

Crisp, mountain wind blows through the town streets. Afternoon sun hangs high, low clouds languidly quickly over it's face before crawling over the distant southern peaks.

"This is a nice place, isn't it?" Natalia sighs. Half-lidded eyes looking out over the well-worn cobble streets.

"Reminds me a lot of home, honestly." Niles answers, head propping up on an arm. "There's a lot more going on though, we'd never see this many people walking around."

A smile stretches Natalia's lips as she affixes her gaze on the boy. "This is a relatively well traveled town, Niles. We're right on Gaust's south-western border." She takes a sip from her tea before continuing, "Autuch isn't large by any means, but it is built along one of the main roads in and out of the country."

Niles looks out at the semi-bustling street once more as he parses what his analytical friend just said. "Huh... I'm a bit surprised I guess, most tales I've heard make the woods seem rather scary..."

Old stories of Gaust's Western Wood flash through the boy's mind. Tales of beasts and demons that prowl the Primordial Forest in the continent's center, and happily feast on any mortal they come across.

Natalia chuckles at Niles' surprise. "Well, most people would consider a pleasant forest stroll a league less scary than craggy mountain roads, hmm? It's hardly surprising."

"Wh-what about the monsters!" Niles interjects, a cold sweat

"Niles! You're a grown boy, you surely don't believe those tales do you?" Natalia giggles, stirring her tea absently as she looks into the boy's eyes. "The roads are plenty safe, the only beasts we'll encounter are boar or lizards."

"Oh, thank the gods..." Niles sighs. Relief pours over his expression, happy to have lingering childhood fears quickly assuaged.

"Unless you go deeper in, of course." Natalia cuts in.

"Huh?" Niles' eyes almost pop out of his skull at the sudden remark.

Natalia tries not to laugh, continuing, "Many of those silly tales you heard as a little Gaustian boy were, at least somewhat, correct. But you'd have to travel deep inside Alydia to come across anything of note. The dangers are greatly exaggerated."

The boy relaxes again. "It really does feel like you know everything Natalia." A small, imperceptible pulse emits from the boy's necklace, that strange object he had found during his recent adventure. Yet it quickly ceases, nothing having changed. The boy felt something off from the object and holds it aloft in his hand, examining it slightly.

Natalia's interest is also drawn toward the odd bone, "Would you mind if I took another look at your little prize there, Niles? I'd like to double-check myself."

Niles nods and unhooks the little trinket from around his neck, handing it over to Natalia. She looks it over in her hands, squinting and turning it here and there, analyzing every inch. The off-white, almost-bone was indeed odd, unlike most anything Natalia had seen before and the unusual 'M' shaped marking wasn't familiar to her. An unknown magic script? She casts many myriad identification spells, but responds only with a slight pout.

"Hmm, strange. Just like before I can't make out any specific enchantments, or curses, or *anything* really... But I can feel a low thrum of magic pulsing from it, almost like a heartbeat..." Natalia's pout deepens, slumping her chin into her palms as she gives the artifact one last look-over.

"Maybe it's blessed? Like a good luck charm? Like the ones Paladins and Clerics wear." Niles posits, eyes wide and excited.

"The work of a god you mean? Maybe. But it doesn't look like any iconography I'm privy to." Natalia perks up slightly, raising her head at a sudden, minor realization. "Huh. Does it look... dimmer to you? Than it did last time?"

She was right. The necklace's once bleach-white surface was now stained, appearing an off-white yellowish tinge.

"Maybe it got dirty?" Niles suggests, clearly having no idea when or how it had changed color. If it even had.

Another minor round of deciphering spells course from the mage's fingers, as she sighs, foiled again. "Yup, nothing. Maybe you're right..."

After a few minutes more attempting to decipher anything of value about the necklace, Natalia huffs in defeat and swiftly places it back into Niles waiting hands. The woman quickly tucking away her scrawl of fresh notes on the subject, as she goes back to take a sip of her now cold tea.

