

Dear Reader,

They say that no matter how hard you try, there will always be mistakes in a book. Indeed, despite my best efforts and the involvement of multiple people in multiple edits, an embarrassing number of typos slipped past me.

Fortunately, I stumbled upon one of the best proofreading methods I've found thus far: making an audiobook. In the process of reading this book out loud, I ended up scouring it more thoroughly than I ever could in any editing session.

The following are a list of changes that I requested be made to my book, hopefully to be implemented within the next few weeks.

Included are some edits that were requested before the book was published, that simply could not be implemented in time before the book's release.

Some of these changes are minor formatting issues, or clarifying sentences whose meanings are potentially unclear.

The biggest and also most frivolous change is the complete rewrite of chapter 39. If you want a detailed account of why I did this, I wrote a blog post about the history of that chapter and why my final decision is to eliminate it. The short version is this: it was a last-minute addition at someone's suggestion, and by the time that I realized it didn't belong, the manuscript had already gone to publication.

Though I am implementing the changes now, I put the book out there as it is. Instead of curling up in shame, I propose to turn it into an Easter egg hunt of sorts.

The inconsistency mistakes reveal hints of previous versions of this story. If you would like to know about the version that any one of the inconsistencies hints at, ping me—on my website, FB, Twitter—and I'll write a blog post about the version of the story revealed by that error, and why it changed. If you would like to guess about that incarnation of the story, please do! I'll start my blog post with your guess.

Changes are listed by chapter number and page number of paperback edition, and changed or added words are denoted like [this]. Where the only change is a deletion, there may be no notation. Where clarifications may be necessary, these are done so *in italics*.

My deepest apologies for all the mistakes and changes. I hope to learn from this experience, going forward.

—Kai Raine

Chapter 1

- p. 3 “Stelle[—]” Nicki started but Stelle interrupted.
p. 6 A red-hot pain shot through Gwen. “I meant[—]”

Chapter 3

- p. 22 “I [heard] someone running. I decided to check in case something was wrong.”

Chapter 6

- p. 48 His three charges [went] back into the barracks.
p. 55 Alderic did not know how to reply to this, but Nicki did not seem to expect [him to].

Chapter 8

- p. 78 She toyed with the idea [and] immediately discarded it.

Chapter 9

- p. 80 “Hello?” Deric called to [him].
p. 81 The stones that lined this passageway were noticeably newer than those on the rest of the walls, like a section of [the] buildings had been knocked out to create this path.
p. 87 “I don’t believe that. It’s the only explanation. I have every reason to believe that the mine is nearby.”
There was previously another sentence in here that was inconsistent with the events.

Chapter 17

- p. 161 "What is the chance that they will [appear] now?"
- p. 168 She heard a low moan from the vicinity of the men. She ignored them.
- p. 170 She asked to be let off at the first [inn they came across] whilst still in the outskirts.

Chapter 19

- p. 179 [Not telling Melech about Esther] was strategic, he told himself.
This 1 sentence replaces 2 sentences, from the start of a paragraph that formerly began, "He never told Melech a word about Esther."

Chapter 20

- p. 191 She would have gone for an herbalist, but the innkeeper cautioned that any herbalist who would come to an inn in the outskirts for a pair of nameless scribes was either [a] fraud or a speaker[.]

Chapter 23

- p. 227 Gwen stared at [him], then Laine, who was nodding solemnly.

Chapter 27

- p. 257 The [Chef's] Apprentice
Change to chapter title.

Chapter 28

- p. 265 "If you didn't feel it then[,] I don't know why you'd feel it now."
This is said by Tlafa to Esther, and so is italics in the text. It is in quotes here to avoid confusion.

Chapter 29

- p. 267 The [dweorg] had been pulling a cart full of black, he realized.

- p. 269 After a few of these exchanges, the dweorg dove into the ground and a moment later, the ground opened up beneath Dov and pulled him under[, sealing up above him].

Chapter 30

- p. 274 Dara closed her eyes. "Maybe Pierre made the same mistake. Do we at least know whose murder we ordered?"
There was formerly a break in the two lines of dialogue, as if the speaker had changed. However, both lines are spoken by Dara.

Chapter 33

- p. 303 "I'm your [chef's] apprentice, milord."

Chapter 34

- p. 311 "Yes," said Nier, putting an arm around Gwen[']s shoulders.
- p. 315 Nimua informed them that they would depart at dawn [on the fifth], in two nights' time.
- p. 315 With that, she climbed [into the boat] after Dagda without another word or even a glance.
- p. 315 *Deleted line: The four of them returned to the tavern to hammer out an agreement.*
- p. 317 [On the] deck, the wind's song soothed her and over the course of the day, she found herself better able to move about.
This replaces a mention of Gwen climbing up to the deck. There is no below-deck space for people on the Sea Skipper.
- p. 317 "I'm sorry," lied Nimua. Gwen had to fight a sudden flash of red before her eyes. How dare this woman offer such simple words if she couldn't even have the decency to mean them?
- p. 320 Her gaze swam until it latched on Nier, clinging to the railing[s] on the other side of the deck, looking as though he'd caught hold of them only after sliding halfway off the deck beneath them.

- p. 320 For the first time since she had [learned] its Words, the wind ignored her. It laughed in delight[;] swirled nonsensically and incomprehensibly. Aiar [had] told Gwen that she was insignificant, only a speck in time to the elements. This was the first time that she felt it.

Chapter 35

- p. 324 He was bleeding as red as any human, and his eyes looked as vacant as [those of] any human corpse.

Chapter 36

- p. 329 [()What did Septimo think would happen if that had worked? The cause of death would be crystal clear, and so would the orchestrator. ()] *These parentheses existed initially, and got deleted during some edit. I didn't realize until I was reading the audiobook how necessary they are to make that paragraph cohesive.*
- p. 330 Chan could have laughed. What did she think [she had] to bargain with?
- p. 332 He had made tiny holes beneath the peepholes and placed some [delete] soft feather fibers over those holes.

Chapter 37

- p. 338 Gwen did not hear the Words leave her mouth, but her ears heard them as clearly as if they did. Nevena smiled [genuinely] for the first time since Gwen had laid eyes on her.
- p. 339 The bubble that had contained the flames burst, and [the flames] consumed them both.

Chapter 38

- p. 366 She reached out for the letter anyway[, and read it].
Subsequent note is deleted. Following paragraph begins, "Esther crumpled up the letter..."

Chapter 39

- p. 369 *This is now titled *The Spy: forty-fifth day of autumn, 452 A.D.* — *Mirage, Ynga*. Chapter consists of note formerly at the end of chapter 38, signed by Deric.*

Appendix

- p. 381 [Lady Sovanna —wife to late king Séraphin and stepmother to Juste V.]
This replaces the entry for Queen Mother Ghislaine. Though the entry for Ghislaine would be correct, it is misleading as she is dead and has been for a long time.

Acknowledgements

- p. 387 To Ryan [Courdy], for the frankest, most helpfully cutting criticisms I ever received.