

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 3.13

"Anniversary"

Written by

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128. Shaylee's beach house.

ALFIE

Attention, everyone. I have called a meeting of Team Mackenna.

NISSA

Yes. We know. That's why this meeting is back at Shaylee's beach house.

ALFIE

Are you complaining?

NISSA

Oh, hell no. This place is glorious.

SHAYLEE

Thank you.

THOMAS

Everybody, make sure you get some cookies. And try the punch. It's one of my dad's old recipes.

RILEY

(drinks)

Methinks I detect some kick in this punch.

THOMAS

Wine and brandy. Dad knew how to throw a party.

SHAYLEE

Plenty of ways to party sober, too.

MACKENNA

Yeah, you didn't know our dad.

THOMAS

Don't forget the Shirley Temples.

MACKENNA

Yes, but how often did Shirley get dirty? I'd say pretty often.

FETCH

I agree with the trainer. Alcohol dulls the mind and the senses. I must always be ready for my final battle. As I do not know when that will occur, I must be ever vigilant.

MACKENNA

You know that you don't have to come to team meetings, right? They're for the team.

FETCH

I have...decided I do not like television at the moment. So I am here to help.

ALFIE

Ahem. I did have a point to this meeting. It's more than just cookies and punch.

RILEY

(eating a cookie)

Yeah, everybody. Pay attention.

ALFIE

Okay, people. We still don't know if Wodan is out of commission from the Well incident, and if he is, we don't know how long that will last. So we need to take advantage of this reprieve by following up on the only intel we have left.

SHAYLEE

Morgan the banshee witch?

THOMAS

The Cult of Wodan?

NISSA

Eadgar's data?

FETCH

The Master of Sha?

SHAYLEE

I don't think he got to finish speaking. It's probably like the Master of Shagging.

ALFIE

No, people! Take this seriously!

(beat)

Heh, Master of Shagging.

(beat)

But no, I meant the clue Mimir gave me.

MACKENNA

"Read the transcripts."

ALFIE

Precisely. So the natural question is: what transcripts?

NISSA

Seems like an important question.

THOMAS

Maybe something with the Cult? A lot of them are businessmen, and business meetings sometimes have transcripts.

NISSA

Researchers also use transcription with interviews.

MACKENNA

I don't think that's what Mimir meant. When I first met Wodan, I was in a courtroom.

ALFIE

Exactly. And if decades of legal dramas have taught me anything, it's that a stenographer is always transcribing everything that happens in a court case. "For the record."

SHAYLEE

Did Arcadia's courtroom have a stenographer?

MACKENNA

I never saw any of those weird little typewriters, but one of the Hidden People had a huge-ass quill-pen-thing he was writing with. I think he was copying down everything.

THOMAS

But didn't you say the courtroom exploded?

MACKENNA

Technically, it was all the alders in it who exploded, but yeah, same difference.

NISSA

And you escaped amid fiery wreckage. No way a pile of paper survived that.

FETCH

The Hidden People would not simply record such important records on pieces of paper.

RILEY

So magic paper, then? Psychic paper? The Death Note?

ALFIE

Maybe they just laminate it later.

SHAYLEE

She's right. A scribe might record everything that was said in the courtroom, but Hall of the Sagas holds copies of every document of the Unseelie Court. It should hold transcripts, too.

MACKENNA

So even if the paper burned up, we could find a backup in the Hall of the Sagas.

SHAYLEE

In theory.

NISSA

Mimir wouldn't have told Alfie to read them if they couldn't be read, so you're probably right. Unless he was lying and this is all a ploy to kill us.

ALFIE

Well, that's why not everyone is going. We need designated survivors. Think, people!

THOMAS

Um, you were the one who invited all of us to this meeting together.

ALFIE

Oh. Right.

(beat)

From now on, we need designated survivors. Think, people!

MACKENNA

So what are you suggesting?

ALFIE

We need our big guns out here in case Wodan wakes up and comes looking for a fight. But we can't go in completely unarmed. I'm going in because Mimir gave me this quest, and I happen to know where the Hall of the Sagas is. And Riley is coming so she can step us out if things get bad.

SHAYLEE

You can't step sideways between Arcadia and here now that all the doors have vanished.

ALFIE

We know there's a circle by the back door entrance, though. So if we get in trouble, we step back to that and run back into our world.

