

SECOND SHIFT

Episode #2.02: While You Were Away (v3.0)

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TEASER

• Fesmer

FESMER

Pruun fai il-jr-ip fa --- dii sheren fcai. Cha gruun fai.

Now, the circle.

Preno. Preno pa fai. Jk-ip fai. Jrek-ip fai. Cha gruun fai. Pa fai!

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

I am somewhat busy.

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

Exactly. I am preparing it now, as I have told you.

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

I know. I, too, wish we had some other way of achieving our goal, but I can assure you-

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

Are they reliable? In truth, I am uncertain. But, they came to me for a reason previously. I simply did not recognize it at the time.

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

I regret it is not so simple. We will assemble soon enough. Now, leave me to do my part.

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

No, I am not shouting at you.

SFX

An ethereal, soft chiming sound.

FESMER

I feel likewise. Now. It is time.

(takes a deep, slow breath)

Fai cthloll Odi: Shift. Fai cthloll Odi: Shift. Fai cthloll Odi: Shift.

SFX

Fesmer's chant builds and merges into the Shift effect.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

Scene One — Our Ways

- Jareth, Kasha, Jasmeet (student), Aldo (student), Targonone

JARETH

(as if pontificating to a large audience)

You think me strict, even ancient-minded, but as the world changes and our customs threaten to shift or vanish, it is more vital than ever before to hold to our ways, whatever the cost—even if we risk seeming inflexible or self-righteous. They have guided us for centuries and, so long as we are not led astray by passing notions and novelty, they will continue to serve us for many more centuries still.

(beat)

That is why you received an unsatisfactory mark on your final exam, Jasmeet.

JASMEET

Simply because I disagree with some of your teachings?

JARETH

University's teachings. This was a test of your comprehension, not your opinions. In addition, you did not adequately cite your sources. Any further questions?

ALDO

Yet Jasmeet's point stands: University does not hold sole claim to Odi. Ritual magic and the Laws of Usage dictate how we should access Odi, but they are not the only way.

KASHA

I suggest you tread lightly, Aldo.

JARETH

It is *nai-nai*, Kasha. Jasmeet, Aldo, and I are engaged in informal academic conversation only. Correct?

JASMEET and ALDO

Yes, *yen-schwa*.

JARETH

They understand that their learning does not cease when their classes do. Jasmeet and Aldo have chosen to devote Silver Night to furthering their education. That is to be commended.

KASHA

(knowingly)

As you say, Jareth.

JARETH

Good. Now then, what treasonous ideas are you *rentenah-ma* proposing in my very office?!

(beat)

I jest. Speak, *senjen*.

JASMEET

(hesitates)

Only this, *yen-schwa*: you have taught us that Natural Magic existed long before ritual.

JARETH

Savage Magic has, yes, and I should hope you did not only just learn that in my class, Jasmeet. All know this.

JASMEET

(pressing on)

The Seven brought order to chaos and founded the Seven Universities. We know that Ritual Magic is more reliable and more easily regulated.

ALDO

But why is Nat—... Savage Magic illegal? Children often employ it without rebuke, yet when an adult accesses Odi in that way, their actions are punishable by death.

JARETH

(an uncomfortable, though distant memory)

Not completely without rebuke.

(returning to the argument)

It is a question of scale, Aldo. A child, even one who is highly attuned, has little hope of causing a powerful effect. This does not mean, however, that they cannot be dangerous.

(beat)

The mind alone is used to control Savage Magic. And the mind can be capricious. Simply because one intends no harm does not mean harm will not be inflicted.

(beat)

As for the punishment of Death, do not forget that is the maximum penalty, reserved for cases where the caster's continued existence is a verifiable threat to innocent lives. A life is sacred, yes, but that is not an excuse for putting one, especially a criminal's, above the lives of many.

ALDO

Yet what of other controlled methods of using odi? The Legion—

JASMEET

(sensing a gaffe)

Not to suggest that we are advocating Legion methods, or the Legion itself, in any conceivable way...

KASHA

I should hope not!

ALDO

(annoyed at the interruption)

—The Legion is known to harness the energies of tae-oden for their strange technology.

JASMEET

Strange and evil technology.

ALDO

Yet University collects tae-oden only to dispose of them. Why? Why not harness thier energy as the Legion does and best them at their own gambit!

KASHA

What? Absolutely not!

JARETH

(calmly)

Kasha, there is no cause to react so forcefully. It was a valid question. Tae-oden are foul things, Aldo. It is a great drain upon the resources of University to dispose of them safely. Are you suggesting we should not continue in this manner?

ALDO

Precisely! They proliferate in our forests, our rivers. Over the past year alone, tae-oden recoveries have nearly tripled, which can only mean that they are appearing with much greater frequency. We must study them, not dispose of them.

JASMEET

What Aldo is saying is that, to preserve the essence of our ways, perhaps we must adapt—seek alternate paths.

ALDO

The Hunters of Truth, however unsavory their methods, espouse precisely this. It is said that they advocate the combination of ritual magic with natural, and that the end result is—

KASHA

—is terrorism. They savagely attacked Prolau wo Renaliodi last month, or have you forgotten? You would do well not to preach their doctrine within these walls—

JARETH

(lightly)
Kasha, *senjen*.

KASHA

—however “academic” your argument.

JARETH

Jasmeet and Aldo, I do take your point. Yet—your knowledge is limited by experience. Tae-oden consume life, and any energy they might provide can only do likewise.

JARETH (CONT)

But, Aldo, if, after the end of the coming class cycle, you are still interested in studying them, we can discuss a temporary transfer to a sister Universities where methods of disposing of and preventing tae-oden are actively studied. Such as Prolau wo Veliaodi. It is said to be quite a beautiful school.

