

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 3.08

"It's a Wonderful Lie"

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and

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79. Arcadia throne room.

LEE

Living in a world they don't recognize.
Captured in Arcadia. Dragged before the
Magister and Liliana. I think it's safe
to say that this was--

ALFIE

Definitely not part of my plan.

MAGISTER

You have been brought before me to
answer for your capture in the Hall of
the Sagas. Indeed, your very presence
in Arcadia intrigues me. I have never
seen you before, and I would like to
know what business you think you have
here.

THOMAS

(whispered to Alfie)

What do we do? We're dead for sure.

ALFIE

(whispered to Thomas)

Let me do the talking.

(to the Magister)

Don't mind us, Mr. Magister. We were
just sightseeing, and--

MAGISTER

Sentinel. Shut him up.

ALFIE

(choking)

LILIANA

You do not speak, except at the will
and mercy of the Magister.

THOMAS

Stop it! You wanted an explanation, and
he was giving it. Why ask if you won't
let him speak?

LILIANA

Shh. Can't you see your friend is struggling to breathe?

THOMAS

Release him.

LILIANA

Mind your own tongue, human, or we shall feed it to your friend on a dog platter.

MAGISTER

Enough, sentinel.

ALFIE

(gasps for air)

MAGISTER

I wish to hear your excuses. Speak, humans.

THOMAS

We're looking for our friends. We got...separated.

LILIANA

Oh? And you sought them out in the Hall of the Sagas? What a studious bunch you must be.

MAGISTER

How is it that you know about Arcadia?

THOMAS

Umm...

ALFIE

We don't, actually. We just stumbled on this place by accident. We have no idea who you are or what kind of magic world you rule. Did you say Arcadia? We were just looking for our friends in an arcade. Easy mix-up. We'll just be on our way and forget everything we know about magic and butterflies and stuff.

MAGISTER

You are lying.

LILIANA

Deception at this point would
be...unwise.

ALFIE

Nope, not lying. I was all distracted
playing Tekken, and then Thomas was all
like, "Let's play some--"

THOMAS

Uh...Madden.

ALFIE

Yes. The arcade classic. Madden.

(beat)

Anyway, and then we were like, "woah,
where are our friends?" I thought they
were with Thomas, Thomas thought they
were with me, and then we got hungry
and were all like, "ooo, soft
pretzels--"

MAGISTER

Inquisitor Ailsa.

AILSA

He speaks true. Incredibly.

MAGISTER

Yes, but why is he winking?

ALFIE

Whoa. Major déjà vu.

THOMAS

This happened before?

ALFIE

I guess fate finds a way.

LILIANA

This is absurd.

(beat, MORE)

LILIANA (CONT'D)

Human. How is it you can deceive an inquisitor?

ALFIE

You seriously think I can trick you? I mean, look at me.

LILIANA

So you understand my incredulity.

MAGISTER

I am inclined to not bother with the answers and just kill them.

THOMAS

This isn't working, Alfie. We need a better plan. Fast.

ALFIE

But then you'd never know, would you?

MAGISTER

Know what?

ALFIE

How we did this. Walked right into Arcadia, found the Hall of the Sagas. Go ahead and check to see if we came in the front doors. I'll wait.

LILIANA

Listen to me, worm--

ALFIE

I mean, this is the Unseelie Court? We strolled right in through a door you weren't even watching. Moseyed our way into your sacred hall of records. You think anyone who could do all that would allow themselves to be captured by your sentinels? Unlikely. Unless that was their plan all along.

AILSA

He speaks true.

THOMAS

Alfie. What are you doing?

MAGISTER

No. Let him continue. My interest is piqued.

LILIANA

As is my own.

ALFIE

Your changeling trainer. The Irish one. Goes by Shaylee. Strangely with no last name.

MAGISTER

What about her?

ALFIE

She hired us. But she needed to test us first. Our ability to stand up to scrutiny and danger. So she wanted us to get brought before you, because you're the most dangerous and...scrutinous?

THOMAS

Actually a word.

ALFIE

Most dangerous and scrutinous people she knows.

LILIANA

That is a bold move for a trainer of changelings.

MAGISTER

I respect boldness.

(beat)

Humans. You have proven your capability. Now, you will leave Arcadia. Through a main entrance. And know that your novelty is not such that it will help you survive a second visit to Arcadia.

