

## Oblivion Girl – Episode 4

### ESSA NARRATION

Skyride Studios presents.... Oblivion Girl, episode Four. Childish Thoughts.

*(Gun Firing)*

### ESSA NARRATION

Have you ever been trapped by a group of thugs in a run-down two-story house?

### ESSA

Ah!

### ESSA NARRATION

No? Well, that was the situation Atticus, and I found ourselves in after we snatched a bounty from some really shitty goons. The bounty this time, a 16-year-old girl named Alita.

### ALITA

Oh my God!

*(Gun Firing)*

Ah!

### ESSA NARRATION

Long story short, her family wanted her back, and I was going to be the one to catch the check. The goons managed to force us down into the basement. In my defense, I'd like to state that I always had a plan if worse came to worst. I just didn't have a plan in case *that* plan failed.

The wooden support beams holding up the house ran from the attic down to the basement. Being the prepared Girl Scout I was, I just happened to have a few grenades on me with extra gunpowder crammed inside. While Atticus held them off with suppressive gunfire, I tied a string and looped the grenades around the support beams. I then attached the string around their pulp ends and connected them to one single strand.

Little did I know, Atticus wasn't doing so well holding the goons back. I learned that lesson the hard way when a wild bullet found its way into the basement, ricocheted off the walls, and gave a high five to one of my grenades.

*(Explosion) (House falls down)*

Well, at least we won.

**ATTICUS**

Whoa!

*(Coughing)*

That was nuts! Wasn't it, Essa? Essa? Essa, can you hear me?

**ESSA NARRATION**

The now totally pissed-off goons clawed their way out of the rubble like a herd of zombies.

**GOON 1**

Look, one of those bastards is still alive!

**ATTICUS**

Oh, fuck.

*(Gun Firing)*

Fuck!

*(Gun Firing)*

**ESSA NARRATION**

Meanwhile, I lay unconscious on the cool dirt. The next thing I knew.

**ALITA**

Are you awake?

**ESSA**

Well, yeah, now I am.

**ALITA**

Where's your friend?

**ESSA**

My who?

**ALITA**

...That guy you were with?

**ESSA**

I'm sorry, do I know you?

**ESSA NARRATION**

She looked at me like I was crazy. I didn't have any idea what she was talking about.

**ESSA**

Who are you?

**ALITA**

You don't recognize me, Mommy?

**ESSA NARRATION**

Like handing the bank keys to a robber. I'd blame it on Karma, but let's face it, this kid was an all-natural, candy-coated con artist.

**ESSA**

Of course I do, my darling.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Mommy, darling? Had I completely lost my mind? A leader made up a clever little story about how that was supposedly our house.

**ALITA**

Bad people came in and blew it to shreds by accidentally shooting our pile of fertilizer we stored in the basement.

**ESSA**

Oh yes, the fertilizer.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Never once did the thought cross my mind that fertilizer doesn't just blow up when you shoot it, or the fact that the brat didn't even bother to make up a fictitious husband for me. She was so sheltered that getting kidnapped was on par with going to Disneyland.

She treated it like a vacation from everyone that had ever pissed her off. So, in retrospect, I could see why she wanted to milk it for all it was worth. Bandits, badasses, and boys. What's not to love?

While Alita spun her tails of deceit into my ear, I noticed we made our way to the town of Aurora. We stopped at the window of a bakery and stared at all the yummy-looking pastries.

**ESSA**

I'm hungry.

**ALITA**

Well, let's go eat.

**ESSA NARRATION**

I liked the way my girl thought until she sat us down at the most expensive restaurant in town and expected her mummy to pay the bill. I'd bet anything this brat's weekly allowance could buy the restaurant a hundred times over.

*(Knock on window)*

**KEME**

Essa, it's me, Keme.

**ALITA**

You know her?

**ESSA**

I think so.

**KEME**

Hello, Essa. Are you feeling better?

**ESSA NARRATION**

How did she know about our exploding house?

**ESSA**

I do feel better. Yeah, I feel fine.

**KEME**

Good. And who is this little friend you're with?

**ALITA**

Grandma, you're so silly. It's me, Alita! Don't you recognize your own granddaughter?

**ESSA NARRATION**

I had to give it to the little snake. She had guts.

Alita gave Keme a wink, and the poor lady took the bait. She looked up at my ignorant, smiling face and mistook the abuse for some sort of secret game.

**KEME**

Ah, yes. I was just testing you.

**WAITER**

Ahem. Once your bill is paid, ladies, you'll be all set.

