

I COULD LOVE YOU EPISODE ONE

A Dragon Age Inquisition Fandom Audio Drama

Written by
Crystal Storm

Copyright (c) 2025

Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

theteam@talesoftheforgotten.com

1 EXT. HAVEN - DREAM SEQUENCE

A chilly wind and the sound of snowfall outside.

RINIYA (V.O.)

Warm breath running over the tip of my sensitive pointed ear startled me. I would have turned, but a pair of hands curved around my waist and drew me backwards. I should have reacted differently. I should have pulled one of my knives and struggled. Instead I leaned into the embrace and felt soft breasts pillow against my back. The faint smell of lavender mixed with steel, and the frosty outdoor scent of Haven surrounded me.

I swallowed hard, my hands touching the pair at her waist. The tops of Cassandra's fingers were soft, but strong. I'd seen the way they wrapped around a sword, carried a shield. I'd noticed when they clenched in anger, the way they clasped together, or moved when she spoke.

Thoughts of the Seekers hands though soon faded. No, my thought process became completely obliterated when I felt the Seekers mouth caress the shell of my ear. When the Seekers clever tongue flicked over the tip, then followed the path of her mouth. My entire body stiffened, arousal seizing me, clenching my gut and sending heat between my legs. Fuck. I was wet. Abruptly, embarrassingly, wet. When the Seeker sucked the tip of my ear, I moaned loudly, pressing my ass back into her.

RINIYA

(breathless)

Cassandra...

CASSANDRA

(whispered)

I do not know why but, I want you.

RINIYA

Creators, fuck me. Please just...

2 INT. HERALDS BEDROOM

Outside we hear that same breeze, the sound of snow falling. Inside, more prevalent, the sound of a warm crackling fire, and the Heralds, heavy aroused breathing. Poor girl.

(gasp) RINIYA

RINIYA (V.O.)
I jerked upright, sweating and painfully aroused. My clit was throbbing, my hips making small jerking movements desperate for stimulation even as consciousness returned.

RINIYA
Fuuuuck.

RINIYA (V.O.)
I could have taken care of myself, but these dirty dreams I kept having about Cassandra were ridiculous. Granted, they were a thousand times better than the nightmares, but even so.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)
All this, these dreams or whatever it was the stress of the situation. One minute I'd been accused of being a mass murderer. And what felt like five minutes later I was part of an Inquisition with the impossible task of building alliances so I could close a hole in the sky. All because of...
(beat)

I looked at my right hand, turning it over. The mark was ugly. I wasn't vain, I had plenty of scars but the mark was something else entirely. The skin on my palm looked like a horrible burn mark, circular in shape with thin puckered lines running through the middle.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)
I hated it, truth be told. The mark wasn't a reminder of something I'd triumphed over. It was a mistake and it unnerved me. The power underneath it, and everything it represented.

(sighs) RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Nothing like thinking of the demon hole closing scar on your hand, to kill your arousal. I got up, tossing aside the furs, and looked out the window. It was the middle of the night, darkness coating the sky except where the breach lit up the darkness with it's menacing green taint.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I got dressed enough to talk a walk around Haven, leaving my bow against the wall, and strapped my knife belt to my waist.

3 EXT. HAVEN - NIGHT

Rini opens the door. Haven is largely quiet at the late hour, but we hear the occasional faint voices. Guards on duty, and Leliana's spies that never sleep.

RINIYA (V.O.)

I breathed in the cold air, liking it for once, because it was doing wonders to calm how restless I was. I wandered past Seggrit's merchant stand, closed at the late hour of course. I walked with no real direction, enjoying the peaceful moment, until a different sound made my ears perk.

