

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 3.01

"The First Domino"

Written by

Chris Burnside

TEASER

1. Nighttime. Secluded outdoor area. Kids setting up a fire ring.

LEE

What are you doing?

CHILD 1

Making a fire, Papa.

KENNEDY

You know that we don't make circles.

CHILD 2

Told you. We'll make it a square.

Fire ring is rearranged, then lit.

LEE

Sit down. It's time you learned about why we don't make circles.

CHILD 1

It's...it's time? Now?

LEE

I think so. You're both old enough now.

KENNEDY

Are you sure, Lee?

LEE

Would you rather I not tell them?

KENNEDY

I mean, I knew you would tell them someday. But that time was always in the future. I guess I never really imagined what it would be like to catch up to that point.

CHILD 1

I don't know. Maybe tomorrow you could tell us.

CHILD 2

Don't be scared.

CHILD 1

I'm not scared. But...but it's a scary story, isn't it?

LEE

It is, at points. You must pay close attention. And you must be brave. Like the grown-ups you will be someday. This story has some very mature language, content, and themes. You must listen with care.

CHILD 2

We will. We promise.

KENNEDY

Go on, then. It's been a long time since I've heard it, too.

LEE

Then get ready. This is the story of the end of the world. Of an unstoppable, endless wave of evil and the few heroes who stood in its way. Brave champions were lost, but in the end--

KENNEDY

Don't spoil it. Just start at the beginning.

LEE

Oh. Right. Obviously.

KENNEDY

And you don't need to be so dramatic.

LEE

I'm just trying to make it exciting.

KENNEDY

It's plenty exciting on its own.

LEE

But the fight scenes!

CHILD 2

I want exciting fight scenes!

CHILD 1

As long as they're not too exciting.

KENNEDY

I suppose.

LEE

Well, then. Prepare yourselves. This is the story of the last stand of Mackenna Thorne.

END TEASER

2. Exploded courtroom. Small fires flicker amid the rubble. Mackenna's perspective as she fades in and out of consciousness. Voices come in and out.

ALDER NIAMH

*(raspy)*

*You...played me. You played...everyone.*

WODAN

*I did, yes. For so very long. Tiny nudges. The most intricate array of dominoes. The proverbial butterfly's wings. Just enough for Liliana to find the right human. Just enough to combine them into the perfect catalyst. And you, Niamh. From drudge to alder. I foresaw every moment of your rise. Only someone as young, bold, and naïve as you would dare to find me and free me. Only you would walk me into this room and position me mere steps away from the rest of my power.*

BLACK ANNIS

*And he is now whole!*

*(cackles)*

WODAN

*Enough. We are not here to mock Niamh. She played her part very well, if unwittingly. You sought a reward, did you not? A new leader for the Hidden People? Well, the Court is in ruins. The other alders dead. The Hidden People need a new leader. Someone they know and trust. Someone they worship. I think I know just the god.*

ALDER NIAMH

*(raspy)*

*Please...*

WODAN

*Ah. About that reward.*

*Wodan stomps, crushing Niamh. She cracks and fizzles.*

BLACK ANNIS

*Only one more to kill. Black Annis would eat that one's face.*

ROBIN

*I would like to bargain for that honor, my nauseating cousin. Or perhaps we could split her? You get her face; I get her--*

WODAN

*No. She has yet a part to play in this.*

BLACK ANNIS

*That one is dangerous. That one will fight back if she wakes up.*

WODAN

*Did you not hear my decree? Do you doubt me?*

BLACK ANNIS

*No, Wodan.*

ROBIN

*I never doubted you. She did.*

WODAN

*I already know everything that will happen exactly as it will play out, and Mackenna Thorne still has a role in things. For now, we leave her alive. So spake...well, me.*

*(chuckles)*

*Wodan stepping sideways departure.*

MACKENNA

*(groans)*

Mackenna tries to stand and falls.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

*(grunt of pain)*

Mackenna slowly rises and staggers through the courtroom.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Where...where am I?

*(long beat)*

The Court.

*(beat)*

They're all dead. He killed them all.

*(long beat)*

Wodan.

Mackenna stumbles for the door. She pulls on it to no avail. She pulls harder until it finally bursts open. She staggers into the hall.

A sentinel rushes toward her.

SENTINEL

Prisoner! Halt! What was that explosion? What happened in the courtroom?

*(beat)*

Prisoner! Answer me! I am a sentinel of the Un--

Mackenna slams the sentinel against the wall.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

*(cry of pain)*

MACKENNA

There is no Unseelie Court anymore.

SENTINEL

Fool!

MACKENNA

Go look for yourself. The alders are dead. And he escaped.

SENTINEL

He?

(beat)

No.

MACKENNA

I need to get out of here, and I can't step sideways out of Arcadia. It's being blocked. Where is the nearest door back to the human world?

SENTINEL

If the Court has been destroyed...no entrances remain.

