

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 3.18

"Never Let Me Down"

Written by

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TEASER

172. Sam's house. Bathroom - small, echo-y room. Distant talking and walking around. Mack washes her face.

MACKENNA
(deep breath out)

Mack pulls out her phone, swipes and pushes play.

RILEY
(From Ep 222, on phone)
Mackenna. Inside, we both know what's been going on. We know the game, and we're gonna play it. I just want to tell you how I'm feeling. Gotta make you understand. I'm never gonna give you up. I'm never gonna let you down. I'm never gonna run around and desert you. I'm never gonna make you cry. I'm never gonna say goodbye. --

MACKENNA
Shit. Shit. Shit.

RILEY
(From Ep 222, on phone)
Never gonna give. Never gonna give.

ALFIE
(From Ep 222, on phone)
(singing)
Give you up. Ooo...

Gentle knock on the door.

MACKENNA
Hold a--

Door opens.

SHAYLEE
Hey, bathroom girl. What are you...oh. Shite. The video Riley made when you were going up against the Court?

MACKENNA

(upset, voice cracking)

She...Riley shipped us before we even really knew we were a couple. She jumped at the chance to take her "red pill." Signed up to be a superhero because we told her she would finally feel whole. Be powerful.

(beat)

She never gave up, but I--I let her down. I let Alfie down.

SHAYLEE

I'm going to tear out Robin's heart and shove it down his throat.

END TEASER

173. Under the Mountain. Wodan paces.

WODAN

Where's Robin? Off making sordid deals with sordid people?

MIMIR

You're not wrong.

WODAN

He stoops so low that he no longer understands the heights of what it means to be Hidden. Has he failed once more?

MIMIR

He has made a bad deal, but this is as anticipated. He has succeeded in fulfilling what was to come.

WODAN

He has made me look like a fool, then. Again. So his incompetence was planned?

MIMIR

Not planned. What was to be. He had to kill the changeling and suffer the consequences.

WODAN

Whatever will be, will be? Que Sera, Sera? Quit toying with me, Mimir. Why are you obscuring the future from me? This train feels like it's coming off the rails.

MIMIR

It is still on track. From what was set into motion--by you--many stations ago.

WODAN

You are not bolstering my ego nor my confidence in you.

MIMIR

You've seen everything that has come to pass. The end is near. Now is not the time to question. Now is the time to prepare.

WODAN

Fine, then. Map out the plans so I can ensure the wild hunt has no delays. Show me this isn't a game.

MIMIR

But isn't it?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

174. Sam's house. Thomas, Alfie, Fetch, and Nissa are joined by Mack and Shaylee at the dining room table.

SHAYLEE

We have Robin. Why are we holding back? What's our play?

FETCH

I am the most adept at killing. Obviously. I can make it painful.

NISSA

If I could, I would--

THOMAS

Can we pause a second? Wh--

FETCH

Alfred. I think he should choose how Robin is punished. And who gets to kill him first.

ALFIE

Uhhh.

MACKENNA

Whoa. Slow down there. Killing someone should not be taken so lightly. Alfie, trust me. We will avenge Riley's death, but murdering Robin is not the answer.

NISSA

Murdering is not the right answer? He killed her just to prove he had power, and he does. Inhuman power. That he has now shown us he doesn't mind using with zero reason. No motive other than to make him feel big. He did it for twisted kicks and giggles.

MACKENNA

Yes. Robin is evil. But we're not.

NISSA

You're right, but Robin--or any Hidden People who are willing to kill us-- should not go unchecked. Is there a Hidden People prison?

FETCH

No. They would just get banished to live among the humans or killed, and being killed was seen as more merciful.

THOMAS

Mackenna, I know that we've talked about this: violence rarely solves problems on the road to redemption.

FETCH

And removing violence as a potential tool lowers our chance to respond correctly.

NISSA

Hey, Alfie, wanna weigh in on this?