"I suppose it really is just an odd little trinket." Natalia smiles, as the boy across from her happily places it back around his neck. "It's rather cute on you though~ I'm happy you like it."

"Hehe..." A blush creeps across Niles' face as he quickly takes a sip from his own drink.

A long moment passes in silence, as the two travelers take in the pleasant midday atmosphere of the border town's lightly populated streets.

Natalia's the one to break the silence, pondering something to herself as she gazes out from their exposed cafe seats. "I wonder when Enna will be here... Her and Aldis sure do enjoy making us wait." A sigh escapes before she continues, turning toward Niles. "I made sure to offer a quick morning prayer before we set off, earlier. But I have to admit I am more than ready to indulge in something more thorough right now..."

Niles is taken aback momentarily, "Oh! I- I didn't indulge in anything this morning..."

Another one of Natalia's bemused looks graces her face. "Niles~ You just worshiped Enna's gorgeous cheeks for the first time last night. No one expects you to be so dutiful~"

Niles' face quickly turns red as last night's events fully reenter his mind. Not knowing how to respond he stutters in a panic as Natalia continues to tease him.

Once the two calm down, Niles quickly speaks back up. Something was now on his mind, and his usual curiosity has to be sated.

"Hey Natalia, you said you were a history professor right? Before you started traveling?" he starts, unsure how to fully form his question, "Speaking of... well, Sasavi. Do you... think you can teach me anything about Enna's people?"

Natalia's eyes light up, excited that someone FINALLY asked her a question. And one within her area of expertise! And about one of her favorite subjects therein!

"Oh yes! I certainly can!" She replies, excitement clearly coloring her voice.

Pulling some journals and papers out of her travel bag, Natalia begins to ramble on, "I lived in Rimal for a while, back in my college days. It was a study trip when I was majoring in anthropology, I was bright eyed and excited to learn about our beautiful neighbors' culture and history. Thinking back that was definitely when I first realized the unparalleled beauty of Sasavi asses... Though I wouldn't truly devote my soul to one until I became acquainted with Enna. Mmmh~" Natalia's eyes become lidded and her hand begins stroking an erect nipple through her top.

A small moan escapes the moments-ago hyperfixated mage's lips. An intense sensation of strangeness reverberates through Niles body in that moment. A sudden feeling of confusion. Once again, just like last night he feels like something is wrong, as he looks across the table at the beautiful, educated woman who had just begun to grope herself at the mention of her friend's massive, bare ass. Something about this didn't feel right to him, yet he couldn't fathom why. Even he was getting turned on thinking about Enna's ass, he was already lightly rubbing his hard-on through his trousers. There definitely wasn't anything wrong with thinking about the Elven woman's huge backside like this, was there?

Natalia seems to catch herself, and clears her throat. "A-anyway... was there anything specific you wanted to ask? About Sasavi?"

"Ah!" Caught slightly off guard by this second tonal shift, Niles quickly darted his hand away from his painfully hardening member. "Y-yeah! I actually have a lot of questions... I've never really seen a lot of Elves before, and I haven't heard much about where they're from..."

Natalia's awkward blush quickly fades into a wide, overexcited grin. One which Niles feels a tad bit of conscious fear upon seeing.

"Wellll~ I know plenty. So just go ahead and ask to your hearts content, lil Niles~"

The flirty energy the mage exudes from that simple statement throws Niles off for another moment, before he quickly recomposes himself and begins thinking over the myriad questions he has about Enna's people.

"Though perhaps I'll give you one little test first~ Sound agreeable, Niles?" Natalia cut the boy's concentration cleanly off, easily flustering him again. "What's the name of the Sasavi homeland? I'm sure you've heard it at least once in your life, hmm?"

“Ahh!” Niles’ eyes go wide, he knows this one! It’s right on the tip of his tongue! “Uhh... Rim... Rimor... Um...”

