

**SECOND SHIFT**

Episode #2.03: Law and Order, Part I (v2.2)

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**Teaser**

• Arkahn, Bailif, Taren

**SFX**

A crowd of people expressing the apprehension and excitement that goes with a high-profile trial.

**SFX**

A gong or heavy bell sounds. The Laundian equivalent of a gavel.

**BAILIFF**

Silence in court!

**SFX**

Crowd noise trails off.

**BAILIFF**

Rise for [Judges] *Sundhjae* of Seven. [Judge] *Sundhja* Taren presides.

**SFX**

A lot of people standing up.

**SFX**

The entering Judges' footsteps are heard on the wooden floor.

**BAILIFF**

Be seated.

**SFX**

A lot of people sitting down.

**SFX**

A gong or heavy bell sounds.

**BAILIFF**

[Your Honors] *Sun-schwa*, the assembly of Proolau wo Tarentenodi has been called and awaits your deliberation.

**TAREN**

Present the accused, Bailiff.

**BAILIFF**

Present the accused!

**SFX**

Crowd noise rises.

**SFX**

Gong/bell

**BAILIFF**

Silence in the court!

**SFX**

Crowd noise dies.

**BAILIFF**

*Sun-schwa*, before you stands Arkahn of Laundi. Daughter of Lorenalark of Velia and Alexalark of Toolan Bay.

**TAREN**

Arkahn of Laundi, you are accused of collusion with the Legion of Oren.

(beat)

You are charged with five counts of a felonious nature: providing intelligence to the enemies of all Baela and Laundi in particular; providing succor to the enemies of all Baela and Laundi in particular; possession of contraband of a magical nature; attempting to corrupt University officials in the person of one Jareth of Tarentenodi son of Haiwedetjare and Mahgaretjare; and the unlawful use of Odi.

(beat)

These charges carry a maximum penalty of death. You stand in judgment under the wisdom of the Seven. How do you plead?

(pause)

**ARKAHN**

*Sun-schwa*, to these charges I plead "guilty."

## ACT ONE

### Scene 1—Textbook +1 vs. Guards

• Mike, Katherine

MIKE

Two days!

SFX

Mike punches a stone wall.

MIKE

Ow! Owowow...

KATHERINE

Keep trying Mike. You'll punch those walls down in no time.

MIKE

So funny!

(sighs)

We have to get out of here.

KATHERINE

At least this room is better than our last prison, even if we have to share it. Narrow bunk beds, a nailed-shut window, matching chamber pots—all the comforts. Better than my old dorm room. Actually I'm pretty sure this is a dorm room. Or was.

MIKE

You are awfully calm about all this.

KATHERINE

Oh, if you weren't entertaining me with your Wile E. Coyote plans, I'd have flown into a murderous rage a long time ago.

MIKE

At least I'm doing something.

KATHERINE

All you've done is encourage them to take away all the heavy, blunt objects in the room.

MIKE

That almost worked!

KATHERINE

Yes, the classic whomp-the-guard-on-the-head-and-run. An excellent plan; to bad the heaviest thing we had was an odi-theory text book.

(beat)

Which, now that I think about it, is what Jareth teaches...

MIKE

What is your problem?! We're trapped here for no reason that anyone will tell us, God knows what they're doing to Arkahn. Jareth sold us out—I'm gonna kill him, by the way—and all you can do is sit there and make snide remarks.

KATHERINE

Mike...

MIKE

Typical Katherine: criticizing like it's her job. Too bad that, with your talent to critique the obvious, you didn't notice Jareth's shady behavior. I can't believe I didn't put it together. I knew there was something funny going on with him. Did I mention I'm going to kill him? I'm going to kick his pompous ass like it's never been kicked before and then I'm gonna go to work on him! I'm talking freaky medieval witch-hunt type stuff.

KATHERINE

Mike!

MIKE

What!

KATHERINE

Shut up and listen to me. Your freaking out isn't helping anything.

MIKE

Says the grudge mistress herself.

KATHERINE

I'm not saying I wouldn't like to take a tire iron to him either. But we've got bigger problems.

MIKE

Arkahn...

KATHERINE

On one level I'm okay with leaving her to the University's Judges or whatever they're called. But on the other...we might need her.

MIKE

"We might need her?" That's cold. Look, this whole "grudge thing" is played out. Shauna's alive: let it go.

KATHERINE

Look, I'm relieved that Arkahn didn't kill Shauna, but it was her actions that—

MIKE

That story's getting old, Katherine,

KATHERINE

Look, I'm entitled to my own opinions, one of which is that I do think we'll need her.

MIKE

Well, we've gotta get out of here first.

KATHERINE

Well we're not getting out your way.

MIKE

So, what? We try yours? Waiting patiently for them to let us go?

