before we begin...

Svitty belongs to RollingEye

Alyssa belongs to Dark-Key

Windstrike belongs to M4rtyn

Chester belongs to Dark-Key

ok let's get goin'!
TWO BAGS?
YOU’LL NEED A LOT MORE SILVER THAN THAT FOR ME TO LEND A STUDENT TO YOU.

FOUR BAGS?

AH, YOU WANTED AN ARCHER, RIGHT? I’LL SEND FOR ONE NOW!

SO WHICH ONE IS THE ARCHER?

DRAKE, ARE YOU OUT HERE EAVESDROPPING?

OBVIOUSLY!

...UGH. JUST GO GET THE ARCHER FOR ME.

YESSSS BUT WHICH ONE IS THE ARCHER?

HA! STILL CHEAPER ‘N HIRING REAL HEROES!

MARCO!

POLO!

POLO!

POLO?

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS AN ARCHER?

MARCO!

OH... RIGHT.
MARCO! POLO. AHA! GOTCHA! UM... WHO IS THAT? OH NOW THAT WOULD BE TELLING.

--AND THIS PART, HERE--

"COUGH"

AH GOOD, YOU BROUGHT OUR ARCHER. COME IN, DELTA? MEET MISS SANDERS.

HELLO?

YEAH, DELTA'S RIGHT...

AM I IN TROUBLE?

DIDN'T DRAKE TELL YOU? AH WELL. USELESS BLOODY SCALER

DELTA, THIS IS A HERO SCHOOL. PART OF YOUR EDUCATION IS PRACTICAL TRAINING. MISS SANDERS HAS OFFERED SOMETHING OF THIS SORT.

I SEE...

AND THOSE BAGS OF MONEY ON THE TABLE ARE ENTIRELY UNRELATED?

NO, NO...

HAHA, WITH HALF THE KIDS NOT PAYING TUITION, WE HAVE TO MAKE ENDS MEET SOMEHOW!

SO I DO SOME "TRAINING" WITH THIS COMPLETE STRANGER, OR ELSE...?

WE KICK YOU OUT.

BE HAPPY AND BLESSED, MISS SANDERS. I AM DELTA MORNINGSTAR.

NICE TO MEET YOU.
SO UH... WHAT AM I DOING?

I'M TRANSPORTING SOME VALUABLES, AND I NEED HELP GUARDING THE CARAVAN IT'S IN.

UH-HUH.

THATSounds MORE OF A MERCENARY JOB THAN A HERO...

YEAH WELL... THE THING ABOUT THAT IS...

I'M SUPPORTING DHARKS HERO SCHOOL?

COULDN'T AFFORD MERCs, EY?

Okay, Delta, I'll see you at the CARAVAN! It's right outside the gate - you can't miss it.

Umm... Okay.

Well? What're you waiting for?

get packing!

And get going!

Ow! Wha-

OY Delta! Where ya goin'?

Wouldn't I like to BLOODY KNOW?

PFH, what's HER PROBLEM?

Okay, here goes...

Heads!

GAH!
WHOAH, SORRY HORSE-GIRL. DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOOT AT YOU!

WHAT!! YOU JUST—AH, DELTA! YOU MADE IT!

GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE ALREADY MET THE OTHER LACKEYS! OTHER...

DELTA MORNINGSTAR, THIS IS S. SVITTY AND J. WINDSTRIKE. YOU'LL ALL BE WORKING TOGETHER FOR ME.

ONE MORE PERSON TO MEET, THOUGH. DELTA, COME WITH ME.

NOW YOU'VE TRAVELLED WITH A CARAVAN BEFORE, WHICH IS GOOD. WE'RE TRAVELLING WITH MERCHANTS, SO YOU'LL NEED TO MEET THE TRAIL HEAD BEFORE WE CONTINUE.

UM...OKAY.

I THINK HE'LL LIKE YOU!

UH... BE HAPPY AND BLESSED, SIR. I AM DELTA MORNINGSTAR.

HM? DON'T SEE TOO MANY TRIPSES OUT ALONE, DO WE?

BLESSING AND HAPPINESS IS IN OUR MEETING, MISS MORNINGSTAR. I AM HESH KELLER.