(beat)

Alfie?

ALFIE

Huh? Uh. Red Dead Redemption? I barely remember that game.

NISSA

No. I...nevermind.

SHAYLEE

Yes. Back to mercy. So, really, we would be showing Robin mercy. By killing him.

MACKENNA

Really? Come on, Shaylee. Do you really believe--

THOMAS

Enough. Let's move away from mercy to practicality. Before we talk about what to do with Robin, let's talk about what Robin could do for us. What can we get from this situation? While we were tricking him into our deal, it seemed like he had some good intel on Wodan, right?

SHAYLEE

You're right. First, we pump him for information, and then we kill him. Mercifully.

FETCH

Why did Shaylee just wink?

NISSA

I agree with Thomas. We get as much information out of him as possible, and then we have to take care of him. So he will never hurt anyone else.

THOMAS

That is not quite what I was saying.

SHAYLEE

When do I get to put my sword into his head?

FETCH

I, too, would like to mortally wound Rob--

Alfie slams the table.

ALFIE

Stop.

FETCH

Alfred. You're right. Please advise us on how you would like for us to seek vengeance.

ALFIE

No. This conversation is too much. I need to step away from...this and just breathe. You all decide.

Alfie quickly leaves.

NISSA

Alfie.

MACKENNA

Let him go. We can only imagine what he's feeling.

A door opens and closes.

THOMAS

We haven't even paused to breathe. This is a war, and we're going breakneck speed from one villain to the next without pausing for the fallen.

(beat)

How can we possibly think straight if we cannot process what has happened over the last week?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

175. Door closes.

ALFIE

(breathes deeply, sighs)

Steps. Slow. Deliberate. Down wooden stairs into Sam's cement basement.

RILEY

You know, it's funny.

ALFIE

Really?

RILEY

I never saw my life until I knew who I really was and that I would likely be killed by my evil doppelganger.

ALFIE

This is not funny.

RILEY

Not funny ha ha, silly, but funny in that I experienced more in those moments of acceptance and fear for my life than the rest of my twenty-eight years. Also, let's be reals. I was living her life. The real Riley. The one that was tortured in Arcadia. She died in the Gauntlet, and I died in my own Gauntlet of sorts. And why should I have lived a longer life than the real Riley?

(beat, MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

I mean, I had twenty-eight years with a mom, a pointless career, and I got to fall in love. With you.

ALFIE

Huge mistake.

RILEY

It was meant to be. Just like my death.

ALFIE

(to Riley)

No. No. No!

ROBIN

Ummm. Excuse me? Have you gone mad?!

Alfie steps near the cage.

ALFIE

(to Robin)

Yes. I'm mad. Come here, Robin. I have something to tell you.

A couple slow steps.

ROBIN

(tentative)

Okie-dokie. I do like secrets. Make it a good one.

LEE

Alfie shoves his arms through the cage, grabs Robin, and yanks him into the iron bars.

The iron sizzles Robin's skin.

ROBIN

(pained)

Ow! That was not very nice.

ALFIE

Shut the fuck up, Robin.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

176. Sam's dining room

NISSA

Why did it have to be Riley? Riley was the best of us.

FETCH

She truly was.

NISSA

She always tried to be better. She picked up on coding quickly--because she was a quick learner but more so because she wanted to learn. She wanted to improve. She wanted to be a hero.

SHAYLEE

And unfortunately, most heroes' stories end up in the sewer. Dark and shite on. I fucking hate Niamh for manipulating us to bring on Riley. If we hadn't...

MACKENNA

Yes. If we hadn't, she would be safe on that cruise ship meeting the next set of Herbs and Barbs.

SHAYLEE

She would be alive.

MACKENNA

But if we hadn't recruited her, she would still have a giant, gaping hole in her life. God. I don't want to admit it, but finding out who I was--who I am--is worth so much more than a long, detached life.

FETCH

It is your fault.

