

## **SECOND SHIFT**

Episode #10: The Big Dance (v2.2)

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### **Scene One — Big Pig**

**SFX:** Fade in to...

**FESMER**

...do not be made the fool: there is no pig pie like Zana's pig pie!  
Consume one slice and you will discern for yourself that—

**SHAUNA**

Hey Fesmer. Looking... pig-like.

**FESMER**

Oink oink, lio!

**SHAUNA**

I still can't believe Mike got you to wear that costume.

**FESMER**

It was my choice. I am MISTERHAM!

**SHAUNA**

<laughing> Geez, you're really getting into this, Fes.

**FESMER**

Have you heard of Zana's Pig Pie's exciting new Children's Lunch!  
Every Lunch is burdened with savory child-sized servings of our  
most famous dishes. And each Lunch comes with a Misterham toy!

**SHAUNA**

We have toys?

**FESMER**

Absolutely! Skillfully carved miniature Misterhams!

**SHAUNA**

Where'd we get those?

**FESMER**

Meek and I made them! Hundreds of them! I have not slept in days!

**SHAUNA**

Welcome to my world...

**FESMER**

But obtain yours soon, for quantities have a limit!

**SHAUNA**

Alright you, come inside. It's time to wrap up for the day.

**FESMER**

Ah. You are not of the fun.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, I get that a lot.

**FESMER**

Well be certain to obtain your very own Misterham soon! They make  
a perfect gift for New Life!

**SHAUNA**

Yeah that's exactly what I want to give everyone. And what's the big deal with New Life anyways?

**FESMER**

Big deal? The day after tomorrow begins five long wonderful days, each devoid of work or obligation. The perfect way to end the year and welcome the new. To give thanks for all life has granted us. Are you not inflated, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

...Um, do you mean "pumped"?

**FESMER**

<without missing a beat> Are you not pumped, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

I suppose. So it's five days of New Year's parties?

**FESMER**

Oh no, only the one. The other days have their own parties. As they say: New Hope turns to New Joy, bringing New Thought before New Calm heralds the New Year.

**SHAUNA**

So those are all the five days?

**FESMER**

Exactly. Even nature rejoices, with a surge of Odi that brings our crops to fruition. But most immediately is tomorrow's New Hope Eve festival. Have you not yet secured a dancing partner?

**SHAUNA**

Nope, can't say I have.

**FESMER**

Hmm. Neither have I, upon further consideration...

**SHAUNA**

Huh. Well I'm sure that—

**FESMER**

<plotting> We should remedy this immediately.

**SHAUNA**

Um. Oh?

**FESMER**

Yes.

<awkward pause>

**SHAUNA**

Well I guess the reason I haven't given this much thought is that I've done nothing this week but work, research Shift, dream of winged monsters, and break up fights between Mike and Katherine.

**FESMER**

Ah, how is your research progressing?

**SHAUNA**

I think I have an idea, but I need to roll it around in my head a bit more.

**FESMER**

<serious> Roll this idea towards me. Perhaps I can be of aid.

<beat>

**SHAUNA**

<bursting out laughing> I'm sorry! Sorry.

**FESMER**

What? What?

**SHAUNA**

Fes, it is impossible to take you seriously in that pig suit. The earnest look on your face, and the snout...

**FESMER**

Ah, perhaps you would you take me more seriously if I were to tell you that these **LOW, LOW PRICES WILL NOT LAST!** Act now, and you could save—

**SHAUNA**

Okay, okay. You win. But honestly, it's closer to ritual magic than natural. I don't know if you—

**FESMER**

Ah, speak no more, University Minion. I would not desire to be weighted down with your heathen formulae.

**SHAUNA**

You're a wise man, Fesmer. This stupid spell is starting to drive me crazy. I wouldn't wish that on a friend.

**FESMER**

But would you wish for **STUPENDOUS SAVINGS?!** For if so—

**SHAUNA**

Starting to reconsider the friend part.

**FESMER**

<chuckling> *Nai-nai...* [Okay...]

**SHAUNA**

Well I'm going back inside. Still plenty of cleaning up to do.

**FESMER**

Cleaning up, you say?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, quite a lot, actually—

**FESMER**

Surely you mean “cleaning out!” All pies absolutely must go! At prices this cheap—

**SHAUNA**

<groans> Good lord. I'm heading back.

**SFX** Walking on dirt/grass

**FESMER**

<laughing; fading> But wait, I did not inform you of our Valuable Menu!

## Scene Two — Promotion

**NOTE:** Continuous

**SFX** Walking on dirt/grass

**JARETH**

*Oli wan*, Shae. [Good evening]

**SHAUNA**

<startled> GHA!

**JARETH**

AH! What? What?

**SHAUNA**

Sorry, Jareth. You startled me.

**JARETH**

I could say the same. Are you unwell?

**SHAUNA**

Fine. Just a bit high-strung these days. Heading back to University?

**JARETH**

Of course.

**SHAUNA**

Wow. You guys are finished cleaning already?

**JARETH**

A distinct advantage of volunteering one's labors is that one is not bound by them. Meek and Kath are cleaning. I have the utmost confidence that they will succeed in this most vital task, even without my aid.

**SHAUNA**

<kind of joking> And they'll be so busy fighting that I'll have to do it all. Thanks a lot, Jareth.

**JARETH**

You are most welcome, Shae. In all seriousness, I had not intended to be here today, save for all the new business Zana anticipates.

**SHAUNA**

Well, I'd say it's arrived. We've been swamped.

