

Mikkhal Wedding Reception

23 July 2008
Nekrolimani, Balthazor

The announcements were posted on public kiosks, tree trunks and storefronts all over Balthazor as well as in all neighboring regions -excepting of course the currently despised Arboria- and read as follows:

The celebration of the marriage of
Baroness Trisitana Mikkhal
and
Kamal, the Black Lotus
will take place on the day of the Wolf
beginning at midday
24 Meridian, 1276
on the grounds of the Baroness' estate
Ossua Mikkhal in Nekrolimani,
Barony of Nekroli,
Balthazor

All are welcome to join in the festivities.

Narratus: *In the courtyard at Ossua Mikkhal stood a tent of black and gold. There were candles, everywhere candles, to provide light to fuel the shadows that danced and flickered in the cool sea breezes. The wedding ceremony over, curtains hid the corridor along which the couple would arrive. Tables lined the tent and seating of every kind was available, surfaces covered with cushions.*

Lida Mennth: A quartet of native musicians were set off to one side. The music of Balthazor was varied. Too often in the other countries, the other climes, only the dirges were sung or played on soft slurry whistles and wide skinned drums.

Narratus: *On the massive tables, a variety of foods from all over Balthazor had been set out for the guests.*

Devol has joined this chat.

Lida Mennth: But there was another side, a wild side few but the natives tasted. Reels and dances and strange atonal things. The music had begun before the attendees arrived. Guests were already mingling, nibbling on appetizers, sipping Balt vintages and other harder liquors. If you wanted it, it was likely to be there at the party.

Narratus: *The guardsmen of Ossua Mikkhal were ranged here and there - wearing burgundy and gold. Guests had been checked for any signs of the bloom as they arrived earlier in the day. Celebrations had been encouraged throughout the afternoon leading up to the ceremony itself and now... the party.*

LrdAntonMalcus: ::Anton strode along listening to the music play, a large grin on his face, not his usual maddened one, but one of joy::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::At the behest of Aidin Craxmullen, the Lotus, told his bride would join him as soon as she was ready, came through the curtained alcove to join his guests in the courtyard::

Rhanaeryn has left this chat.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal was dressed in tunic and trousers of deep blood burgundy of the highest quality. His hair was done up with glittering gems, his nails polished to a high sheen::

Lida Mennth: ::The Lotus was flanked by his groomsman Adil Mennth and Adil's sister Lida. Both were dressed in black and gold leathers. Both were very keen and curious as they looked around. No sight unseen. The scents were tantalizing.;

LrdAntonMalcus: ::snatches up a glass of wine and salutes Kamal and the wedding party::

Ciara Deirdre: ::Dressed in a dark wine colored gown, Ciara rested a hand on Aris's arm:: Do you dance, Captain? ::She looked over her shoulder to check on her cousin and their guest::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He leaned to Lida, already feeling the music that stirred the blood:: Do not forget to enjoy yourself tonight.

Lida Mennth: ::Lida remembered Anton from the barons meeting. She did not smile. Adil, well, any smile from the man was wolfish. He showed some teeth.:: Nadiya Galyn has joined this chat.

Raphael Dolek: ::Dressed in his best clothes which had been hand chosen by half a dozen ladies at Taysayad, Raphael Dolek moved about the reception, with a glass of wine in his hand::

Aris Ioannes: Of course. ::He offered Ciara a fond smile and led her out onto the dance floor::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He surveyed the dance floor and the guests, smiling here, nodding there, delight sparkling in his royal blue eyes::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he focused his own demonic eyes on Adil, returning his smile:: Kendra Rulyar has joined this chat.

Nadiya Galyn: What have I missed? ::the voice came near Raphael's ear, from a woman dressed in silken burgundy, with a matching silk ribbon entwined through her dark hair.::

Lida Mennth: ::Adil grinned wider and, then ducked his head to whisper something to Lida. She laughed. Her teeth were bright against the dark death runes she wore as a face.::

Cait McGill: ::She leaned to Kili and whispered:: If I drink too much, Te'ro, you'll make sure no takes advantage, right?

ashokenxx: ::Ashoken d'Allessair wasn't late. She was reluctant. Ostentatious entrances made her nervous. Made her a target. But that was the point. She was to be "seen".::

OwinsDance has joined this chat.

Aris Ioannes: ::He was dressed all in black with royal blue trim, looking more a gentleman than a soldier this evening::

Raphael Dolek: ::He turned and his smile widened:: Good evening, Nadiya. I didn't see you at the wedding.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She had one hand on Aris's shoulder and one at his waist as they danced:: How is the Baroness faring?

ashokenxx: ::The Captain of the Malcoven guard stepped into the courtyard. Her retainers, one massive thing, helmted and plated stayed upwind as it was comanded. The other held its leash.::

ashokenxx: ::She was dressed in full regalia. Such pomp. She scowled on such a happy occassion.::

Nadiya Galyn: I was not there. ::Keeping her voice low.:: Personal business held me up, I only arrived a moment ago. How are you Raphael? ::Offering her gloved hand::

Kili Bashar: No one at all? ::he murmured, watching the guests with wolfish hunger.::

Aris Ioannes: She is well. She said to give you her regards. ::He guided her slowly across the dance floor, as if he could do it in his sleep:: And how is your Uncle?

Cait McGill: ::she rolled her eyes:: As if you would. ::She murmured::

Raphael Dolek: ::He took her hand and bowed to kiss it.:: My lady.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal began to make his way through and around the crowd::

Aris Ioannes: ::He was keenly aware of the crowd, yet kept his attention focused on Ciara, or seemed to::

Nadiya Galyn: My Lord Steward. ::Nadiya smiled at last.:: It is good to see a familiar face. The Archon sends his regards.

OwinsDance has left this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::Anton watched each of the guests in turn, taking each in and making his own accessment of those he's not met::

ashokenxx: ::She found a servant carrying drinks. She snatched one and downed it.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She grinned:: Her uncle. ::She gestured over to Cait:: My grandfather is well, I thank you.

Lida Mennth: ::The Mennth's followed Kamal, a dutiful two steps behind.::

Sherakai has joined this chat.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He spoke to the magistrate of Nekrolimani and moved on to another guest a nameless noble, smiling, handshaking, thanking each one he touched for coming, which led him to Anton::

Raphael Dolek: Please return my regard. Shall I find you a drink? ::He leaned to whisper to her.:: You can tell me what some of these are.

Narratus has left this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: Ahh Kamal! My deepest well wishing on this glorious day.

Aris Ioannes: Right. ::He glanced briefly at Cait before turning back with a smile.:: I knew that.

Nadiya Galyn: A drink? Oh yes, please. And in turn, you can tell me who is here already. ::She glanced about.::

Lida Mennth: ::Adil began looking around in earnest but he didn't leave his post. Lida's attention was on Kamal.::

Kili Bashar: Oh, but I plan to. Shall we dance? ::he asked Cait, his gaze going past her to a recent... cohort.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He offered her his arm to lead her to the wine table.::

Lida Mennth: ::where the other two wolves were, was anyone's guess.::

Aris Ioannes: And that is your... cousin?

LonelyBlackLotus: Anton, thank you so much. ::Kamal was smiling broadly.:: I'm very happy you could come.

Ciara Deirdre: My grandmother was quite pleased when I said you would be my escort. ::She nodded.:: Yes. Her name is Cait.

Aris Ioannes: Was she? ::If he was surprised by that news, he made no show of it.::

ashokenxx: ::Ashoken's cold crystal gaze swept over the courtyard. She scanned the faces. Some she knew, some she did not expect to see so far from home and others, her gaze slid over like water off a duck's back.::

LonelyBlackLotus: I only wish my lady wife would join us!

Aris Ioannes: I made a good impression then.

LrdAntonMalcus: Yes, I'd arrived home from Deathsong only day's before the wedding was to happen. Where is she?

Nadiya Galyn: ::She threaded her arm through his.:: How was the wedding anyway? ::Her gaze moving over those in the crowd.::

Lida Mennth: ::Yes. Where was Tristiana Mikkhal. Lida growled a little, sniffing at the air.::

Cait McGill: I'd love to. ::She reached for Kili's arm then blinked.:: You do, do you?

Raphael Dolek: Very formal, as you can guess.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::he spread his hands wide.:: I was told she was 'not yet ready' to greet the guests.

Aris Ioannes: ::He lowered his voice, for her ears alone.:: And who is her escort?

Kynn Rolarnn has joined this chat.

Kendra Rulyar has left this chat.

Sherakai: ::Baron Streylan, plate in hand, had found himself a relatively quiet corner from which he could watch the guests. And the steward.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::She leaned closer and murmured something softly to the

Steward.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He continued to lead her in small graceful circles around the dance floor, as light as air::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::smirks:: A shame. ::looks around:: Seem's many folks who wouldn't spit on us if we were ablaze decided to attend. ::lowering his voice so only Kamal would hear::

Ciara Deirdre: Yes, you did. ::She smiled then murmured to Aris:: He's called Te'ro, he's from the islands. Looking into ships, I believe.

Kili Bashar: Is that such a surprise? ::His hand covered Cait's as he led her out into the dance area.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He chuckled:: On such a solemn occasion?

Lida Mennth: The day has been a long one. The Lady is likely sore tired. ::She dared speak, but she was so tired of being unable to snipe at the woman.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::The Lotus laughed, softly, but merrily at the comment::

Kendra Rulyar has joined this chat.

OwinsDance has joined this chat.

Aris Ioannes: ::He nodded in reply, the name meant nothing to him::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He clapped his hand on Anton's shoulder:: Now, you must give them points for the effort!

Remus Vlad has joined this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he returned the gesture:: Oh I do. I'll be on my best for them as well.

Nadiya Galyn: ::She laughed softly, but that laugh was arrested as a face in the crowd caught her attention. She gazed at Kili briefly, then let that gaze slide over him and on to others.::

Kendra Rulyar has left this chat.

