

FIGMENT

written by

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INT. FUNERAL - NIGHT

It's not a small church, but it's packed full.

At the front is a coffin with a woman in it, about 40.

Standing alone in front of the coffin is IONA, 12. She stares at her mother's body, deep breaths, fighting back tears.

At the back of the room, a dark figure enters.

His steps are light, but purposeful.

Each row of pews that he passes erupt into whispers.

"That isn't..." "What is he doing here?" "I can't believe he would ever..."

A thick black cloak trails behind him. He carries a small ebony cane, too short to be a walking stick.

As he nears the front, PETER, 45, and HEIDI, 52, both sitting in the front, notice him.

Peter is a bear of a man, with the hair to prove it. Heidi's eyes are a pure sapphire blue, and her breaths frost the air in front of her.

Peter gasps and snarls when he sees the newcomer. Instinct draws him to his feet, but Heidi pulls him back down.

HEIDI

This is not the place.

PETER

(a little too loud)

This is not his place.

The man ignores them, if he even hears them.

He stands next to Iona, who doesn't notice him.

Her breathing is faster now; the tears are coming.

The man kneels next to her. We see his face: he is ISAAC, 42. His hair is neat, his face clean-shaven. His eyes are gentle now, but there's something dangerous hiding in them.

ISAAC

You can cry.

That was all she needed. Iona bursts into tears.

Isaac puts his arm around her, and she immediately turns into him, cries into his shoulder.

Peter snarls again; this time Heidi tenses up, too.

Isaac looks up at the body. Nods solemnly; "Goodbye."

He stands, turns to the crowd.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I'm aware most of you don't want me here. Thank you for allowing me to pay my respects regardless. I won't impose any longer.

Peter cools off, just a bit.

Isaac turns to Iona.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Come. It's time for us to go.

Peter's eyes flare. Heidi's eyes are suddenly entirely blue. Iona is confused.

PETER

Like hell!

Peter barrels towards Isaac, hairier than he was a moment ago, larger, more muscular. A cold wind blows around Heidi.

Iona is startled by them.

Shouts from the crowd - some afraid, some coming to join Peter.

Isaac pulls his cloak over himself and Iona, and it falls flat to the floor - they've both disappeared.

Peter yells, throws the cloak aside as if he expects to find Isaac and Iona flat beneath it. He looks around, sniffs the air. Barrels out a side exit, several others on his heels.

SUPER: FIGMENT

Heidi closes her eyes, meditates for a beat. Then she follows after Peter, her feet never touching the ground.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Isaac and Iona stand in the middle of an alley. Iona is confused, more than a little afraid.

Isaac kneels next to her. She doesn't pull away from him, but she doesn't accept his comfort like she did inside the church.

IONA
Are you kidnapping me?

ISAAC
If I have to.

Iona takes a step back.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I made your mother a promise. This will be much easier if you trust me. At least for a little while.

Iona looks at him like he's crazy.

IONA
No! I know who you are, and-

Isaac waves his hand, and though Iona's mouth keeps moving, no sound comes out. She stops, surprised.

Isaac holds up a finger, looks around.

He glances back at her.

ISAAC
Your mother had a secret. You could tell it was there, but you never knew what it was.

Iona hesitates.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I'm the only person alive who does.

The sound of MANY PEOPLE RUNNING grows louder.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
We're out of time. Am I kidnapping you or not?

Iona looks at him.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Peter charges down the sidewalk on all fours. He stops outside the alley, sniffs, looks inside.

There's nobody there.

He keeps running, the others close behind him.

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Isaac and Iona sit across from each other, a plate of nachos between them.

Iona chows down, but Isaac just stares at her.

Beat.

ISAAC
You look just like her at your age.

IONA
That's what everyone says.

Isaac nods.

ISAAC
She was teaching you?

Iona stops eating. Sits up straighter, proud.

IONA
Yes.

ISAAC
Conjuration, I assume?

She nods.

IONA
And Heidi was teaching me the Nordzauber.

ISAAC
I see. How are your fundamentals?

IONA
I know the Fourteen Words and eight of the Nine Runes.

ISAAC
Your Gebaren?

Iona looks away.

IONA
Heidi says they're sloppy.

ISAAC
How old are you? Twelve?

IONA
I'm thirteen in a month.

ISAAC
That's four years and eleven months
too old to be sloppy with your
gestures. We'll start there.

Iona groans.

IONA
But the Gebaren aren't even
important for conjuration!

ISAAC
They are for Nordzauber. And
besides, I'm not teaching you
conjuration.

IONA
But mom-

ISAAC
Penny is dead.

It hangs there for a beat. It's unsettling for both of them.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
If I were half the conjurer she
was, that's what I'd teach you. But
I'm an illusionist, so you'll study
illusion.

Beat.

IONA
Fine.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The apartment is sparse. A worn sofa faces an empty TV wall
mount and a bookcase, crammed with everything from pop
fiction to ancient tomes.

The walls have various runes and sigils written all over them
in ash. A small bag of charcoal leans against one wall.

Isaac carries a sleeping Iona inside. He lays her down on the
sofa.

EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST - DAY

Iona wakes up on a bed of flowers, with a blanket of rich furs.

ISAAC (O.S.)
...Not like I've lost anything
while I was gone.

WOMAN'S VOICE
But you have, Isaac. Nature abhors
a vacuum. You're talking as if you
can just walk back in as if you'd
never left.

ISAAC
And you're talking as if everyone's
already forgotten I existed.

Iona stands, unsteady on the soft moss beneath her feet.

WOMAN'S VOICE
They may have.

Isaac snorts.

ISAAC
Not after last night.

Iona walks towards the voices. She sees Isaac sitting in front of a small waterfall, facing it.

WOMAN'S VOICE
Speaking of.

As she gets closer, Iona sees FIG, a woman, about 30. Her eyes are covered by a narrow veil, and she has living, writhing snakes instead of hair. She wears torn jeans and a graphic tee.

Isaac turns and sees Iona.

ISAAC
Good morning.

Iona can't take her eyes off Fig.

FIG
I have preparations to make. I'll
be there soon.

She disappears into mist.

Iona just stares.

IONA
Am I dreaming?

Isaac waves a hand, and the forest disappears. In its place is the apartment from earlier. Fig and the waterfall disappear.

Iona stumbles back.

