

Improving Your Reading with Rex Retriever: Raider's Peril



Catanna ran through the darkness of the White Desert night. She rarely ventured to the Silken City, and never alone. Despite its soft-sounding name, it was a cut-throat place.

Katka's thumb ached from pressing the forward button as hard as she could.

It wouldn't make Catanna move any faster – Katka knew that – but her thumbs wouldn't listen to reason right now. She had to find Xandon and discover what the Gutvines were up to, before they tricked her into destroying her own guild.

The hazy light of the distant city grew brighter by degrees. Catanna didn't look to the left or right; she just ran – over dunes, through tented encampments, under the shadows of enemy strongholds. She even splashed through an oasis without swerving; her eyes never left that hazy light.

That was how the bandits got her.

Suddenly, flaming arrows rained down from the sky. Her vision flashed red and she staggered as her health bar dropped. She'd been hit. Unfamiliar voices jumbled on her headset.

“Taste it!”

“One more hit.”

“Grab the bag.”

Too late, Catanna readied her spear. But Katka couldn't see who to aim at, and the spear flew,

glittering, into the night, landing uselessly in the sand ahead. Catanna tried to follow it, but she was knocked to the ground by another blow. Her health was critical.

“She's out.”



"Taste it!"

"Shut up and search the bag."

"Topaz, nice."

"Who uses spears anyway?"

All Katka could see was black. She pressed every button on the controller, but Catanna just lay there, her health bar blinking a warning. She was helpless as her lootbag was snatched away and the unseen assailants emptied its contents and flung it onto the sand. She heard every thud as they ran away across the desert.

Eventually, her health bar climbed above the danger zone and stopped blinking. Katka let out a breath that she didn't know she'd been holding. Catanna stood, picked up her lootbag, and looked at the contents. Just some useless armour, precision gloves, and something called an ice cloak.

Great.

Catanna shouldered the bag. All that Gutvine loot, gone in seconds because of Katka's own stupidity. Fantastic.

Catanna limped in circles, searching for her topaz spear. She remembered the exact spot it had landed in, but it wasn't there. The further that Catanna limped, the deeper her heart sank until it dropped right into her stomach. Her spear was gone.

Katka flopped back on her cool pillows. She stared at the ceiling, at the crack that wriggled across it like a road on a map. She was the leader of the Brittlestar guild; despair was not an option. She had to find Xandon and get back what she had lost. With a sigh, she sat upright.

Catanna joined a crowd of raiders, merchants and warriors as she limped closer to the Silken City gates. Guards stood on either side, their formidable weapons ready in case of trouble. Catanna stayed to the middle of the crowd, who jostled and slowed as they reached the bottleneck.

As the bustling chatter and hanging silks of the city came into focus, Catanna was snatched to the side by a guard. The guard's animated face loomed down at Catanna, grinning. His teeth were black.

1. Who was Katka desperate to find? Tick **one**.

- Catanna
- Xandon
- the guards
- the Gutvines

2. Find and copy two facts about Catanna's previous journeys to the Silken City.

1. _____
2. _____

3. Why did Katka's thumb ache?

- _____
- _____

4. Read the following statements about the guards beside the Silken City gates. Tick those which are true.

- They held weapons in preparation for trouble.
- They had travelled from the White Desert.
- The guards had previously been merchants.
- Catanna was snatched to the side by one of them.

5. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

Catanna ran through the darkness of the...

Silken City

White Desert

danger zone

tented encampment

6. List three items which could be found in Catanna's lootbag.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

7. Look at the paragraph beginning *Too late, Catanna readied her spear.*
What happened to affect Catanna's health?

8. What was Catanna searching for as she limped in circles?

9. What two things do we know about the guard who snatched Catanna?

1. _____

2. _____

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Catanna ran between the city walls.		
Katka's health was critical.		
Catanna's eyes remained fixated on the hazy light.		
Katka was knocked to the ground.		

Answers

1. Who was Katka desperate to find? Tick **one**.

- Catanna
- Xandon**
- the guards
- the gutvines

2. Find and copy two facts about Catanna's previous journeys to the Silken City.

She rarely went to the Silken City.

She had never been there alone.

3. Why did Katka's thumb ache?

Katka's thumb ached because she had been pressing the forward button as hard as she could.

4. Read the following statements about the guards beside the Silken City gates.

Tick those which are true.

- They held weapons in preparation for trouble.**
- They had travelled from the White Desert.
- The guards had previously been merchants.
- Catanna was snatched to the side by one of them.**

5. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

Catanna ran through the darkness of the...

White Desert

6. List three items which could be found in Catanna's lootbag.

useless armour

precision gloves

ice cloak

Answers

7. Look at the paragraph beginning *Too late, Catanna readied her spear*.
What happened to affect Catanna's health?

She had been knocked to the ground by another blow.

8. What was Catanna searching for as she limped in circles?

Catanna was searching for a topaz spear.

9. What two things do we know about the guard who snatched Catanna?

Accept two of the following: his teeth were black; his face was animated; he was taller than Catanna; he had a formidable weapon at the ready.

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Catanna ran between the city walls.		✓
Katka's health was critical.		✓
Catanna's eyes remained fixated on the hazy light.	✓	
Katka was knocked to the ground.		✓