

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 1.22

"The Only Good Thing"

Written by

Chris Burnside

TEASER

230.

ALDER NIAMH

So the fetch did kill Shaylee.

NARRATOR

Yes. And the terrifying, powerless halfling was also dealt with.

ALDER NIAMH

Why did the Magister keep the knowledge of the halfling from the rest of the Court?

NARRATOR

If you had let a line of halflings accidentally survive for generations, would you be so quick to tell your subjects?

(beat)

I thought not.

ALDER NIAMH

It should not have been kept from the Court, but I understand his motivations.

NARRATOR

Oh so measured and pleasant after being threatened, aren't you?

ALDER NIAMH

Arguing with each other will solve nothing and will certainly not expedite these proceedings.

NARRATOR

Right.

ALDER NIAMH

Have we reached the revel yet? From what little we already know, that was the catalyst for everything that has happened since.

NARRATOR

The revel was a turning point, yes. Out of those actions, many lives have been lost. Your defendant bears little of that responsibility herself.

ALDER NIAMH

That decision is the purpose of the trial.

NARRATOR

Yes. I am merely the storyteller.

(beat)

The revel happens soon, brought on by the death of the changeling. And you were right, Alder Niamh: you know very little of that night. The others who were lost may yet surprise you, even in death.

(beat)

Let us not waste any more time. I shall tell you of the end of the changeling known as Mackenna Thorne.

END TEASER

231. Replaying from scene 229.

Flintlock pistol COCKS.

FETCH

I now reclaim.

Flintlock pistol FIRES. Immediate STEPPING SIDEWAYS departure.

NARRATOR

Instinct. So blind and desperate. Having lost everything else but your own life, Mackenna, what place can you run that might still feel safe?

THOMAS

Nissa, Alfie, thanks for coming over so late. I really appreciate everyone's willingness to help.

NISSA

This is Mack we're talking about. Of course we're here.

ALFIE

Sleepiness isn't keeping us away from a giant faerie throwdown.

SAM

Speaking of faeries, are we going to need iron weapons to fight them?

THOMAS

I'm hoping it won't come down to a fight. I don't want anyone getting hurt.

ALFIE

Thomas, I appreciate your sugar-coating, but we're all adults here. We know what--

STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

(screams like a child)

Mackenna COLLAPSES onto the table.

THOMAS

Mackenna!

MACKENNA

(woozy)

Good thing Dad bought the round kitchen table.

NISSA

What happened to her?

SAM
 She's bleeding badly.
 (realizing)
 That's a bullet wound.
 (beat)
 Thomas, apply pressure to the wound.
 Alfie, get some towels. Nissa, alcohol.
 Is there a first aid kit anywhere?

THOMAS
 (frantic)
 Uh, there's one in...my parents'
 bathroom, I think. Under the far sink.

Nissa, Alfie, and Sam HURRY away in different directions.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 Hang on, Mackenna.

MACKENNA
 (really out of it)
 Thomas?

THOMAS
 It's me. I'm here. Stay awake, okay?
 Tell me what happened.

MACKENNA
 Shaylee...

THOMAS
 Shaylee? Is she okay?
 (beat)
 Did she do this?
 (beat)
 Mackenna? Mackenna, wake up.
 (beat)
 Sam!

MUSICAL TRANSITION

232. Light retail MUSIC.

ALFIE
 Are you sure this is going to work? I
 feel like we should be back at the
 house watching over Mack.

NISSA

She started healing as soon as Sam got the iron out of her. By the time we get back, she'll probably be up and moving.

NARRATOR

Mackenna Thorne. Still achieving the impossible. It's almost as if there's a larger plan unfolding.

NISSA

And of course this is going to work.

ALFIE

But all you did was write Mack's name on the schedule this morning.

NISSA

She always knows, Alfie. She knew every time that Mack was working.

(beat)

Speak of the devil.

Bell RINGS. LILIANA APPROACHES.

NISSA (CONT'D)

Don't bother looking. She isn't here.

LILIANA

You seek to deceive me, human?

NISSA

Nah, just to lure you here.

LILIANA

So you seek to trap me.

ALFIE

Of course not. We just wanted to talk.

LILIANA

And what did you wish to say?

NISSA

We shouldn't talk about this here, in public. Come with us.

LILIANA
You must think me a fool.

ALFIE
Here. I wrote you a note. To keep it on
the DL.

Paper UNFOLDS.

LILIANA
(reading)
"Will you help us save Mack's life?
Yes, no, circle one."
(beat)
I have carved through ancient foes and
bent nature to my will, and I am
reduced to this.

