

Second Shift

Season 1: Episode 3—“Stupid Magic”

Scene One—Mike Goes for a Jog, Contemplates Dreams, and Throws Rocks

AMBIENT: Outdoor sounds, soft waves.

Mike

And he winds up and—

SFX

Skip-skip-skip-Faint splash.

Mike

Three skips, all riiight. A new record!

Beat

Man, it is hot this morning. Maybe I should swim the next lap instead of running. Then again, who knows what crazy alien leaches they have.

Beat

If this is a game, it's getting boring. All this magic, but no monsters and stuff... and a lot less bazongas and swords than usual. Seriously, where are the monsters and babes! Hup!

SFX

Skip-skip-Faint splash.

Mike

Bah. Two skips. And what is Katherine doing here? This is my dream-game-hullicination-thing. Shauna, yeah. But Katherine? Try to crack a joke and it's like I stabbed her grandma.

SFX

Scuttle scuttle, chirp?

Mike

Hey, a squirrel-thing! Hello little squirrel-thing.

SFX

Chirp chirp chirp?

Mike

What's that you say? Katherine's trapped in a well?

SFX

Chirp.

Mike

You are ever so cute. You're not going to go all Jurassic Park on me, are you?

SFX

Chirp...?

Mike

And now I'm talking to a squirrel-thing. I wonder if I'll remember any of this when I wake up? Maybe this is what all my dreams are like. So real when I'm there, but in the morning—

SFX

Splash.

Mike

<sigh> What do you say, Mr. Fuzzylumpkins?

SFX

Chirp chirp!

Mike

Am I in a coma at Mass General? Is the real Shauna there? I know Katherine's not. Oh, sure, she'd visit, but she wouldn't stay.

Fesmer

<*distant voice*> Mike!

Mike

Aw hell, it's the Dream Police. Yo Fes!

SFX

Running footsteps

Fesmer

<Breathing heavily> What... in the name of *ainorem*... are you doing?

Mike

Throwing rocks. At the water.

Fesmer

I can see that. Why are you out here by yourself?

Mike

I'm not. Fesmer, I would like you to meet... Huh, he's gone.

Fesmer

Who is gone?

Mike

Mr. Fuzzylumpkins. My squirrel-thing friend. Must have taken off when I wasn't looking. Squirrely bastard...

Fesmer

Mike... this behavior is quite strange.

Mike

I was just getting some exercise. I go for a run in the mornings. Gotta keep in shape.

Fesmer

What shape?

Mike

Buff. Cut. Fit. You know. Strong?

Fesmer

Oh. Is this for the Foot-ball?

Mike

Yeah. It's good to stay fit though. The ladies, you know.

Fesmer

What about them?

Mike

You'll understand when you're older. Anyways, I got up before you and went for a run. Found this pond. Lapped it once. I was about to take another go.

Fesmer

That is not a short run.

Mike

I had a lot to think about.

<pause>

Fesmer

I know it is not my place, Mike, but if there is anything I can do to help....

Mike

I'm going around again; do you want to come with me?

Fesmer

On your run? Very well.

SFX

Mike and Fes start running on the gravelly sand.

Fesmer

<pants> The next time you want to leave early, wake me up. I need to train more. "Exercise," was your word?

Mike

Yeah. Train for what?

Fesmer

Natural magic is easier controlled with a healthy body. And the ladies, you know.

Mike

<Laughs>

Fesmer

Additionally, it is not good to go out alone. The translation spell is still flawed, and you do not yet know our language, Charendraen.

Mike

Hey, anytime you want to come with. But can you keep up?

Fesmer

I will learn.

Scene Two—Shauna Wakes Up

AMBIENT: Draenmer-like sounds, but echoed and distorted somewhat. This is a dream.

NOTE: During this sequence, the Draenmer voice continues on despite Shauna's interruptions.

Ghostly Voices

Shauna Brown...

Shauna

No!

Ghostly Voices

...you will become the doorway for Michael and Katherine to return to your world. But you cannot follow them.

Shauna

But why? It doesn't make any sense.

Ghostly Voices

This is the last home you will ever know.

Shauna

No, it isn't fair. Wake up, Shauna! Why can't I—

AMBIENT: Laundi sounds.

Arkahn

--wake up. Shauna, you must wake up!

Shauna

Uugh. Mom lemealone.

Arkahn

Come on foolish girl. It is time to face the sun.

Shauna

Don't wanna face... Huh? Where? Aww... crud.

Arkahn

The sun is up and you should be too. Your clothes stunk, so I left you some of my own. You are not my size, but they should fit.

Shauna

Oh... Thanks. Breakfast?

Arkahn

There is water and fruit in the kitchen. If you are still hungry there will be food at Zana's.

Shauna

Zana's?

Arkahn

Yes. We are late for work.

SFX

Arkahn walks out and shuts a door.

Shauna

So which one is the dream? Ooph.

SFX

Rustle of sheets. Bed creaking.

Shauna

Oh man I could use some coffee.

<sigh>

Shauna (cont.)

Last home I'll know. We'll see about that. Nobody can know everything. Even some stupid magic spring.

Beat

Shoes, where are you? <shouting> Arkahn? Have you seen my shoes? Oh. Never mind!

