

SECOND SHIFT

Episode #10: The Big Dance (v2.2)

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CONFIDENTIAL

Scene One — Big Pig

SFX: Fade in to...

FESMER

...do not be made the fool: there is no pig pie like Zana's pig pie!
Consume one slice and you will discern for yourself that—

SHAUNA

Hey Fesmer. Looking... pig-like.

FESMER

Oink oink, lio!

SHAUNA

I still can't believe Mike got you to wear that costume.

FESMER

It was my choice. I am MISTERHAM!

SHAUNA

<laughing> Geez, you're really getting into this, Fes.

FESMER

Have you heard of Zana's Pig Pie's exciting new Children's Lunch!
Every Lunch is burdened with savory child-sized servings of our
most famous dishes. And each Lunch comes with a Misterham toy!

SHAUNA

We have toys?

FESMER

Absolutely! Skillfully carved miniature Misterhams!

SHAUNA

Where'd we get those?

FESMER

Meek and I made them! Hundreds of them! I have not slept in days!

SHAUNA

Welcome to my world...

FESMER

But obtain yours soon, for quantities have a limit!

SHAUNA

Alright you, come inside. It's time to wrap up for the day.

FESMER

Ah. You are not of the fun.

SHAUNA

Yeah, I get that a lot.

FESMER

We'll be certain to obtain your very own Misterham soon! They make
a perfect gift for New Life!

SHAUNA

Yeah that's exactly what I want to give everyone. And what's the big deal with New Life anyways?

FESMER

Big deal? The day after tomorrow begins five long wonderful days, each devoid of work or obligation. The perfect way to end the year and welcome the new. To give thanks for all life has granted us. Are you not inflated, Shae?

SHAUNA

...Um, do you mean "pumped"?

FESMER

<without missing a beat> Are you not pumped, Shae?

SHAUNA

I suppose. So it's five days of New Year's parties?

FESMER

Oh no, only the one. The other days have their own parties. As they say: New Hope turns to New Joy, bringing New Thought before New Calm heralds the New Year.

SHAUNA

So those are all the five days?

FESMER

Exactly. Even nature rejoices, with a surge of Odi that brings our crops to fruition. But most immediately is tomorrow's New Hope Eve festival. Have you not yet secured a dancing partner?

SHAUNA

Nope, can't say I have.

FESMER

Hmm. Neither have I, upon further consideration...

SHAUNA

Huh. Well I'm sure that—

FESMER

<plotting> We should remedy this immediately.

SHAUNA

Um. Oh?

FESMER

Yes.

<awkward pause>

SHAUNA

Well I guess the reason I haven't given this much thought is that I've done nothing this week but work, research Shift, dream of winged monsters, and break up fights between Mike and Katherine.

FESMER

Ah, how is your research progressing?

SHAUNA

I think I have an idea, but I need to roll it around in my head a bit more.

FESMER

<serious> Roll this idea towards me. Perhaps I can be of aid.

<beat>

SHAUNA

<bursting out laughing> I'm sorry! Sorry.

FESMER

What? What?

SHAUNA

Fes, it is impossible to take you seriously in that pig suit. The earnest look on your face, and the snout...

FESMER

Ah, perhaps you would you take me more seriously if I were to tell you that these **LOW, LOW PRICES WILL NOT LAST!** Act now, and you could save—

SHAUNA

Okay, okay. You win. But honestly, it's closer to ritual magic than natural. I don't know if you—

FESMER

Ah, speak no more, University Minion. I would not desire to be weighted down with your heathen formulae.

SHAUNA

You're a wise man, Fesmer. This stupid spell is starting to drive me crazy. I wouldn't wish that on a friend.

FESMER

But would you wish for **STUPENDOUS SAVINGS?!** For if so—

SHAUNA

Starting to reconsider the friend part.

FESMER

<chuckling> *Nai-nai...* [Okay...]

SHAUNA

Well I'm going back inside. Still plenty of cleaning up to do.

FESMER

Cleaning up, you say?

SHAUNA

Yeah, quite a lot, actually—

FESMER

Surely you mean “cleaning out!” All pies absolutely must go! At prices this cheap—

SHAUNA

<groans> Good lord. I'm heading back.

SFX Walking on dirt/grass

FESMER

<laughing; fading> But wait, I did not inform you of our Valuable Menu!

Scene Two — Promotion

NOTE: Continuous

SFX Walking on dirt/grass

JARETH

Oli wan, Shae. [Good evening]

SHAUNA

<startled> GHA!

JARETH

AH! What? What?

SHAUNA

Sorry, Jareth. You startled me.

JARETH

I could say the same. Are you unwell?

SHAUNA

Fine. Just a bit high-strung these days. Heading back to University?

JARETH

Of course.

SHAUNA

Wow. You guys are finished cleaning already?

JARETH

A distinct advantage of volunteering one's labors is that one is not bound by them. Meek and Kath are cleaning. I have the utmost confidence that they will succeed in this most vital task, even without my aid.

SHAUNA

<kind of joking> And they'll be so busy fighting that I'll have to do it all. Thanks a lot, Jareth.

JARETH

You are most welcome, Shae. In all seriousness, I had not intended to be here today, save for all the new business Zana anticipates.

