

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 2.13

"The New Blood"

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134. Thorne house. Living room.

NISSA

Mack, Shaylee, are your bags packed?

MACKENNA

Yep.

NISSA

You have everything you need?

SHAYLEE

Aye.

NISSA

Swim suit, sunscreen, Aloe Vera?

MACKENNA

Yes, mom.

ALFIE

Let 'em breathe, Niss. I'm so jealous.

NISSA

I just want to be sure it's all ready before registration. We need to have our shit dotted and crossed because we're doing this the normal way.

SHAYLEE

We'll be fine.

MACKENNA

Yeah the ship doesn't leave for like an hour.

NISSA

Yes, but you're already late for check-in. Okay, here are your "Nissa took care of everything" packets. You've each got a passport, driver's license, and some additional identification papers. Now, when you check in, you'll have to sign some forms, so be sure to review the characters I've given you and the signatures that I forged on your IDs.

MACKENNA

You're already giving us homework?
Relax. We're tracking Shaylee's new
changeling assignment, not breaking
into Azkaban.

SHAYLEE

I think you mean Alcatraz.

MACKENNA

Seriously?

ALFIE

I prefer Shawshank, but nobody asked
me. Man, going on a cruise and calling
it work. You two get to do all the fun
stuff.

MACKENNA

Fun. Right. Cuz I'm really looking
forward to shuffleboard by the pool.

SHAYLEE

No one your age plays shuffleboard. But
since we're doing this the traditional
way--

MACKENNA

Like stepping sideways to check-in.

SHAYLEE

--we need to be as inconspicuous as
possible, which means we need to at
least pretend to have fun.

NISSA

Now, when you check in, they'll give
you a lanyard with your personal
keycard. Your keycard is your lifeline.
It's how you get to do any of the
excursions, the special events, food,
and the "all the drinks" drinks
package.

SHAYLEE

Now we're talking. You're the best,
Nissa.

THOMAS

How are you going to step sideways with a bunch of luggage?

SHAYLEE

We tricked one bag into holding all of our stuff. Are you ready, Mackenna?

MACKENNA

Let's do this.

THOMAS

Good luck, you two.

ALFIE

Bring me back one of those drinks they serve in pineapples.

NISSA

Remember your characters. Don't cause trouble.

MACKENNA

Bye.

Stepping sideways departure.

THOMAS

Well, there they go.

NISSA

And now we wait.

THOMAS

I'm gonna head over to Sam's to deliver this soup I made for her. And to see how she's doing.

Front door opens.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

If you need me, or if something happens--

NISSA

We have this. Focus on Sam.

THOMAS

Okay, okay. See you both later.

Front door closes.

ALFIE

And then there were two.

NISSA

Actually...

ALFIE

Oh, don't tell me you're leaving, too.

NISSA

I'm having brunch with my mom.

ALFIE

Sif Sifsdottir!

NISSA

You know that isn't her last name. She is Sif, so her last name can't be Sifsdottir.

ALFIE

Your mom is the best. Can I come?

NISSA

I mean, I don't think I've ever fully convinced her that we've never hooked up, so it probably won't matter if you're my shadow today. Might as well play into the delusion.

ALFIE

Sweet! Is this like a pancakes place or an Eggs Benedict place?

NISSA

You have never eaten Eggs Benedict in your entire life.

ALFIE

Uh, I know you can't forget that I grew up rich. My parents have a butler who cooks fancy meals.

NISSA

You have never eaten Eggs Benedict in your entire life.

ALFIE

Yeah, he always made me pancakes.

NISSA

This place doesn't have Mrs. Butterworth, so you'll have to settle for syrup that came from a tree and not a lab. Come on.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

135. Cruise harbor. Outside. General din of people in line.

MACKENNA

Are you sure we can't just step sideways onto the boat? I hate long lines.

SHAYLEE

You heard Nissa. We have to do this the traditional way. We can't draw any attention to ourselves.

MACKENNA

Nissa will never know.

SHAYLEE

You better look at your passport. You need to at least know your name and where you're from.

MACKENNA

Fine. Uh...I am Charlotte Ray Sawyer. I'm from...Kansas? I don't know anything about Kansas.

