

SECOND SHIFT

Episode #12: The Last Home You Will Ever Know, Part I: Flight (v1.5)

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Scene One—Ill Dreams

MUSIC CUE: Off the theme song's ending high note, transition into a dreamy musical sequence that is at once sad and foreboding. By the end, it becomes outright tense and frightening.

SFX: Very slight echoing on the voices. They fade in and out.

MIKE

It's gonna be a grand adventure! <he makes a trumpet sound>

SFX: Fade in Oren chanting from Ep 1.

KATHERINE

Ha ha, stop it, guys. You're creeping me out.

SFX: Oren chanting spikes and ends abruptly, with an echo.

FESMER

Are you nai-nai [okay]? Can you understand me now?

JARETH

Legionnaires! Run!

ARKAHN

We must keep moving.

SFX: Mike crashing into the Legionnaire from Ep1

FESMER

Take off his faceplate... Caileb?

MIKE

I bet they don't even miss you.

JARETH

Draenpeño—the Seekers of Truth.

ZANA

One may ask a question and receive the absolute truthful answer.

JARETH

No, Shauna. You must never surrender yourself to a terrible fate.

You must fight until you cannot.

KATHERINE

You know you're not dreaming.

ARKAHN

You are attuned. Which means that you have great potential. Greater than Fesmer's... or my own.

DRAENMER VOICES

You will become the doorway for Michael and Katherine to return to your world. But you cannot follow them. This is the last home you will ever know.

ARKAHN

Master the use of Odi? Most do not in their whole lives.

KATHERINE

Maybe there is some reason we wound up here. Something we're supposed to do.

FESMER

Imagine how a thing can be done and have enough willpower to cause Odi to make it happen.

NOTE: Sc1.Jarethspot here. This replaces Arkahn's line ("But that is impossible!")

JARETH

Absolutely not!!

SFX: Bells tolling from Ep 4. Undying moans.

KATHERINE

Mike! Mike! He...

ZANA

There is nothing more we can do for him.

KATHERINE

<breaking into tears> He's alive. He's alive.

JARETH

We shall begin our relationship anew as teacher and student.

KATHERINE

He's been out for six weeks.

ZANA

Meek may not desire to wake up.

KATHERINE

No, Shauna. I can't lose you too.SFX: Touch of Minds

MIKE

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

ARKAHN

If anyone desires to find you, you have made it easier for them...

JARETH

You look as if you have not slept.

ARKAHN

Tell me everything...

HARPY

<a whisper> Shauna Brown...

ZANA

What do you believe?

MIKE

Well she called me a—

KATHERINE

But he tried to—

HARPY

Shauna Brown...

ZANA

Run, Shae. If the truth behind your dreams come to pass, there is nothing I can do. Nothing anyone can do.

HARPY

<louder> Shauna Brown...

JARETH

Boxen wo fai for wasting your time, Shae.

HARPY

<still louder; no echo on the voice> Shauna Brown...

MIKE

I'm with you 'till the bitter end, and that's a promise.

SFX: Echoey dream-voices cease. We are back in the waking world.

HARPY

Shauna Broooown. <slight chuckle>

MUSIC CUE: With this, the music spikes and ends in a way that should be disconcerting.

HARPY

Come on foolish girl. It is time to face the future.

SHAUNA

Ahhh!

SFX: Shauna throwing covers off, rolling off the bed. The Harpy rustles its feathers and clicks its beak.

HARPY

“Ahhh!” <laughs> “Ahhh!”

SHAUNA

<a whisper> Oh my God... Oh my God... you're real.

HARPY

You have the most peculiar dreams, Shauna.

SHAUNA

Please just leave me alone... please...

HARPY

Can you say for certain that you are not dreaming now? That we are not some ill dream borne into this world by your sleepless fears?

SHAUNA

You can't be real.

HARPY

We are.

SHAUNA

<struggling to swallow her fear> Leave. Now.

HARPY

Ask nicely.

SHAUNA

Leave now or I will roast you. You know that I can.

HARPY

Ahh. So you do have strength. Lord Oren will be most pleased.

SHAUNA

Work Stupid—

HARPY

<laughs loudly, which stops Shauna> And what of your plans for Silver Night? You would surrender your fragile Shift to your fears? Perhaps our hopes are misplaced.

SHAUNA

<defeated> How do you know about that?

HARPY

We know all, Shauna, and are patient. We have waited.

SHAUNA

For what?

HARPY

You. All this has been prelude. A crucible, as you have said, to prepare you for what comes next. You will be magnificent.

SHAUNA

Arkahn!

HARPY

Always you call for her. <laughs> “Arkahn! Arkahn!” You cannot depend on them. You have learned this.

SHAUNA

Arkahn! Help!

HARPY

“Never surrender yourself to a terrible fate. You must fight until you cannot.” <laughs> But you prefer to flee.

SHAUNA

Leave me alone!

