

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 3.15

"Fata Morgana"

Written by

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147. Hotel room in Ireland.

MIKE

(cutting in)

~~Just give~~ me a second to get everything ready.

VIC

Do what you gotta do.

MIKE

Okay...looks like all the levels are good. No feedback with your hearing aid?

VIC

It's clear so far.

MIKE

Were you planning on doing the intro here?

VIC

No, I'll just edit it in later. We can do a little setup, though. Talk a bit about what we're doing. This episode will probably be more heavily post-produced than the others, though, so just record everything. I'll sift through it when we're back home.

MIKE

Yes. Home. Where breakfast does not include baked beans and bubble and squeak. What the hell is bubble and squeak?

VIC

I think you made that up.

MIKE

I did not! I'm sorry you skip every other meal and missed out on the "full Irish." But either we're in a weird hotel or the Irish don't understand breakfast.

VIC

I'm pretty sure they were eating breakfast before your ancestors colonized America, so maybe we're the ones who don't understand breakfast.

MIKE

Whatever. It's weird.

VIC

Bubble and squeak is delicious. It's so bubbly and squeaky.

MIKE

Are we supposed to be doing the show now or just criticizing my advanced breakfast palate?

VIC

Hey, you started recording. I could use any of this.

MIKE

Bubble and squeak has nothing to do with hunting an ancient witch.

VIC

Color commentary, Mike. It adds context.

MIKE

You start talking about it, or I will.

VIC

Fine.

(clears throat)

Hey, everybody. It's Vic, and you're listening to a very special episode of What the Folk(lore). Mike and I are in Ireland today following a lead that we think--

MIKE

--we hope--

VIC

--will take us to the forest where a very famous witch lives.

MIKE

I think you should phrase it differently.

VIC

What's wrong with my phrasing?

MIKE

We're tracking a famous witch in a forest? You don't think that sounds a little too Blair?

VIC

But that movie was bullshit. This is real.

MIKE

They pretended that was real, too.

VIC

Well, it's exactly what we're doing, isn't it? How do you propose I explain it differently?

MIKE

Just say her name sooner. Don't call her the "very famous witch."

VIC

But it's dramatic. A good grabber.

MIKE

Look, if we find the home of a witch who also happens to be a terrorist, I don't think getting listens will be a problem.

VIC

Fine.

(beat)

We're in Ireland tracking down the famous witch, Morgan le Fay, or Morgan the Fairy. You've probably heard of her

in stories of King Arthur, at the very least. But the other stories are much older than that. She is also one of the Morrigna, a trio of witches in folklore.

MIKE

And based on our research, we believe she is the origin of the banshee that is famous throughout Irish folk tales.

VIC

Throughout this episode, you'll journey with us to Castlewellan Forest, where we hope to find Morgan le Fay's home. Or lair.

(beat)

Do you think it should be "home" or "lair"?

MIKE

What about "den"?

VIC

She isn't a bear, Mike.

MIKE

Okay, yeah. I think I like "lair."
Plays better.

VIC

Okay.

(beat)

Throughout this episode, you'll journey with Mike and I to Castlewellan Forest in Ireland, where we will find Morgan le Fay's lair.

(beat)

No, see, I think "home" sounds better.

MIKE

We have both. You can choose in post.

VIC

We've researched this extensively, and we believe that we are the first people to ever connect Morgan le Fay with Castlewellan Forest. Stories place her home in Avalon, a magical island, but no one can agree on the real-world location for Avalon.

MIKE

We've read suggestions for everything from England and Wales to France and Italy. But Morgan le Fay is only connected with Ireland when she's disconnected from Arthurian legend and instead connected with the Morrigna, the three Irish witch goddesses: Morgan, Mara, and Anu or Anand.

VIC

Exactly. I've had the idea that the Morrigna, or at least one of the three, was connected to banshees for a long time. You might remember that we mentioned this back in episode thirty-six, "Fae it Ain't So," which was all about banshees.

