

Episode 23: Whispers In The Forest, Part 2

Content warning: Hair horror, eye horror

Gavin: Previously on Oathsworn.

[music plays - "[The Consonance That Rang Into The Void](#)" by Devin Nelson]

Brendan: You know for a fact that this ancient fortress has one of the Never armies sitting right there.

Matthew (as Nabain): I believe Whisper's forces, I believe they know of a secret.

Devin: This is actually Aoife's first command. She's usually the 'show me where to shoot' type.

[music break]

[music fades]

Brendan: What do people think the Eyes of Smoke garments look like?

Devin: The Eyes of Smoke what?

Matthew: Hell yeah.

Kris: Gasp.

Brendan: What do their raiments, their robes and such look like?

Matthew: I was imagining smoky grey robes...

Brendan: Mhm.

Matthew (cont'd): With black vestments over them.

Brendan: Cool.

Matthew: But other people should pitch in. That was just what's-

Devin: My instant thought was something sort of ostentatious, of big black and white chunky stripes.

(Matthew and Kris laugh)

Matthew: Like old timey-

Devin: Like a Beetlejuice.

(Brendan laughs)

Matthew: Oh, okay.

Gavin: Beetlejuice, but it's a robe.

Matthew: "Beetlejuice, but it's a robe" is *powerful*.

Gavin: I was imagining the robes from Eyes Wide Shut, where it just covers everything.

Matthew: No, guys, I think Devin's got it.

Gavin: Yeah.

Matthew: Check this. Check this out.

Kris: (laughing) Aaah.

Matthew: I think this is it.

Devin: Oh, god.

Gavin: Oh no.

Brendan: That's a kimono.

Devin: What am I...?

(Matthew laughs)

Gavin: ... What?

Devin: What is going on in the head situation?

Kris: Why the reverse meme?

Gavin: Yeah.

Kris: A wig?

Matthew: (laughing) It's a wig.

Kris: Is it a terrible wig? Why does it look like spaghetti?

Brendan: That's the-

Matthew: Oh, no wait. Beetlejuice kimono.

Devin: So we're looking-

Matthew: It exists.

Brendan: Stop saying "Beetlejuice"!

(Kris chuckles)

Devin: So we're looking at a photo...

Matthew: We've already said it three times.

Devin: Looking at a photo of what looks like a bathrobe that is black and white striped, with a purple, magenta-ish, velvet collar? And tie? But then the person wearing it has... a wig?

Kris: Like a Venetian carnival mask and a wig that looks like...

Devin: Pasta?

Kris: It's made of-

(Devin laughs)

Kris (cont'd): Very wide noodles, yeah.

Devin: What the fuck is this? No, not this. (laughs) I veto this.

Matthew: No, Devin. I think you're right.

Gavin: Yeah.

Matthew: And I think that's it.

(Kris laughs)

Matthew: Beetlejuice robe.

Devin: The thing Brendan posted is cool.

Gavin: Yeah.

Kris (cross): Yeah, that's stylin'.

Gavin (cross): I'd rather the Beetlejuice robe than the joyful priest robe costume.

Brendan: What about... Hang on, hang on. I might have actually just gotten it. So... Welcome to the anime minute. What about this outfit from Kingdom Hearts?

Matthew: Oh, Xehanort's. Yeaaaaaah!

Brendan: Yeah!

Devin: I don't like the tribal tattoo kind of vibe though.

Matthew: Anson, baby.

(Brendan laughs)

Gavin: I like the giant zipper.

(Kris snickers)

Gavin: Like the Eyes of Smoke know how to make zippers and they won't tell anyone.

(others laugh)

Matthew: They make the excuse that it's dreadfully important to the future of the world.

Brendan: Yeah.

Matthew: They know how to make zippers.

Brendan: And they're all wearing Reeboks.

(Matthew laughs)

Kris: They're saving all of us from getting our hair stuck in zippers.

Devin (cross): Alright, so what did we see...?

Kris (cross): That's why they won't tell us.

Devin: (laughs) How did we get on this tangent?

Brendan: So, someone wearing these robes, whatever they are...

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan: I was going to say the sleeves have been torn off, but now I think that probably (chuckling) there were separate discrete zippers attaching the sleeves-

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan (cont'd): And those have been taken off, and underneath is this enormously tall, enormously strong lady. Long, thick black hair. My face cast for this character is this Olympic weightlifter, who I think her name is pronounced Gaëlle Nayo-Ketchanke.

Matthew: Mhm.

Brendan: She's based out of Paris. I think she's originally from Cameroon. I'll share a picture of her, but who is engaged in conversation with this- with the Idol that you have encountered before. Arms crossed and, very abruptly, I think ends the conversation and the two of them go two separate ways. The Idol begins to move north towards the main hall and this person from the Eyes of Smoke I think goes towards some other Never, maybe a couple of groups of Feral being wrangled by a pair of Idols towards a set of stairways down into a down below into some sort of subterranean area.

Matthew: (sing-songy) Nikolaj has some explaining to do.

Devin: That's kind of wild, that they can just walk amongst them without any sort of...

Matthew: Uh huh?

Brendan: That's not the- You know what? That's an idea worth exploring.

Devin: Huh.

Kris: Flashback for some disguises.

(Devin chuckles)

Devin: Oh, one last question before we start planning our approach here. Is there any current visual evidence that those flying creatures are anywhere in the vicinity?

Brendan: No. I think you've been keeping an eye out for them, but have not spotted one.

Devin: Okay. I brought my big ass sniper rifle for them. (chuckles) M'kay.

Brendan: I think you, you know, the thing that I said before is true. Everything that Whisper has is here. And so you have every reason to suspect that they are somehow available, but you don't spot one.

Devin: So I think the drawing aggro approach might be a good one, because they have a lot of bodies and if we can get rid of some of those bodies, it might make this easier. But... other people have- I have a really good idea for a way in which we can aggro them. But does anybody think we should take a different approach?

Gavin: Do-

Devin: This is sort of out of character.

Gavin: I- I- this is a scout mission, not an assault mission.

Kris: It does feel like the aggro approach is like-

Devin: Well-

Kris (cont'd): Plan B.

Gavin: Guns are loud.

Brendan: (stuttering) Well, I-

Gavin: Guns are really loud.

Brendan: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think Devin was saying use aggro and then smoke bomb out of there.

Devin: Yeah... There's no guns involved in my plan.

Kris: Oooh. What is?

Devin: Aoife goes to Rahel.

Gavin (as Rahel): Captain.

Devin (as Aoife): You're a good cook, right?

Matthew: Hmm.

Gavin (as Rahel): Well, um... I- I- Yes?

Devin (as Aoife): What's the smelliest thing you know how to make?

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan: Hell yes.

(Kris chuckles)

Matthew: This rules.

Brendan: I love that.

Kris: True.

Gavin (as Rahel): Um... garlic and chilis probably would do a lot?

