

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 3.11

"The Well of Wisdom"

Written by

Chris Burnside

TEASER

109. Mackenna jogging on pavement. Breathing heavily. Occasional traffic passes her.

LEE

Mackenna Thorne. A halfling who refuses to let go of her humanity. While her friends try to rally their spirits, she runs. Runs toward the struggle. Runs toward her family. Runs toward her destiny.

THOMAS

(distant, muffled)

I'm with you, Mackenna. All the way. I can't speak for the others, but I'm sure they agree.

ALFIE

(distant, muffled)

I have your back until the end, Mack. Even if that's, y'know, really soon.

NISSA

(distant, muffled)

We can't win, but I guess that's why we fight, isn't it? Because we're going to lose. But we fight.

SHAYLEE

(distant, muffled)

Until the end of the world, Bathroom Girl.

Shop door bell rings. Beans and Books coffee shop. Refer back to episode 105.

LEE

(inhale)

Ah, the smell of books and coffee. There's something special about the way each evokes a feeling of peace, of comfort, of a new day about to dawn, a new sunrise. Speaking of shining light in the darkness...

Mackenna walks quickly. Coffee bar fades into bookstore retail music.

LEE (CONT'D)

Of course. It's completely reasonable to detour from friends a moment to pause in the children's section. On the day of a double coffee date. Who could resist those nostalgic bean-bag chairs?

Bean-bag chair shifting.

LEE (CONT'D)

She rubs the faux fur on that read-and-feel picture book. It probably reminds her of her mother. Of the times Liliana brought her here. Perhaps she's starting to realize the full weight of her sacrifice. Perhaps...

MACKENNA

(sighs)

No more hiding.

LEE

It's not just the coffee date she's talking about.

END TEASER

110. Beans and Books coffee shop.

MACKENNA

Hey.

Mackenna approaches.

SHAYLEE

Hey, you.

ALFIE

Mack!

RILEY

Did I see you run right past us five minutes ago?

Mackenna pulls out a chair and sits.

MACKENNA

I just...this place reminds me of when I was a kid. My Nann--I used to come here back then. I was just... remembering.

SHAYLEE

Good memories?

MACKENNA

Sort of. The memories are good. I'm not sure about the larger associations.

ALFIE

Don't be sad, Mack. We got you a chai tea latte.

SHAYLEE

Alfie, the Indian word for tea is "chai."

RILEY

That's weird. Why would they call it a tea tea latte?

ALFIE

Yeah, I don't think you're right, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

Whose idea was it to have a double coffee date?

RILEY

Uh, I believe it was yours.

SHAYLEE

No it wasn't!

RILEY

No, it was mine, but it's much funnier if you say that ironically.

ALFIE

Shaylee doesn't watch movies. Or TV.

RILEY

(aghast)

What? How will we even converse on this date? What topics are left to discuss?

(beat, terrified)

Do...do you...listen to music?

SHAYLEE

I used to. That part of my life feels like a dream, though. So long ago.

MACKENNA

She has a workout playlist, but it's like punk bands of the 90s.

RILEY

That's okay; my pop culture referencing powers are comprehensive.

ALFIE

I accepted second place a while ago.

SHAYLEE

(to Mackenna)

Are you sure you're all right?

MACKENNA

I'm fine. I just can't stop thinking about...him. What he's up to, how we can get ahead of him...

ALFIE

Hey, remember, we said no talking about you-know-who on this date.

RILEY

Whose idea was it to make the apocalypse a taboo topic?!

(beat)

Uh, I believe it was yours, Riley.

(beat)

Oh, yeaah. Right.

ALFIE

See, that's how it's supposed to go.

SHAYLEE

So sorry. I'll try much harder in the future.

MACKENNA

Not gonna be much of a future if we don't--

ALFIE / RILEY

Mack!

MACKENNA

Just saying.

ALFIE

We don't even know it's the apocalypse. And apocalypse doesn't mean the end. Hence: post-apocalyptic. But we're not talking about this anymore today.

MACKENNA

Okay, fine. Someone else toss out a topic of conversation.

