* of pressure. From the time I was little, whenever things felt overwhelming, I ended up in here, and I had five centuries of stories to keep me company.

8 **BETH** 8  
I didn't even know where to start. I just sort of... picked a book.



21                                   **BETH**                                   21  
 This is... it's all a bit  
 overwhelming. I'm sorry.

22                                   **SYLVIA**                                   22  
 I'm the one who should be sorry.  
 You're still getting your bearings  
 and I'm prattling on about my  
 family's bardic tradition...

23                                   **BETH**                                   23  
 No, this helps. It really does.  
 Just getting *any* sort of context,  
 even if it doesn't necessarily get  
 me closer to remembering who I  
 am...

24                                   **SYLVIA**                                   24  
 I know this room better than anyone  
 besides my mother. I can help, if  
 you'd like.

25                                   **BETH**                                   25  
 I'd love that.

26                                   **SYLVIA**                                   26  
 Good. If we're going to be pretend  
 cousins, we should start acting  
 like it, right?

*BETH laughs.*

27                                   **BETH**                                   27  
 I did want to ask you about  
 something. A joke you made... well,  
 I *think* it was a joke...

28                                   (beat)  
 You asked if I was... erm...                                   28

*NOTE: "aos sí" is more or less pronounced "EE-us SHE"*

29                                   **SYLVIA**                                   29  
 Aos sí? Ah, yes. Now *that's* the  
 sort of thing that you'll find in  
 the archives.

30                                   **BETH**                                   30  
 You said they were supernatural?  
 And had... powers? Are they real or  
 just a legend?

31                                   **SYLVIA**                                   31  
 To answer your last question first,  
 nobody knows if they're real.

**(MORE)**

**SYLVIA (CONT'D)**

(beat)

32                   Somebody was clearly here before                   32  
 us.... Corbenic and the town itself  
 didn't just spring forth from the  
 earth, poetic though that may  
 sound.

**BETH**

33                   So where did the legends come from?                   33

**SYLVIA**

34                   Whoever built this place, aos sí or                   34  
 not, wasn't quite as... thorough in  
 their record-keeping as we are. But  
 there were some texts. The problem  
 was that nobody could read most of  
 them.

**BETH**

35                   That must have been frustrating.                   35

**SYLVIA**

36                   Oh, it was. Jack Corbin's notes on                   36  
 that process are fascinating. His  
 writing is pretty "clinical," to  
 borrow your word, but you can see  
 the frustration seeping through at  
 times.

(beat)

37                   Fortunately, there were also some                   37  
 texts they *could* read. And since  
 the Blackhalls had experience  
 translating ancient texts, well...

**BETH**

38                   Where are those translations? If I                   38  
 remind you of the aos sí, might as  
 well find out if that's a good  
 thing or a bad thing.

*SYLVIA chuckles.***SYLVIA**

39                   It's a good thing. Trust me. But                   39  
 the translations aren't here. The  
 Blackhalls have them.

**BETH**

40                   Oh. And I take it from your tone                   40  
 that there's some... tension there?

41                                   **SYLVIA**                                   41  
You could say that. There were  
three families that stepped up and  
rose to prominence when our  
ancestors first settled here. The  
Corbins were leaders and  
organizers, and the Pandolfis were  
artists and storytellers. But the  
Blackhalls? They were something  
*different*.

42                                   **BETH**                                   42  
You mentioned... encountering one  
while you were out exploring.

43                                   **SYLVIA**                                   43  
Ah, yes. Eric.

44                                   **BETH**                                   44  
Is he dangerous?

*SYLVIA laughs.*

45                                   **SYLVIA**                                   45  
Eric? Dangerous? Don't let the  
spooky robes fool you, he's  
*harmless*. His father, though...  
well, you'd do well to keep an eye  
on him.

46                                   **BETH**                                   46  
I believe that your mother was  
paying him a visit this morning.

*SYLVIA sighs.*

47                                   **SYLVIA**                                   47  
Yes. Certainly don't envy her  
there. Eric I can deal with.  
Elias... well, I can deal with him  
as well, but I prefer to avoid it  
wherever possible.

48                                   **BETH**                                   48  
I'm sorry to have put her in that  
position.

49                                   **SYLVIA**                                   49  
Don't think like that!  
Unfortunately, dealing with Elias  
Blackhall is unavoidable when  
you're the head of the Corbin  
family.

**(MORE)**

**SYLVIA (CONT'D)**

My father didn't like it either,  
but he just sort of hitched up his  
pants and did it, just like mom.

**BETH**

50 Thank you. The last thing I want is 50  
to be a burden... you've been so  
kind and so generous already, and  
I'm going to repay it, I promise.

**SYLVIA**

51 In any case, I'll do my best to 51  
save you a trip to the Blackhall  
archive. So creepy down there...

(beat)

52 Most of what we know... well, "know- 52  
ish," I suppose, about Gralsburg  
comes from a single text. It  
revolves around the story of five  
groups that settled here and...  
left for various reasons. The aos  
sí are, at least according to  
legend, descendants of the fifth.

**BETH**

53 Do you believe in them? 53

*SYLVIA sighs.*

**SYLVIA**

54 I don't know. That's the thing 54  
about legends... figuring out what  
basis they have in fact, if any...  
well, that's the difficult part.

**BETH**

55 They could be fables, metaphors, 55  
parables...

**SYLVIA**

56 Or they could be sober retellings 56  
of historical fact. We just don't  
know.

**BETH**

57 Well, like you said, this castle 57  
and the town didn't come from  
nowhere. *Somebody* lived here before  
you did, whether they're the people  
in the legends or not.

(beat)

58 Why did you joke about me being one 58  
of them?

*SYLVIA chuckles.*

59                                   **SYLVIA**                                   59  
                                   Well, they're described in the book  
                                   as tall, strikingly beautiful,  
                                   elegant, often with red hair...

60                                   **BETH**                                   60  
                                   So you were being cheeky.

*SYLVIA laughs.*

61                                   **SYLVIA**                                   61  
                                   I was.

*BETH laughs.*

62                                   **BETH**                                   62  
                                   Well, I can't say for *certain*, but  
                                   as far as I can tell I'm just an  
                                   ordinary person.

