

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 1.21

"Dreams are Fragile Things"

Written by

Chris Burnside

220.

NARRATOR

As the teller of this tale, I feel it necessary to point out the lack of verisimilitude in most stories. Rarely does real life ever play out like a good story. Villains don't always wear black hats. Heroes don't always win. But further, villains and heroes are concepts of fiction. No one person is just a villain, just a hero. Instead, there are victims taking revenge and monsters who just happen to be right. If you think the characters in this story are either villains or heroes, you might ask if you've gotten those terms confused. If the goal of this story is to learn from the mistakes of those in it, we've already heard quite a few. And the biggest are just around the corner. A hero will rise. A villain will fall.

(beat)

Or is it the other way around?

Shaylee's warehouse. STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

DANE

Hey, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

Hey, Dane.

MACKENNA

Geez, don't even turn your chair around to say hi.

DANE

Nobody else is stepping sideways into an old warehouse. Hey, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Hey, Dane.

DANE

How was jail?

MACKENNA

Food was shit.

DANE

I hear life on the inside changes you.

MACKENNA

I now view all commodities in term of how many cigarettes they're worth.

DANE

The extent of my prison knowledge is from Shawshank, so I assume you did the warden's taxes.

SHAYLEE

It was just a holding cell in the police station, you comedians. Don't get up or anything, Dane. What if we arrived injured like last time?

DANE

Well, I'd turn my chair around if I heard cries of agony.

MACKENNA

It's nice to know you care.

DANE

I'm busy working, so I can't see if you've noticed me flipping you off. Have you noticed me flipping you off?

MACKENNA

I'm flipping you right back, buddy.

SHAYLEE

Did you still want to talk, or are you two going to banter all night?

MACKENNA

Yeah, I do. Kitchen? I'm not going back on the roof.

SHAYLEE

We can go anywhere with a circle, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

I'm not used to this jet-setting lifestyle yet.

SHAYLEE

I know where we should go. Come on.

STEPPING SIDEWAYS departure.

DANE

I'll be here when you get back from having fun. Still working, like I've been doing all day. You're welcome.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

221. DOORBELL at Thorne house. Front door OPENS.

THOMAS

Sam?! What are you--

Sam forcefully PUSHES into the house and KISSES Thomas.

SAM

Sorry. That was impulsive. I'm still reeling from getting fired, I think. I should have asked permission to kiss you.

THOMAS

No, it's fine. Better than fine.

SAM

You asked me for permission, though.

THOMAS

I think it's different for guys.

SAM

Whatever. I could kick your ass if I needed to.

THOMAS

I'm a first dan black belt in taekwondo, Sam.

SAM

I carry a forty caliber pistol.

(beat)

Shit. I used to carry one.

THOMAS

I'm so sorry, Sam. Here, sit down. Let me get you a drink.

SAM

Only if it's strong and you have enough for seconds. And thirds.

THOMAS

I'll see what we have.

NARRATOR

Might want to keep a clear head, though. You'll be needed. Soon.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

222. Light new age MUSIC. Nissa intermittently TYPING.

ALFIE

What do you think Mack's doing right now?

NISSA

Probably the same thing she was doing when you asked ten minutes ago.

ALFIE

Sorry. I know I'm just the sidekick.

NISSA

I think Mack is Shaylee's sidekick, so I don't know if you can be hers.

ALFIE

I...I actually meant that I'm your sidekick.

NISSA

Oh.

ALFIE

Y'know, cuz I'm always saying you're a
super hacker, so--

NISSA

No, I get it.

ALFIE

Cool.

NISSA

You can be my sidekick.

ALFIE

Thanks, Niss.

NARRATOR

The martyr and the fool. Say your
goodbyes now. One of them will see only
one more sunrise before they depart
this world.

Few seconds silence. Still TYPING.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

What do you think Mack's doing right
now?

NISSA

For Christ's sake...

ALFIE

I just thought, since we had a moment--

NISSA

Moment's passed.

ALFIE

Ten-four.

Few seconds silence. Still TYPING.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Nissa, can you believe this?

NISSA

Believe what?

ALFIE

I mean, just take a minute. Think about this. Faeries are real! Magic is real! We're living in the second act of a fantasy adventure!

TYPING STOPS.

NISSA

I still haven't fully processed it.

