

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 2.11

"Body Building"

Written by

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118. Television plays program. A shuffling outside Sam's family trailer as her father drunkenly approaches the trailer. Volume on TV goes down. Keys outside, rattling then trying to fit in the lock. TV clicks off. Sam scampers away to her room. Eases the door shut with a quiet click. Hurries to the closet and crowds herself in with the clothes. Slides the closet door shut. (Through the walls) Sam's father enters, slamming the door so hard it half opens back up. He stumbles to the couch and sits.

MRS. MULLIGAN  
(through walls)  
Look who finally came home.

MR. MULLIGAN  
(through walls)  
Get off my case, Linda.

MRS. MULLIGAN  
Are you drunk? It's two thirty on a Sunday!

MR. MULLIGAN  
When you start earning your keep around here, you can decide when I drink.

MRS. MULLIGAN  
Earning my keep?! I raise your daughter, asshole!

MR. MULLIGAN  
Raise? She's fifteen! What part of her needs raised?

MRS. MULLIGAN  
Oh, so you'd just have me out working while she does knows god knows what with god knows who?

MR. MULLIGAN  
Little whore doesn't even have any friends who're girls.

MRS. MULLIGAN  
Don't you call her that!

MR. MULLIGAN

Only hangs around with boys. I think she's already doing whatever you're worried about.

Sam clicks on her recorder. Can still hear the Mulligans faintly in the background.

SAM (15)

(recorder)

Sam Mulligan. Audio log. Gannon was a dick today in home room. He said Miranda Matthews was ugly and desperate because she's going to prom with Alfred O'Toole. Billy laughed at first, but Thomas told them both to shut up, and they did. Billy acted like he wasn't laughing and punched Gannon in the arm. I think Gannon just has a crush on Miranda and was upset that she's going to prom with an older boy. Our grade doesn't get to do prom unless older kids ask us. Otherwise, we have to wait until next year. Which is fine, because dances are dumb. I wouldn't even go to prom at all. Unless Thomas asked me. But then I would probably say no, anyway. Because he wouldn't ask me because he liked me. He's always being nice to Jessica Song, and she bites her lip when he talks to her. Slut. So I probably would say no. Who wants to go to a stupid dance, anyw--

MR. MULLIGAN

You're a shitty housewife, Linda. You don't even have dinner ready when I come home.

MRS. MULLIGAN

It's two thirty, you piss-drunk fucktard!

MR. MULLIGAN

It's not like you were the one working third shift.

MRS. MULLIGAN

You call taking Jack's charity job work? You're helping him build a deck!

MR. MULLIGAN

Where's Samantha?

MRS. MULLIGAN

How should I know?

MR. MULLIGAN

Aren't you her mother? What else are you doing all day?

MRS. MULLIGAN

She's in her room. Or out. I don't know.

MR. MULLIGAN

Mother of the fuckin year. Samantha!

Sam's father stomps around, followed by her mother. He approaches and enters her room. He tears open the closet door, interrupting her.

MR. MULLIGAN  
What the fuck are you doing in your closet?

MRS. MULLIGAN  
Leave her alone!

MR. MULLIGAN  
Get up!

He grabs Sam's arm and yanks her up.

SAM  
Ow, Dad! You're hurting me!

MR. MULLIGAN  
You come when I call you.

Sam breaks free and runs out of the room.

MR. MULLIGAN (CONT'D)  
Samantha!

Sam runs outside and keeps running.

MR. MULLIGAN (CONT'D)  
(distant)  
Get back here! Samantha!

**WHOOSHY TRANSITION SOUND**

119. In the jail, Mackenna gets up.

MACKENNA  
(woozy for a second)  
Thomas, what did you do?

THOMAS  
Mackenna?

MACKENNA

What did you do?!

THOMAS

She...I had to...

MACKENNA

Goddammit, Thomas. I should never have let you watch her.

SHAYLEE

You should have checked with us first, Thomas.

THOMAS

She bit off her finger, Mackenna! Her own finger!

MACKENNA

Holy shit.

THOMAS

I need to get her back, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

And you think letting that thing go will get her back? We were trying to get her back, which we might have been able to figure out if we still had her, y'know, in a cage.

