

## **SECOND SHIFT**

Episode #2: "Everything to Everyone, Part II"

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### **Scene One – Bringing in the Legionnaire**

#### **SFX**

Hoverbike. Low intensity.

#### **Jareth**

I want to thank you for helping me bring the Legionnaire and his *waa-loar* to University, Katherine.

#### **Katherine**

I just wanted to make sure you didn't blow him up too.

#### **Jareth**

I would do no such—

#### **Katherine**

Joke. Sorry...

#### **Jareth**

I do not relish violence Katherine. But I stand by decision.

<awkward silence>

#### **Jareth**

How is it that you operate that *waa-loar* so well?

#### **Katherine**

It handles a lot like a motorcycle. Handlebars. Pedals. All these gauges and engine lights. No speedometer though. <chuckles> My ex-boyfriend had a Harley and we'd tear down the I-5 to LA. Made my parents so mad... Good times.

#### **Jareth**

I have no idea what you just said.

#### **Katherine**

This thing is really cool up close. It's kind of like a work of art. All these etchings on the fins...

#### **Jareth**

We believe those are part of the steering mechanism. The Legion's technology is most difficult to understand. We suspect they use *tae-oden* to power the *remoina-dox cor-poroñya gamen* [reverse flux gravitational core], which of course would account for *aiłeñya* [lift], but not *zoluñya* [thrust]...

#### **Katherine**

I have no idea what you just said.

<beat>

Hey, Jareth.

#### **Jareth**

Yes Katherine?

#### **Katherine**

I want to apologize for snapping at you earlier. I... judged you by my own standards. I don't really know what's going on around here. I'm sorry if I offended you.

#### **Jareth**

No apologies needed Katherine. I did not realize just how strange this situation must be for you. I have no idea how Fesmer did what he did.

#### **Katherine**

Any chance you can find information at the University?

**Jareth**

I will do some research. Unfortunately, due to the illegal nature of Fesmer's magic, we will not be able to get any help directly. Still, with University's resources, we have a chance. And maybe Zana will think of something.

**Katherine**

You all think very highly of Zana, don't you?

**Jareth**

She has been a friend and mentor to all three of us, and is the wisest person I have ever known. In fact, long ago, she was--... Of course. Why did I not think of that sooner? Draenpeño.

**KATHERINE**

What?

**JARETH**

...I think I know how you three might get home. We will go to Draenmer.

**KATHERINE**

Go to... whom? What are you talking about?

**JARETH**

Ah. It is an old word. The... Pool of Truth? I will explain back at Zana's.

**KATHERINE**

Well, sure, if— (sharp intake of breath) Oh, wow. Is that... your university?

**JARETH**

Pleasing to the eye, is it not?

**KATHERINE**

Amazing. It looks like a German Cathedral I saw in Cologne once. Very... formidable.

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**JARETH**

It is the greatest center for Odi studies in all of Baela. There are other schools, but none more influential in the creation and governance of our world than Proolau wo Tarentenodi.

**KATHERINE**

And you go to school there?

**JARETH**

(short laugh) No, I graduated some time ago. I am a task mage now.

**KATHERINE**

Task mage?

**JARETH**

We do various important duties for University. We assist University Inquisitors in handling crimes related to misuse of Odi. Our Legion friend, with his forbidden technology, falls under our jurisdiction rather than that of the Public Guard. In emergencies we support the town militia. Mostly, I assign value to student projects, and lecture during review sessions.

**KATHERINE**

Sounds... good. Jareth, if it's not too much trouble, I'd love to see the interior...

**JARETH**

Absolutely not!

**SFX:** Hoverbike noise ceases.

**KATHERINE**

Oh, um, sorry—

**JARETH**

Outsiders are forbidden to enter University. Allowing you to follow me in would be an unacceptable risk. I am taking enough liberties with the common law by not reporting all of today's events outright, never mind the reports I'm about to falsify concerning the nature of this Legionnaire's abduction. <*sigh*> Fesmer's recklessness will be the death of me one day, I swear.

**KATHERINE**

I didn't mean to—

**JARETH**

I apologize for my harsh words, Katherine, but we have an old saying here in Laundi: "Caution is more advisable than regret."

**KATHERINE**

"Better safe than sorry"?

**JARETH**

That is what I said.

**KATHERINE**

...Right.

**JARETH**

Hide here, behind these bushes. Make certain that you are not noticed. I will return shortly.

**SFX:** Jareth walking away with hoverthingie.

**KATHERINE**

Ah, good. More hiding. In bushes. (*sigh*) What a weird day.

## **Scene Two – Fixing the Fence**

**SFX**

Hammering

**Mike**

Well, at least this is better than a fetch quest. Or killing rats in a basement.

**Fesmer**

What?

**Mike**

<sigh> Never mind. Hey, that lady—Zana?—didn't seem too mad about that hoverthingie wrecking her fence.

**Fesmer**

Zana does not get mad.

**Mike**

Everyone gets mad sometimes.

**<A few seconds of silence and tool sounds>**

**Fesmer**

The way in which you knocked down that Legionnaire was incredible, Mike. But risky. You could have been hurt. Their weapons are deadly!

**Mike**

<a hint of Mike's obstinate side> Don't like running away.  
<beat> What's for dinner, again?

**Fesmer**

Hopefully Zana's famous pig pie.

**Mike**

Yeah, about that. "Pig pie"?

**Fesmer**

Yes. It is her specialty. Everyone should try it.

**Mike**

Well... I guess I'll try anything once. I'm just relieved that you guys don't eat bugs or worms.

**Fesmer**

Certainly not for dinner! Delicacies are best saved for dessert.

**Mike**

What! Are you—

**Fesmer**

[laughing] It is a joke, Mike.

**Mike**

[laughs] Oh man. You can fix your own fence, "Fes."

**SHAUNA**

What's so funny?

**MIKE**

Hey, Shauna. Where've you been?

**SHAUNA**

Around. Thinking.

**MIKE**

Thinking?? That's crazy-talk.

**FESMER**

Hello again, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Hi, Fesmer. Fence looks good.

**FESMER**

Yes. Mike has been very helpful. With his aid, it should survive many more Legionnaire collisions.

**SHAUNA**

Well don't get too used to having him around.

**ZANA**

*(in distance)* Dinner is ready, children!

**MIKE**

Hallelujah! Praise the lord!

**SHAUNA**

Someone's hungry...

**MIKE**

Aren't you?

**ZANA**

*(in distance)* Dinner will not eat itself, children!

**MIKE**

We're on our way! Don't start without us! Dear God, I'd eat pig-anything right about now.

**SHAUNA** makes a small disgusted noise and **FESMER** chuckles.

## Scene Three - Dinner

**ZANA**

Dinner is served, children.

**FESMER**

Pig Pie! Finally!

**MIKE**

...Fesmer, are you sure I'm gonna like this?

