

SECOND SHIFT

Episode #2.04: The Trial, Part II (Rehearsal Draft)

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Written:

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Cast (in order of appearance):

Taren

Arkahn

Guard One

Guard Two

Bellon

Jareth

Zana

Fesmer

Mike

Katherine

Kasha

Targonone

Aldo

Jasmeet

Teaser

- Taren, Arkahn, Guards One and Two

Scene 1

- Bellon, Jareth, Zana, Fesmer, Mike, Katherine

Scene 2

- Jareth, Guards One and Two, Kasha, Targonone

Scene 3

- Mike, Katherine, Fesmer, Zana, Bellon

Scene 4

- Zana, Targonone

Scene 5

- Mike, Jareth, Katherine, Zana, Fesmer

Scene 6

- Jareth, Kasha

Scene 7

- Fesmer, Mike, Katherine

Scene 8

- Jareth, Aldo, Jasmeet

Scene 9

- Fesmer, Mike, Katherine, Jareth

Scene 10

- Jareth, Arkahn

Scene 11

- Fesmer, Mike, Katherine, Jareth, Arkahn

Teaser

- Taren, Arkahn, Guards One and Two
—University Closed Court

TAREN

In concluding these sealed proceedings, we wish to express our gratitude, Arkahn, for your complete cooperation. Whatever your sentence, know that your knowledge will aid this and every University in our relentless war against the Legion of Oren. Have you any questions before you are returned to your cell?

ARKAHN

None, your honored justice. I wish only to atone for my wrongs, however the [judges] *Sundhjae* deem suitable.

TAREN

Cha grendillo ferin. We will now deliberate. According to custom, your sentence will be revealed by first light tomorrow. *Watunae?* [Guards]?

GUARDS ONE and TWO

Yes, *sun-schwa*.

TAREN

Return Arkahn, daughter of Lorenalark and Alexalark, to her cell.

GUARD ONE

This way, *senjen*.

SFX

Walking. Door closes behind them. Echoey walking (down a cobbled tunnel).

GUARD ONE

So, have you yet found your place among *Ainorem*?

ARKAHN

I have made my peace, yes.

GUARD ONE

Truly? I would think that even in death a Legionnaire's punishment would not cease.

GUARD TWO

Yes, perhaps you will return to life as one of the Undying you so revere, Legionnaire scum.

ARKAHN

Then...I will enjoy eating your brains—even small satisfact— ah!

SFX

Arkahn is smacked

GUARD ONE

We have no ears for your lies today, Legion filth! *Gerin*: To your feet!

[*Gerin* is a sentence-prefix meaning "command".]

SFX

Arkahn is pulled to her feet. They continue walking.

GUARD TWO

(pause) *Twana*: [*Query*:] Do Undying consume the brain-matter of the living? I was told that they consume the *taagli*—this way, they create a living yet hollow husk where once was—

GUARD ONE

Cha karin! [Shut up]! She knows nothing of this. She is merely having some sport with us.

(beat)

You do know nothing of this, correct?

ARKAHN

Know I have made my peace. I can advise only that you do likewise.

GUARD ONE

Go.

SFX

Arkahn is pushed into her cell, roughly

GUARD ONE

Kay-na!

SFX

Ward sound.

GUARD ONE

Do not look so smug, Legionnaire. Your sentence is definite, and it is not favorable. *Nay Gamista* [The Magistrates] cannot allow you to live. How does that make you feel?

ARKAHN

...Hungry.

GUARD TWO

(quickly)

Let us depart.

GUARD ONE

She is lying, you addle-minded—

GUARD TWO

(almost pitying)

Yet still. There is little sport in taunting one who is utterly without hope. And besides which, it is ill fortune.

GUARD ONE

Oh?

GUARD TWO

She may deserve her fate, but all the same, I would not wish her doom upon either of us. Let us go.

SFX

They walk away

ARKAHN

Doom?

(beat, sighs)

Ainorem, tell me I am not doomed....

ACT ONE

Scene 1

• Bellon, Jareth, Zana, Fesmer, Mike, Katherine
—Zana's Shop

SFX
Door Opens

BELLON
Oli wan. Welcome to Zana's. Can interest you in our new pig crackles, free when you order—

JARETH
Is Zana present?

BELLON
She is in her office. Err... I could see if she is available?

JARETH
That is unnecessary. She is most likely expecting me.

BELLON
But...

JARETH
It is *nai-nai*. I used to work here.

BELLON
But...

SFX
Door knocking

SFX
Door opening.

ZANA
Yes, what can I—Oh, welcome, Jareth. Come in.

JARETH
Cha grendi. Chare builana Mike, Kath. Fesmer.
[Pronounced "Cha-RAY"]

FESMER
Jareth.

JARETH
It is good to see that you are relatively safe.

FESMER
Am I?

JARETH
In truth? No.

MIKE
What do you mean?

JARETH
You have heard about Arkahn?

FESMER
Yes.

JARETH
She told the [Judges] *Sundhjae* about you. And your magic.

