

**THE HIDDEN PEOPLE**

Episode 2.16

"Date and Switch"

Written by

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TEASER

162. Thorne house.

MACKENNA

Seriously, Thomas. I'm fine. I don't need to talk about it.

THOMAS

All I'm saying is that I understand what it's like to lose your mom.

MACKENNA

I know. We lost the same mom. I was there.

THOMAS

You know what I mean. You lost two moms.

MACKENNA

I didn't even really know Liliana.

THOMAS

Not at the time. But you knew her after. When you got all her memories.

MACKENNA

Well, that didn't last, either. I had to block them off because they kept overwhelming me.

THOMAS

See? Losing your mom is overwhelming.

MACKENNA

You'll take anything I say and turn it into trauma, won't you?

THOMAS

I'm here for you.

MACKENNA

I'm really fine. She was evil, anyway.

THOMAS

She sacrificed her life to save yours.  
Evil or not, that can't be easy to just  
brush off.

MACKENNA

Watch how not difficult I make it seem.

THOMAS

Don't go back to your old ways. You're  
really different now. So much more  
mature, responsible.

MACKENNA

Wow. Really feeling the love.

THOMAS

You know what I mean. Ever since  
Shaylee whisked you away that night,  
you've been different.

MACKENNA

Because I finally found the missing  
pieces of my life. Found out why I  
always felt so lost, so disconnected. I  
finally belonged. Of course, that was  
all a lie since I'm actually a half-  
breed bastard. But hey, I had an  
identity for half a second.

THOMAS

You're still different, even after  
that. You might not be a changeling,  
but you still found out why you felt so  
disconnected.

MACKENNA

I guess you're right.

THOMAS

I'm really impressed by connected  
Mackenna. I really like her. Not that I  
didn't like the old Mackenna, mind you.  
It's just--

MACKENNA

Yeah, yeah. I get it. Stop before I  
make gagging noises.

THOMAS

(laughs)

Okay, okay, I'll--

Stepping sideways arrival.

MACKENNA

Shaylee. Everything all right?

SHAYLEE

It's fine. Hi, Thomas.

THOMAS

Hey, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

(beat)

Mack...Mackenna...I need you to, uh...I  
need to show you something.

MACKENNA

Yeah, all right. You sure everything's  
okay?

SHAYLEE

Of course. Nothing to worry about.  
Follow me through?

MACKENNA

I'm right behind you.

Stepping sideways departure.

THOMAS

That was weird. What's up with her?

MACKENNA

No idea. I'm sure it's nothing.

THOMAS

Be careful, okay?

MACKENNA

I always am, little brother.

Stepping sideways departure.

THOMAS

And for the first time in my life, I  
actually feel like the little brother.

END TEASER

163. Paris penthouse, high above the city. Night.

NARRATOR

Couples find solace in each other's  
embrace. They cling desperately,  
frantic for a partner in the maelstrom.  
But who can ever hurt us more than the  
one we care for most? Love may be  
blind, but it is also very, very  
stupid.

Stepping sideways arrival.

MACKENNA

Okay, definitely not the Midwest. Based  
on the dark outside, I'm guessing  
Europe.

SHAYLEE

Good guess. Paris.

MACKENNA

No way! I always wanted to visit Paris.

SHAYLEE

I remembered. Look out at the terrace.

MACKENNA

Holy...is that the Eiffel Tower? The  
view is amazing. Where are we?

SHAYLEE

A penthouse my dad's company uses. My  
company, I guess.

MACKENNA

Beautiful penthouse, lit by a single cozy lamp, view of the Eiffel Tower...literally food covered by a silver dome sitting on the table. I've never eaten food covered by a silver dome.

Lifts the lid.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

It smells amazing.

SHAYLEE

Nothing beats French food in France.

MACKENNA

So I'm guessing it's not Frosted Flakes.

SHAYLEE

Sorry to disappoint. It's just duck a l'orange.

MACKENNA

I don't know what that is. I don't think I can even spell it.

(beat)

Have I ever eaten something I can't spell?

SHAYLEE

Nonpareils.