SHAUNA

Well, I'd say it's arrived. We've been swamped.

JARETH

Yes. And Fesmer is still wearing the pig costume, I see.

FESMER

<in distance, singing> "...Mister Ham, Mister Ham, a very big pig indeeeeed..."

JARETH

He looks ridiculous and more than a little disturbing in that thing. Still, it does seem like a perfect job for him.

SHAUNA

You two aren't still angry at each other, are you?

JARETH

No, I think an accord has been reached.

SHAUNA

Good. I'm sorry Mike and Katherine's argument blew out of hand like that.

JARETH

It is not your fault Shae. None of us acted our best. It is... embarrassing.

FESMER

<distant singing of mister ham song>

JARETH

Much like that. <sigh> A spectacle such as that would have terrified me as a child. There is no accounting for the youth these days...

SHAUNA

A bitter old task mage at the ripe age of 25, Jareth? "You kids! Get away from my giant pig!"

JARETH

Bitter and old, perhaps, but no longer a task mage.

SHAUNA

Wait, really? You...?

JARETH

Achieved a promotion, yes. I am now a Lesser Instructor with classes of my own.

SHAUNA

Oh my god! Jareth! That's great!

JARETH

Well, it is merely Odi-theory, rudimentary at that...

SHAUNA

But still! Yay!

JARETH

Correct. "Yay."

SHAUNA

So what are your plans for New Life? Celebrating, I bet.

JARETH

Yes, by planning my classes. Wild nights approach.

SHAUNA

Heh, yeah, right. So what are you really doing?

JARETH

...Planning my classes.

SHAUNA

Oh, Jareth. I thought people didn't work during New Life?

JARETH

Typically I spend this time with my mother and father in my home town, but this year I have much work to complete.

SHAUNA

But still, you have to celebrate at some point. Aren't you going to the dance tomorrow night?

JARETH

I dance with all the grace of a tall mountain in a strong breeze.

SHAUNA

You... stand there and slowly erode?

JARETH

Precisely. Besides which, I have not acquired a dancing partner. It would not do to arrive alone.

SHAUNA

Well, don't feel bad. I don't think any of us have a date.

JARETH

Well... I suppose...

SHAUNA

Yeah?

JARETH

Would you care to accompany me?

SHAUNA

Umm... Yeah. Okay.

JARETH

That is exceptional! Alas, I shall not be working at Zana's tomorrow. Too many duties call at University. I could, however, meet with you at Arkahn's house...

SHAUNA

No... We still need to get the proper clothes in the afternoon. She said something about a traditional dress... I'll just meet up with you at the town square.

JARETH

Very well. I shall see you next at the festival!

SHAUNA

Okay. See ya.

JARETH

Farewell Shae.

SFX: JARETH walking away, whistling Mister Ham song

SHAUNA

Huh. Well that was unexpected.

JARETH

<in the distance, mid-whistle:> Ben-sa wei!

Scene Three — Kitchen Orgy

SFX: Clattering dishes. Sweeping. MIKE humming.

MIKE
Hey, “Kath”?

KATHERINE
Yes, “Meek”?

MIKE
Busy day, huh?

KATHERINE
Yeah, I’d say.

MIKE
Been getting busier since Mister Ham made his debut, huh?

KATHERINE
<gritted teeth> Yes, “Meek.”

MIKE
<hums more, then as if it had just occurred to him:> Hey, “Kath”?

KATHERINE
What?

MIKE
<singsongy> I was right and you were wroooong...

KATHERINE
Ugh. You are such a child! And I was not wrong; in the long run this will have a profound impact on their way of life, whether you—

SFX: Door

SHAUNA
Ah, Mike and Katherine. Fighting.

KATHERINE
No, we—

SHAUNA
Yuh-huh. What’s left for cleaning?

MIKE
K-Diggity and I finished most of it.

SHAUNA
Wow. Really?

KATHERINE
Except the windows. They’re all yours.

SHAUNA
That’s really impressive, guys.

MIKE
Well we had plenty of time, what with you chatting up Fesmer and then Jar—

KATHERINE
So how’s that Shift spell coming along, Shauna?

SHAUNA

Well, don't get too excited...

MIKE

You figured it out?!

SHAUNA

Almost. Just missing a few nuts and bolts.

MIKE

Eh. Whenever I build something, I always have a bunch of those suckers left over anyway. The manual says you need 'em, but you never do.

KATHERINE

Good thing Shauna's doing this and not you.

MIKE

You're both chronic over-achievers. I bet you could just "work, stupid magic" us back right now.

SHAUNA

It's a little more complicated than that. Unless you want particles of yourself smeared across the universe.

MIKE

And who doesn't?

KATHERINE

Oh! Oh! Pick me!

SHAUNA

Anyway, I don't have much longer to figure it out. It has to be cast within the New Life thing, during this Odi surge. But I think I'm almost there.

KATHERINE

But that's still great, Shauna.

MIKE

Yeah, definitely. Too bad, though.

SHAUNA

About what?

MIKE

Well, just that we've finally settled in and now we're leaving.

KATHERINE

Oh. I... hadn't really thought about it much.

SHAUNA

Yeah...