ALFIE
You can always write in "maybe."

NISSA
Come with us. We'll take you to her.

LILIANA
I continue to plumb the furthest depths
of my shame every moment I spend in
your presence.

ALFIE
That sounds like a solid maybe.

NISSA
Look, she needs your help.

LILIANA
We've spoken already. She does not wish
my help. She has been resourceful thus
far. I am certain she has a plan and
the means by which to enact it. I am
also certain that I am not a player in
that plan.

NISSA
Forget it. You were right, Alfie. This
was a waste of time.

LILIANA

I want her to succeed just as you do. Perhaps if your efforts were directed toward aiding her instead of toying with me, you might--

ALFIE

You know what? Go fuck yourself.

LILIANA

What?

ALFIE

You heard me. Oh, with your "I want her to succeed, too." Sure you do. You got her into this mess. All of this is your fault.

LILIANA

She would not exist without me.

ALFIE

Yeah, yeah, like you owed her that. Creating her didn't fulfill a debt; it started one. You created her, so you're responsible for her. Got that? So when we tell you that we're going to help her and that you're coming with us, the only thing you should be doing is offering to teleport us so we don't have to ride in Nissa's car.

LILIANA

No human commands me, worm.

ALFIE

(cold)

Look, I'm all for everybody being happy and smiling. It's basically my goal in life. But one of the only people I care about almost died in front of me last night, and I am not going to watch a repeat performance of that. So if you don't help us, and we lose her, then by god I will beat you and your husband to death with a fireplace poker.

NISSA
 (under breath)
 Holy shit, Alfie.

LILIANA
 Almost died? What happened?

NISSA
 The fetch killed Shaylee. She almost
 killed Mackenna.

ALFIE
 You're lucky that the extra juju you
 gave her allowed her to survive an iron
 gunshot.

LILIANA
 Take me to her.

NARRATOR
 For the first time in this tale, I am
 not completely repulsed by Alfred
 O'Toole. Miracles, it seems, come in
 many forms.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

233. THOMAS
 Maybe you should be taking it easy.

MACKENNA
 Sorry, little brother. I'm pulling rank
 on you.

SAM
 Thomas is right. The bleeding stopped
 pretty quickly, but you still have a
 hole in your chest. You're lucky it
 missed your lung.

MACKENNA
 I honestly don't even know how to
 process that. Are my vital organs even
 vital?

SAM

I don't know how it works. How...you work. I'm not a doctor. I'd say you should see one if I thought they'd understand any better.

THOMAS

While I agree that a doctor wouldn't know how to help you, I still think you should rest.

MACKENNA

She won't rest, Thomas. At the very least, she'll want confirmation that she hit me. When she finds out I'm alive, she'll finish the job.

SAM

We're not going to let that happen.

MACKENNA

Neither was Shaylee. She will kill everyone I love to hurt me.

SAM

Well, it's a good thing that you barely tolerate me.

NARRATOR

Oh, Samantha. Your turn to suffer for Mackenna's actions is not far off.

THOMAS

We can find you a safer place to hide than here. The cops will also be looking for you. The house has to be one of the first places they would check. I think--

Chair SKIDS back as Mackenna stands.

MACKENNA

She's here.

(beat)

Go out the back.

THOMAS

I'm not leaving my sisters to fight to the death--

MACKENNA

Not her. Liliana. I can...feel her.

Door OPENS.

ALFIE

Mack! You're up.

MACKENNA

What are you doing here?

LILIANA

Hello, Mackenna.

NISSA

We enlisted her. Well, Alfie did.

ALFIE

We need allies on the inside.

MACKENNA

She is not our ally.

NISSA

I don't like it any more than you do, Mack. But we need her.

MACKENNA

Why did you come here? To lead her to me again? To mess with my head?

LILIANA

I came to ensure your safety. I see that you have survived your injury.

MACKENNA

Yeah. Thanks for that, I guess. But upgrading me to changeling two-point-oh doesn't make us friends. I will never trust you. Any of you.

LILIANA

You shouldn't.

ALFIE

But you're going to help, right?

LILIANA

I am not here for you, Alfred. I am not here because of your antics or your threats. You neither command me nor influence my actions. I choose when I stay and when I leave and do not reach for that cast iron skillet, Samantha.

MACKENNA

It's okay, Sam. I can handle this.

THOMAS

Can't she kill you just by thinking it?