Devin (as Aoife): Did you bring any of that in your kit?

Kris: Can Rahel have curry spices?

(Matthew chuckles)

Gavin: I do have a cooking kit and fresh food, so...

Brendan: Absolutely.

Devin: We don't necessarily need to make the food. I think if we just start a fire and put the spices into the fire and have smelly smoke, then we might be able to make a significant enough distraction for these things.

Gavin: I can throw some chilis into a fire.

Brendan: Okay, I like this a lot.

Devin: I imagine this first is some sort of setup or ticking some sort of clock to get through, but it does seem like instead this is a benefit to what seems to be I'm guessing a Maneuver roll that I'm probably leading?

Matthew (cross): It's gonna be a group Maneuver to get us in.

Kris (cross): Yeah.

Matthew: That'll get us in.

Brendan: Yeah, here, I will go as far as to say, here is another four step clock. "Get To ???". Which I don't know which way you're going.

Devin: Even four steps is kind of brutal considering how much we need to spend to do each roll. Hmmm...

Brendan: I'm sorry, it doesn't go any smaller.

Gavin: Would the-

Devin: Yeah.

(Matthew and Kris chuckle softly)

Gavin: Well, do we know where we're trying to go based on the scouting? Maybe that could help have filled the clock up there.

Matthew: So maybe this is first a Scout roll?

Brendan: Yeah, I don't think anyone's actually done any scouting just yet. That was all based on the research.

Gavin: Oh, that's right.

Brendan: Yeah.

Gavin: So-

Brendan: Someone could do a Scout roll as a set up.

Kris: We should do some scouting.

Brendan: Or as advancing this clock.

Devin: I have one in Scout?

Gavin: I have two in Scout actually.

Kris: Oh, hell yeah.

Gavin: So...

Kris: Hell yeah, Rahel. Rahel yeah.

Matthew: Ha!

Kris: I'm gonna be doing this all day, I'm sorry in advance.

(Gavin chuckles)

Matthew: That's fine.

Gavin: So I'm just rolling Scout here?

Matthew: Unless you want benefits.

Brendan: Yeah. It's just risky standard, 'cause you're not opposed by the forces of evil just yet.

(Matthew chuckles)

Matthew: You want any benefits, Gavin?

Gavin: Okay. I would like a helping die maybe?

Matthew: I can give you a helping tie. I'll pay you back for being my research assistant.

Gavin: Oh, is this what it's like?

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan: Yeah, you get to ride on Matthew's shoulders.

Matthew: (laughs) I think Nabain's bones would crack.

(Brendan chuckles)

Gavin: 3d6. Risky standard Scout.

Matthew: Alright.

Kris: Okay.

Gavin: Four.

Brendan: A four. Okay. Yeah. So I think what this gets you is you get a sense of where the Never are investigating and where they are ignoring, places that they have already decided to move on from and aren't paying any more attention to and can kind of figure out a path from one place to another. I'll tick this clock up twice. But I do need to know where it is you're actually going.

Gavin: Well, what's the... I had asked if they were digging any holes at the moment.

Brendan: Oh, right. Okay, so some of them are, yes. I think the 40 that are here are in the midst of digging holes.

Gavin: Okay.

Brendan: Which, to be clear, is not just digging up a pit. They're digging their way into rooms, down stairways and that kind of thing.

Gavin: Okay. Do people have good ideas for questions?

Matthew: Did Brendan- Wait, are you getting questions?

Brendan: Yeah, I think you get... Yeah, ask me two questions.

Matthew: There's that old Dungeon World, "What's the best way through or past" or whatever. That feels appropriate here.

Kris: Yeah, maybe which routes would take us past the least number of eyes.

Gavin: We're trying to get to something, right?

Brendan: Again, there are two destinations that it seems like you could go to. And-

Kris: Yeah.

Brendan (cont'd): The answer might be different depending on which way it is that you're interested in going.

Kris: True. Maybe we should try to see which way to go?

Gavin: Yeah. So if we went down the main hall, what would we have in store other than the one Idol there?

Brendan: You can see that the Feral are ferrying and have ferried enormous amounts of masonry from out of that space. I think you can see from the silhouette of this fortress that one of its larger towers collapsed, probably collapsed somewhere past where this main hall is. Nabain, I think you know that one of the places of prominence in this area is a large inner courtyard in the very center of the fortress.

Matthew: Gotcha.

Brendan: So probably something of religious significance.

Gavin: This might be too direct to ask in this kind of scout role, but why is there an Eyes of Smoke person here?

Brendan: Mmm...

Gavin: What are they getting out of this?

Brendan: Yeah. I think that's a valid question to ask. I'm trying to think of how to give you a good answer. I think... yeah.

Gavin: How would I see this answer when I'm looking through my binoculars or whatever?

Brendan: Can Rahel read lips?

Gavin: She has...

Brendan: She's not a whistler, right?

Gavin: She's got Cantor though.

Brendan: Uh huh.

Gavin: So, lots of singing in her life. So maybe picking up from that? Maybe that's less lip reading and more just like body language?

Brendan: Yeah, I think that's a good call. So I think you're looking around, you're looking both at the spaces where the Feral are and where the Feral aren't, you're looking ahead to this main hall up where the towers are or where the one used to be.

And then you look over towards the enormous set of stone steps that leads down, and notice that the Eyes of Smoke person has come back up. And when she went downstairs, I think, you know, her arms had been crossed. She was- looked very stern, very no nonsense, was here to do a job of some kind, and as she comes up the stairs, she's not running, but coming up at pace. She looks a little softer, looks a little more concerned.

And stops at the top and looks around presumably for someone, and when she doesn't find her, her resolve kind of breaks and her shoulders dip a little bit, and she heaves a sigh and goes back down the steps.

Gavin: Okay, how do I say this in a way that isn't gross? Fucking stupid.

Matthew: Her princess is in another castle.

Gavin: Yeah, that's better than what I was gonna say.

Kris: Oh, like the Never, Whisper's forces, are like holding someone to compel her to help? Or do something?

Gavin: She's... got- got it... Still can't do this.

Brendan: The call is coming from inside the army.

Gavin: She's in love with somebody.

Kris: Oh, wonderful. I wish them the best.

Matthew: Hi, I'm Lance. This is my girlfriend, and this is her girlfriend.

Devin: Yeah, I'm- We know how this works, right?

Brendan: Uh huh.

Gavin: Yeah. Well, I think Lance has reported that the Idols have some sort of romantic-

Devin: Desire magic.

Gavin (cont'd): Compulsion about them. So, I don't know, somebody's got this Eyes of Smoke person on their finger.

Devin: Huh... Yeah, I was thinking like, what if we go and try to basically threaten them for information? But if they're under this spell, they're probably not going to give a shit.

Matthew: Well, I was thinking another direction, which is if you recall that that one time that we saved Nikolaj, which was in and of itself a source of Intel, like this mission is about getting Intel. An Eyes of Smoke person will have Intel.

