

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 1.16

"Two Roads Diverged"

Written by

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TEASER

175. A VHS tape REWINDS. It STOPS, then PLAYS. Young Mackenna and Young Thomas both filtered as if playing through the video.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Seriously, Thomas?

YOUNG THOMAS

Mackenna, please! Just hold it while I do this trick.

YOUNG MACKENNA

You've tried nine times to kick that soccer ball over your head and failed every time. What makes you think that you can do it when I press record?

YOUNG THOMAS

Well, I'm already recording.

YOUNG MACKENNA

(sarcastic)

More gold for America's Funniest Home Videos.

YOUNG THOMAS

I just want to show Mom and Dad when they get home.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Because they'll definitely be happy when they find out you're recording over the tape of Cousin Becky's wedding. And that you've put all kinds of marks on the garage door.

YOUNG THOMAS

Just, help me, okay? Take it.

Video camera SHUFFLES. Soccer ball HITS glass. The glass SHATTERS.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Thomas! You idiot! Do you see what you did? I

just got these ants.

YOUNG THOMAS

Mackenna, I'm so so sorry. I didn't mean to. I swear.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Yeah, just like you didn't mean to ruin my life with your stupid existence.

YOUNG THOMAS

Don't say that. I love you, Mackenna. Please, I'll use my allowance, I'll get you more.

YOUNG MACKENNA

It doesn't matter. You screwed it up. Hey, while you're at it, why don't you get me a real brother who actually listens to what I say.

YOUNG THOMAS

(near tears)

But I am your real brother.

END TEASER

176.

NARRATOR

And be one traveler, long I stood, to reimagine this family for you not only bent, but broken, and burned, and torn apart. How can Thomas pick up the pieces when Mackenna just shatters his reality all over again?

MACKENNA

So now I'm back in Ireland, with Shaylee and her assistant, Dane.

THOMAS

That's all so...saying unbelievable really just doesn't cover it.

MACKENNA

I felt the same way until I saw...her.
And stepped sideways. That was a big
one.

THOMAS

Yeah, I don't know that I'd believe you
if I hadn't watched you teleport with
my own eyes.

(beat)

So this...other Mackenna...the fetch?
She did everything. She was the one who
attacked me.

MACKENNA

Yes. And Mom and Dad...well, I guess I
should say your mom and dad...

THOMAS

Stop it.

MACKENNA

What?

THOMAS

We're not doing this.

MACKENNA

Thomas, it's true--

THOMAS

They're our parents. Ours. I don't care
where you came from, who your birth
parents were--

MACKENNA

I was created.

THOMAS

--you grew up with me. In our family.

(voice cracks)

You're my sister.

MACKENNA

You know I never felt a connection with
our parents. Not in the way you did. I
mean, I cared for them, but it was like

there was a mental block or something. This discovery, in the strangest way, is actually validating. I know why I felt off my whole life.

THOMAS

I mean, I always knew you handled things differently...you see the world differently. But you've always belonged with us.

MACKENNA

It's not that I didn't want to feel connected to all of you. I just felt like I was living someone else's life. Turns out, I kinda was.

THOMAS

Do you feel that way with me?

MACKENNA

I...I honestly don't know how I feel. Everything I thought was true was all just a show.

THOMAS

You're my sister. I'm your brother. That's not a show. However you got to us, whatever the circumstances, we are family. We will always be family. Our lives together still happened. All the things we did, how we were raised... none of that was a dream or staged or a lie.

MACKENNA

Thomas, it isn't so simple.

THOMAS

Isn't it? So you found out that Mom and Dad basically adopted you. Does that make you done with them? Done with me? Are you just going to forget about me and live your new life?

MACKENNA

Of course not.

THOMAS

Well, see? It is simple.

MACKENNA

Okay, okay. You win. You're still my brother.

THOMAS

I'm so glad this is a video call. It was my glare that convinced you, wasn't it?

MACKENNA

Totally.

THOMAS

(beat)

So what do we do now? This is all so much. Every time I feel like I'm starting to process what's going on, life finds another way to shit on my face.

MACKENNA

I know the feeling.

THOMAS

How do I get you back? Can I get you back? How does this work?

MACKENNA

I don't know where to go from here. But I'd like to see you again. You, Nissa, and Alfie are all I have left, but I don't want to put you in more danger.

THOMAS

I don't know that coming back here would be a great idea yet. You're kind of on your way to the FBI's most wanted list. Or, I guess, the other you is.

