

# *Kaide & Claire*



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## Chapter 3

# The devil on board



The crew members took their assigned positions as the ship was being set to sail on a brief journey away from Winthstorm. The ship that Kaide had hoped would whisk her away from the bounty on her head now held the very person she hoped to escape. Kaide, who was at the back of the group of seamen, was trying her hardest not to attract attention. She tried to blend in with the other sailors while she thought of her best way out. It was then that the tiefling spotted a small group of men who were approaching the ship to bring the last crate on board. It looked like the last, but most important, piece of cargo. This moment would be her best bet on a way out.

Seeing that Claire was now standing near the captain's quarters at the back of the top deck, Kaide hurried over as if she was planning to help carry the heavy crate, keeping an eye on the elf as she moved.

"-over a thousand gold pieces when you get to work within the inner circle of Miss Valeria." One of the sailors was midway through their sentence as Kaide tried to slip past in an attempt to make a quick exit over the gangplank. "Seriously?" Another man asked. To her unpleasant surprise she found her exit blocked. Just behind the group with the crate, a tall elf came up the boarding ramp alongside the noble elf's guard, Herron. The two of them were accompanied by the last two men who pulled the gangplank in once they boarded. With her opportunity to escape blocked by the elf's henchmen, Kaide turned back around, quietly cussing to herself. There was no doubt that the guard would recognise her. She didn't consider the elf's dirty blonde guard to be a problem. Aside from his size, he didn't look very intimidating. He seemed more like the dumb, brute strength kind of guy. She was confident she could outrun him. The tall elf however gave her the chills. Judging from the fact he accompanied the elf's guard, this man was likely the spellcaster that had sealed the tavern doors at their first encounter a couple of days ago. His blonde, sleek, shoulder-length hair that was greying told her this man was an older elf. He looked educated, both by books and experience. Kaide had never liked magic. It was something she didn't know how to fight.



"Let me help with that," Kaide said casually when she slipped in between the group that was carrying the cargo. "Miss Valeria is travelling with us?" She asked, joining into the banter that the seamen were having. "Yes. Her father, Mr. Valeria, is the head of a large trading company overseas," the man on Kaide's left grunted as he carefully stepped over a threshold. "She's a very respectable young lady. Bet she'll eventually follow in her father's footsteps," one man in the back added, to be responded to with an irritated groan from a third man who seemed to disagree. The group brought the crate on deck, but Kaide wasn't planning to help hoist the crate all the way down to the cargo deck. So just as quickly as she had offered to help, she was gone again. Sticking to the dark lower decks, she pretended to be busy until she found another opportunity to make her escape. However, only minutes later Kaide could feel the ship begin to sway. They had departed.

Whatever would happen to her when she got caught, was not going to be something she looked forward to. Another rant from the elf would be the best case scenario, and even the idea of that was horrific to Kaide. For just a brief moment, Kaide looked out over the sea through one of the portholes. They had only just departed. She could swim her way back to the shore. But she had to do so without being in plain sight.

The tiefling made her way to the ship's aft and entered the balcony. Jumping off a ship had never been so tempting. A moment of fear struck Kaide as she looked over the edge and realised how high she was above the water. Her gaze went back up to the land, becoming more distant by the second. Was she really going to risk swimming back to land to get on another ship? She could also stay on the ship and wait the two weeks out, trying to avoid the blonde elf and her company. A moment of silent staring into the deep water led her to the impulsive decision. "Like hell I am-," she let out, full of adrenaline as she shakily held onto the railing to climb over, her eyes locked on the safety of the shore.

Kaide didn't get very far. A firm grip on her waist kept her on board, reeling her back in. A surprised groan escaped her lips as she was pulled back and put down on her feet. "Get off me!" She hissed as she fought the stranger's arms off of her. "Are you crazy- Jumping overboard?! You'll drown!" a man barked in return. Kaide managed to escape the stranger's grip and turned around quickly, coming eye to eye with the young half elf she had seen at the docks earlier. In a blind panic, she swung an uncoordinated fist at him, which he barely dodged. "Hey-! What the-!" He stepped back with both hands raised in a defensive position. The tiefling took the opportunity to run and the man curiously watched her scurry off.