Isaac waves his hand again, and the forest comes back.

ISAAC
In a week or two, you'll be making
your own decorations.

Iona's overwhelmed. She tears up.

IONA
Can you turn it off?

ISAAC
What?

Iona starts crying.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Damn it.

He waves a hand, the forest disappears, and they're back...

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

...in the middle of the kitchenette.

Iona just stands there, crying.

ISAAC
I know this is a lot, but the fact
of the matter is...

He stares at her.

He's out of his depth.

Beat.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Iona stares at herself in the mirror.

Her eyes are red from tears, but she's not crying anymore. She's stone-faced. A little angry.

She takes a breath. Leaves the bathroom.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Isaac stares out a window. Doesn't react to Iona.

IONA
What's her secret?

ISAAC
There's time for that later.

IONA
You said you'd tell me.

ISAAC
Later.

IONA
Now!

Isaac turns to look at her. The entire room darkens with his mood.

ISAAC
That is the last time you will take
that tone with me.

Iona recoils as shadows tug at her.

Then, just like that, the room is bright again, and Isaac looks out the window.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I didn't ask for this either, you
know.

IONA
What do you mean?

Isaac sighs.

ISAAC
I've never taken an apprentice
before. Had no intention to. It's
all the worst parts of parenting
without the companionship.

He looks at her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
We killed our master.

Beat. Iona nods.

IONA
Harold of the Blue Sky. He was a
bad guy.

ISAAC
I'm not exactly a guardian of
justice myself. And you're my
rival's daughter.

He looks back out the window.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I've been trying to figure out how
well to teach you. Trying to decide
what gaps I can leave in your
training that you're the least
likely to notice and that are most
likely to protect me in thirty
years.

Beat.

Isaac gestures at the sofa. Iona sees a suit and jacket in
her size draped over the back.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Get dressed. We have to play the
game.

INT. FLAMEL'S - NIGHT

An upscale wizard's club. Think jazz club meets Hogwarts. The
band is just a bunch of hovering instruments playing
themselves, and all the lights are candles. The bartender has
scales.

The customers vary wildly. A nine-foot tall horned ogre
shares a table with a pair of heavily-muscled dwarves with
ornately braided beards.

A woman with the lower half of a snake coils in one corner,
talking with a sharply-dressed wizard in a tailored suit. A
boy about 17 years old dressed in matching attire stands off
to one side.

A turbaned yogi hovers at a table with a pointy-hatted wizard
who can't be younger than 150.

And in the far corner, Peter sits with a man and a woman who
look as burly and bestial as he does.

Isaac and Iona walk in. Everyone they pass gives them full attention, though attitudes vary between "I can't believe it's really him" and "That son of a bitch."

Peter doesn't notice Isaac yet, but Isaac notices Peter. He nudges Iona, gestures.

ISAAC
Is he going to be a problem?

Iona sees him. Stiffens.

IONA
Yes.

ISAAC
Thought so.

IONA
We should go.

ISAAC
Not unless you want a target on our backs.

IONA
But if we stay-

Isaac drags her onward. They sit at a table in the middle of everything. Isaac sits tall, but Iona looks around, nervous.

ISAAC
Stop that. You're making everyone think you're weak.

IONA
I am weak.

ISAAC
All the more reason not to let them think it.

She stops looking around, but she still looks nervous.

Isaac looks at her. Swears under his breath.

He stands. Snaps at the "band."

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(loud)
Hey. Hey!

The band stops.

Everyone stares at him. Iona goes pale.

Peter notices them for the first time. There's murder in his eyes. He's instantly a little hairier.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 Don't you know anything a little
 more modern? How about some Norah
 Jones?

Beat. The instruments turn towards the bartender. She looks at Isaac, then back to the instruments. Nods.

They play some Norah Jones.

Isaac sits down. Looks at Iona's panicked face, leans in.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 The Silver Rule of illusions: when
 you're weak, project strength.

IONA
 You're not weak.

ISAAC
 I've got a weak spot the size of a
 twelve-year-old girl. And you're
 making it bigger with each panicked
 glance around the room.

Iona sits up straighter, stares dead ahead.

IONA
 You'll protect me, though.

Isaac shrugs.

ISAAC
 I won't die for you.

A ghoul (peeling skin, sharp teeth, claws) at the next table stands up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 (not so fast, asshole)
 I will kill for you.

Beat. The ghoul hesitates.

Sits back down.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 But I won't die for you.

Peter slams to his feet, knocking over the table. He and his companions are in full beast-mode.

PETER

He can't take all of us. Not all at once.

A few others around the room shift into more favorable positions. The combat-averse move towards the exits.

IONA

Peter, wait-

Isaac holds up a hand to quiet her.

He props his feet up on the table.

ISAAC

No. I can't kill all of you. I can kill about half of you, though. Give or take.

He glances around the room.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I'd say flip a coin, but it won't be random. It'll be the first half. So what do you say? Who's willing to die so someone else can kill me?

Peter takes a step forward, but before he can get further, the ghoul leaps, twisting in the air to let all four clawed limbs point towards Isaac.

Iona SCREAMS.

Isaac snaps his fingers, and the ghoul is just gone. No explosion, no puff of smoke, just gone.

Peter GROWLS, but everyone else in the room backs down, goes back to their conversations.

Peter's friends hold him back; he shrugs them off and storms out the exit.

Iona breathes heavy, but she keeps it together.

Isaac nods at the bartender, who comes over to his table.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Rum, whatever you have that's darkest. She'll have water.

The bartender nods, turns to leave.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Oh, and?

She turns around.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

If I ever see the the he-wolf or
his buddies in here again, I'll
burn the place down.

Beat. The bartender's breath catches. Iona's eyes widen.

BARTENDER

Yes, sir.

Beat. She goes back to the bar.

ISAAC

God, I missed this.

He leans back in his chair.

EXT. THE STARRY VOID

Something like deep space. Stars and galaxies everywhere.
It's beautiful and vast.

In the galaxies, a woman's figure, made of shadows.

The sound of a HOWLING WIND grows out of nothing until it's
deafening.

CUT TO:

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is quiet. Iona lies on the sofa, eyes open.

She sits up.

EXT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment building is one of the crummier buildings in
one of the nicer parts of town.

Iona slides out the front door. She looks around, nervous.