Gavin: We could just kidnap another Eyes of Smoke person.

Devin: Yeah.

Matthew: Yup!

Kris: Mhm.

Gavin: We found Nikolaj between floorboards.

Matthew: Uh huh.

Kris: Mhm.

Gavin: This person is a lot better treated.

Matthew: Yeah, so this one would be an actual kidnapping.

Devin: Yeah. (chuckles)

Kris: Yeah, not a rescue turned 'you're stuck with us now'.

Devin: Maybe we should head to that part of the...

Gavin: Alright.

Matthew: If nothing else, I bet she can tell us what they're looking for.

Gavin: Yeah.

Matthew: And if we have to, you know, use...

Gavin: We could do a hitman clothing swap after we capture her. But...

Matthew: Yeah.

Gavin: Maybe that's what the get to thing is now. Get to the Eyes of Smoke lady so that we can kidnap her.

Brendan: Okay.

(Matthew laughs)

Gavin: Although that- What do you think?

Devin: That was what I was thinking.

Brendan: Yeah, Aoife's call.

Devin: I don't know if I-

Gavin: Great.

Devin (cont'd): I intended to kidnap her in the sense that we would take her from where she is and bring her somewhere else, but I definitely wanted to threaten her to get details.

(Gavin chuckles)

Gavin: Excellent.

Kris: On board.

Devin: Especially after I just gave somebody from the Eyes of Smoke the benefit of the doubt. I mean not just, that was two downtimes ago, but uh...

(Devin and Kris chuckle)

Kris: Time is, time is wiggly.

Devin: I guess we need to start hacking away at this clock?

Brendan: I think so. Is this...

Kris: Mhm.

Brendan (cont'd): Group Maneuver?

Kris: So yeah, is the group Maneuver to get to, to isolate her somewhere so that we can get the drop on her?

Brendan: I think you need to Maneuver in order to fill this clock in order to get where she is and then maybe see what it is that you get into where she is at.

Matthew: Love it.

Devin: Okay, so did the Scout help us anymore with our setup for the roll? Because I remember we were trying to figure out how to get up to that.

Kris: Ticked the clock by two!

Brendan: Yeah, I think it ticked the clock, but I don't think it gives you...

Kris: Mhm.

Brendan (cont'd): Additional-

Devin: Okay, so we at least need to make one good roll then here. Cool cool.

Brendan: Yes, that is correct.

Devin: I was worried about making two rolls. So yeah, that helps a *lot*. Okay, so-

Kris: Yeah yeah.

Devin (cont'd): We have the benefit of the chilis. We have that brings us to three of five on the scale comparison, right?

Matthew: Mhm.

Devin: (sighs) How else can we?

Kris: Is this like a we can, people push themselves and that kind of stuff?

Gavin: Well, if we're sneaking around, being a smaller scale is actually better.

Kris: Oh, yeah. That makes sense.

Brendan: Oh, yeah, that's true. That's true. Yeah, maybe this is just risky standard.

Devin: Okay. Cool cool.

Matthew: Nice.

Kris: Baller.

Brendan: You've convinced me.

Matthew: (laughs) Do we get that benefit as a dice?

Brendan: (thinking) Umm...

Gavin: It's a group- we're group Maneuvering.

Matthew: No, no, no. I know, but there's the chili benefit. The benefit of the chili.

Brendan: Yeah.

Matthew: Or is the benefit of the chili the thing that's allowing this to happen?

Devin: I mean, we probably could have just made this roll without the chili situation.

Gavin: Yeah. 'Cause what I could do is do a helping die, but I'm also in the Maneuver, so like... I think the chili thing, we just have to scrap.

Brendan: No, it was too good.

Gavin: No, see, we'll just save it for when we need it.

Kris: Mhm.

Gavin: It's in our back pocket now. It's a flash forward.

Matthew: How about this? We have the chili thing set up such that when we need it as a flashback, it's a one stress, no roll flashback to have it as a distraction outside.

Brendan: Yes.

Matthew: Like it just happened to burn at that moment when we need it.

Gavin: Okay. Like I said, it's a flash forward.

Brendan: Yeah.

Matthew: Right.

Brendan: Okay. Another great Consonant Legion remote detonation, but this one starts a campfire.

Matthew: Yeah, we love that.

(Kris chuckles)

Brendan: Okay. In that case, this is a Maneuver, group Maneuver, risky standard.

Devin: Mokay.

Gavin: Who's leading?

Devin: I could lead. Depends on how much of my stress track we want to save for violence.

Matthew: I don't think we're going to do a lot of violence today.

Kris: It's not the plan, but it's always an option, unfortunately.

Devin: Yeah. It's just Brendan really underscored that those worm things were a threat.

Kris: Mhm. I can lead it because Kayo's at none and I've got, I think, as much stress allowance as Aoife does.

Brendan: Oh!

Matthew: Okay.

Brendan: You know what? You rolled a four on that Scout.

Gavin: Oh, yeah.

Kris: Sure am.

Brendan: I owe you a risky consequence.

Kris: Mhm.

(Matthew chuckles)

Brendan: I'm going to tick "Alarm" twice.

Kris: Where is alarm at now?

Brendan (cross): That'll put it in three.

Kris (cross): It's at three.

Gavin: Three out of four.

Kris: Okay.

Brendan: I think that's the- as the Eyes of Smoke lady turns back, she looks back to where Rahel is. You can Prowess resist this.

Gavin: I think I should. I'm going to.

Matthew: Yeah.

Gavin: Two ticks is a lot. Okay. 3d6.

Kris: Could someone else protect for that? I guess we're not really around, huh? Oh dear.

Gavin: Also I have 3d6 in it, so...

Kris: Okay. Here's hopin'.

Brendan: Yeah, Rahel's kinda great.

Gavin: Yeah, I'll just-

Matthew (cross): Eyyyyy! Heal a stress!

Kris (cross): Wow! Yo! Dog!

Gavin: Finger guns!

Brendan: That's critical resist.

Kris: Rahe- Just like- Pixelated sunglasses drop down and Rahel just disappears.

(Brendan chuckles)

Kris: Slides back out of sight. Hell yeah.

Brendan: But also the sunglasses have leaves on them so they're also camouflage.

(Kris laughs)

Matthew: Ahhh...

Gavin: Maybe Rahel recognizes the person, this person recognizes Rahel and they just... let it go.

Brendan: Ohhh!

Kris: Cool nod at each other.

Brendan (cross): I love that! That's great.

Matthew (cross): That's pretty good.

Kris: Oh.

Brendan: Yep. Okay. Okay. That's true now.

Kris: (nervous) Oh...

Brendan: Okay. And you sneak downstairs.

Gavin: Well, that was the resist. Now I got to do the Maneuver roll.

Brendan: Oh, that's right. Yeah.

(Devin chuckles)

Kris: Roll that again. Just just roll like that again and it'll be great.

