

## **SECOND SHIFT**

Episode #7: Wake Up  
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CONFIDENTIAL

### **Scene One – Benched**

#### **SFX**

Weird, distorted echoes.

#### **SHAUNA**

Mike. Mike!

#### **SFX**

The echoes become less distorted. They are starting to become louder; more clear.

#### **SHAUNA**

Mike! It's Shauna! I'm here to take you home. Mike? Hello?

#### **SFX**

The sounds shape into a football game; the "mic" is in the field as football players stampede by it, shouting and shoving and whatever else football players do when playing football.

#### **SHAUNA**

Ahh! Geez! Hey, watch it! Oof!

#### **SFX**

A ref whistle.

#### **STEVE ARCHER**

Pathetic! Totally pathetic! I've never seen a team give up so many yards with so little resistance. What is wrong with you maggots! And who is that on the field?

#### **JOCK 1**

Dunno coach, some whiny bitch.

#### **SHAUNA**

Excuse me?

#### **JOCK 2**

No way, man. She's like our co-worker.

#### **JOCK 3**

She looks more like some unrequited freshman crush. Er, I mean, a good friend. Just a good friend, in the platonic sense.

#### **SHAUNA**

Mike? Is that you?

#### **JOCK 3**

You don't even know?

#### **SHAUNA**

You don't have faces beneath your helmets; how am I supposed to know which of you—

#### **STEVE ARCHER**

What in the clammy calmness of hell is going on over here?!

#### **JOCK 1**

She won't put out and now she's ruining the game, coach!

#### **SHAUNA**

Are you supposed to be some aspect of Mike, 'cause if so—

#### **JOCK 2**

Mike? I thought he was called "Meek" now?

**SHAUNA**

Well, he is, to certain people, but—

**JOCK 3**

Certain people who expect him to be certain things, but he can't be those things all the time, you know.

**SHAUNA**

Uh. Okay.

**JOCK 3**

He has emotions.

**JOCK 1**

And needs. If you know what I'm talkin' 'bout.

**JOCK 2**

Yes, I think we do.

**JOCK 1**

Y'know. The unce unce. The bow chica-bow-wow. The—

**SHAUNA**

I seek Mike Archer, and I will not endure one-dimensional shadows of him. Where is he?

**STEVE ARCHER**

Ohh, big words. Must be one a' them east-coasters. You're looking for Michael Archer? Michael Robert Archer?

**SHAUNA**

...Yeah. Where is he?

**STEVE ARCHER**

Where else? On the bench, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Right. Thanks.

**STEVE ARCHER**

Anytime, darlin'. Alright you pansies, <fading> let's see some defense! Let's see some pressure!

**SFX**

In distance, continuous football sounds.

**SHAUNA**

Mike? Hello? Gah, can't see anything in this fog...

**WATERGIRL**

Hey, I didn't see you there! Need something to drink? Water? Colored beverage that supposedly hydrates better than water?

**SHAUNA**

Uh. Are you supposed to be me?

**WATERGIRL**

I'm the watergirl!

**SHAUNA**

Cute. And what are you—am I wearing?

**WATERGIRL**

This is the watergirl uniform!

**SHAUNA**

Well, you're not so much wearing it as *not* wearing it. And does the T-shirt have to be so wet?

**WATERGIRL**

Of course, I'm the water girl! But I'm not exploited or interested in a long-term relationship because I'm spunky and independent! Hee hee!

**SHAUNA**

Wow. I'm gonna kill him...

**WATERGIRL**

Oh, don't do that! I love Mike! Even though I refuse to be icky with him or see him as more than a big, dumb younger brother, he's so cute!

**SHAUNA**

Where is he? I can't deal with you anymore.

**WATERGIRL**

Well, okay, but don't try to cheer him up. <mock confidential whisper> He's being moody. It's that b-i-t-c-h in the stands. She's always putting him down.

**SHAUNA**

Let me guess. Katherine?

**WATERGIRL**

<hisses>

**SHAUNA**

Um. Did you just hiss at me?

**WATERGIRL**

Never speak the name of the Evil One aloud!

**SHAUNA**

<testing> Katherine?

**WATERGIRL**

<weird moan of pain> She's always taunting and tormenting him! It isn't fair when he tries so hard to make people like him! I always feel so bad that I brought her into his life...

**SHAUNA**

Righto. Please show me where he is now.

**WATERGIRL**

Oh my goodness! She's right behind you! Hide!

**SFX** poof!

**EVIL KATHERINE**

All of this is so ridiculous! What is this cliché crap, anyway? Standard issue Freudian representations and some kinky bondage watergirl outfit—

**SHAUNA**

I'd rather not think about that. Hi Katherine.

**EVIL KATHERINE**

Shauna, you're here? Wow. Congratulations. Now I think even less of you, if that's possible, for condescending to be a part of this tripe. I mean, granted, it is Mike's inner-world, so of course the whole thing is every bit as stupid and unimaginative as the man-child himself. And it's appropriate that he's benched. This place is better for it. Although I guess that's not saying much...

**SHAUNA**

Katherine?

**KATHERINE**

What?

**SHAUNA**  
SHUT UP!

**SFX**  
Whoosh! Breezy kind of sound.

**SHAUNA**  
Whew! Hello, Mike.

**MIKE**  
<sounding vague, despondent> Hey Shauna.

**SHAUNA**  
Long time no see. Mind if I sit down?

**MIKE**  
Whatever.

**SHAUNA**  
Thanks, I will.  
<beat>  
So. What's up?

**MIKE**  
Not much.

**SHAUNA**  
...Cool. What, uh, have you been up to?

**MIKE**  
Dunno.

**SHAUNA**  
"Dunno"?

**MIKE**  
Stuff.

**SHAUNA**  
Ahhh. Yes, I see.  
<beat>  
Y'know, I really would have expected dancing medieval armies or whacked out cartoon animals or something. This is your subconscious? A grey football game, some weirdness on the sidelines, and a jerk coach?