Aris Ioannes: Have I told you how lovely you look? ::He smiled again, dark eyes shining::

Cait McGill: And if it is? ::She whispered as she squeezed his hand::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He breathed deep then, his eyes half closed:: It is wonderful isn't it? The smell of the sea so close, the food, the guests. I could not be happier.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::unless of course, Irmaa herself decided to show up::

Raphael Dolek: I really don't know many of the guests. I rarely travel to Balthazor. Over there is Kamal, though his new wife hasn't appeared yet.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He took a glass from a wandering server::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She smiled brilliantly:: Thank you. You look quite handsome yourself.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::nods:: You must come out sometime to see the Port. I think you'd appreciate the atmosphere. The sea breeze keep's the swamp stink from blowing in. ::laughs::

Nadiya Galyn: That's the man... ::She looked at Kamal now, appraising.:: Interesting.

Lida Mennth: ::It really was unseemly that the baroness would keep her guests waiting so long. Adil thought he found who he was looking for.::

Lida Mennth: Master. ::he rumbled when there was a lull in conversation::

Kili Bashar: I hope it is a pleasant one. ::He smiled, but it didn't quite touch his eyes. He bowed slightly to her, then swept her into the steps of the dance.::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::the flyer slipped through the curtain as quietly as she could

and made her way around toward Adil::

Nadiya Galyn: And his new wife, what is she like?

OwinsDance: ::The Baroness of Shadowplain choose a more quite entrance. Just one guard by her side the tall woman slowly entered the room. ::

Aris Ioannes: Esmerelda insisted on a new outfit for the occasion.

Lida Mennth: I will ask Kynslea what is keeping the baroness?

LonelyBlackLotus: The swamp stink? ::Kamal grinned:: Why, the Requiem is home to me and the stench of it like roses.

Raphael Dolek: Very pretty, though I'm told all new brides are. I don't know her personally.

Nadiya Galyn: They invited the Archmages, you know. Bold of them.

LonelyBlackLotus: What? ::He looked to Lida a moment, a hand out to touch her arm:: Oh. Yes please do. ::he let a small frown flicker across his lips::

LrdAntonMalcus: Oh really? I wasn't aware you lived under the old Baron's....generous rule. ::said with a distasteful look::

Lida Mennth: ::Adil and Lida smiled at the same time. And Adil quickly left to find the Flyer.::

Cait McGill: ::Cait followed Kili's lead on the dance floor; she was just doing her best not to step on his toes:: Surprises are generally good things in the end.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::leans in and whispers:: Kynslea?

Raphael Dolek: Perhaps you or the Archon might arrange for me to meet the archmages?

Kynn Rolarnn: :: she met him somewhere on the sidelines skirting the Captain of Malcoven's guard with wide eyes::

Kili Bashar: ::He had no trouble managing the steps of the dance. His gaze rested upon Cait's face, glancing away now and then, ostensibly to watch where they were going.::

Ciara Deirdre: Did she? ::She studied Aris for a moment:: If she chose it, she has excellent taste.

ashokenxx: ::The monster retainer in plate said nothing. The smaller one, no taller than a goblin but dressed in the same livery giggled at Kynn.::

LonelyBlackLotus: She's been close to Tristiana. She stood with her at the ceremony. Lovely girl, blonde...? ::he said to see if Anton recalled her::

OwinsDance: ::Her left hand moved and the black fan sprang open and covered the lower half of her face while she softly spoke to her guard.Her seafoam gown cut simple but elegant.::

Aris Ioannes: She says you can't go wrong with basic black. ::He glanced over at the tables full of food and drink:: Would you like some refreshment, or would you prefer to keep dancing?

Kynn Rolarnn: ::she swallowed hard and eyed the tiny one with distrust::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::thinks for a moment:: Oh yes....she seemed to have a airy quality. Refreshing in a way.

Lida Mennth: ::Adil met up with Kynn and took her arm in a strong grasp. He bared his teeth at the undead, but knew who they were with.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::She paused. They'd reached the table and she picked up a goblet of a ruby red wine.:: I could send word along to her, if you'd like. I have heard that she has thought of coming to Shadokhan sometime this season.

Sherakai: ::There were few people he here that he knew, though several of them he recognized by reputation -- and by report. It was an odd assortment of guests, and he watched them speculatively.::

Cait McGill: ::she looked around a moment then looked at Kili:: What do you suppose is keeping the bride?

LonelyBlackLotus: That's a very good word for her. ::The Lotus smiled a private smile:: I really should greet some of the other guests. I was hoping Tristi would be here by now.

Ciara Deirdre: I could do with a glass of wine. How about you?

Kynn Rolarnn: ::Kynn caught Adil's arm::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::at last!::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::nods:: I guess I should...mingle as well.

Raphael Dolek: I would appreciate that. ::He leaned to whisper to her, his eyes bright with amusment.::

ashokenxx: ::Ashoken stayed out of the press, drinking from a fresh glass and watching. It was something she did well.::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::she spoke quietly but quickly::

Aris Ioannes: I have a weakness for Sangiovese.

Kili Bashar: An attack of sanity.

OwinsDance: ::The only adoration on her is a jewel studded brooch, the emblem of the Morgan family.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal had hardly sipped his drink, but he tasted it now, the best of the best.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He slowed in his steps and turned to offer his arm once again to lead her from the dance floor.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::Ciara smiled to Anton as she turned for the tables of food and drink :: Baron Malcus.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He moved across the stones.::

Lida Mennth: ::Adil bent close to Kynn's ear.:: Where is the Baroness?

Remus Vlad: ::How did he know and how did he get in, but he was all dressed fancy clothes and started to mingle.::

Lida Mennth: ::Lida followed silent and watchful behind Kamal.::

LrdAntonMalcus: We will catch up. ::looking to Ciara:: Ciara! ::slides closer to her his, arms wide.::

Cait McGill: ::She laughed and whispered into Kili's ear:: Do you think she ran off?

Aris Ioannes: ::He merely nodded to Malcus as they had never been formally introduced... yet.::

Kili Bashar: Wouldn't that be delightful...

Nadiya Galyn: ::She nodded in reply.:: Yes, it might be a nice thing to do. ::She took her hand from his arm in order to pick up a second goblet. Let everyone think she was drinking two-fisted tonight.::

Shyla Tremayne has joined this chat.

OwindsDance: ::Her deep blue eyes fall on Malcus as she walks over to the table::Baron. :: Her fan moves up again, she is irritated with his presence::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::she drew Lida close as well and told them:: I went to her chambers, she didn't open the door but said she was feeling ill. A few moments ago I went back. ::whispered:: She's not there.

Ciara Deirdre: Baron Malcus of Requiem, Captain Ioannes of Riverside. ::She gestured between the two men::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::depositing his wine chalice on a passing tray::

Raphael Dolek: ::He also grabbed a glass of a non-alcoholic variety drink::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He made his way toward Dolek and the woman with him:: Steward, ::he said with a smile, a warm one!::

Lida Mennth: ::Lida was with Kamal. It was only Adil with Kynn. He frowned.:: Not there?

LrdAntonMalcus: Captain! ::bows his head lightly:: A pleasure. How are you treating my dear friend Ciara?

Aris Ioannes: Baron. ::respectfully:: I have had no complaints.

Remus Vlad: ::Picks up a glass of wine and notices somebody from Dreven, this means he has to slide closer and see how much he can hear::

Cait McGill: ::She was try not to giggle as she spoke softly:: You have a twisted sense of humor.

Nadiya Galyn: ::She was a quick one. She set the second goblet down as soon as she heard Kamal's voice, and turned towards him.::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::it must have been the shadows:: Not there. ::strained whisper:: As in gone.

Lida Mennth: ::Adil's grip on Kynn's arm tightened. He growled.:: Show me.

Aris Ioannes: How do things fare in Requiem?

Raphael Dolek: My lord Kamal. ::He smiled and nodded to the man:: Might I introduce Lady Nadiya Galyn.

Nadiya Galyn: ::She bowed slightly, as was appropriate, and offered her hand.:: My lord...

Sherakai: ::Like a secret, Kai drifted up behind the steward and Lady Galyn::

Lida Mennth: ::Adil looked over his shoulder and met eyes with Lida. So much growling going on, this time from Lida. Her look told her brother to investigate.::

Kynn Rolarnn: :: she was used to his grip, but she frowned at him:: There isn't anything to show, but c'mon. ::and led him back through the throng to the curtain::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She took two glasses of Sangiovese from a tray and offered one to Aris::

Aris Ioannes: ::He was about to do that same, but Ciara beat him to it. He took the glass of Sang in hand with a soft nod of thanks::

Shyla Tremayne has left this chat.

Lida Mennth: ::there could be much to tell from an empty room and if Adil was anything, he was a scent hound.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He handed his glass to Kai.:: And this is Baron Sherakai dan Rikash.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He took her hand and bowed over it:: I am so happy that you could join us today, my Lady Galyn. The lights of Lumini shine in your eyes.

LrdAntonMalcus: They are doing incredibly well. The food and trade production is soaring, the people are alot happier then under the previous administrator and the plague is at a all time low.

Kili Bashar: You should be careful. You appear to be enjoying it. ::As the dance came to an end, he guided Cait to one side.::

OwinsDance: ::She snapped the fan shut and reached for a glass of wine::

Aris Ioannes: I'm glad to hear things are going well.

Cait McGill: Maybe I am. ::Her dark blue eyes swept over Kili:: Are you hungry?

Sherakai: ::He accepted the glass and passed it right on to a servant going by with a tray of drinks.:: It is a pleasure to meet you, sir. and congratulations.

Nadiya Galyn: I am very pleased to be here. The Archon sends his regards and good wishes. ::And a lovely gift, but that was for later.:: He was very sorry he could not attend himself. Affairs of state, you see.

ashokenxx: ::That drink gone, she folded her arms. She would admit the music was nice and liquor and even the food. She watched them all, memorizing who spoke to whom just in case Irmaa Vep ever showed up and asked her. Gods.::

LonelyBlackLotus: Thank you Baron! I've heard a great deal of you.