We hear the sound of a woman grunting in combat. Feet crunching over snow as she moves with fluid, deadly precision. The low woosh of a hand and a half sword cutting through the air.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Someone was practicing. At this hour? I kept moving towards the sound, passing the trebuchets, when the glow of firelight outlined the form and a familiar shape appeared.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I was a glutton for punishment apparently. Because really who else, would practice at this hour with such dedication other than Cassandra.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I halted abruptly as all the work I'd done to calm myself down flared back to life. I should leave. Immediately. I should turn around and walk away.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

But my brain and body were not on the same page. My feet refused to move, which meant I was staring. Watching the Seeker's graceful deadly movements, swinging her sword as if fighting an invisible enemy, moving across the snow with speed. Then slower, like she was stalking her prey. Her lips were slightly parted at times, puffs of cold air coming from them. She was sweating, even in the chilly weather. I could see the moisture glisten on her neck and immediately wondered what it would feel like, taste like if she licked it off.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

The thought sent another wave of heat crashing through me and I forced herself not to clench my thighs together. This was dumb. I needed to get laid. Stat.

RINIYA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Finally my stupid feet did what I told them, and turned ready to depart -

CASSANDRA

Herald?

RINIYA (V.O.)

WHY? Why did Cassandra have such a stupidly sexy voice? I took a breath, getting myself together, ensuring my expression was neutral and turned back around.

RINIYA

I apologize. I wasn't sneaking and didn't mean to interrupt.

CASSANDRA

Do not apologize, I was simply not expecting anyone to be there.
(beat)

Were you unable to sleep?

RINIYA (V.O.)

I nodded, and resolutely forced my brain to stop sending me vivid reminders through her of exactly why I couldn't sleep

RINIYA

Some nights after we've returned from our outings I sleep like a log. Others...
(MORE)

RINIYA (cont'd)
(shrugs)

CASSANDRA
I understand. I... frequently have the same issue.

RINIYA (V.O.)
That gave me pause. Cassandra hadn't been unfriendly, but to be honest I wasn't sure where I she stood with the Seeker. Our relationship was one born of necessity, not because either of us knew or even liked one another. Despite the fact that for some reason I was having vivid dirty dreams about the Seeker, I did want to know more about her.

RINIYA
May I ask what keeps you awake at night, Cassandra?

RINIYA (V.O.)
Cassandra lowered her gaze and didn't answer right away. Instead she sheathed her sword and moved to pick up the shield she propped up against one half built trebuchets.

CASSANDRA
Divine Justina was a good woman. A good friend. With all that has happened I have not taken time to properly mourn her death, and now I am unsure how to do so.

RINIYA
I'm sorry, Cassandra. Will there... has there been a funeral?

CASSANDRA
(disgusted noise)
Yes. A grand affair in Val Royeaux. Leliana and I chose not to attend, as our duties to the Inquisition were more pressing. And Justina would have detested the fuss made. We held our own private service in the Chantry here. And I have... taken quiet moments of prayer but, I am not sure if I have fully processed it.

(beat) RINIYA

I know that I am somehow linked to what happened to the Divine and that may make you feel... actually I have no idea how you feel about me to be honest but, if there is anything I can do...

CASSANDRA
(beat. Surprised)

Oh. I suppose... no you probably don't know do you?

(beat)

I do not know what to think, to be honest. I believe there is more going on here then we can see and no one cares to do anything about it. They will stand in the fire and complain that it is hot. I know that we need the mark upon your hand, and that it says a great deal about your character that you were willing to help us after everything. I think you are innocent. I know you were not responsible for what happened at the conclave but you were there and..

(trails off, as if unsure
of her thoughts)

RINIYA

...and even if I wasn't responsible I'm a piece of a very complex puzzle that involves the death of a woman you held in high regard. I'm not a murderer but you don't know that I'm not completely guilty either.

CASSANDRA

Yes.

RINIYA (V.O.)

Cassandra by turns looked relieved I understood and still stared at me like I was a puzzle the Seeker could not yet figure out. I understood the feeling. I wanted to comfort Cassandra in her grief over the loss of her friend. I also hated that this cloud of suspicious still sat over me.

(beat)

No, I hated that it sat over me with Cassandra. I honestly could give a damn what anyone else thought. Living your life as an Elf necessitated that level of personal armor. Cassandra was... different though. And I didn't know why, and it was silently driving me crazy.

