

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 3.07

"Zuzu's Petals"

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68. Stonehenge, England. Quiet nature sounds: Mackenna, Shaylee, Nissa, and Riley are alone in the tall grass.

MACKENNA

What can you see, Riley?

RILEY

I see a lot of green, wet land and cloudy skies. And Stonehenge. With these binoculars, however, I see lots of culty people in the distance wearing culty robes doing culty things. Also at Stonehenge.

SHAYLEE

So, the same as the last time you asked; the same things they've been doing for the past two hours.

MACKENNA

What about you, Niss? Aerial view any better?

NISSA

Better in that Stonehenge looks amazing from top-down. But I'm too far away for any details. Any lower and the noise from the drone would catch their attention.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, nothing is changing, and we can't just sit here until sunset. We have to do something, soon!

MACKENNA

Unless us not sitting here is what causes the summoning to be completed.

SHAYLEE

You're being ridiculous.

MACKENNA

Look, I'm not going to be responsible for resurrecting the Norns of Fate because I ran in head first without enough info.

SHAYLEE

Let's have a think. What more info are we going to get? We know who they are; we know what their goal is; we know it'll be bad if they succeed.

NISSA

Mack's stalling.

MACKENNA

Shouldn't you be watching your drone?

NISSA

I can pilot and call you out at the same time.

MACKENNA

I'm getting whiplash from everyone's constant "rush in / don't rush in."

RILEY

Now you're just being overly cautious instead of uncautious. You need to find a happy medium, a perfect balance.

MACKENNA

And you need to keep an eye on the cult members. I can see something's happening even without the binoculars.

RILEY

Aye-aye, I've got my eye on 'em. It's just some new guys coming in the group.

(beat)

I'm kinda bummed Alfie didn't play off my obvious Thanos reference. Ya know, "perfectly balanced."

NISSA

That was obvious?

SHAYLEE

Alfie's still trying to find a bathroom.

MACKENNA

He's been gone a while. Wait, where's Thomas?

**QUICK TRANSITION**

69. In the middle of Stonehenge cult circle.

THOMAS

I can't believe you got caught.

ALFIE

Well aren't you the rock calling the stone gray.

(beat)

Get it? Because we're at Stonehenge--

THOMAS

I get it. How did you get caught in the bathroom? Why didn't you go behind a tree or something?

ALFIE

I figured all the cult guys would try to be sneaky and avoid the bathroom, so I wanted to avoid them by avoiding the place they would go to avoid being avoided.

(beat)

Wait, how did you get caught?

THOMAS

Buddy system! We shouldn't let each other go off alone.

ALFIE

You made the same mistake and went to the bathroom, too.

THOMAS

I have a shy bladder, okay? I can't just go outside where anyone can see.

ALFIE

No judgement from me. The short cult guy absolutely has a judgy-face, though.

Grunts as Alfie and Thomas are shoved to the ground.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Oof. Rude, judgy-guy! We would have sat down if you just told us to!

LEE

For once, there's no evil monologue from the bad guys explaining their plan, no threats or violence. The Intended either don't know or don't care who they just captured, and time is of the essence for their task.

THOMAS

(whispered)

Okay, so what's the plan? We can probably get our hands free of the rope if we wriggle for a few minutes, but then what?

ALFIE

(whispered)

They're super focused on what they're doing; if we're quiet, we can probably sneak away and report back to Mack what we've found.

THOMAS

(whispered)

Which is?

ALFIE

(whispered)

That I'm really bad at wriggling free. I think I made the rope tighter!

THOMAS

(whispered)

Wait, what's...they're moving the stones.

ALFIE

(whispered)

That's impossible. They're supposed to be super heavy, right?

THOMAS  
 (whispered)  
 I don't think the shadowy guy is having  
 any trouble with it.

ALFIE  
 (whispered)  
 I don't think he's just a cult member.

**QUICK TRANSITION**

70. The women further away, around the same time.

NISSA  
 I've got some movement from the eye in  
 the sky.

RILEY  
 (at what she sees)  
 Uh-oh.

MACKENNA  
 What is it?

NISSA  
 The Old One is moving another stone  
 into formation.

RILEY  
 (still at what she sees)  
 Oh, that's not good.

SHAYLEE  
 What formation? It seems random from  
 this angle.

