



TALES OF A LYING WORLD

Book 1 - Change in Winds

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CHAPTER

PLACE: GLORYSTONE CAPITAL OF HULAND



ERA: 521 AG

1.

The chamber was warm because of the fire in the corner. The crisping sound of the woods could be heard. The chamber was a closed room, every window was closed so that the words would remain in the room and can't be heard by unwanted ears. A man was holding an open letter. In his other hand he held a cup of wine. He was a glorious man to behold with his wide chest and big bulky arms, his black hair reaching the end of his neck. His legs were lean like that of a hero in tales. He had a serious face with a stern look that radiated respect.

He walked the room sipping the wine. His face turned to a look of distaste.

“What is this wine, it tastes like piss” he said, “what do you think of this Roose?”

An old man was standing opposite to him, he had a wrinkled skin, but looking at his face one could tell that he had seen enough battles. He was

wearing a golden armor with some blue craftsmanship on it. It was loose which showed that once he used to be pretty muscular probably when he was in his prime but now he was old which made his body shrink and in turn made his armor loose.

He spoke with a little humor in his voice.

“I can’t tell my king, I have never tasted piss before.”

“Not the damn wine, you know what I am talking about” King Crookus said, slamming the cup of wine on the table with a thud!

Commander Roose spoke instantly “sir, it isn’t that simple, the peacekeeper has called for a meeting, we have to attend it.”

The king said sitting on the chair “it’s not about the council, it’s about where it is to be held.”

Crookus was angry, there was a little scar on his left chin. He had furry eyebrows. He had a dense hair and a set of black eyes, like that of a crow.

The blue eyes of the commander met with the king’s black eyes and he said “my grace, we can’t do anything about it. The league has existed for a long time and the meeting is held once in ten years. The last time it was held in Worthwood and this time it will be held in Roar.

Crookus took another sip from the cup and said in a soft tone “How can I go to that wretched place, you know what happened there.” His eyes shone with a little bit of sadness that could be felt on his face.

Commander Roose came forward and held his king’s hands with compassion.

“It happened a long time ago Crookus, you know that, your father was a great a king, son and he died a glorified death.”

“Yeah! he was a great father and even a great king, people loved him” Crookus said.

“Okay, we will do it if we have to.” Crookus said with a sigh. “Allias, you and me along with 200 men.”

Commander Roose hesitated first but then said “my king, I don’t think we should take prince Allias, he is very....., you know my lord.....”

“I’m your king, do as you are told Roose” he said with a flavor of anger in his voice.

Commander Roose turned and left the room without uttering another word.

Crookus didn't like this arrangement. He had never liked the Aegmon Dynasty. He could never forget the battle of Allinton, In this battle, his father was taken away from him. The Myana dynasty was all fine. They didn't pose much problem during their time. There were a number of conflicts but there was never a war. But since the Aegmon came to power, there has been a lot of tension between the two kingdoms. The Den kingdom always planned on taking the land if not for the league, there could had been a full-scale war between the Huland empire and the Den kingdom.

HE WAS REMEMBERING HIS FATHER THE GREAT ROCK OF GLORYSTONE.

2.

In the dwelling arena, two warriors were measuring each other up. Prince Allias Stronghold was dressed in a black armor which protected his chest and his hands were covered in armor too.

His legs were fully covered by metallic plates but it wasn't visible as the clothes were hanging till his knees. He had a sharp sword with a broad base which gets thin towards the tip and results in a pointy end. He held a circular shield. There were five rectangular plates of steel attached on the shield which gave it a unique shape.

Prince Allias had a perfect build, not very muscular but his shoulders were broad and he was not that tall but he was quick. He had long curly brown hair and perfectly suited beard.

The other person was a common soldier of the capital unit. In his grey armor and a shield with a curved sword in his hand, the soldier saw the opening and came forward but it was only a bluff created by Allias to lure him in. He tried to attack but took a step back to get out of his range. The prince then came forward with his sword coming down on the soldier but at the right time the soldier was able to put the shield between them, there was clank of the sword on the shield. The soldier attacked with his sword but Allias stopped it with his shield. He moved the shield, caught the soldier's blade with the rectangular part of the shield and pulled it off. The sword dropped from the soldier's hold, Allias saw

the opening and kicked him on his tummy and as he bent forward, he hurriedly slammed the shield on his back. The soldier fell on the ground. He then laughed with his mouth wide open and then left the arena. He put away his sword which was a gift from his father on his 50th name-day and the shield was given to him by Rico, his best friend. Rico is a handsome man who has blonde hair and wears a flattering smile.