RINIYA

I want answers too if that's any comfort.
And I won't shy away from finding them,
even if I don't know whether or not I'll like
them. I wasn't at the Conclave to cause
trouble, I was there to get information
because I was one of the few of my clan
who treat people by their individuality not
the sins of their race.

(smirks)

And, admittedly I'm particularly good at
sneaking around. But, how I went from
observer to this...

RINIYA (V.O.)

I stared down at that ugly, stupid mark on
my hand. I finally closed it into a fist to
block out the sight and returned my eyes
to Cassandra.

RINIYA

I don't know. But I'm going to find out, as
sure as we're going to close that hole in
the sky.

RINIYA (V.O.)

Cassandra watched me intently. After a
moment a very faint smile moved her lips,
reminding me how simply beautiful the
Seeker was and abruptly pushed the
images of my dream back into my mind.
Fuuuuuck.

CASSANDRA

Keep that confidence. We will need it in
the days to come.

RINIYA

(with a smile)

I'll certainly try.

(beat)

I think I'll try to sleep now. Good night.
And, well, thank you for your candor.

CASSANDRA

I can easily say the same to you. Good
night, Herald.

RINIYA (V.O.)

I turned, forcing myself not to run from
the Seeker, or the eyes I could feel against
her back.

We hear the sound of Rin's footsteps (quicker now) over snow, and the sound of her cabin door opening-

4 INT. HERALDS BEDROOM

- and closing. Rin tosses another log on the fire, stoking the flames.

RINIYA

When I was safely back in my cabin, I tossed another log on the fire, stoking the flames, stripped down and laid in bed, staring at the ceiling. Could the Herald summon a booty call? Did this stupid mark give me that kind of power? Ugh. Whatever. Until I found a willing bed partner (that was absolutely not the Seeker) my hand would do.

5 EXT. HAVEN

We transition from a snowy night, into the warming light of day. Roosters crow and the troops rise, beginning their training, shops open, and we hear Haven coming to life.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

My hand rested comfortably on the hilt of her blade, my shield strapped secure against her back, a familiar welcome weight. I strode up the small hill from the old apothecary cabin I and Commander Cullen shared to be closer to the troops. Leliana, Josephine, and a few others stayed inside the Chantry with the rest sharing cabins inside of Haven, or in the tents that marked the land outside where our growing number of their troops found rest.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Near the front gates, ten Inquisition soldiers made their final preparations to depart. Much to my chargin Varric stood among them, laughing with one of the soldiers. He had the audacity to wink at me as I passed.

VARRIC

If you're looking for our dear Herald, I last saw her by Leliana's tent!

CASSANDRA
(disgusted noise)

CASSANDRA (V.O.)
I heeded his useful words (for once),
moving towards Leliana's tent near the
front of the Chantry.

RINIYA
Wait... I thought you said you were friends
with this man once?

LELIANA
He betrayed us. He murdered my Agent.

RINIYA
I understand but you'd kill him? Just like
that?

CASSANDRA (V.O.)
My steps stopped just outside the tent. I
was certain Leliana could see me, but
Riniya, our Herald, had her back to me. I
quirked a brow at the tense discussion.
Leliana's stony gaze was set on the Herald.
Leliana's Agent looked extremely
uncomfortable, even backing up a step and
warily shifting his gaze between the two
women.

LELIANA
You find fault with my decision?

RINIYA
I think you know exactly what you're doing
nine times out of ten, Leliana. But...
everyone needs someone to keep them
from that one time they're making a
mistake.

LELIANA
A mistake?! Butler's betrayal put our
Agents in danger.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)
Leliana's arms uncrossed as she took a
step towards the Herald. I myself was
surprised at the Herald's bravery or
perhaps foolishness. Regardless, I took a
silent step closer, wondering if I would
have to intervene.

LELIANA
I condemn one man to save dozens. I
(MORE)

LELIANA (cont'd)

may not like what I do, but it must be done. I cannot afford the luxury of ideals at a time like this.

