

((Note: This whole story is not canon to the RP. This section takes place during [chapter 40](#).)

A new morning has arrived and Jericho was sitting at one of the tables, helping himself to a bowl of cinnamon oatmeal made by the cooks. He enjoyed and savored each spoonful, tasting the sweet spice that was in his food. As he continued to eat, he started to hear two people talking to each other at another table. Jericho looked to them, seeing that they were a man and a woman. The woman said to the man, "Honey, do you think Jason and the other men will be alright out there in these woods?" It sounds like the archer had gathered up some men to save Kathia. He must have done it either last night immediately after Jericho went to bed or this morning before the thief woke up.

Her husband replied, "Well darling, I don't know. These folks are still learning how to fight and use magic. I don't know what that necromancer is like, but I think Jason should do well to be careful around him." Jericho had already given the archer some advice last night to be better prepared for the rescue of Kathia. If Jason was smart, he would remember to heed the thief's words.

The woman said worriedly, "I do hope they'll be okay. It's horrible what he did to Marcus and that guard yesterday. Now he's using Kathia as hostage to use against some people at a mountain. I pray that nothing bad happens to that poor girl."

The husband said, "I hope so too, sweetie. Let's just hope for the best and see that they come back with her. For now, let's just enjoy breakfast and then we go see our friends." He gave her a comforting smile to try and get her mind off the bad stuff.

The wife smiled back and responded, "Okay honey." Then they begin to eat their breakfast.

As Jericho was nearly done with his bowl, his ears picked up another conversation. This time, it was two teenage boys. One of them complained, "Man, I can't believe we're not going to learn magic today. Stupid necromancer, I hope Jason kills him good!"

The other boy shared his friend's sentiment, "I know, right? We could be learning some killer-ass spells like explosions or flying in the sky."

The first boy quizzically asked, "Do wizards even fly?"

The second boy replied, "I don't know; I'd just thought it be cool if we could fly." Jericho was pretty sure that it was impossible that such a spell exists, because there has never been a flying mage in all of human history. After he swallowed his last spoon of the oatmeal, the thief got up and put his bowl and spoon in the clear container for the staff to wash. His since was over for him, he pondered his thoughts on what he could do in this camp next. Maybe he could explore this camp some more to see they had anything interesting going on. Maybe he could go ask someone when the Rittevon Construction Company would get here. Or better yet, he could go sneak into someone's tent and steal their valuables.

Sure he thought about doing this night, but stealing at the right time now won't hurt.

Jericho waited until more and more people left their tents to go eat. Once he saw plenty of people joining the line for food and eating at the tables, the thief made his move. He walked down a lane between rows of tents. He looked at his surroundings to see if there was anybody watching. He saw someone stationed at the watchtower in the center of this camp. It looks like they were watching another part of the camp, opposite side of where he was. This was good for Jericho; as long as the watcher's eyes were not on him, his robbery will go well. He went to one of the tents and leaned his head in close to the zipped flap. He felt a presence inside and heard sound of snoring too, which was muffled by the flap. Unlike last night, he would not raid an occupied tent as the person inside would be at the process of waking up. Jericho ignored the tent and checked the watchtower to see if the guard had started looking his way. They were, so Jericho had to move away from the tent, pretending he was just taking a stroll around camp. He kept his eyes away from the guard so as not to draw any suspicion. Once he went onto another lane between tents, the thief glanced up and saw that the guard was looking away. Jericho took the chance to look through the closest tent with a mesh window. No one was inside and the only thing in there was a black leather backpack. Jericho checked his surroundings again to make sure that there were no witnesses before going inside the tent. He opened the backpack and searched for money. But there was nothing of value inside. Just a cellphone and a portable video game console. The man closed back the backpack and put it back in its original place before he left the tent. He went to try again on another unoccupied tent.

(**Note:** This section takes place during [chapter 51](#).)

Sometime later, a heavy rain had begun to pour over the forest without warning. No weather forecast or a cloud in the sky had hinted about the change in weather. It seems as if the rain had been brought here by magical means, which most likely it was. The people of Sundown had to seal themselves in their tents to keep from getting soaked wet. Jericho had been sitting inside his tent bored out of his mind during the storm, waiting for the rain to go away. There was nothing to do here besides counting the money he stole from the refugees. If this camp had been a town already, then Jericho could be hanging out with someone and making a random conversation, or better yet be playing a game like darts for example. But nope, he has to deal with isolation and time instead. After a while, the raindrops gradually began to slow down and soften to the point where no new drops would make a sound on his tent or anywhere outside. It seems like the rain was beginning to end. Soon after a short while, Jericho heard someone announcing, "Hey everyone, Kathia's back! She's still alive in one piece!"

Sounds of tents being unzipped were heard and there were people rejoicing about this news. A woman said, "She's back? Oh thank goodness!"

A young man beamed excitedly, "Alright, now we can learn more magic!"

Another man said, "Looks like the guys who went out to rescue her did a great job."

The man who told the good news told him, "Actually, Jason's team wasn't with her. She only came back with some guy she calls Azera. They're both at her tent now where she's healing him."

The young man asked, "Azera? Who's that?"