MIKE

We were originally planning to do a follow-up to our Chinese hopping vampire episode, "Hoppy Birthday to You," but then the March Madness attack happened.

VIC

Now, normally, we don't like to push into conspiracy theories on the show. But it's already been well-documented that the attack on the arena was not normal. The police never found evidence of explosives, and you can clearly hear and see the singer of the national anthem scream so powerfully that it seems to rip up the floorboards and send things flying.

MIKE

Also, no one seems to know who the hell the singer was. Not even the NCAA. It's like she just showed up out of nowhere right before the whole place collapsed.

VIC

When Mike and I watched the footage, after we rewound it and watched it again about ten times, we couldn't even argue: this was a banshee. But the real doozy was what she said before she screamed.

MIKE

"I am Morgan. And this is for Mackenna."

VIC

Now, we don't know who "Mackenna" is, but the other part...Morgan. As in: Morgan le Fay. The banshee.

MIKE

It all came together.

VIC

So we dumped the hopping vampires and went into hardcore research mode. We knew that, if we wanted to find Morgan le Fay, we needed to find Avalon. But if Morgan le Fay was actually a banshee and not a medieval sorceress, we had to look in Ireland.

MIKE

And this is where science comes in.

VIC

No, wait. Let me talk about the Italian translation. Then you can bring in the science part.

MIKE

Yeah, that's cool.

VIC

In Italian, Morgan le Fay is "Fata Morgana." But a fata morgana is also the name of a mirage on the horizon. They used to think they were magical fairy castles in the sky.

MIKE

And this is where the science comes in. With nothing else to go on, we looked into fata morgana mirages. And we found something really weird. Long-time listeners might remember this time last year when we did an episode on skinwalkers called "Seven Deadly Skins." At the end, when we did our Weird Headlines segment, we told you about a strange, localized earthquake that happened in a suburban area of Indiana. It was so brief and covered such a small area that it was written off as an equipment malfunction even though it registered as a magnitude seven.

VIC

When we isolated the location, it was right around a small nature preserve. But if you look at any photography of this wooded area, you see a weird horizon mirage.

MIKE

A fata morgana.

VIC

Exactly. We were able to connect an unexplained earthquake to a fata morgana. So we started looking at more photography. This time, though, we focused on Ireland. And we found multiple places that had the same mirage as Indiana.

MIKE

The biggest of these was in the middle of Castlewellan Forest. It's a park now, but it was private land until around fifty years ago, when it was purchased from the Annesley family.

VIC

And since some legends say that banshees only wail for certain noble families, the fata morgana seen over Castlewellan Forest is the best connection we have to something weird happening in a place connected to Irish nobility.

MIKE

So if we're right, and all of this is connected, we are about to walk into Castlewellan Forest and find the real Avalon.

VIC

There's one more thing, though. The forest isn't that big. Someone would have definitely found an ancient witch's lair by now.

MIKE

I thought we weren't going with lair.

VIC

Sounded right in the moment.

(beat)

So we think that's the Avalon part. Some part of this forest is different. Maybe the mirage hides it. So we need a way in. For this, we turned, as we often do, to the old Tangy Mesquite podcast.

MIKE

No one's heard from Tangy Mesquite in almost a year, but his podcast is still out there. And some of his exposés have never been rivaled.

VIC

His very last episode before he vanished was about fairies. He said that fairies lived in special places that we walk past everyday and just overlook. But the secret to entering them was to wear your clothes inside-out and then walk backwards until you got inside.

MIKE

Both of those match folklore about fairies.

VIC

And remember, Morgan le Fay literally translates to Morgan the Fairy.

MIKE

So Vic and I are here in Ireland. We have our clothes on inside-out. We're about to Uber over to Castlewellan Forest, and we're going to walk backwards through it until we find Morgan le Fay.

VIC

Let's hope we just find her lair. I don't know if I want to meet the woman who just killed thousands of people.

MIKE

Well, yeah, but it's more intense if I just act like we're looking for her.

VIC

Yeah, you're right. You ready to do this?

