

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 1.11

"Fetch"

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TEASER

119. Many voices WHISPERING at once. Gavel BANGS.

NARRATOR

What is it now? With every interruption, you risk my mind wandering.

ALDER NIAMH

The information you have provided is meaningless. You know what we need. Can you not simply tell us?

NARRATOR

Where is your sense of story? This is a narrative, not a checklist. Do you really think you can understand the answers to your questions without the full story?

(beat)

Exactly.

ALDER NIAMH

We simply wish to expedite this process.

NARRATOR

If murder investigations and character-building bore you, then you're in for quite a special treat. We've reached the turning point in the story.

ALDER NIAMH

And this will lead us to discover--

NARRATOR

This will lead us to the end of the world as they know it.

END TEASER

120. HUM of electronics in an enclosed space.

NISSA  
That was gunfire.

ALFIE  
Oh god. Oh god.

NISSA  
We should call the police.

ALFIE  
And tell them what? You're spying on  
their detective?

NISSA  
Tangy probably has an untraceable  
phone. We can say we heard the shots.

SAM  
(filtered)  
Yes, Ron. All available squad cars to  
my house. And call downtown. Tell them  
we need a tactical team. We need a full  
squad to go after her. Whatever  
that...thing was, my bullets didn't  
slow it down.

ALFIE  
Sounds like she's got it covered.

NISSA  
Where's Thomas? Is he okay?

ALFIE  
I don't see him.

SAM  
(filtered)  
You sure you're okay?

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
I'm...physically, yes.

SAM  
(filtered)  
I know this must be hard.

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
Hard? Losing my parents was hard.  
Finding out my sister murdered them  
is...worse.

ALFIE  
No way.

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
She attacked me, Sam. Twice. I looked  
right into her eyes this time. It was  
her, but it's almost like I could  
barely recognize her. How is this  
possible?

SAM  
(filtered)  
I don't know. A psychological disorder?  
Dissociative identity?

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
She's never had mental problems.

SAM  
(filtered)  
She takes medication.

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
Antidepressants, sure. Maybe something  
for anxiety. Not for psychosis.

SAM  
(filtered)  
Then maybe some kind of mental break. A  
violent fugue state.

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
Is that a thing?

SAM  
(filtered)  
I don't know.

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
What do we do?

SAM  
(filtered)  
You're going to stay here. Once the tactical team is ready, we're going to go after her. Any idea where she'd run to?

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
I have no idea. Her friends?

SAM  
(filtered)  
I doubt it. After the last two attacks, she just went home.

THOMAS  
(filtered)  
Don't hurt her, Sam. I'm sure there's some kind of explanation.

SAM  
(filtered)  
I have no intention of hurting her, Thomas. But if--

Speaker CLICKS off.

ALFIE  
I can't listen to this anymore.

NISSA  
Alfie, here's the part where--

ALFIE  
If you say "I told you so," we will never speak again.

NISSA

I was going to say here's the part where we need to support each other.

ALFIE

Oh.

NISSA

Mack needs help. Professional help. And we can still be there for her.

ALFIE

Yeah. Sure.

NISSA

Are you okay?

ALFIE

Yeah. I just, uh, need to get out of here.

NISSA

Okay. Let's go.

ALFIE

I just want to be alone for a few minutes.

NISSA

Oh. Okay. Yeah, I mean, I get that. But maybe then we could--

Door SLAMS.

NISSA (CONT'D)

--sit in the corner and cry.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

121. Mackenna's phone RINGS multiple times.

MACKENNA

Dammit, Alfie. I was asleep. This better be--

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
Get out now.

MACKENNA  
What?

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
I've been calling for almost an hour.  
Where are you?

MACKENNA  
In my bed.

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
You need to go. They're coming.

MACKENNA  
What? Who?

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
The SWAT team.

MACKENNA  
What?!

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
They said you just attacked Thomas.

MACKENNA  
That's insane. I was in bed.

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
You were asleep?

MACKENNA  
Yeah.

ALFIE  
(through phone)  
So you don't remember the last hour?

MACKENNA

Huh?

ALFIE

(through phone)

(beat)

What color is your hair?

MACKENNA

What the fuck, Alfie?

ALFIE

(through phone)

Nevermind. Just go.

MACKENNA

Go where?

ALFIE

(through phone)

I don't know. I don't have a safehouse.  
They'll go to your usual places. Find  
somewhere to hide. Lay low.

MACKENNA

I don't...how do you even know this?