SHAYLEE

Back off, lesser Mackenna. We thought we did not have a choice to bring her into the fold.

NISSA

Just pawns in the game.

THOMAS

Whoa, whoa, everyone. We're all a team, remember? Trying to save the day and the world?

NISSA

Shit. I'm sorry. That just came out. I get it. We cannot save everyone.

FETCH

I, too, am sorry. I let my anger get the better of me. You should have let her be, though, and not meddled.

SHAYLEE

Well, shite. If she apologized...I guess I should, too. I should not have called you lesser Mackenna. I'm sorry.

FETCH

It is fine. Your opinion does not matter to me.

MACKENNA

At a minimum, we assume positive intent, right? And we should try to give as many people as we can a fighting chance.

(beat)

And at least make their days meaningful.

THOMAS

You did help Riley fall in love, and that is as meaningful as it gets, in my opinion.

NISSA

You mean we helped Riley marry Alfie?

EVERYONE

(laughs solemnly)

MUSICAL TRANSITION

177. Sam's basement -- Pan Robin left and Riley right.

RILEY

Husband. We had so many good times, right? Like our first date-slash-wedding reception? Zachary's food was delish--though I'm still a little disappointed at the lack of dipping sauces. Boo. Hiss.

Alfie is picking up and putting down a variety of weapons and scoping them out. (throughout the scene)

ROBIN (Right)

Yes, you have quite an arsenal down here. Very impressive.

(beat)

What are you doing with--is that a grenade?

ALFIE

(to Riley)

The little things do matter.

(blows off dust from a weapon)

RILEY (Left)

Yes. You were so romantic in the ways that you paid attention to the details. I mean my bouquet was gorge--and you remembered to not include lilies because I'm allergic. You knew me to the core.

ALFIE

(to Riley)

I will never forget, Riley.

ROBIN

I might have a potion for that.

ALFIE

(to Robin)

Did I say that you can talk, Robin?

ROBIN

Lockin' the lips. Throwin' the key.

RILEY

Yes! Your memory is a steel trap.
Almost as amazing as mine. Our pop
culture quote-a-thons would have raised
millions. We were M.F.E.O.

ALFIE

Right. How am I supposed to sleep
without the love of my life?

ROBIN

Uh...am I supposed to answer?

ALFIE

You see this gun, Robin? Shut the fuck
up, or I turn you into swiss cheese.

ROBIN

But--

ALFIE

No.

Silence.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Now, where were we? Oh, I'm living a
fucking John Green romance, but I
didn't know I had one of the leading
roles.

RILEY

(squee)

You think our love was like a John
Green love? I have to agree. I mean our
first kiss. It was just so awkward,
sweet, and absolutely perfect. You're a
real charmer.

ALFIE

I mean the wrench-your-heart-out death,
of course.

RILEY

Oh. Right. Uhhh. "You put an object of death right between your lips, but you don't give it the power to kill you." Ughhh. Hurts so good. Is that what you're trying to do? Picking up all of those weapons. Looking to find the object of death to find the power to kill? To kill...Robin?

ALFIE

I'm thinking torture, first.

ROBIN

Um.

QUICK TRANSITION

178. Sam's dining room.

MACKENNA

So what should we get out of Robin? And how do we get it out of him?

NISSA

In his narration of his hallucination, Robin said that Wodan is still recovering from Mimisbrunnr. But more importantly, he mentioned that Wodan had a weakness that Mackenna could potentially discover, and that you might be able to bind him--preventing the Wild Hunt.

MACKENNA

Yes. But would he actually tell us what could stop the Wild Hunt?

SHAYLEE

Robin, though working for Wodan, seems keen to self-preservation and his way of life--in the human world.

FETCH

I've been known to get things out of people by applying the right kind of pressure.

THOMAS

Torture is not the answer.

FETCH

There are many ways to apply pressure.