**MIKE**  
That's my dad.

**SHAUNA**  
Oh. He coached your high school football games?

**MIKE**  
No. He wasn't around much.

**SHAUNA**  
Then why is he here?

**MIKE**  
Dunno.

<a beat>

**SHAUNA**  
I mean this in the nicest way possible, but... what the hell?

**MIKE**  
What?

**SHAUNA**

What happened to you?

**MIKE**

I dunno.

**SHAUNA**

Well, okay, you were blasted off Zana's roof and nearly died. But... what happened? This isn't you.

**MIKE**

Nothing happened. This is me.

**SHAUNA**

No, it isn't. It's not the Mike I know and love.

**MIKE**

Love, huh? That's interesting.

**SHAUNA**

<beat>

We're not here to talk about that.

**MIKE**

Whatever.

<a beat>

**SHAUNA**

Okay, fine, is that what this is all about? That kiss freshman year?

**MIKE**

Relax. I just don't feel the need to entertain you, that's all.

**SHAUNA**

So this is "real Mike," and the other Mike, who is one of my closest friends by the way, was just an act?

**MIKE**

We're all just acting, Shauna. You most of all.

**SHAUNA**

I'm choosing not to take that personally, because you've been in a coma for six weeks and have no way of knowing that you're actually talking to me.

**MIKE**

Whatever.

**SHAUNA**

Am I going to have to drag you out of here?

**MIKE**

That's not the Shauna I remember. You're going to force me out of my own mind?

**SHAUNA**

You're right. You have to come out willingly.

<beat>

You do realize that you're benched during your own imaginary football game, right?

**MIKE**

Yeah. It sucks.

**SHAUNA**

Like you don't know it's a dream, so you act the same way you would in real life?

**MIKE**

Something like that.

**SHAUNA**

Do you want to join the game?

**MIKE**

I don't know. I mean, I've been sitting here for so long.

**SHAUNA**

Are you afraid that you'd mess up?

**MIKE**

No. It's more like... football is other people playing it, and me watching them.

**SHAUNA**

It doesn't have to be.

**MIKE**

I'm just...

**SHAUNA**

What?

**MIKE**

...Tired. Really tired.

**SHAUNA**

I'll brew you a steaming cup of hoj if you wake up.

**MIKE**

Is that like coffee?

**SHAUNA**

Like tea. On speed.

**MIKE**

I don't drink caffeine. Never have.

**SHAUNA**

What?? Then how are you always so...

**STEVE ARCHER**

It's the ADD. Or the ADHD. Whichever's worse.

**SHAUNA**

Hello Mike's dad. I wasn't talking to you.

**STEVE ARCHER**

The boy's hopeless. He's got no sense and no guts. A man can make it in this world with only one or the other, but he's dead in the water without both.

**SHAUNA**

Not so much interested in your opinion. Or Mike's perception of your opinion. Or whatever.

**STEVE ARCHER**

I don't care how many Legionnaires he tackles, or Undying he explodes. Boy's a first-string screw-up.

**SHAUNA**

That's not true.

**STEVE ARCHER**

And I think it's great that y'all are calling him "Meek." 'Cause he is a coward, and always has been.

**MIKE**

<quietly> I am not.

**STEVE ARCHER**

What's that, boy?

**MIKE**

I'm not a coward.

**STEVE ARCHER**

I made you. You are what I say you are. Know what else? You're also an idiot, which is not the same as havin' guts. Morons ain't brave, they're just morons.

**MIKE**

I am not a moron.

**STEVE ARCHER**

You just play one on TV? You're also arguing with yourself, ya know. Want me to call you crazy, too?

**SHAUNA**

That's enough. Mike's going to join the game now.

**STEVE ARCHER**

Hell he is Just screw it all up again. Hey, sit down, boy.

**MIKE**

No.

**STEVE ARCHER**

I just told you to sit down. Why do I see you standing?

**MIKE**

Maybe because... I'm standing? You always did have a firm grasp of the obvious.

**STEVE ARCHER**

Oh, har har. Where'd you find that gem, smartass? In your Dungeon Master's Guide?

**MIKE**

You can find a lot in books. I found something that wasn't already yours.

**STEVE ARCHER**

Oh, and that's all it takes to "escape" me? Read some sissy books and mouth off a bit? Then why am I here, Michael?

**MIKE**

<realizing this> Because... I allow you to be.

**STEVE ARCHER**

That's right. And you always will...

**SFX**

All of the background football noises distort and then cease completely. Utter silence.

<after a moment:>

**SHAUNA**

I'm proud of you, Mike.

**MIKE**

Well thanks, Shauna. I'm proud of me too.

**SHAUNA**

Shall we go?

**MIKE**

Where are we going?

**SHAUNA**

Back into the game, of course. You've got some catching up to do.

**MIKE**

Oh.

<beat>

Wait, hold on. Shauna?

**SHAUNA**

Yes?

**MIKE**

Now that I know that this is a dream...

**SHAUNA**

Mike, what are you mmmh!

**SFX**

Mike kisses Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

You kissed me.

**MIKE**

I sure did. Now I can wake up.

**SHAUNA**

Just for that, I'm leaving you here.

**MIKE**

You liked it.

**SHAUNA**

You'll never know. Now wake up. Wake up.

**SFX**

Katherine's voice, whispery and distorted.

**SHAUNA**

Wake up. Wake...

**KATHERINE**

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

**SFX**

We're back in Mike's convalescent room.

**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?

<a long beat>

**MIKE**

Shauna.

**Scene Two – And I Said, What About Breakfast at Zana’s**

**SFX**

Chopping sounds.

**KATHERINE**

Arkahn, could you chop some more fraunti? Fesmer, since you’re not doing anything, could you set the table, *senjen*. [please].

**FESMER**

<annoyed> Yes *pzona*. (*PUH-zone-ah*) [ma’am]

**SFX**

Plate and utensil sounds.

**KATHERINE**

Jareth, could you go to the well and get some more water?

**JARETH**

Certainly, Kath.

**SHAUNA**

Wow, you’re on fire this morning Katherine.

