

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 2.06

"Offending Shadows"

Written by

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The massive doors in Arcadia swing open. Mackenna/Shaylee steps in.

ALDER NIAMH

Welcome.

MACKENNA

You summoned me?

ALDER NIAMH

I did. I have a task for you. That is, I had a task for you. Now, however, you see that I have summoned the rest of the Court. Including an inquisitor.

MACKENNA

Why? What's going on?

ALDER NIAMH

Did you really think you could deceive me? I know exactly what you're hiding.

52.

MACKENNA

I...don't know what you're talking about.

ALDER NIAMH

Oh? Don't you? So you aren't hiding something from us.

NARRATOR

Tread carefully, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

What would I be hiding from you?

ALDER NIAMH

Perhaps something to do with Mackenna Thorne?

(beat)

Don't even bother looking at the door. You'd never make it. And don't try to lie. The inquisitor will know.

MACKENNA

(nervous)

Ummm, yay?

ALDER NIAMH

I know your secret. You hold the Court's scrying mirror.

MACKENNA

The mirror. Yes. You caught me. My bad.

ALDER NIAMH

You have it on you. You were going to try to sneak it back in, weren't you?

MACKENNA Technically, it's the Magister's mirror, not the Court's. And technically, I can't sneak it back in when it came to me from somewhere else.

INQUISITOR AILSA

She speaks true.

MACKENNA

Boom.

ALDER NIAMH

Silence, Inquisitor. The mirror belongs to the Court.

MACKENNA

Pretty sure it doesn't.

ALDER NIAMH

Silence.

ALDER ODHRAN

What is wrong with your voice, trainer?

MACKENNA

I'm just not feeling like myself today.

ALDER NIAMH

That is not my concern. Your failure, however, is. Even with the mirror, you have shown no progress, despite strict orders when you were last here.

MACKENNA

I did as I was commanded.

ALDER ODHRAN

I do not see the remains of the changeling.

MACKENNA

There were no remains to find.

INQUISITOR AILSA

She speaks true.

ALDER NIAMH

So she is alive?

MACKENNA

I believe so.

INQUISITOR AILSA

She speaks true.

ALDER ODHRAN

And yet you did not come to the Court immediately with this revelation.

MACKENNA

I did not come without a solution.

ALDER NIAMH

Which is why you sought the mirror. To scry for her. None of us could. We do not share the connection with her that you do.

MACKENNA

Yes. Good ol' Shaylee's plan was to scry for Mackenna.

INQUISITOR AILSA

She speaks true.

ALDER NIAMH

Then, please. Show the Court how strong the connection is between a changeling and her trainer.

MACKENNA
(to the mirror)
Show me the changeling of Mackenna
Thorne.

A few moments of silence.

NARRATOR
Very clever, Mackenna. Very clever.

ALDER NIAMH
It appears your bond is not as strong
as you would wish.

ALDER ODHRAN
It could be that scrying from Arcadia
into the human realm is beyond the
mirror. Or at least, beyond what a
construct can do with the mirror.
Perhaps she should try again, away from
Arcadia.

(beat)
Perhaps you should go with her, Alder
Niamh? Some time away from Arcadia
might restore your own balance.

ALDER NIAMH
You'd like that, wouldn't you, Alder
Odhran?
(beat)
You are dismissed, trainer. Return the
mirror to the Hall of the Sagas.

MACKENNA
Aye aye, Alders.

Voices fading as Shaylee/Mackenna walks away.

ALDER NIAMH
You dare speak to me like that in front
of a changeling?

ALDER ODHRAN
You worry for decorum at a time like
this?

ALDER NIAMH

Are we so far gone? What's next? Open war?

ALDER ODHRAN

Without someone to govern Arcadia, it will crumble. We need a new magister. And it will not be you, Niamh.

53. Shaylee/Mackenna opens a door, enters, and closes it.

MACKENNA

Okay...Shaylee said the Hall of the Sagas was this way. I think. This place is a maze.

Shaylee/Mackenna wanders around.

NARRATOR

Only to an outsider, Mackenna. At least, a half outsider. Too bad your mother never showed you around town.

MACKENNA

Should be just through...