Aris Ioannes: How is the port coming along?

Nadiya Galyn: ::She gave Kai a nod, and a smile.::

Kili Bashar: ::He returned the look, black eyes glimmering.:: Yes.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He offered his hand. pale though it was it was a warm living hand!::

Sherakai: How are you, m'lady? ::he murmured, offering Nadiya a polite bow.::

LrdAntonMalcus: I trust your own home does well? How about yours Ciara?

Ciara Deirdre: ::She listened to Anton and Aris as they discussed the port:: How long before it's finished?

Remus Vlad: ::Nodded to Kai and goes to mingle with a few other guests on the other side of the room.::

Sherakai: Have you indeed? ::he returned to Kamal.:: Is that a good thing?

Nadiya Galyn: Very well Baron Streylan, thank you.

Lida Mennth: ::Lida too was memorizing faces and scents. Most importantly scents. Even standing a polite distance from the Groom she would soon be able to identify them all simply by how they smelled.::

Raphael Dolek: Congratulations on your marriage, my lord.

Ciara Deirdre: Quite well. ::She nodded as she sipped her drink.::

LonelyBlackLotus: Affairs of state... ::Kamal nodded knowingly:: I am beginning to wonder if that is not what kept the bride! Thank you Steward.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::grins to Ciara.:: Since I recieved the aid from numerous Baronies, its near completion.

Aris Ioannes: ::He took a sip of his wine, listening as Ciara replied.::

Sherakai: ::He shook Kamal's hand and found it more solid than it appeared.:: It

would be criminal if such a thing were allowed to happen.

Cait McGill: You could stand some meat on those bones, Te'ro. ::She chuckled::

Aris Ioannes: ::He could play the part of a nobleman if he had to, but he'd rather be with his soldiers::

LrdAntonMalcus: It became a sort of open secret. I did not expect it to stay a secret long.

LonelyBlackLotus: Yes it would. Tristiana is shy, but lovely and today she was more lovely than ever. I don't know what is keeping her.

Aris Ioannes: A port is a hard thing to keep under wraps.

Kili Bashar: That would only make them more difficult to relocate. ::His hand on the small of Cait's back, he guided her toward the tables::

Aris Ioannes: How many ships do you expect will come through?

LonelyBlackLotus: ::he maintained a pleasant face and a quick smile though there was concern now in his eyes::

Ciara Deirdre: That is good news. Have you contracted with any ship builders, yet?

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He watched Aidin, Etrauch's Lord Mayor, move across the room to the table where the contract for their signatures lay waiting. The final stroke on his title so to speak::

LrdAntonMalcus: You must come join me there sometime. Come see it and take in the salt air.

ashokenxx: ::In particular, she watched Kamal. She had already spoken to him at length in the days prior to the wedding. Not many knew Irmaa Vep like she did::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::But for Tristi's lack of entrance, he was a very happy man, having spoken to Ashoken about many, many things::

Raphael Dolek: I suspect your guests wouldn't miss you too terribly if you went to tell her she looked perfect as she was, and come down to the party.

Sherakai: She is, perhaps, nervous of the crowd. I cannot say I blame her. It is quite a crowd ::he complimented::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::Kynn stuck her head out of the alcove again, spied where Craxmullen was and ducked back in::

Cait McGill: Relocate your ::She looked at Kili like he'd grown a third eye::

LrdAntonMalcus: Ohh yes, we have a few bonewright's working day and night. We see about four to eight cargo ships every tenday or so. People are still hesitant to trade with crazy necromancer's.

Aris Ioannes: ::He assumed the Baron meant the invitation for Ciara, and not himself::

Nadiya Galyn: I look forward to meeting her. ::she offered::

Kili Bashar: ::He smirked and picked up a plate for her::

OwinsDance: ::Setting her glass aside she leaves the table near Malcus and heads towards Kamal::

LonelyBlackLotus: I am astonished at the good will shown here tonight. It gives me great hopes for Balthazor.

Lida Mennth: ::Adil tore through the manse::

Ciara Deirdre: I think you might enjoy it as well, Aris. That is, if Anton doesn't mind.

Raphael Dolek: I'm pleased I could attend.

LrdAntonMalcus: Oh yes! I actually was directing my invitation to you as well and any you wish to bring.

Kynn Rolarnn: *::some of the shadows the candles cast drifted away toward the back of the tent::*

Cait McGill: Thank you. *::She took the plate:: You dance very well, by the way.*

Aris Ioannes: *::There's that cordial smile again that betrayed nothing:: Of course. I'll let the Baroness know of your invitation.*

OwinsDance: *::a glance towards the strange men with the facial tattoo, and once again her fan came up and snapped open::*

Devvol: *::The group that appeared in the courtyard was unexpected at best. A quartet of scantily clad but highly efficient-looking guards surrounded Fyul Devvol. A fifth figure hovered at his elbow::*

Lida Mennth: *::Lida was a woman who wore necromantic deathrunes for a face. when she closed her eyes, the incantation was complete::*

Aris Ioannes: *I'm sure she wouldn't mind a change of scenery. ::sip::*

LonelyBlackLotus: *::The Lotus turned toward the approaching woman:: My lady Morgan, is it? ::he asked of the woman in the sea foam gown with the fan::*

Lida Mennth: *::Protection::*

Nadiya Galyn: *Recognize many faces tonight, Kai? ::she spoke lightly, over a sip of wine::*

Ciara Deirdre: *Good. ::she lowered her voice:: I think I might have a few things to discuss with you regarding your port, Anton.*

OwinsDance: *Baron:: as she made it next to Kamal:: Congratulations to you both.*

LrdAntonMalcus: *So...I recognize a few of these folk's. ::leaning in to listen to Ciara,saying in a serious tone:: I appreciate your advice Ciara. You are a intelligent woman.*

ashokenxx: *::Her chill gaze snapped to the Mer party. She stared a moment and then laughed::*

LonelyBlackLotus: *Thank you, so much. It was good of you to come. ::very pleased, he smiled and then he blinked as he looked past her to the Mer Prince::*

Aris Ioannes: *::He heard Ciara since he was standing right next to her:: Shall I leave you two alone?*

OwinsDance: *Lady Wismuller, Baron Morgan was my father.*

Ciara Deirdre: *No. ::To Aris, she leaned to whisper to him::*

LrdAntonMalcus: *::a eye straying to the Mer, now that wasn't expected::*

Kili Bashar: *I learned a long time ago ::He added a few things to a plate for himself. Hardly enough to call a meal::*

Lida Mennth: *::Lida had never seen Mer before. She hesitated, staring openly::*

LonelyBlackLotus: *My lady. ::Kamal bowed. It was beginning to be clear that Tristiana was not coming out. He took a deep breath, trying not to let nervousness build::*

Lida Mennth: *::And Adil had not returned::*

Nadiya Galyn: *Well now. ::Having taken note of the newcomers as well:: Quite a coup, this, getting the Mer to attend. ::She spoke softly::*

Devvol: ::All of them looked around with round, black eyes set in blunt features. If they felt out of place, they did not show it.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He leaned in to hear Ciara and nodded in understanding.::

ashokenxx: ::She moved to the buffet.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He lowered his voice as he asked them both.:: Have you noticed the bride has yet to arrive?

LrdAntonMalcus: I'd wondered that myself Captain. ::quietly.::

LonelyBlackLotus: Please, excuse me, Lady Wismuller. Steward, Baron. My lady. ::to Nadiya.::

OwinsDance: ;:Very thankful that Sisterhood Brat was not present tonight. ::OF course.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He stepped away from them toward the Mer and his guards.::

Sherakai: I do hope that everything is well with the bride... ::he murmured as he inclined his head politely to Kamal.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He glanced over at Kamal.:: And there goes the groom.

Cait McGill: Like riding then? ::She fixed a plate of food then nudged Kili as she saw what she thought were Mer.::

Raphael Dolek: Of course.

ashokenxx: ::She collected a plate, and moved smoothly into place beside the man named Te'ro. People got out of her way, you see.::

Aris Ioannes: ::Dark eyes following Kamal's movement toward the group of Mer, was it?::

Devvol: ::Tattoos, the lot of them wore, obscuring their features. All of them wore their variously colored hair in braids. All of them were adorned in Mer finery.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She nodded and murmured.:: If I have an odd visitor tonight that looks like her then I shall worry.

Nadiya Galyn: ::It occurred to her, just then, that things could become quite interesting very soon.::

Lida Mennth: ::And Lida dragged her feet, but she followed Kamal. Curious these ... were they people? Their scents like nothing she'd ever tasted.::

Kili Bashar: Yes. My father saw that I obtained a proper education. ::He stiffened as he looked up and saw the Mer.::

LrdAntonMalcus: Could just be post wedding jitters. Realization she made the jump.

Aris Ioannes: Did anyone go check on her?

Nadiya Galyn: ::She reached for Raf's arm again, her grip at his elbow a little tighter than before. And she glanced at Kai.::

LrdAntonMalcus: I believe one of Kamal's attending guard's did.

ashokenxx: Quite the turnout. ::She commented to Kili with her sandstorm voice.::

Ciara Deirdre: I believe that her honor attendant was sent to look after her, but I'm not sure.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal approached Devvol and bowed.:: You honor me by attending.

Raphael Dolek: ::He reached for her hand, but rather than watch the Mer

encounter, he watched the others in the room.::

Cait McGill: ::She was standing on the other side of Kili, but slowly moving down the buffet line.::

Kili Bashar: Isn't it, though. ::He pulled his gaze away from ugly spectacle to give Ashoken a tight-lipped smile.::

Aris Ioannes: It's worrisome. ::bluntly and simply. He gave Ciara a hard look.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::She cleared her throat. It would do no good to look or act as if something was wrong. Truly, she could be wrong, she knew.:: Back to Dreven tomorrow, Raphael?

