

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 1.04

"A Game of Thornes"

Written by

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44.

PHONE

This is an automated voice message system. You've reached--

MACKENNA

Mackenna Thorne.

PHONE

At the tone, please record your message.

Voicemail BEEP.

THOMAS

Mackenna. It's Thomas. I just left the florist--small selection. They told me lilies are traditional, but I couldn't remember--wasn't Mom allergic to lilies? Not that it matters now, but still. Seems wrong somehow. I'm meeting with a journalist at noon--for the obituary--at that 24-hour diner off Third Street, if you want to swing by. We could use your input. And we'll have to figure out what to do about the flowers. Call me back. Bye.

Voicemail BEEP.

PHONE

To access your voicemail, please dial your six-digit passcode.

DIALING six digits. Voicemail BEEP.

PHONE (CONT'D)

You have no new messages. To replay an old message, press 1. To--

Voicemail BEEP.

PAIGE THORNE

(through phone)

Hi Thomas. It's your Mother. Haven't talked to you since last week, so I thought I'd give you a call. I'm driving home from work. Your father is

making a pot roast. Nothing much to report. My new supervisor's stopped doubting my abilities, so that's promising. Mackenna is...well you know how she is. Your father's good. Joe Needleman--I don't know if you ever met Joe--old friend of Aunt Claire's, writer for the Conley Times. Anyway, Joe can't stop raving about your father's set design. Says it's the best he's seen from the community theater in years. Front page feature of *Midsummer Night's Dream* thanks to him. I'll send you a clipping. We miss you. I'll stop blabbing. Call me back if you have time. I'll talk to you later. Love you.

Voicemail BEEP. Digital TONE.

PHONE

Message deleted.

THOMAS

Shit.

Keys RATTLE. Truck engine STARTS.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Where the hell is Mackenna?

NARRATOR

Mackenna is inaccessible, Thomas. Have you not learned as much by now? For all your charm and moxie, I'm afraid you can be easily tricked by the world you want to see. The world as it is rarely cooperates with your fantasies.

45. Front door OPENS. Curtains OPEN.

NARRATOR

Mackenna, Mackenna. Who are you looking for?

Curtains CLOSE.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Or, a more apt question--who is looking  
for you?

Front door LOCKS.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Don't be afraid.

MACKENNA

(calling out)

Is anyone home?

NARRATOR

Then again, maybe do.

MACKENNA

Of course no one's home.

BUMP against door.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

What the hell?

BUMP against door.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Who's there?

PAWS on wood. Door CREAKS open.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Dammit, Dog. You scared me.

PAWS on tile.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

When was the last time someone fed you?

Cabinets OPEN and CLOSE. Dry dog food POURS into metal  
bowl.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

I forgot about you, to be honest. Oh,  
don't look at me like that. It's not  
like we were friends.

Dog WHIMPERS.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Let's go sit. Do you want to sit? Come on, Animal.

FOOTSTEPS. PAWS. Door OPENS.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

We can have a Saturday feature, you and me. What do you say?

(beat)

You don't speak.

PAWS fading.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Also, you don't care. My perfect companion.

Box OPENS. Tape LOADS into VHS player. TV STATIC.

46.

ROBERT THORNE

It's March 14th, 1990. 10pm. We're at Thistle Memorial Hospital. Today our first baby was born—a baby girl. Smile for the camera, honey.

PAIGE THORNE

Don't point that thing at me.

ROBERT THORNE

But you're glowing.

PAIGE THORNE

I'm not glowing; I'm sweating. There's a difference.

ROBERT THORNE

I think you're beautiful.

PAIGE THORNE

I think a tiny body just ripped through my vaginal canal.

ROBERT THORNE

You were magnificent.

PAIGE THORNE

Could you pass me my water?

ROBERT THORNE

This is a nice room--with the wood. For a hospital room, that's pretty nice. Makes it homey.

Door OPENS.

NURSE

Mr. and Mrs. Thorne, you have a very special baby here.

PAIGE THORNE

Thank you. I can take her.