MIKE

If we wait any longer, I'm going to talk myself out of it.

VIC

Well, let's get moving, then.

They pick up some of the recording equipment.

CUT TO

Castlewellan Forest.

MIKE

There. We're rolling.

VIC

I'm still getting some kind of feedback on my hearing aid.

MIKE

Do you think it's the Bluetooth? Can you turn that part off?

VIC

But then I can't stream the feed. You can't wander around a forest with noise-canceling headphones on. Each of us should be listening.

MIKE

If your ears are ringing from feedback the entire time, I don't think that solves the problem.

VIC

Let's do a little recording here, and then we can leave the equipment off for a while. At least until we find anything interesting.

MIKE

You don't just want to keep recording?

VIC

I don't want to sift through hours of us wandering aimlessly. Also, there are people in the park. If we use their voices, do we need them to sign release forms?

MIKE

I don't know. I've never done that kind of journalism before.

VIC

We won't stumble across anything too crazy in the populated parts. We're still rolling?

MIKE

Yep.

VIC

(beat)

Mike and I are now on the edge of Castlewellan Forest Park. It's early, but a lot of people are already here. We're getting some strange looks, but I'm not sure if it's the inside-out clothes or the recording equipment.

MIKE

One lady rolled her eyes and muttered "podcasters." I'd like to go back to the days when people just rolled their eyes and said "Americans." At least we deserved that.

VIC

We're going to venture deeper into the forest and try to find the center. If someone were to use a mirage to hide something, it would probably be in the deepest portion. It looks like that's only a mile or so in. We'll be back if we find anything weird.

MIKE

Like the ancestral home of an ancient witch.

VIC

Weren't we going with "lair"?

MIKE

You used both of them.

VIC

I did?

MIKE

I thought we were using them interchangeably.

VIC

Eh. We can ADR it later, I guess. Turn off the--

CUT TO

Deeper in Castlewellan Forest.

VIC (CONT'D)

(whispering)

We've definitely found something weird.

(beat)

We're near the deepest part of the park, northeast of the lake. Just off one of the marked trails, there's this little path that almost looks carved right out of the woods.

MIKE

(whispering)

It goes right through the trees. Just grass on the ground. It even looks mowed. It's clearly a trail. But it isn't marked at all.

VIC

(whispering)

But here's the weird part: nobody else seems to notice it. We've been watching here for a little while. Over thirty people have walked past, and no one has even glanced at the path, let alone tried to walk it.

MIKE

(whispering)

You're definitely seeing it just like I am, right, Vic?

VIC

(whispering)

Yep. Definitely a well-kept path. Definitely ignored by everyone.

MIKE

(whispering)

Everyone but us. Why do you think we can see it?

VIC

(whispering)

Maybe our clothes being inside-out?
Does that counter some of the mirage?

MIKE

(whispering, doubtful)

Maybe.

VIC

(whispering)

Let's follow it.

MIKE

(whispering)

Wait. I think we should watch for a while. See if anyone else notices it.

VIC

(whispering)

We've been watching a long time. Let's just go.

MIKE

(whispering)

I should definitely check the equipment first.

VIC

(whispering)

Quit being weird!

(beat)

Wait, why am I whispering?

MIKE

(whispering)

We're being stealthy.

VIC

There's no one around anymore. Who exactly are we hiding from?

MIKE

(whispering)

But we're staking out--

VIC

No. We're not staking out this path.
We're walking it. Come on.

MIKE

(whispering)

Just give me another--

VIC

No. Something's up here. Turn around
and walk backwards with me down the
path.

MIKE

I don't know. That feels pretty
dangerous to walk backwards. What if we
trip over a root?

VIC

The path is clear. Come on. Do it.

They walk a short distance. The sound environment changes
to an older, deeper forest.

MIKE

Ho. Lee. Shit.

VIC

Language, Mike. We're a family-friendly
show.

MIKE

Uh, Vic...do you see what I'm seeing?

VIC

What do you mean?

MIKE

Turn around. Look forwards again.