'BOUT TIME YOU HIRED SOMEONE REPUTABLE, SANDERS.

SHE'S ONLY A STUDENT.

HA! STILL BETTER 'N THOSE CHEAP HEROES YOU GOT!

HA, YOU'RE JUST HAPPY TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THE TRAVELLING PEOPLE IN YOUR TRAIN.

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT. WE'LL LEAVE SOON, ALRIGHT?

AH, BUT DELTA... WATCH YA DON'T CHIP YOUR HOOVES ON THIS ONE?

UM...
“Don’t chip your hooves.” The hell was that about?

A warning... hm... what was it for?

Oh! Uh, it’s nothing. Just a cultural thing.

Pfft, traipses...

Ah well, I’ll show you what I want you to guard before we move on.

Okay.

Here’s my personal caravan. The valuable item is inside.

It’s very, uh, blue.

This chest holds something very important to me.

Make sure it stays safe.

Ooh!

Haha, alright. C’mon Morning-star.

Um, is Miss Sanders always so... rude?

Sure.

Why am I being so polite to you?! You nearly shot me!

Uh... my bad?

Why was I being so polite to you?!

Uh... my bad!

It was an accident. Just forget it.

Sides that, she was the one who got in the way of my arrow. Her accident.

Windstrike, don’t make me-

Hey!! Get a move on, or get left behind!

Right away, Miss.

Uh... where are we going, anyway?

You’ll find out when we get there, I guess.
Huh.

I really have no idea of what I'm doing.

Heya, Svitty?

Hm?

I uh... really have no idea of what I'm doing.

You ah... oh. Alright.

This your first job, ey? Ha! What they teaching you at that hero school?

I've only been there a few weeks...

So what? They've been teaching you nothing. So listen up.

Fairly straightforward; we just need to keep an eye on Sanders' caravan so no bandits take her treasure.

So just keep around with your eyes open.

Should be more active come night, 's no trouble in daylight unless we get attacked in numbers.

Which is hell unlikely.

Hmm...

But I don't see any trouble coming anyway. Should be a simple job.

We'll accompany her as far as the Gardenian capital.

So where'd Windstrike get to?

Yes, Svitty. I haven't seen him recently.

UH, well,

I reckon he's scouting ahead.

Delta, be careful around Sanders. There's something off about her.

You- you're not the first person to tell me that.

Pfuu, gotta eat somehow.

Gaea's bell!

What's mana put me into?!
ARE YOU WORRIED?
YOU OUGHT BE.
GET OUT OF HERE DRAKE, YOU CHRONIC MALCONTENT.
NOT EVEN A LITTLE CONCERN?
GET OUT.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS NEED CRITICISE ME?

I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
UMM...
NO WORRIES...
WHEREVER DELTA IS, SHE HAS LESS WORRIES THAN YOU.
WHATSOEVER?

THIS BITES.
HOW YOU DOIN', MORNINGSTAR?
CLEARLY FREEZING, SVITTY.
I WAS JUST NOTICING THAT NICE WARM FIRE, AND THE SMELL OF FOOD.

DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE, KID. WE NEED YOU ALERT AND WATCHING.
WE WALKED ALL DAY, AND IT'S SO COLD.
WELCOME TO GUARDING STUFF. DON'T LET ALL THE GLAMOUR OVERWHELM.
OUTSTANDING.

HOW ABOUT ASLEEP AND FREEZING? I'M TIRED OUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE... IT'S SO COLD.

THERE ARE NO THIEVES IN SIGHT.

ARGH!! THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME!

HEY ALYS, D'YA SENSE SOME SORT OF DRAMATIC IRONY?

SHUSH! HELP ME FIND THE RIGHT WAGON!

CHESTER, CLOSE THE DOOR QUICK, BEFORE THE COLD WAKES HER UP.

OW! LUNA... SSH! THAT FEATHRY COULD BE BACK AT ANY SECOND.

THAT'S OKAY.

OH HEY, I THINK I FOUND THE OWNER, TOO.

I THINK MY LEG JUST FOUND THE CHEST.

WHY YOU... HOW DID YOU--

...WHO ARE Y-

...A CLEAR SIGN YOU SHOULD'VE SPRUNG FOR MORE EXPERIENCED 'HEROES'.