MACKENNA

Well, I mean...yeah, but a skillet isn't going to change that.

SAM

Long as she knows we're not helpless.

LILIANA

The sting of the bee is painful, but it does not save the insect.

SAM

I hope you brought your epi pen, bitch.

NISSA

Everyone, shut up. Quit your posing. All of you. We need to work together.

SAM

(snarky)

Mackenna, if we kill her, don't you get more powerful?

MACKENNA

Nearly all of her power would go to her children. Not that she has any, since she killed them all. I would only get a tiny bump.

SAM
Might be worth it.

THOMAS
I agree with Nissa. Fighting each other
isn't helping.

LILIANA
Thomas. The brother. Ever her
protector.

THOMAS
Always.

LILIANA
Don't mistake me. That was respect.

MACKENNA
Look, I know you're here to mess with
me as part of this game the Hidden
People are playing, and I'm fairly
certain you're going to betray me, but
I could use your help with something.

LILIANA
If I am able.

MACKENNA
Bring her back.

ALFIE
Bring who back?

THOMAS
Shaylee?

NISSA
Can she do that?

LILIANA
I may not.

MACKENNA
Bullshit. I have the leaves. I brought
them with me. I know that the most
powerful of you can remake constructs
from their parts.

LILIANA

I did not say I cannot. I may not. This power is restricted.

MACKENNA

By him.

LILIANA

Yes.

MACKENNA

So he can do it.

LILIANA

He never would.

MACKENNA

What if I have something he wants more? We've bargained before.

LILIANA

What more could you possibly give?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

234. Mackenna and Liliana WALKING in a massive, empty room in Arcadia. Footfalls ECHO.

NARRATOR

Mackenna's return trip to Arcadia is a very different one. While accompanied by Liliana, the Hidden People are not waiting for her, not prepared to put on a show. Do not confuse the lack of performance for a lack of awareness, Mackenna.

They WALK through the room and OPEN the massive doors.

MAGISTER

Welcome, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

(whispering)

Wasn't there another hallway between the club and the throne room?

LILIANA

Arcadia is as he desires it to be.

MAGISTER

You keep interesting company.

MACKENNA

She's not my company. She's my hostage.

MAGISTER

(amused laugh)

MACKENNA

(to Liliana)

Does he see the iron knife?

(to Magister)

Do you see the iron knife?

MAGISTER

Yes. Liliana's own knife held against her. Which I forged for her. You are quite the resourceful changeling. She is certainly at your mercy, as am I.

MACKENNA

This isn't funny.

MAGISTER

No? I'm entertained.

MACKENNA

I came here to make a deal.

MAGISTER

Because it went so well last time?

MACKENNA

Shut up. I'm not here to banter.

MAGISTER

So different than your last visit. I don't hear the confidence in your voice this time.

MACKENNA

I'm done playing games.

MAGISTER
Now, I only hear--

MACKENNA
Go fuck yourself.

MAGISTER
--rage.

MACKENNA
You're very perceptive.

MAGISTER
You have far more in common with your
fetch than you realize. Liliana, you
truly made a perfect copy.

LILIANA
So it would seem.

MACKENNA
I might entertain you, but you bore the
shit out of me. You just sit on your
ass with this smug grin all day while
everyone else does your bidding. How
simple a creature you must be to do
nothing every day. Pathetic.

(beat)
You're going to listen to me, or I will
kill her.

MAGISTER
(dark)
I'm listening.

MACKENNA
I can hand her back unharmed.

MAGISTER
And in return?

Bag of leaves is TOSSED onto the ground.

MACKENNA
Bring her back.

MAGISTER

The trainer? That's all? You just want her back. This is your grand agenda. Is that everything?

MACKENNA

She is.

MAGISTER

You think I care so much for Liliana?

MACKENNA

More than you care about a couple of changelings, I bet.

MAGISTER

Enough to risk your life?

MACKENNA

Obviously.

MAGISTER

Try harder, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

After you bring her back, I stop running. We hold a revel tonight. That's what you call a big fight party, right?

MAGISTER

Someone has been studying.

MACKENNA

Wikipedia.

MAGISTER

So Liliana and I will accompany the fetch and watch the battle?

MACKENNA

Do you want a written invitation? Regrets only, asshole.

MAGISTER

I must give you credit, changeling. You have learned what entertains me, and you exploit it. Your terms are acceptable. At nine minutes to midnight, we revel.

MACKENNA

And Shaylee?

MAGISTER

Very well.

Shaylee REFORMS, BURSTING the bag.