RINIYA

Now is exactly the time for ideals!

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald who had been leaning against the tent post, suddenly straightened and took her own step towards the Spymaster, leaving very little distance between them.

RINIYA

We won't always get to make decisions that don't chip away pieces of us. I am not naive to what a war like this will do, will force us to do. But, when we can be better, when we can show ourselves, and our people the difference between mercy and cruelty even for those that don't deserve it don't we have too? Isn't that what your Maker teaches Leliana?

LELIANA

(a humorless laugh)

He asks a lot.

(long beat. Sigh)

You feel very strongly about this. Very well. I will find another way to deal with this man.

(To her Agent)

Apprehend Butler. But see that he lives.

CASSANDRA

The Agent bowed slightly to Leliana, glanced at the Herald and looked all too eager to depart.

LELIANA

Now if you're happy, I have more work to do. And I believe your party awaits you for your visit to the Storm Coast.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

I watched the Heralds back go from a determined straight line to a posture that suggested perhaps less confidence.

RINIYA

Leliana...

(beat)

See you when we get back.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald hesitated before turning around, startling at my nearness. I gave the woman a respectful nod. It was a curious thing to me, when Riniya's lovely grey eyes dropped to the ground and she moved past me silently. I watched her walk away until she was out of sight, then looked at the left hand of the Divine.

CASSANDRA

I am surprised you yielded.

LELIANA

So am I. But, I - she knew Nesaris, Cassandra. Met her, briefly months ago.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

That was a surprise. Leliana had not seen her beloved, the Hero of Ferelden in nearly a year.

CASSANDRA

Truly? Is she well?

LELIANA

She is. Though our Herald didn't know anything regarding Nesa's quest to cure herself of the Calling, the Herald did say Nes was in good spirits and spoke fondly of her love.

(a rare smile)

Me.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

I couldn't help but feel warmed by the expression on Leliana's face. It felt like too long since I'd witness my friend smile. I am sure if I thought about it, I could say the same for myself. It was difficult to find any joy in times like this.

CASSANDRA

I am happy to hear that Leliana. Still-

LELIANA

She was right Cassandra.

(beat)

I have often felt as if I was losing myself to my work without Nes by my side. Losing my faith when Justina died. If the Maker's hand is in this, he did something right sending Riniya to us.

CASSANDRA

I have felt the same. She is proving to be precisely what we need, when we needed it.

LELIANA

I agree. Good luck on our journey. Keep yourself and our Herald safe.

Transition sounds, Cassandra leaves Leliana's tent, walking back through Haven to the waiting party. She mounts her horse, and we hear the small entourage make their way to the Storm Coast.

6 EXT. TRAVELING MONTAGUE - DAY

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Our journey to the Storm Coast was thankfully largely uneventful. As we rode I, admittedly, found my gaze often drawn towards the Herald.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

She made a point to speak with each of the soldiers that rode with us, in turn and for quite some time. She was also one to give into her laughter with abandon. It was full and loud, contagious even and lit up the Herald's face. I was not immune, I often felt my lips twitching involuntarily whenever I heard it.

SFX NOTE: Let's get low conversation to overlay here under Cassandra's dialogue. Cast one or two different solid voices and have Rin ad-lib some quick dialogue.

7 EXT. TRAVELING MONTAGUE - NIGHT

We hear the transition, from soldiers on the road, to making camp in the evening.

□SFX NOTE: Let's get some WALLA for this too.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

When we made camp in the evening, it wasn't solely Varric who told stories to entertain our soldiers, but often the Herald. I usually tuned out Varric's grating tone, but I liked the Herald's voice. It carried a faint accent and tone that I found pleasing. Relaxing even to listen too as I sat off to the side, cleaning my blade.