Door opens.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

Infants in a massive nursery.

NARRATOR

Ah. The nursery of the fetches. All of those taken from the past two Reapings. Sixty children under the age of two. The latest in a long line of humans stripped of their names and raised in bondage.

MACKENNA

What the fuck?

HIDDEN PERSON

What are you doing here, trainer? The nursery is not a place for you.

MACKENNA

The nursery. Of course they would have a nursery.

HIDDEN PERSON

Leave. You are not welcome.

NARRATOR

Oh, Mackenna. Stop gritting your teeth. Even if you had your scythe, Shaylee's body is no match for the Hidden. Perhaps another time.

MACKENNA

Yeah. Leaving. Peace out.

NARRATOR

Now, your time would be best spent in the Hall of the Sagas, searching for what--and who--might return you all to normal.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

54. The Thorne house. Front door opens.

ALFIE

Ah! Nissa, you scared me!

NISSA

What are you doing?

ALFIE

Nothing.

NISSA

Alfie.

(beat)

What's that on the floor?

ALFIE
(whimpers)

NISSA
Is that...sugar? In a circle? Why the hell did you put sugar on the floor?

ALFIE
So it's actually salt.

NISSA
Not the point.

ALFIE
Well, you can't exactly use chalk on carpet.

NISSA
You made a circle of salt on Mack's carpet so you could step sideways?

ALFIE
I was just practicing. And besides, if we get attacked by ghosts, we can hop in the circle, Winchester style!

NISSA
You're unbelievable.
(beat)
How many other circles did you make in this house?

ALFIE
You mean with salt?

NISSA
Alfie. How many?

ALFIE
Four. That doesn't count the one I drew on the wall, though.

NISSA
On the wall?! Are you Spider-Man?

ALFIE

I figured it you could step sideways,
you could also climb sideways.

NISSA

Were you able to make it work?

ALFIE

Unless you count bruising Mack's
shoulder from running into the wall:
no.

NISSA

What about stepping?

ALFIE

Oh, I can step sideways. I'm only
traveling about one foot to the left,
though.

NISSA

So you're just stepping. Like a normal
person.

ALFIE

I feel like I'm close.

NISSA

We are cleaning this up now. And we are
not telling Mack.

ALFIE

Speaking of things we aren't telling
Mack...

NISSA

If this involves peeing, I don't even
want to hear about it.

ALFIE

But I feel like I have to unburden my
conscience.

NISSA

Do you want to know if I had to pee in
your body?

ALFIE

(beat)

I'll go get the vacuum. Back in a sec.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

55. Police station.

SAM

(voicemail)

You've reached Detective Samantha Mulligan. If this is an emergency, please hang up and dial 911. Otherwise, leave a message.

Voicemail beep.

RON

Hey, Sam. It's Ron. Guess, uh...guess you haven't changed your voicemail yet. Which is totally fine. Just reminding you in case you forgot about it. I'll just be your friendly neighbor that reminds you when you left the garage door up.

(beat)

Right, so I just wanted to call and chat. Maybe just...I don't know...catch up? As friends? I mean, we were sort of becoming friends. At least, I thought so. And maybe you didn't, which would be totally fine and understandable. But maybe just call me back? Or text. That's fine, too. I'd like to know how you're holding up. And pick your brain about things.

(beat)

Okay, cool. That was it. Short and sweet, you know me. Sitwell out.

Hangs up.

RON (CONT'D)

Good, that wasn't awkward at all.

NARRATOR

It seems this town will always have at least one do-gooder officer of the law who actually cares. Break the cycle, Ronald. Heroism doesn't suit you.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

56. The Thorne house.

SHAYLEE

Love-in-idleness?

MACKENNA

Yes. One of the books said that it can restore people to their previous mind and form.

SHAYLEE

I've never heard of it. What is it?

MACKENNA

No idea.

NISSA

You both should have paid more attention in English class.

THOMAS

Love-in-idleness is the flower in Midsummer Night's Dream. Puck uses it to mix up everyone's loves and then again to fix them.

ALFIE

Midsummer Night's Dream! Which is about fairies! Very appropriate.

SHAYLEE

Well, if it's a magical flower we need, I know where to go.