**FESMER**

Come, Mike, you were so eager a moment ago.

**MIKE**

Eeeyeah, but now I'm here, and it really is pig pie. Hoo boy. Here goes nothin'.

**SFX:** bite, chew chew chew, gulp

**ZANA**

Well, what do you think?

**MIKE**

It's... pretty good, actually.

**FESMER**

"Pretty good?"

**MIKE**

I like it – it's just weird. I've never tasted potato like that before.

**SFX:** chew-chew-chew

**ZANA**

<background> What is "poe-tay-toe"?

**ARKAHN**

Shauna, help yourself. Placate your angry stomach.

**SHAUNA**

Mmmhmmmmmm.

**ZANA**

Shauna will eat when she is ready, Arkahn.

**MIKE**

Shauna, I want to get home too, but while we're here, we should at least be comfortable.

**SHAUNA**

We don't have time to get comfortable, Mike. We shouldn't be enjoying this; we should be thinking of a way to get home!

**MIKE**

(chew-chew mouth full) Well, yeah (chew-chew)  
This really is good stuff. (chew-chew)

**FESMER**

I am thinking while I am eating. (chew-chew-chew)

[ Katherine and Jareth enter ]

**JARETH**

Ah, Fesmer, you saved a portion for me. How unlike you.

**FESMER**

Jareth, I think you mean, "How considerate."

**JARETH**

Yes, exactly. How unlike you.

**KATHERINE**

Good news guys: Jareth knows a way for us to get home.

**SHAUNA**

Oh thank God...

**JARETH**

Well, Maybe.

**KATHERINE**

Maybe. But I have a good feeling about this.

**ARKAHN**

About what?

**JARETH**

Draenpeño.

**ZANA**

Of course!

**MIKE**

Of course - what?

**ZANA**

Draenpeño - the Seekers of Truth - they are a monastic order dedicated to the search for truth above all else. They dedicate their lives to seeking and understanding the knowledge of Draenmer.

**FESMER**

*(blurting out)* Zana was once one of them. Erm, I mean... sorry.

**ZANA**

It is quite alright, Fesmer. It is no secret that I was once Draenpeño.

**KATHERINE**

Oh? Is it like a religion?

**MIKE**

Not that we don't all want to hear Katherine talk on about religion... but I don't. So what's a Drain-mer?

**JARETH**

It is a holy place. A thin point between the world of the living and the dead where, to some degree, the two may interact.

**SHAUNA**

Like... Ghosts?

**MIKE**

I see dead people...

**ZANA**

It is a place of wisdom and peace. Where those in need may seek answers from the departed.

**ARKAHN**

Of course! You have never tried to access Odi! You can ask a question!

**JARETH**

You echo my thoughts faithfully.

(MIKE snickers a little)

**ZANA**

One may ask a question of Draenmer and receive the absolute truthful answer, culled from the knowledge of the deceased.

**SHAUNA**

So you ask and... a ghost answers? So it's haunted?

**Fesmer**

Not exactly. It is not haunted, merely a place of communion.

**JARETH**

When a person dies, they take their knowledge with them. At Draenmer, the dead can share their knowledge.

**KATHERINE**

So these Truth Seekers, they worship the dead?

**FESMER**

All people honor ancestors and departed friends, Katherine. We pray to those who came before for guidance and protection. Draenpeño use the wisdom of the departed to find the truth. Therefore, they honor all those who have passed.

**ZANA**

That is correct Fesmer.

**KATHERINE**

But what about God?

**FESMER**

God? What is God?

**MIKE**

This is all fascinating and stuff. But if I'm hearing this right, we go there and hope they know how to get us home?

**JARETH**

Something like that, yes.

**SHAUNA**

Well, that's great! Why didn't you mention this before?

**ARKAHN**

You can only ask one question, and only if you are an adult who has never tried to access Odi before.

**SHAUNA**

Okay. So?

**ZANA**

Shauna, you need to understand; most children begin casting their first spells around the age of 9 or so. Seekers of Truth choose a different path. They have not attempted to cast a spell even once. They must sacrifice all claim to Odi for the right to ask. They spend their days in study, learning as much as they can so they can pose the ultimate question.

**MIKE**

Oh, well I know the answer to that. 42.

**SHAUNA**

Quiet Mike. I know what I want to ask - what are we standing around here for? Let's go!

**JARETH**

We cannot go up there tonight, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Why not?

**ZANA**

It is many hours away. Additionally, today is *laerele*. They worship all night there, from dusk until dawn. And the sun is already setting. Even if you did arrive tonight, you would be denied entry.

**MIKE**

We could be sneaky. Ask our questions very quietly. I bet they wouldn't mind.

**KATHERINE**

Mike, that would be like walking through the middle of someone else's sermon at church! Or maybe even like walking through a wake!

**SHAUNA**

ANYWAY -- so I guess we're stuck here for the night.

**FESMER**

"Stuck here?" No one is keeping you here.

**KATHERINE**

No, she didn't mean -- (cut off)

**FESMER**

Yes, she did. *Qin* [look], Shauna, I am very sorry if I had any hand in causing you three to be here. I will try to fix it, *nur draen fai* [I promise].

**ARKAHN**

*Cha waan* [Take it easy] Fezz, it has just been a lot for them to take in at once, that is all.

**SHAUNA**

I'm - look, I'm sorry, OK? This isn't about -you-, Fesmer. I'm hanging on by a thread or two here, and if I just accept this as "normal," I might let go.

**KATHERINE**

The three of us really appreciate what you've done. All four of you. We're complete strangers and you've welcomed us with open arms. I appreciate it, and so do Shauna and Mike. Right guys?

**SHAUNA**

Right.

<pause>

**KATHERINE**

Right, Mike?

**MIKE**

(chew chew) Huh? Oh, sorry, I couldn't hear you over my pig pie. What were you saying?

**ZANA**

That is good enough for me.

**KATHERINE**

So, now what do we do?

**JARETH**

Tomorrow is a day of rest. Businesses are closed and I have no duties at University. I can meet all of you here in the morning and we can begin the journey. Before we leave, however, it may be prudent to give our new friends some combat training.

**MIKE**

Sweet!

**KATHERINE**

Combat - training?

**SHAUNA**

Why?

**JARETH**

"Caution is more advisable than regret."

**ZANA**

Well, we need to clean up...

**MIKE**

Hold up. Where are we going to sleep?

**ZANA**

For this night, the three of you are welcome to sleep in my guest room. There are plenty of spare mattresses.

**KATHERINE**

All of us in one room, hey...

**ZANA**

It is a large room. During festivals, this shop also serves as a boarding house. *Turen* [Well], I cooked the dinner, so who is cleaning?

**KATHERINE**

I can do it. Wait - how do - do you even have running water?

**FESMER**

There is a brook behind Zana's. But why do you need it to clean?

