

SECOND SHIFT

Episode #2.09: Conspiracy of Silence

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CONFIDENTIAL

Written:

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Cast

SHAUNA

POREC

HARPY

TIKO BYELOBOG

HIDEO DEJAN

TIKO DEVDAN

ANGRY OFFICER

BACKGROUND VOICES A – H (EIGHT)

SISTER TALYA

SERVER

CHIEF GUARD

ASSASSINS 1 & 2

GUARD 1

JUDGE

CULTIST

CONDEMNED A – I (NINE)

OREN

Teaser

- Shauna, Porec

Scene 1

- Shauna, Porec, *Tiko* Byelobog, Background voices

Scene 2

- Shauna, Porec, *Hideo* Dejan, *Tiko* Devdan, Angry Legion Officer, Sister Talya, Server, Background Voices A – H (eight), Chief Guard

Scene 3

- Chief Guard, Shauna, Porec

Scene 4

- Oren, Assassins 1 and 2, Harpy, Shauna, Chief Guard, Guard 1, Porec

Scene 5

- Judge, Talya, Shauna, Porec, Cultist, Crowd Noise

Scene 6

- Porec, Shauna, Chief Guard, Condemned A – I (nine)

Scene 7

- Harpy, Shauna, Oren

Teaser

• Shauna, Porec

SFX: A light breeze. They are standing outside, atop a large hill.

POREC
(proud)

Shauna Brown, at long last, behold Sonsa! [pron: Sawn-sa]
High within the Hermetic Mountains, it has remained the
unconquerable seat of both the Brotherhood and the Legion, as well
as *nay Laranka* [residence] of Lord Oren himself.

SHAUNA

Huh. I thought it would be bigger.

(beat)

I'm teasing. It's beautiful, especially from way up here. That giant
building over there...is that the Legion's Citadel?

POREC

Indeed. It is the largest building in the known world, though none
outside His Light know of its existence. A true shame.

SHAUNA

And where's the—what did you call it—Great Temple?

POREC

As I have explained, the Great Temple is the collective name for all
buildings—

SHAUNA

—exclusively used by the Brotherhood. Thanks, “Let's Go!
Amirand.” I meant the one Oren's supposed to be in.

POREC

Ah, *nay Dogorim* [the Dome]. It is the structure with the golden
dome.

SHAUNA

Ah, okay. So is that where we're going?

POREC

That is where you are going, yes. There are, however, things we
must do first.

SHAUNA

Fine. But this suspense is killing me.

POREC

Are you so eager to see our journey at an end?

SHAUNA

Well, kinda. I mean we've been traveling for what—fourteen
months? It's been cool and all, but that's a long time to be on the
road.

POREC

(a little disappointed)

This is true.

SHAUNA

Oh, don't be like that. You're as bad as Corven. He's hardly said
a word to me all week. Come on. Let's get back to the carriage.

POREC

(hesitant)

Shauna, a moment.

SHAUNA
(expecting something serious)
Yeah?

POREC
I want you to be cautious down there.

SHAUNA
(dismissive)
I'll be fine.

POREC
Almost certainly. Yet still....

SHAUNA
Oh, what are you worrying about? Oren wants me here. You've said that more times than I can count. What possible danger could I be in?

POREC
Whatever else they may be, the Legion and Brotherhood are of Man, for Man. Oren gives us his teachings, but that is all. And central to the Teachings is that there is always darkness in Man.

(beat)
When I joined the Brotherhood, I had a choice. Because of my... unique background, I could have obtained any position I wished. [Bishop] *Tiko* Mahalaleel, who invested me, felt I could become a great leader in time. So, I followed his recommendation and became a *tylen* [acolyte] in the Hand of Oren.

(beat)

SHAUNA
But you are of the Voice of Oren, right? What happened?

POREC
I was on the swiftest current towards success. I assisted *Tiko* Mahalaleel personally. He *is nay Sensamen* now. My star would have risen with his, if not for....

(sighs; beat)
I lived down there for a year, Shauna, and I did not find the life I had sought. The people there...they are not corrupt. They are not unfaithful. Yet, they are everything but. Ruthless. Conniving. Cold. These traits are more than rewarded. They are necessary for survival.

(beat)
And those people—they are absolutely necessary for the survival of Oren's followers as well. But that does not change who they are.

[sensamen means Patriarch, pronounce SEN-sah-min]

SHAUNA
(a little worried now)
So....

POREC
So be cautious, Shauna. Never lower your defenses. These people know nothing of you save that you exist and are powerful. They may see you as a tool, a threat, or a pawn for their games of power. You have no friends down there. Do not forget this.

SHAUNA
I have you.
(beat)
Come on, Porec, we should get going. But let's take the scenic route....

Scene 1

• Shauna, Porec, *Tiko* Byelobog, Background voices

TIKO BYELOBOG

Lo chare deren haber Nem Oren, "Karin eniae-charen, lo sapuna son-do. Cha nib raed wo nay plinish ken blass fai." Lo chare deren son-tanna lo tan deren rectera pen-Odi. [And Lord Oren did speak unto them, "Shut your eyes, and take my hand. I will lead you to a land at peace." And they did take His hand and he did gather great Odi.]

(slowly fade out as dialog starts)

Lo chare wor enaie-charaen, chare penesta Nay Wixara Yomaen lo rye, go nay lalix, fuo-ken zarkae. Te'oma nay Lioba shar nay carenta, xalben-go "E-ay plinish cosa riopae. E-ay fuo-cosa sail, taimen sobenexa." Nay nicomae deren yabo ken Te'oma prenti Nem Oren deren haber: "E-ay nicomae cosa male-riopae. Nay tren ken zoen."

[And when they opened their eyes, they beheld the Wasting Plains and were, for a time, without words. Te'oma the Younger broke the silence, declaring "This land is empty. This is not peace, rather desolation." The others did agree with Te'oma until Lord Oren did speak: "This land is not empty. It brims with life."]

SHAUNA

(whispering)

I don't mean to offend your religion, but this is making me want to poke my eyes out.

POREC

(good natured)

Shh.

SHAUNA

I can't even understand what he's saying... can barely hear him up here in this balcony.

POREC

It is Old Charendraen. All the teachings and records are written in it.

SHAUNA

(tauntingly)

Thought we weren't supposed to talk.

POREC

That is not stopping you. *Tiko* Byelobog's sermons tend to be... slow affairs. Many younger *Tikae* will read in the vernacular. But not "The Mountain."

SHAUNA

He does kinda look like a mountain. White on top and—

POREC

(amused)

—wide at the bottom.

(beat)

The man has been here as long as any. There are few new jokes.