**KATHERINE**

I just want breakfast to be ready when Mike comes downstairs. And you look like a wreck, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

I feel like one too. No sleep, remember? I’m going to check on Mike.

**ARKAHN**

Kath, the fraunti are entirely chopped. Shall I begin arranging them while you scramble the eggs?

**KATHERINE**

Oh, of course. *Cha grendi fai*, [Thank you] Arkahn.

**ARKAHN**

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

**SFX**

Sizzling sounds

**KATHERINE**

<to self> This is not going to be ready in time...

**ARKAHN**

Meek will understand.

**KATHERINE**

I know, Arkahn. I just want him to feel comfortable. Pre-breakfast chaos is not exactly soothing to the post-coma mind.

**ARKAHN**

Knowing Meek, he is likely anxious to jump headlong into the thick of it.

**KATHERINE**

I’m not so sure...

**ARKAHN**

What do you mean?

**KATHERINE**

I don’t know. Nothing.

**FESMER**

The table is set, O Mistress of the Kitchen. Jareth and I await further orders.

**KATHERINE**

You're both filthy from your pickup Brikka game this morning. You could wash up.

**FESMER**

We could indeed. But will we?

**JARETH**

Come, Fesmer.

**FESMER**

Meek would want us to be filthy at breakfast.

**JARETH**

Perhaps, but Meek is not Mistress of the Kitchen.

**FESMER**

That is true enough, Jareth, for several reasons.

**KATHERINE**

Wash up, you [clowns]! Go!

**ARKAHN**

It is good to see them in such light moods again. This is how they always were, before... oh.

**SFX**

Sizzling sounds cease.

**KATHERINE**

Before we arrived?

**ARKAHN**

Well, yes, but truly I mean no offense, Kath. It was a more simple time. Your arrival brought us... complications.

**KATHERINE**

And likewise, believe me. Eggs are scrambled.

**SFX**

Halting steps down stairs.

**ARKAHN**

With no time to squander. Shae and Meek approach.

**KATHERINE**

Shhh! Quickly, help me set these!

**MIKE**

<from a short distance, but getting closer; in obvious pain or discomfort>

I can do this alone, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

I know, but I don't mind helping.

**MIKE**

I do mind.

**SHAUNA**

Okay, okay. Just... take it slowly.

**SFX**

Step, step... rumpa rumpa rumpa!

**SHAUNA**

Mike!

**MIKE**

<a beat> I'm fine!

<beat>

Ouch.

**SHAUNA**

At least hold my arm.

**MIKE**

No.

**SHAUNA**

Mike...

**MIKE**

I said I can do this alone!

**SFX**

Step. Step. Step. Step. Step.

**ARKAHN**

Oli yuung, Meek.

**KATHERINE**

Hey there.

**SHAUNA**

Wow, guys. Breakfast looks great! I bet you're hungry, Mike.

**MIKE**

Not really.

**SHAUNA**

You say that now, but just wait until you see what Zana made for you.

**MIKE**

<unenthused> Pig pie?

**ARKAHN**

So much for surprises...

**KATHERINE**

Mike... I... are you...

**MIKE**

"I.. we... it..." Complete sentences would help.

**SHAUNA**

Mike!

**MIKE**

What? The girl has never done anything but put me down, and I'm sick of it!

**KATHERINE**

Mike—

**MIKE**

There are going to be some changes around here. I don't like you and you don't like me. Fine. But I'm not going to put up with your crap anymore.

**SHAUNA**

Mike, Katherine took care of you!

**MIKE**

Bull.

**ARKAHN**

It is true, Meek. Kath barely left your side these past six weeks. She would not abandon you except to work. Though it may not always appear so, she cares for you deeply.  
<a beat>

**MIKE**

Pfffft HA HA HA H—ow ow ow ow, oh god, hurts to laugh...

**KATHERINE**

Well anyway, I'm glad you're alive, Mike. Now I can stop busting my ass to work off your debt. Breakfast is on the table, everyone. I'm taking the day off.

**SFX**

Katherine stomps out, slams door.

**MIKE**

Reow. She can dish it out, but she can't—

**SHAUNA**

<interrupting> Why don't you sit down and eat something, Mike?

**MIKE**

Yeah, sitting would be good... ah!

**ARKAHN**

How do you feel, Meek?

**MIKE**

Hmm. Sore. Like I haven't moved in six weeks. Back aches a lot, too. And my left leg is all messed up.

**ARKAHN**

You are strong. Your body will heal.

**MIKE**

Well... that's the plan. <change of tone> Look at all this. Sure is a lot of fruit. You guys trying to tell me something?

**SHAUNA**

Um. We thought that lighter foods would go down easier?

**MIKE**

Suuure. Just don't think that I'm out of the game. If Undying marched through that door right now, I could still deal out massive quantities of hurt better than any of you cou—

**FESMER**

MIKE!!!

**MIKE**

OW OW ow ow no hugs, crushing me, ow ow...

**FESMER**

Apologies Mike, but it is good to see you. Uh, "soup, doug?"

<ALL laugh except for MIKE>

**SHAUNA**

Oh wow, I remember when you used to say that, Fesmer.

**FESMER**

It is actually pronounced "sup, dog," is it not, Mike?

**MIKE**

Uh, yeah.

**FESMER**

Why did you not ever correct me? I was eager to learn about your world and its customs. I still am.

**MIKE**

Well, um, we'll do that, then. Is that a goatee on your face?

**FESMER**

Sho' nuff.

**MIKE**

I didn't know people had those anymore. And did you just say—

**JARETH**

It is called a *own-raopl* [goatee], and they are just now becoming fashionable.

**FESMER**

I am not wearing the *own-raopl* [goatee] because it is fashionable, Jareth. The *own-raopl* [goatee] is fashionable because I am wearing it.

**JARETH**

Oh yes, like last month—

**FESMER**

No, that is not—

**JARETH**

—when you insisted that you brought the phrase—

**FESMER**

—Jareth, you misinterpreted—

**JARETH**

—the phrase *iil ne-ay mitahn* (EEL ne-AY MEET-ahn) [shake the foundations] back into circulation.

