

Scene One – Spaceships and Swords

AMBIENT: Old radio serial playing in background. General kitchen clamor.

SFX: Phone rings once. It is picked up.

SHAUNA

Antonio's Pizza and Sub, Commonwealth Ave, proudly serving the MSU area since 1995, this is Shauna speaking, will this be pickup or delivery?

[Hi, Honey!]

Hi Mah.

[How are you?]

Kind of busy.

[Oh yeah? Who's working?]

Just myself and Katherine.

[Isn't Antonio there?]

What? No. Antonio isn't here.

[Why not? He's never there.]

I know he's never here. Because there is no Antonio. There never has been. It's just the name. I've told you that.

[Huh. You sound tense. Are you okay?]

I'm fine.

[Well, you don't sound fine.]

What do you want mom?

[Why do you think I want something?]

Because you keep changing the subject. You always do that when you want something.

[Don't be flip with me, young lady.]

I'm not being flip. It's the truth.

[It is not, and there's no reason for you to be so rude to your mother--]

SHAUNA (cont.)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to...

[Well, maybe not, but you certainly are taking that tone with me--]
Mom...

[--and I really don't need a guilt trip whenever I can't afford more than a free dinner for your brothers.]

Of course. I know, but...

[I feel bad enough about it. If it's a problem for you, I can just--]

No, it's not a problem, Mah. Three large. An extra cheese, a sausage, and a veggie, right?

[That would be wonderful, thank you.]

Okay. I'll see you tonight Mah.

[Yes dear. I love you.]

I love you too Mom.

SFX: Phone is hung up.

KATHERINE

Your mom getting more free pizza off you?

SHAUNA

Not my mom, my four brothers.

KATHERINE

Shauna, you can't keep letting them sponge off you like that. The boss is going to find out.

SHAUNA

I've been working here for six years. He needs me more than he needs those pizzas.

SFX: Ding!

KATHERINE

Order up for McNally! So anyway, you will not believe what my Journalism professor is doing to me.

SHAUNA

...what's that?

KATHERINE

She gave me a 90 on my term project.

SHAUNA

I can't believe it! You got a 90!

KATHERINE

Easily could have been a 95. It would have been perfect if there wasn't a group work component. (sigh) I work so much better alone. Now I'm going to get a three-seven this semester. Unreal.

SHAUNA

Unreal, yeah. I'm a three-two, y'know.

KATHERINE

Oh, Well, I mean, a three-two isn't bad...

SFX: Ding!

SHAUNA

For me, you mean?

KATHERINE

No, that isn't what I mean. Orders up for Barton, Johnson! I mean that you spend a lot of time at work.

SHAUNA

Well I kinda have to, Katherine—

KATHERINE

No no, I know, I mean, considering that you're either babysitting your brothers or working here, it's amazing that you have a 3.2.

SHAUNA

I know. I'd just like to make Dean's list once. It'd make my parents happy, you know?

SFX: Ding!

KATHERINE

Parents whatever. Do it for yourself. Order up for Norton!

SHAUNA

Well, they are paying for school and all. Them and the government. I think they've been a little disappointed in my grades so far.

KATHERINE

Meh.

SHAUNA

Besides, it would set a good example for Tyler. He hasn't been doing so well in high school this year. Not to mention the twins.

KATHERINE

Hey, where is Mike? Isn't he on this shift?

SHAUNA

He's scheduled to be on this shift, yes...

SFX: Ding!

KATHERINE

That kid. I'm gonna kill him. Orders up for Borsuk, Osiecki! Did I pronounce that right...?

SFX: *door opening sound (door chime?)*

MIKE

Hey ladies, sorry I'm late...

KATHERINE

I doubt that, somehow.

SHAUNA

You're just lucky the boss isn't here, Mike. What are you, 25 minutes late for the fourth day in a row?

MIKE

Hey now. Third. I was studying.

SHAUNA + KATHERINE

both laugh

MIKE

No, really! Coach is gonna kill me if I don't get a two-oh this semester. I could even lose my scholarship!

SHAUNA

What ever will MSU Boston do without their favorite fourth-string quarterback?

MIKE

Third string quarterback, thank you very much.

KATHERINE

Third? Geez. Hang in there, Mike. You're going pro any minute now.

MIKE

OK, OK, I get it. I'm late. "Field day to pick on Mike." Har har. Drop it, wouldja? This is my dream you're mocking.

SFX: Phone ringing

MIKE

I got it. (**SFX:** phone picked up) Antonio's, 'sup?

KATHERINE

Good God -- Gimme that. Antonio's Pizza and Sub, Commonwealth Ave, (*fade into background*) proudly serving the MSU area since 1995, this is Katherine speaking, will this be pickup or delivery?

MIKE

Everyone's a critic.

SHAUNA

Here, get this Caesar wrap. No bacon. You know the boss wants us to start using that spiel when we answer the phone.

MIKE

It's stupid. And why is this place called Antonio's, anyway?

SHAUNA

Guess "Cheung's" was taken? Mike, I just said no bacon!

MIKE

Oh, heh. My bad.

SHAUNA

Mike, I am technically your supervisor. You've gotta start taking this more seriously. Kath and I can't keep picking up your slack.

KATHERINE

(*in distance*) Don't call me Kath! I hate that. Here's your order, sir...

MIKE

Hey, you have your notes with you?

SHAUNA

...Yes, but you can't keep studying at work, Mike. You're distracted enough. Besides, my notes are starting to smell delicious.

SFX: Door opens

TWINS

(in unison) Mike!!

MIKE

Hey, it's JJ! J squared! Gimme five! Or ten. Oh, too slow! Not cool enough!

TWINS

(Laughing)

MIKE

The punishment for insufficient cool is... tickles! Ack! Oh no!

TWINS

(still laughing) No! No! Stop!