SHAYLEE

(gasping for breath)

Mackenna RUNS to Shaylee.

MACKENNA

(tearful)

Welcome back.

SHAYLEE

(slowly catches breath)

Are we...is this...?

MACKENNA

Yeah.

SHAYLEE

You're barmy.

MACKENNA

I have no idea what that means.

MAGISTER

You should prepare. Make the revel worth our time.

SHAYLEE

A revel?

MACKENNA

It was the only way to get you back.

LILIANA

He is right. Go. Prepare.

MACKENNA

Come on, Shaylee. Can you stand?

SHAYLEE

I...I think so.

MACKENNA

I'll help you.

Mackenna and Shaylee LEAVE the room. Massive doors CLOSE.

SHAYLEE

What were you thinking?

MACKENNA

Uh, you're welcome?

SHAYLEE

The fetch will kill you. And the Magister will watch.

MACKENNA

I have a plan. Come on.

SHAYLEE

It needs to be a lot better than your last few plans.

MACKENNA

Trust me. It's a good plan.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

235.

SAM

This is a terrible plan.

NISSA

I actually think it could work.

THOMAS

It's extremely reckless.

ALFIE

Yeah, but can you come up with a plan to fight a crazed killing machine that isn't dangerous?

MACKENNA

I'm taking on all the risk.

SHAYLEE

Not alone you're not.

THOMAS

Yeah, we're not letting you do this alone. I'm going. Who else is in?

SHAYLEE

I'm in.

SAM

Same.

NISSA

Me, too.

ALFIE

And my axe!

MACKENNA

(beat)

I'm not putting anyone else in danger anymore. I won't lose any of you. For the first or second time.

THOMAS

Too bad. If you're going out there, we're helping. Right, Sam?

SAM

I mean, it's still a terrible plan, but if we help, it probably becomes marginally less terrible.

MACKENNA

I can handle it, though.

THOMAS

Mackenna, we don't know how the Hidden People will react to this.

SHAYLEE

Thomas is right. As far as I know, this has never been done before.

THOMAS

Sam and I will take care of her. After.

SAM

I'll have the car ready. I just need to know when to move in. I don't think we should let them see me ahead of time. Keep their suspicions down.

NISSA

I can let you know when to move. I'll have my drone flying overhead the entire time.

ALFIE

What about me? I want to help.

MACKENNA

We need you on standby, Alfie. Stay with Nissa. If we need anything, if something happens we didn't foresee, we'll need you to handle it. Everyone else will be too busy.

ALFIE

Yeah. Busy doing things that are actually part of the plan.

SHAYLEE

Alfie, I've never had an operation where something didn't go arseways. Trust me: something will. And when it does, we'll need someone to save us all.

ALFIE

I...like save everyone? That actually sounds like a lot of responsibility.

NISSA

There's no one I would trust more to
save my life, you moron.

ALFIE

Thanks, Niss.

MACKENNA

Okay. Everyone knows what they're
doing. Just one more thing: if you get
in trouble, you get out. I don't care
how things look for me. At the end of
the day, you are all more important.
It's me they want, and I'm the one with
the magical superpowers. So if there's
trouble, you bail. Understood?

THOMAS

You know we're not going to do that.

MACKENNA

You are. Or you can all stay home.
Those are your options.

(beat)

Understood?

EVERYONE ELSE

(grudging)

Yes / Yeah / Okay

MACKENNA

Alright. Let's do it.

Everyone starts MOVING, GATHERING things, etc.

THOMAS

I've never seen you so focused before.

MACKENNA

I finally figured out what I'm fighting
for.

THOMAS

Your life?

MACKENNA

Hers.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

236. Outside. Night.

NARRATOR

The junkyard. Shaylee pointed it out to Mackenna when they first visited the water tower. She couldn't have known how important it would soon be. How much it would change their lives forever. Everyone able to walk out, anyway. Piles of cars and scrap form towers and a kind of labyrinth snaking through the twisted metal. A massive compactor and a magnetic crane complete the landscape. The isolation isn't the only reason Mackenna chose this place, but it doesn't hurt. No one around to hear all the screaming.

MACKENNA

Where are they?

NISSA

(through earpiece)

It's not time yet. Eleven forty-nine. They seem like the punctual type.

MACKENNA

Two minutes to go.

NISSA

(through earpiece)

Drone's watching everything. I'm high enough to see most of the junkyard.

MACKENNA

Just be ready.

SHAYLEE

Are you ready?

MACKENNA

As I'll ever be. Thomas in position?