**KATHERINE**

No, I mean, never mind.

**ZANA**

Fesmer, make yourself useful and help Katherine clean up, would you?

**FESMER**

Yes, *shi-schwa*.

## Scene Four – Sleep Over

### **SFX**

Loud snoring. For a few seconds.

### **Mike**

<grumbling> Sweet, dripping unholy mother of God I can not deal with this anymore.

<whispering> Hey, Shauna. Hey. Shauna.

### **Shauna**

Muuh... What Mike.

### **Mike**

Are you hearing this?

### **Shauna**

Hearing what?

<A couple seconds of snoring>

### **Mike**

That!

### **Shuana**

Oh. Yeah. She does that. Sleeping now.

<A couple seconds of snoring>

### **Mike**

Easy for you to say. You roomed with her. Shauna?

### **Shauna**

What Mike?

### **Mike**

How did you deal with it?

### **Shauna**

Fall asleep before her. 'Sides she only snores when she's really tired.

<A couple seconds of snoring>

### **Mike**

Psst Shauna.

### **Shauna**

<irritated> What Mike?

### **Mike**

How you doin'? You seemed freaked earlier.

### **Shauna**

Not now Mike. I'm trying to sleep. Gimme some quiet.

### **Mike**

That's not going to happen with the band saw going...

### **Shauna**

Mike!

### **Mike**

Never mind. I'm hungry. Gonna get a snack.

### **SFX**

Getting out of sheets, standing up. Footsteps. Door opens and closes as Mike exits.

<A couple seconds of snoring>

### **Shauna**

<sigh> Now I can't sleep. Thanks Mike. I'm gonna get some air.

### **SFX**

Getting out of sheets, standing up. Footsteps. Door opens and closes as Shauna exits. Snoring continues unabated.

## **Scene Five – Midnight Snack**

**AMBIENT:** Frying sounds. Occasional clinking of dishware.

**Shauna**

Mike, what are you doing?

**Mike**

Cooking a snack.

**Shauna**

Are you frying sausage?

**Mike**

Yep. And some other stuff. Don't know what it is, but...

**Shauna**

You can't just go into people's kitchens and raid their fridge. Is there even a fridge? Where did you get that stuff?

**Mike**

Dunno. Around.

**Shauna**

<sigh> Could you at least turn some lights on?

**Mike**

There's plenty of light from the moons. *Moons* Shauna! There's two of them! Course one's pretty small...

**Shauna**

That's great Mike. Lights?

**Mike**

Alright. "Key-NA!"

**Shauna**

How did you remember all that? What Zana said before we went to bed passed through one ear and out the other.

**Mike**

Yeah, these games do have a lot of exposition. It's easy, though. "Odi," the magic stuff, not the dog, comes out of that cube thing you're standing next to.

**SHAUNA**

Oh. It's warm.

**MIKE**

Yeah, that's what Katherine said. "Weeeeird!" It's the "Hearth," and it powers these "Active Items." You make 'em work with a key word like the lights or by twiddling a knob like the stove here. Figured that one out myself. They buy all their "Active Items" from University. Lights, appliances, wards for the doors. Katherine ranted about monopolies like she does. There you go.

**Shuana**

I wanted to go outside for some air. But I couldn't remember how to open the door.

**Mike**

Oh, I don't know. Zana didn't tell us. It's warded, so I wouldn't try and open it. In D'n'D wards can explode and stuff. Sausage?

**Shauna**

No. Just talking to you wears me out. I'm going back to bed.

**Mike**

Well any time you need wearing out, you know where to find me.

**Shauna**

Funny. Just don't eat everything.

## **Scene Six - Combat Training**

**AMBIENT:** Distant daytime Laundi sounds.

**Zana**

Mike, wake up!

**MIKE**

Mugh?

**ZANA**

I cannot believe you ate so much! I have heard of a healthy appetite, but this is absurd.

**MIKE**

Erm, uh, Sorry Zana. S' just a snack.

**Zana**

Do you realize that you ate enough food to feed a family of six?  
For a snack?

**Mike**

I'll, um, make it up to you?

**Zana**

Yes, you certainly will. After you come back from Draenmer.  
Now out. I need to clean.

**Mike**

Yes'm.

**SFX:** Door, walking downstairs.

**MIKE**

"Zana doesn't get mad," huh? [more muttering (ad lib)]

**SFX:** another door.

**AMBIENT:** Daytime Laundi sounds.

**FESMER**

*Biu-bui* [Heya] Mike.

**Katherine and Shauna**

<groggy> Morning Mike.

**MIKE**

Hey guys.

**Fesmer**

You slept through breakfast Mike. You look horrible! Did you sleep at all?

**Mike**

A little. No thanks to Snorri McSnorrleson over here.

**Katherine**

<sheepish> Sorry 'bout that. I was more tired than I thought.

**MIKE**

Fes, what's your excuse? You look hung-over.

**FESMER**

Hung over what?

**KATHERINE**

He means "sick."

**FESMER**

Ah, yes. I am not accustomed to casting so many spells in one day. It takes a toll on my body, which is not in optimal shape to begin with...

**Mike**

Huh. Good Morning, Shauna.

**Shauna**

Good Morning? There's nothing good about it.

**Mike**

What's wrong?

**Shuana**

There is no coffee Mike. Why are we in a world without coffee?  
What god would make a coffee-less world?

**Mike**

The same god that made Katherine snore louder than my old man.

**Katherine**

I said sorry...

**Arkahn**

Oli yuung everyone.

**FESMER**

*Biu-biu* Arkahn... any sight of Jareth? He is bringing the practice weapons.

**MIKE**

Practice weapons?

**FESMER**

The first time you pick up a sword, Mike, you want it to be wooden and not steel. Actually, your sword does not matter too much; it is your opponent's you should worry about.

**MIKE**

I beg to differ.

**Shauna**

Do we really have to do this first thing?

**Fesmer**

It will be fun.

**Shauna**

I doubt that.

**ARKAHN**

Here they come...

**SFX:** Jareth enter through the yard's gate.

**JARETH**

Oli yuung. [Good morning.]

**Arkahn and Fesmer**

Oli young.

**KATHERINE**

I learned that one today from Zana. They just said "good morning."

**MIKE**

'Sup.

**FESMER**

Soup?

**KATHERINE**

No, he means "what's up." Which really means "what is going on?" Well, "hello" I guess.

**ARKAHN**

Your translate spell needs some work, Fezz.

**FESMER**

I am just happy it worked at all!

**Shauna**

So, Jareth, tell me again exactly why we are doing this?

**Jareth**

The journey to Dreanmer is long. There may be bandits. It is good to be prepared.

**Fesmer**

Not to mention the Legion and Undying.

**Katherine**

Hold on. Undying?

**Mike**

Ooh, that's new. Zombies?

