

The Sundering Spring, 13

Longwalker,

The Company of Isteval's dinner with Duke Maldwyn did not go as planned, to say the least. You know I am not one for overly wordy tales, I never have been. I will attempt to be brief.

As the story was related to me, the dinner was going very well until dessert was served. Indeed, upon the arrival of those sweet offerings it was Natyssa who raised a glass of fine Waterhavian wine in toast to the Heroes of Daggerford. With that, the Duke's guards closed and barred the entrances to the feast hall as an alarming change came over Maldwyn himself.

It became apparent very quickly that the curse that is Baazka, the spectral demon who escaped the portal to the nine hells opened under Dragonspear Castle all those months ago, had befallen the Duke as he howled and unsheathed the blade Lawflame.

Baazka is the foul creature which commanded the chieftains of the Fortom Hill Goblins, the Harpshield Orcs, as well as the Gray Dwarves of Laduguer to make war on Daggerford and the Delimbiyr Vale itself.

Indeed, he is the same terror which infected and possessed our own blood kin, your sister Shalendra. He is the reason that the knowledge passed down by your blessed Father was used by Shalendra to aid the Red Wizards in reopening the long dead portal networks connecting our verdant lands to the dread lands of Thay.

Baazka had now, finally, also taken possession of Duke Maldwyn as well and by his side, the betrayer and seducer, Natyssa revealed herself to be a demon as well; with wings, horns and a tail to boot. Natyssa's hellborn powers swayed those guards who served the Duke faithfully and soon a great melee erupted in the banquet hall.

However fear not, the stout women and men of the Company stood resolute in the face of such despicable power. Though many were ensnared by the powerful abyssal magic of Natyssa and turned their weapons and spells against their comrades and many innocent men of the town's militia lost their lives, the Company of Isteval was victorious. Baazka was driven from the Duke and Natyssa fled the battle in defeat, pledging revenge.

With this outcome, the resources needed for our assault on the Thayans of Blood Keep and their Lich commander, Tarul Var, as well as the Gnoll horde gathering in the Ardeep forest, were quickly forthcoming.

I trust your efforts to prepare Flosin Estate with the teleportation circles needed to assault the Blood Keep go well, Uncle. We have struggled mightily and all would have been lost but not for the efforts of the Company of Isteval.

The Thayans will now cower in their hidden fortress and we shall bring the fight to them. Corellon aid us. May our blades strike true and remove this threat from our lands.

-Kelson