HARPY

Flight is the path of the weak, Shauna. You squander your strength.

ARKAHN

<muffled> Shae? Are you ra-na?

HARPY

See where your flight takes you Shauna Brown. But remember, it was the path you chose. There is a better way...

SFX: Harpy takes flight

SFX: Door opening.

ARKAHN

Shae, what—

SHAUNA

Arkahn, run!

ARKAHN

What—

SHAUNA

Run!!

SFX: Shauna and Arkahn running.

SFX: Door slamming.

SHAUNA
Can we bolt it from the outside?

ARKAHN
No. Why—?

SHAUNA
Sh!

<tense beat; SHAUNA and ARKAHN breathing>

SHAUNA
I don't hear anything. Maybe it left.

ARKAHN
What was it?

SHAUNA
It's *real* Arkahn. It found me.

ARKAHN
What is real?

SHAUNA
We have to go. I'll tell you on the way.

ARKAHN
Go? But—

SHAUNA
Now. We're not safe here.

ARKAHN
<thinking quickly> *Nai-nai*. Grant me a moment to gather some things and warn my parents.

SHAUNA
Let's go now.

ARKAHN
I will be but a moment. Be brave, Shae.

SFX: Arkahn running down the hall.

SHAUNA
<breathing heavily, scared> It's going to be okay, it's going to be okay...

SFX: Farspeak-effect on Harpy's voice:

HARPY
<whispered> There is a better way...

Scene Two—Rallying the troops

SFX: Night sounds. Shauna pounding on door.

SHAUNA
Katherine! Zana! Wake up! Do you see it anywhere, Arkahn?

ARKAHN
No, Shae. But there is something...

SHAUNA
Yeah. I can sense it, too.

SFX: Pounding on door again.

SHAUNA
Katherine! Wake up!

SFX: Door opens.

ZANA
Shae, Arkahn. What—?

SHAUNA
No time, Zana. Ward the door behind us.

SFX: They enter Zana's. Door shuts.

ZANA
Kay-na!

SFX: Door ward activates.

SHAUNA
<calling> Katherine!

ZANA
What is the trouble?

SFX: Katherine running downstairs.

ARKAHN
It would seem that something is pursuing Shae.

SHAUNA
The Winged Herald of Oren.

KATHERINE
What??

SHAUNA
We're leaving now. Pack your stuff. And bring your bow.

KATHERINE
But—

SHAUNA
Do it!

KATHERINE
Okay, just give me a second...

SFX: Running back upstairs

SHAUNA
I'm going to call Mike.

SFX: Magi-phone activating

ZANA

The Winged Herald is truly pursuing her?

ARKAHN

I do not know. It is possible that something is, but I am uncertain precisely what—

SHAUNA

Body of a big black bird, withered face of an old woman. Sounds like the Winged Herald to me. Least now I know I'm not completely crazy...

SFX: Farspeak effects on Fesmer and Mike's voices.

FESMER

<sleepy> [Hello?]

SHAUNA

Fesmer, you and Mike need to come to Zana's now.

FESMER

We are late for work?

SHAUNA

No. Just—

FESMER

It is still night.

SHAUNA

Yes. I need you two—

FESMER

Wait. Is... something wrong, Shae?

SHAUNA

YES. Get over here now.

FESMER

Certainly, Shae. I will see you tomorrow.

SFX: Magiphone hung up.

SHAUNA

He... hung up on me! Unbelievable...

SFX: Shauna re-activates magiphone

<pause>

MIKE

<half asleep> Antonio's Pizza and Subs, try our new pig pies—

SHAUNA

Mike!

MIKE

...Shauna?

SHAUNA

Wake Fesmer up and get over here now!

MIKE

What's wrong?

SHAUNA
Just trust me, okay?

MIKE
Okay. We're there.

SHAUNA
And bring...

SFX: Magiphone deactivates.

SHAUNA
...weapons.

ARKAHN
The remaining [spell bombs] are all in Zana's cellar, Shae. We will have them ready when Meek and Fesmer arrive.

ZANA
<shocked> Some of those hideous things are still in my cellar?

SHAUNA
And thank the good lord for that. Grab the spell bombs and whatever else might be useful, Arkahn. Zana, I need to call Jareth at University.

ZANA
Allow me.

SFX: Magiphone sounds. KATHERINE running back downstairs.

KATHERINE
Okay, I'm ready. What is going—

SHAUNA
Katherine, help Arkahn get weapons from the basement.

KATHERINE
Um, I'd rather—

SHAUNA
Do it!

SFX: Magiphone being picked up from other end.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT
<groggy> [Good evening?]

SHAUNA
Jareth?

UNIVERSITY STUDENT
This is the [switchboard] for University House [name of one of the original Seven]. How may I direct your enquiry?

SHAUNA
Great. I'm trying to get a hold of Jareth?

UNIVERSITY STUDENT
...You wish to hold Jareth?

SHAUNA
In touch?