Kaide made her way down to the orlop, hiding from the stranger that had just held her back. "What the hell was that about?" Kaide quietly muttered to herself. The man's brown eyes locked with hers in a flash of her memory. If she wanted to stay out of sight, it would be best to stay below deck. With a bit of luck, anyone of importance would rarely go there. All she had to do was to lay low, especially now that that half elf had spotted her. What if he ratted her out? A few hours passed as Kaide pretended she was busy around the stored coils of rope and cables, doing anything to avoid having to go back to the top deck. Out of boredom however, she eventually resorted to just hanging around her hammock.

More sailors had come down to the lower decks as most tasks on the main deck had been finished. Everyone started searching for a place to hang out, whether it be their hammock or a table to play a card game. Casual conversations started to fill the space, and it provided good entertainment to listen in on all the different topics that were going on. "I decided I no longer wanted to be in her space. I quickly looked for a job on the sea. These kids drive me nuts," a big man let out desperately to his fellow mates. "I heard the kid say they pay richly," another added. "Yeah, because those who die at sea will have their reward spread among the crew," one man laughed out loud. "So if I manage to end all of you before we set foot on land again, does that mean I will get to have 'all the coins fifty men can carry'?" The group bursted into laughter; their interaction gave away that they were familiar with one another already.

"Hey, tiefling," one of the sailors called out to Kaide upon seeing her tail partially hanging out of the hammock. "What's your business here? It's rare to see a little lady like you on the rough seas." Kaide stopped fiddling with the small ring that was tied to the hilt of her blade. It was the only thing that she carried on her that held actual value to her. Emotional value. The rogue looked up now that she was suddenly included in the conversation. "Why do you ask? Think I won't hold out?" Without any warning, she launched her dagger towards the group. It landed in the wooden support of the ship, only inches away from the man's head. "It's none of your business," she bit back in an offended manner. "Woah- No need to get all spunky with me," the sailor said. Not that he was going to openly admit it, but he was scared of how precise the throw was. Or rather, how precise it could have been. "It's just that we didn't expect your kind here," the man let out in a low voice. Her kind? Some of these people had quite the nerve. "Those are some neat blades you got there, tiefling," another man let out as he pulled the dagger from the wood. Kaide jumped out of her hammock and walked straight up to the guy who held her blade. "I know," she growled, already feeling where this confrontation was headed. "Now, give my blade back, human." She emphasised in the same way the sailors had done towards her. Some of the other men started snickering and Kaide's patience was wearing thin. She took a step closer, about to raise a fist and fight to get her belongings back.



"Cut it out!" The half elf walked in and diffused the fight before it began. It was the same young man that had held Kaide back before when she was about to throw herself overboard. The tiefling quickly snatched her dagger back and sheathed it. "Miss. Valeria knows the kind of people she lets onto her ship, give her a chance," the young half elf continued. "Knows the kind of people she lets onto her ship? Yeah right, you all put too much trust in that spoiled elf." The rogue made her way back to her hammock, distancing herself from the group. "Believe me, if she really knew, I wouldn't be here," she scoffed. "So I would highly appreciate it if you can keep your mouth shut. Or I will make sure you won't open it ever again," she threatened. Kaide was more bark than bite, but she couldn't help but feel endangered in the hostile conversation. There was already too much attention on her, the last thing she needed was Claire to find out she was on board. One of the sailors apparently wasn't done yet as he opened his mouth to share his piece of mind about the tiefling's threats, but the second the half elf raised a finger in the man's direction he seemed to swallow his words again. And so, the crew slowly returned to minding their own business. When all seemed to have genuinely calmed down, the half elf continued his business on the upper deck. On the deck directly above Kaide, however, some ruckus was heard. It was difficult to discern exactly what was happening because of the muffled sound, but it was obvious that something was going on.