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

3. Thorne house. Kitchen. Thomas makes pad thai.(boiling water, stir fry sizzling, etc.)

THOMAS

(humming to self)

SAM

That smells so good, Thomas.

THOMAS

You can thank Nissa. She requested more pad thai.

NISSA

Yes. You can thank me.

RILEY

Thank you, mum.

Shaylee enters.

SHAYLEE

Is that Mackenna's victory dinner in the works?

THOMAS

It is. Pad thai with all the veggies.

SHAYLEE

You are the best brother. Not that many of us have brothers for comparison.

ALFIE

I do. Thomas is better.

NISSA

You don't have a brother, Riley, do you?

RILEY

No, mum. No brother.

SAM

Lots of us in the only child camp.

SHAYLEE

I bet I know what Mackenna would say to that.

THOMAS

Shaylee, she's going to be fine.

SHAYLEE

What? Of course she is.

THOMAS

You haven't said anything that wasn't about her in the last day. You don't need to stress. She'll be okay.

SAM

Oh, like you haven't been stressing, too.

ALFIE

Yeah. You've been talking to her ants a lot more than usual.

THOMAS

I...uh...what? How did you...?

NISSA

Thomas, literal open books hide their feelings better than you do.

SHAYLEE

Yeah, Thomas. Quit freaking out.

THOMAS

(laughing)

Now you're just picking on me to deflect.

SHAYLEE

You're damn right.

RILEY

Good one, mum.

SHAYLEE

Why is she doing that?

NISSA

She's been watching British cop shows on Netflix. Give it a rest, Riley.

RILEY

Yes, mum.

ALFIE

I still appreciate you, Riley.

RILEY

Awww.

(smooch)

Thanks, mum.

ALFIE

Okay, now it's getting weird.

THOMAS

How about all you comedians go set the table for dinner? We don't know when Mackenna's coming back, and we need to be ready. And use the dining room table. It's bigger, and she might need to step sideways onto the kitchen table.

SAM

Right. You heard the man. Everyone get to setting.

NISSA

Aren't you helping?

SAM

No. I plan to point at various utensils and bark orders.

ALFIE

Hey, Niss. It looks like Sam graduated from the same school of management as you.

NISSA

Get over here, you turd.

ALFIE

No! Riley, help me! Save me from Nissa with your superpowers!

NISSA

If I ask her to hold you while I punch you in the arm, she'll do it just so she can say "yes, mum." Won't you?

RILEY

Yes, mum.

ALFIE

Oh shit!

Alfie runs out of the kitchen. Nissa and Riley chase him.

THOMAS

It's so nice to see everyone happy.

SHAYLEE

Huh. I was just about to say "poor Alfie."

THOMAS

Nah, they're just having fun.

SAM

At this point, torturing him is their fun.

SHAYLEE

Right.

THOMAS

Shaylee, just go sit down and relax. Put your feet up, watch something on TV. Try to keep your mind occupied. We'll take care of dinner.

SHAYLEE

Thank you, Thomas. I'll...try.

Shaylee walks out of the room.

SAM

She's really worried.

THOMAS

So am I.

SAM

Yes, that has been well established.

THOMAS

She will be okay, right? I mean, she has the Eye of Wodan. They wouldn't be able to really hurt her.

(beat)

Would they?

SAM

Considering she's pretty much an Avenger when she doesn't have the power of a god, I'm thinking she'll be fine. We have nothing to--

SHAYLEE  
(from the other room)  
Thomas!

THOMAS  
Oh, no.

Thomas and Sam run to Shaylee.

SAM  
I have got to stop jinxing this shit.

THOMAS  
What's wrong?

SHAYLEE  
Look at the TV!

MADISON  
(on TV)  
Madison Kepler coming to you live at the scene of a very strange event in the town of Conley. A building downtown on Wayside Avenue has apparently just vanished. As you can see behind me, all that remains is a clean concrete slab with no hint of where walls would have been and no debris. Authorities are perplexed, and Chief McIlveen of the Conley police is urging anyone with information to come forward. Perhaps strangest of all, our producers have been unable to find any records of what building used to stand here, and no one we've interviewed seems to remember anything except that it was possibly a night club. Many of us here at WTHP have driven past this location many times, and we can't recall it, either. It's almost as if the entire building never existed.

TV mutes.

THOMAS  
Wow. That is really weird.

Nissa, Alfie, and Riley run into the room.

ALFIE  
What was all the yelling about?

NISSA  
Is everything okay?

SHAYLEE  
Okay?! No! Look at the screen! It just vanished!

ALFIE  
Um...

NISSA  
What just vanished?

SAM  
Yeah, I don't get the concern here.

SHAYLEE  
Arcadia! It's gone!

RILEY  
How is that possible?

THOMAS  
Arcadia?

NISSA  
What's Arcadia?