QUICK TRANSITION

179. Sam's basement.

Sharpening of a knife.

ROBIN

Hold your tiny little horses. You don't understand.

ALFIE

(to Riley)

I understand now that I was holding back.

RILEY

Before you, I didn't see the possibility of a "normal" life. Marriage, kids, the whole nine yards. Were you afraid of your potential? Were you holding back from happiness?

ALFIE

I had everything that I needed. Love.

ROBIN

I can get you love again.

Alfie puts the knife sharpener down.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Well, lust. I know this spell...

Alfie picks up gun. Cocks it.

LEE

Alfred. The man who could not shoot the target at a shooting range with a steady hand now raises his aim to Robin with no tremble to be found.

RILEY

Why didn't you come with me to meet my family? Did our relationship intimidate you?

ALFIE

I didn't think that I could live up to my amazing superhero girlfriend.

RILEY

Wife. And no way, sir. You were a superhero well before I joined the Avengers.

ALFIE

I have nothing to offer.

RILEY

Are you kidding?! You are sweet, funny, and the glue to this gang of misfit heroes. Even when you're not wearing a mask, you're still a superhero.

ALFIE

(to Riley)

I'm no hero.

ROBIN

Well, I'm the bad guy.

RILEY

Duh.

ROBIN

So, what does that make you? A hero. And I hear heroes have a code.

RILEY

I hate to agree with Robin Not-so-Goodfellow, but he's right. You're not bad. You are a hero.

ALFIE

(to Riley)

Maybe I'm just a hero that is willing to go bad. What the hell am I supposed to do to the man--thing--that killed the love of my life? Just let him sit in that cage? Taunt us all because we are too afraid to "be bad"?

ROBIN

Maybe just give me a strong talking to.

RILEY

Ahhh. Shucks. I'm the love of your life? Blush. But you do realize that I'm more of a fangirl for Peter Parker than Frank Castle. Oh, oh. I'm your Gwen Stacy!

LEE

Alfie lowers the gun to his side. Was it the purity of his heart? The poignancy of the reference?

ALFIE

(to Robin)

Nah. I'm feeling like delivering some punishment right now, and you killed my girl. Time to take the kid gloves off.

LEE

Or perhaps it's pure rage that causes him to go for the silencer.

ROBIN

Give me demerits. Or, I can write I will do no harm to...what are you doing?

Alfie attaches the silencer to his gun.

ALFIE

(cold - to Robin)

Now, we don't want to disturb my friends upstairs, do we? Let's keep this quiet.

RILEY
(snaps fingers)
Alfie. Alfie. Do not do this.

Alfie shoots his gun twice in rapid succession. Suppressed pop-pop.

ROBIN
Ow! That hurts, you know.

ALFIE
(cold - to Robin)
You'll heal.

RILEY
Stop it right now.

ALFIE
(serious - to Robin)
That was fun.

RILEY
Petty and vengeful do not become you.

ALFIE
(serious - to Robin)
Vengeance is cathartic.

RILEY
No, vengeance is a path to becoming a villain. My Peter Parker would not let my death turn him evil. When Green Goblin killed Gwen, even the amazing Spider-Man couldn't save her, and he grieved and carried on. He did not go to the dark side.

ALFIE
(to Riley)
What I did...my deal led directly to your death.

RILEY
My death was out of your hands. You couldn't save me. Just like Spider-Man couldn't save Gwen. Death did not care how old or clever I was. It found me.

ALFIE
(seething)
Because of him.

ROBIN
Feeling like a third wheel here.

RILEY
Screw him. This is about you. Your love found me, and it made our lives more beautiful. No matter how short our time together was. And you have to admit, my death makes for a pretty epic story. I mean Robin Goodfellow, AKA Puck, is who takes me down!? It is mythic!

ALFIE
(softening)
You were mythic.