SHAYLEE

(Southern belle accent)

Well now ain't that a shame. The name's Adeline, Adeline Taylor. I come down this way from Georgia just to get away some.

MACKENNA

Are you serious? You're Irish, why can you do a southern accent?

SHAYLEE

(Southern belle accent)

Everybody can do a southern accent, darlin'. Here, you try.

MACKENNA

I can't do accents.

SHAYLEE

(accent)

And why's that, sugar?

MACKENNA

Cuz I'm not a fuckin' chameleon.

SHAYLEE

(accent)

You poor thing. All them superpowers and you can't do what Lord knows everybody south of Jersey can do in their sleep.

MACKENNA

(stubbornly normal voice)

Gee, ain't that mighty fine of you. You're just sweet as sugar, aren't you?

SHAYLEE

(normal Irish accent)

It's okay, Mack. Kansas is the Midwest, so they probably don't have an accent, anyway.

MACKENNA

I don't know anyone from Kansas, so I have no idea.

SHAYLEE

We just need to blend in so that we can make contact. You don't need a fake voice to do that.

MACKENNA

My version of blending in is to not speak.

SHAYLEE

Don't be such a dry shite. You can do whatever you like,
 (Southern belle)
 but Adeline has to stay in character.

MACKENNA

Ugh.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

136. Sam's house. A knock on the front door.

THOMAS

(through door)

Sam? Are you in there? I made soup for you. The door's locked. Can you let me in?

Front door bolt and chain unlock, and door opens.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

There you are.

NARRATOR

After several quiet weeks, our former detective and former host to an alien monster is still trying to return to some semblance of normalcy in an unnatural world. Good luck with that.

SAM

Hey.

THOMAS

Hi. I thought maybe my texts weren't getting through, so I decided to pop over and see how you're doing.

SAM

Oh, well I appreciate it. I'm fine. Just recovering and getting back into things.

THOMAS

That's great. Slow and steady. We'll get there. Um, I made you some soup. I don't know what your system can handle foodwise or how long it takes to recover, but my dad always swore by this stuff.

SAM

Thanks, but you didn't have to. It's been weeks now. You don't need to bring me food.

THOMAS

I know, but I wanted to. I feel partly responsible--

SAM

Don't. You're not responsible. You had nothing to do with...with what happened. I guess since you're here, you might as well come in.

Thomas enters and shuts the door.

SAM (CONT'D)

So, uh, what have I missed?

THOMAS

Well, Mackenna and Shaylee left to go on a cruise.

SAM

A cruise? Mackenna? Wow, things have changed a lot.

THOMAS

The Court has a new changeling that Shaylee's supposed to train. Nissa found out that she works on a cruise ship, so Shaylee and Mackenna are on their way to make contact.

SAM

Nice.

THOMAS

What have you been doing?

SAM

Just trying to get into a normal routine, keep busy. Looking for a job. Maybe I'll get my PI license. Despite how it ended, I thought I was pretty good at my job.

THOMAS

Well you can come back to us any time. I miss you. And we could really use you.

SAM

Use me doing what?

THOMAS

Staying ahead of the Hidden People, for one thing.

SAM

Thomas, that isn't a job. You do know that. You're not part of some super team. This isn't a comic book movie.

THOMAS

I know. But the Hidden People--

SAM

--are Mackenna's thing. Not yours.

THOMAS

But I want to help her.

SAM

And how exactly do you help? What is your role in the Avengers?

THOMAS

Well, I...I help with lots of things.

SAM

Baking?

THOMAS

Not just baking. I...also cook. I made you this soup.

SAM

Thomas, you have no special evil-fighting skills. None of us do. Sure, I could track down a car thief or maybe even a murderer, but we can't fight monsters. We are normal people. We need normal lives with normal jobs. Is Mackenna's magic going to pay your bills?

THOMAS

My parents had good life insurance. I'm not worried about money right now.

SAM

Well, that's nice. But I need to live in the real world, and that requires a steady income.

THOMAS

I totally understand.
(beat)
How are you feeling?

SAM

I'm starting to get used to the phantom finger syndrome. Typing sucks, of course. The weirdest part is how much lighter my hand feels.