MACKENNA

I'm guessing Sam didn't attend your research adventure?

THOMAS

She has a hard time grasping what doesn't seem tangible. She's very "letter of the law," if you hadn't realized.

MACKENNA

(sarcastic)

What?

THOMAS

I don't know that we'll have her on board for all of this any time soon.

MACKENNA

Do you think I should talk to her? I don't know if hearing it from me would make any difference, but I could try. I mean, is it even possible to clear my name?

THOMAS

I don't know if talking to her would change much.

(beat, a plan forms)

Or it could change everything.

MACKENNA

Whoa, pick a temperature there, buddy. You're starting to act like Ohio.

THOMAS

I think I know how to make sure Sam believes us. I have to call her. But I'll get back in touch with you, okay? Please pick up when I call.

MACKENNA

Don't do anything stupid, Thomas. And if you see the lady who plays the piano in SoundScapes, run. She's one of them, and they are very dangerous.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

177. Dark club MUSIC faintly, from another room.

MAGISTER

Welcome, Nissa and Alfred. I am the Magister. This is Liliana. You have been brought here by Ailsa, an Inquisitor of the Unseelie Court.

(long beat)

Do you speak?

ALFIE

Y-yes. How do you know our names?

MAGISTER

There is very little in this world and the next that I do not know.

ALFIE

Look, I'm sorry, we don't mean any trouble. We just stumbled here on our way to get coffee. I don't even really know how we ended up here. We definitely don't intend to stay.

MAGISTER

Alfred, you don't drink coffee. You mean to tell me you didn't come looking for me?

NISSA

We don't have any business here.

MAGISTER

That I know to be true. You don't have any business coming into my home, standing before us. If you knew of my power and what I could do to you...even if I just felt a gentle urge, with the flick of my wrist, you could be writhing in pain on the floor before me.

ALFIE

With all due respect sir, master, my lord, that is exactly why we didn't come looking for you. We weren't trying

to get into anything funny. We were just taking a walk.

MAGISTER

I find that unlikely. Inquisitor Ailsa?

AILSAS

He speaks true.

MAGISTER

Did you not bring him to me because you were concerned of his intentions?

AILSAS

Their presence at the grove concerned me, Magister. But he speaks true.

MAGISTER

Interesting. Explain.

AILSAS

One of the traps in the vault was activated. Thinking the vault breached, we went to the grove. We found these two emerging.

LILIANA

And you were able to connect them to the breach?

AILSAS

No, lady. Not directly, at least. But their presence stretched the credulity of coincidence. No others were in the grove when we arrived, so if the breach was caused by another, they managed to escape with great haste.

LILIANA

But these two did not take anything from the vault?

AILSAS

We found nothing on them, lady. Save for this flimsy, crudely drawn map.

NISSA
(quietly)
Goddammit, Alfie.

MAGISTER
What sort of map?

AILSA
It appears to contain landmarks from
the grove, but these are mixed
with...odd phrases. For example:
"there's always an old tree with a face
in it" and "definitely booby traps when
we try to leave."

ALFIE
(quietly)
And you thought my map was worthless.

MAGISTER
So they had a partially accurate map.
Humans, how did you acquire this
information?

NISSA
Don't say anything, Alfie.

ALFIE
Uh, online.

MAGISTER
Really.

ALFIE
Yep. The dark web. Looks like they were
wrong about some things though. The
face tree, for instance.

AILSA
He speaks true.

MAGISTER
You are certain?

AILSA
I am an inquisitor, Magister. This
wretch cannot deceive me.

LILIANA

And the vault? You did not enter or take anything from it?

ALFIE

Nope. No idea what you're talking about.

AILSA

He speaks true. Incredibly.

MAGISTER

Yes, but why is he winking?

NISSA

(quietly)

Alfie. Ixnay.

MAGISTER

So if it was not I you sought, nor the vault, this is a very interesting coincidence.

ALFIE

More like a really, really unfortunate accident. We should be going.

MAGISTER

Nissa, you've been very quiet.

NISSA

So has she.

MAGISTER

Who, Liliana? Liliana, tell Nissa why you rarely speak.

LILIANA

I have little to say in an exchange so useless.

MAGISTER

Useless? I wouldn't dismiss them so easily. They're here by mistake, but there is something they want. That much I can tell.

ALFIE

We really don't want anything. Except to leave. That would be cool.

MAGISTER

You have no desire to delve into the story of your sequacious friend?

NISSA

Don't talk about her like that.