THOMAS

Your spell didn't work. At all.

MACKENNA

How is letting her out going to get Sam back?

THOMAS

It said that it would let her go.

MACKENNA

And when will the benevolent, murderous monster do that?

THOMAS

When it gets a new body.

MACKENNA

Did it say how it plans to do that?

THOMAS

I don't know. Something about a power source. The...Sunstone?

SHAYLEE

Oh no.

MACKENNA

What's the Sunstone?

SHAYLEE

Pretty much how it sounds. The Sun's Stone.

MACKENNA

Sun? As in...the Sun?

SHAYLEE

Aye. Granted, I always assumed it was a myth. Conventional wisdom is that everything about the Sun is a myth.

MACKENNA

Let's assume it's true, that it literally is the Stone of the Sun. What could it do?

SHAYLEE

Well...anything, I suppose. It would be an obscene power source. Obviously, it would grant the power of a god.

MACKENNA

Yeah, I was afraid of that based on the name. Could it give Cygnus its body back?

SHAYLEE

We're dealing in hypotheticals, but I suppose it could. Why not? That kind of power, Mackenna.

THOMAS

See? If it gets this Stone, we can have Sam back. We should be helping it to get the Stone.

MACKENNA

No, Thomas. You didn't see Cygnus in the In-Between. If it gets the Sunstone and actually gets its body back, you'll only have Sam back for as long it takes for Cygnus to destroy the world. We're talking apocalyptic scale. This thing is unstoppable.

THOMAS

I'm sure that's not true. They didn't have armies and technology in the In-Between.

SHAYLEE

Thomas, listen to yourself. You're saying that it's worth the life of one person to send the world to war. How many people will die to fight this thing, assuming it can even be fought? It ruled an entire world, and it didn't even have something like the Sunstone in its possession.

THOMAS

Sam is worth it.

MACKENNA

Thomas...I'm sorry. I can't imagine what kind of position this puts you in, but I have to stop that thing. And if that means hurting Sam...I'll try not to hurt her.

THOMAS

What do you mean?

MACKENNA

I'm going after it.

THOMAS

You can't.

MACKENNA

Thomas, that thing left here five minutes ago and only walks in a straight line. I think I can catch it.

THOMAS

No. I mean you can't go after her. You can't fight her. I won't let you.

MACKENNA

Don't be an idiot. You can't stop me.

THOMAS

Damn it, Mackenna! When have I ever asked you for anything? All I've ever done is give, even though you've never once been grateful. I need you to do this for me.

MACKENNA

I can't.

THOMAS

I'm not asking.

MACKENNA

Let go of my arm, Thomas.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, we have to move.

THOMAS

Do not do this.

Mackenna draws her scythe from her pocket.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

The scythe?! You'll kill her!

MACKENNA

I'm sorry, Thomas. Now let go.

THOMAS

No.

Mackenna shoves Thomas against the bars.



MACKENNA  
Come on, Shaylee.

Door opens. They run.

THOMAS  
(calling out)  
Mackenna! Please!

120. Mackenna and Shaylee run outside. They stop abruptly.

NARRATOR  
Mackenna and Shaylee quickly find the creature, standing just outside the jail and carrying the horn it removed from its own rotting skull. What immediately follows would be an epic battle if Mackenna were actually as prepared as she believes she is to kill Samantha Mulligan.

MACKENNA  
That was...actually, I thought it would be a little harder to find you.

SAMNUS  
Where have you brought me? We are much farther away than we were before.

MACKENNA  
Oh, right. Yeah, there weren't any ghost towns near the park, so we're now on mountain time. I guess South Carolina's a longer walk from here.

SAMNUS  
This is not funny.

MACKENNA  
I'm not laughing.

SAMNUS  
The weapon you wielded in my world. You believe this will stop me?

MACKENNA  
I do.

SAMNUS

And your cheerleader?

SHAYLEE

What's with all the passive, gendered  
insults lately?

SAMNUS

And you will fight me with your bare  
hands?

MACKENNA

Yeah, Shaylee. Where are your weapons?

SHAYLEE

Well, they burned up in the fire that  
destroyed my home right after I died.