Ciara Deirdre: ::She nodded and murmured to Anton and Aris.:: Especially in light of recent events.

Devvol: ::Fyul Devvol took a bare step forward and looked the groom over. He did not bow.:: It is a pleasure to attend such a momentous celebration. ::His voice was musical, the accent heavy.::

ashokenxx: ::She selected something and put it on her plate.::

Sherakai: ::Kai, on the other hand, watched the Mer with avid interest.::

Aris Ioannes: We shall see, I suppose. ::He took another sip of his wine.::

OwindsDance: ::She hide her lower face behind the fan for a moment before she turned to the Steward.::Steward, how good of Shadokhan to attend.

LrdAntonMalcus: I'd shadowstep in on the Lady to check on her...but she finds me rather gruesome.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She took a sip of her wine as she looked over the crowd.::

Remus Vlad: ::oh and so has taken note of the Mer and sips his wine slowly.::

Aris Ioannes: Gruesome?

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal smiled.:: Please, refresh yourselves. ::he gestured to the spread of foods and beverages of all kinds.::

Raphael Dolek: Yes. Too much to do to head off on vacation. ::He smiled to Nadyia, then another smile to the Baroness.:: It's my pleasure to attend such a happy occasion.

Kili Bashar: ::In an apparent effort to gain a particular delicacy, he managed to put Ashoken between himself and the Mer.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He looked Malcus over.:: Perhaps she'd mistake you for the groom. We wouldn't want that.

Nadiya Galyn: ::She nodded politely to the Baroness who had approached.::

LrdAntonMalcus: She doesn't like my vocation.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He glanced over to Aidin who tapped the scrolled papers on the table.::

ashokenxx: This place is thick with motive. ::Turning just enough in the selection of the next morsel that she blocked Kili from the Mer's sight.::

OwindsDance: ::She closes the fan with care, and smiles at him and Nadiya.::I agree.

Aris Ioannes: ::though Malcus and Kamal looked nothing alike, of course.:: Which is what? Necromancy?

Ciara Deirdre: ::She put her hand over her mouth to hide the fact that she had almost

spewed her drink::

Devvol: You are gracious ::It was hard to tell if that was a compliment or merely an observation.:: The King and Queen request that I convey their congratulations, and a special gift for the occasion.

Raphael Dolek: Please don't think me rude, but I missed your name?

Nadiya Galyn: Nadiya Galyn. ::she said to the Baroness, by way of introduction.:: A pleasure to meet you.

Aris Ioannes: ::He turned to Ciara with concern and laid a hand at her back::: Are you all right, Ciara?

Lida Mennth: ::Finally, Adil passed through the curtain and into the tent. He began to move for the Lotus but froze when He saw the Mer. And Lida wasn't looking his way. Adil bit back a whine.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She nodded and grinned:: Oh, yes, I'm quite well. ::She just looked amused at the moment::

LonelyBlackLotus: A gift? What a thoughtful gesture! ::He was really wishing Trisit was here now... he turned just then to see Adil. He didn't like the sudden stillness in his wolf::

Remus Vlad has left this chat.

OwinsDance has left this chat.

Kili Bashar: It is thick, certainly. And now there is a stench. ::Another one.::

Aris Ioannes: Was it something I said?

LrdAntonMalcus: ::glances at Ciara:: You haven't told him what I do?

Ciara Deirdre: ::she nodded to Aris and left it at that::

ashokenxx: ::Ashoken smiled, quick and sere.:: You should travel with my retainers.

Ciara Deirdre: No, Anton, but please not here.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::he could simply not walk away from the Mer Prince, not when their ships skirted the coast and there were so many possibilities::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::shrugs and smiles:: I'm not ashamed of it but I'll abide your wish.

Aris Ioannes: ::He lifted a hand::: No need.

Lida Mennth: ::Lida, sensing the Lotus' dilemma peeled off then and went to her brother. It took several moments to navigate the crowd politely.::

Kynn Rolarnn: ::Kynn peaked out again, biting her lip::

Aris Ioannes: My Lady keeps me informed. ::meaning Esmerelda, not Ciara::: There are few secrets between us. We have known each other since childhood.

Lida Mennth: ::The tatoos on her face hiding any reaction she had to Adil's report.::

Cait McGill: ::She looked between Ashoken and Kili a moment then went about getting her food. She recognized the woman's face from her rare visits to the Crosswinds::

Devvol: ::Fyul made a motion with one webbed hand, and the figure at his elbow stepped up. He bore a box that glowed prettily.:: We will give it to your attendants, that you will not be burdened with such trivialities.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She leaned to Anton and spoke softly::: Some of the guest might not understand.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::it was a rather warm Balthazor night, or so it seemed. Kamal dabbed

at his lip with a handkerchief he'd produced from somewhere::

ashokenxx: ::And she recognized Cait though Ashoken tonight looked much more official in the uniform of the Malcoven Guard.::

LonelyBlackLotus: It is lovely. ::and it was, truly from what he could see::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::nods slightly glancing around:: It's a shame they judge my vocation and not what I've done for my people.

Kili Bashar: Thank you, Captain, I'm sure I will. Eventually. ::He gave Ashoken a penetrating look. Then, keeping her and other guests as a visual shield, he followed Cait.::

Aris Ioannes: Not everyone is small minded, Malcus.

Lida Mennth: ::Lida returned to the Lotus' side.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He sipped at his Sangoviese::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::looks to Aris:: Indeed. Did you know that starvation was rampant in Requiem before I can to power? Now few want for food or work,

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He looked behind him for Lida, who had moved off to Adil and when she wasn't there, called one of the manse guards to him who bowed to the prince and relieved his attendant of the gift::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::ah, there was Lida::

Nadiya Galyn: So. Things in Dreven are well? ::She kept up her perusal of the crowd as she spoke to the Steward.::

Aris Ioannes: Riverside had similar problems.

Ciara Deirdre: Some people simply do not understand.

Devvol: Yes, it is. ::He studied Kamal curiously, then offered his damp hand in the human fashion.:: I am Fyul Devvol, first of the Devvol princes and commander of the armies.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::shrugs slightly:: The ignorant shall remain such until they choose to open their minds....

Aris Ioannes: Perhaps you should visit Riverside sometime, Baron. ::to Anton:: I'm sure the Baroness would be happy to have you as a guest. You, as well, Ciara.

Lida Mennth: ::She knew this was important but so was the press of flesh with these...fish people. Lida held her breath and waited.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::the Lotus took his hand:: Highness. I am Kamal, Baron of Nekroli. I am delighted you have come and I would enjoy a chance to speak with you at length about possibilities for trade, if you are willing?

Sherakai: ::He shouldn't laugh at the awkwardness between Kamal and the Mer. He hid his amusement by popping a sweet in his mouth.::

Cait McGill: ::She found a seat at a table that was somewhat shadowed and settled into it::

LrdAntonMalcus: Esmeralda? We've talked a few times. I've not had the honor. ::his eyes flashing a crimson red a moment at memory of their last private talk::

Raphael Dolek: Trade is up. How about in Luminii?

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He knew she had news and he was trying desperately to remain cool. He had half an eye for Ashoken:: Though, of course, not tonight! ::he let out a light laugh, not too forced after all::

Aris Ioannes: Then a visit is long overdue.

Devvol: No, tonight should be spent with your bride. ::Fyul looked about for the woman.::

Ciara Deirdre: My grandfather was quite impressed by her son.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::nods:: I will have to make travel plan's soon. I've been so busy with the port.

Raphael Dolek: ::He rolled his eyes at his own response:: How brave do you feel tonight?

Aris Ioannes: Perhaps you should both visit... together. ::It wasn't just pleasure he had in mind, but he wasn't going to say that in public::

Nadiya Galyn: We've had good harvests so far, and if the weather holds there will be the same in autumn. Speaking of trade, I think we can offer some good prices to Dreven this year. ::A beat:: Brave? Why?

ashokenxx: ::Ashoken moved away from the buffet and set the plate down at the nearest table. She didn't eat.::

Aris Ioannes: Sylomon is young, but he shows promise.

LonelyBlackLotus: Yes, yes it should. If you will excuse me, Highness? I think perhaps she is nervous in crowds. Nekroli is typically such a quiet place...

Raphael Dolek: Would you dare to dance with a man with two left feet?

LonelyBlackLotus: Please, do avail yourself of the food and drink.

Aris Ioannes: I have been tutoring the boy in swordsmanship.

Nadiya Galyn: In the interest of relations between our homelands...of course. ::she laughed. Her goblet of wine, barely touched, she set on a nearby table.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::looks around:: I'm surprised the Steward decided to attend this eve.

Raphael Dolek: ::He offered her his arm.::

Devvol: ::He managed a small bow, but it was clear that it was not something he was accustomed to.:: Thank you, Baron. And may the winds be with you. ::A curious blessing indeed, from the sea people::

Lida Mennth: ::Lida vibrated with distress. She looked back at Adil but he'd already left the tent.::

Aris Ioannes: ::At mention of the Steward, he glanced briefly over at Dolek:: Why is that?

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He bowed again, after all, a Prince deserved a Baron's respect::

Kili Bashar: ::Kili chose a seat from which he could watch the Mer. And Ashoken. And perhaps other people as well.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::and he mulled that over as he moved off catching Lida by the arm.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::She took it.:: An...eccletic crowd this eve.

Ciara Deirdre: It's good for relations, I suppose. Besides, he's entitled to some amusements just as the rest of us are.

LrdAntonMalcus: Normally most of those of the lower lands don't grace us with their presence.

Aris Ioannes: Perhaps you need to get married next and give them good reason, Anton. ::smirking again, a mischievous gleam lighting his eyes::

Lida Mennth: ::As soon as the Lotus touched her arm and turned her away from the Prince, she began to whisper. Each word was like a knife to her very own gut.::

Raphael Dolek: Very. ::He took her onto what was being used as a dance floor, and started to dance. He was certainly no expert, though he also wasn't totally inept.::

ashokenxx: ::And Ashoken watched everyone else.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He hissed to her:: But I saw her in the hall myself, with Dail. She was ready!