MFFFFGSHHH

WE'LL BE GOING NOW, WOULDN'T WANT TO IMPOSE!

GWFFFFFFFFF

NOW, NO NEED FOR THAT LANGUAGE!

WE'LL JUST LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD ON OUR WAY OUT!
Pfu. At least it stopped snowing.

What in Gaea...?

Morningstar!

Hurry! I think Sanders has got trouble!

What do—Run, you speedy moron!

But—Go!

Miss Sanders...

fff...

Ah! Are you alright?!

Miss, you OK?

No!

What happened?

Brfhh—Ffhfh!

Miss...

Oh.

‘Oh’ nothing!!

Get out there!!

Of course!

Get that chest back!!

It’s OK. We have clear tracks in clear weather.

As long as the weather stays...

Hey guys, did I miss anything?
WHAT IN SOLA IS GOING ON?

I LEAVE FOR TWO MINUT--

D’YOU THINK THIS WAS LEFT BY THE THIEF? SOME SORT OF CLUE?

THAT’S SANDERS, SHE ALWAYS HAS IT AROUND.

THEFTERS’ TRACKS ARE CLEAR BUT FAADING FAST.

HEY SVITTY, THINK OF HOW GOOD IT’LL BE WHEN WE GET THE CHEST BACK.

HMP, OR HOW GOOD IT’LL BE WHEN WE GET TO GARDENIA AND NEVER SPEAK OF THIS AGAIN.

I THINK IT’D BE PRETTY GOOD IF I WAS NEVER SENT ON THIS JOB.

I REALLY MISS SLEEP AND A WARM BED.

SURE.

OH WE ARE SO SCREWED.

WHU--

THE HEROES’ GUILD WILL KILL US, EVEN IF SANDERS DOESN’T.

WHY?

DUNNO. HOPEFUL ABOUT MAKING A FORTUNE, MAYBE?

BAH. WHO NEEDS CLUES?

WE’RE WASTING TIME.

I HEY DELTA, CAN I LOOK AT THAT FLYER?

SURE.

LOOK AT THIS THING. $50 MILLION GARDENIAN FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY. WE SHOUL’VE BEEN BOUNTY HUNTERS. SVITTY

WHOAH.

WE COULD STILL BE. IF WE DON’T RETRIEVE SANDERS’ TREASURE, WE MAY NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE.
Alright, looks like the tracks lead into... a forest?

Oh man, we'll never find 'em.

Wait

I'm pretty sure I see them just over there.

Stop! Or we'll shoot!

Shoot anyway!

We didn't do too bad. That was a hard shot.

Pretty good, seeing as we're not archers.

You're what?!

It's hard to find jobs nowadays... and we do just as well as archers.

You missed.

So did you.

Look, if we don't catch up to those fellas quick we're out of luck.

They're pretty spry for two humans and a chest.

Hmm... I may have an idea.

If we hide in the scrub long enough, those mercs might give up the chase.

I wouldn't worry about it, I bet we already lost 'em.

There they are!

Chaaaaaarge!

Shh, keep it down! I think I hear something.
OH WHAT THE-
Huh, don’t see that
everyday.

Don’t you even move. You
can’t get away, thieves.

D’you think that’s true, or
is he just bluffing?

Nah, I’m pretty sure
he’s right.

Hand over the
treasure!

Give up!

Whu... treasure??

Pshhh. There’s
always plan C.

Plan C...?

Oh shit! Attack!
THAT WAS JUST A WARNING. I DON'T WANT TO HAVE--
BAM
OH NOW YOU'VE DONE IT.

MAYBE I COULD GET THE TREASURE TO SAFETY WHILE THE BANDITS ARE DISTRACTED...

N...

DEL?
MORNINGSTAR! WHAT'S WRONG?

TH-I--

OH DEATH'S WINGS, YOU OPENED THE BOX...

THERE'S A DEAD BODY IN THIS CHEST!
W-what... A dead... Oh you really opened it...
H-how could Sanders... you dumb 'taur!
You just had to do it, didn't you?
Hey, Alyssa, they really don't know!
Know what?