SHAUNA

(half-heartedly) Mike, stop it. Hey Tyler. Pizzas aren't quite ready yet.

TYLER

Whatever.

MIKE

T-bone. What's shakin'?

TYLER

Just watching the brats and picking up the pizzas. As usual.

MIKE

Ah yes, the Brown family discount?

SHAUNA

Mike!

MIKE

No worries, no worries. I probably won't tell.

JON

What's that on the radio?

JAC

Turn it up!

RADIO

"...[insert teleplay excerpt here]..."

TWINS

Zap! Boom! Zoom!

SHAUNA

Guys, turn that down! Tyler!

TYLER

Hey! Jerks! Turn it down!

SHAUNA

(sarcastic) Thanks, Tyler.

TYLER

What is that, anyway?

MIKE

Dunno. The boss likes it. Here are your pizzas, Sir Tyler Brown. The total comes to \$0.00. Will that be cash or credit?

TYLER

Credit.

KATHERINE

They're old radio serials. He has a binder full of them in the back. Makes us listen to them all day.

SHAUNA

They're kinda fun.

SFX: Ding!

KATHERINE

Yuh. "Fun." Order up for Warren!

TYLER

Anyway, see ya Mike. You ready, Shauna?

SHAUNA

Yeah, just about. Let me finish this salad, then I'll take my break and drive you guys home.

MIKE

In the delivery car again? Scandal!

SHAUNA

They placed an order for delivery. Now I'm delivering it.

MIKE

...and them.

SHAUNA

Right.

MIKE

For free.

SHAUNA

You're not going to tell on me.

MIKE

And why not? I could. I'm unpredictable.

SHAUNA

Why not? Because I have so much worse dirt on you, Sir "Chronically Late", Mr. "Rarely Gets His Order Right," Señor "Flaming Football Calzone"—

MIKE

All right, all right! But I hope they're at least tipping you.

SHAUNA

Wouldn't that be nice. Hey Ty, Dad working late again?

TYLER

Actually, no. He's coming home early.

SHAUNA

He is?

TYLER

Yeah.

SHAUNA

So... I don't need to go right home after work?

TYLER

Guess not.

SHAUNA

Nobody's going out, or... needs me to clean? Anything?

TYLER

Nope.

MIKE

Could it be? A... night off? Say it isn't so!

SHAUNA

I don't know what to do with myself. This never happens to me.

MIKE

Sucks, huh? Guess you'll just have to make the most of it. Get dinner, or see a movie. I'll buy.

SHAUNA

That would be nice. (calling out to her...) Hey Katherine!
Wanna see a movie? Mike's buying.

MIKE

Um...

KATHERINE

As long as it isn't anything with spaceships or swords.

SFX: Ding!

MIKE

It most definitely is. Spaceships and swords, if we can manage it. Oh well!

KATHERINE

Guh. Fine. I'll come. Order up for Smith – Order up for Warren!

MIKE

"Great."

TYLER

Fascinating conversation, can we go now?

JON

To the stars!

JAC

In a spaceship! Whoosh!

SHAUNA

You sure you guys can cover without me?

KATHERINE

Yes! Go!

MIKE

We'll carry on... somehow...

JON

But how will you survive with... Gammaraiders!

JAC

Hoist the space-sails!

JON

Aye, Captain Lazerbeard.

MIKE

Your brothers are awesome. Later JJ. See ya Tyler.

TYLER

Yep. See ya.

SHAUNA

Bye, guys. Be back in a bit.

SFX: Door opening and closing. Radio continues unabated.
Pizza shop noises.

KATHERINE

Large thick crust pepperoni, Mike.

MIKE

Got it. Here's the Caesar.

KATHERINE

Thanks. Order up for Rao! Here you are, ma'am. That's \$6.25.
Mike, could you please turn that radio down?

MIKE

Sure. (beat) Huh. JJ broke the dial.

KATHERINE

Oh, lovely. Radio drama hell, ahoy!

MIKE

laughs

RADIO

"...[more radio teleplay, something foreboding, if possible]..."

Scene Two – Everything to Everyone

AMBIENT: Driving sounds. **JON** and **JAC** are in the backseat, goofing off throughout. (ad lib)

TYLER

We could walk, y'know.

SHAUNA

What?

TYLER

I'm 15! It's stupid for me to meet them after school, walk them to Antonio's, and then have you drive us the rest of the way.

SHAUNA

Tyler, it's like a 30-minute walk.

TYLER

Well, you're busy enough.

SHAUNA

I don't mind.

TYLER

Isn't this supposed to be your lunch break?

SHAUNA

Yeah.

TYLER

So when do you eat?

SHAUNA

Do I look like I'm starving, Ty?

TYLER

This is a girl thing, isn't it.

SHAUNA

What girl thing?

TYLER

I say "no," and you think I'm calling you fat. If I say "yes," you think I'm lying because I secretly think you're fat.

SHAUNA

You are wise beyond your years. I have taught you well.

TYLER

Girls are dumb. *(to the twins)* Would you guys *shut up??*

SHAUNA

They're not bothering anyone.

TYLER

They're bothering me.

SHAUNA

It doesn't bother me that they're bothering you.

TYLER

gives an exasperated sigh

SHAUNA

Oh, lighten up, Sir Moodeus. How's school going?

TYLER

Going, going, and gone.

SHAUNA

Ty...

AMBIENT: Car slowing down, then idling.

TYLER

Oh look, here we are.

SFX: Car doors opening.

JON

Thanks for the ride, Pizza Girl!

JAC

Yeah, Pizza Face!

SFX: Car doors slamming, twins running off.

JON

Pizza Breath!

JAC

Pizza... Fart!

BOTH giggle wildly, and are gone.

TYLER

(yelling after them) Yeah, that's cool! I'll bring in the pizzas!
Jerks.