"What do you mean there is a tiefling on my ship?!" Claire let out in frustration. She was sitting in the master cabin with the ship's captain, his first mate and the ship's Bosun, Mr. Crook. The bosun had been responsible for hiring crew recruiters at Winthstorm's harbour. "Are you completely out of your mind?!" She yelled. "I'm sorry, Miss. Valeria, I didn't- The boy in the harbour recruited her," Mr. Crook muttered in a petty excuse as he rubbed the back of his neck. "We can turn back. I will personally make sure that she gets off board," the man offered, realising that the grave mistake could possibly cost him his job. "No. You will personally make sure she will be off board when we are halfway through our trip," Claire let out in a hiss. "And don't trust a child's judgement! For heaven's sake, a tiefling. Because of their infernal bloodline their abilities could easily set our ship ablaze! Might as well be the very thief that stole my coin purse days ago." The elf got up and took a deep breath to collect herself. "So for next time... Because I prefer you learn, rather than having to replace you... Please pay attention to the crew that boards my ship." Claire always kept her cool, but not when it came down to a threat that could have been avoided. "If any of my crew gets harmed by the tiefling on our trip, you will swim with the sharks beside them." With those last words the blonde turned for the deck, shutting the door behind her. Herron was quick to follow after the noble along with Nord, who excused himself briefly. It remained silent for a moment as some awkward glances were shared in the cabin between the captain, his first mate, and the Bosun. "Right.. I'll go- fix this tiefling problem before she has my head for it," Mr. Crook chuckled somewhat nervously before he took his leave too, and headed towards the stairs to check the lower decks.



The elf and her guard were standing at the railing on the side of the top deck. Claire had her arms crossed and tapped her finger on her arm restlessly. She could not believe how everything had already gone awry after they had just barely left the harbour. "Are you alright?" Herron asked carefully as he sensed Claire's mood had soured. Well, it was hard to miss since the girl's upper lip twitched from agitation. "Anything I can do for you? I could help Mr. Crook to rid of the nuisance this instant," the guard offered, referring to the tiefling that was holed up somewhere below deck. From the way Herron spoke, it was clear the man was choosing his words carefully. He was without a doubt somewhat intimidated by the elf's outburst that he had just witnessed in the Master cabin. "No. No, Herron. It will be fine," Claire answered, resting her hand on his lower arm. "I shouldn't let that tiefling get to me. I can handle this," the elf took a deep breath as she wiped some strands of hair out of her face. "We'll find them eventually."

Mr. Crook made his way down the stairs at the front of the ship. The man had an unpleasant air around him, as his job was at risk. The Valeria family paid handsomely and there was no way he was risking it all over some tiefling girl that had gotten on board. However, he was a little at a loss about what to do with the girl once he had found her. Throwing her overboard seemed a little too rash as she had done nothing wrong. The man let out a groan as his son stopped him in his tracks. "Oh, father dear," the young half elf let out with a cheesy smile. "Something wrong with the sails?" he asked, surprised to see his father stomping his way down the deck. "There's always something wrong, Dereck. But it ain't the sails this time," Mr. Crook answered. "The tiefling girl. Where is she?" The man groaned while he pushed past his son, keeping his pace towards the sailor's hammocks. "Miss. Valeria will have my head for allowing her to stay on board."

Kaide was still hanging around her hammock when she heard the word "tiefling" coming from the stairs not too far away from her. Really? They were already looking for her and she hadn't even done anything wrong yet. She had barely even shown her face around the ship. Kaide briefly made eye contact with some of the sailors who were playing a card game at the nearby table. It was obvious they had overheard part of the conversation too. The tiefling could feel all of the eyes that were glued on her as she let herself slide out of her hammock to take her leave. She would avoid that confrontation for as long as she would be able to. Luckily enough, the ship had two sets of stairs which meant Kaide could switch decks unseen.



By the time Mr. Crook arrived at the hammocks, followed by Dereck, there was no sign of the tiefling. "Where is she?" the man let out, looking at the sailors who had fallen silent now that their card game got interrupted. A few of the men shrugged indifferently. They had seen Kaide head off, but where she had gone exactly, no one knew. Not to mention that none of the sailors wanted to get involved with the case, and no one wanted to be known as a snitch amongst the rest of the crew. "I'll go look for her. Don't worry too much about it," the half elf tried to reassure his father, aiming to diffuse the situation.

