

LITTLE STAR

- Two sisters travel the wasteland. Kali, younger. Vaani, older.
- Sometime after the sisters find and secure their safehouse for the evening. The topic turns to people they've lost.

VAANI

"They're still with us. Everyone that died getting us this far. Because we remember."

KALI

"Mom. Dad. Grandma."

VAANI

"Yeah. As long as we remember them, they're still here. It's why we have to stay alive."

- Kali goes quiet, a dark thought crossing her mind.

KALI

"What would you do?"

VAANI

"If what?"

KALI

"If I was gone. If someone hurt me. Or... or killed me."

- Vaani smiles, and brushes aside a strand of Kali's unruly hair.

VAANI

"Little star. If someone hurt you... I'd burn them to ash."

- Kali stiffens, unsure. She'd seen her big sister kill before. She saw her gut the man that raped and murdered their mother.

[I'd do the same for her.]

[That's dangerous.]

[I know she would.]

[...]

KALI

"I'd do the same. If you died."

VAANI

“You would?”

- Kali makes a violent stabbing motion.

KALI

“I’ll did whatever they did to you, ten times worse!”

- Vaani chuckles.

VAANI

“So scary. I pity my killer.”

- Kali gets quiet, thinking.

KALI

“Mama’s soul is at peace, right? Because of... what you did?”

VAANI

“Yeah. That man is dead. And we’re alive. I’m sure she’s... smiling down on us. Praying for our safety.”

KALI

“That’s... good.”

VAANI

“Yeah. Yeah it is.”

- Vaani stood up and started to pace about, meticulously checking the doors and windows, the firelight casting long shadows of her form on each wall as she passes.

VAANI

“We avenge. We remember. The dead stay with us.”

KALI

“Avenge. Remember.”

- Vaani stops pacing, seems satisfied with the defenses. She stokes the fire.

VAANI

“You should sleep. I’ll take first watch.”

KALI

“Okay.”

- Kali made her bed of a single blanket and her pack for a pillow. Even with this little, her sister was here, and that made her safe.
- But when she looked up, Vaani was standing still, right before the door. It felt wrong.

KALI

“Sister?”

VAANI

“Uh. I... I almost forgot. Sorry.”

KALI

“We should pray. To make this place safe.”

- She sits down across from the fire, gestures for Kali to join her. Kali gets up and sits across from her, looking at her sister’s face lit by the fire.

VAANI

“Pray with me?”

[This will make us safe.]

[Does this actually help?]

[The gods don’t care.]

[...]

KALI

“Does this... really make us safe?”

VAANI

“Yeah. Well. Maybe.”

KALI

“Maybe?”

VAANI

“I guess... You’re bigger now, huh.”

KALI

“A little bigger.”

VAANI

“If it works... then it’s good that we do it. If it doesn’t... it makes me feel better.”

- Kali looks into the fire, suddenly conscious of how uncomfortable she’s making her sister.

KALI

“That’s worth it, then.”

VAANI

“Ha. Glad you think so.”

- They close their eyes, put their hands together, and pray.

VAANI

“Those above, keep us safe.”

[Those above, keep us safe.]

[Those above, kill our enemies.]

[Those above, forgive us.]

[Just pray quietly]

KALI

“Those above, kill our enemies.”

- Vaani nods, and they both open their eyes to look at each other.

VAANI

“I hope the gods take you up on that. You’re too little to do it yourself.”

KALI

“I thought I was getting bigger?”

VAANI

“I worry with how rarely we eat, you’ll be tiny forever.”

KALI

“What! Can we hunt tomorrow then?”

VAANI

“Haha. Sure. Now sleep! Too little sleep you won’t grow either.”

- Kali gasps and over dramatically throws herself into her makeshift bed.

- Vaani smiles and turns to face the door, sitting on the ground. Her watch begins, and the night stays out.