ALFIE

Mack is a changeling! How amazing is that?!

NISSA

You know that means she isn't human, right?

ALFIE

Neither is Wonder Woman. Or Legolas. Or Optimus Prime.

NISSA

But they aren't real.

ALFIE

Honestly, after this week, I would totally believe that your car is an Autobot.

(beat)

Okay, maybe not your car.

NISSA

It is pretty mind-blowing.

ALFIE

Right?! Like, if this is real, what else is out there? Monsters? Myths? Deities and demigods?

NISSA

We watched Mack and Shaylee teleport through a faerie ring. They used one to break Mack out of jail! I can't believe Mack going to jail is the least crazy thing that's happened this week.

ALFIE

I just...everything is different, but yet we're still just chilling at your place while you edit some code and I pester you. It's just a typical Wednesday night. Except it's not.

NISSA

(genuine)

I'm sorry that finding out about Mack's superpowers didn't impart any of your own.

ALFIE

Hey, it's cool. I know I'm sidekick material. I just wish I could help her somehow. But she's probably halfway across the world by now.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

223. Outdoors. High on the water tower. STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

MACKENNA

The water tower?

SHAYLEE

The last time we were here, everything was so...innocent, I guess. Comfortable. Safe.

MACKENNA

I get it. But like, you could have taken me to Paris.

SHAYLEE

Would you rather be in Paris?

MACKENNA

Over Conley? Hell no. Give me this stupid suburb any day.

SHAYLEE

I thought you hated it here.

MACKENNA

Finding out ninety percent of your life is a lie makes the other ten percent a bit more meaningful.

SHAYLEE

Probably why I'm still living in a warehouse my dad owned.

MACKENNA

I should probably get over it, seeing as I can't ever go back home or to work again. You'll need to find me a circle in a country without extradition.

SHAYLEE

I'm sorry this happened to you, Mack.

MACKENNA

It's not your fault. Liliana's the one who kidnapped the other Mackenna and made me.

SHAYLEE

Don't call her that. She's your fetch. Not the other Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Why are you so intent on me calling her that?

SHAYLEE

When the time comes, she'll be a lot harder to kill if you think of her as a person. As a victim.

MACKENNA

She is both of those things.

SHAYLEE

Irrelevant. We can only affect the present and the future. I feel bad for what happened to her, but that doesn't mean I want her to kill you.

MACKENNA

Well, no, but I don't want to kill her, either. None of this is her fault.

SHAYLEE

You can keep pushing the blame back forever, but at some point, you need to accept that she's a heartless monster who murdered your parents.

MACKENNA

I'm not forgiving her. But she needs help.

NARRATOR

Perhaps it's you who needs help, Mackenna.

SHAYLEE

You will fight her, Mackenna. And one of you will die.

MACKENNA

I don't accept that.

SHAYLEE

I don't think she'll care whether you accept it or not.

MACKENNA

Does everyone you train just pick up a sword and murder someone?

SHAYLEE

Not everyone wants to, but they all come around. Survival has a way of making things pretty black and white.

MACKENNA

And how many of the other changelings walked into Arcadia and told the Magister to go fuck himself?

SHAYLEE

Once again, you're forging your own path.

MACKENNA

That guy was a prick. Self-righteous,
over-privileged egomaniac.

SHAYLEE

The ego is earned. He killed a god.

MACKENNA

Yeah. Whoop-dee-shit. You know what he
acted like? A man. Unquestioned
authority, condescending tone, smarmy
grin. I've seen a hundred men just like
him.

SHAYLEE

Do not underestimate him.

MACKENNA

I'm not playing his game. I'm not
murdering someone he and his wife
brainwashed and tortured. You know
what? Fuck that guy. How could you work
for him?

SHAYLEE

It's a long story.

MACKENNA

Well, I'm currently trapped at the top
of a water tower with you, so start
talking.

NARRATOR

Still reaching for a dream that's just
beyond your grasp. But maybe, if you
try hard enough...reach far enough...
(soft chuckle)

MUSICAL TRANSITION

224.

SAM

(drinks something strong)

SETS glass down.

THOMAS

Is that okay?

SAM

I'll be seeing double soon, so yes.

THOMAS

I'm sorry you lost your job, Sam. I feel responsible.

SAM

The only thing you're responsible for is showing me the truth. You were the one who solved the case for me, Thomas. You found the real killer. I'd rather lose my job for the truth than keep it and arrest the wrong person.

