

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 2.02

"In-Between"

Written by

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TEASER

11. Dreamlike. Birds sing. Wind lightly blows.

LILIANA

That is a féileacán.

YOUNG MACKENNA

No, that's a butterfly!

LILIANA

That is what I said.

YOUNG MACKENNA

No, you said face the cod.

LILIANA

Well, that is purely nonsense.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Face the cod! Face the cod!

LILIANA

Child, nóiméad, a moment. Listen. Do you hear its wings?

YOUNG MACKENNA

The butterfly?

LILIANA

Yes. Can you hear their beat? Feel their breeze? Close your eyes. What do you hear?

YOUNG MACKENNA

Swishing. Swish-swish. Swish-swish.

LILIANA

Good. What do you feel?

YOUNG MACKENNA

The wind is blowing my hair.

LILIANA

Yes. Very good. Now call to it. Call it to you.

YOUNG MACKENNA
You can't talk to a butterfly.

LILIANA
Have you ever tried?

YOUNG MACKENNA
Noooo.

LILIANA
Then try. Speak as the butterfly. Speak
as its wings that whisper winds to your
hair. Speak with words you were born
knowing but have since forgotten. You
are not a child. You are a butterfly.
You are the wind.

YOUNG MACKENNA
(whispering, dreamlike)
Féileacán.

LILIANA
See? It comes to you.

YOUNG MACKENNA
It's on my arm!

LILIANA
So it is.
(beat)
Be sure to wash that. They are filthy
creatures.

12. NISSA
(dreamlike)
Mackenna.

LILIANA
Listen.

NISSA
(not dreamlike)
Mackenna!

Memory ends. Suddenly in another space. Extremely alien
environment. The wind howls. Strange creatures scramble
across the ground and swoop in the air.

MACKENNA
 (groggy, confused)
 Nissa?

NISSA
 Mackenna. Oh, thank you, goddess.
 You've been out for a while. Are you
 okay?

MACKENNA
 I...I'm not sure. I think my bones
 hurt. Can bones hurt?

NISSA
 I don't know. Can you stand?

MACKENNA
 I can try.

NISSA
 I don't mean to be insensitive since
 you almost just died fighting the
 Magister, but we need to hurry. Some of
 the things around here have been
 looking at us like we're food.

MACKENNA
 Things? Wait, where are we?
 (beat)
 What the hell is this place?

NISSA
 I'm going to go out on a limb and say:
 not Earth.

END TEASER

13. NARRATOR
 A barren, blasted landscape surrounds
 Mackenna and Nissa. The craggy ground
 alternates between polished, obsidian
 glass and gray bubbling mud. Splintered
 shards of what might have been foliage
 poke up here and there, as if some
 giant thing came along and ate up every

bit of vegetation. The air is thick and hazy, and an angry wind drags grit across their exposed skin. Strange, winged creatures swoop in formation high above them, obscuring and sometimes blocking out the green sun. Other fauna stalk the ground in the distance, climbing spires of obsidian only to vanish behind piles of shattered glass. In place of their eyes, the creatures have two additional mouths, each filled with razor teeth.

(beat)

No, Nissa. This is most definitely not Earth.

MACKENNA

What happened?

NISSA

I was going to ask you the same thing. I didn't teleport us here.

MACKENNA

I...I was fighting the Magister, but he was winning. So I ran.

NISSA

Yeah, you called me and Alfie. We went to the belltower and made a circle.

MACKENNA

Yes...okay, yeah, I remember that. He followed me, I broke the circle, and the bell started ringing.

NISSA

We could hear him screaming from the ground. I ran in to help you because we were worried he might explode like...I mean, you know, like they do.

MACKENNA

He did explode, didn't he? That part's hazy. That bell nearly killed me, too.

NISSA

I drew a circle for us, but the explosion ruined it as we stepped in.

MACKENNA

Well, we're not still in the tower. Or on our planet, apparently. So I assume we stepped somewhere.

NISSA

Either that or we never left the tower...and this is hell.

MACKENNA

I don't believe in hell.

NISSA

I don't think hell cares.

MACKENNA

The circle must have been broken during the teleportation and not before. Otherwise, we just wouldn't have gone anywhere.

NISSA

Where were you trying to send us?

MACKENNA

My house, I think. Like I said, it's hazy.

NISSA

Okay, well, this would be a good time to get us out of here. I drew a circle over here. The chalk isn't great on this glassy stuff, but it should be enough.

MACKENNA

Yeah, that'll work. Hold on to my shoulders.

