

THE NIGHT BEFORE I LEFT MY FAMILY'S ANCESTRAL ESTATE IN NEVARRA, I HAD AN **ENORMOUS** FIGHT WITH MY MOTHER.

THIS WAS NOT **UNUSUAL**. PART OF THE REASON I LEFT WAS BECAUSE I REGULARLY HAD ENORMOUS FIGHTS WITH MY MOTHER.

AND MY AUNT.

AND **BOTH** OF MY OLDER BROTHERS.

AND **ALL FIVE** OF MY OLDER SISTERS.

AND **MOST** OF MY TUTORS. SOME OF THE SERVANTS, TOO...

...AND THE BARMAN DOWN THE TWISTED TRUNK, NOW THAT I COME TO THINK OF IT.

I'D BEEN CAUGHT... WELL, THE WORD MOTHER USED WAS "**STEALING**," THOUGH I **STRENUOUSLY** OBJECTED TO THAT CHARACTERIZATION.

(LOOK, I WOULD'VE RETURNED THE RING ONCE THE WEDDING HAD BEEN CALLED OFF, ALL RIGHT?)

ANYWAY, THE FIGHT GOT **UGLY**. I SAID I WAS **DONE**, I WAS LEAVING CUMBERLAND, THAT I WAS LEAVING NEVARRA.

"TESSAREY!" SHE SAID, "WHAT IS IT YOU THINK YOU CAN DO?"

I POINTED OUT THE WINDOW, TO OUR FAMILY'S **NECROPOLIS**.

MOTHER LAUGHED AT ME.

AGES AND AGES OF FORSYTHIA **DEAD**, FAITHFULLY TENDED BY THE MORTALITASI.

THAT'S **NEVARRA**. WE'RE A NATION **OBSESSED** WITH NOT ONLY TENDING OUR DEAD, BUT **BECOMING** IT.

"I'M GOING TO **LIVE**," I TOLD HER.

IF MY MOTHER HAD ANY IDEA OF WHAT I WAS DOING NOW...



MARIUS!
THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK!



...SHE'D BE LAUGHING AT ME STILL.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T STOP--



-- I'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM OCCUPIED FOR SO LONG.

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DIE, MARIUS.

YOU UNDERSTAND ME?





WE ARE SO VERY MUCH OUT OF OUR DEPTH.



THIS IS *NOT* WHAT WE DO.



WE KILL MAGES. *THAT'S* WHAT WE DO.

WHICH IS PROBABLY *NOT* THE BEST WAY TO LIVE, YES, I KNOW.



A FEW MONTHS AGO, WE GOT **BLACKMAILED** INTO KILLING SOME VERY **SPECIFIC** MAGES FOR ARCHON RADONIS. A GROUP CALLED THE **VENATORI**.

ARCHON RADONIS, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, IS THE **RULER** OF THE **TEVINTER IMPERIUM**. HE IS A VERY POWERFUL AND DANGEROUS **MAGE**.