NISSA

To a magical garden?

SHAYLEE

No. To a magical drug dealer.

THOMAS

Shaylee, no offense, but literally every time you know what to do, it sounds like the worst plan ever. Museum heists, mind trips, drug deals...

SHAYLEE

One more thing you should know: he's one of the Hidden People. One of the Old Ones. A Wodan loyalist.

MACKENNA

Like Black Annis.

SHAYLEE

Aye.

THOMAS

I didn't actually think it was possible for this plan to get worse.

MACKENNA

If this drug dealer has love-in-idleness, then that's where I'm going. Shaylee, Alfie, you're coming with.

ALFIE

You just want me for my superpowers.

MACKENNA

Yes.

THOMAS

What about the rest of us?

MACKENNA

You're going to need to draw some glyphs on the ground. In blood. But it doesn't have to be human, so maybe go to a butcher?

THOMAS

What kind of glyphs?

MACKENNA

Oh, here.

Takes out and unfolds ancient paper.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

I tore out that page.

SHAYLEE

You did what?!

MACKENNA

Well no one saw me. I'm not an idiot. And see, I folded it up really small so it would fit in my--your pocket. I figured it was best to not magic it, you know?

SHAYLEE

This piece of paper is older than Europe.

MACKENNA

That's...really kinda trippy and confusing, so I'm moving past it.

THOMAS

We'll paint your glyphs. Just be careful.

NISSA

And no buying any other magical drugs, Alfie.

ALFIE

I can just say no, Nissa. I still have my DARE shirt.

NISSA

Probably still fit into it, too.

THOMAS

It will be fun keeping Murphy out of these blood glyphs.

ALFIE

No worries, Thomas. I let him into the backyard earlier because he kept barking at me and licking all the salt.

THOMAS
Salt? What salt?

ALFIE
Uh...the salt. Obviously.
(beat)
So where's this drug dealer?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

57. Outdoors in a major city in England.

NARRATOR
Stalking the English streets looking
for a Hidden trap house. This isn't
even the tenth strangest thing to
happen in this story so far.

ALFIE
The drug dealer hangs out in a
magically warded alley that keeps out
humans?
(beat)
What, do you knock three times on the
wall to get in?

SHAYLEE
No. It only appears to those who need
it.

ALFIE
Oh, so it's the Room of--hold up,
that's it right there.

SHAYLEE
No, we aren't there yet.

ALFIE
No, trust me.

MACKENNA
Alfie, how would you know what this
place looks like?

ALFIE
I just...I don't know. I feel a pull.
Come on.

They walk down an alley. City sounds grow quiet. Alley is dank. Water drips. Probs some ominous music.

MACKENNA

Yep. Suddenly creepy. Must be the place.

ROBIN

Welcome, fools.

ALFIE

Ah!

MACKENNA

Did Alfie just turn invisible?

Alfie/Mackenna turns visible.

SHAYLEE

And he's back.

ROBIN

You should not have come here uninvited. Fortunately for you, you'll never make another mistake again. Because now you die.

MACKENNA

Get behind me, Alfie. Protect my body.

ROBIN

Prepare to di--nah, I'm just effing with you.

SHAYLEE

Robin?

ROBIN

Robin Goodfellow. At your service.

NARRATOR

Robin Goodfellow. I do so wish this story were about him instead. Far more entertaining.

ROBIN

But like, in all seriousness, you shouldn't have come here uninvited. Like how in the H-E double hockey sticks did you get past the wards?

(sniffs)

A human. A construct. And...shitake mushrooms, what are you?

ALFIE

(Batman voice)

I'm your worst nightmare.

ROBIN

Ah, this one! I like this one. You're not a construct. And not human, either. You must have been the one to bring these simpletons.

MACKENNA

Hey!

ROBIN

No offense. I just mean you're a lesser being. That's all.

MACKENNA

Are you sure we need this guy?

ROBIN

Perhaps you're not hearing me correctly.

(as to a child)

Me: Old One. You: cockroach.

(beat)

Y'know, mystery woman, I don't think they're getting it.

SHAYLEE

We're here for a reason, Robin.