They take a step together.

NISSA

Yeah, we're still here.

MACKENNA

It's not working.

NISSA

No shit.

MACKENNA

No, I mean...I can't even feel the circle. Or any other circles. We're completely cut off.

NISSA

Then how do we get home?

MACKENNA

I don't know, Nissa.

NISSA

But do you, like...do you have any...

MACKENNA

What?

NISSA

Like, any insider knowledge? What happens when the faerie rings stop working?

MACKENNA

Shaylee never told me about accidentally teleporting to alien worlds.

NISSA

No, I mean...like, you changed when she...when Liliana...your voice changed, so I figured maybe you would know more things now.

MACKENNA

I don't know. I feel like there's...you know how you get that horrible feeling when you know there's something you're supposed to do but can't remember what it is?

NISSA

Hi, I'm Nissa.

MACKENNA

Oh. Right. You've never forgotten anything in your life.

NISSA

Blessing and a curse.

MACKENNA

Well, it's like that. Not that you would understand. I feel like there are a million tiny things I'm forgetting, like they're in there but I can't access them.

NISSA

Do you think that, maybe, if you focused?

MACKENNA

I don't know. I feel like there are so many things I'm forgetting. I wouldn't even know what to focus on.

NISSA

For a while, after...

MACKENNA

Nissa, it's okay. You can say it.

NISSA

After Liliana died, you sounded... different.

MACKENNA

Different how?

(beat)

Nissa. Different how? Like them?

NISSA

Not exactly. More like you were her.

MACKENNA

Liliana?

NISSA

I mean, you got her powers, right? And her memories? Because she's...because that's how it works. Right?

MACKENNA

I got her power, yes. And I know how to use it. Mostly. But her memories...I was having this really vivid dream when you woke me up.

NISSA

A dream about her?

MACKENNA

Yeah. Her. And I think me. Much younger me.

NISSA

Can you still remember it?

MACKENNA

Kind of. I think she visited me as my imaginary friend when I was little. But obviously not so imaginary.

NISSA

Can you focus in on that memory? Maybe try to follow it further?

MACKENNA

I can try.

Nissa slowly fades out.

NISSA

Liliana might know something about where we are. Might have known. I don't know how it works. But that's our only lead right now. And again, not to be a pest, but I don't think all the things around here are docile.

14. Dreamlike. Birds sing. Wind lightly blows.

YOUNG MACKENNA
Tea time! Tea time!

LILIANA
So it is.

YOUNG MACKENNA
You sit here. That's your seat. This is
my seat.

LILIANA
Your seat is by the cookies.

YOUNG MACKENNA
(giggle)
They're chocolate chip!

LILIANA
Your favorite.

YOUNG MACKENNA
Mm-hmm.
(eating cookie)
De-ish-ush.

LILIANA
Mouth closed. Those crumbs will dirty
the table.

YOUNG MACKENNA
(still eating)
Sorry.

LILIANA
That...that is all right, child.

YOUNG MACKENNA
Why are you sad?

LILIANA
I am not.

YOUNG MACKENNA
Are too.

LILIANA
Ever perceptive.

YOUNG MACKENNA

What's that mean?

LILIANA

It means that for all my strength, I cannot deceive a child.

YOUNG MACKENNA

You can see me.

LILIANA

Not "see." Deceive. It means to trick or fool. I cannot fool you.

YOUNG MACKENNA

So you are sad.

LILIANA

You are growing older, child. Soon, you will keep your memories. And your... imaginary friend will be not so imaginary.

YOUNG MACKENNA

You?

LILIANA

Yes. Me.

(beat)

You will forget me. But I will not forget you.

YOUNG MACKENNA

I don't understand.

LILIANA

This must be our last tea party.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Are you going away? Like Aunt Glynnia? She moved.

LILIANA

I...yes, I am going away. But only from these visits. I will find another way to see you. Hidden in plain sight.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Mm-hmmm. Do you want a cookie? You'll feel better.

LILIANA

Tell me, child. What is the name of your nanny?

YOUNG MACKENNA

You mean Miss Abecca?

LILIANA

Yes. Miss Abecca. Is she old?

YOUNG MACKENNA

Not as old as you.

LILIANA

I see. Is she large?

YOUNG MACKENNA

She's adult-sized.
(giggle)

LILIANA

But does moving tire her? Does she have health problems? Would complications be unexpected?

YOUNG MACKENNA

I don't know.

LILIANA

(beat)

Does she drive a car?

YOUNG MACKENNA

Mm-hmmm. A green one.