(MORE)

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

On our third night of travel, I was startled to realize this evening I stopped my motions all together and had been watching the Herald for some time.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

This... knowledge did not prompt me to begin my ritual again, instead I continued to study the Elf. The Herald used her hands when she spoke, a light in her eyes as she told a humorous tale of a hunting trip with her clan gone wrong. It was warmer weather at the foot of the mountain and around the camp fire the Herald had removed her leathers, leaving her in a loose linen shirt though she continued to wear a glove over the hand that bore the mark. Her skin tone was a deep rich brown from her life spent outdoors, and though thin there was strength in her lithe frame. Her vallaslin was an intricate drawing of tree branches that wrapped around her eyes and forehead, kissing the inside of her cheeks and dipping slightly down her nose. The Herald shaved the sides of her head it looked like, but her hair was long on top, down just past her shoulders, and I... liked the way the Elf wore it. It felt rebellious, proud, and unique. All things, I was learning, were true about this woman.

VARRIC

She's a cutie, isn't she Seeker?

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Though startled out of my... studying, I rolled my eyes and refused to acknowledge Varric. Instead I merely took back up the task of sharpening my blade, lowering my gaze from the Herald to focus on the task at hand.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

And if... I continued to look at the Herald and kept an ear attuned to the sound of her voice that is no one business but my own.

8 EXT. STORM COAST

Transition from night to day, and the sound of the Herald's entourage, arriving on the Storm Coast.

Crashing waves and all that.

[Note for Pixel: If there's a way we can get the sound of a Giant fighting a Dragon in here somewhere let's do it.]

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Our primary reason for the trip to the Storm Coast was to determine if the offer coming from The Iron Bull and his mercenary company The Chargers was something the Inquisition wanted. Of course the Herald would also seal the rifts our Scouts reported seeing along the coast. But, after reaching the main camp Scout Harding informed us that several of their scouts were missing.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I watched the Herald's brow furrow as Harding gave the situation report, an expression I was beginning to realize meant the Elf was either worried or displeased, possibly both. The Herald assured Harding we would go looking for the Scouts, a decision I agreed with. We kept our meeting with the Chargers first, and it was successful I suppose.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

As the day worn on I learned an additional two things. The Herald not only liked the near constant rain, but she liked flirting with The Iron Bull too and had proceeded to do so since accepting him and his mercenary company into the Inquisition.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)
(disgusted noise)

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

The rest of the day was tiring and difficult. We succeeded in closing several rifts and with the help of The Iron Bull's Chargers we found our missing scouts, unfortunately murdered. I felt my temper rising, and noted that the Herald shared my sentiment. Riniya knelt beside each body and spoken quietly in her native tongue.

RINIYA

We don't leave until we find out who did this.

CASSANDRA

Agreed. I will have word sent back to Haven.

RINIYA

Thank you, Cassandra.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald touched my shoulder in thanks, and returned to the front of the group, The Iron Bull standing beside her. I do not know why but it made me frown.

9 TRANSITION - PASSAGE OF TIME

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

We spent the following day chasing down leads. It took us another day of tracking and closing rifts before we had our target - The Blades of Hessarian. Both I, and the Herald had heard of them. They were supposedly deeply religious, served Andraste, and whomever was strong enough to lead them.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

As we trudged up another cursed hill, the rain falling a bit lighter today, I watched the Herald smile at some deep rumbling coming from the Quanri. I frowned, picking up my pace to move closer. I carried mixed feelings about the Ben-Hassrath Agent but there was no denying he and his Chargers were capable warriors. Who insofar, followed orders. Still, I did not trust him completely and I did not like how quickly the Herald had taken to him. It was my job to protect the woman and I would not see her fall victim to some trap laid by a Qunari spy.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

As we crested the top of the hill, the Herald paused, tipping her face into the light rain. It was clear the Elf was at home here among the forest, even if vastly different from where her clan was located. I watched Rin close her eyes as if she enjoyed the sensation of the rain, and... noticed... how the droplets of water ran over her vassallin, down her cheeks and neck. Had I become flushed? No. No. Absolutely not.

IRON BULL

Damn Boss. If I wasn't so good at my job
I'd be thoroughly distracted right now.

VARRIC

Bianca's distracted.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald jerked her eyes open and a
blush creep onto her cheeks.

