

ARSEN EPISODE 2

"The Gift"

Written by: Nicole Tuttle

Characters Present: Aurelie, Announcer, Narrator/ Luke, Shelby,  
Arsen, Dominic, Nyx, Kailen, Violetta

ANNOUNCER

Welcome to Arsen, a magical Audio Drama, storytelling experience. Arsen contains swearing, illusions to sexual themes as well as themes of violence. Thank you, and enjoy this episode of Arsen.

SFX: MUSIC PLAYS < THE THEME SONG>

NARRATOR

Aurelie sat in her hotel room, curled up in a chair staring out the window at the forest that surrounded her. Blissfully unaware of the dangers that lurked in those very same woods.

AURELIE

Dear Diary. I'm looking out my hotel window and there are so many trees. I learned to appreciate trees in New York because unless you visit Central or Bryan Park, there aren't many around. It's worth it though. The big city. The second I could apply for med school I applied to every freaking school in New York. I had to get out of Ohio. I missed the trees though. Here, they are everywhere. I almost forgot the smell of a forest. I had always loved the smell of cedar after a heavy rainfall. Today I was greeted with the smell of freshly fallen snow, and the overwhelming aroma of pine cones. I didn't mind the smell. In fact, I much prefer it to the strong, putrid stench of body odor, day old street tacos and grime that I am used to in New York City. I missed this smell. And, much to my surprise, I missed my hometown. I missed the woods. My house is surrounded by a forest. Well, it was surrounded by a forest.

I went there today.

SFX: WOOD CREAKING, CRACKLING OF AN ALMOST DEAD FIRE

It smelled... like a bonfire. But it wasn't just a bonfire. It was an explosion. My entire life, up in smoke. Officer Rathmore said they recovered a few things. Our old record player, still intact actually.. But it'll never play again. Not with all that smoke damage. My dad bought it for my mom for their anniversary.

SFX: TRANSITION MUSIC INTO A FLASHBACK

VIOLETTA

Luke! You shouldn't have!

LUKE

Nothing but the best for the love of my life

SFX: THE SOUND OF SOMEONE PUTTING A RECORD ON AND A CLASSIC SONG  
PLAYS

LUKE

Dance with me?

VIOLETTA

Always.

SFX: TRANSITION OUT OF THE FLASHBACK

AURELIE

I miss them. I should have visited more. But I just... hated it  
here so much... That all seems so dumb now. I guess I just feel  
like...

SFX: KNOCK AT THE DOOR

AURELIE

(Startled) What the... Who the hell is knocking at... 3 am?...  
Hello? (nothing) Who's there? (Nothing) Ok Elie. Just open the  
door and see who it is. You're not gonna get murdered.  
Everything is fine... Just... go..

SFX: Opening a door

Hello? Is anybody there?... Ok... wait. What is this?

SFX: TRANSITION MUSIC TO SOMEPLACE ELSE

NARRATOR

Aurelie didn't know it, but her world was not the only one that existed, nor was it the only one she belonged to.

ARSEN

Kailen, thank you for coming on such short notice.

KAILEN

Your Majesty.

ARSEN

Please stand up boy, you need not bow to me.

KAILEN

Of course your majesty. How can I be of service to you this evening?

ARSEN

I need you to collect the package

KAILEN

You mean....

ARSEN

It is time Aurelie saw where she belonged.

KAILEN

Why now?

ARSEN

She is not safe there anymore. Not without her parents. The Unseelie will find her. But we must get to her first. She's one of us.

KAILEN

Of course. But your majesty.. How will I convince her to come with me?

ARSEN

Take this.

SFX: the sound of grabbing something made of fabric and handing  
it over

KAILEN  
Her father's cloak?

ARSEN  
She will hear them, they will convince her. All you must do is  
tell her the truth.

KAILEN  
Of course your majesty.

ARSEN  
Take your team with you. There's no way to know how many of them  
are there.

KAILEN  
Yes your majesty.

SFX: Footsteps away

ARSEN  
Oh.. Kailen..

SFX: footsteps stop

ARSEN  
Please do not fail.

KAILEN  
Never your majesty

SFX: footsteps resume. Transition music short and sweet. The  
sound of a ball being bounced on a wall.

SHELBY

Can you please stop that?

NYX

Sorry Shelby. I'm just bored.

DOMINIC

You could read with me. I found this book in the library about these different animals the humans keep as house slaves and it's really quite fascinating.

SHELBY

Nyx doesn't wanna read about your dumb...

SFX: Grabbing of a book, flipping pages

SHELBY

They really keep rodents in cages?

DOMINIC

Yes!

SHELBY

Humans are quite unusual

DOMINIC

Mystifying aren't they?

NYX

I don't want to read Dominic. I just want a job. It's been weeks.

SHELBY

Well our contacts are dead so not much to do when you can't exactly Contact your contact.

NYX

Shelby come on, a little compassion alright? The Sharps were our friends.

SHELBY

The Sharps were our contacts. Not our friends. We don't have  
friends in the guard. Can't afford to.

DOMINIC

That's a bit dreary Shelby, even for you.

SHELBY

Can it Dom

SFX: a wooden door opening footsteps inside

KAILEN

We have a job. Suit up.

NYX

Finally.

DOMINIC

I'm so close to the end of this chapter!

KAILEN

You can finish it later. We need to go.

SHELBY

Where are we going?

KAILEN

Earth

DOMINIC

What?

SHELBY

You're joking

NYX  
No way

KAILEN  
King Arsen's orders

SHELBY  
What the hell are we going to do on Earth?

KAILEN  
We're rescuing the Sharp girl.