NURSE

Gentle with the head. Yes, just like that.

Baby CRIES intermittently.

PAIGE THORNE

I'll buzz you if we need anything.

ROBERT THORNE

Do you have any straws? For her water.

PAIGE THORNE

I don't need a straw.

ROBERT THORNE

Just in case.

PAIGE THORNE

Really, I'm fine. Ignore him. We'll buzz you if we need anything else.

NURSE

She'll need to feed soon. It's likely she has a large appetite.

PAIGE THORNE

(to baby)

Shh. Shh. Stop crying.

NURSE  
(wistful)  
I'll leave you be. Congratulations. She  
really is quite special.

PAIGE THORNE  
Thank you.

Door CLOSES. Baby still intermittently CRIES.

ROBERT THORNE  
Look at her little hands.  
(beat)  
What's wrong?

PAIGE THORNE  
Her eyes are wrong.

ROBERT THORNE  
Her eyes are fine.

PAIGE THORNE  
They're dark.

ROBERT THORNE  
They're blue. I read about this in that  
parenting book. All babies are born  
with blue eyes.

PAIGE THORNE  
Enough with the camera, Rob. Please.

ROBERT THORNE  
Just one at a higher angle.

PAIGE THORNE  
She's still crying.

ROBERT THORNE  
She's overwhelmed. She'll quiet down.  
This is the first time she's seen our  
world.

On the TV in the hospital room, a generic infomercial or  
similar program PLAYS.

PAIGE THORNE

Everyone said this moment would feel magical.

ROBERT THORNE

Let me get you some more water.

PAIGE THORNE

Just turn the TV off. There's too much noise.

ROBERT THORNE

It doesn't have to feel the same for us.

PAIGE THORNE

What are you talking about?

ROBERT THORNE

You said this should feel magical.

PAIGE THORNE

Forget I said it. I'm tired is all.

ROBERT THORNE

Who said that, anyway?

PAIGE THORNE

Don't worry about it.

ROBERT THORNE

Magic is all fairy tales, not real life, and fairy tales--well, just take the Brothers Grimm. I mean those stories are pretty fucked up if you--

PAIGE THORNE

Rob.

ROBERT THORNE

She's a baby. She won't understand.

PAIGE THORNE

You're filming.

ROBERT THORNE

The less magical, the better is what I was getting at.

PAIGE THORNE

It doesn't matter either way.

(beat)

When is your mother visiting?

ROBERT THORNE

Not til this afternoon.

1-2 seconds silence.

PAIGE THORNE

Would you like to hold her?

Camera FUMBLES in hand. CLICKS off. TV STATIC.

47.

PHONE

At the tone, please record your message.

THOMAS

Mackenna, you need to answer your phone. I'm at the funeral home. What do you think: open casket or closed? I feel like this is something you should have an opinion on.

Voicemail BEEP.

48. Tape LOADS into VHS player. TV STATIC.

ROBERT THORNE

How does sixteen feel?

TEEN THOMAS

About the same.

ROBERT THORNE

Is that a beard?

TEEN THOMAS

(laughing)

Dad, stop.

ROBERT THORNE

Yep, right there--

PAIGE THORNE

You'll get cake on the floor.

TEEN THOMAS

Aahh, come on!

ROBERT THORNE

My mistake. Just icing on peach fuzz.

PAIGE THORNE

Don't let the dog eat it. That's chocolate.

ROBERT THORNE

I'll clean it; I'll clean it.

PAIGE THORNE

Happy birthday, Thomas.

TEEN THOMAS

Thanks, Mom.

PAIGE THORNE

You make us very proud.

TEEN THOMAS

Don't--

ROBERT THORNE

Close-up on birthday boy. Is that a blush I see? Tell us, Thomas, are you embarrassed of your parents?

TEEN THOMAS

When you wear socks with sandals, yeah. Yeah, I am.

ROBERT THORNE

Don't be fooled. He has to love us.

TEEN THOMAS

Well, I don't have to love you.

