

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 3.10

"Do Not Go Gentle"

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TEASER

97. Wodan's lair under the mountain, alone.

VOICE

She's not doing well.

WODAN

Given all that's happened, all that will happen...I expected nothing less.

VOICE

You told me to keep you updated.

WODAN

So update me.

VOICE

She's felt inept for quite some time now, but it's progressed. She's nearly broken. She feels as though she's unworthy. A burden.

WODAN

She's not entirely wrong, is she?

VOICE

If something isn't done, she might just give up the fight entirely.

WODAN

She can give up, but that doesn't mean her part's over. You know all; will something be done?

VOICE

Of course. Soon.

WODAN

Then I don't really care.

VOICE

It's good context for your next meeting.

WODAN

Which will be?

A knock and Black Annis enters.

BLACK ANNIS  
Lord Wodan? Is Black Annis  
interrupting?

VOICE  
Now.

WODAN  
(condescending)  
Not now, my dear. Very busy planning  
the end of the world.

BLACK ANNIS  
Yes, Black Annis's most humble  
apologies. Black Annis will come back  
later. Unless there is something Black  
Annis can do now? Something to help the  
great and mighty Wodan? Black Annis is  
always willing to--

WODAN  
Your willingness is unnecessary. As is  
your assistance.

BLACK ANNIS  
But surely Black Annis can--

WODAN  
I expended so much of my effort to give  
you what you desire most, and still you  
are unsatisfied?

BLACK ANNIS  
Black Annis merely wishes to repay--

WODAN  
Repay me by doing what I've already  
asked of you. Go. Meet with your  
sister. At least she has made some  
progress.

BLACK ANNIS  
So spake Wodan.

Black Annis leaves.

WODAN

That's who you were referring to?

VOICE

But of course. Who else could I have possibly meant?

END TEASER

98. Black Annis in her Bower. Morgan arrives by stepping sideways.

MORGAN

You're hiding from me, sister.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis hides from none. Black Annis is...busy.

MORGAN

Why do you call yourself that now? Was your former name so terrible?

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis is Black Annis. Without the Morrigna, without Black Annis's sisters, there were none to call Black Annis that other name. Those ones that remained made Black Annis.

MORGAN

And I suppose they changed more than your name? Your skin, your appearance...was that all the Younglings' doing?

BLACK ANNIS

Morgan knows. But Morgan does not care! Morgan still sees the sister Black Annis once was. Black Annis is still formidable! Still strong! Black Annis will ride the night skies again, with Morgan and Mara.

MORGAN

Yes, we will, dear sister. But surely you would rather ride as we once did? As beauties that struck both awe and terror in all those who beheld us? Don't you want things to be as they once were?

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis cannot go back. Black Annis is Black Annis now.

MORGAN

Sister, you are not alone! With our powers combined, you could--

BLACK ANNIS

No! Black Annis does not want awe or reverence! Black Annis will do as she has always done! Black Annis will rip and tear and maim those ones who will die screaming in terror!

(beat)

And Black Annis will do it alone, if she must.

MORGAN

There is much to still be done before the Hunt can begin. And I have been told the tales of how much you have done thus far for our god.

BLACK ANNIS

Yes, yes, that's right. Black Annis is useful. Black Annis is needed.

MORGAN

You were, sister. You have done so much on your own, but no longer. This is the beginning of the return of the Morrigna. There is nothing left for you to do. Now you can rest. Let me take care of things.

BLACK ANNIS

Morgan is new to this world, does not know it's rules. Morgan needs Black Annis to guide, to teach--

MORGAN

(pearly laughter)

Oh, I think I can handle it, my overprotective sister. You taught us well in our youth. Relax. I'll be home before you know it. Maybe even surprise you with a fresh babe for dinner.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis does like her babes fresh...

MORGAN

Don't even lift a finger. Let me take care of you.

(kisses cheeks)

Farewell, sister.

BLACK ANNIS

Farewell, Morgan.

Stepping sideways departure.

BLACK ANNIS (CONT'D)

Yes, Black Annis will let Morgan take care of things. Black Annis has deserved her rest.

(beat)

What did Ainsley say?