MACKENNA

N-O-N-P...yeah, good call.

SHAYLEE

Sit down. Don't want it to get cold.

MACKENNA

All this...are you trying to seduce me, Shaylee?

SHAYLEE

I'm just...I just wanted to have a nice meal. Do something special.

MACKENNA

You didn't need to squeeze all the special into one night, you know. We have a lot more nights ahead of us. And days.

SHAYLEE

Yeah. Of course.

(beat)

Sit. Let's eat.

NARRATOR

Yes, Mackenna. Sit. Eat. Enjoy your last night together. Because when you turn off that light...

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

164. Sam pulls her car up outside the Thorne house.

THOMAS

Hey, Sam.

SAM

All ready?

THOMAS

Considering that I have no idea where we're going, I suppose I'm as ready as I can be.

SAM

I told you not to worry about it.

THOMAS

Actually, I believe I said: "we should go on a real date; you pick the place." And you said: "shut up."

SAM

But I said it with love.

THOMAS

Yeah, yeah.

Thomas opens the car door, gets in, and closes it. Sam backs out and then drives.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

So our destination is still a secret?

SAM

It's not a secret as much as I just haven't told you where we're going.

THOMAS

Well, the "don't wear anything nice" command was a little cryptic, but I guess it's my only clue. So if you won't tell me, I'll just have to guess.

NARRATOR

Young lovers already keeping secrets. This will obviously end well.

SAM

Don't get your hopes up. It's nothing fancy.

THOMAS

I assume food is involved, so perhaps we're foraging?

SAM

Uh, yeah, I didn't think about food.

THOMAS

Oh, no. Did you already eat? I should have checked.

SAM

No, I haven't eaten.

THOMAS

Well, it's basically dinner time. We should probably eat something.

SAM

Yeah.

THOMAS

Aren't you hungry?



SAM  
I mean...kind of?

THOMAS  
When was the last time you ate?  
(beat)  
Sam?

SAM  
Yesterday?

THOMAS  
Sam! Why aren't you eating?

SAM  
I don't know. I guess I'm kind of  
hungry, but most of the time, the  
thought of food turns my stomach.

THOMAS  
Is this new? Are you sick?

SAM  
It's been like this ever since...you  
know.

THOMAS  
Oh my god. But you've eaten things,  
right? You haven't starved yourself for  
a month...right?

SAM  
No, no, I've eaten. Sometimes. Mostly  
vegetables. Ice cream. Your soup and  
tiramisu. I can't eat meat.

THOMAS  
Because...because of what happened  
when...

SAM  
Because I can still remember what it  
tasted like. What he tasted like. What  
I tasted like.

THOMAS  
Oh god.

SAM

And Cygnus...it was hard for it to eat...someone with just my hands and teeth, but it liked it. The meat tasted good to it. And I was in there, a little. So it tasted good to me, too. And the thought of that now just...it makes me want to throw up.

THOMAS

Well, I did the vegan thing a bit during undergrad, so I have some good recipes. And a lot of restaurants have veggie options. If you want to go meatless, I'll join you. We can figure it out together.

SAM

That's...really supportive. Thank you, Thomas.

THOMAS

No problem. So should we grab some food on the way to wherever we're going?

SAM

Yeah. Okay. Find us a place to eat between here and Wrensfeld.

NARRATOR

Oh, Thomas. Perhaps you weren't paying attention when she admitted that she enjoys the taste of human flesh. And you would someday like to sleep beside her. Survival instincts are not strong with your species. Or maybe it's just your gene pool.

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

165. Nissa's apartment.

ALFIE

Nissa, do you know how to tie a tie?

NISSA

Bow or Windsor?

ALFIE

Uh, it's a long, silky piece of fabric that somehow becomes a tie. Which is super confusing. I mean, pants look like pants. A shirt is a shirt. This looks like fabric scrap.

NISSA

Ugh. Give it here.

(beat)

Stand still. I'll teach you to tie a Windsor knot.

(beat)

Over...again...push that up...now through...tighten...there.

ALFIE

That was your idea of teaching?

