

This letter is written in Elsa's handwriting. You suspect her adoptive mother had a hand in the content.

Lord Kavian,

I wanted to inform you of recent developments in Breezy Creek. Lady Elsa has been kind enough to lend me her hand to write to you. The Kazuhn prefecture has suffered over the years, much as Merret County. Its limited infrastructure maintenance dedicated to keeping the few key canals and warehouses able to export the prefecture's flax, fruit, and grain to Oppara. In Taldor's heyday, Kazuhn was a patchwork of small, family-run farms. Increasingly, nobles have consolidated these farms into massive estates with tenant farmers. It's largely due to some aristocrats' competing interests and overlapping domains that some farming communities remain independent. Such is the case for Breezy Creek, a nonintegrated community northeast of the small town of Piltshaven

For many generations the Avenlar family (most recently Viscount Yemis Avenlar) has merged the farms under its jurisdiction, in the process often leveling crop diverse family plots to make room for intensive production of a few crops. The Avenlars have profited off this change, though, as is usual for their type, the tenant farmers have struggled under the rigorous taxes imposed. Even with their right to move and seek work elsewhere, many field hands have gone into debt to the Avenlars to make ends meet, tying them to the land in practice if not in name. The respected Landgrave Aldon Parcheau had maintained the ranching lands and agricultural hamlets that speckle the surrounding territory, including the village of Breezy Creek; however, tragically, the landgrave and the local baron perished during the succession skirmishes that have been breaking out across the country. Parcheau had no heir, and those lands are now

unsupervised. I fear that higher-ranked nobles are too absorbed in more important affairs to appoint a replacement. This has left a power void that has drawn the Viscount Avenlar. I fear he is seeking to begin poaching more territory.

Because the Grand Prince attempted to murder me seconds after my exaltation, I never received land to match my title. However, because of the recent deaths, as I have noted, places such as Breezy Creek, Piltshaven, and several other nearby towns are in need of leadership. I have attached a survey of the area. Senator Vinmark suggests that the Grand Princess might officially offer me the holdings. I know my people would welcome me over the Viscount. Thought, having almost been killed before, I would also ask if you or your friends might see your way clear to have your agents assist in my defense.

Your Humble Servant,

Lord Kalbio