63                                   **SYLVIA**                                   63  
                                   I doubt that.

64                                   **BETH**                                   64  
                                   Well, I do have this bracer  
                                   attached to my arm.

*SYLVIA chuckles.*

65                                   **SYLVIA**                                   65  
                                   That's not what I meant. There's  
                                   something about you. I can't quite  
                                   put my finger on it, but I'll  
                                   figure it out.

(beat)

66                                   66  
                                   If my brother were here, he'd say I  
                                   sound more like a Blackhall than a  
                                   Corbin or a Pandolfi, but... I  
                                   believe everything happens for a  
                                   reason. And you showing up on our  
                                   doorstep is no exception.

67                                   **BETH**                                   67  
                                   I hope you're right. I don't know  
                                   what led to me being here, but I  
                                   hope it wasn't just random chance.  
                                   If it is...

(sigh)

68                                   68  
                                   If it is, it feels a lot less  
                                   likely that I'll figure out who I  
                                   am and get back home... wherever  
                                   "home" may be.



69                                   **SYLVIA**                                   69  
 We'll do everything we can to help  
 make that happen. And until it  
 does, *this* is your home and we're  
 your family.

                                  (beat)  
 70                                   In any case, you look like you                                   70  
 could use some fresh air. Would you  
 like to go for a walk?

*There is a pause.*

**SYLVIA** (CONT'D)  
 71                                   What is it? Your face... did you                                   71  
 remember something?

**BETH**  
                                   (slightly confused)  
 72                                   No... well, not exactly.                                   72  
                                   (trying to work through  
                                   it)

73                                   When you asked about going for a                                   73  
 walk, it... triggered something.  
 Not a memory exactly, more of a...  
 feeling.

**SYLVIA**  
                                   (cautious)  
 74                                   A good feeling?                                   74

**BETH**  
 75                                   Yes. I...                                   75  
                                   (frustrated)  
 76                                   I can't even put words to it.                                   76

**SYLVIA**  
 77                                   Don't push yourself too hard. This                                   77  
 is a good sign, I think, so let's  
 take it as a win.

*BETH sighs.*

**BETH**  
 78                                   Okay.                                   78  
                                   (beat)  
 79                                   I could use a break. Do you think                                   79  
 you could help me find breakfast?

**SYLVIA**  
 80                                   Of course. Corbenic's got the best                                   80  
 kitchens in all of Gralsburg. We'll  
 find something you like.

**BETH**

81 Thank you. And... latent memory or 81  
not, I do think a walk might do me  
good. This is all fascinating, but  
you're right. I do need some fresh  
air. And there's... something about  
the air here... it seems... fresher  
than anything I've breathed before.

*(beat)*

82 Which doesn't make any sense given 82  
that I can't actually *remember*  
having breathed before I woke up  
here, but here we are.

*SYLVIA chuckles.***SYLVIA**

83 It may not make sense now, but I'm 83  
fully confident that it will  
eventually.

*(beat)*

84 Let's get some breakfast, then 84  
we'll find you some walking boots  
and something more outdoorsy to  
wear.

**BETH**

85 Sounds like a plan. Thank you, 85  
Sylvia. I couldn't have hoped for a  
better pretend cousin.

*SYLVIA laughs.***SYLVIA**

86 Thank you, Isabelle. 86

MUSICAL TRANSITION

2 **INT. ELIAS BLACKHALL'S RESIDENCE - DAY** 2

*ELIAS is pattering around inside.**LOUISA knocks on the door. ELIAS goes to the door and opens it.**LOUISA and ELIAS are cordial with one another, but there is clear tension between them. This is a dance that they've been doing for many years, and they're both quite skilled at it.***ELIAS**

87 Louisa! This is unexpected. To what 87  
do I owe the... erm...

88                                   **LOUISA**                                   88  
"Pleasure" is the word you're  
looking for, Elias.

*ELIAS chuckles.*

89                                   **ELIAS**                                   89  
Of course. Do come in.

*LOUISA enters. ELIAS closes the door.*

90                                   **ELIAS** (CONT'D)                                   90  
Please, have a seat. Can I get you  
anything?

91                                   **LOUISA**                                   91  
No. I won't be staying long, but  
thank you. There's something we  
need to discuss and I wanted you to  
hear it from me directly.

92                                   **ELIAS**                                   92  
Oh, dear. Is it about Eric?

93                                   **LOUISA**                                   93  
Why would it be about Eric?

94                                   **ELIAS**                                   94  
No reason.

95                                   **LOUISA**                                   95  
*Elias...*

96                                   **ELIAS**                                   96  
He mentioned that he ran into your  
daughter yesterday.

97                                   **LOUISA**                                   97  
Yes, he did. But as far as I know,  
nothing happened that would merit a  
conversation between the two of us.  
If there was, she didn't mention it  
to me. And she would have.

98                                   **ELIAS**                                   98  
Good. For what it's worth, the only  
thing of note that he mentioned to  
me was that she was... whisked away  
by some of the sheriff's men.

99                                   (beat)  
He was concerned.                                   99

100                                   **LOUISA**                                   100  
 Concerned? Hmph. Well, I can assure  
 you that *my daughter* is fine and  
*your son* has no reason to be  
 concerned about her.

101                                   **ELIAS**                                   101  
 I understand.  
                                   (beat)  
 102                                   So, then, what do we need to                                   102  
 discuss? Have you been working on  
 the Song of the Sixth?

*LOUISA sighs.*

103                                   **LOUISA**                                   103  
 Not as much as I should be. It's...  
 been difficult.

104                                   **ELIAS**                                   104  
                                   (understanding her pain)  
 Of that I have no doubt.

105                                   **LOUISA**                                   105  
 I know that the people are growing  
 restless. It's the longest they've  
 gone without so much as a new  
 quatrain in centuries.

106                                   **ELIAS**                                   106  
 The people *understand*, restless  
 though they may be. The song will  
 come, in its own time.

107                                   **LOUISA**                                   107  
 Thank you. Considering what's just  
 happened... well, I have a feeling  
 that I'm going to have a *lot* of  
 inspiration to work with. Perhaps  
 too much.

108                                   **ELIAS**                                   108  
 Oh? Now I'm intrigued.

109                                   **LOUISA**                                   109  
 We have a... a guest at Corbenic.

