

SECOND SHIFT

Episode #5: The Day of Undying

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Scene One – Mike and Fesmer on the run

AMBIENT: Tolling Bells

SFX

Mike and Fesmer running. Faint Undying groans.

MIKE

<Breathing heavily> Come on Fesmer buddy. We're almost there. Just... a little more...

FESMER

<Barely conscious> 'S all my fault Mike. S' my fault.

MIKE

Oh, sure it is. Just keep running.

FESMER

They are following me. They want me. To eat my magic.

MIKE

Not gonna happen. Keep going.

FESMER

I can not. I... <falls to the ground>

MIKE

Aww hell. Come on. Get up. <grunts as he picks up Fesmer>
Why am I the only one who ever takes the endurance feat?

FESMER

Just... leave...

MIKE

I couldn't have gotten through those things without you, and I'm sure as hell not leaving you. Even if I have to—Oof—carry you. Good thing you're so skinny, and I am ever so strong. Let's go!

<Running for a moment>

MIKE

There's Zana's! We're there dude! We're... oogh!

SFX

Crackling sound as he runs into ward wall

MIKE

Oh man! Some kind of outer ward thing...
Wonder if there's a weak spot somewhere...

SFX

Running throughout

MIKE

Maybe here. Hnh!

SFX

Crackling

MIKE

Ow. <a second or two> Maybe here? Hnh!

SFX

Crackling

MIKE

Ow. Damn. <a second or two> Maybe here! Hnh!

SFX
Crackling

MIKE
Ow! C'mon! There has to be a secret entrance or something.
No time to dig. Crap. Crap crap crap. Ah, the cellar door!
Alright ward-- Hnh! Whoa!

SFX
MIKE and FESMER tumbling to the ground. Running SFX
ceases.

MIKE
Oof! Ow! <a beat> Hey, it worked! What're the odds? And
now, into the cellar...

SFX
Rattles the door; it's locked

MIKE
...which is locked. Of course. Alright then, time for a strength
check... Hnh!!

SFX
Boom!

MIKE
Puny door, you cannot withstand the tremendous force of
my... foot... Rugh!

SFX
Boom!! Undying moaning approaching.

MIKE

Crap, zombie bastards are catching up. Why must zombie
bastards catch up. All joking aside, door, you're going down.
I'm sorry, but... well okay, I'm not sorry. Hugg!

SFX
BOOM! Undying moaning closer.

MIKE
Not giving. Why is it not giving. Ohhh zombie crap crap crap
crap crap crap RAGGH!!!

SFX
CRASH! Splintering wood! Undying moans!

Scene Two – Mike busts in and busts himself

AMBIENT: Tolling Bells, muted

KATHERINE

What should I even aim for! Their head?

ZANA

It matters not. You can only hope to turn them away.

KATHERINE

What! You mean I can't kill them!

ARKAHN

They are called “Undying” for a reason, Kath.

KATHERINE

Oh fuc—

SFX: Enormous crashing sound as the door is destroyed and knocked off its hinges.

MIKE

Raaaaagh! Whew, finally. Hello, ladies!

ALL

Mike!

MIKE

No time for heroic lovin' now, I gots me some Zombies to kill. Here, someone take Fesmer. Where'd his box o' Spellbombs go...

ARKAHN

Fesmer! He is unconscious.

MIKE

He'll be fine; took a clobbering, though. Ah, here they are!

SHAUNA

Mike, how did you get here? Were you outside this whole time?

MIKE

I can answer any and all questions later. Clear the door! Pull and – hike! Hot tamale!

SFX: Spellbomb exploding. Bodies knocked backwards. Moaning.

MIKE

Sweeeet. Spellbomb! And another for good measure—

SFX: Spellbomb exploding.

MIKE

That should keep 'em away long enough for me to get to the roof... *and rain death upon them!* God, I love this game. Back in a bit!

SFX: Mike running upstairs, door opening and slamming shut.

KATHERINE

Mike, you idiot! Mike! Get back here! Oh, I hate you so much.

SHAUNA

I'm going after him.

ZANA

No, Kath should go. I need you to help me block the hole where my expensive door used to be.

SHAUNA

But—

KATHERINE

Yeah, I should go get him. Idiot jock. He is so dead.

SFX: Katherine running upstairs, door slamming.

SFX: Undying

SHAUNA

They're coming! What do we do!

ZANA

Quickly, help me stack these boxes. Arkahn, arm yourself with that large broom.

ARKAHN

This broom? You cannot be—

ZANA

Fend them off. They are coming!

ARKAHN

Back!

SFX

Thump, Zombie moans loudly.