UNIVERSITY STUDENT
Uhm...

SHAUNA

I wish to speak with him!

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Ah. Did he place an order for pig pie?

SHAUNA

What? No!

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Oh, because I see that you are calling from—

SHAUNA

Put Jareth on now!

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

A moment.

SFX: Hold music. Could be the music from the dance, but flattened and tinny.

SHAUNA

<mostly to self> Do *not* have time for this...

ZANA

Shae, how may I assist you?

SHAUNA

Um. Food would be good. Spare cloaks. We're going to be outside until Silver Night's apex.

ZANA

But that is not for another day.

SHAUNA

I know, but we can't risk staying here.

SFX: Hold music ceases.

SHAUNA

Jareth?

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Apologies. Jareth does not seem to be in his room.

SHAUNA

Where else would he be? Doesn't he have to get permission to leave?

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Oh! Yes, you are correct. That was his former room. Forgive me, I had forgotten that he recently moved to faculty housing. You will want to call University House [name of other original Seven member – the leader].

SHAUNA

I don't know how. Can't you just connect me?

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Ah, yes! Forgive my addled mind. Yesterday's New Calm was not so calm for my house, if you understand what I intend—

SHAUNA

I don't care. Connect me *now*.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Well. Just see if I place an order at Zana's again...

SFX: Click and hold music again.

SHAUNA

This is taking way too long.

SFX: Pounding on front door.

ZANA

Ah, Meek and Fesmer. *Kay-na!*

SFX: Door opening.

MIKE

<winded> We're here, Shauna.

SHAUNA

You didn't bring any weapons!

MIKE

Were... we supposed to?

SHAUNA

Forget about it. Just help Katherine and Arkahn find some downstairs.

MIKE

Oh. 'Cause we could just run back and—

SFX: Magiphone click, Farspeak effect on Jareth's voice

SHAUNA

<to Mike> Shh!

JARETH

[Hello], this is Jareth, Lesser Instructor of Odi Studies, Rank—

SHAUNA

Jareth.

JARETH

Shae. This is quite unexpect—

SHAUNA

No time. I need you to meet us at Zana's. We're leaving now.

JARETH

Now? But I thought you would wait until tomorrow before—

SHAUNA

Plan changed. If we don't leave now we might not ever.

JARETH

Nai-nai. Leave immediately. I will find you at the clearing.

SHAUNA

Okay. Be careful, Jareth.

JARETH

Always, Shae.

SFX: Magiphone deactivates.

MIKE

As I was *saying*, we could just run back and—

SFX: this next bit is talked over by everyone else and takes place in the background:

SFX: Katherine and Arkahn coming up the cellar stairs.

ARKAHN

It is not as you believe, Kath. Truly, I have nothing—

KATH

Arkahn, how can expect me to believe a word out of your mouth, when—

SHAUNA

No. Help Zana prepare food and supplies.

ZANA

In fact, I have finished. Merely assist me in packing them, *senjen*.

SHAUNA

Great. Katherine, Arkahn. What'd you find?

ARKAHN

Three [spell bombs], five wooden swords, and a small wooden shield.

SHAUNA

You're kidding me.

FESMER

Only three [spell bombs]?

MIKE

Eeeyeah. Fine with me. Fewer spell bombs, the better.

SHAUNA

This is going to have to do. We have Katherine's bow, Fesmer's magic, and you two can use the sword... sticks.

KATHERINE

We also have your magic. That's no small thing.

SHAUNA

I can't use it until I cast Shift. And the Herald knows that. <deep breath> Okay. Everyone ready?

M+K+A+F

<uncertain "yeah," "sure," "I suppose," etc>

ZANA

Shae, regarding my advice to you three days past...

SHAUNA

About how I should run?

ZANA

Yes. I did not imagine it would be so... literal. But I know that you will overcome this.

SHAUNA

I don't know...

ZANA

I do. You must acknowledge your strength lest you squander it.

SHAUNA

What did you say?

ZANA

You *are* strong Shae. And you must remember that. For yourself and for Meek and Kath.

SHAUNA

I'll try.

ZANA

When you came here, we gave you a new name. One that would serve not only to conceal your true names, but to symbolize your new life here. Shae means "warrior." At the time, it seemed the most appropriate choice and now I see that it was. But it was a name of youth...

SHAUNA

Zana, I'm sorry, but I really have to—

ZANA

I will never again see you. Grant us this one moment. Had you been born here, your mentor would gift you with a second syllable. It is a form of blessing. Of certainty in one's self, and thus, it is strengthening.

SHAUNA

Uh-huh.

ZANA

As I have come to know the three of you and your customs better, the more I find our worlds are not so different. I think it best that, for your remaining time here, you shall be known as Shaena.

SHAUNA

<touched> [Thank you], Zana.

ZANA

Go now. *Lay ken draen wair cha*, Shaena.

SHAUNA

Lay ken draen wair cha, jola mteneren, Draenpeño. <beat> All right guys, let's pack up.