110                                   **ELIAS**                                   110  
 Alright, that isn't *particularly*  
 out of the ordinary...

111                                   **LOUISA**                                   111  
 I'm getting to the "out of the  
 ordinary" part.  
                                   **(MORE)**

**LOUISA (CONT'D)**

(beat)

112 Look. This situation is... fluid, 112  
 and right now there's a lot more  
 that we *don't* know than we *do*. It's  
 important that we're working from  
 the same sheet of music here,  
 Elias. This is a *big deal*, and if  
 we don't control the narrative,  
 well... I don't like turmoil.

**ELIAS**

113 Nor do I. It's the kind of thing 113  
 that can interfere with *both* our  
 aims.

(beat)

114 So... what *do* we know? 114

**LOUISA**

115 Using "we" already. That's a good 115  
 sign.

*ELIAS chuckles.***ELIAS**

116 Same sheet of music, remember? 116  
 Let's see if I can still carry a  
 tune.

**LOUISA**

117 Could you ever? I think I've only 117  
 ever heard you chant.

*ELIAS chuckles.***ELIAS**

118 Fair enough. 118

**LOUISA**

119 Yesterday, two deputies found a 119  
 young woman, unconscious.

**ELIAS**

120 Oh, dear. Is she alright? Was she 120  
 attacked?

**LOUISA**

121 She's recovering at Corbenic, and 121  
 no, so far as we know, there was no  
 attack or any sort of foul play.

(beat, sigh)

122 They found her next to the Veil. 122

**ELIAS**

123                                 Next to the Veil?! Oh, now that *is*                                 123  
intriguing. It's been silent for  
more than five hundred years! This  
could portend...

**LOUISA**

(interrupting)

124                                 Calm down. I *knew* you'd jump right                                 124  
to omens and portents... hell, I'm  
surprised you didn't run into the  
archive before I finished my  
sentence.

(beat)

125                                 You can speculate and search for                                 125  
relevant prophecies all you want  
*later*. Okay?

**ELIAS**

126                                 Of course. Please go on.   126

**LOUISA**

127                                 She didn't seemed to be injured,   127  
but she *does* have some sort of  
amnesia. Didn't remember a thing,  
the poor dear. Who she is, how she  
got there... not even her name.

**ELIAS**

128                                 That's unfortunate. Perhaps the   128  
amnesia will prove to be temporary.  
Something caused by... proximity to  
the Veil perhaps?

(beat)

129                                 Sorry. Speculating again.   129

**LOUISA**

130                                 Our working theory is that she came   130  
*through* the veil. Before you ask,  
we don't know how that's possible,  
but it's the most *plausible* option,  
at least for now.

(beat)

131                                 But there's one other piece of   131  
evidence that's pointing us toward  
that conclusion as well.

*There is a pause.*

**ELIAS**

132                                 And that is...   132

*LOUISA sighs.*

133                                   **LOUISA**                                   133  
She's wearing what we're reasonably  
certain is the other Bracer of  
Peredur.

134                                   **ELIAS**                                   134  
That's impossible!

135                                   **LOUISA**                                   135  
I'm deeply surprised to hear you,  
of *all people*, using that word.

136                                   **ELIAS**                                   136  
You're right, I... I just... this  
is not something I expected. There  
is *nothing* even hinting at  
something like this in the texts.  
                                  (beat, thinking)

137                                   At least not that I recall... There                                   137  
has to be *something*.

138                                   **LOUISA**                                   138  
Does there?  
                                  (sighs)

139                                   Not everything is foretold! Our                                   139  
families have been having this  
argument for five hundred years and  
you still can't accept that!

140                                   **ELIAS**                                   140  
I could argue the same about you.  
You are acutely aware of *tradition*  
yet refuse to entertain the  
possibilities offered by any  
tradition other than your own.

141                                   **LOUISA**                                   141  
That is *not* fair and you know it.

142                                   **ELIAS**                                   142  
Don't tell me what I know.

143                                   **LOUISA**                                   143  
                                  (gathering herself)  
We can fight later. This is too  
important to relitigate old  
squabbles.

144                                   **ELIAS**                                   144  
Alright.  
                                  (beat)

145                                   Well, she may not know who she is,                                   145  
but you must. You know *everyone* in  
Gralsburg.

*LOUISA sighs.*

146	<b>LOUISA</b>	146
	I do. And I've never seen her before in my life.	
	<b>ELIAS</b>	
	(getting the gravity of the situation)	
147	Oh... so she's not just a "guest..."	147
	<b>LOUISA</b>	
148	She's a guest from "out of town."	148
	<b>ELIAS</b>	
149	I see. Well, I don't <i>entirely</i> , but I have full confidence that I will. We will.	149
	(sotto)	
150	At some point...	150
	(beat)	
151	And you're... reasonably certain that she's wearing the <i>actual</i> other Bracer?	151
	<b>LOUISA</b>	
152	Yes. The designs aren't identical, but they... go together, if that makes sense.	152
	<b>ELIAS</b>	
153	I'll defer to your artist's eye on that.	153
	<b>LOUISA</b>	
154	And it reacted to Adrian's when they were in the same room. Nothing focused, just some... tingling.	154
	<b>ELIAS</b>	
155	Still, that certainly supports the theory that it's the real thing. Adrian has worn his bracer for five years, and I'm sure that his father prepared him well. His relationship to the land demonstrates that quite clearly. This woman, though? Even if she <i>did</i> know what it can do and how to control it, she wouldn't remember any of it.	155



156                                   **LOUISA**                                   156  
And we don't even know if it has  
the same powers as Adrian's. All we  
really know is that it's attached  
to her and it's not coming off.

157                                   **ELIAS**                                   157  
Unless...

158                                   **LOUISA**                                   158  
Don't. Just... don't.  
(beat)

159                                   159  
I need you to understand, Elias,  
she is under our protection. And  
we're building out a backstory that  
reflects that.

160                                   **ELIAS**                                   160  
Oh?

161                                   **LOUISA**                                   161  
She found a note when she was  
changing her clothes, made out to  
"Isabelle." She doesn't know if it  
was written to her, but in the  
absence of anything else to go on,  
well, if nothing else it's a nice  
name.

