

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 1.19

"The Scorpion and the Frog"

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199. In the Magister's court. Repeating last lines of 118.

MAGISTER
Welcome, Mackenna Thorne.

MACKENNA
I'm here for my friends.

Silence. Then, finally:

MAGISTER
This is Liliansa. I am the Mag--

MACKENNA
I know who you are.

MAGISTER
(beat)
Brazen.

MACKENNA
I've always had a problem with
authority figures.

MAGISTER
"Authority figure" is a woefully
inadequate way to describe me. I am as
a god to you.

MACKENNA
I'm an atheist, so does that mean I
should act like you don't exist?

MAGISTER
Liliansa. When last did a changeling
speak to me with such impudence?

LILIANA
Never. This one would do well to heed
that tradition.

MACKENNA
I'm a trend-setter.

LILIANA
This is a trend best abandoned. For
your sake.

MACKENNA

I tend to ride these things into the ground. You should have seen my goth phase.

MAGISTER

Perhaps you need a lesson in who I am, what the Unseelie Court represents.

MACKENNA

Uh, let's see: you killed some dude you used to worship named Wodan. Now you're the king of a human trafficking network that kidnaps babies and trains them into child soldiers. And you live in the stockroom of a dance club.

MAGISTER

You try my patience.

MACKENNA

(incredulous)

And that throne. Seriously, we need to talk about that throne. The wood with the metal?

(helpful)

See, there's this show on HBO--

MAGISTER

Enough.

LILIANA

Do not dirty your hands. She isn't worth--

MAGISTER

When I command silence in this court, I command it of all. Have you forgotten this?

LILIANA

(beat)

No, Magister.

MACKENNA

Abusing your spouse seems really on brand for you. Why don't you back the fuck off.

MAGISTER

Let me tell you a story, changeling. My last child was born just over two hundred years ago. Liliana called him Kent. He was brave but foolishly immature. A disastrous combination. Like you, he disdained rules. One day, he remarked that if he were magister, he would simply change any rules he did not like. That night, Liliana and I killed him in his sleep. We do not tolerate threats, even implied ones.

MACKENNA

You killed your own son?

LILIANA

Kent was a merciless fiend. He would have gladly killed us, given the chance.

MACKENNA

Well, good thing you murdered him first.

LILIANA

I did not say that we are not also merciless fiends.

MAGISTER

These are mere words. Human words. We are beyond humans and their words. I am the Magister. I hold power over all things Hidden. I could end you with a snap of my fingers, construct.

MACKENNA

But you won't.

MAGISTER

Won't I? Do I not possess what you seek? Perhaps the actual lesson you need is how to negotiate.

MACKENNA

I have something you want way more than Nissa and Alfie.

MAGISTER

Do you? Out with it. Your attempt to create drama was amusing, but my interest fades.

MACKENNA

I'm the big show, Madge.

LILIANA

Do not call him that.

SHAYLEE

Do not call him that.

MACKENNA

Fine, fine. I'm the big show, your royal Hidden-ness.

MAGISTER

There are other changelings, Miss Thorne.

MACKENNA

But we're special, aren't we? The two Mackennas? You and Liliana mentored her personally, right? All that time you spent conditioning her, torturing her, abusing her...you wouldn't want all that sadism to go to waste, would you? If you kill me now, that investment is lost. You don't get your epic battle between the Mackennas.

LILIANA

She has a point, dear.

MAGISTER

It seems the changeling knows how to negotiate after all. Well played.

MACKENNA

Let Nissa and Alfie go, and you can still have your big show. Shaylee will keep training me, and I promise to make it a doozie.

MAGISTER

And I should hand them over now in anticipation of this future battle? I should just trust you?

MACKENNA

Shit no. Trust me? That's ridiculous.

MAGISTER

So what, then?

MACKENNA

I don't trust you, either. Why would either of us trust the other? You give me my friends now, and I don't need to trust you anymore. And do you really think I can hide from...her forever? We'll each get what we want, and we don't need to trust each other.

MAGISTER

Little changeling. I am beyond you. We are all beyond you. Let me tell you another story. Long before--

MACKENNA

Actually, I've got a story for you. Have you heard the fable about the scorpion and the frog? The frog takes the scorpion's word that it won't hurt it, so it carries the scorpion across the river. But the scorpion stings the frog anyway. Cuz that's the scorpion's nature.

MAGISTER

Oh, Miss Thorne. Are you calling me a scorpion because you think I'll betray you?