SFX: Shauna and Mike fade under Katherine and Zana:

SHAUNA

Mike, are you able to take point?

MIKE

"Able"? Psh. Yeah I'm able. Bring the pain...

KATHERINE

Zana...

ZANA

Kath, voluna.

KATHERINE

Can I... give you a hug?

ZANA

Of course, Kath.

SFX: hot huggin' action

KATHERINE

Thank you so much for everything. I'm really going to miss you, Zana. I... I'm sorry, I'm not good at goodbyes.

ZANA

This is not goodbye, Kath. Remember your time here. Nurture what you have learned. And do not be too hard. That path leads to a dark, lonely place. It is not weakness to open your heart to others.

KATHERINE

I'll try.

MIKE

Zana.

ZANA

Meek.

MIKE

Um. Sorry for breaking lots of stuff?

ZANA

It is ra-nai, Meek. Things do break, but that which replaces them is often stronger.

MIKE

Okay... Cool. Hey, I hope Mister Ham works out for you. 'Cause otherwise, um...

ZANA

I will be forced to follow you to Bozton and extort the remaining debt from you.

MIKE

<surprised> Ha! Wow. Good one.

ZANA

Why is that funny?

MIKE

Oh. Uhh...

SHAUNA

Alright. Everyone ready?

ARKAHN

Always.

FESMER

Sho' nuff.

KATHERINE

Yeah.

<beat>

MIKE

<to Zana> You *were* joking, right? <beat> Um. What? Why are you all looking at me?

<all laugh>

ZANA

Ainorem guide you all to the truths you seek.

Scene Three—Flight

SFX: Night sounds, five people walking quietly through grass.

FESMER

Tell me again, Shaena, so I can commit every detail to memory. You said that the feathers were black. Were they purely black, or perhaps also highlighted with grey or—

SHAUNA

Oh, now you're interested...

FESMER

I was interested before! When you first told me of your ill dreams, I said—

SHAUNA

You gave me some conspiracy theories and offered to show me pamphlets. You weren't so interested in specifics. No one was.

FESMER

Apologies. I am now.

SHAUNA

Now that we know it's real and not just Shauna being sleep-deprived and crazy, you mean.

ARKAHN

Actually...

SHAUNA

What, Arkahn?

ARKAHN

We cannot say for certain that it is real.

SFX: Shauna stops walking abruptly.

SHAUNA

What?

SFX: Others stop walking also.

ARKAHN

It is not that I do not believe you, Shae... Shaena...

SHAUNA

What the hell are you talking about? You saw it too.

ARKAHN

In truth, I do not know that I saw anything.

SHAUNA

Big, smelly black vulture with an old woman's face? Perched on my bed? Crazy evil bird-woman laughter? Ring any bells?

FESMER

Did it also have a bird's beak? In place of a woman's mouth?

ARKAHN

<to Shauna> It was very dark. I heard a sound, but I do not know what it was.

SHAUNA

You felt something, at least! Right?

ARKAHN

The mind can lie to you, Shaena. Especially when it dances on the edge of sleep. I am not saying there is no threat, but—

SHAUNA

Fine. Whatever.

SFX: Shauna resumes walking. Others follow suit shortly after.

MIKE

Wonder what that was all about.

KATHERINE

Something happened. Then we stopped. Now we're moving.

MIKE

Har har. Seriously, looked like Shauna was yelling at Arkahn...?

KATHERINE

Yep.

MIKE

Guess she *is* pretty stressed out...

KATHERINE

Arkahn does have that effect on people.

MIKE

Huh?

KATHERINE

Oh, sorry. Didn't mean to badmouth your girlfriend.

MIKE

She's not my girlfriend. Well... no. She's not. And what's with the bitter act?

KATHERINE

What bitter act?

MIKE

Since the dance. You've been bitter. Well, more bitter than usual.

KATHERINE

<beat> I'm just looking forward to getting home, that's all.

MIKE

You are?

KATHERINE

<beat> No. Not really. You?

MIKE

<beat> No. Not so much.

<they walk in silence for a moment>

MIKE

Gotta say. This Silver Night thing? With the two moons waxing full, bathing all in its magical glow? Not so impressed.

KATHERINE

Silver Night is tomorrow night, Mike.

MIKE

What? So we're going early? But I could be sleeping—

KATHERINE

Mike, have faith in Shauna.

SHAUNA

<having overheard her name> What was that Katherine?

KATHERINE

Nothing important.

MIKE

Shauna, are you okay? I mean, you know, considering.

SHAUNA

Well, now that we're moving, I'm doing better.

NOTE: Sc3.Mikehome replaces the following line

MIKE

So... we're really going home?

SHAUNA

I certainly hope so. Now keep it down.

Scene Four--The Time for Food

AMBIENT: Night sounds, forest sounds, babbling brook in the far distance.

MIKE
Hey, Fesmer, isn't this where we...