Devvol: ::Was that pleasure on his strange, tattooed features? Or was it perhaps scorn?::

Cait McGill: ::She leaned to Kili and murmured:: You see that fellow talking to Ciara? Not the one she was dancing with, the other one. ::an upnod to Anton::

Kili Bashar: ::He let his gaze slide briefly that way.:: Yes.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::looks to Ciara and pokes a thumb at Aris:: He really doesn't know me does he?

Ciara Deirdre: No, he does not. ::She laughed::

Nadiya Galyn: ::Nadiya had a fair amount of practice it seemed. She was light on her feet, and moved where she was led.:: I would like to know how he got the Mer here...was it as simple as asking? ::Her voice quiet and intent.::

Aris Ioannes: It's a joke.

Nadiya Galyn: ::Then a pause.:: I am not particularly good at speaking of things other than business it seems.

Cait McGill: ::Her voice still low:: That's the Baron of Requiem. I understand he's the one to speak to about trading by sea.

Aris Ioannes: ::He sighed dramatically.::

Raphael Dolek: And I would like to speak of anything but work. ::He chuckled:: Like, how lovely you dance.

Lida Mennth: As did I, Master...but... ::She was so hang dog now. Just a trace of fear in her eyes.:: ... They are both gone, Master.

Devvol: ::The Mer prince watched the curious Kamal, then bestirred himself to approach the food tables. His companions followed him, and for a while they murmured and pointed over the choices.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he gave him a wolfish grin:: It's ok. I'm crazy. I miss things like that. ::said with all seriousness::

Kili Bashar: He's the one with the secret port?

Ciara Deirdre: ::She looked between Aris and Anton:: And I thought men had a language all their own.

LonelyBlackLotus: Gone. ::It was a blow. A heavy, heavy blow:: Dail? ::he wavered a little. It was a shock.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::It brought some color to her already tanned cheeks.:: Thank you. Much practice, many events like this over the years. ::there, more non-business. She took another try at it.:: How is your family? Your daughter?

Aris Ioannes: ::A light shrug of broad shoulders to Anton:: We all have our faults.

Cait McGill: ::Her auburn brows knitted:: Secret or not, he's got something.

Raphael Dolek: My daughter and son are both well. Gayle wants to become an ambassador one day.

Lida Mennth: She must have coaxed him with lies. ::She touched his arm, pleading in her voice:: You know how he is.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::For a moment, it seemed the courtyard was spinning::

Sherakai: ::He moved closer to the Mer, just to watch and listen. He got the distinct impression that they were not really thrilled to be here. He couldn't blame them, they were out of their element::

Nadiya Galyn: How old is she now? ::As they moved about the dance floor::

Lida Mennth: ::She held onto the Lotus with both hands now. She felt him wobble::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::pats Aris on the shoulder:: Indeed.

Raphael Dolek: Thirteen.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::looks to Ciara:: Should I go chat with the Mer?

Aris Ioannes: ::He narrows his eyes and brushes Anton's hand from his shoulder::

Raphael Dolek: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Ciara Deirdre: Why not? Just don't bring up your experiments.

Kili Bashar: ::He studied Anton for a long time, between keeping track of the Mer, his features unreadable:: Do you know him well? ::he asked Cait::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::raises a brow at Aris's dismissive gesture, grinds his teeth, he promised Kamal he'd be good::

Nadiya Galyn: When she is a little older, it might do her good to travel some. Spend time in other regions, perhaps with some trusted families... ::She looked at Rafael:: I have one sister, my elder sister. You know her, or of her. Julia Galyn.

Cait McGill: No, ::She shook her head:: but Ciara does.

Aris Ioannes: ::He chuckled a little at Ciara's remark::

LrdAntonMalcus: Excuse me a moment folks. I shall return.

Sherakai: Try this ::He offered a plate of little fish delicacies to the Mer::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He steadied himself on her shoulder with one hand while she held him with two and covered his eyes with the other::

Ciara Deirdre: Have you met Baron Streylan, Aris?

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he moved towards the Mer prince::

Aris Ioannes: ::He nodded to Anton and looked back at Ciara:: He's an odd fellow, isn't he?

Raphael Dolek: How much older is she?

Ciara Deirdre: That's an understatement.

Kili Bashar: ::Black eyes took in the cousin:: Are the two of you quite close?

LonelyBlackLotus: ::softly:: This is .. intolerable.

Nadiya Galyn: No others. Just the two of us. She and I...well. She is a

different person than the one I grew up with. Just a few years older than I. ::answering his question.::

Aris Ioannes: Not yet, but I'm afraid it may have to wait.

Lida Mennth: ::Her voice low and close to his ear.:: I have sent Adil to find them.

Aris Ioannes: At least, not cordially.

Nadiya Galyn: Do you have brothers or sisters?

Cait McGill: Yes, we have grown to be close in the last year or so.

Aris Ioannes: ::He drained his glass and handed it to a passing servant.::

Devvol: ::The Mer turned as one to regard Sherakai and his offering suspiciously.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he bowed deeply and graciously to the Prince, keeping a respectable distance so as not to aggitate the guards.:: Greetings.

LonelyBlackLotus: Do you really think he will? ::He moved then, across the room to Craxmullen and the document he and the baroness were supposed to sign together.::

Raphael Dolek: I was an only child. My father was a blackmith in a small town in Shadokhan.

Ciara Deirdre: If you'll excuse me, Aris. I'm going to go and offer my greetings.

Nadiya Galyn: A blacksmith. And now, here you are. ::she smiled.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He chuckled.:: So did you cause your sister a lot of grief as a child?

Aris Ioannes: If you'll excuse me, Ciara, I must be going.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He had words with the Lord Mayor who gestured that there was little he could do.::

Kili Bashar: Do you spend much time here in Balthazor?

Aris Ioannes: It was a pleasure, as always. ::He offered a small bow.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She leaned to kiss Aris's cheek.:: Travel safely.

Nadiya Galyn: Oh, some I suppose. When we were very young. But then she began studying to be a vivomancer, and I began studying to run the family business. Soon we were too busy to cause each other much trouble.

Lida Mennth: ::The question he posed cut her to the bone. Adil would find them. He was the best tracker of them all.:: He will.

Devvol: ::One of the guards took the plate that had been offered it and sniffed at it. Fyul stared at Sherakai unblinkingly, then turned to the newcomer.:: Greetings ::he echoed. No bow.::

Cait McGill: A fair bit, I suppose. My sister goes to school here.

Raphael Dolek: I'm sure your parents were very proud of you both.

Aris Ioannes: You, also. You may call on me whenever you wish. ::He left that open-ended to mean whatever she wanted or needed it to mean.::

Kili Bashar: It is a far cry from the sunny skies of S'osha.

Aris Ioannes: ::He returned the cheek-kiss and turned on a heel to exit.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She smiled to Aris then went off to follow Anton and greet Kai.::

LrdAntonMalcus: I am Anton Malcus, Baron of Requiem. I wished to welcome you to our region. I trust you are finding all to your liking? Minus the lack of cool water and a flowing breeze?

ashokenxx: ::She watched the drama unfold with a frown. Things were

happening.::

Aris Ioannes: ::He waited until he was out of sight of the crowd and disappeared into the shadows::

Sherakai: ::Kai looked Anton over, too. Casting a sideways look at the Mer prince, he took a single step back.::

Cait McGill: Maybe one day I'll find out what those skies look like.

Nadiya Galyn: They were. My father in particular. My mother, in her own way, though her...illness...it took her eventually into a world of her own. She still lives there. ::It took her a back to realize what she'd just said.::

Devvoll: Do you offer your trust so freely to all? ::Nictating lids slid over inky black eyes.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::Anton really was being good tonight, such a rare thing for him.::
Aris Ioannes has left this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::smiles:: Trust, no. Attempt to open dialogue and establish trust. Certainly.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal stood there, his shoulders slumped as Aidin explained the law to him. He nodded and let out a soft sigh:: I'm going to have to explain this to the guests.

Kili Bashar: Do you wish to? ::He made a show of eating and drinking, though little passed his lips. The little glances that went past Cait took in the flow and eddy of the crowd, the little knots of tension. The escape routes.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He nodded:: It must be hard on you at times.

Lida Mennth: Say she is ill, Master. You do not have to... ::She truly believed that Adil would find them by dawn.::

Devvoll: ::Fyul looked past Anton to the crowd, and then back.:: Do you have fish? ::The plate that had been offered was empty.::

Cait McGill: Yes. ::She nodded and ate some of what was on her plate.::

Nadiya Galyn: At times. I wonder if she is happy...wherever she is at. ::Her smile was wistful.:: I'm sorry, I should not burden you.

Lida Mennth: ::Of course there was fish! This was Nekrolimani. Seaside haven in the dusk that was Balthazor. Even the ice sculpture was a fish. A catfish. With whiskers!::

Raphael Dolek: I don't mind.

LonelyBlackLotus: III? ::He considered this... ::

Kili Bashar: It is beautiful. ::He watched Ciara and took a sip of his wine. Not S'oshan. Pity.::

Lida Mennth: She will need tending by ... by you.

LrdAntonMalcus: Certainly. Fresh from the north. ::he looked around and offered up a tray, one with raw sushi like pieces and another with steamed fish.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::and whispered very, very softly to her.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He braved an attempt to twirl her as they danced, hoping to cheer her up.::

Lida Mennth: ::She looked over the Etrauch Mayor with Kamal's voice in her ear.::

Devvol: Fish that has not known your... heat. ::Slow blink.:: This. Yes. ::He took a bit of the raw fish and it disappeared, giving a glimpse of sharp teeth.::

Lida Mennth: ::She frowned and cast her gaze over the rippling tent walls. The breeze was picking up. She whispered back.::

LrdAntonMalcus: It was prepared right before the ceremony. Fresh caught and kept cool to prevent sickness.