Gavin: And Kayo is leading?

Kris: Mhm. Yeah, I can.

Gavin: Okay.

Brendan (cross): Sneaky Kayo.

Matthew (cross): Oh my god. One fail, two fails.

Gavin: Oh boy.

Gavin: Well, at least we got one success.

Devin: Success.

Matthew (cross): And a full success.

Kris (cross): There's a six.

Matthew: So just two stress for Kayo.

Kris: That is fine.

Gavin: Doesn't Kayo have two Maneuver?

Kris: No, one.

Gavin: Oh boy.

Kris: Mhm.

Devin: I think the six here is, I think with my eye I do sense almost threads of energy, between these things that are crawling, leading back to the witches.

Brendan: Oh, sure.

Devin: So I'm able to almost see a- an ethereal tripwire.

Brendan: Yeah, I like that. As you head downstairs, you look up and you can see that great headless shadow stepping towards the inner courtyard.

(Kris makes an uncomfortable noise)

Devin: (chuckles) I wonder how much I've talked to people about these things. I know I gave Nabain a drawing of one that I did, but I don't know if she gave Nabain any context for it. She just knew that he was working on the Neverdex and he's like- and she's just like, hey, here, I drew this. And I don't know how he reacted to that. (chuckles)

Matthew: He put it on his fridge.

(Devin chuckles)

Gavin: I feel like if anybody to talk to would be the commander.

Devin: Who?

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan: Exactly.

(Matthew keeps laughing, Kris also snickers)

Gavin: He's like, 'cause he had it before. 'Cause he had it before, so was he seeing these things before?

Matthew: (quietly) Holy shit.

Devin: Probably. Also, sorry, I said "who," because I actually had like a glitch right in here with the word said was, but... (laughs)

Kris: Ohhh, okay.

Matthew (cross): It's way funnier if Aoife...

Kris (cross): It's fantastic timing.

Brendan (cross): What army?

Matthew (cross, cont'd): Aoife who has been insubordinate is just like, I don't know him. Who's that?

Gavin: Yeah, but no, the commander.

Devin: Yeah.

Gavin: 'Cause he had it before.

Brendan: Yeah.

Gavin: That'd be an interesting downtime scene.

Brendan: It might.

Devin: Yeah, as much as they butt heads, he did give her something that helps her greatly. But also, you know, gives her scary visions. (chuckles)

Brendan: Rahel.

Gavin: Me.

Brendan: This is Augur Karla. Where do you know her from?

Gavin: What's Karla's culture? I guess she's just Eyes of Smoke?

Brendan: Well, everyone from Eyes of Smoke is from somewhere. She is Tailos.

Gavin: Tailos, okay. I don't know, I think maybe there was a time in Rahel's life where she was going to become a cantor, like a legitimate one, and there was singing lessons or something.

Brendan: Yeah, I think she was a student with you. She sat next to you in class. You remember she always had a powerful voice. And I think as you get down to these catacombs, I don't think she looks back. I don't even know if she knows that y'all are here necessarily, but the Never are digging in a number of halls, but she seems to step down towards one of the spaces in these catacombs that has already been excavated and abandoned. The dead ends. What do you do?

Gavin: Is there a flashback I could do for maybe more than just students? Maybe we were, we met there, but we're good friends.

Brendan: Sure. Mark a stress and tell me a secret that only the two of you know about.

Gavin: Yeah. Secret the- only the two of us know about.

Devin: I was going to suggest if you wanted a music thing that maybe you both were learning certain parts of a harmony and you realized that the other one's part was more suited to their vocal range, so you traded parts.

Gavin: Yeah, I like that. Maybe Rahel could whistle... Well, I guess I can't whistle because I don't have that.

Matthew: Right. I was about to say...

(Brendan chuckles)

Gavin: Then I would have to sing it.

Matthew: That's the whole thing. That feels like a desperate great.

(Devin and Matthew chuckle)

Gavin: Oh, boy.

Devin: I look to Kayo. "Do you think you could knock her out if we need to?"

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan: Yeah, that works great. I think what that sounds like is you- is a Consort role.

Gavin: Okay.

Brendan: Does that sound right?

Kris: Sounds Consort-y.

Gavin: So I spent stress for the flashback and yeah, Consort. I've got 2d6. What's the...?

Brendan: Risky standard.

Gavin: Risky standard. I guess I'll make this... Hmm. What's a devil's bargain?

Brendan: Someone who hasn't yet been on screen will also hear you.

(Kris makes a nervous noise)

Gavin: No.

Kris: What would helping... how?

Brendan: Just like keeping watch to make sure that there's no Feral coming around the corner or something, right?

Kris: Sure. Yeah, I'll do that.

Gavin: Cool. So controlled standard or risky date- great, 3d6, do you think? I don't know if there's a way to make this controlled, fictionally, actually.

Matthew: With somebody watching for you? To say like, hey, stop for a second. Somebody's coming close.

Brendan: Yeah, I'd be content with that.

Gavin: Okay. I'm going to go with controlled standard. 3d6.

Kris: Nice.

Gavin: I'll take a five. I'll take a five.

Brendan: A five. Okay, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to put another clock on the board. "Augur Karla". It is six steps, and I'm going to tick it twice as... I think she was studying part of the wall, part of again, some of these like Chosen sigils that had been exposed thanks to the Feral excavation.

Devin: It's like a Dark Souls thing where you're hitting every wall with your sword to save the bruiser.

Brendan: (chuckles) Kind of like that, but I think she's studying it intently.

[music plays - "[Ceaselessly They Follow](#)" by Devin Nelson]

Brendan (cont'd): And she moves so quickly, as though she just snaps 180 degrees. It's as though all she had to do was shift the weight in her feet to move from intently studying the wall to being at a fighter's position with her hands raised up in front of her face, on the toes of her feet. Not startled, just ready.

Kris: Hmm.

Brendan: And she says, "Rahel, what are you doing here?"

[music break]

Gavin (as Rahel): (whispering) Karla, what are you doing here?

[music fades]

Brendan (as Augur Karla): I have work to do. This place is dangerous. You're going to get killed.

Gavin (as Rahel): Do you hear yourself? You're not safe here. We gotta get out, come on.

Brendan (as Augur Karla): You haven't answered my question. What are you doing here? How did you- How are *you* here? I thought you were with-

Gavin: Just fumbles her Legionnaire badge on her uniform.

Brendan: "Are-" She looks left and right and takes a small step backwards.

Gavin (as Rahel): Wait, I-

Brendan: And she, I think slowly starts to lower her hands and says, "Rahel, come here. It's not safe. Please."

Gavin: I mean, she's probably going to step forward and keep talking quietly. Something, something about, I don't know who has you wrapped around their finger, but whoever they are, they-

(Devin laughs)

Gavin: They're not good for you.

(Matthew chuckles)

Matthew: Dump your boyfriend.

Brendan: Dump your boyfriend.