FESMER
Indeed.

KATHERINE
Do I want to know?

MIKE
The last time I was here, Fesmer and I were running from guys on hoverbikes.

FESMER
Waa-loren!

SHAUNA
Well, at least we know we're going the right direction.

FESMER
Would any of you care for some food?

KATHERINE
Come on, I don't think it's the right time for that.

MIKE
Actually, I could eat. What do we have?

FESMER
You will never guess.

MIKE
<flat> Pig pies?

FESMER
What is this I detect? Do you... *tire* of this exceptional cuisine?

MIKE, SHAUNA & KATHERINE
Yes.

FESMER
Well, I guarantee you will miss them when you are gone. Have some Shae, you need to eat to support your strength.

SHUANA
Oh my god what is it with everybody and that word tonight?

FESMER
Apologies. Was that a no, then?

SHAUNA
Actually, now that I'm coming off my adrenaline rush, I'm starving.
Thank you.

<beat>
You know, I wish we were meeting Jareth now instead of at the clearing.

ARKAHN
Why?

SHAUNA

I'd just... feel safer.

ARKAHN

But you are perfectly safe with us.

SHAUNA

Right. After all, what do I have to be afraid of, besides bad dreams?

ARKAHN

I did not intend that, Shaena. Your sleep has been scarce, at best, and it is not unknown to see ill dreams in waking hours when one is so exhausted, as you must surely be.

SHAUNA

Oh hey, remember when we were *attacked by zombies*? Or did I dream that, too?

ARKAHN

Undying are an unfortunate part of life here in Laundi. But the Winged Herald... it is a children's tale.

FESMER

And what of Oren?

ARKAHN

Lord Oren would have to be over eight-hundred years old, Fesmer.

FESMER

Yes, but what of the Legion of Oren?

ARKAHN

Prolau wo Terentenodi was created shortly after Oren's time. Do you also believe that the founders of University live today? Perhaps they hold seminars on immortality.

FESMER

Perhaps they do.

ARKAHN

You are a dear friend, Fesmer, but you are ill-informed. You know very little of the world.

FESMER

And you do, Arkahn? What of Zana's stories? The living hand of Dorro?

ARKAHN

Oh, Fesmer, *senjen*. Do not cause me to laugh. You cannot honestly believe-- <improv background argument>

<ARKAHN and FESMER fade under:>

KATHERINE

Hey, Shauna?

SHAUNA

That's my name. I guess.

KATHERINE

Can we talk?

SHAUNA

Sure.

KATHERINE
Alone?

SHAUNA
Um. Okay.

SFX: SHAUNA and KATHERINE stand up.

MIKE
We're leaving now?

SHAUNA
No. Um, Katherine just wants to show me something.

ARKAHN
I will come with you.

KATHERINE
No need. I have my bow. And I don't miss.

ARKAHN
But--

SHAUNA
Arkahn. It's perfectly safe. Nothing to fear, right?

ARKAHN
...Correct.

SHAUNA
Great. See you guys in a bit.

SFX: they walk away.

MIKE
Girl talk. Pshaw.

ARKAHN
Hmm.

MIKE
What's wrong?

ARKAHN
<caught off-guard> Hmm?

MIKE
Something's bothering you.

ARKAHN
Well, it has been a... bothersome evening for all, Meek.

MIKE
Yeah, but--

ARKAHN
I appreciate your concern Meek, but in truth, there is no cause for it.

MIKE
<laughs a little> Okay.

ARKAHN
What?

MIKE
Hmm?

ARKAHN
Why did you laugh?

MIKE
I laughed?

FESMER
You did, a little.

MIKE
Hm. I am known for that. Bit of a laughaholic, sometimes. I get it from my father's side of the family. No, wait—

ARKAHN
You were laughing at me.

MIKE
I can quit whenever I want.

ARKAHN
I do not have the time for this.

MIKE
Why, got somewhere else to be?

ARKAHN
<quickly> No.

MIKE
Maybe you can fool everyone else with the tough girl act, but I can see right through you.

ARKAHN
...You can?

MIKE
Yep. I know all your dirty little secrets.

ARKAHN
<tense> Oh?

MIKE
Mhm-hmm. <weird little beat> You're afraid of losing us.

ARKAHN
<relieved> Ah.

MIKE
We've turned everything upside down, and now we're leaving.

ARKAHN
It is true.

MIKE
And look, this is a little awkward with Fesmer sitting right here...

FESMER
Ah, simply pretend I am not. It should not prove difficult.

MIKE
...but, um, if there had been more time, y'know, I kinda wish that...
um...

ARKAHN
...Yes?

MIKE

<uncomfortable laugh> Here's where you're supposed to know exactly what I'm thinking, so I don't have to make an ass out of myself.

ARKAHN

There is no need. You always say precisely what you are thinking, Meek. I admire that.

MIKE

Really? It gets me in a lot of trouble.