Rico Tokkonum came towards his friend, “brave fight”, he said knowing that it will only make him feel bad because he knew no soldier would fight Allias or Prince Allias with his full capability.

“Don’t mock me ricko, it’s not my fault that they don’t give it their best.” prince Allias said.

“And they will never give their best to you, prince.” Ricko said and “you know why?”

“No” the answer came with a hint of curiosity in his voice.

“It’s because he didn’t want to kill you, if a man wants to kill you, he will give you his all.”

“So what should I do?” Allias asked.

“I have an idea, if I dare to speak it.” Rico said.

“You may speak to your heart content, have I ever stopped you from expressing yourself.” Allias said.

“Ask one of the prisoner to fight you and propose to them that if they wins he will be set free” he said, there was glimmer in his eyes.

The prince thought for a bit, a man fighting for his freedom will surely give it his all, It’s a great way to increase his sparring skill.

“It’s a nice idea.” He said.

A soldier came in a hurry and bowed and then he started speaking. “My prince, I have a message from your father, my king.”

“What is it?” Allias asked.

“My lord, he has commanded you to accompany him to the meeting which would be held in 20 days in roar by the league or Peacekeepers.”

“You may leave.” Allias said.

He was thinking about how his father has always hated the Aegmon dynasty

and the reason behind it. It would be really hard for him to go to that malicious land. And he is taking me which could only mean that he has great trust in me and want me to meet our mortal enemies. I should go to him to show my gratitude.

“What do you think about my plan?” Rico asked.

“What plan?” Allias was still in his fantasies. “I will do it later I have to do some other task now.” He said and bolted, Rico even couldn’t get a chance to reply.

He started walking towards the council quarters there was a high possibility of finding him there, he crossed the beautiful garden across which the council quarters lay, the garden was a beautiful scene, Flowers from far away land were blooming in the sun light, two dogs were enjoying the sun rays. The sun light was scarce in this time of the year, spring yet has about 2 moons to come, and But Allias focus was not among these things.

He was imagining himself in a battle armor fighting a lot of Leothars and defeating the white Mayned king, he is only a boy, how hard it would be to kill him, Then I will present the head of that boy to my father as his name day present, He will be very proud of me, He will praise me and say that I will be the greatest king even greater than Palmore Aronan who defeated Rayfied lothar and built a kingdom in lands of god.

He rushed to the black building where the councils were held, he started climbing the stairs, the stairs were big and the interior gave a vibe of quoin. All the important decision of the land was discussed here, he was in prime of his youth but still Allias didn’t held an important position in his father’s council, he knew his father thought of him as a juvenile child, and on top of that her younger sister held an important position in the council which really made him fell small, It’s was not like he hated her sister but was only envious of her because she was very good with battle strategies.

At the age of 73, she led a command to East garden to help the lord of East garden Arthur Rullic against the rebellion in his state and she performed wonderfully. Arthur Rullic was so impressed by her leading capacities that he proposed to her on the spot and asked the king for his daughter’s hand. The king kindly agreed and since they have been engaged, they will be married within the next two years.

He reached the council chambers, a guard was standing in front of the gate, Allias approached him and asked “I have to see my father, go and tell him I need

to meet him.” The guard looked into the eyes of Allias and said “Sorry my prince but the king wants to be alone.”

Allias didn't like the tone of his voice, Allias said again that it is important but his voice flinched a little bit, the guard seemed to necessity and he said” The king have personally asked me to not let anyone enter, under no circumstances until the gods haven't arrived themselves.

Allias was furious with the way he talked, his accent doesn't sounded like a citizen of the stronghold state, but what can he do he knew that if his father wants to be alone he could do nothing about it, To be saved from embarrassment, he turned and walked out of there as fast as he could.

3.

The day was clear, the air was a little cold but the sun was shining brightly in the sky, her shoulders were aching because of the weight of the armour, it was golden armour not so heavy but wearing a armour for a long time hurts. The soldier standing next to her was saying to his friend.

“Yeah the pirates were giving some liquid fire to the rebels, they had already completed their business and were about to leave when.”

“Were they really?” his friend asked him with curiosity.

“Yes they were leaving, when we barged in they tried to throw some liquid fire on us but they were fool enough.”

“Were they?” his friend interrupted.