**JARETH**

Yes. And Fesmer is still wearing the pig costume, I see.

**FESMER**

<in distance, singing> "...Mister Ham, Mister Ham, a very big pig indeeeed..."

**JARETH**

He looks ridiculous and more than a little disturbing in that thing. Still, it does seem like a perfect job for him.

**SHAUNA**

You two aren't still angry at each other, are you?

**JARETH**

No, I think an accord has been reached.

**SHAUNA**

Good. I'm sorry Mike and Katherine's argument blew out of hand like that.

**JARETH**

It is not your fault Shae. None of us acted our best. It is... embarrassing.

**FESMER**

<distant singing of mister ham song>

**JARETH**

Much like that. <sigh> A spectacle such as that would have terrified me as a child. There is no accounting for the youth these days...

**SHAUNA**

A bitter old task mage at the ripe age of 25, Jareth? "You kids! Get away from my giant pig!"

**JARETH**

Bitter and old, perhaps, but no longer a task mage.

**SHAUNA**

Wait, really? You...?

**JARETH**

Achieved a promotion, yes. I am now a Lesser Instructor with classes of my own.

**SHAUNA**

Oh my god! Jareth! That's great!

**JARETH**

Well, it is merely Odi-theory, rudimentary at that...

**SHAUNA**

But still! Yay!

**JARETH**

Correct. "Yay."

**SHAUNA**

So what are your plans for New Life? Celebrating, I bet.

**JARETH**

Yes, by planning my classes. Wild nights approach.

**SHAUNA**

Heh, yeah, right. So what are you really doing?

**JARETH**

...Planning my classes.

**SHAUNA**

Oh, Jareth. I thought people didn't work during New Life?

**JARETH**

Typically I spend this time with my mother and father in my home town, but this year I have much work to complete.

**SHAUNA**

But still, you have to celebrate at some point. Aren't you going to the dance tomorrow night?

**JARETH**

I dance with all the grace of a tall mountain in a strong breeze.

**SHAUNA**

You... stand there and slowly erode?

**JARETH**

Precisely. Besides which, I have not acquired a dancing partner. It would not do to arrive alone.

**SHAUNA**

Well, don't feel bad. I don't think any of us have a date.

**JARETH**

Well... I suppose...

**SHAUNA**

Yeah?

**JARETH**

Would you care to accompany me?

**SHAUNA**

Umm... Yeah. Okay.

**JARETH**

That is exceptional! Alas, I shall not be working at Zana's tomorrow. Too many duties call at University. I could, however, meet with you at Arkahn's house...

**SHAUNA**

No... We still need to get the proper clothes in the afternoon. She said something about a traditional dress... I'll just meet up with you at the town square.

**JARETH**

Very well. I shall see you next at the festival!

**SHAUNA**

Okay. See ya.

**JARETH**

Farewell Shae.

**SFX: JARETH** walking away, whistling Mister Ham song

**SHAUNA**

Huh. Well that was unexpected.

**JARETH**

<in the distance, mid-whistle:> Ben-sa wei!

**Scene Three — Kitchen Orgy**

**SFX:** Clattering dishes. Sweeping. MIKE humming.

**MIKE**  
Hey, “Kath”?

**KATHERINE**  
Yes, “Meek”?

**MIKE**  
Busy day, huh?

**KATHERINE**  
Yeah, I’d say.

**MIKE**  
Been getting busier since Mister Ham made his debut, huh?

**KATHERINE**  
<gritted teeth> Yes, “Meek.”

**MIKE**  
<hums more, then as if it had just occurred to him:> Hey, “Kath”?

**KATHERINE**  
What?

**MIKE**  
<singsongy> I was right and you were wroooong...

**KATHERINE**  
Ugh. You are such a child! And I was not wrong; in the long run this will have a profound impact on their way of life, whether you—

**SFX:** Door

**SHAUNA**  
Ah, Mike and Katherine. Fighting.

**KATHERINE**  
No, we—

**SHAUNA**  
Yuh-huh. What’s left for cleaning?

**MIKE**  
K-Diggity and I finished most of it.

**SHAUNA**  
Wow. Really?

**KATHERINE**  
Except the windows. They’re all yours.

**SHAUNA**  
That’s really impressive, guys.

**MIKE**  
Well we had plenty of time, what with you chatting up Fesmer and then Jar—

**KATHERINE**  
So how’s that Shift spell coming along, Shauna?

**SHAUNA**

Well, don't get too excited...

**MIKE**

You figured it out?!

**SHAUNA**

Almost. Just missing a few nuts and bolts.

**MIKE**

Eh. Whenever I build something, I always have a bunch of those suckers left over anyway. The manual says you need 'em, but you never do.

**KATHERINE**

Good thing Shauna's doing this and not you.

**MIKE**

You're both chronic over-achievers. I bet you could just "work, stupid magic" us back right now.

**SHAUNA**

It's a little more complicated than that. Unless you want particles of yourself smeared across the universe.

**MIKE**

And who doesn't?

**KATHERINE**

Oh! Oh! Pick me!

**SHAUNA**

Anyway, I don't have much longer to figure it out. It has to be cast within the New Life thing, during this Odi surge. But I think I'm almost there.

**KATHERINE**

But that's still great, Shauna.

**MIKE**

Yeah, definitely. Too bad, though.

**SHAUNA**

About what?

**MIKE**

Well, just that we've finally settled in and now we're leaving.

**KATHERINE**

Oh. I... hadn't really thought about it much.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah...

<depressed beat>

**MIKE**

Aaaaaand the moodkiller award goes to...

