

## Reaction - Restricted to Renier

*Cut this out and read both Cause and Effect right away, then hide the card in your pocket.*

*Cause:* Lylie. Look for her every time you can, always be aware of her position. You behaviour changes radically when she is near you.

*Effect:* When Lylie is away, you manage to behave like the just, righteous man you have always wanted to be. When you can touch her or hear her, you lose all control and go back to the disdainful, wrong boy you used to be. She is your torment and your curse, and up until now you have always been its powerless victim, with no hope to break it.



## RENIER OF THOUGHT

### Past

When you were only an infant, you were left in the woods with two other newborns. Solomon shielded your basket from the wolves and brought you to the Monastery. Ever since childhood, you have been your own greatest rival. Your dreams have always revealed the clear image of the just, righteous man you aspire to be, yet no training seemed to be enough to teach you control during your wake: prideful, ill-tempered, smug, uptight, disdainful... Wrong. That was all you ever felt, all the others saw in you.

In love with your sister Lylie, yet unable to smile in her presence. Tightly bound to your brother Giraut, yet only ever capable of hurting him. Every night you cried in silence, regretting that day's misdeeds and praying that the man of your dreams would awake in your place the next morning. But it never happened, for years and years.

Until your anointment as Regent.

### Present

Only away from your brothers were you able to become the man you have always wanted to be. Not daring to hope for their forgiveness, you chose solitude and began perfecting your gifts. But around a year ago, an unexpected turn of events forced you out of your isolation.

Although the Wandering Regent's horn had not sounded the alarm, your sentinels sighted a swarm of Dragons flying towards Ninon's lands. You gathered your troops and began a forced

march to lend your aid to the Regent's own army. You arrived to find her soldiers routing, caught unprepared by the attack, but your intervention turned the tide of battle. Among the debris you found Ninon, wounded, scared and stupefied. She held your gaze and you offered her your hand: «Do not fear, Ninon, it is all over now».

After that day her visits became more and more frequent, first out of gratitude, then out of affection. She gave you the chance to get close to someone without making them suffer. You shared your hopes and dreams with her, enjoying a bliss you had never dared hope for. When she confessed her love, you pulled her into your arms: «Do not fear, Ninon, you will always be safe here». But even as you held her, part of you could only think of Lylie. Torn apart by your own feelings, you found unexpected solace in the battle against the Great White Dragon. You struck it down over your very walls and gifted the Vale with the hope of lasting peace. A hope that was quickly clouded by the deaths of Cerdic and the Oracle.

The summons to the Monastery of Stars brings with it the phantom of your past. You fear the moment you will see your brothers again, you fear your ambition for the Regency of Zamar. Yet now you know that it is not your thirst for glory, nor your rivalry with Giraut that pushes you: You just want to prove yourself worthy of the role that the Oracle once rightfully denied you.

### Future

*Lylie:* Your sister. As a boy you made her suffer and you suffered for her. You still love her and you want her forgiveness above anything else.

You felt the darkest part of you resurface as soon as you saw her. A curse is keeping you from your brothers and you need to discover its origins in order to break it.

*Giraut:* Your brother. You made his life a living Hell and whenever you see his torment you cannot ignore that it is your own fault. For years he fought to prove himself better than you, but in truth he always has been. Every time he defended the others from your bullying. Every time he made Lylie smile. His victory over the Great Black Dragon filled you with pride.

You want to find the strength to tell him all this and ask for his forgiveness. You have been quarrelling for far too long.

*Ninon:* The woman who taught you to be happy. Who almost managed to make you forget your past. Almost.

All your mind is telling you that happiness is with Ninon, so why is your heart unable to belong to her? You promised not to hurt her, but how can you avoid it?

*Faramond:* The youngest among you, the eighth Regent in spite of the tradition that only wants seven. You wonder why he did not sound the alarm, when the Dragons descended on Ninon.

You do not resent him; indeed, you think of the Wandering Regent's mistake as a gift. If it weren't for your meeting with Ninon, you would know nothing but solitude.

*Solomon:* Your saviour and friend. He withstood your excesses during your training and, once the Oracle assigned him to the Fiefdom next to yours to guard over you, he granted you his trust instead. His strength is timeless, but the same is not true of his ever-weakening memory.

Instead of judging you, he listened to your reasons and now he pushes you to seek Lylie and Giraut's forgiveness. You have not dared tell him of the curse yet, out of fear that it might sound like a silly excuse. Can you really accept his help?

*Wilhelm:* Seven years ago he faced a Dragon alone, only to wipe the smug grin off your face. He almost died trying.

You are thankful to Lylie for being able to save him and you hope to find a chance of redemption with him as well.

*Drystan:* Captain and attendant to the late Cerdic. You envied his master: If the Oracle chose him as Regent of Zamar, it is because he saw in him the man you could only dream to be back then.

You want him to know how much you admired Cerdic and to accept you as his successor, if the Council so decides.

*Allen:* The new Oracle, the very man you never looked at twice when he was just an apprentice. You hope he is up to the task of shining light on the latest events.

He will be the judge of your change. This is your only chance to prove yourself worthy of his trust and to support him.