ROBERT THORNE

Oh? Hmm. Okay. Well in that case, we'll go ahead and take back these presents. Did you hear that, Paige? Thomas doesn't love us.

TEEN THOMAS

I didn't say that!

ROBERT THORNE

He must not love getting a ride to school in the morning. We better let him walk from now--

TEEN THOMAS

I have friends.

ROBERT THORNE

We won't be going to your football games, of course--absolutely no cheering or supportive chanting.

TEEN THOMAS

Are you saying I'm required to love you because you love me?

ROBERT THORNE

Who said we love you?

PAIGE THORNE

Of course we love you.

ROBERT THORNE

Oh, no. We are biologically bound to you. There's a difference.

TEEN THOMAS

Well I guess we can cancel that fishing trip then.

ROBERT THORNE

Good. I was dreading it.

TEEN THOMAS

And I'll start going out with friends on Fridays. You probably don't like movie nights anyway.

ROBERT THORNE

Hate them. Bane of my existence.

TEEN THOMAS

Yeah. Yeah, you know, honestly, I should confess something. I'm sure you won't care seeing as you only pretend to love me out of obligation.

PAIGE THORNE

What's this about?

TEEN THOMAS

Just that I'm failing all my classes.

PAIGE THORNE

I thought you were being serious.

ROBERT THORNE

There will be repercussions.

TEEN THOMAS

I also got a girl pregnant.

ROBERT THORNE

We talked about this, Thomas.

TEEN THOMAS

And I killed a man.

ROBERT THORNE

You wouldn't have it in you.

TEEN THOMAS

It's only a crime if you get caught.

ROBERT THORNE

Fine. You win. We love you.

PAIGE THORNE

Are we out of napkins?

ROBERT THORNE

There are more in the pantry.

THOMAS

I can grab 'em.

ROBERT THORNE

Where's Mackenna? Have you gotten ahold of her?

PAIGE THORNE

Would you help me with this?

ROBERT THORNE

Yep, here--

PAIGE THORNE

You'll have to put the camera down.

ROBERT THORNE

Oops. Forgot I was holding it.

Camera PLACED on table. CLICKS off. TV STATIC.

49. PHONE

At the tone, please record your message.

THOMAS

Mackenna. Call me back. Please? I'm starting to worry.

50. Tape LOADS into VHS player. TV STATIC.

ROBERT THORNE

Tell the camera where we are, Mackenna.

YOUNG MACKENNA (10)

Why?

ROBERT THORNE

Come on, humor your father.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Why do you always do this? It's awkward.

ROBERT THORNE

It's only awkward if you make it awkward.

YOUNG MACKENNA

No, Dad, you make it awkward.

YOUNG THOMAS (9)

Let's go on a ride that goes upside down.

PAIGE THORNE

I don't know if you're old enough for that one yet.

YOUNG THOMAS

Can we check at least?

PAIGE THORNE

It's up to your sister.

YOUNG MACKENNA

It's hot. I'm getting sunburnt.

YOUNG THOMAS

Are you scared?

YOUNG MACKENNA

I'm not scared. Why do you think I'm scared?

YOUNG THOMAS

Why don't you want to go?

YOUNG MACKENNA

I never said that.

YOUNG THOMAS

Do you want to go or not?

YOUNG MACKENNA

I'll go. Just don't throw up on me.

Door knob JIGGLES (IRL).

MACKENNA (IRL)

What the hell was that?

PAIGE THORNE

We'll wait for you at the exit.

MACKENNA (IRL)

Dog, where are you? Did you hear something? Let me mute--

Video MUTES. Fist POUNDS door. Key TURNS in lock. Door OPENS.

MACKENNA

Jesus, Thomas. Why'd you have to bang on the door like that?

THOMAS

Thought I lost my key.

MACKENNA

Could you maybe not do that again?

THOMAS

I've been trying to reach you all day. I had to...Dad's videos. What year are you on?

Video UNMUTES.

ROBERT THORNE

There they are.