RINIYA

(to herself)

Abelas.

(to the group)

Er, sorry. I like the rain.

VARRIC

Dangerous and doesn't even know it.

IRON BULL

That's the best kind.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

I rolled my eyes at their childish banter
and pushed past both of them, catching up
to the Herald.

CASSANDRA

Your Worship.

RINIYA

You know it's just us. You can call me by
my name.

CASSANDRA

It is not. The Qunari is not one of us, yet.

IRON BULL

(amused)

I heard that, Seeker.

VARRIC

(laughing)

CASSANDRA

(disgusted noise)

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald looked amused, but at the
same time understanding.

(MORE)

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

She laid a hand on my arm, giving me a slight nod as if she understood the warning I was going to give her. I held Rin's gaze a moment longer... just to be certain of course, before looking away.

IRON BULL

(calling out)

There. Up a head.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald's hand fell away our attention drawn towards the outpost they could see in the distance.

RINIYA

Remember, we try and solve this peacefully.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

We were were able to solve it, semi peacefully. The leader of the Blades of Hessarian, was a stocky brute with a distasteful mouth. He challenged the Herald to a duel. I opened my mouth to protest, but the Herald gave me a strong look that spoke volumes. This man was three times her size! However, against my better judgment I remained quiet.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

I was incredibly tense throughout the short battle, my gaze focused on the Herald, while Iron Bull and Varric kept theirs on the crowd around us.

We hear the sharp clangs, the grunts, and rolls over dirt as The Herald fights, and a crowd cheers them on.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

I found myself holding my breath as Rin dodged one attack after another, countered, and then finally got in close enough with her blades to do real damage. It was over shortly after that, and I could not recall ever feeling so relived. I surged forward, checking over the Herald for injury.

RINIYA

I'm fine, Cassandra. Watching you fight, paid off.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

I felt.... warmed by the compliment, and the wink the Herald gave me. But then she moved past me to share a victorious shout with the Iron Bull. I watched them with a slight frown, not at all understanding the uncomfortable feeling sitting in my stomach.

10 EXT. STORM COAST CAMP - NIGHT

The roar of a fire, and the sound of a rowdy camp after a day that tastes like victory.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The mood at camp that evening was a lively one, as expected after a successful venture. Even the rain let up. The Blades of Hessarian swore their allegiance to the Herald and thusly the Inquisition. Two of Blades accompanied our party back to camp to introduce themselves to Scout Harding's men and discuss plans going forward.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

As the evening wore on the Herald appeared to enjoyed the mild revelry but was quieter than usual and looked tired. It was late when the camp settled and I found myself alone with the Elf. I was cleaning my blade, though I did look towards the Herald often.

CASSANDRA

You fight very well.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald seemed brought out of some deeper thought and gave me her attention and... a smile. The expression made the Rin's eyes crinkle slightly at the corners.

RINIYA

I worked hard at it. I was a terrible fighter at first.

CASSANDRA

Truly? I would have thought it came naturally to you.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Herald's gaze left mine to look at the forest surrounding us.

RINIYA

I didn't want to hurt anything so I resisted. I was...in love with forest in a sense. It sounds dumb I know, but I felt very connected to it and the energy it gave off. I saw so much peace and beauty I couldn't understand violence. I didn't even like hunting as silly as that was.

CASSANDRA

As distasteful as it can be, it is too often necessary.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The Elf drew her gaze back, and the way she looked at me felt intense. Studied. Like the woman was trying to see through me, find some deeper truth. I understood. Had I not studied her the same? Though I felt... not uncomfortable. I wasn't certain how she felt under such scrutiny, but I did not... dislike it.

RINIYA

You speak like someone who has led a violent life.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The words caused me to pause, to consider the truth of it. I had, hadn't I? Even if Anthony had lived... thinking about my brother brought that sharp, breathless pain in my heart. A pain I did not wish to speak of. I dropped my gaze to the sword in my lap and continued cleaning it.

CASSANDRA

Do you still feel that way about the forest?