RILEY

Favorite punk song from the 90s.

MACKENNA

Good lord.

SHAYLEE

Anything from the Pogues.

Silence.

ALFIE

No.

(beat)

Impossible.

(long beat)

Riley, do...do you not know this band?

MACKENNA

I don't think that's possible.

RILEY

That's...they're a real band?

SHAYLEE
(obviously)
Yes.

RILEY
You...you didn't just...make them up,
did you?

SHAYLEE
Make them up? Why the hell would I make
up a punk band from twenty years ago?

ALFIE
Oh, wow. They're on Spotify.

SHAYLEE
Of course they are! They're the Pogues!

RILEY
I'm pretty sure Shaylee bought Spotify
to put up a fake band in anticipation
of this moment.

MACKENNA
Is that who you were on the phone with
last week when you said "I'm just
buying your company to mess with
Riley"?

SHAYLEE
Why are you feeding this?

ALFIE
You talked with Mr. Spotify on the
phone?! They say he doesn't speak to
anyone!

RILEY
Some people don't even think he exists.

SHAYLEE
Most of the time everyone gangs up on
Mackenna or Alfie. I don't like this.

MACKENNA
Taste your medicine, Shaylee. Taste it.
It tastes bad, doesn't it?

SHAYLEE

At this point, I'd rather talk about the end of the world.

LEE

Of course, she might change her mind if she knew how close they were to the world's end. But for now, they can all still sit in relative happiness. Mackenna can try to maintain her newfound resolve, even if it is a resolve to go down fighting.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

111. Wodan's lair, under the mountain.

WODAN

I've searched everywhere I can think of. I've read books. I've read ancient scrolls. Do you understand how long it's been since I've needed to read a book?

VOICE

Well, yes. I've been your audio book narrator for eternity, after all. Perhaps you're not taking your personal assistant for granted anymore, hm?

WODAN

What I don't appreciate is the circular nature of this problem. You can answer nearly anything. Except, of course, for the question: "why can't you answer this?"

VOICE

It's certainly a noggin scratcher.

WODAN

It happened once before, during the trial, but I let that go. I know you have...certain blind spots.

VOICE

That was not one of the usual ones. It had nothing to do with...you know what. Nor was it too far into the future.

WODAN

So you're saying that was another instance of a hole in your knowledge?

VOICE

You know it was, whether you want to believe it or not.

WODAN

So we now have two instances. And only one common thread.

(beat)

Nissa Sifsdottir.

VOICE

That's a stretch.

WODAN

She was present both times.

VOICE

Yes, but the situation is different. You knew she was lying.

WODAN

And? I knew Alfred was lying the first time.

VOICE

Only because you knew what actually happened. You weren't there. You couldn't know for sure. He fooled everyone else.

WODAN

What, then? What's the explanation for this? At least she was in the room each time.

VOICE

She's not in the room now, and I still can't tell you what she was doing with her computer. Perhaps you should have stayed and watched instead of running out like a hungover frat boy after a one-night stand.

WODAN

I thought, since you were being completely useless at the time, that something larger than Nissa Sifsdottir's computer was wrong. Obviously, it was just your ineptitude.

VOICE

I'm sure you'll figure it out soon. Perhaps ask your new protégé. She seems to be handling everything these days. Beware favoritism and jealousy.

WODAN

I do not need your advice. No one has ever worshipped you.

VOICE

Oh, I wouldn't say that. I can think of one who hangs on my every word.

WODAN

Is there anything more pressing than your inane chatter?

VOICE

Well, I know where Mackenna Thorne is going.

(beat)

You're not going to like it.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

112. Black Annis's bower.

MORGAN

(licking her fingers)

You're right, sister. Redheads do taste the best.

BLACK ANNIS

Those ones are good stock. Pure.

Morgan tosses a bone aside.

BLACK ANNIS (CONT'D)

Do not throw away the bones! That one isn't even clean.

MORGAN

You do not need to live on scraps, dearest. I am back now. Wodan is back now. You no longer need to hide in a cave and beg for skins. When we hunger, we sweep into town and eat our fill. Like the old days.