SHAUNA

So why exactly are we here? What is this?

POREC

Ostensibly? To welcome a Brother of the Voice back from a long pilgrimage. I shall have to rise soon and impart my experience on

the gathered faithful.

SHAUNA
And in truth?

POREC
In truth, they are here because of you. Rumors of your approach have spread since we began our trek thorough the mountains. None know of your purpose—know nothing beyond Oren’s interest in you. He has not taken an active role in anything for longer than even Byelobog has lived.

SHAUNA
Huh.
(beat)
So who are all these people?

POREC
Almost every person of note in Sonsa is present. That woman is a *Penasi* of the Legion. The men in umber robes are *Goren*.
[Field Marshal ... Abbots]

SHAUNA
Who are the ones with the silly hats?

POREC
They are *Ponalif*, and their “silly hats” are called *galamen*. Those with the black uniforms are *Hideonae* of the Legion....
[Cardinals ... galeros ... Generals]

SHAUNA
All the bigwigs, here for little ole me.
(beat)

But what about all the people standing?

POREC
With so many officials here, there are no seats for the ordinary Brothers and Legionnaires.

SHAUNA
And who’s who?

POREC
The ones in dress uniform are Legionnaires, but the ones in the ceremonial attire are *Spenta* Legion soldiers—which means...?
[*Spenta* means elite – pronounce spen-TA]

SHAUNA
They’re the special ones, right? The elite forces?

POREC
Correct.
(beat)
I would like to see what you have learned. Tell me, who do you not see?

SHAUNA
Pop quiz, huh? I don’t know if I can take this much fun in one day.

POREC
This knowledge will be indispensable to you one day very soon, Shauna. *Senjen*.

SHAUNA
Fine. Let’s see...

looks like they are all proper soldiers or “*rardenae* [soldiers].” I don’t see any volunteers—sorry “Civil Corps”—like that Caileb guy, or Corven.

(beat)

Do I get a cookie?

POREC

Only when you finish.

SHAUNA

Promises...

POREC

Tell me, who are those...the ones up front.

SHAUNA

(imitating Porec)

Of the Brothers, the cinnabar robes signify the Hand. Great, now I want a spice cookie.

POREC

Focus, Shauna.

SHAUNA

You try focusing with cookies on the brain. OK, so those in white carrying ceremonial tomes are the Keepers of the Word of Oren. The saffron robed Brothers with swords are the Fist of Oren. Hey, has anyone here invented chocolate chip cookies yet? ‘Cause if not I can make us rich.

POREC

I grasp your point. The great banquet follows this ceremony. I will personally obtain several tasty confections for you to enjoy. For

now, *senjen*, continue.

SHAUNA

I’m holding you to that. Lastly, the dun robes—like yours—are of course, the Voice. And...huh. Who are those guys?

POREC

Which ones?

SHAUNA

The ones in black, kneeling. There’s something...odd about them.

POREC

They are the Chosen of Oren. You would do well to avoid them however possible, though you may have little choice.

SHAUNA

How so?

POREC

They are fanatics. They serve Oren directly, but they must sacrifice themselves for the honor.

SHAUNA

Sacrifice?

POREC

Well...the men, for example, must cut off their own....
(clears throat)

SHAUNA

Oooh...they’re eunuchs?

POREC

The greater the honor of their service, the more they must sacrifice. Senses, limbs, and—ultimately—their lives.

SHAUNA

That...that is really creepy.

POREC

Yet these costs, they pay willingly. Remember that.

(beat)

It is time. I must leave you for the moment.

SFX: Porec gets up and walks away.

SHAUNA

Knock ‘em dead.

BYELOBOG

(fade in)

Lo nar deren ino haber pror nar penesta eye wush. Trid Neb Oren alix-tim triae maxahc. "Mor eye fuo tabernae," Tan alix-haber wo chare, "nopela barin Parnae unae fuo-benexa la lemo." Lo nar deren ribor rimon pror Nem Oren renopa tria, lo nar alex-pushtun e-ay eye peño.

[And they did proclaim what they beheld to be a miracle. But Lord Oren scoffed at their naiveté. “There are no miracles,” He spoke unto them, “save that Man has not destroyed himself in folly.” And they did reflect upon what Lord Oren had shown them, and they realized this to be true.]

(beat)

Here ends the 501st Lesson of Oren.

BACKGROUND VOICES

His wisdom leads us out of the Dark.

BYELOBOG

We are gathered today to welcome into our embrace a Brother of the Voice who has, over the last year, undergone a most unusual Pilgrimage. Brother Porec, would you share with the Gathered Faithful what Truth you have discovered?

POREC

With gladness in my Heart, *sun-schwa*.

SFX: A rise in crowd murmur. Porec is a bit of a surprise to the crowd as he is not unknown.

POREC

(booming, preaching)

Brothers of Oren. Soldiers of the Legion. Gathered Faithful. I have returned to this blessed place after a Journey of Truth—of Awakening. I have imparted Truth, and I have learned it. I have walked in the footsteps of Lord Oren, and it has brought me closer to Him.

BACKGROUND VOICES

His Pain is our Pain.

POREC

I will begin by imparting a tale from the records that repeatedly crossed my mind over the past year. It is the Testimony of Kenelm.

SFX: The crowd rumbles. This is an unusual choice.

POREC

(slow build, drawing the reluctant crowd in)

It is known that Kenelm did join the followers of Oren in the seventh year of the Great Crusade. He was not strong enough to join the Legions of the time, nor wise enough to join the Brothers, whose numbers then were small, yet powerful. Yet, he was not turned away, for those in Sonsa have ever been one family, and a family does not cast out its own. He did serve as he could in the small, inglorious tasks that are essential to life.

(beat)

And so this humble man was in Sonsa when the Legions were defeated at Mutesellim, spelling the end of the Crusade. This news plagued Kenelm for many nights, for though the war had not progressed favorably in past months, few had surrendered hope. He took his doubts to a wise *Tiko* and asked:

“Father, why have we lost? Was our cause not just?”

And the *Tiko* did say to him:

“Our cause was just, yet the heart of man is weak.”

But this answer did not satisfy Kenelm, and he approached a seasoned *Hideo*:

“Uncle, why have we lost? Was it due to weakness in our hearts?”

And *nay Hideo* did respond:

“If anything, our arms were too weak to hold what our hearts sought.”

Again, Kenelm was unsatisfied and he approached a lowly *arden*.

“Cousin, why have we lost? Were our arms too weak?”

And *nay arden* did say:

“Our arms did not fail—we did what we were able. If there was any failure, it was in the mind.”

And so Kenelm did continue to ask his questions, but never did he

receive an answer that satisfied him. All laid blame on the failings of another, who did blame yet another in turn.