KATHERINE

Yes.

MIKE

(Derisive snort)

KATHERINE

Seriously, Mike. We haven't been charged with anything. Targonone said he was just taking us into protective custody.

MIKE

Protecting himself...

KATHERINE

Think about it for a moment. We're not in a cell; we're in some dorm room with a warded door. Nobody's interrogated us or dragged us in front of a judge. They even gave us books to read until you decided to use a textbook as a +1 club vs. guards and damnit I'm starting to talk like you.

MIKE

Heh. You're right, though. Not that I know anything about Laundi's due process, but this probably isn't it. I still think it's odd. Did you see the way ol' Targy looked at us? I half expected them to go all alien autopsy on us. The guy knows stuff.

KATHERINE

Nah. I think Targonone's keeping us tucked away until the trial starts.

MIKE

What, so we can't mess stuff up?

KATHERINE

Well it's what you're best at. And yeah.

MIKE

But if you're right about Targo, what if we're too late to do anything when we get out? What if they give her the death penalty?

KATHERINE

If there's one thing I've gleaned from Jareth, it's that University's people love to stand on formality. I doubt they'll rush the trial. They'll probably want to make a big spectacle. We'll have time.

MIKE

I hope you're right.

(beat)

But I'm still going to try to come up with a Plan B, just in case.

KATHERINE

(sighs)

(remark is snarky, but also resigned)

I always have my feminine wiles...

**Scene 2—Witness For the Prosecution**

- Arkahn, Fesmer, Jareth, Targonone, Trial Judges

TAREN

You claim your parents were your only Legion contacts in the area?

ARKAHN

Yes *Sun-schwa*. They were the only ones from whom I received orders. And if I objected...

TAREN

And where are your parents now, Arkahn?

ARKAHN

I do not know. I have not seen them in a year. Not since I betrayed them and fled.

TAREN

Are you aware of the identity of their contacts within the Legion?

ARKAHN

I know now that a man named Porec received some of my intelligence.

TAREN

And this Porec was a Legionnaire? Is he Laundian?

(ARKAHN and TAREN's dialogue slowly fades and continues under JARETH and TARGONONE's dialogue.)

ARKAHN

He is from Detlaef, I believe. He... He was of the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood of Oren.

SFX

Crowd chatter erupts

SFX

Gong/Bell

SFX

Crowd chatter dies

(ARKAHN and TAREN's Dialog. Background. If spoken naturally, it should match up with Jareth and Targo's dialogue.)

TAREN

Are you stating, under oath to Ainorem, that the Brotherhood of Oren actually exists within the Legion of Oren?

ARKAHN

Well, they exist. But they are not part of the Legion.

TAREN

Explain.

ARKAHN

(sighs)

They... how can I describe this... I learned a word in the last year: cult. It refers to a group that follow a person or philosophy with passionate, even fanatical zeal. That subvert their identity to what they follow. I suppose you could call the Brotherhood a cult that follows Oren.

(JARETH and TARGO speak in hushed tones, but the sound is louder than Arkahn and Taren's)

SFX

Shuffling of people

JARETH

*Parado fai, parado, senjen, do not stand, I can...cha grendi.*

(beat)

*Oli trau, paren-schwa.*

TARGONONE

Greetings Jareth. I am surprised to see you here—your role in this is at an end.

JARETH

I feel a responsibility to attend this trial. I merely overslept...

TARGONONE

That is unlike you.

JARETH

I have done many things “unlike me” in the past several days.

TARGONONE

You did the right thing—

JARETH

I did the lawful thing.

(beat)

Have you yet allowed Meek and Kath to go free?

SFX  
Crowd murmur.

TAREN  
But what is their connection to the Legion?

ARKAHN  
The Brotherhood guides the Legion, but does not control it.

(Fade in)

ARKAHN (CONT)  
Some Brothers are scholars. Others travel, spreading Oren's teachings to those who would listen. Some also act as wandering *Sundhjae* in regions where Legion control is strong.

TAREN  
And you say some of the information went to this man—Porec?—who was part of the Brotherhood, not the Legion?

TARGONONE  
Not as yet. I intend to speak with them shortly.

JARETH  
I see.

(Beat)

TARGONONE  
Arkahn has pled guilty. She has delivered some very honest answers.

(Fade out)

JARETH  
That is good.

TARGONONE  
Let us hope so, Jareth. Let us hope so.

ARKAHN  
Correct.

TAREN  
Please elaborate.

ARKAHN  
I... Well...

FESMER  
(Farspeaking)  
Arkahn?

ARKAHN  
Fesmer?

TAREN  
Could you repeat that?

FESMER  
(Farspeaking)  
Just think of the words, I will hear them.

