

## Dear Lover

Dear lover,

I hope that this message finds you in good hands.

I wish that I could tell you that everything has been going great down here, and that we have been holding up okay, but it has been hard. I know, I know, snow on waves, snow on waves. Still, it is difficult to even write properly knowing that I will not have you to check my spelling once I am finished. Gyro, there are so many things that I never got to tell you, plenty of things left to say. I have been trying to pray to Umbra, ask him to grant me an audience with you, but either the keeper is unwilling to listen or unable to hear how I beg at night. I would sacrifice a hundred dust crawlers just to get a whisper across, but all that seems impossible now.

My only consolation lies in the way I see you in the night sky, the brightest star, my brightest star. Sometimes I sit out in the hills behind our home for hours, sometimes alone, sometimes with Raze, sometimes with Lucis, but always without you next to me. At least I can still look at you from so far away. That reminds me, Yzix has been rambling and rambling about almost having perfected your features, both seen and unseen. You recall how he used to take great pride in his illusions, but this one pains him, as it pains me. Time and time again, I tell him to just drop it and allow me to keep you in my heart, not as some soulless husk of faded light. No, that is something that I want to keep to myself instead.

Lucis has found some distraction in his newly opened shop. He invests all his free time into furnishing his new 'Keeper's Gift', but I can tell that he struggles. He has begun to speak to his plants now, which would have been worrying if it had not been so adorable. He has a big white flower, up on top of the old fireplace, that he named after you. 'Northstar's Delight', that is what he calls it, says that you liked that one. Is it true? I bet it is, Lucis is nothing if not thoughtful.

Then there is Raze, who has been quiet as ever. He used to be angry. Angry about not having been there, angry about the chaos focus, angry about everything. Now he has fallen quiet again, retreated into himself as he did when we lost Serces. He continues to clean your necklace every once in a while, still believing that there is some trace of you left in there. Every full moon he goes outside at midnight to try and draw you out. It is not that I do not hope for your soul's persistence, I am just so afraid to even consider the possibility, afraid to have hope.

Zae, well, she is just... Zae. Puts on a brave face for all of us, spends most of her time dashing around town, helping to the best of her abilities. I envy her ability to keep busy. Not many have dared stepping outside, not after what happened to Hile, but she has been out and about. I think that part of her still does not believe that you are gone. She keeps looking for traces of you in weird places, sometimes comes back with things you lost, like that woven bracelet you lost in the woods. It is good to have her energy around, though I fear for her sanity. First Serces and now you... I do not believe that she can take another hit.

Anyway, it is getting late. Keep safe for me?

Your lover and friend,  
Phyros Custos