PAIGE THORNE

We should reapply sunscreen soon.

ROBERT THORNE

Look at him. He's chatting it up with some lady. She has a fanny pack--I respect that.

PAIGE THORNE

So much for don't talk to strangers.

ROBERT THORNE

Amazing, isn't it?

PAIGE THORNE

What?

ROBERT THORNE

He could befriend a serial killer--

PAIGE THORNE

Robert! Why? Why would you say that?

ROBERT THORNE

I just mean he could run into the nastiest people and then boom, they'd be sharing ice cream cones or...or tea and crumpets, something precious, and they'd carry on like old friends and come out changed people. New humanitarians or something.

YOUNG THOMAS

Nice to meet you, Francine!

PAIGE THORNE

You're dramatic.

ROBERT THORNE

But I'm right. Am I not right?

YOUNG THOMAS

Mom, you would love it. Can we go again?

PAIGE THORNE

Your father's hungry. I think our next stop is food.

YOUNG THOMAS

Do they have nachos?

PAIGE THORNE

We'll see if they have some. Got your hat?

YOUNG THOMAS

yeah.

PAIGE THORNE

Alright, let's get moving.

YOUNG THOMAS

It almost fell off on the ride. I forgot to take it off, and when we went around the upside down part, it almost fell off.

MACKENNA (IRL)

Right. This was the year I got lost at an amusement park.

ROBERT THORNE

Check out that horse.

PAIGE THORNE

That's a pony.

(beat)

Where's Mackenna?

ROBERT THORNE

I thought she was with us. She was right behind me. Thomas, where's your sister?

YOUNG THOMAS

Don't ask me.

ROBERT THORNE

You were with her last.

YOUNG THOMAS

I don't know. I was talking to Francine.

PAIGE THORNE

She always does this. Every time. It's like she enjoys making our lives difficult.

ROBERT THORNE

She must've gotten lost.

PAIGE THORNE

Or she ran away.

ROBERT THORNE

Maybe she just went to the bathroom.

YOUNG THOMAS

Should we go back to the exit and see if she's there? She could be there maybe. She could be there looking for us.

ROBERT THORNE

I don't think she's at the exit. I can see it from here. Look, I'll zoom in.

Camera ZOOMS.

PAIGE THORNE

You'd think she'd consider how her actions affect the rest of us.

ROBERT THORNE

Getting angry isn't going to help anything.

PAIGE THORNE

I'm not angry, I'm just upset.

ROBERT THORNE

Please don't raise your voice.

YOUNG THOMAS

Is Mackenna gonna get kidnapped?

ROBERT THORNE

Do you still have that map?

PAIGE THORNE

(to Thomas)

No, honey. She's gonna be just fine.

(to Mr. Thorne)

In my purse.

YOUNG THOMAS

I really thought she was right behind me.

PAIGE THORNE

Front pocket.

ROBERT THORNE

This is practically clipart. Nothing is to scale.

PAIGE THORNE

What are you looking for?

ROBERT THORNE  
Security.

PAIGE THORNE  
Let's just ask someone.

ROBERT THORNE  
Could you hold this?

Camera HANDED off.

PAIGE THORNE  
Oh Thomas, don't worry.

YOUNG THOMAS  
What if someone bad takes her?

PAIGE THORNE  
We'll find her. No one's going to take  
her.

ROBERT THORNE  
Here, I can hold it now.

Camera PLACED on table. CLICKS off. TV STATIC.

51. MACKENNA  
What great times we had.

TV CLICKS off.

THOMAS  
That one was a bad example.

MACKENNA  
I'm not really in any of them.

THOMAS  
Well, you weren't really present.

MACKENNA  
I lived in the same house and was  
forced onto the same excursions.

THOMAS  
You know what I mean. Even when you  
were around you weren't really present.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

1-2 seconds silence.

THOMAS

How have you been sleeping?

MACKENNA

I haven't.

THOMAS

I keep having nightmares.

MACKENNA

Dogs?

THOMAS

Yeah.

MACKENNA

Me too.

