

## **SECOND SHIFT**

Episode #6: Six Weeks

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CONFIDENTIAL

### **Scene 1 — Week 1 pt 1**

**SFX** rain outside

**ARKAHN**

Oli-yuung Shae.

**SHAUNA**

Oli-yuung Arkahn. You're soaked!

**ARKAHN**

It is raining with serious intent. How is Meek?

**SHAUNA**

No change yet.

**ARKAHN**

That is as expected then.

**SFX** door open/close

**KATHERINE**

Morning Arkahn. Shauna, I brought you a fresh cup of hoj.

**SHAUNA**

Ah, just what I needed. Thank you.

<beat>

So, uh, you guys look like something's on your mind?

**ARKAHN**

We have need to speak with you.

**SHAUNA**

Okay. What's up?

**ARKAHN**

You know what is up Shae.

**KATHERINE**

You've barely left this room for three days, Shauna. You haven't been eating or sleeping anywhere near enough.

**ARKAHN**

We are concerned for you.

**SHAUNA**

That's sweet of you, but I'm fine. It's Mike we should be worried about.

**ARKAHN**

There is nothing more we can do for Meek at this point.

**SHAUNA**

What's that supposed to mean?

**KATHERINE**

She means, Shauna, that you killing yourself to stay here 24 hours a day isn't helping anyone.

**SHAUNA**

But somebody has to stay here and take care of him.

**ARKAHN**

You are correct Shae, *somebody* does.

**KATHERINE**

But nobody ever said it had to be you.

**SHAUNA**

But—

**KATHERINE**

We have made a whole bunch of friends in the past few days.  
They are all willing and able—

**SHAUNA**

But don't you understand? I have to do this!

**ARKAHN**

You do not Shae. The only thing you have to do is to get sleep  
and allow your life to continue.

**SHAUNA**

What? Just move on and leave Mike behind?

**KATHERINE**

Targonone said that Mike should be out for a couple of weeks  
while he heals. What are you going to do, sit there and wait  
until he gets better? You have responsibilities here Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

What do you mean? All my responsibilities are in Boston.

**KATHERINE**

And it is your responsibility to get us back. All three of us. You  
said so yourself.

**ARKAHN**

One bizarrely successful day of practice does not make you a  
Master Shae. You must continue your studies with diligence.

**SHAUNA**

But—

**ARKAHN**

No more excuses. You are coming back to my house and  
sleeping. Come. Up!

**SHAUNA**

Mike—

**KATHERINE**

Mike will be fine. Arkahn and I will do most of the work from  
here. Besides, it's not like he's going anywhere.

**SHAUNA**

Katherine!

**KATHERINE**

What! It's true. He's unconscious, not an infant. Now go. Get  
some rest. Go. Go!

**SHAUNA**

Alright, alright. I'm going. But if anything happens...

**KATHERINE**

I'll let you know. Now go with Arkahn and get a good night—  
day's rest.

**SHAUNA**

Okay, fine...

**SFX** door open/close

**KATHERINE**

Thanks for your help Arkahn.

**ARKAHN**

Think nothing of it Kath. *Doh-paren (After all)*, we are all friends. Tell Zana I shall return for work before noon.  
Farewell.

**SFX** door open/close

**KATHERINE**

<Sighs> It's going to be a long week.

**Scene 2 — Week 1 pt 2**

**SFX** rain outside

**FESMER**

It is difficult to believe that this is only your second lesson, Shauna. So much has happened...

**SHAUNA**

Tell me about it. Sorry for skipping out this past week Fesmer.

**FESMER**

I am glad to resume. Your almost immediate grasp on Odi is unprecedented. I am excited to discover what is next. It is like an adventure.

**SHAUNA**

Oh whoopee, another adventure.

**FESMER**

Absolutely! Nai nai, let us begin by testing your powers. Lift this Brikka ball.

**SHAUNA**

Is it okay that we're doing this inside?

**FESMER**

Would you rather practice outside in the rain?

**SHAUNA**

True enough. It's been nonstop for the past two days.

**FESMER**

Welcome to Laundi. Do you find the weather troublesome?

Wait a minute.

<beat>

Try again.

**SHAUNA**

Work stupid magic lift. Nothing.

**FESMER**

Try to push it.

**SHAUNA**

Work stupid magic push... Work stupid magic *push*. Work. Stupid. Magic. Push! Oh come on. I could do it the other day.

**FESMER**

You have to focus Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah yeah. Work stupid magic push. Agh. Why isn't this working?

**FESMER**

Again.

**SHAUNA**

Work stupid magic push! This is ridiculous. I can't even feel it. It was so easy before!

**FESMER**

Think. What is different now from the last time you used Odi?

**SHAUNA**

<snippy> Well, I'm not being attacked by Undying for one.

**FESMER**

What troubles you Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Nothing. I'm fine.

**FESMER**

I may not be as perceptive as Arkahn, but I know when something troubles my friends.

**SHAUNA**

I'm fine.

**FESMER**

Shae...

**SHAUNA**

What's the point of this? Mike's in a coma. Katherine and Arkahn won't let me help out. I should be working or something, not throwing Brikka balls around.

**FESMER**

I think I understand the problem now.

**SHAUNA**

What?

**FESMER**

When you were being attacked by Undying, you wanted to protect Zana and Mike, correct?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**FESMER**

And when you showed Arkahn and Zana your ability, you wanted them to be impressed. Correct?

**SHAUNA**

I suppose...

**FESMER**

And when you first accessed Odi, you wanted it to work?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. So?

**FESMER**

Do you want to use Odi now?

**SHAUNA**

Of course. That's why we are here, isn't it?

**FESMER**

That is not what I mean. What do you want right now Shae? Do you want to access Odi, do you want to be back there with Mike, or do you want to be working?

**SHAUNA**

I want to be home.

**FESMER**

To access Odi, you have to *want* it Shae. Fiercely and absolutely. If you do not want it to work, it is not going to.

**SHAUNA**

Well I can't just force myself.

**FESMER**

Perhaps not, but you can trick yourself.