“Rimal.” Natalia answers, sparing the struggling lad. “Some still use it’s more archaic, ‘Rimalmaeris’, but it’s a bit much for most.” An excited smile creeps it’s way back across the mage’s face as she continues, “Well, go ahead and ask whatever you wish!”

Niles stammers a bit, before going back to concentrating. Thinking up a few questions that were itching his mind. Many of which a result of his recent travels alongside Enna.

“I’ve noticed Enna tends to have a bit of... trouble getting around most of the houses and stuff around here. I guess buildings look a bit different where Enna’s from huh?” Niles asks, scratching his chin slightly as memories of Enna getting stuck in many a doorway and much too thin a hall cross his mind.

“Oh~ Sasavi architecture is beautiful, honestly. Though perhaps it IS a tad bit spacious for us... less vertically inclined peoples.” Natalia sighs, clearly reminiscing. “Sasavi are more often than not several heads taller than even a rather large human, so their structures feature tall doors and even taller ceilings. Most doorways are built with an interesting curve, wider at their base than their top, for obvious reasons. You’re also very likely to see the Sasavi ass represented in many aspects of their buildings, much like their art! Anyway in the Rimali heartlands it’s rather common to build out of-”

Natalia continues on and on, clearly knowledgeable about this subject. Niles meanwhile attempts to stay focused, as architectural principles and histories are thrown his way, glazing his eyes over slightly.

“-that’s to say, there’s hardly one homogeneous style of Sasavi architecture! Buildings in the floodplains, the dunes, the coast... all of them are distinct and formed from their own cultural histories. Even the nomadic Sasavi peoples have their own unique fashion of impermanent homes! It’s all extremely beautiful, and highly functional.” Finally pausing to take a breath, Natalia refocuses her gaze on Niles, rather than the space beyond him. “I think that’s a good enough overview of Sasavi architecture, though I could dig up much more specifics if you wish-”

“Ah! No, I’m good! Thank you Natalia!” Niles quickly cuts the woman off in a panic. He was intensely curious about these topics, but is more than aware he hardly internalized ANYTHING Natalia just said.

“Ok then! If you have anything else on your mind, ask away~” Natalia leans forward with a grin, deep cleavage resting on the table before her as she crosses her hands under her chin.

Niles sighs for a moment, still reeling from the unexpected assault of information the woman had levied upon him. An entertained smile stretches his face, as he thinks about Natalia’s clear excitement, however. “You really get aroused when it comes to learning, huh Natalia? You always seem to get really happy whenever you get the chance to research or teach stuff.”

“Aroused!? Niles, I don’t think you know what that means!” Natalia laughs, her mouth hanging slightly agape.

Nile looks momentarily panicked, “Aldis told me it was- it was like ‘excited’ right?”

“Excited, yes. But “aroused” is, more often than not, explicitly *sexual* Niles. You should stop picking up that man’s bad habits...” the mage’s smile remains as she lightly chides the boy.

The two continue their conversation, unaware of the pulsing thrum emitting from that innocuous bone necklace. It was small, and weak, but unlike minutes before, it had activated. An imperceptible ripple courses over the table, centering itself upon the happily chatting mage opposite the artifact. Within a moment’s time, reality had been altered. A seemingly small change, compared to before, but just as unknowable. Just as permanent.

The travelers, however, simply move back on topic.

“Hmm... You know, Enna’s the only Sasavi I’ve seen before. Are Sasavi men as... large, as Enna?”

“Oh, definitely not! Sasavi men are usually shorter than the average human, maybe a bit shorter than you actually, Niles~” Natalia visibly shudders, as she informs the boy on this mundane fact. Her eyelids flutter heavily. A breathy sigh escapes her lips.

“Uhh... Natalia? Are you ok?” Niles asks, fidgeting in his seat. Something about the woman’s sudden shift in demeanor was bothering him.