ARKAHN  
(Farspeaking)  
What are you doing?

FESMER  
(Farspeaking)  
I have been listening to the trial.

TAREN  
Arkahn? Do you decline to respond?

ARKAHN  
(Farspeaking)  
How can you do this? University is mind-shielded against—

FESMER  
(Farspeaking)  
No protection is perfect. Now, continue telling them the truth. The entirety of it.

ARKAHN  
(Farspeaking)  
But...

FESMER  
(Farspeaking)  
Tell them about me, Arkahn. Do not lie to protect me.

ARKAHN  
(Farspeaking)  
But—

FESMER  
(Farspeaking)  
Do it!

ARKAHN  
I... I apologize *Sun-schwa*. I was lost in memory.  
(Takes a deep breath.)  
Porec has a younger brother who lived in Laundi. It has been my task for years to monitor him.

TAREN  
Why is this brother so important?

ARKAHN

He is a Natural Mage.

SFX

Excited crowd murmuring

SFX

Bell/gong

TAREN

What was this mage's name?

(pause)

FESMER

(Farspeaking)

Tell them.

ARKAHN

(meekly)

Fesmer. Son of Loxoronpo and Tristenonpo.

SFX

Crowd murmur

TAREN

*Senjen*, continue.

ARKAHN

At first I knew very little regarding his situation. When it began, I was too young to even comprehend that I was spying on him. I had no friends, and so my parents encouraged me to gain employment at a restaurant. He worked there as well and we became friends. And then my parents began asking me about him. Encouraged me to spend more time with him, to goad him into performing rash acts...

(beat)

I quickly realized what was happening, but by then it was too late. I was their spy. They made me tell them everything.

(ARKAHN and TAREN's dialogue fades and continues under JARETH and TARGONONE's dialogue.)

TAREN

Tell us more about Fesmer. Did he have connections to the Legion?

ARKAHN

The Legion killed his father when he was young. Fesmer thought his brother was killed as well. What he did not know was that his father was heavily involved in the Legion. I do not know why they turned on him.

(beat)

Fesmer was ignorant of his family's connections, but not of their history of magic.

(beat)

He and his mother fled Detlaef and came to Laundi to live peacefully, free of Legion influence—so far as I know.

TAREN

And for what purpose were you tasked with observing him?

(Fade in)

ARKAHN

I am not entirely certain. At times, it seemed as though they wanted me to help him grow as a mage. At others, it seemed that I was simply observing.

JARETH and TARGO's dialogue: (hushed tones)

TARGONONE

You have surrounded yourself with troublesome people, Jareth. This could reflect poorly on you.

JARETH

I understand.

TARGONONE

I hope you do. I am not the only one who knew of your friendship with Fesmer and Arkahn before this day. There will be questions.

JARETH

I am prepared to answer them.

TARGONONE

Are you? Where do your loyalties lie, Jareth?

JARETH

*Paren-schwa?*

TARGONONE

You will have to decide between your friends and University. It is not an easy decision to make, but it is one you must make alone. Be true to yourself, Jareth. When this storm subsides, that may be all you have left.

(beat)

We will speak more later. If you will excuse me, I must leave. Keep me informed.

ARKAHN (CONT)

I believe that they hoped my influence would slowly open him to their way of thinking. I assumed Porec planned to return one day and attempt to bring Fesmer to his side.

(beat)

It probably would have worked, too, if it weren't for those meddling kids.

(chuckles)

TAREN

Who?

ARKAHN

There were some... people we met over a year ago. They changed things for us. After only a few months of knowing them, I had to betray them and, shortly after, my parents. And then we fled to... another place.

TAREN

*Senjen*, continue.

ARKAHN

(sighs)

This is a lengthy story.

TAREN

We have time.

ARKAHN

Very well. Some parts of it may seem far-fetched, but I assure you it is true. Every word.

**Scene 3—Witness Protection**

• Mike, Katherine, Targonone, Guard

SFX

3 people walking outside.

KATHERINE

See Mike, I told you they'd come for us soon.

MIKE

(mocking) Told you so...

(beat)

Hey, you—where are you taking us?

GUARD

I have told you. *Aindel* Targonone wishes to speak with you.

MIKE

Yeah, but where?

GUARD

His office in the Tower of Sages.

MIKE

The what?

GUARD

That building over there.

MIKE

Not much of a tower.

GUARD

It once was.

(as if he's said this many times before)

There was a fire a hundred years ago that weakened the top floors and they had to be pulled down. Since then it has been rebuilt into a more suitable form, but the name has remained the same. As one of the oldest buildings on campus...

MIKE

(whispering over Guard's lecture starting at "and they")

Hey, Katherine, you know, we could make a break for it now. He's just one guy and they didn't even cuff us. I can take 'im. He's a glorified tour guide.