ALFIE

(softly)

Nissa, careful...

(louder)

What does sequacious mean?

MAGISTER

Well, she isn't human, you know that much. And she isn't one of the Hidden. She was created for a purpose. Does that not make her something like a slave?

NISSA

No more a slave than the other Mackenna.

MAGISTER

So you do know something. Liliana, aren't these humans amusing? They think they have all the answers.

LILIANA

I'm tired of their presence.

MAGISTER

They could be easily dealt with.

NISSA

We aren't afraid of you.

ALFIE

Your highness, uh, Mr. Majesty, I'd like to say, for the record, that I am very afraid of you.

MAGISTER

You didn't intend to show up here. Your skin was snow when you saw me. And you claim you aren't afraid?

AILSA

She speaks the truth, Magister.

MAGISTER

Well, we'll have to change that, will we not?

(beat)

Inquisitor Ailsa, bring Riordan forward.

Ailsa WALKS away.

MAGISTER (CONT'D)

Riordan conspired to kill his father, a sentinel of the court. But he failed, which is a significant violation of my laws.

NISSA

Failing to murder your parents is a violation?

Ailsa WALKS back with Riordan.

MAGISTER

Riordan.

(beat)

Perish.

Body SLAMS against the floor.

MAGISTER (CONT'D)

Are you afraid now?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

178. Doorbell RINGS. TV SWITCHES OFF.

THOMAS

Come in!

Front door OPENS.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Sam. Thank god. I was starting to worry.

SAM

I got held up. I'm sorry. So many calls coming through. We made a breakthrough with the case. Have you heard from Mackenna?

THOMAS

What breakthrough?

SAM

She started using her phone. She's still in town somewhere.

NARRATOR

Ah, the other. Just as fair, and having perhaps the better claim on little Thorne's lonely life.

THOMAS

But it couldn't be Mack. She lost--
(beat)
Oh.

SAM

What? Do you know something?

THOMAS

(to self)
This might be even easier than I thought.

(to Sam)
I can get you proof that Mackenna didn't do it.

SAM

Thomas, no more crazy theories. You identified her. I'm already taking a risk by being so close to you. This is a clear conflict of interest. I want to be there for you, but I can't keep entertaining this kind of thing.

THOMAS

No, this isn't a theory. I said proof. But you need to come with me. This could be dangerous.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

179. Shaylee's warehouse. Door OPENS and CLOSES.

SHAYLEE

Did you talk to them?

MACKENNA

Thomas is safe, but he sounds like he's planning something, which probably isn't a good thing. I can't get ahold of Nissa or Alfie.

DANE

I can try to track them down.

MACKENNA

Thanks, Dane.

(beat)

Okay, so I'm still a little lost. If Liliana created me, and that makes me so strong, why are we afraid that I'm in danger?

DANE

Your potential is high, but that doesn't mean you can defeat your creator. You're only a fraction as powerful as she is.

MACKENNA

Well, what's her story? What do we know about her? What do I need to have major anxiety about?

SHAYLEE

Well, crack on, Dane.

DANE

We don't know a lot about her backstory, specifically. But we know Liliana has been the Magister's... partner, of sorts, for a long time. If the legends are true, which, I should point out, is way more often the case in the world of the Hidden than ours, the Magister existed before time.

MACKENNA

So he's like god?

DANE

Kinda one of them.

MACKENNA

(sarcastically)

Wonderful.

DANE

He's not actually a god, but the story goes that he killed one. The old world of the Hidden was much different. Today, it exists among us, only in the places we would never think to look. But back then, it only existed in the places you didn't go, couldn't find. Caves, the deepest corner of forests.

MACKENNA

So like the faeries in fairytales?

DANE

The Hidden.

MACKENNA

Right, sorry.

DANE

They were much closer to the stories, but still very different. Darker.

MACKENNA

So the Magister created their society?

DANE

Actually, he destroyed it.

SHAYLEE

So the story goes.

DANE

If you ever have to face his wrath, the stories will read as truth to you very quickly.

(beat)

The one they called Wodan created the old world, or at least, was the first to inhabit it. He was their god. The Magister was one of the upstart Younglings. He led a rebellion against Wodan and the other Old Ones. No idea why. Maybe he was power hungry. Maybe he didn't believe in the way the world was run. It's supposedly considered bad luck to even speak of him.

MACKENNA

So the Magister killed Wodan?