(beat)

And so Kenelm did approach Lord Oren himself and asked:

“My lord, we have suffered a great defeat, yet none can agree why we have failed. I hope that you can tell me. Why have we lost?”

Lord Oren did gaze at Kenelm silently for some time before responding, measuring the man.

“We have lost, my child,” He did say, “and it is the fault of no one person. Though the heart is fast, and the arms are strong, and the head is wise, we have lost. For no matter how great the individual parts, there can never be victory if the body is not whole.”

(beat)

(tone change: preaching)

My Brothers and Sisters in faith. Though this tale is told to all initiates, I look around this room and see that its lesson is not remembered.

SFX: Crowd rumbles

POREC (CONT)

Since the failure of the Great Crusades, Lord Oren has remained largely silent. Why? Because our body is not whole. And so, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of our past until our hearts, our arms, and our heads lie on the ground, severed in more than metaphor.

SFX: Crowd rumbles angrily

POREC (CONT)

And what clearer evidence to Lord Oren’s displeasure than the

reason we are gathered here today. After centuries, Lord Oren has acted on his own, without the consultation of *nay Penasae* or *nay sensamenae* of our “great” organization—he has summoned one who shall enact his Will. That person is the one you are all here to gawk at. The innocent girl sitting up there in that balcony. Shauna Brown.

SFX: Big crowd noise

SHAUNA
Umm.... Hi?

Scene 2

-Int. *The Grand Banquet Hall*

• Shauna, Porec, Hideo Dejan, *Tiko* Devdan, Angry Legion Officer, Sister Talya, Server, Chief Guard, Background Voices A through H

MUSIC: A lively revision of the chamber music from ep 1.13 plays in the background.

SFX: Loud background chatter. We are in the middle of a large social function.

BACKGROUND VOICE A

(Fade in/Out)

(verge of laughing)

And she replied, "That is no horse. That is my mother!"

BACKGROUND VOICE B

(Fade in/Out)

Yes, we have been fortunate so far. I suspect, however, it will be a very cold winter.

HIDEO DEJAN

(Fade in)

...and that is why, quite simply, your suggestion would never work the way you hope it to, Devdan.

SHAUNA

But what if—

Tiko DEVDAN

Dejan, as always, you only seek excuses for using brute force. In exercising patience and slowly bringing people to our cause—

DEJAN

To our cause? You are a fool, Devdan, if you think the Teachings are being spread in this devious manner. We may be obtaining political allies, but the people still would not have the freedom they need!

SHAUNA

Well I think that—

DEVDAN

The Great Temple can hardly extend to lands under University's "guidance," Dejan, unless that system is carefully subverted.

SHAUNA

Listen, how about—

DEJAN

With all due respect, *Tiko*, the system must be destroyed, utterly swept away from the land and from the people's minds.

DEVDAN

Yet when have people ever welcomed conquerors?

SHAUNA

Yeah, look what happened to Dorro.

DEVDAN

Ha. Precisely. The stories told to frighten children often contain valuable moral insights.

SHAUNA

Child's tale?

DEJAN

You would take military guidance from a child's tale?

SHAUNA

It's not a "child's tale."

DEJAN

I admit the subject matter is mature, yet—

SHAUNA

No, I mean, it's a true story—not fable.

DEV DAN

(confused)

There may be a kernel of truth in it, but the legend itself—

SHAUNA

Look, it's not just a legend. I know someone who found his hand.

DEV DAN

Then I am afraid that you have been deceived.

DEJAN

I am loath to say I must agree....

SHAUNA

It is true. Years ago. She ventured deep into the Wasting Plains and

found it in a tower-y thing, but had to leave the hand because it was apparently too hot to approach. And she said there was something strange about it, too. She felt its pain, or....

DEJAN

But the Wasting Plains? How?

SHAUNA

To get there she said...um...she went to this mining town near a pass in the Mountains That Scrape the Stars. Then, let's see... they went due west for a while until they saw this fire on the horizon. They rode toward it for three days and found a tower with a flaming hand in it. So, unless you guys cut up different guy and set him aflame for eternity....

DEJAN

That is...very interesting. Very interesting indeed.

DEV DAN

And she never returned to that place after she found the Hand?

SHAUNA

No, she never returned there, but that's besides my point. My point is, he tried to conquer people with force, and they lit him on fire and chopped him up. You can't just make people do what you want them to and not expect them to fight back. They have to want to do it.

DEV DAN

This is my point exactly. I am gladdened by your agreement. We must teach people that our way is best. How better to do that than showing them what we offer? Simply assaulting them—

POREC

Valonae boxen wo fai, but I must take Shauna from you.

SHAUNA

Porec!

DEJAN

As you say, Brother. A pleasure conversing with you, Shauna.

DEV DAN

Indeed. We are all excited to see what you will bring.

SHAUNA

Yeah. Nice talking with you.

DEV DAN

(fading out)

As I was saying—

DEJAN

You are a fool Devdan. Without force behind them, your words mean nothing.

POREC

Did you enjoy speaking with the twins?

SHAUNA

It was...interesting. Wait, twins?

POREC

Yes. *Nay Hideo* and *Nay Tiko* are twins.

SHAUNA

I thought there was something about them that reminded me of my brothers.

POREC

They are somewhat infamous, as much for their outspokenness as for the tendency for their arguments to end in violence.

SHAUNA

Definitely reminds me of my brothers...

BACKGROUND VOICE C

(fading in as they approach)

I say we need to go after those “Hunters” now, lest they prove to be a problem later. You have heard what occurred in Kaltarok?

BACKGROUND VOICE D

(fading out as they pass)

And now they incite trouble in Velia! As if there were too few problems in that city at present.

SHAUNA

So what’s up? Do you bring me a “tasty confection”?

POREC

I...ah...I mostly desired to see how you were.

SHAUNA

Ah, I’m alright—despite my lack of sweets. This is kind of like my family’s celebration for my high school graduation.

Supposedly everyone was there for me, but they really just argued with each other all night. That’s okay. I’d rather not be

put on some pedestal.

(irritated)

Speaking of, thanks a lot for singling me out of the crowd earlier.

POREC

I apologize. I merely did what was expected given the nature of my journey.

SHAUNA

I know. Don't worry about it. I didn't mean to snap; I'm just a little overwhelmed by everything. This isn't exactly how I expected things to be here. It's all so...normal.

POREC

What did you expect?

SHAUNA

I don't even know. Shadowy figures plotting to take over the—

ANGRY LEGION OFFICER

Ho! You! Brother Porec!

POREC

Parado fai?