162                                   **ELIAS**                                   162  
Was there a surname on the note?

163                                   **LOUISA**                                   163  
No, and that gave me an idea.  
(beat)

164                                   164  
I decided to make her a Pandolfi.  
An honorary one, I suppose, but a  
Pandolfi nonetheless. As far as  
anyone knows, she was off exploring  
the Lands Beyond and who's finally  
returned home.

165                                   **ELIAS**                                   165  
Clever.

*LOUISA chuckles.*

166                                   **LOUISA**                                   166  
Thank you. I was hoping you'd  
approve.

167                                   **ELIAS**                                   167  
You'll also be able to use that to  
explain why she has the Bracer.  
**(MORE)**

**ELIAS (CONT'D)**

Given how close the Corbin and Pandolfi families have been throughout our history, it's not a stretch that a long-lost Pandolfi might be in possession of the one that's been missing.

**LOUISA**

168 That was my thought as well. 168

**ELIAS**

169 It seems logical that the Bracer, 169  
or perhaps some combination of the  
Bracer and her trip through the  
Veil is what caused her amnesia. It  
could be a coincidence, or at least  
unrelated, though.

(beat)

170 What else? 170

**LOUISA**

171 That's not enough? 171

*ELIAS chuckles.*

**ELIAS**

172 It is, but I feel as though you 172  
have a bit more to tell me.

**LOUISA**

173 She's... unlike anyone I've ever 173  
encountered before.

**ELIAS**

174 In what way? 174

**LOUISA**

175 In every way. She's tall - almost 175  
as tall as Adrian. She's  
beautiful...

**ELIAS**

176 Quite on-brand for a Pandolfi. 176

*LOUISA chuckles.*

**LOUISA**

(cheeky)

177 Yes, I suppose you're right. 177

(beat)

178 She has an accent I've never heard 178  
before. And she's... elegant but  
still a bit awkward, like...

**(MORE)**

**LOUISA (CONT'D)**

like a princess on ice skates for  
the first time.

*ELIAS chuckles.*

**ELIAS**

179 That's quite a visual. 179  
(beat)

180 So, when can I meet her? 180

**LOUISA**

181 Who said you're going to meet her? 181

**ELIAS**

182 You didn't just come here to tell 182  
me to keep my distance and to  
ensure that I'd go along with the  
cover story you've created. You  
need my help.

*LOUISA sighs.*

**LOUISA**

183 I suppose I do. 183  
(beat)

184 Alright. You can meet with her. But 184  
let's give her a few days to get  
her bearings. She's clearly been  
through a lot, even if she doesn't  
remember any of it.

**ELIAS**

185 That's reasonable. In the interim, 185  
Eric and I will search the archives  
to see if there's anything that  
might shed some light on this...  
situation. Even if it's not  
directly foretold, we may at least  
be able to find some context.

**LOUISA**

186 Please send word if you discover 186  
anything.

**ELIAS**

187 Of course. And I trust you'll do 187  
the same?

*LOUISA sighs.*

**LOUISA**

188 We both know that secrets... well, 188  
sometimes it's necessary to keep  
them.

**(MORE)**

**LOUISA (CONT'D)**

Hell, Gralsburg is practically built on them. But this is not one of those times.

(beat)

189 My immediate concern is that the presence of the other Bracer could upset the... order that we've worked so hard to build. We can avoid that *if* we work together and *if* we're honest with each other. 189

**ELIAS**

190 Agreed. 190

*There is a pause.*

**LOUISA**

191 What is it? 191

**ELIAS**

192 It's nothing. 192

**LOUISA**

193 It's not nothing. I know that look. 193

**ELIAS**

194 I was just thinking that the other Bracer might... stir up activity from some old friends. 194

**LOUISA**

195 The Veil Wraiths? 195

**ELIAS**

196 Yes. I know it's been centuries, but that may simply be because the Veil has remained dormant. If our new arrival did indeed come *through* the Veil, well... 196

**LOUISA**

197 That might give them a reason to emerge from wherever the hell they've been hiding. 197

(sigh)

198 That's the last thing we'd need. I thought we'd successfully consigned them to legend. 198

**ELIAS**

199 And perhaps we have. It's just a thought. 199

**LOUISA**

200

No, it's a good one. Better safe than sorry. I'll talk to Sheriff Stone on my way back to Corbenic. He's fully aware of the situation, so we can discuss things frankly. Thank you, Elias.

200

**ELIAS**

201

Thank you, Louisa. We'll talk again soon.

201

MUSICAL TRANSITION

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

3 **INT. FORT ATLAS, AFTERNOON** 3

*Paladin RAHMANI is in her office with Scribe NAVIA.*

*ODESSA knocks on the door.*

202 **RAHMANI** 202  
Ah, Odessa, please, come in. We  
were just about to get started.

203 **ODESSA** 203  
I'm sorry I'm late, Paladin. Casey  
caught me in the hallway, and,  
well...

*RAHMANI chuckles.*

204 **RAHMANI** 204  
I understand. Jess was about to  
brief me on the progress she's made  
on getting our new comms  
infrastructure up and running.

205 **ODESSA** 205  
I wish Beth had been able to help  
with that. Not that I expect the  
Syndicate to rifle through her  
things, but taking that kind of  
equipment with her just wasn't  
worth the risk.

206 **RAHMANI** 206  
Of course. It could lead to some...  
uncomfortable questions, and it  
wasn't worth jeopardizing her  
mission. We'll have plenty of  
opportunities to test.

(beat)  
207 I do have good news, though. 207

208 **ODESSA** 208  
You do? About Beth?

209 **RAHMANI** 209  
Yes. Knight Carlson, with the help  
of Scribe Navia's optimized  
communications array, was able to  
pick up some chatter.

210 **ODESSA** 210  
What kind of chatter?

211                                   **RAHMANI**                                   211  
Two of the people that Beth met  
with reported back to their  
subordinates within hours after  
that meeting took place. Greg can  
give you a full briefing if you'd  
like, but the long and the short of  
it is that the meeting appears to  
have gone well. Very well, in fact.

212                                   **ODESSA**                                   212  
That's very good news. As good an  
operative as Beth is...

213                                   **RAHMANI**                                   213  
You worry about her.