**Katherine**

What... what are Undying?

**Fesmer**

Just what it sounds like.

**Jareth**

They are bodies of those who have had their life stolen from them. They rise and, in turn, seek to steal the life of the living.

**Mike**

Sounds like zombies to me.

**Katherine**

You are joking right?

**Jareth**

I assure you, I am not. They are a grave threat. **[MIKE snickers]** Random attacks on travelers are hardly unheard of, though the greatest threat they pose is as a weapon of the Legion.

**MIKE**

Sure sure. So, if we're going to have to fight wandering monsters, we better start practicing. Can I see one of those swords?

**JARETH**

Here you are; take one of these shields as well.

**MIKE**

Sweeeeet. "Red Warrior is armed." So, um ... how do we do this?

**JARETH**

The most important thing to learn first is defense. It is much easier to learn to defend yourself well than it is to learn how to attack.

**KATHERINE**

That makes sense.

**MIKE**

Pft. Pansies -- I always thought that the best DEE-FENSE was a good OH-FENSE.

**JARETH**

Well, let me put this another way. Come at me with your best attack.

**MIKE**

What?

**JARETH**

Step towards me and try and make contact with your sword. I will defend with only my sword, I will leave the arm shield on the ground for now.

**FESMER**

Uh-oh.

**MIKE**

Yeah, "uh oh" is right. Mike activates ability: Holy Smite! [sound effect]

**KATHERINE**

Ugh, Good God...

**SFX:** Step step, lurch, BIG SWING, easy block

**MIKE**

Huh.

**FESMER**

[calls] I made the same mistake, Mike.

**JARETH**

Try again, and this time do not stop until you hit me.

**MIKE**

Are you sure?

**JARETH** (confident)

Oh, I am certain.

**MIKE**

Mike, um, enchants his weapon. It is now a wooden sword of kicking ass +1, +5 vs. Jareth. Raaaaagh!

**Katherine**

<exasperated> Mike...

**SFX:** [Step step, yeaarrgh, swing, block, swing, block, overhand swing, block, swing block swing block]

**MIKE** (panting)

So - do you give up yet?

(laughter)

**JARETH**

You are doing well for your first time.

**MIKE**

I didn't even hit you once!

**KATHERINE**

It is not an axe Mike! You'll never hit that way. Take shorter swings. You won't hurt him as much but you are much more likely to actually, you know, hit him.

**Fesmer**

Perhaps he would do better with an axe. Or a big stick.

**Mike**

Axes are cool. Can I have an axe? I could hit him with an axe. I took Weapon Focus in axes a few levels ago.

**Shauna**

Sometimes I worry about you Mike.

**Mike**

Why?

**JARETH**

<sounding a little impressed> Katherine, your advice was sound. Are you skilled in swordsmanship?

**KATHERINE**

A bit - fencing. Not with épées or sabres, but with thin ones called "foils."

**MIKE**

Enough of this banter! Let's get it on Jareth.

**JARETH**

Whenever you are ready.

**SFX:** [Step step, grunt swing block faster swing block, fastest swing hit in the gut with the edge of the sword]

**JARETH**

Ooomph!

**MIKE**

Ha! I hit you! Five damage!

**JARETH**

Yes, you did. Try that one more time.

**FESMER** (*quietly, as an aside*)

Uh oh.

**SHAUNA**

What, Fesmer?

**FESMER**

Jareth has been embarrassed. He does not like that...

**MIKE**

Critical hit...!

**SFX:** [swing, block, trip - Mike lands on his backside]

**MIKE**

Hey! Ow!

**JARETH**

That was better, but still you left yourself wide open to a counter attack. That will need to be lesson two.

**MIKE**

OK, I get it. I show you up, and you drop me on my ass.

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**JARETH**

An apt assessment. Who is next?

**KATHERINE** (*anticipating*)

I am.

**JARETH**

Certainly.

**MIKE**

Here you go. (hands the sword and buckler) See if you can do better.

**KATHERINE**

Thanks – but I don't want the shield.

**MIKE**

What??

**JARETH**

Oh?

**KATHERINE**

We don't use shields in fencing.

**JARETH**

I have never had a beginner try to face me without a shield before.

**ARKAHN**

Wey zyzzzy sma? [Is she crazy?]

**FESMER**

Zyzzzy. [Crazy.]

**KATHERINE**

What was that?

**FESMER**

Oh, nothing Katherine. Fortunate trials!

**KATHERINE**

OK - I think I'm ready, Jareth.

**JARETH**

Go ahead.

**SFX:** [step, circle, step, LUNGE poke, deflected]

**SHAUNA** (aside to Arkahn)

She's fast --

**ARKAHN**

Hmmm.

**Mike**

Bet she's never been called that before.

**SFX:** [step, poke to the shoulder]

**JARETH**

You hit me!

**KATHERINE**

Yep, on the shoulder.

**JARETH**

But I barely felt it. Go again.

**SFX:** [step, step, swing block, poke]

**JARETH**

You hit me again.

**KATHERINE**

If you want to try to hit me, I think I'm ready for that.

**JARETH**

Oh, really...

**KATHERINE**

Yep.

**MIKE**

Hide in shadows, Katherine! Use your sneak attack!

**SHAUNA**

Shh, let her concentrate, Mike.

**JARETH**

Now --

**SFX:** [stepping from both, swing block (Kath reacts), swing block (Jareth reacts), step step step, kath pokes, Jareth feels it ("Ow!") and swings back but is blocked again and again.]

**JARETH**

Hold, Katherine, hold -- very nicely done.

**MIKE**

Yeah yeah. Jareth was clearly holding back.

**JARETH**

Very little, actually. Katherine is quick with the blade.

**KATHERINE**

Well, the wooden blade, perhaps. Speed is almost everything in fencing. I didn't seem to hurt you at all.

**JARETH**

...and thank you very much for that, Katherine. It is your turn, Shauna.

**MIKE**

Shauna enters the arena! Now will we see the fury of the gods unleashed!

**SHAUNA**

Mike, would you please shut up?

**MIKE**

...sorry.

**SHAUNA**

Okay, so hold the shield like this?

**JARETH**

Up and forward more. You must anticipate the attack and be unafraid to meet it.

**SHAUNA**

Is this really necessary? I've never hit anyone in my life.

**JARETH**

But there are those here who would hit you. You must be ready.

**SHAUNA**

Super.

**JARETH**

Attack me first. I will parry.

**SHAUNA**

I'm sure you will.

**SFX:** [weak swing, block]

**MIKE**

Just like that, Shauna! Wear him down and then land the fatal blow!

**KATHERINE**

Mike! She asked you to shut up.

**MIKE**

She totally didn't mean it.

**SHAUNA**

I can't do this!

**MIKE**

Fesmer, whip up a morale boost or something. Even war gods sometimes doubt themselves, Shauna!