She walks down the street, but quickly switches to running.

She disappears around a corner.

Isaac steps outside. Sits on the front steps.

Iona runs past from the opposite side of the screen. Runs past Isaac without noticing. Disappears again.

Beat.

She reappears from the side she left. Walks up to Isaac. Looks around.

Isaac gets up, walks inside.

Beat.

Iona follows.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Isaac holds the door for Iona. Iona's scared, but also angry.

IONA
You can't... I was just...

ISAAC
I told you I'd kidnap you if I
needed to.

Iona's eyes glow blue, and a white glow trails from her hand as she gestures angrily.

IONA
Heidi was right about you, wasn't
she?

Isaac is not amused.

ISAAC
You're going to get hurt if you
keep up like this.

IONA
What are you going to do? Disappear
me like you did that ghoul?

ISAAC
This ghoul?

The ghoul is standing behind her. She jumps back, hands up in a defensive gesture.

Isaac SNAPS, and the ghoul disappears. SNAPS again, and it reappears. SNAP, disappear. SNAP, reappear.

Iona's too confused to stay angry.

She reaches for the ghoul. Her hand goes right through him.

Isaac is still pissed.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Strength is weakness. As a group,
they were strong. But as a group,
they were easy to manipulate.

IONA

...He was there before us, though.

ISAAC

And?

IONA

But you...

Iona realizes how much she doesn't know.

IONA (CONT'D)

And the bartender?

ISAAC

What about her?

IONA

She looked really scared when you
said you'd burn down the bar, but
that was all-

ISAAC

I carved a rune in the basement
about twenty years ago. I checked,
it's still there.

IONA

But you wouldn't really-

ISAAC

You seem to have gotten the wrong
impression. Everything your mother
said about me was true.
Everything... about half of what
Heidi and Peter said about me was
true.

He steps closer to her. Towers over her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I wouldn't burn the bar down? I've
done it before. That very one.

He kneels, gets in her face. Iona's close to tears.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

It was crowded that night, which
meant the man chasing me wasn't
able to get out.

He takes a breath. Calms down a little.

Swears under his breath.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Maybe that makes me the bad guy.
But I'm alive, and I'll do what it
takes to stay that way.

Iona's face hardens.

IONA

I won't. I'd rather die than do
something like that.

Beat. They stare at each other.

ISAAC

You might.

Beat.

Isaac walks back to his bedroom.

INT. ISAAC'S WORKSHOP - DAY

An old auto body shop that's been mostly cleaned out. One corner still has a handful of tools and parts.

One of the longer walls has been covered, floor to ceiling, in bookshelves. One of those rolling library ladders is mounted to it.

An old schooldesk sits in the middle of empty floorspace, a whiteboard floating a few feet in front of it.

Isaac and Iona stand off to one side of the room, on some padded floor mats. They're both wearing exercise clothes.

Iona performs a complex gesture.

Isaac slaps her arm with a thin baton. Iona winces.

ISAAC

Sloppy.

Iona continues. Isaac slaps her again. She grits her teeth.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Elbows up!

Iona takes a breath, tries again. Isaac slaps her again. She's not able to hold back a cry of pain.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Elbows up!

Iona's eyes are watering, but she tries again.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Finally! Keep going!

She does. He slaps her again. She grits her teeth; tears run down her face.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Elbows up!

IONA
I'm trying, okay?!

ISAAC
Oh! You're trying. That's fine, then. I thought we were just goofing off and wasting time. As long as you're trying, your opponent won't mind if your spell fails, they'll just let you keep trying until you get it right.

Iona gives one of those exaggerated sighs only a kid her age can do properly.

IONA
You know what I mean!

Isaac slaps her arm again. She cries in pain.

ISAAC
There are a thousand ways you may die one day, but I swear to you, it will not be because I let you get sloppy because "you were trying."

Iona glares at him. Maybe she didn't before, maybe she won't in an hour, but at this moment, she hates him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Again!

A COUGH.

Fig stands in a far doorway, backpack casually hanging from her shoulder.

Isaac nods at her. Turns back to Iona.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Pushups. Go.

Iona grumbles, gets down into pushup position as slowly as possible.

CUT TO:

Isaac and Fig stand in one corner, watching Iona do the sloppiest, laziest pushups.

FIG
Harold would've hurt you for pushups like that.

ISAAC
I've still got the scars. Let me worry about my apprentice.

FIG
I'm worried about you. She's gonna get you killed.

Isaac walks over to Iona. Fig follows.

Iona pretends she's been trying harder as Isaac approaches, but Isaac snaps to get her attention.

ISAAC
Up.

Iona stands.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
This is Fig. You saw to her before.

FIG
Pleased to meet you.

ISAAC
She's my...

He looks at her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Mother?

Iona stares at the teenage-looking Fig. Fig smirks.

FIG
He's adopted.

ISAAC
We'll take a break for now. Let's
get some lunch, and then we've got
a meeting.

Fig snarls, but he ignores her. Iona runs off before he
changes his mind.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - EVENING

Heidi and Peter stand in front of PENELOPE REMEMBRANCE
HUGHES' grave, along with UPDIKE, 57.

Updike is a sallow-looking older man you'd be forgiven for
thinking was sculpted out of wax. His face is tattooed to
look like a skull.

Peter seethes with grief and anger. Heidi's just sad. Updike
is emotionless.

UPDIKE
I thought he died.

HEIDI
Twice so far.

PETER
Third time's the charm.

Updike looks at them.

UPDIKE
No, I really thought he died.

Peter grimaces.

PETER
You think it's necromancy?

Updike shrugs. Heidi scoffs.

HEIDI
He's an illusionist. Faking things
is what he does. There are days I
doubt Harold himself is actually
dead.

UPDIKE

Regardless, each day that passes is another he can spend indoctrinating her.

PETER

She's strong. She won't bend so easily.

Heidi snarls.

HEIDI

She went with him willingly enough.

PETER

He hardly gave her a choice.

UPDIKE

I just hope he truly intends to reclaim his territory. If he goes to ground again, she may be truly lost.

Peter shakes his head.

PETER

He faked his death because he knew we'd find him if we kept looking. It's not a question of if we find them, it's when.

ISAAC (O.S.)

I'm afraid you have the wrong impression.

Heidi and Updike jump. Peter looks at them, confused.