MACKENNA

I don't like just the two of you going in.

FETCH

It will not be just the two of them. I will accompany you on this quest, Alfie.

MACKENNA

Yeah, that doesn't make me feel even a little bit better.

FETCH

No one here knows Arcadia like I do. I will get you to the Hall of the Sagas, and if we face danger, I will cover your escape.

THOMAS

Are you sure about this?

FETCH

If Alfred O'Toole can be this brave, I can also step up.

ALFIE

Thanks! I think.

RILEY

That was at least sixty percent compliment.

NISSA

Make sure you don't waste any time in there. Get in, and get out.

ALFIE

Don't worry. We've got this. Does everybody know their assignments?

MACKENNA

You literally only gave assignments to yourself and Riley.

ALFIE

Perfect! Go team!

Stepping sideways departure.

FETCH

I assume she means to come back for me.

SHAYLEE

Only one at a time unless you're
Mackenna.

FETCH

I shall wait.

THOMAS

Mackenna, I was hoping I could talk to
you.

MACKENNA

Is something wrong?

THOMAS

No. Just...maybe we could go back home?

MACKENNA

Now?

NISSA

Mack, you should really go. Trust me.

MACKENNA

Okay, sure. Come over to the circle.

(beat)

I'll be back later, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE

Take your time. I'm just going to play
in the waves. In my swimsuit. Just
bounce around in the water. You won't
be missing anything.

MACKENNA

We've already established this, but you
are the devil.

SHAYLEE

Just try to be back for dessert.

MACKENNA

Dessert? We have dinner plans?

SHAYLEE

No.

MACKENNA

Right. I will definitely be back for dessert.

LEE

Not even an ancient, angry god can understand that they still oppose him because they have something to fight for. Something they would die for. Could he ever say the same?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

129. Off the path in a park.

FETCH

Are you both prepared? In the time since Wodan destroyed the Unseelie Court, the Hidden People would have rebuilt their defenses. Stealth is our greatest weapon here. If we are confronted, stay silent. I can use their accent, but your voices would betray you as outsiders.

RILEY

Won't they recognize you, though?

FETCH

The new alders will have risen from the lairds who did not die in the courtroom, many of whom may not know me on sight. It is possible, though, as I was a more visible fetch. If I am recognized, step sideways back to the entrance and run.

ALFIE

We can't just leave you.

FETCH

This is why I came. As I said, I will cover your escape.

ALFIE

Between the Well of Wisdom and this, it almost feels like you want to die fighting.

FETCH

A warrior's death is honorable. You would not understand.

ALFIE

No, I get that, planning to go down in a blaze of glory like the final installment of an action movie trilogy. But you don't have to speed it along.

RILEY

You've come a long way. Sacrificing yourself heroically won't prove you're a good person any more than living to be heroic tomorrow.

FETCH

Are you suggesting I flee from battle?

ALFIE

Not flee. Just don't immediately assume every bad situation is where you die. I know Mack doesn't exactly show it because you're kind of her dark mirror, but you are part of the team now. We don't want you to die.

FETCH

(long beat)

I am not.

RILEY

You are, though. We're a family, and you're part of it. Kind of in the brand new step-sister way, but you're still part of it.

FETCH

I do not deserve your kindness.

ALFIE

Not any less than Nissa and Mack do.

FETCH

That was a sick burn, wasn't it?

RILEY

The sickest.

FETCH

I am honored to fight by your side and to protect you when you cannot protect yourselves. Come.

Fetch pushes on a stone. The ground opens up into a doorway with stairs. They descend down, shifting from our world to a quiet Arcadia. They step into the high city. It is uncharacteristically abandoned.

ALFIE

Um, Fack? Isn't this place usually a lot busier?

RILEY

The historical accuracy department of the Discovery Channel is busier than this.

FETCH

No movement. No activity. I don't see...anyone.

ALFIE

Look at the windows on those buildings over there. All broken.

FETCH

And no glass outside. All broken inward.

RILEY

Someone threw rocks at all the windows?
Or maybe everyone was defenestrated! Of
course, if you throw someone through a
window into a building, would it be
refenestrated?

FETCH

Past that, the buildings look scorched,
as if they were partially burned down.
Something happened here, and not
recently. The high city was attacked.

