

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 2.19

"What You Sow"

Written by

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199. Mackenna's bedroom, morning.

SHAYLEE
(softly, dreamlike)
Mackenna. Mackenna. Mackenna, come
back. It's time...

Mackenna wakes up.

MACKENNA
(drowsy)
Wha--

SHAYLEE
It's time to wake up sleepy-head.

MACKENNA
Uh, yeah. Wh-where...?

SHAYLEE
Don't tell me you don't remember?

MACKENNA
No, no, I-I remember.
(yawns)
I remember. I just feel like I've been
asleep for a really long time.

SHAYLEE
You got seven hours. More than normal.
Did I wear you out that much?

MACKENNA
Don't get too full of yourself. I was
dreaming, I think?

SHAYLEE
Oh? Anything interesting?

MACKENNA
I don't really remember, but it felt
important.

SHAYLEE
Do you want to try to go back to sleep?
See if the dream will start again?

MACKENNA

Do dreams do that?

SHAYLEE

Not always. Wait, don't you dream?

MACKENNA

I don't know. Not really. But I don't want to go back to sleep.

SHAYLEE

Time to get up, then?

MACKENNA

I definitely don't want to leave bed.

SHAYLEE

Oh? Don't want to sleep but don't want to leave the bed? And I shouldn't be full of myself?

MACKENNA

That's not what I meant.

(beat)

I want to ignore the rest of the world. For just a little bit longer. Pretend that it's only you and me. No enemies, no responsibilities. Just...this.

SHAYLEE

We'll have to leave eventually.

MACKENNA

I know. Five more minutes.

NARRATOR

You can only hit the snooze button on life so many times, Mackenna. Outside those walls are your responsibilities and enemies, but also your destiny. Enjoy your reprieve while you can.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

200. Nissa's apartment. Stepping sideways arrival. Shaylee and Mackenna enter.

NISSA

Mack? Shaylee! You did it!

MACKENNA

How did you--oh, bringing Shaylee back.
Yes. I did it.

Nissa hugs Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

Oof. Nissa's a hugger now, eh? I don't hate it.

ALFIE

Nissa told us what happened. We're glad you're all right, Shaylee.

RILEY

Shaylee two-point-oh! New and improved!

NISSA

Wait.

SHAYLEE

Uh, why're you looking at me like that?

NISSA

You're...different.

MACKENNA

I don't think so. I got every detail exactly as I remember her.

NISSA

Mm-hmm.

SHAYLEE

I don't feel any different.

NISSA

No, something's off. Look this way.
That way. Hold on...

SHAYLEE

Why do I feel like I'm being scouted
for Next Top Model?

NISSA

Your face is more symmetrical.

SHAYLEE

What?

NISSA

Just a little bit. You had this tiny
bump in your nose that nudged it to the
right, and it's gone now. And your
cheekbones are slightly higher. Wait...

SHAYLEE

What're you doing?

NISSA

Your hair was not this shiny. Or silky.
Feel it.

MACKENNA

How would you know what her hair used
to feel like, Nissa? It's exactly the
same!

ALFIE

No, she's right. Shaylee looks glowy-
er. Like she should be in a skin care
commercial or something.

MACKENNA

She's exactly the same. I didn't mess
her up!

SHAYLEE

I'm not messed up, Mack. I'm me. I
promise.

NISSA

I wonder...

(beat)

Mack, you remade Shaylee from your memories. How you see her, not exactly how she was. This is what Shaylee looks like to you.

RILEY

Aw, she thinks Shaylee is pretty.

(to Alfie)

I totally ship it.

ALFIE

Please. I've been shipping them since Bathroom Girl.

SHAYLEE

Whatever I look like, I'm still me. Still badass, still magical, still Irish. You didn't mess up my accent, thank God for that.

MACKENNA

Just because I can't do accents doesn't mean I don't know what they're supposed to sound like.

NISSA

I'm glad you're back, Shaylee. Even if you look like you've been put through an Instagram filter.

ALFIE

Can we sell Mack-vision as a photo enhancer thing? I feel like there's an untapped market there.