<depressed beat>

MIKE

Aaaaaand the moodkiller award goes to...

SHAUNA

I mean, sure, I'll definitely miss everyone, but I have to get home.

KATHERINE

We know.

<another depressed beat>

MIKE

Well then there now, howzabout that dance? The New Something Festival? We're all going, right?

SHAUNA

Yeah.

KATHERINE

Sure.

MIKE

Well hey, that'll be fun. But, uh, talk of the town is that you have to go with someone.

SHAUNA

Well, seems I'm going with Jareth. Who are you two going with?

KATHERINE

Dunno.

MIKE

You're going with... Aw, c'mon! Him?

SHAUNA

Well he did ask.

KATHERINE

What did I say, first day. Or second. Whatever. <teasing> He *likes* you.

SHAUNA

Come on it's not like that. It was more like an afterthought.

MIKE

Ohhh... is that the angle he used. He's a clever stick-in-the-mud, I'll give him that. But I thought he liked Katherine.

KATHERINE

Oh please. That ship sailed. Then sank. There we no survivors.

MIKE

There was a ship?

SHAUNA

I don't think he sees me that way.

KATHERINE

Sure he doesn't.

SHAUNA

Whatever. Don't believe me. You'll see.

MIKE

I honestly hope I don't.

ZANA

Ah, my hard workers, hardly working.

ALL

Sorry, Zana.

ZANA

I will be in my office if I am needed.

SFX: Door.

MIKE

Busted. Katherine, pass me the broom.

KATHERINE

Say the magic word.

MIKE

Now.

KATHERINE

Very good.

SHAUNA

Um, guys, can you finish the windows? I have to talk to Zana.

KATHERINE

Yeah. Sure.

SHAUNA

Thanks.

SFX: Door.

MIKE

Finish? She didn't even start...

Scene Four — Going Home, Neh?

SFX: Door

SHAUNA

Hey Zana, you got a moment?

ZANA

For you Shae? Certainly.

SHAUNA

What are you writing?

ZANA

Oh, I am merely adding to my journal. Do you keep one?

SHAUNA

I used to have a diary. But I stopped a while ago.

ZANA

I would strongly advise it. I have dedicated my life to searching for truth. A written account is much more reliable than memory alone. Recording your life makes reflection much easier.

<beat>

Please sit down.

SFX: Chair

ZANA

It will be pleasant to relax at Targonane's cabin for the first days of New Life. There has been much activity this past week. So much so that I feel I may have been neglecting my employees. In that, I am

ZANA (cont.)

pleased you are here Shae, for we have had little opportunity to talk. How are you?

SHAUNA

Um... Okay I guess.

ZANA

And are you still plagued by your dreams?

SHAUNA

Yeah. Look Zana, I wanted to talk to you about that.

ZANA

As did I. You came to me for advice and I did not give it to you. I apologize.

SHAUNA

No, I should be sorry. I'm the one who snapped at you. I mean, we're all adults more or less. There's no excuse for getting angry just because someone doesn't have the answers to your problems.

ZANA

That is not entirely accurate. There was one piece of advice that I could give you. Yet I hesitated, and failed you.

SHAUNA

What do you mean?

ZANA

Jareth and Fesmer both told you of the significance of the creature in your dreams, yes?

SHAUNA

Yeah.

ZANA

Well I have seen more of the world than either of them. There are many strange things out there, both wonderful and terrible. And there is often truth behind legends.

SHAUNA

I'm not sure I follow.

ZANA

In your dreams Shae, you are being pursued, hunted. And the best case I can give you in this case is to flee.

SHAUNA

What?

ZANA

Run. Your dreams portend terrible things. The best thing you can do is to return to Boz-ton as fast as you can and never return. If the truth behind your dreams comes to pass, there is nothing I can do to help you. Nothing anyone can do.

SHAUNA

So you're telling me I should run away from my problems?

ZANA

No, I am telling you that you *must* run away from *this* problem. You will not be safe here much longer and, if you can find it, your Shift spell is the only sure escape.

SHAUNA

<sigh> So it all comes down to that, doesn't it.

ZANA

I am truly sorry I was unable to give you more heartening advice. And I apologize for not telling you sooner. But the thought of you, Kath and Meek leaving... It pains me.

SHAUNA

Zana...

ZANA

<half hearted laugh> I suppose I have always had a soft heart for young people in troubled situations.

SHAUNA

I, I may not be able to follow your advice Zana.

ZANA

I understand if it is difficult for you to leave Shae. It will be hard to say goodbye. But you must not let—

SHAUNA

That's not really what I mean. But yeah, that will be rough too. I mean... You have to promise to keep this a secret Zana.

ZANA

Of course.

SHAUNA

Draenmer... Draenmer told me I wouldn't be able to go back. That this is the last home I'll ever know.

ZANA

The words of *ainorem* can have many meanings Shae.

SHAUNA

Well they were pretty explicit about this.

ZANA

Shae, do you know why I left the Seekers?

SHAUNA

I thought it was because you found your truth.

