

11/12/2021 Prompt: Spiced Tea & Curiosity (Owen & Karina 12)

-OWEN-

"I'm curious," I asked Kili, sipping stale brew. "How did you calm G'wendahl?"

His unblinking eyes peered into my cup. "Foul stuff."

"Burned rubber." The moth sprinkled my caffeine boost with black glitter. "Eh...thanks, mate."

"You'll thank me later." He wiped his face with feathery legs. "Poor Jeffers...er, no. I did not 'feed' her. It's simple. The key to females is listening...to her, that is."

"But you said she AGREED with you." I squirmed. "I have to know how you did that."

"Calmed her?"

"Forget that. I want to know..." My throat caught, making me chug tea before I remembered the glitter.

"Mm, that's nice."

"Told you so." Kili preened. "Spices from across Ne'erendi. You were saying?"

"Going ashore?" called the captain.

"Never mind. Even in Ne'erendi, females remain a mystery."

Skeletons bejeweled with fire shielded Whitethrone Island, but only one caught my eye. The stately birch commanded his troops, an admiral on constant duty.

Watching.

Leaves crunched like parchment under my feet, the only sound. Spices on my breath, the only scent.

I clung to my pack like a schoolboy, my mind drifting always to Karina. What was she doing now? Had she found another? Would I ever see her again?

Not that she would remember me thanks to the Faerie Queen. Would my own memories ever fade?

I covered a yawn with my arm. I slept poorly after our escape from the sea dragon.

Close to the Admiral, as I'll call him, I caught my toe on a root and stumbled to the ground. My limbs bore the weight of my mission, my legs, my loss. I tried to rise...

"I can't...get...up."

Kili flittered into sight. "Owen?"

Her image shimmered into my mind before the fog rolled in.

"Don't fight it, boy. Castle Evertrue awaits."

Ah, storytelling. An explanation, of sorts (wink). I took this picture at the park a few weeks ago, knowing it needed to be in this story. Looking through my past episodes, the moth was a female in the first one. Obviously, Owen doesn't know his moths, lol. Kili is definitely a male.

TAG

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