SHAUNA

Tyler, they're ten.

TYLER

I didn't suck nearly that much when I was ten.

SHAUNA

No comment. And don't say "suck."

TYLER

Whatever.

SHAUNA

Be sure to tell Mah that I'm not coming home after work. If she needs me, I'll leave my cell phone on.

TYLER

During the movie?

SHAUNA

Yeah. What if there's an emergency?

TYLER

Ms. Everything to Everyone strikes again.

SHAUNA

Only on my day off. I'll see you later, punk.

TYLER

Whatever.

SFX: Car door opening

SHAUNA

(calm, but commanding) Tyler, shut the door.

TYLER

Why--?

SHAUNA

Do it!

SFX: Car door closing, sound of an 18-wheeler blowing by.

TYLER
Holy shi—

SHAUNA
Don't swear.

TYLER
How do you DO that?? You're a superhero, aren't you?

SHAUNA
Isn't it obvious?

TYLER
And that was your... what? Shauna-Sense?

SHAUNA
But of course. My Shauna-Sense tingles when something's wrong, or when you're not doing your Algebra homework. *(beat)*
Do your algebra homework.

Another exasperated sigh from **TYLER**

SHAUNA
All right, I'm gonna be late. Mike and Katherine are probably killing each other without me around. Kisses.

TYLER
Blech. No.

SHAUNA
Kisses!

TYLER
No!

SHAUNA
(attacking him) Super-Shauna attacks Tyler with bionic sister-kisses! Oh no! Mwah mwah mwah.

TYLER
Stop it! Stop! Freak! Gross!

SHAUNA
(stops) Love you, Ty.

TYLER
Love you too.

SHAUNA
I'll see you later.

SFX: Car door opening and closing, car departing

SHAUNA
Don't kill the twins!

TYLER
No promises!

Scene Three - Summoned

AMBIENT: Opening night movie-goers chatting in distance

SFX: car doors opening, shutting

SHAUNA

Ugh.

MIKE

What is it, Shauna?

SHAUNA

Nothing. I just... something feels wrong. Like I shouldn't be here.

MIKE

You know, you are allowed a night off at least once a century.

SHAUNA

Yeah. I guess I am.

MIKE

What could be so bad? You get to hang out with me! ...And Katherine. It's going to be a grand adventure! (*mock fanfare*)

SHAUNA

I don't want a grand adventure.

MIKE

You're getting one anyway. It's final.

KATHERINE

Mike, could you pass me my bag? Careful! That's got my laptop in it.

MIKE

You're welcome.

KATHERINE

Are we really going to see this movie?

MIKE

Yes! It just opened tonight! You'll be the envy of all your friends.

KATHERINE

Crap no! Oh, c'mon! Do we have to see the latest high-budget nerd spectacle on opening night?

SHAUNA

I didn't get to see either of the last two until they came out on DVD. And I've never seen them on opening night.

KATHERINE

Are there even other girls here? Am I going to be kidnapped and taken to some dweeb dungeon?

SFX: car trunk opening.

SHAUNA

Don't worry, we'll fit right in. Ta da!

KATHERINE

Are those... capes?

SHAUNA

They're cloaks. They have a hood for your head.

KATHERINE

Whatever. What are they doing in your trunk?

SHAUNA

I think they were leftover from Ren Faire. Here, put them on.

KATHERINE

Oh, god. You actually go to those things?

SHAUNA

Well, it's mostly Tyler and the twins. They're into all of that gaming stuff. I go occasionally. It's nice sometimes to escape to another world.

KATHERINE

We're going to look ridiculous wearing these to the movies.

MIKE

That's the point! Where's your sense of adventure?

KATHERINE

Must have left it at home, along with my dignity.

MIKE

Blah blah blah. Hey, Shauna, invite me next time you're going to nerd-fest.

KATHERINE

You're into that stuff too?

MIKE

Hey, I may look like a dumb jock, but beneath this burly facade—

KATHERINE

Um, you mean “façade”?

MIKE

Yeah, sure. Beneath that, (*booming voice*) I am Michaelus, 10th level Barbarian Warrior.

KATHERINE

...Your alter-ego is also a muscle-bound moron? Perfect.

MIKE

You know, everyone says that you're this class act. Why don't I ever see that?

KATHERINE

Maybe you aren't looking close enough.

MIKE

Is that an invitation?

KATHERINE

Oh, gross.

MIKE

Hey Shauna.

beat

Hey. Shauna.

KATHERINE

Earth to Shauna!

SHAUNA

(*distracted*) Huh?

KATHERINE

Are you okay? You looked kinda spaced out.

SHAUNA

I just had the strangest sensation. Like, I don't know. Like I was being watched.

KATHERINE

Watched?

Pause

MIKE

You know what, I'm sort of getting that too.

Pause

KATHERINE

Ha ha, stop it, guys. You're creeping me out.

Beat

What are you doing? Let's go.

SHAUNA

(Whispering) Do you hear that?

SFX: Very faint eerie chanting slowly replaces the ambient background chatter.

MIKE

Yeah. What? Where's it coming from?

SHAUNA

Chanting.... What are they saying?

SFX: Chanting grows louder

KATHERINE

It's those goth dweebs over by the entrance. They're just being... y'know... dweebish... Okay, now you're starting to make me imagine stuff. This isn't funny.

SFX: Chanting louder

SHAUNA

(As if seized by a cramp) Ohh...

MIKE

(As if getting up too fast) Woah. What's....

KATHERINE

Guys? What's happening? I don't feel so good. What is that chanting?

SFX: Chanting almost at a shout. Oren's voice can be distinguished in the chant, even if the words are nonsense. Sounds of fire.

SHAUNA

I... I will help you... *(Screams in pain)*

SFX: Body hitting ground

MIKE & KATHERINE

Shauna!