FESMER

I know. I advised her to do so.

JARETH

What?

FESMER

I Farspoke with Arkahn and encouraged her to speak the truth about me.

JARETH

Why would you—wait... you discovered how to slip through University's shielding?

FESMER

Yes. But only for a short while. Arkhan intended to accept blame for my deeds. I could not allow that.

JARETH

So you have not heard the verdict.

FESMER

(pause)

There is a verdict already?

JARETH

I felt it best that you heard it from me, rather than rumor.

ZANA

What is it?

JARETH

She... She is sentenced to death.

MIKE + FESMER

What?!

KATHERINE

Oh no.

ZANA

Ainorem...

MIKE

You said she was supposed to get a light sentence.

ZANA

What do you think happened, Jareth?

JARETH

I do not know what I think, Zana. I... I just do not know. She cooperated with [the Judges] *Sundhjae*. Her punishment was to be mere exile. This should not have happened.

MIKE

You're damn right this shouldn't've happened! This is all your fault!

JARETH

How is this my fault? How?

MIKE

How? How? You—

KATHEINE

Mike! Don't—

SFX
Mike punches Jareth right in his face.

SFX
Jareth falls to the ground.

JARETH
Oomp.

SFX
Glass breaks

MIKE
How is this not your fault, you heartless bastard?!

ZANA
Mike! *Cha dormina!* [calm down]!

MIKE
No! I will not *dormina fai*. [calm down]! You killed Arkahn!

JARETH
I did no such thing!

MIKE
Fine! You handed her over to your corrupt fascist school and they killed her.

JARETH
You may insult me all you like, but leave University apart from this. Whatever else Arkahn has been to any of us, she was still a—

MIKE
Get out!

JARETH
What?

MIKE
GET OUT! You have thirty seconds to get out of here or I swear to God and *Ainorem* and Buddah and Oren—and whoever else—that I will not be responsible for my actions!

JARETH
I will not be—

ZANA
(calmly, yet earnestly)
Jareth. Perhaps you should leave. Come with me.

MIKE
Yeah get out of here you—

KATHERINE
Enough Mike.

SFX
Door closing.

JARETH
(rapidly coming down)
I cannot tolerate that man any longer.

ZANA

[calm down] *Cha dormina* Jareth, *senjen*. Now is not the time.

JARETH

I...

(all his steam is drained)

Boxen wo fai, shi-schwa. I should not have acted like this in your shop.

ZANA

Do not fret. We have little custom at this hour.

JARETH

I am utterly lost in this. What should I do, Zana?

SFX

Door opens.

ZANA

Return to University, Jareth. Attempt to learn more about the situation before retaliating. We shall not abandon Arkahn to this fate.

(beat)

JARETH

Yes, *shi-schwa*. I will return when I have learned more. *Oli wan*.

SFX

Jareth walking away.

ZANA

(under breath)

Ainorem preserve us...

Scene 2

• Jareth, Guards One and Two, Kasha, Targonone
—University Passages

JARETH
But I am an official of University, you *charen den-fuonin zapena* [insult]! See?

GUARD TWO
Yes, *valo*, but I regret that you are not official enough.

GUARD ONE
Only *Sundhjae* and *Madeo* [deans] are allowed access here, *valo*.
(Or: Only *Sundhjae lo Madeo* are allowed access here, *valo*.)

JARETH
This is absurd.

GUARD TWO
Yet we must hold to our ways above all else, correct *valo*?

JARETH
What?

GUARD TWO
You were a task mage in my Odi theory class, two Silver Nights past.

GUARD ONE
Mine as well. You granted me a failing mark.

GUARD TWO
Near-to-failing, for me.

JARETH
(momentarily rising to the bait)
I did not “grant” you those marks; it was your indolence and lack of work ethic that earned you—
(pause) Are you going to let me in, or not?

GUARD ONE
Likely not, *valo*.

GUARD TWO
Apologies.

JARETH
Then I shall return when I—

KASHA
Jareth!

JARETH
[Bloody hell.] *Pan wixa fai. Bui bui*, Kasha.

KASHA
I was told that you were down here. Scheming an escape for your Legionnaire *dokiluna*?

JARETH
(flustered)
Ah, certainly not... I...

KASHA

I jest. Though why are you here, Jareth? Oh! Your face! What happened?

JARETH

Walk with me, Kasha.
(to Guards)
I will return.

GUARD TWO

We shall remain here.

SFX

Jareth and Kasha walking down the cobbled tunnel at a conversational pace

KASHA

So...?

JARETH

I have been informed that Arkahn will be consigned to death.

KASHA

Well. That is a relief.

JARETH

What?

KASHA

(taken aback)

She is a Legion spy, is she not? An enemy to all of Laundi?

JARETH

That is so, but her sentence is unjust. Her involvement with Legion affairs was minimal, and she cooperated fully with the *Sundhjae*. Exile is customary in cases such as hers.

KASHA

Jareth, I need hardly tell you that the Legion threatens our way of life. If we wish to endure, then Legionnaires must not.