NISSA  
 Yeah, but from above? They're making  
 Stonehenge a circle. A perfect circle.

MACKENNA  
 Crap.

SHAYLEE  
 Is this enough info? Can we stop them  
 now?

MACKENNA

Yes, okay, now this is a concrete goal: stop them from making a circle. But we should really plan how--

SHAYLEE

For fuck's sake, Mack. What will it take for you to--

RILEY

They have Thomas!

MACKENNA

Seriously?

NISSA

Two unknown persons near the north pillar not in cult robes. I'm guessing the other captured idiot is Alfie?

RILEY

Hey, that's my husband you're...yeah, you're right.

MACKENNA

Well, you get your wish. Running in because there's no time to plan.

SHAYLEE

We can plan, but quickly. Nissa, do they still have that circular tarp out?

NISSA

It's still there.

MACKENNA

I'll step first and distract as many as I can. If things go bad, Riley and Shaylee get Thomas and Alfie out of there.

SHAYLEE

You can't fight them all alone! They'll have iron weapons.

MACKENNA

You two are not going to go toe-to-toe with an Old One if I can help it. I just need to keep them from completing the circle until sunset.

NISSA

Mack, the sun's half past the horizon. We've got a minute tops.

MACKENNA

Nissa, keep watching the camera and don't let them step unless there's a clear shot. I'm going in.

Stepping sideways departure.

#### **QUICK TRANSITION**

71. Thomas and Alfie at Stonehenge. There's a magical hum in the air.

THOMAS

(whispered)

I've finally got my hands free. He's moving the last stone. Whatever we're doing, we've got to do it fast.

ALFIE

(whispered)

There's always a ritual or chant. We've got plenty of time to break up this cult party before they drink their resurrection Kool-Aid.

The last stone slots into place; the magical hum deepens.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Or, you know, it's happening now.

Stepping sideways arrival.

MACKENNA

Hey, assholes, the park is closed, and you're trespassing.

MASTER OF SHADOW

Mackenna Thorne. You're too late. And  
now it's time to meet your fate!

Sounds of iron striking iron as Mackenna fights.

LEE

Mackenna fights valiantly, leading the  
armed Intended to the edge of the stone  
rings furthest away from her brother  
and friend.

THOMAS

(shouts)

Mackenna, look out!

LEE

But she's too slow. The last light of  
the sun disappears from the horizon,  
just as Mackenna dodges the line of  
shadow, forcing her to step back--

Slide of gravel.

LEE (CONT'D)

--and place herself right on the line  
of the perfect stone circle.

A single strike of heavy iron on stone. A crackling sound  
like the beginning of thunder, silence, and then a massive  
powering down sound.

72. Lights up. Stonehenge. Just after sundown.

THOMAS

What was that? Alfie, are you okay?

ALFIE

Yeah, I think so. Are we...

THOMAS

Still at Stonehenge. Wait. Mackenna!  
Mackenna, are you here?

ALFIE

Thomas, there's no one here: no cult, no extra stones. Whatever happened, happened.

THOMAS

Then where's Mackenna?

ALFIE

I don't know.

THOMAS

What about Nissa, Shaylee, and Riley? We have to tell them what happened.

ALFIE

Let's get going. It's a long walk back to where they were staking out.

They begin walking.

THOMAS

And it'll be dark soon.

ALFIE

Oh, there's a flashlight in my bag. Next to the rope and grappling hook.

THOMAS

Why do you have a grappling hook?

ALFIE

Survival skills, Thomas. Always come prepared.

SECURITY GUARD

What are you two doing here?

THOMAS

Uh, we just, umm...

ALFIE

We're tourists. Just wanted another look at Stonehenge before we head back to the US.

SECURITY GUARD

Ah, missed the last shuttle, did you?

ALFIE

Yes.

(beat)

That is exactly what happened.

SECURITY GUARD

Well, come on. I'll give you a lift  
back to wherever you're staying.

THOMAS

Actually, could you just drop us off at  
the station? We're supposed to meet our  
friends there.

ALFIE

(whispered)

Right, the rendezvous point! If things  
went wrong, that's where they'll be.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

Sound of traffic. Two car doors close.

THOMAS

Thanks again, Oliver. Stay in touch!

Car drives away. Alfie and Thomas walk into the airport and  
approach the ticket counter.