ALFIE

But the only way in is the back door.
The deaths of the alders sealed off the
other entrances. So this couldn't have
been an attack from the outside.

RILEY

An uprising?

FETCH

Impossible. The drudges and fetches of
the undercity have always been held in
check...

(realizing)

by the Unseelie Court.

ALFIE

Which went boom.

FETCH

If the undercity did rise up, the Hall
of the Sagas may not have survived. The
protective magicks might not hold
without the Court.

RILEY

Only one way to find out. And that way
would be going there.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

130. Thorne house. Stepping sideways arrival.

MACKENNA

Okay, what's the big secret?

THOMAS

You don't know what day it is, do you?

MACKENNA

It's Sunday.

THOMAS

Come on. We have to go somewhere. The kind of place you don't teleport into, especially in the middle of the day.

They exit the house and get into Thomas's truck.

MACKENNA

And you're not going to tell me where we're going.

THOMAS

You'll figure it out on the way.

They drive.

MACKENNA

I take it this is a public place. The kind where people would recognize me. I suppose you just expect me to make everyone look the other way with magic.

THOMAS

I mean, yeah, I kinda do.

MACKENNA

Just make sure there aren't too many. I have limits, you know.

THOMAS

Don't worry. It's usually not too crowded at this time of day.

MACKENNA

All right, places you go that are this direction...the grocery store? No, I've spoiled you with stepping sideways to European markets. Sam's house? Is she back in town?

THOMAS

No. Still in Auckland.

MACKENNA

The cemetery? Are we going to...oh, shit.

THOMAS

Told you you'd figure it out.

MACKENNA

It's the anniversary of...wow. It does not feel like a year has passed since that day.

THOMAS

It's been a blur. I feel like the whole world is different, and I haven't been through nearly what you have.

MACKENNA

Yeah. I haven't been back since...fuck, since before I found out anything about who I am. I'm a terrible person.

THOMAS

You've been a little busy saving the world multiple times. I think they forgive you.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

Driving.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Thank you for remembering. Not that you'd ever forget, but...thank you.

THOMAS

I was prepared to drag you kicking and screaming, so you probably shouldn't thank me.

(beat)

I'm just glad we're still together, especially on a day like this.

LEE

Parents who will never again hold their children. Grandparents who will never meet their grandchildren. Paige and Robert Thorne. You are missed.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

131. In the mountain.

BLACK ANNIS

Wodan will not be pleased when he awakens. These ones have failed at their tasks.

MASTER OF SHADOW

I struck at the fetch in her mind and sowed the seeds of doubt.

ROBIN

She saw through your ruse and has not abandoned Mackenna. That is the definition of failure, oh "Master."

MORGAN

It seems the only ones who have been sufficiently demoralized are Mackenna and Nissa. Hmmm. I broke Mackenna, and Wodan himself got to Nissa. I wonder if there's a pattern here.

ROBIN

Excuse me, but Alfred has also been demoralized by the joint machinations of myself and the Brotherhood.

BLACK ANNIS

Does this one mean when that one tricked him and stole from him? Yes, Winston, Black Annis agrees that the Puck is also confused.

ROBIN

Your dolls aren't even here! Who are you talking to?!

MORGAN

Enough, Puck. You will treat the Morrigna with our due respect.

ROBIN

Oh, believe me, I am. Some might say I'm being generous. I'm one of them.

ANTHROPOPHAGI

We can still work the will of Wodan in his absence. Strike at the weak links. Devour all hope.

MASTER OF SHADOW

The Anthropophagi speaks truth!

MORGAN

You both nauseate me. You, Shade, are a mere shadow of a man. And this headless monstrosity...perhaps together you could make one useful being.

ANTHROPOPHAGI

We feel the vibrations but cannot hear the words. Let us touch your lips, that we might know your truth.

MORGAN

You disgust me. Quit waving your hands at me. Ack! Back away!

ROBIN

This must be what Wodan means when he mentions being surrounded by fools.

(beat, MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Listen up, jackwagons. We must strike another blow at them. A successful one, this time.

BLACK ANNIS

The Puck knows that those ones cannot be killed. So spake Wodan.

MASTER OF SHADOW

Wodan was quite explicit about that. Trust me.

MORGAN

Their spirits can be broken without killing them. You need only look at my encounter with Mackenna to see this. I was able to...get your hands away from me!

