

Unto Dame Briona of Stanway  
From Alphonse of Orden's Vale

My Dear Briona,

I could not have been more delighted than I was to hear that at least one other noble family survived the initial attack. I thought I was the only one left for years it seems.

When the attack came, I took my people and fled. I knew a demon when I saw one and I was even younger than you. I knew I was no match for one. We ran, we all made it to the mainland, we did not lose a single child, woman or elder, except my family, who fought, and the soldiers. I am glad the people in general were conditioned to obey me, and my parents wanted me to run.

Anyway, that is not why I am contacting you. I have heard your new title and place at court and I wish you very well with it, you always were the bravest of anyone I knew.

We took territory near the south eastern edge of the new lands. We have built a stockaded village and a watchtower. We are loyal servants to the Princess, ... I guess now Empress. And there has been activity to the south east of our hold. Our scouts have witnessed at least two skirmishes that seemed to involve two different groups of the rat folk. Now mind you, one group trades with us and seem, if a bit weird, mostly just folk. It seems to our scouts that in both cases rat folk from the traders were fending off other, much more... evil? looking ratfolk who were trying to sneak up on our fields.

We also, just last week, saw a battle between a flying galleon flying a flag of unrelieved red and a small group of flying .... Things.... Kind of like griffons, but twisted beyond all recognition. The flying galleon won, but the spot where the bodies fell, all the vegetation withered and died within 2 days, only now are scavengers beginning to attack the bodies. It is very odd, our village wiseman, mage really, thinks that as the bodies decay away the vegetation will grow back, but we'd never seen the like.

Do you think maybe you could see if someone would spare a priest for us? We are just calling this New Orden's Vale, I think the court knows where we are, because we got our act together quickly and even held off a group of wildcat slavers. We are open to Glor'diadel. We just want a priest, you know?

I remain sincerely yours

Alphonse, Baron, I suppose - of New Orden's Vale.