









BEEN AT THIS FOR YEARS. I'VE FOUGHT SYLVANS, FIENDS, HAGS... BASILISKS, LESHENS, GHOULS, AND GRIFFINS. A HUNDRED OTHER BEASTS.

JUST ONE THING THESE CREATURES HAVE IN COMMON...



IT'S POINTLESS TO TRY TO GUESS WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.



HUH. THEY'RE LIKE ANYONE ELSE, THEN.



SKRAK

RUSTLE-RUSTLE



HOLD UP, NOW! SOMETHIN' BEHIND THIS TREE...





GERALT, DO YOU THINK VULPESSES ARE INTELLIGENT?

BY WHOSE STANDARDS?

I MEAN, ARE THEY SMART LIKE US OR... INSTINCTIVELY CLEVER LIKE ANIMALS?



THEY SEEM TO BE BOTH, HAVE BOTH KINDS OF INTELLIGENCE. AND JUDGING BY WHERE WE ARE NOW, IT'S A PRETTY EFFECTIVE BLEND.

INTELLIGENCE IS A TRICKY CONCEPT. DIFFERENT KINDS OF IT AROUND. FOXES HAVE THEIRS, AS DO PEASANTS, ANTS, ELVES, WHORES...

SHAPED BY THEIR NEEDS, MOSTLY, THEIR DRIVES...



WHAT DOES THE VULPESS NEED?



DUNNO. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK HER NEXT TIME SHE SHOWS.

IS HE ALWAYS SO DIFFICULT TO TALK TO?



NO. THERE'S TIMES HE'S WORSE.

BUT HE'S GOT A CERTAIN CHARM AND HE'S NOT THE SORT TO STEAL YOUR BREAD, SO HE MAKES A FINE TRAVELIN' COMPANION, SO LONG AS--

TREASURE!