As Jericho unzipped his tent to see the commotion, he saw the guard shrugging and answered, "Don't know, maybe you can ask Kathia about him." The thief also noticed that the rain had stopped, which was why this man came here telling the good news without an umbrella or raincoat.

Another woman suggested, "So since Jason and the others aren't back. Shouldn't we go out and find them to tell them the good news? They're still searching for her out there." Everyone else agreed with her.

The guard said, "You're right, we need someone to volunteer and look for them." Looking at everyone around him, he asked, "Who wants to do that?"

Jericho got out of his tent and was quick to answer first before anybody else, "I'll do it. I know how to traverse the forests pretty well. You can count on me for the job." He knew of his own abilities better than anyone else. He knew how to avoid wildlife, climb trees and travel across them, and remember landmarks to retrace his way back.

The guard gave him a short nod and replied, "Well then lad, be sure to take at least one or two guys with you. That rotten necromancer could still be out there, looking for someone to kill."

Jericho declines the advice and assures, "There's no need; I'm pretty good at sneaking around by myself. I'll be okay."

The guard looked at him uncertainly and said, "Okay then, I sure hope you know what you're doing. Good luck out there and be back safe, you hear?"

"Yeah, I hear you," the thief replied. Then he walked past the people to make his way out of Sundown, traversing on the wet grass and smelling the moisture in the air, both of which were the aftermath of the rain. Along the way, he saw other people coming out of their tents now that the storm was over. A few people, who had heard from the same guard, were on their way to see Kathia. It seems like everyone was pleased that they were getting their magic teacher back. Jericho left the camp and went into the woods.

((Note: This section takes place during [chapter 53](#).)

Jericho kept on searching for Jason's team for a while as he kept on going through the forest. He kept his senses alert for them and the necromancer, making sure that he does not run into the latter. The necromancer's probably looking for his escaped hostage at the moment. That man will most likely return to Sundown, knowing that Kathia will be there after escaping. If so, then Sundown would be in danger. Jericho cursed himself for not thinking about this earlier and felt that he should have told the people this, so that they could prepare themselves for an attack by the necromancer. But it is better late than never for he can tell Jason that when he finds him. Thinking of Jason, Jericho suspect that he will be over at the place where he will most likely find him. That place is Trident Mountain, the closest mountain to Sundown. The necromancer did say that he will be at a mountain where he will ambush his "prize", whoever that is. Sure Kathia is no longer with him, but the necromancer did sound obsessed with the "prize." Perhaps, he's figured out another idea to trap the "prize" with, since they were presumably more important than just 1 girl. But when did the "prize" get to the mountain? The thief had no idea. But still it was worth to check the mountain, just in case Jason's team is there, even if it did take a whole lot of time to search the whole place.

Soon after crossing through the woods some more, it turns out that Jericho did not need to go to Trident Mountain as he found the team walking by ahead of him. They must be still looking for the necromancer, because if they found out that Kathia has escaped, then they would be heading for Sundown and not going the other way. Jericho called out to them, "Hey Jason!"

The archer's team stopped and turned their attention onto the thief. Jason commented, "I know you; you're that guy who saw the kidnapping last night. What brings you out here?"

Jericho leaned his arm against a tree and told him, "Just came to you to tell you the good news. Word's been spread across Sundown that Kathia is back. A guard found her returning a-okay with another man named Azera."

The team was surprised in a good way as Jason asks, "For real? No wonder we didn't see her get dragged out for the fight with those dragons. We thought the bastard must have done something to her." So they must have already gone to whatever mountain the necromancer was at. It seems like Kathia has escaped prior the event.

One of the men in the team smiled with a flashing grin and commented, "I bet that Azera guy must have saved her. We should treat him to a drink." Jericho wouldn't be too certain that Azera really did any rescuing. They'll have to find out once they get back to Sundown.

Another man with the same enthusiasm agreed, "Yeah, I'd like to hear if and how he beat up that necromancer to save her."

Jason smiled gladly and said, "Looks like the mission's been accomplished behind our back before we even knew it. Alright folks, let's head on back to Sundown. We'll rest and then we start our weapons class."

The team sounded excited for it as one of them cried, "Alright, I can't wait!" Then everyone began to make their way back to Sundown with Jericho taking the lead.

Soon, the thief fell back to where he started walking alongside the archer. He needed to tell him the concern he had in mind. Jericho said to him, "Hey Jason."

"Yeah?" asked the archer.

Jericho asked, "Did the necromancer ever get one of the dragons he was going after?"

Jason answered, "No, why?"

The thief suggested, "Since Kathia's back in camp now, shouldn't we worry that the necromancer will come back to Sundown and try to take her or someone else again? I mean he did need a quote-unquote "bait" to trap one of the dragons. And since he didn't get it, he's probably going to try this trick again. I think we should put extra security in the camp tonight. You know? Just to be safe." He knew the extra security idea would make tonight's robbery more difficult, but at least it was better than having the chance of him getting killed by a maniac. Besides, he can wait for the necromancer to be gone until it was safe to steal again.

Jason liked the plan, "Good idea, I should tell that to Roderick, so that we can organize some people to help watch the camp tonight." The men continued on their way through the forest until they got to Sundown.