SHAYLEE  
What do you mean?! Arcadia!

ALFIE  
Drawing a blank here. Riley?

RILEY  
How do you not know what Arcadia is?

SAM  
Riley, can you turn off the absurdity for two seconds here?

RILEY

I am dead serious right now.

NISSA

Honestly, we can never tell.

SHAYLEE

Did she call either of you "mum"?

SAM

Fair point.

ALFIE

Riley, you know what Arcadia is?

THOMAS

Does this have something to do with the Hidden People?

SHAYLEE

It must be the Arcadia cloaking magic. The entrance vanished, and now it's blocking all the humans from even remembering it.

RILEY

But Mackenna's inside!

THOMAS

(frantic)

Oh no! Mackenna's inside?

NISSA

What?! Mackenna's inside where?

SHAYLEE

Arcadia!

THOMAS

(suddenly not frantic)

What's Arcadia?

RILEY

Where Mackenna went. Where she might be trapped now.

ALFIE

Mackenna's trapped? We need to help her! Let's go!

SAM

We can't go until we find out how to get to her, Alfie.

SHAYLEE

Finally. Sam remembers Arcadia, at least.

SAM

Huh? What's Arcadia?

RILEY

Yeah, we are getting nowhere with this.

SHAYLEE

Nissa. You of all people should remember this.

NISSA

I remember everything.

SHAYLEE

Exactly. So remember Arcadia.

NISSA

Shaylee, I've never heard of Arcadia. Trust me.

THOMAS

Forget about this Arcadia. We need to help Mackenna!

ALFIE

That's what I've been saying! Where is she?

SAM

If only we knew.

SHAYLEE

Nissa. Where did Mackenna go?

NISSA  
To defeat the Unseelie Court.

SHAYLEE  
But where?

NISSA  
She went to...  
(beat)  
What. The. Fuck.

ALFIE  
Wait...Nissa doesn't remember  
something?

NISSA  
This isn't possible. It's like...just a  
gap. Is this what forgetting feels  
like?

RILEY  
They have to walk backwards into  
Arcadia. Nissa, walk backwards through  
your memories.

NISSA  
What?

RILEY  
Don't remember what happened to Mack in  
chronological order. Work backwards  
from now until you get to Mackenna  
leaving.

NISSA  
Okay. And?

RILEY  
Where did she go.

NISSA  
Arcadia, obviously.

THOMAS / SAM / ALFIE  
What's Arcadia?

SHAYLEE

Brilliant. At least one of you remembers.

NISSA

Wait, how did I forget that?

SHAYLEE

It's the Arcadia magic. Never mind. Mackenna might need help.

RILEY

There are hundreds of entrances all over the world. Just pick one, and we'll step right over.

ALFIE

Do you guys have any idea what is going on?

SAM

I am so lost right now.

NISSA

Oh goddess.

(beat)

Shaylee, look at this. It's happened all over the world. Buildings vanishing.

SHAYLEE

All the entrances.

NISSA

Hundreds of them.

RILEY

How could this happen? Did Mack do this? To keep them out of our world?

SHAYLEE

Or they did this to keep her in.

NISSA

If Mack did this, she'd have contacted us by now. We have to assume she's in trouble.

THOMAS

I realize that something is going on here that we don't fully understand, but I don't care. If Mackenna needs help, we're helping. And we can figure it out on the way.

ALFIE

Yeah, but on the way to where?

SAM

Some arcade, I think.

ALFIE

I'll bring quarters.

RILEY

How are we gonna get in without an entrance, though?

SHAYLEE

Not everyone uses the main entrances. I've tracked fetches who vanish before. Dane's theory was that they know secret back doors into Arcadia.

RILEY

So a fetch could get in.

SHAYLEE

Theoretically.

NISSA

Grab your gear, everyone. We're going to help Mack, but we have to make a stop first before we get to Arcadia.

ALFIE

Nissa, I hate to interrupt your determination, but what exactly is--

NISSA

If you finish that sentence, you're limping out of this room.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

## 4. Arcadia. Chaos. Mackenna sneaks around.

LEE

Arcadia has fallen into chaos. The lairds who weren't in the courtroom are making a desperate grab for power. After trying three different exits and finding all the doors missing, Mackenna sneaks through the undercity, dodging sentinels trying to maintain order.

SENTINEL

(proclaiming)

Drudges of the undercity. The Unseelie Court demands you collect your fetches and return to your homes. Clear the streets. No one should be out. You will receive further instructions once the city has been cleared.

(beat)

Move aside, fetches! Go to your masters!

FETCH (KELLY)

Sorry, sentinel.

FETCH (ERIK)

Please accept our...

(beat)

And he already left. What's happening?

FETCH (KELLY)

No idea. But everyone seems nervous. Even frantic.

FETCH (ERIK)

Is it the trial? Master Ailsa is there now.

FETCH (KELLY)

Master Hereward, too.