MACKENNA

You think maybe you should get new  
ones?

SHAYLEE

I'm ready for the beast, this time. I  
won't need weap--

Samnus punches Shaylee and launches her across the street.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Ow.

NARRATOR

Careful, Mackenna. That thing is almost  
as fast as you and twice as strong.

SAMNUS

Stand down.

MACKENNA

Quit mining her mind for her phrases.  
You don't get to talk like a cop.  
You're a monster. You say shit like  
"Cease your mindless prattle" and "you  
dare stand in my way?"

SAMNUS

Cease your mindless prattle.

NARRATOR

It moves in quickly, punching with its jagged horn like a dagger. Mackenna dodges and parries each strike, but when the creature leaves its flank open, she hesitates, unable to bury her blade in her brother's former, would-be lover.

MACKENNA

Stop!

SAMNUS

Stop me.

SHAYLEE

(calling out)

Mackenna!

MACKENNA

I could use a hand, Shaylee.

NARRATOR

Yes, Mackenna, it's probably getting hard to fight when the force of the blows you're blocking is numbing your arms.

Stepping sideways departure.

SAMNUS

The cheerleader has abandoned you.

MACKENNA

No, you say "your wench doth retreat."

SAMNUS

I wouldn't say that even in my true form.

MACKENNA

Oh? Then what's monster for "Ow, my face"?

Heavy impact of iron on face.

SAMNUS

Ah! My face.

MACKENNA

Actually pretty close. Go me.

SAMNUS

(roars)

MACKENNA

Oh shit. Let go of my--  
(screams)

Samnus hurls Mackenna away. Samnus stomps to Mackenna.

SAMNUS

Sam says you cannot be killed by my hands. So if I tear you to pieces, will they live in agony forever?

MACKENNA

Sam says?

Samnus stomps Mackenna.

NARRATOR

Those were certainly ribs breaking. One of them might just be powder now. And if you listen very closely, you might hear the oozing of a ruptured spleen.

Stepping sideways arrival.

SHAYLEE

Cygnus!

Flintlock pistol cocking.

SAMNUS

That is not my--

Gunshot from a flintlock pistol.

SAMNUS

(cries in pain)

SHAYLEE

Next one's in your face if you don't stand down.

MACKENNA

(wheezing)

See, she's allowed to say that.

121. Thomas runs up.

THOMAS

Shaylee! No!

SHAYLEE

Thomas, get out of the way.

THOMAS

No. You're not killing her.

SHAYLEE

We need to end this.

THOMAS

You have to shoot me first, then.

SHAYLEE

I will if I have to.

THOMAS

That gun only has two barrels, and you already fired one.

SHAYLEE

I'll reload.

MACKENNA

Shaylee...let him go.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, this is bigger than either of them.

SAMNUS

I will be soon.

THOMAS

Shut up! You promise you'll give her back?

SAMNUS

You have my word.

THOMAS

Go, then.

SHAYLEE

Out of the way, Thomas.

MACKENNA

Shaylee, put it down. I have this.

SHAYLEE

You're on the ground, and a rib is sticking out of your shirt.

MACKENNA

Put it down.

(beat)

Cygnus.

(beat)

Hey, Monster Face!

SAMNUS

I am leaving.

MACKENNA

Wait. It's going to take you weeks to walk across the country. What if we could get you a new body faster?

SAMNUS

You are not jumping me through space. I am not stupid enough to agree to this.

MACKENNA

No. I have a better idea.

NARRATOR

If only the fool knew that under no circumstances can one ever trust Mackenna Thorne.

MACKENNA

Go wherever you want for now, but come back tomorrow. I need about a day.

SAMNUS

I am not waiting around for you to trick me.

MACKENNA

Listen to me: I promise I will give you your body. As close to the original as you'll ever get.

(beat)

Sam's a good detective. Ask her if I'm lying to you.

SAMNUS

(beat)

Very well. One day. If you try to deceive me, I will kill as many of you as I can before I kill Sam.

MACKENNA

I am not lying. You will get your body.

SAMNUS

One day. No longer.

Samnus walks away.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna...