**SHAUNA**

I mean, sure, I'll definitely miss everyone, but I have to get home.

**KATHERINE**

We know.



<another depressed beat>

**MIKE**

Well then there now, howzabout that dance? The New Something Festival? We're all going, right?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**KATHERINE**

Sure.

**MIKE**

Well hey, that'll be fun. But, uh, talk of the town is that you have to go with someone.

**SHAUNA**

Well, seems I'm going with Jareth. Who are you two going with?

**KATHERINE**

Dunno.

**MIKE**

You're going with... Aw, c'mon! Him?

**SHAUNA**

Well he did ask.

**KATHERINE**

What did I say, first day. Or second. Whatever. <teasing> He *likes* you.

**SHAUNA**

Come on it's not like that. It was more like an afterthought.

**MIKE**

Ohhh... is that the angle he used. He's a clever stick-in-the-mud, I'll give him that. But I thought he liked Katherine.

**KATHERINE**

Oh please. That ship sailed. Then sank. There we no survivors.

**MIKE**

There was a ship?

**SHAUNA**

I don't think he sees me that way.

**KATHERINE**

*Sure* he doesn't.

**SHAUNA**

Whatever. Don't believe me. You'll see.

**MIKE**

I honestly hope I don't.

**ZANA**

Ah, my hard workers, hardly working.

**ALL**

Sorry, Zana.

**ZANA**

I will be in my office if I am needed.

**SFX:** Door.

**MIKE**

Busted. Katherine, pass me the broom.

**KATHERINE**

Say the magic word.

**MIKE**

Now.

**KATHERINE**

Very good.

**SHAUNA**

Um, guys, can you finish the windows? I have to talk to Zana.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah. Sure.

**SHAUNA**

Thanks.

**SFX:** Door.

**MIKE**

Finish? She didn't even start...

**Scene Four — Going Home, Neh?**

**SFX:** Door

**SHAUNA**

Hey Zana, you got a moment?

**ZANA**

For you Shae? Certainly.

**SHAUNA**

What are you writing?

**ZANA**

Oh, I am merely adding to my journal. Do you keep one?

**SHAUNA**

I used to have a diary. But I stopped a while ago.

**ZANA**

I would strongly advise it. I have dedicated my life to searching for truth. A written account is much more reliable than memory alone. Recording your life makes reflection much easier.

<beat>

Please sit down.

**SFX:** Chair

**ZANA**

It will be pleasant to relax at Targonane's cabin for the first days of New Life. There has been much activity this past week. So much so that I feel I may have been neglecting my employees. In that, I am

**ZANA (cont.)**

pleased you are here Shae, for we have had little opportunity to talk. How are you?

**SHAUNA**

Um... Okay I guess.

**ZANA**

And are you still plagued by your dreams?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. Look Zana, I wanted to talk to you about that.

**ZANA**

As did I. You came to me for advice and I did not give it to you. I apologize.

**SHAUNA**

No, I should be sorry. I'm the one who snapped at you. I mean, we're all adults more or less. There's no excuse for getting angry just because someone doesn't have the answers to your problems.

**ZANA**

That is not entirely accurate. There was one piece of advice that I could give you. Yet I hesitated, and failed you.

**SHAUNA**

What do you mean?

**ZANA**

Jareth and Fesmer both told you of the significance of the creature in your dreams, yes?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**ZANA**

Well I have seen more of the world than either of them. There are many strange things out there, both wonderful and terrible. And there is often truth behind legends.

**SHAUNA**

I'm not sure I follow.

**ZANA**

In your dreams Shae, you are being pursued, hunted. And the best case I can give you in this case is to flee.

**SHAUNA**

What?

**ZANA**

Run. Your dreams portend terrible things. The best thing you can do is to return to Boz-ton as fast as you can and never return. If the truth behind your dreams comes to pass, there is nothing I can do to help you. Nothing anyone can do.

**SHAUNA**

So you're telling me I should run away from my problems?

**ZANA**

No, I am telling you that you *must* run away from *this* problem. You will not be safe here much longer and, if you can find it, your Shift spell is the only sure escape.

**SHAUNA**

<sigh> So it all comes down to that, doesn't it.

**ZANA**

I am truly sorry I was unable to give you more heartening advice. And I apologize for not telling you sooner. But the thought of you, Kath and Meek leaving... It pains me.

**SHAUNA**

Zana...

**ZANA**

<half hearted laugh> I suppose I have always had a soft heart for young people in troubled situations.

**SHAUNA**

I, I may not be able to follow your advice Zana.

**ZANA**

I understand if it is difficult for you to leave Shae. It will be hard to say goodbye. But you must not let—

**SHAUNA**

That's not really what I mean. But yeah, that will be rough too. I mean... You have to promise to keep this a secret Zana.

**ZANA**

Of course.

**SHAUNA**

Draenmer... Draenmer told me I wouldn't be able to go back. That this is the last home I'll ever know.

**ZANA**

The words of *ainorem* can have many meanings Shae.

**SHAUNA**

Well they were pretty explicit about this.

**ZANA**

Shae, do you know why I left the Seekers?

**SHAUNA**

I thought it was because you found your truth.

**ZANA**

Not precisely. In a strong sense Shae, I have never left. My life is still dedicated to truth. But I realized that *ainorem* are memories Shae. Their words may be truth, but memories by their nature cannot be of events that have not happened. I asked my question and, where most would spend their days in contemplation of that one answer, I was not satisfied. That one answer merely raised more questions, whose answers I could not find in a life of quiet study. All my adventures, including this shop, have been in the pursuit of more wisdom. And the more I know, it seems the more that I must still learn.

