Dear Literary Agent,

When a dying hunter tries to pay Verenne with the money sewn into his coat, she tells him he can pay her later. As his pulse falters under her hand, something inside the guard's wooden case beats in answer. Rook Arden stole Lord Sorn's spare heart intending to destroy it. The guard has orders to bring back both the thief and the glass. By the time he realises what Verenne is doing, the glass has taken hold in Rook's chest.

Escaping the clinic buys Rook twelve days before Sorn's claim on the glass closes. As Sorn searches Lowbank door to door, Verenne has to find shelter for her patients and for the man who once helped his collectors corner them at the grain wharf. Rook gives her a plan of his former employer's house, including the door he marks with a question because he doesn't know who guards it anymore. After all the things he kept from her, it's the question mark she finds herself trusting.

They need the seal inside Sorn's coat and the furnace where the glass was made. To turn it into living flesh, someone must also give up an entire inborn gift. Rook offers the hearing that lets him find a living creature in the dark. Verenne starts counting the things she could still do for a patient with ordinary hands. Then Sorn takes her fellow healer Linnet prisoner. By the time he brings Linnet to the furnace with her wrists tied, Verenne knows whose gift he means to spend first.

A HEART ON BORROWED TIME is an adult fantasy romance, complete at 69,000 words. It will appeal to readers of Leigh Bardugo's *The Familiar* who enjoyed the uneasy bargain between people with gifts and the patrons who lay claim to them.

I live in Melbourne, Australia, where I work in IT. I write fantasy under the name Naria Khan. Thank you for considering my work.

Kind regards,
Naria Khan