VIC

Oh my god. This...how can the forest be completely different in two different directions? Look back. It's like we're right on the line between two totally different places. The trees. The grass. Everything is different.

MIKE

Fata morgana.

VIC

Also, the feedback is gone. Whatever was causing it, it's not in this place.

MIKE

Avalon. This place is Avalon.

VIC

Let's go a little further. Then we can stop and record.

CUT TO

148. Magical forest.

VIC (CONT'D)

We have gone a lot deeper into the second forest. Everything is different here. I saw a bird Mike says was a...

MIKE

A fantail. Native to Australia, New Zealand, maybe mainland Asia. We're supposedly in Ireland.

VIC

Yeah, I'm starting to doubt that. This place doesn't look or feel like anywhere I've ever been. The trees are enormous. Not redwood wide but so tall I can't even really see the tops.

MIKE

If we've stumbled into Avalon, though, it's pretty deserted. No signs of any people at all, and nothing they've left behind. It feels like we're the only--

MACKENNA

(distant)

It's not like she gave us the latitude and longitude. And honestly, I doubt GPS would even work in an offshoot realm of Arcadia.

SHAYLEE

(distant)

So we'll keep looking. It's out here somewhere.

Mackenna and Shaylee are getting closer. The sound of their movement is reaching Vic and Mike.

VIC

(whispering)

Someone's coming. Get down.

MACKENNA

(getting closer)

Assuming Black Annis wasn't lying.

SHAYLEE

(getting closer)

She seemed to be telling the truth.

MACKENNA

She tricked you for how many years?

SHAYLEE

That was different.

MACKENNA

She was saving her skin. Or luring us into a trap.

SHAYLEE

Or maybe the Old Ones don't all like each other.

MACKENNA

Those two are sisters.

SHAYLEE

I could believe you'd set up the other Mackenna if you were pushed.

VIC

(whispering)

Mackenna?

MACKENNA

Hey, now. I'm getting better with her.

SHAYLEE

You are. That's a good thing. I do believe her when she says she wants to help. She's helped so far.

MACKENNA

I know she has. I don't know why I struggle so much with her being around.

SHAYLEE

Do you want a list? She killed your parents. She killed me.

MACKENNA

Yeah.

SHAYLEE

And she is you, to some extent. In the past year, you finally got answers about who you are. She represents both the cost of those answers and also a threat to your newfound uniqueness.

MACKENNA

Stop being so insightful. I'd rather just be annoyed with her than be all self-aware.

SHAYLEE

Sorry. I just had to banter until we were close enough to--

Shaylee grabs Vic.

VIC
(cries out in surprise)

MACKENNA
What the fuck?

SHAYLEE
Who are you?
(beat)
I see you, too. Don't even think about
running.

MIKE
I...uh...

VIC
Let me go!

MACKENNA
Who are you? What are you doing here?
Do you work for...your clothes are on
inside-out.

SHAYLEE
Are those microphones?

VIC
Get your hands off me. We don't have to
tell you anything. Don't say anything.

MACKENNA
Hang on. The clothes, the
equipment...what, are you some kind of
fairy-hunting podcasters?

MIKE
(beat)
No.
(beat)
Maybe.
(beat)
Would you let us go if we were?

VIC
I said shut up, Mike!

SHAYLEE

Of course. Because humans would pick today of all days to infiltrate a Hidden realm.

MIKE

Humans? Does that mean...

Shaylee releases Vic.

VIC

Thank you. We have just as much right to be here as you do.

MACKENNA

You need to get out of this place. Like now. It isn't safe here. Probably not even safe for us, but we have weapons.

VIC

What weapons?

MACKENNA

Just trust me. Can you find your way out?

MIKE

Probably?

SHAYLEE

(sigh)

We're going to have to escort them all the way out, aren't we?

Multiple barghest growls in different directions.

VIC

Did everybody hear that?

MIKE

Uh, the creepy growling behind me?

VIC

No, the one behind me.

(beat)

Oh. Oh god.

