



The *Last Light* navigated around Stormtithe and made its berth in Hulnarth - the final stop in my journey. I bade farewell to Captain Zeel and her crew and immediately went looking for an inn. I was utterly, thoroughly exhausted.

Hulnarth was home to a quiet, sheltered city resting between the the idyllic Bay of Respite and the quaint Castle Hulnarth, perched on the headland furthest from Stormtithe. I had no trouble finding an inn full of wanderers who wanted nothing more than to sit in front of the fire and enjoy solitude.

The next day, I met Captain Gemarilan on the city docks. She grinned at the sight of me. “Looking a little worse for wear than when I left you in Erennor, my friend.”

I gave myself a proper perusal for the first time since stepping off her ship all those weeks ago. My Erennor-bought garments were falling apart, and I hadn’t bathed since spending the night in Castle Volverst. “I could use a change of clothes.”

We set off with her first mate at the helm. Gemarilan and I spent the day in her cabin as I regaled her with all of the stories from my journey.

“Wait, you dealt with three hardened thieves on your own?” she asked, laughing in disbelief. “After they ambushed you?”

“I’ve fought tougher children than those men. They ran off whimpering after the punishment I doled out to them.”

“And Marlton? Sounds like he’ll be ready to storm the castle and decapitate Lord Cillarie with his bare hands after what the Mornstallinarians did to his ship.”

“More likely he’d rebuild it with his bare hands, or find some mindless ghouls from Pallow to do it for him.”

She shook her head. “And I can’t believe you thought Castle Zu was actually guarded by stone men. You didn’t hear about all the false castles hidden in that sandstorm?”

“Well, I know now.”

We enjoyed another drink, then I retired to the familiar and comforting berth in my old cabin.



flyers, commercials
 in geochronology, between chron and epoch
 facilitate, help
 "The Greatest" of boxing
 half of a bikini
 what a crow says
 omega's predecessor's predecessor
 river of Scotland; English alphabet's fourth letter
 dotted cube; perish
 the middle tier of Freud's structural model
 what "muttons" means to a printer; final letters of "hmm"
 "e" in i.e.
 non-male sheep
 term famously preceding "wrangling queen!"
 it, her, or...
 everyman: ___ polloi
 the solid form of water
 highest mountain of Crete
 when pluralised, the tiers below tenth word
 out of sorts, sick
 rage, anger

distinctive doctrine
 ebony; speedy plane
 Israelite nowadays
 grassy meadow
 have preference for, choose
 throw hard; clothespin
 hard seat found in churches
 with "eyed", drunk; pastry
 omega's predecessor
 roughly tear
 drink timidly
 students' address to male teachers
 secret agent
 using as an intermediary; by way of
 complex design of spiders
 clever humour
 English alphabet's 25th letter; triangular railway junction
 standard antonym of "no"
 shrub or tree used to make bows
 other name for pimple
 ruler of the birds in Jewish mythology