MACKENNA

Do not shoot her, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

I can end this.

MACKENNA

Please. Trust me.

SHAYLEE

(long beat)

Aye. Always.

NARRATOR

If only the fool knew that under no circumstances can one ever trust Mackenna Thorne.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

122. In the Court. Gavel bangs.

ALDER NIAMH

This creature they call Cygnus is of no concern to the Court.

NARRATOR

It is of concern because Mackenna Thorne handled it herself. Did you even know an alien monster capable of destroying the world was loose? Perhaps you should be more grateful.

ALDER NIAMH

But what does this have to do with us? With these proceedings? With the future of the Court?

NARRATOR

When the story is over, you will thank me, Alder Niamh. I've already given you a clue that might allow you to survive what's coming. It was right there in this "pointless" story. If you're paying close enough attention, you'll be prepared.

ALDER NIAMH

I suppose you're not going to tell me which was the important part.

NARRATOR

That would ruin the fun. You'll just have to see how it all unfolds. Now, where was I?

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**



123. Back in the abandoned jail.

NISSA

Mack, are you sure you can do this?

ALFIE

Yeah, it's not like you've ever tried it before.

MACKENNA

Yeah. I think so. It's instinctual or something.

NISSA

Well, that means you didn't wall off your ancestral memories enough.

MACKENNA

I'll be fine. It's just like stepping sideways.

SHAYLEE

It really isn't.

ALFIE

How come every time we have to plan something, our options are "bad thing" and "other bad thing"?

NISSA

You should at least wait until your compound fracture is less compound.

MACKENNA

I'll be fine. I can already feel my insides getting back together.

ALFIE

You really help to point out the gritty reality of being a superhero.

MACKENNA

Go on, you two. Gather up everything you can find. But don't go far. She's out there somewhere, and I don't trust her.

NISSA

Are you sure she trusts you?

MACKENNA

Oh, she definitely doesn't trust me. But I think she's desperate enough to play along. Sam's body doesn't look like it'll hold all the way to South Carolina.

ALFIE

Okay, Mack. You can count on us. Where's Thomas? He can help.

MACKENNA

I don't know. Sulking somewhere. I'm pretty sure he'll never forgive me for this. Which really says something if you consider all the things I've done in the past that were actually unforgivable.

124. Nissa and Alfie leave.

SHAYLEE

You sure about this? I've seen the Hidden People do this on a much smaller scale, and it really drains them. You've got to give it some of your own life force.

MACKENNA

It's only temporary.

SHAYLEE

I hope so. Otherwise, you might be starting Armageddon.

MACKENNA

I wish all my teachers who called me a slacker could see me now.

SHAYLEE

(laughs)

I think they'd be impressed.

(beat)

I know I am.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

Some silence.

SHAYLEE

So we tried to talk this morning before  
a monster interrupted us.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

SHAYLEE

You had something you wanted to say?

MACKENNA

Uh, I think I did. Don't really  
remember it.

SHAYLEE

Oh.

Some silence.

MACKENNA

It was just about, like...I just wanted  
to tell you that I...trust you. I know  
you were worried about that before,  
when you worked for the Magister. And  
more recently, since you're still  
working for the Court.

SHAYLEE

Yeah, thanks for that reminder.

MACKENNA

I just mean...like, you don't have  
anything to worry about, okay? I trust  
you.

SHAYLEE

I think healthy skepticism is warranted  
given that the Court still commands me.

MACKENNA

But I know you wouldn't do anything to  
hurt me.

SHAYLEE

Never. Not if I had a choice. But you can't trust me to always have one.

MACKENNA

I thought we always had choices. Isn't that what you told me?

SHAYLEE

Normally, yes. Circumstances push you toward obvious answers, but you have a choice. With my contract, I literally have no choice. You experienced that.

MACKENNA

You're really bad at accepting my trust, you know that?

SHAYLEE

Sorry.

MACKENNA

You wanted to say something, too, if I recall.

SHAYLEE

Aye. Nissa told me what the Magister said to you.

MACKENNA

Which part?

SHAYLEE

The part where he told you that no one genuinely cares about you. That we're all just drawn in because you're half-hidden.

