Farmer's Maze
Player's Booklet
To Combine Harvester (B)

The village

Rabel (74)

Primpartners: Lekala and Partos

Primchildren: Kentes, Renka, Jakeb

Rabel has for many years seen it as her responsibility to give all the children of Parthos, Lekala and herself an equal chance. And for many years that has also included making special allowances for Latefa, since she evidently had a harder time than most.

Recently, however, Rabel has been told about some disturbing finds by her daughter Renka. Renka told her that she had uncovered a furnished and elaborate cave dwelling close to the yeast vats. Renka was sure that the dwelling was constructed by Latefa since she was the only person who stayed at the yeast vats for prolonged periods of time. It must have ben constructed for some strange and disturbing purpose, and Renka claimed that she had found remnants of several skeletons of small children in a mound of stones nearby.

There is a risk that Renka has made it all up in order to help Kentes in his campaign to keep Latefa at arm's length from his youngest child Katlek, or even just as revenge for Latefa's sleeping with every man in her age group and thus complicating Renka's relationship to both of her primpartners Anares and Kentes. But the accusations could not be disregarded and they seemed too horrendous to be made up – they must be true.

Ever since last summer, Kentes has been saying that he did not want Latefa to be responsible for the children at the lake this harvest season (actually not ever again). He shrank from giving any specific reasons, but he was quite adamant. Suddenly it seemed as if he had done so for good reason. Up until Renkas information, Rabel did not feel she could back Kentes' demands against the pleadings of Lekala to let Latefa have at least this little contact with the children. Now Rabel had to make a stand, and she managed to get the assignment for Kentes to go to the lake together with Lekala instead. Latefa must have become very sad or very angry.

It is so sad, what has happened to the family. So many people are angry with each other. This is not the way a family should be. But surely no one could be angry enough to kill each other. Still it must have been Kentes, every other possibility makes even less sense. The agents, however, must not know. If he was taken away, it would be dire for the children.

The yeast vats

Klea (40)

Primpartner: Kentes and Eklan

Primchildren: Vakela, Asek, Asper

Klea has always been Latefa's best friend. They played together as children, confided in youth, but they began to drift apart when Klea started having children. And as Klea got her second and third child and Latefa had none things got more tense, but Klea kept her warm feelings for Latefa, and she felt that in spite of her disappointment, Latefa still liked her too.

As far as Latefa still had someone she confided in, Klea was it. It was no problem for Klea – her heart was big enough to be mother to three, partner to two and best friend to the black sheep of the family.

If Klea has any regrets about her relationship to Latefa, it is that she broke the news about who was going to the lake this harvest in the worst way possible. She had simply not foreseen that Latefa could be ignorant about the situation. For a whole year, Kentes had demanded that Latefa should not accompany the children to the lake over harvest any more. Meeting after meeting during winter it had been rejected, but then in the very last days before harvest the decision had been reversed, and Klea heard that Kentes and Lekala would accompany the children to the lake.

Klea simply had not imagined that Latefa had not been informed about the decision. The elders ought to have taken care of that – if no one else, then her own primmother.

The result was that when Klea met Latefa last, she immediately started to talk with her in a consoling way, since she expected Latefa to be both sad and angry. But since Latefa had no idea, what it was all about, she was at first terribly frightened and confused, and when she realized that the children had been escorted to the lake, and she had not even been told that the others did not want her to come, she turned white and became totally quiet. A moment after Latefa cut the connection, and Klea did not hear from her again.

Klea worked with Latefa at the yeast vats, but she is not half as good at the job as Latefa was. She was out harvesting, when Latefa was found at the landing facility. Everybody was so confused, when they heard, but because of the harvest, they didn't have time to have a family meeting. It was a whole day before they realized that nobody had been at the yeast vats for several days! They set the harvester Klea was on on automatic, and hurried to the yeast vats, and now they have to try and fix it without Latefa. But Klea's thoughts are somewhere else: How are the kids doing? Are they scared or worried? This is so horrid – who in the world could have done something like that?