ANTHROPOPHAGI

We feel the sounds but cannot understand.

MORGAN

Perhaps you will understand this sound.
(magical scream)

The Anthropophagi crashes into some rocks.

ROBIN

Yes. We seem to be doing very well in our god's absence. Everything's hunky-dory.

MORGAN

Fine. We will show you all how it's done. The Morrigna will succeed, again, where all others languish!

MUSICAL TRANSITION

132. Shaylee's beach house, outside. Shaylee approaches.

SHAYLEE

The house has WIFI if you want to use your phone. Or I can take you home.

NISSA

No. I like watching the ocean,
listening to the waves. It's like a
white noise machine except real life.

SHAYLEE

Mind if I join you?

NISSA

It's your beach.

Shaylee sits.

SHAYLEE

Is everything okay?

NISSA

Just thinking.

SHAYLEE

That much is obvious.

NISSA

Yep.

(long beat)

Hey, Shaylee. What does it feel like
when you die?

SHAYLEE

What?

NISSA

I mean, I can't stop thinking about it.
I'm gonna die soon. An actual god
decreed it. And you've died twice, so I
figured you probably have a good idea.

SHAYLEE

I don't think it's really the same
thing.

NISSA

Considering that it's impossible to ask
a human, you're probably the next best
thing. Not that you're a thing.

SHAYLEE

Relax. I get it.

(beat)

I don't really know what to tell you, though. It's mostly just black, and then I was just there again. Coming back wasn't really like waking up. It was almost like opening your eyes from a blink.

NISSA

Unfortunately for me, I don't think I can be brought back like that. And I'm not so much interested in the post death parts. Afterlife or no, it will be what it is. It's the dying part that fixates me.

SHAYLEE

Honestly, that wasn't as bad as you'd think. I've been shot before--with bullets, mind you, not iron--and that feckin hurts. Like a lot. Also had my guts ripped out by the vough. That hurt even more. Dying was...quicker. Simpler. It only hurt for a moment. A half second of pain and then nothing.

NISSA

Because you exploded. I'll probably bleed out slowly and writhe in agony for an hour.

SHAYLEE

That's the spirit.

Listening to the ocean.

NISSA

We can't win, can we.

SHAYLEE

I don't know.

NISSA

I think you do.

SHAYLEE

The time since I met Mackenna has been a banner year for Shaylee being wrong. I said she couldn't save her fetch, stop the Magister, stop Cygnus without killing Sam, defeat the Unseelie Court...if I tell you we can't beat Wodan and stop the Wild Hunt, the odds are that Mackenna will kill him with a railway spike.

NISSA

That's fair.

SHAYLEE

Look at it like this: if he could kill us, he would have. He could have killed Mackenna twice and didn't. For some reason, he can't do it.

NISSA

Or he needs us alive as part of his master plan.

SHAYLEE

Either way, we're still here. Still fighting. I can't tell you that you're not going to die, but I can tell you that if you do, we'll all be right behind you, fighting till the last breath.

NISSA

When did we become heroes?

SHAYLEE

Mackenna. I was never brave before her.

NISSA

I find that hard to believe.

SHAYLEE

It's true. Maybe it's because she's a halfling. Maybe it's because I'm in love with her. Whatever the reason, she makes me want to be better.

NISSA

You're in love with her?

SHAYLEE

Isn't it obvious?

NISSA

It's one thing for us to see it. It's another for you to say it.

SHAYLEE

I know it. She knows it. I don't mind if the rest of you know it, too.

NISSA

Wodan probably also knows it. He'll use it against you. Against her.

SHAYLEE

Aye. He surely will. But that isn't a reason to deny it. It is a strength. You can use someone's strengths against them, but they are still strengths. When we finally go toe-to-toe, he'll see that strength. Right before I stick my sword up his arse.

NISSA

You got a new one?

SHAYLEE

I rebuilt it to match my last one. Comes out of my sleeve so I don't have to touch the iron.

NISSA

Well, I hope when the time comes, you shove it up so far that it comes out his mouth.

SHAYLEE

More than likely, he'll kill me before I get close. But like you said, I've died twice. What's a third time?

NISSA

At least you have a good attitude about it.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna will bring me back. Maybe I could be a little taller next time.

NISSA

Cosmetic surgery via dying. And this feels like normal, reasonable logic. The last year has really been something.

