

THE MADNESS OF CHARTRULEAN
A Gardeka Story

S1:E12
"SANCTUARY"

Written by

H.M. Radcliff

KSB CRIES INTO HIS FLASK

[Door bursting open]

YOBA

You seem tense today.

KING STARBRINGER

Tense? Of course I'm tense. I have the Rau here, I have Josquin downstairs, an obstinate daughter, a son who sympathizes with the man who wants to usurp me--

YOBA

He's a little more than sympathetic...

KING STARBRINGER

I really don't want to think about it.

YOBA

They do say to keep your friends and close and your enemies closer.

KING STARBRINGER

Even that must have its limits. Where's my flask?

[Sounds of liquid sloshing, container being grabbed]

YOBA

Not so fast!

KING STARBRINGER

Ah! Fiend!

YOBA

Your daughter wants us to drink less.

KING STARBRINGER

Who does she think she is? The queen?

YOBA

I wonder who put that idea in her head?

KING STARBRINGER

I have no idea. Give me that.

[Sounds of container being grabbed]

YOBA
Where are you going?

KING STARBRINGER
I'm going to go cry into this
flask.

YOBA
Don't let a single drop go to
waste! I hear Starbringer tears are
worth a fortune in the Backalley
Market.

KING STARBRINGER
There will be no short supply if
this continues, I'll tell you that.

[Footsteps approaching]

MESSENGER
King Starbringer, Chamberlain, we
got a reply from Maldoro.

YOBA
And?

MESSENGER
He says he'll do it.

KING STARBRINGER
That's wonderfully terrible news.

YOBA
(sighs)
Are you *really* going to let this
happen? Wouldn't it be easier to
fake a ceremony here?

KING STARBRINGER
Who has the energy for that?

YOBA
I know some *wonderful* actors.

KING STARBRINGER
I'm sure you do. Who am I to deny a
dying man his final wish?

YOBA
Once again, you're projecting.

KING STARBRINGER

I don't care anymore. Whatever may
come of their meeting, bring it on.
I'm feeling combative.

[Footsteps recede]

YOBA

I, however, am tiring.

[Digital chime sounds]

YOBA (CONT'D)

(to self)

Fantastic timing.

YOBA (CONT'D)

(fake)

Ah, Pytra! What a surprise.

PYTRA

(over communication
device)

I'm shocked you answered. You must
be very busy.

YOBA

I will *always* make time for you, my
dear.

PYTRA

I'm flattered.

YOBA

Now what can I do for you? I just
have a moment.

PYTRA

Ah, well. I was hoping you could
help me follow up with Chartrulean
regarding a tour of Astreus. I'm
curious about the gardens.

YOBA

Right. About that, I don't think
the timing is very good.

PYTRA

Oh, dash.

YOBA

How about I see what I can do and
get back to you? But just keep your
expectations low.

PYTRA
That would be ideal. Thank you.

YOBA
Pleasure. Gotta run.

[Digital chime sounds. Yoba seething, frustrated]

YOBA ASKS THE CAPTAIN ABOUT PYTRA

[Door opening]

CAPTAIN
Chamberlain Yoba!

YOBA
Have you found anything on Pytra?

CAPTAIN
Still working on the full report.

YOBA
I'm getting impatient. What can you share?

CAPTAIN
Nothing directly incriminating, but her products have been linked to smugglers who have been handing out food in some of the poorer districts.

YOBA
I see.

CAPTAIN
Speaking of which, what do we do about the smugglers?

YOBA
Do *not* disrupt the distribution of food and supplies. If anything, assist. Discretely. Just keep your eye on those doing the smuggling.

CAPTAIN
Understood.

YOBA
What have your eyes and ears been able to find out about the supply chain?

CAPTAIN
It's too soon to say.

YOBA
That's not an acceptable answer,
you've had plenty of time.

CAPTAIN
(sighing)
We have reason to believe that
Maldoro is manufacturing scarcity.
It's created problems with *all* the
purveyors. Entire distribution
centers, all just sitting there,
rotting.

YOBA
Then buy whatever's unspoken for
and hand it out it freely.

CAPTAIN
That's what's troubling. It's
already been bought.

YOBA
By whom?

CAPTAIN
...by House Starbringer.

YOBA
At whose request?

CAPTAIN
The prince.

[Yoba more seething, then collecting self]

YOBA
Can this day get any worse?