GUARD

You are aware I can hear you?

KATHERINE

Calm down Mike. This is the only way we can find out what's going on. Besides, the guy has a spear.

MIKE + GUARD

Halberd.

KATHERINE

Whatever.

MIKE

I could still take him.

KATHERINE

Shut up Mike.

GUARD

(sighs) No scholarship could be worth this...

(pause)

GUARD

Down this hall, *senjen*.

MIKE

You better be right about this, Katherine.

GUARD

We are here.

SFX

Knocking

GUARD

*Aindel* Targonone? I have brought your guests.

TARGONONE

(faint) *Poneama* [enter]!

SFX

Door

TARGONONE

Meek, Kath, welcome. Please sit.

MIKE

Call me Mike.

TARGONONE

You have a slight limp, Mike. Has your leg healed properly?

MIKE

It's fine. Nothing that slows me down.

GUARD

Do you wish me to remain, *yen-schwa*?

TARGONONE

No. You are excused.

GUARD

Oli runa.

SFX

Door

MIKE

Alright, what the hell is going on here?

TARGONONE

Sit, *senjen*. Would you care for anything to eat or drink? I have some iced fraunti nectar. It is excellent this time of year.

MIKE

What I would care for are some answers.

KATHERINE

I would have some nectar, *senjen*. Mike, sit down. He is going to give us answers.

MIKE  
Fine.

TARGONONE  
Here, Kath. Enjoy.  
(beat)  
I trust the two of you have been well-fed and provided for.

KATHERINE  
Well enough.

TARGONONE  
I truly must apologize for the manner in which you were treated. I intended only to shield you from prying eyes while Arkahn's trial began. Had Arkahn pled innocent, your testimony would have been vital to uncovering the truth. And there are perhaps those who would prefer not to have certain matters disclosed.

MIKE  
Wait, Arkahn pled guilty?

TARGONONE  
Indeed. It was wise of her to do so. If she continues to cooperate, her sentence should be lenient. Perhaps only exile.

KATHERINE  
You suggested there were people who would have tried to stop us from testifying.

TARGONONE  
Correct.

KATHERINE  
Who?

TARGONONE  
I could not say.

KATHERINE  
Can not, or will not?

TARGONONE  
There are always those who would conceal the truth at any cost. Especially where the Legion is involved. University has its own secrets as well...

MIKE  
So if our lives were in danger, isn't Arkahn's now that she's blabbing Legion secrets or whatever?

TARGONONE  
Her life was in jeopardy the moment she defected from the Legion. For now I suspect she is safe. To strike at her now would be foolish.

MIKE  
What happens now?

TARGONONE  
Now? I would ask some questions of you.

KATHERINE  
What sort of questions?

TARGONONE

Arkahn has confessed some intriguing things. I am interested in seeing how they correspond to the facts of your... previous visit to our town.

MIKE

Well you ain't gettin' answers from me.

TARGONONE

No, I suspected as much. But, hopefully, your friend has a better grasp of the situation at hand.

(beat)

So, Kath, tell me, how exactly did Shaena learn to cast, what was it called? Ah, yes, Shift.

**End Act One**

**[AD BREAK]**

## Act Two

### Scene 4—Arkahn Brokovitch

\*Arkahn, Fesmer, Jareth, Trial Judges

ARKAHN

—and that is when I was arrested.

SFX

Low crowd murmur.

TAREN

For the moment, let us assume that your story is true and this country, “Zehyooesaye” is a real place, despite your claims to having no knowledge of where it is or how to get there without this “shift” spell you described.

ARKAHN

I know it sounds peculiar, yet—

TAREN

It is not the issue. You fled somewhere with these new friends of yours, and you returned willingly?

ARKAHN

Yes.

TAREN

Despite knowing what would await you here?

ARKAHN

I have decided to cease fleeing from my mistakes, *Sun-schwa*. I will accept the judgment of this court. I seek only to atone for my crimes.

SFX

Crowd murmur.

(Fade out)

TAREN

Very well. The court will take this into consideration.

TAREN (CONT)

Let us return to your duties as a Legion agent.

ARKAHN

What would you like to know?

TAREN

You have made mention to receiving, at times, additional assignments from your parents. *Senjen*, describe these to us.

ARKAHN

They varied widely. I suppose one could say I was an extra pair of hands when they needed them. They would assign me various minor tasks to do, such as gathering information or delivering messages. Rarely anything of importance. Primarily though, my tasks were clerical in nature. While they were away, I would ensure that matters did not go awry.

TAREN

When they were away on their smuggling runs?

ARKAHN

Yes, *Sun-schwa*.

JARETH and KASHA's dialogue: (hushed tones)

SFX

Shuffling of people

KASHA

*Parado fai, parado*, do not stand, I can... *cha grendi*.