BLACK ANNIS

Morgan does not understand. The humans are more advanced. Those ones have great weapons that move the earth. Those ones have already destroyed one of Black Annis's homes!

MORGAN

Let humans try to destroy my sister's home. You have nothing to fear anymore, not with me by your side.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis never feared when Morgan was dead, either. Black Annis is not afraid. Black Annis is careful.

MORGAN

Of course, my heart.

(beat)

But now that the humans are not a concern, perhaps we might brighten up this place.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis's bower?

MORGAN

Yes. And why not? Do the Morrigna not deserve to live in luxury again? Perhaps some artwork. Tapestries, certainly, though I would also enjoy sculptures. We could threaten an artist into crafting a statue of me before we eat him.

BLACK ANNIS

Statues of the Morrigna?

MORGAN

Well...I think your imposing countenance might be a bit much to just display to guests. But perhaps a lovely portrait of you to hang in your room.

BLACK ANNIS

Guests? Black Annis's room?

MORGAN

Obviously we will hold court. Enlist subjects. Once, mortals flocked to us with offerings in exchange for good fortune.

BLACK ANNIS

Good fortune was Black Annis agreeing to not eat those ones.

MORGAN

Exactly.

BLACK ANNIS

But...humans in Black Annis's bower?

MORGAN

In our bower. Oh yes, your room. I've been thinking we should have separate quarters instead of just opposite ends of the cave. I think we need to find subjects skilled in carpentry and masonry. They could give us private spaces. You really should have your own room, don't you think?

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis thinks things are very good now. As they are.

(beat)

What? Preston does not need his own room! What would Preston do with his own room?

(beat)

Ainsley? You, too?

MORGAN

The dolls seem to understand, sister. We could do so much here.

BLACK ANNIS

But Black Annis likes the bower. And Black Annis hates holding court.

MORGAN

Oh, come now. You're just out of practice. Isn't that right, Tilda?

BLACK ANNIS

Tilda speaks only to Black Annis.

MORGAN

I think Tilda and I would get along well. Come, Tilda. Let us have a chat.

BLACK ANNIS

No. Tilda...has a toothache. Tilda cannot talk to Morgan today. Perhaps Morgan should try again tomorrow.

MORGAN

Very well. I'll hold you to that, Tilda.

(beat)

I am going to explore the places of commerce in this modern world. I am intrigued by electricity. Perhaps another accoutrement to add to our home.

Morgan leaves gracefully.

BLACK ANNIS

Come, Winston. Black Annis must find a new home for Morgan before Black Annis's bower becomes Morgan's bower.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

113. Thorne house. Nissa types on her laptop.

FETCH

I have eaten potatoes many times, but I was never given their chips in Arcadia.
(eats chip)
Thomas brings these home for me. I enjoy them. Would you like a potato's chip?

NISSA

What flavor are they?

FETCH

They are the chips of potatoes.

NISSA

No, I mean...

Nissa stops typing.

NISSA (CONT'D)

See, there are different flavors of potato chips. This one's...tangy mesquite. Heh. No thanks. I don't like barbecue.

FETCH

So spoiled to turn down such a rare and fleeting treat.

NISSA

Has anyone told you yet that your generosity is really backhanded?

FETCH

I feel that this is a form of deceptive insult.

NISSA

That's actually what I was getting at,
ironically.

FETCH

Did you come here simply to insult me
while I try to enjoy my snack?

NISSA

No. Not everything is about you.

FETCH

So something is bothering you, and you
would rather not be alone.

NISSA

I'm doing just fine, thanks.

FETCH

Your computer is portable. You could do
this anywhere. Yet you choose this
house, in the room where I am relaxing.
And Nissa Sifsdottir is not a fan of
company, especially mine. So you have
come here for a reason.

NISSA

I just like it here. Less cramped than
my apartment.

FETCH

I see through your evasions. You are
troubled.

NISSA

Why don't you mind your own business?

FETCH

Fine.

(eats chip)

I will eat a potato's chips in silence
while you brood. Unlike the rest of
you, I have no problem not pretending
to care.