ZANA

Not precisely. In a strong sense Shae, I have never left. My life is still dedicated to truth. But I realized that *ainorem* are memories Shae. Their words may be truth, but memories by their nature cannot be of events that have not happened. I asked my question and, where most would spend their days in contemplation of that one answer, I was not satisfied. That one answer merely raised more questions, whose answers I could not find in a life of quiet study. All my adventures, including this shop, have been in the pursuit of more wisdom. And the more I know, it seems the more that I must still learn.

<beat>

What I am trying to say, is that you were given a truth. Only one. A time may come when you realize exactly what those words meant. But I can guarantee they do not mean what you suspect. Your future is your own to find.

SHAUNA

I hope you are right Zana. I really do. And thanks for the advice.

ZANA

You are most welcome, Shae.

Scene Five — Going Home, Eh?

SFX: Cleaning sounds

MIKE

Wonder what'll happen when we get back.

KATHERINE

What do you mean?

MIKE

Well, we've been gone for... like...

KATHERINE

Fifty days.

MIKE

Almost two months... And I missed most of it.

KATHERINE

We'll all have attendance failures at school. <moans> My GPA!

MIKE

Which means I lost my football scholarship. Not that it really matters anyway. I'll never play professionally with this leg.

KATHERINE

Yeah. What will you do?

MIKE

Dunno. Find a new running gag, I guess.

KATHERINE

Will you move back to Ohio?

MIKE

Maybe. I don't know. Wouldn't we be "missing persons" by now?

KATHERINE

That's a good point. How do we explain this?

MIKE

We can't. People would think we were crazy. Or took video games too seriously. <beat> Ohhh. Video games. Man, I miss those...

KATHERINE

So we ignore it? Just go on with our lives?

SFX: Door

MIKE

Hey Arkahn.

ARKAHN

I would like to wager five bars that Fesmer attends the dance in that pig costume.

<**MIKE** gives a small appreciative chuckle; **KATHERINE** says nothing>

ARKAHN

What is the trouble?

MIKE

We might be going home soon.

ARKAHN

Oh. Well... that is fair tidings, no?

KATHERINE

Excuse me, Mike.

SFX: Footsteps and door

ARKAHN

She remains displeased with me.

MIKE

I think she hates everybody at this point. Don't worry about it.

ARKAHN

So, Shae is close to finding Shift?

MIKE

Almost, apparently.

ARKAHN

I have need to speak with her. Where is she?

MIKE

She's talking with Zana. Y'know. Girl talk. Trying on dresses.

ARKAHN

Doubtful.

MIKE

What? I bet Zana gets down.

ARKAHN

...Zana is depressed?

MIKE

No, like down with her bad self. Dancing?

ARKAHN

Perhaps once Zana was getting down, but the Festival is for the young.

MIKE

Well ain't that a shame.

ARKAHN

I suppose it is. Do you dance, Meek?

MIKE

Badly, but yes. You?

ARKAHN

All that I do is accomplished with subtlety and finesse.

MIKE

...Soo...?

ARKAHN

Yes, I dance.

MIKE

Cool. Wanna go with me? Just as friends, I mean.

ARKAHN

Of course as friends. That is what we are.

MIKE

Ya got me there. So that's a yes?

ARKAHN

Yes. I would be happy to. Have you knowledge of the dance's customs?

MIKE

Well, no. But I'm a gifted learner.

ARKAHN

Oh?

MIKE

Yeah. When I try really, really hard.

Scene Six — Kath’s Hot Date

FESMER

Oli wan, Kath. [Good evening]

KATHERINE

Oh. Hey, Fesmer.

FESMER

Would you object if I joined you?

KATHERINE

No, but if you came looking for a happy conversation, you’re barking up the wrong tree. <beat> Not like “tree bark,” but—

FESMER

Yes, as a dog barks. I understand.

SFX: FESMER sitting down

FESMER

Ahh. I have been standing all day. It is swell to get off my swollen dogs. <beat> Ehh?

KATHERINE

Eh. Close enough.

FESMER

What troubles you, Kath?

KATHERINE

I don’t want to talk about it.

FESMER

Sho’ nuff.

<beat>

FESMER

So, Kath?

KATHERINE

Hmm?

FESMER

What troubles you?

KATHERINE

I said I don’t want to talk about it! <beat> And you look utterly ridiculous in that pig costume. Why are you still wearing it?

FESMER

<laughs> It brings me joy. Who could resist this wooden snout, these velvet ears?

KATHERINE

You need some time alone with Mister Ham?

FESMER

...Perhaps.

KATHERINE

<makes a shuddering sound>

FESMER

<laughs again> You are too serious, Kath. While you are still here in Laundi, you might consider enjoying yourself more.

KATHERINE

Oh yeah? Why, did Shauna make two of those costumes?

FESMER

Two costumes... a fair notion, Kath!

KATHERINE

No no no!

FESMER

<laughs again> I will tell you how you will learn to enjoy yourself, Kath. Are you prepared for my fathomless wisdom?

KATHERINE

You want me to go to the dance with you?

FESMER

<surprised> Well... yes.

KATHERINE

And that's where you'll show me a good time?

FESMER

Erm... I suppose?

KATHERINE

Sure. Why not.

FESMER

Ah. Good. <awkward beat> Well, I thought that would be much more difficult...

KATHERINE

Hum. <beat> Wait, are you calling me difficult?!

