Dinner with Lilith

The longest conversation in Act 1 of Livber: Smoke and Mirrors, followed down one path. At every choice both options are shown, and the marked one is the line the path follows.

Oğuzhan Açıkalın

Livber: Smoke and Mirrors · Act 1 · ACT1-DINING MAIN

LILITH'S HOUSE · THE DINNER TABLE · NIGHT

LILITH
I wanted tonight to be right. Our first evening together since you left. I went to a great deal of trouble.

She looks toward the moonlit window.

LILITH
You thought I deserved to die for asking. All I wanted was to bind our souls. One alchemy ritual, and we would have stayed together.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **You expected me to pay for that ritual. It would have destroyed me.** ← played below
2. Perhaps I should have said yes that night. I knew something was wrong, and I turned away.

Her rusty fork stops halfway to her mouth.

LILITH
Destroyed you? I offered you a love that would survive death. You reported me. Of course I know. When I spoke of black alchemy, you were already picturing the blood, the screams, my body sinking into the water.

NARRATOR
Something moves beneath the skin of her face. The candle shakes. You cannot tell whether the movement belongs to her or to its light. She leans back in her chair.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **You didn't know what you were asking.** ← played below
2. You wanted to own me.

LILITH
I knew exactly what I was asking, my love. I still do. You were frightened then. I can see you're frightened now. But I'm here. You needn't go through it alone.

NARRATOR

Rain rattles the wooden walls. Below the cliff, waves break into white foam. You wish you were aboard a ship beyond that window, even one with no port to make for. But you are sitting at her table.

ELBEK

Your madness will be the end of us both.

LILITH

You saw to that when you reported me. Eat. It's porph meat, cooked the way you like it. The fat melts under your tongue. Then you taste the herbs.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **Gods. Porph meat? Lilith, have you lost your mind?** ← played below
2. Porph meat? I didn't think it could be eaten.

LILITH

We saw one after the festival, the night you first told me you loved me. Such a long mane. You kept telling me how beautiful it was. I had to sit there and listen. Then we went to eat. I've remembered that evening ever since.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **We didn't eat together that night.** ← played below
2. I remember being happy. Perhaps that's why the rest hurt so much.

She strikes the table with both hands and leans across it.

LILITH

We ate this. You said you loved me. You said we'd never part. Do you remember what else you promised?

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **That it didn't matter which class we were born into.** ← played below
2. That I would never leave you, whatever happened.

LILITH

Your mother remembered my class. I saw it in her face when we met. I could have been a germ on her plate. Nothing counted unless I'd been born a noble in Kardiya. You let her look at me that way.

NARRATOR

She keeps watching you as she works the knife against her fork. Candlelight passes through her red hair. You look down at her plate. The knife is cutting into her thumb. Blood runs over the meat.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **(Try to stop her.) Lilith, your thumb!** ← played below
2. (Pull back.)

LILITH

Oh. How sweet of you to notice. My mind wandered. It happens when you're here. I forget everything that hurts.

NARRATOR

She wraps her thumb in a scrap of parchment from the floor. She studies the blood on her plate, spears a piece of meat and eats it with her eyes closed.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **How deep did you cut it? Let me see.** ← played below
2. Are you all right?

She opens her eyes.

LILITH

Hmm? I'm fine. Did I ever tell you how my mother died? She was addicted to dopamine. I was seven when it ran out. She thought she could drink what was left in her blood. By the time they found her, she'd drowned in it. I used to find that funny. I understand her now.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. **Why?** ← played below
2. You thought your mother's death was funny?

LILITH

There are things you need so badly they become part of you. You know that. You must. I need you inside me, my love. Until we're together, I can feel the hollow where you ought to be.

NARRATOR

Rain taps against the glass. You hear Lilith breathing across the table. She watches your plate and waits for you to eat.

PLAYER CHOICE

1. I can't stay here. (Get up from the table.)
2. (Try to eat.)

GETTING UP LEADS TO CELLAR DOOR A. EATING LEADS TO CELLAR DOOR B.