**SHAUNA**

MIKESHUTTHEHELLUP!

**MIKE**

...Ok then. Maybe she did mean it.

**KATHERINE**

I'm always right, Mike. Haven't you figured that out yet?

**MIKE** *childishly mimicking*

"I'm always right, Mike..."

**JARETH**

Try again to strike me. It is very important that you at least learn the fundamentals, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Yuh. Okay, I'm striking you now.

**SFX:** [swing, deflect]

**JARETH**

Harder.

**SFX:** [swing, deflect]

**JARETH**

Do not cease until you have hit me.

**SFX:** [swing, deflect, swing, deflect, grunt, swing, deflect]

**SHAUNA**

Ow!

**JARETH**

Sometimes there is pain. Again!

**SHAUNA**

Fine, jerk...

**SFX:** [a flurry of blows; none of them hit Jareth]

**SHAUNA** *screams in frustration*

I give up!

**JARETH**

What will you do when Oren's Legion strikes? Or Undying attack? Give up?

**SHAUNA**

I'll hide behind the rest of you, obviously.

**JARETH**

Suppose we are not there to protect you. What then?

**SHAUNA**

What will be, will be.

**JARETH**

No, Shauna. You must never resign yourself to a terrible fate. You must fight until you cannot.

**SHAUNA** *really upset*

Yeah, well, sometimes fighting doesn't help, so I prefer not to, okay? This is over.

**SFX:** [she drops the practice weapons and stalks away]

**MIKE**

Shauna, wait up! [runs after her]

**JARETH**

[Well], that could have gone better.

**ARKAHN**

She is not adjusting well. Give her time.

**KATHERINE**

I don't think she plans on adjusting. She plans on getting out of here.

**ARKAHN**

Well. Not all goes according to plan.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, you can say that again...

**ARKAHN**

...Why would I do that?

## Scene Seven - Dreams

**SHAUNA**

Leave me alone, Mike!

**MIKE**

I just want to talk to you. Stop, wouldja?

**SHAUNA**

I don't want to talk!

**MIKE**

Okay, we won't talk. We'll... admire the landscape. In silence. Will you just stop running?

**SHAUNA**

(stops) You are really obnoxious sometimes.

**MIKE**

Well, thanks. I try.

**SHAUNA**

No one can fault you for that.

**MIKE**

Oh, har har. You're starting to sound like Katherine.

**SHAUNA**

Sorry. I'm sorry. (sigh) I just... needed to get away from Jareth and everyone.

**MIKE**

Yeah, Jareth, huh? Man. What crawled up his ass and laid eggs?

**SHAUNA**

Ew. But no, I think Jareth's really cool.

**MIKE**

...Yeah. Oh yeah, me too. Definitely.

**SHAUNA**

He does come off like a jerk sometimes, but I think he's a good person. Very strong. Dependable.

**MIKE**

Mhm yeah. Definitely comes off like a jerk sometimes.

**SHAUNA**

It's just that everyone is so *into* this. Odi and hearths and active items... I mean, I still half-believe that this is all a dream.

**MIKE**

Oh, it's totally a dream.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, I know you think so. You're having the time of your life.

**MIKE**

It's either a dream or we're experiencing something that no one else ever will. I mean – spell casting? Undying? I play these games all the time, you know.

**SHAUNA**

...yeah, I know.

**MIKE**

But who actually gets to be *in* one?

**SHAUNA**

I never wanted to be in a game. Or a permanent dream. Or whatever this is.

**MIKE**

Shauna – you finally have a day off from all the things you have to do, and all you can think about is getting back to work?

**SHAUNA**

...Yeah. Weird, huh?

**MIKE**

I mean, I thought the reason that you and I... never... y'know... was because of all your responsibilities.

**SHAUNA**

(getting uncomfortable) Yeah, that sounds familiar...

**MIKE**

Let's say this is a dream. You know the dreams where you could do something you've always wanted to do, but you don't know you're dreaming, and you'd be too scared to do the thing in real life, so you don't do it in the dream either? And then you wake up, and you're like, Damn! Why didn't I kiss her? Or him, I mean. In your case.

**SHAUNA**

I guess those aren't the kinds of dreams I have.

**MIKE**

Says who? You could be having one right now.

**KATHERINE**

(laughing) Oh, smooth.

**MIKE**

(kind of harsh – he is embarrassed, which is unusual for him) Well hello, Katherine. Uninvited as usual. Please, join us.

**SHAUNA**

Mike, Katherine is a friend. She's always invited.

**MIKE**

She's your friend. She's my co-worker.

**KATHERINE**

That's sweet, Mikey.

**MIKE**

Ugh. Only my grandmother calls me Mikey.

**KATHERINE**

Not anymore. Mikey Mikey Mikey.

**MIKE**

Stop! You're embarrassing yourself.

**KATHERINE**

Oooooh Mikey-poo! I could be your surrogate grandmother. I bet you miss her.

**MIKE**

Okay that's kinda creepy. I'm going to see what Fesmer's up to. Later, Shauna. (he leaves)

**SHAUNA**

Thank you.

**KATHERINE**

What was that all about?

**SHAUNA**

Nothing important. You came to check up on me, too?

**KATHERINE**

Looks like it. Are you okay?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. I'm just not cut out for this. I'm not strong like Mike or graceful like you. Jareth's right. I'm weak.

**KATHERINE**

You are not weak! And Jareth never said that. He's being tough because he cares about you.

**SHAUNA**

You think so?

**KATHERINE**

Yeah. He kinda comes off like a jerk, but—

**SHAUNA**

(laughing) Yeah. Are you and he like, y'know...?

**KATHERINE**

What?

**SHAUNA**

I dunno. You two talk a lot. And you were pretty eager to help him with the *waa-loar* hoverthingie whatever-it's-called...

**KATHERINE**

Ohhh no no no. Well... no. Not my type.

**SHAUNA**

What is your type? I don't think I've ever seen you with anyone.

**KATHERINE**

I'm way too busy for that freshman nonsense. It's not worth the trouble. Anyway, you should talk. At least I've had a boyfriend.

**SHAUNA**

What?

**KATHERINE**

Who was your last boyfriend?

**SHAUNA**

...Billy Boyd?

**KATHERINE**

Yes, your torrid long-distance love affair with a hobbit notwithstanding, you ought to put yourself out there more. If you don't act, I might have to. Out of principle, you understand. Jareth *is* cute...

**SHAUNA**

Oh, he's cute, huh? I'll tell you what else "Jareth" is: NOT REAL!! None of them are!

**KATHERINE**

Shauna, love...

**SHAUNA**

They can't be! None of this is, and I don't know why you're all adjusting so well to it!

**KATHERINE**

So then you're dreaming. What's the big hurry to wake up? You'll wake up when your alarm goes off, at 7am.

**SHAUNA**

5:30, actually.