KATHERINE

She fell!

MIKE

(Dizzy) Help... Help me get her up.

SFX: Chanting practically overwhelming. Sounds of fire. High pitched whine growing in volume.

OREN *Voice echoing and distorted.*

Sah. Sah! Hilowirn la-n!

[Yes. Yes! It's working!]

KATHERINE

(Edge of tears.) Oh God! That voice! So horrible. Mike? What's happening? I can't... I can't see straight.

MIKE

Can't move... It's the noise. It's... It's like it's tearing me apart!

OREN

Preno! Preno pa fai! ... Jk-ip fcai. Jrek-ip fai. Cha gruun fai! Pa fai!

[Come! Come to me! My weapons. My tools. I command you! To me!]

FESMER

(overlapping, overpowering)

Pruun fai il-jr-ip fa --- dii sheren fcai! Cha gruun fai!

[Grant me the means to exact my revenge! I command you!]

SFX: Peal of thunder.

MIKE & KATHERINE

(Scream in pain, fading into nothing.)

Scene Four - Laundi

AMBIENT: birds chirping.

SFX: FLASH! ZOOM! CRASHING SOUND!

MIKE

Ugh... What the ...?

KATHERINE

Wh... Where are we?

MIKE

Where did these woods come from?

KATHERINE

Where did the city go? And when did it get lighter out? And where's my bag?

FESMER

E-ay... remo eye draen.

[This... cannot be right.]

ARKAHN

Cha pron fai e-ay rye rown preek. Soo fai remo-pron cha?

[I told you that this was a bad idea. Did I not tell you that?]

KATHERINE

Ahh! Who the hell are they!

FESMER

Cor charen eye-len? Lor fae il-draen?

[Where are these people from? Why can't we understand them?]

MIKE

What are they saying? Is that... Klingon??

SHAUNA

(dazed) Muuuuuh....

KATHERINE and MIKE

Shauna!

MIKE

I gotcha. I've got you.

KATHERINE

Are you okay?

FESMER

Lo... parado fai?

[Um... Excuse me?]

ARKAHN

Fai remo-puu cha tehnoma char.

[I don't think they understand you.]

SHAUNA

<scared> What... What's going on? Where?

MIKE

I don't know. But it's okay. We're okay.

KATHERINE

Mike, let her go, you're crushing her.

FESMER

Turen, fai po plix. Fai cthloll Odi – Poren!

[Well, here goes. I call upon Mystic power – Translate!]

SFX: [spell sound]

SHAUNA

[*the spell jolts her*]

Guuuh!!! What? What? Where?

FESMER

Are you *nai-nai* [okay]? Can you understand me now?

MIKE

Well, yeah. Now that you're not speaking all funny. Who are you? What the hell's going on? What's with your clothes? Like *ren faire* meets industrial revolution... Is that a real sword?!

KATHERINE

Please let this be some kind of nerd convention. Or a dream. A weird... nerdy dream.

SHAUNA

Wewerejust, butnowwe're, ohmygod, ohmygod, ohmygod...

FESMER

I understand little of what you say, and none of what she says. What ails her?

MIKE

She's in shock! Katherine...

KATHERINE

It's okay Shauna. It's okay. Calm down.

ARKAHN

This was a horrible idea, Fesmer! How are these people going to help you? Why do I listen to you?

FESMER

I cast the spell exactly how the book said. *Teki a vuli...* [More or less...]

SHAUNA

We were in the parking lot! Going to the movies. Going to see...

KATHERINE

A terrible movie.

SHAUNA

That's right! Then there was this chanting ... and now we're in some forest and it's like 80 degrees-- ... Hey, the movie was not terrible!

KATHERINE

Guess we'll never know now.

FESMER

Is she unwell?

MIKE

She's just scared.

SHAUNA

Ohhhh, I get it. I'm dreaming.

KATHERINE

Shauna, listen. It is okay. Well. No, it's not. But it will be. Let's just figure out what's going on here. Just don't panic.

SHAUNA

Oh, sure, go ahead. I'll be here, trying to wake up... or go back to sleep. Whichever.

MIKE

You. What is going on? Where are we? Why are we here?

FESMER

Yes... Perhaps I should explain.

KATHERINE

That'd be great.

ARKAHN

Yes, please do. This should be interesting.

FESMER

Arkahn, everyone says that you are a paragon of wit and grace. Why do I not ever—

ARKAHN

Let me begin, as he has caused enough trouble already. I am called Arkahn, daughter of Lorenalark and Alexalark. He is called Fesmer, son of Loxoronpo and Tristenonpo.

MIKE

My name is Mike, uh, son of Steve, and... Martha. That's Shauna, daughter of Jennifer and Seamus. And she's Katherine.

KATHERINE

I can't believe you are taking this seriously.

MIKE

What else am I supposed to do? We're somehow trapped in this fantasy game, so we might as well play along. I'll be the fighter. I guess you're the thief.

KATHERINE (*interrupting*)

Could someone explain what exactly is going on here?

ARKAHN

Fesmer summoned you.

SHAUNA

What? You did this?

FESMER

I... well. I called for assistance. But I am not certain that I called for you...

SHAUNA

Summon? Look, we were not "called here." We fell here against our will. And it hurt.

ARKAHN

What?

SHAUNA

One minute we were walking to the movie theater, the next we're here. I didn't answer any summons. But, you know what, it doesn't matter. 'Cause you're not real. I'm dreaming. None of this is real.

FESMER

Willingly or not. Impossible or not. Real or not. You did show up in response to my spell. Maybe you are the ones who can help me.

MIKE

Spell? Like magic spell?

KATHERINE

Look, we're not going to be much help to you. We're just ordinary people.

SHAUNA

It's all a dream. Gotta be.

ARKAHN

I thought ... Fesmer, let me see the spellbook. [*Flip flip*] Can you cast this one?