**KEME**

Don't worry, dear. Lunch is on me. As long as you come back to my house for dessert.

**ALITA**

Dessert? Yay!

**ESSA NARRATION**

Alita and Keme walked hand in hand as we strolled back to her place for afternoon tea. The follow behind racking my brain. Why wasn't this ringing a bell? Where did I know this old lady from? Why did I have a gas mask around my neck? And why was I dressed so unmotherly?

None of it made any sense. I felt like I'd officially lost my mind, but it wasn't like I could just go up to strangers and ask, excuse me, have you seen my brain?

Back at Keme's place, Alita helped in the kitchen and filled Keme in on the elaborate, con she had disguise as a game.

**ALITA**

...And that's why Essa needs us both to play along.

**KEME**

Well, that sounds like fun, dear. I'll play along with you both.

**ALITA**

Look at these fresh cakes Keme made. Don't they smell amazing?!

**ESSA**

Delicious.

**KEME**

Thank you. Eat as much as you'd like. Alita tells me your house blew up.

**ESSA**

Yes, I don't know where we'll stay tonight. I can't remember who to call.

**KEME**

Nonsense, you're staying the night with me. Here, I insist. I can't have a mother and her child wandering about the streets after some catastrophic event like that.

**ESSA**

That's very kind of you. Thank you so much.

**KEME**

Of course, dear, of course.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Keme winked at Alita, who was too busy shoving cakes in her mouth to notice. By the third day, Atticus, like the true hero he was, decided to give up on his search.

**ATTICUS**

If they're still alive, they'll make it back to the apartment...

...sooner or later.

**ESSA NARRATION**

He figured that had the roles been reversed, he'd searched three days longer than I ever would have. He wasn't wrong.

I, on the other hand, got the hang of my motherly role. Keme was gracious enough to lend me some clothes while mine were in the wash. Her old-timey dress was so long that I was afraid I'd trip over it. I looked as though I'd just emerged from the 50s, ready to jive with all the cool cats.

**ALITA**

Hey, Mom, can we go to the beach with Grandma?

**ESSA**

As long as it's okay with your grandmother.

**KEME**

That sounds lovely. I'll go and get ready.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Something about the beach felt familiar as I dug my toes in the sand. The memory was on the tip of my tongue. I felt if I walked around, it might come back to me. I approached Alita and towered over her.

**ALITA**

What's up?

**ESSA NARRATION**

Then, for some unexplained reason, I pushed her over, grabbed her by the foot, and dragged her towards the water.

**ALITA**

What, what are you, ah, ah, what the hell are you doing?!

*(Water Splashing)*

**ESSA NARRATION**

As the salt water sprinkled on my face, my memories rushed back.

*(Essa drowns Alita)*

*(Alita gasps for air)*

**ALITA**

What the hell, Mom?

**ESSA NARRATION**

Mom, who the fuck was she talking to?

**ESSA**

Keme, is she talking to you?

**KEME**

No, dear, don't you remember our game? You're the mother, I'm the grandmother. Did you want to switch roles?

**ESSA NARRATION**

I was the what?

**ESSA**

Like HELL I am!

*(Drowning) (Gasping)*

**ESSA NARRATION**

Who told that brat how to hold her breath?

**ALITA**

Well, great. That's just great. And who told you to get your memory back anyways?!

**ESSA NARRATION**

I was a bit shocked; the brat had a dark side.

**ALITA**

Well, the game's over, Keme. Sleepy Beauty decided to wake up.

**KEME**

That's okay, dear, I don't think I scored many points.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Alita stomped up the beach and back to the house, leaving Keme and me to play catch-up.

**ESSA**

Alita, hold on a second, wait up! Keme, I'm so sorry.

**KEME**

No problem at all, my dear.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Atticus. Must kill—

*(Kick open door)*

**ESSA**

Atticus!

**ATTICUS**

Essa!

*(Screaming)*

Ahhh...

**ESSA**

I hope you get a concussion so that it can be my turn not to look for you.

**ATTICUS**

Good to see you too.

**ALITA**

Listen, I can explain--

**ESSA**

You've had enough talking for one lifetime. You're lucky I didn't gut you like a fish and leave you for the seagulls.

**ATTICUS**

Come on, Essa.

**ESSA**

And you, you'll be lucky if *all* I do is gut you.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

I needed alone time away from everyone before I killed them all.

*(Door Slamming) (Shower)*

There was a pint of strawberry ice cream waiting for me on the table. I looked around but couldn't find either of them.