**KATHERINE**

Crazy woman.

**SHAUNA**

That's not it, though. It's that...

**KATHERINE**

... you know you're not dreaming.

**SHAUNA**

I guess.

**KATHERINE**

So if it isn't a dream, then you're awake. If you're awake, then how can none of this be real?

**SHAUNA**

That's the part that worries me.

**KATHERINE**

We're all freaked out about this, y'know? But we're trying to take it in stride.

**SHAUNA**

Easy for you, what with your fencing experience and whatever else...

**KATHERINE**

Horseback riding, archery... oh, God. I've been training all my life to be a live-action dweeb. Somehow even knowing how to ride a motorcycle is useful here.

**SHAUNA**

And Mike with his football training and video game expertise... well, I'm not so sure the video games are helping him.

**KATHERINE**

He's acting like an idiot. He's going to get himself – or us – in trouble.

**SHAUNA**

Maybe. (sigh, beat) You know, I was supposed to open at Antonio's this morning.

**KATHERINE**

And you still went to the movies with us? For shame.

**SHAUNA**

I so rarely get out of the house. What's being a little tired? That's what coffee is for.

**KATHERINE**

Only here—

**SHAUNA**

--there is no coffee.

**KATHERINE**

What are we going to do?!

**SHAUNA**

Maybe I'm not dreaming, but if I don't get caffeine soon, I will be.

**KATHERINE**

Seriously.

**JARETH**

(in the distance) Shauna? Katherine?

**KATHERINE**

Uh oh. Here comes Fabio. Brace yourself.

**SHAUNA**

Fabio's still a sex symbol? Gross.

**KATHERINE**

We're over here, Jareth! *[To Shauna]* He's coming – here's some eye shadow. And lipstick. Quickly, girl!

**SHAUNA**

(laughing) That's okay. Really.

**JARETH**

Ah, there you are, Shauna. I must apologize for—

**SHAUNA**

Jareth, it's okay.

**JARETH**

No, I do not believe it is “oh-kay”. I upset you, and I am sorry.

**SHAUNA**

Apology accepted.

**KATHERINE**

So Jareth.

**JARETH**

Yes, Katherine?

**KATHERINE**

Do you have a girlfriend?

**SHAUNA**

KATHERINE!!

**JARETH**

What is wrong?

**SHAUNA**

She is being rude.

**JARETH**

Oh, not at all. I have several girl-friends.

**SHAUNA**

...you do?

**JARETH**

Yes, of course. Arkahn, Zana, even my mother, I suppose, as we are very close.

**KATHERINE**

(snickering quietly) I seeee. That’s not what I—

**SHAUNA**

We should probably be getting back to the group, huh?

**JARETH**

Excellent idea, Shauna. We should begin our trip to Draenmer.

**SHAUNA**

Yes. I couldn’t agree more. And there we’ll find out how to get home?

**JARETH**

That is the idea...

**SHAUNA**

Fantastic. (they begin walking)

**KATHERINE**

Jareth, what do you Laundi people drink in the morning to wake up?

**JARETH**

Drink to wake up? How strange. We just wake up, and then we are awake. How do people from your world imbibe liquid while they are still unconscious?

**SHAUNA**

Eagerly...

## **Scene Eight – Go or Don't Go**

### **Shauna**

Not to sound like my brothers, but are we there yet? I'm tired. We've been walking forever. When are we going to get there?

### **Jareth**

We will get there when we get there.

### **Mike**

Sounds like my Dad.

### **Fesmer**

You should have heard my Father. "Fesmer, if you do not stop doing that, you can swim home!"

### **Mike**

Swim?

### **Fesmer**

He was a riverboat pilot.

### **Mike**

My dad would threaten to leave me on the side of the road. And then he would.

### **JARETH**

Would the two of you *rentenah-ma* [jackals] please stop with the endless (interrupted)

### **ARKAHN**

Jareth, everyone, stop walking.

### **SHAUNA**

Wha – what is it?

### **ARKAHN**

I think... *aio qin cha* [check that], I am sure there was just an Odi Drop.

### **Mike**

A what?

### **JARETH**

Where?

### **FESMER**

I do not feel anything.

### **ARKAHN**

I do not think it is a big one – it just happened, otherwise we probably would have walked right past it. It is behind us somewhere.

### **SHAUNA**

Um...

### **JARETH**

*Nai nai* [OK], we will track it down.

### **SHAUNA**

Wait a minute – I thought we were going to Draenmer ...!  
*(This is not a yelling exclamation. But we should be able to feel rising tension through this section.)*

### **JARETH**

We were, but now we are finding the tae-od.

### **SHAUNA**

The what?

### **JARETH**

I forget how little you know. A tae-od. How do I explain it...

**Shauna**

I don't really care to tell the truth. I just want to get there.

**Katherine**

What's going on?

**Mike**

Something just happened and now we're stopped.

**Katherine**

Thanks Mike.

**JARETH**

Shauna, I am bound by duty to go and retrieve that tae-od. You are free to do whatever you want, but we are going to find it. *Liolo nack zan*, Shauna. [There is no further discussion here.] *(He walks off stridently, the others watch for only a beat...)*

**Arkahn**

I should help him. Hopefully this does not take long.

**Katherine**

What the heck is a tae-od?

**Fesmer**

It is a... concentration of negative odi. It forms a concretion around a nonliving object.

**Mike**

I think I speak for all of us when I say: Wha?

**Femer**

They are dangerous Mike. If left in one place they can kill plant life, poison the water, make animals sick.

**Mike**

Okay...

**Fesmer**

Jareth has to find it so it can be disposed of properly.

**Katherine**

Does this happen often?

**Fesmer**

Not often. But in the past years... They can happen pretty much anywhere, so most of them are overlooked. So when someone does find one, it is especially important—

**SHAUNA**

That's great and all. But I need to go to Draenmer.

**KATHERINE**

It's OK, Shauna. We'll just get it, then go to Draenmer.

**SHAUNA**

How do you know it won't be closed by then? Or what if we keep finding "tae-ods" or get chased by Legionnaires every step we take?

**KATHERINE**

Have faith, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Oh yeah. Because that's worked out real well so far.

**MIKE**

Come on ladies. Turn those frowns upside down.

**SHAUNA**

I don't know if it's the air here or what, but I swear you were never this obnoxious before, Mike.

**MIKE**

It's definitely the air. Oh come on! You both oughta lighten up. Hey, look what I taught Fesmer to say... Hey, Fes! Yo!

**FESMER**

Yo. Um, 'soup, doug?

**MIKE**

Well, close enough.

**KATHERINE**

Mike, he is a human being, not a parrot.

**MIKE**

Who says he can't be both?

**Shuana**

I'm going to go see what's taking them so long.

**Fesmer**

I will go Shauna. Perhaps I can be of assistance. Please, wait here.