ALFIE

Good job charming Oliver into driving  
us all the way to the airport when the  
station was closed.

THOMAS

I didn't charm him, he's a nice guy. He  
waited for us when our friends weren't  
at the station, didn't he?

ALFIE

Yeah, which would be more concerning if  
our magical friends hadn't left us  
without a way back home.

THOMAS

We definitely need to thank Nissa for these emergency kits. I never think to bring my passport when we step sideways internationally.

ALFIE

And thanks to Shaylee's bank account for the plane tickets. It's nice having rich friends.

THOMAS

No offense, but aren't you a rich friend?

ALFIE

My inheritance is pretty much tied up in St. Xavier's. Anyway, let's go. I splurged for priority boarding.

#### **QUICK TRANSITION**

Sound of a plane flying through the air, then general airplane stuffiness.

THOMAS

Alfie, I'm worried. No one's answering their phones, they haven't tried to contact us, we don't know what happened--

ALFIE

I have three possibilities. One: altered timeline--

THOMAS

What? No, Alfie, come on, be serious. You can't lead with the weirdest theory. Something else has to make more sense.

ALFIE

Fine. Two: time jump. The cult and Mackenna jumped to some point in the past or future. Full Outlander.

THOMAS

That doesn't explain where Nissa,  
Shaylee, and Riley went.

ALFIE

And three: Hogwarts cross-over. Muggles  
using magic caused the wizarding world  
to obliviate our memories.

THOMAS

Somehow, I don't think so.

ALFIE

I mean, I ruled out lunar eclipse, but  
invisibility and shrinking are still on  
the table from last time.

THOMAS

Maybe we should try to just get some  
sleep so that we can think straight in  
the morning.

ALFIE

Suit yourself. I'm wide awake. I'm  
gonna watch a movie.

THOMAS

Wake me up when we're home.

ALFIE

Oh, maybe it's all a dream, and we're  
all at Shaylee's beach house or  
something.

THOMAS

Good night, Alfie.

Sound of a plane flying through the sky.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

A car rolls to a stop. Car doors open, and Thomas and Alfie  
get out.

THOMAS

Thank you very much.

The car doors close. The car drives away.

ALFIE

He was nowhere near as nice as Oliver.  
But he got us here: rendezvous point  
number two, the good ol' Thorne  
residence.

THOMAS

What do we do if they're not here? Do  
we even have a third meeting place?

ALFIE

We've never needed one. And there's no  
way to know if they're here or not  
until we go in.

They walk around to the house. Thomas unlocks and opens the  
door.

THOMAS

Mackenna? Shaylee? Are you here? It's  
Thomas and Alfie. Where did you go?  
Murphy? Where are you, boy?

ALFIE

It doesn't sound like anyone is here.

THOMAS

Where could they be? I don't  
understand...

ALFIE

What is it?

THOMAS

I don't know. Something doesn't feel  
right...Alfie, does anything look  
different about the house?

ALFIE

Not really. Am I looking for something  
specific? Seems the same to me.

THOMAS

Something's off here.

ALFIE

Uh, Thomas. Look at these pictures on your mantle. Isn't that supposed to be you?

THOMAS

Is that the first day of school one? Yeah, that's me...wait, that's Mackenna?

ALFIE

And this one. I definitely remember your high school prom picture because your date had a sparkly dress, and I always thought there was glitter on the picture, and I would try to wipe it clean, and it never worked.

THOMAS

That can't be right.

ALFIE

Picture technology has come a long way; it was very realistic.

THOMAS

No, I mean Mackenna wasn't even there. She missed that prom.

ALFIE

Oh yeah. Weird. So...where are all the pictures of you? No offense, but your parents had a ton of them in this house. Now I'm not seeing any of you, and there are a ton of Mack.

73. The front door opens. Mackenna walks in.

MACKENNA

Thomas?

ALFIE

Hey! There she is!

Mackenna rushes in and hugs Thomas.

MACKENNA

Thomas, you're back! It's been so long.  
I've missed you.

THOMAS

Whoa, Mackenna, I--

MACKENNA

I know, I know, you're not the hugging  
type. Get over it.

THOMAS

That's fair. I guess we're even.

MACKENNA

Oh, you brought a friend. It's Alfie,  
right? I think we went to school  
together.