<beat>

What I am trying to say, is that you were given a truth. Only one. A time may come when you realize exactly what those words meant. But I can guarantee they do not mean what you suspect. Your future is your own to find.

**SHAUNA**

I hope you are right Zana. I really do. And thanks for the advice.

**ZANA**

You are most welcome, Shae.

**Scene Five — Going Home, Eh?**

**SFX:** Cleaning sounds

**MIKE**

Wonder what'll happen when we get back.

**KATHERINE**

What do you mean?

**MIKE**

Well, we've been gone for... like...

**KATHERINE**

Fifty days.

**MIKE**

Almost two months... And I missed most of it.

**KATHERINE**

We'll all have attendance failures at school. <moans> My GPA!

**MIKE**

Which means I lost my football scholarship. Not that it really matters anyway. I'll never play professionally with this leg.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah. What will you do?

**MIKE**

Dunno. Find a new running gag, I guess.

**KATHERINE**

Will you move back to Ohio?

**MIKE**

Maybe. I don't know. Wouldn't we be "missing persons" by now?

**KATHERINE**

That's a good point. How do we explain this?

**MIKE**

We can't. People would think we were crazy. Or took video games too seriously. <beat> Ohhh. Video games. Man, I miss those...

**KATHERINE**

So we ignore it? Just go on with our lives?

**SFX:** Door

**MIKE**

Hey Arkahn.

**ARKAHN**

I would like to wager five bars that Fesmer attends the dance in that pig costume.

<**MIKE** gives a small appreciative chuckle; **KATHERINE** says nothing>

**ARKAHN**

What is the trouble?

**MIKE**

We might be going home soon.

**ARKAHN**

Oh. Well... that is fair tidings, no?

**KATHERINE**

Excuse me, Mike.

**SFX:** Footsteps and door

**ARKAHN**

She remains displeased with me.

**MIKE**

I think she hates everybody at this point. Don't worry about it.

**ARKAHN**

So, Shae is close to finding Shift?

**MIKE**

Almost, apparently.

**ARKAHN**

I have need to speak with her. Where is she?

**MIKE**

She's talking with Zana. Y'know. Girl talk. Trying on dresses.

**ARKAHN**

Doubtful.

**MIKE**

What? I bet Zana gets down.

**ARKAHN**

...Zana is depressed?

**MIKE**

No, like down with her bad self. Dancing?

**ARKAHN**

Perhaps once Zana was getting down, but the Festival is for the young.

**MIKE**

Well ain't that a shame.

**ARKAHN**

I suppose it is. Do you dance, Meek?

**MIKE**

Badly, but yes. You?

**ARKAHN**

All that I do is accomplished with subtlety and finesse.

**MIKE**

...Soo...?

**ARKAHN**

Yes, I dance.

**MIKE**

Cool. Wanna go with me? Just as friends, I mean.

**ARKAHN**

Of course as friends. That is what we are.

**MIKE**

Ya got me there. So that's a yes?

**ARKAHN**

Yes. I would be happy to. Have you knowledge of the dance's customs?

**MIKE**

Well, no. But I'm a gifted learner.

**ARKAHN**

Oh?

**MIKE**

Yeah. When I try really, really hard.



**Scene Six — Kath’s Hot Date**

**FESMER**

*Oli wan*, Kath. [Good evening]

**KATHERINE**

Oh. Hey, Fesmer.

**FESMER**

Would you object if I joined you?

**KATHERINE**

No, but if you came looking for a happy conversation, you’re barking up the wrong tree. <beat> Not like “tree bark,” but—

**FESMER**

Yes, as a dog barks. I understand.

**SFX: FESMER** sitting down

**FESMER**

Ahh. I have been standing all day. It is swell to get off my swollen dogs. <beat> Ehh?

**KATHERINE**

Eh. Close enough.

**FESMER**

What troubles you, Kath?

**KATHERINE**

I don’t want to talk about it.

**FESMER**

Sho’ nuff.

<beat>

**FESMER**

So, Kath?

**KATHERINE**

Hmm?

**FESMER**

What troubles you?

**KATHERINE**

I said I don’t want to talk about it! <beat> And you look utterly ridiculous in that pig costume. Why are you still wearing it?

**FESMER**

<laughs> It brings me joy. Who could resist this wooden snout, these velvet ears?

**KATHERINE**

You need some time alone with Mister Ham?

**FESMER**

...Perhaps.

**KATHERINE**

<makes a shuddering sound>

**FESMER**

<laughs again> You are too serious, Kath. While you are still here in Laundi, you might consider enjoying yourself more.

**KATHERINE**

Oh yeah? Why, did Shauna make two of those costumes?

**FESMER**

Two costumes... a fair notion, Kath!

**KATHERINE**

No no no!

**FESMER**

<laughs again> I will tell you how you will learn to enjoy yourself, Kath. Are you prepared for my fathomless wisdom?

**KATHERINE**

You want me to go to the dance with you?

**FESMER**

<surprised> Well... yes.

**KATHERINE**

And that's where you'll show me a good time?

**FESMER**

Erm... I suppose?

**KATHERINE**

Sure. Why not.

**FESMER**

Ah. Good. <awkward beat> Well, I thought that would be much more difficult...

**KATHERINE**

Hum. <beat> Wait, are you calling me difficult?!

**Scene Seven—Arkahn Hearts Shauna**

**ARKAHN**

Shae, wake up!