MACKENNA

Psst. Hey. You two.

FETCH (KELLY)

Who's there?

FETCH (ERIK)  
It's a trick! Don't stop working.

Mackenna approaches.

MACKENNA  
No trick. You're both fetches?

FETCH (KELLY)  
It's you!

FETCH (ERIK)  
She is here to tempt us! Don't look directly at her!

MACKENNA  
Relax. I'm not here to trick you or hurt you. What are your names?

FETCH (KELLY)  
You already know us. We should kill you for what you did.

MACKENNA  
Look, I didn't have any idea what was going to happen. Wodan was supposed to be dead.

FETCH (KELLY)  
Wodan?

FETCH (ERIK)  
I'm not listening to any more of your lies. Not after how you manipulated us into treason.

MACKENNA  
Okay, I don't think we're talking about the same thing.

FETCH (KELLY)  
Wait. Look at her.

FETCH (ERIK)  
No! I will not be tricked again.

FETCH (KELLY)

No, look. She's different. No scar. And her voice.

MACKENNA

Oh, shit. You think I'm...look, I'm not her.

FETCH (ERIK)

It's her. She even has the scythe she stole.

MACKENNA

This? It's mine now. I took it from her. My fetch. Niamh took it back, but I snatched it from the dungeon on my way here.

FETCH (KELLY)

I think she's telling the truth. Are you...are you the imposter?

FETCH (ERIK)

That's even worse!

MACKENNA

No. She never had a changeling. I'm Mackenna. I'm from the human world. Where you were taken from. What are your names?

FETCH (ERIK)

(reciting)

I am fetch. I have no name because I have not reclaimed it. I am no longer worthy of reclamation because of--

MACKENNA

Right, right. Your masters were in the courtroom? Ailsa and...someone whose name I already forgot?

FETCH (KELLY)

Yes.

MACKENNA

Then they're dead. So say your names.

FETCH (ERIK)  
It's a trick. Don't listen.

FETCH (KELLY)  
(beat)  
I...my name...Kelly. I am Kelly.  
(choked gasp)

FETCH (ERIK)  
Is it possible? I...I am Erik.

FETCH (KELLY)  
Our names. But we are not worthy.

MACKENNA  
Bullshit. You have names. They were given, not earned. Your parents would want you to have them.

FETCH (KELLY)  
Our parents rejected us when--

MACKENNA  
Yeah, parents abandoned you; Hidden people saved you. Yadda yadda. I don't have time for this. I'll tell you the truth when we're out of here.

FETCH (ERIK)  
We cannot leave.

MACKENNA  
Your masters are dead. Who's stopping you?

FETCH (KELLY)  
Our masters may be dead, but we work for the drudges now. We have been exiled.

FETCH (ERIK)  
We were betrayed by you...by the one who looks like you. She cares only about reclamation.

MACKENNA

Well, at least she's consistent.  
Doesn't matter. We need a way out of  
here.

FETCH (KELLY)

You do not understand. We cannot leave.  
We must serve the drudges.

MACKENNA

Of course you must. And I'm sure that's  
a binding contract thing, huh? Fine.  
Point me at them. I'm breaking all the  
contracts today.

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

5. Prison door buzzes, unlocks, and opens. Fetch enters, chained. Guard follows. Chair slides out. Fetch sits. Her chains are locked to the table.

THOMAS

Thanks. I'm fine alone with her. I know  
the drill.

Guard leaves, closing the door.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

This is not your normal visit day. Or  
time. And you have frown lines. Your  
eyes are puffy.

(beat)

What is wrong?

THOMAS

It's the other Mackenna. She's in  
trouble.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

This seems both a common occurrence and  
not my problem.

THOMAS

Well, it's my problem. I need to help  
her, but I don't know how. Maybe you  
do.

Thomas gets up and draws a circle with chalk.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

What are you doing? I will call for the guard.

THOMAS

Please. I can't explain it. Some kind of magical ward or something. But Shaylee can.

Stepping sideways arrival.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

(seething)

Trainer.

SHAYLEE

Fetch. Mackenna fetch.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

The camera will see you magically appearing in the room. You are not concerned with this?

THOMAS

Nissa's taking care of the camera.

SHAYLEE

Arcadia has been sealed off. We need a way in.

THOMAS

Please help us. We need a way into...wait, what's Arcadia?

SHAYLEE

Oh no. Do...do you remember Arcadia?

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Of course I do.

SHAYLEE

(sigh of relief)

Probably because you grew up there.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Why is she there?

SHAYLEE

She went in to take care of the Unseelie Court, bar them from this world for good.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

She is a fool. She does not have the strength. No one does.

SHAYLEE

Not alone. But she has a special weapon.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Not special enough to keep her from getting trapped inside.

SHAYLEE

Right, right, you're the superior Mackenna. We get it.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I cannot help you.