The Lake Side

Maklar (15)

Primpartner: Fela

Primparent: Kentes

Primsiblings: Roskot, Lakson and Katlek

Maklar had the feeling that something terrible was going to happen for quite some time. It started last summer when Latefa kept Katlek on her lap or by her side the entire time and excluded Maklar from their company as much as possible. She was behaving more like a primparent than a common mother. One night, he woke up, and when he went to check on Katlek, he was not there. Latefa was gone too, but they were back the next morning. He didn't tell anyone about it till the next harvest drew near, and he knew they were going back to the lake. Latefa always went with Lekala as the responsible adults, and he dreaded what could happen this time.

So Maklar told his and Katlek's primparent, Kentes, who became very alarmed. It turned out that Kentes had been feeling very uncomfortable about Latefa's behavior towards Katlek as well. She had been taking Katlek aside more and more, trying to push him out of the way, Kentes said. Kentes assured Maklar that he would not have to worry: Latefa would not be going to the lake this harvest; he would make sure of it.

So Maklar felt quite safe, and enjoyed himself at the lake. Well, enjoyed and enjoyed. He missed Fela, they had only just begun getting physical recently, and it was so great! He was beginning to become impatient about when he would be deemed sufficiently grown up by the computer to join the adults in their work? He was beginning to chafe at being lumped together with the kids. He wanted to be part of the intense and important work of the harvest, not just an extra babysitter. But he knew the big kids were needed for babysitting, so he did his part, even if he sulked a bit about it. The only thing that helped was the fact that Kentes was with them this year instead of Latefa.

That night, when he was in the hut alone feeling depressed, he was watching over the smallest kids, while the rest were enjoying themselves down by the lake. Then suddenly, out of the blue, Latefa appeared. She didn't say hello or anything, just rushed past him towards the children, where she grabbed the sleeping Katlek! He asked her what she was doing, but she was already leaving – with Katlek in her arms.

He ran after her, yelling for her to stop, but she ignored him, and he saw that she had a crawler parked few meters away – in a minute she could be gone into the maize taking Katlek with her. He reacted instinctively, grabbing something (a croquet club) from the porch and hit her hard from behind. Her legs buckled, she fell and Katlek fell to the ground. He ran and got Katlek, who had started crying, got him quieted down and brought him back in his bed. Only then did he go to see what had happened.

Latefa was clearly dead. Maklar had killed his common parent. What should he do? He knew he had to ask Kentes for help, and the rest of the family must not know. He stuffed her body into the crawler and drove it off 20 meters, hiding it in the bushes. Then he waited for his primparent. When Kentes came, he waited until everybody else had gone to bed, then he told him everything. Kentes hugged him hard. He did not scold Maklar or get angry, but he had tears in his eyes. Kentes said he would take care of everything and never to tell the others. And that was it.

Now Maklar does not know how to behave. He feels like crying all the time. He goes off to be alone, but then the kids come and find him, and Kentes tells him not to act suspiciously. Everything is so horrible and he keeps getting at odds with Fela, when they talk. But he had to do it, did he not?

The family's current standpoints on the central controversies

The question of Latefa's guests

Latefa has had many more guests than is usual. As usual, they were tested and given to their families, but some died accidentally before being tested, and lately she has isolated herself when she had guests, and there hasn't been much information about them.

I fear to think what she does to the poor creatures	Rabel Anares Mala Renka Kentes Maklar	Jakeb	Partos Fela	Eklan Torek	Pelek Klea Lekala	She has been so unlucky, I guess she tried the best she could

The controversy of who should take care of the children at the lake

The children of the family always spend harvest time frolicking at the lake. Usually, Lekar and Latefa together with the larger kids take care of all the small ones. But this year, Kentes has been voicing his concern: he felt that Latefa was trying to usurp his role as primary parent for his two-year old Katli and did not want her babysitting at the lake. He said he did not feel that it was safe, and that Latefa's interest in Katli seemed unhealthy.

Latefa should not be allowed near the kids	Rabel Mala Renka Kentes Maklar	Jakeb	Partos Anares	Pelek Fela Torek	Klea Eklan Lekala	Latefa loves the kids, she wouldn't dream of harming them

The production and sale of illegal vision spores

The family secretly produces hallucinatory spores at the yeast vats. These are traded for luxury items on the black market, but nobody in the family would dream of using them. They are just not that kind of family.

The vision spores are a valuable addition to the production of the farm	Pelek Klea Renka	Partos Fela	Rabel Anares Maklar Torek	Jakeb Kentes	Mala Lekala	The vision spores are illegal, and we should stop producing them