“Mmm, I’m more than fine Niles.” Natalia smiles, a slight blush overtaking her cheeks as she rubs her thighs together. “Let me continue, where was I... Oh yes! The disparity in Sasavi build between the sexes is probably the main contributing factor to their culture’s female dominance-”

Another shiver passes over the woman’s body, as she inadvertently lets out a light moan. She nibbles on her finger before biting her lip, continuing her lecture.

“Or, perhaps, the second contributing factor~” Natalia places a hand below her breasts, as though she was attacked by a sudden stomach ache. Instead of curling forward, however, she leans back in clear pleasure. “Sasavi culture being centered around the female ass-” As she speaks, her hand drifts sensually downwards across her silky robe. “-would be more likely the main factor... hmm~?” She lets the final vocalization morph into a low, guttural moan, as a light bead of sweat forms on her brow. As the probing hand reaches dangerously low, Natalia gently slides down the chair, but quickly catches herself and corrects her posture.”

Niles could feel that something was off, but much like the previous night, he could hardly focus on what. That sinking feeling of change was there but as the woman across from him continues to ramble on, moan, and fidget, he couldn’t place what.

“I uh... have something else to ask, I think.” Niles interjects, awkwardly trying to steer the conversation onto a new topic.

“*Please* ask~” Natalia responds desperately, panting and wiggling in her seat. A somewhat smug but needy smile plastered on her blushing face. She was clearly aroused by all of this.

“I’ve um... noticed that Enna eats... a lot...” Memories of Enna consuming more food than the entire rest of the party come to the lad. As does the look on Aldis’ face every time he gets the group’s tavern bill. “Is that normal for Sasavi? What’s their food like? Does it taste good?”

Natalia unsuccessfully stifles a moan, as she grips the edge of the table, “Niles~ So many questions all at once?” She refocuses on the boy’s blushing face and runs her hand lightly along her breast, “You’re spoiling me~”

Niles merely sits, flustered, in response.

“Sasavi do eat a lot yes~” Natalia moans, “Their bodies are rather large, or at least their shapely lower bodies...” The hand resting on her breasts begins circling and cupping their sensitive skin. “Considering how important their butts are in almost every aspect of their culture, most of their calories go to keeping them nice and plump~” She was vigorously squeezing and pawing her own titflesh by this point, sliding further down her chair as her other hand found itself rubbing hungrily through her silky robes, along the inside of her thigh.

“Mmmph~ on that topic, it’s a common misconception-” Huffs and pants interrupt her lecturing, “- amongst a lot of humans that Sasavi are all soft and fat below the waist-” Another moan, highlighting her hand’s completed journey. Her fingers having found their way to her now sopping wet crotch. “- When in fact underneath their considerable adipose are *strongly* corded and *well-toned* muscle~” Her head throws itself back as she loudly moans, her long waves of shimmering auburn hair cascade over the back of her chair like a curtain of flames. “Their musculature is far beyond the level of a human in fact~” Her hips buck wildly into her palm, as she desperately rubs herself through her sheer robe. “It’s not uncommon for Sasavi kicks to completely- Ungh~” Her face is flush and sweaty, a look of mild frustration cuts through her lusty expression. “U-utterly-” Her masturbating hand frees itself from her soft thighs, quickly reaching into her back and pulling free one of her many journals. “-Kn-knock a fully armored man out coold~” The lewd moaning retake their pace, as she begins humping the hardback spine of the large tome, desperately attempting to cum. “Their legs are... *truly* natural works of art-”

She couldn’t take it anymore. Every word she uttered, every minor fact she shared, just made her more and more aroused. She quickly tossed her book back into her bag, giving her now-freed breast one last squish. Biting her lower lip, she forcefully knocks the table aside, drawing more than a few stares from other passerby and patrons, before her eyes hungrily lock onto the now VERY flustered boy sitting opposite from her.