“Yeah but they were fool enough to not add water to it and we were saved in the name of kena.”

“Oh really!” his friend said again.

“Yeah, didn't they commander?” he asked.

“Yes pronto” she said with a hint of tiredness in her voice.

But pronto continued preaching his tale and at last she said.

“I'll leave; I have to report to commander roose.”

“Of course, commander rosa.” he bowed.

“Lady rosa” his friend also bowed who looked like a castle guard.

Rosa was very loved by the battalion and soldiers, she was a living legend. People say that she has of the best battle instincts in the last 100 years. She is not so good with swords but her archery skills are quite good, She learned the archery skills from a Leothar who was from Esthenia, He was very gentle, but he was killed seven years ago by a unknown assassin, she never told her father about him as he loathed Leothars but she knew he was different. He was her only master so she didn't hold that much hatred towards the leothar people.

She entered her chamber and was about to sit down on her bed when she heard a loud sound outside the castle door like a heavy metal have been dropped, she was confused and got to her chamber window to take a look, what she saw was really unbelievable to her. There was a large black dragon sitting outside the castle wall, her feelings were changing constantly, like first she was horrified then she was charmed and then at last she was horrified again as she ran outside carrying her sword and her pain was forgotten as she stepped into the courtyard, she can see the large dragon clearly now and as she was running towards it she saw a soldier was loading his bow and arrow but his hands were shaking a lot and being frustrated by it he said.

“For fuck sake, damn the gods.” Rosa stepped towards him and snatched the bow and arrow from his hand, giving him his sword and said “follow me.”

She felt more safe with a bow in her hand, she had to do something come up with a fast plan. She could not understand, if the dragon just stumbled here, or was it a raid to first attack the capital with a dragon so that the attention was on the dragon and the army will attack the city or castle. The bigger question was did they have more dragon, and what was the purpose of sending the dragon was it to cause a havoc or to kill everyone in the castle. As a child she has read that dragon breathe fire and their skin is as hard as iron and they are one of the most dangerous creature made by god, she recalled that dragon have a weak spot too, they are weak near their eyes and nose and a fatal blow can be given on their neck where their defense is the weakest.

She reached the castle door and stepped outside, the dragon was huge it was the size of nearly 25 elephants, his skin was black but his chest was of crimson color like fire, he was majestic, he was looking at the soldier surrounding him.

Then she saw something that made the hair on the back of her neck go berserk, a man was climbing down from the beast, he was wearing a black fur cloak and a hood over his face, the stranger was a huge man or seems so because

of the winter clock, after he climbed down off the dragon he petted the dragon then turned and started walking towards her. She recognized the stranger at last, he was her uncle. She was still concerned but not horrified 'suddenly she saw a soldier charging in without any orders from her or any of his superior she recognized the sword, it was hers.

She shouted "Damn you stop it."

But it was of no use as he was already charging in shouting like madmen, at the top of his lungs.

She said "Halt everyone." so that nobody else would follow his lead."

A tail came as fast as lightning, when the soldier was 10 feet away from her uncle, it hit the soldiers and he went flying and hit the castle wall, his head was crushed, and his brain came out of his head. The dragon rose up and gave a loud growl, but her uncle shouted "calm down" and the black beast started to calm down a little bit.

Her uncle came and hugged her.

"When was the last time I saw you Rosa?" he asked.

"It's been 4 years uncle Sammuel." Rosa said still eyeing the dragon.

"Do you like my new friend?" Uncle Sammuel said with a hint of mirth in his voice.

"Yes, but how do you came across him or whatever it is." Rosa said.

Then she saw all the soldiers started to knell one by one, the king came out watching the black and crimson dragon in wonder, there was no horror on his face only a look of marvel. The king came towards his brother and hugged him warmly.

"So my brother how are you here and more importantly, where in this world you came across this magnificent beast?" the king asked.

"Well, when I was raiding a bunch of Umbarks in the north, and in the far east of grand white I came across it, first she tried to kill me but later we became compatible with each other." Sammuel said.

"It's a marvellous beast, a truly wonderful spectacle to behold." Crookus said.

"Yes it is my king but I am here for an urgent matter, my king." Sammuel said.

“What is it, Sammuel,” the king said still admiring the dragon.

“I fear, it can’t be spoken publically.” Sammuel said.

At last Crookus attention shifted to his brother “Okay come with me to my chambers.”

He turned to a soldier and commanded him to go and summon commander Laim and prince Allias.