THOMAS

I feel safe in saying you will never see us again.

ALFIE

Bye. Nice to see you, Liliana.

Thomas and Alfie leave.

LILIANA

You will just let them go?

MAGISTER

Not "just." I have summoned the trainer. I have...questions for her.

LILIANA

Good. As do I. And I believe I will be keeping an eye on these humans.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

80. Thomas and Alfie leave Arcadia onto the street.

THOMAS

Alfie, how did you do that? Lie to them and make them believe it?

ALFIE

You got me. But if it's going to keep working, I'm going to keep doing it.

THOMAS

At least you got us out of there alive. But we're at another dead end. The Hall of the Sagas was a bust, and we have no idea how to restore the world.

ALFIE

I have an idea, but we need to find a way to contact Shaylee. Do you think her phone number--

Arcadia door slams open.

SHAYLEE

Who the hell are you two?

ALFIE

I'm starting to feel like Will Ferrell in Stranger than Fiction.

SHAYLEE

How do you know me, Will Ferrell?

THOMAS

Shaylee, it's...you won't remember us anyway. I'm Thomas, and this is Alfie.

SHAYLEE

Who do you think you are to just name drop me to the Magister? You're not any fetches I recognize.

ALFIE

I'm going to fast forward through a lot of confusion, okay? We were trying to stop the Norns of Fate in our larger plot to save the world, but instead, the timeline was changed. In the real world, we're all friends.

SHAYLEE

In the real world? Right. I'm dealing with two meth heads.

THOMAS

He's telling the truth, Shaylee. How else would we know you?

SHAYLEE

I can probably come up with a hundred better answers than "the timeline was changed."

ALFIE

Oh there's a lot that we know, so in case you need more convincing, let's see...uh, you wear your clothes inside out to hide from the Hidden People, you train changelings to face their fetches when they're released to reclaim, you're macking with Mack in our world, but you used to date Emma--and just a heads up if you ever run into her at a

museum in Ireland, it's gonna be hella awkward.

SHAYLEE

How do you know all this? You're spying on me?

THOMAS

We told you. The world isn't right. Mackenna, my sister and your girlfriend, was erased from it. We need to undo what happened and restore her.

SHAYLEE

You think your sister is my girlfriend.

ALFIE

Well, not now, because she doesn't exist. But she is supposed to be your girlfriend.

THOMAS

Shaylee, Mackenna freed you from your contract and killed the Magister.

SHAYLEE

That's impossible.

ALFIE

We just need you to get us access to Dane's records, so we can search for a way to undo what happened.

SHAYLEE

You know about Dane, too?

ALFIE

Wait...oh, shit! Dane's alive!

THOMAS

Yeah, that makes sense.

SHAYLEE

Fine. But this doesn't mean I believe you. Come on.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

81. Shaylee's warehouse in Ireland. Raining.

Stepping sideways arrival.

DANE

That was quick. What did the Magister want?

ALFIE

Daaane! Good to see you in the living flesh.

SHAYLEE

I'll be right back. I need to get the other one.

Stepping sideways departure.

DANE

Uh, what is happening?

ALFIE

Timeline got altered. You're going to help us fix it.

DANE

The fuck?

Stepping sideways arrival.

THOMAS

Hi, Dane. I'm Thomas. This is Alfie. It's nice to finally meet you in person. We've heard a lot about you.

DANE

Uh, what the flying fairy fuck?

ALFIE

Mostly good things, don't worry.

DANE

Uh, okay...hi...Shaylee, what did you do? Do my security protocols mean nothing to you anymore? Why do these people know my name?

SHAYLEE

Trust me, I've asked the same question.

DANE

They're not new trainees?

SHAYLEE

Not exactly. They were in Arcadia.

DANE

Not making me feel any better.

SHAYLEE

You need to hear this. Get your wild theories ready, Dane.

DANE

Oh, not again. I take my research seriously, and I hate when you pretend to believe me.

SHAYLEE

This one might--and I stress might--be real. They're...from the future or something?

ALFIE

Well, not the future. I think we're actually in the present, but the world is different. The Norns of Fate were rising, and somehow they eliminated Mack from the past. And only Thomas and I know it.

DANE

Like *It's a Wonderful Life*?