NISSA

Weren't you watching?

ALFIE

Not all of us can learn by watching someone do something one time.

NISSA

Your loss.

ALFIE

Well, at least it's on. How do I look?

NISSA

Surprisingly fancy. I didn't know that you owned pants that weren't made of denim. And dress shoes? Where the hell are you two going?

ALFIE

Zachary's.

NISSA

For a first date? How can you afford that?

ALFIE

We're going halvesies because we're modern.

NISSA

I ask again: how can you afford that?

ALFIE

Nissa, I think I can afford one meal at a nice restaurant.

NISSA

The pasta and meatballs there cost over thirty dollars.

ALFIE

Oh.

(beat)

Shit.

NISSA

Yep.

ALFIE

How about an advance on my paycheck?

NISSA

How much do you need?

ALFIE

About thirty dollars, I guess.

NISSA

Dear goddess. Just take whatever from my wallet.

ALFIE

Thanks, Niss!

Alfie takes money from Nissa's wallet.

NISSA

I'm only doing this because you haven't been on a date in five years. And you're paying me back.

ALFIE  
Ouch. And of course.

Knock on the door.

NISSA  
She's here.

ALFIE  
Ah! How do I look?

NISSA  
You already asked that.

ALFIE  
Oh, right. Hang on.

Alfie scampers away. He returns.

NISSA  
What the fuck?

ALFIE  
This is her bouquet. Y'know, cuz we're getting married.

NISSA  
You're taking one joke really far.

ALFIE  
It's cute.  
(beat)  
It's cute, right?

NISSA  
Just answer the door before she leaves.

Alfie opens the door.

RILEY  
Hey, Alfie!  
(beat)  
Alfie?

NISSA  
Breathe, dumbass.

ALFIE  
(barely coherent)  
Nice you really look.

RILEY  
Thank you, Master Yoda. You look rather  
dapper. Totes digging the tie.

ALFIE  
Nissa and I did it. I mostly watched.

NISSA  
And by that, he means I tied his tie  
and nothing else.  
(beat, whispering)  
Give her the flowers.

ALFIE  
Oh, right. Uh, Riley, these are for  
you.

RILEY  
My bouquet! And no lilies. So much  
thoughtful attention.

ALFIE  
Nissa, she said I was thoughtful.

NISSA  
Please go before this gets any  
cringier.

RILEY  
Come on. Our reservation is in five  
minutes. I'll Nightcrawler us over  
there.

Riley and Alfie leave.

NISSA  
(calling out)  
Don't stay out too late!

Door shuts.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

166. Paris Penthouse. Mackenna and Shaylee are eating.

MACKENNA

This might be the best thing I've ever eaten.

SHAYLEE

They cooked it perfectly.

MACKENNA

Is all the food in Paris like this? Is French Burger King like gourmet burgers?

SHAYLEE

I'm pretty sure the Burger King is just a Burger King. They use fewer chemicals than in America, though.

MACKENNA

But I love the taste of high fructose corn syrup.

SHAYLEE

You're absurd.

MACKENNA

So is this food. If I were one of those assholes who said O-M-G, I would totally say it right now.

SHAYLEE

I'm glad you like it.

MACKENNA

I'm sorry I'm so uncultured.

SHAYLEE

Stop. You're not uncultured.

MACKENNA

You're European; you have ancient buildings and art down the street from your Starbucks. The oldest building in my town is a Walmart.

SHAYLEE

Well, I kind of like introducing things to you, new or ancient.

MACKENNA

It's not embarrassing for you that I still can't say the name of this duck thing?

SHAYLEE

Duck a l'orange. And no, it's not embarrassing at all. When I share with you the things that I love, it's like I get to re-experience them for the first time. It's actually wonderful.

MACKENNA

Oh, don't get all sappy on me.

SHAYLEE

Sappy? Me? I don't do sappy.

MACKENNA

Then what's up? You seem...I don't know. Sad? Distant?

SHAYLEE

I'm right here, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Okay. Sorry.

SHAYLEE

It's fine.