### **ESSA**

Suspicious...

### **ESSA NARRATION**

I cautiously grabbed the pint, stretched out on the couch and inhaled my dessert.

Damn, Atticus for bringing me delicious ice cream. How could I be angry with a belly full of heaven?

Well, at least he's cashing in on Alita's bounty.

*(Knock at door)*

I snuck up and peeked through the eyehole.

### **JOPHIE**

Essa, it's me. Your knight in shining armor.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

He leaned into the eyehole, searching for any signs of intelligent life.

### **JOPHIE**

I know you're in there, Essa. I can hear you breathing.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

Bullshit, what a dumb bluff.

### **JOPHIE**

Are you really eating ice cream at this hour?

### **ESSA NARRATION**

Okay, that's just creepy.

**ESSA**

What do you want, Jophie? If you're so psychic, can't you tell I want to be alone?

**JOPHIE**

I have something important to tell you.

**ESSA**

Go ahead.

**JOPHIE**

Can I come in?

**ESSA**

Do you need to?

**JOPHIE**

Yes.

**ESSA**

Then no.

**JOPHIE**

Even though you secretly love me.

**ESSA**

And we're done here. Good night.

**JOPHIE**

Hold on, Essa!

**ESSA**

No, Jophie. You hold on. I'm not in love with you. I'll never be in love with you. I don't even like to be around you, let alone breathe the same air.

**JOPHIE**

Yes, yes, you're elaborate act to hide your true feelings. Please don't make this harder than it must be. I know you're irresistibly drawn to me, but we must be strong.

**ESSA**

Jophie, if you don't leave right now, I'm going to slice your balls off and feed them to Atticus for dinner tonight.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Jophie didn't have to look down to feel the cold steel blade against his thigh. Normally, I wouldn't have been so hard on him, but he picked the worst day possible, and that day ended with a Y.

**JOPHIE**

Coming here has only confused you more.

**ESSA**

Nope, not confused.

**JOPHIE**

No need to play your erotic games with me, Essa. But remember this—

*(Door slam)*

**ESSA NARRATION**

Later that night, once Atticus came home, something was off.

**ALITA**

What's up?

**ESSA**

What's she doing back here? You were supposed to replace her with a big sack of cash, or did you forget?

**ALITA**

We wanted to give you time to cool down before dinner.

**ESSA**

Oh, really? I'm sorry. I wasn't aware it was National Piss Off Essa Day, otherwise I would have stocked up on more grenades, because in order to eat, we need you to transform into reward money.

**ALITA**

That's true, but Atticus and I made a deal.

**ESSA**

Did you now? Atticus, why don't you explain in great detail, this amazing new plan you made without me?

**ALITA**

I will, tomorrow, when the three of us visit Kial.

**ESSA**

Well I can see who wears the pants in this relationship. I'm so glad Atticus filled you in on our whole operation. Now you'll have to excuse me, I've decided not to share space with a teenage girl who tricked me into being her mummy.

**ESSA NARRATION**

I locked the door to my room and decided that it would be a good time to call it a night, before I killed everyone.

*(Loud laughter from another room)*

**ESSA NARRATION**

I smashed my pillow over my face in an attempt to either drown out the noise or suffocate myself. Whichever came first. However, due to breathing in my own CO<sub>2</sub>, I ended up passing out.

It was night, and I found myself walking down a rainy and foggy main street. Suddenly, I heard music coming from one of the New York-style nightclubs. The music felt like an old friend inviting me in for a drink, and who was I to say no?

Inside the club, blurry-faced people mingled in the shadows of the smoke-filled bar. A band played up on the stage. The music was fast and catchy.

My feet had a mind of their own, carrying me through the dance floor until she stepped out on stage.

Her hair was pinned back in an elaborate 'I've got more money than you' kind of way. She gripped the microphone like a lover, and whispered enchanted melodies into its echoing ear. It took me a moment to realize it was Ayla, Atticus's bartender crush. She looked so attractive that even I couldn't stop drooling.

Freshly painted red lipstick with a yellow hydrangea pinned in her hair. She looked stunning.

Behind her, Atticus softly strummed a cello. Kial followed up on the piano. The room was dead silent in a trance as the group played their love song.

Ayla finished, and her soothing voice left us wanting more, like addicted junkies. Sitting at a table, illuminated by the glow of a candle, I realized I'd forgotten my surroundings as the club roared with applause.