(eats chip extra loudly)

Nissa types a bit, then stops.

NISSA

How did you know something was bothering me?

FETCH

Oh? Are we now discussing the thing that you aren't upset about?
(eats chip)

NISSA

I just want to know how.

FETCH

So you can better hide it from the others?

NISSA

(beat)
Maybe.

FETCH

Aside from your presence here at all, which itself is a clue, you pause and wince more frequently. You do this when you are remembering and reliving something unpleasant. Given your perfect memory, the increased frequency must indicate a recent bad memory, as an older one would not recur at a greater pace.

NISSA

That's...I mean...how the hell do you know that?

FETCH

I am observant. You convey this as surely as speaking it.

NISSA

How can you tell that I'm remembering and reliving things from just a facial expression?

FETCH

I had my suspicions but was not certain until a moment ago when you confirmed them by questioning rather than denying. You see, Nissa Sifsdottir, that you can give clues, and you can give everything. You have just done both.

NISSA

You are sneaky, and I hate you.

FETCH

This is not the first time those exact words have been said to me.

NISSA

Shocker.

FETCH

If you wish to conceal things from me, you need to be far more mindful of your reactions at all times. As it stands, you're practically talking to yourself out loud.

NISSA

Talking to myself out loud...oh, goddess. Is Mack here?

FETCH

She is in the basement with Shaylee. I would...knock before heading down.

Nissa runs to the basement door and bangs on it.

NISSA

Mack! Get decent and come up here now!

114. After just a few moments, Mackenna and Shaylee run up the stairs and burst through the door.

MACKENNA

Nissa? What's wrong? Is it him? The Old Ones? The Cult?

NISSA

You said he talked to himself.

MACKENNA

Huh?

NISSA

Wodan!

SHAYLEE

You did say that. After you fought him.

MACKENNA

Yeah, he did. So?

NISSA

I saw him do it, too.

SHAYLEE

What?

MACKENNA

When did you meet Wodan?

FETCH

Oops. You keep spilling all your secrets.

MACKENNA

What the hell are you doing here? Go hang out in your room. What does any of this have to do with you?

FETCH

Hello, imposter.
(eats chip)

NISSA

Um...maybe we sit down.

SHAYLEE

Nissa, if you're hiding something, just tell us. Especially if it's important. Or about him.

MACKENNA

At this point, everything about him is important. Any information, any edge.

NISSA

He...the night when Alfie infiltrated the Brotherhood of the Intended, Wodan...came to my apartment.

MACKENNA

What?

SHAYLEE

Oh, no. Are you okay?

NISSA

I mean, he didn't hurt me. Obviously. But he...he told some things I didn't exactly want to hear.

MACKENNA

What things?

(beat)

Nissa, what things?

NISSA

Doesn't matter. The point is--

MACKENNA

Bullshit. I've endured over twenty years of you calling out my deflections. Now it's your turn. Spill. Now.

NISSA

He...told me I'm going to die.

SHAYLEE

Feckin arse. Getting inside your head. Trying to disrupt us.

NISSA

Yeah, I don't think that was it. I believed him.

MACKENNA

Going to die? Like, soon? Or like, eventually?

NISSA

Soon-ish. He said that my death would ignite the Hunt in a few months.

MACKENNA

The Hunt? Did he maybe explain what that was?

NISSA

Not so much.

SHAYLEE

Black Annis mentioned the Wild Hunt the first time I brought you to see her. Is that it?

MACKENNA

Yeah, Niamh mentioned something about it in the courtroom. When he got the Eye, she said it was the only thing keeping him from the next Wild Hunt.

FETCH

The Wild Hunt was mentioned to us in Arcadia. It would bring about the end of all things. Even the Magister.

NISSA

So it's the end of the world? Great. At least I get to die before the apocalypse.

MACKENNA

You're not dying.

NISSA

I thought we were just playing ball until the lights go out?

MACKENNA

Not like this. He doesn't get to point at your death like Babe motherfucking Ruth.