ARKAHN

It is an unusual quality, which can be mistaken for an ill quality, I suppose. But I do admire you. A great deal. I, too, wish there was more time.

MIKE

Well, maybe...

ARKAHN

No, Meek. You must leave. <deciding something> It is best that you do not remain.

MIKE

Why?

ARKAHN

This simply is not your world. Its problems, its trials... they are not yours.

MIKE

Says who?

ARKAHN

<flirty> Says me.

<beat>

FESMER

Well. I do believe this pie is the best that Zana has ever made.

MIKE

<mock enthusiastic> Oh, really?

FESMER

Indeed. No other has been *quite* this savory.

MIKE

And will we have a chance to confirm this before you finish the entire thing?

FESMER

Likely not. But *senjen*, do not let me interrupt. You were speaking of problems and trials? It was transfixing. I was certainly transfixed.

MIKE

Are you gonna kill him, or should I?

ARKAHN

I see no reason that we cannot both kill him.

FESMER

I could drop a tree on you.

MIKE

It's true. He could.

ARKAHN

Alas. Thwarted again.

Scene Five—Confession

SFX: SHAUNA and KATHERINE walking through forest.

SHAUNA

I think we're good, Katherine. I can't hear the others anymore.

KATHERINE

Oh.

SFX: KATHERINE stops walking, then SHAUNA.

SHAUNA

What?

KATHERINE

See the scorch marks on these two trees?

SHAUNA

Hmm... Barely. Why?

KATHERINE

I helped Jareth set a ritual trap here, when we were running from the Legionnaires that first day.

SHAUNA

Huh.

KATHERINE

We couldn't stop and go back. I think we may have killed the pilot. And I *helped*. If I had known what Jareth was doing... The more I think about it, the more I keep replaying it in my head...

<beat>

KATHERINE(cont)

I don't see the *waa-loar* or wreckage or anything. They must have come back and cleaned up...

SHAUNA

Is this what you wanted to show me?

KATHERINE

No. I didn't even know where we were...

SHAUNA

Hm. So, what did you want to talk about?

KATHERINE

Well... God, where do I start...?

<beat>

SHAUNA

Wherever you want, just so long as you do.

KATHERINE

This is really difficult for me to say.

SHAUNA

You want to stay in Laundi?

KATHERINE

No! <small beat> Well...

SHAUNA

It's fine. Do whatever you want to do, Katherine. It's your life.

KATHERINE

That's not it, Shauna. I mean, yeah, it's crossed my mind, but—

SHAUNA

So stay. It's fine.

KATHERINE

What are you doing?

SHAUNA

What?

KATHERINE

Why are you trying to convince me to stay?

SHAUNA

I'm not. It's what you want, isn't it? Mike too. You're both having such a blast here. I don't want to ruin the party for you, so I'll just go.

KATHERINE

Oh, yeah, 'cause it's been a thrill a minute for me, everyone hooking up with everyone else while the friendless miserable hag gets stuck with Mister Ham....

SHAUNA

Oh boo hoo. You hated the dance. Seems like you're only happy when you're screaming your head off about colonialist something-or-others.

KATHERINE

Well there aren't too many happy moments to pick from, between Mike's coma and your cranky attitude...

SHAUNA

Oh, cranky? Considering the exhaustion, nightmares, and, oh yeah, figuring out a way home *entirely by myself*, I think I'm entitled to a bad mood now and then.

KATHERINE

Maybe we would have helped you if you'd let us, but instead you have to be complete *martyr* about everything—

SHAUNA

You couldn't have helped me. No one could. And that's the point. Maybe you're finding your "spiritual center," but this place has been a living hell for me. Even Arkahn thinks I'm going crazy. It's time to go home. Are you with me or not?

KATHERINE

Of course I'm with you. That was never a question!

SHAUNA

Then what the Hell did you want to talk to me about?

KATHERINE

Arkahn.

SHAUNA

<surprised> Oh... <beat> Why?

KATHERINE

You shouldn't trust her.

<beat>

SHAUNA

Wow. You have *got* to be—

KATHERINE

Just hear me out.

SHAUNA

I am really sick of the stupid bickering, Katherine.

KATHERINE

That's not what this is.

SHAUNA

So what is it?

KATHERINE

She is not a good person, Shauna. She's been lying to us about who she is. I haven't said anything until now because I didn't think she was a danger to us, and plus you two are always together...

SHAUNA

So she's a danger to us now?

KATHERINE

I'd be breaking my word if I told you exactly what we did.

SHAUNA

Well, you're gonna have to give me something...

KATHERINE

Can't you just trust me?

SHAUNA

Frankly, no. If you want the truth, Arkahn has been a much better friend to me these past months than you have. She's got her problems, but so do I. So do you. You're way too judgmental. Just because you don't like Arkahn doesn't mean that she's a *danger* to us.

KATHERINE

She did this awful thing, and I helped her do it...