NYX  
The kid?

SHELBY  
She doesn't know anything about us, Kailen, she's not going to  
just come with us.

NYX  
Not to mention we can't exactly go up there looking like this.

DOMINIC  
Human eyes don't glow like ours.

SHELBY  
Plus Unseelie are up there, I don't want to risk running into  
one.

KAILEN  
ENOUGH! (a pause) Am I to believe that you are questioning the  
King's orders? The highest act of treason a member of the guard  
can commit?

DOMINIC, SHELBY, AND NYX  
No

KAILEN  
Good. No suit up. We're going to Earth.

SFX: transition music. Footsteps outside

SHELBY (dripping with Sarcasm)

Drop the box at her door Shelby, you're the one who should do it, Shelby. You're the fastest Shelby. You're the bravest.. Ugh.

Bunch of cowards.. There aren't even any Unseelie out here..Right? Jeez, it is freezing how do the danes deal with this? Falling.. White shit? Ok.. ok.. Here we go.

SFX: Knocking on door, and SHELBY's quiet footsteps as she runs away

NARRATOR

The door inched open and Auerelie cautiously poked her head out to take a look. At first she didn't see anything, but as her eyes drifted down she noticed it. A Golden box sat on the ground just at her feet. On top a small envelope with dazzling golden lettering.

SFX: PICKING UP THE BOX/ CLOSING THE DOOR

KAILEN

(Voice should be edited to sound ethereal almost, he is reading the letter but is not physically there) Aurelie Faye Sharp, room

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AURELIE

What is this? Nobody calls me by my full name. Who even knows I'm here? (deep breath) Ok Elie, get it together. Breathe. It's probably just another 'sorry for your loss' casserole or something.. At 3 am. Totally normal.

SFX: OPENING THE LETTER

KAILEN & AURELIE

(ethereal still, Aurelies voice fades out and is replaced  
entirely by Kailen's)

Aurelie, Listen very carefully and do exactly as I say. Do not  
be alarmed, but you are being watched.

AURELIE

What? (breathing heavily) No.. that..

KAILEN

(same) Calmly place this letter down and close the blinds  
normally. Draw no attention to the action.

AURELIE

Ok. Yeah I can do that. I can act. I didn't play tree number one  
in grade school for nothing... Casual Elie. totally casual.

SFX: DRAWING BLINDS CLOSED

AURELIE

What the fuck is going on right now? Who wrote this?

KAILEN

(Same) This may come as a surprise to you. But I was a friend of  
your parents. I am sorry to spring such devastating news on you

especially after your loss. Please listen to these words and try to believe me. I know how this will sound and I swear if there was another way to approach this, I would.

AURELIE

Stop fucking shaking Elie... Calm down. Just Breathe Dammit.

KAILEN (same)

Your parents were Faye. They were fairies and you are of fairy descent.

AURELIE

Oh. (sigh) haha really funny. Assholes. What kind of sick person tries to scare a girl at 3 am the week of her parents funeral? Pathetic. (louder) You're not funny! (throws the letter across the room)

SFX: SITTING ON THE BED

AURELIE

Ugh.. (goes to get it. Curiously) Fine, let's see what else this freak has to say.

KAILEN

(same) Your parents were sent to investigate a string of murders on Earth that were thought to be committed by a fallen fairy of the Unseelie court. The Unseelie are very dangerous spirits who have malicious intentions and have been known to cause mortals problems for centuries. 30 years ago, they murdered a mortal. Your parents were sent to stop it. But last month their cover was blown, and they were murdered.

AURELIE

Murdered? This is not... that's not. Ok.. Why would they say something like that? (on the verge of tears) That's not something you joke about. Rathmore didn't say anything about foul play. This is sick! Whoever you are is sick! Ok Elie.

KAILEN

You are in danger Aurelie. You are their next target. You must come to LaFresia so we can protect you. There is no choice. There is no escape. Once the Unseelie take you, we can no longer help you. Leave now and meet me under the bridge where your parents took you as a child to tell you the stories of our people. You have no time to waste. Wear this to protect

yourself, it will only work for a short amount of time so be  
quick. And be cautious. Trust no one.

AURELIE

See you soon,

A friend.

What.. The fairy bridge in the park? LaFresia... But that's not..  
none of those stories were.. Real.

SFX: TRANSITION TO FLASHBACK

VIOLETTA

You know fairies use this bridge as a door to get back home.

LUKE

Home to the kingdom of LaFresia, home to thousands of fairies.  
And your home too, well sort of. One day we'll take you there  
and you can meet the fairy king and the court.

VIOLETTA

And you'll fly above the city and know just how magical life can  
be.

LUKE

Just how magical you can be.

SFX: TRANSITION OUT OF FLASHBACK

AURELIE

That can't be right. Those stories.. They were.. Real?

NARRATOR

Aurelie opened the box on her bed and looked inside. Folded inside was a deep purple cloak with gold trim. She lifted it from the box and felt its weight in her hands. And in that moment a rush of calmness washed over her. She didn't know how, or why. But she could feel her parents urging her to trust the letter. To trust this, friend. She draped the cloak on her shoulders and set out into the night.

ANNOUNCER

Thank you for listening. Today's episode was written by Nicole Tuttle and Mariah Clawson, featured the vocal talents of Nicole Tuttle, Mike Crawford, Mariah Clawson, Wes Lacy, Ace Corsira, Wes Haas, Emily Buza, Chase Greenlee, was edited by Brad Colbrook, Mariah Clawson and

Griffin Coldiron and featured the music of John Bartmann,  
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