214                                   **ODESSA**                                   214  
Yes. And Craig told us that Victor  
Scarlatti is as perceptive as  
anyone he's ever dealt with. He  
doesn't scare easily, but we could  
tell he was concerned. If Victor  
sniffed out his deception... well,  
he didn't want to talk about the  
potential consequences.

215                                   **RAHMANI**                                   215  
Scarlatti was very impressed with  
Beth. He indicated that Isabelle  
more than lived up to the  
reputation that we built for her.

216                                   **ODESSA**                                   216  
That's a relief. I was concerned  
that we might be overdoing it, but  
Isabelle had to have an impressive  
résumé just to get into that room.

217                                   **RAHMANI**                                   217  
If I've learned one thing about  
Beth over the years, it's that she  
has a knack for exceeding  
expectations, no matter how high  
those expectations are.

218                                   (beat)                                   218  
It's a pity we don't have someone  
who might be able to talk her into  
joining the Brotherhood full  
time...

*ODESSA laughs.*

219                                   **ODESSA**                                   219  
I don't think anyone could talk her  
into joining the Brotherhood or any  
other faction. Independence is too  
important to her to operate in any  
way other than "unaffiliated."

220                                   **RAHMANI**                                   220  
Well, we *do* get to work her a lot,  
and I'm grateful for that.

221                                   **ODESSA**                                   221  
As am I.

*RAHMANI chuckles.*

222                                   **RAHMANI**                                   222  
On an unrelated note, we've also  
made significant progress in North  
Carolina.

223                                   **ODESSA**                                   223  
How's Charles doing down there?

224                                   **RAHMANI**                                   224  
Very well. He's been working  
closely with a faction known as the  
"Omaha Street Citizens." They've  
done some truly impressive work in  
rebuilding the city.

225                                   **ODESSA**                                   225  
So... kind of like Foundation?

226                                   **RAHMANI**                                   226  
Kind of, yes. Durham didn't have a  
strong Raider presence to deal with  
like Appalachia did, not to mention  
the Scorched, so their growth was  
able to start off more strongly  
than it did here. And that growth  
has only become stronger. They've  
already unified several smaller  
factions under their banner.

227                                   (beat)                                   227  
It's important that we build trust  
with them as rapidly as we can. If  
we don't...

228                                   **ODESSA**                                   228  
Then someone else might step in,  
and that "someone" might not have  
goals as noble as the  
Brotherhood's.



- RAHMANI**
- 229 Precisely. This is a golden opportunity for us, and a mutually beneficial one. I plan to take advantage of it. 229
- ODESSA**
- 230 That region has a lot of scientific value. Three prestigious research universities and a very large corporate science and research presence as well. 230
- RAHMANI**
- 231 And not far from several military installations, although what we'll find *there* is anybody's guess. But that's a problem for another day. 231
- ODESSA**
- 232 I know this is a bit outside my lane, but... 232
- RAHMANI**
- 233 What is it? 233
- ODESSA**
- 234 One of the things that Derek seemed to talk about constantly when he was here... well, when he wasn't talking about *us*, at least... 234  
(beat, gathering herself)
- 235 He said that the biggest challenge they faced wasn't Raiders, or Super Mutants... it was *resources*. 235
- RAHMANI**
- 236 People, specifically. 236
- ODESSA**
- 237 Yes. We've grown *so much* here. More than I'd ever even hoped we could. 237
- RAHMANI**
- 238 We've grown from three people to dozens in just a couple of years. When Elder Maxson reads that part of Derek's report, I think he'll be impressed. If not a little jealous. 238  
(beat)
- 239 I feel like there's a "but" coming. 239



**NAVIA**

250 We ended the Scorched plague, and 250  
 we thought we'd be able to take a  
 little break, but then the  
 Morningstar showed up. And then we  
 had to fend off an interdimensional  
 invasion. Now it's a criminal  
 syndicate who's getting ready to  
 make some kind of big move to seize  
 power in Appalachia. It never  
 stops.

**ODESSA**

(almost disappointed)  
 251 So you think we should concentrate 251  
 on keeping things safe here in  
 Appalachia rather than trying to  
 expand.

**NAVIA**

252 No! I'm saying the opposite! 252

**ODESSA**

(interested)  
 253 Go on... 253

**NAVIA**

254 There's always going to be a new 254  
 crisis. A new threat, whether it's  
 small or existential. And sure, we  
 can keep our focus squarely here in  
 Appalachia. But if we do that,  
 well...

(beat)

255 I think we're doing ourselves a 255  
 disservice if we don't pursue this.  
 I'm so proud of who we are and all  
 that we've done. And I'm excited to  
 be part of everything we're going  
 to do! I just... I just want to  
 make sure we're not... holding  
 ourselves back, unnecessarily...

(beat, sotto)

256 I guess. 256

(beat)

257 I'm sorry. 257

*ODESSA chuckles.*

**ODESSA**

258 Don't be sorry. It's okay to be 258  
 excited.

**RAHMANI**

259 Scribe Valdez herself may have had 259  
a tendency toward... expressing her  
enthusiasm for her work.

(beat)

260 Earlier in her career, of course. 260

*NAVIA chuckles.*

**NAVIA**

261 Of course. 261

**ODESSA**

262 Don't tell anyone. I have a 262  
reputation to uphold.

*NAVIA laughs.*

**NAVIA**

263 Your secret's safe with me. 263

(beat)

264 I guess the way I look at it, if 264  
the Brotherhood had kept its focus  
exclusively inward back at Lost  
Hills, well... there would be no  
Appalachian Brotherhood, and who  
knows where I'd be right now. I'd  
like to see more people get the  
kind of chance I had. And maybe I  
can help them the way you've helped  
me.

*There is a beep.*

**NAVIA (CONT'D)**

265 I'm sorry, I asked Scribe Atherton 265  
to keep an eye on comms and ping me  
if Charles reached out.

**RAHMANI**

266 It's fine, Jess. Go. 266

**ODESSA**

267 I'll expect a full briefing on the 267  
current situation on the ground in  
Durham. Have it ready by 1900  
hours.

**NAVIA**

268 Yes, ma'am. 268

269 **ODESSA** 269  
And give him my regards. I'm  
looking forward to catching up when  
we have a minute.