Mr. Crook searched for more than an hour, but the tiefling had managed to stay out of sight. Dereck offered to keep an eye out so his father could continue his regular duties. Eventually night fell and most of the sailors had headed off to sleep. Claire herself was not informed on the unknown whereabouts of the tiefling, which was for the better. She was sitting close to the helm having casual conversation with the captain and Nord as the last traces of sunset coloured the sky. The starry night was becoming clearer by the minute, and she had already forgotten the tiefling issue. Her thoughts were with her father and how proud he would be if she would show him how independent she was.

"Look... I know you're around here... Somewhere," Dereck let out quietly as he walked around the orlop, the lowest deck of the ship. The man made his way through the dark perfectly fine. "I'm not here to sell you out or hurt you, I just want to help." The young man passed rows of stacked barrels as he checked the small spaces in between. "I'm sorry you were not properly informed from the start so we could have avoided the whole situation." Kaide was sitting between some stacked cargo. She had kept herself busy for hours on end by carving into the side of a crate. Being by herself made the time crawl by extremely slowly, but when she heard footsteps approaching, she hadn't yet decided if having company around would be any better. The half elf passed the crates one by one, until he suddenly looked straight into the piercing eyes of the rogue. The girl was sitting on top of a barrel, leaning against a larger crate in a snug space. The look in her eyes was dangerous. "Situation?" Kaide let out a mocking chuckle, keeping her knife ready. "No- No. By all means, refusing me because I'm a tiefling would be straight up discriminatory," she hissed. The two shared some inquisitive glances. "Look, I don't agree either. Her contempt for tieflings is a mere brainwashing. Claire is a goody two shoes, she likes to work politically and doesn't like violence."



Kaide sheathed her dagger as she looked back at the crate. Out of boredom, she had carved a demon-esque figure in the wood, which kind of resembled her. "So," Kaide started as she got up, swiftly and effortlessly climbing over the cargo towards Dereck. "How much do you get paid to tell me this?" the tiefling asked with narrowed eyes, leaning against the stacked barrels behind her. Kaide's question was ignored in the man's response. "The name's Dereck," he replied, a soft smile on his lips. "Nice try, Dereck, but all of you rich folks are the same. Give me one good reason to trust you." The tiefling frowned at the man, who seemed almost entertained solely by her presence. With all the time that had gone by, Kaide didn't even have the chance yet to get something to eat. A quiet rumble in her stomach got the girl slightly flustered with the silence. "We'll see about that." Dereck's eyes flicked briefly to her stomach. "Stay here. I'll get you something to eat," the man offered, already turning away.

Not even ten minutes later, Kaide could hear footsteps approaching once more. Dereck had returned with a bowl of stew and a pint of beer. She was surprised to see the man actually lived up to his word. Without a word, the man approached Kaide, holding up the bowl and pint for her. The tiefling seemed hesitant to accept the offer, but eventually took it from him. "Thanks..." she muttered. Sceptical of the man's intentions, she was hesitant to dig in right away. "It's definitely not the best stew, but it will have to do. It's likely better than the food on most other ships." Dereck smiled. "I'll be out on the top deck for a while," the half elf said before retreating and leaving Kaide to her own devices. It was strange how the man seemed to be so invested in Kaide's wellbeing. When her hiding place returned to silence, Kaide carefully sniffed the stew. Nothing smelled out of the ordinary, and upon tasting it she came to the same conclusion. Another grumble from her stomach convinced the rogue to dig in.

Another two hours had passed, but Kaide was afraid to fall asleep. The idea that Dereck's kindness might have an ulterior motive lingered in the back of her mind and kept her awake. Any creak of wood or gust of wind would put the girl on edge again, but being by herself at night in the dark became pretty boring rather quickly. Cramped in such a small space for so long, the tiefling finally decided she needed to escape for a bit. Climbing carefully out of the cargo and heading toward the upper deck, she wondered idly if Dereck was still up. She didn't expect the man to still be awake now that the stars were out, but spending time on the top deck was a nice change of scenery from the cramped corner of the orlop.



