

**SECOND SHIFT**

Episode #11: Retreat (v2.1)  
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CONFIDENTIAL

**Scene One — The Secret**

**SFX** knocking

**KATHERINE**  
Coming!

**SFX** footsteps, door opening

**KATHERINE**  
Oh, oli yuung Jareth.

**JARETH**  
Oli yuung Kath.

**KATHERINE**  
You're the first here. Come on in.

**SFX** door close

**JARETH**  
I am first? I suspected I would be late.

**KATHERINE**  
Yeah, well everyone else is later. Make yourself comfortable.

<pause>

**JARETH**

Well, did you enjoy last night's festival?

**KATHERINE**

Err... Not really. I've never been big into things like that. Actually I kind of hate them...

<beat>

Thanks for walking back with me to Zana's. I'm sorry I didn't, you know, say anything to you. I wasn't really in a talking mood.

**JARETH**

I, too, had much to consider. <tone change > Where is Zana?

**KATHERINE**

She's around. I think she's outside feeding the lizards.

**JARETH**

Ah, good.

**KATHERINE**

Where are you going?

**JARETH**

I have to retrieve certain things from Zana's cellar.

**KATHERINE**

Et tu, Jareth?

**JARETH**

What?

**KATHERINE**

Nevermind.

**SFX** door opening, down stairs

**JARETH**

Now where did I put that...

**SFX:** Rummaging through basement (continuous)

**KATHERINE**

So what is it with you guys hiding stuff in Zana's cellar?

**JARETH**

Unlike Fesmer, I obtained permission to store belongings down here. Certain... compounds are best stored at a cold temperature.

**KATHERINE**

<skeptical> Ah huh. Not enough room in your house?

**JARETH**

Hah! I live in one of University's faculty dormitories. Not only do I lack in space, there are things that I cannot keep. You lived in your University's dormitory, correct?

**KATHERINE**

Sure did. I was pretty sick of it though..

**JARETH**

And you lived with Shae?

**KATHERINE**

Last year. I got a single this year... And speaking of Shauna...?

**JARETH**

...Yes?

**KATHERINE**

Did the two of you have fun at the dance?

**JARETH**

I suppose so. <tense beat> She is a complicated person.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah. I know what you mean. Her facets are multifaceted...

**JARETH**

Did you and Fesmer enjoy yourselves?

**KATHERINE**

Err... Well. I think Fesmer had a little much to drink.

**JARETH**

<sigh> He must learn to heed his limits...

**KATHERINE**

He was being way overbearing. It's hard to have any sort of good time with someone trying to force alcohol on you.

**JARETH**

Well, at least Meek and Arkahn enjoyed themselves.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah...

**SFX:** Rummaging ceases

**JARETH**

Ah, here it is.

**KATHERINE**

What've you got there?

**JARETH**

<clever> It is a secret. Now, let us return to the kitchen. And quickly, lest we are sighted!

**KATHERINE**

Ohh kay...

**SFX** footsteps

**JARETH**

Ah ha. Undetected. <small mischievous chuckle> Hopefully the others do not take much longer to arrive. I am eager to reach the cabin.

**KATHERINE**

Eyeah. You ever been there before?

**JARETH**

No, but Zana tells me it is a beautiful location.

**KATHERINE**

I'm looking forward to a real day off. It'll be nice.

**JARETH**

It shall be quite a bit more than "nice." <small satisfied chortle>

**KATHERINE**

...Righto.

**Scene Two — The Journey**

**ZANA**

Are we all prepared? Kath?

**KATHERINE**

Jareth and I checked. Everything's locked up.

**ZANA**

Arkahn?

**ARKAHN**

Shae and I have finished loading the cart.

**ZANA**

Umbra?

**SFX** goat noise

**SHAUNA**

Hooked up and ready to go. And obstinate as ever.

**ZANA**

Meek, will Fesmer survive the journey?

**FESMER**

<weakly> Please, go on without me. Save yourselves...

**MIKE**

He'll survive. Won't you buddy?

**FESMER**

<weakly> No, no I will not.

**MIKE**

He's fine.

**ZANA**

And Meek, will you be ra-na?

**MIKE**

Yeah. Leg's doing better already. Won't even need the cane soon.

**ZANA**

Very well. Let us depart.

**SFX** walking sounds, etc.

**FESMER**

Oh *ainorem*... Why does the sun mock me with its brightness.

**MIKE**

It mocks you because you have the tolerance of a ten-year old girl.

**FESMER**

I am not a ten-year old girl. Getting crunk is taxing labor.

**MIKE**

Yeah. For a ten-year old girl.

**FESMER**

Nonsense, I had... I had... Well I do not recall precisely how many I had but I assure you it was a staggering quantity.

**MIKE**

Aww is you gwumpy because you forgot your dolly.

**KATHERINE**

Well it looks like Fesmer is reaping some of what he has sown.

**ZANA**

In what sense?

**KATHERINE**

He was totally out of line last night.

**ZANA**

I am certain Fesmer meant well, Kath.

**KATHERINE**

Well that's no excuse.

**ZANA**

No, I suppose not. But attempt to understand his view.

**KATHERINE**

He was being a jerk. I understand that.

**ZANA**

What did he do that was so egregious?

**KATHERINE**

He said I didn't know how to have fun.

**ZANA**

Well, do you?

**KATHERINE**

What?

**ZANA**

Did you attempt to enjoy yourself at all last night?