ALFIE

Finally! Someone gets it! Yeah, Mack is our George Bailey.

DANE

Wow. Okay, uh, start from the beginning. I need everything.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

The warehouse. Later.

DANE

Okay. So I think that, since this Mackenna was at the center of the circle at the climax of the ritual, she got accidentally erased as if she had never existed. Doesn't look like that was the plan, though. And since you two were inside the circle with her, you stuck around as yourselves.

ALFIE

All of that is in your archive?

DANE

There's a surprisingly large amount of information about the Nornir. I guess they're popular among researchers. Of course, none of it specifically deals with altering the entire timeline.

THOMAS

Is there anything similar, just on a smaller scale?

DANE

I found an account of, quote, "fate swallowing someone whole."

ALFIE

That doesn't sound very far off.

THOMAS

Can it be undone?

DANE

Supposedly it can. But you need to perform a ritual.

ALFIE

Let me guess: we have to recreate the exact conditions of the original ritual but perform them in reverse!

DANE

Uh, no. You need to convince fate that the world is wrong now without your friend. You need to collect her legacy and present it at the site of the original ritual. So I guess that part's similar. If you do this, it might overwrite what happened, canceling out the original ritual that erased her.

THOMAS

What does that mean? "Collect her legacy"?

SHAYLEE

It's all superstitious bollocks. Intentionally vague so it sounds mysterious and magical.

DANE

It isn't as arcane as it sounds. You just need to gather stories of the impact she had--or didn't have, in this case.

THOMAS

So we get people to talk about their lives without Mackenna. The ways they're different because she never existed.

SHAYLEE

That's ridiculous.

ALFIE

It's actually not. It sounds a lot like a ritual we performed to switch back to our bodies after we formed a magical bridge between worlds and got our consciences all jumbled.

DANE

Of course, this is all theoretical, and the more you talk, the more I'm pretty sure you're both clinically insane.

SHAYLEE

Thank you.

THOMAS

I say we get started now. Shaylee, Dane, you get to go first.

SHAYLEE

No. I'm not giving you personal information.

ALFIE

You don't have to give us any new info. We already know your secrets. Well, the ones you've shared with us. Just...this is going to be really hard, Thomas.

THOMAS

Hmmm. Let's try it differently. Shaylee, in the real world, you're freed from your contract and the Magister is dead.

SHAYLEE

So you've told me.

THOMAS

How would that feel to you? To be free from the Hidden People.

SHAYLEE

Glorious. But while we're playing make believe, I would also like a date with Beyonce.

ALFIE

In the real world, you fell in love with Mackenna after you saved her life. And she saved yours. She killed the Magister after she found out she was a halfling. Like Dane.

DANE

Excuse me?

ALFIE

Don't worry, we won't tell anyone.

DANE

Nobody else knows that. There's no way you could have known that. Unless...

THOMAS

Shaylee, what would you give to be free, to have friends who care about you and a girlfriend who loves you?

SHAYLEE

(starting to believe)

Anything. I would give anything. Everything. That...you're saying one person can do all of that?

THOMAS

She can.

SHAYLEE

I've been doing this for so long that it felt permanent. This is now my life. I don't even know who I'd be if things changed. But I don't feckin care. If you're right, if things could be different...how else can I help you?

THOMAS

You already have. Though a few steps sideways might help us speed up the process. But before we go, I think Dane could help with the ritual.

DANE

I mean, yeah. I guess.

ALFIE

So, let's see. We weren't there for any of it, but I'm sure Mackenna had a big impact on your life, too.

(beat)

Oh.

DANE

What?

SHAYLEE

Wait. When we first mentioned Dane, you said he was alive. You said it like you were surprised.

THOMAS

Uh...well...

DANE

Hold the goddamn phone. Am I dead in your world?

ALFIE

It's not our world; it's the real world. This isn't a parallel universe thing.

DANE

I don't give a shit. I'm dead there?

ALFIE

Well...

DANE

Fuck this. I can't believe I helped you.

THOMAS

Wait...Dane, I know that this is a shock.

DANE

You think?!

THOMAS

We've lost people in our struggle to make the world a better place. Another friend, Ron, was also killed as a result of actions we took. He's probably still alive now, unless he would have died by some other means. Shaylee's died twice.

SHAYLEE

What?!

