

**PYRIA**

EXT. PYRIA'S COTTAGE - DAY

An ingenious vegetable garden, constructed from recycled plastic bottles, dangles from the branches of the trees. Amberle sits at the table, her plate of stew untouched. Pyria exits the cottage holding a loaf of bread.

PYRIA

You need to eat.

AMBERLE

I was just thinking that if I'd never run the Gauntlet, right now I'd be home in Arborlon with Lorin. He always makes me feel safe.

Pyria sits opposite, tears the loaf in two.

PYRIA

Safety doesn't always equal love.

AMBERLE

You don't know him.

PYRIA

I know what it's like to be a young royal who doesn't want the life laid out before her. From your actions, I take it that you don't want that life either.

AMBERLE

I just can't imagine my future without him in it.

Pyria's face thaws.

PYRIA

I felt the same way about a man once.

AMBERLE

Is that why you left Arborlon?

PYRIA

He was a Human. We fell in love during the War... at least I did. Afterwards he disappeared and I wanted to go after him. Eventine forbade it, only your mother supported my decision. I will always be in her debt.

Amberle smiles wistfully.

AMBERLE

I wish I had known her.

PYRIA

You inherited her strength and her beauty.

AMBERLE

Did you ever find this Human?

Pyria shakes her head.

PYRIA

Some stories don't have happy endings.

AMBERLE

Any regrets?

PYRIA

Many, but going after him wasn't one.

AMBERLE

Why didn't you come back to Arborlon?

PYRIA

Because once my eyes had been opened to the real problems facing the Four Lands, I couldn't go back to sleep.

(beat)

Prejudice between the Races has been around longer than the Ellcrys. I guarantee it's destroyed more lives than any demon.

OFF Amberle, the truth of Pyria's words resonating...