**Mike**

What, not even a chuckle?

<pause>

**SFX:** Clomping around through underbrush

**JARETH**

Arkahn, are we close?

**ARKAHN**

Yes, I just... it is here. It is very small. I cannot seem to... hmm. Help me search.

**JARETH**

You are attuned. I am not.

**ARKAHN**

*Ben-sa wai!* [Laundi curse akin to "dammit"] It is no mystery now that University would not accept me. Cannot even locate--

**JARETH**

Arkahn, you are more attuned than anyone at University. It is their loss. I have faith in you. We will wait until you find the tae-od.

**ARKAHN**

[searching, rustling leaves] Shauna will be very unhappy if we do not proceed soon.

**Fesmer**

Have you found it yet?

**ARKAHN**

*(irritated)* No, Fesmer, I have not.

**JARETH**

Give her time, Fes.

**FESMER**

No hurry. Except that Shauna may kill us all if we delay a second longer.

**ARKAHN**

And whose fault would that be? YOU brought them here.

**FESMER**

I suppose I did. I just wish I knew how...

**JARETH**

But you do know why. And now that you have them...

**FESMER**

I cannot. They are not what I asked for. They are good folk, but useless for my cause.

**JARETH**

Fesmer, perhaps you should abandon your “cause.” *Ainorem* only know why I have not already turned you over to University for frequent and deliberate abuse of Odi...

**FESMER**

Jareth, you of all people should understand why—

**MIKE**

(yelling) You guys find it yet?

**JARETH**

Arkahn is searching. It will take a moment. Patience, please.

**MIKE**

‘Kay. We’ll just wait here, then. La la la...

**ARKAHN**

This is extremely frustrating. I can sense it, but I cannot find it.

**SHAUNA**

It’s right there.

[Jareth, Fesmer, and Arkahn startle]

**SHAUNA**

You’re stepping on it, Arkahn.

**ARKAHN**

...This pebble? Of course.

**SHAUNA**

Yep, the pebble. Very impressive, isn’t it? Can we go now?

**FESMER**

Shauna, how did you...?

**SHAUNA**

What?

**FESMER**

Even Arkahn could not sense it.

**SHAUNA**

So?

**ARKAHN**

So you are attuned. Which means that you have great potential, Shauna. Greater than Fesmer’s... or my own.

**SHAUNA**

Back home, I’ve always been able to sense little things like that, but it’s sort of a moot point, guys. Can we go?

**JARETH**

Yes. We have the tae-od now. We must return it to Tarentenodi [University].

**SHAUNA**

We must... what??

**JARETH**

Um, return it to—

**SHAUNA**

No, Jareth, we must continue on to Draenmer like you promised we would. You must pocket the magical pebble, do an about-face, and lead us to the Pool of Truth, where I can ask my one question so that we can go home. You must do this now.

**JARETH**

But, University demands that—

**SHAUNA**

Demands? I demand that you take us where you said you would take us RIGHT NOW, Jareth. Are you hearing me? Is the translate spell working correctly? I said now and I mean NOW!

(silence)

**ARKAHN**

I will return the tae-od, Jareth. You all continue on.

**JARETH**

Are you certain?

**ARKHAN**

[a touch of humor here]

Yes. Shauna demands a guide, and I think she should be obeyed. Do you not agree?

**JARETH**

I would be afraid not to. Take this pouch. It will protect you from the tae-od. Come then, Shauna. To Draenmer. Fortuitous trails, Arkahn.

**ARKAHN**

Thank you, Jareth. May you find the truth you seek, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Thanks, Arkahn. I'm sorry I yelled.

**ARKAHN**

Do not be regretful. It is sometimes the only language Jareth understands. Farewell, Fesmer, Mike, Katherine.

**FESMER**

Travel safely, Arkhan.

**MIKE**

Peace out.

**KATHERINE**

Later.

**SHAUNA**

Let's go. Jareth's already ahead of us.

**FESMER**

I understand now why Shauna prefers not to fight.

**MIKE**

Huh?

**FESMER**

She does not need to.

**KATHERINE**

Are you alright, Shauna?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. Sorry about that.

**KATHERINE**

I've never seen you like that before. Wow.

**SHAUNA**

Hopefully you won't have to see it again...

**JARETH**

Quicken your pace! We are still hours away. And be silenced. The way is not completely safe...

**SHAUNA**

...yes, "sir."

(Katherine snickers)

## Scene Nine – Approaching Draenmer

### **JARETH**

Here we are. Draenmer.

### **KATHERINE** *(soft, stage whisper)*

Oh – my -- *(leaving out the word God.)* It feels so... pure. So peaceful.

### **JARETH**

Yes. Never has a harsh word been spoken here, nor an ill thought conceived.

### **KATHERINE**

Maybe you should stay outside, Mike.

### **MIKE**

Har har. Who is that walking out of the cave?

### **JARETH**

Almost certainly, Draenpeño. A Seeker of Truth. They keep torches lit inside the cave at all hours.

### **SHAUNA** *(slight hint of impatience)*

So – can we go inside now?

### **JARETH**

I need to ask permission first. Please wait here.

### **SHAUNA**

But –

### **FESMER**

It is a formality. Remo surii. [Don't worry.] When you go to Draenmer, the oldest person in the family speaks with the Seekers and asks permission to enter. When many different families are represented, the person of highest standing asks.

### **MIKE**

Well, he is the tallest. Get it? “Standing?” (beat, shifting away from them) What, you’re not even going to groan?

*(shift over to Jareth and Truth Seeker near the cave entrance. I want the voice actress for the Seeker to sound very similar to Summer Glau's character "River" from Serenity, except more lucid and less spacey.)*

### **JARETH**

Draenpeño, I seek permission to visit Draenmer.

### **SEEKER**

For what purpose do you bring four others with you?

### **JARETH**

Three of us are very far from home. One of us will be invoking her right to find her truth.

### **SEEKER**

Yes, that she will. Your group may enter. Lay ken draen wair cha. [May you find the truth you seek.]

### **JARETH**

Lay ken draen wair cha, jola mteneren, Draenpeño. Cha grendillo fai. [I am full of thanks.]

*(Jareth motions to the rest of the group to come forward. They do so.)*

*We hear them walk across the stones and dirt into the entrance of the cave. Jareth stops first, the other five pairs of footsteps stop a moment later as they are behind him a little bit.)*

**AMBIENT:** Cave sounds

**MIKE**

Now what?

**FESMER**

Jareth has asked permission of the Seeker. Now he will ask *ainorem*.

**MIKE**

What if they say no?

**FESMER**

I do not know; I doubt that has ever happened.

**JARETH**

We humbly ask permission to enter. We respect this place and what it represents, and know the sacrifices you make by abiding our entry. We are honored by your indulgence.

**KATHERINE**

<whispered, overcome> ...wow...