THOMAS

But Mackenna brought you back both times. Better than ever.

ALFIE

Supposedly more symmetrical, though I don't really see it.

THOMAS

And unfortunately, we also lost you, Dane. You died working to save my sister. And the chain of events eventually led to Mackenna having the realization that she could take down the Unseelie Court. If you hadn't died, the Magister and Liliana might still be terrorizing the world.

DANE

(somber)

Seriously?

ALFIE

You're a big damn hero, Dane. Your sacrifice wasn't in vain.

THOMAS

And your legacy lives on. Your research and videos helped us stop a monster that would have killed a lot of people. You are not forgotten. To say that your sacrifice saved thousands of lives would be understating it.

DANE

That's...really?

SHAYLEE

Always said you were a hero.

DANE

You never said I was a hero.

SHAYLEE

Well, I've thought it. It still counts.

DANE

So if you pull this ritual off, and you restore Mackenna...I'll just instantly be dead. I won't even know these last few months.

THOMAS

I'm really sorry, Dane.

ALFIE

I wish we could have met you before that. But I'm glad we got to meet you today.

DANE

Yeah. I guess. I mean, most people don't get to go down swinging and have such an impact. I suppose I should be grateful.

THOMAS

You're allowed to feel however you feel.

SHAYLEE

I'll stay with you, Dane. You don't need to do this alone.

DANE

No. They need you to step them to more people who knew Mackenna. I...I'll be okay.

SHAYLEE

Are you sure?

DANE

Yeah. Guess I have to be, right?

SHAYLEE

All right. Where are we going?

ALFIE

Nissa?

THOMAS

That's what I was thinking.

DANE

Shay. Wait.

Dane hugs Shaylee.

DANE (CONT'D)

I love you.

SHAYLEE

I'm going to miss you. Partner.

LEE

The goodbye she never got in the real world. She won't remember it, but she'll hear tell of it. A little closure can go a long way.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

82. Sif Technologies. Nissa's office. New age music.

NISSA

(from the hallway)

Jeremy, hold my calls for the next half hour. There's a bug in one of our updates, and the morons on the tech team can't figure it out. I'm going to fix it myself so I can justify firing them. And use a coaster for your water. That's real mahogany. You're the fifth receptionist I've hired this year and the second this week. If I have to tell you again, there will be a sixth. Got it? Don't apologize, just do it.

She enters and closes her office door.

NISSA (CONT'D)

Oh my god. You scared me. How the hell did you get past my security?

SHAYLEE

Your rug is a perfect circle.

NISSA

That doesn't answer my question. What are you doing here?

(beat)

Alfred and Thomas. Twice in two days. Careful, third time is either a charm or a pattern, in which I call the authorities.

ALFIE

We need to talk to you, Nissa.

NISSA

Well, make an appointment.

THOMAS

It won't take long, and it's important.

NISSA

So am I.

SHAYLEE

Just listen to them.

NISSA

And who the fuck are you?

SHAYLEE

I'm just the chauffeur.

NISSA

You two should save up to afford a better driver. One who doesn't wear mismatched clothes that are inside out.

SHAYLEE

You said I'm friends with her in the other world?

THOMAS

Believe it or not.

NISSA

God, you're all on meth, aren't you?

SHAYLEE

My first instinct, too.

ALFIE

Niss, we just need--

NISSA

Yep, I'm now done with this. Whatever handout you're looking for, it won't come from me.

ALFIE

Wait...uh, we just need to...interview you.

NISSA

Interview me?

THOMAS

Oh! Yes! For the...yearbook.

NISSA

What?

ALFIE

He means for the high school alumni association. Which contains many former yearbook staffers.

NISSA

You do know that high school was ten years ago, right?

THOMAS

Riiight. So the ten-year anniversary is this year. We're...following up with the most successful grads from Conley High.

NISSA

Oh. So why are you here, Thomas? It was your sister who was in my grade.

THOMAS

Oh. She's busy with...the flu. So I'm filling in.

NISSA

Well, I don't have a lot of time. How long will this interview take?

ALFIE

Just a few minutes.

NISSA

All right. Get to it.

ALFIE

Great! Uh, can you tell us about your life since elementary school?

NISSA

Christ, that will take hours, not minutes. And shouldn't you be recording this or taking notes?