(beat)

Bii Jareth.

JARETH

Bii Kasha. I did not expect to see you here.

KASHA

I came to see how you fared. This must be uncomfortable for you.

JARETH

This is not an experience I would care to repeat..

KASHA

Jareth, I apologize if I presume too much, but I must ask: Why did you consort with these people?

JARETH

Might we discuss this later?

KASHA

One of them an admitted Legion spy; the other, your childhood friend, accused of abusing Odi. How could you not have—

JARETH

(growling)

Not now, Kasha.

TAREN

These trips, they were frequent?

(Fade in)

ARKAHN

Yes *Sun-schwa*. Frequently they would be gone for weeks at a time.  
They... they were rarely present.

KASHA

(rebuked)

*Boxen wo fai*, Jareth.

(Fade out)

JARETH

(softer)

We will discuss this later. I would ask you to remember: whatever  
University deems them to be, they were once my friends.

TAREN

You have mentioned this smuggling operation previously. Could you describe it in more detail?

ARKAHN

I am afraid I cannot. Though my parents were directly involved, I was only *tujen bok*: a Legion method you could call “security through obscurity.” I never accompanied my parents nor was I allowed to learn what they were transporting.

TAREN

And what was their involvement?

ARKAHN

They would accompany the shipments, yet I believe they were little more than couriers.

TAREN

There must be something more you can tell us.

ARKAHN

Well...

FESMER

(Farspeaking)

Tell them about tae-oden.

ARKAHN

(Farspeaking)

Do not do that! You startled me.

FESMER

(Farspeaking)

I do not have much time. I cannot maintain this spell longer. Tell them about tae-oden.

ARKAHN

(Farspeaking)

I am not certain they will like what—

FESMER

(Farspeaking)

Do it. Tell them— (cuts off as the spell ends)

ARKAHN

(Farspeaking)

Fesmer? Fesmer? *Ben-sa wei*.

TAREN

...Arkahn?

ARKAHN

There... is one thing I have not mentioned.

TAREN

Yes?

ARKAHN

The Legion collects tae-oden, which they use to power many of their weapons and devices.

TAREN

We are aware of this.

ARKAHN  
Were you aware that many of them are smuggled out of Laundi?

SFX  
Angry crowd noise

KASHA  
What did she say?

JARETH  
(slightly perplexed)  
She said that the Legion is obtaining tae-oden from Laundi.

KASHA  
Preposterous! University monitors, gathers, & disposes of tae-oden.

SFX  
Gong/bell

TAREN  
Silence! Silence in the court!

SFX  
Crowd noise dies.

TAREN  
Do you have evidence to support this claim?

ARKAHN  
Well, no but...

TAREN  
Let the accused's last statement be stricken from the record.

ARKAHN  
But it is true! There is a hidden market for tae-oden in Laundi.

SFX  
Crowd noise erupts again

SFX  
Gong/bell

TAREN  
By my authority as presiding *Sundhja* of this court, this trial will now move to closed session.

SFX  
Crowd noise spikes angrily

TAREN  
Bailiff, clear the gallery!

KASHA  
What just happened?

JARETH  
Something is very wrong. *Ino parado fai*, I must go see Targonane.

KASHA  
Remember, Jareth—you and I need to speak. Alone.

JARETH  
Of course, but now is not the time.

**Scene 5—Ignore Me**

• Fesmer, Zana, Bellon

SFX

Door

SFX

Footsteps (continuous)

BELLON

Welcome to Zana's, how may I... *Parado fai? Valo? Valo* you cannot go back—

FESMER

(rush the mantra) *Fai cthloll odi*. Ignore me.

BELLON

—there... Huh? I thought... I must be working too stridently.

SFX

Door

SFX

Kitchen sounds, background chatter.

SFX

Door

ZANA

(idly humming/singing to herself)

SFX

Footsteps stop.

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FESMER

Oli wan *shi-schwa*.

ZANA

Oh! Fesmer? Oh. Do not startle me so. I did not hear you enter.

FESMER

I apologize. I felt it prudent to conceal myself.

ZANA

I am afraid you caught me unprepared for guests. I was just reviewing the week's finances. Please sit.

FESMER

That song sounded familiar.

ZANA

Oh, it is an old favorite, but not one from here. I see you have been in a fight recently. No serious injuries, I trust?

FESMER

Merely bruised. Though I have had to purchase a new sword to replace Moonfang. Rather, my old sword...

ZANA

Moonfang? Fesmer, only a fool names his tools. The best steel may be dulled, broken, or lost. Do not invest your heart into expendable items.

FESMER

As always, your words are wise, *shi-schwa*.

ZANA

You have heard what has happened to the others?

