

"whenever you're ready" the foreman's voice shook Qura from her nerves. Rather than answer she gave a nod and pulled the goggles over her eyes. She held her wand out and concentrated until a small fireball appeared and floated in front of her.

She guided it to the point the team had marked on the floor and held her wand in both hands. Taking a deep breath she closed her eyes and began to talk to herself in Havlin. "A smaller flame can burn hotter. I am the fire, I am burning brighter" even with her eyes closed she could tell where the flame was and she poured more power into it until she could see the light through the smoked glass and her closed eyes.

By this point she had begun to shake with the effort and lowered her wand, the fireball hissing as it began to burn through the rocky floor.

As it dropped deeper her legs gave out and she dropped to her knees, still holding her wand downwards and pouring as much power as she could into the spell.

Suddenly something snuffed the flame out and a geyser of steam erupted from the hole she had burnt.

Qura fell forward onto her hands, struggling to catch her breath and trying her hardest to keep her shaking limbs under control.

"Heck of a job y'done there" the foreman helped her to sit upright and handed her his bottle of water.

As she struggled to lift the bottle to her lips she began to swallow mouthful after mouthful of water until he steadied her. "sip, drink it slow" he advised as the team began lowering what looked like a tin mug on a rope into the smoking hole.

Qura nodded and tried to drink more carefully – difficult when the bottle was the length of her leg!

"we got it boss, right as the diviner said" one of the crew shouted across as they pulled the mug, now full of water, back out of the hole.

"You saved us a ton o' diggin'" the foreman continued as he unlatched his coin pouch. "Two silver zats for you." he handed Qura two long silver strips "an' although we agreed on breakfast, speak to Joe and i'll stand you lunch too"

Qura handed back the water bottle and tucked the silver into her own coin pouch before replacing the goggles with her glasses.

She was still slightly shaken so gave him a big smile and a nod as she headed off toward the tavern – it was always time for lunch!