Kris: Dump 'em! Dump his ass.

Brendan: I snuck into this cursed castle just to tell you something real quick. I noticed your DMs weren't open, so I came to this castle. God, I think that's another Consort right there. That's got to be a Consort.

Gavin: Yeah. As your friend, I got to tell you that the Never- I don't know who she is, but this is not a healthy relationship, Karla.

Kris: Can naive hope help with that?

Brendan: How do you help?

Kris: Oh, no, I was asking if the- Rookies have a, have naive hope.

Gavin: Oh, yeah. I've got naive hope.

(Matthew chuckles)

Brendan: Yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep. You can use that. Very good call.

Gavin: Okay. What's the, what's the...

Brendan: Risky standard.

Gavin: Yeah, the thing.

Brendan: The Blades in the Dark thing.

Gavin: I think I'm gonna use naive hope for 3d6, for an extra die.

Brendan: Yeah, that sounds right.

Kris: Eyyy.

Brendan: Six.

Kris: Rahel is solid.

Gavin: Rahel's not bad today. I di- (chuckling) I did not want to take the lead today on screen, but here we are.

Brendan: Yeah. You can see like a dozen different emotions play out across her face. Of anger, of outrage, of sorrow. And her hands clench into fists and she says, "No one has me wrapped around their finger. I'm here. I'm here to do what I have chosen to do. I don't know how you got here, if you ran away from your Legion, or if they are waiting for your return, but you must go. This place is not safe. I have no desire to see you turned into one of them, but I'm not going anywhere."

What's everyone else doing?

Gavin: Yeah, maybe someone else can finish this.

Kris: Leaning around a corner. (chuckling) I think Kayo is just looking at Aoife just like, do we go now? Do we go now? Like is just waiting for this to break bad.

Devin: Yeah, I was just kind of sketched out by doing that because when Rahel showed the badge, she stepped back as if she didn't want anything to do with that. So if we all bust out like, yo, we're the Legion. Tell us what's up. She's not going to be like, oh, cool. (chuckles)

Kris: Yeah. (thinking noises) I don't know. Maybe we can offer to help if Karla is, you know, not owned as they claim-

(Matthew chuckles)

Kris (cont'd): Maybe just like, okay, do you need a hand and then we can all get out of here then? Like, what do you need? Because you don't seem to like being here and yet you insist on staying like, what's good?

Devin (as Aoife): Karla, do you know Nikolaj?

Matthew: Oh my god. (laughs)

Kris: (flabbergasted) Oh. Oh, Aoife's just... Aoife's goin' forward.

Brendan (cross): Is this-

Matthew (cross): (laughing) From around the corner.

Kris: Okay, great.

(Matthew laughs)

Gavin: Just briskly walk past.

(Kris laughs)

Gavin: Yeah, great.

Brendan: And Lance is here all of a sudden! This is actually happening? Aoife, you're asking this?

Devin: I mean, I guess I don't understand what the problem with asking that would be.

Brendan: No-

Matthew: She didn't know we were here.

Kris: Yeah, she didn't know we were here.

Devin: Ohhh, okay.

Matthew: So a new person just shows up out of nowhere and is like, hey, do you know this guy?

(Kris chuckles)

Devin: Yeah yeah yeah, my bad. I misread- I misread that situation.

Brendan: All good. Which, to be clear, that is absolutely a thing you can do. I just want to confirm that that's what you're doing.

Devin: Yeah...

Gavin: I think it's-

Devin: 'Cause I did, I did ask Kayo earlier if they would be able to step in and-

Kris: Yeah.

Devin (cont'd): Use muscle if needed.

Kris: Yeah, I think Kayo didn't even blink and just said, of course.

Devin: Yeah, so I think we need to progress this plot a little bit. Yeah, I think we step out. Maybe maybe kind of after she says like, "Oh, are you going to return to them? Or did you run away," I think we step out from around the corner.

Brendan: Okay. Two things happen.

Kris: Aaah.

Brendan: One, the difficulty of the (chuckles) "Augur Karla" clock goes up from six to eight.

Kris: Yep.

Gavin: Okay.

Brendan: The other thing that happens is she grabs for Rahel, you know, in like a grappling maneuver in order to try and seize you in a bear hug.

Kris: Can we resist either of these things?

Brendan: I think this is a maneuver from Rahel.

Kris: Oh. Dip.

Brendan: Or someone else could try and interrupt.

Kris: Yeah, can Kayo protect? I feel like Kayo-

Gavin: Yeah.

Kris: We take a step out and then as- Kayo's probably behind Aoife, so Aoife takes a step out, Karla starts to go for Rahel, and then Kayo's just coming out from behind Aoife and even just has to dart or do something to stop that.

Brendan: I'm happy for this to be a Kayo resist. I think that's fair.

Kris: Prowess?

Brendan: Sure.

Kris: Weeeh.

Gavin: Kayo is fast.

Kris: Here's hopin'.

Brendan: (unsure) Hmmm...

Gavin: Even in all that armour.

Brendan: I think, hmm. Here's the thing. I think it's actually Insight...

Kris: Aaah.

Brendan (cont'd): Because it's realizing that this is the moment.

Kris: I see. Okay.

Brendan: There's no question that Kayo is physically capable of doing this. It's knowing that this is the moment to go.

Kris: Sure. Great. Okay, I have two dice in that.

Gavin: Do you get bonus dice at all?

Kris: No, I get-

Gavin: Oh, you just get -1 stress.

Kris: Yeah, I'll take -1 stress. I get bonus dice to Resolve resists, which is not this. 2d6 Insight resist. Wah. Take no stress! Heyyy.

Brendan: Beautiful.

Devin: Noice.

Kris: Yeah, I think Karla reaches for Rahel and Kayo just sees that, darts forward and is just in between the two. Right? Because if Karla is reaching out for Rahel, Kayo is just there. Hand just right in Karla's chest, like don't go anywhere. Keeping her at an arm's distance from Kayo and Rahel.

Brendan: Yeah, she does the same to you.

(Kris chuckles)

Devin: When I look at her...

Brendan: Mhm?

Devin (cont'd): With my fucked up eye, which I think as I focus, the little roots kind of slowly creep out from the from the socket.

Kris: (uncomfortable) Ugh. No.

Devin: Sorry. (chuckles) Sorry for bad eye stuff. Would I be able to notice any sort of magical effect on people from never magic?

Brendan: Yeah, I think you absolutely could.

Devin: Does she seem corrupted in any way? By-

Brendan: She does not.

Devin: By Whisper's stuff? Okay.

Kris: Mmm.

Brendan: I don't think so, no.

Devin: Mokay.

Brendan: I think you've seen-

Devin: Oh, that's kind of concerning in its own way.

Brendan: Yeah. I think you've seen that kind of enchantment before and it is not present here.

Devin: Okay. Well, I still look up- look at her with my fucked up eye and be like, "Hey, we need to talk."