Isaac appears from behind a tree. Peter doesn't react at all.

PETER

What? What's going on?

Heidi glares at Isaac.

HEIDI

What did you do to Peter?

PETER

Who? It's him?! Where?

ISAAC

I didn't do anything to him. I'm just standing in his blind spot.

UPDIKE

Why let us see you? You think we
won't kill you?

Peter gets into a fighting stance, facing generally towards Isaac, but he still can't see Isaac, and that spooks him.

ISAAC

Because you're reasonable. You
wouldn't try to kill me just for
trying to make peace.

Icy claws form over Heidi's fingers.

HEIDI

Want to bet?

ISAAC

I have no intention of hiding.

HEIDI

Except from Peter.

Isaac gives her an annoyed look.

ISAAC

I made certain promises when I was
young. Promises I intend to
fulfill. That doesn't mean we have
to be enemies.

UPDIKE

I'm afraid it does, son.

ISAAC

Think about what's best for Iona.
She'd like to be able to see you.

HEIDI

You wouldn't let us near her.

ISAAC

No?

He whistles. Iona and Fig step out of a nearby copse of trees, but don't come nearer.

PETER

Iona!

She waves, but Fig steps in front of her.

Heidi gives Isaac a disbelieving look.

HEIDI

You're either braver than I
thought, or far stupider.

She waves her hand, and a gigantic icicle spears through
Isaac's chest... right through, as though he were a ghost.

Or an illusion.

ISAAC

So which is it? Brave, or stupid?

Heidi swears in some Germanic language.

UPDIKE

Son of a bitch.

PETER

What happened?

The camera PANS around to view the scene from the opposite
direction, revealing Isaac - the real Isaac - barely ducked
out of the way of the icicle. He leans against it, sweating.

Iona and Fig watch from the copse, though Iona looks
confused.

HEIDI

It was all an illusion. He was
never here.

Isaac and his illusion speak simultaneously. His voice isn't
the least bit stressed.

ISAAC

I didn't kill Penny.

HEIDI

Then who did?

PETER

He has to be close, doesn't he? You
can't spin an illusion from across
the city!

Updike scoffs.

UPDIKE

If anyone can, it's him.

The real Isaac sighs, stands up straight. Dusts himself off.

ISAAC

I'll be in touch.

His illusion disappears.

HEIDI

Fan out. Shoot a flare if you find him.

They nod, and each one runs in a different direction.

Updike runs right past Iona and Fig. Fig covers Iona's mouth as he does.

Isaac shakes his head. Morons.

He walks over to Iona and Fig. They watch as Heidi, Peter, and Updike disappear in their different directions.

ISAAC

What did you learn here?

IONA

I don't...

She thinks.

IONA (CONT'D)

I feel like you want me to say "Don't trust them," but-

Isaac laughs.

ISAAC

That's not a bad lesson, but it's not what I was going for.

FIG

The Bronze Rule: Show people what they expect to see. They won't question it.

ISAAC

Despite what Heidi may have believed, I came with honest intentions. But when it was clear all they wanted to do was fight, I let them think they'd been right all along.

IONA

And it almost got you killed.

ISAAC

"Almost" is a bit much. But yes, trusting others is always a risk, especially for an illusionist.

IONA
I trust Heidi. And Peter.

FIG
Then you're a fool.

Isaac holds up a hand; "Cool it."

ISAAC
I'm sure they earned that trust.
But Penny's death will have
ramifications beyond your
understanding, and you need to
prepare yourself for what may come.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

HAZY, appears 35, looks out over the city. He wears a sharply tailored suit, and has a smokeless blue flame where his left hand should be.

He looks at his "hand." Colors ripple through it.

A COUGH behind him.

Hazy turns, sees Isaac and Iona standing nearby. Isaac smiles.

Hazy sighs. His hand goes back to blue as he turns back to the city.

HAZY
Did you have to bring her?

Isaac considers.

ISAAC
Do I have to bring her anywhere?
She's my apprentice, I choose to
bring her.

Hazy rolls his eyes. Isaac and Iona move up next to him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Ohhh. It's been a part of you so
long, I'd forgotten. Apologies.

He turns to Iona.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Your mother took his hand.

HAZY
Made a candle out of it.

IONA
(what the fuck)
That was a real hand?

Hazy grunts. Isaac laughs.

HAZY
I assume you have a reason for
coming here?

ISAAC
Iona's been having trouble with her
Gebaren.

HAZY
Oh, fuck you.

ISAAC
(to Iona)
Hazy studied alongside Heidi. A
couple years her senior, if I
recall.

IONA
Did you all... know each other?

Isaac and Hazy laugh - Hazy's is a little bitter.

ISAAC
Show him your Salutation.

Iona steps back and moves her arms and hands in a complicated
series of gestures. Hazy watches side-eyed.

HAZY
If you're not going to try, I'm
just going to leave.

Iona freezes, looks at Isaac. He glares daggers: "Don't
embarrass me."

Iona takes a deep breath, straightens her back. Begins again.

Hazy keeps watching as he talks. Iona does her best to keep
up with his commands as he gives them.

HAZY (CONT'D)
Stop. Do it mirrored. Backwards
from there. No, still mirrored.
Yes... Now back to normal.
(MORE)

HAZY (CONT'D)

Stand on one foot, I'm not joking.
Okay. Both feet, eyes closed.

Iona finishes. Looks to Hazy, then Isaac. Isaac looks at Hazy.

Hazy considers.

HAZY (CONT'D)

How long have you been teaching
her?

ISAAC

Six months, now. But she studied
under Heidi for...

IONA

About three years.

Hazy sighs. Looks at Isaac. Nods away.

Iona rolls her eyes, looks out at the city, as Isaac and Hazy
step away to talk privately.

As they depart, Iona mutters an incantation. Her ears flash
for a beat, which she hides with a carefree hair toss.

She hears them as clearly as if she was standing next to
them.

HAZY

I'm a busy man.

ISAAC

I don't begrudge you taking care of
things in my absence. But now that
I'm back, I think you'll find you
have more free time.

HAZY

You arrogant son of a bitch. I'm
not some little peon you get to-

A brilliant FLASH, and Hazy hurtles over the edge of the
building.

Iona gasps.

Isaac reaches out a hand, and Hazy freezes in midair, then
rockets back to land at Isaac's feet.