(beat)

Sam thinks I did it.

THOMAS

What?

MACKENNA

She thinks I killed them.

THOMAS

Why would you think that, Mackenna?  
Sam's known you for years. There's no  
way she'd think--

MACKENNA

She looks at me weird.

THOMAS

You're being paranoid.

MACKENNA

Don't tell me what I'm doing.

THOMAS

Sorry, I didn't mean--

MACKENNA  
I'm not being paranoid.

THOMAS  
Okay.

MACKENNA  
(sighs)  
I need an aspirin.

Mackenna WALKS away.

THOMAS  
How many of these have you watched?

MACKENNA  
(calling back)  
I don't know.

Few seconds silence. Mackenna WALKS back.

THOMAS  
When Mimi died was the first time I  
thought about it.

MACKENNA  
Thought about what?

THOMAS  
Like realized Mom and Dad would die.

MACKENNA  
Oh.

THOMAS  
I saw Dad this one time, after Mimi passed.  
Some documentary was on PBS, and you know how  
they'd watch those together on the phone?  
Well, he picked up the phone to call her, but  
this was after she'd died, and I watched him  
realize that. So he put the phone back  
down...it was like he was moving in slow  
motion. He turned off the TV and walked into  
the kitchen and started blasting some rock  
music. Led Zepplin, I think. I don't think he  
left the kitchen the rest of the day. He  
baked like forty trays of muffins and--

MACKENNA

That's why he did that?

THOMAS

Yeah.

MACKENNA

There were muffins on every flat surface.

THOMAS

Yeah. Coping mechanism or whatever.

MACKENNA

Wow.

THOMAS

Yeah.

MACKENNA

That's kinda funny.

THOMAS

(beat)

I never thought he'd—they'd—be...you know.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

THOMAS

It's weird. No one knows how to talk about it.

MACKENNA

What do you mean?

THOMAS

"Sorry for your loss" feels pretty loaded.

MACKENNA

That's why I'm avoiding people.

THOMAS

Sounds nice.

MACKENNA

(beat)

Conley is a boring suburb. Nothing weird happens here. So what, out of nowhere, this, this random violent... thing...

THOMAS

I don't know, Mackenna. I really don't know.

MACKENNA

Did they have some secret underground life we didn't know about?

THOMAS

Mom and Dad? No. Well they had the monster truck phase, but we knew about that.

MACKENNA

I think we're talking about different people.

THOMAS

No, yeah. They did.

MACKENNA

Well I did not know that.

Few seconds silence.

THOMAS

If Mom and Dad were a target, do you think--well, I mean, what about us?

MACKENNA

What do you mean?

THOMAS

What if they--whoever--what if they come for us next?

(beat)

Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

MACKENNA

No. No, you didn't.

THOMAS

You're pale.

(beat)

We're probably fine.

(beat)

I mean we should be aware of our surroundings, I guess, but to an extent there's nothing we can really do...

PAWS enter.

MACKENNA

Dog returns.

THOMAS

Come here, boy.

MACKENNA

I thought it was a girl.

THOMAS

Good boy, Murphy.

MACKENNA

Nice to see he likes you.

PLAYS with dog. Collar JINGLES.

THOMAS

(beat)

Funeral's tomorrow.

MACKENNA

God.

THOMAS

There will be questions.

MACKENNA

I have no answers.

THOMAS

It'll be over soon.

MACKENNA

Want a drink?

THOMAS

I should get to bed. I still need to pick up my suit from the dry cleaners, and I want to get to Saint Patrick's early--make sure the flowers are right and all.

MACKENNA

Do you need...help?

THOMAS

Everything should be ready, so I think I'm good. Figured you might like to sleep in and we can just meet there. Service starts at 9.

MACKENNA

So 10?

THOMAS

Nice catch.

MACKENNA

Rude of you.

THOMAS

Well if you weren't always late--

MACKENNA

Get outta here. I'm sick of you.

THOMAS

I'm going, I'm going. Hey.

MACKENNA

What?