A. OFFICER

You are the one responsible for the Silver Night Incident?

POREC

I am uncertain I grasp your meaning. I have been on pilgrimage...

A. OFFICER

Allow me to awaken your memory. Two Silver Nights past? A small Legion outpost? Destroyed by Undying? Do I ignite any fires in that tinder box you call a mind?

POREC

That was an unfortunate occurrence but—

A. OFFICER

Unfortunate? Un-fortunate? A saboteur opened the Undying wagons and started a rampage. Fortune had no part in this!

SHAUNA

Excuse you! Look, it wasn't his fault, okay?

A. OFFICER

Of course it was! He was in command of a Legion outpost—despite not being a Legionnaire. Despite having no training or experience. He was in command—as such, this is entirely his fault!

POREC

What occurred is in the past. Do not—

A. OFFICER

Do not patronize me, Brother. Are you aware of the cost of that incident? Of the inquiries that took place? Are you aware that all Undying Combat Units have been liquefied? Have you any awareness of the consequences of this to our armies?

POREC

But—

A. OFFICER

And the post itself! It has been abandoned.

POREC

What?

A. OFFICER

Several of *guyin-own-rardenae* were dispatched to clean up your mess. The survivors recounted that there were Undying everywhere. The entire area has been quarantined.
[squads of soldiers, pronounced GUY-in]

POREC

That is terrible...

A. OFFICER

And it is...

All. Your. Fault.

SHAUNA

Shut up already! We get it— you have issues with Porec. It sounds like you might have cause, but I'm telling you, it was not his fault. Now, get out of here or you'll find out why Oren wanted me around

so much.

A. OFFICER

You cannot hide behind the greatness of others for long, Porec. The Disciplinary *Hideonae* may have closed the inquest because of your “pilgrimage,” but know that there is no shortage of people who would see you pay for the Silver Night Incident.

SHAUNA

You're testing me? Leave! One...two...

SFX: Hasty footsteps

(pause)

SHAUNA

What a jerk.

(beat)

Don't let him get to you, Porec. It was Arkahn's fault, not yours.

POREC

He is correct. I was in command. Perhaps even ill suited to the task.

SHAUNA

You got everyone out of there alive. Well, those you could. That's what counts, right?

POREC

(sighs)
I suppose.

(beat)

SHAUNA
Shouldn't he have said, "liquidated?"

POREC
Parado fai?

SHAUNA
He said the Undying units had been "liquefied." Shouldn't he have said "liquidated?" Liquidated means to shut down or—

POREC
No. He meant what he said.

SHAUNA
But—

POREC
(distracted)
They may be Undying, but they are not indestructible. Undying who have escaped control are destroyed. Liquefied by a special device.

SHAUNA
Eww....

POREC
I should have anticipated consequences from what happened. If I had arranged stronger security...

SHAUNA
Stop. You couldn't have anticipated what Arkahn did.

POREC
I should have known never to trust one who earns their soup on deceit.

SHAUNA
Well, okay, as true as that is, there's plenty of time for you to "woe-is-me" later. Come on. I just saw a plate of those tasty mushroom pastry things go by. Let's track 'em down.

POREC
Lead on.

BACKGROUND VOICE E
(Fade in)
I have heard that the Cult of The Mother has been raising their voice of late.

BACKGROUND VOICE F
(Fade out)
Those *tesharnae* [madmen] are nothing but trouble. Even if their hearts are right, their heads clearly are not.

BACKGROUND VOICE G

(Fade in/out)

I cannot believe what she is wearing! The brashness of altering one's robes like that....

SHUNA

Boo. I can't see them anywhere.

POREC

I am certain there will be more.

SHAUNA

Yeah, but, you know how it is. Sometimes you just see something go by, and you gotta have it.

SISTER TALYA

(approaching)

Porec? Porec, is that truly you?

SHAUNA

More trouble?

POREC

(to Shauna)

Not precisely.

(to Talya)

Talya? Oren's Tears, I have not seen you—

TALYA

Since you ran out on us. It is so good to see you.

(embracing him enthusiastically)

I have missed you these years.

POREC

(a little short for breath due to her bear-hug)

And I you.

SHAUNA

(Clears throat)

POREC

Talya, I would like to introduce you to Shauna Brown. She is—

TALYA

(impressed)

The one said to be summoned by Lord Oren. It is an honor to meet you, *Lennoa*.

SHAUNA

(a little embarrassed)

Oh...um...thanks. You don't have to kneel.

POREC

Shauna, this is Talya. She was a friend while I was here in Sonsa. Perhaps my only friend.

TALYA

Do not let him fool you. He was, at all times, surrounded by admirers.

POREC

Yes. Yet I remember none of them as friends, save you.

TALYA

(teasing)

Flatterer. You did have such a way with compliments. I—
(concerned and shocked)
Your hand! What happened?

POREC
Oh. Let us say this is a reminder not to be too hasty in the future.

TALYA
(still concerned)
Does it...hurt?

POREC
Not particularly. I have grown largely accustomed to it.

TALYA
Well, the hook does give you a rakish charm.
(beat)
Oh, Porec, it is wonderful to see you again. Things have changed since you left. Sometimes I believe I should have gone with you.

POREC
You seem to have done well for yourself, however. I see by your adornments that you are Exalted *Tylen wa nay Sensamen* [Acolyte to a Patriarch].

TALYA
(a little embarrassed)
Oh. Heh. Yes. *Sensamen* Mahalaleel, actually. When you left...well, someone had to take your position.

POREC
I am gladdened that it was you. I am certain you do fine work.

TALYA
I do what I am able. You should visit him. He would like to see you. He remembers you with fondness.

POREC
In truth? I should have thought he would be displeased.

TALYA
Not at all! You left to honor your faith. There could be no higher purpose.

SERVER
Apologies for intruding, but does the Select of Oren desire a drink?

SHAUNA
(Cold)
No. I'm just great.

POREC
Do you mind if I...

SHAUNA
Go ahead.

SERVER
Well...I...very well.

(beat)

SHAUNA

(absently)
He was in a hurry....

TALYA
As I was saying—

SHAUNA
Porec! Wait!

SFX: shatter of glass

POREC
(perplexed)
Why did you do that?

SHAUNA
Because that drink was poisoned!

TALYA & POREC
What?

SFX: Crowd noise becomes interested, shocked murmurs. “Poison”
and “assassination” and “treachery” are heard.

POREC
Shauna? How do you know this?

SHAUNA
I...just do.

TALYA
(To crowd)

Stand back! Stand back!
(to Shuana)
Stay behind us, Shauna. We will protect you with our lives.

SHAUNA
(realizing it)
Oh god...that was meant for me....