(beat)

Morgan is not menacing. Black Annis is menacing, and if Ainsley cannot tell the difference then--

(beat)

That is not what Morgan meant by "take care of." What is Ainsley--

(beat, then growling)

Shut up, shut up, shut up!

Screams as Ainsley is "poofed."

## BLACK ANNIS (CONT'D)

Black Annis is not "washed up," not a  
 "has been." Black Annis is...Black  
 Annis is...

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

99. The Thorne House

## MACKENNA

So, Black Annis has a prettier,  
 scarier, and more powerful younger  
 sister. And Alfie's parents essentially  
 offered me up like I was Hansel and  
 Gretel.

## SHAYLEE

Technically, you'd just be Gretel.

## ALFIE

Shit, Mack, I'm so sorry, I don't know  
 how Wodan and the Old Ones got to my  
 parents first.

## MACKENNA

It was Wodan, so he knew what we were  
 going to do before we did.

## THOMAS

You're not hurt too badly, though? Any  
 injuries I should look at?

## MACKENNA

All healed up by now. No need to break  
 out the first aid kit on a halfling.

## NISSA

You're sure? There are some bruises on  
 the side of your face you didn't have  
 the last time we saw you.

## MACKENNA

They'll fade. Eventually. But an ice  
 pack would be nice.

## THOMAS

I'm on it. Be right back.

Thomas leaves.

ALFIE

I almost don't want to know the answer,  
but do you know what happened to my  
parents after?

MACKENNA

Robin stepped them sideways.

ALFIE

If the cult uses faerie contracts, that  
means they can't hurt them if they  
follow the rules, right?

MACKENNA

You know how tricky those fuckers are.  
If your dad didn't think it was real,  
he probably didn't look too closely for  
loopholes where they can do whatever  
they want to the human followers.

SHAYLEE

Alfie, I'm sure your parents are fine.  
Hurting them now wouldn't do anything  
to help the Old Ones.

(pointedly)

Right, Mack?

MACKENNA

Now, sure, but they can threaten--

SHAYLEE

(you dumbass)

Right. Mack.

MACKENNA

I'm sorry I couldn't get to them,  
Alfie. Even if we couldn't keep them  
completely safe with us, at least we  
would know where they were.

(sigh)

I fucked up. Again.

Thomas returns with the ice in a plastic bag.

THOMAS

Here you go, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Thanks.

NISSA

You did all you could. And you came back alive.

MACKENNA

But that's all I've been doing, and it's not enough. Coming back in one piece and nothing else is not a win, and I'm sick of it. I can't keep doing this, pretending that I have a shot against Wodan and the Old Ones and whatever New Ones he'll pull out of the woodwork. I can't keep fighting him.

A moment as everyone absorbs Mack's surrender.

THOMAS

Okay.

MACKENNA

No, I...okay?

THOMAS

You're the one fighting, Mackenna, and you've fought hard. If you say you're done, then we're done.

ALFIE

Thank you for all you did to help my family. I really do appreciate it. Even if it all went to shit.

MACKENNA

But, they're still...we don't know where they are.

ALFIE

I know. But they made their choice, and I have to make my peace with that.

NISSA

Mackenna, it's okay. If this is the end, if you genuinely can't see a way out of this, then I...we understand.

MACKENNA

You understand?

THOMAS

It took us a long time. I guess I wasn't ready to give up hope that we could somehow fix this.

MACKENNA

There is no fixing this.

ALFIE

We know, Mack. But thanks for trying anyway.

MACKENNA

I tried because all of you didn't want me to give up.

NISSA

We didn't. But things are different now. Like you said, nothing is working.

MACKENNA

Because it's true. There's nothing else I can do.

SHAYLEE

You're right. You tried everything you could think of, even the stupid, crazy, going off half-cocked shit.

MACKENNA

Because none of you could come up with anything better!

THOMAS

We couldn't. There never was a better plan. One that ended with us winning.

ALFIE

It's the end of Space Invaders, where everything just gets faster and harder until we die.

MACKENNA

But it's...you all do get what I'm saying, right? No more ideas, no more plans, no more fighting?

