

There was a contrasting cool evening breeze as Qura was jostled in the panic-fuelled crowd – alarm bells were still ringing throughout the village and she had been bundled into a pack with the children and accompanied a handful of women into the hall.

She managed to push her way clear and tugged at the old guardsman stood facing the door “what's happening?!” She tried to keep the fear from her voice

The guardsman turned and looked puzzled at her “You're a halfling! Can you fight?”

“Fight who?” Qura's brows furrowed in worry – she'd accompanied parties of adventurers but rarely was an active participant

“Orcs are raiding.” the guard's grip tightened on his sword “We should be safe he.... URK!”

Qura's eyes widened as the door shattered and a sword pierced the guard's torso.

As the body dropped to the floor the children began screaming while the adults tried to pull them further back into the hall

She looked up and watched the orc withdraw it's sword and peer at her

In a panic she drew her wand and waved it, pulling the flames from the overhead candle chandelier to impact the monster as she staggered backwards

To her dismay it stepped forward, trailing a slight haze of embers and smoke, lifting it's blood-splattered sword high

Qura grabbed her wand in both hands and stamped her foot, concentrating her power.

She caused the embers lingering on the orc to burst into full flame, immolating the monster and making it stagger backwards out of the hall into the evening it's howl trailing it as it collapsed from view.

She turned to see the children huddled behind the adults, one of whom retrieved the guard's sword to stand ahead of the rest.

These people needed her help – unlike other times there was no hardened adventurers to take control, while the guards may be able to fight the orcs, it would need everyone able to fight to repel these foul creatures.

Qura nodded to the woman and stepped out of the hall into the scream-filled night.

As she looked around she saw an orc dip an arrow into the nearby burning body.

Without thinking Qura threw her arm up and the orc was surprised as she was when the fire leapt up the arrow and impacted with it's head.

Pushing her glasses up her nose Qura turned to face the sound of a melee – she may not be able to fight but would do everything she could to help protect the guards fighting for this village...