CYDAR'S RITES OF PASSAGE

[Sounds of chanting]

NARRATOR

A procession wound its way through the temple agora. Cydar was laid across the top of a narrow stone slab and carried into the Chamber of Rest by six acolytes in dark green robes. They descended into a shallow pool of water and placed the slab on top of a pedestal.

Only Cydar's face was left above water. His breathing was increasingly labored as he neared his final breath. He didn't even twitch at the sensation of being submerged in cold water.

Incense filled the cramped, windowless chamber. Maldoro dangled a censer over Cydar's body. Drechen and Grobien stood at the edge of the pool, holding kerchiefs over their mouths.

Their security detail had been barred entry, their first relief from watchful eyes since arriving on Arcas. The tomb had only one entrance and one exit. Unless, of course, you were dead.

DRECHEN

Is all this smoke necessary?

MALDORO

The incense helps draw the spirit from the body.

GROBIEN

The what?

DRECHEN

I don't see anything.

GROBIEN

We'll have to take his word for it.

MALDORO

How do you usually observe your dead?

DRECHEN

We space them.

GROBIEN

This feels overly formal.

MALDORO

My lords, this is what you've asked us to do.

[Cydar begins to sputter and die]

DRECHEN

Is he dead?

MALDORO

I think so.

DRECHEN

Good.

GROBIEN

Hopefully him passing under the eye of your gods will make our alliance more concrete.

MALDORO

Are our gods not also your gods?

DRECHEN

We left ours to die with our home world.

GROBIEN

It's not your gods that we're interested in anyway.

MALDORO

I found the contents of your letter intriguing. Almost as much as its messenger.

DRECHEN

I think you might find us aligned on a number of things.

MALDORO

What is it you're trying to accomplish?

DRECHEN

We don't feel like we're being treated fairly. There is much that your king is hiding from us. How can we sign a peace accord with someone who lacks transparency?

GROBIEN

We'd like to be fair to all sides.

MALDORO

And so.....

DRECHEN

And so, we'd like to present you with a gift.

MALDORO

I'm curious about this "gift".

DRECHEN

You've already met him.

MALDORO

The guardian?

GROBIEN

I know he's ugly, but it's what's on the inside that counts.

MALDORO

So it's something that can manipulate someone's mind.

DRECHEN

In a manner of description. Just designate a task, and he's yours to command. Any task.

GROBIEN

ANY task.

MALDORO

What if the host isn't to my liking?

DRECHEN

We've given you a very good one. Why falter?

MALDORO

How could you possibly know where the best advantage lies?

DRECHEN

If we have indeed chosen poorly, then just name your preferred host, and the worm will do the rest.

MALDORO

How could I trust you?

GROBIEN

Let's just say we are not in a position to do anything.....overt. But you are.

MALDORO

And whatever edge you would gain from this transaction. How could I be assured you wouldn't bring further harm unto our people?

DRECHEN

If we've learned anything from this process, it's that there are many benefits to our allegiance. We are sincere.

GROBIEN

We just don't like your King. Or your shipbuilder. By way of Prince Imsep, the guardian has the potential to give you access to both.

MALDORO

I need better assurance than that.

GROBIEN

The only contracts we honor are the ones drawn in flesh and blood.

DRECHEN

We have just given you our tribute.

MALDORO

Ambassador Cydar?

GROBIEN

Perhaps his biology can be useful to your holy science?

[Beat]

MALDORO

I'm listening.

DRECHEN

Finally, a negotiation that gets us somewhere.

[Transitional music]

YOBA GIVES SOPHROSYNE SOME ADVICE

[Door opening, footsteps]

YOBA

Wow. You're right where I left you hours ago.

SOPHROSYNE

This list of needs Lapadine gave me is crazy. They need so much!

(MORE)

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

(sighing)

I wasn't expecting this to be so hard.

YOBA

What do you mean? You've barely started.

SOPHROSYNE

What?! I've talked to so many people. I thought being the Starbringer princess would make it easy, but that's obviously not the case. Why won't anyone help?

YOBA

Well, it depends on who you're asking. You forget that city politics are a little split. Not everyone has taken sides yet.

SOPHROSYNE

Sides? How can there be sides when these people are supposed to be public servants?

YOBA

Lesson one. People don't like change.

SOPHROSYNE

Even good change?

YOBA

Change is still change. But in the end, they'll just follow the profits. And do you know what makes the most profit? Energy.

SOPHROSYNE

Azurea.