270 **NAVIA** 270  
I will.

*NAVIA leaves.*

*RAHMANI chuckles.*

271 **RAHMANI** 271  
I closed my eyes for a moment and  
thought Hailey Takano was here. She  
always knew how to give you *just*  
the right push.

272 **ODESSA** 272  
I did learn from the best.

273 (beat) 273  
I'm just so proud of her. She's  
really come into her own. I was  
just telling her, I finally feel  
like I can take a break without  
everything falling apart.

274 **RAHMANI** 274  
We're not *completely* lost without  
you. Just mostly.

*ODESSA laughs.*

275 **ODESSA** 275  
You know what I mean!

276 **RAHMANI** 276  
I see a lot of you in her, just  
like I see a lot of Scribe Takano  
in you. You know, neither of us are  
old enough to frame things this  
way, but... the future of the  
Brotherhood is in good hands.

277 **ODESSA** 277  
Creating something sustainable was  
always my goal. There were times  
that I wasn't sure we'd be able to  
achieve it, but, well... here we  
are.

278                                   **RAHMANI**                                   278  
Losing Knight Banks was a blow. He  
seemed like an ideal candidate to  
be the first person we promoted to  
Paladin. I understand why he left,  
but...

279                                   **ODESSA**                                   279  
It hurt.

280                                   **RAHMANI**                                   280  
I know you two were close.

281                                   **ODESSA**                                   281  
He used to call me "the sister he  
never wanted."

*RAHMANI laughs.*

282                                   **RAHMANI**                                   282  
That sounds like him.

283                                   **ODESSA**                                   283  
I was *really* in my head when we  
first arrived here. Between all the  
work we had to do and still  
navigating what my life was going  
to look like after Derek *and* on the  
opposite side of the country... it  
was nice to have somebody to keep  
me sane.

  (beat)  
284                                   He never let me take myself too                                   284  
seriously. I didn't realize how  
important that was before that.

285                                   **RAHMANI**                                   285  
And he helped keep your... admirers  
at bay, too.

*ODESSA chuckles.*

286                                   **ODESSA**                                   286  
He did. That was probably the most  
"big-brotherly" thing he did. And I  
needed it. Most of them were  
harmless, but it was the *last* thing  
I needed to deal with.

  (beat)  
287                                   When he met Beth and kind of gave                                   287  
her his tacit approval, well... I  
think that was the first sign that  
she was something special.

**(MORE)**

**ODESSA (CONT'D)**

(beat)

288                   The first *external* sign, that is.                   288

**RAHMANI**

289                   Butterflies, I take it?                   289

*ODESSA laughs.***ODESSA**

290                   Something like that.                   290

**RAHMANI**

291                   How are you holding up?                   291

**ODESSA**

292                   I'm okay. Amanda's been a big help.                   292  
It was always hard when Derek was  
away on a mission, but I think part  
of it is that I didn't have a  
friend quite like her.

**RAHMANI**

293                   That's important. And, for what                   293  
it's worth, I think she's been a  
positive influence on you. Not the  
kind of thing I ever expected to  
say about a Raider...

**ODESSA**

294                   Don't let her hear you say that!                   294  
I'm not the only one who has a  
reputation to uphold!

*RAHMANI laughs.***RAHMANI**

295                   Her secret is also safe with me.                   295

MUSICAL TRANSITION

4                   **INT. CORBENIC SITTING ROOM, AFTERNOON**                   4

*BETH and SYLVIA enter after their walk.***BETH**

296                   Thank you, Sylvia. That was exactly                   296  
what I needed. I feel worlds  
better.

**SYLVIA**

297                   Me too. There's a lot out there to                   297  
explore, and I'm going to see all  
of it.

298 **BETH** 298  
There's so much to see in  
Gralsburg! I'm surprised you've  
made it outside the town limits.

299 **SYLVIA** 299  
My mother would certainly prefer  
that I hadn't. She started calling  
me "*la petit volontaire*" because I  
kept finding ways to escape  
Corbenic so I could explore.

*BETH laughs.*

300 **BETH** 300  
Well, you may not be little  
anymore, but you certainly *do*  
strike me as quite determined.

301 **SYLVIA** 301  
(slightly surprised)  
*Est-ce que vous parlez français?*

302 **BETH** 302  
(also surprised)  
*Oui.* Apparently.

*SYLVIA laughs.*

303 **SYLVIA** 303  
Another piece of the puzzle! At  
this rate we'll have you figured  
out in no time!

*BETH laughs.*

304 **BETH** 304  
I appreciate your optimism.

305 **SYLVIA** 305  
Thank you, I'm glad. Adrian tells  
me that it can be a bit much at  
times. He always tries to be so...  
*serious* and *important* about  
everything. And I understand, I  
really do, but dad *always* left room  
for the light to shine in, too.  
Adrian hasn't quite figured out to  
do that yet. But I'm going to be an  
absolutely *relentless* ray of  
sunshine, so he really doesn't have  
a choice.



306                   **BETH**                   306  
There's something I was wondering.  
About Adrian, that is. I'm a bit  
reluctant to ask, though.

307                   **SYLVIA**                   307  
Well you have to ask now. Can't  
leave that kind of thing hanging in  
the air.

308                   **BETH**                   308  
I suppose you're right.  
                  (beat, gathering  
                  herself)  
309                   Is he always that... awkward?           309  
Around people?

310                   **SYLVIA**                   310  
Adrian? Oh, definitely not. That  
was part of what made that whole  
scene so much fun to watch.

*BETH sighs.*

311                   **BETH**                   311  
So it was because of me.

312                   **SYLVIA**                   312  
Look. You have to understand, we're  
not used to visitors. That alone is  
going to put *anybody* on their  
heels, even the scion of the Corbin  
family.

313                   **BETH**                   313  
Okay, so what else?

314                   **SYLVIA**                   314  
What do you mean?

315                   **BETH**                   315  
You said "that alone," which  
implies that it's not *just* that.

316                   **SYLVIA**                   316  
You're really going to make me say  
it out loud, aren't you?