THOMAS

I appreciate that. Especially since the wrong person is my sister.

SAM

And so is the other one? I can't keep it straight.

THOMAS

Yes, they're both technically my sisters. The one is blood, and the other is family.

SAM

I've always been a proponent of chosen families.

THOMAS

I know. Given your life, I understand.

SAM

What do you mean?

THOMAS

No, I didn't mean it like...I just mean that, with your parents--

SAM

You don't know my parents.

THOMAS

I've only met your mom the one time. You think I never realized why you didn't bring them around? Why you didn't invite anyone over?

SAM

I didn't think...I guess I never considered how you'd see it.

THOMAS

I mean, I don't really know any of the details, but I think everyone at school kind of knew...something, you know?

SAM

Goddammit.

THOMAS

I'm sure most of it was just inaccurate speculation.

SAM

I don't think that makes it better.

THOMAS

No. No, I suppose not.

SAM

I don't want to talk about my parents.

THOMAS

Totally fine. I'm sorry I brought it up.

SAM

I mean, I only even deal with my mom on holidays. Mostly out of obligation. I haven't even spoken to my dad in years.

THOMAS

Okay.

(beat)

I'm confused. So are we talking about them or not--

SAM

I used to just think he was the problem, but I realized that she was enabling and excusing him the whole time. So even though she's a victim, she's almost as bad. You know?

THOMAS

I'm...not sure?

SAM

It's almost funny. I wanted to be a cop so that I could right some of the wrongs I experienced growing up. Make things better for someone else with a messed up family. And then I lose my job trying to help someone with a messed up family. No offense.

THOMAS

Uh, have you seen my family situation? I think stopping at "messed up" is excessively generous.

SAM

Oh, Thomas. How are you doing with everything? With Mackenna and...Mackenna?

THOMAS

Okay, I guess. Mackenna supposedly cut a deal with the Hidden People, so we're safe for now. But they want the two of them to fight to the death, so I'm a lot less excited for that part.

SAM

Can't we help her?

THOMAS

Help what? One sister kill the other sister? I don't know the rules, anyway. Shaylee isn't allowed to do it, but maybe we could help somehow? It's all very strange to me.

SAM

Well, I'm a civilian now, so I don't have to play by the rules. I might be off the case, but that doesn't mean I can't help stop the killer. Maybe we can do it without killing her.

THOMAS

Yeah. Maybe.

NARRATOR

All the lives that are about to be lost, and still he worries for the sister he never knew, who would as soon kill him as breathe. "Perfect" is perhaps the wrong word to describe you, Thomas.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

225. Back to light new age MUSIC.

ALFIE

I think we need to help Mack.

NISSA

I know.

ALFIE

Because she shouldn't have to do this alone, Nissa!

(beat)

Wait, did you agree with me?

NISSA

We're into no-fucking-around territory with the Hidden People. Mack might have pushed back the date of the fight, but it's still coming. I don't know what we can do, but we have to help somehow.

ALFIE

I can start training. I have a shake weight and an ab roller.

NISSA

I don't think her deal with the Magister gives her a month to get in shape.

ALFIE

What can I do? I mean, you're the tech genius. Shaylee and Sam are badasses. Thomas is perfect. I don't have anything to offer.

NISSA

That's ridiculous. Of course you do.

ALFIE

Like what?

NISSA

Like...uh...oh! You bought those really quiet shoes! Maybe you could sneak up on somebody.

ALFIE

I didn't even buy those shoes. That was just a joke when I was trying to not freak out about breaking into someone's house.

NISSA

Oh, what about your deep knowledge of faeries?

ALFIE

I've read five point five editions of *Monster Manuals* and watched every episode of *True Blood*. Mack learned more about faeries in a day from Shaylee than I'll ever know.

NISSA

Alfie, you hold everything together. You're the heart of the group. You never let anyone wallow or give up. You're like our biggest cheerleader.

ALFIE

That's what you're going with? I'm a cheerleader?

NISSA

No way Mack and I could have stayed friends all these years without you.

ALFIE

You do tend to bond over your mockery of me.

NISSA

See? Where would we be if you hadn't put so many skill points in mockability?

ALFIE

How do I apply mockability to Mack's fight with her fetch?