FESMER

Certainly. *Fai cthloll Odi - Ierthth own!*

[I call forth mystic power - Point of Origin]

SHAUNA reacts as if in discomfort or pain

MIKE

Woah.

KATHERINE

Okay, this just tops it off. Now Mike has a halo, of all things.

MIKE

Both of you do too. Shauna, are you okay?

SHAUNA *(to Fesmer)*

Please... never do that again?

FESMER

It is a simple spell, meant to determine your point of origin. You should not have felt discomfort, Shauna.

SHAUNA

It was strange. Each time you do that, it's like something tugging on my insides.

ARKAHN

Fesmer, you have made a mistake. The spell says these people are not from anywhere!

FESMER

I am relatively sure I made no mistake. Let me recheck Jareth's book.

MIKE

I'll save you the trouble. We're from Boston. Well, I'm from Ohio and Katherine's from Cali. But we live in Boston.

KATHERINE

What do you mean "the spell says we're from nowhere?"

ARKAHN

You should have a line pointing from the halo to the place you were born, but there is nothing. Fesmer, you must have made a mistake. And I have never heard of any of those places the big one mentioned. Maybe your spell has addled their brains...

KATHERINE

Maybe there is no line because... our home doesn't have Magic.

ARKAHN

But that is impossible.

KATHERINE

Yeah, there's a lot of that going on around here.

FESMER

Not to be rude, but is anyone else hungry? I always get hungry after casting a big spell, and now I am famished.

MIKE

Ooh, good idea. I'm haven't eaten since breakfast.

SHAUNA

Mike. Now's not the time for food.

MIKE

Now is always the time for food.

JARETH

[from a distance, sounding both angry and worried]

Fesmer! Where are you?

ARKAHN

Here comes trouble. Should we hide?

KATHERINE

What? Why should we hide? Who's coming?

JARETH

[*closer*] Fesmer?!

FESMER

sigh Either way I am in trouble... Over here Jareth!

SFX

Crashing through brush.

JARETH

Fesmer! There you are. I was starting to worry I would not find you before night fell. I felt a powerful discharge and... is that my book?

FESMER

Err... Perhaps.

JARETH

And who are these people? Fesmer you fool, surely you did not...

MIKE

And who are you?

JARETH

What did he say?

FESMER

Oh, let me... *Fai cthloll Odi – Poren!*

JARETH

Fes, what did you just do?

MIKE

Hey, I asked who you were!

ARKAHN

Quiet! Did you hear something?

KATHERINE

Yeah, sounds like a car. No... What is that?

SFX

Hoverbikes

JARETH

Legionaires!

SHAUNA

What?

JARETH

No time! Get back. Hide in the brush.

SFX: Leaves rustle – rustle – rustle. Everyone settles in the ditch.

FESMER

Take off your cloaks, put them over your heads.

KATHERINE

Great – we can look like 6 people hiding under long black cloaks.

ARKAHN

Not for long.

FESMER *almost whispering*
Fai cthloll Odi – Cahm weren zalmacen
[I call forth mystic power – transmute seeming to leaves]

ARKAHN
Everyone, shhh!

SFX: The sound of three Legionnaires going by on their hoverbikes

MIKE + FESMER + KATHERINE + SHAUNA
Heavy breathing in the panicked, quiet way

SFX: Hoverbikes zoom in with an ominous humming. They stop with a sound like a deep sigh.

LEGIONNAIRE 1
What is it? Why are we stopping?

LEGIONNAIRE 2
I swear I saw something.

MIKE
<whispering> Whoa, are they riding hoverbikes?

KATHERINE
<whispering> They... they're monsters.

MIKE
<whispering> No. It's armor, see.

JARETH
<whispering> Quiet. They are not monsters but they do have weapons.

SHAUNA
<whispering> A dream... Just a dream.

LEGIONNAIRE 1
See. Nothing.

LEGIONNAIRE 3 (CAILEB)
I saw it as well.

LEGIONNAIRE 1
The two of you are *shen-ta* [daft]. This forest is too dense to see more than 20 paces in. Did you know those foolish villagers think these woods are sacred?

LEGIONNAIRE 2
Why?

LEGIONNAIRE 1
How should I know? Something to do with their ridiculous school. I am not the one who is from around here. We should just burn it all down to honor Lord Oren. Let us go. We will be late for the gathering.

FESMER
<Under breath> Legion bastards.

ARKAHN
Shh!

LEGIONNAIRE 3 (CAILEB)
I heard something!

LEGIONNAIRE 2
Who is there! Show yourself!

<moment of tense silence>

SHAUNA
Oww! Something bit me!

LEGIONNAIRE 2

What was that? You, go look. Bring your flamercaster.

LEGIONNAIRE 3 (CAILEB)

Me? Very well.

SFX

Thump! Crunching footsteps growing closer under following dialogue.

JARETH

<Whispering> Get ready to run on my signal. Arkahn, take her down the westerly path.

SHAUNA

<Whispering> Hold on. I'm not going anywhere.

ARKAHN

<Whispering> You will if you want to live.

JARETH

<Whispering> You. Come with me.

KATHERINE

<Whispering> Me?

JARETH

<Whispering> Fes, I want you to cause a distraction. Something that will delay them enough to give us a chance. Then, take him and follow the riverbed.

FESMER

<Whispering> I have just the right thing.

JARETH

<Whispering> Now silence. He is approaching.

LEGIONNAIRE 3 (CAILEB)

I know you are out there! You cannot escape the Legion. Show yourselves or I start setting fire to your precious forest.

JARETH

<whisper> Ready Fesmer? <shout> Now!

SFX

Fesmer jumps up, sending brush flying etc.

FESMER

Fai cthloll Odi – Graan Benwa! [mighty chop]

SFX

Sound of splitting wood. Tree crashing down!

