

INT. ELAS'S HOUSE

[There's the sound of birds chirping outside, the room is otherwise silent]

ELAS: Uh, uhm, hi. This is um Stories from Ylelmore, sort of. It's just me today. Um oh, uh, Elas. So, uh, last time we we did something like this, it was Rion. This time it's my turn, I guess.

[ELAS starts to make a bowl of cereal in the background.]

Uh, Keryth said something about h-having to, uh, finish the pattern. I-I think I don't really know what she's talking about mo-most of the time. Well, uh, i-it's me today.

[...]

There's not a lot of to record in the morning. I-I guess uh my, my family doesn't eat breakfast together like Keryth's or, or Rion's. So I, I'm eating cereal... by, by myself.

[...]

Oh. Oh, wait. That sounds lonely. Um, I I don't have to, but but mom wakes up late and dad's working. I can eat in his office if I wanted and we could watch shows and stuff or or, or I, I could wake up Pop Pop... but he-he takes forever to cook because he likes eggs and, and jam and bread and pancakes and lots and lots of fruit and by the time he's done, everyone's sort of starving. I think he does that on purpose. I, I don't think I can prove that yet.

So, I'm eating cereal. May-maybe I should have eaten something more exciting. Should I start all over again? Um

[recorder clicks]

INT. ALIZE'S ROOM

[A video plays faintly in the background.]

ELAS: Uh, this is my dad.

ALIZE: Whatcha doing, kiddo?

ELAS: Uh, Keryth asked me to record my day.

ALIZE: [pauses video] Really? Something interesting is supposed to happen?

ELAS: I-I don't think so. I, I think she, she just wanted to record like normal stuff. I I guess.

ALIZE: Well, your mom has to get up early today. You want to wake her up?

ELAS: Uh, yeah!

[Recorder click]

INT. FLEUR'S ROOM

[Very quiet, faint sound of birds chirping outside the window.]

ALIZE: Shh.

ELAS:I I know!

[ALIZE and ELAS get into position.]

ELAS: Now?

ALIZE: Now.

[Curtains open, FLEUR groans]

ALIZE: Morning.

ELAS: (jumping on bed) Morning, Mom.

FLEUR: One of these days I will kill you all.

ALIZE: Don't be like that. You're being recorded.

FLEUR: What?

ELAS: Keryth wanted me to record my day!

FLEUR: I'm not telling anyone where to find my body.

ELAS: Dad says the garden's a good place.

ALIZE: It is a good place. Fertilizer.

FLEUR: (groans) My perfect murder plans.

ALIZE: That's perfect?

[FLEUR groans and starts rolling over. She decides to take ELAS with her.]

ELAS: Mom! Wait.

FLEUR: Back to sleep.

ELAS: But it's almost 10.

FLEUR: Early. Stay here.

ALIZE: You have a phone call in an hour.

FLEUR: Nooooooo.

ALIZE: It's with *that* client.

FLEUR: (dismayed) Not Narith.

ALIZE: That's the one.

FLEUR: Elas Sweetie?

ELAS: (muffled) Yeah?

FLEUR: Enjoy your time now. There's no Narith's or clients. No early wake-up calls. (blanket is pulled off of her) No.

ALIZE: Time's up.

FLEUR: You're traitors. All of you.

ALIZE: Come on.

FLEUR: Carry me.

ALIZE: I'll drag you.

FLEUR: (considering) ...that seems fitting.

ALIZE: Elas, grab a leg.

ELAS: Okay.

[Sliding as FLEUR is dragged out of bed.]

FLEUR: Wait. No. I didn't think this through (loud laugh)

ELAS: Are you okay? Ah dad, she's got me!

FLEUR: No survivors.

[Recorder click]

EXT. VORAN'S COVEN

[Cars pass occasionally as ELAS walks up the sidewalk. There's faint conversation in the background.]

ELAS: Uh, so, um, I, I, I probably should have said this earlier or not not recorded today, but um I, I, I'm outside Voran's coven, which I guess is also Keryth's old coven, maybe. I think...

Voran makes it sound like you guys used to live in the same building, but I I don't really know how that worked exactly. I-It's an apartment complex. Uh I've been here before, but we usually go to Haryk's or Ruvyn's or or like the park or the game room or something, but this is my first time going to Voran's. I hope it's not going to be a problem. Um, Keryth, please don't be mad.