FESMER

Indeed.

ZANA

And I assume you intend to take action?

FESMER

Yes.

ZANA

Whatever it may be, put it out of your mind. You are too late.

FESMER

What?!

ZANA

Arkahn's trial has already begun.

FESMER

Yes, I know this, but...

ZANA

Had you returned earlier, perhaps a daring rescue would have sufficed. But not now. Only two people are in a position to help. We must simply trust in them to do right.

FESMER

Mike and Kath? They have also been imprisoned.

ZANA

Not them, Fesmer. In truth, it is likely for the best they were detained as well. Their presence seems to escalate problems more often than solve them.

FESMER

So if not them then...you are saying we must trust in him?

ZANA

I am continuously amazed at how little you know of each other after all this time.

FESMER

I should go. Perhaps if I can speak with him...

ZANA

Remain, Fesmer. Do not take needless risks.

FESMER

(hard sigh)

I feel so powerless.

ZANA

Yet you are quite the opposite. Fret not, *lio*. Your time will come. For now, sit down. Would you care for some pig pie or *hoj*?

FESMER

Water only, *shi-schwa*. *Cha grendi*.

SFX

Pouring.

ZANA

Now, there is much you wish to tell me. I can see it in your eyes. Did you find what you sought? Did you ever encounter my... friends?

FESMER

Yes, *shi-schwa*.

**Scene 6—Due Process**

• Mike, Katherine, Targonone, Jareth

**SFX**

Door opens loudly.

JARETH

Targonone! I—you?

MIKE

Jareth!

JARETH

What are you doing here?

MIKE

I'm gonna kick your ass so hard that your grandkids will need crutches!

KATHERINE

Mike!

JARETH

I would enjoy watching you attempt this, you oafish—

TARGONONE

Jareth! Mike! Both of you, calm yourselves.

MIKE

Betraying bastard!

KATHERINE

Mike! Shut it!

TARGONONE

*Senjen*, it was my notion to involve the two of you in this, not his.

JARETH

And like it or not, Arkahn is a Legionnaire.

MIKE

Was.

TARGONONE

Everything has happened as was required. Jareth has done his duty in reporting an admitted criminal. You do your duty as her friend. Even she did her duty, as a Legionnaire.

(beat)

Jareth, you had something to recount? How does the trial progress?

JARETH

(frazzled)

The *Sundhjae* closed the court.

(beat)

TARGONONE

What?

JARETH

Arkahn was providing testimony when the *Sundhjae* silenced her then cleared the room.

TARGONONE

What was her testimony?

JARETH

It was on tae-oden. She began describing an illegal trade in them and then [Justice] Taren ordered her silent.

TARGONONE

Tae-oden? Are you certain?

JARETH

Yes *paren-schwa*.

TARGONONE

(to self)

Interesting...very interesting. I must look into this.

JARETH

*Paren-schwa*, this is a serious breach of protocol.

TARGONONE

It is entirely within the rights of the *Sundhjae* in cases like this.

Yet—all the same, it is exceedingly unusual.

MIKE

I'm confused. What's going on?

JARETH

They closed the court.

MIKE

Which means?

TARGONONE

The Judges felt it necessary to usher out the assembly and conduct the remainder of the trial in sealed session.

MIKE

Sealed?

KATHERINE

It means there's nobody observing the trial, so they can do whatever they want.

MIKE

They can't do that!

TARGONONE

They can, but they should not. Especially since Arkahn has done nothing but cooperate.

JARETH

Something peculiar is occurring.

MIKE

Maybe they didn't want anyone to hear the answers Arkahn was giving them.

TARGONONE

I believe you are correct, Mike.

JARETH

So what do we do?

TARGONONE

We will do nothing. You will escort Mike and Kath off campus and back to Zana's shop. I will look into this further.

MIKE

We get to leave?

KATHERINE

Told you.

JARETH

But *paren-schwa*, do you really think that is best? I can assist you.

TARGONONE

No Jareth. You are young and impatient. Allow me to handle this. Show our guests out, *senjen*.

MIKE

We can find our own way.

TARGONONE

I would much prefer that—

MIKE

We will show ourselves out. Good day to you sir!

SFX

SLAM!

KATHERINE

*Boxen wo fai*. He can be—

SFX

Door opens again.

MIKE

(slightly embarrassed at having left without Katherine)

Come on, Kath.

KATHERINE

Do you really think—

MIKE

(suppressed rage)

Didn't you hear the man? He'll handle it. Now c'mon.

KATHERINE

*Goren-dai*, Targonone. Jareth.

JARETH

(confused)

Then what am I supposed to do?

SFX

Door shutting.

SFX

Running

KATHERINE

Mike, wait up.