FETCH

That's right. This fury is the only way to overcome him.

SHAYLEE

Now that we know this, we can keep you safe, Nissa.

NISSA

I'm sure he thought of that before he told me.

(beat)

And anyway, this isn't the point. He talked to himself. And when I asked about it, he got really pissed and threatened me.

FETCH

Amateur. He led with the biggest threat of all. You cannot escalate from there.

MACKENNA

He had a similar reaction when I fought him. I mocked his talking to himself, and he got pissed at me. Except, I don't actually think it was me he was pissed at.

SHAYLEE

What was he saying when he was talking to himself? Like muttering? Explaining his thoughts out loud?

MACKENNA

More like it was one side of a conversation. I don't remember exactly what he said.

NISSA

I do. He was asking what was on my computer. It was when Alfie's phone was pinging me. He knew I was lying about it, but he didn't seem to know why. That had him flustered. And then he said: "she doesn't have the power to do this. None of them do."

MACKENNA

The power to do what?

SHAYLEE

To deceive him?

NISSA

I don't think so. He knew I was lying.
I think he could sense it somehow.
Maybe with magic?

FETCH

Inquisitors of the Unseelie Court can
know when you speak the truth. Even
when you don't know it yourself. If all
magic comes from him, he likely has
this ability, as well.

SHAYLEE

Okay, so then what power was he talking
about?

MACKENNA

Hang on. I think he said something
like: "shut up if you're not helping."

NISSA

So he was talking to someone. Someone
who was supposed to help him but
didn't.

SHAYLEE

Or couldn't, in your case. Someone
whose help none of us should be able to
stop.

MACKENNA

But somehow we did? I mean, he got
confused by Nissa's computer, of all
things.

NISSA

I think I know what's going on. Mack,
call a meeting. We need all hands on
deck for this.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

115. Thorne house.

RILEY
 (professorial)
 Now, as you can see, this is Wodan.

Riley snaps a metal pointer at paper pinned to corkboard.

RILEY (CONT'D)
 And if we follow the yarn from the
 Wodan pin, we arrive at this.

Snaps metal pointer again.

RILEY (CONT'D)
 "Wodan talks to someone we cannot see
 or hear."

THOMAS
 I have to say, Alfie. I was skeptical
 the first time, but the YOLO board is
 really helpful.

ALFIE
 I think it's because I used actual yarn
 this time. Details matter.

SHAYLEE
 I don't think the material affects
 anything, Alfie.

ALFIE
 Well, you didn't see the nylon cord the
 first time.

RILEY
 Ahem. Did you have something to share
 with the rest of the class, Mr.
 O'Toole?

ALFIE
 (gulp)
 No, professor. Sorry, professor.

RILEY
 Right. As I was saying--

NISSA

Do we really need to do this? I was the one who figured it out. I already explained it to you.

RILEY

Yes, but Thomas didn't get to hear that, so now we have a presentation.

FETCH

You left me out of your explanation, as well, Nissa Sifsdottir. I would also like to hear.

(eats chip)

NISSA

Dear goddess.

MACKENNA

Just let them have their fun, Nissa.

RILEY

(drawn out)

As I was saying...

Snaps metal pointer again.

RILEY (CONT'D)

By incorporating clues, Dane's research, and Wikipedia, we arrive here, at the center of the YOLO board...

ALFIE

(drum roll)

RILEY

Mimir.

THOMAS

Mimir?

FETCH

Interesting. Explain.

RILEY

In the Poetic Edda that chronicles Norse mythology, Wodan--also known as Odin--talks to an undead seer, who tells him where his eye is hidden, and that, quote "Mimir drinks mead from the well of wisdom, past and future."

SHAYLEE

The Well of Wisdom. Where I took Mackenna. Black Annis called it--

NISSA

Mimisbrunnr, which literally translates to Mimir's Well in Icelandic.

RILEY

There are other, unrelated legends that, after Mimir is beheaded, Wodan carries his pickled head around on a cord, and it tells him secrets.

MACKENNA

I definitely would have noticed a talking head. And heard it. So we're not dealing with a literal, physical head.