POREC
(To crowd)
You! Fetch the Chief Guard. Tell him we need a *guyin* of men
and a *bianek now*.
[poison-sniffer, pron: bee-AH-neck]

BACKGROUND VOICE H
Yes, Brother.

POREC
You will be safe, Shauna. Do not panic.

SHAUNA
(scared)
Much easier said....

POREC
(to crowd)
All of you, move back!

TALYA
This room has become unsafe, Porec. We need to extricate her
from this place.

POREC

We should wait for the Guards to clear a path.

SHAUNA
Porec, I—

CHIEF GUARD
(approaching)
Make a path! Stand aside!

SFX: Crowd shuffles aside.

SFX: Many hobnailed boots approach.

C. GUARD
Move on! All of you *berbernae*! [gawkers] Clear the room.

SFX: Crowd grumbles angrily but shuffles out.

C. GUARD
Are you unharmed, *Lennoa*?

SHAUNA
Me? I...I'm fine.

C. GUARD
This was the drink that may have been poisoned?

SHAUNA
Yeah.

C. GUARD
Bring forth *nay bianek*.

SFX: A set of footsteps approach

SFX: A wire cage is set down on the ground and a latch is opened.

SFX: Tapping of animal feet (think small dog on linoleum).

SFX: Chittering of a small, weasely animal. (continuous)

SHAUNA
(upon seeing the bizarre creature)
What. Is. That.

POREC
That is *nay bianek*. They are creatures who can smell out any poison. Even ones created with Odi.

SHAUNA
(trying to distract herself)
It's got no eyes or ears.

POREC
It does not need them. It sees, smells and hears with Odi. They are quite unique.

SHAUNA
So what does it do if it smells—

SFX: Creature starts squeaking in a painful, angry manner.

SHAUNA (CONT)
Oh.

C. GUARD

(loudly)

Poison is confirmed. Complete lockdown procedures are to be initiated. Men, you know your orders.

SFX: Several people run away.

SHAUNA

(still scared)

What's going on now? Someone really tried to kill me?

C. GUARD

Brother. Sister. I must ask you to allow one of my men to escort you from here. We will need to ask you questions.

TALYA

As you say.

POREC

It will be "okay," Shauna.

SFX: Several people begin walking away

SHAUNA

Porec?

C. GUARD

Lennoa, I will personally escort you to your quarters and stand watch until some of my best men arrive.

SHAUNA

But—

C. GUARD

I am afraid I must insist. This is for your protection.

SHAUNA

(Alarmed)

Porec? What do I do?

POREC

(distant)

Be strong!

SHAUNA

(Calling after him)

Porec? Porec?!

Scene 3

—*Int. Guest Suite, Night*

• Chief Guard, Shauna, Porec

C. GUARD

Senjen, in here, *Lennoa*.

SHAUNA

(still frightened, but distracting herself)

Wow. Nice digs.

C. GUARD

These are your quarters, and as such, they are outfitted with an array of wards and alarms. You have nothing to fear from within.

SHAUNA

Just like I had nothing to fear before?

C. GUARD

Sincerest apologies, *Lennoa*. Rest assured that we will find and punish those responsible for this reprehensible attempt. For now, this *bianek* will remain with you, and I will personally stand watch outside.

SHAUNA

'Kay. Thanks.

SFX: Door shuts, then an abundance of wards and locks activate behind him, followed by the *clunk!* of a big wooden bar being set against the door.

SHAUNA

He wasn't kidding....

SFX: The *bianek* click-clacks, chittering softly.

SHAUNA

Well, weasley thing, what a fine mess we're in.

(beat)

Right. No ears. Work Stupid Magic—

SFX: The *bianek* reacts in surprise.

SHAUNA

Ah ha. Now I have your attention. Fine mess we're in?

SFX: The *bianek*, sensing nothing further, returns to its rounds.

SHAUNA

Sure, ignore me. Didn't want to talk to you anyway.

(beat; wry)

Talking to animals... Like something Mike would do...

SFX: Elaborate unlocking of all the wards and security systems.

SHAUNA

Porec?

SFX: Door opens. Shauna rushes toward him when he begins to speak.

POREC

Shauna! I am gladdened to see you—Ooof!

SHAUNA
(still hugging him)
Leave me alone in this place again and I swear to whoever that you're gonna get a lot worse than a hug.

POREC
...Noted?

SFX: They part.

SHAUNA
What's going on out there? What did they ask you?

POREC
Nothing with which you need concern yourself.

SHAUNA
(surprised by his rebuff)
Come again?

POREC
It is for myself and the Brothers to deal with this matter, Shauna. It is for you to acquire rest.

SHAUNA
Like I'm going to be able to sleep after all this.

POREC
Yet, you must try. Tomorrow is a great day for you. For all of us.

SHAUNA
Benching me, huh?

POREC
Parado fai?

SHAUNA
We've been together for over a year, Porec. Now I'm just supposed to sit here while you conduct your grand investigation?

POREC
(wry)
Not at all. You are supposed to sleep here while I conduct my grand investigation.

SHAUNA
I'm being serious!

POREC
As am I. You are too valuable to risk, and too powerful for such trivial work as this. Our time together is at an end, Shauna.

SHAUNA
(after a beat)
Wow. Just like that.

POREC
It was you who was eager to part ways, as I recall.

SHAUNA
But I didn't mean...nevermind. You're right.

POREC

It does occur, on occasion.

SHAUNA
So...I guess I'll just crash now, and you can wake me when you come back in?

POREC
Well...the guards will rouse you in the morning, I suspect.

SHAUNA
(realizing)
...Oh. Right. You're not staying with me.

POREC
(uncomfortable)
Shauna, you must understand, *senjen*.

SHAUNA
(blustering)
Why would you stay with me? It was ridiculous; sorry. I guess I've gotten used to the smelly tent and Corven's ridiculous snoring.

POREC
Those days—

SHAUNA
—are over, gotcha. I'm all-powerful Odi Goddess now. And I get my own ginormous bed.

POREC
Yes.

SHAUNA
Your loss, man. You wish you were staying with me. This suite isn't so bad.

POREC
It is the finest accommodation we possess.
(softer)
And my desires are quite irrelevant.
(quick beat)
Good night, Shauna.

SHAUNA
Night....

SFX: Door closes behind him, locks and wards activate.

SHAUNA (cont)
(sighs)

END OF ACT ONE

ADS!!!!!!

OUTRO BUMPER

JULIA

Second Shift will return, right after this.

AD #1

(to be filled in later –probably a sliceofscifi.com ad.)