<ALL laugh except for MIKE>

**FESMER**

Well, I did! I at least had a hand in it.

<ALL continue laughing>

**JARETH**

Yes, Fesmer. Of course you did.

**MIKE**

Eeee yeah. Good times.

<beat>

Come to think of it, why don't I have a beard? I mean, six weeks is a long time. Should at least have some stubble...

**SHAUNA**

As Arkahn said, Katherine barely left your side. Although Arkahn left out the part about how she was there almost as much...

**MIKE**

Wait, you guys were serious? She really did?

**ARKAHN**

Yes.

**MIKE**

Huh.

<beat>

Did she, like, empty my... um...?

**ARKAHN**

Yes, she even emptied your “um.”

**MIKE**

Gross.

**SHAUNA**

You should thank her at some point in the very, very near future. And also apologize.

**MIKE**

Yeah, I’ll probably do that.

**SFX** walking and thump of plate.

**ZANA**

Order up for Meek! One pig pie, extra pig!

<ALL laugh, again, except for MIKE>

**MIKE**

Yeah, y’know, that’s nice of you, but...

**ZANA**

We must fatten you up, bony one. Eat! Where is Kath?

**ARKAHN**

She finished her duties and has taken the day off, Shi-Schwa.

**ZANA**

More nourishment for Meek, then. Why are you not eating, *lio*? Consume!

**MIKE**

Look, all of you, this is great, but... I...

**SHAUNA**

What is it, Mike?

**MIKE**

I’m not hungry at all. Really. Just, not right now.

**SHAUNA**

But—

**MIKE**

Just save some for me later, okay? I’ll get my appetite back soon enough.

**SHAUNA**

Okay...

**MIKE**

Sorry, I... yeah. I need some fresh air. Sorry.

**SFX**

MIKE attempting to stand, falling back into his seat. Dishware rattles.

**MIKE**

Oof! Ow.

**SHAUNA**

Mike, let me help you—

**MIKE**

I DON’T NEED YOUR GODDAMN HELP!

**SFX**

Silence. MIKE stands, pushes chair away, hobbles off.

**MIKE**

I can do this alone. That's all. I'm sorry... just, leave me alone.

**SFX**

Hobbles off, door slams.

<long pause>

**SHAUNA**

...Wow.

**ZANA**

Shae, are you *ra-na*?

**SHAUNA**

I'm fine. I've just never seen him like this. He reminds me of someone... can't remember...

**FESMER**

I am certain that he will, em, "snap out of it."

**SHAUNA**

I'm not so certain.

**JARETH**

Perhaps I should speak with him—

**ALL**

<ad lib> No! Bad idea! Perhaps that is not the best course, Jareth... etc etc.

**JARETH**

Right then.

**ARKAHN**

I have a notion. Fesmer, is there not a Brikka game tomorrow?

**FESMER**

Of course! The Reavers of Musqueten are scheduled to destroy the Terrors of Terentenodi for the league title. I completely forgot.

**JARETH**

Ah, I believe you mean it is the Terrors of Terentenodi who shall send the Reavers of Musqueten home, Fes.

**FESMER**

And when was Univeristy's last victory?

**JARETH**

Oh ho! I cannot believe that I am hearing this! The Terrors have suffered setbacks, it is true, but—

**FESMER**

Ninety years without a title victory is slightly more than a setback, Jareth.

**JARETH**

They are not to blame! It is the Curse of the—

**SHAUNA**

ANYway, so this Brikka thing is something that Mike would enjoy?

**FESMER**

Oh yes. It is much like his football.

**SHAUNA**

Great, let's go. Zana, your shop is closed tomorrow anyway, right?

**ZANA**

Yes Shae, but now that Meek is better, I have vital matters to which I must attend.

**ARKAHN**

Fishing, Shi-Schwa?

**ZANA**

Of course, Arkahn. The pond is more fish than water by now. Any day now, they will gather their forces and attack. I am the only one who can stop them.

**SHAUNA**

I didn't know you fished, Zana.

**ZANA**

Since I was a child. I am full of surprises, *voluna* [love].

**SHAUNA**

Arkahn, are you coming tomorrow?

**ARKAHN**

Regretfully, I cannot. I must complete several tasks for my parents.

**SHAUNA**

Oh. Okay. Everything alright?

**ARKAHN**

Of course, Shae. Why do you ask?

**SHAUNA**

No reason. Fesmer? Jareth?

**JARETH**

You need not ask. I must witness for myself the moment that the Terrors triumph and Fesmer swallows his offending tongue.

**FESMER**

And I am always ready to see University prove again that they are the most laughable team in all of Baela.

**SHAUNA**

Good lord. Alright then: it's a plan. You guys really think that this game will cheer Mike up?

**FESMER**

If it does not, I am unsure that anything will.

### **Scene Three – Walking to the Game**

#### **AMBIENT**

Outdoor daytime noises

#### **SFX**

Goat cart wheeling along

#### **MIKE**

So they were right at me—like leaping through the air—and I saw an opening and bam! Touchdown!

#### **FESMER**

Very impressive, Mike. I wish I could have seen that.

#### **MIKE**

What's with the past tense? I'll be fine in a few days.

#### **FESMER**

You do seem healthier already. Is the walking staff helpful?

#### **MIKE**

Yeah, nice crutch. Thanks for the loan.

#### **FESMER**

You are welcome. But do not hesitate to rest in the goat cart. We did not bring it merely to carry lunch.

#### **MIKE**

Goat cart tailgating. Classy. Anyways, I'm not going to get better by sitting around all day. Though it is great to see fair Umbra again. Howssit goin', girl?

#### **SFX**

Goat snort.

#### **MIKE**

She missed me with all her goatish heart. I can tell.

#### **FESMER**

After... that day, I returned to the spot where we abandoned Umbra and the cart. They were both untouched, as I predicted.