NARRATOR

Trust your instincts, Mackenna. Unless those instincts tell you to trust Shaylee. In that case, perhaps you ought to just run.

Some silence. Eating.

MACKENNA

So you haven't been called back to the Court for a while. Did Niamh finally decide to back off?



SHAYLEE

She, uh...they're not expecting me back until tomorrow. We have tonight.

MACKENNA

I think I should have just thrown down with her.

SHAYLEE

I appreciate your confidence, but I don't think charging the Hidden People with a scythe whenever they pop up is a viable strategy.

MACKENNA

It's like whack-a-mole, except the moles are faeries, and the hammer is my scythe.

SHAYLEE

And just like the game, no matter how many of them you hit, more will always pop up.

MACKENNA

Yeah, yeah. But if I cut Niamh's head off, she won't pop up again.

SHAYLEE

I wish it were that easy, Mackenna.

Some silence.

MACKENNA

It's so beautiful out there. I'm going to turn off the light so I can see the city better.

NARRATOR

The lone lamp. On a table by itself. Its brass pull chain rigged to a small explosive charge packed with iron fragments. A deadly trap. Turning off that light would be the last thing you ever do, Mackenna. And who do you think rigged the charge?

SHAYLEE

No, wait.

MACKENNA

What?

SHAYLEE

Just...sit a bit longer with me. Then we can look at the city.

MACKENNA

Okay. Other things are nice to look at, too.

NARRATOR

It's far less romantic when you remember that one of them is about to die.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

167. In Sam's car as she drives.

SAM

That was the best salad I've ever had.

THOMAS

See, veggie options aren't bad at all if you just know what to get.

SAM

I don't know that I've ever eaten a fig outside of a Newton before.

THOMAS

And paired with the goat cheese? Perfect. Am I right? I'm definitely right.

SAM

You're very right.

THOMAS

Okay, so we've eaten. And we're already in Wrensfield, so the place we're going has to be close. Are you gonna let me in on the secret?

SAM

Well, don't look now, but...

Car pulls into parking lot and shuts off.

THOMAS

A firing range?

SAM

It seemed like a good idea when I came up with it.

THOMAS

This is why you wanted to drive, isn't it? I'm assuming you have an arsenal in the trunk?

SAM

I mean...not the entire arsenal.

THOMAS

Huh. Well, this is definitely a new experience for me.

SAM

You've never fired a gun?

THOMAS

Sam, I've never even held a gun.

SAM

Really?

THOMAS

Mom was indifferent to them, but Dad hated them, so we never had one at home. He didn't even like when I learned archery in the Scouts.

SAM

Well, I'm not going to give you some speech about how gun ownership is patriotic or sacred or whatever. I completely respect your dad's views. But given the world we live in, that we know about now, it might be a good idea to just...be prepared.

THOMAS

If the Hidden People come calling, I'm not sure a gun would be any better than my martial arts training.

SAM

Well...I've thought about that. I looked into iron bullets, but they deform too much in modern weapons. I think that's why Shaylee uses a flintlock with musket balls.

THOMAS

So we're going to be pirates?

SAM

Not exactly. Flintlocks aren't exactly practical weapons. But a shotgun shell filled with iron pellets would probably work just as well.

THOMAS

You have thought a lot about this.

SAM

Well, yeah. That's basically all I've been doing. So when you asked what it would take to get me out of the house...

THOMAS

No, don't misunderstand. I'm fine with this. If you need this, to help process, maybe vent some anger at some paper targets, I'm all for it.

SAM

I drew Cygnus on top of some bull's eyes we can shoot at.

THOMAS

This date just keeps getting better. Let's shoot some alien monsters.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

168. Fancy Italian restaurant.

RILEY

This bread is amazing. And they let you try this oil for dipping. I wonder what other sauces they have on the menu.

ALFIE

The menu has other things, too!

RILEY

Like cheese dip?

ALFIE

Well, this is an Italian restaurant, so they probably don't have queso. But like, maybe a marinara for dipping?

RILEY

Ooo. Excuse me.

(snapping)

Garçon. Your finest dipping sauces, please and thank you.