Brendan (as Augur Karla): You've all made a grave mistake coming here

Gavin (as Rahel): We've made a mistake?! What do you think you're doing?!

Kris: "Hey, Rahel. Give her time to explain what that means." Then just looks back at Karla like, you want to tell us what that means?

Devin (as Aoife): Please elaborate.

Brendan (as Augur Karla): Haven't you seen the forces of the Never crawling all over this fortress?

Devin (as Aoife): Yes, and we are an army that is here to fight the forces of the Never.

Brendan (as Augur Karla): From what I understand, your army is 30 people.

Kris (as Kayo): Hasn't stopped us yet. What are they doing here?

Brendan (as Augur Karla): Digging.

Kris (as Kayo): For?

Brendan: And like, gives you a look.

Kris: What kind of look?

Devin: "Certainly you've read something about the future they seek," kind of gesturing at her profession.

Brendan (as Augur Karla): I've read many things. I see very little reason why I must explain myself to the likes of you, to bandits and outlaws.

Gavin (as Rahel): Hey.

Matthew: She thinks we're the other Legion.

Kris: I think she might just think that of the Legion generally, (chuckling) which is fair.

Gavin: I mean, she's not wrong.

Kris: Yeah.

Matthew: We're super cops, for sure, but that last line... I think that might be the situation here.

Gavin (as Rahel): I don't know what you're thinking, but the Never are anathema to people, us. You think you're just going to be fine, unscathed, here?

Brendan (as Augur Karla): I know what lies in store for me.

Devin (as Aoife): They threw my whole home into the sky. That's not hyperbolic.

Brendan (as Augur Karla): I believe you.

Gavin (as Rahel): But you want to be one of them?

Brendan (as Augur Karla): What I want is immaterial. What *will* be, that is what concerns me.

Devin (as Aoife): (exasperated) Ha, these people and their fucking determinism.

Gavin: This is a conversation Rahel and Karla have had a thousand times.

Kris: Oh boy.

Devin (as Aoife): You think just because things are meant to be the way they're meant to be, that is your duty, your obligation, to be the tool that makes that future come true, regardless of its morality?

Gavin: Like we- Out of character...

Brendan: Uh huh?

Gavin: Trying to convince her...

Kris: Yeah.

Gavin: Is probably less useful than just gagging her and running away.

Kris: Yeah.

Brendan: It's not impossible.

Devin (cross): Yeah. But like, I don't know if-

Kris (cross): Seems like it'll take longer, though.

Devin: I think Aoife's more into the aggressive route. I don't think she is somebody who's good at social skills and is- has any fucking patience for her shit right now.
(laughs)

Kris: Yeah, fair. Again, home in the sky. So do we want to tie up take elsewhere? Or are we still attempting to work together for a second?

Gavin: It sounds like we've been doing a group Consort or something, or group Sway.

(Kris chuckles)

Devin: I have never heard of this.

Kris: Yeah, group something. Yeah, it's like, fine, then keep your secrets. Know what you will about yourself. What can you tell us about the Never and stuff here, right?

Brendan: Yeah. I almost think this is like-

Kris: There's Discipline. What does Discipline do? She's not in the army, so. I don't know that I can Discipline.

Brendan: I don't think Discipline will work here.

Kris: Uh huh. I got none of the rest.

Brendan: I think this is a Sway.

Kris: Woo!

Brendan: And I think it's-

Gavin: None of us have Sway.

Brendan: And I think it starts with risky limited.

Kris: (pained) Ooh!

Gavin: None of us have this.

Kris: Incredible.

Matthew: Mmm... Risky limited with Sway... If it's Consort, would it be risky no effect to start?

Brendan: Yeah, I think that's true.

Matthew: Okay, does anybody have enough die in Consort to make that worthwhile?

Kris: I have none in that either.

Gavin: I have two Consort.

Kris: Oh!

Matthew: Then that'll work.

Kris: Oh! There we go.

(Devin chuckles)

Brendan: Yeah, so everyone helping Rahel.

Kris: Can do that.

Brendan: Yeah, actually I think that suits the scene really well, right?

Kris: Yeah.

Matthew: Yup.

Kris: We're all here as backup.

Brendan: Yeah.

Matthew: Rahel uses Consort when Sway would be better. That's a friend move.

Brendan: Mhm.

Devin: Yeah, I do think I'm kind of backing up because I'm really close to losing my cool. And yeah, I'm not good at this stuff.

Gavin: Is this a group manueuv- group thing still?

Brendan: I don't-

Kris: I don't think so.

Gavin: Or are y'all just-

Kris: I think we're just helping.

Gavin: Okay, so we just- I need one person to actually spend the stress.

Kris: I will.

Brendan: Yeah, that makes sense.

Kris: Kayo's right up there.

Brendan: Mhm.

Devin: I'm making the situation worse, so I back up.

(Kris chuckles)

Gavin: So 2d6 risky limited right now.

Brendan: Yes.

Gavin: With Kayo's help, I can make it risky standard.

Brendan: You need three ticks to get her to... To win the encounter.

Kris: Oh boy.

Gavin: What's a devil's bargain?

(Devin and Kris chuckle)

(Kris makes a scared noise)

Matthew: Or you could change position for effect.

Brendan (cross): You could change. That's right, Azar.

Gavin (cross): No, I'm planning on it, but I'd like to have more dice too.

(Kris makes a worried noise)

Brendan: I guess you're probably still not interested in that one that I offered you before.

Gavin: No.

Brendan: Okay. Let me see if I could think of something different then. One of the rookies with all of the... focus up here, one of the rookies is going to get lost to one of the Feral.

(Kris makes a scared noise)

Matthew: We can't risk Morale.

Gavin: Yeah, no, I can't take that one either. I'm sorry.

Kris: Yikes.

Gavin: I'll push myself.

Brendan: Okay.

Gavin: So, pushing myself for an extra die.

Kris: Help from Kayo for position or effect.

Gavin: Risky standard, and then I'm gonna make it desperate great.

(Kris gasps in horror)

Matthew: Nice!

Kris: (pained) Agh!

Devin: Oh dear.

Gavin: A five.

Brendan: That's a 5.

Matthew: That's a five!

(Kris whimpers in fear)

Brendan: Okay.

Gavin: Convince her, but...

Devin: Lots of mixed successes on this one.

Brendan: Mhm. So I think once again you see her shoulders kind of slump. She doesn't completely let down her physical guard. She takes another step back so she's not within grappling range... but her expression kind of falls a bit.

And she shakes her head and says, "I'm... I know that this isn't what I should be doing. I know that- I know what the Never are capable of."

Gavin (as Rahel): Then why are you doing it? If you know that you shouldn't be doing it, then why are you doing it? Come on, let's get out of here.

Brendan (as Augur Karla): Because I lost everyone that I cared about except one person. And if I'm going to die, then I want to spend the rest of my time with her.

Gavin: "It's not her." Oh god, if Rahel says that though...