It was quiet around the ship. Only a small portion of the ship's crew was awake for the night shift, and even those who were on duty were taking things easy. As Kaide glanced around to ensure no one was watching, the rigging immediately caught her eye. No one would care to bother her up there. She climbed the netting until halfway up the foremast and made herself comfortable on the wooden rigging. With one foot hooked in the rope shroud, she kept herself steady, as her eyes looked over the ship to try and spot Dereck. So far, there was no sign of him. The sea was calm, the only sounds coming from the rhythmic breaking of the waves against the ship's hull, as Kaide lost herself in thought. Half an hour passed of Kaide staring at the dark horizon before she was snapped out of it by a familiar voice, calling from below.

"Enjoying the view?" Kaide looked down to find Dereck standing at the base of the foremast. "I've got some rum if you'd like," he suggested with a goofy smile on his face. This man was really not giving up. It wasn't flirtatious, but it was beyond plain friendliness. Kaide quickly realised however that being on Dereck's good side could work in her favour later on. He looked like he had some important position or at least a high status around here. "Are you even allowed to drink on the job?" The tiefling teased, gently swaying her tail as she kept her eyes on the man below her. "I'm not working right now. Besides, I can hold my liquor," he opposed playfully, holding up his drink to offer it to Kaide and inviting her to come down. "I don't need you to be looking out for me, you know. I'm more than capable of taking care of myself. Always have and always will." It became clear to Dereck that the tiefling had been on her own for a long time. Kaide decided to give the man the benefit of the doubt for now and got up to join him on the deck below her. As she climbed down the netting, a cold breeze picked up, sending a shiver down Kaide's spine. Once she was standing with both feet on deck again, she accepted the drink the man offered. "I believe you," the half elf said, starting to take off his coat to offer the girl some warmth as well. Kaide brought the jug to her lips, expecting the dull taste and strong bite of the booze back in town, only to be pleasantly surprised by the refined taste. "Where'd you get this? Some celebration at the top deck?" Kaide asked curiously. "I wish, I enjoy a good party." Dereck let out a cheeky chuckle as he held up his coat for Kaide. "It's on tap in the captain's suite."



Although hesitant, Kaide took the offer of Dereck's coat, which he wrapped around her shoulders before he made a gesture to receive his drink back. Kaide smiled at him cheekily and even moved the drink out of the man's reach. It was without doubt the best rum she had tasted in a long time. "Come on- Do I really need to get myself a new drink?" Dereck smiled, lowering his hand in realisation that he had lost his drink to his new found company. "Well, I am not risking my skin by going near the captain's quarters to get one myself," the tiefling answered, hogging the man's drink, testing his limits and patience. So far, he seemed genuine. And it was clear from his investment that he had a certain interest in her. "So what do you do around here to be allowed in the captain's suite anyway?" Kaide asked, curious about Dereck's exact status on the ship. She clenched the top of Dereck's coat closed at her neck to keep herself warm. "Just some boring official paperwork and negotiations. What about you? After all the ruckus and hiding I'm curious about how you ended up here," Dereck asked. "I needed a quick trip out of town. Stupidly enough, this ship was the first one to depart," Kaide scoffed. "I don't expect to be able to stay out of sight forever. Can't exactly run either." The tiefling sighed and took another sip of the drink. She conveniently left out how she had already had an encounter with Claire in Winthstorm before. "How long before we dock at the next harbour?" "Our first stop is at Gaitso island. We'll hit land in roughly two days from now," Dereck answered, "I have to pay a visit to an important Valeria trading partner." Kaide let out an annoyed grumble in response. There was no way she would be able to avoid getting caught for another two days.