(beat)

Did you see that weird look? Obviously we want more sauces. They only brought out oil and this glass of water so far, and I'm not really a fan of dipping bread in water. Not since prison, anyway.

ALFIE

Ah, prison life. Consists of routine and then more routine.

RILEY

I hope you know how much I like dipping bread into things. Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.

ALFIE

(beat)

The only other Shawshank quote I know is about looking at a man's shoes, and I have no idea how to work that in.

RILEY

You're nervous. It's cute, even if it is impeding your movie quoting powers.

ALFIE

Well, I hope you'll find my anxiety adorable and my depression handsome.

RILEY

No need for nerves, anxiety, or depression tonight. We have this bread, this water, and we haven't even ordered anything we have to pay for yet. I'd say we're way ahead.

ALFIE

I was just nervous because I haven't been on a date in...well, a long time.

RILEY

This isn't a date. It's our reception. Check out this bouquet!

ALFIE

I'm trying to decide if it would be better for you to keep it or to just randomly chuck it over your shoulder and see if someone catches it.

RILEY

You and me, buddy. It's like one mind.  
(beat)  
Favorite obscure movie. Go!

ALFIE

Brick. Rian Johnson. JGL. Perfect film.

RILEY

Seen it. More obscure.

ALFIE

Uh...Upstream Color. Shane Carruth.

RILEY

Ooo. That's a new one for me.

ALFIE

I have it on blu-ray. We can watch it on the honeymoon.

RILEY

Tell me about this honeymoon.

ALFIE

Uh, well, this dinner will be the last of my cash until next payday, so I'm thinking our honeymoon consists of sitting on Nissa's couch and watching movies.

RILEY

Dude, I worked on a cruise ship for the last year. Way overrated. This movie couch, however, sounds like a very good plan.

ALFIE

The couch itself is kinda sketch, but her microwave makes popcorn as long as she buys popcorn and makes it for me.

RILEY

Let's see what else on this menu we can dip bread into and then go check out that couch!

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

169. Nissa's apartment. Recording her voice.

NISSA

Alfie and Riley are on a date. Thomas and Sam are on a date. Mackenna and Shaylee are...somewhere. Hopefully on a date. So that leaves me. Alone. But never fear...tonight, Nissa has a date...with justice.

(beat)

(MORE)

NISSA (CONT'D)

Someone's been parking in my spot for the last week. I've left two notes on the car informing the owner that the spot is mine, but no luck so far. This dickhead thinks he can just park his Mustang in my spot because he's an overprivileged man.

(beat)

Okay, so I don't actually know who owns the car, but it's a Mustang. A sports car for insecure men who can't afford sports cars. Of course it's driven by an overprivileged man. And parked in my spot. The spot closest to the building, which I earned by living in this place longer than anyone else except for Mrs. Hathaway, who doesn't own a car. Parking spot six is mine. I have the paperwork. So we're going to do a little digging on Mr. Mustang. By the end of the night, he'll wish he never even bought that car, let alone parked in my--

Nissa's phone rings. She stops the recording.

NISSA (CONT'D)

Mom? Isn't it the middle of the night in Iceland?

SIF

(through phone)

Yes. Sorry to call now. It's late for you, too.

NISSA

It's just evening here, not the wee hours. Why are you still up?

SIF

(through phone)

Well, I went to bed at a reasonable time to try and punch the jet lag right in the face, but...



NISSA  
Jet lag punched back?

SIF  
(through phone)  
No. Well, maybe. I just...

NISSA  
What's wrong, Mom?

SIF  
(through phone)  
I just...had to see if you were all  
right. I...had a dream.

NISSA  
Mom, you know how I feel about your  
dreams.

SIF  
(through phone)  
This one was different.

NISSA  
Every one is different, according to  
you. They're just dreams, Mom. That's  
all.

SIF  
(through phone)  
This one was very real. I was concerned  
for you.

NISSA  
When have any of your dreams ever come  
true in a meaningful way? Especially  
the bad ones. Everyone has nightmares.  
That doesn't make you psychic, and it  
doesn't mean the bad things are going  
to happen. I dreamt last week that a  
giant monster ate me in an alien world,  
but that never happened and sure as  
hell won't happen.