What's this about a corpse, what do you people know, an-

Ah! Living dead!!

You stupid 'taur...

Really now, what the hell?!
That moron 'taur broke the statis enchantment!

What?! Whoa! Whoa! Wait.

Isn't that the kid from Sanderses bounty poster?

F-five million Gardenian gold? That bounty poster?

50 million. Idiot.!!
Wait, so you were really moving this without knowing what's inside? You lot are a bit special, aren't you? Damn Sanders is sneaky...

Well, we wouldn't've moved it if we knew... wouldn't have... huh?

Uh, Svitty, what do we do now? W-well...

I suppose we can't return the chest to Sanders now. Yeah, that kitty is just a little kid. We couldn't do that to him. Couldn't do... huh?

Let's think about this rationally.

A. We can't return the kid to Sanders. Because his bounty is much higher than what she's giving.

B. Sanders was dishonest about what we were defending. So our contract with her is broken.

You're forgetting C. Me and my brother are taking the cat and you can't freaking stop us, alright?

It's quiet time now. Adults are speaking.

Oh that is it.

Let's see how 'quiet time' it is when I slice your face!

Wha- I thought we were past the fighting!
SILK... FHM...

H-HOLD ON, KID!

BLUH... HRCK...

IT'S OKAY!

HERE... THIS LOOKS PROMISING. WE SHOULD BE SAFE TO HIDE HERE.

SFH... SAFE?
Here, are you okay?

Ksfuh! Kfuuf! Sfuuh bhuuh! Whoah, hey, slow down.

You'll be ok, I think that's just the stasis magic wearing off.

Please don't hurt me!

Wha- I'm not going to hurt you.

I'm delta morningstar.

Oh, um, I'm maze tas-

Achoo!

Are you cold? Ma- I need to get to gardelvia.

What?
G-GARDELVIA? THE CAPITAL? OF GARDENIA?

DON'T BE STUPID - YOU'VE GOT A BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD FROM THE GARDENIAN ROYAL FAMILY!

I DON'T CARE.

BUT IT'S A REALLY, REALLY DUMB IDEA...

MY FAMILY IS IN GARDELVIA.

...YOU'VE GOT TO THINK THIS OVER CAREFULLY...

HERE, MAZE.

SORRY ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO GET SAFELY INTO THE CAPITAL, BUT...

C-COLD-

YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME?!

I ER, SUPPOSE?

THANK YOU, DELTA!

DELTA, YOU ARE SUCH A SUCKER.

BUT I GUESS YOU CAN'T GET INTO MUCH MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'RE ALREADY IN.

DELTA, BACK US UP!!

...DELTA? MORNINGSTAR?...

DELTA?!

HOLY BELLS, WHERE IS SHE?!

AND WHERE'S MAZE?!!

CHARGE!!
WELL, THAT’S IT THEN.

SORRY SANDERS, WE CAN’T WAIT ANY LONGER. YOUR HIRE IS GONE, THE CARAVAN HAS TO MOVE ON.

DAMMIT.

BUT MAYBE... IT COULD STILL WORK OUT.

MAYBE SVITTY AND WINDSTRIKE GOT THE CHEST BACK. THEY KNOW WE’RE HEADED TO GARDELVIA.

HMP. ALL I CAN DO IS HOPE THAT DAMN CAT SHOWS UP.

THEY COULD MEET ME ON THE WAY...

DON’T WORRY MAZE, I’VE GOT A FRIEND IN THIS WAGON TRAIN WHO MIGHT HELP.

BUT WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL TO KEEP OUT OF SIGHT.

THE BOUNTY-HUNTER WHO GOT YOU EARLIER IS IN THIS CARAVAN, TOO...

PST, HESH!

AH! DELTA MORNINGSTAR, BLESSINGS TO THIS MEETING! I THOUGHT YOU WERE FAR GONE!

SO, WHERE ARE THE OTHER LACKEYS?

AH WELL, YOUR EMPLOYER WILL BE HAPPY YOU’RE BACK!

EH, I WOULDN’T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT ACTUALLY...