MACKENNA

No. You're the frog who thinks he's too big and smart to get taken down by an unassuming little scorpion.

MAGISTER

And that would be you?

MACKENNA

You want to intimidate me? Threaten me? Tell me how insignificant I am compared to you? I promise you: the second you cross me, you won't even feel that sting until you're drowning.

MAGISTER

If I recall, didn't the scorpion in that story also drown?

MACKENNA

Small consolation for the dead-ass frog.

Few seconds of silence.

MAGISTER

Liliana. What say you?

LILIANA

I find her forwardness refreshing. Rarely do we find this sort of challenge, even if she can't back it up. She certainly isn't worth the effort to kill her now. And the resulting battle with the fetch may prove entertaining, given she has enough time to train.

MAGISTER

Very well. Changeling, I am sufficiently amused to allow you to live. Ailsa, bring forth her humans.

(beat)

I expect we will not wait long for this battle?

MACKENNA

She has to find me first.

MAGISTER

As it shall be.

(long beat)

And changeling?

MACKENNA

Yeah?

MAGISTER

I wasn't talking to you.

SHAYLEE

Yes...Magister?

MAGISTER

You have done excellent work with this one. Certainly the best work since you began.

MACKENNA

Began? What does he mean?

SHAYLEE

It's nothing.

MAGISTER

Oh. You did not know that the trainer works for me? Who do you think told her of you, where to find you, when the fetch would come to reclaim?

MACKENNA

You work for him?

SHAYLEE

It's not like that.

MAGISTER

It's precisely like that. Per our deal, one which binds you still. You belong to me, changeling. Best you remember that.

SHAYLEE

He's oversimplifying things, Mack. Let me just--

ALFIE

Mack!

MACKENNA

Alfie! Nissa! Come on, we're getting out of here.

MAGISTER

Do not keep us waiting, changeling. You have promised us a battle for the ages. And we will have it. One way or another.

MACKENNA

You'll get your big show. Let's go.

ALFIE

Um, are we supposed to bow or something?

NISSA

I'm not bowing to this guy.

MACKENNA

Shut it, both of you.

LILIANA

Goodbye. Changelings.

MAGISTER

Goodbye, Shaylee. I'll have a new job for you soon.

The four WALK back out of Arcadia. The MUSIC grows louder as they approach the night club portion. As they PUSH open the massive doors, the MUSIC abruptly STOPS.

NARRATOR

Hundreds of dancers who had paid Mackenna no mind on her way in now stare daggers at her as she seeks to leave. The ragtag band weave in between the Hidden People, careful to not touch them as they go. Like all things in their world, getting in is easy. Getting out? Well, if Mackenna thinks that leaving Arcadia is getting out, she's sadly mistaken.

Exterior Arcadia door OPENS.

200. Mackenna, Nissa, and Alfie WALK down the street. Shaylee WALKS behind them.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, wait.

MACKENNA

We're not doing this now, Shaylee. I have to see Thomas and get Nissa and Alfie back safely.

SHAYLEE

You shouldn't be walking the streets in town. Someone could see you.

MACKENNA

I'll take my chances. Go home.

SHAYLEE

Please, Mack.

MACKENNA

I'll call you.

SHAYLEE

Be careful.

Mackenna, Nissa, and Alfie WALK in silence a bit.

ALFIE

Well, uh, thanks for saving us from faerie jail.

NISSA

Yeah, thanks, Mack. We owe you one.

ALFIE

We owe you more like nine. Hey, can I buy you a kid's hot chocolate and call it even?

MACKENNA

You know I don't drink hot chocolate, right? No matter the maturity level?

ALFIE

Yeah, I know.

MACKENNA

But sure, you can do that. Then I'll just give it back to you to finish.

ALFIE

I would willingly bear that burden.

MACKENNA

Not now, though. Shaylee was right: I can't be seen here. We need to get back to your place, Nissa. Thomas is waiting for us there.

NISSA

What? Thomas is at my place already? I didn't have any time to clean from our last research fest.

ALFIE

I see your apartment all the time, and now you're embarrassed?

MACKENNA

Come on, let's stick to the side streets. And once we're somewhere more private, you need to turn your clothes inside-out. At least for as long as I'm in your lives.

NISSA

You can't get rid of us, Mack.

ALFIE

Nope. We've bonded. I'm like your
symbiote.

MACKENNA

Would it be at all convincing if I said
not talking would make us less
noticeable?