ALFIE

Not what I would lead with, but  
technically true.

MACKENNA

Wow, it's been so long. How are you?

ALFIE

It's been, like, less than a day.

MACKENNA

Well come on into the kitchen. Can I  
get you anything? Tea? Coffee? I was  
just throwing these corn muffins into  
the oven.

ALFIE

I'm confused, but also hungry, so yes,  
please.

THOMAS

Mackenna, where'd you go last night? We  
were all in the stone circle, and then  
there was that loud noise. The cult was  
gone; you were gone...Shaylee, Nissa,  
Riley...everyone had disappeared.

MACKENNA

Um, Thomas, I was at the art museum last night. What are you talking about?

ALFIE

You don't remember? Stonehenge? The Cult of Wodan? Crazy ritual to raise the Norns of Fate? Anything ringing a bell?

MACKENNA

I'm sorry, guys, I have no idea what you're talking about. Thomas, are you okay? You're still taking your meds? The right ones, Thomas?

THOMAS

What? I don't take meds. Except for my daily multi-vitamin, of course. Mackenna, why don't you remember?

MACKENNA

How did you get here, Thomas? Did the facility let you come visit? Do they know you're here?

THOMAS

What facility?

MACKENNA

Aww, Thomas, this is what we were afraid of. You need to finish the program for it to work.

ALFIE

(whispered to Thomas)

She thinks you're on drugs. Why does she think you're on drugs?

THOMAS

I don't think we're on the same page. Mackenna, you were with us at Stonehenge last night. We were trying to stop The Intended.

MACKENNA

Oh, Thomas, you're not thinking clearly. This is your sickness talking. You need to beat this thing. And to beat it, you have to finish the program. I'll drive you back. Mom and Dad will be so disappointed if they hear that you tried to leave.

THOMAS

Wait, Mom and Dad? They're here? They're... still alive?

MACKENNA

Of course they're still alive. They're just on vacation for their anniversary, not that we expected you to remember that.

THOMAS

(under his breath)  
Impossible things.

Kitchen timer dings in other room

MACKENNA

That's for the muffins. Why don't you just wait here for a second?

Mackenna walks away.

ALFIE

Thomas, I don't think that's our Mackenna.

THOMAS

I know she's different, but...maybe it's a wish thing, right? Like, the ritual accidentally granted my biggest wish, because this is pretty close.

ALFIE

You being a rehabbing drug addict is your biggest wish?

THOMAS

My parents being alive, Mackenna growing up normally...I'm willing to take a hit to my reputation for that.

ALFIE

But that's what I'm saying: that's not our Mackenna.

THOMAS

How do you know?

ALFIE

She just...feels different. There's no connection, no happy feeling when I look at her.

THOMAS

Whoa, are you saying you--?

ALFIE

No, no, I'm happily fake-married.

Mackenna returns.

MACKENNA

Fresh corn muffins. They're still hot, though, so just let them cool in the pan for a bit.

ALFIE

Hey, Mack, is that a cast iron skillet you're using?

MACKENNA

Yeah, it is. Sorta rustic, but I think it adds authenticity. Wait, did you just call me "Mack?"

ALFIE

Sorry, Mackenna. That sounds weird. I never call you that. Actually, one more thing: have you ever been to St. Patrick's Church? You know, totally not collapsed giant tower, super loud bell that hurts your ears?

MACKENNA

I volunteered at their food bank during high school, but I don't remember the bell being that loud.

ALFIE

Hey, why don't I just take Thomas back to the rehab facility now? Save you the trouble.

MACKENNA

Are you sure? Oh, Thomas, don't think I'm pushing you away. I do want to see you. I just want to see you healthy. You understand?

THOMAS

(not really)

Yeah.

MACKENNA

Take some muffins for the drive.

ALFIE

Don't mind if I do. We'll see ourselves out. Let's go, Thomas.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

74. Outside. Alfie and Thomas walk in the direction of downtown.

ALFIE

Well, these muffins are amazing. That confirms it, that is not our Mack.

(beat)

Are you okay?

THOMAS

I don't know. I don't get any of it.

ALFIE

So I think I might know. Have you seen It's a Wonderful Life?

THOMAS

Of course I've seen it. Why?