**SHAUNA**

What?

**FESMER**

That is what I do. I convince myself I need to cast the spell.  
After a while it just becomes habit.

**SHAUNA**

So how do I do that?

**FESMER**

Well, think about the times you have cast magic. What was the most powerful, natural response you had?

**SHAUNA**

Probably... when I was trying to protect everybody from the Undying.

**FESMER**

Then you should attempt to channel that desire into your magic. Your desire to protect your friends, to help them. That is why you began to learn, correct?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. But—

**FESMER**

So you just have to remind yourself that everything you learn, even practicing with the basics, is to help your friends. To send them home.

**SHAUNA**

Okay. I think I understand.

**FESMER**

Very well. Then let us begin again.

**Scene 3 — Week 2 pt 1**

**KATHERINE**

How is he today Arkahn?

**ARKAHN**

The same as he was yesterday, Kath. It has only been two weeks.

**KATHERINE**

I know, but it makes me nervous that he hasn't even moved.

**ARKAHN**

It takes time for a broken body to mend, even with Targonone's spells hastening the process.

**KATHERINE**

I know. At least we'll be able to take most of the casts off in a few days. Here, help me feed him his broth.

**SFX** spoon on bowl

**ARKAHN**

I do not know why, but this the one thing that disturbs me the most.

**KATHERINE**

Meh. You get used to it after a while. When my grandfather was dying, I helped care for him. Grandma wouldn't let us put him in a hospice.

**ARKAHN**

Why would you put your dying grandfather in a traveler's inn?

**KATHERINE**

What? No, a hospice is place that takes care of dying people.

**ARKAHN**

Meek is not dying.

**KATHERINE**

I know. That's not what I meant.

<Pause>

**KATHERINE**

How's living with Shauna treating you?

**ARKAHN**

Well enough.

**KATHERINE**

We lived together last year. In the dorms.

<here the conversation becomes lighter, joking>

**ARKAHN**

I have a question for you then. Was she always difficult in mornings?

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, it's strange. She wakes up so early, but...

**ARKAHN**

It is as if she is sleepwalking.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, I was always afraid she'd run into something and hurt herself. Especially with how messy her room is.

**ARKAHN**

I am constantly amazed how someone with so few belongings can cover so much area with them.

**KATHERINE**

In our room she would always leave an ironing board set up. Not a little one, a full size one. Only she'd never actually use it.

**ARKAHN**

What is an irony board?

**KATHERINE**

Oh. Nevermind.

<pause>

**ARKAHN**

Zana posted the schedule for next week.

**KATHERINE**

Any changes?

**ARKAHN**

Some. Zana has had to move us around a little so that we can check on Meek frequently.

**KATHERINE**

I'm glad Zana's being so supportive of this. I don't know what we would do without her covering Mike's costs. When he wakes up, I hope he learns something from how much damage his recklessness caused.

**ARKAHN**

You judge him so harshly Kath.

**KATHERINE**

I'm not harsh. I'm honest. Everyone else is always "Oh, it's okay. That's Mike for you." He never thinks. He never owns up to his mistakes. I can't even tell you how many times Shauna had to cover for him when he was late to work or almost burned the place down. And now...

**ARKAHN**

I think how he acted was brave.

**KATHERINE**

Brave?

**ARKAHN**

In his ignorance, he might not have realized the seriousness of the situation. But he acted without hesitation or fear.

**KATHERINE**

There is a fine line between bravery and stupidity and Mike ran across it at full speed.

**ARKAHN**

He was trying to protect us!



**KATHERINE**

It was a game to him! The idiot was actually having fun!

**ARKAHN**

I have always admired those who can laugh in the face of death.

**KATHERINE**

Well I don't. There's nothing funny about it. I guess we'll just have to agree to disagree.

**ARKAHN**

I suppose so.

<beat>

I should go. It would not do to keep Zana waiting.

**SFX** door

**Scene 4 — Week 2 pt 2**

**SFX** trudging through brush

**SHAUNA**

I think it's over here Fesmer.

**FESMER**

I did not feel it at all. I am amazed by your sensitivity, Shae.

**SHAUNA**

Tae-od... where are you? I sure do love running around the woods in a skirt. Why is it so hard to find pants for women around here?

**FESMER**

Most women do not wear pants.

**SHAUNA**

Arkahn does.

**FESMER**

Arkahn makes her own.

**SHAUNA**

<impressed> Really? Is there anything she can't do? Maybe I'll get her to— Oh, I found it. Here it is!

**FESMER**

Well done Shae!

**SHAUNA**

I thought you said these things were rare? This is, like the fourth one I've found since I got here.

**FESMER**

They have been occurring with greater frequency. I wonder—  
Do not touch it!

**SHAUNA**

Oh, right. Mysterious negative energy inimical to all life. So what do we do? We can't leave it here, right? Hey, maybe I can try that new "carry" spell I've been working on.

**FESMER**

I do not think that will work. Tae-oden disrupt Odi's flow.

**SHAUNA**

Well, nothing ventured... Work stupid magic carry!

**SFX** bzzap sound

**SHAUNA**

Ow!

**FESMER**

I warned you.

**SHAUNA**

Ow ow ow. Jeez. Remind me not to try that again. Ohh, I feel like I stuck my finger in a light socket.

**FESMER**

Pass me your shawl. *Cha grendi fai*. We can carry it in this. I will just move it with this stick...

**SHAUNA**

Hey, you're getting it all dirty! That's my only shawl.

**FESMER**

I had not thought about that... I will pay for a new one if this is damaged.

**SHAUNA**

Thanks. Zana's been docking most of my wages to help pay for Mike. Well, I shouldn't complain, it was my suggestion.

**FESMER**

I have it, let us return to Zana's. We can have Jareth bring it in if he comes to work today. Or Arkahn if she has time.

**SHAUNA**

Why can't you do it?

**FESMER**

I would rather not. I do not like spending any more time around University than I have to.

**SHAUNA**

Sounds like a plan. I don't think I can cast any more magic after getting zapped by that thing. I think it drained my power. You said that they're like "negative Odi," but where do they come from? What causes them?