LILIANA

Ah. That will do.

A few more moments of ambient sounds.

15. Back in the other space.

NISSA

Mack!

NARRATOR

Mackenna awakens to see Nissa wielding her scythe and two of the mouth-eyed creatures circling them a short distance away. Perhaps retreating into a memory isn't a sound plan for survival in this place.

MACKENNA

(groggy)

What happened?

NISSA

Uh, you went completely unconscious. I think those things took that as a sign to make us their dinner.

MACKENNA

I'll get rid of them.

NISSA

We don't know anything about them. Maybe a fight isn't a great idea. Especially if you're not one hundred percent.

MACKENNA

I'm not going to fight them.

(beat)

(magic booming voice)

Away.

Creatures sprint away.

NISSA

Yeah, okay, that's not terrifying at all.

MACKENNA

How long was I out?

NISSA
About half an hour.

MACKENNA
It only felt like a few minutes.

NISSA
Did you learn anything?

MACKENNA
Nothing relevant. More memories of the two of us. It's like I'm seeing them from both sides, through my eyes and hers at the same time.

NISSA
Okay. Weird. Do you think you can get anything more specific about where we are?

MACKENNA
I don't think it works that way.

NISSA
Well, we need to do something. Find shelter, maybe? And this air...something's wrong with it. It's burning my lungs.

MACKENNA
I don't feel any burning.

NISSA
Well, you're also not entirely human.

MACKENNA
Come on. Let's keep moving. Maybe we can find a cave or something. Maybe there's a settlement somewhere, other people.

Mackenna and Nissa walk for a while.

NISSA
I, uh...I'm sorry about Liliana.

MACKENNA

Yeah. I mean, it's not like we really knew her at all.

NISSA

But still. What she did...

MACKENNA

I know. She did it to save me. I'm starting to realize just how much she looked out for me. She was around when I was little, and we know she came into the music store. I'm guessing she was around at other times, too. It might not have looked or sounded like her, but it was her.

NISSA

She was your mom. Of course she looked out for you.

MACKENNA

"Of course" is a bit of stretch. She was one of the Hidden People. They aren't exactly known for their parenting. Or their empathy. Or anything redeeming, really.

NISSA

Well, she saved your life, which is pretty redemptive in my book.

MACKENNA

I guess.

NARRATOR

Did she save your life, Mackenna? This place you're in, both literally and figuratively...would we say that this was a kindness?

Nissa slowly fades out.

NISSA

I know this isn't the best time,
obviously, but if you need to talk
about it...or want to talk about
it...we can do that. Your life's been a
rollercoaster of crazy for a while now,
but I'm here for you, even on an alien
planet that's probably poisoning me
slowly.

16. Dreamlike. In the Thorne house.

YOUNG THOMAS

We're not supposed to go to the park.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Why not?

YOUNG THOMAS

Mom said. They have drugs there.

YOUNG MACKENNA

We're not going to visit the drug
dealers, Thomas.

YOUNG THOMAS

But Mom said!

YOUNG MACKENNA

Don't be such a baby. Nanny Karen will
keep us safe. Right, Nanny Karen?

KAREN

Aye. I'll always keep you safe, En-ya.

YOUNG THOMAS

I'm telling Mom.

YOUNG MACKENNA

(frustrated)

Thomas!

YOUNG THOMAS

You can't stop me. I'm telling as soon
as she gets home.

KAREN

That you may do, but then I'll have to tell your mum that you broke the light.

YOUNG THOMAS

What light?

KAREN

The light in the study.

YOUNG THOMAS

I did not!

KAREN

Were you playing in the study?

YOUNG MACKENNA

Thomas, you know you aren't allowed in Mom's study.

YOUNG THOMAS

I...I was playing in there just for a minute. But I didn't break anything!

KAREN

But the light is broken still. Go and look for yourself.

Young Thomas runs away.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Did he really break the light?

KAREN

Do you want to go to the park?

YOUNG MACKENNA

Oh, yes.

KAREN

Then pipe down, child.

YOUNG MACKENNA

(laughs)

KAREN

(chuckle)

Young Thomas runs back.

YOUNG THOMAS

I swear I didn't do it. I swear!

KAREN

Now, there's no reason to be upset. It will be our secret. Just like the park. How does that sound?

YOUNG THOMAS

(beat)

Okay, Nanny Karen.

KAREN

Good. Now get your shoes.

YOUNG MACKENNA

Yay!