(beat)

As for combining ritual magic with savage... well...

SFX

The Shift effect (faint). A whisper of an echo from the end of 1.13.

JASMEET

(after an uncomfortable pause)

Yen-schwa?

JARETH

Ah. Well, yes... perhaps the end result may be greater, more powerful than either alone. But the cost is very high, especially to the health and general well-being of the user. Loss of sleep, erratic moods, hallucinations.

(trailing off)

Alienation of friends and loved ones...

KASHA

Jareth, what...?

JARETH

(laughing at himself)

Apologies, there is much on my mind.

ALDO

So, if it can be done, then—

SFX

A sharp double-tap on Jareth's door.

JARETH

Targonone! You remain here at this late hour?

TARGONONE

Greetings, Jareth. Kasha. Students.

JASMEET and ALDO

Yen-schwa.

TARGONONE

Jareth, when you have a moment, I would speak with you.

JARETH

Of course, *paren-schwa.*

JASMEET

The hour is late. Excuse us, and *cha grendillo ferin* for your indulgence, *yen-schwa.*

ALDO

Yes, *cha grendi.*

SFX

Their voices fade as they walk away.

ALDO

You defer to him, always!

JASMEET

I told you that he would not alter my score!

JARETH

(calling after them as a voice of wisdom)

Jasmeet, Aldo. While scholarly debate is well and good, remember that—whatever its apparent ease—savage magic is dangerous and unpredictable. Use of it can bring only incalculable harm.

Scene Two — Change

• Fesmer, Mike, Katherine, Arkahn, Bellon (employee), Zana

SFX

Twigs snapping with footfalls.

FESMER

...And then I “insert” it directly into your mind! Simple yet brilliant, yes?

MIKE

Vio...vio...let.

KATHERINE

Mike’s right. You violated our personal space.

ARKAHN

Is Meek OK?

FESMER

He may require time to adjust.

KATHERINE

You should have told us what you were doing.

FESMER

I thought you would be impressed. Now you two do not have to depend on these trinkets.

MIKE

My Brian huts...

KATHERINE

Fesmer, I was trying to learn Charendrean! The old fashioned way.

FESMER

And now you know it! I do not understand...

ARKAHN

I do not think Meek does, either.

MIKE

It arrives to myself leisurely.

FESMER

See. He only requires time for his mind to acclimate to my spell.

ARKAHN

Too bad there are no Ce Es El classes here, right Meek?

FESMER

What is that?

ARKAHN

Charendrean as a Second Language.

MIKE

I speak Charendrean good..

KATHERINE

I would have preferred that to you messing with my brain.

MIKE

Now that I can talk: Hey Kath, look where we are. Laundi.

KATHERINE

Yeah. So?

MIKE

Do you know what that means?

KATHERINE

(sighs) What?

MIKE

Wait for it! In three...two...one—

KATHERINE

You were right. I was wrong. We made it back. Happy now?

MIKE

(overcome with emotion)

...Yes...!

KATHERINE

Great. There'll be no living with him now.

ARKAHN

(with humor)

It is true, living with Meek can be a trial.

MIKE

Hey....

ARKAHN

I am surprised that you did not hear his snoring in Jay Pee.

MIKE

Oh Kath's no stranger to snoring. That girl knows her snoring.

KATHERINE

Fesmer, can undo your spell? No, I'd still understand him. Can make him only speak a language no one else can understand?

FESMER

I hope that you are joking.

MIKE

I don't suppose you could place Klingon into my language core. I've always wanted to learn, but it takes so much time...

ARKAHN

"Is there a word in Klingon for loneliness?"

MIKE

"Ah, yes."

MIKE + ARKAHN

"Gardachk!"

MIKE

Nice. High five.

SFX

High five.

FESMER

Perhaps my spell did not work as well as I had thought...

KATHERINE

No, no. The spell worked fine. They're quoting an old episode of... Wow, is that Zana's?

SFX

They stop walking.

ARKAHN

Woah.

MIKE

Unreal.

FESMER

Much has changed in the year you have been gone.

SFX

They start walking.

KATHERINE

It's so... so...

ARKAHN

Like Mikey Double D's, no?

MIKE

Uh, that's "Mickey Dee's." But yeah, talk about a renovation. Look, there's Mr. Ham! He's totally on Zana's sign. See, Katherine? I told you Mr. Ham was a great scheme! You could have been a celebrity.

KATHERINE

I liked it the way it was.

FESMER

I stopped here before going into the woods. It has changed so much in the months I have been away, I scarcely recognized it. Zana was not even there! She was visiting her second store, near University.

KATHERINE

What do you mean you were "away?"

FESMER

I have been gone from Laundi for nearly a year.

ARKAHN

That pen over there—does that sign read "goat rides?"

MIKE

It does. Woah. I can read now too! Fesmer, you're a genius.

KATHERINE

(grumbles under breath)

MIKE

(changing the subject)

Hey! It's Umbra!

SFX

Goat bleat

MIKE

Why is Zana giving Umbra-rides?

FESMER

Perhaps they have younger, stronger goats to pull the carts. Or perhaps Zana has, at last, purchased horses.

KATHERINE
Heaven forbid...

FESMER
Come, we must see Zana.

MIKE
Just in time for dinner!

FESMER
Yes. I had expected hours of failed attempts, not to succeed on the first try, but I am drained all the same.

ARKAHN
There are people in there. Is Zana's still open?

KATHERINE
I thought everything was closed on Silver Night.

MIKE
More business for Zana. I'd like to think I taught her that.

FESMER
You did.

SFX
Door opens into Zana's busy restaurant.