JARETH

The penalty of death should be leveled only in extreme cases, when no other alternative—

KASHA

She is a confessed Legionnaire. Is that not extreme enough for you?

JARETH

No, it is not! She poses no threat to us! Perhaps in the past, when we were unaware of her status, but not now.

KASHA

Forgive me for saying, Jareth, but I believe your judgment to be clouded in this matter.

JARETH

(takes a moment to compose himself)

You are perhaps correct, Kasha. *Cha una oli wan*. [Good evening, formal]. I will take my leave of you.

KASHA

Truly? Is that all you have to say to me?

JARETH

What more can I say, Kasha?

KASHA

(shocked)

I refuse to believe what I am hearing from you! Jareth, tell me that you believe the things you speak. Tell me our laws are just, *senjen*. Tell me about your reverence for University's way.

JARETH

Kasha...

KASHA

[Good evening, formal], *Cha una oli wan, valo*.

SFX

Kasha walks away at a brisk pace

JARETH

(a long, hard sigh)

What am I doing...?

SFX

Door opens a short distance away

TARGONONE

Ah, Jareth. How fortunate. I was told you were down here.

JARETH

[Bloody hell...] *Pan wixa fai...*

Scene 3

• Mike, Katherine, Fesmer, Zana, Bellon
—Behind Zana's Shop

SFX

The chop-crack of a log being split, followed by the clatter of wood against wood as the pieces fall.

MIKE

Another.

FESMER

Here.

(beat)

SFX

The chop-crack of a log being split, followed by the clatter of wood against wood as the pieces fall.

MIKE

Your turn.

(fade out)

FESMER

Bring a log to me.

(beat)

SFX

Log splitting noise only repeats at regular intervals under the following conversation.

KATHERINE

Are you sure it's a good idea to give them an axe?

ZANA

Physical labor can be *sabo bin own-taagli*. [highly cathartic]. And also, I require more firewood.

KATHERINE

Bin own-taagli? [Cathartic]?

ZANA

Purifying the heart and the mind.

KATHERINE

Oh. Cathartic? Ah. Let them take their aggression out on the firewood.

ZANA

And not my shop.

KATHERINE

Oh. *Boxen wo fai* about that dishware Zana. If we can reimburse you in any way....

ZANA

They are doing it this very moment.

KATHERINE

I don't think I've ever seen Mike get like that. It was kind of scary.

ZANA

The bearers of ill news are often greeted with ill will.

KATHERINE

Yeah. But still, I hadn't expected that. I probably should've. Then again, I hadn't expected Jareth's news either...

ZANA

Do you blame yourself Kath?

KATHERINE

For Mike punching Jareth in the face? No. *Thurka*. I would have liked to take a swing at him too.

(The beginning of *thurka* almost sounds like the beginning of *dokiluna* as said by Julia.)

ZANA

You know my meaning Kath.

KATHERINE

No, I don't think I blame myself. I just don't know what to think...

(beat)

If you had asked me a couple months ago about Arkahn, I would've said that I was so sure that she was rotten to the core—that she had used us, used me, and used Shauna.

(beat)

But—

(sighs)

—if I blame myself for anything, I guess it would be letting Shauna fall behind. It was so easy to place all the blame. I even convinced myself she might have killed Shauna by leaving her to die.

(beat)

But I think Shauna was just putting others before herself, like usual. She wouldn't leave Arkahn to die, despite her own peril. I don't know. I could be wrong, but that sounds right.

(beat)

I'm not ready to forgive her just yet, but if she honestly wants to pay her dues, I won't begrudge her the chance.

ZANA

(pause) It is good to have you here again, Kath.

KATHERINE

It is good to be back, *Shi-Schwa*.

MIKE

(from distance)

Log!

FESMER

(from distance)

Here.

KATHERINE

Zana?

ZANA

Yes?

KATHERINE

Could I ask you something? And... could you not tell any of the others I asked?

ZANA

Of course, Kath.

KATHERINE

What happened to Fesmer?

ZANA

What do you mean?

KATHERINE

He left for a year, right? After he recovered from his wounds...

ZANA

Correct.

KATHERINE

Do you know what he did during that time?

ZANA

Only what he has told me—which is very little. Your arrival today interrupted his tale. Why do you ask?

KATHERINE

He just seems... different.

(beat)

When Jareth told us about Arkahn Mike flipped out, but Fesmer...did you see his face?

ZANA

No. I had preoccupied myself with preventing other items from breaking. Why?

KATHERINE

If Mike was like—forgive my cliché—like fire, Fesmer was like ice. Yeah, Mike attacked Jareth, but Fesmer seriously looked like he wanted to kill someone. Not Jareth, I think, but...he was so detached, and for a moment, he seemed almost...

(beat)

It got me thinking: what do we really know about Fesmer? I mean, we spent a fair amount of time together for a few months and he

seemed innocuous enough. But I still have so many questions, and every time I think I figure something out about him....

ZANA

You do not trust him?