Beat

Wait a minute... Did she say *we* were late for work? Arkahn—

SFX

Sound of Shauna leaving the room, opening and closing door.

Scene 3—Katherine Wakes Up, Prepares Breakfast

SFX

Clanking pots, etc.

Katherine

ooh... Ug. Morning Zana. Smells like food....

Zana

Oli yuung, Katherine. I see you found the clothes I left for you. They were mine when I was younger. They fit you well.

Katherine

Thanks. Coffee?

Zana

I still do not know what that is. But I brewed some *holl own-j'verin* That should help you stay awake. It is in that kettle.

Katherine

This?

Beat

Smells like tea. And onions. Hmm...

SFX

Liquid pouring into mug.

Zana

Be cautious. It is very hot.

Katherine

Hot good.

Beat

Ahh...

Zana

If you would like, most drink their *hoj* with cream and honey.

Katherine

No thanks; don't want to dilute it. I need all the awake I can get.

SFX

Several seconds of clanking pots, chopping sounds, etc.

Katherine

Can I help you with anything?

Zana

Yes, *cha grendi fai*. Could you churn the butter?

Katherine

Umm, I don't know how. We don't use churns at home.

Zana

Then how do you create butter? Here, watch me. First pour in the cream...

Katherine

We just buy it at the store. We buy everything at stores. Butter, bread, vegetables, meat. Usually at one big store called a super-market.

Zana

You come from a strange place Katherine. Then you just turn this handle.

SFX

Squeaking handle sound continuing under dialogue.

Katherine

I guess so. That's just the way it is. How long do I do this?

Zana

Until it is done. Usually about half an hour.

Katherine

<squeaking pauses for a moment> What?

Zana

Arkahn and Fesmer customarily take turns. I do not know where they are yet. Probably helping your friends.

Katherine

When is breakfast?

Zana

Whenever you are done churning the butter.

SFX

Squeaking goes faster

Zana

Not too fast! You will spoil it. Steady and methodical.

SFX

Squeaking slows back down.

Zana

If you were hungry you should have said so earlier.

Beat

Here, have some fruit.

Katherine

What are these?

Zana

These are *krek*, *fraunti*, and *za-rulna*.

Katherine

Of course... I'll take a fraunti.

SFX

Crunch!

Katherine

Interesting...

Zana

You have to peel it.

Katherine

Oh.

Zana

Here, let me take the churn while you do that.

Katherine

This is a nice kitchen Zana. Is this where you make all your... um... pig pies?

Zana

Among other things. I hope you three do not mind helping while you are here?

Katherine

Umm... Okay. I guess you are letting me stay here.

Zana

You will be paid of course. Except your friend Mike. He needs to work off his “snack” from the other night. I do not know how much our money will help you if you get back to Boz-Ton, but it will pay for food and clothes while you are with us. You mentioned that you worked in a kitchen where you come from?

Katherine

Yeah. Antonio’s Pizza and Subs, Commonwealth Ave...

Zana

This might be a little different. I started this restaurant as a simple, traditional cooking restaurant. It did reasonably well. Until I had an idea.... What if we brought the food to people’s houses! Since then, business has been very strong.

Katherine

Oh yeah? That’s pretty clever.

Zana

Cha grendi fai. There are some eggs boiling in that pot. Could you take them off the stove and replace them with the pot full of *rocqua*. Yes, that one.

Katherine

These are eggs? They’re blue! And so round!

Zana

Of course. What do lizard eggs look like in Boz-Ton?

Scene 4—Mike And Fesmer Swap Stories

SFX

Mike and Fes running.

Mike

I guess it was my father. He was big on his son being an “All-American Boy.” Good at sports, good with girls, respectful of authority, alright at school. You know, a popular kid. All man.

Fesmer

And this *deande* you played? That was also popular?

Mike

Not so much, no. Especially not to him. When I hit my growth spurt, he took the chance. Got me into football.

Beat

I’m not ragging on him. I love football. But it is all Dad talks to me about. Think he won’t be happy until I’m pro. Maybe not then.

Fesmer

I understand.

Beat

Let us walk a moment. I need to breathe.

SFX

Running stops.

Fesmer

I understand what you are saying about your father. Can I tell you something?

Mike

Sure.

Fesmer

My father and older brother used magic. Natural Magic. Almost everyone knows some. Luck charms and the like. But not like them. They were true Natural Mages. Men in my family have been for generations.

Mike

That’s illegal right?

Fesmer

Yes. But that was not always the case. Besides, he had to sustain the tradition.

Mike

Ah.

Fesmer

Father taught Brother but never me. Maybe he did not think I could do it. Maybe I was just too young. Brother was ten years older than me. But back then I thought he left me behind because I could not use magic.

Mike

Behind? Oh, your father was a riverboat pilot, right?

Fesmer

Correct. He and Brother would be gone for weeks at a time, bringing cargo to other cities.

Beat

When they were home, I watched Father and Brother in secret. I learned from them as they practiced their Natural Magic. I thought that, maybe if I showed Father that I could use magic, he would bring me with him.

Beat

Then, one day, they never came back.

Mike
I'm sorry...

