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"I have watched them, followed them, even helped them in their journey to save this world and rid it of the wizard Dranngore and the army of Killnarin he has summoned. Dranngore is a foolish and small-minded man, thinking he is able to control such evil and malicious beasts. He is so blinded by his desire for vengeance that he refuses to realize the true horror he has unleashed. Zaylyn, our world, will be utterly destroyed if these creatures are allowed to roam free. I don't think he even cares what his plan for revenge will bring, as long as it is carried out to the end.

"He's willing to risk our entire world and everything in it, simply because he was denied membership within the wizard's guild. The guild enslaves unsuspecting wizards, stealing their magic and then forcing them to steal that of others, eventually even draining their very life away. And all the while, this evil guild absorbs the magic power and life force to share between its members. Thank goodness that many are wise to their evil ways now, but they still remain strong in their deeds.

"I could easily kill Dranngore and even destroy the wizard's guild, but then I would be giving into my own evil nature, even if it was done for the greater good. My hold over myself is far too weak to willingly let myself kill. To think about the horror and death I could cause if I ever lost control, makes me shudder.

"Vordin... the Killnarin slaughtered his entire village. Nilnont was the first to be attacked, the creatures burning it to the ground with their spells. Was I wrong to save the boy as I did? To come between the creature and its prey? I saved Rasindell as well from a Killnarin long ago, and in turn, it was Rasindell's stories about the event that helped to save Vordin at his village. I was unsure about why I had mentioned a hollow tree to Rasindell and that to be within one could save him from a Killnarin. Now that I am aware of how Vordin survived them, I see why I had given Rasindell that information.

"Sometimes I am completely unaware of the things I am responsible for causing and the reasons behind them. As with Candra and Dendrox, I delayed their journey in order for them to meet up with Weena and eventually Vordin. I physically took Vordin away from a scouting Killnarin that would have surely killed him and hid him away in a rocky alcove within the mountains. The creature came over the mountains and into Dee'ellkka Valley beyond, where it hunted and battled the two thieves. Candra and Dendrox would have been slain by the beast if they hadn't managed to see through its deceptions. They survived and even managed to kill the creature. Luckily, they had been delayed long enough in their journey along the road for Weena to find them and she was able to heal the elf. Candra, as well as being wounded, was also magically poisoned by the creature. Weena was able to cure this as well, saving her life.

"Lorenta, neither spider nor human, in a way I am responsible for her creation. It was I that gave Rasindell the potion. Could it have been more than to ease the loneliness Rasindell felt in his old age after his beloved had been slain by the Killnarin? Perhaps, but if so, I am unaware.

"Everyone in the group Nodwel and Asdella were traveling with were slain battling the Killnarin along with the entire village of Dexcsin. I knew of this, and yet I did nothing to stop it. Should I have?

"In the spiders' lair, Yarin was killed by one of the beasts. He was just a child and had been the only survivor of Dexcsin. Why is it that I rescued Vordin, but did nothing when it came to that boy's demise?

"Narr's ghost, Nodwel and Asdella's slain companion, am I responsible for Asdella being able to communicate with him? It was he that alerted her to Borin's location in the tunnels within the spiders' lair. If it weren't for him, the group would have become hopelessly lost within those tunnels and would have been easy prey for the Killnarin.

"Borin sacrificed himself to save the others. Is that the reason why I finally stepped in and killed the Killnarin that later threatened their camp? I did alter time, turning night into day within the tunnels during their escape to give them an edge in their favor. I even spoke to Weena about detecting the creatures' spells and about how the Killnarin draw their strength from darkness and from each other.

"Asdella... I am worried about what she might cause to happen to the group. If they are to complete their quest for the sword, she can't go around killing whomever she likes. Instead of dealing with the hurt and emotions of the past, she would rather hack and slash everything to pieces, letting the hate and rage control her every move.

"Perhaps guiding them on this quest has been a mistake. The fairy queen told Vordin of the sword. She has taken an interest in this. I fear that the more I try to get involved, the more I put them in danger.

"I am their greatest threat, not the Killnarin. Asdella seems to realize this.

"Because she killed that man, they are now fleeing the town of Vackiindmire and are on their way to Shirkint by carriage. It's probably for the best. I'm sure that at the town of Shirkint, they'll have a better chance at finding what they are looking for. I see that it is Vexcindor taking them through the night. He still wears that ridiculous scarf about his neck as if it will somehow deter an attack from me. I let him be. If I do attack the carriage, feeding from the passengers within usually satisfies my hunger enough to leave the driver alone, although I am responsible for a few of the disappearances. I admit that I've taken a bit of a liking to Vexcindor. It's something about him; perhaps his courage and determination to continue during the night despite the dangers.

"It will be best if I stay away from them for awhile. I don't think I can fully trust myself around them, at least not right away. After I came so near to losing control in the alley, with the two thieves that robbed Weena and Dendrox, I fear I may turn on the group and not even realize what I have done. After I have become so attached to this particular group of people, I can't allow myself to destroy them."

CHAPTER 2 = THE MEAL