17. Back in the other space. Nissa slowly fades in.

NISSA

I mean, of course I'm trapped on some other plane of existence and my super-powered friend can't stay conscious. And those weird mouth-eyed cat things are watching us again. So I'll just drag you through this gross mud. No biggie. Totally fine.

MACKENNA

She was Nanny Karen.

NISSA

Who was whatty where?

MACKENNA

Stop yanking me. I can walk.

NISSA

Uh, not when you're unconscious you can't. What the hell, Mack? Are you okay?

MACKENNA

These memories keep flooding in. I can't control them.

NISSA

That's very not good. Did you at least learn something this time?

MACKENNA

Liliana was Nanny Karen.

NISSA

She was your nanny? The Scottish one?

MACKENNA

Yeah. In disguise. Obviously.

NISSA

She really did watch over you. But Nanny Karen's voice never sounded like them.

MACKENNA

I think the voice thing is like their accent. That's why the other Mackenna sounded like them. Liliana just learned to hide the accent.

NARRATOR

The Magister was wrong. Liliana did care for you, Mackenna. At least as much as she was capable. You came along at exactly the right point in her life for her to have a change of heart. Almost prophetic, wouldn't you say?

NISSA

Those things are following us again. You're not allowed to space out anymore. You might wake up dead next time. Also, I think the flying things are tracking us. Waiting for us to die, maybe.

MACKENNA

I don't know. There are so many. How could you even tell if they followed us? They're everywhere.

NISSA

They change flight patterns every time we move.

MACKENNA

Of course you would memorize the flight patterns.

NISSA

It's not like I can help it.

MACKENNA

Right, right: blessing and a curse.

NISSA

Hey, how would you feel if you could never forget every bad thing a person ever said or did? It's not exactly easy to forgive people when you can still feel every hurt and annoyance.

MACKENNA

God, how are you still friends with Alfie?

NISSA

(laughs)

I've learned coping mechanisms.

MACKENNA

Is one of those mechanisms to mock him incessantly?

NISSA

Yes. Yes it is.

Creatures in the distance start fighting each other.

NISSA (CONT'D)

They're fighting each other. Is that good?

MACKENNA

Unlikely. I can't tell if they're fighting for real or just...playing.

NISSA

Do things like that play?

(beat)

Shit, they're looking at us.

MACKENNA

(hushed)

Stay low. They might be able to hear us.

NISSA

(hushed)

Well, they don't have eyes, so that's probably how they're tracking us.

(beat)

We have to get away from them somehow.

MACKENNA

Hey, look over there. Past those spiky shard things. I think that might be a hollow in the glass. We might be able to make a kind of camp.

NISSA

It looks like all the other glass stuff to me. Are you sure that's a hollow?

MACKENNA

There's nothing else for miles, so it's worth a shot. And those creatures are keeping their distance.

NISSA

I think they're just scared of you. They close in every time you go down.

MACKENNA

Don't worry. I'm awake and ready. Let's get over to...to...

(beat, woozy)

Uh oh.

NISSA
Goddammit.

18. Dreamlike. Counselor's office.

SANDRA
Mackenna? You seem far away today.

MACKENNA
Huh? Sorry. I was paying attention.

SANDRA
Mm-hmm. And what was I talking about?

MACKENNA
Okay, so yeah, wasn't paying attention
at all.

SANDRA
(laughs)
I can tell. I can always tell with you.

MACKENNA
Sorry.

SANDRA
I'm not offended. But you know why we
need to have these sessions. The sooner
you commit to talking, the sooner you
can use your study period for, y'know,
studying.

MACKENNA
Mr. Davis is a dick. He deserved it.

SANDRA
You realize Mr. Davis is my colleague,
don't you?

MACKENNA
He's faculty. You're staff. I know how
this place works.

SANDRA
I don't think Mr. Davis realized who he
was dealing with.

MACKENNA

Perv shouldn't have tried to look down my shirt. Assigned seats that just so happen to put certain girls in the front row?

SANDRA

And the appropriate response would have been...

MACKENNA

To tell you or the office staff. I know; I know.

SANDRA

Probably not to make a wanted poster in graphic design class.

MACKENNA

That poster deserved an A.

SANDRA

Mackenna. It said "Mr. Davis, wanted for boob peeping."

MACKENNA

"Boob ogling."

SANDRA

(badly containing laughter)

MACKENNA

I'm sorry. I was wrong. It deserved an A plus.

SANDRA

(more serious)

You know that I would have handled it, don't you? You can come to me about anything.

MACKENNA

You're the guidance counselor. Coming to you is like NARCing.