KATHERINE

How can I, Zana? Arkahn betrayed us. Jareth betrayed us. What is Fesmer hiding? I don't want to be paranoid, but whenever I let my guard down...

BELLON

Zana.

ZANA

Ah. Yes, Bellon?

BELLON

Someone is here to see you.

ZANA

Direct him to my office and ask that he remain until I arrive.

BELLON

Certainly.

KATHERINE

“He”?

ZANA

We all must keep secrets, Kath; even from our most trusted friends. I have found it best over the long years to trust primarily in one's self. *Parado fai.*

FESMER
(from distance)
Log.

MIKE
(from distance)
Here.

SFX
Split-crack.

KATHERINE
(sighs)

Scene 4

• Zana, Targonone
—Zana's Office

SFX
Door closing

ZANA
I suspected you would appear before long.

TARGONONE
Oli wan, Zana. I trust am not disturbing anything?

ZANA
I cannot say that you have come at a good time....

TARGONONE
We must speak.

ZANA
Indeed. Are you hungry? I could provide you with a slice of pig pie.

TARGONONE
No, *cha grendi*. Business has treated you favorably of late. The shop has changed greatly in the past months.

ZANA
As is said, though circumstances change, nature is constant.
(beat)
Would you care for a drink?

TARGONONE
Senjen.

SFX
Clink of glasses, liquid pouring.

TARGONONE
Cha grendi.

SFX
Sitting

TARGONONE
(pause)
Ah. Your taste in spirits is, as always, impeccable.

ZANA
Targonone? What do you want?

TARGONONE
You have heard of Arkahn's sentence?
(beat)
I assumed...
(beat)
Boxen wo fai Zana, but she has been sentenced to death.

ZANA
I know. I desired to hear you say it.

TARGONONE
Zana....

ZANA
Why is this happening, Targo? How could you let this happen—
and to my children?

TARGONONE

Zana, this was beyond my control.

ZANA

I have grown weary of that excuse, Targonone. It is beneath Jareth and it is beneath you.

TARGONONE

The best I could accomplish was to keep Meek and Kath from prying eyes. And to hope that none would look too closely at your obvious involvement in this. Or Jareth's.

ZANA

I can care for myself.

TARGONONE

And yet, observe the unusual individuals with whom you have surrounded yourself. I have tried to protect you out of respect for our past. But what can I do when one of your own confesses to being a Legionnaire?

(pause)

ZANA

What do we do now?

TARGONONE

The judgment of *Sundhjae* is not yet announced. I may be able to contest it.

ZANA

And if you are unsuccessful?

TARGONONE

Then I am afraid there is nothing I can do. *Sundhjae* are the absolute and final voice of the law.

ZANA

(makes a derisive noise)

TARGONONE

Zana, *senjen*, use discretion. You have built an enviable life. You would lose much.

ZANA

As have you. How are Cielinone and little Nei?

TARGONONE

Well. Nei will be ready to attend University soon.

ZANA

Extend to them my warm regards, *senjen*.

TARGONONE

I shall.

(beat)

Cha grendi for the drink, Zana.

SFX

Standing up.

TARGONONE (CONT)

If you care to speak more later, do not give pause to contact me.

ZANA

Fortuitous trials, Targonone.

TARGONONE

And to you.

SFX

Door opening

TARGONONE (CONT)

Guide Jareth wisely, Zana. He is not unlike a son to me, and I am concerned that he may act rashly. There are certain battles that cannot be won.

ZANA

You would do well to remember that no battle can be won if it is never fought.

TARGONONE

And you should remember that victory in battle is not the same as victory in war. *Oli wan, Zana.*

SFX

Door closes

ZANA

War? What are you scheming, my old friend?

END OF ACT ONE

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MIKE

Hey, Zana? Who you talking to on the Magiphone?

CHRISTINA

Oh? (sliding down to Zana voice) Oh, simply an old friend.

MIKE

That's cool.

CHRISTINA

(whispering as Christina) Ooh! Gotta run! Go to www.secondshiftpodcast.com!

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BRAD

Zana? Who is that you are speaking with on the *charepuenofai*?

CHRISTINA

Oh? (sliding down to Zana voice) Oh, simply an old friend.

BRAD

Teku aryan.

CHRISTINA

(whispering as Christina) Ooh! Gotta run! Go to www.secondshiftpodcast.com!

ACT TWO

Scene 5

• Mike, Jareth, Katherine, Zana, Fesmer
—Zana’s Shop

MIKE

So what did you find out at University?

JARETH

Only that Arkahn is well-guarded. And that those close to me are beginning to suspect my strange behavior.

MIKE

Strange—I’d say you’re wussing out and bowing down to The Man exactly like you always do. Tell me you at least talked to her?

JARETH

No. I was denied entrance to the cells.

MIKE

Damn it, Jareth!

KATHERINE

Mike...

MIKE

You’re really just going to stand by and let this happen?

JARETH

I... do not know. I agree that Arkahn does not deserve this. That it is an injustice. Yet...