The distress was clearly written on the girl's face. "Too long?" Dereck gave an upward nod with a soft smile plastered on his lips. Kaide let out a soft groan as she realised she had zoned out. "Sorry. Yeah, kind of," she confirmed. "It'll be fine. I've spent enough time on a ship to know how to keep one entertained," Dereck replied, "So you'll survive," he hummed. "It's not about being bored. I'm afraid that blonde elf has it out for me," Kaide let out, concerned. "You mean Claire?" Dereck scoffed at the idea. If there was someone not to be afraid of, it was Claire. "I got you. Alright, sunshine? Don't worry too much. Maybe try and catch some sleep."

There was a short silence as the two stood at a small distance from one another. "Kaide," the tiefling let out as to correct Dereck for the nickname he had suddenly thrown at her. "The name is Kaide," she repeated a little more quietly as she turned back around and took one last sip before handing the drink back to Dereck. "Kaide..." he repeated somewhat contently as he held onto the pint. "It's pretty cold below deck too so I'll borrow it from you for a little longer," she noted about the coat, adjusting it before she turned away. Dereck hummed in agreement and watched the half demon disappear down the stairs again. Left with the last dregs of rum in his hand, he chugged away with a smirk.



Kaide decided to call it a night and quietly returned to her hammock. With most other seamen asleep, she was sure she'd be able to catch a couple hours of sleep before morning. It was safe to assume no one would be actively looking for her at this hour. As she made herself comfortable under the borrowed coat, the thought of Dereck lingered. It was odd how this stranger showed her so much sincere kindness. As long as she would keep at least one ally on board, it could save her skin. With that in mind, Kaide eventually dozed off.

The next morning came too soon for Kaide. She had barely caught five hours of sleep when the first crew members began rising from their hammocks and noisily prepared themselves for the day. Still tired, she groaned and pulled the coat over her head in an attempt to cut herself off from all the ruckus around her. After about thirty minutes of struggling to sleep, the tiefling resigned herself to the waking world and began searching for a way to pass the time. She mostly stuck to the lower decks as she tried to stay out of sight. From time to time she would run into a sailor fulfilling some task and offer some aid. Coiling ropes and hoisting cargo wasn't the most thrilling work, but she honestly had little else to do. It was even a plus that it helped the time pass more quickly. Later in the afternoon, Kaide had retreated to the hammocks again. She stuck to the background as she quietly listened to the crew who were telling each other the wildest, overexaggerated stories. She enjoyed listening in, rather than actively partaking. She was trying to keep a low profile and luckily, so far the crew didn't seem bothered enough to rat her out.

"Everyone on deck!" one of the sailors suddenly called out, accompanied by the ringing of a bell. Kaide didn't immediately jump at the call, but the rest of the crew paused their games for a gathering at the top deck. She spotted Dereck, who was standing near the stairs. When the half elf looked in her direction, they shared brief eye contact. Kaide already had a hunch where this was going. A reassuring nod was sent her way, before Dereck turned away again. Whatever was going on, Dereck held more information. The crew, including Dereck, started making their way to the upper deck. The rogue eventually climbed out of her hammock. She was one of the last to follow the others upstairs. Sticking closely to the group for some cover, she tried to get a view on what was going on. The mutters and quiet chattering died down as the captain's first mate climbed the steps towards the quarter deck to be above the group. "Silence!" the man called out to catch the attention of the crew. "Miss. Valeria has an announcement." The blonde elf was guided onto the steps with a hand from Herron. She briefly thanked her guard before facing the crowd.



"Good afternoon, gentlefolks. I hope you all feel well rested on this lovely day." The noble started out, already scanning the crowd for the odd one out. "As some of you may have heard, we have an unwelcome guest aboard my ship. And I don't appreciate stowaways," the elf pressed politely. Dereck had already made his way through the crowd towards Claire to interrupt her, while Kaide scooted even further to the back of the group. "I would be very grateful if we can capture the stray before they cause damage to my ship or harm any of the crew. For those who bring the tiefling in, you can expect to be rewarded." As the last words slipped past Claire's lips, a few men already started to look around for the tiefling. Kaide could feel the heat beneath her feet. At this point, with some eyes already locked on her, there was no way to run.