SANDRA

Trust me. I can be discreet and take care of anyone, ogling or otherwise.

MACKENNA

I handled it.

SANDRA

Your handling landed you a quarter of meetings with me.

MACKENNA

Eh. This actually beats sitting in study hall with a hundred people.

SANDRA

You don't like crowds?

MACKENNA

I don't like high schoolers. Do you see the people I have to deal with?

SANDRA

You mean your peers?

MACKENNA

Peers? Really?

SANDRA

Mackenna, I think it's fair--

MACKENNA

Really?

SANDRA

I'm only saying--

MACKENNA

Really?

SANDRA

(beat)

Okay, you're perhaps a bit different from the average high schooler.

MACKENNA

Didn't you go to college for evaluating people?

SANDRA

(laughs)

Fine. You win.

(beat)

You're one of a kind, Mackenna Thorne.

MACKENNA

I think you'll miss me when these sessions are over.

SANDRA

I think I will.

19. Back in the other space. Nissa waves the scythe at the gnashing mouth-eyed creatures. They circle her, lunging and biting.

NISSA

Mack! Help!

MACKENNA

(groggy)

She was my guidance counselor, too.

NISSA

Mack!

MACKENNA

Nissa! Oh god.

NISSA

Behind you!

NARRATOR

Mackenna whirls and catches the beast by the throat. She spins, using its own momentum to hurl it away. It slams into the jagged, glassy ground.

MACKENNA

Nissa, come to me. I can hold...hold off...

NISSA

Do not do this again! I can't fight
them alone! Mack!

20. Dreamlike. Counselor's office.

MACKENNA

Sandra?

SANDRA

Yes?

MACKENNA

You ever just want to restart your
life? Pick up and move somewhere else?

SANDRA

I'm happy with my life, but I
understand the notion. Do you feel that
way?

MACKENNA

Sometimes.

SANDRA

Why is that?

MACKENNA

I don't know. Sometimes I feel like I
haven't found the real me yet. And
everyone's expectations of me keep me
from exploring my options.

SANDRA

Oh? And where would you go if you
could?

MACKENNA

I don't know. Maybe a bigger place?
With more options?

SANDRA

Out of Conley, then.

MACKENNA

Hell yes. Sorry.

SANDRA

You can speak however you want here,
Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Sorry.

(beat)

Fuck yes.

SANDRA

(laughs)

So what's stopping you?

MACKENNA

Excuse me?

SANDRA

I mean after graduation. What's
stopping you from starting over?

MACKENNA

Uh, my mom would lose her mind if I
didn't go to college.

SANDRA

You'll be an adult. You can do whatever
you like at that point.

MACKENNA

Hang on, are you suggesting I skip
college and just leave town? What kind
of guidance are you counseling?

SANDRA

I'm just saying, maybe you're right.
Maybe you do need to start over. Lots
of people do. Some even get a new name,
new look...

MACKENNA

That sounds like witness protection.

SANDRA

Oh, don't give me that look. I'm just
helping you explore your options.

MACKENNA

Yeah. Cool.

(beat)

I gotta go. See you Thursday.

SANDRA

I'll be here. I'll always be here
whenever you need me.

21. Back in the other space.

NARRATOR

Mackenna awakens to find herself face
to dead face with one of the mouth-eyed
creatures. Her scythe is buried in its
skull. Nissa lies beside it, her
breathing shallow, jagged cuts torn
into her back and arm.

MACKENNA

Oh no. Nissa?

NISSA

(hurt)

Mack. I killed it.

MACKENNA

Are you okay?

NISSA

Gonna go with no.

MACKENNA

Let me see.

(beat)

The bleeding's not too bad, but...that
smell...

NISSA

What? How can you smell anything in
this air?

MACKENNA

I think the cuts are already infected.
It must be whatever is floating around
in the air.

(beat)

You're burning up. It's definitely an infection.

NISSA

Hard pass on alien infections. I've seen too many movies.

MACKENNA

Let's try to make it over to that hollow.

NISSA

No way. You need to get your memories under control first. If you black out again, I won't be able to defend either of us.

MACKENNA

I can't help it.

NISSA

I can. You need to build a wall.

MACKENNA

Huh?

NISSA

Coping mechanisms, remember? I know pretty well what it's like to have memories assault you unbidden. You need to wall them off. Block them out.

MACKENNA

How do I do that?

NISSA

I don't know. This is mind stuff we're talking about. All I have are metaphors.

(beat)

You have magical powers of suggestion, right? Like that time with Thomas's birthday cake.