THOMAS

Oh...uh, my phone is recording.

NISSA

In your pocket?

THOMAS

Yes?

SHAYLEE

Maybe just get to the point, you two.

ALFIE

Nissa, what does Sif Technologies do?

NISSA

Well, we provide security solutions. Our services can increase employee productivity and minimize time wasted. With our patented software, SifCon One, we also can assess the potential risk incurred by employees by investigating their financial history, online behaviors--

ALFIE

So you snoop into people's private lives to see if they're a threat to some CEO's bottom line?

NISSA

That is a gross mischaracterization.

THOMAS

And financial history? Are you targeting poor people?

NISSA

Of course not. But people who are stretched thin financially are a greater liability in terms of shrink and fraud.

ALFIE

My Nissa would say that the companies should be paying them more so they weren't stretched so thin.

NISSA

I am not your Nissa.

THOMAS

I think we're getting a good idea of the impact Mackenna had on Nissa.

NISSA

Impact? I barely spoke to your sister.

ALFIE

Wrong Mackenna.

NISSA

You know what? I've returned to my meth hypothesis.

SHAYLEE

Is that enough? Did you get what you needed?

THOMAS

I hope so. Nissa isn't as bad off here as you, Shaylee, but...this isn't Nissa. She isn't a champion of the helpless anymore.

Intercom button clicks.

NISSA

Jeremy, send security to my office immediately. Extreme prejudice.

THOMAS

Come on. Let's go.

ALFIE

I'm sorry you're going to lose your big company, Niss. But you would hate you if you could see you.

NISSA

I am my favorite person, Alfred, and I've already forgotten about you.

Stepping sideways departure.

NISSA (CONT'D)

What. The. Fuck.

ALFIE

(long beat)

This would have been a lot more dramatic if she didn't need to take us one at a time.

(beat)

Wait for it...

Stepping sideways arrival.

ALFIE

(beat)

Bye, Nissa.

Stepping sideways departure.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

83. Thomas, Alfie, and Shaylee walk on gravel through the trailer park. A trailer door slams in the distance, and Sam walks out carrying a bag of trash and beer bottles.

JACOB

(from inside)

Because you don't get to make that decision! I make the money. I decide where to spend it.

A beer bottle is thrown against the wall.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I don't owe you a damn thing!

SAM

(tearing up, angry, under her breath)
Such an asshole.

THOMAS

Sam. Hi. Are...uh, are you okay?

SAM

What are you doing here?

THOMAS

We came to see you.

SAM

Please don't. You shouldn't be here. If he sees you again...just leave me alone.

ALFIE

We just need to talk to you for a minute. About your life.

SAM

Do you know what he'll do to me if he sees you here?

THOMAS

I'm sorry. We won't stay long. But I just wanted to tell you, you're an amazing human being, and you deserve so much more in your life. You deserve a place of your own. You deserve to be happy. And you certainly deserve more than him.

SAM

Why are you acting like you know me? We went to the same school, but that's it. You don't know my life.

THOMAS

I know more than you might think. It wouldn't make sense if I told you, but you remind me of...someone else, and she's the most incredible person I know. She's brilliant, kind, courageous, and strong. I know what you came from, your past, what you've had to deal with your whole life. And I still see that same strength in you. I should have been there for you years ago, and I wasn't. I'm sorry. But it will get better.

SAM

I don't understand. What are you even saying?

THOMAS

Just that...we're going to make this all better for you.

SAM

I don't need shit from you.

ALFIE

Do you think you could maybe tell us about your life? Especially the parts about not becoming a detective.

SAM

What? How did you know I wanted to be a detective?

THOMAS

Can you just tell us a little about that? Maybe about your life with Jacob?

SAM

Fuck you both.

JACOB

(from inside)

Sam! Get in here and clean this glass up!

SAM

Get out of here. Or he'll be coming out with a sawn-off.

Sam enters the trailer and slams the door.

THOMAS

That didn't work at all.

ALFIE

I disagree. She didn't give us anything, but your soliloquy on Sam was beautiful. And it was all about how different she turned out without Mackenna. Well, without you, but that's because you didn't have Mack.

(beat)

This is all very confusing.

THOMAS

I guess since we're in Conley, we should...you know.

ALFIE

I know you've been avoiding thinking about her.