SHAYLEE

It surely has.

NISSA

Well, if I am going to die, there's something I need to do beforehand. I'm going to take you up on that WIFI offer.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

133. Cemetery.

MACKENNA

I can't believe they've been gone a year. It sort of feels like yesterday, though it also feels like a completely different life.

THOMAS

I know what you mean.

MACKENNA

The last time I was here, I still thought they were my parents.

THOMAS

They were.

MACKENNA

You know what I mean. I didn't realize I was "adopted." Better?

THOMAS

I guess. You know that wouldn't have mattered to them. If they'd known, they'd have understood you even more. It wouldn't have changed our family.

MACKENNA

No. It was my mom who did that.

THOMAS

So you could survive. She did what she needed to do.

MACKENNA

Tell that to your other sister.

THOMAS

I saw what the world was like without you in it. And I won't lie...she had it really good. Nobody else did, but Mackenna was...normal. And I know we disagree on this, but I wouldn't trade for that. I didn't trade for that. Because her life isn't more important than yours. And now you both get to live.

MACKENNA

She has caused so much pain. She has caused you so much pain.

THOMAS

I know.

MACKENNA

She is the reason we are standing here right now. In this place.

THOMAS

I know.

MACKENNA

I know you have a soft spot for her. You finally found your real sister. I understand that. But that doesn't give her a pass. That doesn't make her part of the family. She belongs in prison, paying for what she did to them.

THOMAS

That wasn't her fault.

MACKENNA

She swung the scythe that killed our mother.

THOMAS

A scythe you now use to save lives.

MACKENNA

That is not the same thing.

THOMAS

No. Because that's just a tool. She is a human being. They beat her body down and ripped her mind apart, and she came back from that. She took that second chance you gave her, and she is using it.

MACKENNA

She could kill any of us at any time. She probably doesn't even need a reason.

THOMAS

You saved her. You gave her a second chance in the junkyard. Why can't you let her use that chance?

MACKENNA

Her second chance was to live. In prison.

THOMAS

That was by necessity. We didn't know then what we know now.

MACKENNA

Look, I get what they did to her. I get why she's like this. But just because someone opposes human trafficking doesn't mean that they should let murderers live in their house even if the murderers were brainwashed at the time.

THOMAS

You know, that night, before we went to the junkyard, I asked you if you were fighting for your life. And you said you were fighting for hers. At first, I thought you meant Shaylee. But I realized as you laid out your plan that you meant the other Mackenna. You were fighting for her life. Why? So she could sit in prison? You risked everything so she could go to jail?

MACKENNA

She deserves punishment for what she did.

THOMAS

Don't you think she's been punished enough?

MACKENNA

A few months in prison is barely anything.

THOMAS

That wasn't what I meant. Her entire life has been punishment. Look what she's done with the opportunity to find redemption.

MACKENNA

Watch Netflix?

THOMAS

Help. She wants to help. She's been offering suggestions and ideas. She went with us to the Well.

MACKENNA

Yeah, to give us painless deaths.

THOMAS

Sure, she said that. But what did she do? When Riley and Shaylee got Nissa and I out, she stayed with Alfie. She was ready to die to cover our escape. And just today, she went along to protect Alfie and Riley. She's really trying.

MACKENNA

Yeah, I guess.

THOMAS

I know you know it. And I'm sure this isn't easy for you. You probably feel guilty for what she's been through. And you hate her for what she did. I feel my own versions of all of that.

MACKENNA

Did you really bring me here just to talk about her?

THOMAS

I brought you here because this headstone says Thorne. That's who you are. Who I am. And who she is. Don't you think, if they could talk to you right now, they'd ask you to watch over their other daughter? To help her?

MACKENNA

(beat)

Of course they would.

THOMAS

Of course they would.

MACKENNA

Yeah. You're right. Big shocker there. I'm sorry I've been a jerk to her.

THOMAS

I'm not the one you should apologize to.

MACKENNA

Oh, buddy, if you think I would say that to her face, you really don't know me at all.

THOMAS

Yeah, I guess I can't expect both of my sisters to want to be better people.

MACKENNA

You realize I have superpowers and can publicly humiliate you in so many ways.

THOMAS

But you wouldn't.

MACKENNA

Countless ways, Thomas. Countless ways.