**FESMER**

It is not known, but they are, as you would say, "bad news." If you are drained, we can work on that spell of yours tomorrow.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. Hopefully it won't rain again. It seems to rain every other day around here. Storms popping up out of nowhere.

**FESMER**

At the least.

**SHAUNA**

Hey, why don't you guys have weather magic?

**FESMER**

Weather magic?

**SHAUNA**

You know, to make it rain or stop raining.

**FESMER**

That is one kind of magic that is most strictly prohibited. Weather is chaotic. Trying to alter it even a little is just begging for trouble on a very grand scale.

**SHAUNA**

Butterfly effect, huh? Well maybe I could try something to keep myself dry. Work stupid magic "umbrella" or something.

**FESMER**

You have certainly become more enthusiastic about learning.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. I'm starting to get the hang of it. It's cool. I feel like I can do anything!

**FESMER**

At the rate you are learning, you may be right. Come, let us hurry. It is almost dinnertime and I am starving!

**Scene 5 — W 3 pt 1**

**SFX** Door

**JARETH**

Greetings Kath.

**KATHERINE**

Jareth?! Wow, how nice to see you. And what have you been up to these past \*three weeks\*?

**JARETH**

Apologies... I have been working on something. How is Meek? I had hoped he would be awake by now...

**KATHERINE**

Well, he's still alive, no thanks to you.

**JARETH**

*Parado fai? (Excuse me?)* I assisted Targonone in *treating* Meek. I have done nothing to—

**KATHERINE**

Exactly: nothing. Mr. Let's Not Call a Doctor.

**JARETH**

*Senjen (Please)*, you must understand that I was trying to protect us all.

**KATHERINE**

Yourself included.

**JARETH**

<stung> Yes, myself included.

**KATHERINE**

And that was worth endangering Mike's life.

**JARETH**

You speak truly, Kath, as always. I had no right to do this and for it I offer my sincerest apologies.

<pause-- no reaction from KATHERINE>

Targonone and I had a discussion, not about details of course, but about certain-- areas in which he too has found me... lacking. His advice made much sense, and so I am trying to take responsibility for this situation rather than resisting it.

**KATHERINE**

So you disappear for three weeks?

**JARETH**

Correct. Because I was making these.

**KATHERINE**

Wow Jareth, necklaces. We are saved.

**JARETH**

It required a great deal of research and experimentation, but I managed to find the right spell.

**KATHERINE**

Spell? What is it?

**JARETH**

It is a translator. Fesmer's spell will only allow a few people to understand you. But this should allow everyone to understand what you are saying. It probably will not help with colloquialisms any more than Fesmer's spell did, but it will allow you to go anywhere without fear of discovery.

**KATHERINE**

You made these? They are beautiful.

**JARETH**

Thank you. All students at University learn a craft.

**KATHERINE**

So do I just put it on?

**JARETH**

Correct. It will work as long as it is on you. I must first remove Fesmer's spell, however. Our magicks are different, and the spells would conflict.

**KATHERINE**

Okay. How do you do that?

**JARETH**

The counter-spell is inscribed on this charm. I just need to...  
<cool spell voice effect> Dismissed!

**KATHERINE**

Is that it?

**JARETH**

*Piay. Fuo corendi fai paren porii cha. Plix, ent ne-ay zire cha.*  
[Yes. I can no longer understand a thing you are saying. Now, put the pendant on.]

**KATHERINE**

Jareth, you're an overbearing and insensitive prick.

**JARETH**

...*Parado fai?*

**KATHERINE**

Guess so. Now let's try the pendant.

<beat>

Is it working? I can't tell.

**JARETH**

Perfectly. Here is one for Meek when he wakes up. I have another for Shae. Is she here?

**KATHERINE**

She's... out.

**JARETH**

She is training with Fesmer, is she not?

**KATHERINE**

Err... yes.

**JARETH**

Do you know where they are? I wish to speak to them.

**KATHERINE**

You're not going to yell at them or anything, are you?

**JARETH**

No. I have given the matter much thought. In all my research, I have been unable to find even a mention of other worlds, let alone how to shift between them. If Shae must follow Draenmer's path, then follow it she must. I will not stand in her way.

**KATHERINE**

Good. They are out by the pond.

**JARETH**

Thank you Kath.

**KATHERINE**

Oh, and Jareth?

**JARETH**

Yes?

**KATHERINE**

I still can't forgive you for standing in the way of helping Mike. But maybe, after a while, we can be friends again.  
<a beat>

**JARETH**

I hope so Kath. I hope so.

**Scene 6 — W 3 pt 2**

**JARETH**

Shae? Shae are you over— oh, apologies. I did not mean to interrupt your meditation.

**SHAUNA**

It's alright, Jareth. I was just trying to talk to Fesmer.

**JARETH**

Unfortunately, I can no longer understand what you are saying.

**SHAUNA**

Ummm.... Huh?

**JARETH**

I have removed Fesmer's translation spell from myself. Please put this on.

**SHAUNA**

<surprised and a little confused> Wow Jareth! It's beautiful. But what—

**JARETH**

Dismissed!

**SHAUNA**

...Um. You dispelled Fesmer's translate spell. Why?

**JARETH**

*Senjen, entero-cha.*

[Please, put it on.] (Literally "you, wear it.")

**SHAUNA**

I'm guessing that you want me to put the necklace on.

<beat>

Okay. So what does this have to do with the translation spell?

**JARETH**

It is a talisman imbued with a new translation spell. It should allow anybody to understand you as long as you wear it.

**SHAUNA**

Oh. That's a good thing to have. You understand me now?

**JARETH**

Yes.

**SHAUNA**

Did you make this?

**JARETH**

Yes I did.

**SHAUNA**

You've got some skill Jareth. If this task mage thing doesn't work out, you should become a jeweler.

**JARETH**

<laughs> I suspect that is half the reason students learn a craft.

**SHAUNA**

So anybody?

**JARETH**

Correct.

**SHAUNA**

So I don't need to stay hidden anymore?