Scene Seven—Arkahn Hearts Shauna

ARKAHN

Shae, wake up!

SHAUNA

I'm awake...

ARKAHN

It certainly does not appear so. You have overslept. We must make great haste with our preparations, or we will be late to the Festival.

SHAUNA

I'm up. You should have said something earlier. I can't sleep much, so I meditate instead. Not very restful, but... Wait, did I miss work?

ARKAHN

Yes, but Zana did not mind. I thought you were asleep and we were all pleased you were finally achieving some rest.

SHAUNA

Oh man, and we've still got to get these traditional clothes for me.

SFX: rustling of covers, putting on of clothes, etc

ARKAHN

I apologize for not waking you earlier, but...

SHAUNA

<distracted, putting on clothes> Don't worry about it. I'll just rush around until I drop dead, as usual. Marathon runner, that's me... have you seen my—

ARKAHN

On the dresser.

SHAUNA

Ah ha! Thanks. Whew, I'd better wash up. See you downstairs?

ARKAHN

Shae, about the Shift spell...

SHAUNA

God, you too? All anyone wants to talk about is that stupid spell. "I think I may have found a way but I'm still working on it." We good?

ARKAHN

What is this way you may have discovered? Tell me about it.

SHAUNA

Do you really want to know?

ARKAHN

Yes. I am keenly interested.

SHAUNA

<sigh> Fine. Well, I watch—used to watch—a lot of science fiction, which is like a story about the future, and a lot of them talk about ways to get from place to place instantly. So I thought maybe I could drum up a magical equivalent of that, and then crash! Boom! We're back.

ARKAHN

An intriguing notion, Shae. What have you determined?

SHAUNA

Well its kind of simple really. I just have to fold space.

ARKAHN

Fold space?

SHAUNA

Yeah, it's like, okay, this blanket is space, right? And here's point A and here's point B. Far apart, right. Then we fold the blanket and boom—the points are touching.

ARKAHN

But space is not a blanket... I am afraid I do not understand. What happens to everything else when you do this? Would it not also be folded?

SHAUNA

No because. Well... Guh. "I Heart Huckabees" didn't cover this. I'll just show you. See that chair?

ARKAHN

Yes.

SHAUNA

Work Stupid Magic From Here to There!

SFX quieter version of Shift effect

SHAUNA

Hoo... Woozy...

ARKAHN

<surprised> Where did it go?

SHAUNA

It's behind you.

ARKAHN

That is amazing. And you believe this spell will transport the three of you to Boz-ton?

SHAUNA

Well, not yet. I still have to see where I'm sending something. But I'm working on that.

ARKAHN

And this is safe? You look unwell.

SHAUNA

Just a little nauseous, but that's nothing. Last time I cast it, I passed out and woke up a few minutes later with a splitting migraine headache. The surge in Odi has begun, hasn't it?

ARKAHN

Yes. Can you feel it?

SHAUNA

Hell yeah. It's a rush. It made the casting a lot easier just now.

ARKAHN

But are you absolutely certain that this spell will safely—

SHAUNA

Oh who knows. I'm doing this on my own, y'know, and it's the best idea I have. If someone comes up with something better, great; but until then, magical wormholes it is! <exhales> Now... Oh. <beat> Hey, um, Arkahn?

ARKAHN

Yes, Shae?

SHAUNA

Can I, uh, borrow some of your makeup?

ARKAHN

Of course, Shae.

Scene Eight—Dancing is Fucking Awesome!

SFX music throughout the scene

SHAUNA

Wow, that's a lot of people.

ARKAHN

Do you see them anywhere?

MIKE

<distant> Shauna! Arkahn! We're over here!

SHAUNA

Apparently they're over there.

<beat>

Hey Mike. Looking sharp.

MIKE

You too Shauna. And Arkahn... Wow. You look great!

ARKAHN

Cha grendi, Meek. You are quite handsome in that *Deklaan own-parnae*.

[NOTE: These are one type of traditional Laundian male clothes. *Deklanna* could be said as if it almost has three syllables. (dek-la-ahn)]

MIKE

<half joking> Aw shucks, you flatter me. And your *Foyo own-aerna* are most becoming.

[NOTE: A type of traditional Laundian female clothes. Foyo sounds like "Foyer" but changing the last syllable to "oh".]

ARKAHN

You have been practicing your pronunciation.

MIKE

Absolutely. Could I interest you in a drink of *ocris pino*?

ARKAHN

An excellent plan. Lead the way.

SHAUNA

Well... have fun you two... Now where is...

<Jareth and Shauna's conversation starts out awkward but becomes more earnest as it becomes cerebral. They are focused only on each other. They're the two people in the corner of the room who have been talking all night.>

JARETH

Oli wan, Shae. You look exceptional tonight.

SHAUNA

Not half bad yourself Jareth. How are you?

JARETH

Quite well. And you?

SHAUNA

I'm good. So... Lot of people here.

JARETH

Yes. This is one of the largest events of the year.

SHAUNA

Cool. Hey, if the band is way over there, how come the music is so loud?

JARETH

Do you see those shell-like devices in front of the stage?

SHAUNA

Speakers.