BELLON
(rehearsed)
Hello-and-welcome-to-Zana's-home-of-Mr. Ham-and-his-famed-pig-pies-the-wait-will-be-about—

FESMER
We are actually here to see Zana. On business.

BELLON
ZANA! UP FRONT!

ZANA
Ai, what is it now? I—oh my.

MIKE
We're baaack.

KATHERINE
Zana....

ARKAHN
...*shi schwa*...

ZANA
What happened? Why are you here?

FESMER
It was my doing.

ZANA
And Fesmer? Oh, *Ainorem*, let me take hold of you all, so I am certain you are not a phantasm of Silver Nights past.

KATHERINE
(tenderly)
Zana.

MIKE

You got anywhere we can set down our gear? These packs are kinda bulky.

ZANA

(to Bellon)

We shall be in the office if I am needed.

BELLON

Yes, *yen-schwa*.

ZANA

(to cast)

Come, you must tell me everything.

Scene Three — A Small Matter

• Targonone, Jareth, Kasha

TARGONONE

I must tell you something, Jareth.

JARETH

Of course, *paren-schwa*.

TARGONONE

Perhaps you wish to first dismiss your task mage?

JARETH

Kasha is familiar with all of my many failings, Targonone. Speaking of which, is this regarding the year-end faculty meeting?

KASHA

(mocking, fondly)

Ah yes. The faculty meeting.

JARETH

It did not proceed quite so poorly as that!

KASHA

You did have much to say about the Laws of Usage. Much more, perhaps, than the administrators would have liked to hear.

JARETH

Well—

TARGONONE

But much less than you could have said, it is true. Remind me later to counsel you on selecting which battles to fight and when to fight them, Jareth. But that is not why I came.

(beat)

We have confirmed a massive Odi surge to the west of Laundi. Did you sense it?

JARETH

No, *paren-schwa*.

TARGONONE

Of course, you are not attuned. Kasha?

KASHA

I do not know, *yen-schwa*. I suppose there was something, but I thought at the time it was moral outrage. Oh, Targonone—if you had but heard the things these students were saying—

JARETH

They were merely attempting to learn, albeit in a confrontational manner. Not unlike another former student of mine, Kasha.

KASHA

Boxen wo fai, Jareth.

JARETH

Why do you tell me of this, *paren-schwa*?

TARGONONE

It felt similar to a surge that occurred over a year ago—prior to our last major Undying attack? This surge also originated from the same location.

JARETH
(stunned)
...Ah.

KASHA
That is most interesting. Do you believe this heralds another attack from Undying?

TARGONONE
I could not say. What do you think, Jareth?

JARETH
I... would not presume to know, *paren-schwa*. As you said, I am not attuned.

TARGONONE
I thought perhaps you might have some insight.

JARETH
Apologies, *paren-schwa*. I do not.
(awkward beat)
Would you both excuse me? The hour grows late, and there is a small matter in town that requires my attention.

TARGONONE
Of course, Jareth. Do not hesitate to call on me, should you require anything at all.

JARETH
No. I mean, yes, of course, *paren-schwa*. *Cha grendillo fai*.

SFX
Targonone walks away.

KASHA
(after a beat)
Is something wrong, Jareth?

JARETH
It is of no concern, Kasha. Look over next term's curriculum by tomorrow, *senjen*. I would like to submit it to the committee soon and it must be reviewed by another's eyes.

KASHA
Certainly.
(beat)
My friends and I are cooking tonight, if you wish to join us later.

JARETH
Cha grendi, but likely not. Some other time?

KASHA
Some other time.

JARETH
Fortuitous trials, Kasha.

SFX
Jareth walking away

JARETH (CONT)
(to self)
I could not possibly eat right now.

Scene Four — The Day Mike Was Right About Stuff

• Fesmer, Arkhan, Mike, Zana, Katherine, Jareth

FESMER & ARKAHN
(loudly eating)

MIKE
I didn't realize how much I missed your cooking, Zana.

ZANA
It is merely my recipe—thanks to your “marketing” I have cooks who perform all of the true labor now.

MIKE
And these new toys are excellent. Maybe they don't have the charm of the ones Fesmer and I made but—

SFX
Squeaky toy.

MIKE
Woah. They're squeaky toys? How'd you manage that?

KATHERINE
Here, Zana, try this.

ZANA
This is from Boston? It smells very...

MIKE
Is that coffee?

SFX
Squeaky toy.

KATHERINE
What do you think I loaded the bottom of my pack with?

ZANA
(sips, coughs)
It is... different.

KATHERINE
I guess it's something of an acquired taste.

ZANA
Tell me: why have you returned? I thought you wanted to go home.

MIKE
We have to find Shauna. We can't leave her here alone.

ZANA
I had supposed as much.

SFX
Squeaky toy.

ARKAHN
Enough, Meek.

FESMER
Yes, one can only take so much.

MIKE
I can't help it.

SFX
Squeaky toy.

MIKE
These squeaky goat toys are ingenious.

ZANA
Cha grendi. Keep it.

KATHERINE
(groans)
Now we'll never get a moment's peace.

ZANA
In fact, you may all take one.

KATHERINE
Ooo...really?

SFX
Squeaky toy.

FESMER
Meek....

MIKE
Mike—and I swear that wasn't me.

KATHERINE
Mike's right about these.

MIKE
Mike? "Right"? Score two!

SFX
Squeaky toy.

KATHERINE
They're cute!

SFX
Squeaky toy.

KATHERINE
(chuckle)

ARKAHN
Pah. ("Oy")

MIKE
OK, now that I've eaten, I can think again.

KATHERINE
Is that all it takes?

MIKE
Zana, you always seem to know crazy things—have you heard something that could help us?

KATHERINE
Yeah, have you heard anything? Anything about Shauna at all?

ZANA
I know only what Jareth told me.