THOMAS

I'm sorry. I wish we could have figured out how to stop Cygnus sooner.

SAM

I don't blame any of you. But it's all proof that we don't belong in that world. And we shouldn't try to.

Some silence.

THOMAS

How can I support you through this?

SAM

It's okay, Thomas. You don't have to be my shrink. I'm okay.

Sam walks into the kitchen, and Thomas follows.

THOMAS

But I want to be there for you. Can I help with anything around the house? The dishes or anything?

SAM

No, I'm good.

THOMAS

Shoot, I never took care of the monster head in the basement. Let me clean that up. Just a sec.

Basement door opens.

SAM

No, Thomas, don't go down there.

THOMAS

It'll only take a minute.

SAM

Thomas.

THOMAS

(beat)

Sam?

(beat)

What is all this?

NARRATOR

Yes, Samantha, do explain the state of your basement. Instead of a rotting monster head, the room is filled to the brim with weapons. Rifles, pistols, knives, explosives. On one table sit buckets of bullets and metal shrapnel. On the other rests a hacksaw and a recently sawed-off shotgun. I'm sorry, Samantha. Thomas asked you a question. You were saying?

SAM
It's nothing.

THOMAS
Nothing? Sam, this is...is this what
you've been doing? Why you haven't been
over?

SAM
I've been busy.

THOMAS
You have an armory in your basement. Is
that an anvil in the corner?

SAM
I told you I can't sleep.

THOMAS
So you pound metal into weapons?

SAM
To relieve stress. I bought the rest.

THOMAS
Is all of this legal?

SAM
Of course it's legal. It's just...
frowned upon.

THOMAS
This is how you're dealing with your
trauma?

SAM
I'm fine, Thomas.

THOMAS
I guess...I guess everyone has their
own coping mechanism. I wish you'd
reach out to me. I could help you.

SAM
You couldn't possibly help me. You
don't know what it was like.

Sam walks back upstairs, through the kitchen, into the living room, and Thomas follows.

THOMAS

Then tell me. Help me understand. I'm here for you. I'm here so that you can talk and I can listen.

SAM

I'm not a talker, Thomas. I think, and then I act.

THOMAS

But you need someone to confide in. You shouldn't bottle--

SAM

I said I'm fine, Thomas. You said yourself everyone has their own coping mechanism. This is mine. Let me be fine.

THOMAS

But you're not.

SAM

Why not? Why can't I be fine?

THOMAS

Because I'm not fine, and it didn't even happen to me. I saw you suffer. I watched your body deteriorating. I got you into all this, so I need to--

SAM

Don't do that. Don't put it all on you. You don't have the right to put it all on you. This is my burden, mine, and I'm handling it. You don't get to remove my agency from my own coping by telling me how to do it.

THOMAS

I watched you bite off your own finger! Your ring finger.

SAM

And?

THOMAS

That's kind of significant, don't you think?

SAM

What, were you going to propose? Did you think we were on that level, Thomas?

THOMAS

You once said you loved me.

SAM

That doesn't mean we're getting married. There is no happy ending. No riding off into the sunset. At the end of the day, there's just a lot of fuckin' monsters.

THOMAS

I know we belong together. I know you believe it, too. We've been through too much. We're supposed to help each other heal.

SAM

I'm healing just fine on my own.

THOMAS

I know. You're so much stronger than I am.

SAM

I think you need to leave.

THOMAS

Come on, Sam, don't do this. Don't push me away.

SAM

Go home, Thomas.

THOMAS

Sam--

SAM

Go home.

THOMAS

(beat)

If that's what you really want. I'm
sorry. Take care, Sam.

Front door opens and closes.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

137. A very new age-y brunch place.

SIF

(humming)

Nissa and Alfie approach.

NISSA

Hi, mom.

SIF

Nissa!

Sif jumps up and hugs Nissa.

SIF (CONT'D)

You smell lovely, dear. What is that?

(sniffs)

Peppermint? Or perhaps the sweet scent
of the destruction of the patriarchy. I
can never distinguish them.

NISSA

No, you're confusing it with the smell
of defrauding a Fortune five hundred
cruise line.