ARKAHN

Shi-schwa, there are so many of them!

ZANA

Use your magic if you have to.

ARKAHN

But—

ZANA

I know you have more skill than you show. They are coming down the stairs!

SHAUNA

Hey, Zana! How 'bout this? Is this good?

ZANA

That? That is huge! Stop wasting your time and—

SHAUNA

Arkahn! Get out of the way! Work stupid magic, Move!

SFX: Heavy dragging sound. Slam!

ARKAHN

Ainorem! How did you do that?

SHAUNA

It worked!

SFX: Bang! Bang! Of Undying pounding on wood.

ZANA

That should discourage them. Both of you, pick up Fesmer and bring him to the kitchen!

SFX: Running upstairs. Door slamming.

SHAUNA

<Breathing heavily> Oh my god. We're alive. We're okay.

ARKAHN

That spell was incredible Shae!

SHAUNA

Yeah... I figured why just push, pull, or lift. A little of each and there we go... Oh I don't feel so good...

ZANA

Sit down. Drink water. We are all safe.

SHAUNA

<totally winded> What about Fesmer?

ARKAHN

None of these injuries look very serious. I think this blood is not his own. From the smell, I would say he fought Undying. Zana, that water, *senjen (please)*.

SFX: Splash!

FESMER

Wha! Hu! Whe! Undying!

ARKAHN

Calm Fesmer. Be calm. You are in Zana's.

FESMER

Where is Mike?

SHAUNA

He grabbed some "spell bomb" things and ran off as soon as he busted into the cellar.

FESMER

But they are not stable. Why would he...

SFX: Pounding footsteps

SHAUNA

What do you mean, "not stable"?

KATHERINE

Mike! Mike! He...

ZANA

Slow Kath. What is the problem?

KATHERINE

Mike fell off the roof! I think he's dead!

<Dismayed reactions from everyone except for **SHAUNA.**>

SHAUNA

<in crisis mode> Where is he.

KATHERINE

I don't know, I don't know, I ran back in, I—

SHAUNA

Katherine! Where is he!

KATHERINE

I think, the explosion knocked him left of the front entrance. Right out there.

SFX: **SHAUNA** running to a window.

SHAUNA

<her breath catches; a beat> We need to get outside and help him.

ZANA

Shae, we can do nothing for him—

SHAUNA

I don't want to hear it, Zana, I'm going outside and—

ZANA

<using full command of her presence> --we can do nothing for him while Undying are outside my ward, Shae. If they see you, they will try again to break through, and this time, my ward will fail completely. Then we will all be lost.

KATHERINE

But how did Mike get in if the ward's still up?

ZANA

I do not know. Perhaps it was not fully charged when he—

ARKAHN

Actually, shi-schwa, the cellar door sits just outside your ward.

ZANA

...It does? Well, that is useful knowledge...

SHAUNA

They're coming back! I have to go outside. I'm not going to let them take him.

ARKAHN

Come back, Shae!

SHAUNA

No, Arkahn! I have to stop them!

FESMER

I am coming as well...

ARKAHN

You are not going anywhere Fesmer. You can barely stand. Lie back down right now.

SHAUNA

Well, to hell with you all. I'm going out there.

SFX: Front door opening and slamming.

ARKAHN

Idiot girl!

KATHERINE

Shauna no! Shauna!

ZANA

All of you: remain inside and do not move. If they take Shae and myself, they may not afterwards trouble you.

ARKAHN

Shi-schwa, surely you are not—

ZANA

Remain here. That is a command. *Key-NA! (Activate!)*

SFX: Front door opening and closing.

KATHERINE

<running to the door> “Command” my--... Hey! The door won’t open!

ARKAHN

Neither will the windows. It is Zana’s home security ward. It is weak, but will protect us a little longer.

KATHERINE

How do we deactivate it?

ARKAHN

We cannot. It is bound to Zana.

KATHERINE

Yeah, right. All security systems can be hotwired. I bet it has something to do with the hearth...

FESMER

Kath, Arkahn. I am full of shame. This is all my doing.

KATHERINE

Then help me undo it! Get that door open!

FESMER

I will not. It is out of our grasp now. If only I could cast more magic...

KATHERINE

I am not going to lose Shauna, too... how does this thing work...

Scene Three – Jareth to the rescue

AMBIENT: Tolling Bells, Undying very close, and coming closer.

SFX: Door closing.

SHAUNA

<crying> Mike! Oh God...

ZANA

Oh, Meek... <a beat> Shae...

SHAUNA

Zana, here's right there but I can't reach him! You have to lower the barrier ward.

ZANA

Look at him, Shae.