**KATHERINE**

...Maybe I would have if he wasn't being so forceful.

**ZANA**

So you did not attempt to enjoy yourself.

<pause>

**KATHERINE**

<quietly> No... I guess not.

**SFX:** FESMER moaning softly in background.

**ZANA**

Now, I will not deny that Fesmer's social skills are somewhat lacking. But was he the only reason you did not enjoy the festival?

**KATHERINE**

Huh. I guess I was being a bit of a jerk too...

**ZANA**

Regret helps nothing, Kath. Simply learn from your experience.

<pause>

**JARETH**

How are you this morning, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

I've been better.

**ARKAHN**

She still struggles to sleep.

**JARETH**

Is it the dream?

**SHAUNA**

Everything's a little too perfect to be just a dream. The more I learn... By this point I'm as scared of the Legion as the dream.

**JARETH**

Well, you may comfort yourself with the knowledge that Laundi has never fallen to those villains.

**SHAUNA**

Doesn't seem to keep them out though. I seem to recall being chased by Legionnaires on hover-bikes the first day we were here.

**JARETH**

True, there may be some hidden amongst us...

**SHAUNA**

Wasn't one of them Fesmer's friend? Caleb?

**ARKAHN**

Caileb. Fesmer's neighbor. Do not trouble yourself over them. In any case, they are no more a danger to you than University.

**JARETH**

The Legion no worse than University? The same Legion that marched armies across Baela? Even now they seek to infect our way of life—

**ARKAHN**

You are beginning to sound like Fesmer. In the past there may have been some threat. But now? At least they do not persecute those who simply use Odi differently.

**JARETH**

Differently and *dangerously*. But I tire of this argument.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah me too. You know, you guys really aren't helping here.

**JARETH + ARKAHN**

Apologies Shae...

**SHAUNA**

Anyway, since we're on the topic, I'm still fuzzy on this Legion conquers the world thing. Should we be worried?

**JARETH**

Long ago, their armies swept the world, conquering all. But they could not hold what they had obtained. Hundreds of years later, they appeared again as a militant religion. They called it the Crusade of Oren. But once again they overstepped their reach. It is believed—

**ARKAHN**

History lesson aside, no. Ill dreams notwithstanding, you have no cause for concern. The Legion will not be taking over the world in the next few days. And a few days is all you have left here.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. Guess so.

**MIKE**

Gawd, your conversation is as boring to eavesdrop on as Katherine's. Lighten up. We've got the day off.

**FESMER**

Meek, could you slow down... I cannot maintain this pace.

**MIKE**

Could. Won't. You'll just have to pump those little girl legs a bit faster and burn off that hangover.

**FESMER**

<weakly> I hate you.

**M+SJA**

Laughter.

**Scene Three — Arrival**

**SFX** walking/cart for a few beats. Stops.

**FESMER**

Praise Ainorem! We have arrived!

**KATHERINE**

Wow. It's beautiful!

**MIKE**

Yeah. Targo's got himself some prime real estate.

**ARKAHN**

That is the truth. The view of the lake alone is stunning.

**ZANA**

Jareth, would you unhitch the cart? I am certain Umbra would enjoy the opportunity to run free.

**JARETH**

Yes Shi-schwa.

**SFX** cart wheels off

**SFX:** Gleeful goat noise and scampering away

**ZANA**

Kath, Arkahn, would you assist me in opening the cabin? If the rest of you would unload the cart, *senjen*.

**MIKE**

Sure thing.

**SHAUNA**

That's his "cabin?"

**MIKE**

It's bigger than Fesmer's house.

**FESMER**

Yes, that is true. But does it have the charm of my house?

**MIKE**

If you are referring to your... unique style of interior decorating then no. Probably not.

**FESMER**

What is wrong with my style?

**MIKE**

Well, it's not so much a style as the product of poor impulse control.

**FESMER**

You are hardly one to speak of poor impulse control.

**MIKE**

Touché.

**SHAUNA**

Alright you two. Stop bickering. Let's get unpacked.

**MIKE**

Yes, Mom.

**SHAUNA**

Don't be creepy Mike.



<beat>

**SFX:** unpacking groceries

**SHAUNA**

We're here to help, Jareth.

**JARETH**

Good. I was beginning to fear I had to unpack this myself.

**FESMER**

I am hungry...

**MIKE**

Of course you're hungry. You are always hungry.

**FESMER**

I cannot argue against the truth.

**JARETH**

Then—oomph—take this surprisingly heavy basket of food.

**FESMER**

It may be heavy to your noodly scholar's arms—uugh. Very well.  
Heavy it is...

**SHAUNA**

I'll get this stuff.

**JARETH**

Meek, would you assist me with this trunk?

**MIKE**

Ooph! Man, what's in here? Rocks?

**JARETH**

I believe so, yes.

**MIKE**

Wait, seriously?

**JARETH**

No. Use caution on the stairs.

**SFX** feet on wooden floor

**JARETH**

Where would you like this Zana?

**ZANA**

Over there is fine.

**SFX:** Setting down and rifling through groceries, etc

**SHAUNA**

Well that's the last of it.

**FESMER**

Then it is high time for lunch.

**ZANA**

There is plenty of food in that basket. Fesmer, would you...

**FESMER**

Sho'nuf.

**MIKE**

Ah, that never gets old.

**KATHERINE**

If it's so fun to teach him slang, why don't you learn theirs?

