

As my right hand moved upward to grab yet another vine, I felt the tiny footholds on the wall underneath my feet give way and I came crashing down to the ground. "Ugh..." I groaned, bringing my hands to my face and rolling over in defeat. I gathered my things and made my way back the way I came.

When I got to the top of the hill I stopped and looked out at the city of Haeven. Glistening buildings of white stone, each dotted with tiny windows. To the far left, the East Sea, the moon reflecting off of its smooth surface. To the right, fields where we grow our crops and the small cottages where the farmers lived. In the middle of the city rose the palace, rising from the ground to form a shape resembling a triangle. Haeven was surrounded by a huge wall. The royal family says that they built this wall to protect the city from horrible monsters but we have never been threatened by said monsters and no one has ever seen them. Now I go out every night and climb the wall, trying to get over it and into the world beyond. And without fail, I find myself walking back home, disappointment heavy on my chest.

The wall is a complex structure made of a hard stone with guard stations positioned every 100 feet or so. It is almost completely covered in vines of all shapes and sizes, making it hard to find the best ones for climbing. While navigating the side of the wall, I have to watch for guard stations, and avoid them.

I walked down the hill toward the rising sun, through the tall pink-blue grass. The air was thick with spring pollen and smelled faintly of strawberries. I made my way to a cottage near the sea where I live. I live there alone, and that's fine with me. The cottage is small, made of sandstone and clay. There's not much inside, just a dull rug, a bed, and a table. When I get inside, I drop off my things and collapse onto the bed.

As I was finally falling asleep, I heard the loud knocking of a fist on my door. I know this has to be the police or royal guard because there's no one else that would want to visit me.

Having prepared for this moment, I quickly, but carefully, rolled the rug back to reveal a trapdoor. I opened it so I could crawl into a small ditch in the floor, being careful to roll the rug back out so it looked natural. Then I closed the trapdoor. All of this took maybe 30 seconds. Almost immediately after I got to safety, I heard the door being knocked to the ground. Many crashes and shouts followed as they searched the house. I tried as hard as I could to stay silent, but one last noise was too much...

Hearing the smashing of my glass elephant, I let out a small whimper. One guard must have heard me because the trapdoor opened and the face of a young guard appeared in the hole.

"I found the Nameless Girl!" He shouts to the other guards, and they quickly pick me out of my hiding spot. I grab the first thing I touch and throw it as hard as I can at the guard to my right, and she screams in terror as the glass shard cuts her forehead. I turn around and kick the other guard in the stomach and he doubles over in pain. I slide under the last guy, who had been blocking the door, and run as fast as I can to the city.

As soon as I get there I jump from a table to the roof of the nearest house. I jump from roof to

roof and make my way over to the palace. When I finally get there, I grab hold of a small detailing in the stone. The structure was covered with engravings that make easy handholds. I make my way up to the top of the spire. I then perch right above the second-highest balcony. I wait for a few minutes, catching my breath, then jump down onto the platform. I walk into the room, and go over to the bed where the heir is sleeping, shake her a bit and whisper, "Talin, Talin, wake up."

She sits up, groggy, and murmurs, "whatzat?" When Talin realizes it's me that woke her, her eyes go wide. "What's wrong, Dep?" Dep is the name she gave me when we first met. Usually, I don't let people give me a name, but she was the exception.

"They found me," I whisper back. I really hope she has a plan.

"Okay," she is pacing the room now, still in her royal pajamas. "We need to get over the wall. Right now."

I don't know how we'll do it, but I nod my head in agreement, trusting her.

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When we get to the base of the wall she tells me the plan. It was sound, but dangerous. I didn't want to think about the what-ifs.

Talin hands me a long blade and pulls her own out of her scabbard. She then puts her hoverplate on the ground just to the left of the first guard tower and steps on. I follow and it wizzes upward, stopping right beside the first tower. We jump off, landing on the guard. Talin quickly throws him over the rim and I jump back on the hoverplate. We repeat the process as planned until we got to the top of the wall. It was teeming with soldiers, and we were quickly surrounded. I lunged at guard after guard, Talin fighting at my back, defending my blind spots. Our bodies moved in unison and soon we were able to get over the wall to the ground.

All around us, there is life. Rolling plains with gentle hills, animals without names grazing on rainbow fields of flowers. I heard Talin let out a tiny gasp, and I fell to the ground, rolling in the red, blue, and purple vegetation. I closed my eyes, before looking back up at Talin. She was now sitting in the grass, looking down at me with excitement. I get up and started to wander the world with Talin by my side.