**SHAUNA**

I'm awake...

**ARKAHN**

It certainly does not appear so. You have overslept. We must make great haste with our preparations, or we will be late to the Festival.

**SHAUNA**

I'm up. You should have said something earlier. I can't sleep much, so I meditate instead. Not very restful, but... Wait, did I miss work?

**ARKAHN**

Yes, but Zana did not mind. I thought you were asleep and we were all pleased you were finally achieving some rest.

**SHAUNA**

Oh man, and we've still got to get these traditional clothes for me.

**SFX:** rustling of covers, putting on of clothes, etc

**ARKAHN**

I apologize for not waking you earlier, but...

**SHAUNA**

<distracted, putting on clothes> Don't worry about it. I'll just rush around until I drop dead, as usual. Marathon runner, that's me... have you seen my—

**ARKAHN**

On the dresser.

**SHAUNA**

Ah ha! Thanks. Whew, I'd better wash up. See you downstairs?

**ARKAHN**

Shae, about the Shift spell...

**SHAUNA**

God, you too? All anyone wants to talk about is that stupid spell. "I think I may have found a way but I'm still working on it." We good?

**ARKAHN**

What is this way you may have discovered? Tell me about it.

**SHAUNA**

Do you really want to know?

**ARKAHN**

Yes. I am keenly interested.

**SHAUNA**

<sigh> Fine. Well, I watch—used to watch—a lot of science fiction, which is like a story about the future, and a lot of them talk about ways to get from place to place instantly. So I thought maybe I could drum up a magical equivalent of that, and then crash! Boom! We're back.

**ARKAHN**

An intriguing notion, Shae. What have you determined?

**SHAUNA**

Well its kind of simple really. I just have to fold space.

**ARKAHN**

*Fold space?*

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, it's like, okay, this blanket is space, right? And here's point A and here's point B. Far apart, right. Then we fold the blanket and boom—the points are touching.

**ARKAHN**

But space is not a blanket... I am afraid I do not understand. What happens to everything else when you do this? Would it not also be folded?

**SHAUNA**

No because. Well... Guh. "I Heart Huckabees" didn't cover this. I'll just show you. See that chair?

**ARKAHN**

Yes.

**SHAUNA**

Work Stupid Magic From Here to There!

**SFX** quieter version of Shift effect

**SHAUNA**

Hoo... Woozy...

**ARKAHN**

<surprised> Where did it go?

**SHAUNA**

It's behind you.

**ARKAHN**

That is amazing. And you believe this spell will transport the three of you to Boz-ton?

**SHAUNA**

Well, not yet. I still have to see where I'm sending something. But I'm working on that.

**ARKAHN**

And this is safe? You look unwell.

**SHAUNA**

Just a little nauseous, but that's nothing. Last time I cast it, I passed out and woke up a few minutes later with a splitting migraine headache. The surge in Odi has begun, hasn't it?

**ARKAHN**

Yes. Can you feel it?

**SHAUNA**

Hell yeah. It's a rush. It made the casting a lot easier just now.

**ARKAHN**

But are you absolutely certain that this spell will safely—

**SHAUNA**

Oh who knows. I'm doing this on my own, y'know, and it's the best idea I have. If someone comes up with something better, great; but until then, magical wormholes it is! <exhales> Now... Oh. <beat> Hey, um, Arkahn?

**ARKAHN**

Yes, Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Can I, uh, borrow some of your makeup?

**ARKAHN**

Of course, Shae.

## Scene Eight—Dancing is Fucking Awesome!

SFX music throughout the scene

**SHAUNA**

Wow, that's a lot of people.

**ARKAHN**

Do you see them anywhere?

**MIKE**

<distant> Shauna! Arkahn! We're over here!

**SHAUNA**

Apparently they're over there.

<beat>

Hey Mike. Looking sharp.

**MIKE**

You too Shauna. And Arkahn... Wow. You look great!

**ARKAHN**

*Cha grendi*, Meek. You are quite handsome in that *Deklaan own-parnae*.

[NOTE: These are one type of traditional Laundian male clothes. *Deklanna* could be said as if it almost has three syllables. (dek-la-ahn)]

**MIKE**

<half joking> Aw shucks, you flatter me. And your *Foyo own-aerna* are most becoming.

[NOTE: A type of traditional Laundian female clothes. Foyo sounds like "Foyer" but changing the last syllable to "oh".]

**ARKAHN**

You have been practicing your pronunciation.

**MIKE**

Absolutely. Could I interest you in a drink of *ocris pino*?

**ARKAHN**

An excellent plan. Lead the way.

**SHAUNA**

Well... have fun you two... Now where is...

<Jareth and Shauna's conversation starts out awkward but becomes more earnest as it becomes cerebral. They are focused only on each other. They're the two people in the corner of the room who have been talking all night.>

**JARETH**

*Oli wan*, Shae. You look exceptional tonight.

**SHAUNA**

Not half bad yourself Jareth. How are you?

**JARETH**

Quite well. And you?

**SHAUNA**

I'm good. So... Lot of people here.

**JARETH**

Yes. This is one of the largest events of the year.

**SHAUNA**

Cool. Hey, if the band is way over there, how come the music is so loud?

**JARETH**

Do you see those shell-like devices in front of the stage?

**SHAUNA**

Speakers.

**JARETH**

*Renapuen*, actually. They are active items that amplify sound.  
[NOTE: Pronounced “ray-na-puay-en”]

**SHAUNA**

So, speakers.