THOMAS

Come on, come on. Let's say goodbye and get to Shaylee's. I want to be there when they get back from Arcadia.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

134. Abandoned Arcadia. Hall of the Sagas.

FETCH

We are here. The Hall of the Sagas. We should hurry. The desolation unnerves me.

ALFIE

Okay. Well, good news: the Hall of the Sagas is here and appears to be intact. However, good news: none of the Hidden People are anywhere in sight.

RILEY

I see your good news and raise you a "huzzah" and a "pew."

FETCH

Find your transcripts. I will keep watch.

Alfie and Riley search through papers and books.

ALFIE

Would the undercity really rise up to destroy the Hidden up here?

FETCH

The undercity are the broken and the rejected. Outcasts. The dregs of the Hidden society. Drudges and discarded fetches, mostly. Some of the equerries lived on the edge of the undercity. The lesser ones. But the world of the Hidden People is very organized into classes. The lower classes were treated terribly. In some cases worse than fetches. So the answer to your question is yes. The undercity has many reasons to revolt.

RILEY

So we would say the Hidden People are revolting?

(beat)

Ugh, Alfie, I just made a dad joke. I'm losing my edge.

ALFIE

Aw, I actually thought it was funny.

FETCH

Focus. Whether the undercity destroyed the lairds or a civil war rages on elsewhere in Arcadia, we cannot remain here for long. Even a band of roaming fetches could be deadly.

ALFIE

You do realize this isn't the Supply Closet of the Sagas, right? It could take days to find what we need.

RILEY

Do you think they use the Dewey Decimal System?

ALFIE

I don't see any codes or numbers on any of this stuff.

RILEY

Well, how do the Hidden People find anything in here, then? They must have a system.

(beat)

Hang on. Alfie, what's that book you've got?

ALFIE

Um, something about Mesopotamia.

Riley runs away.

RILEY

(from a distance)

Ha! They do have a system!

Riley runs back.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Okay. Their complex filing system is oldest to newest.

ALFIE

Seriously?

FETCH

To the Hidden People, age is extremely important. I am not surprised that this would be their primary criterion.

ALFIE

That transcript has to be the last thing added to the Hall, so it would just be...at the other end?

RILEY

Race you there.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

135. Inside Shaylee's beach house.

ALFIE

Well, I've read through the entire trial. It took hours, and I'm exhausted, but it was kind of neat to relive our big hero moments from last year.

RILEY

Also, this confirms that Wodan knows everything. Because wow, the levels of detail.

MACKENNA

Not helping us feel better.

THOMAS

Did you find anything helpful in there?

ALFIE

Most of it was just what happened to all of us. I have to apologize, though. I read a lot of private conversations that people had.

NISSA

Eh. I spent most of the last year with you, so you saw and heard most of my experiences firsthand.

SHAYLEE

Wait. Like, every private conversation?

ALFIE

He didn't include everything. Just what was relevant to his "story."

SHAYLEE

(sigh of relief)

Good.

ALFIE

Don't worry, Shaylee. He only had a little bit about the night Mack brought you back to life before it faded out.

MACKENNA

Yep. That's enough of that. Did you learn anything useful beyond spying on us?

ALFIE

Only one thing that seemed to fit with what Mimir said and what we're trying to figure out about Wodan. And it involves me, so it makes sense that Mimir gave the quest to me.

THOMAS

What was it?

NISSA

He's just dragging this out to make it more dramatic.

FETCH

Give him space. He earned this victory.

ALFIE

When Ailsa captured Nissa and I and we squared off against the Magister, I lied to him, and Ailsa said I was telling the truth. And she's an inquisitor. She should know.

MACKENNA

I remember you telling us about that.

SHAYLEE

Why does that matter, though? We already knew it happened.

NISSA

Exactly. And you also lied to Robin Goodfellow successfully when you were at the cult mansion.

RILEY

So in conclusion, Alfie has superpowers.

MACKENNA

How is any of this helpful?

ALFIE

The answer isn't in me lying to the Magister or tricking Ailsa. Or Robin, for that matter. It's later, when we told the story to you and Thomas.

THOMAS

Right. We were at Nissa's apartment, the day after Mackenna's birthday. I made cake.

ALFIE

Wodan skipped the retelling, but he had the rest of it exactly right, down to every little thing we said. All about how Mack should trust Shaylee again.