(beat) RINIYA

Yes, at times. I don't like why we take these trips but I do enjoy being out in the world.

CASSANDRA

What happened? If I may ask? That made you learn to fight?

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Rin looked away, towards the forest again, a distant look in her eyes. There was sadness there that I recognized on an instinctive level. The Herald lost someone she cared about. A fiercely protective instinct welled up inside me, unexpected in its intensity.

RINIYA

How we want the world to be, and the face it shows us can be hard to reconcile sometimes. Anyway, a story for another time.

(beat. Smile.)

Goodnight. Seeker.

CASSANDRA

Rest well, Herald.

(beat)

Riniya?

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

There was a rather long pause I thought strange before the Elf twisted her body enough to look over her shoulder, her brow quirked in question.

CASSANDRA

Should you ever need to speak of it...

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

An expression I had not seen before, came onto the Herald's face. I could not discern it's meaning. After another small stretch of time, the elf's lips quirked into a faint smile. She gave me a nod, and made her way into the tent.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I... did not know what to make of this expression, only that it made me want...

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

What kind of thoughts were these? Ridiculous. I would finish my task and retire as well. The day had been too long and I was clearly tired.

11 INT. TENT - DREAM SEQUENCE

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

A warm body molded against my back, soft lips pressed against the back of my neck. A hand slipped underneath the thin linen shirt I wore, boldly cupping my breast, squeezing, making me arch into the touch.

CASSANDRA

(an involuntary
whimper of delight)

RINIYA

You make me feel safe.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

The voice whispered against my skin, and I felt those lips parting, slow open mouthed kisses moving across the side of my neck. I struggled to bite back my moan.

RINIYA

What do I make you feel?

CASSANDRA

Confused. I do not know what to make of these feelings.

RINIYA

Do you like them?

CASSANDRA

I reached back, burying my fingers in the silken threads of long hair. The voice was at my ear, teeth on the lobe making me shiver. A soft hand glided down from my breasts, tracing the muscles in my stomach, and slowly untying the laces of her breeches. I found it impossible to think, anticipation coiling hotly in my gut.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

Yes. I want...

RINIYA

My name, Seeker. Say it.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

I could barely think as I felt a soft hand between my thighs, a fingertip grazing across my clit.

CASSANDRA
(moans)
Riniya-

12 INT. TENT - MORNING

We hear the outside world now, it's raining again, beating gently against the tent.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)
(heavy, aroused
breathing)

I jerked upright in my bedroll. [Cassandra exclamation]. My smallclothes were soaked with my arousal, my breasts felt tight and achy underneath the breast band I slept in. I glanced quickly to my right and saw that the Herald was still sleeping. But it did nothing to cool my arousal when I noticed the way the Elf's lips slightly parted in her sleep, how beautiful, peaceful she looked, an expression that made me want to leave her bedroll and go-

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Go what? Had I gone mad? As quietly as possible I got up and dressed, pulling back the flap and stepping out into a light, chilly morning rain.

13 EXT. TENT - MORNING

Rainfall and the annoyed neigh of horses in the early morning.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

For once I appreciated the cold rain. I stood still underneath it to cool my heated skin. It was working, slightly. Though I still felt... achy.

CASSANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)
(frustrated noise)

It was simply timing, I reasoned. It had been long, perhaps too long, since I had been with anyone. The stress of the past weeks, the previous days battle... I was simply having a reaction. I did not, under any circumstance want the Herald. The idea was ridiculous.

(MORE)

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

I'd never been attracted to a woman before in my life. I simply liked the Herald. I liked the Herald a great deal if I was honest with myself. The woman was kind, willing to take charge when need be, a fierce and capable fighter, and there was a depth to her that I found intriguing. That did not mean I was attracted. No. I was just... tense. All I needed was a private moment and perhaps a piece of smutty literature and I would be fine. Thankfully, we would journey back to Haven today.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)(cont'd)

Feeling more in control of myself, I moved away from the tent to rouse the rest of their party and begin their preparations to return to Haven.