HEY, WHO’S YOUR FRIEND THERE?
MAZE TASMAN... A 50 THOUSAND GOLD BOUNTY?
THE GALL OF... MH! I WILL NOT ALLOW CHILD TRAFFICKING IN MY CARAVAN!
ER, 50 MILLION...?

DELTA MORNINGSTAR, HAVE YOU TURNED BOUNTY HUNTER?!
WHA- OF COURSE NOT!!

MAZE WAS IN THE CHEST I WAS MEANT TO BE GUARDING, I'M TRYING TO HELP HI-
WHAT?!
I KNEW THAT HUMAN COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!

TRYING TO USE MY WAGON FOR SUCH A THING... OOH, THAT HORRIBLE WOMAN.
...HESH?

COME WITH ME, QUICKLY NOW.

HURRY!
COME ON!

THIS IS MY PERSONAL WAGON.
IT'S SAFE TO TALK HERE.

SO, MORNINGSTAR. WHAT IS THE SONG ON THIS STORY?

IT'S NOT GOOD. I'M TRYING TO GET MAZE TO GARDELVIA WHERE HIS FAMILY IS. BUT WITH A BOUNTY THAT BIG ON HIM... PLUS THERE ARE FIVE BOUNTY HUNTERS - SIVITY, WINDSTRIKE, TWO STRANGERS, AND-MISS... HMPH!

HMMMM... WE ARE HEADED TO GARDELVIA...

I TRUST YOU, DELTA. I WON'T TELL A SOUL, AND YOU CAN HIDE IN HERE UNTIL WE HIT THE CITY.
H-HESH? THANK YOU!

SOUND LUCK, DELTA.
YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT.

THANKS HESH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO NEXT BUT-

AT LEAST I CAN FINALLY GET SOME SLEEP!
THE CENTAUR’S TRACKS LEAD THERE.

YOU TRACKED HER FOOTPRINTS LEADING THE WRONG WAY, DIDN’T YOU?

WHAT?!

I DON’T KNOW WHY SHE IS, BUT MORNINGSTAR IS WITH THE WAGONS.

HEY HEY HEY! THERE’LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO FIGHT AFTER WE GET MAZE TASMAN BACK.

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER NOW.

WELL FINE. IF THEY ARE IN THIS CARAVAN— THEY ARE.

IF THEY ARE, THEN WE’LL JUST FOLLOW THEM FOR NOW.

IT’LL BE OKAY, WE’LL GET THEM AHEAD.

IT’LL BE OKAY, WE’LL REACH GARDELVIA.

IT’LL BE OKAY. IT BETTER FREAKIN’ BE.
There she is, fellas. Gardevia, the capital of Gardenia. Journey's end, get organised people!

Heya, Sanders. Any sign of your hires yet? ...No, nothing. Hesh! Hey! What're you people doing? We are just checking for contraband. No need for concern, we are the city guard.

Everyone! Be nice to these city guards. They are here to check the wagons. So why don't I show you my personal caravan?

Let me get the door for you! I-- Hey! Get back here!

Oh my, how'd they get there?
THOUSAND THANKS! IT WAS SO LUCKY TO RUN INTO YOU!

EH, GLAD TO HELP! I HATE THEM GARDENIAN GUARDS!

ER, WELL, THAT WASN'T A GUARD ACTUALLY.

OH? I THOUGHT YOU WAS THE TRAIPSE THAT RAN FROM THE GATE EARLIER.

OH- THAT'S RIGHT. I'M DELTA, THIS IS MAZE, AND YOU ARE?

BENJAMIN TASMAN!

EH?!

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW MY-

IT'S ME BENJY- YOUR BIG BROTHER MAZE!

MY UH... I DON'T HAVE A BROTHER.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU?

...

HEY! WAIT!

BENJY, WAIT UP!

MAZE, WAIT UP!

DELTA... I THINK YOU LOST THEM...

MAZE? BENJMIN? WHERE ARE YOU?

HRK!

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THAT TRAIPSE FROM THE GATE, MAN?

HELL IF I KNOW!

SEND HER TO GRIN, I SAY. LET THEM FIGURE IT OUT.
OH... MY HEAD...

WHERE AM I?? WHAT IS THIS?!
GRIN - THE GARDELVIAN REMAND INSTITUTE.