317                   **BETH**                   317  
Say *what*? Sylvia, you have to  
understand, literally *everything* is  
new to me right now. I don't have a  
history to fall back on. No  
experiences. Nothing.  
                  **(MORE)**

**BETH (CONT'D)**

Just these vague... *feelings*,  
almost... *ghosts* of memories. Why  
do I speak differently than  
everyone else here? How do I know  
that castles tend to have dungeons?  
When did I learn to speak French?

(beat)

318 I'm sorry. You've been nothing but 318  
kind and I shouldn't take my  
frustration out on you.

**SYLVIA**

319 It's alright. This is new to me, 319  
too, so I'm going to make some  
mistakes. But we'll work through  
this *together*. And not just you and  
me, our whole family, hell, all of  
Gralsburg is going to be behind  
you.

**BETH**

320 Thank you. That does make me feel 320  
rather better.

(beat)

321 But I'm not letting you off the 321  
hook.

**SYLVIA**

(playfully)

322 Darn it. 322

(beat)

323 You're not just *new*. And you're not 323  
just *different*, either. Let me be  
clear here, you're... um... not my  
type, so you don't have to worry  
about anything there, but you are  
*beautiful*. The kind of beautiful  
that launches ships, the kind  
people write poems about, hell, the  
kind people fight *wars* over.

(beat)

324 I know you don't *remember*, but I'm 324  
sure that, locked away somewhere  
inside that head of yours, you have  
a lot of experience dealing with  
reactions to your presence like my  
brother's.

**BETH**

325 I... I see. 325

(beat)

326 Well, erm... 326

**(MORE)**

**BETH (CONT'D)**

this is a bit awkward, but if I caught your meaning just now, well... your brother isn't my "type."

**SYLVIA**

327 Oh... 327

**BETH**

328 That's not the kind of thing you "remember," it's something you are. 328

**SYLVIA**

329 Of course. 329

(beat)

330 Well, for what it's worth, I don't know if his reaction was anything beyond meeting a woman who's not only, frankly, preposterously beautiful, but so tall that she can look him square in the eye without heels. 330

*BETH laughs.*

**BETH**

331 Here's hoping. 331

**SYLVIA**

332 But if it is... I love my brother, and I don't want to see him have his heart broken. I'll, um... make sure he understands the situation. *Subtly.* I won't make a big deal about it. 332

(beat)

333 And who knows? Maybe you'll find someone who's your "type" here in Gralsburg. Remember, I told you earlier that I firmly believe that everything happens for reason. Maybe that's part of why you're here. 333

**BETH**

334 I do enjoy a good love story. At least if last night's dreams were any indication. 334

**SYLVIA**

335 That sounds nice. Do you think it might be a memory trying to poke its way through? 335

**(MORE)**



**SYLVIA (CONT'D)**

Mom was kind of a prodigy... she was only *eight*.

**BETH**

346 Eight years old and already writing stories? That's incredible. 346

**SYLVIA**

347 She's pretty incredible. When dad died, there could've been a serious power vacuum. Adrian was too young to really step into that role, Bracer or not. But mom held this town together. 347

**BETH**

348 She's certainly an... imposing woman. 348

**SYLVIA**

349 Try being her daughter. 349

**BETH**

350 I'll stick to pretending to be her niece, thank you. 350

*SYLVIA laughs.*

**SYLVIA**

351 Good call. 351

**BETH**

352 Joking aside, though, she's been wonderful to me. I'm just some girl who... magically appeared on her doorstep and she's treated me like family from the go. You *all* have. And I appreciate it. I hope I'll be able to repay you for the kindness you've shown me. 352

**SYLVIA**

353 Don't look at it that way. Just be yourself, and do the best you can. The rest will come naturally. 353

(beat)

354 Here's the way I look at it. You're very much a *tabula rasa* right now. You're not operating with the burden of whatever it is you've gone through in your life. I hope that life's been fantastic, but *no* one can avoid trauma entirely. 354

(beat)

**(MORE)**

**SYLVIA (CONT'D)**

355                                   The "you" we met yesterday? It's                                   355  
  very much the *real* you. And that  
  "real you" seems pretty great so  
  far.

**BETH**

  (humbled)  
356                                   Thank you.                                   356

**SYLVIA**

  (teasing)  
357                                   Don't let it go to your head.                                   357

*BETH laughs.*

**BETH**

358                                   I'll try not to.                                   358

**SYLVIA**

359                                   Good. Let's get some lunch, and                                   359  
  then I'll give you a proper tour of  
  the library. I'll even show you the  
  best writing nooks.

**BETH**

360                                   Thank you. I have a feeling I'll be                                   360  
  spending a lot of time there...

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

5 **INT. THE SPIDER'S WEB, EVENING** 5

*AMANDA and BONES are at the bar. There is moderate activity.*

*ODESSA enters.*

361 **AMANDA** Hey, kitten! How was your first day back at work? 361

362 **ODESSA** It was nice to get back in the swing of things. 362

363 **AMANDA** How many times did you have to dodge Casey? 363

*ODESSA chuckles.*

364 **ODESSA** I didn't dodge her! We did talk a few times, but she was... surprisingly restrained. 364

365 **AMANDA** Probably saving her energy for when Beth gets back. Of course, I'm sure you are, too. 365

*ODESSA laughs.*

366 **ODESSA** Amanda! 366

367 **AMANDA** (singsong) You're blushing... 367

368 **ODESSA** Bones, can I have a drink, please? 368

369 **BONES** Anything in particular? 369

370 **ODESSA** Surprise me. 370

371 (beat) No Screaming Vikings. 371

372 **BONES** Aww... I've been practicing and everything. 372

373 **ODESSA** Your dedication to the craft is always an inspiration. 373

*BONES laughs.*

374 **BONES** Thanks. I'll make you something good, and I promise, I'll keep the cucumbers holstered. 374

375 **ODESSA** Thank you. 375

*BONES walks to the other side of the bar to prepare a drink.*

376 **AMANDA** The grapevine is starting to buzz a little bit about this new player that just burst onto the scene. 376

377 **ODESSA** You did a good job backstopping "Isabelle." Craig did, too. 377

378 **AMANDA** Yeah, I'm just starting to worry that maybe we did too good a job. We kinda had to thread the needle; make her sound impressive enough to be worth Victor's time, but not so impressive that people start wondering why they never heard of her before. 378

379 **ODESSA** The prep work was fun. 379

380 **AMANDA** Yeah, it was. I kinda miss doing that. 380

381 **ODESSA** You're always welcome. Going through all the different scenarios she might encounter seems to work better when there's more than one person to bounce things off. 381





397                                   **BONES**  
The Unpredicta-Belles?                                   397

398                                   **AMANDA**  
Hmm. Still terrible, but it has                                   398  
potential. Put it in your back  
pocket and we'll keep workshopping.