**JARETH**

You should still be cautious. If it is discovered that you are not even from this world... There are many whose attention we want to avoid, the Legion, the Red Circle, even University. But generally, no, you need no longer hide.

**SHAUNA**

That's amazing. I can finally go buy some clothes that fit right. Arkahn may think she's about my size, but she doesn't have the Brown family hips. Heh. Thanks Jareth, this is great.

**JARETH**

*Cha lyona fai*, [You are welcome], Shae..

**SHAUNA**

I couldn't understand "*cha lyona fai*" [You are welcome]. Then again, Fesmer's spell didn't translate some things either.

**JARETH**

There were some details that were... difficult to account for.

**SHAUNA**

Oh, don't worry about it.

**JARETH**

Where is Fesmer?

**SHAUNA**

I don't know. He wandered off into the woods, then had me try to contact him.

**JARETH**

<amazed> You are learning Farspeaking? Already?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. We figure Fesmer's Summon attempt had something to do with us winding up here, so he felt Farspeaking would be a good starting place.

**JARETH**

That is as I would teach it. Basic principals building on each other. Of course our techniques may be different...

**SHAUNA**

You're not going to try and stop us, are you?

**JARETH**

No. I have been subjecting myself to much reflection as of late. It is not my place to stand in the way of you getting home. Who am I to question the wisdom of *ainorem*?

**SHAUNA**

Well thank you, Jareth. <an awkward beat> Did you want to talk to Fesmer? I think I can let him know he's needed. Still having trouble doing anything more than connecting with him...

**JARETH**

Even I have difficulty doing more than that, although I have scant opportunity to practice, as most of campus *is* mind-shielded to prevent cheating. But no, Shae, it is actually you with whom I wish to speak.



**SHAUNA**

Oh? Pull up some grass.

**JARETH**

What?

**SHAUNA**

Sit down. What's up?

**JARETH**

<awkwardly> Well, I have been thinking a great deal about us.

**SHAUNA**

Oh? <catching up> Wait, what did you say?

**JARETH**

Specifically about your studies and how I can help.

**SHAUNA**

<a little relieved> Ooh...

**JARETH**

I know you need to learn more than what Fesmer can teach you. And I also know that you will do this regardless of whether I help you or not. So I brought you this.

**SHAUNA**

A book?

**JARETH**

It is a basic primer on Odi. There is much for you to learn and I would be more comfortable if you had this to guide you.

**SHAUNA**

That's good and all, but... I can't read this.

**JARETH**

What?

**SHAUNA**

Not a single word.

**JARETH**

I... um... Somehow that never occurred to me.

<pause>

**JARETH**

I suppose I shall have to teach you myself.

**SHAUNA**

Really? You would do that?

**JARETH**

Someone must. With your potential, improper teaching could lead to disaster.

**SHAUNA**

Uhh... Thank you?

**JARETH**

I must think on this some more. Classes are not in session for the next few weeks so I will have time.

<beat>

When I return to University, I shall research teaching methods. It has been long since I have had to think about such basic matters. I feel we should waste as little time as possible. If you are already able to Farspeak, there is much ground to cover.

**SHAUNA**

I don't want you to do anything you don't want to...

**JARETH**

No. This is how it must be.

<beat>

Very well Shae. We shall begin our relationship anew in two days as teacher and student. But for now, we should go back to Zana's. Even the sheer joy of rudimentary Odi-theory cannot keep us from our work.

**SHAUNA**

Was that sarcasm I detected?

**JARETH**

Perhaps. Oh, and do not forget to inform Fesmer that we are going inside. Rain is coming.

**Scene 7 — Week 4 pt 1**

**KATHERINE**

Zana, do you know if we have any more gelek root? I can't find... oh, hello.

**ZANA**

Greetings Kath. I would like you to meet my friend Targonone.

**TARGONONE**

*Cha builana fai.* [Formal greeting]. It is a pleasure to finally meet you.

**KATHERINE**

Umm *cha builana fai.* [formal greeting]. Sorry Zana, I didn't know you had company.

**ZANA**

Not at all. Targonone was merely following up on Meek's progress.

**TARGONONE**

Zana has told me much about the care you have been providing your friend. He is as healthy as I could hope. Clean. Adequately nourished. Zana even tells me you have been moving his joints to prevent them from locking. I must commend you.

**KATHERINE**

Thank you. Everyone has been working hard to aid his recovery. Incidentally, how much longer do you think this coma will last? I thought he would be awake by now.

**TARGONONE**

As did I, Kath.

**ZANA**

That is why I called Targo here today, Kath. Please sit.

**TARGONONE**

When I treated your friend, I noticed many peculiarities in him, especially in the way his body reacts to Odi. I am afraid these peculiarities make it difficult for me to be certain.

**KATHERINE**

Meaning?

**TARGONONE**

I do not know when your friend will wake up. Normally, a patient with comparable injuries and treatment should have recovered by the third week. Only a few reach fourth week. And, I am afraid to say, of those, not all awaken, instead descending into *jerain-tupaan* [persistent vegetative state] and, eventually, surrendering their flesh to join ainorem.

**KATHERINE**

Well... Well what can we do?

**TARGONONE**

Unfortunately, I do not know enough about your people to provide an answer. He could simply be brain-deceased. He sustained severe head trauma, so that is not an impossibility. If this is the case, there truly is nothing we can do for him.

**KATHERINE**

But what if he's not? We can't just pull the plug on him.

**TARGONONE**

There is another possibility. A portion of his injuries were caused by a shock of Odi. There is a chance that this shock, combined with the emotional trauma of this near-death experience, may have forced his mind into a repressed state. As you know, Odi is affected by our wants and needs, even our involuntary ones.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah?

**ZANA**

What he is trying to say, Kath, is that, on some level, Meek may not desire to wake up.

**KATHERINE**

So...

**TARGONONE**

If this is the case, your friend's unwillingness to awaken has created barriers with Odi, preventing him from coming back to us. I have seen cases like this, although they are rare. A body's involuntary protections can cause significant problems if something goes wrong.