WHAAA-

YOU'RE IN JAIL, GENIUS.

AH! S-SANDERS!
AND IT SERVES YOU RIGHT!!

YOU TOOK MY DAMN BOUNTY!

THAT'S MY RETIREMENT FUND!

EVEN ADJUSTING FOR THE WORTHLESSNESS OF GARDENIAN CURRENCY...
YOU DAMN SNEAKY TRAIPS.

YOU ARE HORRIBLE!

I AM NO BOUNTY HUNTER LIKE YOU,
PREYING ON A LITTLE KID LIKE THAT.

YEAH? THEN WHY ARE YOU IN GARDELVIA?

I WAS HERE TO TRY AND RETURN MAZE TASMAN TO HIS FAMILY!

HHEH?

YOU'RE A FOOL.

BUT A NOBLE FOOL, NONETHELESS.

HERE.

W-WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S A NOTE FOR YOU, RELEASING YOU FROM MY SERVICE.

YOU CAN GIVE IT TO YOUR HEADMISTRESS.

BUT I-

DON'T WORRY, IT DOESN'T SAY HOW YOU RUINED EVERYTHING.
...Thank you, Miss Sanders.

Haha! For firing you? There's a new one!

Fat lot of good it'll do.

We're stuck here.

Well... we could break out.

Huh?

Hahaha... break out... you're serious?

And how would we do that, huh?

With magic, of course.

Wrong! Wouldn't even be possible, traipse.

Why not?

Huh?

If you haven't noticed... just hold your hands up like this, you'll see.

Oh! Wh... what are they?!

Imbued with magic - you can tell by the symbol. They're cursed power-blockers.

Simple cuffs, really.

So with no magic or other powers... ugh. Barring some immense stroke of luck, we'll be here a while yet.

Ladies?

Ugh! I mean a stroke of good luck!
Sitty! You abject failure! You lost my treasure!

WHA-AND YOUR PLAN WAS TO WORK WITH THIS JOKER THE WHOLE TIME??

PLANS CHANGE, SANDERS.

IS THIS THE SORT OF THANKS I GET FOR BREAKING YOU OUT OF JAIL?

Huh?

Well, that's ok...

We're not actually here for you anyway.

We're here for the Traipse.

M-Me?? Err......

Been a while, huh? So we know you know where Maze Tasman is.

Pft.

Um.

You're wasting your breath - she won't say a word. She's just a big sissy.

I however, can tell you everything.

So Maze is here with his family. I happen to know where they are.

Interesting...

So let's cooperate and split the rewards. I'll take 70%.

How about we set you free and we cut you in 0%?

Heh, let's work out the details later.

No! Miss Sanders, you can't possibly...

Concentrate on saving yourself, Moningstar.

Get out. It can't be much longer before the guards notice the giant hole.
HUH... I WONDER WHERE MISS SANDERS AND THE OTHERS WENT SO FAST?

O-OUY!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

A... AHH...

SO IT SEEMS GARDENVIAN JAIL IS A JOKE TO BREAK OUT OF...

EVEN WITH GUARDS RIGHT OUTSIDE THE CELLS!

I HOPE MY LUCK DOESN'T RUN OUT BEFORE I FIND MAZE...

HOLD IT!!

AW FELS...

H-HEY... THIS IS ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING. LOOK, I'LL GO QUIETLY, I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

GAAH!

YOU HELP A LOWLIFE CRIMINAL AND NOW I PRESUME YOU'VE BROKEN OUT OF JAIL.

GET DOWN! SHOW SOME RESPECT!

...THIS IS THE TRAPSE THAT HELPED MAZE?

WHIIH-

W-WHO ARE YOU?

W-YES, MY LADY.

SHE'S DUMB ENOUGH TO BE A FRIEND OF MAZE.

W-YES, MY LADY.
I AM MIA, MIA GARDENIA...

OR AS YOU MAY CALL ME, PRINCESS MIA GARDENIA.

I... Uh...

TELL ME TRAIPSE, WHO ARE YOU?

I... I'M DELTA MORNINGSTAR! THIRD STAR OF THE NORTH-BRANCH TRAVELLERS!