SIF  
(through phone)  
I suppose you're right. Still...

NISSA

You want to talk about it, don't you?

SIF

(through phone)

Would that be all right? I know it's the weekend, though. You're probably busy.

NISSA

I am presently the picture of not busy. Tell me about your dream.

SIF

(through phone)

Well, I was in Iceland, but not here at the hotel. I think it was when I was just a little girl. But I was also me now, as an adult. You know how dreams are.

NISSA

All my dreams are always set in Grandma's living room which is somehow also the high school cafeteria, so yeah, that makes nonsensical sense.

SIF

(through phone)

It was dark out, but I had the feeling it was still daytime, so I guess it was the winter months. Everyone around me looked frightened. Terrified, even. They just stared down at the ground, shaking. Some of them were crying. It was like they refused to look up. Or maybe they couldn't look even if they wanted to.

NISSA

But you could?

SIF

(through phone)

Yes. I could. I looked up at the sky. At first, it was just dark. Then, I thought I saw stars, but they moved. Got closer. I realized they were flames in the sky. Like from torches floating up there. As they got closer, I saw a line of flying beasts. Horses. Elk. Maybe goats.

NISSA

You saw a procession of flying elk. With a glowing light. Let me guess: they were pulling the sleigh of a very jolly man.

SIF

(through phone)

That isn't funny, Nissa.

(beat)

You know how I feel about the overcommercialization of Christmas gift-giving and the problematic patriarchal savior figure.

NISSA

Sorry. Continue.

SIF

(through phone)

Well, it wasn't Santa Claus. The horses all had riders. And they were...well, not normal people. But all I could really look at was the biggest one. I just knew he was their leader. And he was holding...

NISSA

What?

(beat)

Mom? What was he holding?

SIF

(through phone)

He was holding you. By the hair. And then, as they flew over me, and everyone around me cowered, he let you go. And you fell all the way. I tried to catch you, but I...I think I started to go lucid, you know? I didn't catch you, but I made it so you were just there on the ground, with no impact.

NISSA

I do that way too often. Always wakes me up and ruins my sleep cycle.

SIF

(through phone)

And you looked me right in the eyes and said that he...told you who your father was.

NISSA

Oh.

SIF

(through phone)

And then I woke up. I couldn't tell if you were okay, and I had this terrible feeling that something bad was going to happen.

NISSA

Mom. I'm fine. Nothing bad is going to happen to me. I'm just having a night in and trying to figure out who's parking in my parking spot. And no, it isn't a guy who rides a goat through the sky. He drives a Mustang.

SIF

(through phone)

Sounds like an overprivileged man.

NISSA

You have taught me everything I know.

SIF

(through phone)

I'm sorry to bother you. You shouldn't have to listen to my rambling when you're busy asserting your agency and authority.

NISSA

Don't worry about it. I'll be fine. That dream was probably more about you not knowing anything about my dad than a prophecy of a flying dude hurting me.

SIF

(through phone)

I suppose you're right. You were always so good at psychoanalysis. My little Freud if Freud weren't a misogynistic motherfucker.

NISSA

I see what you did there.

SIF

(through phone)

I'm going to try and go back to sleep now. Thanks for listening to me.

NISSA

Any time, Mom.

SIF

(through phone)

I love you, sweetheart. Be safe.

NISSA

I will. Get some sleep. Bye, Mom.

### **MUSICAL TRANSITION**

170. Paris penthouse.

MACKENNA

This city is really something.

SHAYLEE

City of Lights. The name is appropriate.

MACKENNA

City of love, too. I think.

SHAYLEE

Aye. It's been called that.

MACKENNA

You sure I can't turn the lamp off? We could probably see better without backlighting everything.

SHAYLEE

Leave it on just a bit longer. For me.

MACKENNA

Of course.

Some silence.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

It's hard to believe we didn't even know each other a few months ago.

SHAYLEE

I feel like I've known you my entire life. Longer, maybe.

