

ISLINGTON/DOOR

Islington: The Lady Door, yes?

Door: Yes.

Islington: I am honored to finally meet you. Richard Mayhew, you, too, are welcome here, in my halls. I am the Angel Islington. Do you drink wine? This wine is the last bottle of its kind. It was given to me by one of your ancestors as a welcoming gift. This was, oh, thirty, forty thousand years ago. Quite a while ago, at any rate. I suppose you could accuse me of squandering something I should treasure, but I receive guests so rarely and the way here is hard.

Door: The Angelus...

Islington: You traveled here using the Angelus, yes. But that way works only once for each traveler. Drink it carefully. It is most potent. When one tastes it, I like to imagine that one is actually tasting the sunlight of bygone days. A toast: to former glories.

Door: Former glories. (She drinks) It's amazing. It's magical. I've never tasted anything like it.

Islington: And you never will again. There is no more wine from Atlantis. Imagine, as you drink it, skies bigger and bluer than any you have ever seen; a golden sun hanging huge in the air; everything simpler, younger than the world you know. Your father was a good man, Door, and a friend to me. I am deeply saddened by his death.

Door: In his journal he said I should come to you. He said I could trust you.

Islington: I only hope that I can be worthy of that trust. London Below is the second city I have cared for. The first sank beneath the waves, and there was nothing I could do to prevent it. I, too, know what pain is, and loss. You have my sympathies. What would you like to know?

Door: My family... they were killed by Croup and Vandemar. But who ordered it? I want... I want to know why.

Islington: Many secrets find their way down to me. Many rumors and half-truths and echoes. This token will bring you safely through the last stage of your journey back to me. The rest is up to you.

Door: My father had one of these...

Islington: The Black Friars are custodians of a key. I want you to bring it to me.

Door: And you can use it to find out who killed my family?

Islington: It is an artifact of great power. Now, good luck.