MIKE

Yet nothing!

JARETH

Yet... this is my life, Mike. I have never desired anything more than to be a *Made* [dean] of University, like my grandfather... like Targonone. I cannot expect any of you to understand this.
(pronounced MAH-day)

MIKE

Dude, I get it. Believe me. But still...

JARETH

As regretful as this situation has become, Arkahn’s decisions have led us to this point, not mine.

MIKE

You’d let your friend die so you can have your life of stick-in-the-mud happiness?

KATHERINE

It isn’t that simple, Mike.

MIKE

It kind of is.

JARETH

Our ways, however difficult, whatever sacrifices they demand, have preserved us for a great many years. So long as we cleave to them, they will not fail us.

MIKE

Yeah, well. Things change, man. We'll do this without you. Just promise you won't get in our way.

JARETH

That I can do. Though I fear you will not succeed, and worse, that you may share Arkahn's fate.

MIKE

It's still better than doing nothing.

(beat)

All right everyone. We're gonna need weapons.

ZANA

No, Mike. Acting impulsively can only bear you misfortune. You will have the best luck with a more clandestine plan.

FESMER

I agree with Mike, *shi-schwa*. We may need to use force.

KATHERINE

Down, guys. Zana's right. We can't go in guns a-blazing. We'll just wind up in as much trouble as Arkahn. We need a good plan.

ZANA

Jareth, is there is no law that will aid her in this?

JARETH

No. And I fear any objections I raise would be seen as the fruit of Legion corruption.

ZANA

Then the only options you face... are illegal.

JARETH

...Yes Zana.

KATHERINE

Then we shouldn't even be discussing this around the two of you. We don't want trouble we'll cause coming back to haunt you.

ZANA

It is far too late in the day for that. And besides which, Arkahn is dear to me. I am too old for combat, but by no means will I stand idly by while you young people tangle this up.

FESMER

If we were to liberate Arkahn from University's clutches, when would we do so?

MIKE

Tonight. I'm not taking any chances.

JARETH

Tonight is likely best. Those students who left during New Life will begin returning tomorrow. The campus will be too busy within the walls then and too well-watched.

KATHERINE

So what are we going to do?

MIKE

We can sneak in all ninja-like; take out the guards with stealth and stuff. In and out like the wind.

FESMER

It may be impossible to free Arkahn without a fight. But I am ready.

ZANA

It would be best to do this without adding assault to your crimes. I counsel a more thoughtful path.

KATHERINE

I agree. Jareth? Can you at least tell us what we're up against?

JARETH

Assuming you even could gain entrance to University without raising alarm....

ZANA

There are ways.

FESMER

Shi-schwa?

ZANA

Academically speaking, there may be an old, unguarded servant's entrance near University's stables.

MIKE

Nice.

KATHERINE

How about getting her out?

JARETH

That will be more difficult. From the stables, it is a direct line to the entrance for the cells, but you would have to disable the cell-keepers who are in clear view of patrolling *watun* [pikesmen].

MIKE

Psh. I'll wreck 'em. And with Fesmer and Kath right behind me, I'm sure we could blitz in and out before anyone noticed. What do you think, Fesmer?

FESMER

Yes. Ninja-like.

ZANA

Boxen wo fai, Mike and Fesmer. Your strategy is unnecessarily dangerous. If you are captured, who will find Shaena?

KATHERINE

Zana's right. Anything at all, Jareth, that could help us....

JARETH

Well...I could tell you the pattern of *nay watun* [the pikemen's] patrol. And when the cell-keepers change. If timed with extreme care, you may not need to use force.

MIKE

But...

ZANA

This plan is a good one.

KATHERINE

Agreed. Fesmer?

FESMER

I shall abstain, then. Mike?

MIKE

Fine, but only because we have a better chance of rescuing Arkahn. But I still think we should be prepared in case stuff takes an unexpected turn for the worse.. As stuff tends to do around here.

KATHEINE

So what should we do Jareth?

JARETH

The three of you should wait until both moons have risen and then gather inside the stables. Do not allow yourselves to be seen.

KATHEINE

And until then?

JARETH

Prepare yourselves. You should not linger in Laundi after rescuing Arkahn. Return here to retrieve your belongings and continue West to find Shaena as quickly as possible. You will be pursued.

KATHERINE

Thank you, Jareth. I know how much you're risking by even telling us this.

JARETH

Do not thank me, Kath. I have done nothing.

KATHERINE

This information might save our lives.

JARETH

A true friend would do more.

(fading out)

JARETH (cont.)

Now, once you are in the stables, you will notice that *nay watun* [the pikesmen] march in formations of five and four...

Scene 6

• Jareth, Kasha

—Jareth's Office, University

SFX

Knocking

JARETH

(surprised)

Ah... enter?

SFX

Door opening

KASHA

Oli wan, Jareth.

JARETH

Kasha.

KASHA

May I enter?

JARETH

Well, yes. This is your office as well.