Fesmer
Our house was burned down. Mother and I left. She told me the Legion killed them.

Mike
Dude, that sucks. Why?

Fesmer
I do not know. But I will find out. And I will avenge them.
Beat
I am ready to run again.

Mike
Okay.

SFX
Running

Mike
Something I'm confused about. If your spell didn't really get us here, what did?

Fesmer
I do not know. Maybe if I knew more about what happened to you...

Mike
I don't know either. We were standing around. There was this chanting, then everything got all weird. Shauna passed out. Katherine and I grabbed her. Then FLASH! ZOOM! CRASHING SOUND! and here we are.

Fesmer
Chanting?

Mike
Yeah, real evil sounding chanting.

Fesmer
That is strange. Very strange...

Scene Five—Zana and Katherine Talk More. Shauna and Arkahn Show Up For Work

Katherine

And so I guess my parents just wanted a trophy daughter. It's kind of strange really. A lot of people get pressure from their parents to be somebody and make money. My parents were making me useless. Horse-riding and archery might be kind of fun, but what good are they? I mean, it's the 21st century!

Beat

Well, maybe those are useful here.

Beat

But still, they were more interested in making me their pretty princess in a tower than finding out what I wanted to do.

Zana

Here too, parents of—what did you call it? Old money?—often do the same. Remember though, Katherine, parents do what they do out of love.

Katherine

Yeah, I guess so. Still, I wanted more out of my life than what they were teaching me. I wanted to be my own woman.

Zana

I was the same way. I hungered for so much more than they could give me, so I left home and joined the Seekers. I was sure that was the way for me.

Katherine

Well you certainly turned out alright Zana. I mean, this place is really nice looking.

Zana

Cha grendi fai. But it was a long road Katherine, and I made plenty of mistakes. Yours will probably be the same.

Katherine

<Sounding depressed> I'm starting to figure that out.

Zana

Is something troubling you Katherine? Sometimes, you must say a thing to be freed of it.

Katherine

Well... Don't tell the others this but ...

SFX

Door opens and closes

Zana

Shauna and Arkahn. You are late.

Arkahn

Apologies shi-schwa. Princess Sleep was difficult to drag out of bed.

Shauna

Well if you had told me we were going to work... 'Morning Katherine.

Katherine

Morning Shauna. Drink some of the stuff in that kettle. It's like the strongest tea you've ever had.

Shauna

Caffeine....

Arkahn

Shall I prepare the dough?

Zana

No need. Katherine and I have been able to get most of the work done already.

Arkahn

The butter?

Katherine

Churned.

Arkahn

The vegetables?

Zana

As I said, most of the work has been done already. Could you and Shauna scour those pots?

Arkahn

<dejected> Yes shi-schwa.

Shauna

This tea is good, Zana. So what are we doing?

Arkahn

We are cleaning these pots.

Shauna

Oh goodie.

Arkahn

Well if you had not overslept.... Here, just take one of these sponges.

Shauna

Somebody got up on the wrong side of the bed.

Arkahn

What is that supposed to mean?

Zana

You two, please stop bickering

Arkahn and Shauna

<mumbling> Sorry Zana.

Zana

Katherine, help me retrieve something from the cold cellar.

Katherine

Anything that doesn't involve more churning.

Zana

Right this way Katherine.

SFX

Door. Walking down creaky steps.

Katherine

It's cold down here!

Zana

I should hope so. I pay handsomely for it.

Beat

Here, take this. It is heavy.

Katherine

Wait. Is this... meat?

Zana

Yes, pig shoulder. We need to thaw it for tonight.

Katherine

Ew ew...

Zana

Of all the things your parents taught you, they did not teach you much about cooking did they? You can take that heavy bushel of j'verin if touching meat repulses you so much.

Katherine

I'm sorry. It's just that I've spent most of my life as a vegetarian.

Zana

Why? People must consume the strength of animals to grow strong.

Katherine

Umm... Sure. It's just... I don't think the way people grow meat in my country is right. I don't know how I could explain it to you. It's just a choice I made.

Zana

In rebellion against your parents?

Katherine

No. It's because it's not right to... I mean... Corporate farms...

No... Well. Maybe a little...

Zana

Once a Seeker of Truth always a Seeker of Truth.

Beat

Oh, I nearly forgot to ask you something. You mentioned earlier that your parents taught you archery?

Katherine

Yes. I was pretty good actually.

Zana

Archery is something of a hobby of mine, and it could save your life some day. If you ever feel like practicing, there is a target set up in back. You may use my bow. Perhaps later today, if there is time?

Katherine

I'd like that. Thank you.

Zana

You are most welcome. Now, if you have conquered your repulsion, please carry the pig shoulder to the kitchen and then help me set the table for breakfast.

Katherine

Sure. [*to self*] Cold and wet and dead... ew...

SFX: Walking back up steps

Scene Six—Scouring

SFX

Scouring

Shauna

So is this what you do here? Clean up?

Arkahn

No. *Normally* in the mornings I help Zana prepare food.

Shauna

Sorry about that. I'm sorry for being kind of grumpy this morning too. Mornings are not my best time. Especially without coffee.

Arkahn

This coffee you speak of is so important?

Shauna

You have no idea.