MACKENNA

Four of them!

Four barghest charge in.

SHAYLEE

I've got east and south!

Shaylee's sword springs forth.

MACKENNA

You do know that I have no idea which direction is which, right?

Shaylee stabs a barghest. It explodes.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Fine. I have the other three.

Three barghests explode.

MIKE

(beat)

Uhhh...

VIC

What just happened?

SHAYLEE

Mackenna was showing off.

MACKENNA

Hey, if you've got it...

SHAYLEE

You have the scythe, too.

MACKENNA

Why give them an opportunity to bite me? No rabies shots, please and thank you.

VIC

Those dogs...they exploded. Into leaves.

SHAYLEE

They're barghest. The black dogs of--

MIKE

We did an episode on black dogs called "Howl's Everybody Doing"! The barghest is real?

MACKENNA

Well, you just saw four of them, so...obviously?

SHAYLEE

This place is guarded. If the barghest are the first defenses, the others might be much more deadly.

MACKENNA

All the more reason for these two to get the hell out.

MIKE

Um, yeah, I'm not going anywhere without the lady with the sword leading me.

MACKENNA

We don't really have time to escort you. If she figures out that we're here...

VIC

Mackenna. She called you Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Yep. That's my name.

SHAYLEE

I'm Shaylee.

MIKE

Whoa. Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Should I remember you?

(beat)

Get that microphone out of my face.

MIKE

But you're Mackenna!

MACKENNA

Am I famous or something?

VIC

Morgan le Fay. She said your name.

SHAYLEE

How do you know Morgan?

VIC

Well, she was on TV, for one thing.

MACKENNA

Shit. How did you know that was her?

VIC

We know stuff. We're good researchers. That's how we found this place. Morgan le Fay is the banshee, and we figured she lived behind the fata morgana in Castlewellan Forest.

MACKENNA

She's not Morgan le Fay. She's just Morgan.

SHAYLEE

Morgan le Fay means Morgan the Fairy, so they're technically right.

MACKENNA

Oh. Well then, yeah, everything you said is actually correct. Go you.

MIKE

So...is this Avalon?

SHAYLEE

Avalon? We're in a Hidden realm, an offshoot of Arcadia layered over the human world. This was Morgan's home long ago. And it's where her body was brought when she died.

VIC

She's dead?

MACKENNA

She was dead. She got better. And then she killed a lot of people.

VIC

Are you out here trying to find her, too?

MACKENNA

You're trying to find her? If you wanted to die, you probably could have found an easier and cheaper way back in America.

VIC

We've investigated plenty of dangerous things. Maybe you've heard of us. I'm Vic, and our show is called--

SHAYLEE

I don't listen to podcasts. And I don't go looking for evil monsters who can kill me.

VIC

Then what are you doing out here?

SHAYLEE

Looking for a way to kill her.

MACKENNA

Wherever she had been buried the last time, that's where the weapon that killed her was left behind. If we find it, we can use it against her.

VIC

Well, we're probably close if the dogs are guarding it.

MACKENNA

Not an invalid observation.

MIKE

If we get attacked again, I'm pretty sure that would confirm it.

Distant children singing.

SHAYLEE

Shite.

MACKENNA

Dude, there's something you need to know if you're gonna be out here with us. Jinxing shit is real. And you just jinxed this.

VIC

Way to go, Mike.

Singing closing in from all sides.

MIKE

This is hella creepy.

MACKENNA

Goddammit, these better not be eyeless dolls.

Dolls burst forth and charge, still singing.

SHAYLEE

Of course her dolls would sing.

MACKENNA

At least they have eyes.

VIC

Those kids have knives!

SHAYLEE

Mackenna, now would be a good time to start poofing them.

MACKENNA

(struggling)

She's reinforced them.

Construct doll screams and explodes.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

I can only get one at a time. Vic,
Mike: get behind me.

Mackenna draws her scythe. The dolls reach them and fight.

VIC

These strange doll-like children are
attacking. They have little knives, and
they're trying to stab Mackenna and
Shaylee.