SHAYLEE

I know fetches have back doors into Arcadia.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

We do. But to explain how to find and open one would be impossible even if I had a week to draw a map and write instructions.

THOMAS

But you could do it?

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I could.

SHAYLEE

Then come with us.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

No.

THOMAS

Please, Mackenna. Please. I'm begging you.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

My time here is not done. I still have much to atone for and much to learn. Also, I have finished Friends and started Everybody Loves Raymond. Which is a lie, because I hate him.

SHAYLEE

You're helping us whether you want to or not.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Let us see you try to remove me against my will. And against steel chains that bind me to the table.

THOMAS

We planned for that. Shaylee brought a blowtorch in her pocket.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

If the other is so resourceful and special, she will solve her own problem. And if Arcadia has been sealed off, perhaps I will no longer be targeted by assassins.

THOMAS

Assassins?

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I'm getting tired of sweeping up the leaves.

SHAYLEE

We don't have time for this. You're going to--

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Guard!

SHAYLEE

You feckin gobshite.

THOMAS

Go on, Shaylee. Get out before she comes in.

SHAYLEE

May you die roaring like Doran's ass.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Goodbye, trainer.

Stepping sideways departure. Door buzzes, unlocks, and opens.

FETCH (MACKENNA) (CONT'D)

I'm done here.

THOMAS

Mackenna, please.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Leave. Return when I am expecting you.

THOMAS

Maybe I won't, this time.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Then you lose both sisters.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

6. Prison kitchen. Workers move about.

LEE

While their initial plan of asking nicely may have failed, they are not so quick to give up on Mackenna yet. On either Mackenna.

RILEY

Hey, you're Mackenna, right?

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Yes. Do not bother me. I am preparing for mealtime.

RILEY

I'm Riley. It's my first time in prison.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I do not care about your story. Everyone has a story. All of them are pointless. Leave me alone.

RILEY

Yeah, unfortunately, I can't do that.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

If you were not new, you would know why angering me is a very bad idea.

RILEY

Oh, trust me, I know all about that.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

(beat, suspicious)

You. I know you. Or I knew the one you now impersonate.

RILEY

You knew Friley? Yeah, I guess you would have known her. We didn't think of that.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

You were sent by my brother and the trainer.

RILEY

I'm supposed to make you come with me and then sneak you over to a circle in the corner. But I'm not much for lying and general skullduggery.

(beat)

So look, I know you think you're supposed to stay here and all, but I have one word that's going to change your mind.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I doubt that, Riley.

RILEY  
Netflix.

FETCH (MACKENNA)  
What is a Netflix?

**QUICK TRANSITION**

7. Thorne house. Stepping sideways arrival.

THOMAS  
Mackenna!

ALFIE  
You did it, Riley! Such a badass.

THOMAS  
Look, I know you're upset right now  
that we tricked you, but we had to--

FETCH (MACKENNA)  
Come with me. I will take you to the  
back door into Arcadia.

SAM  
Arcadia?

NISSA  
Remember, Sam. Read what we wrote on  
your hand.

SAM  
(reading)  
Arcadia is the magical place where Mack  
is trapped.

(beat)  
Of course! That's where Mack is  
trapped!

(beat)  
Where is Mack trapped?

FETCH (MACKENNA)  
The confusion should subside once we  
are inside Arcadia.

SHAYLEE  
Good. Let's go.

THOMAS

How did you get her to come willingly?

RILEY

Oh, I just explained binge watching to her. Do you know how limited her television privileges have been so far?

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

8. Arcadia.

FETCH (KELLY)

I cannot believe that they just...released us.

MACKENNA

Eh. You'd be surprised how agreeable you are when there's a scythe at your neck.

FETCH (ERIK)

That exact scythe has been held against both our necks.

MACKENNA

Oh. Maybe I'll just put it away.

FETCH (KELLY)

You should have just killed them.

MACKENNA

Yeah, I'm not generally big on murder if words can solve the problem.

FETCH (ERIK)

You have solved nothing and only added more enemies for yourself.

MACKENNA

I suppose that's another way of looking at it. Doesn't matter anyway. We need to find a way out. Do you know anything? Or know of anyone who would know?

FETCH (KELLY)

There are back doors for fetches to use in and out of Arcadia, but those portals are only revealed to those who have passed the Gauntlet.

MACKENNA

But that means there are other doors. If we can just...

(beat)

Shaylee.

FETCH (ERIK)

What?

MACKENNA

She's here. After I brought her back, I can...feel her. She must have found a way in. Come on. I can step us sideways to wherever they are in Arcadia. And if they found a way in, then we can use it to leave.

FETCH (KELLY)

I don't know.

FETCH (ERIK)

Roaming Arcadia with an outsider doesn't seem like a great plan.

MACKENNA

Just...look, this place is falling into total chaos. Just come with me now so I can keep you safe. Okay? I should be able to step both of you with me at once. Liliana could, anyway. I've never tried.

