

ATHZIRI IS STANDING ON A BLUFF NEAR THE KEEP, OVERLOOKING THE OCEAN. THE WIND IS BLOWING, HER HAIR AND DRESS ARE GETTING BLOWN BY THE WIND.

ATHZIRI is enjoying the wind. Her arms are outstretched and she wiggles her fingers as the wind moves through them. She notices a strange tingling in her fingers, but it doesn't alarm her as she thinks it's caused by the wind.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE

Freedom is something so many take
for granted.

ATHZIRI looks around trying to figure out where the voice came from. There is no one on the bluff with her.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE 2

(Slightly different tone
to this voice)

We get to do what we love and no
one can stop us.

ATHZIRI

Is anyone there?

No one answers her spoken question. She looks out at the water and sees some dolphin fins breaking the surface. There are some seagulls flying nearby, but no other people.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE

(This is another voice)

So few know who they really are,
it's nice to know what I am and
what I'm supposed to do.

ATHZIRI

I can hear you, but you don't
answer me. Come out of hiding now!

She waits, but no one answers.

ATHZIRI (CONT'D)

Tehron, if that is you and your
friends, I will inform your father
of this.

There is still no response and when she looks out at the water, the dolphins are gone.

She shrugs her shoulders and then sits down on the grass and starts picking some of the flowers.

FADE OUT

2

EXT ON THE BLUFF - A FEW HOURS LATER (ATHZIRI ONLY)

2

FADE IN

ATHZIRI IS LAYING DOWN ON THE GRASS. THERE ARE SEVERAL PICKED FLOWERS IN THE BASKET SITTING TO HER LEFT.

JOVAN is walking up the hill and shakes his head when he sees her. When he gets close enough, he stands over her, casting a shadow down on top of her. She opens her eyes and looks up at him.

JOVAN

We have been looking for you back
at the Keep and you have been out
here this whole time.

She sits up and turns towards him.

OPTION 1 - APOLOGIZE

ATHZIRI

I'm sorry. Have I been gone so
long?

JOVAN

You have been gone for hours. There
are chores that need your
attention. Ayden has been looking
for you as well.

OPTION 2 - MAKE AN EXCUSE

ATHZIRI

I cannot have been here that long,
I have only picked a few flowers.

She glances at her basket

JOVAN

You have been gone for hours. There
are chores that need your
attention. Ayden has been looking
for you as well.

OPTION 3 - DENIAL

ATHZIRI

I have not been here that long, the
sun has barely moved in the sky.

JOVAN

You have been gone for hours and
you have neglected your chores.
Ayden is also looking for you.

MAIN TREE

ATHZIRI starts to stand up.

JOVAN (CONT'D)

Here child, take my hand.

She takes the offered hand and he helps her stand up. She
brushes the grass and dust off her dress, then picks up the
basket. Together they start walking back to the Keep, talking
as they go.

FADE OUT

3

INT THE KEEP, OUTSIDE AYDEN'S ROOM (AYDEN OPENING)

3

FADE IN

HALLWAY WITH SEVERAL DOORS. THE SECOND DOOR ON THE RIGHT
OPENS

AYDEN steps through followed by a young woman he is talking
to. They stop in the hallway and lean together. AYDEN gives
her a kiss.

AYDEN

(After pulling away, says
with a sly smile)

Thank you for a pleasant evening.

VILLAGE GIRL

You are welcome, my Lord. I have
chores to do, so I must beg your
pardon as I depart.

AYDEN

You must do me one favor before you
go.

VILLAGE GIRL

What would that be, my Lord?

AYDEN smiles and then leans close to her and whispers something. The girl laughs and gets slightly flush. He moves towards her and they kiss once again.

ERLING comes up as they kiss and clears his throat.

ERLING

My Lord, there is talk in the village that I think you need to hear.

AYDEN breaks off the kiss and looks at the servant.

AYDEN

I hate to end this so soon, but it seems there is something I must take care of.

VILLAGE GIRL

Of course, my Lord.

She curtsies and then leaves.

AYDEN

What is this talk of which you speak?