ALFIE

I return to my first theory. Altered timeline. Things look the same, but something changed in the past, and it's created a present. That would explain why everyone disappeared from Stonehenge and why Mack thinks you belong in rehab.

THOMAS

Do you think the Intended did this with the summoning? How can we undo it?

ALFIE

Well, there's only one person we can turn to when things go magically wrong:

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Nissa.

THOMAS

Shaylee.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Really, Nissa?

ALFIE

Of course. She knows everything. Why do you think we've been walking towards the music store this whole time?

THOMAS

You mean the closed music store?

ALFIE

(reading)

Space available for lease. Please call...what?!? No notice, no pink slip?

THOMAS

I don't know. But look, even that window is boarded up.

ALFIE

Ooo, Nissa would be so pissed. Okay, something definitely changed.

THOMAS

Now what?

ALFIE

We need allies. People we knew from our timeline that might still help us here. And since bizarro-world Shaylee is probably still in Ireland, I say we start with Nissa.

THOMAS

Even if we do find Nissa, she won't know anything about magic, or the Hidden People. There's no possible way she'll believe us.

ALFIE

Nissa's our friend; she'll help us no matter what. And as for possible, impossible is just a suggestion these days. If we can get Nissa on board, then with her computer skills, my plucky determination, and your mental inflexibility, together, we will watch her fix this. Let's go get her!

THOMAS

I'll send Sam a text on the way. If she's still a detective, she'll know how to help us.

ALFIE

Alright, Nissa Sifsdottir, if you're not a music store manager, what are you doing?

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

75. Inside the Sif Technologies building. A phone rings.

ALFIE

Thomas, are you sure this is the right place?

THOMAS

It's her name on the company: Sif Technologies. And that sure is her picture on the wall.

ALFIE

Whoa, she met Obama? I wonder if he's still president in this timeline.

THOMAS

Alfie, that's not how elections--

ALFIE

I know, I know, but I can dream.

THOMAS

So, we need to find her office.

ALFIE

There's a receptionist. Maybe you can schmooze her into letting us in.

Door opens.

NISSA

Esther, push back the investors meeting to Tuesday; schedule a status report for the lab working on the facial recognition tech; and please, for fuck's sake, tell my mother I'm too busy to take her calls.

ALFIE

Nissa!

NISSA

Alfred O'Toole and Thomas Thorne. This day is full of surprises.

ALFIE

We need your help.

THOMAS

Is there somewhere we can talk?

NISSA

You have four and a half minutes until my meeting with the Department of Homeland Security. Not a second longer. In my office. Esther, hold my calls. And get me a different coffee. The last one was off by two and a half degrees.

They all walk through the door to Nissa's office. New age music plays in the background.

NISSA

Shoes off, please. Just had this floor waxed.

THOMAS

Still got the new age music. Nice. Namaste out of your way and all that.

NISSA

That's cute. Is it copyrighted? I'm all for clever naming conventions, but the clock's running down on your time, not mine.

ALFIE

Okay, this is going to sound weird, but the world has been changed. Thomas and I are from the real reality, and we're trying to find what went wrong and how to fix the timeline.

NISSA

Wow, we're starting with that, huh?

THOMAS

It's true. We've been stuck here since last night after Stonehenge. Is there any chance you remember anything? Anything at all about Mackenna, or the Intended, or anything last night?

NISSA

Despite the crunchy, earth-mother vibe in our ads, SifTech does not officially support legalization in any form. So whatever you're smoking, I'm not interested.

ALFIE

She won't remember anything, Thomas. She's not the same Nissa.

NISSA

"Not remember?" You obviously don't know who you're talking about.

THOMAS

Then why don't you tell us? Who are you?

NISSA

Who am I? I am an incredibly successful and intelligent, self-made technology wunderkind. Four point oh at Cornell, owner and founder of Sif Technologies, creator of SifCon One, the only digital security system your business needs, and youngest ever member of Forbes Top 100. But that's just from my Times profile.

ALFIE

But not just that...the meeting you're rushing us out to get to? You've had a lot of those, haven't you?

NISSA

So the government has private contracts. It's not a secret.

THOMAS

You're selling tech to them. Probably the same facial recognition tech you need that report on?

NISSA

That's classified.

ALFIE

You sold out, Nissa.

NISSA

And look at that, your time is up. Leave, before I activate my security system.