NISSA

We get it, Mack.

MACKENNA

And you're all okay with that?

THOMAS

We trust you. We've always trusted you. Completely.

ALFIE

If it's over, it's over.

SHAYLEE

This is the end.

Thomas's phone rings for a video call.

THOMAS

Oh, Sam's calling to video chat. I'll let her know what's going on.

ALFIE

And I should check in with Riley at the fetch school. Make sure they're not finger painting the walls or going all "children of the corn."

Thomas and Alfie leave.

NISSA

I had some Hidden People algorithms running on my computer, but I guess we don't need those anymore. I'll be at my place.

Nissa leaves.

MACKENNA  
Seriously? That's it?

SHAYLEE  
What else is there to say?  
(kisses cheek)  
I'll be in our room if you want to talk  
or...something else.

MACKENNA  
"Something else"?

SHAYLEE  
(flirty)  
Well, if that's what you want...

Shaylee leaves.

MACKENNA  
This is...something else.  
(beat)  
You've been quiet.

FETCH  
And you've been stupid.

MACKENNA  
That's changing now.

FETCH  
No. You're not a "changeling". You're  
just a stupidling.

Fetch walks away.

MACKENNA  
(yelling)  
That's not a real word! You--you're the  
stupidling!  
(mumbled, unsure)  
Stupid.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

## 100. Wodan's lair

WODAN

Excellent. I do love to hear when things are going exactly as I foretold.

VOICE

Even when I could have told you all this?

WODAN

Even when it was all, well, foretold. It's just so satisfying.

ANTHROPOPHAGI

We live to serve, and we serve at your pleasure.

WODAN

Carry on then.

Anthropophagi exits. Black Annis enters.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis asks for an audience with Wodan.

WODAN

(exasperated sigh)

VOICE

Better to get this over with now.

WODAN

But of course. I clearly have nothing better to do, no imminent plans for building a new world. And you must be completely finished with raising a veritable army of constructs; otherwise, you would not be so bold as to interrupt me and waste my time. Would you?

BLACK ANNIS

Morgan has taken all the sacred duties from Black Annis.

WODAN

Let's be honest: that's probably for the best, isn't it?

BLACK ANNIS

But Black Annis must do something. Must help prepare for the Wild Hunt. Morgan says Black Annis has done enough, but--

WODAN

There you have it: you've done enough. You were just telling Robin Goodfellow how instrumental you were to my return. The perfect excuse to take a vacation. May I suggest a theme park? There are rumors of this kingdom ruled by a mouse. I hear the children there are just--

(chef's kiss)

--to die for. Try their international section.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis was pivotal to Wodan's triumphant return. Vital. Black Annis cannot abandon her god because of one success. Black Annis is needed.

WODAN

Not to worry, we have everything covered here. If not a park, what about a convention? Plenty of costumes, you'd blend right in just as you are.

BLACK ANNIS

There must be something Wodan needs? Something Black Annis can provide?

WODAN

(sighs)

What do I say?

VOICE

Remember all that busy work Niamh gave the trainer to punish the halfling? Something in that vein, and she'll even thank you for it.

BLACK ANNIS

Say Black Annis is the most trusted and loyal of the Old Ones. Say there is a task that only she can complete, that all others would wither at the thought of!

WODAN

But of course. I have just the task.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

101. Nissa's apartment. Calming electronica music. Mackenna stepping sideways entry.

MACKENNA

Niss, you here?

NISSA

(deep, calming breaths)

(like in a trance)

Over here.

MACKENNA

Hey, uh, you doing yoga now?

NISSA

(still overly calm)

Meditation. Mindfulness. Turning my outer eye inward.

MACKENNA

Can you, uh, turn your eye back this way for a little bit please?

Music stops.

NISSA

Are you alright, Mack?

MACKENNA

Yeah. I mean, no, but...

NISSA

You're conflicted. Just let out whatever it is you need to say.

MACKENNA

I think this is the first time I've come in here and you're not on your computer.

NISSA

(trance fully broken now)  
That's what you came here to talk about?

MACKENNA

No, but now that I've noticed it, I feel like I should ask if you're okay.

