

## SIGNIFICANT EXCERPTS FROM LADY BERLAN RALTHON'S JOURNAL

Gozran 1

The harassment by High Strategos Pythareus is stepping up. He clearly wants a reason to search out holdings. So far, he has obtained warrants for the business at the docks but has not yet entered the house. I miss dealing with General Silanius. He is a humble man for one both young and high in rank. He has been kind to us. He is loyal to Pythareus and has been unable to tell us what this is about, but I am sure they are looking for, but I am sure it is the Arminian wheel. Wouldn't that Imperialist love to have it! I shudder to think of what war at sea would do to our business. We cannot let him have it.

I fear, though, that dear Protius is far too honest a man for the politics of being a General. He does not see conspiracies around him. His guile is on the battlefield against enemies honest enough declare themselves. Still, he acts like a man with a secret. Has he stumbled upon something? I am praying to Abadar for his justice.

Sarenith 7

We arrived from Cassomir without incident yesterday. I am happy to be free of that city for now, even though this is the first visit to Merrat without Benigunus. Pythareus has his lackies hounding us can be left behind in for a break. I have sent to Allis to come visit, but I doubt she will come. She seems to be growing more reclusive. It must be hard to live alone.

Abelardus, Cordula and the children have already settled in. I insisted they take the large rooms as I no longer need the space. They protested, but I insisted. I'd rather not sleep in there alone with too many memories.

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Sarenith 22

Hersília says she saw a strange figure on the grounds. Abalrdus was not able to find anything and dismissed it as her typical flights of fancy. I am more disquieted. Hersília reminds me of my mother in so many ways, and mother had a gift of seeing.

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Erastus 1

I am sure we are being stalked, even here. Hersília has seen a shape again, and we are not going outside. The alarm spells guard us against intrusion, but it is not fun being watched. Does someone know we have the wheel here? The whole point was to keep it secured against detection in Cassomir. I am convinced this is why Pythareus is harassing us, he must suspect we have it. If he were sure, he would have attacked. I am going to talk to see if Duke Loheed can aid us. He happens to be in residence.

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Erastus 11

Duke Loheed sent a letter he is coming to investigate next week. That will be a great relief for me and the family. It will be before I go to attend my investor meeting, so I can leave feeling things are well in hand.

**This is the final entry**