Devvol: ::The Mer contingent made quick work of the raw fish, disdaining the cooked varieties.:: You are a hunter?

Nadiya Galyn: ::It worked, of course.:: You do very well, Steward.

Raphael Dolek: You're a wonderful dance partner.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He sighed, deeply, looking defeated.:: Yes. That's what I'll do.

LrdAntonMalcus: Myself, no. Recently I've taken a love to the sea and hunters under my employment caught these.

ashokenxx: ::She decided to have another glass of the local liquor. It was a party after all.::

Cait McGill: Any woodlands?

Sherakai: ::Kai turned away from the spectale of the Mer to greet Ciara.::

Raphael Dolek: Shall we make an attempt, Nadiya, to greet the Merfolk? The crowd around them seems to have thinned.

Lida Mennth: ::She gripped Kamal's arm, much like her brother had the flyer's.:: This changes nothing, Master. Nothing.

Nadiya Galyn: Let's. ::she agreed.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal nodded and straightened his shoulders.:: Nothing.

Lida Mennth: ::but of course, everything had changed. Her little brother had betrayed them all.:: Nothing.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He moved then toward the curtained alcove, the bright smiles he had before exchanged now for an etched look of worry.::

Raphael Dolek: ::Offering her his arm, they made their way to Devvol and his party.::

Ciara Deirdre: Good evening, Baron. ::She smiled to Kai.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He stood with his back to it and tried to breathe, looking out over the crowd.::

LrdAntonMalcus: I never knew...beauty of the sea until I personally over saw a recent settlement in my northern lands.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::breathe normally.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::She drew herself up to her full height as they approached.::

Devvol: ::His companions whispered to him and he leaned to listen, not once taking his eyes off Anton.:: You are a builder of boats?

ashokenxx: ::She carefully watched the Devvol contingent while she drank. She watched and learned how they stood. How they moved. Their formation. It couldn't have been more fortuitous to her plans that they arrived.::

LrdAntonMalcus: Yes of a sorts. I've helped in crafting boats.

Sherakai: How are you, Ciara? ::Oops, was he supposed to be formal? Eyes bright,

he smiled at her.: How are you?

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he left out the part that they were made from bone::

Raphael Dolek: ::He stopped near the merfolk and Lord Anton, waiting for them to finish.::

Ciara Deirdre: I am well, Kai. Yourself and your family?

Kili Bashar: Woodlands? I suppose you could call them that. Yes. We grow trees. ::He was briefly amused. Then his careful watching discovered the S'oshan Hydromantic Counselor in the crowd.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he gave the Steward a smile and nod::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::Kamal held up his hands to the crowd to get their attention::

ashokenxx: ::Old home night for ol' Kili.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He nodded and smiled back::

Devvol: ::He eyed Anton like he was a strange specimen.: I see.

Cait McGill: I'm a farmer, I like that sort of thing. ::She finished her food::

LrdAntonMalcus: Look's like the Baron is trying to get quiet.

Lida Mennth: ::She stood beside Kamal, her gaze cast down. Her thoughts masked by the ink all over her face.::

LonelyBlackLotus: My lords and ladies, my honored guests... ::he began::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She looked over toward Kamal::

Raphael Dolek: ::He would have spoken, but he caught Kamal trying to get their attention::

Kili Bashar: ::He gestured silently with his wine glass to the Lotus.: There it is.

ashokenxx: ::She looked to Kamal, bland faced.::

Nadiya Galyn: ::An interruption. She turned to look at Kamal. Still without his bride.::

Cait McGill: ::She held her glass in her hand as she listened to Kamal::

Kili Bashar: ::He looked at Ciara, then at the emissary hydromancer. A woman dressed in blue robes obviously decorated with the hydromantic sigils. Her hair was brown. Plain, unattractive brown.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::He did manage a smile, a tired, troubled smile.: I am so very pleased that you have all joined us for this happy time. It is an honor to the Baroness, to Balthazor and to me to have you here.

Sherakai: ::Kai moved slightly, coming to stand at Ciara's elbow as he listened.::

LonelyBlackLotus: For those of you not at the ceremony in the Reliquary, I want to apologize that you will not see the bride tonight. ::he swallowed::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She glanced toward Kili and Cait for a brief moment then turned her attention back to Kamal::

Raphael Dolek: ::He frowned with concern::

Lida Mennth: ::She looked to Kamal. He was...amazing.::

Nadiya Galyn: He does not look well. ::she whispered::

LonelyBlackLotus: I pray that you will stay as long as you wish, partake of the food, the drink, it is all for you and we are grateful for your company. But I must leave you now.

LrdAntonMalcus: He doesn't look happy....

Devvol: ::The Mer watched. Curious. Unblinking.::

LonelyBlackLotus: Trisitana has taken ill. I must attend her. ::He had nothing else to say, and so bowed to them all and slipped through the curtain::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She shook her head and murmured:: What man would be happy to be without his bride on their wedding day?

Nadiya Galyn: Mm.

Sherakai: How unfortunate. ::His dark brows met as he watched Kamal go, then his attention lingered on Lida.::

ashokenxx: ::She frowned. It wasn't a stretch for her.::

Raphael Dolek: ::His frown deepened, but he didn't have any public comment to make.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She leaned to Kai and lowered her voice for his ears alone::

Nadiya Galyn: ::It was an interesting piece of information to take back to the Archon. But not the most interesting one.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::The musicians who had stopped for his announcement resumed playing so that dancing might continue::

Raphael Dolek: I do hope she feels better soon.

Lida Mennth: ::She lingered and did not frown, but there were no smiles. She waved to the musicians to continue.::

Nadiya Galyn: Too much excitement, stress, perhaps.

Lida Mennth: ::And sought out the head serving person. She ordered him to keep the drink and food going.::

Kili Bashar: Ill. ::He repeated the word, but his eyes gleamed suspiciously and his mouth twitched.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He turned his attention to the Merfolk.:: Good evening, sirs. I'm Steward Raphael Dolek.

LonelyBlackLotus: ::several of the Lotus guardsment rearranged their positions to mark the hall that led into the manse::

Ciara Deirdre: ::She nodded::

Raphael Dolek: And this is Lady Nadiya Galyn.

Cait McGill: ::She smiled and shook her head as she watched Ciara with Kai:: She gets around, I see.

Nadiya Galyn: ::She dragged her attention away from this newest event, and back to the Mer.::

Sherakai: There is... ::He rubbed his fingers together as though that might produce the description he wanted.:: something amiss.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he quirked a brow and glanced to Ciara and Kai, in private chatter, then back to the Steward, his date and the Mer.::

Sherakai: ::His head lifted and his nostrils flared as he took in the multitude of scents. Strong scents everywhere, and underneath them, uneasiness.::

ashokenxx: ::Ashoken moved through the throng to where her retainers - the strongest scents in the courtyard! - stood, patient in their undeath.::

Kili Bashar: Is that not part of her duty? ::He flicked a look at the Mer again, then turned his attention to Ciara's companion.:: Who is he?

hannahmaverickk has joined this chat.

Devvol: This is not an auspicious beginning to a new future ::Fyul commented, choosing his words carefully.::

Lida Mennth: ::Lida supervised the guard and paced several lengths before following after Kamal.::

Cait McGill: I suppose so. ::She looked to Kili:: Formally, he's Baron Streylan. Informally, Kai. ::She smiled.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He nodded in response.::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::this was not auspicious at all!::

Devvol: ::Round, black eyes turned on the next arrival, Raphael. A slow blink.:: Steward. Of Dreven City, yes?

Ciara Deirdre: ::She looked to see if Anton was still engaged in conversation.::

Raphael Dolek: That would be me.

Nadiya Galyn: ::She waited, a polite smile on her face, a focused look in her eye.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he very much wasn't, having lost the attention of the Mer, he moved towards the banquet table, eyeing the food.::

Raphael Dolek: I thought it only polite to introduce myself.

Devvol: I am Fyul Devvol, first of the Devvol princes and commander of the armies. ::He turned to look over the female, then his gaze went back to the steward.::

Kili Bashar: Baron Streylan ::he murmured.:: He looks familiar.

Nadiya Galyn: An honor, Prince Devvol. ::She bowed slightly.::

Sherakai: ::He checked on Raf and Nadiya, then turned to Ciara.:: Would you care to dance, my lady?

Cait McGill: You've been to the Crosswinds, you might have seen him there.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he didn't seem the least bit interested in anything present though, it seemed more a distraction for himself for a few moments.::

Ciara Deirdre: I'd be delighted. ::she smiled and reached for Kai's hand.::

Kili Bashar: No. The Crosswinds is a small place. ::An ambiguous answer.::

Raphael Dolek: Lady Galyn is from Luminii, and advisor to the Archon.

Devvol: ::A flicker of a glance to Nadiya, then back to the steward.:: Yes. We meet at last, you and I.

Nadiya Galyn: ::The polite smile on her face grew.::

Sherakai: ::Dancing, he could watch the crowd and speak without interruption.:: Why do you suppose he supposes that we don't know?

Raphael Dolek: It's a pleasure to meet you finally, Prince Devvol.

Kynn Rolarnn: ::Kynn too had gone when Adil had, to be part of the search... even now she was floating somewhere over Nekrolimani.::

Kynn Rolarnn has left this chat.

Devvol: Prince Fyul ::he corrected.:: Why does the Archon not attend this

occasion himself?

Ciara Deirdre: ::Only way to be alone in a crowd is on the dance floor:: Not everyone knows of his skills.

Raphael Dolek: Forgive me. ::Nodding::

Cait McGill: He was the Weaponsmaster in Dreven for sometime. ::She took a sip from her wine glass::

Sherakai: Ah. I thought rumor a much more insistent voice.

Devvol: Yes.

Nadiya Galyn: Important matters at home, Prince. He regretted not being able to attend.

Ciara Deirdre: ::Her steps graceful as they moved around the dance floor:: Rumors are not always believed.