RILEY

I think the number of people improved by Mack-vision would be an n of one.

ALFIE

Mack totally thinks I could be in a commercial.

NISSA

As a "before" photo, maybe.

RILEY

Hey, can Mack re-make me but with,
like, purple hair?

MACKENNA

What?

RILEY

You know, try on a few different looks
before I commit to dyeing it.

NISSA

You'd have to commit to actually dying
first.

RILEY

Oh. Temporary hair dye it is!

MACKENNA

Smart choice.

201. Sam enters, slightly out of breath.

SAM

Nissa, good, you're here. I have an
idea...oh, everyone's here.

NISSA

How exactly did my tiny apartment
become the meeting point for everyone?

RILEY

Hello sweaty exercise woman with an
idea!

SAM

Hello, uh--oh, you're the new
changeling. I'm Sam. You're Riley?

RILEY

The one and only! Well, now I am,
anyway.

NISSA
Sam, you were saying.

SAM
Right. I'm working on boxing again,
trying to get used to the difference in
my hand--

RILEY
Whoa, that is so bad-ass! How did that
happen?

ALFIE
(aside)
I'll tell you later.

SAM
(deadpan)
I bit it off when I was possessed by a
giant monster from another dimension.

RILEY
Basically my first guess.

NISSA
Sam...

SAM
Right. Long story short: different ways
of fighting. I think I have an idea of
ways humans can fight the Hidden, but
I'll need some help with modifications.

NISSA
I'm game. Step into my office.

RILEY
What kind of modifications?

NISSA
(while walking away)
Come along, protege. There's learning
to do.

RILEY
Woo-hoo!

ALFIE
I'll help, too!

NISSA
(distantly)
Stay away from my keyboard, Alfie!

MACKENNA
Well, everyone knows you're okay now.

SHAYLEE
They don't really know the other thing
about us.

MACKENNA
I didn't want to tell them your glow
was from something else.

SHAYLEE
Looks like they'll be busy for a while.

MACKENNA
I guess we'll have to entertain
ourselves.

SHAYLEE
Whatever shall we do?

Mackenna and Shaylee chuckle knowingly, then stepping
sideways departure.

NARRATOR
Let's give the lovers some privacy,
shall we? We won't miss anything, just
skip ahead to--

QUICK TRANSITION

202. Mackenna's bedroom, the next morning.

NARRATOR
Here. Deja vu. A return to our new
couple, watching a new dawn from
Mackenna's bed.

SHAYLEE
A girl could get used to this.

MACKENNA

What, sharing a decade-old double bed?

SHAYLEE

Sharing it with you.

MACKENNA

Yeah, well, I'm still waiting for you to offer a night on an undoubtedly high-quality European mattress in one of your many vacation homes.

SHAYLEE

Just say the word. Although I think the beach house is out unless we want to traumatize poor Riley. And Paris has a few bad memories attached now. How do you feel about the Alps?

MACKENNA

I've never been.

SHAYLEE

Well, we have all the time in the world. And all of the world, really.

MACKENNA

(hms noncommittally)

They're quiet for a moment.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Hey, where'd you go?

MACKENNA

I'm trying to remember something. Like it's from a dream.

SHAYLEE

From last night?

MACKENNA

No, the night before. It's like it's been on the edge of my brain, but I can't...really...

SHAYLEE

Yeah, I've been having the same thing. Since you remade me, there's something I'm supposed to remember, that I need to tell you...

MACKENNA

It feels important...

SHAYLEE

I think it was...ancient.

MACKENNA

Something hidden.

(beat)

The Hidden People. There's still something I need to do. Need to stop.

SHAYLEE

There's something else...

MACKENNA

I think I need to help the other fetches. The ones I saw in Arcadia when I was you.

SHAYLEE

No, that's not what I--it's not important.

MACKENNA

I helped free you from the Court, and we saved Riley, but bad things are going to keep happening, to changelings and to fetches, unless we stop it. Stop them. We can do something today to prevent more deaths decades from now.