YOBA

Whoever stays in Chartrulean and Lapadine's good graces wins in the end. Use that however you can, but be careful.

SOPHROSYNE

That bit would have been useful before I made an ass of myself to so many people.

YOBA

Well...failure is an integral part
of success.

[Beat]

SOPHROSYNE

How do you know so many people?

YOBA

It's how I spend most of my time.
Let me see your list.

SOPHROSYNE

Here.

[Sounds of paper]

YOBA

Ah, I see. I'm going to add a few
names. Try these people first thing
in the morning. When you talk to
them, *don't* ask for help. Instead,
invite them to share in an exciting
opportunity that's going to make
them more rich.

[Paper sliding]

SOPHROSYNE

Pytra. That name sounds familiar.

YOBA

I hesitate to write that one down.
She's a partner at Vetrana
Hydroponics, and I'm very curious to
hear what she has to say.

SOPHROSYNE

Vetrana Hydroponics.

(gasp)

I should show her Chartrulean's
garden!

YOBA

Invite her to Astreus and she will
no doubt jump at the opportunity.
But do me a favor and don't let her
out of your sight. Report
everything you hear.

SOPHROSYNE

Ah. Now YOU are using me as a
spy...

YOBA

Think of it as your duty as a public servant.

SOPHROSYNE

Ahhhh. Got it.

YOBA

Sophrosyne, I--I'm going to say something important, and I don't want it to be construed the wrong way.

SOPHROSYNE

Ok.

YOBA

I might be losing my touch. Your father listens to me less and less, and frankly I'm finding myself powerless with a diminished inner circle. I want Arcas to thrive, and believe your father can make that happen. But his attitude is making it very hard for me to do my job. I want to give you the tools to help him see what lies between him and the horizon. He might listen to you.

SOPHROSYNE

(sarcastic)

Oh, you think he'll listen to me?

YOBA

Yes, I do. He's reaching one of his breaking points, and *will* ask for your opinion.

SOPHROSYNE

But if I'm going to be your agent, you have to start treating me like an adult.

YOBA

Would I say these things to a child?

SOPHROSYNE

You'd say these things to someone you were trying to get something out of.

YOBA
Clever girl. But I promise you, no tricks.

SOPHROSYNE
I know. Your voice goes up more when you're lying.

YOBA
You are not supposed to notice that.

[Sophrosyne laughs]

YOBA (CONT'D)
How's Chartrulean behaving?

SOPHROSYNE
Fine I guess. I've mostly been with the admiral and Havelion.

YOBA
Well, if he gets to be too much, let me know and he and I will have a chat.

[Beat]

SOPHROSYNE
What's your story with him? You've told me a few things but seem a lot closer than you let on.

YOBA
Another time. It's late now.

[Door opens]

KSB ASKS SOPHROSYNE FOR A HUG

KING STARBRINGER
Oh, you're here. Mind if I have a private word with my daughter?

YOBA
Have all the words you need. I was just leaving.

[Door closing softly]

KING STARBRINGER
What is his problem?

SOPHROSYNE

I was about to ask you the same question.

KING STARBRINGER

Beats me.

(sighing)

How's your first diplomatic mission going?

SOPHROSYNE

This is taking forever and I'm not getting *anywhere*. It's a disaster.

KING STARBRINGER

You're not one to give up that easily.

SOPHROSYNE

I'm not, but the idea of letting Lapadine down is really depressing.

KING STARBRINGER

You can always lean on me if you need to.

SOPHROSYNE

I have to do *something* by myself.

KING STARBRINGER

Fine. Don't lean on me. But perhaps I need to lean on you a little.

SOPHROSYNE

Why?

KING STARBRINGER

A Rau ambassador died today. It's the last thing we needed on our soil, but of course it's made worse by *where* he died, and who was present.

SOPHROSYNE

It wasn't your fault.

KING STARBRINGER

I know. But still...

[Beat]

KING STARBRINGER (CONT'D)

Your mother always had this way of making people feel better.

(MORE)

KING STARBRINGER (CONT'D)
Sometimes it only took a glance, or
a light touch. But the real magic
always happened when--

SOPHROSYNE
Do I really want to know this?

KING STARBRINGER
When we held each other. What did
you think I was going to say?

SOPHROSYNE
Forget it.

KING STARBRINGER
Forgive an old man for trying to
speak from the heart.
(beat)
You're a lot like her in so many
ways. Sometimes I think you even
possess that same magic.