SIF

My mistake. Good girl.

(beat)

Alfie! I didn't know you were joining
us this beautiful morning.

ALFIE

Hi, Ms. Björnsdottir.

Sif hugs Alfie.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

You give the best hugs. Nissa, how did you not become a hugger with a mom like this?

NISSA

My cold stoicism and righteous anger skipped a generation.

SIF

Nonsense. I am quite often righteously angry. Sit, sit. I was waiting until you arrived to order.

They scoot chairs out and sit.

SIF (CONT'D)

Alfie, it feels like ages since we last saw each other.

ALFIE

Yeah, it was a long time ago. Nissa's birthday?

NISSA

No. You saw her at New Year's Eve. I know you didn't forget that.

SIF

I don't know why you still have that tone about it.

NISSA

You chased a parade float half a mile and ended up on television.

SIF

They were mistreating that poor dog.

NISSA

It was a paper mache dog pinata.

SIF

Well, I didn't exactly know that at the time, did I? If I don't stand up for defenseless animals, who will?

ALFIE

We will.

NISSA

Other than the embarrassment of constantly hearing people talk about it for a week, I was actually really proud of you.

SIF

Aww, you could never be as proud as I am of you. Store manager. At your age. How's the music business?

NISSA

The music retail business is kind of slow. Fewer and fewer people caring about art. Everyone wants to just make a bunch of money, yet they expect artists to give them entertainment for free.

SIF

Capitalism is a disease. And enlightened empowerment is the cure!

ALFIE

You two should do a podcast. I'd subscribe on Patreon.

NISSA

A podcast is like radio on demand. You can pick any--

SIF

I know what a podcast is, darling. I listened to that NPR one about the clockmaker. Such a sad story about the way our society has othered and abandoned the working class.

NISSA

Don't talk about that one. Alfie cried for an entire day after he listened to it.

ALFIE

(sniffing)

Poor, poor John. That got me right in the feels.

SIF

Well, if the store isn't occupying your time, what is? I've barely heard from you at all these past months. Really since the funeral, I think.

NISSA

Yeah, things got...hectic around then.

SIF

Poor Mackenna. I wish she'd gotten the help she needed before all that happened. We have such a problematic stigma surrounding mental illness, you know?

ALFIE

Oh, Mackenna's not mentally ill. She's fine. Just this morning, she--

NISSA

Had breakfast in the prison cafeteria. Because Mackenna is in prison.

ALFIE

Oh. Right. She cray.

SIF

That's not a very inclusive way to discuss mental illness, Alfie.

ALFIE

You're right. I'm sorry. It isn't Fack's fault.

SIF

Fack?

NISSA

That's Alfie's nickname for Mackenna.

ALFIE

Oh yeah. It stands for...uh...falsely accused convicted killer.

NISSA

It should stand for Alfie should shut up.

ALFIE

Well, that would be Assu, not Fack.

SIF

You think Mackenna was falsely accused?

ALFIE

Uh, Nissa's right. I plead the Assu.

NISSA

Don't worry about him. You know how I tell you that half our friendship is me tuning him out.

ALFIE

Hey!

SIF

It's okay, Alfie. I know how my girl can have a hard shell. It's her armor of agency and personhood. Deep down, she knows how lucky she is to have a friend as special as you are.

NISSA

Oh, he's special all right.

SIF

Well, you know I will be happy to talk over anything with either of you if you ever need an ear. I know that losing your friend must be very hard on you. But if we're going to have serious conversation, we should do it over chocolate chip pancakes.

ALFIE

Can you just be my mom, please?

SIF

You're already part of the family,
Alfie.

NISSA

I'm gonna lose my appetite if the two
of you don't quit it. Blech.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

138. Cruise ship. Dining area. General din of a
dinner crowd.

NARRATOR

Two days on this cruise ship has proven
more trying for Mackenna than facing
both the Magister and Cygnus. But she
may have finally found a foe she cannot
best.

SHAYLEE

So for this special dinner night, we
have assigned seats.

MACKENNA

Assigned seats?

SHAYLEE

Aye. They randomly assign us to a table
that has two open seats.