"There will be no reward," Dereck instantly cut off, making his way up the stairs to step beside Claire. Herron was about to stop him, until Claire gestured to let the man pass. "The tiefling means no harm and boarded our ship by accident," Dereck said. The noble was taken aback by the confident opposition. "Dereck," Claire let out in a warning tone to which Herron was on high alert and reached for Dereck's arm. "I will take responsibility for her and make sure she stays out of trouble and safely secluded." The half elf confronted the blonde as he was clearly not afraid to face her. "And how would you know?" Claire bit back, her hand still gesturing for Herron to wait. "Because I spoke with her. Don't start a witch hunt, I have this under control," he pressed. Whispers started among the crew, and before she knew it everyone caught on to Kaide's whereabouts. "She's right there!" One man called out. Frozen in fear, Kaide felt a lump in her throat. Shortly after she felt a firm grip on her upper left arm, almost immediately followed by another on her right. When Claire followed the crowd's gazes towards Kaide, she gasped as she recognized the tiefling's face instantly.

"You?!" Claire let out spitefully. Dereck gently pulled his arm free from Herron's grip as he saw Kaide now too. The tiefling nervously locked eyes with Claire before hastily averting them. "You know her?" Dereck let out, surprised to see the elf was tongue-tied. "That's the tiefling who robbed Claire at Winthstorm," Herron filled in, watching the elf find her words.

Weirdly enough, the new information caused a smile to form on Dereck's face. Knowing that Kaide was the culprit that Claire had been so anguished about over the past couple of days, amused him.



"Herron, see her to the brig. And Nord, secure her. I am not going to wait for her infernal fire to set my ship ablaze," she hissed. Nord calmly gestured to Claire that it would be taken care of. The older man knew better than to make a fuss over the current situation, but also knew there was no debating with the elf after the heated encounter. Herron too did as commanded and made his way over to take a hold of Kaide, who shared a distressed glance with Dereck. Claire followed closely and the seamen made way for the noble to pass. "You... Will be handed over to the authorities. And they will do with a thief as they will see fit," Claire let out vengefully as she came closer to the stowaway. "Strip her of her belongings." Kaide barely had the chance to reach out to her blade, before one of the crew had already unsheathed her throwing knives, while another took a hold of her dagger.

"Hands off! That's mine!" Kaide hissed at the guy who eyed her dagger as well as the golden ring that was tied to its handle. Dereck was sticking close to Claire, trying to talk some sense into her. "Don't you think it's a little overdone, Claire? She isn't a threat," he attempted to diffuse in disbelief, but in reality there was not a lot that he could do about the current situation. Kaide never stood a chance and she knew it. Her eyes were still focused on her dagger when Herron gestured to the others to step aside. With a swift motion, the girl's arms were twisted behind her back while the guard worked her down towards the floor.

"Claire-" Dereck started again, getting frustrated that no one seemed to listen to him. Despite all the ruckus, Kaide barely resisted. She had known this moment was inevitable; it wasn't in her favour to put up a fight at this point. Instead she chose to keep her eyes on her dagger, but the man who had taken it soon disappeared between the rest of the crew that surrounded her. "I thought our run in at the tavern was history. You got your money back, right?" Kaide grumbled, looking at the blonde elf that towered over her. She was pulled back up on her feet by Herron after he had tied the rogue's hands behind her back. Claire never responded, nor was Kaide allowed any time to speak before the guard dragged the girl off towards the brig.

After some peace had returned to the ship and its crew, the first mate approached Claire to hand over their captive's belongings. "Miss Valeria, the thief's bag," the man said as he presented it, along with a crumpled up wanted poster that had been found in one of its side pockets. The elf curiously reached for the paperwork to inspect it. A drawn picture of a tiefling girl that closely resembled Kaide, wanted by authorities. The promised bounty indicated the tiefling's criminal record held more than a small felony. "I guess it's not just an innocent pickpocket we're dealing with," Claire let out with concern as Dereck stepped up behind her, taking over the paper. "Next time, don't oppose me," The elf warned Dereck before turning away. "You cannot trust her."