It was as if she had given us a gift, and we had no other way to thank her than to clap for more. It grew so loud, I could feel the sound vibrate off my chest. It got to a point of being deafening. The clapping turned into a buzzing noise, and my eyes opened to my alarm clock.

## ESSA

Eleven?! Overslept again!

## ESSA NARRATION

I rushed through my morning routine and out the door in ten minutes. A new record, if I do say so myself.

## ESSA

Atticus! Wait up!

## ATTICUS

Morning.

## ESSA NARRATION

When I slid open Kial's door, I was horrified to see Alita and Kial kissing.

## ESSA

Ugh! Gross! Get away from him, you whore!

*(Throws item at Alita)*

**ALITA**

Ah! Bitch!

**ESSA NARRATION**

Alita had that glazed, killer look in her eyes. For a moment, she reminded me of my younger self. I was weirdly proud.

I grinned wider as I reached for my knife, only to find it was missing. I looked at Atticus who had a guilty look on his face as I watched him hide my knife behind his back.

**ATTICUS**

Uhhh!

**ESSA NARRATION**

That sneaky S.O.B. Oh well, fists it is.

**ESSA**

Ouch! Ouch, let go of my hair!

**ALITA**

Ah!

**KIAL**

Should we do something?

**ATTICUS**

Sure. You go first.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Half an hour rolled by.

*(Out of breath)*

**ESSA**

I'm going to kill you.

**ALITA**

I'll take you on any day, fatty.

**KIAL**

Well, now that I have everyone's attention, I've got a bit of an announcement.

**ESSA**

Please tell me that she's pregnant and has to move far away to raise the baby?

**KIAL**

Actually, it does have to do with Alita. As of today, she'll be the newest member of our team.

**ESSA NARRATION**

If I hadn't been lying on the floor, I would have fallen over.

**ATTICUS**

You might want to reconsider—

**ESSA**

—Have you lost your mind?!

**ALITA**

Why? Jealous someone pretty is finally part of the group?

**ESSA**

I didn't know that people call boys pretty.

**KIAL**

And because I know you two love each other so much, you'll be in charge of training Alita for her first week. Frankly put, you'll be responsible if she dies.

**ESSA**

Well, I quit.

**ATTICUS**

Essa...

**ESSA**

No, Atticus. I won't stand here and listen to how our prize money gets sworn in as the newest member of the brain-damaged boys' brigade. It's her or me.

**ESSA**

Just because I have to train you, doesn't mean I'm going to have your back in battle.

**ALITA**

Thanks for the wisdom, oh great teacher. I think I'll be fine on my own.

**ESSA**

Good luck with all that thinking.

**ESSA NARRATION**

I didn't really have a group to train her against, so I assembled the next best thing, the Oblivion Babes. Five young girls who wanted nothing more than to dress and act like me. There were two sisters, Lillim and Lillu who led the group.

**LILIM**

Hello.

**LILLU**

Hi.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Ariel, who documented all my adventures.

**ARIEL**

*(Camera flash)*

*(Speaking Japanese)*

**ESSA NARRATION**

Zophiel, who designed and sewed all their costumes.

*(Sewing machine)*

**ZOPHIEL**

No, this is all wrong.

## ESSA NARRATION

And Ezra, who only joined a few weeks ago.

## EZRA

Mmm, a lemon...

## ESSA NARRATION

Not only were they fierce little girls, but they hated Alita for becoming the newest member so easily, a position they all craved. If anyone would try to kill Alita, it'd be these girls.

To make things a little more interesting, I bought a couple of items along with me. One was a mystery bag of stuff, and the other was a gallon jug of water.

In no time, we were standing next to the SS misery. She looked even more rusty than the last time I saw her. Such a beautiful ship.

*(Metal falls off ship)*

We climbed the side of the ship and made our way onto the deck. The sun was setting, but that was all in my master plan.

## ESSA

Ezra, here. Hand these out.

## ALITA

Water guns? What are we doing with water guns?

## ESSA

Not we. Them.

## ALITA

...Why?

## ESSA

It's simple, my stupid-minded apprentice. They are going to chase and shoot at you. It's your objective to tag me before any drop of water hits your body.

## ALITA

But that's impossible.

**ESSA**

Impossible? I do that against bullets every day. But if you think you're not up to it, we can go home and tell Kial I was right.

**ALITA**

Let's do it.

**ESSA**

Good. Fill them up.

**ESSA NARRATION**

I gave Alita a smoke canister and a word of advice.

**ESSA**

Count out loud to 30 and try not to make this boring.