FESMER
For whatever that is worth.

MIKE
Which was what exactly?

ZANA
She was alive.

ARKAHN
Praise *Ainorem*!

ZANA
She was taken by Porec out of the trading post. They left in a wagon together.

MIKE
So what's she doing with your brother, Fes?

FESMER
How should I know, Meek?

KATHERINE
Cool it guys.

MIKE
What else? Did she go willingly? Were there guards?

KATHERINE
What kind of state was she in? Was she hurt?

ARKAHN
(timidly)
What of the Undying?

ZANA
Of these things I cannot tell you. You will have to wait for Jareth.

MIKE
No. We can't wait for him. I'm not wasting minutes we don't have.

KATHERINE
Wait—Fesmer, if she's alive, couldn't you Farspeak with her?

FESMER
I have attempted. While recovering from my injuries I did hear her faintly, but Farspeaking has its limits, and she had reached them by the time I was well enough to attempt contact.

KATHERINE
But you contacted Arkahn in Boston!

FESMER
Farspeaking is limited by distance, attunedness, and personal connection. Arkahn is attuned and we have a long history, so it was possible for me to find her, but only just. Also, there was something peculiar about trying to reach Boston. It was not like distance. It was something else...

KATHERINE
So what about Shauna. Why didn't she try to reach us?

FESMER
Perhaps she could not. Neither of you are attuned. And she had enough difficulty trying to contact her brother.

MIKE
So her contacting us is out. And you can't contact her?

FESMER

That is correct.

MIKE

Well, that sucks.

KATHERINE

(to Mike)

We knew it wouldn't be easy.

ZANA

That raises a point: how do you intend to find Shaena?

MIKE

Do you guys have any other info you can give me?

KATHERINE

Us.

FESMER

The only thing I know with certainty is that she was still alive for the days occurring after Silver Night. Anything further would only be speculation based on rumor. Hardly anything useful.

ZANA

Jareth was unable to learn more either.

FESMER

Neither did he try very hard.

ZANA

Sa dormina cha [Be still], Fesmer. No two people are the same. He followed his own path, as you have followed yours.

MIKE

So, what you're telling me is that neither of you can give me a city to look in or a person to go to? Even a direction to go in?

ZANA

Such is the unfortunate truth.

MIKE

Then it's time for Plan B. I'll go to Draenmer.

ZANA

Are you certain?

KATHERINE

Yeah, didn't they kick you out last time?

FESMER

Are you truly ready to ask your one question, Meek?

MIKE

Mike. And this is about finding Shauna. Not about my dad's dream for me. I can do this.

ZANA

Do as you wish, Meek—

MIKE

Mike, *senjen*.

ZANA

Mike—but you should know that *Ainorem* tell you what you need to know, not what you wish to hear. Often their meanings can be vague. And there are many possible ways to interpret their message.

MIKE

It's the only way at this point. They told Shauna how to get us home, and she did that. I'm sure with all of us combined, we'll be able to figure out what they have to tell me.

KATHERINE

Mike's right... actually. If this is the only way, then so be it.

ZANA

Well, Kath, if you support him, who am I to argue?

MIKE

Woo-hoo, mark it on the calendar: The Day Mike Was Right About Stuff!

KATHERINE

Mike, don't ruin the moment.

ZANA

Yes, Mike. Rather, make a list of any supplies you think you will need on your way to Draenmer. Then find Bellon. She will procure the supplies for you.

(beat)

Kath, please follow me.

MIKE

Hey, Fesmer, is that a new sword?

FESMER

It is.

MIKE

Cool. Is it a real one this time?

FESMER

You will not allow me to forget that, will you.

ARKAHN

C'mon, Meek. I will assist you with your list-making.

SFX

Squeaky toy.

SFX

Door

KATHERINE

What is it, Zana?

ZANA

I have something to give you.

KATHERINE

But you've given me so much already. I don't know how I could—

ZANA

Quiet. "Return to you" is perhaps a better way of phrasing it.

SFX

Crinkling paper.

KATHERINE

My bow! I mean your—

ZANA

It is your bow, Kath. Yours until you pass it to another.

KATHERINE

Zana... Thank you.

(beat)

I thought I'd never see it again after the Legion captured us.

ZANA

Jareth investigated the site the next day and recovered it.

KATHERINE

You must have been relieved.

ZANA

Perhaps. Sometimes I think this bow chooses its own path.

KATHERINE

Wish I could say the same about its owner.

ZANA

How so?

KATHERINE

Zana, I just—... I fell. Hard. I did everything wrong in Boston. I was too ashamed to come back and... face you. I thought you'd be disappointed in me.

ZANA

Oh, Kath. I am simply overjoyed to see you again! What possible cause could I have to be disappointed in you?

KATHERINE

(tearing up)

I... I acted poorly. I failed Shauna and—...

ZANA

Come here, *voluna*. Quiet now. Twilight is behind you, and there is dawn ahead. Let us greet it.

KATHERINE

Yes, *shi-schwa*.

ZANA

Come now, and bring your bow. Let us see if Meek has your supplies yet.

SFX

Door

MIKE

Well finally. Now we're all ready to go.

KATHERINE

We're going now? It's sundown! We'll get there at midnight!

ZANA

Draenpeno are not accustomed to accommodating pilgrims in the middle of Silver Night.

MIKE

Well, too bad. I'm not wasting time. Besides, it works perfect. We leave our packs and go tonight. We come back in the AM, use the afternoon to get supplies, and start off to wherever next morning.

ZANA

I see you are resolved in this. I will not stand in your path, nor can I accompany you. What I can do is provide you with a container of hot soup. Arkahn, would you assist me?

ARKAHN

Yes, *shi schwa*.