**MIKE**

I have. But it's not really appropriate for polite conversation.

**KATHERINE**

Really? Come on, let's hear it.

**ARKAHN**

Yes Meek, share your new abilities.

**MIKE**

Hey no fair tag-teaming me.

**ZANA**

Do not censor yourself on my account, Meek. We are all adults.

**FESMER**

The food is prepared!

**MIKE**

Good save buddy.

<food sounds, chatter, etc>

**SHAUNA**

So what's everyone going to do today?

**ZANA**

I plan to spend the day relaxing on the water.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah and Zana is going to teach me how to fish.

**MIKE**

That beach looked pretty tempting. An actual sandy beach. I think I'm gonna catch some rays. Maybe go swimming.

**ARKAHN**

It is somewhat cold.

**MIKE**

Not after lying in the sun for a while. Getting all nice and warm...

**FESMER**

That is a fine idea.

**ARKAHN**

Perhaps I shall attempt some of this ray-catching as well.

**ZANA**

What of you, Jareth?

**JARETH**

It is a secret.

<awkward pause>

**SHAUNA**

Okay...

<beat>

Well, I think I'm going to go for a walk. Explore a little.

**ARKAHN**

Would you care for company?

**SHAUNA**

Nah. I'm good. See you all in a bit.

**SFX** walking away

**ARKAHN**

Is she ra-na?

**KATHEINE**

She just needs some Shauna time. Alone.

**ZANA**

Kath, shall we gather our tackle?

**KATHERINE**

Lead on.

**SFX** walking away

**MIKE**

And then there were four.

**FESMER**

Jareth, you are welcome to join us on the beach.

**JARETH**

Perhaps... later.

**MIKE**

Well then, let's grab some snacks and hit the sand.

**Scene Four — Chillin'...**

**SFX:** Gentle waves, breeze

**MIKE**

Man, this is nice. Like the lake we'd go to when I was a kid.

**ARKAHN**

Now that I think of it, this is the most water I have ever seen.

**MIKE**

Never been to the ocean?

**ARKAHN**

I have scarcely left Laundi.

**FESMER**

When I was very young, my father brought Porec and myself all the way to the seaport of Toolan Bay. It was an amazing sight.

**ARKAHN**

So... what are we doing, precisely?

**MIKE**

Well, I am going to lay down on this beach and chill for a while.

**SFX** Sitting down on the beach

**MIKE**

Ahh. You are encouraged to join me in the doing of nothing.

**ARKAHN**

Nothing?

**MIKE**

Yep.

**FESMER**

A fine idea.

**SFX** Sitting down on the beach

**ARKAHN**

I do not know the last time I did nothing. I am always doing... something.

**MIKE**

All the more reason to join us. You gotta chill now and then. Relax.

**ARKAHN**

I suppose you are correct.

**SFX** Sitting down on the beach

<pause>

**MIKE**

Ahh... This is nice. You know, I haven't had a chance to relax since I got here. Comas don't count...

<beat>

I mean, what's the point in going all out so much that you never have a chance to just chill?

**SFX** footsteps approaching

**JARETH**

What are you three doing?

**FESMER**

We are chilling.

**JARETH**

Ah. Have any of you seen Shae?

**MIKE**

Nope.

**ARKAHN**

She is over in that direction. Roughly a hundred paces.

**MIKE**

Really?

**ARKAHN**

She is using Odi. I can feel it.

**JARETH**

I see. *Turen... cha grendi fai, Arkahn.* Enjoy your... chilling.

[Well... thank you Arkahn]

**SFX:** Jareth walking away

**MIKE**

Heh. Jareth just said chilling. That's funny.

**ARKAHN**

This *is* pleasant.

**MIKE**

Well yeah. Haven't you heard? I'm *always* right.

## Scene Five — Work, Stupid Relationship

**SHAUNA**

<mumbling/concentrating> Come on... work stupid magic...

**JARETH**

Shae? Are you— ah, there you are.

**SHAUNA**

...work stupid magic...

**JARETH**

Apologies, I did not mean to interrupt.

**SHAUNA**

Huh? Oh, hey Jareth.

**JARETH**

How is your practice progressing?

**SHAUNA**

I'm just experimenting. I've almost got it all worked out, but this second half is harder than I thought.

**JARETH**

The array you have drawn... It is for Farsight.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, I'm trying to contact Tyler.

**JARETH**

Your brother?

**SHAUNA**

Uh huh.

**JARETH**

Fascinating. I suppose with a strong emotional connection, distance should not matter at all.

**SHAUNA**

That's the idea, but I'm still having trouble. It's like he's just out of reach. Like there's something in the way.

**JARETH**

If you do not mind my asking, how does your brother factor into your spell?

**SHAUNA**

I guess you could call him my anchor. I've got sort of a teleport spell, but I can only send people as far as I can see.

**JARETH**

Teleport?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, to move something instantly from one place to another.

**JARETH**

Is such a thing possible?

**SHAUNA**

Sure. I've even figured it out too. Want to see? You might not like it. It's not University-approved magic.

**JARETH**

Despite popular opinion, the scholar in me is stronger than the disciplinarian. Let us witness your spell.

**SHAUNA**

Okay. Prepare to be amazed as I move this big 'ole rock right out over the lake. Work Stupid Magic From Here To There!

**SFX** from here to there fx, big splash!

**JARETH**

Ainorem!

**SHAUNA**

It takes a bit of doing, but the odi surge is making it a lot easier.