NISSA

I don't know. How do I apply computer hacking?

ALFIE

I guess your special skills don't really apply much to magical faeries who don't carry cell phones.

NISSA

And you thought you were useless.

ALFIE

Good point. You aren't exactly helping the situation, either. Go make me a sandwich.

NISSA

Too far.

ALFIE

Sorry.

NISSA

I take back everything nice I said.

ALFIE

I deserve that.

NISSA

Come on, moron. Let's figure out how to help Mack. Call Thomas. We should all be working together on this.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

226. High on the water tower.

MACKENNA

That's so awful. I'm sorry, Shaylee. I'm sorry you had to go through all of that.

SHAYLEE

It was a long time ago.

MACKENNA

That's not something you get over.

SHAYLEE

Oh, I'm not over it. It was just a long time ago.

MACKENNA

So this arrangement you have with the Magister...how binding is it? Is it like the one with--what was your teacher's name?

SHAYLEE

Nathan.

MACKENNA

Is it like Nathan, where you physically can't try to kill the fetches?

SHAYLEE

When the Magister decrees something, it must be obeyed. I couldn't kill a fetch if I wanted to. And I've wanted to. But I cannot physically strike the blow.

MACKENNA

So his word is...truth? Like he says something and it just is?

SHAYLEE

Only if you follow him or enter into a contract with him. He can command the Hidden People because they are his. But as a changeling raised in the human world, he cannot just tell you to die and have you die.

MACKENNA

That's comforting.

SHAYLEE

He could end you with a snap of his fingers, though. Just like you destroyed Black Annis's dolls but more deliberately.

MACKENNA

And he can command you because you entered into a contract with him.

SHAYLEE

He can only command me along the terms of the contract. He can't just give me random orders, but the contract is why I cannot tell you about anything I experienced during my year with them.

MACKENNA

That's probably for the best. I don't need more reasons to want to kick his ass.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, you need to listen to me. Get over your anger with the Magister. I hate him more than you can ever know, but I can't even entertain thoughts of taking him on. There are impossible tasks, and then there is fighting the Magister. He might not be a god in the literal sense, but he is beyond us all.

(MORE)

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Don't let his appearance fool you. He may look like a person, but he is...he is not.

MACKENNA

Hey, I did all right mouthing off to him.

SHAYLEE

That's what I'm afraid of. You survived that insolence because you amused him. The moment that amusement ends, so will you. We need to stay as far away from the Magister and Liliana as possible. You kill your fetch and then go somewhere to hide. Forever.

MACKENNA

But not with you, right? Because you work for him the rest of your life.

SHAYLEE

That's the deal, yes.

MACKENNA

I'm not saying goodbye to you forever.

SHAYLEE

With Liliana as your creator, he will always have an interest in you. You should not stay around me when you don't need to.

MACKENNA

Well, when I stop needing you, I'll let you know. But I decide when that is. And, spoiler, it's never.

NARRATOR

And her fingers close around the dream, now firmly within her grasp. Careful, Mackenna. Dreams are fragile things.

SHAYLEE

Don't live in fantasies, Mackenna. It makes reality much harder to accept.

After everything you've been through and learned recently, you should know that.

MACKENNA

I'm going to get you away from him.

SHAYLEE

I...I think we should be getting back soon.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

227. Shaylee's warehouse. STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

DANE

Hey, Shaylee. You weren't gone too long.

MAGISTER

I'm not Shaylee.

Dane SPINS around in his chair.

DANE

Magister...

MAGISTER

Fetch, hold him.

FETCH

With pleasure.

MAGISTER

I always knew that the trainers worked with another. Someone hiding behind the scenes, coordinating their efforts. But I never particularly cared. Until recently, when this new changeling walked into Arcadia barking orders. I had to know where she had learned such insolence.

(MORE)

MAGISTER (CONT'D)

I assumed you would be another changeling or perhaps just a human. But as I traced your history, I found something very interesting. Something I think you know.

DANE

I don't know what you're talking about.

MAGISTER

I think you do. There hasn't been a halfling born in centuries, but the last one managed to have a child before he was found and killed. Trace that line through the generations, and we arrive here. At you. Only a fraction of our blood in your veins. None of our power. But your existence is an affront. And an embarrassment. One I intend to correct.