SFX

Door

KATHERINE

Tonight? You really want to be walking there at night? What if there's bandits or something, like Jareth said last time.

MIKE

He was just showing off. Besides, it's Silver Night. It's gonna be almost bright as day. Fesmer, you've been quiet—any objections?

FESMER

Well, I—

SFX

Door bangs open

JARETH

(makes a sound indicating surprise, shock, etc.)

KATHERINE

Jareth!

JARETH

(finding his words)

Kath! Meek. Fesmer? Is this your doing again?

FESMER

You have to ask?

JARETH

There was a massive odi surge, even for Silver Night. They could feel it at University. I knew that something must have—

SFX

Door

ARKAHN

Zana has kindly provided us with some of her delicious—... oh *deck own-raopl ["goat balls"]*.

JARETH

You.

MIKE

Wow, dramatic tension. Is there any possibility that we could, uh, talk about this on the way to Draenmer?

(beat)

Just... y'know... asking.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene Five — In Which Katherine is Sympathetic

• Katherine, Jareth

SFX

Two people walking

JARETH

The sun is setting.

KATHERINE

Yeah.

JARETH

I am concerned.

KATHERINE

About Arkahn? Or Fesmer?

JARETH

The Laundi you left is not the Laundi to which you returned.

KATHERINE

Yeah, I know. Especially Zana's, right?

JARETH

There has been more unrest as of late. More Legionnaires. More bandits. People have begun warding doors at night. I am concerned about traveling to Draenmer after the sun has set.

KATHERINE

Oh.

(beat)

Where'd you go earlier?

JARETH

Hmm?

KATHERINE

Right before we all left?

JARETH

Oh, that. I had to contact Targonone, my mentor, through *charepuenofai*. He is holding an end of the semester faculty party. I told him that circumstances beyond my control have made it impossible for me to attend.

(beat)

KATHERINE

So, I hear you recovered my bow.

JARETH

Yes. I found it while I was looking for clues. I wanted to see if there was anything I could find that could lead me to wherever Porec took Shaena.

KATHERINE

Cha grendillo fai, Jareth. This bow means a lot to me.

JARETH

Cha lyona fai. I wish I could have found more regarding Shaena, yet it was little but a burnt ruin crawling with Undying.

KATHERINE
You tried.

JARETH
Some would disagree with you.
(beat)
She meant something to me too, Kath.

KATHERINE
If my therapy sessions have taught me anything, it's that sometimes we transpose our own guilt onto other people.

JARETH
Are you saying that I—

KATHERINE
Oh no! I mean, maybe Fesmer feels guilty about what happened last year. And he blames you because it's easier.

JARETH
Sometimes I feel as if Fesmer will never forgive me.
(beat)
I was only trying to protect him. I was... It pains me when Fesmer acts as if I do not care. I do. I wanted to find Shaena. I wanted to heal Fesmer. But I could only do so much. There were no leads and after Fesmer healed, he left. I did not know what to do.

KATHERINE
I know.

JARETH
With no tangible leads... and no one to help... I had no choice but to proceed with my life's path.

KATHERINE
I understand.

JARETH
You and Meek went home. Arkahn betrayed us. Shaena was lost to me. Fesmer was so wrathful that he vanished. Zana had her shop to pour her heart into... my work was all I had left to bury myself in.

(beat)

KATHERINE
I know how you feel—I almost didn't come. Arkahn insisted, but I refused to believe her. Five more minutes, and I wouldn't be here.

JARETH
Why are you here?

KATHERINE
I couldn't say, really. But it hit me that even if there was the smallest hope that Shauna was alive and rescue-able...
(beat)
We all have coping mechanisms. Mine was to alienate the few family and friends I had left.
(beat)
You see, your family left. I pushed mine away. It's not the same thing, but I can definitely understand the position you were in.

JARETH
Kath, *cha grendi* for the sentiment. You, and perhaps Zana, are the only ones who feel this way.

Scene Six — Legionnaires to the Rescue

• Fesmer, Mike, Arkahn, Bandits One-Five, Legionnaires A-D, Katherine Jareth

SFX

The group tramping through the woods.

FESMER

How was it, Meek, being home?

MIKE

Mike. It was not what I expected.

FESMER

What were you expecting?

MIKE

Relief. Instead, I got a year of worrying about Shauna and trying to come back for her. Thanks to you and Arkahn—

FESMER

Thanks to me.

MIKE

Excuse me? Don't you owe Arkahn some credit?

FESMER

If I could have brought you back without her, I would have.

ARKAHN

I thought—

FESMER

You were a means to an end; that is all. You were the only person I could connect to, but we are not friends, Arkahn. Not any longer.

MIKE

It wasn't easy for her there, you know.

FESMER

Am I supposed to feel sympathy? She did not have to go.

MIKE

You wouldn't say that if you were there. She was sick—

ARKAHN

Meek...

MIKE

She had to learn English from scratch; no translation pendants, no one to do weird things to her brain—

ARKAHN

Meek...

MIKE

Do you know how fast Boston is compared to this backwater place? She had to keep up with that after living here her whole life—

ARKAHN

Meek!

(beat)

Boston was very fast, but I did OK. I may not be welcome here—

FESMER

You are not.

ARKAHN

—yet I am glad to be back where I belong. I will have to face the consequences of my choices, but I would rather do so with clarity here, than sick and lost in Boston. I am thankful for that, at least.

FESMER

Do not think your “thanks” will earn my forgiveness.

ARKAHN

I do not.

MIKE

Soo... Fesmer, you were gone for a whole year? What did you do? Please tell me it involved warm springs and hot chicks.