**JARETH**

That... That was remarkable. I have never seen such a thing! And this is how you plan to go home?

**SHAUNA**

That and the Farsight. If I can see to Boston, I should be able to send to Boston. Like Draenmer said, both kinds of magic together.

**JARETH**

If I had not seen it, I would not have believed it. Incredible. But... A person is not a stone.

**SHAUNA**

Well I figure, what is a person, really. I mean, we're mostly just made up of water and minerals. Nothing fancy or anything

**JARETH**

What do you mean?

**SHAUNA**

I can't think too hard about it. I just need to think about it scientifically or I might mess things up.

**JARETH**

So you believe we are little more than... dirty water?

**SHAUNA**

Not really, but we're not so different from any other animal.

**JARETH**

Animals?

**SHAUNA**

Sure. We're all just blood and guts. And what do you think those are made out of? Cheese?

**JARETH**

I must say University teaches a very different story. In truth, our viscera and that of furred animals are not probably so different, but what of *Taagli*?

**SHAUNA**

*Taagli*?

**JARETH**

The sublime spark of humanity.

**SHAUNA**

Umm... Sure. No offense, but science on my world is way more advanced than yours. I'm not saying there's no sublime sparks or anything. Apparently there is *something* more, what with Draenmer and its awesome prophecies. But whatever it is, it's not our physical bodies. Trust me, I took a class on that last year.

**JARETH**

I... I am not so certain that I comprehend what you are saying. But if you believe your spell will transport a person...

**SHAUNA**

Well I haven't tried it on a person yet. But I'm pretty sure it will work. I don't know, maybe I'll do it on a bird or a fish or something first. Actually, that's a good idea...

<beat>

**JARETH**

Well if you need any further assistance...

**SHAUNA**

Nah. Sometimes you just have to say a thing out loud. Thanks for being my sounding board.

**JARETH**

Uhm, certainly, Shae.

<awkward pause>

**SHAUNA**

So did you just come over to check on my spell or...

**JARETH**

Ah, well, I was of a mind to discuss last night.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah... Look, Jareth, I want to apologize. I... I took advantage of you. I should have stopped things when I saw where they were headed but... but I guess I just had to blow off some steam.

**JARETH**

Oh.

**SHAUNA**

Jareth, I'm leaving here in a few days. Forever. I can't just... you know. It's not fair to either of us. I'll always treasure our friendship but for both our sakes we can't let this get out of hand. I mean. Maybe if stuff worked out differently... but I have to go home Jareth. I'm needed there. I can't abandon my family. I can't abandon Mike and Katherine. I... I'm sorry.

**JARETH**

<disappointed> I understand. *Boxen wo fai* [I'm sorry] *for* wasting your time, Shae. I shall leave you to return to your work.

**SFX** walking away through undergrowth

**SHAUNA**

Hey Jareth... Jareth? You're not a waste of time Jareth! Aww hell... Way to go, Brown. <deep sigh> Work stupid magic...



## Scene Six—Acceptance

**SFX:** Gentle waves lapping against boat, sporadic swishing and plunking of fishing lines.

**KATHERINE**

You know, Zana... I never in a million years thought that I'd enjoy fishing.

**ZANA**

A million years is an abnormally long time to dislike a thing.

**KATHERINE**

Eh. I could do it.

**ZANA**

Yes, I suspect you could.

<beat>

**KATHERINE**

From anyone else, I suppose that would have been an insult.

**ZANA**

Consider it a compliment. I have met a great many people in my time, but never one with resolve to match yours.

**KATHERINE**

Not even Jareth?

**ZANA**

Jareth included, yes.

**KATHERINE**

Ouch.

**ZANA**

<laughs> You are so much like I was in my youth, Kath. Strong willed, but swift to judge. There was so much I did not know...

**KATHERINE**

But the decisions you make define who you are. And how can you possibly make those decisions without being at least a little judgemental? And—oh!—it's *so awful* to be a judgemental person, but is it better to just blindly accept everything? To just close your eyes and let the world walk all over you?

**ZANA**

I have found it best to accept everything, yes, but with eyes that are open, not closed. To deny yourself any of life's truths, even the difficult ones, is to deny yourself a full life.

**KATHERINE**

<sighs> I guess.

**ZANA**

Think of it in this way: seeking truth, like fishing, requires only stillness and patience.

**KATHERINE**

...Plus a barbed hook through the cheek?

**ZANA**

When necessary, yes.

<they laugh a little then there's a pause>

**ZANA**

So Kath. It appears that you will be returning home soon.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah...

**ZANA**

Are you prepared?

**KATHERINE**

Prepared?

**ZANA**

To leave. To resume your life in Boz-ton.

**KATHERINE**

I don't really know. On either count.

<beat>

I'm going to miss it here. <semi sarcastic> Even though I seem to be doing a good job of burning my bridges. This place has such... purity compared to my world.

**ZANA**

How so?

**KATHERINE**

Everything seems more innocent. Where I come from, nothing is new. There's no mystery to anything. Everyone's so cynical and jaded. Even me I guess. That's probably why I've gotten so upset over things like Mike's marketing plan and stuff. Part of me just doesn't want to see this place grow up and become like our country. Our world.

**ZANA**

And is this also why you are hesitant to return?

**KATHERINE**

Huh. Guess so. I... I don't know what I'm going to do. I can't tell anyone what happened. They'll think I'm crazy. And I don't know if I want to return to all the noise and traffic and everyone yelling at me to be someone else.