MACKENNA

Can't we just get our food to go or
something?

SHAYLEE

Didn't you read the file Nissa gave
you?

MACKENNA

It was twenty pages of size ten font. I
skimmed it. And by skimmed, I mean
never looked at.

SHAYLEE

Tonight is a five course meal. This is the culinary highlight of the cruise.

MACKENNA

Sure, I get that, but can we get that highlight for delivery instead?

SHAYLEE

Nissa changed the seating assignment, so Riley is our waitress. This is our big chance to make contact.

MACKENNA

All right, all right. Focus on the job.

SHAYLEE

(whispering)

Here we are. Table nine. Remember your character.

HERB

Hi there. Are you folks at our table?

MACKENNA

I think so. Is that okay? We can leave.

BARB

Oh, don't be silly. We love meeting new people. Herb, would you scoot over, hon?

HERB

Sure thing. Yeah, there was another couple at this table about five minutes ago, but the server checked their reservation, it said table eighteen, not table nine. Can't sit at table nine if you're supposed to be at table eighteen. And this is table nine.

MACKENNA

(under her breath)

Great, this won't be awkward at all.

SHAYLEE

(under her breath)

Be good. You might even have fun.

RILEY

Hi I'm Riley, I'll be serving you tonight. You must be Adeline and Charlotte.

SHAYLEE

Nice to meet you, Riley. I'm Adeline, and this is Charlotte.

RILEY

Have you met Herb and Barb yet?

HERB

Herb here, and this is my beloved wife of many years, Barb.

BARB

Oh, hi there. Adeline and...Charlotte, was it?

MACKENNA

Yep. I am Charlotte. Charlotte is me.

RILEY

It's a pleasure meeting all of you. Did you get to take a look at our drink selection?

HERB

Oh sure. We'll let them go first.

MACKENNA

Shit, I didn't look at it. Uh, how about a Dragon Fruit Royale?

RILEY

That one is delicious. It's like a dragon's Pineapple Express...if dragons were real. Good choice.

SHAYLEE

Blackberry malt for me, please.

RILEY

And one other pairing of fruit and alcohol. Love your accent, by the way.

MACKENNA

If you only knew.

HERB

Those drinks sound so exciting! But I think I'll stick with a diet pop.

BARB

Two percent milk for me.

MACKENNA

Barb, livin large.

RILEY

Alright, I'll be back in a sec with those.

BARB

So where are you two from?

MACKENNA

I'm from...shit, I forgot.

SHAYLEE

Georgia for me. Charlotte's from Kansas. Right, Charlotte?

MACKENNA

Yep. Just call me Dorothy. Except don't, because I barely answer to Charlotte.

BARB

We're from a little town up north, near Aitken, Minnesota. We're here for just a small romantic getaway.

HERB

Barb's being modest. This is our honeymoon.

SHAYLEE

I thought you said you've been married for many years.

BARB

That's right.

HERB

Technically, we did have a log cabin up near Rochester for a few days. I remember cuz I went ice fishing for our dinner. But that didn't really count.

MACKENNA

What.

BARB

Oh yah. Cold as heck out there, wasn't it, Herb?

HERB

You betcha. Nothin' like this, with the sun and the beaches. Anyway, we finally threw caution to the wind and took a real honeymoon.

MACKENNA

You know what, good for you. You throw caution to that wind. We're here for the same thing.

SHAYLEE

What.

BARB

I'm sorry?

MACKENNA

This is our big romantic getaway.

BARB

Oh dear. So you two are...together? You're those, um...

SHAYLEE

People? Why yes. We are people.

HERB

Golly.

BARB

Well, that, uh, that's a choice. Is it warm in here, Herb?

SHAYLEE

(under her breath)

Mack, what are you doing?

MACKENNA

I'm actually having a great time.

BARB

Well, I guess, you know, everybody's different, in their own way. And that's okay.

HERB

You betcha. You know, I slept on the other side of the bed once, and we're still here happily married, aren't we, Barb?

MACKENNA

That's innuendo for something.

BARB

That's right, Herb. We aren't ones to judge. So...dragon fruit. I've never heard of that. What is it?