THOMAS

She's not going to help us, Alfie. We should go.

ALFIE

You know what? You really do live up to your name anagram.

THOMAS

Come on. We'll try Sam next. Maybe there's a sliver of her still in there somewhere.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

76. Footsteps on gravel.

ALFIE

Well, that was definitely not the Nissa we knew. She probably doesn't even remember the fried chicken story, let alone the Cult of Wodan.

THOMAS

Sam hasn't answered my texts, but according to the county recorder's website, she lives in this trailer park. Why didn't she buy her own house?

ALFIE

Not everyone can afford it.

THOMAS

I remember this place. I came here a few times when Sam and I were in high school. It's the trailer park where she grew up. This one was hers, maybe?

ALFIE

You mean the one with the eviction notice? Or the other one with an eviction notice?

THOMAS

They got evicted?

ALFIE

Lots of people did.

Footsteps continue.

THOMAS  
How did this happen?

ALFIE  
Poor public funding for low income  
housing.

THOMAS  
How do you know that?

ALFIE  
What, I'm trying to be socially  
responsible. As someone who now runs a  
non-profit school for severely  
underprivileged youths, I needed to  
step up my social consciousness.

THOMAS  
I'm impressed.

ALFIE  
Thank you for helping me be an adult.

THOMAS  
I didn't do much.

ALFIE  
Every little bit helps. Hey, these  
trailers...no evictions here. Maybe we  
can ask that guy. He looks, uh,  
knowledgeable?

THOMAS  
Wait, is that...Jacob? Jacob Hornsby?

JACOB  
Can I help you?

THOMAS  
Jacob, it's me: Thomas. Thorne. High  
school soccer team?

JACOB  
Name rings a bell. Been a while. What  
do you want?

THOMAS  
Um, is Sam here?

JACOB  
What do you want with her? What did she do this time?

ALFIE  
She didn't do anything. We just wanted to talk to her.

JACOB  
She's busy.

THOMAS  
It'll only take a minute.

JACOB  
I said she's busy.

SAM  
What's going on?

THOMAS  
Sam.

JACOB  
It's Thomas Thorne and some other guy. They say they know you.

SAM  
Maybe.

THOMAS  
Sam, it's me: Thomas. From school.

ALFIE  
We all went to the same high school.

SAM  
No, not from school. Maybe the junkyard. Thomas was there once. I've seen him.

JACOB  
I told you not to visit that junkyard any more. You been sneaking off?

SAM

No, I meant before.

JACOB

Are these the guys you're meeting up with? These the guys you told me about? Did you tell them where we lived?

THOMAS

We looked Sam up, public records and all that. It wasn't her fault.

JACOB

Did you tell them to come see you when I was out of the house?

SAM

No, of course not. I don't know them.

JACOB

You get back in that house. I'm not done with you. We'll talk later.

THOMAS

Hey, don't talk to her that way. Sam, it's me. It's Thomas. You know me.

JACOB

Stay outta this.

THOMAS

You used to come over for our family movie nights. Or for help with homework? But you never actually needed the help; you always had it done already. Is there anything you remember? Anything at all? We've known each other for years.

JACOB

So it's been going on for years, huh? And you had the guts to tell me it was just the one time.

THOMAS

You don't have to stay there.

SAM

Stop it.

JACOB

Like hell she doesn't. Get back in that house, Samantha.

THOMAS

She's a grown woman. She can make her own decisions.

JACOB

You got something to say?

A beer bottle breaks.

SAM

Jake, don't. Let's go back inside. Let me get you another beer.

ALFIE

Thomas, this isn't the Sam we know. We need to leave. Let's go before he does anything with that broken bottle.

Footsteps on gravel.

THOMAS

You should have let me handle him.

ALFIE

I know, Thomas. You'd kick his ass or something. But that's not why we went there. I think I know what we're supposed to do.

THOMAS

What?

ALFIE

Magic got us into this mess. It's time to magic the shit out of it. And magic is crazy. We need to stop thinking realistically and start allowing for the impossible to be possible. We've done the impossible before. Let's not stop now.

THOMAS

Mackenna was the one who did the impossible. What can we do?

ALFIE

Mackenna...that's it. That's the catalyst. She's our George Bailey!

THOMAS

What do you mean?