MIKE

You gonna say "I told you so?"

KATHERINE

I already did.

MIKE

(harrumphs)

KATHERINE

Mike. Where are you going?

MIKE

To Zana's. Time to make some plans.

KATHERINE

Oh. OK. But you're going the wrong way.

## Scene 7

• Mike, Katherine

SFX

Walking outside.

MIKE

I still don't understand why you told Targonone so much. Seriously. You practically told him everything.

KATHERINE

I did not. Besides, I was finding out how much he already knew.

MIKE

By telling him stuff he didn't?

KATHERINE

To see how he'd react. And there was barely a flicker of surprise or anything. I mean the guy seemed to know everything that was going on. That means one of three things. A) Arkahn is telling those Judges more than she should. B) Jareth told him. Or C) He's been monitoring us.

MIKE

"D." All of the above.

KATHERINE

Probably. But however he found out, I doubt that's good news for us. When he fixed you up he told Zana that he that he felt something unusual about you. He might have known before, but now he definitely knows a thing or two about Fesmer and Shauna's illegal magic.

KATHERINE (CONT)

Which means he knows that Jareth and Zana have been lying to him. My conclusion? We shouldn't take anything he says at face value. The man's a schemer. I can tell.

MIKE

Takes one to know one?

KATHERINE

Exactly.

MIKE

We should talk to Zana about this. But we need to deal with Arkahn first.

KATHERINE

Agreed. Hopefully Fesmer's made his way back. Maybe he's got some good ideas.

MIKE

Might be good to keep him away from University if what you said about Targo's true.

KATHERINE

I suppose, we could always get Jareth's help. If we had to.

MIKE

(dubious)

We'll see. Stupid University people and their stupid dumb...

(beat)

Y'know, it's too bad we didn't run into those Brikka jerks. I really want to punch someone right now.

KATHERINE

I think I'll pass. And Brikka who?

MIKE

These guys who kicked the snot out of me and Fesmer at that Brikka game. When you and Arkahn were shopping or whatever?

KATHERINE

...Or whatever.

MIKE

My first and their faces, Katherine. It would make everything so much better. I know it would.

KATHERINE

You have noticed that we don't ever fare well in fights? Especially you.

MIKE

Maybe we get a fresh start this time? A chance to kick all the ass we couldn't before.

KATHERINE

Some fresh start. Let's see: we got ambushed by bandits and saved by Legionnaires. Then we were arrested and held for two days. I miss anything?

MIKE

They took Arkahn and are trying her for crimes that are punishable by death.

(beat)

Things had better turn around, and fast.

(hard sigh)

I wish Shauna was here. She'd know exactly what to do.

KATHERINE

Yeah. Except she wouldn't tell us she was doing it.

(they laugh a little)

KATHERINE

I miss her, too.

**Scene 8a— We Used to Work Here**

•Mike, Katherine, Bellon, Zana

SFX

Door opening

BELLON

Welcome to Zana's. How may I— *Valo? Pzona? Parado fai?* You cannot go back there!

MIKE

It's okay. We used to work here.

BELLON

But...

SFX

Knocking.

MIKE

(brusquely) Zana? It's Mike and Kath.

ZANA

(within) *Poneama*.

SFX

Door open.

ZANA

I am relieved to see you! Are you unharmed?

KATHERINE

We are *ra-na*, Zana. Merely upset.

MIKE

Have you seen Fesmer?

ZANA

He returned recently. Did you receive an answer from Draenmer?

MIKE

Where is Fesmer? He should hear this.

ZANA

He just stepped outside.

KATHERINE

Oh? I didn't see him go out.

ZANA

He, ah, went out the window.

KATHERINE

What?

ZANA

He heard you coming and was concerned you would not be alone.

MIKE

Ah. I'll go get him.

SFX

Door.

ZANA

Please, Kath, detail what has occurred. Were you ill-treated? Leave nothing out.

**Scene 8b— Who Were You Talking To?**

•Mike, Fesmer

SFX

Door. Outside sounds

MIKE

Fes? You out here? Where'd that boy...

FESMER

(faint)

Yes. Yes. No, they just returned. Alone. I do not know. Trust me. I will not do anything foolish.

MIKE

Fes? That you?

FESMER

(faint)

Someone approaches. Yes. Soon.

SFX

Rustling bushes

FESMER

(loud whisper)

Mike? Is that you?

MIKE

(loud whisper)

Yes. Who were you talking to?

FESMER

(loud whisper)

Did you and Kath come alone?

MIKE

(loud whisper)

Yes. Do we have to keep whispering?

SFX

Rustling bushes

FESMER

Mike! I am relieved to see you are safe! What happened?

MIKE

Targonone had us locked away so we couldn't mess with Arkahn's trail. He let us go today. He knows a lot more about what's going on than I'm cool with.