SHAYLEE

It's an exotic fruit, very common on cruises. They mostly just put it in alcohol.

MACKENNA

In lesbian alcohol. Gets you super wasted.

BARB

Oh my.

SHAYLEE

(whispered to Mack)

We need to focus on Riley. Think about how we can gain her trust. Be subtle. Be authentic and believable.

MACKENNA

Don't give me rules unless you want them broken.

SHAYLEE

We don't want to scare her away.

Riley returns.

RILEY

All right, here are your drinks. Do you need more time to pick your main course, or are you ready?

SHAYLEE

We'll let them go first this time.

BARB

Can I have the Tuscan chicken please?

HERB

I'm gonna do the blue-billed duck option, I think.

SHAYLEE

I'll have the Mediterranean dish, please.

RILEY

And for you, Charlotte?

MACKENNA

If you've ever felt like an outsider in your own life, meet us on the deck at eleven. We have all the answers.

SHAYLEE

(chokes)

RILEY

Um, okay?

MACKENNA

Now, I was going to do the lobster, but you know what, I'm gonna live it up like Barb and get the Tuscan chicken. Can I have another one of these dragon drinks, please?

BARB

You're hitting those drinks a little heavy, dontcha' think? Shouldn't you finish the first one?

MACKENNA

Oh no, that one's for you. Drink up, Barb.

(beat)

Trust me, Riley. We have the answers.

RILEY

I'm doing my best confused Mark Wahlberg face right now.

MACKENNA

Does he have another face?

RILEY

Basically what I was getting at.

SHAYLEE

(whispered to Mack)

Quit being weird! There is zero chance she will talk to us now.

RILEY

Yeah, I think I'll just go get this order in. You four have fun.

SHAYLEE

(whispered to Mack)

We're going to lose her.

MACKENNA

Uh, hang on a second.

(beat)

Herb. Barb. Didn't you need to go back to your room for something?

HERB
I'm...not sure?

MACKENNA
Oh, yeah. You definitely did. Something
you can only do in your room.
Privately. Maybe take our drinks with
you. Spice things up.

SHAYLEE
(Irish accent)
Oh my god.

BARB
Herb, remember that...thing we need to
get back in our room?

HERB
Oh. Oh! Right. That thing.
(beat)
Uh, please excuse Barb and me.

BARB
We'll be right back.
(beat)
Well, maybe not right back.

139. Herb and Barb scoot their chairs out and leave.

RILEY
What just happened?

MACKENNA
We need to talk without them
overhearing.

RILEY
Did you just...did you just Jedi mind
trick them?

MACKENNA
Yup.

SHAYLEE
Into having sex? Very classy, Mack.

MACKENNA

What? They seemed like they needed a little more excitement. Two percent milk. Psh.

RILEY

But...what...how...?

MACKENNA

You're different. I bet you've felt that way your whole life. Don't fit in with your family. You feel like you belong somewhere else. There's a piece missing in your life, and people don't seem to get it. It's because there's a magical world, and you are a changeling. You can do magic. Shaylee and I are here to train you.

RILEY

I'm what?

SHAYLEE

A changeling. A magical construct made to replace the girl originally born as Riley Gallagher.

RILEY

I...I...I knew it! I freaking knew it. I thought something was wrong with me. Then I thought something was wrong with everybody else, which was a way more appealing philosophy. But this! This makes so much sense! Oh my god, is this my red pill or blue pill moment? I totally pick red!

MACKENNA

See? This was way quicker.

SHAYLEE

You're surprisingly receptive to this paradigm shift.

RILEY

Are you kidding? This is awesome! Can I just quit my job now and go be a superhero with you?

MACKENNA

Sure.

SHAYLEE

Let's at least wait until the cruise is over. We can't draw unnecessary suspicion.

RILEY

Can I still meet you on the deck tonight for a secret meeting?

MACKENNA

Yeah, why not? And since you're still working here for now, maybe get us new drinks.

RILEY

Yes, boss.

SHAYLEE

I'm the boss. She's just my assistant.

MACKENNA

Excuse me?

RILEY

Got it, boss and assistant boss. I'll be back with those drinks. Oh, and this accent is way better.

