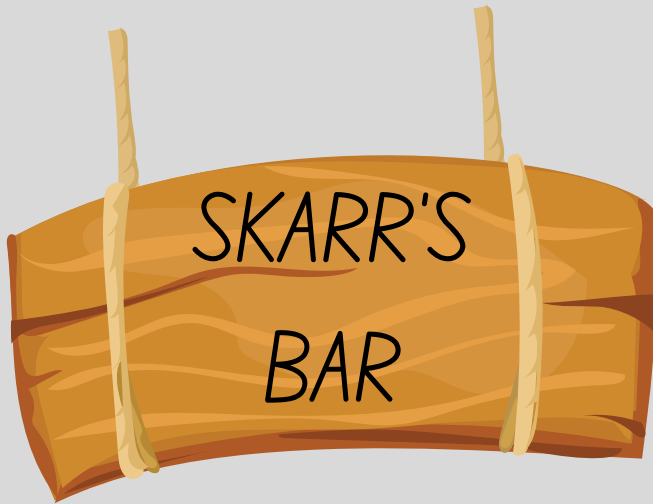




As the business day comes to a close, Skarr and Quin sit at the bar with Ozymandias. A round of drinks served cold sits before the lot of them.

"To new beginnings," Skarr says, tapping the rim of his mug.

"Ta Not havin' ta mop blood out tha floor again!" Quin cheers.

"To second chances," Ozy lifts his cup, nodding to Skarr.

"So, yer gonna open a shop in town then?" Quin belly laughs. "Seem our lil 'ton's becomin' quite tha retirement community!"

"Yeah, looks like it." Ozy swirls his drink, staring into it. "Not sure I'm ready for this. Any pointers, Hadrach?"

Skarr sits quietly, contemplating. "Three points come to mind, so listen well."

Ozy nods, scooting closer.

"First, don't be afraid to spend coin. Valors don't do us any good once we're dead. Buy the good ale. You'll make it back eventually."

"Okay, interesting." Ozy nods along with a slightly quirked eyebrow. "What else?"

Skarr holds up two fingers. "Second, put the past behind you. Speaking from experience, if you're always looking for a fight, you'll never stop finding them. Leave that life behind you and move on."

Ozy takes a sip of his ale. "Easier said than done, but I'll do my best. And the last point?"

Skarr takes a moment to respond. He sits at the bar, the night's work still dirtying the tables. The lingering scent of Quin's hard work hangs in the air. Half-finished glasses of wine, with lipstick stains on the rim, dot the bar. All of it handled while Skarr was upstairs with Ozy.

"Find you a fine partner, and you'll never wish for more."

Quin smiles sheepishly, looking into her cup. "Aww, shucks, pardner."

Ozy laughs, genuinely for what might be the first time since reincarnating. "Any chance you have a clone, Quin? I could use someone like you to keep me on the straight and narrow, heh."



Quin chuckles, waving dismissively. “Ya can’t ‘fford ma rate, thar, Ozy! ‘Sides, I reckon I got me a good thang goin’ right here.” She raises her cup to Skarr.

“To partners,” Skarr says, raising his mug to Quin.

“Ta pardners!”

Ozy raises his mug as well. “To you!”