MIKE and KATHERINE

Woah!

FESMER

Ha! It worked!

JARETH

Run!

SHAUNA

But— Ah! Leggo!

ARKAHN

Just run!

SFX

Running through undergrowth, fading

LEGIONNAIRE 1

Quick, after them! Split up and follow!

SFX

Hoverbikes winding up.

Scene Five – Run Like Hell part 1, Arkahn and Shauna

SFX

Running.

SHAUNA

What's going on? Who were those guys?

ARKAHN

They are The Legion of Oren. The Black Hand. It does not matter, we are dreams, correct? Just keep running!

SHAUNA

How did Fes... Fesmer? do that?

ARKAHN

Magic. How else?

SHAUNA

But... There's no such thing as magic. There can't be.

ARKAHN

Of course there is. You really are not from around here, are you?

SHAUNA

That's what we have been saying. Hey, where are we going? Where did my friends go?

ARKAHN

We are going to Zana's. We will join the others there. Provided we can lose our pursuer. Maybe there we will be able to think of a way to send you back to where you came.

SHAUNA

Really?

ARKAHN

We will try. *Remo garenen*. [No promises.] But if anybody can think of a place to start, it is Jareth and Zana.

SHAUNA

How much longer do we have to run?

ARKAHN

Not too far. We are taking the most direct route. Now quiet and run. I think I hear one of their waa-loar.

SHAUNA

Their what?

ARKAHN

Machines-that-fly?

SHAUNA

Flying machines?

ARKAHN

Yes, waa-loar. That is what I said.

SHAUNA

Gotta be a dream...

Scene Six – Run Like Hell part 2, Katherine and Jareth

SFX

Running.

KATHERINE

Not to be rude, but who the heck are you and why am I suddenly alone with you?

JARETH

I am Jareth. You are?

KATHERINE

Katherine.

JARETH

I am sorry we did not have time for a proper introduction. You may have noticed we are running for our lives.

KATHERINE

Yeah. About that... Who are we running from?

JARETH

Wait. Stop here.

<beat>

Yes, this is perfect.

KATHERINE

What? What about the running for our lives?

JARETH

This is an ideal spot for a trap spell. The trees are so dense here, that he will have to pass through this point. Take this bag.

KATHERINE

Okay...

JARETH

Pour a line of powder from there to here. I will carve the array into these trees.

KATHERINE

Can't you just blast him like wassisname—Fesmer—did to that tree?

JARETH

Of course not! Savage Magic is illegal. It is dangerous, unpredictable... Everyone knows that. Except for Fesmer, clearly.

KATHERINE

So what we doing, then?

JARETH

This spell is a proper one, done in the safe, measured method we teach at University. It will still be dangerous, of course, but only to that Legionnaire.

KATHERINE

Yeah, I didn't get any of that. Not that I believe in this magic stuff.

JARETH

You really are not from around here are you?

KATHERINE

What tipped you off?

JARETH

Odi is everywhere and in everything Katherine. Like air. I find it difficult to understand how one could not believe in it.

KATHERINE

There is no “Odi” where I come from. No magic. Just charlatans, crazys, and clever performance artists. Is that enough? What is this stuff?

JARETH

Mica powder. You truly know nothing of Odi?

KATHERINE

Nope.

JARETH

Where did you say you were from?

KATHERINE

Boston. By way of California.

JARETH

Mica powder is not an ideal trap conductor in Boss-ton-by-way-of-Cal-if-forn-i-ya?

KATHERINE

I’ll have to get back to you on that.

Scene Seven – Run Like Hell part 3, Mike and Fesmer

SFX

Running.

MIKE

Dude! How did you do that thing with the tree? That was awesome!

FESMER

I just thought of it. It worked better than I thought it would!

MIKE

So, think we lost ‘em?

FESMER

I believe so. I cannot hear them pursuing. We should not let ourselves get overconfident though.

MIKE

So who are these Legion guys?

FESMER

Murderers, thieves, and worse. If they were to catch us now, we would probably be better off dead.

MIKE

Ah, the bad guys then.

FESMER

You could say that.

MIKE

So why can't we fight em? The first bad guys are never very hard. Unless this is a cut-scene.

FESMER

What?

MIKE

You know, like in Final Fantasy or Dragon Quest.

<brief pause as if waiting for response>

No? Neverwinter Nights? Diablo? Ah, never mind. You wouldn't get it. You're in the game.

FESMER

Game? Mike, I assure you, this is not a game. If they catch us...

MIKE

No, I get it. Someone always says "This is not a game..."

FESMER

What are you talking about?

MIKE

Never mind. I'm just joking around.

FESMER

Maybe I should work on a better version of the translate spell. It does not seem to be working very well.

<moment's pause>

FESMER

Mike? Were you truly brought here against your will?

MIKE

Pretty much, yeah. Was that you who did it?

FESMER

I do not know. The spell description said nothing about people falling out of the air! I have never cast it before though...

MIKE

What did you need help with?

FESMER

Some of them are chasing us right now.

MIKE

Oh yeah. The Bad Guys.

Scene Eight – Run Like Hell part 4, Katherine and Jareth

JARETH

It is ready. I simply need to charge it and then we should run. The explosion should not be too large but...

KATHERINE

Explosion? Wait, you're not going to kill him are you?

JARETH

Your concern is noble Katherine, but these men are evil. There is no saving them.

KATHERINE

But... you can't just blow people up!

JARETH

Perhaps you misunderstand. If these men catch you, they will not kill you. That would be a mercy they will not grant you. Trust me Katherine. I will see you to safety. Now... Begin.

SFX: Ambient forest noise dies away when Jareth says "Begin." Perhaps there is slight distortion, as well. It should not be too blatant, yet still unnerving. It only lasts a moment.

KATHERINE

What was that chill?