ALFIE

We need love-in-loneliness.

MACKENNA

Love-in-idleness.

ALFIE

Also that one.

ROBIN

Love-in-idleness. Just so you know, you cannot mix a love potion with it like you could a few hundred years ago. Cupid's been MIA for a long time.

SHAYLEE

We're not mixing a love potion.

ROBIN

Ah. You're reversing some spooky magic, then. Pull up a chair and tell Robin all about it.

MACKENNA

It's a long story, and we don't really have time for--

ALFIE

We bridged two worlds and got all scrambled.

ROBIN

Well, that's...honestly, that's pretty dadgum anticlimactic. I was hoping for curses and ass heads, you know?

MACKENNA

Ass heads?

ALFIE

Even I get that reference. Have some culture.

ROBIN

The bridging worlds part is pretty fun, though. I'm guessing it was somewhere far off and alien. Like Neptune.

MACKENNA

It wasn't Neptune. Is this guy for real?

ROBIN

Oh, well excuuuse me for being personable.

SHAYLEE

We just want the flower.

ROBIN

The flower? Or the potion made from the flower?

MACKENNA

Considering we could step sideways to anywhere and pick the damn flower ourselves, I think you know we need the potion.

ROBIN

Language!

MACKENNA

Alfie, did you bring my scythe?

ROBIN

Oh, silly little construct. Thinking you would stab poor little Robin in his poor little heart.

(so fucking dark)

I'd kill you so fucking hard that your leaves would crumble into leaves. Choose your next action very, very carefully.

(back to absurd)

Shall we dance?

MACKENNA

(beat, whispering)

So he's crazy.

SHAYLEE

(whispering)

It's not like I'd ever met him. I've never needed magical drugs before.

ALFIE

(whispering)

I'm pretty sure he's not just the owner; he's also a client.

ROBIN

So the love-in-idleness potion. What do you propose to give me in return for it? I don't just hand out my stash to every gosh darn person who asks for it.

MACKENNA

What is it you want? I'm guessing it's not money.

ROBIN

That's a good guess. What use would Robin have with money?

SHAYLEE

So what do you want?

ROBIN

Your firstborn...perhaps your immortal soul...

MACKENNA

I'll never have either of those things, so that sounds like a good deal to me.

ROBIN

But how silly of me. Constructs don't have souls, do you? No, I think we'll need something a bit more...personal.

ALFIE

Not liking where this is going.

ROBIN

Perhaps your fortune? All the luck you have left?

MACKENNA

He can do that?

SHAYLEE

Never doubt what the Hidden People can do.

ALFIE

I'm really good at scratch-offs. You can have some of that action.

MACKENNA

Stop. We're not giving you our fortunes.

ROBIN

No? Then make me an offer.

MACKENNA

I dunno. What do you get for the psychopathic faerie who has everything?

ROBIN

You're not very good at this.

MACKENNA

Don't you have a quest that needs performing? We're really good at quests.

ALFIE

Between the three of us, we've robbed a museum, sipped from the Well of Wisdom, and stolen from a faerie vault, sooo...

ROBIN

Well butter my toast and griddle my flapjacks. You're quite the adventurers.

SHAYLEE

What dangerous task do you have for us?

ROBIN

I have nothing, honestly, but this is too fun. I could make something up.

MACKENNA

I feel like we're wasting our time.
Can't we get love-in-idleness anywhere
else?

ROBIN

Oh, come on, Mackenna. Don't be a
spoilsport.

MACKENNA

(beat)

I never said my name.

(beat)

None of us ever said my name.

(beat)

I'm not even in my body.

ROBIN

(long beat, then dark)

Oops.

SHAYLEE

He's toying with us. You've known who
we were all along, haven't you?

ROBIN

It's so much more fun to play with you,
though.

NARRATOR

I was thinking the same thing, Mr.
Goodfellow.

MACKENNA

How do you know us?

ROBIN

The killer of the Magister? Why, you're
a hero among the Old Ones. Word travels
fast through our circles.

ALFIE

Ha. Circles.

MACKENNA

Will you help us or not?

ROBIN

Anything for the great Mackenna Thorne.
But nothing is free, my dearie.