SHAUNA

Please!

ZANA

Look at him.

<**SHAUNA** breaks down>

ZANA

We, at least, are still alive, but if that ward fails... I do not mean to be harsh.

SHAUNA

I can still save him... if I can just reach him... I'll bring him back to life...

ZANA

No, *voluna* (love). That is not a spell you ever wish to use.

SHAUNA

Oh, God, they're-- Get away from him! Leave him alone!

ZANA

Shae... they are not taking him. Look.

SHAUNA

They're... walking around him?

ZANA

Yes. They are coming for us. We must go inside Shae.

SHAUNA

Drop the ward Zana! Just for a moment. I can get him. There's still time.

ZANA

The ward does not work in that way.

SHAUNA

I'll push them back with my magic.

SFX: Undying slashing at the ward, the ward's defiant crackles grow weaker throughout this next bit.

ZANA

Get inside, Shae. Now.

SHAUNA

<In tears> I can't leave him Zana!

ZANA

Now Shae. There will not be time to reactivate the home security ward if we stay out here any longer.

SHAUNA

Jareth said not to give up. Never surrender to a terrible fate.

ZANA

The most we can do for Meek now is to offer him our prayers. We cannot do even that if we stay out here any longer. The ward is about to—

SFX: The ward falls.

SHAUNA

The ward!

ZANA

We reach to you, wise *ainorem*: send our hearts to Odi, our knowledge to Draenmer, our strength to those who walk after...

SFX: Undying moaning loudly.

SHAUNA

This is not the end. This cannot be the end.

ZANA

...welcome us among you, even those who have only just begun to walk your paths...

SHAUNA

I'm going down swinging, Zana. Like Mike did.

ZANA

...embrace Meek, wild of spirit, pure of heart...

SHAUNA

Work stupid magic: Push!

SFX: Spell sound, Undying react.

ZANA

...embrace Shae, strong of spirit, big of heart...

SHAUNA

Unnnngh. Work stupid magic: Shove!

SFX: Spell sound, Undying react.

ZANA

...embrace Zana, ever your humble servant. I am ready.

SHAUNA

Hurgh! <weak> Ohhh... I can barely...

ZANA

Take my hand.

SHAUNA

Work stupid magic: Burn!

SFX: Weak puff of a small flame that goes out almost instantly.

SHAUNA

I can't... anymore...

ZANA

Take my hand, Shae.

SHAUNA

Okay... Zana... I don't want to die...

ZANA

Fortunately, it is not our time.

SFX: A rock hits Shauna and then clatters to the ground.

SHAUNA

Ow! What--...

JARETH

<in distance> Begin!

SFX: A ward springs up around Shauna and Zana. It should sound similar to the ward sound effect, but more persistent, and with undertones of an electric hum. It should not sound cute or natural, but somehow otherworldly or sinister.

ZANA

<relief> We are shielded.

SHAUNA

Jareth!

JARETH

<Less distant> Now men! Drive them back! CHARGE!

MILITIA

FOR LAUNDI!

SFX: Battle sounds! Undying moans! Fleshy hitting sounds! Shouts!

SHAUNA

They're winning! Mike! I'm coming! Agh, I can't move... What did Jareth throw at us?

ZANA

A wardstone, it creates a barrier similar to—

SHAUNA

Nevermind, just tell me how to deactivate it. I need to get to Mike!

JARETH

Good work men! They are falling back! Keep them moving! Drive them out!

<horse sounds>

Zana! Are you hurt!

ZANA

No, but we cannot say the same of Meek.

SHAUNA

Let me go!

JARETH

You are welcome. <**SFX:** Jareth spell> End!

SFX: Ward desists.

SHAUNA

He's not breathing! Dear god, he's not breathing! Get Katherine! Quick!

Scene Four – 911

KATHERINE

Gah, there aren't any wires or anything, how do I short-circuit--
Wait, is that Jareth?! What is he riding...

FESMER

Jareth is here? Praise *ainorem*.

**ARKAHN
RKAHN
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Your foolish friends nearly got Zana killed!
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**KATHERINE
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Oh shut up. I gotta get out of here. I have to help Mike! I—
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SFX: Ward drops

KATHERINE

Finally!

FESMER

Arkahn, help me stand.

SFX: Running, door opening

KATHERINE

Shauna! Is he—

SHAUNA

<hurried> Is it two and fifteen or three and thirty? I can't remember.

KATHERINE
What?

SHAUNA
CPR!

KATHERINE
Two and 15. You do the breaths. I'll do the compressions. Jareth! Stop! Don't pick him up! You could make it worse!