NISSA

Of course I am.

MACKENNA

Don't get me wrong, meditation is on brand, but usually you're so plugged in you might as well have an IV from the electrical outlet to your arm.

NISSA

There have been a lot of changes recently.

MACKENNA

I knew it--you're mad at me for giving up. You think I'm a quitter and that I should keep fighting.

NISSA

Surprisingly, my life doesn't revolve around your decisions.

MACKENNA

You're never unconnected.

NISSA

There have been...things brought to my attention recently that have made me reexamine how I spend my time. If Wodan's going to do whatever he does, then we might not have much of that time left.

MACKENNA

Niss, I'm sorry.

NISSA

It's not you, Mack. Mortality is something we all have to face eventually. This is just sooner than I expected.

MACKENNA

But by not fighting...am I letting you all die?

NISSA

Everybody dies. Some maybe sooner than others. This isn't on you. You've been putting your all into everything, fighting every bad thing that's come our way.

MACKENNA

Except this.

NISSA

Even this. But you know when the fight is over, when you've given too much. You can't fill the cup of others when yours is empty.

MACKENNA

I wouldn't have stopped if I thought I had anything left to give.

NISSA

Whatever happens to us isn't on you, Mack. We don't blame you, and we won't ask you to give any more.

MACKENNA

You're really okay with this?

NISSA

Of course. Do you want to sit with me? Meditation has been really good for calming my thoughts.

MACKENNA

No, thanks. I should check on everyone else.

NISSA

I'll be here if you need me.

Music continues. Mackenna stepping sideways departure.

NISSA (CONT'D)

(mantra)

Serenity. Courage. Wisdom. Acceptance of the things I cannot change.

(defeated sigh)

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

102. Thorne house, Thomas' room. Mackenna stepping sideways arrival.

MACKENNA

Thomas?

THOMAS

Hey, Mackenna. I just got off the phone with Sam. Sorry you just missed saying hello.

MACKENNA

How is she?

THOMAS

She's...Sam about it. I think she was torn between her duty to the changelings and fetches she's helping and coming back here to give you a kick in the butt.

MACKENNA

She said those exact words, didn't she?

THOMAS

Well, she didn't say "butt."

MACKENNA

I was close.

THOMAS

Don't worry, I explained things to her.  
Your butt is safe.

MACKENNA

How did you explain it?

THOMAS

Well, it's like you said. We've done  
everything we can, and we're out of  
options. We can't blame you for  
exhausting every avenue.

MACKENNA

But Sam does blame me.

THOMAS

Sam is stubborn. That's what I love  
about her. It's selfish of me...I know  
it's the choice she made, but I do  
really wish she were here right now.

MACKENNA

Because she wouldn't give up?

THOMAS

While Sam technically didn't give up,  
she did pivot pretty heavily towards  
lone-wolfing it. No, I wish she was  
here because I want to be with her just  
in case everything is going to end.

MACKENNA

It hasn't ended yet.

THOMAS

But it might. And that's okay. I just  
want a bit more say in how it ends for  
me.

MACKENNA

Sam doesn't have to come here, you  
know. Riley, Shaylee, me--we could all  
take you to see her whenever you want.

THOMAS

I don't want to be a bother.

MACKENNA

You're my little brother; you're always going to be a bother. That doesn't mean there isn't anything I wouldn't do for you.

THOMAS

Thank you, Mackenna. I'd really appreciate that.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

103. Under the Mountain. Black Annis dances around, hopping from foot to foot while waving a small bundle of black feathers in the air. She hums and mumbles a bit under her breath; her dolls chitter in time with her humming.

LEE

There is a place, deep in a mountain range where no human has ever tread. Throughout the ages, every adventurer and would-be conqueror has found themselves turned around and bereft of motivation. But if they had only thought to put their backs to their goal, they might have passed through all the old wards and spells. They might have found their way to the cave entrance that tunnels deep into the highest peak. They might have found the beginning of the end of the world.

BLACK ANNIS

(out of breath rhyming song)

Burning smoke and light the sun,  
Wet the ocean and counting none  
Harden rock and when it's done  
Heed the call of the raven.