Brendan: And she stiffens and says, "You don't know that."

Gavin: And then there's a second where we see Waloot doing a simultaneous-

(Kris groans)

Gavin (cont'd): Mission with the Star Vipers.

Kris: (sadly) Ohhh...

Gavin: It's not her anymore.

(Kris makes a sad noise)

Gavin: That's someone else.

Kris: Damn.

Gavin: Just wearing her body.

Brendan: She looks at the specialists and is like, "I'm not going to stop you. Whisper's forces will find what they're looking for, and when they do, your world is doomed."

Devin (as Aoife): Then why can't we find it first?

Brendan (as Augur Karla): Because they have a two week head start on you.

Devin (as Aoife): Well, they loosened the jar already.

Matthew: (quietly) Jesus.

Brendan: She crosses her arms.

Gavin: I-is this where we... tie her up?

(Kris laughs)

Matthew: Not at this point.

Gavin: 'Cause we can't just let her go. This is out of character.

Brendan: Uh huh.

Kris: Mhm.

Matthew: Yeah, I know.

Brendan: Yeah.

Gavin: We can't just let her go.

Kris: Yeah, that seems-

Brendan: If you have practical mission questions, this is the time to ask them.

Gavin: What are they looking for?

Brendan: She tells you they are looking for two things. They are looking for the grave of a Chosen and they are looking for armaments from the old empire.

Gavin: Armaments? Was there something from the old empire that technologically that we've lost?

Brendan: I think so, yes. I think so. Maybe not in terms of firearms and stuff like that, but armour and edged weapons and such. I think we're probably made of materials and made using techniques that have been lost.

Devin: Archadian steel.

Brendan: Yeah.

Gavin: Archadian steel...

Kris: That sounds good.

Brendan: Steel.

Kris: That sounds cool.

Matthew: And you said that, but an Archadian steel siege weapon sure would be nice.

Brendan: It would.

Kris: Kravannder voice, "Bring me some Arcadian steel. I'll see what we can do."

(Matthew and Brendan chuckle)

Devin: Suleiman is also like, "Bring me some Arcadian steel!"

(Kris laughs)

Brendan: And then every other character that we've seen on screen, whether they're alive or dead, says, bring me some Archadian steel.

(Matthew laughs)

Brendan: (high-pitched) Bring me some Archadian steel!

Matthew: Now, who was it who sounded like Mickey Mouse?

Kris: (Jafar-sounding voice) Bring me the lamp!

(Gavin chuckles)

Gavin: It was that Never that was interrogating the commander-

Matthew: Oh, right!

Gavin (cont'd): At the very first mission.

Kris: Mmm.

Gavin: Yup. Sounded just like Mickey Mouse.

(Devin chuckles)

(someone Mickey Mouse laughs)

(Gavin laughs)

Devin (as Aoife): Are they looking for a specific person, a specific armament?

Brendan (as Augur Karla): I- That I don't know. There's not specific armaments unless it's something that's been buried with a Chosen that had passed. But no, somewhere here in the castle, there are armouries, things that would have been commonplace in the days of the old empire, but that have been lost to collapse. Lost to the passage of time. They're digging, looking for caches of the stuff.

Devin (as Aoife): And how exactly are you helping?

Brendan: She draws herself up. "I am familiar with things past and future."

Matthew (as Nabain): And yet they haven't found it yet?

Brendan (as Augur Karla): I'm not familiar with *this* precise castle. It was not my area of expertise. Sometimes you bring your books and scrolls and you do the best you can.

Matthew (as Nabain): I'm sure I wouldn't know about that.

Kris: Is *now* when we (chuckling) tie her up and go away?

(Matthew laughs)

Gavin: I think now is when we tie her up.

Matthew: I don't know.

Gavin: Nabain's a-

Kris: Book and scrolls guy.

Gavin (cont'd): Undertaker.

Matthew: True.

Kris: With books and scrolls.

Gavin: So he might know the burial practice. Yeah, he's got books and scrolls too, but like... He might know the burial practices better than Karla does.

Matthew: Sure. My- I'm thinking more like we got her this far. Maybe we can just ask Brendan to show us what kind of clock it would look like for her to join us. Because bringing an Eyes of Smoke person back, like, okay, she doesn't know about this castle, whatever. She knows about other stuff. That turns into Intel. This mission's about Intel.

Kris: This is true.

Gavin: Yeah, she's been intimately with- Heh, intimately.

Kris: Eyyy.

Matthew: Eyyy.

Gavin: With this coalition of Never for quite a while now.

Brendan: Yeah.

Kris: That's true.

Brendan: You know, cards on the table. I'll tell you exactly what it would take to get her, willingly, to leave this place, and that is you would have to kidnap the Idol.

(Kris gasps)

(Devin laughs)

Kris: Oh boy.

Matthew: Lance's girlfriend?

Brendan: I think she puts it in exactly those terms. She crosses her arms and says, "If you've no other interrogation for me, I have promised not to give you away, but I'm not going anywhere. Not so long as Lydia is here."

Matthew: Oh my god.

Kris (cross): (pained) Argh, I hate that she has a name!

Matthew (cross): Wait, no, he gave us that name.

Devin: Yeah, that is familiar.

Kris: Wh-?

Brendan: I was wondering about that, yeah.

Matthew (cross): I'm pr- I'm almost positive.

Devin (cross): I think he gave us that name on that first mission. Or that-

Kris: Aaah!

Matthew: You must have.

Devin: We can't- we cannot bring a Never back to camp, especially after what *just* happened.

Kris: Nah, it seems like a real bad idea.

Matthew: Yeah, but then think about, *think about* the downtime scene.

Kris (cross): That's true. We could take her somewhere-

Matthew (cross): The downtime scene with Lance!

Gavin: We don't have to bring her back alive either.

Matthew: No, she wouldn't come back with that.

Kris: Would Nabain even let us do that? That's probably a different, that's a concern for later.

(Devin chuckles)

Matthew: Matthew is into this. Matthew can find a way for Nabain to get into this.

(Kris chuckles)

Gavin: Well, as long as she's captured, he could kill her whatever he wants.

Devin: Yeah. We can also kind of white lie about this.

Gavin: We've already captured her?

Matthew: No.

Gavin: But none of us have Sway!

(Kris laughs)

Gavin: None of us have Sway!

Devin: (sighs) Oh my god.

Brendan: Alright, just have a character die, invent a rookie, bring the rookie back.

(Matthew and Devin laugh)

Kris: Just let the rookie do all the talking.

Brendan: Oh, bonjour mademoiselle.

(Kris laughs)

Brendan: I am very convincing.

Kris: Why French?

Brendan: If you'll bring me some Archadian steel...

Matthew: Jesus Christ.

Kris: Jesus...

Matthew: She's what? She's tier three now? Tier four?

Gavin: Yeah.

Brendan: She is tier three.

Gavin: Tier three.

Kris: Yiiikes.