<Fesmer and Arkahn run in>

FESMER
Mike! Is he...

ZANA
I am afraid so.

FESMER
Oh no... no...

SHAUNA
Quiet all of you! Call 911... or whatever it is you do.

ARKAHN
Nine one one?

SHAUNA
Get help!

KATHERINE

Shauna!

SHAUNA
Okay, I'm here.

KATHERINE
Hold him steady. We don't know how badly—

SHAUNA
I know! I took the class too.

KATHERINE
<giving compressions> One two three four...

ARKAHN
What are they doing?

ZANA
Perhaps this is some sort of last rite?

JARETH
If only I had arrived sooner...

KATHERINE
Fifteen! Breathe!
<beat>
One two three...

ZANA
Shae? What are you doing?

SHAUNA
Saving his life! What are you doing?

KATHERINE
Fifteen! Breathe!
<beat>
One two three...

ZANA
But is he not—

SHAUNA
Don't you people know anything about first aid?! Get some damn help! NOW!

FESMER
What can I do?

KATHERINE
Fifteen! Breathe!
<beat>
One two three...

SHAUNA
Fesmer, can you still cast any spells?

FESMER
<doubtful> I can try...

SHAUNA
Do you know any electric spells?

FESMER
Any what?

KATHERINE
Fifteen! Breathe!

<beat>
One two three...

SHAUNA
Like lightning.

FESMER
I... I know something like that. I can deliver a powerful shock from my hands.

SHAUNA
Perfect. Do it on Mike.

FESMER
What? That is terrible. We should be guiding his spirit to *ainorem*, not... attacking him.

KATHERINE
Fifteen! Breathe!
<beat>
One two three...

SHAUNA
Do it Fesmer! And the rest of you, I don't see you going for help!

JARETH
But... he is dead Shae...

KATHERINE
Jareth?

JARETH
Yes Katherine?

KATHERINE

SHUT UP and get help!

ZANA

Jareth, come with me. I have an idea...

SFX: Door shutting

KATHERINE

Breathe!

<beat>

Still nothing?

SHAUNA

Do it Fesmer! Not too hard—just enough to give him a big jolt.
Right here. <beat> DO it!!

FESMER

Fai Cthlolll Odi *BARAZ!* (*SHOCK!*)

SFX: Zap!

KATHERINE

Check his pulse!

<beat>

Well?

SHAUNA

Oh god... Oh god...

KATHERINE

Shauna?

SHAUNA

Thank you God! Fesmer! We did it!

FESMER

What did we do?

KATHERINE

<breaking into tears> He's alive. He's alive...

Scene Five – Calling in a Favor

AMBIENT: Inside Zana's, distant bells.

JARETH

The moment Targonone glimpses the things that have happened here, whatever his personal feelings for us, he will be duty-bound to report all of it to University.

ZANA

And you are duty-bound to do the same, yet you have not.

JARETH

I nearly have. Twice. Yet, instead, I have lied to my superiors – Targonone included – and quietly gone about my work.

ZANA

Jareth, you are a good man, and so is Targonone. It is not always possible to be both good and lawful. Sometimes, we must choose one or the other.

JARETH

It is only that none of this is necessary, shi-schwa. Mike is lost to us. Revealing the remaining foreigners to Targonone will not alter this fact.

SFX: Door opening quickly

KATHERINE

He's alive!

JARETH

...he is?

KATHERINE

But he needs serious treatment. Is the doctor mage person almost here?

ZANA

What is a “doctor”?

KATHERINE

A healer?

ZANA

Some can cast faint enchantments which might aid the healing process, but the body and spirit must do the rest. How is it that Meek is alive now?

KATHERINE

We pounded on his chest, forced air down his throat, and Fesmer electrocuted him. He's not going to make it if we stand around talking about this!

ZANA

She is correct, Jareth.

JARETH

Qin-Kath. This is a delicate situation, one in which—

KATHERINE

You bet your ass it's a delicate situation! Mike's going to die for good if we don't find someone who can help him! Is there someone?

JARETH

Well, yes, but he—

KATHERINE

Is he on his way?

JARETH

Well, no—

KATHERINE

Why is he not on his way?

ZANA

Because I have not yet called him. It will take but a moment.

JARETH

Shi-schwa...

ZANA

Stand where you must, Jareth. I have made my choice.

SFX: Magiphone noises.

TARGONONE

<magiphone distortion and sounding a little irritated at being called during an undying assault> *Builana (hello)?* What is it? Make it fast.

ZANA

Builana (Hello) Targonone.

TARGONONE

Zana! This is a surprise. Are you safe?