**KATHERINE**

Well, what can we do about it?

**TARGONONE**

There are rituals to pierce these protections and attempt to reach the patient's mind. But I cannot make this work on your friend. He is too different.

**KATHERINE**

"Too different"?

**TARGONONE**

Yes. I must do some research. Search the archives for similar cases. It is not time to give up on your friend yet. There is still a possibility that he will awaken on his own.

**ZANA**

But we must be prepared for all possibilities Kath.

**KATHERINE**

What do you mean?

**ZANA**

If Meek does not awaken, we may have to let him die.

**Scene 8 — Week 4 pt 2**

**SHAUNA**

See you at Zana's, Fesmer! Alright, time to get ready for work.

**SFX** door opening

**SHAUNA**

Arkahn I'm... Oh. Umm...

**LORENALARK**

What is the meaning of this?

**SHAUNA**

You tell me! Who are you and what are you doing in Arkahn's house? ...with luggage?

**LORENALARK**

This is our house, *lio* [little girl].

**ALEXALARK**

Who are you? How do you know Arkahn?

**SHAUNA**

Oh. Are you... are you Arkahn's parents?

**LORENALARK**

Correct.

**SHAUNA**

*Cha builana fai.* I am Shae.

**LORENALARK**

*Cha builana fai..* I am Lorenalark

**ALEXALARK**

*Cha builana fai.* I am Alexalark. Now would you mind telling us *who* you are?

**SHAUNA**

I am a friend of Arkahn's. She's been letting me stay here the past month... We work together at Zana's... Didn't she tell you about me?

**LORENALARK**

I am afraid not.

**ALEXALARK**

If you do not mind my asking, where are you from, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Umm... A place called Boston. You probably haven't heard of it. It is very far away.

**ALEXALARK**

And how do you know our daughter?

**SHAUNA**

We... I met her through Fesmer.

**ALEXALARK**

Fesmer. I see.

**SFX** footsteps on stairs

**ARKAHN**

Mother! Father! You are home earlier than expected! I see you have met my friend Shae.

**LORENALARK**

Yes, we have.

**ARKAHN**

Apologies for the strange manner of introduction, Mother.  
Why are you not yet dressed for work, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Sorry, I just got back from my run with Fesmer.

**ARKAHN**

We'll go change! We will be late!

**SHAUNA**

Well, uh, pleasure to meet both of you.

**ALEXALARK**

Likewise, Shae.

**SHAUNA**

I'll be ready in a few minutes Arkahn.

**SFX** running up stairs

**SHAUNA**

<to self> Well that was awkward...

**Scene 9 — Week 5 pt 1**

**FESMER**

Bii, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

Bui-bui, Fesmer. Haven't seen much of you these past five weeks.

**FESMER**

Apologies, I have been occupied with Shae's studies.

**KATHERINE**

I hear they're going well.

**FESMER**

Extremely. Jareth will even be assisting us tomorrow.

**KATHERINE**

Wow. That doesn't sound like him.

**FESMER**

You would not be so surprised if you knew him as I do. I fear that you three have seen only one side of Jareth.

**KATHERINE**

You mean the side that opposes everything we do and almost gets Mike killed?

**FESMER**

He is a very loyal friend, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

<terse> I'm sure he is very loyal, to his friends.

<a beat>

**FESMER**

I see that Mike is still unconscious.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah. It's not good. Targonone said that most are awake by the third week. We're way over deadline.

**FESMER**

He will awaken soon.

**KATHERINE**

I know.

<a beat>

**FESMER**

Well, it was good to see you, Kath. I should prepare now for tomor— Arkahn!

**KATHERINE**

Bii, Arkahn. Oh my God! What happened to you?

**ARKAHN**

I was involved in a physical altercation.

**KATHERINE**

You got into a fight? Geez, are you okay?

**FESMER**

What happened?

**ARKAHN**

I made a passing remark to several University students on my way to Zana's. It is nothing to fret over. I am fine. Just a little bruised.

**FESMER**

University students. They think themselves so invulnerable. If you pass them again, Arkahn, be sure that I am with you. We shall teach them a lesson worth learning.

**ARKAHN**

<bemused> Of course, Fes. Cha grendi fai.

<beat>

Are you reading a child's book, Kath?

**FESMER**

"The Winged Herald of Oren"? You cannot know how much that story frightened me as a child.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, Zana is teaching me how to read your language. The way this translation spell works makes it a little tricky, but I'm starting to get it. Pretty dark tale for a kid's book.

**FESMER**

Imagine reading it when you were five years of age! I had nightmares of black wings for years. Oli nekt. Kath, Arkahn. Remember, if you see those students...

**ARKAHN**

Oli nekt, Fes.

**KATHERINE**

Oli nekt.

**SFX** Door open close

**KATHERINE**

Are you sure you're ra-nai Arkahn?

**ARKAHN**

I am fine. I have been in fights before. Bruises fade.

**KATHERINE**

This town always seems so peaceful... Except for that Undying thing. But I guess it's just like everywhere else.

**ARKAHN**

How is Meek?

**KATHERINE**

<sad> Still nothing. Not even a response when I nicked him with the razor.

<beat>

Accidentally, of course.

**ARKAHN**

Of course. He will awaken. I have faith.

**KATHERINE**

Well I am glad you and Fesmer do. Everyone else is starting to get nervous.

**ARKAHN**

I know. Shae has not been sleeping well lately. I suspect it is because of Meek.



**KATHERINE**

Oh yeah, have your parents gotten used to having Shauna around?

**ARKAHN**

They have had a week to adapt. And Shae spends so little time at the house that most of the time they do not notice.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, she's been training hard. Fesmer says she's making great progress. Maybe we'll even be able to go home soon...

**ARKAHN**

<lightly> All things are possible. At least, I once believed so. Shall I take over from here?

**KATHERINE**

Actually, I think I'm going to stay the night.

**ARKAHN**

Again, Kath?

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, again.

**ARKAHN**

You fret over Shae's lack of sleep, and yet you obtain very little yourself.