SHAYLEE

We do need to start thinking ahead instead of just reacting to the Court. They don't know I'm still alive, let alone free of the contract. But with the Reaping so close, actually moving against them would be more impossible than normal. The preparations, the increased security--

MACKENNA

The Reaping. You mentioned that before. That's when they kidnap the new fetches and replace them with changelines.

SHAYLEE

Aye, they "reap" them--harvest their new "crop." They've been talking about it for a while, so it should be soon.

MACKENNA

Soon? How soon? We have to stop them.

SHAYLEE

Mack, we can't. The Reaping is literally the strongest of the Hidden going to the human world, nabbing a babe and creating their changeling, and they're not alone when they go. You can maybe trick one of the Hidden, but you can't take half a dozen head-on.

MACKENNA

They're stealing newborns, Shaylee. I'm not okay with them just walking away with helpless babies before they've even been held by their mothers.

SHAYLEE

You can't save everyone, Mack.

MACKENNA

I can't forgive myself if I don't at least try to find a way.

SHAYLEE

You do have a penchant for the impossible deed.

MACKENNA

It's why you were willing to let yourself die for me. You believed I could bring you back, even if it was impossible.

SHAYLEE

Aye, that's right.

MACKENNA

Wait. You did believe in me, right?

SHAYLEE

Of course. Never a single doubt.

MACKENNA

Then why am I feeling very doubted?

SHAYLEE

Well, I did make peace with my inevitable mortality, just in case.

MACKENNA

Wow. Rude.

SHAYLEE

Rude was how long it took you to bring me back!

MACKENNA

How would you even know how long it was? There are no clocks in death right?

(beat)

I mean, what is there in death?

NARRATOR

Yes, Shaylee. Wasn't there something you were supposed to remember?

SHAYLEE

I...I can't really--

203. Thomas knocks and opens in the door.

THOMAS

Good morning, Mackenna. Oh, hi, Shaylee. Sorry, I didn't realize you were having a sleepover.

MACKENNA

Uh...

THOMAS

Are Alfie and Nissa here, too?

SHAYLEE

(barely controlled giggles)

No.

THOMAS

Aw, sorry they couldn't make it to the slumber party. Hey, why don't I make Belgian waffles for breakfast?

MACKENNA

(sarcastic embarrassment)

Sounds great, Thomas.

SHAYLEE

(teasing)

It isn't a proper sleepover without waffles in the morning.

THOMAS

(oblivious)

Haha, that's what I always say.

(beat)

You didn't try to call me the past few days, did you Mackenna?

MACKENNA

Well, I did, but it's not important now, so just delete that voicemail, 'kay?

THOMAS

Sorry about that. My phone just gave up on me, and I had to go get a new one yesterday. Everything all right?

MACKENNA

Disaster averted.

THOMAS

Well, I'm glad it worked out. Waffles will be ready in about twenty minutes. See you upstairs!

Thomas closes the door and leaves.

MACKENNA

I really thought we were the last ones to know about our obvious sexual tension.

SHAYLEE

It's kind of cute how oblivious he is.

MACKENNA

I'm not gonna have the talk with him.

SHAYLEE

He'll figure it out eventually.

MACKENNA

I will give Nissa and Alfie a call, though. If we're going to save some fetches, I want all our brains on the task.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

204. Nissa's apartment, bathroom. Alfie talks to himself in the mirror.

ALFIE

All right. You've got this. Breathe.

(loud inhale and exhale)

You are Alfred Wilhelm O'Toole the Third. You are an adult. And adults have confidence. They are firm, and unflinching, and unafraid to ask for what they want.

(beat)

Make eye-contact, order with confidence, and enjoy what you get.

Alfie opens the bathroom door and walks down the hall.

NISSA

Are you finally done in there?

ALFIE

Yes, I am.

NISSA

You spend a lot of time looking in the mirror for someone who doesn't wear make-up.

ALFIE

Nissa, I've been working for you at SoundScapes for almost six years. While I've never had a formal performance review, I've also never been reprimanded, and I do good work. I do everything that's asked of me, I am an asset to the store, and I deserve a raise.

NISSA

All right.

ALFIE

If you need more evidence, I have-- wait, really?

NISSA

Yeah.

ALFIE

Nissa, you've never given me a raise before.