He hits the ground hard, coughs and gasps. His clothes are
singed, his eyes bloodshot.

Isaac kneels, leans in close, whispers; Iona still hears.

ISAAC
You think my time away has dulled
me.

HAZY
Not at all-

ISAAC
If you didn't need a hand to teach
her, I'd take your other one right
now. You know that.

HAZY
I do, I do, I'm sorry-

Isaac stands.

ISAAC
Will you teach her, or not?

HAZY
I will. I swear it. She'll be
better than Heidi. Better than you,
if you want it.

ISAAC
I want it.

HAZY
It's done.

Isaac nods. Looks at Iona, and they both head for the stairs.
Iona's eyes linger on Hazy as she departs: "Sorry."

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Iona walks behind Isaac. Silence for a beat.

IONA
Why is it so important that I
master the Gebaren?

ISAAC
I told you, I'm not teaching you
conjuring.

IONA
But they're not important for
illusions either.
(MORE)

IONA (CONT'D)
 Like, more important than
 conjuring, yeah, but it seems like
 you really want me to master them-

Isaac stops. So does Iona.

He doesn't turn around.

IONA (CONT'D)
 I get it. You're my master and I
 shouldn't question you. Fine.

He looks at her.

ISAAC
 What did your mother teach you
 about the Outside?

IONA
 It's... I mean, it's bad, duh. It's
 old and weird and has to do with
 your soul or something.

ISAAC
 I figured.

He keeps walking.

IONA
 Wait, why?

A beat. She runs behind him.

IONA (CONT'D)
 Isaa... sir! Why do you ask?

INT. ISAAC'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Iona shoots a jet of fire from her hands as Isaac watches.
 She stops. Laughs.

IONA
 That was pretty good! Wasn't it?

Isaac nods.

ISAAC
 You should make it feel hotter.

IONA
 Yeah, but it'd still make someone
 duck.

ISAAC

Probably.

Iona considers.

IONA

But like so, if you're an illusionist. Wouldn't everyone just assume it's an illusion? How do you trick someone who knows you're lying?

ISAAC

The gold rule of illusions: If you can't convince someone a lie is the truth, convince them the truth is a lie.

IONA

Meaning?

Isaac flicks a finger towards Iona, and a small stream of fire streaks towards her. She doesn't dodge... until it hits her shoulder, and she shrieks in pain.

She drops to the ground, clutches her shoulder. She looks at him, betrayal in her eyes.

IONA (CONT'D)

I didn't think you'd...

ISAAC

Exactly.

She's in tears.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Let me see it.

Iona moves her hand. It's not a huge burn, but it's already blistering.

Isaac lays his hand over it. Iona cringes, then relaxes.

When he pulls his hand back, there's a nasty scar. Iona doesn't notice, she's just so glad the pain is gone.

Then she looks at the scar. Oh, gross.

IONA

Is that forever?

ISAAC

You're a wizard. Nothing needs to be forever. But as long as you're my apprentice, you'll keep it as a reminder.

IONA

Reminder of how my master is sadistic?

ISAAC

A reminder to duck. Get up and do it again, but this time make the fire green.

She gets to her feet. Takes a breath.

She shoots green flame at the wall. As she does, the wall EXPLODES.

Before the dust clears, there's sparks and flames and shards flying through where the wall used to be.

Just as it dies down, one more EXPLOSION.

Silence.

VOICE (O.S.)

Did we get him?

The dust clears. Hazy and three more wizards step through the rubble.

HAZY

Let's get the hell out of here.

The LACKEY WIZARD who spoke before looks at him.

LACKEY WIZARD

Shouldn't we make sure he's dead?

HAZY

If he survived that, we're toast anyway. Come on.

LACKEY WIZARD

...That's not very comforting.

ISAAC (O.S.)

Yet very astute.

Hazy freezes, gags. Oh, fuck.

His lackeys jump, raise their hands, ready for action.

Hazy takes a breath. Turns to Isaac in full fury.

HAZY

No. No! I will not die here!

He sticks his flame-hand up in the air.

HAZY (CONT'D)

Do you hear me? I will not!

His hand grows, grows, engulfing him, incinerating his lackeys who all scream in pain, and soon all you can see is fire.

Then a single dark spot appears in the fire. The spot grows, sucking the fire down like water draining from a bathtub.

As the fire disappears, it reveals Isaac and Iona standing behind the "drain." Isaac moves his arms rhythmically. His eyes are black pits full of stars.

Hazy appears from the flame, terrified. Isaac finishes draining the fire, stops moving. His eyes return to normal. He's furious, but it's a contained rage. Focused.

ISAAC

Believe it or not, that was dumber than your first attack.

HAZY

H-how... that was...

Isaac keeps his eyes locked on Hazy. Iona looks around, confused and terrified and intrigued.

ISAAC

Iona. Leave.

IONA

Where?

ISAAC

Now.

She hesitates. Then she picks a direction and sprints.

Hazy doesn't bother running. He'd accepted this possibility before he even arrived.

HAZY

You're no illusionist.

ISAAC

I'm a very good illusionist.

His eyes turn black again.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
But I'm not just a very good
illusionist.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Iona paces back and forth. Fig reads a magazine.

The front door opens. Isaac steps inside.

Fig doesn't look up.

FIG
You okay?

ISAAC
I'm alive.

FIG
That's not what I was asking.

ISAAC
I'm alive.

Fig looks up, a little worried.

Iona cocks her head.

IONA
What?

ISAAC
This complicates things and
accelerates the schedule besides.
And we're going to need Heidi.

Fig shakes her head.

FIG
Is she even an option?

Isaac and Fig looks at Iona.

IONA
For teaching me? Seriously?

ISAAC
What if she thinks I'm out of the
picture?

FIG
 She wouldn't think you were out of
 the picture if she killed you
 herself.

Isaac swears under his breath.

IONA
 I can convince her.

FIG
 No one can convince her.

IONA
 I can.

ISAAC
 You're sure?

Beat. Iona nods.

Isaac takes a breath.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 Do it.

He goes to his room.

INT. HEIDI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Thick furs are the main decorating motif, along with
 scrimshaw. Lots of tall bookshelves.

Heidi sits at a desk, stares at a flickering candle.

She takes a deep breath. Lets it out slowly.