MACKENNA

Oh yeah, that part. That was a fun chat we had.

SHAYLEE

Nissa was right about it. She said that it doesn't matter what draws us to people because the real bonds come from more than that.

MACKENNA

Y'know, Alfie said basically the same thing. I smell a scheme.

SHAYLEE

(laughs)

It was awfully coincidental that they split up to corner each of us at the same time.

MACKENNA

Those two are always so shifty.

SHAYLEE

They have a point, though.

MACKENNA

Do they?

SHAYLEE

Of course they do. You really think all of this is fake?

MACKENNA

All of what?

SHAYLEE

Your friends, your family...me?

MACKENNA

How am I supposed to know that? I mean, you all put up with a lot of my shit. And believe me, I know how much that is.

SHAYLEE

Well, yeah, it's a lot of shit.

MACKENNA

It's a lot of shit. Maybe that's because you can't help it.

SHAYLEE

Or maybe it's because we care about you. Maybe that's the reason. And since none of us will ever know, why don't we just pretend it's that?

MACKENNA

Easy for you to say. I can't stop thinking about it every time I see any of you.

SHAYLEE

Let's come at it another way. What about everyone else's baggage?

MACKENNA

What do you mean?

SHAYLEE

All the rest of us. You like us, right? Nissa, Alfie, Thomas?

MACKENNA

Of course I like all of you. That includes you, too.

SHAYLEE

Well, what about all my shit? My poor, tortured soul.

MACKENNA

Eh. It keeps you humble. I like that.

SHAYLEE

Smartarse. What about Nissa, then? She's overbearing, gruff, sometimes kinda mean.

MACKENNA

She's a sweetie underneath all that.

SHAYLEE

But those things are still there. And Thomas.

(beat)

Okay, he's perfect.

MACKENNA

Yeah, he's not a good example.

SHAYLEE

But Alfie! Alfie's your best friend! And he's Alfie!

MACKENNA

So what? I love that little dork.

SHAYLEE

Exactly. Despite all his issues,  
baggage...shit, to use your word...you  
still love him.

MACKENNA

Dammit. I think you're right.

(beat)

Alfie is one of the Hidden People!

SHAYLEE

(laughs)

Shut up.

Shaylee punches Mackenna in the arm.

MACKENNA

Ow! Watch it! I'm still recovering.

SHAYLEE

I punched you in the arm. Which Cygnus  
didn't hurt.

MACKENNA

Did so. It's sore.

SHAYLEE

You'll be fine.

MACKENNA

Did you or did you not see my rib  
protruding from my side?

SHAYLEE

It's almost all the way back in now.  
You really heal fast. As fast as the  
Hidden People, and faster than them  
from iron.

MACKENNA

Look at me, I'm like She-Wolverine over  
here.

SHAYLEE

That's like an X-Men thing, right?

MACKENNA

Oh my god, do not let Alfie hear you say that.

SHAYLEE

Hey, I spent an entire year in Arcadia. I missed a lot of pop culture.

MACKENNA

Even if they put one of those movies out that year, it doesn't excuse that you missed like fifteen more.

SHAYLEE

I don't like superheroes, what can I say?

(beat)

Well, maybe the real life ones are pretty cool.

MACKENNA

Nice save.

SHAYLEE

If we survive this and don't destroy the world or anything, I think we need a vacation. You know, I have a house in the mountains if you like skiing. And one on the beach if you like sun.

MACKENNA

So yeah, skiing and sun both sound miserable, but they would be marginally less miserable with you.

SHAYLEE

It's a date, then.

Some silence.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to make it weird.



MACKENNA

Nah, I get it.

SHAYLEE

I just meant that--

MACKENNA

Yep. We're good.

SHAYLEE

Brilliant.

Some silence.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go check on the scavenging.

MACKENNA

I'll join you once the last of these ribs pops into place.

SHAYLEE

Gross. See you soon.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

125. Standing outside the jail in the ghost town. Night is falling.

ALFIE

There it is: six piles of every leaf, branch, twig, and stone we could find.

MACKENNA

This is really impressive.

NISSA

We needed way more than we could find on the ground. Stepping back to Conley for the chainsaw was a good idea.