THOMAS

"Tells him secrets"? What kind of secrets?

MACKENNA

When Niamh was torturing me, she mentioned that "Mimir's knowledge of all things" was hers to command. And since the Court had gotten Wodan to testify--

RILEY

No jumping ahead, Mackenna. That's the next card.

Snaps metal pointer again.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Given all the evidence, we believe that Wodan is talking to Mimir. Maybe his spirit, or maybe Wodan has a magical Bluetooth link to the actual head, which is stashed somewhere.

ALFIE

Like a lich's phylactery, but on speed dial.

RILEY

If Mimir's well holds the key to all memories and knowledge, maybe Mimir has all the answers. To everything. And if Wodan has access to that, he would also know everything.

THOMAS

That's why he was able to fight Mackenna so perfectly! He literally knew everything she would do.

SHAYLEE

But it's obviously not perfect. He was confused by Nissa's computer.

ALFIE

Is it just technology that confuses him?

NISSA

I doubt it. How do we decide what era of technology is magic-proof? A catapult was advanced technology hundreds of years ago. If he can't know technology, he can't really know anything.

RILEY

Excellent point, Nissa. We also know that Wodan argues with Mimir. Which means their partnership is not entirely amicable.

FETCH

Not unlike our relationship, imposter.
(eats chip)

THOMAS

This is excellent information.
(beat)
So how do we use it?

MACKENNA

We go to the source. The Well of
Wisdom. If it's Mimir's well, it might
have some answers for us. Or at least
some clues.

ALFIE

Uh, didn't you both almost die the last
time?

MACKENNA

Only Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

Yes. Only I almost died. Mackenna just
got knocked out from the memory
download because she decided to jump
into the water instead of drink from
it.

MACKENNA

Hey, I fell in. The vough was shaking
the entire cave.

Snaps metal pointer again.

RILEY

The vough is the creepy-ass, half-
corporeal half-spirit that guards the
Well.

THOMAS

I know I'm just hearing about this, but
I actually think I have an idea for the
vough.

MACKENNA

No, no. Just Shaylee and I are going.

ALFIE

Not this again.

THOMAS

We all agreed we would go down swinging.

MACKENNA

This is different.

SHAYLEE

How is it different?

(beat, suspicious)

What aren't you telling us?

MACKENNA

(beat)

Ugh, fine. I'm going for a second reason. The Magister beat Wodan once and locked him up. But of course, the only people who were around then, who knew how he did it, are dead.

NISSA

Except for Liliana's memories of it.

MACKENNA

Right. But I sealed them off, and I can't get them back. Not without help. The Well unlocked a lot of memories last time.

THOMAS

But that's because you went all the way under the water.

(lightbulb)

Which is what you're planning to do again. Which means you'll be helpless for a little while.

ALFIE

Which is why she doesn't want us to go. Sorry, Mack. Looks like you need us more this time, not less.

MACKENNA

Yeah, yeah. Riley, you're coming, too.
If things go south, you and Shaylee get
everyone out before coming back for me.

RILEY

I promise.

FETCH

I am also coming.

MACKENNA

What? Really?

FETCH

If you are putting Thomas in danger, I
am coming. I will not negotiate with
you on this.

THOMAS

I really appreciate that, Mackenna.

FETCH

If everything goes wrong, as it likely
will, I can ensure everyone has a
painless death.

SHAYLEE

She really can't go even a minute
without saying something horrible, can
she?

MACKENNA

Whatever. If you'd all like to invite
anyone else, get to it. There's this
guy who used to hang out near Canfield
Street and catcall me on my way to
work. Maybe we can see if he's free.

NISSA

Focus, everybody. Lives are on the line
here. Gear up. We have a magical well
to visit.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

116. The Well of Wisdom. The stone door opens.

ALFIE

This. Is. So. Cool.

The team walks in.

NISSA

This magical, bigger-on-the-inside thing is starting to seem normal. I don't know if I like that.

FETCH

The whole of Arcadia works that way. You will eventually not even notice it.

MACKENNA

Stay on guard. Be ready to step out.