<beat>

I mean, what am I going to tell my parents? How can I even face them at this point? But it's not like I have anywhere else to go. Shauna's really my only friend and there's certainly not room in her house. And I suppose I could... nooo, I don't want to do that.

**ZANA**

What?

**KATHERINE**

David. My former boyfriend. Err... what's the word. *Dokiluna*.

<beat>

Have I told you about him?

**ZANA**

I do not believe so. The two of you had an unpleasant parting?

**KATHERINE**

And that's putting it mildly.

<pause>

I dropped everything to follow him to Boston. Of course, *then* I find out he's an awful person. But it was too late. I'd made my decision, and I wasn't going to go crawling back to my parents. They were so *smug* about the whole thing. So I enrolled last-minute at MSU, got a job at Antonio's, and here I am.

**KATHERINE (cont)**

I mean, he'd probably put me up for a while, but that's not really an option I want to explore.

<beat>

Whenever I think about what's going to happen next, I just freeze up. The path is dark and I have no idea where it leads...

**ZANA**

I have found that dark paths can lead to brighter ones. Prepare for tomorrow, yes, but do not destroy yourself for it.

**KATHERINE**

These past months have been wonderful, Zana. I've learned so much about myself. I almost don't want to leave.

**ZANA**

Accept all of it with open eyes, and in a way, you never will.

**Scene Seven — ...Like Villains**

**MIKE**

<relaxed> Now this is what it's all about. Chillin with my homies.

**FESMER**

<very relaxed> It is.

**ARKAHN**

<almost asleep> What is a homey?

**FESMER**

A friend.

**ARKAHN**

Then I agree.

**FESMER**

It is unfortunate that Jareth finds it so difficult to relax. He could use this.

**MIKE**

Yeah, even Katherine looks like she's relaxing out there on that boat. Can't say I would've imagined she'd like fishing.

**ARKAHN**

So Fesmer? What is between you and Kath?

**FESMER**

Apparently nothing. I was merely a bowman at night. What I am most curious about is Jareth and Shae. What do you think Meek?

**MIKE**

Dunno. We're probably leaving soon anyways.

**FESMER**

That is unfortunate.

**MIKE**

Yeah, I was just getting used to the place. But I need to get back home. It's where all my stuff is. Still though, this is two and a half weeks I'll never forget.

**FESMER**

I had almost forgotten how much time you missed...

<Awkward silence>

**MIKE**

Yeah. So... what do you guys think of Mister Ham?

**ARKAHN**

<meant as a compliment> I have come to dislike him slightly less this past week.

**FESMER**

I wonder who is Misterham's wife.

**MIKE**

Wife?

**FESMER**

Yes, from his name, I gather that he is married.

**MIKE**

Uhh... I might have missed this while I was out. What's the deal with names?

**FESMER**

The first part is given at birth. His parents named him "Mis."

**ARKAHN**

Upon entering society, you are granted the second part, usually by a mentor. So he was given "-ter."

**FESMER**

When you wed, the pair chooses a third part. So he and his wife added a "-ham" to their name.

**ARKAHN**

And if they had a child, they would add the name they give their firstborn to their own.

**MIKE**

But Mister Ham is two words.

**FESMER**

Really, what do they mean?

**MIKE**

Umm... *parna* [mister] the rear quarter of a pig. You know, this chunk.

**SFX:** Mike slaps his own flank

**MIKE**

Usually smoke it or cure it. We call it the ham.

**ARKAHN**

In truth?

**MIKE**

Yep.

**ARKHN**

That is quite funny.

**MIKE**

If we keep it, we could introduce a Misses Ham. That works, right?

**FESMER**

What does that mean?

**MIKE**

*Aerna* [lady] ham.

**FESMER**

That is perfect.

**SFX** approaching footsteps

**ARKAHN**

*Bui bui*, Jareth.

**MIKE**

Did you find Shauna.

**JARETH**

I did, she is practicing. She tells me she has nearly completed the elements of Shift.

**MIKE**  
Really?!

**JARETH**  
Indeed. It looks as if your time here may be drawing to a close.

**MIKE**  
Huh.

**FESMER**  
Would you care to join us Jareth?

**JARETH**  
No, I still have much work.

**ARKAHN**  
What are you doing?

**JARETH**  
Oh, you will see...

**FESMER**  
Come now Jareth, merely a hint?

**JARETH**  
<good natured> Absolutely not. I will converse with you more later. Enjoy your beach.

**SFX** walking away

**MIKE**  
Now what's that all about?

**FESMER + ARKAHN**  
<noncommittal sounds similar to "Meh...">

**MIKE**  
I think I'm gonna go find Shauna.

**SFX:** MIKE standing up, walking off

**MIKE**  
Later, guys.

<long beat>

**ARKAHN**  
Later... Meek...

**FESMER**  
Hmm?

## **Scene Eight—Mike and Shauna**

**SFX:** SHAUNA scuffing at dirt. MIKE walking through underbrush.

**MIKE**

Heya, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

<emotional, but hiding it> Hey.

**MIKE**

You're ruining some kid's sand-circle.

**SHAUNA**

It's my farsight array. I'm done with it.

**MIKE**

Ah.

**SHAUNA**

Can't leave it here for the mysterious forces of darkness to find.

**MIKE**

Ah. <beat> So who were you farspying on?

