

SCENE I

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

The BOOKKEEPER, 29, poised and prepared, attentively awaits Bastion at the checkout counter.

BOOKKEEPER  
Did you find everything you were  
looking for?

BASTION  
I did. Thanks.

The Bookkeeper scans the merchandise.

BOOKKEEPER  
Are you sure? This is a very  
specific bookstore. I wouldn't want  
you to leave here without getting  
what you came for.

BASTION  
Ya know what? You're right.

Bastion grabs a bunch of RANDOM ITEMS from nearby.

BASTION  
I forgot these. Don't forget about  
these.

BOOKKEEPER  
What about these?

The Bookkeeper grabs two, dull-looking, hand-sized STONES from under the counter.

BOOKKEEPER  
We can't forget about these. I can  
put them in the bag for you, or...  
would you prefer to hold onto them?

BASTION  
Listen, I know what you're trying  
to do, but that's not my style.

The Bookkeeper sets everything aside; save for a SMALL WOODEN BOX.

BOOKKEEPER  
In here you'll find a seed, but you  
won't know exactly what it is until  
it starts growing.

BASTION

So it's completely random?

BOOKKEEPER

No, it doesn't work that way. It becomes the very thing you need most, and serves as a reminder to you about what's really important.

The Bookkeeper hands the merchandise back to Bastion, but doesn't let go.

BOOKKEEPER

The free things in life are often taken for granted.

(lets go of the bag)

If you need anything, you know where to find us.

SCENE II

INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

The Bookkeeper promptly unlocks the door for Bastion.

BOOKKEEPER  
Welcome back. Do come in.

BASTION  
Thanks.

The Bookkeeper steps aside. Bastion enters. He locks the door behind him.

BOOKKEEPER  
We can't just let anyone in here.  
What brings you back to our humble  
abode this fine evening?

BASTION  
I need to clarify my choices. I  
don't know what to do. I'm at a  
dead end.

BOOKKEEPER  
Let's see what we can find.

He leads Bastion.

BOOKKEEPER  
Books are like memories. They can  
awaken the soul whenever we so  
choose to tap into them.

BASTION  
What about the painful ones? Can we  
burn those?

He gives Bastion a sinister smile.

BOOKKEEPER  
A book can always be burned, but it  
can never be unread.

BASTION  
I only want to look ahead.

The Bookkeeper stops walking and searches the bookshelf.

BOOKKEEPER  
We can only look in one direction.  
Ahhh... here it is.

The Bookkeeper reaches down to grab: "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry from the bottom shelf.

BOOKKEEPER

You're going to love this one. It's impossible to put down once you've started reading it.

He ceremoniously hands the book to Bastion.

BASTION

What's it about?

BOOKKEEPER

We can only understand different things in this world by experiencing them.

BASTION

I've read this before. I know how it ends.

BOOKKEEPER

Knowing the truth is not nearly as valuable as searching for it.