MACKENNA

I can't even really remember who I was before I met you. I was definitely another person then. A much, much worse person.

SHAYLEE

I got to meet that person, thank you very much. I was quite fond of her.

MACKENNA

Well, if that's all it takes to impress you...I don't really have a follow-up. Lucky me, I guess.

SHAYLEE

I've spent the last five years just surviving. Day to day to day. You changed that. You gave me something bigger to dream about. I can never repay that.

MACKENNA

Uh, pretty sure I'm the one who owes you. Like a bunch of times over.

SHAYLEE

Oh, Mackenna. If only you knew.

MACKENNA

Knew what? How you feel? I kinda have a good idea. You're not exactly inconspicuous about it.

SHAYLEE

No. I mean, yes. But that wasn't what I meant. I have...there are things...things you don't know.

MACKENNA

Of course there are. Spoiler: there are things you don't know about me, too. Just because Thomas showed you the goth phase pictures does not mean you know every Mackenna Thorne secret.

SHAYLEE

I just...I wish I could tell you everything.

MACKENNA

We have lots of time for that. Let's just enjoy tonight and the people we are now. We can save who we were for another night.

SHAYLEE

Aye. Another night.

MACKENNA

I'm gonna turn the light out, okay? I promise not to try anything untoward.

NARRATOR

Once again, take a moment to reflect on how much more pain would never be inflicted if she just pulled the chain on that lamp right now.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

171. Outside the firing range, sitting on the hood of Sam's car.

THOMAS

That was both terrifying and exhilarating.

SAM

Terrifying? I thought the only scary thing was how good your aim was.

THOMAS

I've played a lot of sports, so hand-eye coordination comes easily. But yeah...how do you not find guns terrifying?

SAM

I guess I just grew up around them. And then, y'know, official police training, carrying one every day. You get used to it.

THOMAS

I don't know how. I'm not sure I ever could. I mean, the whole point of a gun is to kill someone. I just...I guess I've never really wanted to do that. That came out wrong. Of course I've never wanted to kill anyone. I mean that even the thought of it horrifies me.

SAM

Killing people isn't the only point of a gun.



THOMAS

It's not? I mean, I'm pretty sure you would never hunt with the guns we fired tonight.

SAM

Well, no. Of course not. But what about self-defense?

THOMAS

Yes. You can defend yourself with a gun. By killing someone.

SAM

Yeah, but...okay, actually, I can't really come up with a scenario that doesn't involve at least seriously injuring someone. But sometimes that's unavoidable.

THOMAS

You aren't wrong. And I wouldn't fault someone for defending themselves by shooting someone who meant them harm. But I don't think I could ever do that.

SAM

I think you'd be surprised what you could do in the right circumstances. Or the wrong circumstances.

THOMAS

Yeah. Maybe. I guess I wouldn't know yet. But I never want it to come to that. I've never even had to use taekwondo on someone, let alone need to shoot them.

SAM

I only drew my service weapon five times on the job. Twice in your presence. The only time I fired it outside the range was when the dog attacked you.

THOMAS

And I'm sure one of those times was when you went to arrest Mackenna.

SAM

That would be one of them.

THOMAS

I'm sorry that all this stuff with my family led to over half of those occasions.

SAM

I do not accept your apology because you have no reason to apologize. That "stuff" wasn't anything you could control.

THOMAS

Of course it was.

SAM

Excuse me? How could you have done anything to stop what happened? The other Mackenna took us all by surprise, and the Hidden People can't exactly be stopped by conventional means.

THOMAS

I see. So you're saying that it's not our fault when an unknown and unstoppable thing completely upends and tries to destroy our lives. There's nothing we could have done, and we have to accept that.

SAM

(beat)

Wow. Holy shit. You're good.

THOMAS

What? What'd I say?

SAM

Thomas Thorne. You shifty motherfucker.

THOMAS

No idea what you're going on about.

SAM

I can't decide whether to hit you or  
kiss you.

THOMAS

Well, I don't know if I get a vote, but  
I know which option I'd choose.

SAM

Close your eyes. I'll surprise you.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

172. Fancy Italian restaurant.

ALFIE

The verdict?