THOMAS

Is it enough? Are you sure it will work?

MACKENNA

It should be enough. I mean, size-wise, does it look about right? Nissa?

NISSA

I'm just guess-timating, but yeah, it looks roughly the volume of Cygnus in its true form.

MACKENNA

Then it will work. And hopefully appease that thing. Nissa, I'd like you to stay up with me, if you can. I'm going to need help getting the details right, and your memory is key.

NISSA

That's fine. I don't sleep much, anyway.

SHAYLEE

This is normally a faster process, but I've never heard of a construct this size before. It will probably take you all night. And weaken you a lot when you imbue it with your life force.

ALFIE

Your life force? That sounds very sketch.

NISSA

Will you need to give up much, though? It's not like you're giving it a mind or a personality. It won't be a changeling like Shaylee, right?

MACKENNA

No. Just a vessel that I build and then convert to flesh and bone. But the mind will be Cygnus's.

SHAYLEE

And just for clarification, a changeling is a special kind of construct. Many constructs have minds, but changelings have magic and are copies of fetches.

NISSA

Noted.

THOMAS

Mackenna...I'm sorry for earlier.

MACKENNA

It's fine, Thomas.

THOMAS

Thank you for helping Sam.

Murphy barks.

MACKENNA

Let's just hope this works.

NISSA

I'm still not clear on something. How do we get Sam out of Murphy once Cygnus hops into the giant monster body you're making for it?

MACKENNA

Cygnus slipped up when it was talking to me. It used the phrase "Sam says." As in Sam is talking to it, on the inside.

THOMAS

I knew part of her was still in there.

MACKENNA

Well, it's buried deep. But Cygnus can access it. And we know part of her is in the dog along with Murphy.

ALFIE

Maybe Murphy wasn't big enough to hold himself and all of Sam. So part of her had to stay.

NISSA

That explains why Cygnus knew English right away, how it knew to deceive us. It can access Sam in a way we couldn't access each other.

SHAYLEE

If that's true, the good news is that Sam never learned very much about the Hidden People or their magic. That gives us an advantage.

THOMAS

How does all this help get her back?

MACKENNA

I'm hoping that it's like the Arm Ring of Frigg. The two pieces of Sam will want to be together. When Cygnus leaves Sam's body, it will create a vacuum. The part that's in Murphy will rejoin the part in her own body.

Murphy barks.

THOMAS

That's it? You're hoping?

SHAYLEE

If that fails, Thomas, we will find another way. Without Cygnus controlling her body, we'll have an easier time solving it, whether with medicine or magic.

NISSA

Are you ready, Mack?

MACKENNA

Yeah. Let's sculpt a giant monster.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

126. Outdoors. Mid-day.

MACKENNA  
(calling out)  
Cygnus!

Some silence.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)  
(calling out)  
Cygnus!

ALFIE  
Maybe you should sit down, Mack. You're pale.

SHAYLEE  
I agree.

NISSA  
And you look like shit.

MACKENNA  
I feel like I've been awake for four days without eating. But I can't let it know that I'm weak. The threat I pose is the only thing keeping it from tearing us apart.

NARRATOR  
Ah, such a high opinion of your capabilities. Some of us aren't particularly threatened by you at all, Mackenna.

THOMAS  
Regardless, don't try to fight her in this state. You're too weak.

MACKENNA  
I'll be fine.  
(beat)  
Is everybody ready?

ALFIE/NISSA/SHAYLEE/THOMAS  
Yep/Yes/Aye.

Murphy barks.

SAMNUS  
(calling out)  
Mackenna. You have kept your word.

MACKENNA  
Ah. So you see the mansion-sized  
monster body I made for you.

Samnus approaches.

SAMNUS  
It is...small.

MACKENNA  
We ran out of leaves. Is it big enough?  
You could still swallow an SUV whole.

SAMNUS  
It will suffice. The details  
are...accurate.

NISSA  
You're welcome.

MACKENNA  
You need to honor your part. We need  
Sam in her body and you in yours.

SAMNUS  
When I vacate this one, she will have  
hers back.

THOMAS  
And after you leave, she'll heal? Get  
back to normal?