**KATHERINE**

I just... I want to be here if he wakes up. I mean, when he wakes up.

**ARKAHN**

That is understandable.

**KATHERINE**

Plus, an old boyfriend used to tell me that my snoring could wake the dead. I've been testing that theory. So far, he's been wrong.

**ARKAHN**

Meek is not dead, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

I know. But if—... guh. It's too horrible to imagine. I mean... I've been so awful to him! I couldn't live with myself if he... I mean, if he didn't... <she begins to cry a little>

**ARKAHN**

There there, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

I'm sorry! I don't ever do this... it's embarrassing...

**ARKAHN**

You are among friends. There is no cause for embarrassment. Come here.

**SFX**

KATHERINE crying.

**Scene 10 — Week 5 pt 2**

**JARETH**

Are you ready, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah... Here goes nothing.

<beat>

Work stupid magic Farspeak with Fesmer!

<beat>

<echoing internal voice> Can you hear me now Fesmer?

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice> Clearly and loudly Shae. You do not need to force your thoughts so hard.

**SHAUNA**

Wow, this is really cool! I can hear him perfectly, Jareth!

**JARETH**

Very good. Are you ready to attempt the next step?

**SHAUNA**

I think so.

**JARETH**

Now, as you have seen in my book, Farsight involves a complex sequence of rituals. It is neither a swift nor an easy process. Ritual Magic is more planned, deliberate, and ultimately effective than Fesmer's Savage Magic could ever hope to be. Savage Magic functions by way of an impulsive want or need. It is a weak and immature way to achieve results. Ritual magic, conversely...

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

What is he saying?

**SHAUNA**

<echoing internal voice>

He says your magic is immature.

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

Tell Jareth that his magic is extremely uninteresting.

<SHAUNA snickers a little>

**JARETH**

Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Hmm what?

**JARETH**

Was Fesmer Farspeaking with you?

**SHAUNA**

He wasn't... *not* Farspeaking with me.

**JARETH**

Good. As I was saying, Ritual Magic is the execution of a far-ranging plan. Something one might desire to achieve whilst in study or contemplation, rather than in a state of anger or distress. Odi is a highly potent tool, but you must first learn how to manipulate it just so. I trust that you will not seek to learn beyond the basics I teach you. It could swiftly spiral beyond your control. Do you understand?

**SHAUNA**

Sure.

**JARETH**

Nai-nai. To begin, we must trace this circle into the ground. This is called the array. Once we have...

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

Is he telling you about arrays now?

**SHAUNA**

<echoing internal voice>

Yep.

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

Do not fret about those. Picture the ritual in your mind, and focus upon it. Imagine the steps you must take to execute the spell. And then... do it.

**SHAUNA**

<echoing internal voice>

...“do it”? How?

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

In the same way that you cast Natural Magic. Reach to Odi with your mantra.

**SHAUNA**

Okay. Work stupid magic Farsight through the eyes of Fesmer!

<whispering to herself, then:> Begin!

Woah! Now that is weird.

**JARETH**

Shae... what—?

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

Can you see clearly?

**SHAUNA**

<echoing internal voice>

Yes. You are by the big forked tree.

<beat>

This is wild. Like watching a movie, only everywhere.

Everything is so bright and clear. Is this how you see?

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

I do not know how to see any differently.

**JARETH**

We have not finished carving the array. Shae, what are you doing? Can you hear me?

**SHAUNA**

<echoing internal voice>

Hey Fesmer, look towards me. Hi me! Hey, I can see my aura.

Can you see it all the time?

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

I can only see it because of our connection. I never realized it was so powerful.

**SHAUNA**

<echoing internal voice>

Cool. I look like an anime character.

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

A what?

**JARETH**

Shae!

**SHAUNA**

Guh! What? Oh, hey Jareth.

**JARETH**

“Hey” yourself. What do you think you are doing?

**SHAUNA**

Seeing things from a different perspective?

**JARETH**

You could not possibly have...

**FESMER**

<echoing internal voice>

<playing a prank> Oh, Shae, what if I do *this*!

**SHAUNA**

Ah, Fesmer, stop spinning! You’re making me dizzy! <laughs>

**JARETH**

Dismissed!

**SHAUNA**

What--... you undid my spell! Whoa... head rush...

**JARETH**

I cautioned you as to the consequences of acting beyond what you know.

**SHAUNA**

But it worked!

**JARETH**

If you have no interest in learning how to do things my way, then I will not waste my time. Fesmer can teach you how to approximate the spells in my book, but he does not understand them.

**SHAUNA**

No offense, Jareth, but as long as they work, what’s it matter if I don’t understand how they work?

**JARETH**

You are attempting to learn Shift, yes?

**SHAUNA**

Right.

**JARETH**

Shift is not in my book. Shift is not in any book contained within University’s library. I have looked. No affiliate of University, past or present, has ever cast this spell.

**SHAUNA**

Oh. So, um, how am I supposed to—

**JARETH**

You must research how such a spell would be cast, and draw up the rituals yourself. I can help you do this, but first—

**SHAUNA**

--But first I have to study easier rituals, to see how they work.

**JARETH**

<pleased> Correct. You have been listening to me.

**SHAUNA**

I guess a few words did slip in there.

**FESMER**

I lost the connection to Shae. Is all well?

**JARETH**

It is now.

**SHAUNA**

<joking> Except for the headache, jerk.

**JARETH**

Shall we try again?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. But let's hurry. It's almost time to get back to work and we still haven't practiced the movement spells!

**FESMER**

The student ordering the Teachers. What do you say to this, Jareth?

**SHAUNA**

Oh, I know! "Absolutely not!"

<SHAUNA and FESMER laugh>

**JARETH**

Why is that funny?

**Scene 11 — Week 6 pt 1**

**ZANA**

<very formal> Cha grendillo fai, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

<half a beat> Builana, Zana. What can I do for you?

**ZANA**

Do you have time? I need to speak with you.

**KATHERINE**

<guarded> Of course. What's up?