#### **MIKE**

Good thing Zombies are picky about what brains they eat.

#### **FESMER**

It is a mystery what Undying do with their victims, or how Undying are even created, but I do not think they eat brains. We only know that they have no interest in animals, nor, we have discovered, in heroic football players.

#### **MIKE**

Um, yeah, let's not talk about that. I feel more like an idiot than a hero.

#### **FESMER**

Throwing spellbombs off Zana's roof was a little foolish, I will admit, but your actions that day were heroic, Mike. You saved me from an army of Undying. You destroyed some of Zana's property in the process, but...

#### **MIKE**

And speaking of which, she wants to have a long talk with me when we get back from the game. I think I owe Zana a lot of money. And also my soul. And my firstborn child. And half of the secondborn.

**FESMER**

Zana is fair. I am certain that you will be able to work something out. Still, I want to thank you for saving me that day. I am in debt to you.

**MIKE**

Great. Just go ahead and apply it to my balance at Zana's.

**FESMER**

Joking aside, Mike...

**MIKE**

Who's joking??

<pause>

**SHAUNA**

I wish he'd ride in the cart. He shouldn't be straining himself like this.

**JARETH**

Well, at least his temperament seems much improved.

**SHAUNA**

I think he needed a day to process everything and get some real sleep. Still...

**JARETH**

He is not the same.

**SHAUNA**

No, he isn't.

**JARETH**

You look like you also need real sleep. Are you unwell?

**SHAUNA**

No, I'm fine. I just have not been sleeping well lately.

**JARETH**

You have been practicing intently the past week or two. You must be careful not to exhaust yourself.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. I guess so.

<beat>

**JARETH**

Has Kath forgiven Meek for yesterday morning?

**SHAUNA**

Nooooo no no no. I think he tried to apologize this morning, and she told him to keep walking. "Keep walking, gimpy," were her exact words.

**JARETH**

I see.

**SHAUNA**

A gimpy person is someone who limps. I think.

**JARETH**

I was not going to ask.

<both chuckle>

**JARETH**

It would seem that Kath does not forgive easily.

**SHAUNA**

I think there's a reason for that.

**JARETH**

...Oh?

**SHAUNA**

Jareth, are you prying?

**JARETH**

Absolutely not!

<beat>

I am inquiring.

**SHAUNA**

Well, all I know is that a big relationship ended badly just before we moved in together at our University. This guy kept calling for her that first month, really upset, but she refused to speak with him. Eventually, he stopped calling her.

**JARETH**

He must have done something very terrible to warrant Kath's wrath.

**SHAUNA**

Dunno, never got the full story.

**JARETH**

I think that she has still not forgiven me for the way I acted during the day that... Meek fell.

**SHAUNA**

She might, some day. It's a good sign that she talks to you.

**JARETH**

I only did what I thought right.

**SHAUNA**

I think everyone does what they think is right. It's just that her "right" and your "right" were two very different things.

**JARETH**

I suppose so. There was once a time when one path was right and the other clearly wrong. I miss those days.

**SHAUNA**

Heh. You and me both.

**MIKE**

Well they've really hit it off.

**FESMER**

It does seem that way. Jareth has been tutoring Shae in the fundamentals of ritual magic. There is more conversation and much less yelling now.

**MIKE**

Wait, aren't you going to say "hit it off of what, Mike?"

**FESMER**

Why would I?

**MIKE**

But... how could you possibly know what "hit it off" means?

**FESMER**

Shae and Kath have been teaching me colloquialisms, in anticipation of when you woke up.

**MIKE**

Well. Bully for them.

**FESMER**

Did you prefer me when I did not know what I was saying?

**MIKE**

It was funnier...

**FESMER**

You jerk. Please do suck it.

**MIKE**

Pffffff HA HA HA H— ow ow ow ow...!

**FESMER**

What? What?

**SHAUNA**

Looks like they're back to their old goofball selves.

**JARETH**

<terse> Indeed.

**SHAUNA**

What?

**JARETH**

What do you mean, "What?"

**SHAUNA**

You became "uncharacteristically" terse for a moment there.

**JARETH**

Surely you are not prying, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Why would I need to pry? I could just read your mind.

**JARETH**

You could not possibly have the ability to—

**SHAUNA**

No, of course not. That's far more advanced stuff than you've taught me.

**JARETH**

You were joking, then?

**SHAUNA**

Yup. That's me all over. Regular prankster.

**JARETH**

Good. You worried me for a moment, Shae. Seeing through the eyes of another is one thing, but entering into the mind of another is highly dangerous, for both persons. I trust that you would never attempt such a thing.

**SHAUNA**

Of course not, but, uh, what... could happen?

**JARETH**

Well, anything. Either or both persons could have their minds lost. Parts of one person can be left in another, false memories created, certain things forgotten forever...

**SHAUNA**

Oh.

**JARETH**

Not to mention the drastic pull on Odi that such a spell would require. Anyone in Laundi who is remotely attuned would sense such a pull. Including Legionnaires. Possibly even the Red Circle. Anyone.

**SHAUNA**

Wait, the Red who now? I think you mentioned them a few weeks ago...

**JARETH**

They are probably not a matter for concern. They are involved in various criminal activity around Laundi. They are a nuisance, but I suppose they are better than the Legion.

**SHAUNA**

Wouldn't *neither* be better?

**JARETH**

Indeed. But the Red Circle has successfully remained hidden for a long time. One day perhaps we will be rid of them. And hopefully we can prevent the Legion from replacing them.

<beat>

Until then, it would be best if we avoided them. I fear they would see you as a source of profit. Many would be interested in a person of your potential.

**SHAUNA**

<kind of weak> Well, eh, good thing I'd never give them such an easy way to find me...

**JARETH**

Yes, a very good thing. Speaking of your ability with magic, how have your studies progressed?

**SHAUNA**

Slowly. Arkahn was helping me for a while, but now she's always busy doing something for her parents.

**JARETH**

Ah.