LADY: (holding door open) There you go.

[ELAS passes through the door and enters]

INT. VORAN'S COVEN

[Faint conversation in the background.]

ELAS: Thank you.

DOORMAN: Hi, Elas. Should I ring Haryk or Ruvyn?

ELAS: Uh, uh, no. Um Voran, [checks a paper] it says room 516.

DOORMAN: Ah, okay.

[Dials, there's faint ringing someone picks up the phone on the other end]

DOORMAN: Hi. There's a—

VORAN:(over phone) Is it Elas?

DOORMAN: Yes.

VORAN: (faintly) Elas is here. [hangs up]

DOORMAN: (stained) Right. [hangs up] I'll buzz you right in. But first, I need your hand.

ELAS: Oh, here.

DOORMAN: If it starts to rub off?

ELAS: Come right back here or tell an adult. [Their hand gets stamped]

DOORMAN: Right.

ELAS: Thank you.

DOORMAN: Have a good day, Elas.

[ELAS walks further into the apartment.]

ELAS: It's weird to think that that you didn't always live in the bookshop. I, I see why you miss it here. You must have always been had someone something to do. But to be honest, I I I like your house better than um ma'am.

MA'AM: Hm?

ELAS: Could you get the elevator for me?

MA'AM: Ah, I see you're visiting. No problem. Which floor?

ELAS: Uh, the fifth floor.

MA'AM: I see. I see. Come to visit your friends?

ELAS: Mhm. Yeah. Uh Voran invited me.

MA'AM: Fifth floor, right?

ELAS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

MA'AM: You have fun, deary.

[ELAS gets on the elevator, there's faint rumbling and beeping as they go up floors]

ELAS: I, I don't really get how you lived here without any ma-magic, though. You need need it for everything. To, to get to the elevator, to, to get inside the doors, to turn on some of the lights. Like, that's all small magic, right? I, I, I couldn't even get get inside without help. I, I, I guess you, you spent a lot of time in the hospital, but after you came back h-how did you do all this?

[Record Scratch]

INT. KERYTH'S ROOM

[Fan runs and there's soft chirping outside.]

KERYTH: Hi, this is Editing Keryth. The answer is [drum roll] there's another elevator in the back. The elevators up front are too close to the doors outside. So, it's super duper helpful so the littler kids can't just take the elevator up and down all by themselves. Most kids can't use magic until they're three. And they can't use small magic good enough to work the elevator till they're five-ish. The elevator in the back hall works like normal and it gives adults a chance to capture any kids who get too close to the door. Also, some people just marry non-magic people, so that elevator works for them, too. But that does mean that you have to stay on the kid elevator forever. Uh, not all apartments have the same magic lights and stuff. If you marry someone not in the coven, you get a

special apartment in the back. Grandma lived in one of those because she thought it was disrespectful to use magic like that even if we didn't need to.

[Record Scratch]

INT. VORAN'S APARTMENT HALL

ELAS: Uh 511, 512, 513, 514, 515. Oh, here it is. [Knocks on the door and tucks the recorder in their bag] Oh, I gotta hide you.

[Door Opens]

VORAN: You made it.

ELAS: Yeah. Um, thanks for having me.

VORAN: Elas, what are you talking about?

ELAS: Oh, well, um, it's, it's just um...

VORAN: Forget it. Come in. We're the only ones home right now. Mom and grandma are at a meeting.

[ELAS walks inside.]

INT. VORAN'S APARTMENT

ELAS: Like a coven meeting?

VORAN:Duh. Oh, right. Come on. My room is this way.

ELAS: Your house is isn't like I imagined it?

VORAN: What? It's an apartment. It's normal. Did you think we'd have like a weird freaky magic spells lying around or on this floor?

ELAS: Well, sort of.

VORAN: No! Only freaks do that.

ELAS: ...yeah.

VORAN: Ruvyn, Haryk, Elas is here.

[Faint beeping comes from a TV as they sort through streaming services.]

HARYK: Oh, you made it!

ELAS: Yeah.

VORAN: You can just hang your stuff on the hooks.

ELAS: Oh, okay.

[ELAS hangs their stuff on a hook.]

HARYK: We were talking about what movie we're going to watch.

RUVYN: We were only going to watch a movie because Elas wasn't here.

VORAN: Yeah. What took you so long?

RUVYN: Yeah. What *did* take you so long?

