

The Calledar Chronicles
Part 6 – Eliminating the Competition
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Onarra decided that she would carry out Teshkaht's orders, at least until it suited her not to.

Her continued life and **prosperity** depended on it. The upside was that she was no longer expected to pay the Outsider's Tax, a tariff paid by anyone who did not declare their worship of Those Who Wait.

The vicious politics inside the cult hadn't surprised her. People fight over power.

The **rancorous** feelings that some members and leaders felt for each other did surprise her. Particularly the bitterness and resentment that many of the Faithful had towards the leader who had brought them to power.

High Priest Teshkaht had given her three targets right away.

Onarra had memorized their names as he whispered them into her ear. Remembering the strange scent that wafted off of him, the foulness of his breath, and the feeling of wrongness about him sent a shiver down her spine.

The young assassin decided that it would be a bad idea to **procrastinate**, and got started on her work immediately.

After scouting each of the targets, Onarra decided that it would be **prudent** to eliminate them all in the same night if possible.

If they died one at a time, then the others would be more cautious. This would also send a direct message to those seeking to challenge Teshkaht for control of the cult.

The first of her targets was Gunder the Patient. He was not the most powerful on the list, but the **renovations** he was having done to a spacious home he had taken from a wealthy merchant made it easy to gain access to his living space.

He had numerous guards, some of them quite skilled in the Unnatural Arts. Gunder didn't even realize she was there when the dagger pierced his eye.

The second target was Lenya Dar'Thalgar. She died the same night, but it was a crossbow bolt in the throat, fired through the window of her hut outside the city.

She was **reclusive**, except for a few loyal followers, believing that no one saw her as a threat. That was her mistake.

The last, Gria the Serpent, was the most challenging. Her power was said to be second only to that of Teshkaht himself.

Onarra wouldn't have thought that considering the commonplace, even **prosaic**, house where she sent out orders to her faction inside the cult of Those Who Wait.

Even the inside is boring. Onarra thought as she slipped through the window, a guard lying dead on the ground beneath it. *Still it's foolish of her to make **provocative** statements and claims against Teshkaht. In angering him that way, she really brought this on herself.*

“I know Teshkaht has sent you to kill me,” Gria the Serpent’s words caught Onarra off-guard, since it was impossible for the woman to see her. “Assassin, rather than taking my life, take my message of *reconciliation* to the High Priest. Tell him I apologize for all that I have done and will support his every action. I would have no more conflict between us.”

Onarra might have considered doing as the priestess of Those Who Wait asked, if not for her *querulous* tone. The whining grated on her nerves, and the young assassin finished the third of her assignments from Teshkaht.