**ALITA**

Yes, mommy.

**ESSA NARRATION**

I flipped her off and disappeared inside the ship. This was going to be good. I'd "forgotten" to tell Alita, but I put some vinegar in the water guns. On the off chance she'd get soaked, she'd also smell as bad as she looked. Not that she needed help in that department.

**ALITA**

29, 30.

**ESSA NARRATION**

She clenched the smoke canister so tightly in her hand that the whites of her knuckles glowed in the dark. Inside the ship, I patiently waited in my hiding spot.

Up to bat first was Ariel. While Alita tried making up her mind about where to start, Ariel slowly crept up behind her on deck. She was wearing socks so as to not make any noise and was doing great until that one creaky step on the deck gave her away.

Ariel had her dead in her crosshairs as she squeezed the trigger. Alita pulled the pin on the smoke canister, dropped it on the deck, and took off into the interior halls of the ship.

**ALITA**

Better luck next time!

**ESSA NARRATION**

Ariel tried her hardest to re-pump the water gun, but lost sight of Alita and gave up. In the dark interior hall, Alita waited for her eyes to adjust under a doorframe. She didn't know it, but she was only a few feet away from Lillu, who had tiptoed nearby.

*(Giggles)*

Tired of waiting, I decided to help bring the two together.

**ESSA**

Catch me if you can.

**ESSA NARRATION**

She was fast, but I was faster.

**ESSA**

That all you got?

**ESSA NARRATION**

Lillu heard us approaching and crouched down next to one of the rooms. In the middle of the hallway, there were steps that elevated the floor a few feet higher. The barrel of her water gun stuck out around the corner. Alita ran past but didn't see the steps and tripped over them as Lillu shot.

Alita felt the mist from the spray and rolled back onto her feet. Lillu was shocked to see that within seconds, Alita had twisted the water gun out of her hand and continued after me.

Alita popped off the water canister and tossed the gun. When suddenly, Zophiel stepped out in front of her, Alita flung the water at her, forcing Zophiel out of the way as she bolted past.

**ALITA**

I'll be back for you.

**ESSA NARRATION**

When Zophiel looked back, Alita had vanished around a corner.

**ESSA**

I bet you'd run faster if I were Kial.

**ESSA NARRATION**

She picked up speed. She finally seemed to be taking it seriously. As we rounded another corner, to Alita's surprise, I had disappeared.

**ALITA**

You're not playing fair.

**ESSA**

When has life ever played fair?

*(Sniffs)*

**ALITA**

Did you really have to put vinegar in the water?

**ESSA**

Why? Afraid of smelling good for a change?

**ESSA NARRATION**

All I had to do was stall long enough for Lillim, who was at the other end of the hall, to aim and take a shot. It would have been perfect, except Ezra friendly fired at Lillim, thinking she was Alita. Pissed off, Lillim fired back at Ezra. Alita saw the two shooting and ducked behind a door.

**ESSA**

Looks like it's just down to you and me, my ugly friend. I'll give you a hint as to which room I was in. All you have to do is add 34, 23, and 11 together. See you there.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Alita cautiously crept down the hall, looking for Room 68. When she arrived, the door was shut.

I was across the hall in Room 67. Maths was never my strong suit.

**ALITA**

What the...

**ESSA**

Got to watch out for booby traps.

**ALITA**

Why, you little bitch! Take this!

**ESSA NARRATION**

Anyone living in a 10-mile radius would have heard the scream of seven girls as the most epic water battle unleashed inside the beached warship.

All of us smelled like vinegar as we walked back to the town.

**ALITA**

Would you really have turned me in for that bounty?

**ESSA**

Still want to, but I can't anymore.

**ALITA**

Why not?

**ESSA**

You're part of our team now. You'll make us more money working than a tiny bounty would.

**ALITA**

Even though the bounty has tripled?

**ESSA**

Wait, what?

**ALITA**

My father tripled the reward for me. If you were nicer, I would have split the profits with you. Maybe I'll collect it and split it with Kial instead.

**ESSA**

Tell me more.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

That night, the four of us devised a plan. We'd collect the reward, and then Alita would 'run away' from home again. That way, we got the cash without losing her as part of the team.

The next morning, Alita and I stood at the front door of her parents' house. The place was a mansion covered in vines with a yard bigger than a football field. One thing was for sure, Alita's family wasn't hurting for cash. I hope they didn't mind letting go of some, either.

*(Door knock) (Door Opens)*

### **ESSA**

Delivery.