ERLING

It seems your brother has issued punishment to one of the villagers. The man was caught pickpocketing and your brother ordered he receive lashes for the offense.

AYDEN

(Looks slightly shocked)
Has the man ever been caught doing that before?

ERLING

Not that I am aware of, my Lord.

AYDEN

He has overstepped his bounds and not for the first time. Lashes are only used for extreme punishment and he knows it.

ERLING

Are you going to take this to your father?

OPTION 1 - PENSIVE

AYDEN

I supposed I better, if I do not tell him and he finds out another way, well I'm not sure either of us wants to witness that.

ERLING

Your father is not as bad as you make him out, my Lord.

AYDEN

Probably not, but he does have a temper.

ERLING

Perhaps it is best to go to him, as I understand it, the man may need some healing.

AYDEN

Then we'll need the family healer and father will need to know about that.

ERLING

Your father will not be around forever and you are the eldest, which means you will take over Girard. Whatever you do, must be handled properly.

OPTION 2 - TAKING CHARGE

AYDEN

Not if I can help it. He wants me to take more responsibility and perhaps I can do that with this incident.

ERLING

The villager may require some healing from what I heard.

AYDEN

Then I'll take the family healer to him...hopefully he will keep my confidence.

ERLING

If he does that, how will your father learn that you are taking responsibility?

AYDEN

Fine, we can tell him after I have a talk with my brother.

ERLING

Your father will not be around forever and you are the eldest, which means you will take over Girard. Whatever you do, must be handled properly.

OPTION 3 - AGGRESSION

AYDEN

Absolutely not. He wants me to take responsibility and I'm going to have a talk with my brother.

ERLING

If he finds out about it after you've dealt with it and you haven't told him, you might not like his reaction.

AYDEN

I can deal with father.

ERLING

If you don't tell him, then how will he learn that you have started taking more responsibility?

AYDEN

If I want to get him off my back about that, then I will have to tell him, won't I?

ERLING

Your father will not be around forever and you are the eldest, which means you will take over Girard. Whatever you do, must be handled properly.

MAIN TREE

AYDEN

I find Tehron first and then we
inform father.

4

INT THE KEEP, MAIN ENTRANCE

4

FRONT OF THE KEEP, ATHZIRI AND JOVAN ARE WALKING TOWARDS THE
MAIN ENTRANCE

Together, ATHZIRI and JOVAN walk into the main entrance of
the keep. They find AYDEN and TEHRON arguing and they seem to
have been at it for several minutes.

AYDEN

That is not one of your
responsibilities, you've
overstepped your bounds.

TEHRON

I can do what I want, always have.
What you gonna do, tell daddy?

JOVAN

Is there something he needs to tell
me?

TEHRON stiffens slightly at his father's approach. AYDEN
turns towards them and catches ATHZIRI's eye.

TEHRON

It's nothing dad, he's just being
pigheaded about something stupid.

JOVAN

If you overstepped your bounds,
then he is not being pigheaded and
the issue is not stupid. What did
you do, my son?

TEHRON

It was nothing.

AYDEN

He issued punishment against a man
in the village that was not
warranted based on his crime,
father.

ATHZIRI
(Shakes her head and then
quietly says)
Typical.

AYDEN exchanges a look with ATHZIRI.

JOVAN
So, is that what happened?

TEHRON
I did issue punishment against a
man, but he committed a crime.

JOVAN
It is your brother's place to issue
punishment, not yours as you know
well. I will have to go into the
village and correct the situation.
Do I need to take the family
healer?

AYDEN
I would advise it father, the man
does have some injuries as a result
of his punishment.

JOVAN
(Sighs)
From now on, my son, your brother
is the only one other than myself
allowed to issue punishments, is
that clear?

TEHRON
(Glowers)
Understood father. May I leave?

JOVAN
Unless there is something else I
need to know.

TEHRON
(After JOVAN answers, he
sends a nasty look
towards AYDEN)
There is nothing else you need to
know father.

JOVAN
Then you are free to go, my son.

TEHRON storms out of the room.