MIKE

What are you doing?!

VIC

Narrating. How else is the audience
going to understand all these noises?

MIKE

Good point.

Construct doll screams and explodes.

VIC

Shaylee just ran one of them through
with her sword, and it exploded into a
shower of leaves.

SHAYLEE

Get off me!

MACKENNA

Look out, Mike!

MIKE

Oh shit!

Construct doll screams and explodes.

VIC

One of them just darted between
Shaylee's legs and tried to stab Mike.
Mackenna took its head off with a huge
sickle.

SHAYLEE
(fighting)
Scythe.

MACKENNA
(fighting)
Common mistake.

Construct doll screams and explodes. Another runs away.

VIC
Mackenna just grabbed one by the
throat, and it exploded. I think
she...willed it to happen.

SHAYLEE
The last one's running!

MACKENNA
I got it.

Construct doll screams and explodes.

VIC
Where was it going?

MACKENNA
Where we're going. Come on.

They start walking.

SHAYLEE
Are either of you hurt?

MIKE
I think I'm okay. Bruised my coccyx a
bit when I fell back.

MACKENNA
Bruised your what?!

MIKE
My coccyx.

SHAYLEE
His tailbone.

MACKENNA

Well, Mr. I-am-very-smart, if you make it out of this forest alive, you now have a minor battle scar.

MIKE

Are you kidding? If I survive this, I'm getting that bruise tattooed on. I will be telling this story forever.

MACKENNA

Yeah. About that.

SHAYLEE

You cannot share this with anyone.

VIC

We are journalists. We have an obligation to the people.

SHAYLEE

Journalists? You're a pair of hipsters who purchased a domain name. Your parents sent you to an expensive college where one of you got, let's see, a bachelor's degree in communications and the other majored in English but dropped out to start a band. How'm I doing so far?

MIKE

I was actually the comm major who dropped out to start a band.

VIC

People need to hear this story.

MACKENNA

If you share this, people will die. And you'll be first. Arcadia's a mess right now, but the Hidden People have long memories. You start talking about them, and pretty soon you'll just vanish.

VIC

That's ridiculous.

MIKE

Um, Vic? Remember Tangy Mesquite? His last episode was about fairies.

SHAYLEE

Listen to your friend, Vic. This isn't about the truth. Nobody out there is telling a lie. The only thing you'll do if you share this is get made fun of by most people and endanger the few who actually believe you.

VIC

You really expect me to leave behind a Pulitzer?

MIKE

Do podcasts win Pulitzers?

MACKENNA

Hold up.

They stop walking.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

I feel something. Just ahead.

They creep forward.

VIC

It's a hole in the ground.

SHAYLEE

A deep hole. Do you think this was where Black Annis buried Morgan?

MACKENNA

If so, the weapon is inside.

Mackenna jumps in the hole.

MIKE

I was going to say be careful of traps, but she just jumped right in.

SHAYLEE

Mike, meet Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Oh, yeah. It's some kind of axe. Iron.

SHAYLEE

A tuagh (tooa)? Like an old battle-axe.

MACKENNA

I guess. It's in really good condition.
Hang on.

Mackenna jumps out of the hole.

MIKE

Whoa.

VIC

She just standing jumped out of a six
foot hole in the ground.

SHAYLEE

Aye. A tuagh. Ancient.

MACKENNA

It's weighted well, too. Whoever made
it knew what they were doing. If we're
lucky...I feel...

(beat)

Get back! The grave is circular!

149. Stepping sideways arrival.

MORGAN

Hello, Mackenna. Goodbye.

(magical scream)

Everyone is hurled backward. The axe falls near Morgan. The
microphone falls to the ground and rolls a bit away.

MACKENNA

You murdered thousands of innocent
people.

MORGAN

My dear, that was a Thursday for me.
Over the years, I've murdered more
people than the whole of the United
Kingdom.

MACKENNA

Today, I'm killing just one.

MORGAN

You cannot kill me, Mackenna.

