

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.