**SHAUNA**

What, Katherine?

**KATHERINE**

Been awhile since church. I forgot how—

**JARETH**

Everyone, follow me.

*(Everyone walks in. There should be a soft river sound running in the background. You should be able to hear the torches flame ruffling every now and then.)*

**MIKE**

So.. how does this work?

**JARETH**

Well, usually the person who is here to ask their question is in here alone. They introduce themselves and ask *(again, cut off)*

**MIKE**

My name is Mike Archer and I'd like to know what do I need to do to become a professional – *(invisible hand to chest)* hey, what the--?

**KATHERINE**

What's happening to him?

**JARETH**

Do not worry – most children who try to ask a question get this as well.

**MIKE**

I am not a – gah, it feels like I'm being pushed out of the room!

**JARETH**

Stop pushing back, and stop talking for a moment. It will cease.

**MIKE**

Um, oh. OK. *(stops sliding backwards)*

**JARETH**

I guess the ancestors do not feel Mike is ready yet.

**FESMER**

Well, that is obvious.

**MIKE**

Hey!

**KATHERINE**

Shauna, do you want time alone?

**SHAUNA**

I think I should do this alone, I really do.

**JARETH**

Shauna, custom dictates that you drink of the spring before you ask your question. Follow your question with the phrase “Speak to me in the words of one who knew truth.” And it helps to be polite. These are the ancestors we are talking about.

**SHAUNA**

I understand.

**Jareth**

Good luck Shauna. May you find the truth you seek.

**KATHERINE**

OK, Mike, let’s give Shauna some personal space.

**MIKE**

OK, ok, I’m coming – but I am not a child! Why wouldn’t it let me ask about pro football? It’s a valid question!

**FESMER**

(playful sarcasm) Perfectly valid question. I cannot imagine why the ancestors would not hear you.

**JARETH**

Good luck, Shauna.

**SHAUNA**

Thanks.

*(We hear the rest of them leave Shauna all alone.)*

## **Scene Ten – Destiny**

**SHAUNA** *(talking aloud, to no one)*

So, I, um, I don't know where to begin. Or even if you will understand me. I'm not speaking your language, you see, because I am not from here. We, are not from here.

\*sigh\* I am just gonna assume that you know what I'm saying.

My name is Shauna Brown. I don't know why we're here. We were just going to see a movie. I just wanted a night away from home – I never wanted to leave home forever. And neither did my friends, Michael Archer and Katherine Rinson. We either fell here accidentally or were forced to Laundi against our will. Either way, we don't belong here.

I've spoken with Zana a lot since yesterday, about what you people are. She said you seemingly know everything, that you know anything that can be known. And that you share this knowledge with people who prove themselves worthy through hard work and sacrifice.

I don't fully understand how hard it is to live here without attempting to access Odi for your entire life. I've been here a day and a half. I think I fulfill the technical letter of the law here, to be able to ask my question. But – I get the feeling that if you wanted to, you could just shove me out of the room, like you did to Mike.

\*deep breath\*

I need to get my friends home. I need to get home myself. My family depends on me, and they are probably worried sick that I disappeared without a trace last night. The store needs me, Tyler, the twins, Mom and Dad, my study group: everyone depends on me to be there. I belong there.

I guess, this is when I am supposed to drink your water. I haven't touched any food since entering Laundi, because I haven't wanted this to be "real," you know? Nothing. I keep waiting to wake up. But now, I know, that this is real.

*(She cups some water in her hand, takes a deep breath, and slurps it into her mouth. She swallows the water – it does not have any taste.)*

**SHAUNA**

To the fallen peoples of Laundi, I humbly ask this favor. Please, show me the way home. I ask you, I pray to you. I am an outsider, just looking to return home.

My question is this: How can Michael Archer, Katherine Rinson and Shauna Brown return to their homes back in Boston?

[Speak to me in the words of one who knew truth.]

*(She sighs and breathes for a moment, just a beat long enough to make the listener uncomfortable.)*

*A voice responds, grounded yet airy. A hollow sound.)*

**Ghostly Voices**

Shauna Brown. You must learn to shape Odi to your will by mastering both methods of spellcasting. Only the ritual that brought you here, a spell you would call Shift, can open the way back to your world.

One who knows the destination must cast the spell and it will fall on you to do this. Michael Archer cannot learn how, and Katherine Rinson will not learn. Shauna Brown, you will become the doorway for Michael and Katherine to return to your world. But you cannot follow them.

This is the last home you will ever know.

## SHAUNA

But.. (waits a moment)

But, that can't be all – how will I learn how to do that? And what do you mean, this is my last home? Why can't I go back with them? There's got to be another way! Please, please Draenmer, speak to me again! *(crying)* PLEASE – there has got to be another way! How can I return home with my friends?

*(breathing – but no response.)*

This is not fair. Do you hear me? Huh? I have sacrificed everything all my life for the good of everyone else. I'm sick of it. Sick of it! I want something, just this one thing, and I deserve to have it. I want to go home, too. Can you hear me!! I want. *I* want. Tell me how to get home! I demand that you tell me how to get home!

*(despairs, cries)*

Oh God. Oh God. Oh God. Help me. Help me...

## **Scene Eleven – Beginnings**

**AMBIENT:** Night sounds

**MIKE**

She's been in there for a long time. Hours. Maybe I should—

**JARETH**

No, Mike. We must not intervene.

**MIKE**

Oh, yeah, 'cause you're the authority on what Shauna needs.

**JARETH**

I was not speaking of Shauna. The Seekers would not permit us to enter.

**MIKE**

Let 'em try and stop me...

**KATHERINE**

Mike, let it go. She'll be okay.

**FESMER**

She is coming out!

**MIKE & JARETH**

Shauna!

**MIKE**

(pushing past him) Get— Shauna! Are you okay?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, Mike. I'm okay.

**MIKE**

You look upset.

**SHAUNA**

I guess I am a little.

**MIKE**

What happened in there?

[pause]

**KATHERINE**

She can tell us when she's ready, Mike.

**FESMER**

Katherine, would you like to ask Draenmer your question?

**KATHERINE**

Well...

**SHAUNA**

[*saying this because she already knows*] She chooses not to.

**KATHERINE**

<*a surprised beat*> Yeah. I choose not to. I mean, not right now.

**MIKE**

Could you at least ask my question, since it won't let me?

**SHAUNA**

Would you really want to know?

**MIKE**

Huh?

**SHAUNA**

What if it told you that you'll never make it into the NFL? Would you stop trying?

**MIKE**

Hell, no!

**SHAUNA**

Then you already have your answer... And, I guess, so do I.

**JARETH**

It is late. Are the three of you ready to return to Zana's?

**KATHERINE**

I'm ready.

**MIKE**

Me too. Shauna?

**SHAUNA**

...Yeah, I'm ready. Let's go home.