FESMER

(uncomfortable, hesitant)

I sought knowledge. Of myself. I was not strong enough last year. Shaena’s growth, Arkahn’s betrayal, and the revelation about my family—all showed me that I still had much to learn. So I left in hopes of finding myself and Shaena, if I could.

(beat)

Boxen wo fai that I could not find her.

MIKE

Did you at least find some clarity about yourself?

FESMER

Yes. I believe I have found my path.

ARKAHN

I am glad for you, Fesmer. I see my fate clearly as well. In order to return, I have resigned myself to whatever fate lies in store for me.

MIKE

Arkahn, not to go all philosophy professor on you, but nothing is preordained. We make our own fate.

ARKAHN

Then what of Draenmer?

MIKE

It’s just a place to start. I mean, how wise can they be if they died?

FESMER

(sighs)

You have such a unique way of phrasing things.

ARKAHN

You should be more respectful... even if they are dead people.

SFX

Large men jumping out from behind the bushes.

BANDIT ONE

We have you surrounded!

MIKE

What the hey?

ARKAHN

Bandits!

SEVERAL BANDITS

Derisive laughter

BANDIT TWO

Leave us your money and valuables and we leave you in peace.

FESMER

Two to one? My preferred odds. Fai Cthloll Odi, push!

BANDIT THREE

Oooph!

BANDIT TWO

That one is a mage!

BANDIT ONE

Get him!

FESMER

Come forth, *caros* ["trash"]! This sword is not for show.

SFX

Battle sounds.

ARKAHN

Meek! Tackle them!

MIKE

I... uh...

FESMER

(panting)

What are you waiting for? Assist me!

MIKE

Uh... I....

BANDIT TWO

Restrain the other two!

KATHERINE

MIKE!

JARETH

Arkahn! Behind you!

ARKAHN

Ahh!

SFX

Twang of a bow. Arrow whistling, striking flesh.

BANDIT THREE

Ow!

KATHERINE

There's more where that came from! Hey, ack! Lemme go!

BANDIT FOUR

Well, you are a feisty one!

ARKAHN

Meek, do something!

MIKE

I... can't....

JARETH

I am coming Fesmer!

FESMER

I am *ra-na*! Kath requires your aid!

BANDIT FIVE

Hold it right there. You fancy yourself a swordsman?

JARETH

A better one than you!

SFX

Sword fighting.

SFX

Legionaire hoverbikes approaching fast.

KATHERINE

What's that? Oh no.

BANDIT ONE

The Legion? Men! To the woods!

LEGIONAIRE A

Halt scum!

MIKE

Aw c'mon! Legionnaires, too?!

SFX

Hoverbikes rev.

BANDIT THREE

Take that sword! At least we will get something out of this.

BANDIT FOUR

Rercor [*"Idiot"*], we need to move!

LEGIONAIRE A

You three! After them!

LEGIONAIRE B

Yes, *Valo*!

SFX

Bandits run, followed by hoverbikes.

KATHERINE

Fesmer, are you ok?

FESMER

Ughh... (weakly) Seems that we showed them...

KATHERINE

Mike?

MIKE

Whaaaaat is going on? And where'd Arkahn go?

LEGIONAIRE A

You there, are any of your party hurt? We have medical supplies.

KATHERINE

Fesmer?

FESMER

I am *ra-na*. Scrapes and bruises. I need no assistance from scum.

LEGIONAIRE A

We could ask the bandits to return if you would like.

LEGIONAIRE C

What about you?

JARETH

I am also *ra-na*.

LEGIONAIRE A

What are you doing out here? Do you not know what hour it is?

MIKE

We have to get to Dreaenmer.

LEGIONAIRE C

Pilgrims? Even on Silver Night of all nights, it is not safe to travel down this secluded path.

KATHERINE

But Draenmer is sacred ground.

LEGIONAIRE A

Draenmer is. This path is not. Would you care for further escort?

JARETH

Cha grendi, but I think we can care for ourselves from here.

LEGIONAIRE A

As you desire, friend.

SFX

Hoverbikes return.

LEGIONAIRE A

Report.

LEGIONAIRE B

We lost track of them in the thicket.

LEGIONAIRE D

I suspect they will not return this night.

LEGIONAIRE C

They are becoming more brazen. But we shall get them all in time.

JARETH

Cha grendi.

LEGIONAIRE A

Fuo-tazo ["No problem"], friend. Come men, resume patrol!

SFX

The hoverbikes whir off.

MIKE

That was weird.

(beat)

That was really weird.

JARETH

Many things have changed. The Legion has begun putting Laundi under their "protection." It is all we can do to slow their expansion. And we thought the Red Circle was territorial...

SFX
Bushes rustling

ARKAHN
Have they departed?

MIKE
Yeah, I think we're good.

ARKAHN
Are you OK Meek? You—

MIKE
(curtly)
I'm fine. Nothing to talk about.

KATHERINE
Fesmer, are you really *ra-na*?

FESMER
I believe so.

JARETH
Let me see to you. I am quite the adept now at first aid.

FESMER
I do not need help from you. Where is that vial...

SFX
Fesmer uncorks and drinks potion

MIKE
You have healing potions now?

FESMER
No, it is merely *dama own-tukaena* [*"poppy tea"*].

MIKE
What's that?

ARKAHN
It is a "killer of pain." A strong one... Fesmer—

FESMER
Enough! I want no assistance from a *pullavin* such as you.

JARETH
Fesmer, why are you still vexed with me?

FESMER
Because you betrayed my trust!

KATHRINE
Guys....

JARETH
How can I prove to you I did not betray you? You would put me in the same category as Arkahn?

MIKE
Hey now—

JARETH
What is it that you desire from me?

FESMER
The truth!

ARKAHN

Oh—I know this! “You cannot handle the truth!”

MIKE

(tenderly)

Arkahn....