ZANA

I am unharmed, thanks to the timely intervention of Jareth and several of your *laertun (footmen)*. But one of my employees is gravely injured.

TARGONONE

I will dispatch a healer immediately.

ZANA

No Targonone, it has to be you. The injury is quite serious.

TARGONONE

There are many healers here more talented than I. What is the problem?

ZANA

Please Targo. It has to be you alone. And you must tell no one. Do you remember that time in Dandar?

TARGONONE

<beat>

I will be there as fast as I can, of course.

<beat>

And Zana?

ZANA

Yes?

TARGONONE

I trust we are even on that count?

ZANA

Yes, Targonone. We await your arrival with great expectation.

SCENE SIX – Whence Targonone?

AMBIENT: Outside; bells louder, but less urgent

FESMER

I still cannot believe that he is alive! I have never seen anything like this before.

ARKAHN

What sorcery was that Shauna?

SHAUNA

That wasn't magic. That was just CPR.

FESMER

How could that be magic, Arkahn? Shauna has just started learning.

ARKAHN

And already she can shape Odi.

FESMER

What? [An eager mammal still cannot lay eggs], Arkahn. It has not yet been a day since we began her lessons.

SHAUNA

It's the truth Fesmer! I cast Push and Pull and Lift and I even made up some myself! I think I've reached my limit for the day though...

FESMER

If the two of you are attempting to make a fool of me...

ARKAHN

I assure you, this is no joke Fesmer.

FESMER

But that is impossible.

SHAUNA

So is getting teleported to magical fantasy worlds. But you don't see me complaining... anymore.

FESMER

But—

SHAUNA

Look, does that really matter right now? Mike's still in danger here. We need to get him to a hospital.

AKRAHN

A what?

SHAUNA

Oh, you've got to be kidding me. Where do you take people if they are sick or injured?

ARKAHN

We do not take them anywhere.

FESMER

Well... University has its medical ward.

SHAUNA

From what all of you have been telling me, that's not really an option. So where else?

ARKAHN

There is no "else."

SHAUNA

You can't be serious.

ARKAHN

I assure you, I am quite serious.

SHAUNA

What is wrong with you people? You've got phones and lights but no doctors? What kind of warped sense of priorities are you running on around here?

FESMER

We have healers for the sick and injured. But here in Laundi they are all part of University.

SHAUNA

Well that's just the stupidest thing—

SFX: Door opening

KATHERINE

Good news! Help is on the way!

SHAUNA

Finally!

FESMER

Who is coming?

KATHERINE

Zana called him. What's his name. Jareth's mentor.

FESMER

<sounding a little skeptical> Targonone?

KATHERINE

That's the one.

SHAUNA

That's good, right?

FESMER

He is a powerful healer, but...

KATHERIN

But what?

FESMER

The two of you should remain hidden while he is here. It is best if he has no reason to look any closer.

SHAUNA

I don't know. I don't want to leave Mike alone...

FESMER

Senjen Shae. This is important. So much has happened that he cannot learn about.

ARKAHN

Fesmer, we should probably leave as well. There is little more we can do here.

FESMER

I should stay Arkahn. It is my fault that Mike—

ARKAHN

Fesmer, it is not your fault. Though he may be rash, Meek is a grown man. He acted on his own will.

KATHERINE

She's right. Nobody blames you for what happened.

ARKAHN

Besides, may I remind you that a high-ranking official of University is going to be here very shortly. In your own words, it would be best if he has no reason to look any closer.

KATHERINE

It's okay Fesmer. It's under control now. I think. We couldn't have saved him without you.

FESMER

Thank you Kath. I should visit my mother and ensure that she is safe. Cautious trails, Shae.

SHAUNA

Oh- okay. See you then...

ARKAHN

Shae, will you be staying at my house again tonight?

SHAUNA

No, I think I'm going to stay at Zana's with Katherine and Mike. Thank you though.

ARKAHN

Very well. I shall see you tomorrow. Take care Shae. Good night Kath.

SHAUNA

'Night..

KATHERINE

See ya.

ARKAHN

<fading; walking away>

Here, let me support you, Fesmer...

FESMER

I am capable of walking on my own.

ARKAHN

Of course you are.

<they're gone>

KATHERINE

How is he?

SHAUNA

He's still breathing and his heartbeat seems stable. But I don't know. His leg looks really bad. It's broken in at least two places. And I'm worried there might be more, like his hip or his back.

<beat>

Katherine, what are we going to do?

KATHERINE

I don't know. I guess we just have to hope this Targonone is enough.

SHAUNA

No, I mean what are we going to do? It could take Mike months to heal. What if he's paralyzed or something? Where does that leave us?