RILEY

I have the hula hoops. Like my very own ASHPoD.

The wind swirls.

VOUGH

Why have you come?

MACKENNA

I'm here to learn from the Well of Wisdom.

SHAYLEE

And we have questions about Mimir.

VOUGH

And where is your payment?

THOMAS

Here.

VOUGH

What is this?

THOMAS

Technically, it's a carafe. But it's filled with the payment. See, I figure that you've been stuck in this cave...basically forever. So you're missing out on a lot of things. I was thinking of bringing scones, but since you're not always corporeal, I wanted something that was just as good without touching it.

Thomas removes the lid of the carafe.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Coffee. The smell alone is as close as humans get to magic.

VOUGH

(sniffs)

This is a grand gift. Enough payment for all of you.

THOMAS

You can keep the carafe, too.

Hula hoop starts to vibrate.

RILEY

Uh, Mack? Shaylee? Why is one of the hula hoops moving like I just poured pink slime on it?

Vibrating intensifies.

SHAYLEE

It's shaking her entire body.

ALFIE

Riley, let go of it!

Hula hoop clatters to ground and continues to vibrate.

MACKENNA

Oh, shit.

117. Wodan stepping sideways arrival.

WODAN

Hello, Mackenna. And her disciples.
I've brought some of my own.

MORGAN

We meet again, halfling.

ROBIN

Top of the mid-afternoon to you.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis is tired of seeing these
ones everywhere Black Annis goes.

MASTER OF SHADOW

I am the Master of--

MACKENNA

Riley, get them out of here.

WODAN

Do you think the circles will cooperate
if I tell them not to? You are all here
for as long as I desire. But don't
worry. I've come for you, Mackenna. I
know about your plan. And you won't be
getting to that water today.

ALFIE

Try and stop us.

WODAN

Bold words, Alfred. But how do you
intend to oppose me.

THOMAS

We don't have to.

VOUGH

Why have you come?

SHAYLEE

(beat)

Wodan. You know it's talking to you,
don't you?

WODAN

What? Do you know who I am?

VOUGH

Why have you come?

WODAN

To stop these fools.

VOUGH

And where is your payment?

MACKENNA

(long beat)

Shit. You left your wallet at home,
didn't you?

ALFIE

Awkward.

ROBIN

Please. Wodan, I can handle one
guardian.

VOUGH

What makes you think
(each word panned differently)
I...am...only...one?

ROBIN

Huh.

MACKENNA

Everyone, get to the well!

The gang runs. The voughs lunge for the Old Ones.

BLACK ANNIS

Black Annis does not like to fight what
Black Annis cannot eat!

MORGAN

Ack, those claws are filthy!
(magical scream)

MASTER OF SHADOW

You shall not impede me, creature. I am
the Master of Sha--

Claws tear shadowy flesh.

MASTER OF SHADOW (CONT'D)

(cry of pain)

118.

LEE

They round the corner to find
themselves at the mythical Well of
Wisdom. Unfortunately, they aren't
alone.

WODAN

That was a clever trick. The voughs may
hold back my faithful, but they cannot
prevent me from getting here first.

LEE

He stands just in front of the Well,
blocking their access.

MACKENNA

Get out of the way.

WODAN

Mackenna, Mackenna. How many times must
we dance to this tune? Why do you still
resist? You cannot stop what has been
in motion since before you were born.

MACKENNA

Yeah, yeah. I'm foretold and
predestined and blah blah blah.

WODAN

Have you heard the story of the bird,
the mouse, and the sausage? Each has
its own role in their world: the bird
collected wood, the mouse used it to
make a fire, and the sausage cooked
dinner. But the bird grew jealous of
his companions' perceived laziness. So
he demanded they switch roles. And what
happened? The sausage went to collect

wood but was eaten. The mouse tried to cook the food but was boiled in the pot. The bird burned down their house making the fire. Do you understand the moral of this story? It's rather simple.

(beat)

Learn your fucking place.

MACKENNA

I'm done being told what to do, where to go, and who to be. I decide who I am.