RILEY
If I'm your Gwen Stacy, you're my Peter Parker. You cannot let Robin win. My death must be more meaningful than your breaking bad moment. You have to rise above and make my death mean something. Become your hero. Be my Spidey.

ALFIE
(sweet to Riley)
I do have amazing reflexes.

RILEY
Would we say that?

ALFIE
Okay. Not so much. Being a dashing crimefighter isn't all it's cracked up to be, but I did have the best wife in the whole universe.

RILEY
Yes, you did. And I had the best hubs.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

180. Sam's dining room.

FETCH

Did you hear that? I heard some clicking noises.

NISSA

Where's Alfie?

MACKENNA

Oh, no.

Door bursts open and very quick footsteps from above as Mackenna and then Shaylee enter the basement.

ALFIE

Aaack! Jeezus. Do not burst in like that. I could have shot you.

Footsteps from Nissa, Fetch, and Thomas clamoring down the basement stairs.

NISSA

Alfie, put the gun down.

MACKENNA

Here, give me the gun. Gimme.

ALFIE

Take it. I just reconfirmed that I am not a 'gun' guy.

Steps to each other.

NISSA

What the fuck, Alfie?

ROBIN

He shot me! The code has been broken. Our deal is off.

MACKENNA

Robin, did you read the fine print? This was our deal, and I can tell you it said nothing about how we treat you, up to and including shooting you.

ALFIE

Yea!

FETCH

Alfred, good for you. I'm impressed at your bravado yet restraint. Shoot but do not kill. A lesser man would maim, kill, and maim some more. Don't worry. I can help with the killing. And maiming.

ALFIE

Oh, believe you me, I thought about it.

THOMAS

Other Mackenna, come here.

Thomas pulls Fetch to the side and speaks in hushed tones.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Heroes save lives and do not take them unless one hundred percent necessary.

FETCH

(to Thomas)

Does this not feel like one hundred percent? Riley was the only person who has treated me with dignity. No false promises, introducing me to the best source of entertainment and learning--the Netflix.

THOMAS

Yes. Yes.

(Starting to have an idea--bad acting, gets louder)

Maybe he does deserve all of your torture. All of the pain. Lots of pain.

ROBIN

(nervous laughter)

Now why would you want to hurt your best chance at intel on your greatest foe?

SHAYLEE

Oh, you're folding so quickly? I wanted to have fun yanking out those pearly whites.

ROBIN

(nervous laughter)

I'm afraid my diction would be poor without my teeth, Shaylee.

MACKENNA

Fine. We give you this shot. This one shot to, you know, survive.

ROBIN

I'll follow you. I'll lead you about a round.

NISSA

Right. Now he's quoting A Midsummer Night's Dream.

ROBIN

Nay, dear Nissa. Do you not think it was the other way?

ALFIE

Ugh. Do you want me to go back to the weapon menagerie over there? Or maybe we all pick our favorite and share it with him?

FETCH

(cracks knuckles)

Or I could soften him up.

ROBIN

Okay, okay. I am just trying to have a bit of fun whilst you twist my arm. What do you want to know?

THOMAS

How about Wodan's weakness?

ROBIN

(laughs)

Which one? Hubris. Aligning with bad guys--I mean they always turn on each other. Am I right? I'm right.

SHAYLEE

You would know.

NISSA

How about the one that you feared Mackenna finding out about?

ROBIN

Ohhhh. Did I spill the beans while buzzing on the cherries?

MACKENNA

Yes. You did. What were you and Black Annis trying to keep from me?

ROBIN

I cannot say.

LEE

With his words barely out, Shaylee is moving, arm held out as her sword emerges from her sleeve to meet Robin's neck. Close enough for a close shave.

Shaylee's sword springs forth.

SHAYLEE

My sword can make your inability to speak permanent if you want.

ROBIN

Come, come. Shaylee, you know how this works. The command makes it so. I cannot say, but there is a way. A way to stop the Wild Hunt. Just like last time. Of course, I wasn't the one who was there, so I don't rightly know the exact methods.