SOPHROSYNE
Is this your way of asking me for a
hug?

KING STARBRINGER
Maybe.

SOPHROSYNE
Come here, you big idiot.

[Sounds of hugging]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)
I don't think I have any of that
magic.

KING STARBRINGER
What put that idea in your head? Of
course you do.

SOPHROSYNE
I'd rather not go into it right
now.

KING STARBRINGER
The Jhardoestra have the greatest
power of all. Perhaps it doesn't
look like much to you now, but
that's just because you can't see
it.

SOPHROSYNE

And what's that?

KING STARBRINGER

It's love, dear. It surrounds you everywhere you go. It's the most precious gift a leader could possibly possess. And I think that's what will make you a great queen.

SOPHROSYNE

Even if that was true, I shouldn't depend on it.

KING STARBRINGER

That's up to you.

(beat)

Sometimes I think that the day your mother died was the day I lost the people. It was never really me they loved. It was her.

SOPHROSYNE

You always say things like that, trying to pass credit or blame other people for things.

KING STARBRINGER

You're right. My resolve is being tested and I'm failing.

SOPHROSYNE

You don't have to be a superman to change the world. All you really have to do is be one of the good guys.

KING STARBRINGER

Am I one of the good guys, though?

SOPHROSYNE

Sure you are. You're just spread too thin right now to please everybody.

KING STARBRINGER

Thanks for noticing.

(beat)

And speaking of supermen, how do you find Chartrulean?

SOPHROSYNE

(huffing)

He's a complete enigma. But in weird way I feel like I can be myself when I'm there, for better or worse.

(beat)

In my case probably worse.

KING STARBRINGER

I think around some people, you're just yourself because you don't have anything to hide. You understand each other on a different level, one you can't explain, and doesn't need words.

SOPHROSYNE

Oh, we've had *lots* of words.

KING STARBRINGER (CONT'D)

There's a comfort that doesn't need time to develop.

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

I wouldn't call it comfort. Maybe even the opposite.

KING STARBRINGER

Will you be all right?

SOPHROSYNE

Dad. This is finally a chance to do something that matters. I'm not about to let his bad attitude ruin it for me.

KING STARBRINGER

Good.

(beat)

I'm sorry for pushing you towards a future you don't want. I just needed so badly to give the people something to celebrate that I forgot that your happiness matters to me more than anything. I see now that you're capable of making big choices on your own.

SOPHROSYNE

Does that mean I'm off the hook with all this marriage stuff?

KING STARBRINGER

Let me put it this way. My dream is for you to be happy.

(MORE)

KING STARBRINGER (CONT'D)

And I hope a family can be part of that happiness. It's the best thing I've ever done, and I you can experience it the same way I have.

[Sophrosyne sighing defiantly]

SOPHROSYNE

I'm not going to force it.

[Book sounds]

KING STARBRINGER

Oh! Almost forgot. Here.

SOPHROSYNE

What's this?

KING STARBRINGER

Your mother's old ledger. It might be a touch outdated, but I thought it might come in handy for your task at hand.

[Pages turning]

SOPHROSYNE

Wow! This is really great! She left a lot of notes in here.

KING STARBRINGER

Yes she did. I find it's easier to build upon existing relationships than to start from scratch.

SOPHROSYNE

Thank you!

KING STARBRINGER

Oh, and one more thing. Hide this from me.

[Sounds of liquid in container]

SOPHROSYNE

And this is?

KING STARBRINGER

My flask. Don't worry, I've replaced its contents with tears.

SOPHROSYNE

(laughing)

Are things that bad?

KING STARBRINGER

No, I'm the problem. I've become impatient, and irrational.

SOPHROSYNE

Those are some of your more unattractive qualities.

KING STARBRINGER

Way to kick a man while he's down.

MALDORO CHOOSES A NEW HOST

[Pok pok of cane reverberating in stone chamber. Nighttime temple sounds. Sounds of shifting salt crystals]

MALDORO

The Jhardeka prayer dome. There used to be a time when I would stand here, just like this, pouring all my thoughts into a little fragment of glass, just like this one. Then I would let it fall into the sacred pool, and watch as it was converted to pure energy before ascending into the heavens above. It brought me such joy, being that much closer to Jhar.

But now, I fear how he would judge me. I don't want him to see the monster that has corrupted my soul. Have I done so wrong? Have all the sacrifices I've made been in vain?