NISSA

You've never asked before.

ALFIE

But you always gave Mack a raise.

NISSA

That's because she would never ask for one.

ALFIE

But I had to? How is that fair?

NISSA

It's not. But I knew you would eventually reach a breaking point where you would have to ask for one, and you need to learn how to approach authority figures professionally. And you did. So you get a raise.

(beat)

Finally.

ALFIE

So all I had to do was ask?

NISSA

Yup.

ALFIE

Huh. Adulting for the win!

NISSA

Don't make me demote you.

Phone buzzes with a text alert.

NISSA (CONT'D)

That's Mack. She wants us to meet her at her place.

ALFIE

(confidently)

I'll drive.

NISSA

Like hell you will.

NARRATOR

Alfred. So eager to play the brave hero when the stakes are so low. But do you really expect faked confidence to save the day when dozens of lives are on the line? Or will the real adults see right through you?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

205. The Thorne home.

RILEY

Aw sweet, it's a baby heist.

MACKENNA

The plan is to stop the baby heist.

ALFIE

Call it Oceans Seven.

SAM

Okay, we have a goal. Do we know when this Reaping is supposed to happen?

SHAYLEE

Soon. They've been making preparations, and the last Reaping of fetches aren't newborns anymore.

THOMAS

I think Sam's asking for an exact date.

SHAYLEE

It's hard to say. It's not the same every year, but they don't just make it up: it's predetermined.

RILEY

By what?

SHAYLEE

Hell if I know. The motivations and traditions of the Hidden are incomprehensible to the rational minded.

NISSA

There has to be a pattern.

MACKENNA

Okay, what do we know about previous Reapings?

SHAYLEE

They take thirty children at a time.

SAM

Thirty newborns? God, that sounds like a nightmare.

NISSA

No wonder they're so cranky. How do they sleep?

THOMAS

So, thirty kids. I'm going to guess from multiple places? No way even magical beings can steal that many babies at the same time from the same hospital without getting caught.

SHAYLEE

I saw the last Reaping about a year ago. They returned in groups of six, each Hidden with a new fetch.

RILEY

So five hospitals, if they repeat the tradition.

ALFIE

You're cute just doing basic math.

MACKENNA

They returned to Arcadia?

SHAYLEE

Aye.

ALFIE

Oh, so the hospitals they choose are in cities with entrances to Arcadia.

SHAYLEE

There are hundreds of cities with ties to Arcadia. Maybe thousands.

NISSA

Do you know them all?

SHAYLEE

I can find out, but--

NISSA

Just get a list, and leave the
narrowing down to me.

SHAYLEE

Dane would have all of that in his
records. I'll find it for you.

SAM

That still leaves figuring out the
when.

RILEY

Do you know when any of the previous
Reapings took place? Not just last
year, but any year?

SHAYLEE

Well, I was born on September 5th,
1990.

MACKENNA

That doesn't make sense, I was born on
May 6th, 1992. We should have the same
birthday, shouldn't we?

RILEY

That's okay, Mack, you and I are
birthday buddies. Tauruses represent!

SAM

The same year, right?

RILEY

Yup, Mack and I are the exact same age.
Maybe our fetches even knew each other!
Oh, man, what if they were best
friends, too?

THOMAS

I don't think the other Mackenna is a
best friends-having type.

SAM

Wait, there was another case I was looking into from almost fifty years ago. Nissa, let me look up my old files.

Keyboard typing as Sam looks through old files.

SAM (CONT'D)

I thought it was irrelevant because of the time difference, but if the animal mauling was the work of a fetch and barghest, then...yes, here. The youngest son was twenty-seven and considered the black-sheep of the family.

SHAYLEE

That sounds like a changeling.

SAM

But if he was a changeling, his birthday was December 31st, 1947.

ALFIE

That's nowhere near any of yours.

SHAYLEE

Like I said: Hidden traditions make no bloody sense.

RILEY

There has to be a pattern. Give me the dates again, I want to finagle some stuff.

SAM

You can't finagle with time.

ALFIE

Rules of space time never stopped the Doctor from finagling.