ALFIE

It's a Wonderful Life! This is the world in which Mack didn't exist.

THOMAS

Are you feeling okay, Alfie? We've already seen Mackenna today. How can she not exist?

ALFIE

Because we haven't seen her today. That was actually Fack back there.

THOMAS

Wait, that was my biological sister?

ALFIE

Think about it: no Hidden People pull, no iron sensitivity...

THOMAS

Her baking was genuinely good instead of magically delicious.

ALFIE

She's one-hundred percent human.

THOMAS

But if she's Mackenna, then what happened to Mack? Wait, when you said It's a Wonderful Life...did I do this? By wishing for my parents to be alive, did I...?

ALFIE

No, that would be The Monkey's Paw. You're not our George Bailey; it has to be Mackenna--our Mackenna. The halfling Mackenna.

THOMAS

That makes no sense, the summoning was supposed to raise the Norns of Fate, not change fate itself.

ALFIE

Maybe something went wrong. They wouldn't poof Mackenna on purpose if Wodan's keeping her alive.

THOMAS

She was on the circle as the sun set, not in or out of it. Maybe it's like what happened with the In-between, breaking the circle when the ritual occurred.

ALFIE

It all fits! If Mack was never created, Fack was never switched at birth. She was raised by your parents. Then they had you. But without Mack's presence, we all led different lives. Nissa and I didn't stay friends. She started her own company instead of managing Soundscapes, you and Sam didn't become friends, and we never formed our team of cool-ass heroes.

THOMAS

I became a loser. In this world, I'm supposed to be in rehab. And Sam married a jerk because I wasn't there for her like I should have been.

ALFIE

Don't feel guilty. Remember, in our world--the real world--you were there for her. This is just a crazy hypothetical situation.

THOMAS

It feels pretty real to me.

ALFIE

Hypothetical or not, we need to fix it.  
And I think I know where we need to go.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

77. Outside the back entrance to Arcadia.

THOMAS

Arcadia?!? Are you kidding me?

ALFIE

If it's a magical problem, it needs a magical solution. And since none of our magical friends are here, we have to go to where the magic is.

THOMAS

I really don't want to go in there.

ALFIE

That's just their anti-human spell talking. You remember what you have to do to get in, right?

THOMAS

Uh, walk backwards, right? What else?

ALFIE

That's it.

THOMAS

Okay. After you, Alfie

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

The undercity of Arcadia. Where the drudges work. Alfie and Thomas walk through the muddy street.

THOMAS

Aren't you worried that someone will see us in the middle of the road?

ALFIE

No one seems to be looking up.  
Oppression is a heavy burden, Thomas.

THOMAS

Who are you and what did you do with  
Alfie?

ALFIE

Are you suggesting that I, too, am part  
of this altered timeline? Too soon,  
Thomas. Too soon.

THOMAS

So what are we looking for?

ALFIE

We need to find the Hall of the Sagas.  
I've heard Mack and Shaylee mention  
that place as like the faerie library.  
That would have the answers.

THOMAS

You're right. Wasn't that pretty close  
to the nursery when we went last time?

ALFIE

It's a good place to check.

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

78. Inside the Hall of the Sagas. Sound of rustling pages.

THOMAS

Have you found anything?

ALFIE

Not yet. Reading a lot about some  
faerie cocktails that sound pretty  
poisonous to humans.

THOMAS

Yeah, all the books and scrolls...and  
papers...they definitely do not arrange  
this place according to the Dewey  
decimal system.

ALFIE

Well, this sucks.

THOMAS

Where else could we go? Who else do we know that might help?

ALFIE

The only other people I can think of are Shaylee and Riley, but I don't even know where--

SENTINEL

Stop. The Hall of the Sagas is forbidden.

THOMAS

Uh-oh.

SENTINEL

Guards, bind their hands. Come with me.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

Arcadia throne room.

THOMAS

Alfie, please tell me getting captured is part of your plan.

ALFIE

Okay. This is part of my plan.

THOMAS

(long beat)

It's not part of the plan, is it?

ALFIE

No, not at all.

SENTINEL

Quiet. Do not speak until spoken to.

MAGISTER

Welcome, Alfred O'Toole. Thomas Thorne. I am the Magister.

ALFIE  
Ah, son of a--

THE END