SO YOU ARE DELTA MORNINGSTAR, WHO HELPS A LOWLIFE CRIMINAL WE'VE BEEN CHASING FOR YEARS.

YEARS?? BUT HE'S JUST A CHILD W- OW!

DELTA MORNINGSTAR, WHO WILL BE LOCKED IN THE ROYAL DUNGEONS UNTIL SHE TELLS US WHERE MAZE TASMAN IS.

WHAT- I- I- NEVER!!

SO BE IT.

GUARDS, TAKE HER-

LET HER GO, MIA, YOU STUCK UP BRAT!

MAZE??

GET DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW SO I CAN ARREST YOU!

DREAM ON!

MIA, WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, YOU WERE CHILDISH, SELFISH AND FOOLISH.

FOUR YEARS LATER, YOU STILL ARE!!

GROW UP!

...YOU'VE GIVEN ME A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.

GUARDS? GET THE SPELLS READY. SHOOT HIM DOWN.
MAZE, YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF.

MIA... PLEASE...

WELL THEN, GUARDS? ARE WE READY?

AIM-

BAD IDEA!

OK... FORGET MAZE.

KILL THAT TRAIPSE!!

OH GODS, DELTA!

STUPIDSTUPIDSTUPIDSTUPIDSTUPIDSTUPID!!

ALTAIR SAVE ME, CERAPH PROTECT ME...

TRAIPSE! THIS WAY!

BENJY! THANK GODS!

QUICK! THROUGH HERE!

HURRYHURRYHURRYHURRYHURRY!!

HUF!

SHE WENT THAT WAY!

THANKS, KID.
HUF-  WHERE AM I?  MISS MORNINGSTAR!
EEK!
RELAX... WE ARE FRIENDS. I AM TRAVIS TASMAN. THIS IS MY WIFE, VASHTI.
TRAIPSE, YOU HELPED OUR MAZE. WE OWE YOU MUCH.

SO YOU ARE RELATED TO MAZE??
YOU'RE Uh, CATS, BUT Uh- YOU'RE NOT SCALERS-
NO FEATHRY BLOOD-
NOR FEY... Uh...

EH, WHAT IS MAZE ANYWAY?
HE'S OUR SON.
HEHEHE.

A FAIR QUESTION! YOU HAVE PROBABLY NOT HEARD OF THIS, TRAIPSE.
IT IS THE GOD OF CHANGE, YOU SEE-
-HE HAS A SON WHO RANDOMLY BEFRIENDS YOUNG MORTALS AND GRANTS THEM POWER TO CHANGE THEIR BODIES.
YES, HE WAS BRIEFLY A FRIEND OF MAZE.
HMPH, WHICH IS ALSO WHY PRINCESS MIA, WELL...

BUT THAT IS A LONG STORY! HEY! GUYS! YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS!
THERE'S A TON OF GUARDS OUTSIDE - I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY! IT'S CRAZY!
AND THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT MAZE ONE BIT! ALL THEY WANT IS DELTA!
DELTA MORNINGSTAR WHAT DID YOU DO?!
W-what am I going to do...?

Hey... Don't cry.

Before you, we hadn't seen our maze in four years.

So long Benjy nearly forgot he had a big brother.

Nearly??

We'll help you get out of Gardevia.

Here - take these.

W-what's this?

Travelling magic tokens. One to speed your steps, one to restore energy.

Ah, before you go... Do you know what happened to Sophie?

Sophie...?

Miss Sophie Sanders... A friend of ours, a travelling merchant.

She said she'd get maze safely to Gardevia...

!!

But as you're here instead... oh gods.

... from the bottom of my heart...

Thank you.

S-Sanders is...

Sanders is perfectly fine. She is?! Oh, thank Gaea!

Ah, you'd better come this way.

Here's your coat, Miss Morningstar.

Through here. If you're quick, the guards'll be no trouble.

Thanks.

Good luck!
CLAW, YOUR PHOENIX MAGIC IS TERRIBLE.
HMF.

I WOND’R IF DELTA IS Doin’ A’ight....

I WOULDN’T. SHE’S PROBABLY FINE.

BUT THIS COLD SNAP SURE CAME ON FAST.

PROBABLY A DARK POWER IN THE REGION.