NISSA

I think we need to talk. We have a lot
to catch up on.

NARRATOR

Oh, the stories you'll tell each other.
Perhaps you should stop for a moment
and realize how far you've fallen to
believe the stories you're about to
tell.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

201. Vacuum cleaner RUNNING on the other side of a door.

ALFIE

What's that noise in there?

NISSA

I think that's my vacuum.

Nissa UNLOCKS two locks and OPENS the door. They enter.
Door CLOSES.

NISSA (CONT'D)

What's he doing?

(beat)

Thomas.

MACKENNA / NISSA / ALFIE

Thomas!

Vacuum SHUTS OFF.

THOMAS

Mackenna!

MACKENNA

Hi, Thomas.

THOMAS

It's wonderful to see you. I've missed you so much.

(beat)

Fair warning: I'm going to hug you, and I don't want any complaining.

Thomas HUGS Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Does an exaggerated groan count as complaining?

THOMAS

Shut it, sis.

ALFIE

We are also alive.

THOMAS

(laugh)

Hi, Nissa, Alfie. I'm really glad you're safe, too.

MACKENNA

They're alive. Not sure about safe yet.

NISSA

Thomas, have you been cleaning my apartment?

THOMAS

Oh, uh...see, I clean when I'm stressed.

NISSA

Let me guess: you've been stressed?

THOMAS

A little.

NISSA

Everything's dusted. Did you wash my windows?

ALFIE

What's that smell?

THOMAS

I'm baking a cake. Happy birthday,
Mackenna. I know it ended a couple
hours ago, but still.

MACKENNA

Wow. I didn't even realize it was my
birthday. I don't even know what day of
the week it is.

(beat)

Thanks, Thomas. You didn't have to make
me a cake.

NISSA

I didn't even know my oven worked.

Kettle WHISTLES.

THOMAS

Oh, anyone want some tea?

MACKENNA

(exaggerated groan)

When you're stressed, you clean and
serve cake and tea. Stop being perfect.
Dear lord.

ALFIE

It's been at least thirty seconds...how
has no one asked what kind of cake it
is?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

202. Still in Nissa's apartment.

Sounds of SILVERWARE on PLATES as they eat pie.

THOMAS

Nissa, Alfie, I tip my hat to you.
That's a helluva story.

ALFIE

It's by far the most exciting and dangerous adventure of my life.

NISSA

Your only other adventure was that one time you went hiking in an unenchanted state park.

ALFIE

Which was significantly less exciting and dangerous.

MACKENNA

I'm just glad Ailsa didn't catch you lying. How did you trick her?

NARRATOR

That's what I would like to know.

NISSA

No idea. She just bought into Alfie's bullshit, I guess.

ALFIE

Maybe Liliana blocked her truth-telling powers. You know, because she's sweet on me.

MACKENNA

I don't understand why she would send you on a quest to help me in the first place.

NISSA

Maybe she just wants a better throwdown between you and the fetch?

MACKENNA

Maybe.

THOMAS

I'm just glad you're all here in one piece. Enchanted forests. Evil hags. Evil dolls.

MACKENNA

Almost didn't make it out of that one.
If not for Shaylee, I'd...

THOMAS

You'd what?

MACKENNA

Nothing. Never mind.

THOMAS

Where is Shaylee, anyway? I'd like to
thank her in person. She's a hero.

MACKENNA

I don't know what she is.

THOMAS

What do you mean?

NISSA

She means she's also a traitor. She
works for the Magister.

THOMAS

Really?

ALFIE

I heartily disagree.

NISSA

Seriously, Alfie? After all the times
you stood up for Mack before we knew
the truth, and now you're gonna take
Shaylee's side?

ALFIE

She may have misled us. She may work
for the Big Bad. But she is not a
traitor. Sometimes it's more
complicated than that.

NISSA

Yeah, and sometimes it's not.

THOMAS

What do you think, Mackenna? What's your gut say?

MACKENNA

I don't know. My gut's in knots.

NISSA

What do we even know about her? She's constantly lying and deceiving. I mean, she didn't even use her real voice when she met us.

ALFIE

People keep secrets for a reason. She didn't tell us she was a changeling when we first met. That would have been weird. She had to wait for the right time. I think she had to wait for the right time to tell us about this, too.

MACKENNA

And what, the right time never came? There were plenty of times where she could have told me the truth.

ALFIE

That means there were also plenty of times where she could have killed you and didn't.