One thing is for certain. I must do everything in my power to protect the abomination from destroying the future we've worked all our lives to build. No matter the cost. To this end, I send my final prayer. For what comes next will make me unworthy.

[Sound of salt crystal landing in water, energy gathering. Then heavy slow footsteps]

MALDORO (CONT'D)

There you are, guardian. I've chosen a new vessel for you. One that can infiltrate Astreus. His Jhardeka spirit may put up a fight, but it's a chance we must take.

(MORE)

MALDORO (CONT'D)

You are to learn everything you can about these felled pariah. And when the time is right, take one, and bring it to me.

[Footsteps approaching]

MALDORO (CONT'D)

(whispering)

He approaches now. Hide in the gallery until I signal.

MAGOGOSO

Ah, Abbott. You don't visit this place very often anymore. Stranger still that you would summon me here at this hour.

MALDORO

What are you insinuating?

MAGOGOSO

Nothing.

MALDORO

Explain to me how Chartrulean was allowed into the archives? I've made it clear that he is forever banished from temple grounds.

MAGOGOSO

He got past your watchmen on his own, disguised as a civilian.

MALDORO

And then what happened?

MAGOGOSO

Your hatred for Chartrulean is so severe. Don't you think it's time to find a new way forward?

MALDORO

He's endangered everything, and everyone. There may be no path forward before long.

[Beat]

MALDORO (CONT'D)

The best thing we can do is course correct.

(beat)

I've found a way into Astreus.

MAGOGOSO
How?

MALDORO
You.

MAGOGOSO
Me? I've told you that's not possible.

MALDORO
But it is.

[beat]

MALDORO (CONT'D)
It's time.

[Sounds of heavy footfalls]

MAGOGOSO
Isn't that prince Imsep's guardian?

MALDORO
He'll make you wish you had one for yourself.

MAGOGOSO
You're threatening me? No!

[Sounds of struggle, being restrained]

MALDORO
I've tolerated deception after deception from you because of those who you keep close. I knew you'd prove useful one of these days. I see without a shadow of a doubt where your allegiance truly lies. And it's not with me.

MAGOGOSO
(choking)
My allegiance is and always has been to *true* Jhardeho. The Order is broken.

MALDORO
Wrong. We are a constant.

MAGOGOSO

The fact that you have to use fear to manipulate people proves that you've already lost. You're just grasping at straws for control.

MALDORO

I have this city under my thumb.

MAGOGOSO

And how long will it be before Chartrulean takes that away from you, too?

MALDORO

(hissing)

I should have acted sooner, while he was still on my side.

MAGOGOSO

It was never within your power to control or stop him, even now. Whether by your design or the starmakers', he is the Etruvian.

MALDORO

He *will* fail. And you will make sure of it.

MAGOGOSO

I will not comply.

MALDORO

Oh, but you will.

[Sound of choking and struggling. Sounds of Magogoso having a seizure and Loam panting]

LOAM

(frightened)

Hmmmmmm?

MALDORO

You're still live, guardian? I guess that's one less mess to clean up.

[Loam struggling]

MALDORO (CONT'D)

Count your blessings that you cannot speak, because if anyone finds out what happened here tonight, I will destroy everything and everyone you hold dear. Now go. Your master will be looking for you.

[Footsteps running away]

MAGOGOSO

(strained)

What have you done to me?

MALDORO

This isn't a very pleasant business for any of us.

MAGOGOSO

Something is trying to infiltrate my mind.

MALDORO

It's no use trying to fight it. This is your last chance to redeem yourself. Do this, and if the worm doesn't kill you, maybe I'll let you live.

MAGOGOSO

I'll spare you the trouble of deciding.

MALDORO

What are you doing?!

[Splashing water. Dull sounds of drowning]

MAGOGOSO

(*thinking*)

Forgive me, Chartrulean, for abandoning you. This is the only way I know now to keep you safe from whatever horror trespasses within me.

CYDAR

(*thinking*)

Your fight for control is commendable, however futile. You have never borne witness to anything with a will to survive as potent as my own.

[Sounds like changing channels within Mago's mind]

MAGOGOSO
(thinking)
Who are you?

CYDAR
 You mean...Who. Are. We?

MAGOGOSO
(thinking)
I won't make this easy.

CYDAR
 But you will make so much possible.

[Sounds of swimming, breaking surface]

MALDORO
 Watchmen, fish him out of there.