SHAYLEE

Yes. And since the power of being the Magister came directly from Wodan, he's been the Magister ever since. His power is absolute, and if anyone even could defeat him, there's no more god around to crown the next Magister. The fear of their entire world collapsing without him really keeps the Hidden People in line.

DANE

It's not clear where Liliana enters the picture, but some have said she had great influence in Wodan's defeat. She's brutal, and second only to the Magister in power and in their society.

MACKENNA

Okay, so what now? Does she have some kind of evil plan for me?

DANE

I doubt it's much beyond the obvious. Changelings are created to battle fetches. It's a sport.

SHAYLEE

And if Liliana created you, and she trained your fetch, or worse, the Magister did, they want this to be a bloody battle.

MACKENNA

Yeah, that's not terrifying at all.

SHAYLEE

Don't worry, Mackenna. I found you... we found you. And we're going to help you the whole way, no matter what happens. No matter what this all means.

DIGITAL BEEPING in the distance.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Someone is trying to reach me. I'll be right back.

Shaylee WALKS away.

DANE

She cares for you a lot, you know. I haven't seen her like this in...well, a long time.

MACKENNA

She kind of has to, right? Isn't that what you two do, train changelings to survive? I'm part of her job description. She needs me to survive.

DANE

No, she needs you. End the sentence there. That's the truth.

Shaylee HURRIES back.

SHAYLEE

Mack? Thomas sent a message. He says he needs to see you now. I'm guessing he means another video chat?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

180. In a MOVING CAR.

SAM

Thomas, who are you texting? And where am I going?

THOMAS

Take a left at the light. Just trust me.

SAM

Thomas, I love you, but you haven't given me a lot of reason to trust you.

THOMAS

You...love me?

SAM

No, I didn't mean...shut up. I was trying to get you to look up from your phone and navigate for me since you won't tell me where we're going.

THOMAS

Not worth explaining until we get there. I just need you to focus.

SAM

I'm a goddamned laser. But I still need to know--

Cell phone PINGS.

SAM (CONT'D)

What the hell was that?

THOMAS

This is going to work. Just wait a Second.

Few seconds silence. Incoming video chat RING.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Shaylee! Shaylee. Is Mackenna there? I need to talk to her.

SHAYLEE

(through phone)

She's right here. I'm just setting up the connection. Mack, we'll give you some privacy.

SAM

(hissing)

Oh, I see: proving that your sister isn't a serial killer depends on your sister, who might be a serial killer.

THOMAS

Take a right up here on Broad.

SAM

I'm really not great at blindly following orders.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

Thomas? Are you in a car?

SAM

Mackenna? I'm glad you're safe. We've been trying to find you so we can talk. Please, just tell me where you are, and I promise we'll work this out.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

Sam, I'm in Ireland.

SAM

But your phone--

THOMAS

Mackenna, I'm going to prove to Sam that you didn't kill Mom and Dad or attack me.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

By video chatting me? Thomas, she knows what I look like.

SAM

Seriously, Thomas, I can take it from here. Thank you for getting ahold of Mackenna. Mackenna, can you still hear me? Please wait a second while I pull over.

THOMAS

Sam, no. We have to get there soon.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

Get where? Thomas, what's going on?

THOMAS

You're right: Sam knows what you look like. And what the other you looks like.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

Well, obviously, she looks like me.

THOMAS

Yes, but she isn't you.

(beat)

You could think identical twins were the same person if you never saw them together.

MACKENNA

(through speaker phone)

(beat)

Thomas, no.

THOMAS

We're running out of time. I've made up my mind. I just need you to help me.

MACKENNA

(through speaker phone)
This is seriously dangerous. And
stupid. It's not worth it.

THOMAS

It is. You're my sister.

NARRATOR

What is this? Two roads diverged in a
yellow wood, though the paths never
crossed until now. They simply ran
parallel, equally lay, until one road
was erased from the map. And for that,
we'll never know the grassier, as the
road not taken was never a choice for
the human Mackenna at all.

Phone PINGS.

THOMAS

Pull into this parking lot.

SAM

What parking lot?

THOMAS

That one there, behind Arcadia.

SAM

Shit, this alley is narrow. I'm taking
a lot on faith here, Thomas. How is
there proof of Mackenna's innocence in
a parking lot?

THOMAS

Look, at the end of the alley. There
she is.

NARRATOR

Two roads diverged. The darkness parts
to reveal this little road, a wicked
smile plastered across her face.

SAM

What the fuck? That's...but...

THOMAS

Take my phone.