SHAUNA

Like what you did here with Jareth?

KATHERINE

Well... Not exactly. This trap we set... I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be standing here right now if it weren't for that.

SHAUNA

Katherine, there's time for regret later. We have to leave now or we're not going to make it. And that's a much bigger problem than whatever happened between you and Arkahn.

KATHERINE

But I have to tell you—

SHAUNA

Sure. Tell me all about it when we're back in Boston. C'mon.

SFX: SHAUNA starts walking.

KATHERINE

Goddamnit, Shauna, just listen to me.

SFX: KATHERINE starts after her.

SHAUNA

You really would risk missing our one chance to get home, just to tell me why you don't like Arkahn?

KATHERINE

If I don't tell you, I'm afraid that something awful will happen.

SHAUNA

The only awful thing I can possibly imagine right now is never going home. That this *will* be the last home I'll ever know. Anything else kind of pales in comparison, y'know?

KATHERINE

She's not who she says she is. That doesn't worry you at all?

SFX: Begin fading in MFA conversation in distance (improv'd)

SHAUNA

You've all acted like different people than I thought you were. It's just like the Herald said. I can't rely on any of you.

KATHERINE

The Herald? What--?

SHAUNA

Just do not get in my way, Katherine.

FESMER

—but what Jareth never discovered was that—

MIKE

And the ladies have returned. Hello ladies. How was the ladytalk?

SHAUNA

Let's pack up. We need to hurry.

ARKAHN

Is everything well?

SHAUNA

Of course. Right, Katherine?

KATHERINE

I'll take point.

SFX: KATHERINE walking off

MIKE

And it's official. Katherine now hates *everyone*.

FESMER

Except for Zana.

MIKE

You never know. Katherine might loathe her in secret.

SHAUNA

That's enough. We're almost there, and I have to concentrate on all the steps. No more talking, okay? Just this once?

MIKE

I'll do it. It won't easy, but I'll do it.

SHAUNA
You're a saint.

MIKE
Saint Silence. It does have a certain—

SHAUNA
Mike! Shh!

Scene Six—Finale

AMBIENT: Night forest sounds. Birds chirping.

SFX: ALL walking

NOTE: Sc6.Mikeintro and Sc6.Shaunaintro go here

MIKE

Soo... you ready for a fun night of camping?

SHAUNA

No, I've decided we have to leave tonight.

MIKE

What? What about the whole—

SHAUNA

I can't stay here a minute longer. We have to go *now*.

MIKE

Alright then...

SHAUNA

The clearing's just ahead. Thank God. Hope Jareth's already there...

ARKAHN

Uhm, Shaena...

SHAUNA

Yeah?

ARKAHN

Is it absolutely necessary for you to cast Shift while standing in the clearing?

SHAUNA

Sort of. Thought it might be easier to leave from the exact point we arrived. Why?

ARKAHN

Well, it is just that, on occasion... small predatory animals pass through that clearing.

SHAUNA

What?

ARKAHN

I would not desire a [fox] or [badger] to run through and disrupt your ritual.

SHAUNA

<amused> Um. That's a risk I can take. But thanks for your concern. I'm sure they're more scared of us than—

ARKAHN

Well, it is an exact process, yes? And I fear that even the slightest distraction could jeopardize—

SHAUNA

I'd planned on leaving from the clearing a day from now, and since I'll be running on less juice than I'd planned, I'd rather not tweak any other detail, even a little one. It's worth the risk, terrifying as small animals are.

FESMER

And I shall drive hapless interlopers away with my dread magics.
They will rue their misfortune at crossing me.

ARKAHN

But—

SFX: ALL stop walking. Bird chirping peters out.

SHAUNA

Moot point. We're here. Sorry, Arkahn. Too late!

ARKAHN

<miserable, to herself:> Yes. It is.

KATHERINE

Jareth's not here.

MIKE

Was he supposed to be?

SHAUNA

Yes...

FESMER

I have an ill feeling regarding this...

SHAUNA

Whatever. He probably fell back asleep after he hung up the phone.
That's what Fesmer did.

FESMER

I did?

MIKE

Yep. Behold! Fesmer was the jerk, and not Mike. Thank you for that.
Great note to leave on.

SHAUNA

Clear some room, guys. I have to trace the Farsight circle. Do you
see Jareth anywhere, Arkahn? <beat> Arkahn?

SFX: SHAUNA tracing into the dirt.

ARKAHN

Hm? Apologies, I was distracted.

SHAUNA

I said, do you see Jareth anywhere?

FESMER

I do not. What is the trouble, Arkahn? You seem—

KATHERINE

Uh, guys, I think I just saw—

SFX: Twig snapping in distance

KATHERINE

<hissed> [Shit.] Someone's out there!

SHAUNA

<calling out, uncertain> Jareth?

KATHERINE

Oh hell. Oh hell. Shauna, faster with the circle.

SHAUNA
What's going on?

SFX: In distance, the warming up of several *waa-loren*.