<pause>

Shauna

So, Arkahn, how did you wind up working here?

Arkahn

When I failed to enter University, I was... depressed. I became friends with Fesmer just after he accepted a position here; Zana invited me to join as well. It gave me something to do. At least, that is what my parents said.

Shauna

So, what. There's no school other than the Univeristy?

Arkahn

There are schools. When I was a child, I learned the basics in a school-house just like everyone. But past a point, there is a limit to how much one can be taught without attending University or becoming a Seeker of Truth. Most take up the family trade. My family has none, so now I am here.

<pause>

Shauna

Do you know anything about magic, Arkahn?

Arkahn

I know some. I have seen both Fesmer and Jareth use it often enough to learn a little.

Shauna

How long do you think it would take someone to master?

Arkahn

Master? Most do not in their whole lives. Why do you ask?

Shauna

Oh... I... Nevermind. I think this pot is done. Pass me another.

Zana

[*passing by*] Quickly, girls. Breakfast is nearly ready.

Shauna

Ooh, breakfast. Must scrub faster...

Arkahn

Hungry, Shauna?

Shauna

You would be too if you hadn't eaten for a day and a half.

Arkahn

Perhaps tomorrow it will provide you with incentive to wake up on time.

Shauna

How was I supposed to know?

Arkahn

I am *remo-ra*, Shauna. As enjoyable as I find scouring pots and pans to be, I just do not relish others taking my place.

Shauna

That makes sense. I was the supervisor where I used to work, too.

Arkahn

[*not paying attention*] I am going to help Zana set the table. [*leaves*]

Shauna

...Cool. And I'm going to stand here... Awkwardly.

Scene Seven—Business Brunch

AMBIENT: Breakfast noises

Arkahn

Now that everyone is finally here, what is our first order of business?

Mike

The first order of business is to pass me more of that bread.

Shauna

<reflexively> Mike. Manners.

Mike

What? It's really good! And that butter is great.

Fesmer

I would like more bread too. And please pass the *krek* preserves.

Katherine

Well you guys are hungry.

Fesmer

Yes. We had a long run. We were exercising.

Katherine

You sure you didn't just oversleep?

Mike

Funny Katherine. I'll have you know that I try and run at least four miles every morning. Not to mention all the pushups and stuff.

Fesmer

Mike and I are "working up" to get "pumped out"

Mike

Eh, close enough.

Katherine

Mike, stop teaching Fesmer slang.

Mike

Why not? He wants to learn, don't you Fes? Zana, could you pass me some more of those... little green spiky fruit?

Beat

Thank you. All this stuff is really good! Zana, you really do know what you're doing in the kitchen.

Zana

Cha grendi fai, Mike. You should thank the girls as well. They helped while you boys were out playing.

Fesmer

That is my fault Zana. I forgot to tell Mike that we were supposed to be working. And we had some things to discuss.

Zana

I trust you have not forgotten your debt to me, Mike.

Mike

Eep. Nope. Sorry. We'll be on time tomorrow. We'll just get up earlier. Fes, could you pass me one of those blue eggs?

Fesmer

If you pass me the butter.

Katherine

<whispering> Mike, you know those are lizard eggs, right?

Mike

Sure. I saw 'em in the pen out back. They're like fat iguanas. Weird little things. Eggs are really good though. Kind of have this nutty flavor to them. Try some!

Katherine

No, I'm still not ready for that....

Mike

Are you okay Shauna? You've said a whole lotta nothing today.

Shauna

I've... Got a lot to think about.

Zana

If you all do not mind, I would like to get this meeting started.

Arkahn

Finally.

Zana

Now. First things first, it is *pio-neneren*. We have our usual large delivery to the fiber mill at midday.

Fesmer

Mike and I can take it.

Zana

No. I am going to send you and Jareth as soon as he gets here as I always do. Also, we have a new client. Folstropos wants us to deliver six large pies to the workers at his windmills midday. Fesmer, you and Jareth will be bring these since the mill is on the way.

Fesmer

But that is fifteen pies! Not counting anything else we might have to take.

Zana

Then I suggest you take the goat cart. This could be a good client.

Mike

<aside> Goat cart?

Zana

As you know, since Komer quit and Shuni was taken by Undying, we have been small-numbered. Fortunately, we have several new employees today. Mike, Shauna, Katherine, I want to thank you for agreeing to assist us.

Katherine

You're welcome. But I hope you realize that we don't know anything. At all.

Zana

Nai-nai. This is usually a slow day. There should be enough time to teach you some of the basics. How we prepare our food. Even our monetary system. Until Fesmer gets his translation spell working properly, you will be mostly helping in the kitchen.

Katherine

Hold on, back up a step; what was that bit about the Undying?

Arkahn

Speaking of that spell, have you made any progress Fesmer?

Fesmer

Err... No. Not really. I am not entirely sure what I did in the first place to make it work. But I think I should have a spell to let anyone understand them ready in a few days.

Katherine

No, seriously. What about the Undying? Hello?

Zana

Very good. Until then, we need to hide you three as best as we can. You need proper sounding names. Let me think.

Beat

Mike, your name is easy. "Meek" is a somewhat common name meaning "desire of the heart."