SHAYLEE

He's just behind that old refrigerator.

MACKENNA

And the circle back there is ready?
It's perfect?

SHAYLEE

It is. You know that they can follow us
through it if we use it, though. We
can't escape from the Hidden People
that way.

MACKENNA

We'll figure it out. You'd better get
to the cab. Don't hit it too soon, but,
uh, don't let me die.

SHAYLEE

Never.

Shaylee WALKS away.

MACKENNA

Shaylee?

Shaylee STOPS.

SHAYLEE

Yeah?

MACKENNA

(beat)

Never mind. I'll tell you after.

SHAYLEE

(beat)

Okay.

Shaylee WALKS away.

NISSA

(through earpiece)

Eleven fifty, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Here we go.

NARRATOR

A raven lands across the way from Mackenna. It stands on the ground and stares at her. Another lands beside it. Both stare. One by one, more ravens land, forming a perfect circle.

STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

NARRATOR

Show-off.

237.

MAGISTER

Good evening, Mackenna. You remember Liliana. And your fetch.

(beat)

You look...underprepared.

MACKENNA

That's what you think.

FETCH

Magister. Is it not time?

LILIANA

Perhaps we should allow--

MAGISTER

Very well, fetch. But the barghests stay back. This is for you alone.

(beat)

Reclaim.

FETCH

Finally.

(angry roar)

238. Fetch SPRINTS at Mackenna.

NARRATOR

Scythe of pure iron held over her head, she charges, heedless of her own safety. And of her surroundings. Blind rage is so aptly named.

1-2 seconds.

MACKENNA

Shaylee, now!

HUM of magnet crane turning on.

NARRATOR

Her path to Mackenna takes her directly under the massive magnet held aloft by the crane.

Scythe YANKS from the fetch's grasp and CLANGS against the magnet. Fetch STOPS running.

FETCH

What?

NARRATOR

Mackenna tackles her away from the magnet that now holds the scythe high above them.

FETCH

Fine. I will beat you into submission and kill you with scrap metal.

Thomas STEPS out.

THOMAS

No, you won't.

Mackenna and fetch STAND.

FETCH

What are you doing here? So eager to die with her?

THOMAS

You won't kill me.

FETCH

Won't I?

THOMAS

I'm the only family you have left.

FETCH

I don't need family.

MACKENNA

Just out of curiosity, what do you want to do with my life?

FETCH

What?

MACKENNA

No, really. Why do you want it so badly? You want a crappy retail job? You want to live in a cramped basement? I mean, I genuinely want to know.

FETCH

You stole my life. It should be mine.

MACKENNA

No, no, I get it. Really. But like, then what? You don't need family or friends? So what's the point?

FETCH

I...it's my life.

MACKENNA

You only memorized a few of the talking points, didn't you?

FETCH

Shut up!

THOMAS

Mackenna. Other Mackenna.

FETCH

That is not my name. Not yet.

THOMAS

No. It is your name. They refused to use it, but it's still your name. It was given to you at birth. Honestly, probably before birth. Here, in our world, you can go by whatever name you want. And you can change your name, too. Some people do it legally. Others just ask to be called different things. Mackenna goes by Mack all the time.

FETCH

That is a stupid name.

THOMAS

I fought that battle a long time ago.

FETCH

You do not appreciate your name. I will take it back from you.

THOMAS

Or you can both have it.

MACKENNA

I'm fine with sharing.

FETCH

I cannot.

THOMAS

Why not? Because they said so? You don't have to listen to them anymore. You are Mackenna.

FETCH

No.

MACKENNA

He's right. Mackenna. Say it.

FETCH

I...cannot.

THOMAS

Yes, you can.

FETCH

(beat, realizing)

I cannot.

MACKENNA

He's stopping her. It's part of his hold over her. Goddammit, he's literally preventing her from saying her own name.

FETCH
I must kill you.

THOMAS
You don't have to do this.

FETCH
It is the only way to reclaim. To have
my life. My name. One of us must die.

MACKENNA
She's gone full Kool-Aid.

FETCH
(angry yell)

THOMAS
I'm sorry.

STUN GUN. Fetch COLLAPSES into Thomas's arms.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
I've got you.

NARRATOR
Somehow, even with all the magic flying
around, a stun gun seems like cheating.

NISSA
(through earpiece)
Sam, move in.

Car RACES in and SKIDS to a stop. Car door OPENS.

MACKENNA
Keep them both safe, Sam. Don't stop
for anything.