MACKENNA

Thomas, what do you think of all this? I know I never ask for your advice, or anything for that matter, but I'm asking now. What do you think I should do?

THOMAS

I can't believe I'm going to say this, but I'm with Alfie.

NISSA

What?

ALFIE

Ha! Sweet vindication!

THOMAS

Now, Mackenna, don't take this the wrong way, but our entire lives you haven't really confided in me. I mean, I would love for you to talk to me, to come to me about stuff that was important to you, anything at all. I've wanted that for years. I wanted to be there for you. I still do. But you bottle it up. You don't share with me.

MACKENNA

I'm not super chatty. What are you getting at?

THOMAS

You're right: you're not, but that doesn't mean you don't care about me. Just because Shaylee didn't tell you she works for the Magister, that doesn't mean she doesn't care about you. After you found out, did you give her a chance to explain?

MACKENNA

Well, no. We didn't exactly have time for a confessional.

THOMAS

There might be a good reason that Shaylee didn't say anything about this. Maybe she's in danger, too. Maybe she had no choice. Maybe she's still protecting you.

MACKENNA

Or maybe she's just gaining our trust so she can eventually offer me up to the Magister. She's fattening me for slaughter.

THOMAS

You know, since Mom and Dad died, I was so worried for you: worried about what it would do to you, about how you would cope with it. But since you met Shaylee, you've changed. I think she

had a good influence on you. I've seen it in the way you carry yourself. There's a new confidence. She provided you an outlet. It's like the weight on your shoulders has been a little bit lighter since she's been around. I know your instinct is to not trust people. I'm asking you to fight that instinct. You're not alone, and you don't have to face this alone. It's time to take the risk and trust us, all of us...even Shaylee.

ALFIE

(sobbing)

That was beautiful, Thomas.

NARRATOR

Blind trust is always wrong. You trusted Shaylee once after she kept the truth from you. Will you do it again? You know what they say about two wrongs.

NISSA

As much as I can appreciate a sappy, feel-good argument, that still doesn't help us in the moment. How are we supposed to clear Mack's name when the police are just going to arrest her on sight?

THOMAS

Now that we've shown Sam you didn't kill Mom and Dad, she might be willing to help. Maybe we should talk to her.

MACKENNA

I think that's a good idea. Sooner or later, the cops will come knocking. If I stay here and do nothing, we're just delaying the inevitable. Thomas, can you keep an eye on Nissa and Alfie while I'm gone?

ALFIE

No need, Tommy Boy. I'm about ready to fall asleep on my favorite couch. I don't know how Mack can keep going, cuz I'm exhausted.

(yawns)

She must keep the Energizer bunny in her Mackpack.

NISSA

Yes, Alfie. You're allowed to sleep on my couch. Thanks for asking.

MACKENNA

If anything happens, call me. And if it's really bad...call Shaylee.

THOMAS

We'll be fine. Be careful.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

203. Sam's house. Front door OPENS.

SAM

Hi, Mackenna. Good to see you...the real you.

MACKENNA

Hi, Sam.

NARRATOR

The seeker becomes the sought. Tell me, Samantha: how far can you stretch the definition of your job before you're just bad at it?

Mackenna WALKS inside. Door CLOSES.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Nice place.

SAM

Thanks. It's pretty bare. It's the gift and curse of being single and having to furnish a whole house all by yourself.

MACKENNA

Does Thomas know you're calling yourself single?

SAM

Still friends for now. Gotta be professional.

(beat)

Uh, Thomas said you need help.

MACKENNA

I'd like to be able to come home at some point and not be wanted for murder. How do we make that happen?

SAM

Things don't look great.

MACKENNA

I appreciate the confidence.

SAM

There's a lot of circumstantial evidence against you. Thomas and I could each attest to the killer being your twin, but my boss has already questioned my connection to Thomas. Even if we take out the magic parts of the story, he wouldn't believe it. The whole department is still looking for you. You disappeared for a while, so we're not tailing you, but Thomas, your house, and your work are all under surveillance. The only reason we haven't added your friends is because we're short staffed.

MACKENNA

Um, yay?

SAM

Oh, and you're also considered armed and extremely dangerous, so all the officers are prepared for engagement.

MACKENNA

Just keeps getting better.

SAM

If we're going to have a chance at clearing your name, we would--

MACKENNA

(serious)

What is that sound?

Front door is KICKED OPEN.

RON

Freeze! Stay right where you are, Mackenna. Hands in the air.