Mike

Aw Hell no! That means "weak" in my language!

Zana

In ours, it is a person who acts on their feelings. Strong, but impulsive.

Katherine

Eh heh heh heh heh.

Zana

Katherine, we will simply call you "Kath." It means "tranquility."

Katherine

"Kath" sounds kind of like Kath, and I never really liked being called that. I also don't like getting eaten by Zombies.

Arkahn

It is foul luck to speak of such things, Kath. Have some respect.

Katherine

Oh. Sorry.

Zana

And Shauna, you shall be "Shae."

Shauna

What does that mean?

Zana

"Conflict" or "warrior." It is a little out of fashion, but it will do. We will also obtain normal clothes for you and say that you are distant relatives visiting for a few weeks.

Katherine and Mike

<startled> A few weeks!

Fesmer

Yes. It will likely take much longer than that too. We still do not know how to get you all home.

Shauna

I do.

Katherine, Fesmer, and Mike

<Surprised reactions>

Zana

Then Draenmer gave you an answer?

Katherine

You should have said so sooner!

Shauna

Yes. I can do it. With a spell called Shift.

Arkahn

Shift? I have never heard of this spell.

Fesmer

Nor I.

Shauna

I don't know. Draenmer told me I needed to learn both forms of magic. I'm not really sure what that means but I am willing to do it. Whatever it takes. If someone can teach me...

Fesmer

I believe I can do that. I can at least give you some direction. It will take time though. That is assuming that you can even learn it.

Mike

Well, Katherine, sounds like we'll be here for a while. Might as well get used to eating blue eggs.

Katherine

Shut up Meek.

Scene Eight—Huddle

AMBIENT: Post-breakfast chatter, picking up dishware, etc.

Mike

Oof, that was a lot of breakfast... Hey gals, hold on a moment. Time out.

Katherine

Yeah?

Mike

Come on, huddle up.

Shauna

What's up Mike?

Mike

What's up is that we've been in some sort of magical fantasy world for two whole days now and we haven't had a chance to talk about it as a group. We need a plan.

Shauna

Plan?

Mike

Yeah. Whether this is all a dream or some whacked out video game. Even if it's real. We need a game plan. Shauna, you said you know how we're getting home. That's a start. Tell us about it.

Katherine

Yeah, and while you're at it, why didn't you tell us sooner?

Shauna

I— I was going to. There just wasn't time.

Mike

Well, there's time now. Let's hear it.

Shauna

Okay. It's like I told everybody. I have to learn how to cast some spell called Shift.

Katherine

Why you? Can't Fesmer do it?

Shauna

No, it has to be someone who knows the place. So it has to be me.

Mike

Makes sense. But why not me, or Katherine?

Shauna

I don't know. That's just what Draenmer said.

Katherine

Go on Shauna.

Shauna

Anyways, I have to cast the spell to send you home. So I guess I have to learn magic now.

Katherine

Us. You have to send us home.

Shauna

That's what I said.

Mike

But won't that take, you know, a long time?

Shauna

Probably. I hope not. I just don't think there's another way.

Katherine

Shauna, are you okay with this?

Shauna

No. But I don't have much choice in the matter. What are we going to do, go on a quest? Where would we even start.

Mike

So until then we're just going to hang tight and work in the magical bakery? How long's that gonna take?

Katherine

I thought you were the one who was happy here Mike. You certainly haven't been taking it very seriously.

Mike

And you've certainly been a total jerk to me the whole time but you don't see me complaining.

Katherine

What did you just say?

Shauna

Guys...

Mike

Anyways, hallucination or no, I don't want to stay here for too long.

Katherine

He's got a point actually. We stick around here too long and we'll wind up failing out of school for poor attendance.

Mike

I hadn't even thought of that... crap, I could get kicked off the team!

Shauna

Well what else can we do?

Mike

In stories like this, there's always a reason the characters wind up in another world. Maybe if we beat the final boss or whatever—

Shauna

This isn't some game Mike.

Mike

No, that's not what I mean.

Katherine

In his own special way, he's got another point, actually. Maybe there is some reason we wound up here. Something we're supposed to do.

Shauna

Yeah, but what? It doesn't even seem like Fesmer knows why we answered his spell. Maybe... No, never mind. I still think the safest bet is to learn this spell.

Mike

The safest bet isn't always the best. We don't even know for sure that you can learn magic, Shauna. No offense.

Katherine

As much as it pains me to say, Mike's right again. I say we stick around for a bit, give the magic thing a chance. If that doesn't work, well, that gives us some time to try to figure out something else.

Mike

When are you going to learn, Katherine? I'm always right.

Shauna

Okay. I'll do what I can and, if it's not enough, then we can try something else. Now let's get to work.

Mike

Sounds like a plan. Break!

Scene Nine—Training

Zana

So you all understand how the money works?

Katherine

It's pretty similar to ours. Except these are mostly coins.

Zana

Good. Now we will move on to the kitchen. From what Kath said this morning, there was little new for you to learn. But— Yes Meek, do you have a question?

Mike

Yes. You deliver food, right?

Zana

Correct.

Mike

Well, how do people place orders? Do they have to come all the way here? Or do you have some form of magic phone? Magiphone?