JARETH

Renapuen, actually. They are active items that amplify sound.
[NOTE: Pronounced “ray-na-puay-en”]

SHAUNA

So, speakers.

JARETH

They were invented for last year’s New Hope Festival. It is very exciting, all the advancements University Crafters have made with active items. There are factories outside of Laundi where they create incredible things...

SHAUNA

Huh. So do you have anything to do with them?

JARETH

Oh no. Apart from small articles such as your translation pendant, I have little ability as a Crafter. Still, it is a fascinating art. My understanding is that there are many items similar to *renapuen* in your world?

SHAUNA

Oh yeah. Everywhere. Most of them are powered by electricity. You know, like lightning

JARETH

Harnessing lightning... fascinating indeed...

SHAUNA

Oh it’s nothing that amazing... Well I suppose it kind of is. But still, I don’t think it’s that big a deal. I mean, it changes the way people live, but people are pretty much the same wherever you go.

JARETH

But if you change the way people live, would they not also change?

SHAUNA

In details maybe, but most of the important things are still the same.

JARETH

How so?

SHAUNA

Well their emotions are still there. People do stuff out of love or greed or anger or whatever.

SFX: begin fading out Jareth/Shaina conversation

JARETH

So what you are saying is that the nature of people is more important than their environment.

SHAUNA

Yeah. People still do the same stuff. They can just do it faster.

<Fesmer and Katherine's conversations are marked by awkwardness. They are the strangers come to the party. Fesmer is covering his awkwardness with over enthusiasm and Katherine just feels out of place.>

FESMER

It seems that Jareth and Shae are enjoying each other's company.

KATHERINE

Sorry, what was that Fesmer? I was somewhere else.

FESMER

Jareth and Shae. They seem to be having fun.

KATHERINE

Yeah... it looks like Shauna's starting to go into philosophy. She's got her intellectual discussion face on.

FESMER

I did not know Shae was interested in philosophy.

KATHERINE

Yeah, she doesn't talk about it much, but once she gets going she can debate all night.

FESMER

If there is one thing Jareth enjoys it is a rousing debate. I fear we shall not hear much from them tonight.

KATHERINE

So now what?

FESMER

Now we have fun! Come Kath, let us drink and dance and make merry!

KATHERINE

I don't really drink or dance. I don't make much merry, either.

FESMER

Then what do you do for enjoyment? Come now, everybody likes a party and this is the greatest one of the year. Let us get crunk!

KATHERINE

Let us what?

FESMER

Crunk it up!

KATHERINE

Hoo. It's going to be a long night...

FESMER

Precisely! A long night of crunking! Look over there, even Meek and Arkahn are enjoying themselves. Let us not be the ones to squander our youth! Now, to fun!

KATHERINE

<groans>

SFX: fade out, and back in; music has changed—it is faster

<Mike and Arkahn’s conversations is good humored and flirty. They are the people dancing in the kitchen or laughing on the stoop.>

MIKE
So left, right, turn?

ARKAHN
No no, right, left, turn. Like this: Right, left, turn.

MIKE
Right, left, turn...

ARKAHN
Good! You shall be a master of the *duka moren* before the night is out. Now apart, cross, twirl, together.

MIKE
Like this?

ARKAHN
No no, you twirl *me*.

MIKE
So, right, left, turn. Apart, cross, twirl—

ARKAHN

Ak! Not so fast!

MIKE
Sorry.

ARKAHN
It is nai-nai. It can be awkward the first time.

MIKE
Ha! Amen. So now what?

ARKAHN
We switch.

MIKE
So you lead?

ARKAHN
It is pretty much the same. We just do it backwards.

MIKE
Even the twirl?

ARKAHN
Especially the twirl. Now take my hands, let us try this from the top.

MIKE
So left— no right! Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together!

ARKAHN
Perfect! Now switch. Right— ow! No my right! Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together! You have it. Now faster!

SFX: fading out

BOTH

<faster and faster> Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together switch.
Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together switch.

SHAUNA

But really I think it's all about family. Everyone does things in reaction to their parents, their siblings. Like Mike and his football.

JARETH

But would you not say the desire to create and secure a family of one's own is just as important?

SHAUNA

In a sense. But how we go about that is influenced by our own families. What we've seen growing up sets the standard for how we live.

JARETH

I am not certain about that. I do love my parents but I feel I am very different from them.

SHAUNA

But you were an only child, right?

JARETH

Yes.

SHAUNA

I think it's a little different for only children. You have these two people and all their focus is directed on you. It can be too much for

some people and they have to rebel. Like Katherine leaving and coming to Boston.

JARETH

Or myself coming to Laundi...

SHAUNA

See what I mean? I think that only children are a lot more likely to act selfishly. No offense. But it's because they haven't had to share their space. For instance, I have four brothers. With all of us crammed into the same small house, we had to work together on some basic level, even if we didn't always get along.

SFX: begin cross-fade

JARETH

But earlier you were saying the environment was less important than nature in how people act.

SHAUNA

On an individual level environment is very important. But on a larger scale it comes down more to nature. Don't you think so?

JARETH

Oh, absolutely not. I believe quite the opposite...

FESMER

Drink Kath! You have barely touched your *ocris pino*. [mulled wine]

KATHERINE

I'm sorry Fesmer. But this really isn't my thing. I don't drink, okay?