SAMNUS  
Your bodies are fragile and brittle. I  
do not know what will happen to her.

MACKENNA  
Come on, then. Stop hurting her more.  
Take your new body for a test drive.

SAMNUS

Very well.

Samnus touches the construct body. Its skin ripples. Bones and ligaments creak with their first ever movements.

SHAYLEE

Gods.

ALFIE

And the original was even bigger than this?

Cygnus roars. Thomas runs toward it and Sam.

MACKENNA

Thomas, stay back!

THOMAS

Sam! Sam!

Thomas holds Sam's body.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

She's not breathing, Mackenna! Sam!  
(beat)  
Murphy!

Murphy runs to Thomas, barking. Magical body swapping sound.

SAM

(gasping for breath)

THOMAS

Thank god. Sam.

SAM

(ragged)

Thomas?

Cygnus roars.

CYGNUS

You have kept the bargain. This form  
bristles with power.

THOMAS

Come on, we have to get away from this thing.

SAM

Is that...is that it?

THOMAS

Yes. Come on. I've got you.

MACKENNA

I'm glad you're happy with it, you big, ugly monster.

NISSA

Did you have to give it the ability to speak?

ALFIE

The villain exposition scene is a timeless tradition, Nissa.

THOMAS

Almost there.

(beat)

Okay, you can sit.

SHAYLEE

Hi, Sam. You okay?

SAM

I'm...I don't know.

SHAYLEE

Are you weak?

SAM

A little.

SHAYLEE

Well, you're only going to need one eye and one hand.

CYGNUS

I shall be the last thing you see. Be honored.



NISSA

The ego on this guy.

MACKENNA

Y'know, I really wanted to be the one to do this. But Alfie insisted it should be Sam.

ALFIE

It just makes for a much better story.

Cygnus stomps.

MACKENNA

Your new body, the one that "bristles with power"? It's certainly powerful. And nearly invulnerable. But there's one catch. How did you put it when you told me, Shaylee?

SHAYLEE

A bullet to the chest? You'll heal. A piercing of iron, though? You'll burst into a puff of leaves.

Flintlock pistol cocking.

SAM

Hey, asshole.

Gunshot from a flintlock pistol.

CYGNUS

(roars in agony)

Massive construct exploding. Tons of debris falling.

MACKENNA

Wow. Holy shit. Is that what it feels like to have your life force rejoin your body?

SAM

Tell me about it.

ALFIE

It worked! Sam's back, and Cygnus is the world's biggest leaf pile.

(beat)

Hey, who wants to jump in?

Murphy barks.

NISSA

It's also filled with sticks and stones, so I don't recommend it.

ALFIE

You know what they say, Nissa. Sticks and stones may break my...oh, right.

THOMAS

Oh, Sam. I knew we'd get you back. I knew it.

SAM

Thanks for the gun, Shaylee. I think I needed that.

SHAYLEE

A well-earned catharsis.

THOMAS

Mackenna, we should get Sam to a hospital.

SAM

I'm fine. Other than missing a finger and being grazed by a bullet earlier.

SHAYLEE

Iron musket ball. And sorry.

MACKENNA

Thomas is right. We'll get you checked out to make sure there's no lasting injury.

SAM

I just need some time to rest. I'll be okay.

THOMAS

Sam, you don't need to put on a brave face. It's me. I love you.

**WHOOSHY TRANSITION SOUND**

127. Outside the Thorne house. Sam walks up. Knocks on the door. Door eventually opens.

THOMAS (15)

Sam?

SAM (15)

Hi, Thomas.

THOMAS

Come on in.

Sam enters, closing the door.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I didn't know you were coming over.

SAM

Sorry I didn't call. I wasn't thinking.

THOMAS

No, it's fine. Did you need something?

SAM

Not really. I just...um, I was just in the area.

THOMAS

Is everything all right?

SAM

Um...

(beat)

Yeah. Totally. I was just having some trouble with the geometry. I thought maybe you could help me with it.

THOMAS

Yeah, of course! Come on. Dad just made scones. Do you like cranberries?

SAM

Yeah.

(beat)

Your dad's the best.

THE END