(continued humming in rhyme)

Robin arrives stepping sideways.

ROBIN

(jubilant)

Cousin!

BLACK ANNIS

(surprised)

Ach!

Black Annis falls to the ground in surprise; the dolls chitter angrily.

ROBIN

Absolutely no need to be embarrassed; there was no way I saw your little song and hop-dance.

(hums the same tune)

Robin hops around himself, mocking Black Annis.

BLACK ANNIS

This one is a fool! Black Annis will not listen to the words of one that has fallen so far from Wodan's favor!

ROBIN

Oh, don't be like that! With all these newbies and wannabes sprouting up like spring daisies, us O.G. Old Ones gotta stick together! Right?

BLACK ANNIS

Look! Look what this one did! The raven's feathers are ruined! Does this one know how hard it was for Black Annis to catch them from a cawing crow before they touched the dirt? Black Annis will have to start all over again!

ROBIN

I may regret the question, but what are you doing in here?

BLACK ANNIS

Wodan entrusted Black Annis with a very important task.

ROBIN

A solo interpretive dance?

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis is purifying the air of the chamber from which the riders of the Wild Hunt will spew forth into the blackened sky.

ROBIN

So this is where it's all gonna start, huh?

(calling out, long echo)

Echo! Echo! Echo!

(sniffs)

I don't smell any magic. What's the spell?

BLACK ANNIS

There is no spell! This is too important, too vital a task! Wodan bid Black Annis to cleanse by hand!

ROBIN

Is that so? And I suppose he gave very specific instructions on those feathers you're attempting to use as a HEPA filter?

BLACK ANNIS

Wodan did indeed! An ancient method known only to Wodan! Black Annis is so loyal and trusted that Wodan only shared with Black Annis!

ROBIN

Right. Hey, you...Winston is it? Yeah, go grab some more of those special feathers for Granny Annie here.

BLACK ANNIS

This one does not command Black Annis's constructs!

ROBIN

No, but--

Robin reforms Ainsley.

BLACK ANNIS  
Ainsley? The Puck has returned you!

ROBIN  
That one has my magic now. Chop-chop,  
kiddos.

Robins claps and the constructs scamper off.

BLACK ANNIS  
Robin has no right to--

ROBIN  
Oh, you were carrying around its  
leaves; you were going to do it  
eventually. Now, put the kettle on and  
grab some saucers. You and I are going  
to have a little tete-a-tete.

#### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

104. Thorne house, Mackenna arrives via stepping sideways.

ALFIE  
Really, I told you I'm fi--oh, Mack.

MACKENNA  
Expecting someone else?

ALFIE  
No. I mean, not expecting...I thought  
you were Riley. She just dropped me off  
and, uh...

MACKENNA  
Did you two have a fight?

ALFIE  
Not exactly. She just kept asking me if  
I was okay, and I kept saying I was  
okay, and then she kept saying I'm not  
"acting like I'm okay," and I said if I  
wasn't okay I would tell her--

MACKENNA  
Are you okay?

ALFIE

No, not really.

MACKENNA

Maybe that's why she was asking, then.

ALFIE

Mack, I just...can't. I'm so sorry.

MACKENNA

You don't have to apologize.

ALFIE

But I do. I told you to help my parents, even though I knew my dad was in this stupid cult, and then they just...turned around and betrayed you. Betrayed me. When all we were doing was trying to help them.

MACKENNA

You did what you thought was right, Alfie. You aren't your parents' choices.

ALFIE

I don't know if that's true.

MACKENNA

Of course it's true. All the things you've done: helping me, helping the fetches we rescued...that's you, not them.

ALFIE

If my dad got in this cult when he started his business, then he's been a COW almost my whole life. If the business was successful because of them, if all the money we have is because of them, do I owe my life to them?

MACKENNA

Your parents' wealth has nothing to do with who you are. You worked retail in a music store like a normal person.

ALFIE

Because I could still go home after work to a giant house with a butler.

MACKENNA

But you never let that go to your head. You never acted like one of those Intended creeps, so you aren't one, no matter where the money came from.

ALFIE

Maybe you're right.