INTRO BUMPER

JULIA

If you haven't been to the official Second Shift forums, you are missing out. There, you can discuss episodes past and present with other fans, talk with the cast and crew of the show. Forum membership is free and can be found at [secondshiftpodcast.com slash forum](http://secondshiftpodcast.com/slash/forum). And now, back to the show.

Scene 4

—*Int. Guest Suite, Late Night*

• Oren, Assassins 1 and 2, Harpy, Shauna, Chief Guard, Guard 1, Porec

SFX: Trippy dreamstuff.

OREN

Come! Come to me! My weapons. My tools. I command you! To me!

FESMER

Grant me the means to exact my revenge! I command you!

SHAUNA

(spacey)

Wait.... That's not how it happened.

OREN

It is.

SHAUNA

I'm...dreaming.

OREN

You are, and you are not.

SHAUNA

Who are you?

ASSASSIN 1

(whispered)

It is she?

ASSASSIN 2

(whispered)

This is the room.

HARPY

(farspeaky)

Wake, Shauna Brown.

SHAUNA

Buzz off....

ASSASSIN 1

She stirs.

ASSASSIN 2

Now!

HARPY

(farspeaky)

Shauna Brown!

SFX: Shauna is stabbed, makes dying noises.

ASSASSIN 1

For the Mother!

ASSASSIN 2

For the balance!

HARPY

(fading)

Shauna Brown...!

SFX: Dreamstuff ends as Shauna wakes with a start.

SHAUNA
Get away from me!

SFX: Simultaneous with Shauna's words, the Assassins are launched through the wall. Done in such a way that the loudest part is over when Shauna stops yelling. She doesn't realize what she's done.

SHAUNA
(panting, trying to shake it off)
Hoo. Ooooh. Cripes that felt real....
(beat)
Huh. Fell asleep on top of the covers.

SFX: Alarms begin blaring.

SHAUNA
What now...?

C. GUARD
Lennoa!

SHAUNA
Gha! What are you doing in here?

C. GUARD
I—apologies. You, er, destroyed this wall.

SHAUNA

...Oh. I did?

C. GUARD
Yes. What happened?

SHAUNA
I did. Wow.
(realizing)
I think—someone was in here?

GUARD 1
Valo! Two men in the rubble!

C. GUARD
Cy nay torex cerum Oren nay-arohn donna!

[By the rancid milk of Oren's Mother's breast!]
[pron: TORE-ex ... nay-a-ROHNE dough-NAH!]

POREC
(breathless, just arriving)
Shauna! Are you—?

SHAUNA
I'm okay. I think.

POREC
(to the Chief Guard)
What is this?

C. GUARD

The traitorous scum must have returned. Judging by their robes alone, I would say—

POREC
The Cult of the Mother.

C. GUARD
(agreeing w/Porec)
Indeed.

POREC
(livid)
After all they have done to my family and myself? Now this...!

C. GUARD
Brother Porec, we will arrest these two and, in the morning—

POREC
(intense and frightening)
No. You will hold a *serbena* [emergency trial] at once. You will tear the truth from these men by any means necessary. You will find everyone they name. Am I understood?

SHAUNA
Porec...?

C. GUARD
(intimidated by the force of Porec's wrath)
Yes, *sodo-schwa*. Men!

[Masterful, Honorific Voice]
SFX: In the background, the two unconscious assassins are bound and hoisted away (continuous).

POREC
Shauna. You are truly unharmed?

SHAUNA
Yeah. What the hell is going on? Cult of the who, now?

POREC
The Mother. They are *spenta* assassins, trained to eliminate the corrupt and immoral. I was once one of them. As was my father.

SHAUNA
Oh. They said something about balance, or maybe I dreamed that....

POREC
It is likely that they perceive your presence to be an unnatural imbalance in Odi, and so they seek to right it. This is unforgivable.

SHAUNA
What's going to happen to them?

POREC
By now, I believe you know.

Scene 5

—*Int. Courtroom, Very Late Night*

• Judge, Talya, Shauna, Porec, Cultist

JUDGE

Present your findings, Acting Inquisitor Talya.

TALYA

Sun-schwa, their minds have been plumbed to the deepest depths, and though the Cult's debilitating opiate prevents me from seeing all, more than enough is evident to warrant judgment. These traitors are low-ranking *tyrnae* [numeraries] of The Cult of the Mother, and they intended this night to eliminate *ria Lennoa* Shauna Brown, the Select of Oren. I advise nothing less than immediate execution by fire.

SFX: Pan a short distance away from the Judge and to Shauna and Porec. Judge continues beneath them.

JUDGE

Indeed. Though a trial of this nature has not occurred in decades, and certainly never at this late hour, I accept your allocution. This court appreciates the commitment all of its officers have to the fulfillment of justice. The accused give their pleas through the guilt that prevails within their consciousness'. That evidence coupled with eyewitness testimony is damning enough for me to consider the maximum penalty. Acting Inquisitor Talya, is there...(fade into ellipsis on next column)

SHAUNA

That's it? They don't even get a trial?

POREC

Their guilt has been ascertained. A trial would accomplish the same.

SHAUNA

But they didn't get a chance to defend themselves. What about due process? Even in Musqueten, we at least—

POREC

Their minds were examined and their murderous intentions clear! What more do you require?

SHAUNA

Anything resembling a defense?

POREC

(indignant)

This is why I desired you to rest. This only upsets you.

SHAUNA

I'm a big girl, Porec. I have the right to know the who and why.

SFX: We pan back to the Judge.

JUDGE

...no further commentary?

TALYA

None, *sun-schwa*.

SFX: Pan to Shauna.

JUDGE

Then if there are no objections....

SHAUNA

I'm going to say something.

JUDGE

By the justice of Lord Oren and the power invested in me—

POREC

Shauna, do not—

SHAUNA

Objection!

SFX: Startled whispers from all present (maybe a dozen people?).

JUDGE

(not excited about this development)

Silence! The court will hear Shauna Brown, Select of Oren.

SHAUNA

Sorry to, uh, just butt in like this, but I felt that I had to say something. I'll admit that these are the men who were in my room — not that anyone asked me — and that Sister, er, Acting Inquisitor Talya is no doubt a capable...Acting Inquisitor...but surely you all realize that something is not right. What happened to these men between now and an hour ago? Why can't they speak?

SFX: An awkward silence.

POREC

(under breath – a swear)

Crooked smile of Velia...

(speaking up, reluctantly)

As *ria Lennoa*, Shauna Brown, Select of Oren, may not be aware, they were likely given a slow-acting yet powerful opiate by the Cult. This is common practice within the Cult when the assassins are not expected to survive the attempt. Their memories are compromised so that Cult secrets are not.