<a beat>

**SHAUNA**

Alright, now I'm prying. What's with Arkahn's parents? She doesn't seem to have a good relationship with them.

**JARETH**

That is an apt assessment.

**SHAUNA**

Plus she had bruises this one time, a couple of weeks ago. She said it was from a fight, but since when does Arkahn get into fights? Although, she has been acting different since her parents returned from their trip...

**JARETH**

I have only met Alexalark and Lorenalark once, very briefly, years ago, when Arkahn first began working at Zana's. She does not seem to have a good relationship with them.

**SHAUNA**

What was your impression of them?

**JARETH**

They did not seem eager to earn my friendship, but neither did they appear to be bad people. As I said, that is the only time I have conversed with them. It is not enough basis for judgment. Arkahn is a good friend, and they are her parents.

**SHAUNA**

I just wish there was something I could do.

**JARETH**

You cannot be all things to all people, Shae.

<a beat>

**SHAUNA**

What did you just say?

**FESMER**

*Aernae lo parnae* [Ladies and gentlemen], we have arrived!  
Ready the price of four tickets and prepare to leave all  
aspirations of victory for the Terentenodi Terrors at the door.

**JARETH**

A traitor through and through! I trust that you will choke on  
Terenenodi's title victory this day.

**FESMER**

I thought it was my tongue I will choke on.

**JARETH**

No, Fesmer. You will eat your tongue, and then you will choke  
on our victory.

**FESMER**

Ah. At least I will not be hungry. Mike, remember what I told  
you?

**MIKE**

Yeah, yeah, no talking. I've learned my lesson, believe me.

**FESMER**

No, not that. Your translation pendant will allow anyone to  
understand you.

**MIKE**

Reeeeeeally, now...

**FESMER**

But still, do not act without caution. But you do remember what  
I told you earlier today?

**MIKE**

Oh, right, um... <clears throat> "Ninety more years! Brikka is  
University's in-active item! Boo!"

<ALL others laugh>

**FESMER**

Eh, close enough.

**MIKE**

I don't get it...

**JARETH**

Let us enter.

## **Scene Four – Brikka**

### **SFX**

Crowd roaring swells.

### **JARETH**

Ha! Seven to three, Fesmer! Three more points and University will have the title victory.

### **FESMER**

Yes Jareth, and only one point more until the break, when University's team will drink themselves spoiled on *borsen* [beer], and lose the game because they cannot see straight.

### **JARETH**

That only occurred once.

### **FESMER**

And today shall be twice!

### **SHAUNA**

I still don't get this.

### **MIKE**

You're not even trying. Look, one more time: the Threat carries the ball from one end of the field to the other. The Rivers and Bulls make way for the Threat, the Wings are like wide receivers, and the... um...

### **FESMER**

Pivot, Mike.

### **MIKE**

I know that! The Pivot stays in the middle and works defense or offense as needed.

### **SHAUNA**

Okay...

### **MIKE**

Once the Threat is on the opposing side of the field, he can be tagged.

### **SHAUNA**

Tagged? That's it? Then why have they been knocking each other to the ground for the past hour?

### **FESMER**

No one said it must be a gentle tag, Shae.

### **MIKE**

Okay, watch: the home team's Threat has crossed the midfield line. Now he's fair game. He can try to throw the ball through the target—

### **SFX**

Crowd noise swells.

### **FESMER**

Oh! Ouch!

### **SHAUNA**

So what's happening now?

### **MIKE**

The wings are—

### **SFX crowd cheer**

### **MIKE**

Oh man! Woo!

**SHAUNA**

Ah, right. So it's like soccer with more hitting?

**MIKE**

No, you can use your hands. It's more like water polo without the water, plus little bit of football strategy.

**FESMER**

And much violence!

**SHAUNA**

Men.

**FESMER**

Women play Brikka, as well. You will notice that the Reaver's Pivot is a woman.

**JARETH**

As is one of University's Sentries. Kasha..

**FESMER**

Kasha, eh? A new *dokiluna* [heartthrob], Jareth?

**JARETH**

She has a... superior student record, that is all.

**FESMER**

Have you asked her to the New Life Festival yet?

**JARETH**

Fesmer! She is a student!

**FESMER**

You and your rules...

**SFX**

Crowd noise.

**JARETH**

No!

**FESMER**

HA! Your Threat has been tagged!

**SHAUNA**

So then—

**SFX**

Crowd swells. Angry sounds.

**FESMER**

Interference! Interference!

**SHAUNA**

Uh. What now...?

**FESMER**

University's Threat just pushed a player on the way back to his Wall. A major penalty!

**JARETH**

He did not! The Bull pushed him!

**FESMER**

Jareth, blind as you are to anything outside University, surely even you can see...

**SHAUNA**

Guh. I give up.

**MIKE**

Whatever. I'm enjoying this.

**SHAUNA**

That's good, Mike. I'm glad. It's good to see you getting back to the old you.

**MIKE**

Yup. Okay, so the opposing team has the Brikka ball now, so—

**SHAUNA**

Mike, can we talk about something?

**MIKE**

Depends what "something" is.

**SHAUNA**

Do you... remember anything?

**MIKE**

Depends what "anything" is. Oh! Nice tag!

**FESMER**

A fine tag, indeed!

**SHAUNA**

I mean... <very quietly> from your coma.

**SFX**

Crowd cheers.

**MIKE**

What?

**SHAUNA**

Your coma. Your coma!

**MIKE**

Okay, fine, I'm not deaf. I dunno. Not really.

**SHAUNA**

How about just before you woke up?

**MIKE**

It was... I dunno... like sleeping for a long time, and not realizing how long I slept until I woke up.

**SHAUNA**

But do you remember—

**MIKE**

Oh and also like discovering that my body was broken in three different places while I was asleep.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**MIKE**

And like knowing that I'll probably never play football again, in addition to still being trapped in magical fantasy world. One that is clearly not a video game, I suppose.

**SHAUNA**

Right, but—

**MIKE**

And also seeing that life went on without me. Everyone even seems happier.