**ZANA**

To begin, I would like to thank you for all of your hard work. You have only been here for just over six weeks and you have proven yourself an invaluable worker.

**KATHERINE**

[Thank you], Zana.

**ZANA**

Not at all. You are resourceful, sharply analytical, and a capable cook.

**KATHERINE**

I do what I can. I hope that this isn't about Mike?

**ZANA**

As I said, sharply analytical. I do not know how else to say this, so I shall be direct. His... accident happened six weeks ago. He has been in this state ever since.

**KATHERINE**

Uh huh.

**ZANA**

I know you and Arkahn have done a remarkable job in caring for him thus far.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah.

**ZANA**

Yet despite your best efforts and all of Targonone's medical experience, there has been no change in his condition. We have not seen even a glimmer of consciousness.

<beat>

What I am trying to say, Kath, is that we must be prepared to accept the strong possibility that Meek is not going to wake up.

<pause>

**KATHERINE**

I am sorry Zana. But that is not a possibility I am willing to accept. Ever.

**ZANA**

Kath...

**KATHERINE**

No Zana. I am sorry. I am not going to give up on Mike.

**ZANA**

Then what is your solution, Kath? I do not mean to be cruel, but what other option do we have? Can you commit to caring for him day after day for the rest of his natural life? Can you commit the money required to pay for his food, his medication? I do not know how things like this are handled where you are from. But here in Laundi, there is no support for cases like Meek's. Quite honestly, I do not have the resources to provide for Meek until he finally surrenders his flesh due to old age.

**KATHERINE**

So this is about *money*?

**ZANA**

This is about everything, Kath. Perhaps Shae will find you a way home. Perhaps not. Are you prepared to force Meek to live this way?

**KATHERINE**

Well at least he's not dead!

**ZANA**

Yes, his body is alive. But is his *taagli*? [spirit]?

**KATHERINE**

*Taagli*? [Spirit]?

**ZANA**

The living body is nothing but a vessel, Kath. It is flesh and bone and blood, no more. It is the mind and *taagli* [spirit] that make us truly alive. Without these, Meek is little more than a corpse.

**KATHERINE**

Don't say that!

**ZANA**

It is the truth Kath. And you know it, in your heart. If Meek does not awaken soon, he never will.

**KATHERINE**

No...

**ZANA**

I do not want this Kath. Meek had much life before him and he does not deserve to lose it. But he does not deserve to be kept in this state. And you do not deserve to spend your life in suffering over his condition.

**KATHERINE**

No... I can't...

**ZANA**

We can wait, Kath. We can wait a little longer. You need to discuss this with Shae. This is not a decision you should make alone.

**KATHERINE**

But what... What about that thing that Targonone said?

**ZANA**

What do you mean?

**KATHERINE**

About Mike being trapped inside his mind.

**ZANA**

Targonone has tried, on multiple occasions, to contact Meek. Not once has he been able to find a shining of consciousness.

**KATHERINE**

But maybe that is because we are not from Laundi. Or because he doesn't know Mike. Shauna's been able to make contact with Fesmer with her mind.

**ZANA**

That is not the same thing, Kath. To reach deep within a shrouded mind... I would ask that Shae attempt no such thing; and you should not encourage her.

**KATHERINE**

Why not?

**ZANA**

It is a dangerous process. Her mind could easily become trapped within the spell forever. I would not want to lose another of you.

**KATHERINE**

So we have to find another way.

**ZANA**

What other way is there, Kath?

**KATHERINE**

<a beat> Sorry, just thinking out loud. <beat> Yeah, okay, you're right. But let's please give Mike a little longer. As long as we can.

**ZANA**

I can do that. Thank you for understanding, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah. Sure.

**ZANA**

I will be downstairs if you require anything. Sleep well.

**KATHERINE**

Not likely, but thanks for the thought.

**ZANA**

Kath, I—

**KATHERINE**

I'd really like to be alone right now, Zana.

**ZANA**

Of course, *voluna*. [love].

**SFX**

Door closing.



**Scene 12 — Week 6 Part 2**

**SHAUNA**

<echoey Farspeaking voice> Hey! Katherine! Wake up!

**KATHERINE**

Shauna?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, it's me. Wake up. Let me in.

**SFX**

Opening door.

**KATHERINE**

Shauna? Where are you?

**SHAUNA**

I'm outside.

**KATHERINE**

What?

**SHAUNA**

I'm Farspeaking. Come on, I can't do this much longer. Let me inside.

**KATHERINE**

Okay okay, I'm coming. This psychic cell phone thing is really obnoxious.

**SFX**

Stairs

**KATHERINE**

Shauna?

<beat>

Shauna? You still there? Hello? Geez, it is a psychic cell phone...

**KATHERINE**

*Key-NAH!* [word for lowering ward]

**SFX** ward, door opening

**KATHERINE**

Alright, what's so important? And can't you just, you know, throw rocks at my window like a normal stalker?

**SHAUNA**

And risk breaking Zana's window? No thanks. Um, why are you dressed? And carrying your bow? You weren't even sleeping, were—

**KATHERINE**

Shut up and come inside.

<pause>

**SFX** door close

**KATHERINE**

So Shauna, to what do I owe the pleasure. Still not getting any sleep?

**SHAUNA**

You're one to talk. Going somewhere?

**KATHERINE**

No. Just, y'know, good to be prepared.

**SHAUNA**

Sure. Come on, follow me.

**KATHERINE**

Why are we going to Mike's room?

**SHAUNA**

Because I know how to wake him up.

**KATHERINE**

What?!

**SHAUNA**

Shh!

**KATHERINE**

How?

**SHAUNA**

You know the thing that Targonone told you about?

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, the mind-meld thing? Oh, Shauna, you're not going to—

**SHAUNA**

Yep. I think I've figured it out. I found it in one of Jareth's books.

**KATHERINE**

Oh, because so many good things have come from people sneaking glimpses of Jareth's books.

**SHAUNA**

It's advanced, but I think I can skip a few steps. It's why I've been practicing the Farspeaking so much. Besides, it's supposed to be easier if you know the person well.