**SHAUNA**

Tyler.

**MIKE**

<long beat> Ah. <beat> Wow. What'd he say?

**SHAUNA**

The spell was farsight, not –speak. Doing both at once would have knocked me out. Plus I have to save my energy for Silver Night. I can't waste any Odi until the moment I cast Shift.

**MIKE**

Ah. <small beat> Okay, I give. I have been paying no attention, and I'm sorry. The Silver Odi whaa?

**SHAUNA**

Don't worry about it. You can go back to working on your tan.

**MIKE**

I was not tanning. I was chilling. Under the sun. There's a difference.

**SHAUNA**

Ya got me there. This New Life Odi surge peaks during Silver Night. Apparently, it's the only time in the year when both moons are full. Night basically turns to day, and crazy things can happen.

**MIKE**

Crazy things like three mild-mannered college students being transported suddenly to another world?

**SHAUNA**

And you said you weren't paying attention...

**MIKE**

But it wasn't a Silver whosit when Fesmer summoned us, was it?

**SHAUNA**

No, that was something else, and we're not going to be around long enough to find out what.

**MIKE**

Huh.

**SHAUNA**

And Fesmer didn't summon us. He accidentally messed up someone else's spell.

**MIKE**

Huh. Yeah, I do remember that other voice, some awful chanting... So who cast it?

**SHAUNA**

Like I said. Don't know, don't care. We're running.

<beat>

**MIKE**

Look, Shauna... maybe we were brought here for a reason, to do something important.

**SHAUNA**

Mike. Don't. Just trust me on this.

**MIKE**

But—

**SHAUNA**

Don't! Just... <begins crying, softly>

**MIKE**

Shauna...

**SHAUNA**

Do you have any idea what it was like? Seeing Tyler, but not being able to reach him? He was like a stranger. He didn't even know I was there. He looked so sad, and I couldn't talk to him.

**MIKE**

Hey, Shauna... I didn't mean to...

**SHAUNA**

It's okay. I've been a basketcase lately, I know that. I don't expect you or anyone to understand this. I think I'm going crazy, y'know? And if I stay here any longer, that's the best case scenario. We have to leave. *I* have to leave. If you want to stay—

**MIKE**

No. I want to be with you. And I know Katherine does, too. We're on your side, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Okay. <composes herself> Okay. God, it's good to hear that. <small laugh> Some days, you have no idea how alone I've felt...

**MIKE**

I have some idea. You saved my life, remember? I'm with you 'till the bitter end, and that's a promise. <beat> Though I would prefer it if the end was not so bitter. Bland would be okay.

**SHAUNA**

Heh.

**MIKE**

What do you say we start heading back? I smell hot pig cuisine in the air.



**SFX:** Walking

**SHAUNA**

<singing> “...filled with flavor, lots of flavor...”

**MIKE**

That’s right. <small beat> So, Shauna. Our hero. What exactly is the plan for getting back to Boston?

**SHAUNA**

Well we just go to the clearing where we first crashed in, wait for the apex of Silver Night, and then I cast the spell.

**MIKE**

And you’re ready? You worked out all the nuts and bolts?

**SHAUNA**

<>false bravado> Absolutely. Every last one. Even the spares.

**MIKE**

Alright. So how long until the apex?

**SHAUNA**

Well, today’s New Hope. It happens in the wee morning hours of New Life day. So a little more than three days, I guess.

**MIKE**

Wow. So soon.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**MIKE**

On the plus side, you won’t have to deal with Arkahn’s parents anymore.

**SHAUNA**

Y’know, lately they’ve been pretty nice. No weird looks or anything. They don’t seem to mind having me around.

**MIKE**

Huh. Arkahn probably said something to them.

**SHAUNA**

Probably. She’s been a great friend.

**MIKE**

Yeah.

**SHAUNA**

Soo... you and Ark—

**MIKE**

Tell me more about Boston, why don’tcha? What’s changed? I don’t suppose you happened to see how the MSU football team was doing?

**SHAUNA**

Y’know, it’s funny you should mention that.

**MIKE**

Yeah?

**SHAUNA**

Without you, they've lost every single game. They're even talking about disbanding. I saw a newspaper, and the headline read, "MSU Puritans Pray for 3<sup>rd</sup> String Archer's Return."

**MIKE**

Y'know, I'm not at all surprised...

<SHAUNA laughs>

**Scene Nine — Zana is a Wino**

**SFX** Night outdoor sounds, camp fire

**JARETH**

Mhm. My compliments, Shi-Schwa.

**MIKE**

Yeah. That was delicious Zana!

**FESMER**

Truly a wonderful dinner.

**ZANA**

Thank Kath. She caught the sovereign's portion of the *gwap* [fish].

**KATHERINE**

I never knew I was good at fishing. I'll have to do it more often.

**SHAUNA**

Well this is great. I haven't had a meal around a campfire since I was a girl scout.

**KATHERINE**

You were a girl scout?

**SHAUNA**

Only for a little while. I didn't have time for it.

**ARKAHN**

What is a girl scout?

**SHAUNA**

It's an organization where girls learn to go camping and stuff like that. But mostly we just did macramé.

**MIKE**

I was a Boy Scout for a while. Would have stayed in it too, but football took up too much time.

**JARETH**

I empathize. I would have stayed on the Brikka team as a student, but there were too many practices. I did not have enough time for study.

**MIKE**

Yeah I probably could have done more of that too...