The door opens. Peter walks in, knocks on the door as he
 does.

PETER
 Knock knock. I've been calling-
 He sees the candle. His arms get a little hairier.

PETER (CONT'D)
 Who is it? Updike?

Heidi shakes her head.

HEIDI
 It's Penelope's code.

PETER
Iona?

HEIDI
It has to be.

Beat.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Do we trust her?

PETER
Don't be stupid.

HEIDI
I could take that two ways.

Peter glares at her.

Heidi stands.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Fine. Get Updike.

INT. SMALL CHURCH - NIGHT

The sanctuary could maybe sit fifty people. The whole place is run down, but still functional.

Iona sits in one of the pews. She twitches her fingers.

Heidi walks in. Sits next to her.

HEIDI
Hello-

IONA
Don't freak out. Please don't freak out.

Heidi's alert. She examines the room.

HEIDI
What did you do?

IONA
I swear it's okay.

HEIDI
This is a trap.

She stands. Holds her arms out, ready for trouble.

IONA
No! No no no, it's not.

Heidi's eyes flick around the room, land on Iona. They linger there.

HEIDI
Is he here?

Iona nods.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Show me where.

Beat.

IONA
Are you going to attack him?

HEIDI
Iona, he-

IONA
You can't. You have to swear that you'll at least talk to him first.

Beat.

Heidi nods.

Iona nods back. She nods towards the pulpit.

Heidi looks. Sees Isaac standing at the pulpit.

Long claws of ice form around her fingers, but she doesn't attack yet.

ISAAC
Tell Peter and Updike they can come in, too. They'll want a say.

HEIDI
I came alo-

ISAAC
Don't.

Beat.

Updike walks in. Peter emerges from the shadows behind Isaac; if Isaac is surprised, he doesn't show it.

Peter stands next to Isaac. Isaac looks at him, perturbed, but doesn't say anything. Updike sits next to Iona. Nods politely.

UPDIKE

Miss Iona.

IONA

Mister Updike.

HEIDI

Can we get to the point?

ISAAC

I won't lie to you and tell you I harbor no ill will. I am, however, willing to lay down the hatchet. End hostilities, permanently.

Updike is shocked; Peter just laughs, and Heidi rolls her eyes.

HEIDI

Even if we could believe you-

ISAAC

No progress without risk.

HEIDI

And what are you risking, exactly?

Isaac walks over to Peter. Looks him in the eyes.

Slaps him across the face.

Peter grabs Isaac by the throat, but doesn't crush him.

PETER

What the hell was that?

ISAAC

Proof.

Beat. Realization hits Heidi.

HEIDI

He's really here.

Peter looks at her. Back to Isaac. Snarls. He lifts Isaac up; Isaac gags.

Heidi raises her arms, readies a spell.

Iona jumps over Updike to stand in front of her. Updike clambers to hold her back.

IONA

No! You promised!

Heidi doesn't look at her, but she stops her spell.

Peter breathes faster. His teeth are too big to fit in his mouth. But he lowers Isaac.

Isaac coughs, clears his throat, then stands up like nothing happened.

HEIDI

Playing at bravery doesn't mean you're not a coward.

UPDIKE

I think you should tell us what you're after.

Isaac licks his teeth. Takes a breath.

ISAAC

I need you to continue training Iona. You can teach her whatever you want as long as her Gebaren are the focus.

Beat. Nobody's sure how to react. Peter's teeth shrink.

PETER

You took all this risk to get us to teach Iona?

ISAAC

I need you to actually teach her, though. None of the sloppy shit she got away with before.

HEIDI

You can't teach her Gebaren?

ISAAC

You think I'd do a better job?

HEIDI

Not better than me, no, but...

PETER

What's the catch?

ISAAC
No catch. But she stays with me.
She's still my apprentice.

PETER
(to Heidi)
No. This is ridiculous. There's
clearly something else going on,
and if he won't tell us-

ISAAC
Fine. I tried. Let's go, Iona.

Heidi's ice-claws glow for a beat.

HEIDI
Hold it.

Beat.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Updike, what do you think?

UPDIKE
(realizing)
You were the one who killed
Hazleton.

Heidi looks at Updike.

HEIDI
Hazy's dead?

Updike just looks at Isaac.

ISAAC
He attacked me.

UPDIKE
No doubt. But that means you gave
him the opportunity. Because he was
teaching Iona.

Isaac nods.

UPDIKE (CONT'D)
You're not brave. You're desperate.

ISAAC
I'm... motivated.

UPDIKE
This has to do with why you
kidnapped Iona in the first place?

IONA
He didn't kidnap me. Not really.

ISAAC
As she says.

UPDIKE
But yes.

Beat.

Isaac nods.

UPDIKE (CONT'D)
Interesting.

HEIDI
What is it? Do you know what's
going on?

UPDIKE
I have a better understanding of
what I don't know.

PETER
Great. Sounds useful.

UPDIKE
I propose we take the deal.

Iona sighs, relieved.

HEIDI
You're certain?

UPDIKE
How can I be, given who we're
dealing with? But nonetheless.

Heidi looks back at Isaac. Isaac smiles.

HEIDI
We train her at my lab. Not yours,
not neutral ground. Mine. And
you're not welcome.

ISAAC
Fig can bring her.

Heidi scoffs.

HEIDI
You and that viper. Fine.

ISAAC
I expect results, and quickly.

Heidi lowers her arms. The whole room relaxes.

HEIDI
Is Iona ready for that?
(to Iona)
Do you know what he's asking for
you, girl?

IONA
Can't be worse than him.

Isaac looks at Heidi.

ISAAC
She'll make me look soft.

Heidi nods.

IONA
Wait, really?

She looks at Isaac, worried.

ISAAC
Let's go.

HEIDI
Tomorrow?

ISAAC
Tuesday is fine.

Isaac shoves past Peter.

Iona gets up, follows Isaac out the door.

Heidi looks at Peter, Updike. Nobody's sure what to think.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The apartment is still recognizable, but has several new illusory decorations. One window looks out on Tibetan mountaintops, the window next to it a tropical beach. The wallpaper shifts slowly with fractal patterns.

Iona sleeps on the sofa. Her eyes shoot open suddenly.

She looks around.

Fig walks over with a frying pan full of burnt scrambled eggs.

FIG
Do you know how to make omelettes?