OH! DELTA!

HEH, SPEAK OF THE TRAIPSE AND THEY APPEAR!

HIYA DELTA!

YOU OK? YA DUN LOOK SO GOOD.

HMF... DON’T EVEN ASK...

PFT, WHAT’S HER PROBLEM ANYWAY?

IT’S SURE BEEN A LONG AND STUPID JOURNEY.

HELLO....?

AH, MORNINGSTAR... I DIDN’T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON.

I HOPE THAT’S NOT A BAD SIGN...
SO HOW'D IT GO?

DON'T EVER SEND ME OUT 'QUESTING' AGAIN.

LEARNED A LOT THEN, DID YOU?

IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY, SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, HEADMISTRESS.

HMMM...

CONGRATULATIONS!

HEY THERE ARCHER, WELCOME BACK!

WANT ME TO REMOVE THEM CUFFS THEN?

AH!

H-HOW DID YOU--?

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR TRAIPSE!

ONE OF MY GARDENIAN COUSINS SENT ME AN INTERESTING THING. TAKE A LOOK, WON'T YOU?

AHH! WHAT--?

YOU CAN KEEP THAT!

SO HERE WE GO...

SO HEY, CONGRATULATIONS, ARCHER!

FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
Hey! Let me out!

I'm not even from the same clan as Delta!!

I'm from Snowfall South, for Altair's sake!!

Hm, so then...

Since we have some time together...

Let's talk about traipses.

Sure, why not.

A miserable pile of—uh, hold on.

Hesh Keller, I am Peony Talsman. Tell me, what is a traipse?

Traipses are a group of travelling folk, mostly 'taurs. They travel in caravans from place to place singing songs and telling stories. Naturally, we are followers of Altair, the God of Travel.

Think you mean Altair, the God of Death.

No, 'tairs God of both don't ask.

So do all traipses wear such pansy braids? Yep!

Just as pansy as your name, Mister Peony.

So most traipses travel with other traipses. I am unusual. I am a loner, who travels with merchants.

Pays better'n a traipse wagon, I'll bet...

Haha, that does help.
SO HEY MISTER KELLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TRICKSTERS?

WA--WHY?

WELL! FIRST PIONEERED THIS SEGMENT WITH TRICKSTERS, AND I AM SOMewhat CURIOUS...

EH, WHY NOT?

TRICKSTERS'LL TELL YOU EVERYONE HATES THEM BECAUSE THEIR GOD UPSET SOME OTHER GODS. BUT EH... NOT EVERYBODY IS AN ELEMENTAL, YOU KNOW.

JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU SHOULDN'T TRUST THE FOLLOWERS OF THE GOD OF LIES.

NOW TRAPSSES GENERALLY DISLIKE TRICKSTERS BECAUSE OF THEIR PREDILECTION TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS TRAPSSES AND RUN AMOK, RUINING OUR GOOD NAME.

TRICKSTERS ARE THE REASON TRAPSSES AIN'T WELCOME EVERYWHERE.

AND WE DIDN'T EVEN PROVOKE 'EM LIKE THOSE ELEMENTAL IDIOTS.

AREN'T YOU COLD, PEONY?

OH!

I AM A TRICKSTER. ALL THIS IS AN ILLUSION.

OH.

I GOT NOTHING AGAINST TRICKSTERS PERSONALLY YOU KNOW.

SURE.
TAKE THESE CUFFS OFF.

...OR I WOULDN'T HELP YOU FIND MAZE TASMAN

EM, JUST REMOVE THEM...

HMPH.

CUT ME IN 70%.

...OR I WOULDN'T HELP YOU FIND MAZE TASMAN
What is Miss Piperion doing with Bluff?

Teaching him sign language.

Okay, let's review. Each finger and the thumb represents a vowel.

Can you show me you got it?

A

E

I

O

U...as in you getting this?

Grrr! Why didn't you tell me you didn't have fingers!

Oh yea...no mouth.
GAH!!! NAH!

What the hell is the matter with you now Traipse?

SANDERS! HELP ME!

If it will shut you up!

What is the matter?

I have an itch I can’t reach!

Where?

My butt!

Gah! Point that thing the other way!