ALFIE

(through phone)

Just do it, okay? Please?

MACKENNA

Yeah. I mean...okay, I'm going. Thank  
you, Alfie.

ALFIE

(through phone)

Please be safe.

Phone HANGS UP.

MACKENNA

Shit.

RUSTLING of clothes and other belongings.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)  
Where's my bag?!

More violent RUSTLING.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)  
Call Shaylee.

PHONE  
Calling Shay-lee.

Phone RINGS.

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Mack?

MACKENNA  
Shaylee. I'm...I'm in trouble. I need  
somewhere to hide.

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
(very serious)  
What kind of trouble?

MACKENNA  
The police. They think I attacked my  
brother or something. They're coming  
after me.

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Where are you?

MACKENNA  
At home still. I'm trying to pack a  
bag.

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Forget the bag. It's not safe to stay  
any longer. Just go.

MACKENNA  
Where?

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Meet me back at the water tower.

MACKENNA  
Okay. I'll take my bike. It shouldn't  
take me--

122. Door BREAKS IN upstairs.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)  
Shit. They're here.

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Go out your door.

SAM  
(from upstairs)  
Mackenna Thorne! This is the Conley  
police. If you're here, please come  
slowly to the front of the house with  
your hands raised.

Door BREAKS IN right beside Mackenna.

NARRATOR  
Heavily armed supercops swarm the room.  
Mackenna, to her credit, puts her hands  
up.

COP  
Checking the closet.

Cops MOVE AROUND the room.

COP (CONT'D)  
Clear. Under the bed?  
(beat)  
No one down here. Moving upstairs.

Cops WALK up the stairs.

MACKENNA  
What the fuck?

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Mackenna?

MACKENNA  
They just...they just walked right past  
me, Shaylee. Like I wasn't here.

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
(beat)  
They didn't see you?

MACKENNA  
They looked right at me. Or through me,  
I guess?

Sam WALKS down the stairs.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)  
Shit. More of them.

SAM  
You searched the entire basement?  
(beat)  
The pillow is still warm. Someone was  
just here.  
(beat)  
Why would she come home, go to bed, and  
then bolt before we arrived?

Sam WALKS around the room.

NARRATOR  
Don't move, Mackenna. Perhaps if you  
stay very still and don't question  
it...

SHAYLEE  
(through phone)  
Mackenna?

SAM  
Did you hear that?

MACKENNA  
(whispering)  
Shit.

Phone HANGS UP.

SAM  
I heard something.

Sam WALKS around the room.

Cop WALKS down the stairs.

COP  
House is clear, Detective. She's not here.

SAM  
None of this adds up.

Cop and Sam WALK up the stairs.

SAM (CONT'D)  
(fading)  
She couldn't have gotten far on foot.  
We need a perimeter. Make sure everyone  
out there knows that she's dangerous.

MACKENNA  
What the fuck is happening?

NARRATOR  
Oh, Mackenna. Isn't it obvious? You  
conveniently vanished from their sight.  
For now, you remain at least partially  
hidden.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

123. In a MOVING CAR.

NISSA  
You want to stay at my place? I don't  
really want to be alone.

ALFIE  
I guess so.

NISSA

Okay. Thanks.

A few seconds of silence. Nissa's phone RINGS.

NISSA (CONT'D)

It's Thomas. Answer it for me. And act natural. Not like we were just watching everything.

ALFIE

Because I was planning to answer with "hey, bro. Get some!"

NISSA

You have done far dumber things.

ALFIE

Hey, Thomas. I'm in the car with Nissa.

THOMAS

(through phone)

Have either of you seen Mackenna tonight?

NISSA

No.

(beat)

Why?

THOMAS

(through phone)

The police are...looking for her. She's not at home.

NISSA

What's this about?

THOMAS

(through phone)

I can't really...where are you headed?

NISSA

My place.

THOMAS  
(through phone)  
Can I meet you there?

NISSA  
Of course.

THOMAS  
(through phone)  
They don't want me to leave, but I've gathered that they can't make me stay, either. I'll see you soon.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

124. NISSA  
She wasn't there when the cops went in?

THOMAS  
No.

NISSA  
But she had been there?

THOMAS  
Sam says it looks like she left just before they arrived.

NISSA  
How would she know they were coming?

THOMAS  
Maybe because she attacked me?

NISSA  
But she went home after the other attacks. How would she know when to run? It's almost like she was tipped off by someone who knew they were coming for her.

(beat, accusatory)  
Alfie.