SAM
We're going straight to meet Ron. He's
nearby.

THOMAS
Be careful, Mackenna.

239. MAGISTER
 (distant)
 Changeling!

 MACKENNA
 They're coming. Go!

Car door SLAMS. Car SPEEDS OFF.

Magister and Liliana APPROACH with barghests.

 MAGISTER
 What have you done?

 LILIANA
 She has shown mercy.
 (beat)
 How very human.

 MACKENNA
 She wasn't born like this. You made her
 like this. If I kill her, I just take
 away her life a second time.

 MAGISTER
 And what will you do with her?

 MACKENNA
 She's wanted for murdering my parents.
 Our parents. Mackenna Thorne is going
 to prison.

 LILIANA
 Which conveniently ends their pursuit
 of you.

 MAGISTER
 You are all surprises, changeling. I
 did not anticipate this.

 MACKENNA
 Are we done? There's no reason for us
 to ever see each other again.

 MAGISTER
 I agree.

LILIANA
We shall take our leave.

MAGISTER
Just one more thing.

Magically enhanced BLUR of motion. (The Magister magically speeds toward Mackenna.) Knife STABS into Mackenna.

MAGISTER (CONT'D)
You still lose, changeling.

NARRATOR
He moves so quickly that Mackenna doesn't even see the iron knife until he's stabbed her in the stomach.

LILIANA
(to herself)
No.

SHAYLEE
(distant)
No! Mackenna!

Shaylee RUNS toward Mackenna.

MAGISTER
(laughs)

Magister WALKS away.

NARRATOR
You shouldn't turn your back on her until she's a pile of leaves. Your highness.

Iron knife DROPS to the ground.

MACKENNA
Ow! Dammit, that hurts.

Magister STOPS. Shaylee STOPS.

MAGISTER
What?

SHAYLEE

Oh my god.

MACKENNA

(incredulous and annoyed)
Why the fuck did you stab me?

SHAYLEE

(to herself)
Oh no, Mackenna. Run.

MAGISTER

(accusatory)
Halfling!

MACKENNA

This really hur--wait, what?

Magically enhanced BLUR of motion. (The Magister magically speeds toward Mackenna.)

NARRATOR

The Magister is on her in a second. His skin sizzles as he slides iron knuckles over his fingers and proceeds to show Mackenna the ground. Up close. Repeatedly.

Magister PUNCHES Mackenna repeatedly.

SHAYLEE

Get off her!

Shaylee RUNS.

MAGISTER

Take her.

Barghests CHARGE, GROWLING and SNARLING. Shaylee fights them in the distance. Magister still PUNCHING.

LILIANA

Stop!

Mackenna COLLAPSES.

MACKENNA
(groans)

MAGISTER
You! This was supposedly your
changeling. You created her!

LILIANA
She is mine.

MAGISTER
She is no changeling. She is your
child! A halfling!

LILIANA
Yes.

MAGISTER
You laid with a human! You pretended
your half-breed child was a changeling.
You even stole the fetch and copied its
appearance for her. All to hide her!

LILIANA
To save her.

MAGISTER
You betrayed our laws. Our ways. Our
people. You betrayed me.

LILIANA
She was my child.

MACKENNA
(badly beaten)
No.

LILIANA
Was I supposed to hand her over to you?
To have her sacrificed? For what? For
tradition?

MAGISTER
For the good of the Court.

LILIANA

Since when have you ever cared about the good of anything? This child--my child--is the only good thing I have ever done.

MAGISTER

As if you have ever cared about the good of anything.

LILIANA

I care about her.

MAGISTER

You aren't capable.

LILIANA

Thousands of years and yet you don't know me at all.

MAGISTER

Bah. For your insolence, you will watch her die as I beat the life from her.

LILIANA

You will not touch her again.

MAGISTER

Oh? Won't I? You may defy our laws, but you cannot defy me. Lady Liliana of the Unseelie Court, I forbid you to interfere.

NARRATOR

Liliana draws her knife and tries to step forward, but she doesn't go anywhere.

LILIANA

No.

MAGISTER

Yes. My wife.

Magister PUNCHES Mackenna.

LILIANA

Do not do this.

Magister PUNCHES Mackenna.

MAGISTER (CONT'D)

That feeling in your face, as I break it? It is the justice of the Unseelie Court. Beg for the mercy I will not bestow, halfling.

MACKENNA

(spits blood)

That doesn't even make sense. Idiot.

Magister PUNCHES Mackenna.