ELAS: Oh, mom wouldn't let go of my leg.

VORAN: What?

ELAS: (Back pedaling) My mom, I, I mean my parents kept me back. They they wanted to um talk this morning and I, I wanted to-, Yeah, that's all.

[Everyone gathers around a table in VORAN'S ROOM]

RUVYN: Huh.

ELAS: Yeah. So,so what are we going to do?

VORAN: Well, now that you're here, we can talk about things for the summer project.

HARYK: I was thinking we could raise butterflies.

RUVYN: That's for kids. An investigation on something weird going on in town would be better.

Isn't that right, Elas?

ELAS: Uh, I haven't really thought about the project yet. Um, sorry.

[BULLIES MAKE GENERAL NOISE OF DISSENT]

ELAS: I, I've just been thinking about other things. Um, like, last week we, *I* went to see the Selkies and the mermaids and I've never seen them before...so.

RUVYN: I'm not doing a family history project.

VORAN: I mean not on your family, but we could do one on my family, don't you think?

ELAS: Oh, right. Thadan's the coven head.

VORAN: And so was her mom and her mom's dad and that mom's dad's parent. Mr. Eldar used to work for my family.

ELAS: Really? Mr. Eldar?

VORAN: Yeah, we've been here for as long as he's been. We made this town. We're really important.

HARYK: Obviously.

RUVYN: *Fine.*

VORAN: Then we can do like a history report, maybe even a diorama or like like the history of Calham Manor and stuff.

RUVYN: It's as good as anything. And I guess the newspaper might publish a fluff piece.

VORAN: It wouldn't be a fluff piece.

RUVYN: If you say so.

[Recorder click]

INT. VORAN'S ROOM LATER IN THE DAY

[The kids are sorting through Family Albums and books.]

ELAS: I didn't realize that Voran's family was was so important.

VORAN: Yeah, we're mega important.

RUVYN: (bored/sullenly) One of the most important families in the entire town. We learn about them in coven school all the time. The spirit's favorite family ever since forever and ever.

HARYK: Yeah, it's super cool!

VORAN: I know. Elas, the spirit is a... Sorry, I'm not supposed to talk about it with non-coven members.

RUVYN: Another stupid rule.

HARYK: It's not stupid.

RUVYN: Yeah, it is.

HARYK: No, it's not.

RUVYN: Is too.

HARYK: Is not.

RUVYN: Is too.

[Door opens in the background.]

VORAN: Oh, mom's home. You guys stay here.

RUVYN: Roger.

HARYK: Okay.

[VORAN leaves.]

HARYK: I have to pee.

RUVYN: That's an inside thought Haryk.

HARYK: You talk about bathroom stuff all the time.

RUVYN: Because I'm better than you.

HARYK: No, you're not.

[HARYK leaves the room]

RUVYN: (excitedly) You want to see what Voran doesn't want you to know?

ELAS: What?

RUVYN: Don't you think it's weird that she told you to stay here?

ELAS: Uh, maybe?

RUVYN: Ugh, you don't have the soul of a reporter.

ELAS: I, I, I don't think that that's that's a word for what you have.

RUVYN: All the uninvestigated must be investigated.

ELAS: No, no, it it doesn't. Sometimes people just don't need people looking into stuff.

VORAN: Boring. You're so boring, Elas.

ELAS: I. I know.

[Turns page]

ELAS: Oh, this looks like Keryth. I mean, she's a lot smaller, but

RUVYN: cuz it is Keryth, Bright Eyes.

ELAS: But Keryth hates Voran.

RUVYN: Yeah?

[...]

RUVYN: (Testing) What does it take for you to hate someone?

ELAS: What kind of question is that?

RUVYN: Would you hate someone who's just mean to you all the time, or would you think they were just like that?

ELAS: I. I don't know. Maybe?

RUVYN: (disappointed) Maybe?

ELAS: I, I mean I, I wouldn't like them.

RUVYN: But would you hate them?

ELAS: Probably not. I just wouldn't like them. I, I think.

RUVYN: What would it take for you to hate someone?

ELAS: I don't know.

RUVYN: (passionately) Betrayal.

ELAS: Betrayal?

RUVYN: What else? You used to like someone and trust somebody and then something happened and everything is broken. They took all your feelings and spat on them on purpose. Wouldn't you hate them?

ELAS: Did Voran actually betray Keryth?

