

## Dialogue Sample

Context – Emma is casual, competitive, social, impatient; Cole is jolly, easygoing, good-natured; Holly is uptight, reserved, orderly, distant; Emma and her allies learn of a monster in the north, and she considers whether to go with them to battle it or stay in town.

[scene begins at market]

Emma: ...Okay...that *should* be everything. All finished, Mr. Adams!

Cole: Oh, thanks, Emma! We really crushed it today. Used up our entire stock of produce!

E: Must have been another weekend dinner rush.

C: That's true. Weekends are getting really busy. Alright, have a good one, hon!

E: You, too. Take it easy, dude.

[Emma walks over to library, opens door]

E: Oh Hoooooolllyyy...you still alive in there?

Holly: Very much so. Why do you ask? Is something the matter?

E: The market was *packed* today. Wasn't sure if the same traffic hit you.

H: Oh, it wasn't too hectic. I had to calm some unruly customers down, but it was otherwise a pretty normal day.

PLAYER CHOOSES: (A) ask about Holly's day, (B) change subject and talk about mercenaries

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Choice A:

E: Unruly customers? What happened?

H: Someone tried to negotiate costs on some of the books, even though I had told them multiple times that all prices were final. They tossed the books on the floor and stormed out after calling me a few vile names.

E: You're kidding me.

H: I truly wish I were. As it all happened, I was hoping that it was just a frightening dream.

E: What did they call you, dare I ask?

[Holly whispers into Emma's ear]

E: I see. So, do you think I could fit my entire hand around their neck?

H: Emma! \*laughs\*

E: I'm joking, I'm joking.

H: That is *quite* the question, young lady!

E: It just bothers me to hear someone as nice as you suffering like that. I-I am so sorry, Holly.

H: (smiles) Well, at least it's over now. I am sure that next week will be much better.

E: I tell you what, though, they wouldn't have tried pulling any of that garbage if I was there!

H: \*giggles\* I'm sure they'd be frozen with fear, miss.

E: Darn right.

[pause]

E: Alright, I guess I'll leave you to it. Looks like you were busy sorting through those gardening books.

H: Just a bit busy, but it was wonderful to see you, as usual. Please have a good night, Emma.

E: You, too. If things go south again, you know who to call...

H: If things go south, you'll probably be at work too, silly!

E: Ugh, then I'll be there in spirit!

[Emma leaves the library and heads home]

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Choice B:

E: Sounds rough.

[slight pause]

E: Hey, uh, do you remember that group of mercenaries that visited the market a few weeks ago?

H: Oh, Cobalt Ribbon? Those strong-looking folks working with you and Cole at the Hive? Yes, why do you ask?

E: Because I've been exploring Parmadom with them. They've helped teach me how to battle.

H: I see. This work you're doing isn't too dangerous, right?

E: Oh, I'm fine. I just felt like you'd want to know about it. We've been taking requests from people who need rare ingredients or are having trouble with monsters and thieves.

H: This all sounds very noble, Emma...but is Mr. Adams fine with this?

E: Oh yeah, he gave us permission to do this. Some of them go with me to fulfill these requests, and the rest stay at the Hive with Cole. It helps bring in more customers, and I like checking out the rest of Parmadom. But, um...we did get a really big request a few days ago, and I kind of felt like telling you about it.

H: What is it?

E: Apparently there's a crazy monster lurking near Frozernary, and the people there are worried it might attack them. The Cobalt Ribbon crew accepted it without question, and I think they might need my help.

H: A...monster in Frozernary? Emma, are you planning to travel?

E: I'm not sure yet. They'd appreciate the help, but I bet they could manage without me.

H: B-b-but...Have you informed Mr. Adams about this?

E: Yeah. He was hesitant to let me go, but I told him that this seems like a life-or-death situation, and he knows I've gotten a lot better at battling thanks to Cobalt Ribbon. Mr. Adams said he has enough crew members to make up for us leaving, at least for a little while.

H: This is just so, so much to process...I really don't want you to leave us, Emma. I understand how important this is, but your friends seem more than capable of neutralizing beasts. Everyone in Honeymint would miss you so much. We need you, too. We...really need you.

E: (softly, deep in thought) ...need me...

PLAYER CHOOSES: (A) stay in Honeymint Hills, continue working at the Hive (B) stand ground, choose to leave with Cobalt Ribbon

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Choice A:

E: You know, I'm still not a pro with this fighting stuff. They...will probably be fine without me. I can keep the Hive running while they're away.

H: Are you positive, Emma? Will you stay here?

E: I guess so. Cobalt Ribbon has been through worse. I heard they killed a couple hundred snakes in Cayamin a few years ago. And they took down those Giga-Grove Moles a few weeks ago!

H: (smiles) That is true. I heard those moles were quite irritable. I believe Jillian said each of them were roughly eight feet tall.

E: *Jillian* saw the moles!?

H: Either she heard it through the grapevine, or she encountered them while replenishing her vegetable stock at the Kailancho Grove.

E: Nothing stops that woman. She's awesome.

H: Absolutely. I am always envious of Jillian's confidence.

E: I can imagine she'd be pretty sad if I left town...yeah, I'm gonna let Cobalt Ribbon handle the Frozernary situation. I'm staying here.

H: \*relieved sigh\* Thank goodness. I couldn't bear running the library without you stopping by each day. Those mercenaries do seem very experienced. I'm sure they will manage on their own. You just...you belong here, Emma. You've done so much for the village, and for me.

E: Really? It's nice to hear how much you care, Holly. I need to stick around and help Cole run the Hive. What would our village be without this wonderful restaurant?

H: I'm sure it would be very hungry. I'll let you go now; it is getting quite late.

E: Right. See you tomorrow, Holly!

H: Goodbye, Emma! Take care!

E: Bye!

[Emma leaves, door closes]

H: (softly) See you tomorrow...

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Choice B:

E: I know you all appreciate what I do, but there are people up north whose lives are at stake. I can make a huge difference for them, and these mercenaries are my friends. I have to be there for them.

H: No...Emma, please...

E: Holly, the mission should only take us a few weeks at the absolute most. Once order is restored in the north, I'll hurry right back to Honeymint with Cobalt Ribbon and—

H: (sniffing) ...order will be restored.

[pause]

E: Holly, you're the smartest person I know. And you've got Annabelle to help you out, like always. You'll be fine without me.

H: I don't think I will. (now hysterical) I don't want to imagine you being in serious danger, at the mercy of some fearsome beast. You're just about everything to me. I cannot let that happen.

E: I'll be alright, Holly. I'm not gonna die. If the work gets too intense for me, Cyrus, the archer, said he can escort me back to Honeymint. But I am confident that I can complete this mission. I'll be fully prepared for this one.

H: \*sigh\* Okay. I suppose I can trust your word, Emma. You are quite a strong woman, after all. That monster will be groveling at your feet, I am sure.

[Emma begins to leave the library]

E: Appreciate the support. It's moments like these that make me glad we're friends.

H: (turns away, muttering) I'm not sure if being "friends" is enough for me...

[Emma freezes in the middle of the doorway]

E: Did you say something?

H: Hmm?

E: You mumbled.

H: (looks up at Emma) Oh, I was just saying "I support my friends, but this time it will be rough for me."

E: Ah. That's the spirit. I'm going to head home now. Got a lot of packing to do. It's a long walk to Frozemary.

H: Of course. Have a good night, Emma. Please, please be safe. Give my regards to Cobalt Ribbon.

E: Got it. See you later, Holly.

[Emma leaves]

H: Oh, Cobalt Ribbon, I hope you will guard that girl with your lives.