KASHA

(flustered)

I know... yet... Jareth, I want to apologize for the way in which I acted earlier. The things I said to you.

JARETH

Unnecessary, Kasha. You spoke truly.

KASHA

Yet I spoke without respect, and for that, I was in error. It is understandable to question one's loyalties in the face of such trying events. She was your friend.

JARETH

She is my friend.

KASHA

Yes. Of course. Apologies, again.

JARETH

Do not fret, Kasha.

KASHA

Nai-nai. What are you doing here at this late hour?

JARETH

Ah. Well, sorting through papers, I suppose.

KASHA

(reading)

[Pikeman] *Watun* procedure manual?

JARETH

You will think me odd.

KASHA

I already do.

JARETH

While passing through University grounds, I observed that the patrol route of [the pikemen] *nay watun* was different than is usual custom.

KASHA

That is a perceptive observation of an extremely uninteresting thing.

JARETH

Grendi. So I am attempting to learn if their route differs while University is on break, or—

KASHA

The trial.

JARETH

(horror dawning)
Oh. Oh....

KASHA

They bolster their numbers and alter their route completely during times of high security.

JARETH

Yes. They do.

KASHA

Less likelihood of an escape attempt, I suppose. You truly do honor your knowledge of military affairs. Your grandfather was *nay srength* [captain] in addition to his University duties, correct? (Pronounce it like the word "strength" minus the first t.)

JARETH

Correct. Simethnehai . He was a great man. He was respected for his conviction in trying times. He was a man of ideals. A difficult man, but one you would be glad to follow.

KASHA

Then you are much like he was.

JARETH

No. I am not.

KASHA

What?

JARETH

I am not like him. Not yet. You will excuse me? There are some urgent matters to which I must attend.

KASHA

Jareth, *senjen*...

JARETH

What is it?

KASHA

Remain here with me. You have not been yourself of late, and the expression on your face....

JARETH

I appreciate your concern, Kasha. Yet—

KASHA

I have a terrible feeling, Jareth. *Senjen*. Remain with me tonight.

JARETH

(after a heavy moment)

Speak the truth to me, Kasha.

KASHA

Always.

JARETH

Do you truly believe that Arkahn deserves death?

KASHA

University's laws are absolute in this matt—

JARETH

No, Kasha. In your heart. Do you believe this to be right?

KASHA

(upset)

I do not understand, Jareth. *Senjen*, this is awful conversation.

JARETH

It is necessary. Do you believe that Arkahn should die?

KASHA

...Yes. I do. *Ino minem boxen wo fai.*

JARETH

As am I, Kasha. Goodbye.

KASHA

Jareth...!

SFX

Jareth leaves, closing the door behind him.

Scene 7

• Fesmer, Mike, Katherine
—Passages in University/Stables

NOTE: ALL DIALOGUE WHISPERED

SFX
Outdoor night sounds.

MIKE
(humming Mission Impossible theme)
Bum bum bum ba-bum bum bum bum ba-bump...

FESMER
Mike, silence.

MIKE
Sorry.

KATHERINE
(picking up the theme)
Doo-du-loo doo-du-loo doo-du-loo du-du— Damnit Mike!

FESMER
Do you two desire capture?

KATHERINE
It's his fault.

FESMER
Of course it is.

MIKE
It totally is. That was awesome by the way.

FESMER
I hope this is not what you intended by “ninja-like.”

MIKE
Naw. Ninjas are all like wa-cha! Only silent.

FESMER
Than you are perhaps the worst ninja ever.

MIKE + KATHERINE
(stifled giggles)

FESMER
Shh! There is the side entrance. You two, stay watch. Remember the signal?

MIKE
If the coast is clear, you make a noise like a *shar-no*. [owl (mispronounced)].

KATHERINE
Shorna. [Owl.]

FESMER
Which sounds like?

MIKE
(owl) Hoot hoot.

FESMER

Right. I will attempt to magic the door open. I will signal when I succeed. And stay silent!

(pause)

MIKE

Bum bum bum ba-bum...

KATHERINE

Wasn't it the other way?

KATHERINE

(almost laughing, trying to whisper) Stop. It's not funny.

FESMER

No. Wait... Yes.

(long pause)

MIKE

(sighs)

MIKE

At least we got a good night for this.

KATHERINE

It is a beautiful night. So many stars...

MIKE

But not one of them familiar.

(pause)

FESMER

(owl hoot)

MIKE

Alright. Let's go...

(pause)

FESMER

Through here.

Scene 8

• Jareth, Aldo, Jasmeet
—University Lab Equipment Storage

JASMEET

Which classes did you elect to take this term?

ALDO

Advanced Odi Theory, Fundamentals of Active Items, Properties of Tae-Oden...

JASMEET

Oh, Properties of Tae-Oden? I have heard that the Instructor is Joao. Not precisely a celebration.

ALDO

I know. Yet you must agree that it will not be any worse than taking Rudimentary Odi Theory with—

JARETH

Oli wan.

JASMEET

Jareth! I mean, *valo*.