THOMAS

Everybody else is worse off, Alfie. Shaylee, Nissa, Sam...well, maybe not Dane.

ALFIE

No. Dane being alive is better for him.

THOMAS

But our friends...Mackenna's absence made their lives so much worse. But the other Mackenna...her life is amazing. She has family, she has love...all the things she always wanted.

ALFIE

This world isn't right, Thomas. Fixing it won't make every individual's life better, but remember what you told Dane. Mack being here will save thousands of lives.

THOMAS

But at what cost?

ALFIE

I know. Believe me. I don't know what happens to all these people if we fix the world. Does this Sam just cease to exist? Does this Dane die anyway? Are we killing an entire world to restore one?

THOMAS

I don't know.

ALFIE

All I know is that this place is wrong. I'm not big on the "greater good." Whichever world is more good is irrelevant. We have to go with the one we know is right.

THOMAS

I know.

ALFIE

Come on. We just have to do this.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

84. Thomas knocks at the Thorne house. No answer. He rings the doorbell. No answer.

ALFIE

Not a great start.

MACKENNA

(from a short distance away)
Um, hello. Sorry, I was just taking Moira here for a walk. Can I help you?

THOMAS

Hi, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Thomas! And Alfie! And...a woman I've not met yet. Hi. I'm Mackenna. Are you a friend of Thomas's?

SHAYLEE

No. I mean...sort of? I'm Shaylee.

MACKENNA

Nice to meet you, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

(whisper)

She's my girlfriend?

ALFIE

(whisper)

Well, not her exactly, but her identical twin.

SHAYLEE

(whisper)

Reaaaally...

MACKENNA

What are you doing back again, Thomas?

THOMAS

Look, before you call the police or the rehab center or whatever, please give me a chance to explain. Give us all a chance to explain. We need your help.

MACKENNA

Thomas, you know I can't do that. We want to help you; we really do. But Mom and Dad made me promise to never give you money again.

ALFIE

We don't need money. We just need you to tell us something.

MACKENNA

Tell you what?

THOMAS

Could you...could you tell us about your relationship with Mom and Dad? And with me?

MACKENNA

I don't understand. You know all about that. Why would you make me say it?

THOMAS

It's just...it's part of my treatment plan.

MACKENNA

Oh.

(beat)

I don't want to upset you, Thomas.

THOMAS

You, uh...you won't. I promise.

ALFIE

But you have to be honest, even if you think it will upset him.

MACKENNA

I mean...if it will help. You know I would do anything to help you.

(beat)

Okay. Well, Dad is my best friend. Always has been. We do theater together; he designs the sets, and I act. He always tells me I'm good at accents. He also taught me how to bake. We make a big breakfast for dinner every Sunday.

THOMAS

I always loved breakfast for dinner.

MACKENNA

Mom and I get along great. She's... well, she's Mom, but I know she loves us. She's just got a hard shell. She's such a hard worker, so driven. I try to be like that.

(beat)

And you...I love you, Thomas. Always have. I know some things in life haven't gone your way. But they can always get better. You're looking really good right now. Not too skinny, and your eyes are brighter. My biggest regret in life is not being there for you more than I was. I tried, but I never knew what you needed when you were around. But it's not too late. We can start over. We will always be family.

THOMAS

Thank you, Mackenna. I...I will never give up on you.

MACKENNA

Well...okay. And I won't give up on you.

THOMAS

We'll be family again. I love you.

MACKENNA

I love you, too, little bro.

ALFIE

You give me hope for...someone else I know.

THOMAS

We have to go now, Mackenna. I'll...see you again.

MACKENNA

You know I'm here for you, Thomas. Make sure to be there for yourself.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

85. Stonehenge.

LEE

Stonehenge: the site of the original ritual. They've completed their quest, but as Mackenna would say if she existed: what else could go wrong?

THOMAS

Well, we've collected stories of Mackenna's legacy, and we're back here. So what now?

SHAYLEE

Dane was intentionally fuzzy on that part.

ALFIE

Don't worry. I got this.

(beat, clears throat)

Oh, mysterious Fates. We beseech thee, hear our tale of Mackenna Thorne, unjustly erased from reality. Know her legacy, and restore her!

THOMAS

Where did that come from?

ALFIE

Oh, I've got a lot more ideas if this doesn't work. I haven't even gotten to the part about the butterfly effect or the lunar eclipse.