[Robotic sounds. Magogoso choking up water]

MALDORO (CONT'D)
 This man is hereby excommunicated
 from The Order. Deliver him to
 Astreus. May he find sanctuary
 there.

[Transitional music]

CHARTRULEAN IS NICE TO BORSHA

[Peaceful nighttime sounds. Digital work sounds, Chartrulean
 muttering incoherent math, struggling to stay awake]

CHARTRULEAN
(big sigh)
 This is pointless.

BORSHA
 Do you plan on stopping any time
 soon?

[Footsteps]

CHARTRULEAN
 Borsha. Why are you still here?

BORSHA
 You've been working late. And
eating late.

(MORE)

BORSHA (CONT'D)

It's easier to chase the mess as it happens than to tackle it in the morning.

CHARTRULEAN

Am I that bad?

BORSHA

I don't mind. However, your beard seems to enjoy catching crumbs.

CHARTRULEAN

That's humiliating. I guess it's about time to do something about it.

BORSHA

Don't shave it completely!

CHARTRULEAN

Is this a personal preference, or one generally held by the opposite sex?

BORSHA

Forget I said anything.
(awkward silence)
You look like you can use some sleep. Would you like me to make you a concoction?

CHARTRULEAN

To help me sleep? Please.

BORSHA

But in your *bed* this time.

CHARTRULEAN

Borsha--why do you fuss over me?

BORSHA

It's my job.

CHARTRULEAN

Have I ever been unfair to you?
Please be honest.

BORSHA

Why?

CHARTRULEAN

Because I'm learning that the things I say can negatively affect people.

BORSHA
 (laughing nervously)
 Pfish.

CHARTRULEAN
 Maybe I don't want you to answer
 that.

BORSHA
 Unfair, no. Abrasive at times...
 (beat)
 I'll be back with that concoction.
 Oh, good evening Lieutenant. Would
 you like anything?

HAVELION
 I'm fine, but thank you.

[Footsteps]

HAVELION (CONT'D)
 Nice to see you making an effort
 with her.

CHARTRULEAN
 What do you mean, effort?

HAVELION
 Just being nice. You've already
 made one person cry recently.

CHARTRULEAN
 And what do you think you know
 about that?

HAVELION
 I'm good at spotting your victims.
 Red faced and puffy eyed, always
 running in the other direction,
 faces streaked with existential
 crisis.

CHARTRULEAN
 Have I made many people cry?

HAVELION
 That Loris guy at least once.

[Chartrulean chortles]

HAVELION (CONT'D)
 Think that one's funny, do ya?

CHARTRULEAN

A little.

HAVELION

Let's see, some of the other staff,
Borsha a lot.

CHARTRULEAN

What about the paladins?

HAVELION

If I told you I'd have to kill you.

[Beat]

HAVELION (CONT'D)

So what did you say to make
Sophrosyne cry?

CHARTRULEAN

I didn't!

HAVELION

Yeah? You sure about that?

CHARTRULEAN

Leave if you are just going to push
my buttons.

HAVELION

Well, you already know that *I*
think.

CHARTRULEAN

It's nothing like what you think.

HAVELION

All right....

[Beat]

CHARTRULEAN

She's *Jhardoestra*.

HAVELION

(anticlimactic)
...And?

CHARTRULEAN

Have you not felt it with her?

HAVELION

Mmmmmmmmm, well it *is* nice having
her around.

(MORE)

HAVELION (CONT'D)

She's amicable, and easy to look at. Of course my heart already belongs to someone, so maybe I'm missing something. What's it like for you?

CHARTRULEAN

Like a mixture between crippling anxiety and euphoria.

HAVELION

Sounds to me like you're making excuses.

[Beat]

CHARTRULEAN

Why do you leave violets for Homena?

HAVELION

They're her favorite.

CHARTRULEAN

Even when she can't enjoy them?

HAVELION

I'd like to think she can. Although, maybe believing that is just my way of getting through this. A way to hope.

[Beat]

HAVELION (CONT'D)

Anyways, bottom line is girls like flowers. Maybe you should try it with Sophr--

[Sounds of something being thrown or slammed]

CHARTRULEAN

(losing temper)

Dammit Havelion! I have work to do.

[Havelion laughing]

HAVELION

That reaction only confirms it. You're in it, deep.

CHARTRULEAN
 (exhausted)
 How many more stresses must I
 endure?

[Alarm sounding]

HAVELION
 That's the perimeter alarm.