Devvol: ::His strange eyes studied her. Nictating lids slid across the surface::
How unfortunate ::he said at last::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::though the Lotus was not with them, nor the bride, the servants moved about, some alive, some actually undead, replenishing platters, brandishing drink trays::

Kili Bashar: And then?

Nadiya Galyn: Indeed. ::She agreed, the polite smile still in place::

Sherakai: Only too true ::he chuckled, guiding her safely out of the path of another couple::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::Anton stepped toward a secluded area outside the tent and vanished into the darkness::

Devvol: And do you speak for him?

Cait McGill: He raises horses and ::she chuckled:: children.

ashokenxx: ::She finished giving her retinue order. The shuffled off to complete them::

LonelyBlackLotus: ::no one was expected to depart for many a candlemark. Celebrations were actually going on all over the city while the Lotus lingered in his wife's chambers::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::he reappeared near Kamal:: What in the blasted abyss has happen Kamal?

ashokenxx: ::She waded back into the crowd and snatched another drink. And nearly fell over. Vione. How...wonderful::

Kili Bashar: So domestic ::he murmured, black eyes flashing::

Ciara Deirdre: ::she suddenly noticed Anton was missing and her face crinkled::

Sherakai: Are you well?

Nadiya Galyn: The Archon speaks for himself. I am his advisor.

Cait McGill: Some people are well suited to domestic life. Others, ::she shrugged:: either run wild or need to be domesticated. ::She smiled wryly::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::the Lotus literally jumped, though the shadows had told the tale and he'd missed it:: Anton? This isn't the time... ::he closed the door to the bed chamber behind him::

Lida Mennth: @::Lida growled and lunged for Anton, who just appeared in the room with she and Lotus and scared the crap out of her::

Nadiya Galyn: However, I am also pleased to be of service if I can.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She murmured:: Baron Malcus is missing. He is likely to cause a stir.

Lida Mennth: @::There was no time for recognition and the red, the wild beast in her, had been building the whole day.::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::he put a clawed hand up to intercept her, his strength tenfold since his transformation:: DOWN PUP!

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::oh dear... emotionally crushed, Kamal had no idea how the two of them might snap at one another. Oh that was a bad bad thing to say:: Please...

Lida Mennth: @::She was strong too. He was just a body, just meat. They collided.::

Devvol: The Archon does not send to Hvannadalshnukur.

Nadiya Galyn: Does not send...what? Ambassadors?

Devvol: ::Clever black eyes turned to the steward.:: Nor does anyone from once-Shadokhan.

LrdAntonMalcus: @::he tumbled, rolling with her momentum, his own eyes going feral:: Kamal, leash her in or I will.

Kili Bashar: Need? ::He crooked a brow as he looked back to Cait.::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ You did intrude, old man... Please. Both of you... Lida... ::He reached for the high back of a chair::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::It was reasonable to imagine them killing one another... oh yes... Anton was already dead, well, undead::

Lida Mennth: @ ::but she wouldn't stop. The beast had risen in her. It was like some crazy, lumberjack pillow dance. She was all over him, looking for something to tear.::

Cait McGill: Figure of speech. ::She studied Kili's face for a moment before finishing off her wine::

Raphael Dolek: A message was sent, asking for a meeting some time ago, but no sign of a response or the messenger was found. Perhaps we might work out a meeting if that is acceptable to you?

LrdAntonMalcus: @::his own patience was about to snap, she rended part of his arm tearing a deep gash, a throaty growl escaped the Baron. With inhuman speed and strength he lifted her up some to slam her back down, attempting a pin at best, a KO at worst::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::Kamal reached down for his dark voice and called it up in a name, a name spoken harshly in command and shoved all together:: *Annasophia!* ::he knew better than to get between them, however::

Lida Mennth: @::The impact almost took her breath. The name robbed it completely. She did not go limp but she did not continue the attack.::

Kili Bashar: And so feminine.

Lida Mennth: @::One of the runes tattoo'd to her face glowed faintly red.::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ Anton. ::He stepped up and in then, a hand to the baron's chest:: Please. If you hurt her, I'll have to heal her and I won't have anything left for the Baroness.

Cait McGill: I suppose. ::She whispered:: Don't look now, but that weird guy seems to be missing.

Devvol: It is most unfortunate to go losing messengers. Is such a meeting desired?

Lida Mennth: @::She lay there on her back, breathing not hard at all, and

glared.::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::he rose, elongated canine protruding from his lips, he took a deep breath and clenched a clawed hand:: If I wanted to hurt her....I would have stole her life force. ::releases the breath::

Raphael Dolek: Very much so. There's a lot of repairing that needs to be done, and the first step is to talk.

Kili Bashar: ::He bent his head closer to hers:: Pardon me, but which weird... guy?

Devvol: Repairing? ::He blinked slowly::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ Yes. Yes, I know. Thank you. Please... ::he was placating, pacifying, even while he was reaching for Lida's hand. This was a very, very dangerous moment for Kamal::

Cait McGill: ::She murmured:: The one with the port.

Raphael Dolek: The isolation caused by the Klockwork regime.

Sherakai: Ciara, my dear, I'm afraid the stir has already been made. In order to be noticeable, he'd have to become a ripple, at the very least.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She nodded:: True.. true.

LrdAntonMalcus: @What happen? The Baronness sick? Heal her and ship her out there. People are talking,

Kili Bashar: Perhaps we will meet again another time. ::He shifted in his chair to avoid the Mer seeing him.::

Ciara Deirdre: He is ah... what's a polite way to put it? A most unusual fellow.

Lida Mennth: @::Only when Malcus backed off did she move, scrambling back and turning just enough she could Kamal and his hand. She took it.::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::there were moments, good or bad, when one had to be blatantly honest. He pulled Lida to him and breathed a sigh:: I would love to do that, but at the moment it isn't possible.

Sherakai: That is polite ::Kai chuckled, and moved into the next dance without hesitation.:: Am I monopolizing your company?

Lida Mennth: @::Malcus' blood was beneath her nails. She curled tight against Kamal when he drew her close.::

Cait McGill: ::She leaned toward Kili to try to block people's view of his face::

Lida Mennth: @::She was still a beast and craved the contact. The words Kamal spoke was not a switch, just catalyst. It would take a little time for her to come down.::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::he raised a brow:: Kamal, you and I are deep into thing's at this point. You can confide in me.

Ciara Deirdre: No, my escort had to depart. Am I monoplizing yours? ::She twirled around once::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::the wound on his arm was already beginning to close and strangely little blood flowed from it::

Lida Mennth: @::and maybe she began to cry with most of her face pressed against the Lotus's shoulder.::

Kili Bashar: ::Close as he was, he examined Cait's eyes.:: For a reception, we can't complain about having been bored.

Ciara Deirdre: Anton is not hard to understand, he simply has his own agenda.

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::the Lotus laughed:: Don't you understand? *She's gone.*

ashokenxx: ::The smallest of her retinue had been charged with tailing the Devvol prince. She needed information. She would get it.::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::his eyes widen slightly:: Gone?! She fled? Or was taken?

ashokenxx: ::And now the vione in her glass was gone. She caught a servant and told him to bring a bottle of that to her room.::

Cait McGill: ::her eyes were dark blue, almost a sapphire color:: True, the food was good, too.

Devvol: Klocks... ::The word was sibilant. The look distasteful.::

Nadiya Galyn: If you will excuse me, Prince. ::She murmured quietly.:: Steward. There is someone I would like to speak to.

LonelyBlackLotus: @ I'm not precisely certain. ::Kamal's tone was heavy with sarcasm:: She didn't stop to tell me if she was being kidnapped or running out on me.

Raphael Dolek: Of course, Nadiya,

LrdAntonMalcus: @::rolls his eyes with a mutter:: I'll have my people on the look out for her.

Sherakai: Should I understand him?

Devvol: ::He merely looked at Nadiya curiously.::

Ciara Deirdre: Only if you wish to. ::She smiled a bit and continued dancing.::

Raphael Dolek: I've dominated her time already. ::He chuckled.::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ I appreciate that. ::he gave a little bow:: Please, though, do stay and enjoy the celebration.

Nadiya Galyn: Most agreeably, Raphael. I should not be long, just some...business. ::She moved away, after a brief bow.::

LrdAntonMalcus: @I'll send a message in the shadow's to my contact's. Do you have a cloak? Your guard shredded my shirt.

Kili Bashar: I have a little something in mind. For later. ::He looked away, then at her, challenge in his scarred features.::

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::he was holding tight to Lida:: This close... ::he sighed:: I've sent out my wolves... ::he was counting Kynn in that:: I did not lie to the guests, mind. She has been ill of late.

LonelyBlackLotus: @ ::he blinked:: Yes. Of course. I'll have one brought.

LrdAntonMalcus: @Oh? How ill? Of the mind? Or something else? She has been absent alot.

Raphael Dolek: ::He turned his attention fully on the Prince Fyul:: So I believe it would be advantageous for our lands to meet and talk, set up trade and forge a political alliance.

Nadiya Galyn has left this chat.

Devvol: Perhaps. Yes. We are not unwilling to hear you.

Cait McGill: ::Her eyes narrowed slightly, but she relaxed after a moment. If Kili had wanted her dead, she would have been already:: I'll look forward to it.

Lida Mennth: @::Normally it would've been her who got the cloak, but she was as devastated as Kamal. Tristiana had disappeared with Dail and she was

beginning to see the signs. Months too late.::

Sherakai: Do you find him interesting? Useful? Dangerous?

LrdAntonMalcus has left this chat.

LonelyBlackLotus: @ I have my suspicions, but they will have to wait, I think. ::he buried his face in Lida's shoulder:: Not to be rude, but I am no sort of company, I ... am tired, Anton. Please, go, enjoy the dancing if not the food.

Raphael Dolek: Then, with your permission, we'll send an envoy.

LrdAntonMalcus has joined this chat.

