

Glass passes a mug, full of beer, across the table to John just as he delivers a leather pouch under the table to Samuel, the true exchange going unnoticed to all around. As John drinks, Mason opens the pouch and feels its silver contents between his fingers.

SAMUEL MASON

(moving the pouch to his coat)
The past few months have been good.

ANTHONY GLASS

They most certainly have. There are more people moving to and through Natchez than ever before.

A TAVERN GIRL brings a pitcher and refills John's mug. He drinks on happily as the men talk business.

SAMUEL MASON

(calm but concerned)
With good fortune comes the need for caution. John said we shouldn't come into town and show our faces. After seeing some of the looks we got ridin' in... I believe him to be right.

The accomplished mood from Glass turns to slight concern as he too notices a couple onlookers with suspicious glances their way.

ANTHONY GLASS

Sir, I do have some urgent news for you. There is a Colonel Baker in town who is stirring the Governor against you. He is rushing him to make a proclamation for your arrest. I am distressed to say that I only heard this moments before your arrival. There is no word as to when he may do this but a reward of \$900 for your capture was mentioned.

SAMUEL MASON

Ah, he's just mad because he let an old military man get the best of him.

(he chuckles)

The honorable thing for him to do would be accept defeat and move on... alas, a coward he'll always be.

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Mason leans into Glass and says in a low voice.

SAMUEL MASON

He never even tried to move his pistol against me. He just... shook, embarrassing himself in front of his men.

ANTHONY GLASS

I know the type.

(sighs)

I must say I am concerned that the posting of a reward may bring trouble against you sooner rather than later.

SAMUEL MASON

Anthony, perhaps it's best we cut this conversation short and continue at a later time.

Glass nods in agreement. As the men stand to leave, MADAME AIVOGES, a beautiful and well-dressed lady approaches the table.

MADAME AIVOGES

Mr. Glass, it is always a pleasure.

She extends her hand to Glass who takes it, bowing slightly.

ANTHONY GLASS

Madame Aivoges, the pleasure is mine alone. Please may I introduce to you, Captain Samuel Mason, and his son John.

Madame Aivoges returns the nods of formality from the men, Samuel first, then his son, but her eyes land back on Mason.

MADAME AIVOGES

(a slight twitch of a knowing smile)

It is a pleasure to meet such... gentlemen. And so well known for it, if the talk around here is true.

Samuel Mason clearly enjoying her wit and the female attention.

SAMUEL MASON

It would seem that would depend on who you ask.

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