Zana

I am not entirely sure what the second part of your question meant. But the first one was a good question. Most customers stop in and have an order set up for delivery later. Those that can afford one use an Active Item called a *charepuenofai*. It is this device over here. We use this device to talk to other people far away.

Mike

Hey! It is a magiphone!

Katherine

Shut up Meek.

Mike

Don't call me that!

Shauna

We have something similar in our world.

Zana

Oh good. That simplifies things. I will teach you more about that when Fesmer can cast a more effective translation spell. Now. Over here are the ovens. We use wood-fire rather than an Active Item because the smoke adds to the flavor. Be sure to—

Fesmer

Shi-schwa, I apologize for my interruption. I have finished the task you assigned me. I would like to begin teaching Shauna—Shae, the fundamentals of Natural Magic now if I can.

Zana

Of course. Meek and Kath can answer her questions later. The two of you may go.

Fesmer

Thank you shi-schwa. Are you ready Shae?

Shauna

Not really, but we might as well get started.

Fesmer

Oh, Mike, I have something to show you later. I will find you.

Mike

Sho' nuff.

Fesmer

Let us go Shae.

Zana

Fesmer, please, I need you back here at least an hour before midday.
Now to use the ovens... <fades>

Shauna

I'm not sure I can do this Fesmer.

Fesmer

Nothing is certain until it is attempted. Let us go outside. I know a good place to begin.

Scene Ten—Magic Lesson 1

AMBIENT: Outdoor sounds, soft waves.

Shauna

What a beautiful pond!

Fesmer

Yes. It is away from the town, so it is usually very quiet. This is a perfect place to begin.

Shauna

So what do we do first?

Fesmer

First. First, Shae, I need to ask you something.

Shauna

Okay.

Fesmer

It is about how you arrived here. Mike told me a little about it, but he was not very specific.

Shauna

That sounds like Mike.

Fesmer

Could you describe what happened? What you felt. What you heard.

Shauna

Well, we were outside. It was night. All day I had this strange sensation that someone was behind me. I kind of felt like I was going to have a breakdown. It just kept getting worse all day. Standing there outside of the movie it felt like eyes were burning into me. I

Shauna (cont.)

said something about it and Mike said he felt it too. Then I started hearing something....

Fesmer

Go on. What did you hear?

Shauna

At first it was just like a faint whisper. The kind of thing you can only hear if it's really quiet. But the weird thing is, in Boston, it's never totally quiet. There's always some sound. Traffic, people. But I could hear this. It was just... far away.

Beat

At first I told myself it was just the wind, but already I could hear it getting louder and louder.

Fesmer

What was it?

SFX: Very, very faint: the chanting that drew MSK to Laundi. Whisper-faint.

Shauna

[in the telling of this, she finds herself absorbed by it; drawn in again]

Chanting. I couldn't make out the words. They... They sounded like your language, Fesmer I felt dizzy all of a sudden. Sick and weak. It felt like I was falling apart. I think I screamed. I know I fell. I've still got the bruise. And the chanting was getting louder and louder and then I could hear this one voice over them all. There was this flash.

A connection.

Beat

He was so strong. So forceful it was scary. But so sad. So sad that just thinking about it makes we want to cry. I... I couldn't help it.

Fesmer

Help what?

Shauna

I reached out to him. To comfort him. I couldn't help it. I don't think anyone with a heart could.

Beat

For the briefest moment I could see him. This dark, sad man. Then it was like the ground just disappeared and I was falling. I felt so cold. And the chanting and that voice were booming. They were all I could hear. Then I heard something else. Another voice. I think it was yours, actually. And the next thing I knew I was on the ground in the woods with Mike squeezing me.

<Moment of silence>

Fesmer

Thank you Shauna. I think... I need to talk to Jareth and Arkahn about this. Do you mind if I do?

Shauna

No. Go ahead.

Fesmer

They both know so much more than I do. This will hopefully help us understand what happened to you.

Shauna

Thank you Fesmer. Maybe we can figure out a better way to get back.

Fesmer

Maybe. But probably not. In either case, first you must learn to feel the Odi around you. Please sit.

Beat

Fesmer (cont.)

Odi is in all things. It flows like great rivers across the world. When you use Magic, you take some of that Odi and shape it to achieve a desired result. A lot of people use the metaphor of casting iron. First you gather the iron. Then you shape a matrix—

Shauna

The Matrix is a world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.

Fesmer

What? No. A matrix is like a mold for casting metal. Sometimes I really wonder how badly I miscast that translation spell. Anyway, you heat the iron and pour it into the matrix, break it away, and you have your pot.

Shauna

Got it. No evil computers.

Fesmer

Evil...? With both kinds of magic, you must construct this Matrix. With Natural Magic, we construct the Matrix within ourselves, using our own body as the furnace for preparing the Odi. This is a faster approach, but physically draining. With Ritual Magic, the way Univeristy teaches, you carve an array into a physical object that takes the drain for you. But it is a slow and complex process.

Shauna

I think I understand. You use Natural Magic.

Fesmer

Mostly, yes. So, for example, if I want to use a simple spell like “push” on that rock, I first draw the Odi I need. I use a mantra to set my focus. “Fai cthloll Odi.” Then I shape it in my mind. I imagine a hand of air and construct it out of Odi. “Push!”