MACKENNA

Thanks for saying that. I think I need the win.

ALFIE

But what about the fetch school? It was my inheritance, but that came from the Cult, too. Do they own the school? Was this what Wodan wanted all along?

MACKENNA

I mean, he probably knows of it--he knows everything--but that doesn't mean he has any plans for them.

ALFIE

But he could have plans for them. We saved those kids from the Hidden People, but did we just bring them somewhere worse?

MACKENNA

I don't know. But you tried to do the right thing. We all did. I did.

ALFIE

Doing the right thing but making it worse sucks.

(groans)

I should have never tried to be an adult.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

105. Mackenna and Shaylee's room. Mack closes the door behind her.

SHAYLEE

Took you awhile.

MACKENNA

Alfie's having a minor existential crisis.

SHAYLEE

If you're needed elsewhere--

MACKENNA

No, I called Riley. She's calming him down.

SHAYLEE

I have a feeling that's not all you've been doing.

MACKENNA

I had a talk with pretty much everyone.

SHAYLEE

And?

MACKENNA

I think something strange is going on. Everyone's just...given up. Nissa's off-line, Thomas is love sick, and Alfie didn't make a single movie reference. Do you know if there's an Old One that can do something like this?

SHAYLEE

This isn't magic, Mackenna. It's just malaise. You've made them see the truth, that there's no fighting Wodan and the Old Ones. They finally agree with you. Isn't this what you wanted?

MACKENNA

What I want and what I get rarely coincide, especially when it comes to my expectations from you all.

SHAYLEE

I'd be offended if it wasn't true.

MACKENNA

I guess I was just ready to fight everyone on the idea of not fighting.

SHAYLEE

It's like you said, Mackenna: there's no winning this. There's nothing we can do.

MACKENNA

And you? You're really okay with me giving up? With me not being the invincible superhero that swoops in to save the day?

SHAYLEE

I'm not with you because you're a hero, Mackenna.

(sighs)

Though, I can see why you might think that. Listen, putting this all on you--defeating a god, saving the world, no matter the cost--it was cruel. You're strong, and smart, and so, so clever; we've come to expect the impossible from you. But you're still half-human. You still have limits. And you shouldn't have to keep setting yourself on fire to beat back the inevitable darkness for us.

MACKENNA

Shaylee, I don't know what to do.

SHAYLEE

Come here.

Mackenna sits on the bed with Shaylee.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

If you want to stop, it's okay. We're all telling you that it's okay. The only thing I'll ask of you is that, as the world comes down around us, you sloppily make out with me.

MACKENNA

(holding back a laugh)

Ass.

SHAYLEE

I'd never ask you to kiss my ass, Mack.

MACKENNA / SHAYLEE

(laugh)

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

106. Under the Mountain with Black Annis and Robin. Chittering as the dolls return.

ROBIN

Aw, thanks, sweeties. Why don't you hop along and finish up all of the voodoo Madame Ba-Ba was trying earlier? You're all peaches.

They chitter away, distant chitters in tune to the previous rhyme.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

So, there you were, begging our great leader for some small token of affection and validation--

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis merely wanted to be of use!

ROBIN

--and he suddenly comes up with the super stupendous important job that only you can do.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis cannot rest, or everything will fall apart! Wodan would have forgotten without Black Annis asking!

ROBIN

Right, the god who knows everything forgot about this. Did he have that knowing, smug smirk on his face when he told you to remove the air pollutants with mite-infested scavenger droppings?

BLACK ANNIS

Robin knows nothing--ravens fly because the barbs of the feathers are air-tight and keep out the pests!

ROBIN

So how do you filter air with something air can't pass through?

(beat)

Why don't you share with the class what the real problem is?

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis will not make the same mistakes as Robin Goodfellow. Black Annis will not step outside her role and muddy Wodan's great plan.

ROBIN

That doesn't leave much for the wicked witch to do.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis knows this! Black Annis has slaved for eons to serve Wodan, to aid in his triumphant return, but now...now, Morgan and the other ones take the prized duties and leave none for Black Annis. As though Black Annis's job is done. As though...as though Black Annis isn't needed anymore.