FESMER

Why did let me believe my brother was dead?

JARETH

Better than being burdened by what he truly was!

KATHERINE

Guys!

FESMER

Porec is my family. It was my right to know.

JARETH

We were your family!

FESMER

Wonderful family. A liar and a spy.

MIKE

Enough!

(beat)

This isn't about your issues with each other. This is about Shauna.

FESMER

(cowed)

Meek—

MIKE

Mike.

FESMER

Mike—is right. We should be on our way before more bandits, or Legionnaires, come this way.

JARETH

For Shaena's sake, then. Let us depart.

SFX

The party collecting themselves and moving on.

MIKE

Fesmer, what's the matter?

KATHERINE

Did the potion not kick in yet?

FESMER

(pouting)

No, it is not that—it is...they stole my sword.

MIKE

Aww, we'll get you a new one.

(FADE OUT)

FESMER

But that was a new sword.

Scene Seven — An Unusual Request

- Arkahn, Katherine, Fesmer, Mike, Jareth, Draenpeno 1 & 2

ARKAHN

We have arrived.

KATHERINE

I don't think Fesmer's doing too well.

FESMER

It is nothing.

MIKE

(deep breath)

Okay. I'm going in.

JARETH

Wait! Meek—

MIKE

(under his breath)

Mike—

JARETH

Before you enter, we should practice the ritual.

MIKE

Jareth dude, I got it covered.

FESMER

Mee...ike, you should at least—

KATHERINE

Don't excite yourself, Fesmer.

JARETH

Humor me, *senjen*. Let me hear you recite it.

MIKE

I... want to enter so... uh... please let me?

(beat)

OK, OK. Maybe I could use a refresher.

JARETH

You must say, "I humbly ask permission to enter."

MIKE

But I'm the one entering.

JARETH

(becoming frustrated)

Yes, you must say "you" ask permission to enter.

MIKE

Ok so, "you ask permission—"

KATHERINE

Mike, stop messing around. Just say the words.

JARETH

Right. You must then say, I respect this place and what it represents, and I know the sacrifices you make by abiding my entry. I am honored by your indulgence. Now you.

MIKE
Look. I get it, okay? I'm not as dumb as everyone thinks I am.

SFX
Gravel crunching, two people approach

DRAENPENNO ONE
Greetings. What business does your party have here?

DRAENPENNO TWO
It is exceedingly late. Pilgrims and visitors must wait for the morning to find their truth.

KATHERINE
My friend here needs medical attention!

FESMER
Kath—

KATHERINE
We were attacked by bandits.

DRAENPENNO TWO
No wonder; to travel so late at night is foolishness.

FESMER
I am perfectly *ra-na*.

JARETH
No, he is not.
(to Fesmer)
You should go and be healed.

FESMER
I will be *ra-na* tomorrow.

JARETH
(pointedly)
If you do not go, I do not think you will be *ra-na* tomorrow.

FESMER
(hushed)
What are you scheming?

JARETH
Nothing. All the blood loss has made you paranoid. Stop asking questions and go with Draenpenno.

DRAENPENNO ONE
Come with me. We can heal your wound.

MIKE
Now's my chance!

ARKAHN
Meek, no! What about the rites?

MIKE
Excuse me, Draenpenno?

DRAENPENNO TWO
Yes, what is it?

MIKE
I respect you and your sacred place, and I would like permission to enter and ask my question, humbly, before the *Ainorem*.

ARKAHN

He would also be honored by your indulgence.

(beat)

DRAENPENNO TWO

This is most unusual.

MIKE

Look, a friend is in trouble, and this may be our only chance of finding out how to help her. It's a matter of life and death, otherwise we would not have come so late and disturbed you.

ARKAHN

He seeks what is lost and so invokes his right to find his truth.

MIKE

Senjen.

DRAENPENNO TWO

Custom must be upheld... but I see that your need is truly great. You may enter.

MIKE

Thankyouthankthankyou! *Cha grendi!*

ARKAHN

Lay ken draen wair cha, jola mteneren, Draenpeño. Cha grendillo fai.

MIKE

Arkahn, drum roll, please.

ARKAHN

Meek, have some reverence. This is sacred ground.

SFX

Gravel crunching.

MIKE

(walking away)

Well, I already used my dramatic line and everything way back there....

DRAENPENNO TWO

(clears throat)

MIKE

(echoy)

I am so humble right now.

DRAENPENNO TWO

Lay ken draen wair cha.

ARKAHN

Do not forget to drink the water!

Scene Eight— Mike’s One Question

- Mike, Ainorem voices

SFX

The constant sound of water dripping and a soft river sound running in the background. We should be able to hear the torch’s flame ruffling every now and then.

MIKE

Hi. Umm...My name is Mike Archer, and I’m not from your world, but you probably know that. I don’t know if you remember, but you told my friend, Shauna Brown, how to get us home. Well, she did that—only she didn’t come back with us.

(beat)

I have spent the last year worrying about what happened to her: did the Undying kill her? Was she alive and well at Zana’s? Or was she being tortured by Legionaires? So, for the last six months my sole focus has been trying to find a way back to Laundi, and—as you can see—I’m here. I’m here and I’ve come to invoke my right to truth—to ask my one question. So here goes:

(clears throat)

To the fall—oh right, the water.

SFX

Mike making loud slurping noises as he drinks the water.

MIKE

Right then. To the fallen peoples of Laundi, I humble myself and ask you this favor. How I can find Shauna Brown?

(beat)

Speak to me in the words of one who knew truth.

(beat)

AINOREM

(SFX same voice effect as in episode two)

Mike... Archer... Go. West.

SFX

The voice abruptly stops.