SFX

Skittering rock. Weak splash.

Shauna

Whoa! How'd you...

Fesmer

The most important part is to focus. You need to be able to draw on Odi without really thinking about it. Then it is just a matter of imagining how a thing can be done and applying your willpower to make it happen.

Shauna

That's it? Then what was that thing you said?

Fesmer

That was my mantra. I use it to draw my focus. For me, when I say that phrase, I can suddenly feel all the Odi around me and use it.

Shauna

So what's my mantra?

Fesmer

Well, you could use mine. I learned it from my father. But I suspect you should create your own.

Shauna

One more question. If you just use your mind, why did you have that book when we first crashed in?

Fesmer

That was one of Jareth's books of spells. It has instructions for rituals and the like.

Shauna

Now I'm getting confused. I thought you said you didn't need rituals.

Fesmer

How can I explain this... I have learned a bit of Ritual Magic as well. Mostly from watching Jareth and reading his books when he is not looking. I can look at a ritual and adapt it into something like Natural Magic. I do not think other people do that. Even my father could only use one form or the other. It is just something I made up...

Shauna

And that's what I'm supposed to learn? Something you made up?

Fesmer

I suppose. Shall we get started? Sit like this, legs crossed, back straight. Be comfortable, but not too comfortable. It is a natural posture. You should feel right when you reach it.

Shauna

Like this? Okay, I think I have it.

Fesmer

Aienwa [good]. Now close your eyes.

Shauna

What should I be doing? Looking for something?

Fesmer

No, just breathe in. Hold it. Breathe out. In. It will come to you. Out. Do not think. In. Be at peace. Out. Just breathe in... Out... In... Out... In....

Scene Eleven—Working Nine to Five

AMBIENT: Kitchen sounds in the background.

Mike

Hot pie, coming through!

Katherine

Zana, pass me that big knife. Thanks.

Arkahn

We need a whole pig pie, a side of vegetable casserole, and a salad. With legs. Welcome to Zana's, *Seren...*

Mike

Orders up for Aristoke and Gerwin! Aren't Fesmer and Jareth supposed to be showing up soon?

Zana

One can hope. Meek, could you check on the pies in that oven?

Mike

[to self] Only if you stop calling me that...

Beat

Looks good. I'd give it a few more minutes though.

Beat

How's it going Katherine?

Katherine

I guess working in a kitchen is pretty much the same wherever you are. But compared to the rushes at Antonio's, this is nothing.

Mike

Have you still not tried the pig pie?

Katherine

No way. Not yet ready for the pig pie.

Mike

I'm telling you, it's really good. It's just a pot pie with pork instead of chicken. And other stuff.

Katherine

I'll pass.

Zana

Less talking and more cooking.

Arkahn

Kath, I said salad with legs!

Katherine

Meaning "to go," right?

Arkahn

Meaning "legs." I will take care of it. Please make a sausage in a bun, extra j'verin.

Katherine

Which is that, the green bitter things or the spicy root thing?

Mike

The smelly oniony things.

SFX

Door opens

Fesmer

Hello everyone.

Katherine

How's Shauna?

Fesmer

She is meditating. I think we made progress. Meek, could you assist me with something in the cold cellar?

Mike

Order up for Fustigar! Okay. It's not too busy.

Zana

Do not be away long. There are still deliveries to make.

Fesmer

Yes Shi-shwah.

SFX

Door closing.

Arkahn

Two bowls of soup, extra bread, two chilled *hojen*. And Jareth is here.

Jareth

Pardon for my lateness. Targonane asked me to assess more papers. He sends his regards Zana. Oh. Hello Katherine.

Katherine

Hello Jareth. Order up!

Jareth

Up where?

Katherine

Oh. Not important. Force of habit. How are you Jareth?

Arkahn

[background] A slice of pig pie for Caelos!

Jareth

Well. It is good to see you. Helping. May I assist you with that?

Katherine

Thank you.

Arkahn

Zana, would you watch the counter for a moment? I require some air.

Zana

Absolutely.

Jareth

Where are your friends?

Katherine

Oh, Mike and Fesmer left just before you came in. Shauna's off learning magic.

Jareth

What?!

AMBIENT: Kitchen sounds cease momentarily, then resume.

Katherine

Fesmer is teaching her to use magic so she can get us home.

Jareth

Fesmer? That little... I cannot believe... No, of course he would. He never thinks. I cannot allow this.

Katherine

But—

Zana

Jareth calm yourself. And two sausage in a bun, please.

Jareth

I cannot calm down. I am a Task Mage. I cannot abide this any longer. Fesmer has gone too far this time!

Katherine

But he's helping us find a way home!

Jareth

The power of Odi is not something to be used carelessly, Katherine. Students at University train for years to use that power in safe, controlled ways. Training that Fesmer never received. His magic is dangerous. He should not be using it at all, let alone teaching others how!

Katherine

Fesmer's magic saved us from those Legionnaires when we came here. You seemed okay with that. And what about his translate spell!

Zana

Please, you two—

Jareth

Sometimes, in emergency situations, people must do or allow things they would not otherwise. Now is hardly an emergency situation.