**ZANA**

Would any of you care for more *gwap*?

**ALL (except Zana)**

No I'm full blah blah blah etc.

**ZANA**

Then it is time for dessert. Arkahn, would you retrieve those cups? The small clay ones?

**ARKAHN**

"No problem."

**MIKE**

That's it! High five!

**SFX** high five

**SHAUNA**

Oh man.

<beat>

**ARKAHN**

These ones?

**ZANA**

Pass them around *senjen*.

**KATHERINE**

So what's all this?

**ZANA**

This jar is a rare *sorena* [liqueur] from the Chall, far to the South by the Sea of Green Waters. The custom is to share it before a parting, to celebrate and preserve forever the bonds of eternal friendship.

**KATHERINE**

Really?

**ZANA**

No, I invented the last part. It seemed appropriate. In truth it just gets you drunk.

**LAUGHTER**

**ZANA**

In all seriousness though, I have been saving this for just an occasion as this one. The actual custom is to pour for the person

on your left and to never allow their cup to empty. Caution however, it is powerful. Kath?

**KATHERINE**

Oh... Well just this once, why not. *Cha grendi*.

**ZANA**

Now you pour for Jareth.

**MIKE**

So who knows some good drinking games?

**JARETH**

I know several. Here you are Fesmer.

**MIKE**

Really?

**JARETH**

You forget that I was a student not unlike yourself. Alas they all involve playing cards or *tixiren* or the like.  
[Tixiren are dice. Pronounced TICKS-ee-ren.]

**MIKE**

Oh man, you're going to have to teach me some Laundian drinking games. Oh, thanks Shauna. Yeah, my favorite's got to be beer pong. Don't ask me to explain it. I wouldn't know where to start. Arkahn?

**ARKAHN**

*Cha grendi*, Meek.

<beat>

**ZANA**

Is everyone served? Then *yey endura* [a toast], to our friends Meek, Shae, and Kath. Though they leave us soon, they shall remain with us always. *Mazen-do!* [Cheers!]

**ALL (with MSK being a little slower on the uptake)**

*Mazen-do!*

**SFX** clinking cups

<beat>

**KATHERINE**

<Cough> Wow that's strong.

**SHAUNA**

This is delicious! It tastes like... I don't know, but it's good.

**JARETH**

Extraordinary Zana.

**ZANA**

There is plenty for all. So keep the jug moving!

**MIKE**

Well if no one has a game, then here's one. Whoever finishes first has to tell a story. When they are done, whoever has an empty cup has to go.

**FESMER**

What kind of story?

**MIKE**

Anything. It could just be something funny that happened to you the other day.

**FESMER**

I have just the thing and I believe I am the first to finish.

**JARETH**

That means more for you.

<begin fading out:>

**FESMER**

Indeed! So the other day, I was parading around town as Misterham. Zana had instructed me to remain in front of the store, but it occurred to me that more people were in the center of town, so...

**Scene Ten — Zana’s Story**

**MIKE**

...and I looked around, and I was alone. But I could still hear that eerie voice, whispering like dry bones...

**FESMER**

<rapt> What did it say?

**MIKE**

It said... <creepy voice> “Fesmer is a ten year old girl.”

**FESMER**

It did not!

**ALL (except Fesmer)**

Laughter

**FESMER**

That is not fair, I thought it had to be a true story.

**MIKE**

Hey, how do you know it’s not?

**FESMER**

Please do suck it.

**SHAUNA**

Mike, stop being mean to Fesmer. And Fesmer, my cup is almost empty. Fill ‘er up.

**SFX:** liquid pouring

**MIKE**

So that’s my story. Whose turn is it now?

**KATHERINE**

Looks like it’s Zana’s turn.

**ARKAHN**

Yes Shi-Schwa. Tell us a story.

**ZANA**

But you have heard so many of them before.

**FESMER**

Yes, but they have not.

**ZANA**

Ah, I know one I have not told you. The Tale of the Hand of Fire. I suppose I will need to include some geography for our Boz-ton friends, so bear with me.

<beat>

This story begins with an ancient legend, the Madness of Dorro. This was before the Origin, when the use of Odi rested in the hands of precious few and was not well understood, long before The Seven gave us University and active items. As a powerful Natural Mage, Dorro must have seemed greater than human to the people he ruled. In a land far to the west, beyond the Mountains That Scrape the Stars, he formed a great army and swept the land, burning field and forest, town and city. In his path, he left naught but fine ash. In his madness, he had planted a seed that grew into the Wasting Plains, an endless expanse that is home to nothing but twisted trees covered in deadly thorns and the few tiny creatures able to survive off their poison fruit.

<beat>

## ZANA (CONT)

The peoples he had ruined rose up against him and defeated him. He was condemned to die in a most horrible way. As he burned and blighted their lands, so too would he burn, only for all time. They created a magical fire that would burn until the end of the world and threw him in. Once he had caught alight, they pulled his still living body from the fire and chopped him to pieces and yet he did not die. The flaming pieces of Dorro were carried to the corners of the earth. Legend says they burn still, but their locations are lost to time.

## MIKE

Cool...

## ZANA

Now the legend of Dorro is rarely remembered and the truth of this eternal fire lost. For a long time, it was merely a story I read once as a child. When I was in the Seekers, I stumbled upon the diary of an explorer who had ventured west across the Wasting Plains. In it, he made a passing reference to seeing distant fires at night. But they were no mere wildfires. They did not waver nor spread. Fearing they were illusions, he stayed course, eventually reaching an ancient city of ruins before being forced to return to the east.