SHAYLEE

Is he always like this?

ALFIE

You mean full of ideas and often right? Yes. Yes, I am.

SHAYLEE

I don't think I would be friends with any of you.

THOMAS

Shhh.

Inverse or reverse of the sounds of the ritual from 307 rising slowly around them.

SHAYLEE

What the hell is that?

ALFIE

It kind of sounds like the ritual the Cult was doing.

THOMAS

But it's quieter.

(beat)

And nothing else is happening. Did we do something wrong?

ALFIE

Maybe we didn't collect enough of her legacy. Who else could we track down? Riley?

THOMAS

We could find my parents. I didn't want to because I don't think I could bear losing them again, but if that's what it takes.

SHAYLEE

Where are they? I can take you there and back in just...just a...few...

(wincing)

ALFIE

Shaylee? What's wrong?

SHAYLEE

I...I don't...feel...

Shaylee cracks and explodes.

THOMAS

Shaylee!

90.

LILIANA

Pity. Now we'll need to prepare a new trainer.

ALFIE

Liliana! What the hell? Why would you do that?

LILIANA

Do you believe that humans can understand our motives? It is not that they are too far-reaching or complex; it is that they would not even resemble what you would call "logic."

THOMAS

I think we have another word for what motivates you.

LILIANA

Oh? And what would that be? Cruelty? Darkness? Pure evil?

THOMAS

How shocking to see that you memorized that page in the thesaurus.

LILIANA

What is it you are doing here? What is this ritual you perform? A summoning of some kind?

ALFIE

What are we doing here? Do you believe that Hidden People can understand our motives? They're not too complex; you're just too stupid.

LILIANA

Well, I only need one of you to tell me.

ALFIE

Oh. So you're just going to murder us. Like you murdered Shaylee. Because you don't care about anything but yourself. Not in this world, anyway.

The ritual sound grows louder.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

The Liliansa that could care about her daughter never existed. Not without Mack.

LILIANA

Daughter? I have no daughter.

THOMAS

You could have. And you would have sacrificed your life for hers.

LILIANA

You know nothing of me.

The ritual sounds is nearly overwhelming.

ALFIE

Only Mack could make an evil faerie queen feel empathy. I think that should finish off the legacy.

LEE

Liliansa draws her knife and presses it to Alfie's neck.

LILIANA

Let us see how far this so-called empathy gets you.

THOMAS

Alfie!

LEE

Alfie grabs at the knife just as the world goes dark.

The world powers down.

87. Stonehenge. Real world. Lights up.

The ritual sound ripples away.

MASTER OF SHADOW

What is happening? Where are the Norns?

THOMAS
Did we do that?

ALFIE
Figure it out later. Run now.

THOMAS
Mackenna!

LEE
She drops into the ring, grabbing them both. Despite her own despondency, she would never give up on them.

MASTER OF SHADOW
You! You did this!

MACKENNA
Time to go, boys.

Stepping sideways departure.

Vantage point. Stepping sideways arrival.

NISSA
Thomas! Alfie. Oh, thank you, goddess.

RILEY
Husband! Hi!

ALFIE
Riley! Nissa!
(beat)
Wait, I need to be sure. Nissa, what's SifCon One?

NISSA
What are you talking about, weirdo?

ALFIE
Nothing. Timeline is back to normal.

THOMAS
Alfie, thank you. Thank you for helping us fix things.

NISSA

Fix things? Did we miss something?

SHAYLEE

What happened to the Cult? Did the Norns rise?

MACKENNA

I think it started, but then there was this...like some kind of ripple and darkness, like the sun went out for a second.

SHAYLEE

We didn't see anything like that.

MACKENNA

After that, the ritual fizzled out.

ALFIE

Dane said our "save Mack" ritual would overwrite the "raise the Norns" ritual.

SHAYLEE

Dane said?

RILEY

Save Mack?

THOMAS

We have a lot to tell you.

MACKENNA

Alfie, wait...is that...

ALFIE

Liliana's knife? Yeah. I had it in my hands when the ritual happened. I guess I brought it with me back into the real world.

NISSA

The real world? You really do have a lot to tell us.

MACKENNA

Let's get home and away from that Old
One. Then you can tell us all about it.

THE END