ALDO

Uh, *oli wan* to you as well, what can we—

JARETH

Jasmeet, Aldo. I am in a great hurry and have no time for tact. I intend to do something tonight that is contrary to everything I have ever said, in or out of class. If you desire to witness firsthand what comes of chaos and rash action, this is your opportunity. You need only grant me access to the laboratory that you are employed to watch.

(long pause)

ALDO

...Uh?

JASMEET

Apologies, *valo*. You wish for us to do what?

JARETH

Assist me in gathering certain compounds, be hasty, and speak nothing of this ever again.

ALDO

Well. Uh. Laboratory protocol insists that we log each and every—

JARETH

I will alter your end-of-term marks from Near-to-Failing to Exemplary, effective immediately.

ALDO

Nai-nai then. What do you require?

Scene 9

• Fesmer, Mike, Katherine, Jareth
—University Stables

FESMER
There it is.

KATHERINE
Certainly smells like a stable.

FESMER
Shhh. There may be a stablehand. I will look.

SFX
faint creak of stable door

(pause)

FESMER
(hoots)

(pause)

MIKE
All right. Coast is clear.

(pause)

SFX
Creak

SFX
Soft horse noises

MIKE
This is a big stable.

KATHERINE
They're so much like our horses...

FESMER
Back here!

MIKE
So what now?

FESMER
There are the cell-keepers and the door. We wait for the opportune moment, as Jareth advised.

MIKE
Do we really have to rely on him?

KATHERINE
Jareth knows this place. There's no way he'll be wrong.

MIKE
We'll see.

(pause)

MIKE
When—

SFX
Creak

FESMER + KATHEINE

Shh.

SFX

Footsteps

JARETH

Are you here?

MIKE

The hell...?

FESMER

In the back, Jareth.

JARETH

There you are.

MIKE

What are you doing here?!

JARETH

I was mistaken in my initial estimation. This is our new plan: you will wake and saddle six horses as quietly as you can. The tack is over there against the wall.

KATHERINE

Wait, we're stealing horses?

JARETH

I left money and an anonymous note in the Office of the Bursar. That white mare, Alamelu is mine. Careful. She bites. You will find my tack beside her. Those ones over there are easier for inexperienced riders like Mike and Fesmer.

FESMER

I am not inexperienced. I just do not like horses....

MIKE

Why six?

JARETH

One to carry our possessions, and as a precaution.

MIKE

Hold on. Our possessions?

JARETH

Yes.

MIKE

Who said you were coming with us?

FESMER

Jareth, you cannot abandon the life you have created here. You have achieved what you desired. You became an Instructor.

JARETH

I am aware. Yet you will fail otherwise. And I see that I cannot deter you from your course, so I am forced to take a more direct hand in this.

KATHERINE

Are you sure you want to go through with this?

JARETH

No. Not at all. But I must.

KATHERINE

This is against the law. Your law.

JARETH

Yes. But it is the right course all the same.

(beat)

You have experience with horses, yes?

KATHERINE

Seven years of Equestrian training..

JARETH

Assist Fesmer and Mike in finding suitable mounts. We may be riding them for some time.

KATHERINE

I'll do my best.

JARETH

I will return with Arakhn as quickly as possible. Stay silent and be cautious. Remain unseen. If I do not return in a half an hour, leave without me. Leave and do not look back. Understood?

KATHERINE

Yes.

FESMER

I understand. Be cautious Jareth. And *cha grendi*.

JARETH

Not yet, *maa-raa*. Wait until we are away from this.

SFX

Jareth throws a hood over his head and walks away at a brisk pace.

MIKE

Oooh, look at Jedi Master Jareth, all badass with his hood.

KATHERINE

Mike, the man is sacrificing everything to help us.

MIKE

Really? I'm half convinced he's heading over there to tell those guards about us.

FESMER

Silence. Watch.

(pause)

GUARD ONE

You! Halt! Show your face!

JARETH

(using a voice)

Apologies, *valo*. I seem to be confused. I seek the office of admissions?

GUARD TWO

Oh, admissions. First, turn around. Do you observe that tower in the dist—

JARETH

Begin!

SFX

Both guards are paralyzed. (We used this effect in 1.07)

GUARD TWO

Hurk!

GUARD ONE

Mmmph!

SFX

Jareth rifling through their effects

JARETH

I apologize for this. The paralysis should subside in a short while. You may want to imbibe a great deal of water if you wish to avoid soreness later.

GUARD ONE

Nyrg!

GUARD TWO

Mrrb!

SFX

Jareth opens and closes the door behind him.

GUARD ONE

Mrrrrgh!

GUARD TWO

Rfff...?

(pause)

MIKE

Alright. Fine. I'm seriously impressed.

KATHERINE

Find her, Jareth...

Scene 10

• Jareth, Arkahn
—University Cells

JARETH
(whispered)
Arkahn. Arkahn!

ARKAHN
(from a distance)
...Jareth?

JARETH
Arkahn!

SFX
He jogs to her cell.