Iona sits up, hesitates.

IONA
What's happening?

FIG
I want an omelette.

IONA
Where's Isaac? Why didn't he wake me up?

FIG
He's in the shower. Get off your ass, I'm hungry.

IONA
Are we not training today?

Fig throws up her hands, stomps back to the kitchen.

Iona gets up.

INT. ISAAC'S DINING ROOM - DAY

A small offset from the rest of the apartment, barely deserving to be called a "room." Fig and Iona sit at the table.

Fig eats an omelette, very happy. She feeds some to her hair.

Iona sips a cup of tea. She's convinced she's in danger.

Isaac walks in, sits at the table. He's dressed, but his hair's still wet from the shower.

He picks at his teeth.

Beat.

Iona sips her tea.

Beat.

A thought occurs to Iona.

IONA
What day is it?

Isaac looks at her. His face is inscrutable.

ISAAC
May eighth.

IONA
Oh.

Beat.

IONA (CONT'D)
Um... are we going to train?

Isaac shakes his head.

ISAAC
We do have some errands.

Beat.

IONA
Can we visit his grave?

ISAAC
Not today. Too predictable. We'll
go Friday afternoon.

Iona nods.

IONA
I'm surprised you remember... when
he died.

Isaac looks at her.

ISAAC
What do people say about me and
your mother?

IONA
Um... You're enemies. You were
enemies. But... Peter says you used
to be friends. Updike thought you
might have been, like, boyfriend
and girlfriend.

Isaac snorts, shakes his head.

ISAAC
I loved your mother, but not like
that. Even when we hated each
other, we...

Beat.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I'm not without regrets.

IONA
They said you got along with my
dad. Before...

ISAAC
Before Penny murdered him? Yeah.

IONA
It was in self-defense.

ISAAC
Self-inflicted self-defense. Penny
had her good moments, but she was
still a wizard.

Iona's conflicted. She's desperate for more information, but
doesn't like the idea that her mother wasn't perfect.

IONA
She said he attacked first?

ISAAC
Your mother tried very hard to be a
good person. Your father actually
was one. He trusted her so much
that when he found her... strategy,
he couldn't see it as anything but
a plan.

IONA
Her "strategy?"

FIG
Any good wizard has a plan for
every contingency. How to survive
another Dragonflight. Or... how to
kill everyone you know.

ISAAC
If you're smart, you've already
started thinking about how you'd
kill me.

He looks at her. She nods. He's satisfied.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Aaron didn't have a proper wizard's paranoia. He couldn't imagine why she'd have a plan for him. He was heartbroken and terrified and reacted poorly. She was caught off guard and reacted the only way she knew how.

Beat. Iona isn't sure how to process that.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You'd couldn't possibly have called us friends at that point, but if there was a single moment we went from rivals to enemies, that was it. Aaron was too good for the world, and she made him pay for it.

FIG

(to Iona)

He tries to think of it as just her fault so he doesn't have to blame himself.

ISAAC

It's like I said. I'm not without regrets.

Beat.

IONA

(quiet)

Mom never told me any of this.

ISAAC

There's more to come.

IONA

I don't know if I want to know more.

ISAAC

I don't care.

He gets up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Let's get to those errands.

INT. FANCY SUITE - DAY

Penthouse, glass walls, open floorplan. Very ritzy.

Iona looks around, searching for something.

IONA
This was Hazy's place?

No response.

Iona finds a picture of Hazy. She grabs it.

IONA (CONT'D)
Found one.

Isaac opens his eyes. She displays it; he nods, closes his eyes again.

ISAAC
Make him.

Iona takes a deep breath. The picture glows, and projects a perfect facsimile of Hazy in front of her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Good.

IONA
Is this why we're here? I couldn't practice this at home?

ISAAC
Heidi will be here soon.

IONA
What?!

Hazy flickers.

ISAAC
Careful.

Iona concentrates, Hazy returns to normal.

IONA
I can't-

ISAAC
Talk to me through him.

Iona's mouth keeps moving, but Hazy speaks instead of her.

HAZY
I can't do this. Even if I could keep the illusion convincing, Heidi has so many codes and passphrases, she'll know immediately.

ISAAC
I taught you this. Heidi's codes
and contingencies are one of her
greatest strengths.

Isaac opens his eyes, stands.

HAZY
So I'm supposed to make it her
weakness?

ISAAC
You don't need to make it anything.
It already is. Exploit it.

Isaac walks over to a bookshelf, drags his finger along the
books, looking for one.

HAZY
How?

Isaac grabs a book, flips through it.

ISAAC
Why would she use codes and
passphrases?

Hazy freezes. Iona thinks hard.

IONA
To protect herself. She can't be
caught by surprise, she can always
know if there's danger.

ISAAC
How does that make her vulnerable?

IONA
It doesn't?

ISAAC
Suppose I were to get a hold of the
appropriate code for a situation.

Iona understands. She speaks through Hazy again.

HAZY
The code will convince her she's
safe, so she won't be looking for
us.

ISAAC
Here.

He holds the book out to Iona. Scribbled in the margin: "It's warm tonight." "Reminds me of home."

HAZY

He just wrote it down?

ISAAC

Don't judge him too harshly. It was hidden, more than just physically. If he were still alive, we wouldn't have been able to find it so easily.

He shakes his head, disappointed.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

He didn't care about setting things up to last beyond his lifetime. That, you can judge him for. She's here.

Isaac disappears, followed immediately by Iona.

Heidi walks in.

HAZY

Heidi.

She glares at him.

HEIDI

It's warm tonight.

HAZY

Reminds me of home.

Heidi relaxes.

HEIDI

Damn it, Hazy. I thought he'd killed you.

HAZY

Who? Isaac?

He laughs.

HAZY (CONT'D)

Not for lack of trying.

HEIDI

He's never been as good as he thought.

The camera PANS around 180 degrees to reveal Iona and Isaac watching, next to the wall.

Heidi walks to a small bar, pours herself a vodka.

HAZY

Sure, help yourself.

She downs the drink. Thinks about another, decides against it.

HAZY (CONT'D)

Are you here for me, or were you hoping to loot the place?

Heidi looks at him. She's angry.

HEIDI

You were working with Iona and you didn't tell me?

HAZY

I don't report to you.

Iona looks at Isaac. Gets an idea.