(beat)

MIKE

...Uh. “Go west?” That’s it? That’s all I get? You gotta be kidding me! (beat)

Hello? HELLOoOo! That’s it?!

(beat)

...Guys?

Scene Nine— Screwed. Again.

• Katherine, Draenpeno Two, Arkahn, Jareth, Mike, Targonone, Guard

KATHERINE
So do you all stay here?

DRAENPENO TWO
Not all. Here we meditate on the truth of things. Out there, we seek it.

KATHERINE
And then you ask your question and that's it?

DRAENPENO TWO
It varies. Some leave after their question is answered. Others spend the rest of their lives trying to unravel *Ainorem*'s answer.

KATHERINE
What do you, the Draenpeno, believe in?

DRAENPENO TWO
We believe in truth. We believe there are many truths yet to be found, and that every discovered truth brings clarity to our world and makes it easier to live in.

KATHERINE
How long have you been here? Seeking your truth?

DRAENPENO TWO
Time is not as important here. We are to spend as much time as is necessary seeking our truth. Most pass fifteen Silver Nights in the pursuit of it. Sometimes less; often more.

SFX
Crunching gravel.

ARKAHN
Meek.

KATHERINE
Mike! Mike?

JARETH
What is it, Meek?

MIKE
Mike.

KATHERINE
Well, what happened? What did they say about finding Shauna?

MIKE
We're going west.

JARETH
West? Why west? What did they say?

MIKE
(through clenched teeth)
They said to "go west."

KATHERINE

That's it?

MIKE

Yep.

DRAENPENO TWO

That was all they said to you?

MIKE

Guess I should've been more specific.

ARKAHN

It is OK, Meek.

DRAENPENO TWO

Ainorem have their reasons. Though I cannot imagine why it would be so brief. And direct.

KATHERINE

Probably to give Mike a taste of his own medicine.

DRAENPENO TWO

Ainorem speak only truth. If you go west, then you shall find that which is lost.

JARETH

Do not tell me you engaged them in witty banter.

ARKAHN

Did you, Meek?

KATHERINE

Mike—you did say the ritual words, right?

MIKE

(his best Bruce Campbell impression)

“Look. Maybe I didn't say every single little tiny syllable, no. But basically I said them, yeah.”

(beat)

KATHERINE

Um...I hope that's just a stupid reference.

ARKAHN

Some things are not for joking, Meek.

DRAENPENO TWO

If you offended them, that might explain their answer.

JARETH

Even after we practiced the words!

MIKE

(sighs)

Y'all suck.

(annoyed)

Yes, I said the ritual words correctly and with “reverence.”

DRAENPENO TWO

Then that does not explain it....

MIKE

Jareth, what exactly is west of here?

JARETH

The Great Westerly Road.

KATHERINE

Let me guess, it goes due west?

ARKAHN

It does. Many of our greatest cities lie along it.

MIKE

Well, then I guess we're all getting compasses: we must go west.

DRAENPENNO TWO

That said, I would advise you to not always take *Ainorem's* answer so literally. The wisdom of *Ainorem* can be found in the layers of their words.

MIKE

(aside)

Yeah, both of them.

(to Draenpenno Two)

They sounded pretty clear and layerless to me.

(beat)

With all due respect, of course.

ARKAHN

It is at least a place to start.

KATHERINE

Hold up, guys. What—?

SFX

The sound of foliage being destroyed as the University guards come out of the woods.

GUARD

HALT. We have you surrounded.

MIKE

What the?

KATHERINE

Oh sh—

MIKE

Jareth, what did you do to us?

JARETH

Minem boxen wo fai. There was no other way.

ARKAHN

Meek!

TARGONONE

You did the proper thing, Jareth.

(to Arkahn)

Arkahn of Laundi, you are accused of being a member of the Legion of Oren and an enemy to the people. With my inalienable power, granted by *Proolau wo Tarentenodi* and the *Jakenamura* ["Judges"] of the Seven, I place you under arrest. I implore you to come willingly.

DRAENPENNO TWO

Senjen! This is sacred ground. Neutral ground. We desire no part in your conflict. Do not desecrate this holy place

TARGONONE

Draenpeno, I have no wish to violate your hallowed earth—but that woman is a traitor to the peoples of Laundi. That includes you. If she does not surrender herself I will be forced to move my men in after her.

KATHERINE

Ohhh no. If you think for one minute you can just waltz in and violate centuries of—

ARKAHN

No, Kath—it is OK. I do not wish for this place to be defiled. I knew this might be my fate when I chose to return.
(to Targo)
I surrender myself to you.

MIKE

Arkahn!

GUARD

Shackle her.

SFX

Rustling chains.

ARKAHN

It is *ra-na*, Meek. Go now. Find Shaena.

JARETH

Mike. Kath. We must leave now and return to Zana's.

MIKE

This isn't over. We are gonna have SO MANY words, you—

TARGONONE

Boxen wo fai, Meek. Kath. I must put you into protective custody.

KATHERINE

Protective what? Hey! Get off!

GUARD

This way, *senjen*.

MIKE

Jareth, you son-of-a—ow, hey! Leggo!

JARETH

Targonone! This... was not supposed to happen.

TARGONONE

Stand aside Jareth, and be content that you are free to go without an escort. It is due only to your cooperation that you will not be joining your... unusual friends.

JARETH

(defeated)

Yes, *paren-schwa*.

MIKE

We're screwed again. Why are we always screwed?

KATHERINE

Jareth! What's going to happen?

JARETH

Arkahn will be tried as a Legionnaire and, if found guilty...possibly sentenced to death.

(KATHERINE and MIKE gasp, act dismayed, etc.)

JARETH (cont.)

(to self, torn)

We must hold to our ways, whatever the cost.

END OF SHOW