JARETH
There you are.

ARKAHN
I had wondered if you would find opportunity to visit. Or have they sent you to interrogate me? I have told them everything.

JARETH
Your trial has concluded. Deliberations are over.

ARKAHN
...And my sentence?

JARETH
Death.

ARKAHN
...Ah.
(her voice catches)
That is likely best.

JARETH
What?

ARKAHN
It is best this way.

JARETH
(he had not expected this)
No, Arkahn. It is not.

ARKAHN
I have caused trouble for all of you. It has always been so, as long as I have known you. You could not know what kind of monster was in your midst, but I have only ever wished you ill. *Ino boxen wo fai* for everything, Jareth.

JARETH
You may have caused us ill, Arkahn, but I do not believe that you ever wished it. I am here to free you.

ARKAHN
What?

JARETH
Stand against the far wall, *senjen*.

ARKAHN
Jareth, no.

JARETH

Do as I say; [the pikemen] will be upon us at any moment.

ARKAHN

(strong)

Jareth. No. I can not allow this. I have inflicted so much evil already. *Senjen*, do not let me die knowing that I ruined your life, as well.

JARETH

(touched)

Arkahn...

ARKAHN

(desperate)

You disguised yourself to gain entrance, correct? Turn back. Conceal whatever traces you have left behind. Appeal to Targonone. You can still salvage your life here.

JARETH

I cannot.

ARKAHN

Senjen, Jareth. Do not do this! Targonone loves you as a son. He will protect you from blame.

JARETH

And he has been a greater father to me than my own. Do not think this does not pain me.

ARKAHN

Then do not do this.

JARETH

I must.

(beat)

Arkahn, this decision is mine to make and I have made it. *Liolenack zan*. [There is no further argument here.] However, I do owe you my most profound apologies.

ARKAHN

What? Why?

JARETH

(sincere)

I should not have doubted for even a moment that this was the right course of action. I swear to you Arakahn: I will not fail you again.

ARKAHN

Jareth...

JARETH

(a touch of humor)

Of course, you could aid me in this by not betraying us anymore.

ARKAHN

(wry)

No promising.

SFX

Jareth sifts through his backpack, begins setting heavy metallic objects on the floor.

JARETH

Now... positive charge here, the negative there...

ARKAHN
What is that?

JARETH
As I said, you will want to stand against the far wall.

ARKAHN
What—...?
(frightened)
Wait, Jareth, is that—...?

JARETH
BEGIN!!

Scene 11

• Fesmer, Mike, Katherine, Jareth, Arkahn
—University Stables

NOTE: DIALOGUE QUIET UNTIL EXPLOSION

MIKE

Where is he? This is taking forever.

KATHERINE

Stop getting flustered, it hasn't been that long. Fesmer, you're fastening that saddle wrong.

FESMER

(lying)

I prefer it this way.

KATHERINE

If you don't want to get thrown from your horse you will fix that and tighten it.

MIKE

How's this?

KATHERINE

Good job Mike. That horse seems to like you.

MIKE

I shall name him Bucephalus.

KATHERINE

Bucephalus?

MIKE

Alexander the Great's horse.

KATHERINE

You do know that Bucephalus was a stallion? That's a mare.

MIKE

Oh. Then... Epona?

KATHERINE

The Celtic goddess of horses? That's a good name.

MIKE

What? Uh, yeah, her too.

(beat)

What did you name your horse?

KATHERINE

I don't know. I want to get to know her first.

MIKE

Hey Fesmer, have you named your—?

SFX

EXPLOSION!!

SFX

Rattling, creaking, neighing horses.

MIKE

What the hell was that!

KATHERINE

Calm down girl, calm down.

FESMER

Oh, Jareth, what did you do?

MIKE

I'm gonna take a look.

SFX

Another explosion.

MIKE

Someone's coming. Two someones.

FESMER

Is it Jareth?

MIKE

I think so.

JARETH

(distant)

Run!

KATHERINE

Alright guys, mount up. Like I showed you, remember?

JARETH

Run!

MIKE

Arkahn, are you okay?

ARKAHN

What?

MIKE

Are you *ra-na*?

ARKAHN

What?

JARETH

Come Arkahn, this horse is yours.

ARKAHN

I cannot hear anything!

JARETH

It will pass.

ARKAHN

What?

SFX

Alarm bells start sounding.

FESMER

Great plan, Jareth. Much more subtle than Mike's.

JARETH

There is no time for bickering. Kath, guide the pack horse. We ride! *Barago dama!* [giddy-up!]
(BARE-ah-go dah-MA!)

SFX

Horse starts running (away).

FESMER + ARKAHN
Barago dama! [giddy-up!]

SFX
Two more horses running (away).

MIKE
Hee-yah!
(beat)
Giddy-up!

KATHERINE
Mike, say *Barago dama!* [giddy-up!]

MIKE
Oh.

MIKE + KATHERINE
Barago dama! [giddy-up!]

SFX
Three more horses running (away)

END OF SHOW