FESMER

Do you know what your trouble is Kath?

KATHERINE

Oh please tell me.

FESMER

You need to relax!

KATHERINE

I am relaxed.

FESMER

No, all these people dancing are relaxed. You are merely sitting. Let us go relax with them. You must learn to have fun.

KATHERINE

<indignant> I have fun.

FESMER

What was the last thing you did for fun? I hardly ever see you laugh or smile. And this beverage here is a certain path to laughter and smiles!

KATHERINE

Fesmer...

FESMER

Chüg Kath! Drink your smile juice!

KATHERINE

Are you *drunk* already?

FESMER

Not at all. Merely relaxed. And you should be as well. *Chüg, Chüg, Chüg, Chüg.*

KATHERINE

<sighs> It's pronounced chug.

MIKE

And so then he was like <ridiculous voice> "Weeell, isn't that interesting!"

ARKAHN

<laughs> Do the walk. Do the walk again.

MIKE

Like *this*?

<beat>

"Weeell, isn't that interesting!"

ARKAHN

<laughs harder> Oh Meek, that is the funniest story I have heard in a great while.

MIKE

And it is all true, I swear.

ARKAHN

More *ocris pino*?

MIKE

<silly voice> Don't mind if I *dooo*.

ARKAHN

<Laughs> I do not even know why that is so funny...

MIKE

You don't have to know. It just is. <to vendor> *Par ocris pino, senjen!* [Two mulled wine, Please!]

SFX: Two glasses on a counter

MIKE

Cha grendillo fai. Keep the change, *senjen*.

[NOTE: grendillo is formal used to someone you do not know. Depending on Mike's crunkiness, he could say "Cha grendi" instead.]

SFX: Coins on table

MIKE

And here you are, my dear.

ARKAHN

Cha grendi. Your pronunciation is improving.

MIKE

Yeah, I've been working on it. I figure if Shauna doesn't get her spell working soon, we'll probably have to be here a while.

ARKAHN

Are you anxious to return home Meek?

MIKE

I don't know. I guess so. I mean it's where I belong. But I do like it here. I haven't had this much fun in a very long time.

ARKAHN

Well I enjoy having you here, Meek. Come! It is your turn!

MIKE

My turn?

ARKAHN

To share a dance from Boz-ton.

MIKE

Oh man I don't know any dances... I can't even do the electric slide.

ARKAHN

The what?

MIKE

Okay, I've got one. It's really easy. But it's kind of stupid.

ARKAHN

Teach me all the same.

MIKE

Okay. So. First, I put my hand up on your hip. When I dip you dip.

ARKAHN

We dip?

MIKE

Exactly!

SFX: fade out and back in; music is end-of-night slow dance

JARETH

And I suppose that is why I have always been so tense in situations like that.

SHAUNA

I know exactly what you mean.

JARETH

Shae, I would like to thank you again for coming with me tonight.

SHAUNA

Happy to, Jareth.

JARETH

And while I am glad for you, it saddens me to think you will be leaving us soon.

SHAUNA

Yeah... Well there's no guarantee—

JARETH

Shae, I believe in your ability. If anyone can succeed, it is you. You are an incredible person. In the past weeks I have seen you realize so much potential. You have made life better by your very presence.

SHAUNA

Thanks. That means a lot coming from you. I'm looking forward to going home. But I'm going to miss it here.

JARETH

I suppose all that is left for us is to enjoy the time we have left together.

SHAUNA

Then we should make the most of it.

JARETH

I agree...

SHAUNA

Wh—

SFX: Jareth kisses Shauna

SHAUNA

You... kissed me!

JARETH

Absolutely.

SHAUNA

I... wow. I wasn't expecting that.

JARETH

Neither was I, and I apologize if in any way you are—

SHAUNA

Shut up, Jareth.

SFX: Shauna kisses Jareth

<pause>

ARKAHN

Are you *ra-na* Meek? What is the matter?

MIKE

Nothing. I just saw something I could have lived without seeing.

ARKAHN

Meek? You can tell me...

MIKE

No, it's no biggie. Sorry. I'm going to get something to drink. I'll be back.

<pause>

FESMER

<quite drunk> Kath. Kath. Let me tell you something.

KATHERINE

You're drunk Fesmer. Come on. Sit down.

FESMER

I am not drunk, I am relaxed. Can I buy you more *ocris pino*?
Mother always instructed me never to let a girl's plate be cleared or her glass emptied.

KATHERINE

I'm fine Fesmer. Sit down.

FESMER

Can I tell you something Kath?

KATHERINE

Sure. Just sit down.

FESMER

Very well. Kath. Katherine... You know, I have always liked you.

KATHERINE

Umm... thanks?

FESMER

No, you do not understand. I *like* you Kath.

<long, awkward beat>

KATHERINE

O-*kay*. I think that's the cue to go home. Come on drunky, let's go find the others.

FESMER

But I just sat down...

<pause>

SFX: Makin' out

SHAUNA

Jareth... Jareth wait!

JARETH

Shae...

SHAUNA

Hold on. I'm sorry. I... We... Oh my god...

JARETH

<concerned> Shae?