SHAYLEE

What do you want, then?

ROBIN

A favor.

MACKENNA

Okay. What is it?

ROBIN

No. A favor. An undetermined favor at
an undetermined time in the future.

ALFIE

(doing your best Brando)
"Someday, and that day may never come,
I will call upon you to do a service
for me."

MACKENNA

Not helping, Alfie.

ROBIN

Basically, yes. Like the Godfather. But
with fewer horse heads.

ALFIE

You only do ass heads.

ROBIN

Touché. A prize for the lady who isn't
a lady.

ALFIE

Unless the prize is love-in-idleness, I
don't think I want anything from you.

ROBIN

A favor. That is my price. Take it or,
y'know.

SHAYLEE

If you agree to this, it's binding. You cannot refuse him when he calls in this favor.

ROBIN

To be clear, the favor is from all three of you.

ALFIE

We can stay scrambled until we find another solution. I haven't even figured out most of your superpowers yet.

MACKENNA

We accept. You'll get your favor.

ROBIN

Glorious. We are now bound. Robin Goodfellow owns a piece of fate. So spake Wodan.

MACKENNA

Ugh, it's like an Old One catch phrase.

ROBIN

I assume you've already done your homework? You know the ritual?

MACKENNA

I tore that page out, yeah.

ROBIN

The chaos hangs so heavy around you that it practically drips. The Court must truly hate you.

(long inhale)

Delicious.

(beat)

Your potion. May your love not stay idle forever.

ALFIE

That's it? We can go?

ROBIN

If we shadows have offended, think but
this: yeah, get the fuck out of here.

(beat)

But don't be strangers, ya hear? Come
back anytime.

(long beat)

Seriously, though, if I ever see you in
my alley again, I will remove your
entire family from the gene pool.

(beat)

Too-da-loo!

MUSICAL TRANSITION

58. Sam's doorbell rings. After a few seconds, doorbell
rings again.

NARRATOR

The do-gooder police officer again.
Just can't leave well enough alone, can
you?

Finally, door opens.

RON

Hey, Sam.

SAM

Ronald. Why are you here?

RON

Um, I tried calling. Twice.

SAM

I saw.

RON

Look, I know I'm probably the last
person you want to see right now.

SAM

No, I can think of one or two that top
you.

RON

Well, uh, cool? So, I'm sorry for dropping by unannounced. Unless you heard my voicemails, in which case it was announced. Just maybe not welcome. I mean, I can talk from out here and all, but I don't want to let bugs into your house, so...

SAM

(sigh)

Fine. Come in. I'm not feeling well, though. So make it fast. Okay?

RON

Roger that.

Ron enters. Door closes.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

59. Thorne house.

THOMAS

Here they are. The glyphs, just like they were drawn on the page.

MACKENNA

They look good. How much did it kill you to paint blood on the kitchen floor?

NISSA

He tested it in the corner to make sure he could scrub it out of the grout.

MACKENNA

Of course he did.

THOMAS

Well, I don't think blood magic is covered by the homeowner's insurance. Better safe than sorry.

MACKENNA

You might look like Nissa, but you are definitely my brother.

NISSA

So what do we do now?

ALFIE

Probably a mystical chant.
(chants gibberish)

NISSA

Are we sure we want to switch back?
He's somehow a lot less annoying like
this.

MACKENNA

Do you want to be stuck in Alfie?

NISSA

So what's the chant?

MACKENNA

We're actually countering the magic
with love.

SHAYLEE (nervous)

What?

THOMAS

Group hug?

Murphy very faintly barks.

MACKENNA

We have to express what we learned
about the other person and about
ourselves.

(beat)

And then, yeah, we chant some mystical
shit.

NARRATOR

What a safe and perfectly harmless
endeavor. Surely nothing can go wrong
from baring your souls.

ALFIE

I'll go first. Mack, I learned that you have awesome superpowers that are really hard to use. But I did turn invisible for a second today, and that was indescribably cool.

SHAYLEE

You didn't even know you did it until we told you.

ALFIE

And I learned that you heal really fast. My shoulder doesn't even hurt anymore from running into the wall.

MACKENNA

Wait, what?