ROBIN

Wodan raised your sister so all his eggs wouldn't be held in one blue basket case. I would say "be careful what you wish for," but...

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis wanted her sisters by her side. Black Annis did not want to be replaced by them. Black Annis was to lead the Morrigna in the Wild Hunt, not be left behind.

Tapping as Robin thinks.

ROBIN

The Wild Hunt remakes the world. As Wodan sees fit, yes, but also to some small degree how those that survive see fit.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis knows this.

ROBIN

And you've seen the world repeat how many times now?

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis has lost count.

ROBIN

Unsurprising. Look, you've had innumerable chances to help shape the world you want. But you've created nothing you actually liked, or you wouldn't have helped with tearing it all down and starting over.

BLACK ANNIS

As has Robin Goodfellow.

ROBIN

Oh, no dearie, I just love the chaos. But, you...you want something out of this. Maybe before you get even more bent out of shape over not being

included, you should decide how you wish the world to be.

Robin slaps his thighs.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Or you can keep on hopping around, doing busy work while your attractive younger sister and I leave you behind for the next world. Say, you wouldn't happen to know if she was on Bumble, would you?

BLACK ANNIS

The Morrigna would use Robin's bones to pick his gristle from their teeth!

ROBIN

Don't threaten me with a good time.  
(air kiss)  
Toodles!

Robin stepping sideways departure.

BLACK ANNIS

That one is disgusting. Black Annis wouldn't eat that one even if there were no babes left on Earth!

Doll approaches and chatters.

BLACK ANNIS (CONT'D)

(cackles)

Oh, yes. Finally, this Ainsley has something good to say!

(cackles)

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

107. Fetch in the kitchen of the Thorne house eating peanut butter straight out of the jar. Mackenna walks in.

MACKENNA

You can't just eat it straight out of the jar. That's disgusting.

FETCH

I find it delectable. Perhaps you are allergic. I've heard it's common in humans.

MACKENNA

I'm not allergic to peanut butter. If I were, you would be, too.

FETCH

It may be another way in which you are an imperfect copy. Care to test my theory?

MACKENNA

No, you've been double dipping. Haven't you heard of cross contamination?

FETCH

Yes. I worked in the prison's kitchen. Because I was a model inmate. And if we're as identical as you think we are, my germs are your germs.

MACKENNA

But not Thomas's or Shaylee's. They eat here too.

FETCH

(not sorry at all)

Then I suppose they can't eat this creamed peanut spread. It will be all mine. Oops.

MACKENNA

You're so petty.

FETCH

Better petty than pathetic.

MACKENNA

Licking Jif off a spoon like candy is pretty pathetic.

FETCH

Abandoning your friends and the world to its fate is pathetic-er.

MACKENNA

Saying "more pathetic" wrong is more pathetic.

FETCH

Is it?

They glare. Tense music.

FETCH (CONT'D)

You're giving up. After all you've done, and all you've already sacrificed. You won't finish the job.

MACKENNA

I can't.

FETCH

That's what you think.

MACKENNA

No, I know it. I've done everything I can do, and this is the end.

FETCH

You haven't done close to everything. You've just failed at what you have done. You want to quit because it suddenly got hard, and all your little friends are coddling you because you want them to. Hidden People suggestions won't work on fetches like me, especially when you're not putting your full conscious effort behind it.

MACKENNA

You're wrong; I'm not doing anything. I've wanted to quit before, and they never acted like this! They just see I'm right now.

FETCH

You never actually wanted to quit before. You wanted a pep talk and someone to encourage you and tell you how important and great you are. And maybe, those are the things you actually need right now, but I will not give them to you. You don't deserve them.

MACKENNA

The world is Wodan's now, and there's nothing I can do.

FETCH

While you still breathe, you can still act.

MACKENNA

I can't stop him!

Fetch slams the jar to the table.

FETCH

No, you can't. You will die. But for now, you still breathe. You still stand. You can die cowering, or you can die fighting. Those are your choices. I know what I choose.

Fetch walks away, but then comes back.

FETCH (CONT'D)

I am taking the buttered peanuts.