MACKENNA

Actually, you have it backwards. Wodan
won't let you kill me. So bring it,
Britney.

Morgan's claws spring forth. She lunges at Mackenna,
who wields her scythe. They fight. Vic crawls for the
microphone and picks it up.

VIC

We've found Morgan le Fay. The banshee.
She appeared right in front of us and
screamed. It knocked me off my feet.
Mackenna is currently fighting her, but
Morgan is faster. Probably stronger,
too.

(beat)

She just threw Mackenna into a tree.

(beat, whispered)

Shaylee's going for the axe!

MORGAN

Oh, no, changeling.

(magical scream)

(cry of pain)

VIC

Mackenna just stabbed Morgan in the
back with her scythe! Morgan's having a
hard time fighting both of them.

MACKENNA

Too bad you don't have any backup,
Morgan. Certainly not your sister. How
do you think we knew to come here? She
sold you out.

MORGAN

Deceiver.

MACKENNA

Yes. She is.

MORGAN

You are the liar, Mackenna. And I am
more than capable of facing you both.
Do you think I have shown you all the
weapons at my disposal?
(magical vocal tone that sustains)

EVERYONE ELSE

(pain and confusion)

VIC

(struggling)

She's doing...something with her
voice...it's debilitating.

(beat)

Mackenna and Shaylee are down. It
might...it might be some kind of
frequency that attacks the nervous
system.

MACKENNA

(struggling)

No fair. This is cheating.

VIC

(struggling)

She's going to kill Mackenna. But she's
not looking at the axe anymore. If her
attack is based on hearing...

(beat, no struggle)

Hearing aid off. And I barely feel the
disorientation.

(whisper)

Okay, Morgan. Just keep looking at
Mackenna.

Vic crawls to the axe. She grabs it.

MORGAN
 (tone ends)
 I see you, sweetie.

VIC
 Oh, no.

MORGAN
 Immune, are we? Let's see if you're
 immune to having the skin flayed from
 your bones with the force of my--

Mackenna buries the axe in Morgan's back.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
 (gasping and dying)

MACKENNA
 This is the difference between us,
 Morgan. Okay, I can think of dozens of
 differences, but this is the big one.
 We work together. When shit goes down,
 we close ranks. But your team? They
 hung you out to dry after your
 television debut.

MORGAN
 You are...a worthy foe. Mine is a good
 death.

Morgan's body cracks.

MACKENNA
 Me? Sister, I just swung the axe. You
 got beaten by a hipster podcaster with
 an English degree. So I'd like your
 final moments to be a reflection on
 that. Yours is not a good death. But
 when we get out of this forest, we'll
 drink kombucha in your name.
 (beat)
 Get back in that grave in case you
 explode.

Mackenna kicks Morgan into the grave.

MIKE

Vic, you did it! Vic? Hey, turn your hearing aid on.

VIC

Sorry.

MIKE

You saved the day!

SHAYLEE

Good work, Vic.

VIC

I didn't do anything. I barely even touched the axe before she was right on top of me.

MACKENNA

Which was the distraction I needed. I have no idea how many future lives you saved, but it's a lot higher than I can count.

SHAYLEE

So at least seven.

MACKENNA

Nice.

SHAYLEE

Alfie and Nissa aren't here. Someone has to make sure your ego stays at a manageable size.

VIC

So I saved us all, and a bunch more people she probably would have killed, and I can't tell anyone about it.

MACKENNA

Sorry. It sucks to save the world and not get any credit. I would know.

MIKE

It's okay. If this is any indication, I don't think I want to attract the attention of anymore fairies.

VIC

Yeah. I guess.

(beat)

So why do you do it? Are you some kind of superheroes or something? The League of Extraordinary Fairy Hunters?

SHAYLEE

Heh. If only.

MACKENNA

Just a couple of women staring at the end of the world and saying "not today."

VIC

I'll drink to that.

MIKE

I know I'll probably get a lot of shit for this, but I actually have some kombucha in my bag.

THE END