



VAN (male, 40s)

Van is the former leader and last remaining member of the Dark Antlers, a group of fierce warriors. He was captured in battle and forced to work as a slave in a salt mine for years before eventually escaping. Van is a strong and stoic man who chooses his words carefully. His voice is deep and gruff. He lost his son and wife to a plague and is still haunted by grief. When he rescues a baby girl we start to see his softer side emerge.

Scene 1

Van is trying to find Yuna, who was captured. He usually doesn't show a lot of emotion but when he talks about Yuna you can tell he loves her deeply. "Pyuika" is a type of deer like animal.

HOHSALLE	Van, may I ask a question? This Yuna you seek. What is she like?
VAN	<p>Well, Yuna is...</p> <p>Her hands are small, soft, and clingy. Her cheeks are rosy, round, and warm. Slightly unruly hair. Yes. Tying it into pigtails makes her smile with delight.</p> <p>She loves to smile. She is fond of animals. Insects? Perhaps not. She loves pyuika milk, and milks them well.</p> <p>She makes meat taste better. She cannot chew well, but she fills her mouth and smiles.</p> <p>Asleep, she sometimes clings to my back. So tightly that it hurts a little.</p>
HOHSALLE	You love her. I can see that.
VAN	<p>I thought I would never be a father again...</p> <p>I want to show her many things. I want to see her grow, find a man she loves, marry him, and... I want to keep watching over her.</p>

SAE	A deer whistle?
VAN	Yes. She asked me once to make her one.
SAE	She is not your child. She is an orphan who was given to an insane woman in the salt mine.
VAN	Blood ties matter not. She is my daughter.

Scene 2

Van has been affected by the *mittsual*, a disease transmitted by the *ossam*, a pack of rabid wolves. Instead of dying from the deadly illness, Van obtained a mysterious power. Kenoi the Dog King tells Van this means he has been chosen to be his successor. Van refuses; he just wants Yuna back so they can live a simple life together. In this scene Van is both mentally and physically struggling.

KENOI	Answer me. Are you willing, Van? Amid darkness, the <i>mittsual</i> found you. Use it as the Dog King to remake our world! As your soul surely desires.
VAN	After losing my wife and child, I groveled in darkness. But Yuna brought me back from the abyss. My soul was saved by that child. She is all I have.
KENOI	This girl is favored by the <i>ossam</i> . She also gained the power to become their queen. This is the answer you seek. Give in to it, Van!
VAN	[making up his mind] No. This is no place for her to live. To live on with her, I shall continue to resist! I shall not be king!
KENOI	Why not?! If you shall not, why do you possess that power?!
YUNA	Dada?
VAN	Yuna!