She grabs the jar and walks away for good.

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

108. Thorne house, living room.

ALFIE

You know, even when we're not planning hair-brained schemes to defeat monsters and gods, I appreciate that we still get together to enjoy a delicious and filling meal.

THOMAS

I'm pretty sure you just appreciate my cooking.

NISSA

And the fact that it's free.

ALFIE

Can't it be all of the above?

SHAYLEE

I appreciate a meal provided by others; I don't see why it's something to be ashamed of.

NISSA

Shaylee, you're still mega-rich.

SHAYLEE

Yeah, and I stay that way because I never turn my nose up at free food.

MACKENNA

Can I say something before we start? I want you all to know how thankful I am.

THOMAS

You've never been one to say grace, Mackenna.

FETCH

"Grace." There, let us feast, I'm hungry.

MACKENNA

No, thankful to all of you. I said what I felt about going against the Old Ones, and you all supported me.

FETCH

(snorts)

THOMAS

Of course, Mackenna.

NISSA

We're always behind you.

MACKENNA

Even if I change my mind?

ALFIE

You mean you think we can win?

SHAYLEE

You have a new idea? Something that will work?

MACKENNA

No, logically we're still going to lose. Wodan is omniscient, and there is nothing we can do that he won't have a plan to counteract. But I don't want to quit anymore.

NISSA

What changed?

MACKENNA

I realized that doing nothing doesn't change anything. We do something, he beats us and wins. We do nothing, he beats us and wins. No matter what we do, the end result is the same.

ALFIE

I'm not getting it.

MACKENNA

If we can't change the end, then the only thing that matters is what we decide to do between now and then. We get to choose how it ends for us.

THOMAS

It's not the destination, it's the journey.

NISSA

You know, I don't really want to spend my last days meditating.

ALFIE

And I don't want to spend my last days questioning my choices. I'm Alfred Wilhelm O'Toole the Third, and I want to watch the extended editions of The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

NISSA

Pretty sure you've already done that. Twice.

ALFIE

Slight addendum: I'm Alfred Wilhelm O'Toole the Third and I want to quote the extended editions of The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

SHAYLEE

While my mental fantasies for spending our last days were pretty enjoyable, I'm game for whatever keeps me next to you, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

None of you should be pressured into doing something you don't want to. If you feel done, you're done, no questions asked.

THOMAS

How many times do we have to say we're with you until you believe us?

MACKENNA

At least one more time.

SHAYLEE

Well, Mackenna, what else can we do?

MACKENNA

All else being equal? I wanna go down swinging. We can't beat Wodan, but I'm not gonna make it easy for that asshole.

ALFIE

Ooo, I feel another sneaky sabotage coming.

NISSA

We won't be able to do any real damage.

MACKENNA

No, but we can distract him. Keep him busy. If he wants to raise Old Ones and end humanity or whatever, that's fine. But we're going to make it a full-time job. And if he ends up with some egg on his face, all the better.

FETCH

You're fighting a losing battle just to spite your opponent.

MACKENNA

Well, I learned pettiness from the best.

FETCH

And you abandoned your pathetic-ness in the process.

MACKENNA

Does that mean you're in, too?

FETCH

Naturally. Unlike the pretender, I was trained to resist defeat until my dying breath.

ALFIE

Doesn't fighting the Hidden go against your programming?

FETCH

I have nothing for my former masters, but the Old Ones and the exiled god are their enemies. If anything, I'm following my orders to the letter.

MACKENNA

Makes sense to me. Everyone else in for playing ball until the lights go out?

ALFIE

I'll cancel my plans with my other super cool group of friends.

NISSA

Apocalypse means it doesn't matter if I don't pay my rent, right?

SHAYLEE

Nissa, you haven't opened the music store in months. I've been paying your rent.

NISSA

Huh. I guess you can cancel those checks now.

THOMAS

Let's do it. Whatever is most inconvenient for that jerk, whatever makes him sweat even a little bit.

MACKENNA

Great. After dinner.

Utensils on plates clicking.

LEE

"Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light." Good or evil, the night was coming. And if there's one thing Mackenna Thorne can do, it's rage.

THE END