SHAUNA

(aside)

Thanks, Porec. Guess I should have just asked you.

POREC

(aside)

I wish you had.

TALYA

If, then, all are satisfied and there is nothing further—

SHAUNA

There is. Look, I don't mean any disrespect here. I appreciate the fact that you're trying to protect me, but what if we waited, gathered more information, and, I dunno, proved beyond all shadow of a doubt that the punishment fits the crime before, uh, killing them?

TALYA

All respect, *Lennoa*, but we gain nothing by waiting. Their minds are all but lost to us already; by first light, they will have no

thoughts left to probe. The Cult will deny this attempt, and—

SHAUNA
Will they?

TALYA
(off guard)
Likely, yes.

SHAUNA
Then why are these men wearing ceremonial robes of the Cult?

TALYA
To—to send a message, no doubt.

SHAUNA
So which is it? Is this Cult sending a message or denying involvement?

SFX: Mutter mutter.

TALYA

Lennoa, forgive me, but The Cult of the Mother is widely regarded to be a fanatical and unpredictable group. Perhaps, in their addled minds, they intended both? Regardless, it is of no relevance to this allocution. *Sun-schwa*, there are no further—

POREC
I would speak.

TALYA
(surprised)
Brother Porec?

POREC
Though I do agree with the judgment of this *pola* [court], I feel obligated to clarify that—fanatical and unpredictable as they may appear—this is not usual procedure for the Cult.

JUDGE
(pointed)
Little concerning the past day's events are usual, Brother Porec.

POREC
(ignoring the barb)
I do not disbelieve that the Cult would attempt to destroy Shauna in a misguided effort to right the balance of Odi. And it is not suspicious that the assassins were given these poisons to destroy their minds.

TALYA
Then—?

POREC
Yet, the Cult would regard this mission as a high honor.

JUDGE

What relevance is this, Brother Porec?

POREC

Acting Inquisitor Talya stated earlier that these are *tyrnae* [numeraries]. Low-ranking inductees of the Cult.

TALYA

I did.

POREC

[The numerary] *Nay tyrno* Fellows of Cult of the Mother are never sent on missions of *keskinan* [targeted killing]. They have not earned that honor. Indeed, most of them do not seek it.

TALYA

That is how it was. Perhaps things have changed.

POREC

Those who kill—*nay Reken*—such as my father or...myself are marked with ritual scarification on their backs:

SFX: Cloth rustling

SFX: Crowd murmur

POREC (CONT)

Scars such as mine. This crest marks the confirmation of status as a *Reken* [Sword] on—for those born to the role—their fifteenth silver night, and each of these marks represents an enemy of Oren slain.

SFX: Crowd murmur gets loud.

SHAUNA

(quietly)

Oh god....

JUDGE

Silence!

SFX: A Gong

, then Crowd noise cuts

JUDGE (CONT)

What is the meaning of this Brother Porec?

POREC

I tell you this to grant you a notion of how solemn the Cult considers its duty to be. One must suffer for the privilege to kill and die for the Mother. Each kill, engraved in our skin so that we may never forget. Look at the smooth skin of their backs! This attempt was not ordered by the Cult of the Mother of Oren!

SFX: Crowd noise kicks up again

JUDGE

Silence!

SFX: A Gong, then Crowd noise dies

TALYA

Regardless of who ordered the act, what they have done warrants death. You cannot deny this.

POREC
I do not.

JUDGE
We will launch an inquest in the morning to investigate further truth in this. For now, the sentence stands. By the power invested in me—

SFX: Door bangs open.

CULTIST
Hold!

SFX: Murmur murmur!

TALYA
By Oren's tears! The Cult returns to claim its own! To arms!

CULTIST
Keep your seats, *reccorae* [idiots]. I was roused from sleep with news of this farce and came at once. I am *Pael* Trisosaen of the Cult of the Mother, and I am empowered by Her Clarity and Grace to represent Her Children this early morn. By the Accord of Eskrív, this court will recognize me.

JUDGE
You are recognized, *Pael* Trisosaen.

CULTIST
You have realized, I hope, that these men are not ours. They are

imposters.

TALYA
Is who they are really so important? It does not change the fact—

CULTIST
This changes all! For these are not ours, and—as the failed poisoning attempt implies—neither are they lone assassins.

SFX: murmur!

TALYA
(derisive)
If this is—as you say—some conspiracy, pray, tell us on whose orders these men acted?

CULTIST
And how, unless we were the ones who orchestrated this, would we know the answer to that question? If I had to assume—based on the bearing of those men—I would say they are Legionnaires!

SFX: Crowd noise spikes

JUDGE
Silence! I will have no more of these outbursts in my court!

SFX: Crowd noise stops

TALYA

If this is true, you mean to say that the Legion is behind tonight's attempt? That they altered the minds of these men to make them believe that they were acting with the authority of the Cult?

CULTIST

All I am saying with certainty is that you should look to your own house for answers before leveling uneducated accusations. If you execute these men and believe the matter to be closed, then you are all fools.

(by way of ironic greeting:)

Pleasant evening, Fellow Porec.

POREC

(cold)

It is Brother Porec now.

CULTIST

Of course.

SFX: He departs, shutting the door behind him.

TALYA

Clearly, *sun-schwa*, this conspiracy is deeper than we know. I propose that we safeguard *ria Lennoa* Shauna Brown while the inquest commences. The Legion will see justice for this.

SHAUNA

(the thought only starting to form)

But, we don't really know if it was the Legion either—

JUDGE

Agreed, Acting Inquisitor Talya. The trial is at an end, guilt established regardless of...surprising discoveries. Sentence to be executed immediately.

SHAUNA

But wait, if—

TALYA

Cy Oren own-son, resna own-cahmas!

[By Oren's Hand the Wrath of the Sun]

SFX: Wrath of the Sun spell effect. The two men scream.

SHAUNA

No!

SFX: Fade away (echoey maybe?) and in to the next scene.

Scene 6

—*Int. Guest Suite, Almost Dawn and Ext. Various Locations*

• Porec, Shauna, Chief Guard Condemned A - I

NOTE: This scene jumps, without transition, between Shauna's room and various places either outside or indoors. Cadence will play a large role in how this scene plays. It should be both intimate and very disconcerting. See end of *Elizabeth* for reference.

POREC
Shauna.

SHAUNA
(muffled through a pillow)
Yeah.

POREC
Apologies. I did not intend to wake you.

CHIEF GUARD
(low voice)
You two, around back. You, take the side.

SFX: People running off

SFX: Pounding at door

(beat)

SFX: Door creaks open

CONDEMNED A
Yes?

CHIEF GUARD
You are Bedrich of Golan?