RUVYN: I don't know. She won't tell me. Maybe Keryth betrayed *her*. All I know is that they used to hang out a lot and then everything changed and now we're here.

ELAS: But that doesn't make any sense.

RUVYN: That's cuz we're missing something. That's what investigators do. (with judgement) But you don't want to snoop around.

ELAS: We shouldn't snoop. If Keryth wanted me to know, she'd tell me.

RUVYN: Of course she would. If she wanted you to know if you were her real for real friend and not just another phase she's going through.

ELAS: I'm not.

RUVYN: Because you're friends. Even though you hang out with Voran and Haryk and me, you're not just something shiny and new that caught the freak's attention. Keryth's not the type of person to get bored of things when they stop being fun. Right?

ELAS: Right.

RUVYN: There's definitely not a reason she wouldn't want you to get closer to her. Right?

ELAS: Shut up.

[ELAS gets up]

RUVYN: Where are you going?

ELAS: To the bathroom.

RUVYN: You're such a hypocrite, Elas.

ELAS: Shut up.

HARYK: (returning) I don't think it's bad to go to the bathroom.

RUVYN: Haryk, you're an idiot.

HARYK: (faintly) Hey!

ELAS: I'm not snooping. And it's not it's not like that. Ruvyn just just says stuff to get get to me.

Were you guys really friends, Keryth? Did Voran do something bad? I just what did she do to to make you hate her like that? Am I doing that already? What What if What if you get bored and I messed up and you hate me, too? I, I mean, you wouldn't. You, you wouldn't do that. It's just Ruvyn got in my head. She's good at that.

RUVYN: I know.

ELAS: (screams, RUVYN covers their mouth with her hand.)

RUVYN: We're just doing a little snooping.

ELAS: Why did you follow me?

RUVYN: Because.

ELAS: Let's just go back. Keryth wouldn't get bored of me and leave. She's not that kind of person.

RUVYN: If you say so. This way. And stay down.

INT. VORAN'S KITCHEN

[Radio plays softly in the background.]

ELAS: But

RUVYN: Sh. You wanna get caught?

VORAN'S MOM: And how did it go?

VORAN: (Without affectation) I I couldn't get the spell circle to work.

VORAN'S MOM: This is an intermediate spell, Voran.

VORAN: I, I know. I tried and I, I think the circle is right. I just don't-

VORAN'S MOM: You have the magic.

VORAN: But grandma says I don't have-

VORAN'S MOM: You have the magic. You're a [bleep] and we are favored by the spirit. There's no way you *don't* have it. You just need to apply yourself.

VORAN: But-

VORAN'S MOM: But what? That's not a

[Knocking on window. THADAN enters through the window and sets her broom on the floor]

VORAN: Grandma!

THADAN: Lauren, my light of lights. Oh, come here. Who made you cry?

VORAN: Nobody! (coughs puts on mean girl accent) I'm not crying.

THADAN: Mhm.

VORAN: How did the meeting go?

THADAN: (faintly) It went well

RUVYN: Oh, this again. Come on.

[ELAS and RUVYN move away.]

ELAS: What was that?

RUVYN: Voran's mom. She's like that.

ELAS: But-

RUVYN: I mean, I guess it's worth hiding, but it's not like everyone doesn't already know.

ELAS: Know what?

RUVYN: That her mom's a real [bleep].

ELAS: What?

RUVYN: Yeah, I was hoping we hear about her talk about Keryth's mom or something.

ELAS: Why? Why would she do that?

RUVYN: Because she spends a lot of time complaining about Keryth and her moms. She's been on a real tear since Keryth took down barriers. Why would she even care?

RUVYN: Because I think it was a lot of trouble getting them kicked out of the coven. So, the fact that Keryth's still getting attention is driving her a little [coo coo]

ELAS: She did what?

RUVYN: Keryth didn't tell you? I mean, she's not actually the reason they got kicked out. It was something about a rule they broke, I think? But usually, if it's a small rule, people just ignore that sort of thing, right? But sometimes if something small is wrong and you have someone important watching things get messy.

ELAS: What did they do?

RUVYN: I don't know. If I did, I sure wouldn't be trying to eavesdrop on Voran's mom all the time.

THADAN: Don't compare her to Otho's girl. You know better.

VORAN'S MOM: Mother-

RUVYN: Come on. This goes on for a while.