KATHERINE

Same place we were before, I guess. We need to get home. These people don't know anything about medicine. Boston has some of the best hospitals in the country. Maybe when we get back home we can do more. For now, I guess we just have to hope that magic is enough.

SHAUNA

I guess you're right. Home... It seems so far away.

AMBIENT: Bells cease ringing

SHAUNA

Huh. Bells stopped.

KATHERINE

Guess that means the Undying are gone?

JARETH

Yes. We have either driven them away or they have lost interest. We are fortunate that matters are not worse.

SHAUNA

I dunno Jareth, it looks pretty bad to me.

JARETH

Believe me when I say that we are fortunate. I fear, however, that this is only the beginning of our trials. Where are Fesmer and Arkahn?

KATHERINE

Fesmer's checking on his mother, and Arkahn... I don't think she said.

JARETH

No matter. It is best that they do not speak with Targonone. He would likely smell their guilt. The both of you should conceal yourselves, as well.

SHAUNA

I'm not leaving Mike.

JARETH

I will stand watch until Targonone arrives. Do not fear.

KATHERINE

Yeah, after today's stress, I think we're both starting to reek of guilt.

JARETH

I did not intend that. You are innocents in all of this.

SHAUNA

You sure about that?

<a beat>

KATHERINE

Come on, Shauna. Let's go.

Scene 7 – Jareth’s Mentor

SHAUNA

I hate this. Being stuck up here, having to hide like we’re doing something wrong. Having to watch from this window, straining to hear anything.

KATHERINE

We saved his life, Shauna. And Targonone seems to know what he’s doing. As best as he can, anyway...

SHAUNA

I know I know. But still...

KATHERINE

I know.

<beat>

What did he say?

SHAUNA

I don’t know. They— Ooh! That looked painful...

KATHERINE

I hope that leg heals. With no x-rays or anything... I don’t think Mike’s going to be playing football again. I hope he’ll at least be able to walk.

SHAUNA

Since when do you care about Mike’s football playing?

KATHERINE

Well, I guess I don’t, but it’s his dream. He probably never had a chance, but to have any hope taken away like that. Mike doesn’t deserve that. No one does.

SHAUNA

<a beat>

You know, it is kind of funny to watch Jareth take orders instead of give them.

KATHERINE

Yeah...

SHAUNA

Well that was a laden “yeah.” What’s up? Trouble in paradise?

KATHERINE

There is no paradise Shauna. The man needs a major attitude adjustment.

SHAUNA

Wait, Shh! They’re talking again.

JARETH

I believe that is all the breaks, *paren-schwa* (*term of respect to your mentor*). Should we bring him inside now?

TARGONONE

No Jareth, there is still much to be done.

JARETH

But it is beginning to darken.

TARGONONE

Patience, Jareth. Your friend here is in more danger from our haste than the darkness.

JARETH

Yes *paren-schwa*.

TARGONONE

I am amazed that he is still alive at all. A fall from such height would easily kill a lesser man. And these burns... How *did* he acquire those?

JARETH

I do not know, *paren-schwa*. I arrived after it happened.

TARGONONE

Of course. Pass me that poultice? <shift in tone> Your first command, Jareth. It sounds as if you did quite well.

JARETH

Thank you. It was quite an experience.

TARGONONE

Yet you abandoned your squad.

JARETH

But—

TARGONONE

No Jareth, let me speak. I understand why you did what you did. But we must address this before it comes up in a disciplinary hearing.

JARETH

A disciplinary hearing?

TARGONONE

Yes Jareth. You abandoned your post. It may have been in an attempt to save this man who is, as you say, little more than an acquaintance of yours. Yet in the process, you left a group of ordinary men without your support. You may have had Undying in retreat, but what if they turned? Your mens'

TARGONONE (cont.)

halberds and shields are only so much help. All five of them could have died.

JARETH

But I had to—

TARGONONE

A leader must know when to stop to help others, it is true. But from what you tell me, Zana and two of her laborers were present and unharmed. You *must* learn to assess a situation on sight Jareth! For the sake of the lives of those you lead, you must learn to *think*.

JARETH

Yes *paren-schwa*.

TARGONONE

No Jareth, you must listen. Listen with both ears. You are intelligent. You frequently demonstrate a keen, analytical mind in a classroom setting. Your potential is great. Yet you have been a Task Mage for how long? Others with lower scores have gone on, advancing in rank in their chosen direction. Yet you, you stay here. You assist me. You work in Zana's shop. What else have you done? <a pause>

I do not intend to be so harsh Jareth, but you must realize that time is flowing away. And all because time and time again you fail to do the right thing.

