Character: Mara

Version 2

Analysis from the manuscript

Character in the manuscript

27 name mentions · Chapters with matches 6/6

The count covers the name and configured variants. Check who shared names and pronouns refer to as you read.

- First match in chapter 1, last in chapter 6.

Chapters with name matches

Chapter	Name mentions
1	2
2	5
3	5
4	3
5	7
6	5

Speech · estimated attribution

- **Attributed speech turns:** 3
- **Words per sentence in attributed speech:** 24.4
- **Share of questions and exclamations:** 0.0%

Read the matching passages

Read the full paragraph with the name highlighted. Where enabled and available, nearby sentences provide context.

Chapter 1 · The Eastern Gate

Line 1

> **Mara** stopped beneath the quay lamp. Someone had tried the eastern gate of Warehouse 4. Fresh scratches crossed the lock, and an abandoned crate stood beside the wall.

Line 5

The night watchman caught her sleeve. Beyond the quay, a small launch slipped into the mist. Its engine kept knocking after its light disappeared. He had sent a boy for customs. He wanted **Mara** to stay.

After

He kept his back to the gate while he spoke, and twice she saw him check the gap beneath it. It was the first time she had noticed how little light reached the door.

Chapter 2 · The Loose Board

Line 1

A board moved. **Mara** turned. The crate tipped towards the drain. She caught its corner and pushed. Her boot slipped. Water entered her shoe. The watchman reached the other side. Together they set it flat.

Line 3

Something rattled inside. A nail stood proud of the lid. **Mara** pulled her hand away. Blood marked the wood. The watchman lifted his lamp. A strip of blue paper clung beneath the cord. Most of the label had been torn off. Under it, an older number showed through: seventeen. That blue was office stock. She'd copied seventeen last.

Line 5

Footsteps sounded behind the gate. **Mara** held up her hand. The watchman stopped. Another step. Then silence. She moved away from the wall. A shadow crossed the lamp. Ivo came round the corner with a coat over his arm.

Line 7

He put it down. The three of them dragged the crate clear of the water. One plank cracked. The watchman fetched a wedge. **Mara** kept both hands against the lid. Ivo stared at the paper.

Line 9

Water ran from the base. He reached for the cord. **Mara** shifted her foot against the crate. The blue strip lifted, then settled. At its edge she could see another layer of glue, still soft enough to hold his fingerprint. Without it, seventeen was just another old number.

Chapter 3 · Questions on the Quay

Line 9

Before

"Not then. The crate was here."

Hansen turned to **Mara**. "And the launch?"

Line 11

"For the time being, all I can say is that I saw a light," **Mara** said quietly. "I could see the lamp, but I could not make out anyone aboard. I was standing under the quay lamp when I lost sight of it, and I thought the light would show again if it came out from behind the crane, but it didn't, and by then the engine was the only thing I could follow, that little knock carrying the whole way across the water long after I could see nothing but the quay lamp's reflection, which is why I called it a launch even though I couldn't have told you where it was going or who was on it."

Line 29

Ivo pulled his coat on. One sleeve caught at the elbow. He worked it free without looking at the officer. **Mara** knew the driver at the other gate was paid by the trip. Through the bars she could just make out the sack over his seat. No one had told him he was waiting on customs now.

Line 31

Hansen bent over the torn label. **Mara** showed him her hand.

After

"The blood is mine. That happened when we moved it."

Line 41

Before

It could be an old mark."

"I asked whether you recognised it."

Mara touched the folded paper through her coat. "Perhaps. I need the office book."

Chapter 4 · The Customs Note

Line 5

A wooden crate was moved clear of the drain. A lid plank cracked during handling. **Mara** attributed the blood on the wood to a cut on her hand. A fragment of blue label and a board bearing the number seventeen were retained for inspection.

Line 7

The watchman reported two people leaving towards the basin. **Mara** reported a launch light and an engine. Neither witness identified passengers or saw a crate loaded aboard.

Line 9

The damaged lid was bound before transport. The crate was first opened at the customs station at six ten. Forty bundles of untaxed tobacco were counted there. The preliminary entry stating that Hansen inspected the contents on the quay was

amended. No receiving signature had yet been identified for the delivery receipt supplied by **Mara**.

Chapter 5 · The Blank Line

Line 1

The office stove had gone cold. **Mara** held her wet boot towards it while Hansen laid the torn label on the desk. The blue strip curled as it dried. Seventeen was written in a different hand beneath the printed border.

Line 5

She unfolded it. Same blue stock, same narrow border. Her own figures filled the dispatch column. The receiving line was empty. Last winter the foreman had docked a clerk a whole week's wages when a load went missing under his initials. **Mara**'s rent was due on Friday.

After

It was only when she looked at it again that she began to think that there might have been a reason for the space that he had left on the form.

She brought the torn edges together.

Line 17

Before

"I copied a number."

Hansen said nothing. **Mara** noticed that the paper rasped against the desk. She could hear Ivo moving about outside, stamping his feet against the cold. She felt the wet leather press against her toes.

Line 23

In the passage outside, a draught moved under the door. **Mara** waited by the door. **Mara** watched the clock. **Mara** waited for Hansen. Then she turned to her notebook.

Line 25

Mara opened her notebook. She had written that the smugglers escaped by boat. She crossed out the sentence. Beneath it she wrote what she had heard after the light had gone, then the number and the time the foreman had given her. Under the notebook leaf, the receipt's empty line made a faint grey rule.

Chapter 6 · Morning Handover

Line 3

Before

A new seal hung from the gate. The foreman arrived carrying a hot drink, stopped at the sight of Hansen and set the cup down without tasting it.

Mara gave him the receipt. She had checked it so often that the fold was beginning to split.

After

"An old board," he said.

Line 9

Before

"Then show us the book," Hansen said.

The foreman fetched the ledger. **Mara** watched him turn past yesterday's entries and turn back. His thumb rested on the receiving column.

After

Cart seventeen: returned, six forty in the evening.

Line 15

The earlier entry was squeezed into the margin. Its ink had spread along a crease in the paper; the entries above it had dried cleanly. **Mara** moved the cup away before the foreman could set it over the figures. Whatever the old board meant, signing the receipt now would put her name under an arrival she had never seen.

After

Outside, Ivo called that the waiting driver was leaving.

Line 19

Before

Outside, Ivo called that the waiting driver was leaving. The foreman made to close the book.

Mara put her hand on the page.

After

"Who brought it back?"

Line 23

He lifted his thumb. There was no signature on that line either. **Mara** tore the leaf from her notebook and signed beneath the account of what she had entered at eight. She pushed it towards Hansen, together with the receipt. The receiving line stayed blank.

Source quotations

Port Authority Customs Log (synthetic) · Version 1

The watchman saw the two figures leave towards the basin. Mara saw a launch light and heard its engine after the light disappeared. Neither witness saw a crate loaded

aboard, identified passengers or recovered a tool. The proposed crowbar and launch connection remain unconfirmed.