FETCH (KELLY)

The Lady Liliana?

MACKENNA

Yeah. Help me move this trash out of the way. I can feel a circle beneath it.

They move debris.

FETCH (ERIK)

The circles of the undercity are not used much by the Hidden People.

FETCH (KELLY)

Only the drudges come down here.

MACKENNA

Well, we're using this one to go back up. Hold still.

9. Stepping sideways departure. Stepping sideways arrival.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna!

THOMAS

Oh my god. You're all right.

ALFIE

So this is where you were.

SAM

Come on, Alfie. Mackenna was in Arcadia the whole time. Keep up.

NISSA

Are you okay, Mack? What happened?

MACKENNA

It's a long, really awful story. And we don't have time right now. Hold up.

(beat)

What is she doing here?

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Hello, imposter.

FETCH (ERIK)

It's you! The real you! You are...both alive?

FETCH (KELLY)

Have you come to finish the job, then? Is this how it ends?

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I...I did not come to harm you.

FETCH (ERIK)

Like we'd ever believe you.

MACKENNA

She's how you found the back door.

SHAYLEE

Aye. It was the only way.

NISSA

Who are these two? Are you fetches?

FETCH (KELLY)

I am Kelly. This is Erik.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

You have names? But...

MACKENNA

Their masters are dead. The entire  
Unseelie Court is dead.

THOMAS

You...you killed them all?

MACKENNA

No. I didn't kill anyone. Wodan did.

SHAYLEE

Wodan?

ALFIE

As in the dead god?

MACKENNA

Yeah, he's not so much dead as alive.  
He set this whole thing up to  
manipulate us.

SHAYLEE

The Eye.

MACKENNA

He took it back, and it restored his full power. Niamh seemed to think it was his plan all along. I mean, before he killed her.

THOMAS

So I'm assuming Arcadia isn't usually on fire like this.

MACKENNA

The whole place has gone nutso.

SAM

We should probably be getting out of here.

NISSA

Kelly, Erik, come with us.

FETCH (ERIK)

I'm not going anywhere with her.

NISSA

It's fine. We don't like her, either.

THOMAS

Hey!

FETCH (MACKENNA)

It is fine, brother. Nissa Sifsdottir does not know that I am a good person now.

FETCH (KELLY)

Oh? You're a good person? Was it good what you did to us? To our friend? He was executed, you know. All for what? So you could have his weapon?

FETCH (ERIK)

And you exiled us so you could have my barghest. You are worse than them.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I have done many bad things. I have hurt many people. I do not know if what

I feel is remorse or merely shame, but  
I wish I had not deceived all of you.

FETCH (KELLY)

We could have worked together. It was a  
good plan.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

I see this now.

ALFIE

Fack, I think Sam's right. We need to  
leave.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Nissa Sifsdottir is correct. You should  
come with us. I am unworthy of their  
kindness, but you are not.

MACKENNA

We're all leaving. Now.

FETCH (KELLY)

No. I'm staying.

NISSA

What?

FETCH (KELLY)

I...I don't know what it's like out  
there. How could I survive? I have a  
job here. A bed.

FETCH (ERIK)

I don't trust any of you or your world.

NISSA

But it's your world, too! You were  
kidnapped by human traffickers. You  
don't belong here.

FETCH (KELLY)

We don't belong with you, either. You  
speak differently. And how you dress...

ALFIE

I really like my outfit today.

NISSA

How could you just choose to stay in captivity? We're offering you freedom. The door is literally right behind us.

SAM

Nissa, let them stay. This is...actually pretty common in these situations.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

You should return with us. The food is much better. You will not be beaten. And I have heard of a device called the Netflix.

FETCH (ERIK)

I don't know.

SHAYLEE

It is not safe to stay here any longer. Fetches...Kelly and Erik, the door is right here. You know how to leave if you want to. We won't force you.

MACKENNA

You seriously won't come with us?

FETCH (KELLY)

I'm...scared.

THOMAS

Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Right. Okay. Please at least think about it.

FETCH (KELLY)

We will.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

Kelly. Erik. These are good names. You deserve them. I...I am sorry.

MACKENNA

Let's go. I have a god to stop.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

10. A forest.

WODAN

The world has not changed much in  
thousands of years.

VOICE

Robin wants you to see a city.

ROBIN

Wait until you see a city.

WODAN

Yes. Those would have progressed far  
more than any of the last times.

VOICE

Black Annis, however, hates cities. Far  
too many humans.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis hates cities. Too many  
humans.

WODAN

Stop doing that. The anticipating. It  
is neither clever nor amusing.

ROBIN

If I have somehow been unintentionally  
clever, I apologize. It's been known to  
happen.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis begs for forgiveness.

WODAN

Not you. Either of you. Nevermind.  
Return to your havens. Wait for my  
return.

ROBIN

As you command, Wodan.