JARETH

But I am constantly—

TARGONONE

What you seem to be unable to grasp, Jareth, is that the right thing is not blindly following the rules laid out for you. There is so much more to life than that. You must learn to seize the opportunities with which you are presented. You must take control. I have sensed in you lately a great conflict. I can give you advice, Zana can give you counsel. But only you can actually *do* something about what troubles you.

JARETH

Do something?

TARGONONE

Yes Jareth. You are a leader born. Both Zana and I have recognized this in you since you were a child. You are so much like your grandfather was. But the difference between the two of you was that he *took* command, whereas you have only accepted it when offered. Your grandfather did not sit idly by while others struggled. He used his two hands to create his path and others, witnessing his resolve, followed him willingly. Learn from him Jareth. I know the man inspired your choice of path, but you must go beyond that. You must learn from him. Do you understand me?

JARETH

Yes. Yes, I think I do.

TARGONONE

Good. Now, help me lift him into this stretcher. Carefully now...

KATHERINE

Wow. So that's Jareth's mentor?

Now I know where he gets his bluntness from. But that still doesn't— Shauna? Are you okay?

SHAUNA

<sounding very fatigued and a little depressed>

Yeah... I... Well, no. I'm not okay. I'm exhausted. I don't think I've ever been this tired.

KATHERINE

Well, you did learn magic today, and you've cast how many spells?

SHAUNA

Too many. And, I just... I just don't know if I can go through with this. I'm scared, y'know? ... I just wish I could still pretend it was all a dream. That I'd wake up and it would all be fine and I'd be at home and I'd just go to school and work and Mike would be late and... And now I don't even know if Mike's going to walk again and I'm stuck here and there's no doctors and zombies tried to eat me and... and all I want to do is sleep. I just want to sleep.

KATHERINE

Hey, come on. Lie down here. We're gonna get home, Shauna. We're superstars here, right? The three of us will be back at Antonio's before you know it.

SHAUNA

Yeah, I know. All three of us... I know...

Scene 8 – Targo and Zana have a discussion

SFX: Footsteps on wooden floor.

ZANA

Is that you, Targo--? Oh, Kath. What are you doing downstairs?

KATHERINE

Shauna passed out, so I tucked her in and came down to check on Mike. How is he?

ZANA

I am not certain. Targonone seems to be hopeful.

KATHERINE

What did he do?

ZANA

He used a combination of spells and medicines that should help Meek's body heal. It will be several weeks before he is able to move again.

KATHERINE

God, he looks terrible. He's still unconscious?

ZANA

Yes. The spells should keep him so through the worst pain, but hopefully he will wake up in a few days.

KATHERINE

Hopefully?

ZANA

Meek fell a long way, Kath. There is a chance it damaged his brain.

KATHERINE

Oh god. I didn't even think of that...

ZANA

Worrying bears no fruit Kath. The best we can do for now is care for Meek in his convalescence.

<beat>

How is Shae?

KATHERINE

Fine now, but she kind of had a breakdown before she crashed. She's been running on adrenaline this whole time. I think she's really scared that she'll never return to her family. She said that she was trapped here...

ZANA

You have only been here for three days. It is no wonder she is still having difficulties.

KATHERINE

Three days?? Wow, you're right. The night we got here, the day we went to Draenmer, and today. So much happened today... It seems we have been here so much longer.

ZANA

Time does move strangely in strange places.

KATHERINE

Seems like.

TARGONONE
<distant> Zana?

ZANA
Conceal yourself in this closet. <Sigh> I hate to do this.

SFX: door close

ZANA
I am over here, Targo.

TARGONONE
To whom were you speaking just now?

ZANA
An employee. How is the patient?

TARGONONE
He is stable. But I must speak to you about him.

ZANA
About his injuries?

TARGONONE
They are most severe. He may never be able to move as he once did on that leg. But I feel he should recover. There seems to be no serious damage to his back and neck. As well as I can determine, he is not paralyzed.

ZANA
That is fortunate tidings.

TARGONONE
But there are several unusual things about him. They may affect his healing in ways I cannot predict.

ZANA
Such as?

TARGONONE
How can I explain this... He is *different*.

ZANA
As I explained earlier, he is a foreigner.

TARGONONE
Yes, I am aware. But you know that I am well traveled and I have never seen someone like him. I noticed his unusual proportions immediately. The width of his shoulders, his height, his blunt features...

ZANA
There are many kinds of people in this world, Targonone.

TARGONONE
That is true. The other two things are the most perplexing.

ZANA
Yes?