FESMER
Legionnaires! *Ben-sa wei!*

MIKE
How did they know we were here?

FESMER
Kath, when I signal, release an arrow—

LORENALARK
Attacking us would prove unwise, Fesmer, as we have superior numbers, weaponry...and strategy. If you have not yet noticed, you are surrounded. I think we did quite well, given such short notice.

FESMER
Who...? Show yourselves!

SFX: Five Legionnaires deactivating invisibility bracers.

MIKE
Aw, c'mon! They can turn *invisible*?!

SHAUNA
<to self, vehemently> This is not fair!

SFX: Helmet unclasping

LORENALARK
What is not fair, Shae?

SHAUNA
Wait. That voice...

SFX: A second helmet unclasping

ALEXALARK
I believe that she recognizes your voice, [honey.]

LORENALARK
After living in our house for so long, I would be concerned if she did not. So much trouble for one who is brain-addled... It would not do. It would not be *fair*.

KATHERINE
Wh... what's going on? Shauna?

SHAUNA
<beginning to understand> You're Arkahn's parents.

LORENALARK
Oh, exceptional! Such trouble over a mere simpleton. Is the Brotherhood certain that she is the one?

SHAUNA
...Arkahn...?

ARKAHN
[I am so sorry], Shaena. Truly. I had no choice.

KATHERINE

<has never been this pissed> You're dead, Arkahn. Do you hear me?

LORENALARK

Ah, this is Kath?

ARKAHN

Yes, mother.

ALEXALARK

Cha grendi, Kath, for your exceptional work. We could not have overcome the Red Circle without you. If you can forgive the deception, there is work for you in the Legion. Especially now that we can increase our presence in Laundi without... complications.

KATHERINE

Go to Hell.

ALEXALARK

Your disposition is unfortunate. Truly, we bear you no ill will. We do only as we must.

SHAUNA

This whole time, Arkahn? You were planning this all along?

ARKAHN

I—

CAILEB

Enough of this! We have a duty to fulfill.

SFX: Unclasping helmet. Walking towards the group.

MIKE

Hey, it's—

FESMER

Caileb...?

CAILEB

[Good morning], Fesmer. Have you been well?

FESMER

I cannot believe that I lived amongst Legionnaire scum.

CAILEB

You also worked with Legionnaire scum, it would seem. You might pay closer attention to the world around you. Ah.

SFX: CAILEB stops walking.

CAILEB

[Hello], Meek. That is your name, correct?

MIKE

Hey...?

CAILEB

I achieved a promotion on account of you. I wished to express my gratitude.

MIKE

Well, hey man, no need to—

SFX: CAILEB punches MIKE very hard.

MIKE
UGH! <wheezes>

CAILEB
Cha grendi fai, Meek. And your leg is looking well.

SFX: CAILEB kicks MIKE's leg. There is a cracking sound.

NOTE: Sc6.Mikelegpain goes here

MIKE
AGH! Ohhhh...

SFX: MIKE falls to the ground, continues moaning softly.

SHAUNA
Mike!

ALEXALARK
Are you finished?

CAILEB
I believe so, yes.

LORENALARK
It is late, and we have far to go. Will you come willingly?

SHAUNA
Not a chance.

LORENALARK
Forgive me, but it does not seem that you have a choice.

SHAUNA
Of course I do.

FESMER
Shaena, what—

ALEXALARK
Do not resist, Shae. Escape is not possible.

SHAUNA
Well that's convenient, 'cause I'm done running. There's another way. A little bird told me.

LORENALARK
You finished drawing your circle.

SHAUNA
Hey, *there's* that famed Legionnaire perception!

ALEXALARK
We have flamecasters and worse trained on you and your friends. What is it that you hope to accomplish?

SHAUNA
If you've been paying attention at all, you know. I've been singing the same song for months now.

LORENALARK
You will not succeed.

SHAUNA
You'd be surprised how often I hear that.

<tense beat>

ALEXALARK

Arkahn, stop her before—

SHAUNA

Work Stupid Magic— ah...!

SFX: WAZAP! SHAUNA slumps to the ground

LORENALARK

Excellent, Arkahn. We give you too little credit.

KATHERINE

<weakly; it's too late> Arkahn! No...!

ARKAHN

<emotional, but hiding it> You were right about me, Kath. Surely you can find comfort in that.

KATHERINE

Arkahn, don't—!

SFX: WAZAP! KATHERINE slumps to the ground

SFX: ARKAHN walking towards MIKE

MIKE

...Arkahn...

ARKAHN

Yes, Meek?

MIKE

...Why?

ARKAHN

Why? <sighs; regretfully:> I fear that is it not so simple. I suppose there will be answers soon. But for now...

SFX: WAZAP!

NOTE: Sc6.mikepainstick goes here (one of the last takes – something abrupt)

MIKE slumps to the ground.

ARKAHN

Rest, *dokiluna*.