**SHAUNA**

We're happy because you're awake now!

**MIKE**

That's not it.

**SFX**

Crowd goes wild.

**MIKE**

Oh!

**FESMER**

Oh no!

**JARETH**

Ha! Ha ha ha! A superb advance! 8 to 3, and now we are in break.

**FESMER**

Time for University's team to drink themselves ignorant. And speaking of which... Shae, Mike, would you like anything from the vendors?

**MIKE**

<meaning this> I could really use a beer, or seven. I'll come with.

**FESMER**

Erm, Mike, are you certain that—

**MIKE**

Yes I'm certain! Goddamnit all of you, I'm not a cripple! My joints are just a little stiff, okay?

<a beat>

**FESMER**

Okay, Mike. Let us go.

<a moment>

**JARETH**

He did seem to be enjoying the game before.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. I don't know. He seems fine, joking around and everything, but then he suddenly turns and snaps at us. I've never seen Mike do that before, and now he does it at least as much as he jokes around. <a beat> I'm worried about him.

**JARETH**

Would you like me to go with them?

**SHAUNA**

Mike and Fesmer?

**JARETH**

Yes, to be certain that nothing... Meek-like happens?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, I'd appreciate that. Just be sure that he doesn't know why you came.

**JARETH**

I will be subtle as a brook.

**SHAUNA**

Brooks aren't very subtle. They're kind of loud.

**JARETH**

Alas. Protect our seats, Shae. I will return shortly.

**SHAUNA**

*Cha grendi fai* [Thank you], Jareth.

**JARETH**

You are most welcome, Shae.

## **Scene Five – Fight!**

### **AMBIENT**

Crowded area.

### **FESMER**

Here you are, Mike: this is called *borsen* [beer]. It is most potent when consumed in great quantities.

### **MIKE**

Sounds like a plan. Cheers, Fesmer! To getting our crunk on.

### **FESMER**

What is a crunk?

### **MIKE**

Ah ha! Something the girls didn't teach ya, eh? It's crazy and drunk, man! It's also a kind of rap.

### **FESMER**

Ah. *Mazen-do* (*MAY-zen--dough*) [Cheers], then.

<a beat>

### **MIKE**

What's with the dainty sips, man? Chug!

### **FESMER**

Chug?

### **MIKE**

Like this!

### **SFX**

Glug, glug, glug...

### **MIKE**

Ahh! Like so.

### **FESMER**

Oh, you mean *reg* [chug].

### **MIKE**

Yeah! *Reg reg reg!* [Chug] [Chug] [Chug]!

### **FESMER**

Fine, fine, but you are carrying me home.

### **MIKE**

Not me. You're going in the goat cart, buddy. Had about enough of carrying you.

### **FESMER**

Ahh.

### **MIKE**

Huh. Seems like pretty weak stuff.

### **FESMER**

Weak? I am already crunking.

### **MIKE**

Heh. More?

### **FESMER**

Yes! I will return, laden with *borsen* [beer].

### **MIKE**

All right!

<a moment; another conversation draws near>

**JERK 1**

...plagued with these brutish Reavers. We wait ninety years, only to take the title from them? Pathetic.

**JERK 2**

Terentenodi deserves better.

**JERK 3**

I am of a temper to reave them myself.

**JERK 1**

Agreed! Good one!

<MIKE snickers to himself>

**JERK 2**

Hey, that fellow is laughing at us.

**JERK 1**

You! Boy!

**MIKE**

Did you just call me boy?

**JERK 1**

And what if I did?

**MIKE**

Don't make me angry. You wouldn't like me when I'm angry.

**JERK 1**

I do not think we like you as you are now, *boy*. Do we, men?

**JERK 2**

I think we do not.

**JERK 3**

Which team do you support?

**MIKE**

Well, before I didn't really care. But now that I've met you guys, I think I'm a Reaver's fan.

**JERK 3**

I thought so. He smells like a *huntoluna own*-Reavers [fan of].

<THE JERKS laugh>

**JERK 2**

Of course he is a *Reaverluna* [fan]. Just look at that lifeless haze in his eyes, the slope of his brow.

**JERK 1**

And to make matters worse, he is a stupid foreigner.

**MIKE**

A stupid—

**JERK 3**

I for one was not going to mention that. I thought from his stilted manner of speech that he might be brain deadened.

**JERK 2**

Where do you call home, stupid foreign *Reaverluna* [fan]?

**MIKE**

You've never heard of it. Now buzz off. You don't want to make me get up out of this chair.

<THE JERKS laugh again>

**FESMER**

<slurring a little> Ah, Mi—... Meek. I had difficulty finding you in this crowd.

**MIKE**

Wow, big cups!

**FESMER**

The crunkiest ones they had. Here you are; I have begun without you.

**MIKE**

Wow, you certainly have...

**FESMER**

*Oli wan* [Good evening], I am called Fesmer.

**JERK 1**

You know this stupid foreigner?

**FESMER**

What? Who is a stupid foreigner?

**MIKE**

They're talking about me.

**FESMER**

Come now *paer—parnae* [gen- gentlemen], no need to argue. Get crunky with us. Mmm, very strong brew.

**JERK 2**

I am sorry, but University's finest do not drink with *Reaverlunae* [fans].

**FESMER**

<with great relish> University! I once attempted entrance to University, but was denied.

**JERK 3**

Ah...

**FESMER**

And rightfully so! For I am very much lacking in all strengths that University requires. Strengths that you three, of course, must surely possess. In abundance. Like strong body odors and rancid *deck own-cerip* [donkey testicles].  
(Pronunciation note: cerip begins the same way serendipity does.)

**JERK 1**

What did you say?

**MIKE**

He said you smelled bad and... something else. Now back off or we'll have to step outside.

**FESMER**

Mike—

**JERK 2**

Was that a threat?

**FESMER**

Mike—

**MIKE**

Maybe it was.

**FESMER**

Mike—

**MIKE**

What Fesmer?

**FESMER**

We are outside Mike.