RILEY

Just call me Jodie Whittaker.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, I know you want to stop the Reaping, but even if we do find out where and when the Hidden People are going to take the babes, it's five different places and only seven of us. We'll be spreading ourselves too thin.

MACKENNA

I know.

SHAYLEE

I know you don't want to abandon the wee ones they're going after now, but what chance do a handful of changelings and humans led by a halfling have against the Hidden?

MACKENNA

Give me a chance to think, Shaylee. I know we can't overpower them, but maybe we can outsmart them. With the right plan.

NARRATOR

You're right, Mackenna: you and your friends certainly can't overpower the Unseelie Court. But if you think you and all your twenty-eight years of knowledge can outsmart the collective wisdom of an immortal race...well, we'll just see how successful you are.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

206. Sam's house, basement. Thomas enters.

THOMAS

(calling out)

Sam, are you here?

SAM

Yeah, down in the basement.

THOMAS

Ah, you're working on--

SAM

Yup.

Shotgun pumps.

THOMAS

That's incredibly intimidating.

SAM

That's the idea.

THOMAS

But, uh, I'm not sure the Hidden would be scared by it.

SAM

Just because it can't scare them doesn't mean it won't hurt them.

(beat)

I had an idea. Nissa and Riley helped with finding the parts I needed wholesale. Pure iron isn't as common as you'd think.

THOMAS

They won't know what hit them.

SAM

No, they won't.

THOMAS

You sure about this, Sam?

SAM

Yeah, I've tested out the modifications already, so everything should be good to go.

THOMAS

Not that. I mean, this whole fight.

SAM

Thomas--

THOMAS

I'm not saying you can't, or you shouldn't. I just want you to know you have a choice. You can say no.

SAM

Thomas, I pity anyone who thinks that they can force me to do anything.

(beat)

Look, I get it. I'm not planning on just gunning down all the Hidden People I can. I realize they're beyond me. But I need to be ready, because that fight is coming whether I want it or not. I can't say that I'll want to keep the war going afterward, but we are going to save those babies.

THOMAS

So much has happened these last months. I can't imagine the chief of police approving what we're about to do.

SAM

Nope.

Shotgun pumps.

SAM (CONT'D)

I don't think so.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

207. Nissa's apartment.

RILEY

(moans in frustration)

This. Is. Bullshit.

ALFIE

You okay there, Rainman?

RILEY

It is--right here--somewhere. I've got all this data on birthdays, and alternate calendars and...ancient weekdays? It just makes no fucking sense.

(face in hands)

Ugh!

ALFIE

All this stuff on the dry-erase board... hey, have you seen It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia?

RILEY

(scoffs)

"Have I seen."

ALFIE

Right, so that scene with Charlie and the conspiracy theory board about Pepe Silvia?

RILEY

Shut up. It's not that bad.

(beat)

Is it that bad?

ALFIE

It really is.

(beat)

Take a break. You've been at this nonstop for hours.

RILEY

Yeah, because Nissa figured out the hospital locations hours ago. I'm so far behind!

NISSA

It's not a race, you know.

RILEY

I just--ugh, how did you do it so fast?

NISSA

Like you said, people are stupid. And lazy. But they're also greedy. Knowing that the Hidden use human nurses to get into the hospitals to steal newborns, I just had to check bank records for registered nurses in the cities Dane marked in his research to see which ones had more money than they should.

ALFIE

That doesn't sound easy.

NISSA

Well, no, I found a few false leads that were selling stolen opioids, but they've been anonymously reported to the proper authorities.

RILEY

God, catching baby stealers and stopping pill pushers? I'm so not worthy.

NISSA

Hey, is this board what you've got so far?

RILEY

Yeah, but it doesn't make any sense. I think they're using a different calendar, since the Gregorian has only been the standard for a few hundred years, but as far as I can narrow it down, they use a three-season system and take fetches in the middle of each season, but I don't know exactly when and I'm no help at all.

NISSA

August the 26th.

RILEY

What? No, why?

NISSA

It's a Wednesday. All three birthdays are the Wednesday in the middle of the seasons you plotted.