MACKENNA

You weren't there...but Liliana was,
wasn't she?

ROBIN

And the prize goes to Mackenna! Would
you like what is behind door number one
or door number two?

MACKENNA

Thanks a lot, Robin. This is worthless.
I have no access to those memories
after I walled them off.

FETCH

So he has not provided us with useful
information. And he is very dangerous.
Can I kill him now?

THOMAS

There is not going to be any killing.

NISSA

This weakness that is locked inside
Mackenna's mind. You mentioned that it
could prevent the Wild Hunt. Is that
true?

ROBIN

Mayhaps I was being a bit dramatic.

SHAYLEE

And mayhaps you want a little off the
sides?

ROBIN

(nervous laugh)

That is my ear, darling Shay. And...

(very serious)

Yes it could prevent the Wild Hunt, but
it is not going to happen.

THOMAS

And why is that? Mackenna has proven
that she can do many impossible things.

ROBIN

Would we say impossible? Improbable, yes, but also all as Wodan had foretold.

NISSA

You mean as Mimir told.

ROBIN

(genuinely surprised)
How did you know that?

SHAYLEE

So why? Why the wild hunt?

ROBIN

That I genuinely do not know. You're asking the wrong W question.

SHAYLEE

We kinda know the what--The Wild Hunt.

NISSA

We know the general "when." Thanks, Wodan. Can you get any more specific than really soon?

ROBIN

Don't know that one, either.

MACKENNA

Well, we know some of the who--we know that Riley apparently wasn't part of it. That's why you killed her. So I'm assuming the rest of us are part of it. We're off limits.

ROBIN

Yeah, Wodan gave the rest of you plot armor. Your pieces stay on the board. Until the end starts.

ALFIE

That only leaves the where.

ROBIN

Jackpot! So what does providing this very valuable piece of information get me?

ALFIE

You shouldn't have tipped your hand.

ROBIN

Ah, but what's really going to keep you up at night: did Wodan plan to have me tell you where? Is that setting off the next sequence of events?

THOMAS

Is it?

ROBIN

Hell if I know. Wodan is going to be pissed that I got captured and spilled so many secrets.

THOMAS

But if it is part of his plan, why would he be angry at you?

ROBIN

It hasn't stopped him from being disappointed, frustrated, infuriated. This is a good philosophical question, though. If we are just fulfilling our roles, how can we possibly surprise or anger him with what we are meant to do?

(beat)

Huh. My head hurts. Did you drug me again?

MACKENNA

Nope. This is just the cold, hard realization that you are being played and have no power in the world. Trust me. I understand the feeling.

NISSA

I guess you suspected this before. That's why you killed Riley.

FETCH

And for her death, we sentence you to--

ALFIE

Stop. He's not worth it. Fack...other Mackenna...you've grown so much since I first met you. Killing Robin while he sits like a bird in a cage is stooping to his level, and you are far above him. Riley would not have wanted you or any of us to use her death to become villains in our story. She would want us to be the heroes she saw in each of us.

ROBIN

Yes! She w--

SHAYLEE

Not one more word.

MACKENNA

Tell us the "where," Robin, and we'll be honorable.

ROBIN

Mackenna, think back a few to where you first fought Wodan and lost. It was a masterpiece of the untouchable and the bee. Now, under that mountain is the army. A whole army of constructs that are awaiting the Wild Hunt to ravage this world.

ALFIE

So like the series finale of Buffy? We're gonna need a lot more slayers.

MACKENNA

That's all?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

181. Outside of Nissa's apartment. Sitting on the balcony.

NISSA

It's so quiet on the balcony.

ALFIE

Would we call this a balcony? It's kinda small. Maybe a balconette?

NISSA

Ugh. Fine. It's a balconette. Or some mistake it for the bow of a ship.

ALFIE

What?

NISSA

You have to remember. Riley convincing you to be Rose.