“Get over here and give your favorite teacher a little helping hand, Niles~” Natalia moans, as she grasps the back of the poor boy’s head, forcing his face between her legs without a moment to react. “Mmm~ What was I talking about...” her fingers lustfully comb through Nile’s soft hair, “Ahnn~ Sasavi foods...”

Natalia’s hips begin to grind into her little human toy, as she starts up another lust-filled info-dump, “Sasavi loove meat~” Her voice wavers as Niles’ tongue begins going to work, “Meat-dishes are a huge part of their culture-” A loud moan, as her hips buck more and more wildly against Nile’s face. “There... there’s many species of oooodd~ mega fauna in the Sasava desert...”

Natalia’s hips aren’t stopping. The muscles in her long, smooth legs tense with every thrust into the poor smothering boy nestled between them. Before long those same legs began to shake and buckle as Natalia falls back into her seat, bringing Niles with her, not freeing him from her thighs for even a moment, as he now continued on his knees. A groan frees itself from Natalia’s throat, as she splits her legs wide and continues to lovingly pet the dutiful student tending to her pussy.

“Mmmph~” She bites her lip, “I remember this delicious dish I’d always eat...” Her hips continue forcefully fucking Nile’s head. “I’d always go out to eat it with- Mmmph~ With a beautiful Sasavi woman I knew-” Moaning and panting pick up the pace as Natalia’s lengthy legs quickly snap around Niles’ neck like a guillotine, “I think about her often... Perhaps if I didn’t-” Another load, breathy moan, “Get so *excited* about studying... learning... teaching... I’d stillllll~”

One final, ungodly loud moan escaped from Natalia’s lips. Her legs clamped down tight on Niles’, as her hand forcefully shoved him into her steaming mound. With that final vocalization, she finally cums, squirting fluid all over the poor boys face as he finally frees himself slightly from her grasp.

Natalia lays there, sweaty and exhausted. Panting with a very satisfied smile gracing her face. Her hair cascaded down the back of her chair, and her delightful little hat had long since fallen off onto the flooring below. Niles meanwhile, is haggard, attempting to catch his breath.

“Geez Natalia, could you at least warn me next time?” Niles sighs, dripping with the leftover signs of Natalia’s arousal, “You usually get off just fine with one of your books, don’t you?” Despite his complaints, a clear tent had formed in his trousers.

Correcting herself slightly in her chair, Natalia lifts her head up. Straightening her posture, a cheeky grin still on her face. “Hmm~ Well, I’m certainly more in my right mind now, sorry about that Niles~” She leans forward quickly, rising from her chair and leaning over the punished boy, sitting pitifully on the ground. A hand delicately running over the visible bulge in his pants, “I could help return the favor if you wish~”

She continued on, as Niles’ only answer was fearful stammering and embarrassment. “N-n-n-Natalia! We really shouldn’t-”

“Did you get worked up in the middle of town again, Nat?” a familiar voice cuts in, “You really shouldn’t pique her interests in public Niles, she’s a menace...”

The two look up to see Enna towering above them, clearly having just arrived. The massive woman gives a cheeky smile and bends over, placing Natalia’s hat atop her head. Eyes glancing quickly between the two post-coital party members.

Natalia answers her with a huff and a pout. “You know I can hardly help it Enna, stimulating my brain stimulates much more of me than the average person...”

“Oh I know~ It’s all perfectly normal Nat, it’s just easy to tease.” A wobble of Enna’s wide hips accentuate her statement, causing her bent-over ass to jiggle wildly. “Perhaps if you could focus on anything, you wouldn’t tangent yourself into an orgasm, hmm?”

“Enough about my... habits, you’re late.” Natalia cuts the banter short, finally standing and making an effort to correct her clothing, and dragging Niles up with her. “Me and Niles here already stocked up on supplies.”

“And I assume you all had a little lunch date without me?” Enna teases, flipping her gaze between Niles, Natalia, and the upended table for dramatic effect. Returning to a standing position herself, and continuing to tower over the two humans.