SHAUNA

No! No! I can't... Not now. This... We can't happen Jareth. We can't.

JARETH

I am... uncertain as to what you are attempting to say.

SHAUNA

I'm saying this is wrong. This is a bad idea. A very, very—

KATHERINE

Hey guys.

<**BOTH** startle>

SHAUNA

Um, hey, Katherine.

KATHERINE

Sorry to interrupt. But Fesmer's falling down drunk and I'm ready to go. Mike's ready to split, too.

JARETH

Well—

SHAUNA

Yeah, that sounds like a good idea. I'm ready to go. Jareth?

<beat>

JARETH

Yes, Shae. Of course...

Scene Nine—Walk ‘o Shame, Part I

ALL: post-dance chatting; Jareth and Katherine & Shauna and Fesmer & Mike and Arkahn

MIKE

Alright ladies and Jareth, this is where Fes and I depart. I guess we’ll see you all in the morning right?

JARETH

Yes, we should attempt to leave for the cabin early.

MIKE

Arkahn, I had a lot of fun. Thanks.

ARKAHN

As did I, Meek.

KATHERINE

Hmph.

SFX: KATHERINE stalking off.

SHAUNA

Hey, Katherine where are you... Huh, is she okay? Hey, Jareth?

JARETH

Yes Shae?

SHAUNA

Could you do me a favor and walk with her back to Zana’s?

JARETH

I suppose someone should... Will you be *ra-na*?

SHAUNA

Arkahn and I’ll be fine. See you in the morning.

JARETH

Indeed.

SFX: JARETH walking away.

MIKE

Anyhoo, Fes? Shall we?

FESMER

<drunkenly singing the Mister Ham song>

MIKE

Great. Where’s a goat cart when you need one? Lean on me, buddy.

ARKAHN

Will he be *ra-na*?

MIKE

Oh sure. Oof. Careful with the leaning, boy. Gimp leg.

FESMER

The earth is pulsing with power...

MIKE

It’s known to do that. You might want to fai cthloll Odi an Excedrin or something, or you’re going to be one sorry chaos mage come morning.

FESMER

<mumbling> What is a chaotic...?

MIKE

Anyway, see y'all tomorrow. We're going up to Targo's cabin, right?

SHAUNA

Yeah.

MIKE

That should be fun. Arkahn, have a good night.

SFX: **FESMER** and **MIKE** begin shuffling off.

SHAUNA

<calling> 'Night, Mike.

MIKE

<brusque> Yep. You too.

SFX: Walking for a beat or two.

FESMER

Meek, you and Shae and Kath... do you know what your problem is?

MIKE

I'd say between the three of us, we've got a nice spread of all possible problems.

FESMER

Specifically, I believe, in my own modest estimation, that you should all learn to be more fun. I mean, have more fun.

MIKE

<flat> Boo-yah.

FESMER

You are all so serious... well, you are the least serious, perhaps, but if I found myself Shifted to Boston one day, I would endeavor to make more fun of it. I mean—

MIKE

I gotcha. So, how'd it go with Katherine?

FESMER

Eh. Sometimes you are victorious, and other times not.

MIKE

And this was a “not” kinda night?

FESMER

Indeed.

MIKE

Well, sorry to hear that. But I dunno what you see in her, man. She's a raging psychopath most of the time.

FESMER

I understand her heart. She is very sad, and very beautiful. That is all.

<beat>

MIKE

Um. I guess...

Scene Ten — Walk ‘o Shame, Part II

SFX: Walking

SHAUNA

So Arkahn... you and Mike, huh?

ARKAHN

And just what are you implying?

SHAUNA

Nothing. Just looked like you two were having a lot of fun.

ARKAHN

We were indeed, until the end. Meek seemed upset quite abruptly. I do not understand what happened.

SHAUNA

That's just Mike, lately. I wouldn't worry about it. Hey...

ARKAHN

Yes?

SHAUNA

I'm sorry for being testy earlier, about the spell. I find myself saying a lot of things I don't mean these days. You've been great, putting me up at your parents' house and everything.

ARKAHN

You are most welcome, Shae. And for my part, it is good to have pleasant company.

SHAUNA

If... if the spell doesn't work, if I can't get us home... if I fail. I think you, more than anyone else here, understand me. And if I can't ever leave, I just want you to know, I'm very grateful to have a friend like you here in Laundi.

ARKAHN

Thank you, Shae...

SHAUNA

Sure. So, Arkahn...

ARKAHN

Yes?

SHAUNA

You and Mike, huh?

ARKAHN

...Perhaps.

SHAUNA

Ahh! I knew it!

ARKAHN

Knew what? There is nothing to know!

SFX: start fading out

SHAUNA

<good natured mocking> You *like* him. You wanna have like ten thousand of his babies.

ARKAHN

I am unable to hear you, for I have covered my ears.

SHAUNA

Arkahn and Mikey, sittin' in a tree...

ARKAHN

Your mouth is moving, yet no sound is emitted. It is exceedingly strange.

SHAUNA

...K-I-S-S-I-N-G... first comes love, then comes marriage...

ARKAHN

Shae, you have become mute! This is most serious! We should consult Zana immediately!

<laughing, fade out completely>