ALFIE

Yeah. It was a very windy day. She made me keep my eyes closed and led me to the balconette. She raised my arms. I'm flying.

NISSA

I thought you two were on drugs until I realized you were recreating a scene from Titanic.

ALFIE

Yeah. I think she just really wanted to play a trust game.

NISSA

Ummmm. I'm pretty sure she just wanted the makeout session I quickly shielded my eyes from.

(Laughing)

Oh, Alfie, I'm sorry.

ALFIE

How do you do that?

NISSA

Apologize?

ALFIE

No. I'm very good at that. How can you talk about Riley and not get upset...And even get me to laugh? I think about her for a second, and I'm a blubbering mess.

NISSA

Practice.

ALFIE

I don't remember you losing anyone.

NISSA

Not losing anyone, per se. Just...the fact that I can remember every hurtful thing anyone has said. Every lie. Every stupid thing I've done. It's possible to find the good things to focus on. The ones that drown out the bad.

ALFIE

Okay. How do you do that?

NISSA

I think about the ones that bring me peace or put a smile on my face. Or laugh at a joke one last time.

ALFIE

So you put my comedy on repeat when you are having a bad day?

NISSA

If I relive all of your jokes, I'd be in a constant state of rolling my eyes.

ALFIE

I hurt so much that I can barely breathe, think, sleep. Losing Riley is the worst thing that has ever happened to me.

NISSA

It will take time. Riley meant so much you. To all of us. She was a member of our team, family. She was my protege. I was training her.

ALFIE

Training her?

NISSA

Riley was going to fill my proverbial shoes. She was getting so good at it. She was going to be there to keep you idiots out of trouble, for when I'm gone.

ALFIE

I don't know about the other idiots, but I can speak for this idiot right here. I'm not letting them take anyone else. You're not going anywhere.

NISSA

But Wodan--

ALFIE

Fuck Wodan. Fuck his minions. All this predestined shit. Fuck fate.

NISSA

Yeah. Fuck fate.

LEE

Riley may be gone, but she will never be forgotten. Her name and her memory will live on.

MUSICAL TRANSITION INTO FLASHBACK

182. Somewhat ethereal as we transition to a flashback with Alfie and Riley.

Riley and Alfie on the balcony of Nissa's apartment.

RILEY

It's fate!

ALFIE

What now?

RILEY

Well, can't you hear it?

ALFIE

Um. The crickets? Or are they cicadas?

RILEY

Yes! And the birds with their mating calls.

ALFIE

Uh...

RILEY

And the nightingales singing. Oh! That clicking noise from Nissa typing away. The universe is providing the music for our first dance.

ALFIE

Okay. I'm hearing the downbeats and syncopated rhythm of Nissa's keys. The 3 different sets of birds...soprano, tenor, and alto? The toads bringing in the bass.

RILEY

That's right. Now, trot your way over here, fox.

ALFIE

I don't really dance.

RILEY

Me neither, but we're quite the duo. We can do anything. Okay, now put your hands out like this. And move your hips like this...

ALFIE

Okay, so...where do I...there. Okay. Wait...are we doing the Macarena?

RILEY

Of course!

RILEY / ALFIE

(Laughing)

ALFIE
How about a slow dance? It's more my
speed.

RILEY
Ha! I only do middle school slow
dancing.

ALFIE
Precisely what I was thinking.

RILEY
I've been waiting for so long...now
I've finally found someone to stand by
me.

ALFIE
I saw the writing on the wall and felt
this magical fantasy.

RILEY
Now with passion in our eyes...

ALFIE / RILEY
(laugh)
You broke. / No, you broke first.

RILEY
But seriously. I've never felt this way
before.

ALFIE
Yeah. Same.

RILEY
I think this is love.

ALFIE
I love you, Riley.

RILEY
I've had the time of my life.

ALFIE
And I owe it all to you.

THE END