SAM

Ron? DeMarcos?

RON

You, too, Sam. Both of you. Hands in the air.

SAM

What the fuck, Ron?

RON

I'm sorry, Sam. We have to.

(beat)

Mackenna Thorne, you are under arrest for murder.

SAM

Ron, this is a mistake. We were wrong from the beginning.

MACKENNA

Sam. Don't.

RON

Sam...Samantha Mulligan. You're under arrest for harboring a known fugitive.

MACKENNA

Sam didn't do anything. She didn't know I was coming.

SAM

How did you even see her?

(beat)

You were surveilling me?!

RON

Seems I was right to. I don't know exactly what's going on here, but at the very least, it doesn't look good. We have to sort this out through the proper channels now. Official channels.

(beat)

Sam, I'm...it's just...

(clears throat)

DeMarcos, get them cuffed. Ladies, you both have the right to remain silent.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

Nissa's apartment.

RON

(through radio static)

We have Mackenna Thorne in custody. And Samantha Mulligan.

204.

NISSA

No, no, no. This is really bad.

ALFIE

Why did she give up? Why didn't she resist or escape?

(to the scanner)

Do something! Fight back, run, anything!

THOMAS

Turn the scanner off. I can't listen anymore. This is my fault. I led my sister right into a trap.

NISSA

Don't blame yourself, Thomas. You couldn't have known that they were watching Sam's house, too. None of us saw that coming.

THOMAS

But if I hadn't suggested Sam's help,
this wouldn't have happened. Now both
of them are gone.

ALFIE

I think this falls into the "call
Shaylee" category.

THOMAS

I have her number in Ireland.

Phone DIALING

SHAYLEE

(through phone)

Thomas?

THOMAS

Something's happened to Mackenna. We
need your help.

SHAYLEE

(through phone)

Hang on.

THOMAS

(to the others)

I think she just put me on hold.

ALFIE

Maybe you should add that this is kind
of urgent.

DIAL TONE.

NISSA

Did she just hang up on you?

KNOCK on the door.

SHAYLEE

(through door)

Nissa, it's me.

Door OPENS. Shaylee WALKS in. Door CLOSES.

THOMAS
Shaylee? How did you--

SHAYLEE
What happened? Is everyone alright?
Where's Mackenna?

NISSA
How did you get here so quickly?

SHAYLEE
There's a circular manhole cover just
outside your building. I've...made note
of it before.

ALFIE
Mack was just arrested.

NISSA
They're taking her into custody now.

THOMAS
Sam, too.

SHAYLEE
Well, that's a relief.

ALFIE
I'm not sure you heard us right. Let me
try another way.
(exaggerated Irish accent)
Mackenna has been arrested. The police
are taking her into custody.

SHAYLEE
I thought maybe the Court had her. Or
that her fetch had found her. This is
much better.

THOMAS
Shaylee, please. We need your help.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

205. KNOCK on the door. Door OPENS.

RON

Sir?

CHIEF

Good. Come in. Both of you.

Ron and Sam ENTER the office. The handcuffs on Sam's wrists RATTLE. The door CLOSES behind them.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

The cuffs aren't necessary, Officer Sitwell.

RON

But, Chief, it's protocol.

CHIEF

I don't think Detective Mulligan will do anything rash, do you?

Cuffs are UNLOCKED and PLACED on the chief's desk.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

Very good. You are dismissed, Sitwell.

RON

Sir, with all due respect--

CHIEF

You. Are. Dismissed.

Door OPENS and CLOSES as Ron leaves the room.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

(sigh)

I thought I made my expectations clear in our last meeting, Detective Mulligan.

SAM

Crystal clear, chief.

CHIEF

And yet here we are. We have a murderer in our cells, but how can the people of this town sleep safe at night when it comes out that one of our own was aiding and abetting her?

SAM

Sir, Mackenna Thorne is innocent.

CHIEF

Obviously our previous conversation wasn't clear enough for you. All the evidence, all the motive, all the pressure on our department...

(sigh)

Maybe you really do believe she's innocent; you're a good enough person to not help someone you genuinely think killed someone, even if they are your lover's family.

SAM

Sir, I am not--

CHIEF

You are a good person, Samantha. But I need more than that. I need good cops. I need the trust of the people. And I don't have that with you on the squad.

SAM

(holding back tears, but firm)

Sir, are you...are you firing me?

CHIEF

No.

(beat)

You are resigning. Effective immediately.