SFX: Door slam

CHIEF GUARD
He runs to the back! Go. Go. Go!

SFX: people running, fade out

SHAUNA
I wasn't sleeping. Used to be that a cackling harpy madwoman kept me up. Now it's faces: the guy in Musqueteen; those two assassins; and everyone in between.

SFX: Porec walks over and sits on the edge of her bed.

POREC
I would tell you that the guilt you feel will diminish in time, but I have never lied to you, Shauna.

SHAUNA
Now might be a good time to start.

C. GUARD
Bedrich of Golan, you are accused of heresy against the teachings of Oren and conspiracy to commit murder.

CONDEMNED A
No! No! I had nothing to do with it!

C. GUARD

You have been accused by a tribunal of your superiors and condemned to death by beheading. Sentence to be carried out immediately.

CONDEMNED A

No! No! I will tell you whatever you wish. In Oren's name have mercy!

SFX: Sickening chopping sound followed by a dull thump

SHAUNA

What's going on out there?

POREC

Only what must.

SHAUNA

More of the same, huh?

POREC

Do not trouble yourself over it.

SHAUNA

Right. Doesn't concern me.

C. GUARD

Witaldir of Kuulann, you are accused of—

CONDEMNED B

I do all in the service of Oren! You will not take me alive!

SFX: One running

C. GUARD

Just as well. Men! After him!

SFX: Many running (fade out)

SHAUNA

You spoke up in there. Backed me up.

POREC

In truth, I did not intend to. It was not my place.

SHAUNA

So why did you?

POREC

Inconvenient as the truth may have been, it had to be given voice.

SHAUNA

It wasn't worth it if it gets you in trouble.

POREC

Of course it was. I would like to believe that you taught me that.

CONDEMNED C

(verge of tears)

Praised be to Oren who leads us from the darkness. His pain is my pain his hope is my hope his will is my will.

(repeat under C.GUARD)

C. GUARD

Iernka of Sonsa, you are accused of heresy against the teachings of Oren and conspiracy to commit murder.

(beat)

You have been accused by a tribunal of your superiors and condemned to death by beheading. Sentence to be carried out immediately.

SFX: beheading

SHAUNA

So much trouble over little ‘ole me. I still don’t get it.

POREC

Perhaps that is precisely the reason for it.

SHAUNA

Because I never wanted any of this?

POREC

Because you did not seek it. The power you possess, Shauna...you still do not realize—

SHAUNA

Let’s not talk about this.

C. GUARD

Meyet of Holvess, you are accused of heresy against the teachings of Oren and conspiracy to commit murder.

(beat)

You have been accused by a tribunal of your superiors and condemned to death by beheading. Sentence to be carried out immediately.

POREC

Your power is a matter of much interest among those who do seek it. Not all of it benign.

SHAUNA

What is happening, Porec?

POREC

Certain Legion officials sought your demise and attempted to make the Cult culpable for it.

SHAUNA

And outside?

POREC

As I said—

CONDEMNED D

I swear I am innocent!

C. GUARD

Kazmir of Dolan, you are accused of heresy against the teachings of Oren and conspiracy to commit murder.

CONDEMNED D

No! This must be a mistake! Do not do this!

SHAUNA
(a plea)
Lie to me.

POREC
Shauna—

SHAUNA
They're all getting a fair trial.

POREC
...Yes.

C. GUARD
You have been accused by a tribunal of your superiors and condemned to death by beheading. Sentence to be carried out immediately.

SHAUNA
No one's making any rash decisions.

POREC
Yes.

C. GUARD
He has a sword! Bowmen! Fire!

SHAUNA
Or using this for political gain.

POREC
Yes.

C.GUARD
—condemned to death by beheading.

CONDEMNED E
Do you not know who I am? I am *nay Tiko!* [a Bishop!]

C. GUARD
Sentence to be carried out immediately.

SHAUNA
This is for the best.

POREC
Yes.

CONDEMNED F
This is wrong! You know this is wrong!

C. GUARD
Sentence to be carried out immediately.

SHAUNA
Tomorrow, I go to Oren.

POREC
Lord Oren. Yes.

SHAUNA
My journey is complete.

POREC
...Yes.

SHAUNA
(cracking just a little)
This is a happy ending.

POREC
Yes.

CONDEMNED G
No. No! No!

SHAUNA
(almost whispered)
We're not in love.

(a pregnant beat)

POREC
I must leave you now.

C. GUARD
Nogah of Tull Crossing—

SHAUNA
I know.

POREC
I wish you a restful evening, *ria Lennoa*.

SHAUNA

Cha grendillo fai.[I thank you.]

C. GUARD
Alexalark of Toolan Bay—

POREC
In the morning, you will be brought to the Keepers of Oren's Word. You will fast for a full day, during which the Keepers will purify your body and mind. You will be rendered deaf and mute for a time. In His presence, you must always avert your eyes and remain prostrate. Do you understand?

C. GUARD
Otokar of Velia—

SHAUNA
I understand.

POREC
Are you ready for this honor?

SHAUNA
I am ready.

CONDEMNED H
No, not now. Not now...

POREC
In the morning, then.

C. GUARD
Caileb of Laundi—

SHAUNA
Yes.

CONDEMNED I
...Oren who leads us from the darkness. His pain is my pain his hope
is...

POREC
(hesitating)
Shauna?

C. GUARD
Lorenalark of Velia—

SHAUNA
Yeah?

POREC
From the moment you entered this world, and perhaps even before,
you were only ever Oren's.
(beat)
This is for the best.

SHAUNA
Goodbye, Porec.

SFX: Her door closes.

C. GUARD
You are Porec of Detlaef?

POREC
(resigned)
Yes.

Scene 7

—*Int. Shauna's Mind, One Day Later*

• Harpy, Shauna, Oren

SFX: We are in Shauna's mind. However that sounds.

HARPY
Shauna Brown.

SHAUNA
(in an altered place; similar to how she was at the end of 1.13)
Yes.

HARPY
We have lived countless centuries, and still we have not learned
patience. Is it yet time?

SHAUNA
Almost. The Keepers are guiding me down a long, dark corridor.
There's a giant door at the end.

HARPY
There we await. We are so very pleased with you.

SHAUNA
What's going to happen?

HARPY
Soon, you will know all.

SHAUNA
I'm afraid.

HARPY
You have no cause for fear. You are beyond that dark world
now.

SHAUNA
They're opening the doors. Oh! So bright, I—!

HARPY
Welcome home, Shauna Brown.

SHAUNA
I can't see. What's happening?

OREN
You have found me.

SHAUNA
(her breath catches)
You.

END OF SHOW