Stepping sideways departure.

VOICE

Not a fan of seeming crazy, hm?

WODAN

Look who's talking.

VOICE

I'm just a disembodied voice. I'm not the one talking to nothing.

WODAN

Do not push me.

VOICE

Or what? You'll get rid of me. Please. How best to push you...

WODAN

Where are the others?

VOICE

What others?

WODAN

My followers. Those who remained loyal to me during the rebellion.

VOICE

I assume you mean your Hidden People followers. They are scattered. Many are dead.

WODAN

But not all.

VOICE

Not all.

WODAN

Find me a central point. I must anoint the earth before calling them.

VOICE

Yes. You will.

WODAN  
And they will answer?

VOICE  
Some will. The ones left, anyway. The rebellion threw a huge wrench into the usual plan, though.

WODAN  
I'll make it work. The world has gone too far this time. I have to hurry before...

VOICE  
Yes. I know.

WODAN  
When is the Hunt? It must be soon.

VOICE  
I...don't quite know.

WODAN  
What?

VOICE  
I know you will gather your forces for it. And I know Mackenna Thorne will be there.

WODAN  
You've told me as much before. That's why she's still alive. Has she found her way from Arcadia yet?

VOICE  
She will be leaving shortly. The fetch has found the back door you left open.

WODAN  
And she will come for me?

VOICE  
She will. You don't even need me to know that.

WODAN

Fair point. Don't tell me how that ends. I want to be surprised.

VOICE

You may yet be.

Wodan stepping sideways departure.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

11. Thorne house.

THOMAS

Would it even matter at this point if we tried to dissuade you?

SHAYLEE

As if she has ever listened to any of us a day in her life.

MACKENNA

I have to stop him. There's no telling what he's up to.

NISSA

Maybe, oh, I don't know, something godly?

SAM

Nissa's right. I mean...a god? What does that even mean? Can he just blink us all out of existence? Make a comet wipe out the planet?

ALFIE

That all depends on what kind of god he is. Before monotheism, gods weren't completely omnipotent. Some of them could be fought, even killed.

MACKENNA

Thank you, Alfie.

ALFIE

Oh, I'm not advocating you fight a god. That's hella stupid.

MACKENNA

I'm glad I have everyone's support, as usual.

SHAYLEE

Don't you get it? We don't just want to cramp your style. We're not supporting this because we love you!

THOMAS

This is really dangerous. And bear in mind that my definition of dangerous has radically shifted in the last few months. We don't want anything to happen to you.

MACKENNA

But we did this. We screwed up and brought his eye right to him. So we need to stop him.

SAM

What are we supposed to do against a god? We can't even fight the Hidden People.

SHAYLEE

Exactly. My power is nothing against Wodan. He could shut off the magic holding me together as easily as breathe.

ALFIE

And you'd be putting Riley in the line of fire because you know she'd follow you. She can keep watching over the school.

MACKENNA

Right. So that's it, then. I guess you're right. We aren't going to stop him.

(beat)

I am.

THOMAS

Alone?

MACKENNA

Well, it looks like that's how you all want it. Not like I should be surprised. I beat the Magister alone. I beat the Unseelie Court alone. Big shocker that I'm doing this alone, too.

NISSA

Pretty sure Wodan beat the Unseelie Court alone.

MACKENNA

Shut up, Nissa.

NISSA

Wow. Maybe you should get out of my face right now.

MACKENNA

Gladly.

THOMAS

Stop it. This isn't helping.

MACKENNA

No. You know what's not helping? Any of you. You're just going to sit here and doubt me like you've always done. But who always wins, hm? Who always gets the bad guy? Me. You'd think that you'd start to trust me at some point.

SHAYLEE

This is so different, Mackenna. He's all-knowing. All-seeing. A fecking god!

MACKENNA

I remember you and Dane giving me a similar speech about the Magister. I'd say that all worked out pretty well.

NISSA

Oh, yeah. Except for the In-Between.

ALFIE

The body swap.

SAM

Cygnus.

Murphy barks.

NISSA

Almost dying.

ALFIE

Owing Robin Goodfellow a favor.

SAM

Ron.

MACKENNA

Okay. Fine. You know what? I have a new plan. I'm going to go kill Wodan. And you're all going to go fuck yourselves.

THOMAS

Mackenna, just wait for--

Stepping sideways departure.

SHAYLEE

Damn her obstinance.

Long silence.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

That seemed to go well.

SHAYLEE / NISSA

Shut up.

FETCH (MACKENNA)

(snickers)

THOMAS

Please be safe, Mackenna.

LEE

But even as he says it, he knows the likelihood is lower than ever. They all do.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

## 12. Mountaintop.

VOICE

This is the mountaintop. All you need now is to wet the earth with your blood. But you cannot do it yourself.

WODAN

I know how to anoint the earth. This cycle has repeated more times than you've seen.