DANE

(screams in pain)

MUSICAL TRANSITION

228. High on the water tower.

MACKENNA

Hang on a second. Before we go back, I want to know something.

SHAYLEE

I told you that I'll tell you anything.

MACKENNA

What happens if the fetch wins? Like if the other me kills me, what happens to her?

SHAYLEE

I cannot tell you that.

MACKENNA

But you just said--

SHAYLEE

I cannot tell you. Literally. It's part of the contract.

MACKENNA

That's very shady.

NARRATOR

So you accept that there are things she cannot tell you. Have you wondered, dear Mackenna, if the bargain ends there?

MACKENNA

She can't just assume my life, right? I mean, for one thing, I'm wanted for murder. And also, she's insane-o. She couldn't function in this world. She'd blow their cover so fast. So what do they do with her?

(beat)

Right, right. You can't tell me. Do you even know, or is this just like a blanket silence on all things fetch?

SHAYLEE

Some of the things I cannot speak about are not even known to me. I don't know that they're covered by the contract until I try to speak and cannot form the sounds.

MACKENNA

That sucks. They didn't even tell you all the terms of the contract?

SHAYLEE

Contracts with the Hidden People aren't exactly printed in triplicate. You need to watch what you agree to in their presence.

MACKENNA

I guess you didn't have a choice.

SHAYLEE

I did. I mean, you know how I feel about choices, but I did have one. And I chose to survive. I live with the consequences of my survival every day.

MACKENNA

Shaylee--

SHAYLEE

I appreciate the support, Mack. But those decisions are not ones you've had to make. That's why I do this: to hopefully spare others from having to do what I've done.

MACKENNA

Hey. Look at me.

(beat)

You're the good guy in this story. We've all done things we wish we hadn't. Nobody's perfect.

(beat)

Okay, Thomas is perfect, but aside from that.

(beat)

I'm still here because of you. And as crazy as all of this is, as hard as things became, I'm grateful. Not just for being alive, but for finally learning the truth. My place in the world. I finally understand who I am, where I belong, why I felt so lost before. This is my world. This is who I am. And you're a big part of that. The biggest.

SHAYLEE

You don't even sound like the Mackenna I met a few weeks ago.

MACKENNA

Because of you. I actually want to get up in the mornings now.

(beat)

That's a wild exaggeration. But I don't wish to not wake up anymore, so that's something, right?

(beat)

How many other lives have you saved?

SHAYLEE

Every time I train a changeling, someone dies. Either the changeling or the fetch. I don't save lives; I just change who lives.

MACKENNA

What if we could change that? Change the game. Who says it has to be this way?

SHAYLEE

The Magister. The Unseelie Court. Try changing gravity. If you succeed, then we'll see about changing the Hidden People.

MACKENNA

Listen to us. Total role reversal. You're the new curmudgeon.

SHAYLEE

I'm a realist. Besides
(switch accent)
you cannot match American Shaylee's pep.

MACKENNA

Give me time.

SHAYLEE

Impossible. I am the queen of fake pep.

MACKENNA

Oh, I will fake pep all over your ass.

SHAYLEE

(laugh)

I will say, this time is very different. You're...not like the others. If anyone can change things, it's you.

MACKENNA

We'll see.

(beat)

I'm hungry. Are you hungry? Maybe Dane will make me a cheese sandwich.

SHAYLEE

If you ask nicely, he might even grill it.

MACKENNA

Such innovation!

SHAYLEE

Do you want to step us?

MACKENNA

I still can't do it. I keep trying when you're not looking.

SHAYLEE

Oh, I've been looking.

MACKENNA

I'll get it eventually. Hopefully it's not like the other magic; I'd like to learn it for real and not just when I'm about to die.

SHAYLEE

Come on. Ready?

STEPPING SIDEWAYS departure.

229. STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

MACKENNA

Hey, Dane. Cheese sandwich. Stat.

Few seconds silence.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Dane!

SHAYLEE

Dane? Turn the chair around.

Shaylee WALKS. Chair SWIVELS.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

(gasp)

MACKENNA

(scream)

NARRATOR

Poor Dane. That gaping hole in his chest can't be fixed with a first aid kit. The jagged, crystalline edges reveal his not-quite-human nature.

SHAYLEE

We have to go. Right now.

MACKENNA

But Dane--

SHAYLEE

Stay on the platform, I'll step us out of here.

BEEPING.