Matthew: We can do a tier three.

Kris: By herself?

Gavin: She's tier three on her own.

Matthew: Yeah, well, we'll get 'er, we'll get her on her own.

Devin: And I can be like tier four on my own, so... But yeah.

(Devin laughs)

Matthew: We'll get Karla to go meet her on her own. We'll be like, hey, when's your next date? And easy peasy.

Gavin: So the pitch is Rahel saying like, this is my friend, we need to save her. The only way we can do that, legitimately, is if we grab this Lydia person.

Kris: Mmm...

Brendan: Oh, okay.

Gavin: Just like, yeah, try to convince Aoife to do it.

Brendan: Yeah.

Devin: Well, okay. So the reason why Aoife would be very, very, very hesitant in regards to that plan was everything based off of the last downtime, of literally having Never in our ranks.

Gavin: Mhm.

Devin: Yeah, and that being the whole reason we fucking packed up and left. So willingly bringing a Never onto the camp would be...

Matthew: But we- The pitch would be we don't bring her back *to* the camp. We just bring her back *near* the camp.

Devin: Ohhh.

Matthew: Under armed guard.

Devin: Mhm. And so not having them join the... But just just getting them out of this current castle place.

Gavin: Yeah, getting them both out of there and then maybe eventually bringing them back? But also, okay...

(Kris chuckles)

Gavin: New idea. New worry is if we just take Karla and not Lydia, Lydia might attack the camp directly to get Karla back. So we gotta get both, 'cause I don't think Whisper's gonna prioritize Karla, but Lydia might.

Devin: Yeah, it just doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

Matthew: Do you have a sense of what would? I mean, first off, is Devin just not interested in this?

Devin: It's not that I'm not interested in it, it just doesn't make fictional sense.

Matthew: Sure, so what would it take for it to make fictional sense for you?

Devin: A reason why doing this wouldn't literally make everybody at camp be like, what the fuck are you doing?

Kris: I don't think there's a way in which we kidnapped a Never and they're not here, but they're close...

Matthew: I think there's 100% a way that we say, hey, we kidnapped an enemy commander and now you can interrogate them.

Brendan: Yeah, that's...

Kris: Fair.

Devin: Hmm...

Brendan: Yeah.

Matthew: This is a war.

Devin: Okay. I mean-

Kris: Yeah.

Devin: Yeah. I mean, the problem with that, though, is still the Karla being angry with us and possibly maybe using violence to get this prisoner out.

Matthew: No, Karla just wants us to take the... She will only come with us if we take Lydia, right?

Gavin: She'll only come with us willingly.

Matthew: Right.

Devin: But I don't think she's going to be like, okay, cool. Wait, but now she's a prisoner?

Gavin: Well, yeah.

Matthew: Karla doesn't seem to be under any misconceptions that Lydia is a Never.

Kris: Yeah.

Devin: Okay.

Matthew: Right? But this is a, my girlfriend turned into a zombie but I still love her situation.

Devin: But then she's gonna be mad that we took her girlfriend and started interrogating her, right?

Kris: I think so long as she gets to be, it sounds like so long as she gets to be with Lydia until the world ends, she doesn't super care what they're doing.

Matthew: Yeah, big nihilism energy.

Gavin: Yeah, and if we get her to the camp, if we get her to the camp and then break promises... That's grimdark, baby.

Brendan: Yeah, I think that Devin's read on the situation is a correct one. But that is a solution. That is a bridge you can burn when you get to it.

(Kris chuckles)

Gavin: Yeah.

Devin: And like, I doubt that Lydia is going to come willingly.

Matthew: Oh, definitely.

Kris: No, absolutely not.

Matthew: The other option here, just to put everything on the table, was that Brendan had said that if we just kidnapped Karla, this- that would still count as a mission success. We would just get +2 Intel instead of +3.

Devin: Mhm.

Matthew: If I can have one more thing before we break. I think Nabain gets like... Hey, Devin, how tall is Aoife? Basically, do you think Aoife is shorter or taller than Nabain? I think Nabain's average height.

Devin: She's five-three tops.

Matthew: Oh, wow. Okay. That was not the answer I expected. (laughs)

Devin: She's like a little spider monkey.

Matthew: Got it. Okay. In that case, I think that he, he does-

Devin: Her gun is taller than her.

Matthew: Oh my god, that's cute. I think Nabain leans down so now he's just more directly speaking just to Aoife.

Devin: Mhm.

Matthew: And he says, "Aoife, I don't- I don't mean to question you and I will of course do as you command here, you're the captain. There's another option. Kayo has a wrecking kit. We could try to bring the ruins down. Deal a blow to Whisper."

Devin: I love that.

Brendan: And-

Devin: (sighs) Yeah.

Brendan (cont'd): I had thought of something that I think is worth tipping my hand with. Aoife, you had looked before to try and see if there was Never enchantment.

Devin: Yeah, threads of magic.

Brendan: Yeah, and you didn't find any of that, but there's clearly some degree of ambiance, right? There's the Feral and the Idols down the hall, there's more and more of them skittering, hissing across this fortress. But even down here, there's something, something that picks at your attention. Like the sun peeking from behind a cloud. And I think as the specialists in your ranks are asking these questions of Karla, trying to figure out what to do next, this sense, this feeling captures your attention in a way that draws your gaze up past the stoneworks, covered in roots, in dead and dying leaves, in moss, into the main body of the fortress.

Devin: The broken tower?

Brendan: No, not quite there, but in the rooms above the main hall. Even as old as this place is, there are rooms filled with art, with things of the old empire, with things of beauty, and someone is up there, gazing upon them. Aoife, when was the last time you were in love?

Devin: Hmm. I think she has had a minor crush on Kayo this whole time, but I don't think it's like...

Brendan: Uh huh.

Devin: I don't think she can afford having more than that at the moment, in terms of having seen people die, and so I think she kind of wills that away a little bit.

Brendan: For sure.

Devin: I think she probably had a... A teen sweetheart maybe, but I don't think anything since then.

Brendan: There is a sense of great unsettling familiarity. Of her dark skin...

[music plays - "[What Has Yet To Be Written In The Annals](#)" by Devin Nelson]

Brendan (cont'd): Her broad shoulders, her beautiful locks tied up.

(Devin makes a nervous noise)

Brendan: Whisper is here.

[music break]

Brendan: Oathsworn is an actual play podcast created by...

Devin: Devin Nelson,

Gavin: Gavin Fregeau,

Kris: Kris Allison,

Matthew: Matthew Guzdial,

Brendan (cont'd): And me, Brendan McLeod. All music for the show is created by Devin Nelson. Find it and more at devindecibel.bandcamp.com. Find a link to their music and any of the games that we have played in the podcast description. Follow us [@oathswornpod](https://twitter.com/oathswornpod) on Twitter, or [oathsworn](https://cohost.io/oathsworn) on cohost. Until next time.

[music fades]