TARGONONE
It is his musculature. It is like nothing I have seen before.

ZANA
He is an athlete.

TARGONONE
I have treated many an injured brikka player in my day but never have I seen the like of him. The density of his muscles, his bones. It is incredible.

ZANA

I am not certain what you are trying to say?

TARGONONE

The other matter of note is the way his body reacts to Odi. It resists in a peculiar way, as if... well, as if his body perceives Odi to be a foreign element. How is that possible?

ZANA

The Seekers of Truth do not use Odi. How is this different?

TARGONONE

Where is he from, Zana?

ZANA

Parado fai?

TARGONONE

I need to know where he is from. I am concerned that my spells will not have their full effect. I attempted a Point of Origin ritual, and yet it revealed nothing. If I knew where he was from, I could research...

ZANA

I am sorry Targonone. There is nothing I can tell you.

TARGONONE

Nothing you can tell me, or nothing you will tell me?

ZANA

Just what are you implying?

TARGONONE

I know you are keeping things from me Zana. I know you too well.

<beat>

Very well. If you will not tell me any more, will you at least allow him to be treated at University?

ZANA

I am sorry, Targonone.

TARGONONE

You know it is best for him and still you refuse?

<beat>

Very well. I will abide by our agreement Zana. I will speak to no one of what has transpired here. I shall return tomorrow with the medicines necessary to sustain him. But tread carefully, Zana. You walk perilous paths.

ZANA

Cah tra-am fai for your aid, Targonone. It has been too long.

TARGONONE

It has. Good night, Zana. Try to acquire some sleep.

ZANA

And you as well. Deliver my regards to your wife and children.

TARGONONE

I will do that. Oh, before I forget. I heard something troubling as I was leaving University.

ZANA

Yes?

TARGONONE

The Legionnaire that Jareth captured near your property has been under questioning since arriving to our custody. We had been unable to learn anything from him, and today, under cover of the attack, he escaped.

ZANA

Escaped?

TARGONONE

Yes. We suspect that the entire attack was merely a distraction. Please be cautious Zana. We know you saw his face. If you have any fear of retaliation...

ZANA

I will contact you immediately.

TARGONONE

Please do. Good night, Zana.

ZANA

And to you, old friend. Safe trails.

SFX: Door opening and closing.

ZANA

You may come out, Kath. I apologize for the deception.

SFX: Closet door opening.

KATHERINE

No, I'm sorry. I feel like I'm constantly eavesdropping on you guys.

ZANA

In tight quarters, secrets cannot remain so. It is *nai-nai* (OK)

KATHERINE

So, did I hear that right? The Legionnaire escaped?

ZANA

It would appear so.

KATHERINE

What does that mean for us? For you?

ZANA

In truth, it does not bode well. The Legion, as a whole, is not typically prone to petty vengeance, but neither have they orchestrated an Undying attack merely to rescue one of their own. Something is out of balance.

KATHERINE

I don't think he knew too much. The Legion guy.

ZANA

Caleb, you mean.

KATHERINE

Yeah. He and his two friends were on their way to something else, a gathering I think, when they found us hiding. I think they chased us because we ran, not because they wanted us for anything.

ZANA

Legionnaires can be capricious. Their *waa-loren* and strange weapons grant them a sort of invulnerability, which is not a fact that has escaped them.

KATHERINE

What do you mean?

ZANA

They are just people, and sometimes they are even our neighbors, but in the young, it is common to see such unchecked ability making monsters of otherwise good folk.

KATHERINE

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

ZANA

Yes. Just so. But Meek proved to be more than a match for Caleb, and while the Legion is not vengeful, Legionnaires often are.

KATHERINE

So what do we do?

ZANA

We will do as we should. We will aid Meek as we can, we will continue to guide Shae in her efforts to find the three of you a way back to your world, and we will continue to bake pig pies. I do, after all, have a business to run. But do not stray far from your bow, Kath. The day of Undying is ended, but we are still in great danger. Be watchful.

KATHERINE

I will, Zana.

ZANA

That is well. And now, I must rest.

KATHERINE

It has been an exhausting day.

ZANA

There is that, of course, but I have seen worse. I am weary because I did something just now that I never in my life thought I would do.

KATHERINE

What's that?

ZANA

I denied Targonone the truth.

KATHERINE

But you had to.

ZANA

Perhaps, but that does not lift the weight from my heart.
<a beat>
Good night, Kath.

KATHERINE

Night, Zana.
<sigh>
Mike, you moron. If you can hear me, I want you to know something. If you die on us, I'm going to head to Draenmer and kick your ass... <sigh, a beat> Come back Mike. Just, come back.