EXT. RIVERFRONT

[Sound of the river]

ELAS: Um, we did more more research and then Vor-Voran's mom ordered pizza. Um, I, I don't think I, I like her. It sounds like she, she really is bothered by you just being Keryth. Maybe it's something else, but I, I think she wants Voran to be, be better than you. But if she was like, like that the, the whole time, I don't get why you guys hung out in the first place.

Adults are weird. I, I know there are some who, who don't like how I think about myself, too. I kind of think if I can understand Voran's mom, I might understand them, too. But mom says I I shouldn't bother. She says it's a waste of time and that I should just focus on on being happy instead. Oh, I, I I'm at the riverfront. Um the the selkies are still around, but this time of day they're usually in the water, so it's quiet.

[Long pause]

Hanging out with Voran and Ruvyn and Haryk is different than hanging out with, with you guys. I don't know. When I hang out with you guys all day, I feel happy and mostly tired. I, I usually just go home and hang out with my family before going to bed, but when I spend time with Voran, I am just tired. I, I think. I want to go someplace quiet and be away from people for a little. But before I met you guys, I, I sort of thought that this is how things were with everybody I, I don't live with. I, I, I looked it up online once and it said I was an introvert and that hanging out with people would just make me tired because it's better for people like me to, to charge it alone. Like being with other people makes me tired because I have an invisible battery that runs out the longer I talk to them. I sort of thought that, that was all it was. But maybe it just feels like that for people I don't...

Yeah. So I came out here looking for quiet.

Is it weird that I kind of like being alone more than being with them?

INT. ELAS'S HOUSE

[Alize is cooking dinner]

ELAS: I'm home.

FLEUR: Elas.

ALIZE: Hey, kiddo. Dinner's almost ready.

[ELAS sits at the table and melts into the furniture]

FLEUR: Long day, huh?

ELAS: Uh, sort of.

FLEUR: You want to talk about it?

ELAS: Not really.

ALIZE: Mm?

ELAS: It wasn't bad or anything. It just was a, a lot of project work. We're doing our summer project on Voran's family.

FLEUR: Really? I didn't think Keryth would go for something like that.

ELAS: Oh, I'm not doing that project with Keryth. It's Voran and Haryk and Ruvyn.

ALIZE/FLEUR: Huh.

ELAS: (panicking) Uh, Mom. H how is your call with Narith?

ALIZE: Don't-

FLEUR: Oh, don't get me started. They don't even know what we want. They just keep asking for changes because the UI doesn't fit the vibe.

GRYFF: She complaining about Narith's again.

ALIZE: Yep.

FLEUR: You don't understand.

[Recorder Click]

ELAS's ROOM (NIGHT)

[Crickets and owls and croaking sound outside their window]

ELAS: Uh so, um dinner was fine. Good even. And then we played a board game. Grandpa's real mean in board games. He, he keeps taking all my good cards because I'm an easy target. Um, this is my room. It's sort of empty. It's, it's mostly a bed and a desk and a place for my clothes. Um, I don't think you guys have been here. Mom says I should unpack my boxes, but I I don't really know why when we're just going to have to pack them again.

But- Oh, but it's not as empty as it used to be. When you move a lot, you you sort of um collect things, but I've got a lot more stuff here than anywhere else. Um I have that glowing leaf you gave me and Mr. Eldar's map and and the thing he kept it in, a bunny bomb, Merin's love letter, and just a bunch of stuff. I like them.

Um, I don't really have anything else to say. So, um, I I guess this was Stories from Ylelmore. I'm sorry it's not really interesting. I, I don't really know what I wanted to do today, but I hope this was okay, Keryth. Uh, love you. Bye- wait, no, no. Not that um Keryth erase that I meant to say good night but—

OUTRO

ELAS: Is this really okay?

KERYTH: Go on!

ELAS: Stories From Ylelmore is made by the ItMe podcast production LLC all voices are done by me. Transcripts for the episode can be found in the link in the description or itmepodcast.com where you can also find coloring page, bonus material, and other podcasts. Letters can be sent to to storiesfromylelmore@gmail.com. If you want to support the creator, rate, review, comment or tell a friend about the show! If you're a grown up and you want to offer more support, maybe you can think about donating to their Ko-Fi or Patreon Linked In the description! Our outro this season is Chillowani Bomby by Pawel from the free music archive under The Creative Commons license. Was that okay?

KERYTH: Yeah!