“Goddess only hopes they did!” Aldis enters with a laugh. A loud slap rang out as his palm met the prodigious, wobbly flesh of his lover’s bent backside. “After that last job we barely have enough coppers to make it to the nearest actual city. Much less shop around for more work. Hopefully something that’ll actually pay this time.”

Enna, fazed more by her partner’s words than his forceful slap, breaks into a pout. “Come on Aldis... I haven’t eaten through all of our coin in years. I’m just as much responsible as you with our coin-”

“As much as I love watching you two push each other’s buttons, perhaps we should get back on the road?” Natalia interjects, collecting her myriad misplaced goods, “It’s already past midday, I assume Sula’s waiting at the gates?”

“She is, yeah.” Aldis answers, wife still pouting over his shoulder, towering over him. “She caught us some dinner while we packed up camp. Main reason it took us so long.”

“And the sex I presume?” Natalia added with a smirk, “You never miss nightly prayers, so I assumed you needed some quality time with the wife, hmm?”

Enna wraps her arms possessively around the smiling Aldis’ shoulders, throwing her own smirk Natalia’s way. “We’ve been traveling together far too long Nat... You’ve picked up on all of our bad habits.” A sly smirk is shared between the two before Enna continues, “But no, we actually had to buy me some new boots as well. I have no idea how my old pair got so damaged...”

“Perhaps you stepped on something in the ruins yesterday and hadn’t realized?” Natalia ponders, recalling the few crusty tomes she had salvaged from the ancient rubble and growing aroused at the thought of finally cracking them open on the road.

“The only thing that got damaged in those ruins yesterday where your undergarments as far as I recall...” Enna replies with a snicker.

The three share a small laugh, as Niles looks on. He had grown to know his party members pretty well over the last month or so, but he still wasn’t as close as the others seemed to be. He didn’t even really know anything about Sula...

“I had the merchants send all of our purchases to our cart, out at the stables.” Natalia’s statement cuts Niles from his reverie.

“Oh that’s great! Most towns have us haul them ourselves, huh?” Niles replies, beaming. He still remembers the small village they visited a week ago, and all of the cheese he had to pile up himself...

“Only when they don’t have the manpower to spare, or they want to charge you for it...” Aldis sighs, clearly dredging up a bad memory.

“Well, I’ll go ahead and head over there,” Enna smiles hands patting Aldis and Niles’ backs, “I’ll have Sula help hook me up to the cart and we’ll be ready to go.”

“You’re the best pack mule a traveling party could ask for Enna~” Natalia coos, rubbing her face against the side of Enna’s ass with a mischievous grin. Hands circling the weighty meat.



Enna looks back at her with a bemused smirk, and a roll of the eyes. "I'll remember you said that later, when you're worshiping my ass, Nat."

Capping off her statement with a quick hip bump, Enna sashays herself down the street, toward the town gate. Nat, smiling, eyes locked unflinchingly on Enna's wobbling ton of ass. "I think she may be too good for us, what do you think?"

Aldis lets out a loud "HA!" before shrugging his shoulders. "Oh, I know she's too good for ME, I have no idea how I got so lucky."

"To your credit Aldis, not a lot of human men can handle a Sasavi woman." Natalia states, giving the man a playful smack on the shoulder. "There must be more to you than a pretty smile if you can handle all of her like you do."

"Can't argue with that, I suppose." Aldis grins, walking over to the quiet Niles and giving him a light slap on the back, "Let's get moving, Niles here has a lot more of the world to see, don't you lad?"

Looking up into Aldis' smiling face, Niles gives him a big grin back. "As much of it as I can!"

The party make their way away from that comfy mountainside town, happy faces and friendly banter shared amongst them. The five, unaware of the nature of that odd, dimly pulsing artifact poised to continue changing their lives, as it dangles lazily from Niles' neck, regaining it's power.