QUICK TRANSITION

Outside on the top deck of the ship. Gentle breeze. Sound of distant seagulls. Water crashes onto the side of the ship.

RILEY

So that's why I don't fit in? I literally don't fit in. I'm like a human alien.

SHAYLEE

More like a copy. You were created and then switched at birth with your fetch and given to the fetch's parents as their child.

MACKENNA

It sucks, I know. We hope to someday change that.

SHAYLEE

But in the meantime, we need to train you to survive because your fetch has been freed and she will come to reclaim what she thinks has been taken from her.

RILEY

So I need to train to face my Doodle Bob? Can we have some montage music while I run up stairs and punch sides of beef? Oh wait, magic is real. I'm gonna learn spells! Fireball!

SHAYLEE

The magic of the Hidden People is subtle.

RILEY

Charm person!

MACKENNA

Yeah, that sounds closer.

SHAYLEE

We don't want to attract attention. So while we're here, just go about your normal routine. We only have another day to go.

RILEY

Okay, well, I'm going to go finish some things and then rest. Big day tomorrow, what with the job quitting and magic learning.

SHAYLEE

Remember, act normal for one more day.

RILEY

And then you'll train me! Okay, sweet!
I'll see you tomorrow!

Riley hurries away.

RILEY (CONT'D)

(as she leaves)

This is so fun! It's like I finally got
my Hogwarts letter! Magic is real,
people!

MACKENNA

Her energy is adorable. Can we just put
her in our pocket? We can make her fit.

SHAYLEE

Yeah, the challenge will be getting her
adorableness ready for her fetch.

MACKENNA

We'll be fine.

SHAYLEE

You keep saying that. It's not
reassuring.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

140. Inside the Thorne house. .

SAM

(voicemail)

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

THOMAS

Hey, Sam. It's Thomas. Just wanted to see if you're okay. I'm sure you probably don't want to talk, but I couldn't get our last conversation out of my mind, so I figured I would try. I'm sorry for what happened with Cygnus. I can't even imagine what that must have been like. You're the strongest person I know. So if anyone can come back from that, it's you. If you need anything, I'm here. And if you don't, that's also okay. Anyway, hope to talk to you later.

NARRATOR

Oh, Thomas. Perhaps you should stop surrounding yourself with closed-off women who have a habit of endangering your life.

(beat)

Before it's too late.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

141. Cruise harbor. Outside.

SHAYLEE

(Southern belle)

Well, mizz Charlotte Ray, How was your first cruise? Was it everything that you dreamed of?

MACKENNA

Oh geez, stop it, whatever your name was. It was fine. Better than I expected, at least. This might be weird, but I think I'm gonna miss Barb.

SHAYLEE

(Irish accent)

And what about our newest recruit?

MACKENNA

Honestly, the hard part's over, right? We broke the ice. Now we'll have to see how she trains.

SHAYLEE

Training is much harder. Only time will tell. Unfortunately time is against us, as always.

MACKENNA

Here she comes. Riley! Over here!

Riley walks up.

RILEY

Top of the mornin' to ya.

SHAYLEE

Is she making fun of me?

MACKENNA

Cool it, leprechaun. Shaylee's in charge of you, remember? Are we all set?

RILEY

Put in my resignation. I'm officially broke and homeless. Why do I have a good feeling about that?

SHAYLEE

Because the pieces finally fit.

RILEY

Where are we going?

SHAYLEE

Safehouse.

MACKENNA

Which is her beach house.

SHAYLEE

One of my beach houses.

RILEY

How generous of you, Ms. Winfrey. Are we taking a cab?

MACKENNA

Not exactly. There's a circle over here. You're in for a treat. Shaylee?

SHAYLEE

After you.

Stepping sideways departure.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

142. Thorne house. Kitchen.

THOMAS

All right, Murphy, I think that's the last of it. I'm not sure what time people are coming back, but--

SAM

Hi, Thomas.

Murphy barks.

THOMAS

Sam! Hi. I'm sorry I didn't hear you come in.

Murphy gives many happy yips.

SAM

Whoa, Murphy. I know we were brain friends, but take it easy. Do you mind if we move into the living room before he knocks me down the stairs?