THOMAS

Thanks. Thanks for...I don't know...

MACKENNA

I didn't do anything.

THOMAS

I just meant--

MACKENNA

You don't have to thank me for being your sister.

THOMAS

Yeah, but still.

MACKENNA

Good night, Thomas.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

52. Mild ACTIVITY in the funeral home.

NARRATOR

No lilies. Roses. Chrysanthemums. White flowers and black clothes. At the top of the aisle: our golden boy in his best suit. He stands between two bodies. Two caskets. Alone.

Nissa and Alfie WALK up.

NISSA

Hi, Thomas.

THOMAS

Nissa. Alfie. Hey. Thanks for coming.

ALFIE

Where's Mack?

THOMAS

She should be here soon.

ALFIE

Well, if she arrived on time, it would have to be an evil imposter who only looked like Mack.

NISSA

Not inaccurate. She has never once arrived to an event or clocked in for a shift on time.

ALFIE

We usually tell her to be there an hour earlier than things actually start.

THOMAS

I tried that. She has deciphered our ingenious code.

ALFIE

Maybe reverse psychology? Tell her it starts later? I mean, she wouldn't actually skip her own parents'--

NISSA

Not now, Alfie.

ALFIE

I'm just talking about Mack.

NISSA

You have a very large blind spot.

ALFIE

Could you stop talking in riddles for like two seconds?

SAM

Hey.

ALFIE

Oh, right.

THOMAS

Hi, Sam.

NISSA

We're gonna find seats. Sorry for your loss, Thomas. When you see Mack, let her know we're here.

ALFIE

Good to see you, Detective Lady.

Nissa and Alfie WALK away.

THOMAS

I'm glad you made it.

SAM

I thought I was running late. Mackenna isn't here?

THOMAS

She does this.

SAM

Is she okay?

THOMAS

She shows up late to things, especially important things. Or avoids them.

SAM

Surely she wouldn't avoid...

THOMAS

I mean, I'd hope she wouldn't.

SAM

Yeah.

THOMAS

You look nice.

SAM

I own all of two dresses. This is one of them.

THOMAS

Well, it looks nice.

SAM

Thank you.

(beat)

You're fidgety.

THOMAS

Should I start the funeral without her? I'd feel bad, but we're running so late already.

SAM

Give her five more minutes.

THOMAS

That's good. Good idea. There are still seats up front if you want to find a spot. Gannon and Billy are here.

SAM

I forgot they existed.

THOMAS

They live in the city now. It was nice of them to come. Gannon's working some sales job and uh, Billy's in real estate. I think.

SAM

God, remember junior homecoming?

THOMAS

Yikes...was that the year with the lake?

SAM

No, the Waffle House.

THOMAS

Oh yeah, yeah, and Billy climbed onto the table.

SAM

Yes!

THOMAS

No that wasn't Waffle House.

SAM

It for sure was. We ordered so many hashbrowns.

THOMAS

Yeah, yeah, but we were at iHop. The booths were blue.

SAM

Wherever it was, the entire establishment was lucky enough to witness Billy Silverman's cross-faded rendition of "Single Ladies."

THOMAS

Yes, wow. And he danced, didn't he?

SAM

From small-town-stardom to big city  
real-estate.

1-2 seconds silence.

THOMAS

Do you have the time?

SAM

10:25.

THOMAS

Dammit, Mackenna, where are you? I hope  
she's okay.

SAM

I'm gonna find a seat. I drove a  
cruiser to escort the procession.  
Funeral home put in a request for an  
officer, but I wanted to do this  
myself.

THOMAS

Thank you.

SAM

I'll be up front. Let me know if you  
need anything. And these flowers are  
lovely.

NARRATOR

A formal adieu to the first two  
slaughtered in this tale. Time passes,  
caskets move, yet the air pulses with  
an aching absence, a peculiar lack.  
Heads turn. Mourners whisper. Where is  
the beloved daughter of the recently  
deceased? Where is our own Mackenna  
Thorne?

THE END