FESMER

Well, hopefully we will not have to remain in Laundi much longer. Did you receive an answer from Draenmer?

MIKE

Yeah. It was both oddly specific and almost uselessly vague.

FESMER

How so?

MIKE

“Go west.”

FESMER  
Go west?

MIKE  
That's it.

FESMER  
As in, along the Great Westerly road?

MIKE  
That's one theory. Our one and only, actually.

FESMER  
It seems too simple. I suspect that there may be more to *Ainorem's* answer than that.

MIKE  
That's what I keep hearing. Guess we'll find out.  
(beat)  
Who were you talking to?

FESMER  
No one. What has happened to Arkahn?

MIKE  
It's not good. They closed the trial.

FESMER  
What?

MIKE  
It means—

FESMER  
I know what it means. I was expressing surprise.

MIKE  
Oh.

FESMER  
Why did they do that?

MIKE  
I don't really know. Jareth said they did it after she said something about tae-odens.

FESMER  
Interesting...  
(beat)  
Do you have a plan?

MIKE  
Not really. But we have to get her out of there. Targonone and Jareth seemed to think they'd go easy on her for playing along, but I don't trust these University people.

FESMER  
I concur. We may have to do something drastic.

MIKE  
Yeah.

FESMER  
Zana will preach restraint.

MIKE

Probably. Whatever we do, we'll have to be careful to keep her out of it. She does live here.

FESMER

You make a good point.

MIKE

Oh, and Fesmer?

FESMER

Yes?

MIKE

Who were you talking to?

FESMER

It is not important, Mike.

MIKE

Fesmer. I missed a lot of what happened last year. Even still, I think of you as a friend.

FESMER

And I you.

MIKE

But I swear to god and all the stuff you find holy, Fesmer. If you screw us. I will destroy you.

(pause)

FESMER

It was a friend.

MIKE

What sort of friend?

FESMER

Someone who has helped me a great deal over the past year. I cannot tell you more at present. It is not time. But I promise that I am on your side.

MIKE

I'm going to hold you to that.

**Scene 9—A Speedy and Public Trial**

•Jareth, Targonone

SFX

Door

JARETH

Targonone? You desired to see me?

TARGONONE

Yes Jareth. *Senjen*, sit.

JARETH

Were you able to learn more about Arkahn’s trial?

TARGONONE

Yes, I... I desired to be the first to tell you. I felt you should hear this from me, rather than hearsay.

JARETH

What?

TARGONONE

There has not been a public announcement yet, but Arkahn has been sentenced to death.

JARETH

What?!

TARGONONE

*Ino boxen wo fai* Jareth.

JARETH

But... But she admitted her guilt!

TARGONONE

And, when she did, she knew that she could—

JARETH

That does not matter! She turned against the Legion. She is not a danger any longer.

TARGONONE

This is true. However—

JARETH

No, *paren-schwa*! There is no “however.” Even if their sentence did not violate the letter of the law, it clearly ignored its meaning.

TARGONONE

I do not disagree Jareth, but we are not in a position to do anything.

JARETH

What do you mean? We have our voices. We can make them heard. Expose this hypocrisy.

TARGONONE

Jareth, you must choose your battles.

JARETH

I cannot look away in this matter, Targonone! Whatever she may deserve, she does not deserve to die.

TARGONONE

Jareth! Calm yourself! Think! You are in no position to aid her.

JARETH  
And why not?

TARGONONE  
One of Arkahn's charges was that she had attempted to corrupt you, Jareth. To use your place within University to her advantage.

JARETH  
She did no such thing!

TARGONONE  
She pled guilty to all charges Jareth. And if you spoke in her defense it would appear that she had influenced you.

JARETH  
But...

TARGONONE  
And there is the further dilemma of your friend Fesmer. Arkahn told the *Sundhjae* of his illegal use of savage magic.

JARETH  
Yes. I must say; that surprised me.

TARGONONE  
Because you did not know, or because you did not think she would tell them?  
(beat)  
Jareth, you surrounded yourself with an admitted Legion spy and a man accused of frequent use of illegal magics. This does not present you in a good light. You need to tread carefully or you could find yourself before the *Sundhjae*. I can only protect you from so much.

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JARETH  
I still cannot stand idly by! I cannot put my own comfort above the life of another.

TARGONONE  
Jareth...

JARETH  
(cold)  
You have given me much to think on, *yen-schwa*. I assure you that I will give your advice due consideration.

TARGONONE  
Jareth, *senjen*, there are wiser methods to addressing the troubles of this world than striking at them directly.

JARETH  
That may be. Yet, there are none as immediate. *Oli nekt, aindel*.

SFX  
Door slam.

**End of Show**