“Rosa, you should also come.” the king said.

“Yes father.” Rosa replied.

The room was warm; everyone was sitting around the table, commander Roose, her brother Allias, her father Crookus Stronghold and her uncle Sammuel.

Allias looked very happy to be included in this meeting, his face was gleaming. Father was including him more in these meeting as to make him more responsible in the next 10 years he have to take his role as the king of the Huland empire. According to Stronghold customs a king can rule till the age of 120 as the age after that is seen as the age of folly because during this time people want to do what they want to do during their lifetime.

Uncle Sammuel stood up, he waited for everyone to settle towards him and then he said “There’s been a problem at a hold in Conda pass, it is very unlikely to see something like this.”

“In our Rayford hold there were 70 soldiers and they were all killed in one night, no survivors, no message, no birds and the strangest thing is that there was not a single body of the enemy and not even a enemy’s blade have been found, no sign that it was work of a mage, no odd signs just a regular sparring.

“It’s a cover up, that’s clear.” Father said.

“But what is the motive behind this, the den kingdom have many time expressed their felling about the Conda pass to the league, they should have some portion of it as theirs as it is the threat to their kingdom if the humans in grand white attacked.” commander Liam said.

“But it’s unlikely for them to attack, as the league gathering is so close.” uncle Sammuel said.

“Or is it” commander Liam said with a glitch in his voice.

“What do you mean Liam” father said.

“It’s possible as it’s some plot from the Leothars to challenge the peace of Huland Empire as they are vulnerable right now.” Liam said.

“It is likely, father that they will do it as the famine of the Hankirk state has become a matter concern in the whole continent” Rosa said.

“Many people have died and the state has been weak.” Rosa insisted.

“So what should we make out of it?” Father asked.

“I suggest that you should not go to the league gathering, it is dangerous and many will say that the omens justify it.” His brother said with a bit of concern in his voice.

“Don’t worry, Sammuel I think they will not assault me in the presence of the league.” Father said.

“Yes and we will take 500 hundred soldiers instead of 200 as to be more safe.” Liam roose said.

“I understand that commander but, what of the territories, what if they are attacked in your absence.” Rosa said.

“Of course, you will take the lead and protect it, won’t you Rosa, I have my beliefs in you.” Commander Liam said.

“I will do my best, I assure you that.” Rosa answered.

“So what should we do about the Conda Pass, what do you think Allias.” father asked.

It seemed like Allias was totally startled by this question but he gathered himself up and spoke.

“I think we should send out some troops to help our brethren in Conda Pass” Allias hesitated for a minute and then and said” maybe 5000 men will suffice Conda pass.”

“Allias do you know what is wrong with your plan?” father asked.

“Should we send in more men?” Allias blurted out foolishly.

“No no, what do you suggest Rosa.” Father asked.

“Father, I think we shouldn’t send any men to Conda Pass. There are already twenty thousand soldiers posted in Conda Pass and despite that I think that it’s a trick to make our manpower thin on the mainland and attack us here.” Rosa said.

“So what should we do about it?” The King asked.

“We should strengthen the borders of the Hankirk state, we should send some troops there.” Rosa proposed.

I agree with Rosa plans, we don't need more men to protect Conda Pass, but the territories in the land of god is more important.” uncle Sammuel said.

“Yes, that seems like a good plan, Liam prepare a troops of 7 thousand cavalry and send them to Hankirk state to strengthen the borders” father said to commander Roose.

“As you say my grace.” Commander Roose said, bowed and left the room.

“Brother, I hope you remain for a day or two.” father said.

“I hope to be there soon but I guess one day wouldn't hurt and Chairena can cover the distance in no time.” uncle Sammuel said.

“You two can also leave” father said to me and Allias.

“Rosa exited the chamber just behind Allias, she could fell that something big will happen in a few days.

“Allias protect our father in that alien land” Rosa said.

“Why do you suspect something, if you do you can tell me” Allias said turning back.

“It's just a hunch but I think bad days are coming, we have to be on guard.” she said.

“Why do you say these things sister?” Allias said.

“I just don't think that the Aegmons have forgotten about our rebellion a lot of their people were killed too” Rosa said.

“If they try anything suspicious, I will protect father with my life.” Allias said.

“Don't worry about any attacks; it's their weird tactics I am worried about”.

“I'll be careful and attentive.”

“Remember there is only one enemy which is visible but there are more invisible one.” Rosa said.

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