ALFIE

But I also learned that you don't need superpowers to be cool. I couldn't really use any of your magic, but I still felt like a total badass just because I think you're a badass. So I guess that means we can be as badass as we feel. And that's...that's something I wish I realized a long time ago. Like in middle school.

MACKENNA

Damn.

THOMAS Alfie...

NISSA That

was...wow.

ALFIE

So what's the cool chant?

60. Sam's house.

SAM

Do you want something to drink?

RON

Sure. What do you have?

SAM

Water. I have lots of water.

RON

Well, okay. Sure. Water me.

Sam gets out a glass and fills it from the tap while Ron speaks.

RON (CONT'D)

So I've already apologized a lot for what happened with you and Chief McIlvene. I'm not going to do that anymore. Unless, you know, you need to see me grovel some more.

SAM

Not necessary.

RON

This is about Mackenna Thorne.

SAM

(beat, tense)

What about Mackenna Thorne?

RON

I don't know how it's possible because she matches down to the fingerprints, but that girl is not who she looks like. Now, I know you're thinking: how can someone look like one person but be another?

61. Thorne house.

THOMAS

And Nissa taught me to be more confident in what I believe in. I think I learned that from her even before hijacking her body. Okay. I think that's everything for me. Who wants to go next?

SHAYLEE

I'll go.

(beat)

Thomas, I know it might sound weird given that she tried to murder you at least once, but the fetch...the other Mackenna...I think you've gotten through to her. I've met many fetches. I've never even considered trying to help one. But you...after everything she did, you gave her the family she always wanted. Your capacity for forgiveness is extraordinary. Sitting there, seeing the way she looked at you, hearing how she spoke to you...I truly and completely felt sorry for a fetch for the first time. You might not know it, but you've changed everything for me. I will never look at training changelings the same way.

THOMAS

Wow. Thank you, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

Thank you, Thomas.

ALFIE

Wow, Mack, can you even cry? Like I am trying to sob, and I just cannot even tear up.

MACKENNA

It's a thing. Sorry.

62. Sam's house.

SAM

So you think it's not actually her. Fascinating.

RON

I mean...it has to be, right? Even identical twins have different fingerprints.

SAM

So it is her.

RON

Is it just mental illness? That could explain why her attitude and demeanor are completely different. Not the hair, though.

SAM

Sometimes, people are not who we think they are.

63. Thorne house. Murphy distantly barks.

MACKENNA

Your turn, Nissa.

NISSA

Okay, here goes. Alfie, I know that I pick on you a lot. Make fun of you a lot. Tease you. Torture you. But I only do all of that because you really, really deserve it.

THOMAS

Nissa, I think maybe you're missing the point of this exercise.

NISSA

I'm getting there. Today, when I spoke to Amelia, I got a taste of what it's like to be you. Never appreciated. Never accepted for who you are. Never good enough. A lot of the time, that's because you don't even try to be good enough. But I think that's a defense mechanism because you know you'll never measure up no matter what. So you don't even try.

(beat)

I guess that's what I learned about myself, too. Sometimes, I treat you just like your mom does. And I'm sorry for that. I should appreciate you for your stupidity rather than ridicule you for it.

ALFIE

(sniffles)

Damn you, Mack, and your emotionless eyes.

MACKENNA

I can't help it. It's a halfling thing.

SHAYLEE

Pretty sure it's not.

NISSA

Okay, I've said everything I'm gonna say without crying, so you're up, Mack.

MACKENNA

Okay. Here goes.

64. Sam's house.

RON

It just doesn't add up at all.

SAM

Why do you care so much?

RON

Are you kidding? I care because of you, Sam. You taught me to care. I barely even worried about filling my paperwork out correctly a couple months ago. But working with you, even for such a short time, I actually appreciate the importance of this job. I just applied because I thought it would be easy and I liked the idea of being able to tell people what to do. But you always cared so much. I used to make fun of you for that. And I'm sorry. Your passion for justice is infectious, and you passed that justice flu on to me. I need to make sure this is done right. And the next case. And the next. You made me a better cop, Sam. A better man. I can only hope to live up to your standards and mentor other losers like me.