ALFIE  
New phone, who dis?

NISSA

You idiot! You warned her?!

ALFIE

Of course I did. She's my friend. I thought she was yours, too.

THOMAS

How did you even know?

NISSA

We may have overheard some of the police broadcasts.

THOMAS

Alfie, that wasn't safe for her. She's now being hunted down by a bunch of armed cops.

ALFIE

I didn't think about that part.

NISSA

Goddammit, Alfie.

ALFIE

In my defense, I am frequently very stupid.

NISSA

Where are they looking for her?

THOMAS

I don't even know.

ALFIE

Hey, Nissa--

NISSA

I was just thinking the same thing. I can track her phone.

THOMAS

You can do that?

NISSA

It's how I found her when she bailed on the funeral.

ALFIE

Okay, but no cops. We find her and hear her side first.

THOMAS

Alfie, you didn't see her tonight. It's like she's a different person.

ALFIE

Because she's an imposter.

THOMAS

No, I recognized my sister.

NISSA

Alfie's having a bad case of denial.

ALFIE

No cops. Find her, Nissa. If it's too scary when we get there, we'll call the cops from the car and drive away.

NISSA

Are you okay with that, Thomas?

THOMAS

Yeah, but I'm going with you.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

125. Mackenna RIDING her bike.

NARRATOR

Mackenna nears the water tower, riding the toy she uses to avoid the responsibility of an adult's vehicle. Miraculously, every patrolling officer she encountered turned their head at exactly the right time to miss her. They have no idea she's already passed by them. Their search will not lead them to her destination until it's far too late to save her from herself.

(beat)

She takes her good fortune in stride,  
barely even looking over her shoulder.

(beat)

Perhaps that is why she has no clue  
that the black dogs have been following  
her since she left her house.

MACKENNA

Call Thomas.

PHONE

Calling Thomas.

Phone RINGS.

THOMAS

(through phone)

Mackenna? Where are you?

MACKENNA

Thomas. I don't know what's going on.  
The cops think I attacked you, but it  
wasn't me.

THOMAS

(through phone)

Where are you?

MACKENNA

I...I don't think it's safe to tell  
you.

THOMAS

(through phone)

Are you in danger?

MACKENNA

I mean it's not safe for you. Those  
cops had machine guns.

ALFIE

(through phone)

Probably submachine guns.

MACKENNA

Is that Alfie?

(beat)

Where are you?

THOMAS

(through phone)

It doesn't matter. Just tell me where you are and stay put. We'll get this all sorted out.

MACKENNA

Why do the cops think I attacked you?

(beat)

Thomas? Why would they think that? I was in bed at home.

THOMAS

(through phone)

I saw you, Mackenna. I looked right at you.

ALFIE

(through phone)

Hang on. What color was her hair?

MACKENNA

Why do you keep asking that?

THOMAS

(through phone)

I don't know. It was dark. She had it pulled back.

MACKENNA

It wasn't me, Thomas.

THOMAS

(through phone)

I really want to believe you. But maybe, while you were asleep--

MACKENNA

Just stop, okay? Just stop.

(beat)

Why are you two together?

(beat)

Where's Nissa?

(beat)

Dammit, Nissa! You're tracking my phone, aren't you?

NISSA

The cops aren't with us, Mack. We just want to talk.

MACKENNA

I'm turning my phone off and removing the SIM card. Can you still track me?

NISSA

Yes.

MACKENNA

You're full of shit. I never attacked anyone, tonight or otherwise. Fuck all of you for thinking I could.

ALFIE

Mack, we never--

Phone HANGS UP.

MACKENNA

Fuck. How do I remove this stupid thing?

126. Dog GROWLS.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

What was...oh, shit.

NARRATOR

Four of them this time. You're surrounded, Mackenna. This usually signals the end.

MACKENNA

Stay back.

Dogs SNARL and BARK.

NARRATOR

And after weeks of stalking, watching,  
and preparing, they lunge, knocking her  
from her bike.

Bike FALLS to the ground.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

You might have wanted to hold onto your  
phone, but honestly, who would you even  
call?

Dogs SNAP and SNARL.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Only one thing to do now.

(beat)

Run.

Mackenna RUNS. Dogs CHASE.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Too busy focusing on what's behind you.  
Might just run into someone you know.

Mackenna COLLIDES with someone. She FALLS.

MACKENNA

Get out of the way! Those dogs...

(beat)

What the fuck?

WOMAN

Hello, me.