SAM

Chief McIlveen, this job...being a detective is everything. Everything I...I...

CHIEF

The paperwork for your arrest hasn't been filed yet. There's no reason for it to ever be. No reason for anyone to know about your missteps.

SAM

Chief, I can't--

CHIEF

Dammit, Sam! You haven't given me any other choice! Just...listen, just put in the resignation, keep your head down, and you'll have no problem finding a new position. In a new district. Preferably out of state.

SAM

A new...chief, this is my home.

CHIEF

Really, this is best for everyone.

SAM

Is it?

Sam WALKS to the door, OPENS it, then stops.

SAM (CONT'D)

Would it even matter to you if Mackenna is innocent? If you have the wrong person in those cells?

CHIEF

We don't.

Sam SLAMS the door.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

206.

NARRATOR

The holding cells at the Conley police station aren't particularly special. Mackenna should consider herself lucky that they are nothing like the pits that held Nissa and Alfred: no torture devices, no shrieks of the dying.

LILIANA
(humming theme)

Liliana WALKS toward Mackenna's cell.

NARRATOR
And certainly no wards to keep out the
Hidden People.

MACKENNA
(echoing)
Hello? Someone there?

Liliana WALKS to Mackenna and STOPS. HUMMING ends.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
You. You're one of them. You've been
coming to the music store for years,
but you've always been one of them.

LILIANA
Hello, Mackenna. Do you know who I am?

MACKENNA
Liliana. We did just meet a few hours
ago.

LILIANA
But do you know who I am?

MACKENNA
I'm not stupid. You're my creator.

LILIANA
So you do know.

MACKENNA
I also know you're evil. Psychotic. A
monster.

LILIANA
(amused)
Odd. In this form, I've been called
many things, but rarely monstrous.

MACKENNA

You kidnapped that girl. Stole her from her parents, tortured her, made her into a killer. It doesn't matter what you look like.

LILIANA

I did all of those things. However, you only exist because of me. I noticed you missed that act in your list of grievances.

MACKENNA

And yet here I am, locked in a jail cell. You must be so proud of your creation.

LILIANA

I am. Despite what you may think of us, we are not monsters. We have our reasons. And our motivations.

MACKENNA

Sadism is a motivation?

LILIANA

I am not cruel simply for the sake of being cruel.

MACKENNA

Then why? Why steal babies? Why send them out to kill? Why Mackenna Thorne? Why me?

LILIANA

I cannot...there are no words to explain it to you. Things are this way because they must be this way. There is no alternative.

MACKENNA

You always have a choice. You may not like your choices, but you have them.

LILIANA

Not for the Hidden. Not in the ways you think.

MACKENNA

So you're just the sympathetic monster?
The one who wants out? You're going to
help me take down the evil system?

LILIANA

No.

MACKENNA

Exactly. You like being you. Doing the
awful shit. You're messing with my head
because it's fun.

LILIANA

I am not trying to deceive you.

MACKENNA

Fine. Can you "find the words" to tell
me why you're here?

LILIANA

To see you.

MACKENNA

You've seen me plenty.

LILIANA

To tell you, then.

MACKENNA

Tell me what?

LILIANA

I...I needed you to know that I've
never abandoned you. You are more than
my creation. You are mine. And I
protect what is mine.

MACKENNA

(so deadpan)

Great. I feel so safe now. Thanks.
You've done so much to protect me. My
friends. My family. What ever would I
do without you.

LILIANA

This is not over for you yet, Mackenna. You will leave this prison and battle your Fetch. I've tried to prevent it, to delay it, but we've arrived here regardless. You must be victorious.

MACKENNA

I'm not going to kill a trafficking victim.

LILIANA

You are too human.

MACKENNA

And proud of it.

LILIANA

Be what you must be to survive. Whatever it takes, whatever it costs. I command you to survive.

MACKENNA

I don't take orders, especially not from someone like you. So how about I command you to fuck off.

LILIANA

I feel as though we will never understand each other. I am...sorry.

Mystical WHOOSHING noise.

NARRATOR

I think you hurt her feelings, Mackenna. Or, do you really believe you have the power to banish the most powerful of the Hidden People with an angry word?

MACKENNA

(to self)

Just...fuck off. All of you.

Metal bed CREAKS.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
(sigh)

NARRATOR
Banish everyone, and you'll be fighting
for your life alone. You won't survive
that way, Mackenna. But when you fight
together, which helpful friend of yours
will become the frog that drowns with
you in the river?

THE END