**JARETH**

They were invented for last year’s New Hope Festival. It is very exciting, all the advancements University Crafters have made with active items. There are factories outside of Laundi where they create incredible things...

**SHAUNA**

Huh. So do you have anything to do with them?

**JARETH**

Oh no. Apart from small articles such as your translation pendant, I have little ability as a Crafter. Still, it is a fascinating art. My understanding is that there are many items similar to *renapuen* in your world?

**SHAUNA**

Oh yeah. Everywhere. Most of them are powered by electricity. You know, like lightning

**JARETH**

Harnessing lightning... fascinating indeed...

**SHAUNA**

Oh it’s nothing that amazing... Well I suppose it kind of is. But still, I don’t think it’s that big a deal. I mean, it changes the way people live, but people are pretty much the same wherever you go.

**JARETH**

But if you change the way people live, would they not also change?

**SHAUNA**

In details maybe, but most of the important things are still the same.

**JARETH**

How so?

**SHAUNA**

Well their emotions are still there. People do stuff out of love or greed or anger or whatever.

**SFX:** begin fading out Jareth/Shalna conversation

**JARETH**

So what you are saying is that the nature of people is more important than their environment.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah. People still do the same stuff. They can just do it faster.

<Fesmer and Katherine's conversations are marked by awkwardness. They are the strangers come to the party. Fesmer is covering his awkwardness with over enthusiasm and Katherine just feels out of place.>

**FESMER**

It seems that Jareth and Shae are enjoying each other's company.

**KATHERINE**

Sorry, what was that Fesmer? I was somewhere else.

**FESMER**

Jareth and Shae. They seem to be having fun.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah... it looks like Shauna's starting to go into philosophy. She's got her intellectual discussion face on.

**FESMER**

I did not know Shae was interested in philosophy.

**KATHERINE**

Yeah, she doesn't talk about it much, but once she gets going she can debate all night.

**FESMER**

If there is one thing Jareth enjoys it is a rousing debate. I fear we shall not hear much from them tonight.

**KATHERINE**

So now what?

**FESMER**

Now we have fun! Come Kath, let us drink and dance and make merry!

**KATHERINE**

I don't really drink or dance. I don't make much merry, either.

**FESMER**

Then what do you do for enjoyment? Come now, everybody likes a party and this is the greatest one of the year. Let us get crunk!

**KATHERINE**

Let us what?

**FESMER**

Crunk it up!

**KATHERINE**

Hoo. It's going to be a long night...

**FESMER**

Precisely! A long night of crunking! Look over there, even Meek and Arkahn are enjoying themselves. Let us not be the ones to squander our youth! Now, to fun!

**KATHERINE**



<groans>

**SFX:** fade out, and back in; music has changed—it is faster

<Mike and Arkahn's conversations is good humored and flirty. They are the people dancing in the kitchen or laughing on the stoop.>

**MIKE**

So left, right, turn?

**ARKAHN**

No no, right, left, turn. Like this: Right, left, turn.

**MIKE**

Right, left, turn...

**ARKAHN**

Good! You shall be a master of the *duka moren* before the night is out. Now apart, cross, twirl, together.

**MIKE**

Like this?

**ARKAHN**

No no, you twirl *me*.

**MIKE**

So, right, left, turn. Apart, cross, twirl—

**ARKAHN**

Ak! Not so fast!

**MIKE**

Sorry.

**ARKAHN**

It is nai-nai. It can be awkward the first time.

**MIKE**

Ha! Amen. So now what?

**ARKAHN**

We switch.

**MIKE**

So you lead?

**ARKAHN**

It is pretty much the same. We just do it backwards.

**MIKE**

Even the twirl?

**ARKAHN**

Especially the twirl. Now take my hands, let us try this from the top.

**MIKE**

So left— no right! Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together!

**ARKAHN**

Perfect! Now switch. Right— ow! No my right! Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together! You have it. Now faster!

**SFX:** fading out

**BOTH**

<faster and faster> Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together switch.  
Right left turn. Apart cross twirl together switch.

**SHAUNA**

But really I think it's all about family. Everyone does things in reaction to their parents, their siblings. Like Mike and his football.

**JARETH**

But would you not say the desire to create and secure a family of one's own is just as important?

**SHAUNA**

In a sense. But how we go about that is influenced by our own families. What we've seen growing up sets the standard for how we live.

**JARETH**

I am not certain about that. I do love my parents but I feel I am very different from them.

**SHAUNA**

But you were an only child, right?

**JARETH**

Yes.

**SHAUNA**

I think it's a little different for only children. You have these two people and all their focus is directed on you. It can be too much for

some people and they have to rebel. Like Katherine leaving and coming to Boston.

**JARETH**

Or myself coming to Laundi...

**SHAUNA**

See what I mean? I think that only children are a lot more likely to act selfishly. No offense. But it's because they haven't had to share their space. For instance, I have four brothers. With all of us crammed into the same small house, we had to work together on some basic level, even if we didn't always get along.

**SFX:** begin cross-fade

**JARETH**

But earlier you were saying the environment was less important than nature in how people act.

**SHAUNA**

On an individual level environment is very important. But on a larger scale it comes down more to nature. Don't you think so?

**JARETH**

Oh, absolutely not. I believe quite the opposite...

**FESMER**

Drink Kath! You have barely touched your *ocris pino*. [mulled wine]

**KATHERINE**

I'm sorry Fesmer. But this really isn't my thing. I don't drink, okay?

**FESMER**

Do you know what your trouble is Kath?