MACKENNA

(through video)

You need to keep your eye on my brother, Sam. This is a profoundly stupid plan.

SAM

I don't...I don't understand. Thomas, how did this happen?

Car door OPENS.

SAM (CONT'D)

Thomas?

FETCH

Your message to...her said that you were coming alone.

THOMAS

I'm sorry. That was just to get you here. Once I knew you stole her phone, I figured you'd check her messages.

FETCH

Stole? This? Does this not belong to me? Do you, brother, not belong to me?

THOMAS

I don't know you.

FETCH

You could have.

THOMAS

That wasn't my call.

FETCH

It could be.

Car door OPENS. Sam UNHOLSTERS her gun and WORKS the slide.

SAM

Hold it, um, blonde Mackenna.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

She goes by fetch.

SAM

You're under arrest.

THOMAS

Sam, please, just let me talk to her for a second. Then you can do what you need to.

(beat, softer)

This is confusing. This is all so confusing for me, and I can't imagine what you must feel.

FETCH

No. You can't imagine.

THOMAS

But this is what has happened. I have a sister. Mackenna is my sister.

FETCH

That should have been my name.

THOMAS

I know. It was taken from you. You've had a lot taken from you. I feel like I had something taken from me, too.

FETCH

(angry)

What would you know about that?

(growl)

SAM

Don't move.

THOMAS

Look, everybody stay calm. This is confusing for all of us. But I know it must be the worst for you.

(beat)

Do you even know that it's your birthday tomorrow?

FETCH

You know nothing about me. What I've been through. What I've done. I have survived in places you would beg for death.

(growl)

SAM

Stop!

THOMAS

Sam, don't! She's my sister.

SAM

I will do what I have to do to protect you, Thomas. And catch your parents' killer.

FETCH

That weapon is a crutch. It makes you lazy. I will exploit that weakness.

THOMAS

She stopped, Sam. She's not going to hurt me.

SAM

She literally just threatened me.

(beat)

On the ground. Hands behind your head.

THOMAS

She stopped, Sam. She understands.

SAM

No, she just doesn't want me to shoot her. She hasn't taken her eyes off my gun the entire time.

THOMAS

Sister. I...I don't know what to call you. I may know nothing about you. I may not have been given the chance to know you. I may not have had a choice. But the blood that's running through your veins? It runs through mine, too.

NARRATOR

Like two trees with roots entangled.

THOMAS

And if you're willing, I'll put it on the line now. I'll risk this. I'll know you. Let me know you.

FETCH

Why don't you fear me?

THOMAS

Maybe I should. But I'm more afraid of never knowing you.

FETCH

She doesn't lower her weapon.

THOMAS

She's scared. Just like me. Just like you. But I wouldn't hurt you. I won't let her hurt you. You can trust me.

FETCH

Trust is your weakness, brother.

THOMAS

I have so much to tell you if you'll just let me.

FETCH

Your words are poison. Do you really think I am so weak?

THOMAS

No, please, don't go.

SAM

Stop moving or I'll shoot.

THOMAS

Sam, no!

Fetch RUNS away.

SAM

Move Thomas. I can't see her! Get out of my way!

THOMAS

I'm not going to watch you shoot my sister right in front of me.

SAM

Damn it, Thomas. I had her. She killed your parents!

NARRATOR

With a heart wide and for ages hence, this tortures Thomas in a way he cannot understand, but knowing how way leads on to way, he doubted if she should ever come back.

SAM

She looks like Mackenna. But she doesn't sound quite like Mackenna. What is going on?

THOMAS

I wish you hadn't threatened her. I was getting through to her.

SAM

Thomas, did you see the wild look in her eyes? She would have tried to kill both of us if I didn't have a gun on her. What was I supposed to do?

THOMAS

You don't understand.

SAM

You're right, I don't. And I thought this whole thing was to help me understand, but I'm just way more confused. So Mackenna has a twin?

THOMAS

(beat)

(sigh)

Yes. Sort of. It's a long and very unbelievable story. I will explain it to you, at least as far as I understand it. Is...Mackenna still there?

SAM

Yeah. Here's your phone.

MACKENNA

(through the phone)

Thomas. You idiot. Are you okay?

THOMAS

What do I do, Mackenna?

MACKENNA

(through the phone)

Did you...did you mean all the things you said to her?

THOMAS

I don't know. Part of me wanted to get her to turn herself in. But another part...I didn't expect to feel that way when I saw her.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

She's your sister.