MACKENNA

Shaylee...the platform is beeping.

SHAYLEE

(beat)

Shite, get off!

EXPLOSION. Fire begins to SPREAD in the warehouse throughout the scene.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Mackenna! Where are you? Are you okay?
I can't see you through the smoke.

MACKENNA

(coughing)

I'm here. I think I'm okay. The circle is destroyed, though.

SHAYLEE

Come to my voice. We'll find another.

FETCH

I've expanded my arsenal. You're not stepping sideways this time.

Iron scythe CLANGS against the ground.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, she's here!

FETCH

We end this now.

SHAYLEE

You killed Dane.

FETCH

No. Not me. Your master. I care nothing of your halfling. I am here for her.

SHAYLEE

You can't have her.

FETCH

You can't stop me.

Shaylee's blade SPRINGS forth.

NARRATOR

Her sword emerges. Their last encounter ended rather anticlimactically. This time, though, there's nowhere to run. For either of them.

FETCH

You cannot kill me, trainer. You know the rules.

SHAYLEE

I'm not going to kill you. But tell me,
how well can you fight Mackenna with
only one arm?

(growl)

Scythe and blade CLASH repeatedly. Big fight. Much
clanging, dodging, jumping throughout narration.

NARRATOR

Shaylee uses her agility to try to
dance around the fetch, but her foe is
relentless in her assault. She swings
in high with her scythe, follows by
reversing the pommel at Shaylee's knee,
and finishes by planting her weapon
into the ground and springing off of
it, slamming bodily into Shaylee and
driving her to the ground. The fetch
stands over the fallen changeling.
Shaylee draws her pistol, but the fetch
easily kicks it aside. She raises her
scythe over Shaylee's face.

FETCH

Just a bunch of leaves.

MACKENNA

(battle cry)

NARRATOR

Mackenna leaps from the smoke, tackling
her doppelganger. Twin foes roll away
from each other and stand.

MACKENNA

Stay away from her. It's me you want.

FETCH

But her death will cause you so much
pain. I will not let such an
opportunity slip by.

NARRATOR

Unfortunately for the fetch, Mackenna distracts her enough that she doesn't see Shaylee pick up her pistol until just before she fires.

Flintlock pistol COCKS. It FIRES.

SHAYLEE

Fuck. She dodged into the smoke. I don't know if I hit her.

MACKENNA

It looked like you did. How did she find us?

SHAYLEE

The magister was here. He killed Dane.

MACKENNA

This is all my fault.

SHAYLEE

No. None of this is right. Nothing is happening as it should. Black Annis. Liliana. The Magister. This fetch. Something else is going on here.

MACKENNA

What do you mean?

SHAYLEE

We'll figure it out later. Get to the kitchen table. It's circular. We can use it to step out. It's just across the room. I'm right behind--

Scythe STABS through Shaylee.

NARRATOR

The iron blade of the scythe punches through the front of Shaylee's shirt.

MACKENNA

(softly)

Shaylee?

NARRATOR

Cracks spiderweb across Shaylee's skin. She reaches toward Mackenna. Mackenna reaches back. Her dream slips from her grasp.

SHAYLEE

Run.

Shaylee EXPLODES into leaves and twigs, similar to the other constructs. Her pistol CLATTERS to the ground.

FETCH

Just a bunch of leaves.

MACKENNA

No!

NARRATOR

Mackenna's reaching hand grabs only a handful of leaves, all that's left of Shaylee. The dream falls away and shatters around her.

FETCH

Now you will know the beginning of the pain I've always known.

MACKENNA

(roar)

NARRATOR

Mackenna's punch takes the fetch by surprise. A bold move, considering their varying levels of ability.

FETCH

Put down those leaves, and pick up her sword. We will end this.

MACKENNA

(realizing)

Leaves.

NARRATOR

Mackenna bolts for the table. The other, furious, grabs the fallen pistol. Perhaps, Mackenna, you should have tried harder to learn this particular trick.

Mackenna STEPS repeatedly.

MACKENNA

Come on. Dammit. Do the magic thing!

NARRATOR

This could be the end of all your dreams.

MACKENNA

Shit. Come on. Work!

Flintlock pistol COCKS.

FETCH

I now reclaim.

Flintlock pistol FIRES. Immediate STEPPING SIDEWAYS departure.

THE END