Katherine

So, what, you'd just leave us stuck here?

Jareth

We will find another way. I do not know what gave Fesmer this insane idea in the first place, but I will not spend any longer discussing it. This ends. Now.

SFX

Door opens, slams shut.

Scene Twelve—Jareth is pissed.

Mike

Wow! It is really nice out!

Fesmer

We have been blessed with good weather lately. Would you close the cellar door? You will let the cold out.

Mike

Oh, yeah.

SFX

Door closing.

Mike

So how does this thing work? It kinda looks like a football.

Fesmer

There is a magical charge stored in it. When it hits, the charge is released, stunning the target.

Mike

Sweet. Spellbomb! Where did you get these things? Why were they in that box in the basement? Zana doesn't seem like the type to have something like this.

Fesmer

When I was a child, I found them with Father's belongings. They are not exactly legal, but some people have them for self-defense. I took a box of them before Mother and I fled. Just in case. I have kept them in Zana's cold cellar for a long time for the same reason.

Mike

Why? What could happen?

Fesmer

Anything I suppose. Robbers. Legionnaires.

Mike

What's the deal with those Legion guys anyways? People talk about them like an army, but they seem more like 'hoods to me.

Fesmer

A long time ago, they were a great and terrible army, but now they content themselves with extortion and crime. Anything bad that happens, you can be pretty sure the Legion have some hand in it. They are [scum]. That is all. I would rather not talk about them any more.

Mike

Sorry 'bout that.

Fesmer

This one is inactive. Do you want to practice throwing it?

Mike

Sure. Go long!

Fesmer

Where?

Mike

Run!

Fesmer

Oh!

Arkahn

What are you boys doing?

Fesmer

'Soup dug.

Arkahn

You had better practice caution, Fesmer. Jareth is coming and he does not look happy.

Jareth

<in the distance> Fesmer!

Arkahn

And here he is.

Jareth

Where is Shauna?

Fesmer

Jareth, just listen. We--

Jareth

No no no! I cannot look the other way any more Fesmer. I have avoided reporting you in the past due to our friendship, but I cannot abide you teaching an innocent girl—strange as she may be—to use Savage Magic. It is chaotic and inherently dangerous. And we do not know what will happen to it in her hands. She did not grow up learning all those little things we all do. She is not constrained by our common sense. In her ignorance, how can she hope to contain her power! Think for once!

Mike

“Ignorance”? Hey, Shauna is not a danger to anyone, pal!

Arkahn

Jareth, It sounds like this may be the only way those three can go home. And off of our backs...

Jareth

You are just as bad Arkahn! You should not be performing *any* magic, yet you *help* Fesmer with his Summoning! Do not think that I fail to see you goading him. Encouraging him to transgress the law time and time again. You two put all of us at risk! Have you thought of that? I would be dismissed from University in a second, and likely imprisoned as well. Zana would lose her shop. You two, you would be lucky if they hanged you!

Mike

Hey, lay off ‘em man. Fes and Shauna are just trying to get us home.

Jareth

What makes you think that this foolishness will get you home?

Mike

It’s what Drain-mer told her. She has to learn both types of magic. So now she is. You wanna fight about it?

Jareth

The Ancestors said that? No, surely there is some other way.

Mike

Yeah, like what?

Jareth

It was rash of you to start doing this on your own, Fesmer! You could have at least given me a chance to do some research. A chance to interpret the ancestor’s words properly.

Mike

Yeah. It sounds like they were pretty clear about this.

Arkahn

Anyway, who is going to catch us? What does it matter? This could be their only chance, Jareth.

Jareth

I should be used to my warnings whistling through your ears like the wind. If you insist on continuing this farce, do not expect any help from me when it all explodes in your hands.

<beat>

...Mike, what is that you are holding?

Mike

<meekly> Nothing.

Jareth

Is that a weapon? By the ancestors you must be trying to drive me insane. You two are going to hurt someone and it will probably be yourselves.

<sighs>

Katherine

<distant> Hey! Guys! We could use a little help in here!

Jareth

I am going inside to prepare our deliveries. We will speak more on this later.

SFX

Door slam.

Arkahn

<sarcastically> Well my day just improved.

Mike

Is he always like that? Bet he's a real hoot at parties.

Fesmer

[*heavy and sad*]

That is enough you two. He is right. If we are all out here, Kath and Zana are alone in there. We should get back to work. And anyway, I am tired of playing teacher.

Scene Thirteen—Shauna casts Push

Shauna

<Breathing for a couple seconds>

Oh, this is going nowhere!

Beat

Maybe a more direct... Let's see... a rock...

<sigh>

Here goes nothing. At all.

<clears throat>

Fai Tholl Odi!

Beat

No, that wasn't it. Fai Cwol odi!

Beat.

Oh yeah. Fai Coll Odi! Push! <Emphasis on Push as if she's just remember she has to say it.>

beat

Shove! Move? Come on, just work. Fai Coll Odi Push! Work stupid magic! Push!

SFX

Cracking like a rock getting hit by a baseball bat. Skip-skip-skip-skip-skip-skip-Splash!

Shauna

<softly> Woah...