THOMAS

You're my sister. I mean, I guess she is, too, but I don't want you to ever feel like you're not. You're more a sister to me than she could ever be. And she killed our parents; I can't just forget that.

MACKENNA

(through phone)

Take some time, okay? And stay safe.

THOMAS

Come home.

MACKENNA
(through phone)
Hang in there. I'll see you as soon as
I can.

THOMAS
Okay. Okay, I'll see you then.
(beat)
Mackenna?

MACKENNA
(through phone)
Yeah?

THOMAS
I love you.

MACKENNA
(through phone)
I'll be there as soon as it's safe.

Thomas HANGS UP from the video call.

SAM
Let me take you home.

THOMAS
Sam, I don't know what to do.

SAM
(beat)
I don't think I have a great answer for
you.

THOMAS
She's my sister, at least by blood.

SAM
Isn't Mackenna--our Mackenna--also your
sister?

THOMAS
I have so much to explain to you.

SAM
I know. I have so many questions.

THOMAS

I'll tell you everything on the way home.

SAM

Okay. But then I have to go after her. You know that, right?

THOMAS

Yeah. I do.

SAM

I'll need to point the investigation toward the real killer so that our Mackenna can go free.

THOMAS

I think you'll find that you can't just tell the chief what you know. It's... yeah, it's not remotely believable.

(beat)

Let's go. I have to go home and wait for Mackenna.

SAM

That might be a while, if she's in Ireland.

THOMAS

I just need to be there for her.

SAM

Have you ever thought that maybe you need someone to be there for you, too?

NARRATOR

And both that morning equally lay. But Thomas knows he cannot travel both, though one he knew since he was a boy. And that has made all of the difference.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

181. Door BURSTS open.

SHAYLEE

Mack, I'm sorry to interrupt.

MACKENNA

You aren't. I'm finished.

SHAYLEE

Are you okay? You're ashen.

MACKENNA

I don't know. This whole having emotions and processing them sucks.

SHAYLEE

I hate to make it all that much worse, but we have a major problem.

MACKENNA

What?

SHAYLEE

Dane found Nissa and Alfie...

MACKENNA

What happened?

DANE

They're with the Magister.

MACKENNA

What? How?

DANE

I don't know. The Hidden People must have taken them.

MACKENNA

Why would they do that? What could Nissa and Alfie possibly have that the Hidden People want?

DANE

Nothing. This is highly unusual. They don't involve themselves in the struggles between fetches and changelings.

MACKENNA

This is my fault. I pulled them into this mess.

SHAYLEE

By befriending them? Mack, you had no idea. You cannot be so hard on yourself.

MACKENNA

Whatever. Blame later. Save them now.

SHAYLEE

We need to think this through. We need a plan.

MACKENNA

I'll do anything.

182. TV STATIC. Young Mackenna and Young Thomas both filtered as if playing through the video.

YOUNG THOMAS

(replay from scene 175)

But I am your real brother.

YOUNG MACKENNA

(beat)

Thomas, I'm sorry, okay? I was being a jerk. Let's get this cleaned up.

YOUNG THOMAS

I'm so sorry Mackenna. This is all my fault.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Oh, you're still totally using your allowance to buy me a new one. But I forgive you. Is this thing still rolling?

The sound goes IN and OUT as Mackenna messes with the video.

YOUNG MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Let's get a shot of that sunshine trick
for mom and dad.

YOUNG THOMAS

(laughs)

It's called a rainbow.

(beat)

Mackenna?

YOUNG MACKENNA

Yeah?

YOUNG THOMAS

I love you.

YOUNG MACKENNA

(beat)

I love you too, kid. I guess being your
sister isn't so bad.

The tape STOPS.

183. Thomas DESCENDS the basement stairs. A door CREAKS as
it OPENS.

THOMAS

There they are.

Thomas WALKS.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Hey, little buddies. Is it weird to
talk to ants? I wonder if Mackenna ever
did. I don't think you miss her not
being here. I'm not sure you even
understand her presence when she is
here. I mean, you're insects. You
mostly take care of yourselves. That's
probably why she liked you.

(beat)

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

How can this be real? I think I understand where you're coming from. I kind of feel like a bug in a giant world right now. But don't worry. I'll keep an eye on you. I...I don't know if she'll be coming back. If she'll even really want to be my sister anymore.

(beat)

What if the only family I have left is the sister I just met tonight?

(beat)

What if I can never forgive her?

Thomas CRIES softly.

NARRATOR

And that has made all the difference.

THE END