MACKENNA

Why does everyone go on about that cake?

NISSA

Maybe turn those powers on yourself.
Convince yourself to block out her
memories.

MACKENNA

If I do that, I might not be able to
access them later.

NISSA

Well, we can deal with that problem
after it helps us survive.

MACKENNA

Okay. I'm going to meditate. You don't
see any more of those things around, do
you?

NISSA

Not at the moment.

MACKENNA

Wake me up if you need me.

NISSA

Easier said than done.

MACKENNA

I'll be back, okay? I just have to go
in and shut her down.

NISSA

I don't know what that means, but be
careful.

22. Dreamlike.

MACKENNA

(echoing)

Hello? Someone there?

Liliana walks to Mackenna and stops. Humming ends.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

You. You're one of them. You've been coming to the music store for years, but you've always been one of them.

LILIANA

Hello, Mackenna. Do you know who I am?

MACKENNA

Liliana. We did just meet a few hours ago.

LILIANA

But do you know who I am?

MACKENNA

I'm not stupid. You're my creator.

LILIANA

So you do know.

MACKENNA

I also know you're evil. Psychotic. A monster.

LILIANA

(amused)

Odd. In this form, I've been called many things, but rarely monstrous.

MACKENNA

You kidnapped that girl. Stole her from her parents, tortured her, made her into a killer. It doesn't matter what you look like.

LILIANA

I did all of those things. However, you only exist because of me. I noticed you missed that act in your list of grievances.

MACKENNA

And yet here I am, locked in a jail cell. You must be so proud of your creation.

LILIANA

I am. Despite what you may think of us, we are not monsters. We have our reasons. And our motivations.

MACKENNA

Sadism is a motivation?

LILIANA

I am not cruel simply for the sake of being cruel.

MACKENNA

Then why? Why steal babies? Why send them out to kill? Why Mackenna Thorne? Why me?

LILIANA

I cannot...there are no words to explain it to you. Things are this way because they must be this way. There is no alternative.

MACKENNA

You always have a choice. You may not like your choices, but you have them.

LILIANA

Not for the Hidden. Not in the ways you think.

MACKENNA

So you're just the sympathetic monster? The one who wants out? You're going to help me take down the evil system?

LILIANA

No.

MACKENNA

Exactly. You like being you. Doing the awful shit. You're messing with my head because it's fun.

LILIANA

I am not trying to deceive you.

MACKENNA

Fine. Can you "find the words" to tell me why you're here?

LILIANA

To see you.

MACKENNA

You've seen me plenty.

LILIANA

To tell you, then.

MACKENNA

Tell me what?

LILIANA

I...I needed you to know that I've never abandoned you. You are more than my creation. You are mine. And I protect what is mine.

MACKENNA

(so deadpan)

Great. I feel so safe now. Thanks. You've done so much to protect me. My friends. My family. What ever would I do without you.

LILIANA

This is not over for you yet, Mackenna. You will leave this prison and battle your Fetch. I've tried to prevent it, to delay it, but we've arrived here regardless. You must be victorious.

MACKENNA

I'm not going to kill a trafficking victim.

LILIANA

You are too human.

MACKENNA

And proud of it.

LILIANA

*Be what you must be to survive.
Whatever it takes, whatever it costs. I
command you to survive.*

MACKENNA

*I don't take orders, especially not
from someone like you. So how about I
command you to fuck off.*

LILIANA

*I feel as though we will never
understand each other. I am...sorry.
One day, you will look back and
remember this moment differently.
Goodbye.*

23. Back in the other space.

MACKENNA

It's done.

NISSA

Yeah?

MACKENNA

Yeah. I built a wall. Metaphorically. I
think.

(beat)

I don't think I'll have the memories
again.

NISSA

Are you...okay with that?

MACKENNA

You won't believe me if I say yes, will
you?

NISSA

Nope.

MACKENNA

Thought so.

(beat)

Yeah, I'm okay with it.

NISSA

Liar.

The flying creatures grow quieter.

MACKENNA

If staying annoyed at me will keep you
alive, then have at it.

(beat)

Come on, we're close to the hollow.

The flying creatures go silent.

NISSA

Uh, Mack? Do you hear that?

MACKENNA

Hear what?

The wind slows and quiets.

NISSA

Why did everything get so quiet?

MACKENNA

Where did those flying monsters go?
Everything just...left.

NISSA

This cannot be good.

NARRATOR

No. No, it can't possibly be good. What
could be so terrifying that it would
scare away the wind?

A monster roars.

THE END