**KATHERINE**

Hold a step. You read it in one of Jareth's books?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**KATHERINE**

How? I mean, I've been studying children's primers for weeks and I just made it through the entire alphabet. I thought learning Japanese was hard.

**SHAUNA**

You took Japanese?

**KATHERINE**

In high school.

**SHAUNA**

The magic books are different. Some of them are written with Odi. Once you know how to read them, they kind of download into your brain.

**KATHERINE**

No fair.

**SHAUNA**

Don't worry. It's pretty boring, literal stuff. Anyways, I've figured it out.

**KATHERINE**

Zana told me earlier tonight that the spell was really dangerous.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, so did the book. It was screaming warnings the whole time I was trying to read it, but it was all techno-babble. Or Odi-babble.

**KATHERINE**

Magibabble?

**SHAUNA**

That's it. Anyways, it's about the only option we've got left.

**KATHERINE**

Actually...

**SHAUNA**

What?

**KATHERINE**

You're not going to like this.

**SHAUNA**

You were about to leave! I knew it. Where to?

**KATHERINE**

Draenmer.

**SHAUNA**

You're right. I don't like it.

**KATHERINE**

It makes a lot of sense, Shauna. I haven't asked my one question yet, and I'm the only one here who can. If there is a way to bring Mike back, Draenmer would know.

**SHAUNA**

Look, Katherine... asking a question of Draenmer is like getting an educated guess from a bunch of very cynical dead people. Our elders do not know everything. Whatever they say, it will probably just discourage you. Trust me on this.

**KATHERINE**

But it's at least worth a try.

**SHAUNA**

Leaving in the middle of the night to walk three hours through the zombie-infested forest? I don't think it is!

**KATHERINE**

I can handle myself. And look, if we never do get back home... let's just say that I'm not asking my one question lightly. Doing this closes a few doors for me here. I'd rather not do it, if at all possible.

**SHAUNA**

Great. All the more reason to do this my way. I need to ask you to help me, Katherine. I know you might not approve of this, but I really do need your help.

**KATHERINE**

No, Shauna. You've had really good luck with the magic stuff, but let's not push it.

**SHAUNA**

“Luck,” you say? Foolish mortal.

**KATHERINE**

I’m serious.

**SHAUNA**

So am I. <beat> Well, except for the foolish mortal part. I know how to do this. Mike is out of time. The longer he’s out, the bigger the chance that he’s not coming back, even with my magic. This has to happen tonight, and I have to do it. Draenmer will only tell you the same thing. Except spookier.

**KATHERINE**

<deep breath> Okay. Let’s do it.

**SFX**

Open/close door.

**KATHERINE**

So what do we do?

**SHAUNA**

First let’s get him off the bed and onto the floor. You get his legs.

**K & SHAUNA**

Grunt

**KATHERINE**

Okay.

**SHAUNA**

Now, normally there’d be a fancy ritual circle and stuff, but that’s not how I roll. But these candles are the important part.

**KATHERINE**

Where did you get these?

**SHAUNA**

I made them. Arkahn and I had to make candles the other day so I saved some of the beeswax. Or whatever the wax is from. Arkahn’s house doesn’t have many active items. Just a couple of lights and a ward. Do you have a match?

**KATHERINE**

There are some in the kitchen.

**SHAUNA**

Nah, its okay. I’m my own firestarter. Work stupid magic light my fire.

**KATHERINE**

Light my fire?

**SHAUNA**

I tried just “Fire” or “Spark” or something and... well let’s just say it’s good that I practice near a body of water.

**KATHERINE**

What’s that smell?

**SHAUNA**

Shauna’s special mind-melding herbs.

**KATHERINE**

Umm...

**SHAUNA**

Don't look at me like that. It's nothing bad. It's part of the ritual.

<beat>

Okay. Now I'm going sit like this... I'm going to hold my head to Mike's and merge our minds.

**KATHERINE**

Star Trek much?

**SHAUNA**

Katherine! I'm shocked. You used to watch—

**KATHERINE**

No! My ex did. And I hated every minute.

**SHAUNA**

Of Star Trek, or your ex?

**KATHERINE**

So, what exactly am I supposed to be doing, here?

**SHAUNA**

You're my anchor. I'll go unconscious. I need you to hold onto me. Don't let me let go of Mike and don't let me, you know, hurt myself.

**KATHERINE**

Alright. How 'bout if I sit here.

**SHAUNA**

Fine. Now this is only supposed to take a moment of real time. I should wake up again in seconds.

**KATHERINE**

What if it takes longer?

**SHAUNA**

Then that's bad. But it's not going to happen.

**KATHERINE**

Shauna, I know this is important, that this is possibly the only way to bring him back... but... I can't lose you, too. And there's a very big risk of that happening, according to everything we've heard about this ritual. The stakes are just way too high. We can still—

**SHAUNA**

I need you to believe in me, Katherine. It is going to work. You know that, right? Have faith.

**KATHERINE**

<a beat> Yeah. Okay. Good luck, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Remember, don't let go of me.

**KATHERINE**

Never.

**SHAUNA**

Alright. <deep breath> Work stupid magic Touch of Minds!  
<whispers, and then:> Begin!

<pause>

**KATHERINE**

Shauna?

<beat>

It will work. It has to. Shauna can do it...

<beat>

Come on Shuana.

<beat>

Come on Mike.

<beat>

Come on... Come on...

<beat x 2>

Should it be taking this long?

<beat x 2>

Wake up Shauna...

<Beat>

Shauna, you're starting to scare me. Wake up.

<beat>

Come on.

<beat>

Wake up.

<beat>

Wake up!

<beat>

Please wake up. Oh God. Don't leave me here alone.

<beat>

Wake up!

<beat>

Please wake up. Guys, c'mon, wake up!

**SHAUNA**

Ugh. Katherine...

**KATHERINE**

Shauna, thank God. Did it work? What happened?

**SHAUNA**

I... don't know. I don't remember anything. Just... grey, and sadness. Mike?

<beat>

Mike?

<pause>

**MIKE**

Shauna.