WODAN

And who is that?

MACKENNA

I am Mackenna Thorne.

WODAN

And how will that help you, exactly?

MACKENNA

I'm just a blip on your radar, aren't I? What are a few years when you're, what, a few thousand years old?

WODAN

I have seen more worlds live and die than you can count. Thousands? Suggest millions, and you'd still be undershooting it.

MACKENNA

Perfect. I had twenty-seven years of memories when I fell into that well, and it knocked me out for a solid ten minutes. I wonder what it will do to you.

LEE

She suddenly springs forward, right at Wodan. His superior reflexes bring up his arms in time to block, but she's not trying to hit anything but his whole body. Both Mackenna and Wodan careen over the lip of the Well and splash into its water.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna!

THOMAS

No!

NISSA

Wait, this is what she wanted.

Noise from afar.

ALFIE

Oh, no. The Old Ones are coming.

RILEY

We can't leave her in there. She'll be defenseless.

FETCH

We aren't leaving. This is where we die.

ALFIE

No. Shaylee, Riley, get them out of here.

SHAYLEE

I am not leaving her.

RILEY

And I'm not leaving you.

ALFIE

Thomas and Nissa first. Then come back for us.

(beat)

Do it!

Stepping sideways departure (x2)

FETCH

It will be the smallest honor of my
life to die by your side, Alfred
O'Toole.

ALFIE

Just warn me if someone's about to stab
me in the back. I'm getting Mack.

WATERY TRANSITION

119. Mackenna floating under the water's surface. The
cacophony from s1 begins to play but is interrupted by:

MIMIR

Mackenna.
(beat)
Hey! Mackenna!

MACKENNA

What?

MIMIR

We don't have a lot of time here.

MACKENNA

Who are you? What the hell is
happening?

MIMIR

This water is magical. It allows me to
talk through it.

MACKENNA

Mimir.

MIMIR

Bingo.

MACKENNA

Am I unconscious?

MIMIR

Kind of.

MACKENNA

Why can't I access Liliana's memories?

MIMIR

The water doesn't work that way. It only brings back the memories of the person. Not the ancestral memories of others.

MACKENNA

(sigh)

Of course.

MIMIR

There are other ways to do that, though. You'll ask Shaylee when the time is right, but not now. Too dangerous if you do it too soon.

MACKENNA

Why are you telling me this?

MIMIR

You think I like being stuck in his head?

MACKENNA

Can we free you?

MIMIR

I'm not sure, but at least you can fuck with him.

MACKENNA

Do you really tell him everything?

MIMIR

Only what he asks for. And I don't know everything. There are...blank spots, somehow. The details of the Wild Hunt are shrouded from me.

MACKENNA

So how can we beat him?

MIMIR

If you can, it will be through his arrogance. He could have asked me how this encounter would go, but he didn't. He was too confident that you could not stop him. And now, he's unconscious in the Well.

MACKENNA

Can we really win in the end? Is there a chance?

MIMIR

Perhaps. You have a weapon even I don't know about.

Water splashing above them.

MIMIR (CONT'D)

Oh. That's your cue. Goodbye, Mackenna Thorne.

120. Alfie pulls Mackenna from the Well.

ALFIE

I've got you, Mack. Fack, help me pull her!

MACKENNA

Alfie?

Stepping sideways arrival (x2)

SHAYLEE

Mackenna! You're awake.

RILEY

Did it work?

MACKENNA

Not exactly. But something else happened.

FETCH

Which we should discuss later. The Old Ones have defeated the voughs.

MACKENNA

Let's go.

Stepping sideways departure.

Thorne house.

THOMAS

Mackenna! Are you okay?

MACKENNA

I'm fine. But--

ALFIE

Who was that voice?

MACKENNA

What?

NISSA

What voice?

ALFIE

When I reached into the water to grab you--which, by the way, allowed to me to experience the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe for the first time again--I heard a voice.

MACKENNA

Mimir. He talked to you, too?

ALFIE

He only said one thing. "Read the transcripts."

(long beat)

Like, what the hell does that mean?

THE END