JARETH

That was normal. Run!

SFX

Running!

SFX

Hoverbike zooms in.

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KATHERINE

Here he comes!

SFX

THABOOM! Crashing metal.

JARETH

What are you... Do not stop!

KATHERINE

I can't just leave him! I mean, maybe he's really hurt!

JARETH

What about this is hard to understand? Is this Boz-ton of yours truly so far away? They are evil! There is no time for your pity.

KATHERINE

<angered> Is that what they teach at your University?

JARETH

This is what life teaches under the threat of the Legion. They are an unrelenting scourge on our world, Katherine. They are criminals, murderers, and *pullavin* [terrorists / mafia] Furthermore, there is no evidence that he was the only one who followed us. We must keep going.

KATHERINE

Okay. I'll believe you. I don't like it. But I don't have much choice.

JARETH

There is always a choice. You chose to answer Fesmer's spell and you can choose to stay behind for the Legion to find.

KATHERINE

But I didn't answer any spell!

JARETH

We will make sense of this later,*nur draen fai*. [I promise.]

Please run.

KATHERINE

Okay. Okay...

SFX: Running

Scene Nine – Run Like Hell part 5, Shauna and Arkahn

SFX

Running. Hovercraft noise getting close.

SHAUNA

It's getting closer!

ARKAHN

Quickly, into the bushes! Be absolutely quiet!

SFX

Hovercraft approaches, slows down a bit. Shauna and Arkahn breathing heavily. Perhaps even a heartbeat sound.

SHAUNA

<very quiet> Oh god. Oh god. Wake up. Please <Sound of Arkahn's hand going over Shauna's mouth>

<Silence except for continued SFX for a few moments. SHAUNA's breathing/heartbeat increases. The hoverbike should start to sound creepy by this point. Suddenly, the hoverbike speeds up and goes away!>

SHAUNA

<Heavy, relieved breaths> Oh man... That was too close.

ARKAHN

Do you still think this is a dream?

SHAUNA

Oh, Arkahn, I didn't mean—

ARKAHN

It is not important. What is important is that we are still alive. Let us take a slightly different route from here. I would not want to catch up with him. With luck, he will get lost in these woods. They can be treacherous if you do not know your way.

SHAUNA

Yes. No more close calls. (*throwaway line*) For a moment there, I swear he looked right at ...

ARKAHN

(*Overlapping, but not cutting off*) We should keep running.

SHAUNA

Arkahn, my friends, do you think they'll be alright? What if these Legion guys...

ARKAHN

Your friends are in good hands. Jareth can protect Katherine from a single Legionnaire easily. As for Fesmer and Mike... Fesmer has a knack for getting out of trouble. No harm will come to them.

SHAUNA

I hope you're right. <chuckles> Maybe it is Fesmer we should worry about.

ARKAHN

What do you mean?

SHAUNA

Knowing Mike, he's already started talking about football...

Scene Ten – Run Like Hell part 6, Mike and Fesmer

SFX
Jogging.

FESMER
And that is when they score a touchup?

MIKE
Down. Touch-DOWN.

FESMER
Right, touch down. So they touch the ball down on the ground to score the points.

MIKE
Well, no, you just need to hold it in your hand in the End Zone.

FESMER
I am confused. You need to hold the ball? With your hands?

MIKE
Yes.

FESMER
But I thought it was called FOOT ball.

MIKE
It is!

FESMER
Why do you use your HANDS in FOOT Ball?

MIKE
Because only Europeans play Soccer!

FESMER
What is soccer?

MIKE
Unnngh.

FESMER
I think I would have to see it to make sense of it.

MIKE
Yeah, probably. That's how I learned. Watching games with my dad. You'd like it Fesmer. It's a perfect sport.

FESMER
How so?

MIKE
It's got everything! To win you gotta have skill, strategy, and just the right amount of violence. In football everyone on the team has a job, you know. The QB is important, but without good receivers and linemen, there's no point. There's a reason it's the most popular sport in America.

FESMER
<Not entirely sure of what Mike just said.> I will take your word for it.

MIKE
What kind of sports do you have around here? Tell me so that I may dominate your puny world. Mwahaha.

FESMER
There is Brikka.

MIKE
Is it violent?

FESMER

Very.

MIKE

Oh, you'll see...

MIKE

All-right.

FESMER

Shh!

MIKE

What?

FESMER

I hear something... They have found us! Run!

SFX

Running. Hovercraft noise fades in.

MIKE

What is up with these guys? I thought we lost him?

FESMER

[winded] Me too.

MIKE

Can't you just zap him?

FESMER

No, I think I have reached my limit for the day. Running is difficult enough.

MIKE

Ah, need to level up a bit?

FESMER

What does that mean?

Scene Eleven – Reunion

SFX

Running.

ARKAHN

Keep going Shauna! We are almost out of the woods.

SHAUNA

<Breathing heavily> Thank you god... Never running again.

ARKAHN

I see Zana's! We made it.

SHAUNA

<winded> Finally!

<beat>

There's Katherine and the tall guy!

<Beat>

Katherine!

KATHERINE

Shauna! I was getting worried.

SHAUNA

Where's Mike and the other guy?

JARETH

Your friend and Fesmer took the longest route. They should be here soon. Arkahn, were you followed?

ARKAHN

Yes. But we hid. He is probably lost in the forest now.

JARETH

We can hope.

<beat>

One of them mentioned a gathering. I wonder what he could be referring to?

FESMER

<distance> Everybody get inside!

MIKE

<distance> Incoming!

SFX

Hoverbike

ARKAHN

There they are! The Legionnaire is right behind them!

JARETH

Arkahn, take these two inside. I will try to— What is he doing?

SHAUNA

Mike!

KATHERINE

Don't stop you idiot! What is he...

SHAUNA

Oh no... He wouldn't...