65. Thorne house.

MACKENNA

I never really understood how you had to work for the Unseelie Court, Shaylee. I mean, I knew it, but I didn't know it, y'know? But when I got summoned today...it was such a compulsion. I've never needed to do anything so much in my life. It was like drowning, being unable to breathe. I just had to go, or I would suffocate. And that...that helped me understand a lot of things. Your entire life is survival. It's funny...you're the richest person in this room, but you aren't privileged. Everything you do is just to live. I never fully got that before. I do now. It makes me appreciate you so much more.

SHAYLEE

(gonna die)

Thank you, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Now about me...I wandered around Arcadia today trying to find the Hall of the Sagas. I ended up in a giant nursery. Filled with babies and toddlers.

THOMAS

Oh my god.

SHAYLEE

That's where they keep all the fetches they take during the Reapings.

MACKENNA

I've never been so angry before. I've never cared about any cause like this. I understand now why the halflings formed the Seelie Court. The Hidden People are monsters. And if my time on an alien world inhabited by horrifying predators has taught me anything, it's

that I kill monsters. I don't really understand where I fit into the world. I lost three parents this year. I've had three identities, and that's not counting being Shaylee today. But I know this: I am taking down the Hidden People.

(really long beat)

Okay, here's the really stupid chant.

66. Sam's house.

RON

So, uh, I guess that's everything I wanted to say. Any thoughts? Suggestions? Final pointers?

SAM

Honestly? I don't really care anymore. All I know is that my head hurts, I'm tired, and I'm hungry.

67. Thorne house. Magical sound.

MACKENNA

Did...did it work?

ALFIE

Testing...testing...

NISSA

Ha! I'm in my far superior body again.

SHAYLEE

Let's never create another magical bridge between two worlds.

NISSA

Agreed.

THOMAS

Finally, we can get back to normal around here. Or whatever passes for normal in our crazy lives.

Murphy distantly barks.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, I think Murphy is dying to come back in. Can you all wipe up the floor while I get him?

MACKENNA

Yeah, no problem.

Thomas walks to back door and opens it. Murphy barks.

THOMAS

Oh my god. Uh, Mackenna...

68. Sam's house.

RON

You're hungry? We could go out for burgers. The diner has a special on patty melts this week, and they're still open.

SAM

I don't want a burger, Ronald.

69. Thorne house.

MACKENNA

Thomas? What's wrong?

Mackenna walks to back door.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

What the hell? Did Murphy do that?

Murphy barks.

SHAYLEE

What happened?

MACKENNA

It's Murphy. He...he spelled something with sticks.

NISSA

Can dogs spell?

ALFIE
What did he write?

MACKENNA
"Sam." He wrote "Sam."

70. Sam's house.

RON
Pizza, then? I might be able to get to
Oberon's before they close.

SAM
(frustrated sounds)
Nothing sounds good. But I hunger.

71. Thorne house.

THOMAS
But...I don't...

MACKENNA
Sam?

Murphy barks.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
Are you Sam?

Murphy barks.

ALFIE
That doesn't make any sense, though.
Sam was here. She didn't switch with
Murphy.

Murphy grumbles.

SHAYLEE
That wasn't how the body switch worked.
We didn't directly swap with each
other.

THOMAS
But no one else was here.

NISSA

No. No, something else was here.
Something else was in the room when we
all switched. We thought it was dead,
but a severed head usually lives for a
few seconds.

THOMAS

No. No way. That's not possible.

MACKENNA

Nissa...are you saying...oh no.

72. Sam's house.

SAM

I hunger.

RON

I mean, I could eat.

SAM

I hunger. I am hunger.

Sam walks toward Ron.

RON

Uh, sure.

(beat)

Sam? What are you doing?

SAM

You smell...good.

Ron backs away as she approaches.

RON

Sam? Sam, step back.

(beat)

Are you...what are you doing?

SAM

Feeding.

Sam rips into Ron with her bare hands.

RON
(screams)
No! Stop! Sam! Sa--

Half of Ron hits the floor. The other half follows.

NARRATOR
Another casualty of Mackenna Thorne.
You know what they say: when God closes
a door between dimensions, he opens a
window to let a monster in.

THE END