

Excerpt from *Someone to Love Book 3 of The Verities Silex* (Fantasy Novel)

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"Everyone treated me more or less the same as before... But it made me mad. I had spent so long learning the laws of the village, and studying, and training, doing everything the elders said, yet they still couldn't get past their superstitions and recognize me for who I really was. You angered them by leaving the way you did and whenever they looked at me they just saw you. They couldn't... wouldn't understand that I'm my own person. Not a part of you, not the sum of my family, but me, Koreth." she spoke with conviction, anxious to make sure her feelings were understood. "After that I began to realize how many of the things I had been taught were just foolish superstitions and customs that should have died out centuries ago. Long life isn't always a blessing. It can leave people trapped in the past, afraid to change even the littlest thing because they've known it for so long... But refusal to grow and change leads to stagnation and, eventually, death. I didn't want to be like that, like the elders. Then I started to wonder what it would be like to live a life like you. A life you make for yourself, not one that others make for you. A life of grasping your hopes and dreams and turning them into reality... A life of freedom and no," Koreth paused to rub her eyes, which glistened with unshed tears, "no regrets."

"Koreth..." her sister's impassioned speech had left Sorrel unsure of what to say.

Koreth took a moment to compose herself then faced Sorrel once again. "You always used to say I spent too much time memorizing all the laws of the village and you were right. I realized that I wanted to choose my own path in life, like you did. And, when I thought about it, what I wanted most was to see you again. To hear about your travels and show you what I had become. And now, here we are... I did it. I took my dream, impossible as it was, and made it real. I've changed a lot since I left and made plenty of poor decisions but, looking back, I can see how everything helped me grow and led me onward to this point. If I had the chance to go back and do it over I wouldn't change a thing. I have no regrets."

As Koreth finished speaking, Sorrel realized that her eyes were wet as well. "I'm glad." she smiled. "I always envied your strength, dedication, and decisiveness. When I left the village I was hoping that on my journey I'd be able to find those traits in myself. It's sorta like, in our minds we've both been chasing after each other this whole time. I've missed you, sis."

"So have I." Koreth smiled as the two sisters pulled each other into a tight hug. "So have I."