Kili Bashar: ::He smiled thinly.:: So do I.

Ciara Deirdre: A bit of each, but I am cautious not to anger him.

hannahmaverickk has left this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: @::he nodded slowly, taking the cloak from the servant that brought it:: I'll do what I can to defuse things.

Devvol: You have a hydromancer at your disposal, yes?

Raphael Dolek: Several, in fact.

Sherakai: And what about our host?

LonelyBlackLotus: @ Thank you. ::He moved across the room to take the baron's hand, Lida still clutched to his side:: For all you've done.

Lida Mennth: @::she wouldn't look at Malcus and she wouldn't say sorry either.::

LrdAntonMalcus: @::shakes it, giving a nod:: Until we speak again Kamal. ::he released the man's hand, stepping back into the darkness::

Lida Mennth: @::Instead, she licked the blood off her nails.::

Devvol: Then we will make arrangements. ::His hand lifted, and he stroked the table next to him, then turned to murmur to his own mancer.::

Cait McGill: ::She brought the backs of her curled fingers against her mouth. For a few moments, she watched Kili like a hawk tracking prey that was on the run::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::Anton reappeared and made his way back to the party, surveying who was still present::

ashokenxx: ::She stood up after contemplating the bottom of her glass for far too long.::

Ciara Deirdre: Somewhat of an enigma.

Kili Bashar: Have you had enough to eat?

Raphael Dolek: It was a pleasure to meet you. ::He nodded and moved away to the food table.::

ashokenxx: ::She gave the gathering one final glance.::

Sherakai: Do tell.

Cait McGill: Yes, have you?

Kili Bashar: ::One shoulder lifted in a slight shrug.:: I suppose. ::His gaze searched out Ashoken's.::

ashokenxx: ::She met Kili's gaze, briefly.::

Ciara Deirdre: He is skill at his gift, but seems uncomfortable with it. ::She lowered her voice.::

Devvol: ::The steward's departure was met with an indecipherable murmur. Fyul

looked to see if any more of the humans were bent on approaching them.::

Kili Bashar: ::He gave the slightest of nods.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he moved toward Dolek:: Steward a moment of your time. Only a moment.

Sherakai: I think I can understand that ::he said softly::

ashokenxx: ::She did not acknowledge Bashar at all. Her gaze moved on and fell on Mer once more.::

Ciara Deirdre: Yes.. .but.. there's more. ::she lowered her voice for Kai's ears only again::

ashokenxx: ::Then she turned on her heel and stalked off.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he produces a letter for Dolek:: Feel free to have your Mage's check it before opening it if you don't trust me. It's harmless. I apologize for not approaching you sooner to speak in person but you seemed busy with the Merfolk.
ashokenxx has left this chat.

Raphael Dolek: ::He took the letter:: And this is?

LrdAntonMalcus: Feel free to read it. Or I could sum it up now if you'd prefer.

Sherakai: It does make one think, doesn't it?

Raphael Dolek: A basic idea of who it's from and why would be good. ::He smiled::

Devvol: ::Relieved to see that they were on their own, though there were several looks being directed their way, Fyul signaled to his guards.::

Ciara Deirdre: ::she nodded:: I seem to do that a great deal. Keeps me from ... doing awkward things in public.

Devvol: ::The contingent left with the same lack of fanfare with which they'd arrived.::

LonelyBlackLotus has left this chat.

Devvol has left this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: It's from me. And it is an invitation to begin talk's for trade agreement's with Requiem.

Raphael Dolek: Ah. Very good. ::Nodding:: I will be happy to send our answer back to you soon.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::nods lightly:: All of the detail's are within. Read them at your pleasure. I'll await a reply.

Sherakai: Does it really? I suffer the opposite problem :: Silver eyes gleaming, it was difficult to tell if he was teasing or not.::

Ciara Deirdre: Oh, yes. ::She grinned and nodded, she took it as teasing and lowered her voice:: I have yet to publicly offer myself for ... what's a good word? Breeding?

Raphael Dolek: Thank you. And a word in your ear?

LrdAntonMalcus: Certainly. I have a few moments.

Sherakai: ::He couldn't help but laugh.:: That would certainly be illuminating.
ashokenxx has joined this chat.

Raphael Dolek: ::He spoke quietly:: You have blood on your hand.

Lida Mennth has left this chat.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::glances down:: Yeah, that's my issue I need to handle. I frightened one of the Baroness's guards. A young lad new to the job. He slashed first and realized who I was after.

Cait McGill: ::She heard Ciara's laughter and brows furrowed:: Do I even want to know what

all you two discussed when I was asked to leave the room? ::she was addressing Kili::

Raphael Dolek: ::He didn't care about an explanation, just thought he ought to know.::

Kili Bashar: Very likely. She didn't tell you?

LrdAntonMalcus: I didn't want to bring it to the Lady and Lord's attention on this happy day and spoil it worse. So I told the lad not to worry and I'd have my surgeon handle it.

Ciara Deirdre: Yes, well, that's why I'm diplomat and not ::She paused:: let's leave it at that.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::nods:: So if you excuse me. I apologize again for the short meeting.

Cait McGill: Some of it, but I think she was keeping a few things out.

Raphael Dolek: It was a pleasure meeting you, Baron Malcus.

LrdAntonMalcus: ::bows lightly and moves to leave the room::

Raphael Dolek: ::Baron Anton? He never did get those straight.::

LrdAntonMalcus: ::he vanished into the dark once he was out of eyeshot::

Kili Bashar: ::He touched one of the multiple colorful sashes he wore at his waist.:: She was bargaining. Which was, after all, the reason for our meeting.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She nodded her head and murmured as if answering someone unseen::
LrdAntonMalcus has left this chat.

Sherakai: A wise choice, in my opinion.

Ciara Deirdre: Yes, well, you have no doubt seen my sister in a fit of temper. Cooler heads tend to prevail in certain matters, like dealing with Anton Malcus.

Sherakai: Among other things, yes. How is she?

Raphael Dolek: ::He moved over to speak to Kai, waiting until there was a pause in the conversation::

Cait McGill: ::not one to stand on ceremony, especially since most of the guests were gone, Cait called out:: Hey, Raf! ::and waved::

Ciara Deirdre: I have not seen her lately, I expected her here. ::She smiled to Raf:: Good evening, Steward Dolek.

Raphael Dolek: ::He looked over and smiled at the woman:: Good evening, Cait. Miss Ciara.

Kili Bashar: ::Look, those hideous Mer were actually gone... Still, he was a little startled at Cait hollering.::

Raphael Dolek: Have you been enjoying yourselves?

Cait McGill: ::She peered at Kili:: That, Te'ro, ::she gestured to Raf:: is the Steward of Dreven.

Sherakai: I do hope all is well. ::He stepped a little aside and gave Raf a questioning look.::

Kili Bashar: You don't say. ::mildly.::

Raphael Dolek: ::He nodded a greeting to the man called Te'ro, having no idea who he was or if he had rank...::

Ciara Deirdre: Quite nice, yes. ::She smiled again:: If you will excuse me. ::She went off to find the nearest available privy::

Kili Bashar: ::He got to his feet as he saw Ciara going.:: Lady Ciara, a moment?

Raphael Dolek: I was just about to return to Dreven.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She stopped at the door:: Yes?

Raphael Dolek: The party is dwindled and I'm not near as young as I once was to party all the night long.

Sherakai: I'm ready whenever you are ::he nodded::

Kili Bashar: ::He withdrew a folded and sealed parchment from his sashes:: A message.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She took the parchment and opened it on the spot::

Raphael Dolek: ::He nodded to Kai:: I'm sorry we didn't get to speak to each other, Cait, but you seemed very intent with your friend. ::And she lived in Dreven and was easier to find later::

Cait McGill: There will be other times, Raf. It's good to see you. ::She smiled warmly::

Raphael Dolek: Enjoy the rest of your night.

Kili Bashar: ::He bowed to her, then turned back to Cait:: Shall we? ::he asked, and didn't wait for her to agree or disagree:: Our carriage awaits. ::Or something did, anyway:: Steward. Baron. ::He nodded to the other pair shortly::

Raphael Dolek: Ready Kai? ::He was ready to go and waited for his friend::

Sherakai: ::He suppressed a chuckle:: Shall we be off, oh stewardly one?

Cait McGill: You, too! ::She got to her feet, the silk of her gown swished as she walked with Kili: Night!! ::She waved over her shoulder::

Raphael Dolek: Is that your advice? ::chuckling, he moved towards the door:: Good night, Te'ro.

Sherakai: The best of it, yes. ::And off they went::
Raphael Dolek has left this chat.

Kili Bashar: I suspect I haven't told you how lovely you look tonight ::he murmured as he urged her in the direction of the portal rather speedily::

Cait McGill: What's the hurry? ::She felt like she was running to that portal::
Sherakai has left this chat.

Kili Bashar: I confess, I dislike this place, and I would rather avoid that Hydro Counselor -- which is becoming more and more difficult with the thinning crowd.

Ciara Deirdre: ::She stared at the note:: Oh... he's going to owe me for this. Bigger than a pile of hay and molasses!! ::She grumbled::

Cait McGill: Te'ro ::she hissed:: what did you do?

Ciara Deirdre: ::she shook her head and went to meet the two guards that had accompanied her in addition to Aris::
Ciara Deirdre has left this chat.

Kili Bashar: To the hydro? Nothing. Yet. ::At the portal, he ignored the guards and murmured the portal code::

Cait McGill: You're lucky I don't want to get blood on this dress. ::Unladylike or not, she was unpinning her hair at the portal::

Kili Bashar: That would ruin it ::he agreed, and held his hand out to her::

Cait McGill: ::she took his hand::

Kili Bashar: ::Into the portal they stepped -- and away from whatever guards

Ciara might be sending after them.::

Cait McGill: ::No guards would be following. However, Ciara would get a piece of Kili's hide in some way. Most likely hit him where it hurt, the money pouch, at some point::