MACKENNA

What...? Why do you look just--

Iron scythe STABS the pavement.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

(screams)

NARRATOR

Yes, Mackenna. I'm sure scooting  
backward will save you from the woman

with the giant iron scythe who looks exactly like you.

Iron scythe CUTS the air repeatedly.

WOMAN

Dodge as you like. I know you, Mackenna Thorne. I've been watching a long time. You are no match for me.

NARRATOR

You have to hand it to Mackenna. Either brave enough or stupid enough to crawl right past the black dogs. Fortunately for her, they're waiting for their master to finish things.

MACKENNA

Who are you?

Mackenna stands and RUNS.

WOMAN

Fetch.

Dogs RUN, BARKING and SNARLING.

Mackenna RUNS, BREATHING heavily.

MACKENNA

Water tower.

(beat)

Dogs don't climb.

Mackenna RUNS.

NARRATOR

The beasts pounce just before she reaches the ladder, bearing her down.

Mackenna FALLS. Dogs SNAPPING.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Claws shred her clothing. Razor teeth slice tiny rivers of blood.

SHAYLEE

Dog!

NARRATOR

Look up, Mackenna. Shaylee stands atop the water tower high above, inside-out coat billowing. She steps off the edge and drops well over 100 feet, landing gracefully beside the skirmish.

Shaylee FALLS and LANDS softly.

MACKENNA

Shaylee?

SHAYLEE

Stay down, Mackenna.

NARRATOR

The dogs turn their attention to the threatening newcomer. From the sleeve of her jacket springs a black iron sword, far longer than her sleeve could contain. The dogs hesitate a moment upon sensing the composition of the blade before lunging for her.

Dogs SNAPPING and SNARLING. Blade SLASHES.

Dog WHIMPERS. Construct EXPLODES.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

As the blade passes through one of the black dogs, it bursts, showering Mackenna not with blood and offal but leaves and twigs.

Dogs FIGHTING Shaylee. Blade SLASHES. Construct EXPLODES. More fighting. Construct EXPLODES.

SHAYLEE

Let go of my sleeve, ye beast.

Dog growls.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

I like this jacket.

NARRATOR

The dog holds her sleeve in its toothy vice, preventing her from stabbing it with the sword anchored inside. From a tiny pocket in her jeans that could barely hold a change purse, she pulls a huge, over/under flintlock pistol.

Flintlock pistol COCKS. It FIRES. Construct EXPLODES.

SHAYLEE

(interested)

She had four of them.

MACKENNA

Shaylee? What the hell is happening?

SHAYLEE

We have to go. You aren't ready to face her yet.

MACKENNA

Why are you talking like--

WOMAN

Changeling!

SHAYLEE

She's coming. I'll hold her. Take this.

MACKENNA

The gun?

SHAYLEE

No. This chalk.

MACKENNA

I'd like the gun, please.

SHAYLEE

Get away and use the chalk. Draw a circle on the ground.

(beat)

A perfect circle, mind ye. That's why the string connects the two pieces.

(beat)

Go now.

MACKENNA

Where should I draw the--

SHAYLEE

Run.

MACKENNA

But what about--

WOMAN

(roars)

NARRATOR

Shaylee barely dodges aside as the scythe slices in twain the air where she stood. Shaylee counters with an underhand swipe of her sword, but her opponent parries in a shower of sparks. Iron slams repeatedly against iron with neither woman gaining the advantage. Mackenna watches, dumbstruck.

SHAYLEE

Run!

Mackenna RUNS. Iron CLASHING fades.

MACKENNA

Shit shit shit. What the fuck is happening?

NARRATOR

Well, you're still alive. That's something.

MACKENNA

What am I doing? Apparently drawing circles in the road.

Chalk WRITING on concrete.

SHAYLEE

(calling out)

Mack! Is it ready?

MACKENNA  
 (calling out)  
 Yes!

Shaylee RUNS up.

SHAYLEE  
 That is a shite circle. Haven't you  
 ever used a compass? Give me the chalk.

Chalk WRITING on CONCRETE.

WOMAN  
 (distant)  
 Do not interfere!

SHAYLEE  
 She's coming. Stand beside the circl--  
 no, the good circle.

MACKENNA  
 What's happening?

SHAYLEE  
 We don't have time. Put your hands on  
 my shoulders.

MACKENNA  
 But--

SHAYLEE  
 Do you see the crazy woman charging at  
 us with the scythe?

MACKENNA  
 I see...me.