ARKAHN

He is running straight at the Legionnaire!

MIKE

<warcry>

SFX

Crashing! Legionnaire grunts / cries out.

JARETH

By the ancestors...

ARKAHN

Well that is something I have never seen before.

SHAUNA

Mike!

SFX

<Running>

SHAUNA

Mike! Are you okay?

MIKE

Yeah. Yeah. I'm cool. Could you give me a hand?

FESMER

You knocked him right off his *waa-loar!* [flying machine]! That was incredible.

MIKE

Ah, that was nothing. Just the best tackle ever! Boo-yea!

JARETH

The Legionnaire... Is he...

MIKE

Yeah, I think he's down for the count. Sometimes I guess I just don't know my own strength.

FESMER

Jareth, take off his faceplate. See who he is.

JARETH

Good thought...

SFX

Clicking of latches being undone.

KATHERINE

He looks younger than me!

FESMER

I... I know him...

ARKAHN

Is he not one of your neighbors?

FESMER

His name is Caileb. He always seemed like a good kid...

JARETH

It matters not. I must bring him and his *waa-loar* [flying machine] to University. Perhaps we will be able to uncover more Legionnaires in our midst.

ARKAHN

Where did his *waa-loar* [flying machine] go?

SHAUNA

Umm... It drifted off that way.

ARKAHN

Zana's shop!

SFX

Crash!

FESMER and JARETH

Uh oh.

SFX

Door opening

ZANA

What is all this noise? My fence! Fesmer, is this your fault?

FESMER

One might say that, yes...

JARETH

Shi-schwa, Fesmer stole my book and summoned three strangers from another world here to Laundi. He used illegal magic and drew the attention of three Legionnaires. We might all be dead right now.

ZANA

Fesmer, I am very disappointed in you.

FESMER

[*dejected*] I am sorry, shi-schwa.

ZANA

You knew that tonight was your turn to help in the kitchen. Now dinner will be delayed. Think next time before you rush off to defile the natural order of things on a *laere/o* [name of day] night.

FESMER

<*pleasantly surprised*> Erm, yes shi-schwa.

ZANA

As for our guests, I am Zana, and you are welcome here. Dinner will be ready in short order. I hope you enjoy pig pie.

FESMER

But, my tasks—

ZANA

Your task now is to mend my fence, *lio*. [young man]. Jareth, is that young Caileb lying on the ground over there?

JARETH

Yes...

ZANA

Is he dead or unconscious?

JARETH

Unconscious Zana.

ZANA

Will he be staying for dinner?

JARETH

Zana, he is a Legionnaire.

ZANA

Indeed, Jareth. But Legionnaires must also eat.

JARETH

We need to arrest him, not feed him.

ZANA

Very well. One less mouth to feed. Arkahn, please assist me in the kitchen.

ARKAHN

Yes, shi-schwa.

SHAUNA

Can I help?

ZANA

What did she say?

FESMER

Oh, allow me... Fai cthloll Odi – Poren! (**SFX**: Poren spell sound)
Oww... I will pay for all this spellcasting in the morning...

ZANA

Fesmer, have you not caused enough trouble with your magic for one day?

SHAUNA

Umm... I asked if I could help.

ZANA

Ah, Thank you for your offer, but you are a guest here. Your assistance is not needed. Make yourself comfortable. Come, Arkahn, you may stuff the pig hooves... [fading into background]

MIKE

Um. Stuff them into what?

KATHERINE

Mike! Rude!

JARETH

I will escort Caileb to University now. [*lifts him*] Still unconscious. Very impressive, Mike.

MIKE

Yeah, well. Yeah.

KATHERINE

Can I help you?

JARETH

...Well, I suppose his *waa-loar* [flying machine] still works; you could bring that.

KATHERINE

I'll drive! (*notices Shauna*) Um, hold on a moment, though.

FESMER

I suppose that I should see to that fence now.

MIKE

Want some help?

FESMER

I would appreciate that, Mike. You are very kind.

MIKE

Not at all. These things usually grant extra x.p. or alignment bonuses.

KATHERINE

Just a sec, Mike.

MIKE

What? Oh, Shauna. Hey, what's wrong?

FESMER

I will... begin without you, Mike. (*leaves*)

SHAUNA

(*a little teary, but not hugely dramatic*) Don't worry about it, I'm just not taking this too well. I'll be fine.

KATHERINE

This is pretty bizarre, huh.

MIKE

You mean bizarre-awesome.

KATHERINE

Not really, no.

SHAUNA

It's not just that. I can't stop thinking about home. The twins have to go to bed soon, and Mah can't ever get them to brush their teeth. Tyler is going to be worried sick if I don't come home tonight or tomorrow. They need me.

MIKE

(lightly) They'll be fine, Shauna. Hey, I bet they won't even miss you.

SHAUNA

(a beat. this stings her hard) I think Fesmer needs help with that fence, Mike.

MIKE

Yeah, good point. See you at dinner. Man, I'm starved. *(jogs off)*

KATHERINE

Are you going to be all right, Shauna? You know that we're going to find a way home, don't you?

SHAUNA

Yeah. I know.

KATHERINE

Give me a hug.

(a beat)

KATHERINE

Don't worry so much.

SHAUNA

Okay.

KATHERINE

I'm going to help Jareth with the hoverthingie now. But I'll see you at dinner.

SHAUNA

Sure. Be careful.

KATHERINE

(with deliberate emphasis) Hey, what could possibly go wrong—

SHAUNA

--don't say that! Geez! Idiot.

BOTH laugh.

KATHERINE

All right, see you in a bit.

SHAUNA

Yeah.

KATHERINE leaves.

SHAUNA

(Sighs. Sounds of the forest. A long pause. She takes a deep breath.) I'll be there soon, Ty. Really soon. I'm coming home. I'm coming home.