



*Sæl og blessaðar,*

*I am Brenna Ragnarsdotter. Some call me Jarl, most call me Queen. All know me as the Valkyrie of Birca.*

*The gods have gifted me this magical gateway with which to send my words to you across the lands and seas and mysteries of time - a most rare and beautiful gift. I will*

*give my thanks and honour the gods with a sacrifice when the moon is new once more.*

*As a girl, my father trained me with his warriors and I became the fiercest shield maiden in all of Svealand. I will always defend those I have sworn to protect, but I do not thirst for blood as others do. I do not hunger for adventure across the sea. It is my fate to rule the land; to heal the scars that were carved deep into the spirits of my ancestors and of my people.*

*A prophecy was revealed to me by the gods when I'd seen naught but ten summers, and I have lived my life with this destiny - and the gods - as my guide.*

*I do not wish to share the story of how I came to be the Valkyrie of Birca with you now. The skalds have long told tales and sung songs about me and those I have both loved and loathed in all the great halls of Svealand and beyond. The gods whisper to me that somehow, these tales have made their way to you.*

*I understand naught of how this magick has come to pass, and it is a useless endeavour to question the will and the ways of the gods. There are more important things I wish to speak of with you.*

*I have always been sure of my destiny, but the path I had to travel and the choices presented to me were not so easy. As a woman, my purpose and my needs have not always been mine to control. I have had to fight to know who I am and where my place is in my world, and often this has displeased those*

*around me. I have relied on the wisdom of those who came before me, of my friends and family, and of course, I have sought the will of the gods more than once.*

*Many of the lessons I have learned have been learned with much pain and great loss. I have been tested, and I have been wrong. But I never gave up. I never stopped believing that I would find my way and fulfil my destiny.*

*And this is my gift to you. Always believe in yourself. Be strong. Be bold. Never give up on your dreams, but you must be prepared to work hard to make them real. Your fate will be revealed. Destiny is all.*

*May the blessings of the Allfather be with you always,*

*Brenna*