THOMAS

Sure. Looks like he missed you, too.

They head for the living room.

SAM

It was an incredibly strange sensation, being trapped inside a dog's body and having to compete for attention, even a dog as great as Murphy.

THOMAS

It's okay. You don't have to talk about it. Sam, I'm so sorry for pushing you. I never meant to cross a line. I just want to be with you and be here for you. Take as much time as you need.

SAM

But you were right. I thought I could bury this like I've buried so many things. But this...this is something on a whole different scale. When Cygnus was in control, I couldn't breathe. It was like needing to come up for air, but the air never came. I screamed, but it was like screaming with your mouth closed. And I felt that sensation in Murphy's body and in mine. I felt helpless. I was helpless. I don't know if you've realized, but I don't do well with helpless. I like circumstances that I can control, and that makes everything with this magical world so hard for me. And this was just too much.

THOMAS

I get it. I like having both hands on the wheel, too.

SAM

I remember some of the things I did in Murphy's body. I remember you telling me about Ron. But now I also remember killing him. My body remembers everything that Cygnus did. We fought. For control. I couldn't ever win, but that isn't why we fight, is it?

THOMAS

I suppose it isn't.

SAM

I had no hope. And now that I'm out, that hope is still gone. I still feel helpless. I can't undo anything that I did. I killed my partner. I saw it happen. I felt it happen. I can still smell his blood. And I have to live with that the rest of my life.

THOMAS

Oh, Sam. I'm sorry you have to carry that weight. If I could, I would carry it for you. I want the world to go back to the way it was before all this, but it won't. I don't know how we cope with what's out there, but I know we'll do it better together. I don't want to be apart from you again. You might not be okay now, but you will be. You are too strong, too courageous, and too stubborn to let anything keep you down. We're better together.

SAM

(breaking the emotional tension)
Well that's good, because I kinda like you, too. Also, do you see this? Your dog's head is in my lap. I don't think I'm going anywhere right now.

(beat)

But I can't promise that forever. I feel like I don't belong in this weird new world.

THOMAS

I thought the collection in your basement was preparation for this world.

SAM

Not preparation or provocation. It's reaction. I need to be ready if something happens again, but that doesn't mean I'm seeking it out.

THOMAS

I understand.

SAM

It won't be easy, Thomas. I will do my best. I won't be perfect. Sometimes I'll struggle. Don't give up on me.

THOMAS

I never give up on the people I love.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

143. Thorne house. Later.

THOMAS

Eat up, people. These muffins aren't gonna eat themselves. Alfie, where were you this week?

ALFIE

Mostly at work. My paycheck is actually important now that it's my only source of income.

MACKENNA

This is often how paychecks work.

NISSA

We did have a nice brunch with my mom the other day.

MACKENNA

Mrs. Sifsdottir!

NISSA

You see what you've done?

ALFIE

I regret nothing.

MACKENNA

How is your mom?

NISSA

She's fine. Right now, she's at a protest somewhere. Maybe Michigan?

MACKENNA

Sounds like her. I miss her.

SAM

Unfortunately, you'll probably never see her again in person.

THOMAS

Sam...

MACKENNA

I know, I know. I'm in prison.

THOMAS

Uh, so how did the cruise go?

SAM

Yeah, Thomas finally got me out of the house. I want to meet this new mystery recruit.

SHAYLEE

She's at one of my safehouses.

MACKENNA

Also, can we talk about why I got an old warehouse and Riley gets a beach house?

SHAYLEE

Ha ha. I thought it would be best to bring her in slowly.

ALFIE

Yeah, probably smart, knowing us.

THOMAS

What are you talking about? I think we're pretty great. Anyway, I want to make a little toast.

MACKENNA

Seriously, Thomas, it's just us.

ALFIE

Yeah, who needs toast when you baked like a hundred muffins?

THOMAS

I know, I know. But I just want to say that it's been quite the adventure. For all of us. It's been really tough. We know that the road we're on is not easy, and we won't always know the way. But I wouldn't share it with anyone else. Like I told Sam earlier: we're better together.

ALL

Here here (and other phrases of agreement).

Clinking glasses and general talk and laughter.

THE END