399                                   **BONES**  
                                  (sotto)  
I'm so confused. I thought this was                                   399  
a bit...

*BONES leaves.*

400                                   **AMANDA**  
Well, now you have your new career                                   400  
lined up if you ever decide to  
retire from the Brotherhood.

*ODESSA laughs.*

401                                   **ODESSA**  
Um... I think I'll stick with                                   401  
something in the sciences. I'm  
*slightly* more comfortable there.

402                                   **AMANDA**  
Okay, suit yourself. But I think                                   402  
you're a natural.

*ODESSA laughs.*

403                                   **ODESSA**  
I'll take your word for it.                                   403  
                                  (beat)

404                                   Wait!                                   404

405                                   **AMANDA**  
Uh-oh...                                   405

406                                   **ODESSA**  
Science improv!                                   406

407                                   **AMANDA**  
*Science improv?*                                   407

408                                   **ODESSA**  
Yes! We can entertain *and* educate!                                   408

409                                   **AMANDA**  
                                  (playfully patronizing)  
You are *adorable*!                                   409

**ODESSA**

(also playful)

410 Don't patronize me! 410

**AMANDA**

411 Okay, okay! 411

(beat)

412 How's your drink? What did he give 412  
you?

**ODESSA**

(slightly unsure)

413 It's good. I taste... cranberry, 413  
um... orange, I think?

(beat)

414 The base is definitely gin. 414

(beat)

415 Oof, that's tart. 415

*BONES appears and pours a small amount of simple syrup to  
ODESSA's drink.*

**BONES**

416 Try it now. 416

**ODESSA**

417 That's perfect! It just needed a 417  
little bit of sweetness.

*There is a long pause.*

**ODESSA (CONT'D)**

418 Don't. 418

*AMANDA laughs.*

**AMANDA**

419 I love it when you wag your finger 419  
me like that.

*ODESSA laughs.*

*The door opens. CINDY enters.*

**ODESSA**

420 Hi, Cindy! 420

**AMANDA**

421 Well, this is a nice surprise! I 421  
thought you were jammed up until  
next week!

422                                   **CINDY**                                   422  
I was, but I sweet-talked the  
Colonel into letting me take  
liberty early.

423                                   **ODESSA**                                   423  
You... sweet-talked *the Colonel*?

424                                   **CINDY**                                   424  
Well... "sweet-talked" might be  
overselling it. I presented several  
operationally relevant  
justifications.

425                                   **ODESSA**                                   425  
That's more like it.

*AMANDA laughs.*

426                                   **AMANDA**                                   426  
Whatever it took, I'm glad you're  
here! I can turn the keys over to  
Bones here and we can have a girls'  
night! Bones has plenty of drinks  
in beta testing that we can try.

427                                   **CINDY**                                   427  
                                  (more confused than  
                                  disappointed)  
Um, that sounds great, but...

428                                   **AMANDA**                                   428  
What is it?

429                                   **CINDY**                                   429  
I thought it would just be us. The  
two of us.

430                                   **ODESSA**                                   430  
Oh! I wasn't even planning on  
staying long, you two can have the  
rest of the night to yourselves.  
I've been going into work early  
with Beth out of town... I want to  
make sure I'm caught up when she  
gets home.

431                                   **CINDY**                                   431  
That's just it... she *should* be  
home.

432                                   **AMANDA**                                   432  
What are you talking about, babe?

433                                   **CINDY**                                   433  
We've been keeping track of Beth's  
movements, monitoring radio  
chatter...

**ODESSA**  
                                  (surprised and  
                                  irritated)  
434                                   **ODESSA**                                   434  
*The Colonel* told Paladin Rahmani  
that she didn't have the manpower  
to help us with this operation.

*CINDY sighs.*

435                                   **CINDY**                                   435  
I know, *I know.*

436                                   **ODESSA**                                   436  
We can talk about that later.

437                                   **CINDY**                                   437  
Our intel indicated that Beth left  
town yesterday. I just assumed she  
came back here. Like, where else  
would she go?

438                                   **ODESSA**                                   438  
Nowhere...

439                                   **AMANDA**                                   439  
                                  (concerned)  
Kitten...

440                                   **ODESSA**                                   440  
What about today?

441                                   **CINDY**                                   441  
No sign of her. But if she hopped a  
Vertibird back to Appalachia, we  
wouldn't be able to track her. We  
still can't differentiate between  
the ones you're using and regular  
traffic.

442                                   **AMANDA**                                   442  
Odessa? Are you... okay?

443                                   **ODESSA**                                   443  
                                  (calmly but just holding  
                                  it together)  
I'm fine. Amanda, pack a bag. You  
and I are going to go to Fort  
Atlas, and we're getting on a  
Vertibird. Cindy?

444                                   **CINDY**                                   444  
What can I do to help?

445                                   **ODESSA**                                   445  
Go back to the bunker and keep us  
updated. You have eyes and ears  
that we don't, and we'll need them.

446                                   **CINDY**                                   446  
I don't think the Colonel is going  
to go for that.

447                                   **ODESSA**                                   447  
                                  (sternly)  
Come up with some *operationally*  
*relevant justifications*. Or sweet-  
talk her. I don't care, just get it  
done.

448    (beat, encouragingly)                                   448  
I know you can do it. I have faith  
in you.

449                                   **CINDY**                                   449  
Okay. On my way.

450                                   **ODESSA**                                   450  
We'll have our portable comms unit  
with us, so we'll be able to keep  
in touch. Once we're there, I'll be  
able to track Beth's ring.

451                                   **AMANDA**                                   451  
I have a go bag in the back. I'll  
grab it.

452    (beat)                                   452  
She's fine, kitten. I know it.

453                                   **ODESSA**                                   453  
You told me you missed undercover  
ops. Well, you won't have to miss  
them much longer.

THE END