VOICE

Do you really think something exists that I haven't seen?

WODAN

You know what I mean.

VOICE

Not really. Perhaps you should speak more plainly.

WODAN

My eternal curse must be to forever suffer fools.

Stepping sideways arrival.

MACKENNA

We're not done.

WODAN

As I was just saying.

MACKENNA

That was a cute trick. With the Eye. I'd clap if I wasn't holding this iron scythe.

WODAN

You say that as if the weapon can harm me. As if any weapon can harm me.

MACKENNA

I've dealt with macho bullshit from men my entire life. And you know what? It's

ninety percent unearned confidence and bluster. So let me save you the trouble.

(mocking)

"I am Wodan. I am a god, mortal. I am beyond you and your mere mortalness."

WODAN

I believe the word you're looking for is mortality.

MACKENNA

(mocking)

"I'm also the grammar police. Tremble before me. Exclamation point!"

WODAN

Are you done?

MACKENNA

Actually, since you're so good at grammar, maybe you can help me with something. What the fuck is a gerund?

VOICE

It's a verb that serves as a noun.

WODAN

Nobody asked you.

MACKENNA

Uh, no. I'm asking you.

(beat)

Ohhh, I get it. This is like a senility thing, right? Sundowning?

VOICE

I like her.

WODAN

Unless you're helping, shut up!

MACKENNA

Mom, grandpa's yelling again.

WODAN

Mackenna. Do you really think insulting me will help? Do you think fighting me will help? You were wrong. I am not beyond you. I am you.

MACKENNA

You can dream, god man.

WODAN

I am you. I am me. I am this earth we're standing on. The air we're breathing. I know all. I am all. Your failure is not that you can't beat me. Your failure is in not realizing that everything you do is not only known to me but ordained by me. Your every thought and action serve my pattern.

MACKENNA

So do you have a weapon, or are you just gonna stand there as I chop your head off?

WODAN

Haven't you read the stories?

Wodan draws a spear from the air.

WODAN (CONT'D)

The Spear of Wodan. An artifact of the greatest renown.

MACKENNA

There's that ego again. "The Spear of Wodan." Yep. It's your spear. That's your name. Do you do that with everything? Like you're eating cereal and all "this is the Spoon of Wodan! I slurp the Milk of Wodan from the Bowl of Wodan!"

WODAN

I liked your sass better when it was directed at our common enemies.

MACKENNA

(mocking)

"I shall fight you after I put on the  
Pants of Wodan and tie the Shoes of  
Wodan!"

WODAN

Fight me if you wish. I have things to  
do.

MACKENNA

(battle cry)

VOICE

Parry high.

Parry.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Parry left. Right. High again. Hop the  
leg sweep. Pommel then parry right. Her  
flank will be open...now.

Wodan stabs Mackenna.

MACKENNA

(cry of pain)

WODAN

Your every movement is known to me.

MACKENNA

Then think fast.

VOICE

(fast)

High. Right. Right. Duck. Step back.  
Left. Low. Backhand. Duck. Right.  
Catch the blade above her...now.

Scythe clangs to the ground.

WODAN

Your every movement serves me.

MACKENNA

I don't serve anyone.

VOICE

She will roll for the scythe.

WODAN

Let her.

Mackenna rolls, grabs the scythe, and swings.

VOICE

The swing will remove your head.

WODAN

So if I step back and raise my hand...

Scythe cuts Wodan's hand.

VOICE

She will slice your palm.

WODAN

And anoint the earth with my blood.

MACKENNA

What are you babbling about?

WODAN

Your every movement, Mackenna. My blood needed to spill on this spot to begin the end. Needed to be spilled by another. You serve me.

MACKENNA

Well, if you want me to spill your blood, you're in luck.

WODAN

Stop.

Mackenna is frozen in place by magic. Maybe it hums?

MACKENNA

(struggling)

What? I can't...

WODAN

Move? No. Your body is infused with magic. That magic comes from me. I command it. And when I command that magic to stop, I command you. So you will stand there and listen.

(beat)

Every single thing that has happened in your life was constructed by me. I made you, Mackenna. I put every domino in place, ever so intricately. Your mother. Your father. Your lover. Your friends. All selected and arranged just so. The ultimate pattern. You killed the Magister for me. You pushed Niamh to such desperation that she awakened me. You brought back that which was stolen from me. All at my behest. Your entire life is a series of dominoes. You are one of those dominoes. You cannot beat me because that is not in the pattern I have created. And as one of the pieces in that pattern, you cannot possibly do anything other than serve me. For thousands of years, I have laid out this pattern. These pieces. Dominoes cannot think. Cannot act. All they can do is stand...and fall. And this moment? This is me knocking down the first domino.

Wodan kicks Mackenna. She falls from the mountain.

WODAN (CONT'D)

(chuckling)

And so it begins.

Wodan stepping sideways.

THE END