SHAYLEE

This was after you learned about me working for the Magister.

ALFIE

Wodan interjected, though. He did that a little throughout the entire transcript, almost like he was talking directly to us some of the time.

MACKENNA

That's disturbing.

RILEY

I actually found it to be a really effective storytelling device.

ALFIE

Mack, after you asked me "how did you trick her?" Wodan interjected, "that's what I would like to know."

NISSA
Something he didn't know.

ALFIE
Correction: the only thing he didn't know. In the entire transcript.

RILEY
Or, at least, the only thing he admitted to not knowing.

THOMAS
This is huge. A gap in his knowledge.

SHAYLEE
Also the second time this has happened, if you count the recent incident with Nissa's computer.

THOMAS
But what do those things have in common?

MACKENNA / NISSA
Alfie.

ALFIE
Yeah?

MACKENNA
No. The thing in common is you, Alfie.

NISSA
Wodan didn't know how you could lie to Ailsa successfully. And he also didn't know what was happening when you were pinging my computer. You're the common element here.

ALFIE
Me?

RILEY
I'd like to again float the idea that Alfie has superpowers.

SHAYLEE

Alfie, you're wonderful, but you can't outpower a god. None of us can.

MACKENNA

But how else do you explain this?

SHAYLEE

I don't know. But there must be an explanation.

NISSA

Yeah. It's what Mimir wants us to figure out. But so far all we know is that Alfie is hella confusing to Wodan.

THOMAS

Well, it's back to the grindstone for us. Together, we'll figure it out.

NISSA

I'm going to back out of the fun for a day or so. There's something I need to do. Before I...you know, in case Wodan's knowledge is infallible.

MACKENNA

That's fine, Nissa. Whatever you need.

FETCH

Research and ideas are not a part of my skillset. I would like to try watching television again. But no more sitcoms. You may call for me if you need me.

MACKENNA

No problem. You earned a break, too. Thank you for watching over Alfie and Riley.

FETCH

(beat)

I...you are welcome.

Fetch leaves.

SHAYLEE

Did you just...thank her?

MACKENNA

I'm growing as a person. Check out my
much larger personage.

Distant sound of the U.S. national anthem sung on television.

THOMAS

Thank you for thanking her, Mackenna. I
really appreciate you trying. This is
really--

MACKENNA

(horrified)

Oh, no.

Mackenna runs into the television room.

MORGAN

(through TV)

And the rocket's red glare
The bombs bursting in air
(singing continues under dialogue)

FETCH

What is wrong?

MACKENNA

I know that voice. What is this?

FETCH

A sporting event. In a large arena.

MACKENNA

Where's the singer?

FETCH

They are showing the sports players.
They are all holding their chests.

MACKENNA

Who is singing the fucking song?!

The others rush in.

SHAYLEE

What's wrong, Mackenna?

NISSA

Shit. That voice.

MACKENNA

There! It's her! It's Morgan!

ALFIE

Why is Morgan singing the national anthem at March Madness?

RILEY

Big basketball fan? Everybody's got a bracket.

Applause on TV as the song finishes.

MORGAN

(through TV)

Thank you. I am Morgan. And this is for Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Shit. This fucking cameraman. Pan out! Show the court! I need to see a circle.

THOMAS

Are you just going to step sideways into a televised arena?

MACKENNA

I have to! She would only go there to do something horrible. If I don't stop--

MORGAN

(through TV)

(magical scream)

SHAYLEE

Oh, no.

NISSA

Goddess...

Devastation on TV for a second or two, then silence.

FETCH

The picture has stopped.

THOMAS

No. The cameras stopped rolling.

ALFIE

You saw what happened, right? The entire building came down. I am very against the Hidden People dropping buildings on humans.

MACKENNA

This one wasn't just on you. That arena was packed. All those people...

SHAYLEE

She did this for us. She's calling us out.

THOMAS

How would she know we'd even be watching?

MACKENNA

She knew we would see it. Live or after it went viral. This is it. Their retaliation for what I did to Wodan. This is what I get for trying to fight back. This is what happens when we try.

(beat)

I'm going to kill her.

LEE

This isn't like the movies. This isn't Mackenna needing to learn her lesson about killing. Monsters need to die. But this monster was unstoppable during their last encounter. Mackenna is going to need a lot more than just anger and determination to beat her. She's going to need help.

THE END