SHAYLEE  
 Close your eyes. On three, step  
 sideways with me into the circle.  
 (beat)  
 One. Two. Three.

STEPPING SIDEWAYS.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

127. In a MOVING TRUCK.

ALFIE  
How close are we?

NISSA  
Very close. She stopped moving.

THOMAS  
Do you think she decided to wait for us?

NISSA  
No. This is Mack we're talking about. I think she couldn't figure out how to remove her SIM card and just tossed her phone.

ALFIE  
Yeah, that would be on brand.

NISSA  
Turn up here into the industrial park.

Truck TURNS.

NISSA (CONT'D)  
Somewhere nearby. Keep your eyes open.

ALFIE  
What's that?

NISSA  
Thomas, stop the truck.

Truck STOPS.

THOMAS  
That looks like Mackenna's bike up there.

ALFIE  
It's just lying there. Why would she leave it?

NISSA  
Maybe the police caught her?

THOMAS  
They'd still be here.

ALFIE  
Let's go look around. Leave the truck  
back here.

NISSA  
Are you sure that's--

Truck engine CUTS. Truck doors OPEN and CLOSE.

THOMAS  
Let's go. Be careful. Stay behind me.

NISSA  
Behind you? You're her target, in case  
you hadn't noticed.

THOMAS  
I don't think she'll hurt me.  
(beat)  
Be ready to run back to the truck.

NISSA  
I'm starting to rethink your idea,  
Alfie.

ALFIE  
It is really dark out here.

THOMAS  
Maybe I should just call Sam.

Distant flintlock pistol FIRES.

NISSA  
Nope.

Nissa RUNS.

THOMAS  
Back to the truck, Alfie.

Thomas and Alfie RUN. Truck doors OPEN and CLOSE.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I should call Sam.

NISSA

Good idea.

ALFIE

Wait. Look! It's Mack.

THOMAS

Is that her? I can't tell.

NISSA

No, it's definitely her.

ALFIE

And she's not blonde. So it's the real Mack.

NISSA

There's only one Mack, Alfie.

THOMAS

Shhh.

(beat)

What's she doing?

ALFIE

Something on the ground.

NISSA

Is she...drawing?

THOMAS

Look, it's Shaylee.

NISSA

Shaylee's helping her, too?

ALFIE

Maybe she has something to do with all of this.

THOMAS

I'm going to go try and talk to her.

NISSA

That's not a good idea.

THOMAS

Nissa, I have to try.

NISSA

I mean it's not a good idea to leave with the keys. She kills you, we're getting the fuck out of here.

ALFIE

Uh, guys? Guys?

THOMAS

What are they--

ALFIE

Holy shit!

NISSA

Where did they go?

THOMAS

They were right there, and then...they weren't.

NISSA

This just isn't even possible. There's no...

(beat)

Oh my god.

THOMAS

It's...Mackenna?

ALFIE

It's blonde Mackenna! Our Mack was getting chased by fake Mack!

NISSA

I don't understand. We just saw Mack. Dressed differently. Different hair.

THOMAS

There's two of them. Everything makes sense now.

NISSA

How does any of this make sense?

THOMAS

Well...okay, it doesn't make any sense, but it means she didn't kill our parents. She didn't try to kill me.

ALFIE

Yeah, uh, but I think fake Mack is going to try to kill us, cuz here she comes.

THOMAS

Shit.

NISSA

Drive. Thomas. Drive. Drive!

Truck engine STARTS. Truck PEELS OUT. Truck fades.

128.

WOMAN

No!

(scream of pure fury)

WOMAN STOMPING around. WOMAN KICKS Mack's bike.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

No! Not the way! Argh!

(beat, calming)

Not the way. He said I was ready.

(beat, calmer)

I will reclaim, Mackenna. She cannot hide you forever. You are a thief and a coward. You have taken everything from me. I will reclaim.

NARRATOR

She rages on, lit only by the light of the moon. But even that is just a trick of perspective. The moon has no light of its own. It is a dark, empty rock. Void of life. Seeking to appropriate the light of others and claim it for itself. It simply reflects, a mirror. Not unlike this reflected pair: Mackenna and...the other. One the

original source of light. The other an imposter, a thief of that light.

(beat)

Oh, did you think I meant that this one, this murderous twin, was the moon? Then you still haven't figured it out.

(beat)

Don't worry. The answers are coming.

WOMAN

(roars)

Scythe SLAMS repeatedly into Mackenna's bike.

NARRATOR

And so is she.

THE END