<beat>

I was reminded of the man's story years later, when Targo... *Targonane* and I discovered a secret library in the ruins of old Aerendi. Amongst the tomes, I happened upon a slim, worn book of notes and crude maps. I noticed something that reminded me of that explorer's illusionary fires. Upon deciphering the notes, I realized that this map led to an artifact called the Hand of Fire, which the previous owner of the notebook believed to be a hand of Dorro, locked in its eternal punishment.

## ZANA (CONT)

Targonane and I both agreed that, whatever the truth of it was, this Hand of Fire was worth investigating. We returned to Laundi and searched the libraries of both University and Draenmer. Information was conflicting. I was certain that it was merely a metaphor for a hidden cache of knowledge. Targonane suspected it was a magical device, not unlike a hearth. When we were confident that there was likely truth in this map and the stories we were found, we gathered supplies and set off on a journey.

<beat>

We journeyed west on rivers and overland for days until we reached the Mountains that Scrape the Stars. We arrived at a mining town that was reputed to be near a pass through the Mountains. We traded for supplies and a team of *taerent* [burros, pronounced "TAE-er-ent"] to transport all the water and food we would need since there is none to be had on the plains.

<beat>

The journey through the pass, which barely deserved to be called such, was difficult, but largely without event.

<beat>

After two days of brutal rocks and treacherous paths, we descended to the gritty, blasted plains. Discerning our course by the moons and stars, we began our journey. It was most difficult. The heat in the day was crippling and in the nights there was a sharp chill. And it was so dry... Never have I known thirst such as that. We lost some of our *taerent* to poisonous insects and serpent, but fortunately the rest were hearty creatures and were able to weather the fierce environment better than us.

<beat>

At night we remained vigilant for the phantom fires. Finally we were rewarded with the sight of one on the horizon. For three days we followed the light, finally coming to its source.

<beat>

**ZANA (CONT)**

There, in the midst of a desolate wasteland untracked by man, sat a squat, crude, stone tower. It was of the same pale, ashen appearance as the land around it and produced a powerful heat that was dizzying in the day. We retreated some distance to an outcropping of rocks, likely once source for the tower's blocks, and waited for the night.

<beat>

When darkness fell, we found the source of the light we had seen. Through gaps in the stones: radiated light, as if from a fire. As the air grew colder my curiosity overpowered my reservations. I donned my heavy wool coat that I had obtained for crossing the mountains, reasoning correctly that it would shield me from the extreme heat as it had the cold.

<beat>

Entering the tower through its single, low archway was akin to entering a raging furnace. But I entered all the same. The interior was an open, empty space, maybe four paces across. The only feature was a stone dais rising in the center. A dais on which burned a steady, brilliant flame. I approached as close as I was able; the heat was dizzying and painful. There I saw, amidst the raging flames, a human hand, perfectly intact save for a spike driven through the palm and into the dais. And then I recoiled in terror, for I swear to ainorem that is was *moving*. I was overcome with a sensation of dread and suffering greater than even the heat. It was Dorro's pain that I felt, trapped in the world of the living, knowing only eternal agony...

<pause>

**FESMER**

What happened next?

**ZANA**

Targonane and I did what we could to understand what we had discovered, but we had little time to waste. Day came soon and it was too hot to approach the tower, even with Targonane's magics, and we did not have enough water to stay another night. We were forced to abandon our find. We shared our discovery with University, but those groups that set out to find the Hand returned with nothing or not at all. Targonane and I never returned to find it. I could not face that pain again as I had no solace to offer. So it is likely still there, protecting its ancient secrets to this day.

<pause>

**MIKE**

Wow...

**KATHERINE**

Wait... So this was *true*?

**ZANA**

As the stars and the stones.

**KATHERINE**

I thought you had simply traveled. I did not realize...

**ZANA**

This old lady has many surprises.

**FESMER**

A living hand?

**ZANA**

The world is broader and stranger than you can know.



**ARKAHN**

It seems to be my turn for a tale now, but there is no way by which I can surpass that.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, it certainly blows my story out of the water...

**MIKE**

And we're out of booze. Guess that's a good stopping point

**JARETH**

Ah, wait! But I still have something!

**FESMER**

You already told the story. The serpents loosed in the dormitories.

**JARETH**

Not another story. Something else.

**ARKAHN**

Is this the great secret that has kept you occupied all day?

**JARETH**

Precisely. Though I am uncertain it can rival Zana's story, it is something I wanted to do to celebrate our new friends. To show my appreciation for them. Even you Meek. It is unfortunate that we were unable to become friends, but...

**MIKE**

Don't worry about it.

**JARETH**

If you would all look out over the lake *senjen*. <ahem> BEGIN!

**SFX** Single firework

**MIKE**

Woah! I didn't know you had fireworks here.

**SFX** Several fireworks

**ALL**

Ooooh...

**SHAUNA**

Jareth, they're beautiful.

**SFX** Fireworks continuing from here on.

**FESMER**

Do you have any of the ones that go—

**SFX** loud boom

**FESMER**

Ah, that is the one.

**JARETH**

You have been truly unique friends. Frustrating, confusing, certainly. But it is difficult to imagine going back to a life without you. You will be missed...

<beat>

Now, let us dispense with words, and watch. The spectacle is just beginning.

<Fade out as fireworks continue>