**KATHERINE**

Oh please tell me.

**FESMER**

You need to relax!

**KATHERINE**

I am relaxed.

**FESMER**

No, all these people dancing are relaxed. You are merely sitting. Let us go relax with them. You must learn to have fun.

**KATHERINE**

<indignant> I have fun.

**FESMER**

What was the last thing you did for fun? I hardly ever see you laugh or smile. And this beverage here is a certain path to laughter and smiles!

**KATHERINE**

Fesmer...

**FESMER**

Chüg Kath! Drink your smile juice!

**KATHERINE**

Are you *drunk* already?

**FESMER**

Not at all. Merely relaxed. And you should be as well. *Chüg, Chüg, Chüg, Chüg.*

**KATHERINE**

<sighs> It's pronounced chug.

**MIKE**

And so then he was like <ridiculous voice> "Weeell, isn't that interesting!"

**ARKAHN**

<laughs> Do the walk. Do the walk again.

**MIKE**

Like *this*?

<beat>

"Weeell, isn't that interesting!"

**ARKAHN**

<laughs harder> Oh Meek, that is the funniest story I have heard in a great while.

**MIKE**

And it is all true, I swear.

**ARKAHN**

More *ocris pino*?

**MIKE**

<silly voice> Don't mind if I *dooo*.

**ARKAHN**

<Laughs> I do not even know why that is so funny...

**MIKE**

You don't have to know. It just is. <to vendor> *Par ocris pino, senjen!* [Two mulled wine, Please!]

**SFX:** Two glasses on a counter

**MIKE**

*Cha grendillo fai.* Keep the change, *senjen*.

[NOTE: grendillo is formal used to someone you do not know. Depending on Mike's crunkiness, he could say "Cha grendi" instead.]

**SFX:** Coins on table

**MIKE**

And here you are, my dear.

**ARKAHN**

*Cha grendi.* Your pronunciation is improving.

**MIKE**

Yeah, I've been working on it. I figure if Shauna doesn't get her spell working soon, we'll probably have to be here a while.

**ARKAHN**

Are you anxious to return home Meek?

**MIKE**

I don't know. I guess so. I mean it's where I belong. But I do like it here. I haven't had this much fun in a very long time.

**ARKAHN**

Well I enjoy having you here, Meek. Come! It is your turn!

**MIKE**

My turn?

**ARKAHN**

To share a dance from Boz-ton.

**MIKE**

Oh man I don't know any dances... I can't even do the electric slide.

**ARKAHN**

The what?

**MIKE**

Okay, I've got one. It's really easy. But it's kind of stupid.

**ARKAHN**

Teach me all the same.

**MIKE**

Okay. So. First, I put my hand up on your hip. When I dip you dip.

**ARKAHN**

We dip?

**MIKE**

Exactly!

**SFX:** fade out and back in; music is end-of-night slow dance

**JARETH**

And I suppose that is why I have always been so tense in situations like that.

**SHAUNA**

I know exactly what you mean.

**JARETH**

Shae, I would like to thank you again for coming with me tonight.

**SHAUNA**

Happy to, Jareth.

**JARETH**

And while I am glad for you, it saddens me to think you will be leaving us soon.

**SHAUNA**

Yeah... Well there's no guarantee—

**JARETH**

Shae, I believe in your ability. If anyone can succeed, it is you. You are an incredible person. In the past weeks I have seen you realize so much potential. You have made life better by your very presence.

**SHAUNA**

Thanks. That means a lot coming from you. I'm looking forward to going home. But I'm going to miss it here.

**JARETH**

I suppose all that is left for us is to enjoy the time we have left together.

**SHAUNA**

Then we should make the most of it.

**JARETH**

I agree...

**SHAUNA**

Wh—

**SFX:** Jareth kisses Shauna

**SHAUNA**

You... kissed me!

**JARETH**

Absolutely.

**SHAUNA**

I... wow. I wasn't expecting that.

**JARETH**

Neither was I, and I apologize if in any way you are—

**SHAUNA**

Shut up, Jareth.

**SFX:** Shauna kisses Jareth

<pause>

**ARKAHN**

Are you *ra-na* Meek? What is the matter?

**MIKE**

Nothing. I just saw something I could have lived without seeing.

**ARKAHN**

Meek? You can tell me...

**MIKE**

No, it's no biggie. Sorry. I'm going to get something to drink. I'll be back.

<pause>

**FESMER**

<quite drunk> Kath. Kath. Let me tell you something.

**KATHERINE**

You're drunk Fesmer. Come on. Sit down.

**FESMER**

I am not drunk, I am relaxed. Can I buy you more *ocris pino*?  
Mother always instructed me never to let a girl's plate be cleared or her glass emptied.

**KATHERINE**

I'm fine Fesmer. Sit down.

**FESMER**

Can I tell you something Kath?

**KATHERINE**

Sure. Just sit down.

**FESMER**

Very well. Kath. Katherine... You know, I have always liked you.

**KATHERINE**

Umm... thanks?

**FESMER**

No, you do not understand. I *like* you Kath.

<long, awkward beat>

**KATHERINE**

O-*kay*. I think that's the cue to go home. Come on drunky, let's go find the others.

**FESMER**

But I just sat down...

<pause>

**SFX:** Makin' out

**SHAUNA**

Jareth... Jareth wait!

**JARETH**

Shae...

**SHAUNA**

Hold on. I'm sorry. I... We... Oh my god...

**JARETH**

<concerned> Shae?

**SHAUNA**

No! No! I can't... Not now. This... We can't happen Jareth. We can't.