RILEY

It was a good day.

ALFIE

Best of the best?

RILEY

Definitely, maybe.

ALFIE

Be cool.

RILEY

Shake it off.

ALFIE

Should I stay, or should I go?

RILEY

Don't do me like that.

ALFIE

Best of the best two?

RILEY

I've had the time of my life.

ALFIE  
Thirteen reasons why.

RILEY  
Beautiful boy.

ALFIE  
Pretty woman.

RILEY  
I'm just a girl.

ALFIE  
I love you, man.

RILEY  
Love is a battlefield.

ALFIE  
What's love got to do with it?

RILEY  
Like a virgin.

ALFIE  
(pained)  
In cold blood.

RILEY  
Oops, I did it again.

ALFIE  
Crazy, stupid, love.

RILEY  
Can you ever forgive me?

ALFIE  
I will always love you.

RILEY  
Crazy in love, featuring Jay Z.  
(long beat, contented sigh)  
Date night.

ALFIE  
Picture perfect.

RILEY

Shut up and dance with me.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

173. Nissa outside recording.

NISSA

Okay, I've been stalking the Mustang for an hour. No way this guy stays in all night on a weekend. No one's that pathetic. At some point, he'll show himself. And when he does, my justice will be complete. He can't possibly be prepared for the all-out onslaught I have coming his way. This man will never park in my goddamn spot again. I will--

NEIGHBOR

Hi, there.

Switch from recording to in-the-moment.

NISSA

Oh. Hey.

NEIGHBOR

You live here? Haven't seen you before.

NISSA

Oh. Yeah. Going on seven years.

NEIGHBOR

Nice. I just moved in last week. I'll probably see you around. Have a nice night.

NISSA

Hang on...is this your car?

NEIGHBOR

Yeah. Why?

NISSA

Oh. Uh, it's just...this is my parking spot.

NEIGHBOR

It is? I thought they gave me number nine?

NISSA

This is six, actually.

NEIGHBOR

Oh, no! I must have been reading it upside down.

NISSA

Huh. I get that. No worries.

NEIGHBOR

I'm so sorry. I'll park in nine from now on. I hope it wasn't too inconvenient for you.

NISSA

No, I just parked over in the visitor section.

NEIGHBOR

Well, it's totally my fault. Take you out for a beer sometime? For being such a bother?

NISSA

Yeah. Sure. That sounds great. See you around.

NEIGHBOR

Catch you later.

Car door closes. Car drives away. Back to recording.

NISSA

Justice has been dispensed. More or less. And I might even have a date with...shit, I didn't even ask her name.

**MUSICAL TRANSITION**

174. Paris penthouse.

SHAYLEE

No, wait. Leave the light on.

MACKENNA

Seriously, Shaylee, what's with you and the light?

SHAYLEE

Nothing. Just...just sit down, okay? Please?

MACKENNA

Yeah, sure.

(beat)

Are you shaking?

SHAYLEE

No.

MACKENNA

You're trembling.

Shaylee walks across the room.

SHAYLEE

I...I have to do something.

MACKENNA

Okay. Can I help?

SHAYLEE

I don't want to do it. But I have to.

MACKENNA

What's going on? You're kinda freaking me out here.

NARRATOR

Love. Blindness. Stupidity.

SHAYLEE

Just stay over there, okay?

MACKENNA

Seriously. What the fuck?

SHAYLEE

Just stay over there.

MACKENNA

I'm staying, okay?

NARRATOR

Synonyms.

SHAYLEE

I'm so sorry, Mackenna. I don't want to do this.

MACKENNA

Do what?

SHAYLEE

What they told me to do.

MACKENNA

What who told you? The Court? What did they tell you to do?

SHAYLEE

(to herself)

Kill Mackenna Thorne, or die trying.

(beat)

Or die trying.

MACKENNA

They want you to kill me?

SHAYLEE

I'm sorry, Mackenna. I...I...

(beat)

I hope you know.

MACKENNA

Shaylee? What are you--

Lamp pull chain. Small explosion.

THE END