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## THERE ARE SPIRITS BURNING IN THE AIR

*With wings of flame and eyes as brilliant as knives, they move on the winds that blow above the sphere of the moon, and now and again their gaze falls like the strike of lightning to the earth below, where it sears Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 anything it touches. Their voices have the snap of fire and their bodies are the conjoining of fire and wind, the breath of the sun coalesced into mind and will.*

*All this she sees inside the vision made by fire. Here she runs as would a mouse, silent and watchful, staying in the shadows. She braves the unknown passageways and the vast hidden halls Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 where other creatures lurk.*

*She needs help so desperately and she does not know where to turn.*

*Through the endless twisting Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 halls she seeks the gateway that will lead her to the old Aoi Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 sorcerer.*

*There! Seen in shadow, in a dark dry corridor walled in stone, she sees two people walking, searching as she is.*

*There! A boy sleeps with six companions, heads pillowed on stone, feet and knees covered by heaps of treasure, armbands of beaten Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 gold, rings, gems, vessels poured out of the silver of moonlight, and smooth scarlet beads that are dragon's blood turned to stone with exposure to the air.*

*There! Creatures move and crawl among the tunnels, misshapen knuckles tamping down soil clawed from the dank walls. Like the Eika, they seem fashioned more of metal and soil than of the Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 higher elements, trapped forever by the weight of earth that courses through their blood and hardens their bones.*

*When she at last finds the burning stone that marks the gateway to the old sorcerer, he no longer sits beside it. He has left that place, and she does not know where to find him.*

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*A whisper of breath touches the back of her neck. She shudders. Her back stings as if, simply by closing in on her, the Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 creature blisters her with its poisonous intent.*

*She begins to run through the halls. But the creature is stronger than she is, here, in this place. It knows these paths, and it is looking for her.*

*“Liath.”*

It knows her name. ...

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To Jay

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Prince of Dogs:

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Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2

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**PROLOGUE**

**1**

**ALL** spring they Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 managed Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 to stay alive by hiding in the abandoned tannery quarter, coming out only at night to scrounge for food. After a few nights, running from the dogs, hiding in the pits, they became accustomed to the stink. Better to stink like the tanners, Matthias pointed out to his sister, than be Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 torn to pieces by dogs.

Anna reflected silently on this. It gave her some small satisfaction to know that if they were caught by the Eika savages, if they were run down by the dogs and rent arm from shoulder, leg from hip, at least they would smell so badly of chicken dung that surely not even those hideous dogs would eat them. Or if the dogs did eat them, then maybe their flesh, immersed so many times in oak bark tannin that their skin had begun to take on a leathery cast, would poison the

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creatures; then, from the Chamber of Light where her spirit would reside after death in blessed peace, she could watch their writhing, agonized deaths.

All spring there was food to be scrounged, for those who had escaped the city had fled without having time to fetch anything and those who had not escaped were dead. Or so at least observation told them. Half-eaten corpses lay strewn in the streets and alleys, and many houses stank of rotted flesh. But they found stores of vegetables in root cellars and barrels of ale in the common houses. Once, they foolishly ventured to the kitchens of the mayor's palace where they found sweetmeats that made Anna, who stuffed herself with them, violently ill. Matthias forced her to run, gagging, with a hand clapped over her mouth to keep it in and in such pain she thought her stomach was going to burst, all the way back to the tanneries so she Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 could throw it up into the puering pits, a stew of chicken dung mixed with water that would, he prayed, hide the smell of fresh human vomit.

No dogs came 'round the tanneries for a long while after that. Perhaps the Eika had given up hunting their human prey or deemed there were none left worth hunting in the empty city. Perhaps they'd sailed down the river to hunt in greener pastures. But neither child dared climb the city walls to the parapet to see how many Eika ships lay beached along the river's Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 edge. Now and again they saw Eika walking those parapets, staring north Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 toward the sea. Now and again they heard the keening and howling of the dogs and, once, the screams of a human, whether man or woman they could not tell. They kept to familiar haunts Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 and stayed mostly in the little shed where Matthias had slept after he had been apprenticed to a currier the winter before the Eika attack. Left behind, forgotten, in the confusion of the attack and the Prince of Dogs: Crown of Stars #2 hopeless street-by-street defense of the city, he had had the wits to take refuge with his younger sister in the foul tannery pits when he saw the dogs hunting through the city. That was why they had survived when so many others had died.

## **Prince Of Dogs Crown Of Stars 2**

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