MAGISTER

Even in death, you still blaspheme. You cannot stand against me, half-breed. You have no power.

LILIANA

Not yet.

NARRATOR

Liliana raises the knife.

MAGISTER

No!

NARRATOR

And plunges it into her own chest.

CRACKS spread across her body like breaking glass.

LILIANA

Let my strength be yours, daughter. You are not bound by our weaknesses.

MACKENNA

(weak)

Wait...

LILIANA

Goodbye.

Liliana EXPLODES into a shower of SPARKS that TINKLE and CRACKLE as they settle.

NARRATOR

And now we all know the truth. The Magister turns away from the dying light that was his wife of millennia to find Mackenna convulsing on the ground, eyes rolled back.

240. The memory cacophony from scene 166 plays.

MAGISTER

No matter. I will end this.

MACKENNA

No.

PUNCH. Magister HURTLES through the air and HITS the ground hard.

NARRATOR

She stands, bristling with power. The Magister is much slower to rise.

MACKENNA

It's over. Leave us alone. All of us.

MAGISTER

Never.

NARRATOR

From his coat, he draws a massive, two-handed sword of pure iron. Mackenna easily sidesteps the first swing, but each successive strike becomes faster, each successive dodge more desperate.

MACKENNA

Nissa, the crane!

NISSA

(through earpiece)

On it. I won't be able to watch anymore, though. Be careful.

(beat)

Bye-bye, drone.

Drone SPEEDS toward the crane and SLAMS into the controls. The HUM of the crane STOPS. The scythe FALLS and HITS the ground.

NARRATOR

Nissa pilots the drone right into the controls of the crane, deactivating it. Mackenna rolls away and snatches up the newly-freed scythe. She rises, ready.

MACKENNA

Call off the barghests and leave.

MAGISTER

They will tear her to bits, and I will do the same to you.

NARRATOR

Mackenna gives the pack of barghests a stern glare.

Multiple constructs EXPLODE in succession.

MACKENNA

Shaylee, go. I can deal with him.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna...I...

MACKENNA

I know. Go. I'll find you after.

Shaylee RUNS away.

Blades CLASH.

MAGISTER

All this over false love.

FIGHTING throughout.

MACKENNA

Just keep talking while I kill you.

NARRATOR

Mackenna presses her assault, putting the Magister on his heels.

MAGISTER

Liliana never loved you. She was incapable. She may have loved the idea of you but no more than that. She gave you up. She abandoned you.

(beat)

You seek revenge for human parents who never loved you, either. At night, I would stand over their beds while they slept. I whispered in their ears. I told them you were not their real daughter.

MACKENNA

Liar.

NARRATOR

He falls to his knees, barely able to parry her blows.

MAGISTER

And the little changeling trainer? How much of this is really just for her? Do you think she cares for you? You have our blood in you, halfling. People throw themselves at you, do they not? They cannot help but want to be near you.

MACKENNA

That's not true.

NARRATOR

Protest all you want, Mackenna. The hesitation entering your strikes reveals your true feelings. The Magister stands and answers each attack in kind.

MAGISTER

Please. How many days have you even spent with her? And she was dead for one of them. You are so desperate to

latch onto anything that seems to care about you for the first time in your life. But her? She just needs to latch onto you. Uncontrollably. That is the pull of the Hidden People. The changeling does not love you any more than the bee loves the flower.

Sword CUTS clothing and flesh.

MACKENNA
(cry of pain)

NARRATOR
You might have a full download of power and memories from a godlike being, Mackenna, but the one you fight? He is her god.

MAGISTER
You cannot beat me. You may have Liliana's strength, but your blood is diluted. You will never have the full might of the Hidden.

MACKENNA
(realizing)
Is that so?

MAGICAL INVISIBILITY.

NARRATOR
Vanishing from sight. An apt time for an old trick.

MAGISTER
You cannot hide from me, changeling.
(sniffs air)

Mackenna RUNS. Magister fades in distance.

MAGISTER (CONT'D)
(fading)
I will find you.

MACKENNA
(running)
Nissa!

NISSA
(through earpiece)
I'm here.

MACKENNA
(running)
What time is it?

NISSA
(through earpiece)
Eleven fifty-seven.

MACKENNA
(running)
Can you and Alfie make it to the church
before midnight?

NISSA
(through earpiece)
Yes.

MACKENNA
(running)
Go there. Now. And bring chalk.

SMALL MUSICAL INTERLUDE

241. Magister WALKING carefully.

MAGISTER
(sniffs air)
I can sense you, Mackenna. I can follow
you anywhere.