**JARETH**

I am... uncertain as to what you are attempting to say.

**SHAUNA**

I'm saying this is wrong. This is a bad idea. A very, very—

**KATHERINE**

Hey guys.

<**BOTH** startle>

**SHAUNA**

Um, hey, Katherine.

**KATHERINE**

Sorry to interrupt. But Fesmer's falling down drunk and I'm ready to go. Mike's ready to split, too.

**JARETH**

Well—

**SHAUNA**

Yeah, that sounds like a good idea. I'm ready to go. Jareth?

<beat>

**JARETH**

Yes, Shae. Of course...

**Scene Nine—Walk ‘o Shame, Part I**

**ALL:** post-dance chatting; Jareth and Katherine & Shauna and Fesmer & Mike and Arkahn

**MIKE**

Alright ladies and Jareth, this is where Fes and I depart. I guess we’ll see you all in the morning right?

**JARETH**

Yes, we should attempt to leave for the cabin early.

**MIKE**

Arkahn, I had a lot of fun. Thanks.

**ARKAHN**

As did I, Meek.

**KATHERINE**

Hmph.

**SFX:** KATHERINE stalking off.

**SHAUNA**

Hey, Katherine where are you... Huh, is she okay? Hey, Jareth?

**JARETH**

Yes Shae?

**SHAUNA**

Could you do me a favor and walk with her back to Zana’s?

**JARETH**

I suppose someone should... Will you be *ra-na*?

**SHAUNA**

Arkahn and I’ll be fine. See you in the morning.

**JARETH**

Indeed.

**SFX:** JARETH walking away.

**MIKE**

Anyhoo, Fes? Shall we?

**FESMER**

<drunkenly singing the Mister Ham song>

**MIKE**

Great. Where’s a goat cart when you need one? Lean on me, buddy.

**ARKAHN**

Will he be *ra-na*?

**MIKE**

Oh sure. Oof. Careful with the leaning, boy. Gimp leg.

**FESMER**

The earth is pulsing with power...

**MIKE**

It’s known to do that. You might want to fai cthloll Odi an Excedrin or something, or you’re going to be one sorry chaos mage come morning.



**FESMER**

<mumbling> What is a chaotic...?

**MIKE**

Anyway, see y'all tomorrow. We're going up to Targo's cabin, right?

**SHAUNA**

Yeah.

**MIKE**

That should be fun. Arkahn, have a good night.

**SFX:** **FESMER** and **MIKE** begin shuffling off.

**SHAUNA**

<calling> 'Night, Mike.

**MIKE**

<brusque> Yep. You too.

**SFX:** Walking for a beat or two.

**FESMER**

Meek, you and Shae and Kath... do you know what your problem is?

**MIKE**

I'd say between the three of us, we've got a nice spread of all possible problems.

**FESMER**

Specifically, I believe, in my own modest estimation, that you should all learn to be more fun. I mean, have more fun.

**MIKE**

<flat> Boo-yah.

**FESMER**

You are all so serious... well, you are the least serious, perhaps, but if I found myself Shifted to Boston one day, I would endeavor to make more fun of it. I mean—

**MIKE**

I gotcha. So, how'd it go with Katherine?

**FESMER**

Eh. Sometimes you are victorious, and other times not.

**MIKE**

And this was a “not” kinda night?

**FESMER**

Indeed.

**MIKE**

Well, sorry to hear that. But I dunno what you see in her, man. She's a raging psychopath most of the time.

**FESMER**

I understand her heart. She is very sad, and very beautiful. That is all.

<beat>

**MIKE**

Um. I guess...

## Scene Ten — Walk ‘o Shame, Part II

**SFX:** Walking

**SHAUNA**

So Arkahn... you and Mike, huh?

**ARKAHN**

And just what are you implying?

**SHAUNA**

Nothing. Just looked like you two were having a lot of fun.

**ARKAHN**

We were indeed, until the end. Meek seemed upset quite abruptly. I do not understand what happened.

**SHAUNA**

That’s just Mike, lately. I wouldn’t worry about it. Hey...

**ARKAHN**

Yes?

**SHAUNA**

I’m sorry for being testy earlier, about the spell. I find myself saying a lot of things I don’t mean these days. You’ve been great, putting me up at your parents’ house and everything.

**ARKAHN**

You are most welcome, Shae. And for my part, it is good to have pleasant company.

**SHAUNA**

If... if the spell doesn’t work, if I can’t get us home... if I fail. I think you, more than anyone else here, understand me. And if I can’t ever leave, I just want you to know, I’m very grateful to have a friend like you here in Laundi.

**ARKAHN**

Thank you, Shae...

**SHAUNA**

Sure. So, Arkahn...

**ARKAHN**

Yes?

**SHAUNA**

You and Mike, huh?

**ARKAHN**

...Perhaps.

**SHAUNA**

Ahh! I knew it!

**ARKAHN**

Knew what? There is nothing to know!

**SFX:** start fading out

**SHAUNA**

<good natured mocking> You *like* him. You wanna have like ten thousand of his babies.

**ARKAHN**

I am unable to hear you, for I have covered my ears.

**SHAUNA**

Arkahn and Mikey, sittin' in a tree...

**ARKAHN**

Your mouth is moving, yet no sound is emitted. It is exceedingly strange.

**SHAUNA**

...K-I-S-S-I-N-G... first comes love, then comes marriage...

**ARKAHN**

Shae, you have become mute! This is most serious! We should consult Zana immediately!

<laughing, fade out completely>