[Distant yelling]

CHARTRULEAN
 The guards have someone.

HAVELION
 Is that Mago?

[Transitional music]

SOPHROSYNE DIVES INTO HONA'S LEDGER

[Night time sounds. Pages turning]

NARRATOR

Sophrosyne was still glued to the same spot at the table in her family's apartment. Her mother's ledger had become her new obsession. So many questions about how she built trust with people were suddenly answered.

Boethema Labs was by far the most extensive portion of the ledger, with several pages spanning years of contact. One note written around twenty-five years ago, around the time of her birth, caught her eye.

HONA
 Etruriel 4012 has taken the path.
 As a result, a horror of the worst
 kind has fallen over Boethema.

SOPHROSYNE
 What's Etruriel 4012?

HONA
 Incubation tanks are going red in
 droves. Maldoro's search for an
 Etruvian replacement has been
 sloppy, the results horrific. Many
 defects.

SOPHROSYNE

(aghast)

Red tanks? Could this -- could this
be connected to my dream?

[Page turning]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

There's more.

HONA

I've found people who can help move
survivors to Idrica. Yulia herself
has extended the seminary as a
sanctuary for the children. So
special, so lost.

SOPHROSYNE

This is confusing. But this mention
of tanks...

FLASHBACK

CHARTRULEAN (V.O.)

(echoey)

Dreams are the refraction of our
own experiences through a distorted
lens. Most are unreliable garbage.

END FLASHBACK

SOPHROSYNE

(sighing)

What's the point of trying? If what
he says is true, then I'm wasting
my time looking for something that
isn't there. I don't know why it's
so disappointing, it should be
relieving.

CHARTRULEAN (V.O.)

It would be better for both of us
to separate these things in your
mind.

SOPHROSYNE

It was ridiculous to think that all
this points to some kind of answer.
Like there's a shortcut.

FLASHBACK

CHARTRULEAN (V.O.)
 Jhardoestra didn't gift humanity
 with anything that wasn't already
 there.

KING STARBRINGER (V.O.)
 (echoey)
 It's love, dear. It surrounds you
 everywhere you go. It's the most
 precious gift a leader could
 possibly possess. And it's what
 will make you a great queen.

END FLASHBACK

SOPHROSYNE
 Who's wrong? It's so confusing. Do
 I listen to the extraordinary man
 who I've only just met?

CHARTRULEAN
 So much arrogance coming from
 someone who knows nothing.

SOPHROSYNE
 Or the man who's lifted me up my
 entire life?

KING STARBRINGER (V.O.)
 It's the most precious gift a
 leader could possibly possess.

SOPHROSYNE
 I'm going about this all wrong.

HONA (V.O.)
 Follow your heart and you will find
 her.

SOPHROSYNE
 Her letter says to be following my
 heart.

CHARTRULEAN (V.O.)
 Not hinging on the words of a
 monster.

HONA (V.O.)
 Find the chrysalis in the void.

CHARTRULEAN (V.O.)
 I'm sorry. But you'll have to
 answer this on your own.

SOPHROSYNE

I thought he was being hurtful. But he's right.

CHARTRULEAN (V.O.)

I am doing you a kindness!

SOPHROSYNE

I have to try to figure this out on my own.

HONA (V.O.)

She will give you the power to change the world.

SOPHROSYNE

Now. What do I have to work with?

FLASHBACK

SOPHROSYNE (V.O.)

Can you hand me my journal?

CYTHAELIA (V.O.)

Ugh, was it that dream again?

SOPHROSYNE (V.O.)

I've been trying to draw out parts of it as they come up.

END FLASHBACK

SOPHROSYNE

My dream diary. First, there was Chartrulean, and the brooch.

[Sounds of journal and pages flipping]

SOPHROSYNE (CONT'D)

My dream diary. First, there was Chartrulean, and the brooch. Then the red tanks, and the woman with terrible eyes.

CYTHAELIA (V.O.)

Ok. Some of these are a little scary.

SOPHROSYNE

Everything from the past few days points to these things. ===

FLASHBACK

DUA 642

I don't want to go back there.

SOPHROSYNE (V.O.)

Oh--why? Everyone seems so nice.

DUA 642

Not the lady with the bad eyes.

END FLASHBACK

SOPHROSYNE

If I can find one or more of them,
I'll know there's something to
this. Thanks to my Mom, now I
have an idea of where to start.
Boethema.