Magister WALKING. He STOPS.

MAGISTER (CONT'D)
There you are.

MACKENNA
Too bad I'm about to escape.

STEPPING SIDEWAYS departure.

MAGISTER

Too bad I can follow you. Fool.

Inside a tall church bell tower. STEPPING SIDEWAYS arrival.

NARRATOR

The Magister appears in the chalk circle beside Mackenna. At the top of the church's bell tower.

MAGISTER

Almost over.

MACKENNA

Almost midnight.

WHIRRING of the bell clapper drawing back.

MAGISTER

No.

NARRATOR

Mackenna smudges the circle with her foot before the Magister can step out and back in.

MACKENNA

The decibels alone would kill a changeling. So I'm guessing an iron bell can't be good for you, either.

The clapper SWINGS and the bell RINGS deafeningly.

MAGISTER

(scream of pain)

MACKENNA

(struggling)

But like you said: I only have half the strengths of the Hidden People.

Bell RINGS.

MAGISTER
(scream of pain)

MACKENNA
(really hurting)
So I figure, I also only have half the
weaknesses.

Bell RINGS.

MAGISTER
(pure agony)

MACKENNA
(anguished pain)
Stay. The fuck. Down.

PUNCH. Magister COLLAPSES.

Bell RINGS.

CRACKS spread across his body like Liliana's.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
Oh shit.

More CRACKING.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
You're gonna explode, aren't you?

Bell RINGS.

SMALL MUSICAL INTERLUDE

242. Outside the church.

ALFIE
What's happening?

NISSA
I think she's planning to lure him
here. Use the bell as a weapon.

ALFIE
Won't that hurt her, too?

NISSA
I don't know, Alfie. You called Thomas?

ALFIE
While you were drawing the circle. He said Ron arrested the fetch, and now Sam's driving here. Should be here any minute.

Bell RINGS high above.

MAGISTER
(scream of pain)
(high above)

NISSA
Oh shit.

ALFIE
So Mack will be coming down, right? Out of the tower?

NISSA
I hope so. If he dies like Liliana died...

Bell RINGS.

MAGISTER
(scream of pain)
(high above)

NISSA
She might be trapped up there with him.

ALFIE
We need to help her.

NISSA
I'm going up. Wait for Thomas and Sam. Bring them up to help.

ALFIE
I'll go up.

Bell RINGS.

NISSA

I can lift more than you, dumbass. If someone needs to carry her...

ALFIE

(beat)

All right. Go. We'll be right behind you.

Nissa RUNS. She enters the church and RUNS up the stairs.

Bell RINGS.

More STAIRS.

Bell RINGS.

More STAIRS.

Door OPENS.

NISSA

Mack? Oh my god.

MACKENNA

(weak)

Niss...

NISSA

Come on, I've got you.

Nissa HELPS Mack WALK.

MAGISTER

Mackenna...Thorne...

Magister CRACKS. Door SLAMS. Magister EXPLODES.

Tower starting to CRUMBLE.

NISSA

Oh no. This whole place is going down.

MACKENNA

(weak)

Hurry. Draw...circle.

NISSA
The floorboards are starting to
splinter.

MACKENNA
(weak)
Make sure it's...perfect...

Chalk DRAWING on wood.

NISSA
Ready.

MACKENNA
(weak)
Hang on to me.

Wood CRACKS.

NISSA
The circle!

MUSICAL TRANSITION

243. Outside the church. Car SCREECHES up.

ALFIE
Thomas! Sam! Come on!

Car doors OPEN.

THOMAS
Where is she?

ALFIE
In the tower.

Magister EXPLODES high above them in the tower.

SAM
Oh god.

ALFIE
Mack! Nissa!

Alfie RUNS.

SAM
No, Alfie! Don't go in there!

THOMAS
Alfie, wait!
(beat)
I have to help them.

SAM
No, Thomas!

THOMAS
Sam, let me go!

SAM
Look at the tower.

Tower is starting to CRUMBLE.

THOMAS
Oh no. All three of them are in there.

SAM
It's too late.

Tower COLLAPSES.

THOMAS
No! Mackenna!

Music plays for a while.

NARRATOR
For so long, Mackenna Thorne wanted the truth. She finally found it. But at what cost? Her adoptive parents. Her mother. Her friends. Herself. This story isn't over, but the next chapter will be very different. And the costs Mackenna Thorne must pay?

(chuckle)
Trying to do the good thing will always end in pain.

THE END

END SEASON ONE