<beat>

**MIKE**

Well I guess we don't have to go anywhere then, do we?

**JERK 3**

What of it, foreigner? Do all people from your homeland make a habit of issuing empty threats?

**MIKE**

Look. For the sake of my friend here, I'm trying not to get violent, but you're making it very difficult.

**JERK 1**

Oh no. He got out of his chair.

**JERK 2**

Hey, look at that staff! He's a cripple and a stupid foreigner. What do you think you can poss—

**SFX**

Whoosh! Crack!

**JERK 2**

My nose! Oh, *ainorem*...!

**MIKE**

Who else wants some? Huh?!

**JERK 1**

You broke his nose!

**MIKE**

Want one to match, Malfoy?

**FESMER**

Hey...

**JERK 3**

Sit back down, drunk.

**SFX** Thud!

**FESMER**

Ow!

**MIKE**

Hey, ass hat!

**JERK 3**

What did you—

**SFX** Whiff!

**JERK 3**

Ho! Not swift enough, savage.

**MIKE**

Then how 'bout some of this!

**SFX** punch!

**JERK 3**

Ooof.

**MIKE**

Come on! Bring it! Call me gutless! I dare you! Call me a pansy! C'mon! I'm ready for you! I will beat the everlovin' crap out of every single one of you friggin'—

**JERK 1**

Begin!

**SFX**

Spell effect.

**MIKE**

<unable to speak properly> --eh? Ha huk?

**JERK 1**

Ha! He is paralyzed! Strike him!

**SFX**

Mike getting the shit kicked out of him for a few seconds.

**FESMER**

<weakly> Mike! Mike!

**JARETH**

<loudly> What is this?!

**JERK 1**

Oh. Jareth?

**JERK 3**

Ah, greetings Jareth. I did not know that you would be in attendance.

**JARETH**

Even Task Mages attend Brikka tournaments. What in the name of *ainorem* are you doing to this man?

**JERK 2**

We were just teaching this *sendai* [assface] some manners.

**JERK 3**

He insulted and attacked us.

**JARETH**

Regardless, this is unacceptable. Are you injured Meek?

**MIKE**

Eesh.

**JARETH**

Did you paralyze him?

<beat>

You have exactly three seconds to leave or you will have much more than the inquest board to worry about.

**JERK 2**

What will you do, call upon the useless [town guard]?

**JERK 1**

Come *parnae* [gentlemen] Fortunate trails with the promotion you will never see, Master Task Mage. That is a promise.

**JARETH**

You. Hold.

**JERK 1**

Yes, Jareth?

**JARETH**

While we are on University property, you will address me as "Yen-schwa." "[sir]".

**JERK 1**

Yes... "yen-schwa"

**JARETH**

Now end your spell, or I will end it for you.

**JERK 1**

But—

**JARETH**

End it!

**JERK 1**

...End.

**SFX**

Ritual magic spell ending.

**MIKE**

Merguhhh...

**JERK 1**

Come, men! We have wasted enough time already with these commoners. Farewell, "yen-schwa"

**JARETH**

<to self> Monied hendenaminae (hen-DEN-a-min-ay) [brats].

**FESMER**

Jareth...

**JARETH**

Fesmer. Are you injured?

**FESMER**

Noooo friend.

**JARETH**

Are you... spoiled on drink?!

**FESMER**

I am crunk, Jareth. Speak it with me. "Crunk." It means—

**JARETH**

I care not. Meek, can you move?

**MIKE**

<in great pain> Those motherfu—

**JARETH**

Enough, Meek. It is finished.

**MIKE**

The hell it is!

**JARETH**

Apologies, but it is.

**MIKE**

Says you. I'm going to find them and beat the—ughhh—

**JARETH**

Can you stand?

**MIKE**

So. Much. Pain.

**JARETH**

I will assist you.

**MIKE**

No. You won't. I'm doing this alone.

**JARETH**

But—

**MIKE**

What is so hard to understand about this? Back off, man! I can stand up on my— <a pause, then MIKE hauls himself painfully to his feet> There. See?

**JARETH**

Indeed.

**MIKE**

I don't need your help, Jareth. Quit trying to save me.

**JARETH**

To be completely honest, Meek, I have never much cared for you.

**MIKE**

Big surprise.

**JARETH**

You are reckless and untrustworthy. Your presence, and yours alone, has brought nothing but trouble and heartache these past months.

**MIKE**

Jareth, shut your mouth or I'm gonna shut it for—

**JARETH**

<interrupting> But for the sake of those whom I do care about very much, I have and will continue to safeguard your welfare. I will not stand by and do nothing as you continue to destroy yourself.

**MIKE**

<small bitter laugh> “Destroy myself?” Are you joking? Nothing touches me here. I plow through zombie armies. My body breaks, and I don't die.

**JARETH**

You must go home, then. You do not belong here.

**MIKE**

What's the point? All I wanted was to play football professionally, and now I never will. Even if I do get home, I can barely walk.

<beat>

I almost died, Jareth. I should have died. Why didn't you let me?

**JARETH**

I nearly did. Kath convinced me otherwise.

**MIKE**

Katherine? Katherine hates me.

**JARETH**

No, Meek. She cares for you a great deal. What more evidence do you require?

<a long pause>

**MIKE**

Huh.

**SFX**

Snoring.

**MIKE**

Well, Fesmer's out.

**JARETH**

How much did he imbibe?

**MIKE**

Too much.

**JARETH**

That does sound like Fesmer.

**SHAUNA**

Hey guys, where have you— Oh my God, Mike!

**MIKE**

Howdy.

**SHAUNA**

Were you... in a fight?

**MIKE**

Maybe. Long story.

**SHAUNA**

And Fesmer...?

**JARETH**

Let us go. We will tell you about it on the way.

**SHAUNA**

This settles it. I am never leaving you guys alone again. If you're going to behave like children, I'll have to baby-sit you like children.

<a beat>

On second thought, that's kinda weird. Nevermind. You're on your own.

<THEY ALL laugh>

**MIKE**

Ow ow ow ow...