### **MAID**

Oh my, Alita! One moment.

*(Door Closes)*

### **ESSA NARRATION**

And a minute later, Alita's father, Kiro, opened it.

*(Door Opens)*

### **KIRO**

Alita! Baby!

### **ALITA**

Father!

*(Chains)*

### **ESSA**

Not so fast.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

That got Kiro's attention. He gave me an unwelcoming look. The kind he probably gives his servants. Please,

**KIRO**

Come inside... both of you.

**ESSA**

You don't have to ask me twice, Pops.

**KIRO**

Pops?

**ESSA NARRATION**

Inside was the real eye candy. Paintings older than your grandma, furniture older than your grandpa, and so much money you could almost smell it through the big, stupid vault.

We sat down on chairs so old, Adam and Eve probably whittled them themselves. I spotted an assortment of cookies sitting alone on the table and decided this was a good alternative to lunch.

**ESSA**

Are those cookies homemade?

**KIRO**

Yes.

**ESSA**

Don't mind if I do.

**ESSA NARRATION**

Kiro went straight to business. I liked his style.

**KIRO**

Thirty thousand. Not a penny more.

**ESSA**

First off, there are about five things wrong with that sentence.

**ESSA NARRATION**

I lean forward, letting the crumbs spill onto the imported Italian hardwood floor.

**ESSA**

Ransom specifically said one hundred thousand, and that's not including the money I had to spend to rescue your daughter.

**KIRO**

Money? What money could you have possibly spent?

**ESSA**

Bullets, guns, grenades, hotel rooms, food, travel expenses. Any of this ringing a bell? Not to mention my bonus for returning a living, breathing body instead of a shot-up corpse.

**KIRO**

What's the total?

**ESSA**

Two hundred and fifty thousand. Non-refundable and non-negotiable.

**KIRO**

That's outrageous!

**ESSA**

You're right. I guess we'll be on our way.

**KIRO**

Where are you going?

**ESSA**

I hate wasting my valuable time. I'm sure I can get about the same over at some brothel. I also heard body parts on the black market sell pretty high too.

**KIRO**

Now wait just a minute!

**ESSA**

Time's money pops. The more you make me wait, the more it'll cost you. Price just went up to three hundred thousand. Seems like a good deal to get your daughter back. Better than three hundred and fifty thousand, that's for sure.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

Never let bounty hunters know how much you can afford. Otherwise, you'll end up paying every penny of it.

### **KIRO**

Okay, fine. Anything to get you to leave!

### **ESSA NARRATION**

I was stunned the girl was actually useful for a change. We swapped the cash for the handcuff keys.

### **KIRO**

Sophia, please see this bounty hunter out.

### **MAID**

Yes sir, right away. Please follow me.

### **ESSA NARRATION**

That night after dinner, Alita opened a window and snuck out of the house. She left a ransom note on her desk, signed with my name. The next morning, I got a rude awakening when twenty bounty hunters stormed into my room.

*(Kick open door)*

### **ESSA**

I smelled you before I saw you. Don't you guys ever shower?

*(Kicks Essa's knife out of her hand)*

### **ESSA NARRATION**

I didn't even have time to pee before I was back at the mansion.

Let's just say there weren't any cookies this time. I had already asked.

### **KIRO**

Where is she?!

### **ESSA**

Where's who?

**KIRO**

Stop playing games. You took my money, and then you kidnapped her from me again?!

**ESSA**

Nice try, but I'm pretty sure your daughter was the mastermind behind this. That's not even my handwriting.

**KIRO**

What makes you think I'd believe you?

**ESSA**

Well, for one thing, I can't read or write. Also, I had hidden your reward money in my bedroom, and this morning when your goons barged in, it was missing. Plus, if I did do it, why would I still be here and not a million miles away?

**KIRO**

...Alita did this?

**ESSA**

Oh yeah, that girl is nothing but trouble. Always has been. You want her back?

**KIRO**

Yes, of course I do.

**ESSA**

Well, you're in luck, cause so do I. Hire me, and I'll bring her back to you.

**KIRO**

Why should I hire you when I have plenty of other bounty hunters?

**ESSA**

Cause Oblivion Girl is the only one who can get her back in less than a week, and you're looking at her.

**KIRO**

Your Oblivion Girl?

**ESSA**

The one and only.

**KIRO**

Alright, how much this time?

**ESSA**

One hundred and fifty thousand.

**KIRO**

Fine. I guess I'll see you in less than a week.