RILEY

Seriously? The day of the week matters?

NISSA

To the Hidden? Sure, why the fuck not?

ALFIE

You memorized the calendar all the way back to the 1940s?

NISSA

That really shouldn't surprise you.

RILEY

Well, great. We have a day, and the locations. Now all we need is a plan.

208. Mackenna and Shaylee enter.

MACKENNA

I have a plan.

RILEY

Your timing is movie-plot perfect. Wait, go out and come back in. I'll make a *bum bum* sound.

MACKENNA

Thomas and Sam are on their way, I'll explain it once everyone's here.

NISSA

So did you make your Mackenna's choice, then? You have a plan to stop the Reaping?

ALFIE

Hey, you made a reference!

SHAYLEE

Despite all its flaws, Mackenna has a plan to disrupt the Reaping.

MACKENNA

With minimal risk to anyone's life.

RILEY

Disrupt?

SHAYLEE

We don't need to stop them entirely.
Just slow them down long enough to miss
the Reaping period.

Sam and Thomas arrive together.

SAM

We're here.

THOMAS

Do we have a plan? And a location? And
a date?

RILEY

We have all the things!

NISSA

Better question: do we have more chairs
so I can fit everyone?

ALFIE

I vote to move the next group meeting
to Shaylee's beach house!

RILEY

Seconded!

SHAYLEE

Fine, but we're here now, so let's
focus. Mack?

MACKENNA

Right.

(exhales)

Here's what I need you all to do.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

209. O'Toole residence, front room. Marble and high ceilings create an echo.

RILEY

Seriously, this is just your front room? I'm pretty sure it's bigger than the house I grew up in.

ALFIE

Size isn't everything.

RILEY

Oh, I know. You should see Shaylee's beach house.

(beat)

Let me just tweak this a bit...there. Tie classy enough to put Bond to shame.

ALFIE

Thanks for coming with me, Riley. I just need some support before I go in there.

RILEY

I am a bra made of memory foam: comforting and supportive.

ALFIE

I'll take your word for it.

RILEY

I think your idea is brilliant, Alfie. And selfless, and brave. I'm proud of you for volunteering to do this.

ALFIE

Yeah, well, I figure it's time for me to be a man. Face my fears.

RILEY

I've always thought of you as a man.

ALFIE

I don't feel like one.

RILEY

Why not?

ALFIE

Because I'm scared.

RILEY

Being scared and doing the thing
anyway, doing the thing that's
right...there's nothing more manly than
that.

ALFIE

I'm just trying not to look scared, but
I'm all sweaty and my hands are shaky
and--

RILEY

Alfie--

ALFIE

This is important and I don't want her
to say no and have all this fail
because of me--

RILEY

Alfred O'Toole. You are an adult.
You're going to walk in there like the
Imperial March is playing in the
background because Darth Vader isn't
scared of anything. And no one says no
to Darth Vader.

ALFIE

I am Darth Vader.

RILEY

You are one with the Force.

BUTLER

Mister Alfred. She will see you now.

ALFIE

Right.

RILEY

(whispered)

May the Force be with you.

210. Alfie walks into the dining room, shoes clicking on marbled floors. He stops, and there's silence for a few moments. Amelia sets down her silverware.

AMELIA

Alfred. I hope you're here because you've finally come to your senses.

ALFIE

I have.

AMELIA

Good. While I do appreciate the need to take a stand, it's also important to know when enough is enough. I do expect--

ALFIE

I've come to my senses, but not in the way you're expecting, I think.

AMELIA

Oh? Is that so?

Amelia pushes back her chair and stands.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Go on, then. Say what you came to say. But this is your last chance to make things right, you know. We've indulged you long enough. I've discussed it with your father, and if you aren't willing to shape up, then we will have no choice but to remove you from our estate entirely.

ALFIE

You were right. I was immature with regards to my future and had an entitled attitude towards my inheritance. But having this time to think, to determine what is important in life, I've realized with great privilege comes great responsibility. I know now what I'm called to do with all the gifts I was born with. And I think you'll agree with my proposal.

AMELIA

Well.

(beat)

I'm listening.

THE END