HAZY (CONT'D)

And you're one to talk. What happened to Penelope?

Isaac looks at Iona. "Interesting." He nods.

Heidi raises an eyebrow.

HEIDI

What?

Iona stares at Isaac as her mouth keeps moving along with Hazy's.

HAZY

You were her closest ally. Everyone assumes it was Isaac, but I'm not so sure.

Heidi looks at Hazy. Considers.

HEIDI

I have my own doubts on that front. Penny had her secrets, none of them harmless.

Iona's eagerness comes out in Hazy's tone.

HAZY
So? What happened?

Heidi looks at him.

HEIDI
I came here to make sure you were
alive. You are.

She walks to the door.

HAZY
Heidi.

She stops.

HAZY (CONT'D)
You really hate him, don't you?
Isaac?

HEIDI
I liked him a lot better when he
was dead.

She leaves.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Fig lounges on the sofa, reading an ancient tome bound in
leather.

Iona sketches on the wall with her finger, brilliant flowers
and vines growing as she "draws."

The room around Iona gets darker. It's almost imperceptible
at first, but soon the edge of the room has all but
disappeared.

Fig realizes what's happening just as Iona's engulfed in
darkness.

FIG
Iona! Iona!

Only Iona is visible, but she can't seem to hear Fig.

FIG (CONT'D)
Isaac!

Iona just keeps drawing until even the wall is gone. It's
just her in the black.

She doesn't notice anything until the blackness IGNITES WITH STARS.

EXT. THE STARRY VOID - CONTINUOUS

Iona scrambles to her feet, startled, terrified. She stands in empty space.

A sound like the WIND, quiet, hiding.

IONA
Fig? Hello?

In the galaxies behind Iona, a shadow, a woman's figure. As Iona turns, the figure fades back to stars.

IONA (CONT'D)
Isaac?!

A voice like a roaring sun.

THE VOID
HELLO CHILD

Iona looks around, panicked, in tears.

IONA
Who's there? What's going on?

No response.

EXT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Fig and Isaac run into the living room. Iona floats in the middle of the room, her eyes full of stars.

ISAAC
Shit!

FIG
What do we do?

Isaac's eyes go black. His voice gets deeper, louder. Bigger.

ISAAC
GET OUT.

EXT. THE STARRY VOID

The woman's figure, visible only by the stars it blots out behind it, dances behind Iona.

THE VOID
THERE IS SOMETHING I REQUIRE

IONA
What?

The figure reaches towards her. Iona feels something, recoils.

THE VOID
IF WE ARE NOT GIVEN
I WILL TAKE

Iona takes a deep breath. Stops panicking, gathers herself.

IONA
You'll have to.

She extends her arms in a defensive posture.

A gentle GIGGLE comes from all around her.

THE VOID
YOU ARE POWERLESS HERE

Isaac's voice; it's loud and quiet simultaneously, like he's shouting from a vast distance.

ISAAC (O.S.)
Iona!

IONA
Isaac! Help!

THE VOID
HE CAN NOT HELP US
WE ARE ALONE

Iona looks around. She's scared, but determined.

IONA
Fine! I don't need him!

The GIGGLE again. The woman dances around her, caresses her back. Iona spins around, but can't see anything.

The stars wink out, one by one. Darkness encroaches.

Just as it seems like the darkness will win, a hand grabs Iona's shoulder and yanks her backwards.

CUT TO:

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Iona falls from midair, hits the floor hard.

Isaac is on all fours next to her; he vomits.

Iona gasps for breath, the wind knocked out of her.

Isaac stands. Wipes his mouth.

He sits on the sofa. Stares at the wall, deep in thought.

Iona finally gets air back in her lungs. She cries on the floor.

Beat.

ISAAC

We were young and inexperienced.
And desperate.

Fig watches from the hallway, stoic, emotionless. Iona still can't stop crying; it's not clear she's even listening.

EXT. THE STARRY VOID

Stars wink out and reappear as if a black sheet drifts among them.

ISAAC (O.S.)

We were afraid Harold was immortal.
We'd tried to kill him once by
then, and we knew we wouldn't get a
third chance. He had safeguards, a
plan for everything we could think
of, everything anyone could think
of.

Slowly, all the stars wink out until it's just empty blackness.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

So we found something else.
Something new.

ZOOM OUT to reveal a massive black human shadow bigger than you'd ever thought possible.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I'm still not sure what it is. I
think there are rules, but they're
not like ours. They're... sideways.

The shadow leans over, examining one arm of one galaxy. One star in that galaxy. One planet orbiting that star. One continent on that planet. One city on that continent. One window in that city. It looks in on:

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Inside the apartment, the window darkens just a bit, then goes back to normal.

ISAAC
There wasn't any existing magic
that could interact with it, much
less control it. We built it
ourselves.

Iona's got herself back under control. She lies on her back, listens.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
It worked better than we could've
hoped... unprecedented power. Wars
have been fought over what we
stumbled into ass-first. We killed
Harold and fantasized about using
it for more, but... there were
risks.

IONA
What kind of risks?

Isaac looks at her.

ISAAC
You saw it.

He looks away again.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
There's power out there. Strange
power, power beyond time and space.
But now you can't use the power
without drawing... it.

IONA
"Now?" It wasn't always there?

He shrugs.

ISAAC
Like I said, time is funny there.
Maybe it always was. Maybe it
hasn't gotten there yet.
(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 But there's an intelligence to it,
 and it knows us.

Isaac looks at her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 It knows you. It's wanted you your
 entire life. Maybe before.

Isaac looks at Fig. Fig shakes her head. He nods.

Looks at Iona. Beat.

IONA
 My whole life? Why haven't I seen
 it before now? What changed?

Beat.

IONA (CONT'D)
 Mom died. It's what killed her,
 isn't it?

ISAAC
 Get some sleep. You need to be
 ready for Heidi tomorrow.

IONA
 What if it comes back?

Isaac stands.

ISAAC
 It will.

IONA
 Tonight?

He shakes his head.

IONA (CONT'D)
 How do you know that?

He walks away.

He passes Fig. She looks at him as he does, watches him go.

Beat.

She sits next to Iona.

FIG
 If it was up to me-

ISAAC (O.S.)

Fig.

Beat. Fig glares at Iona. Iona's not sure what to think.

FIG

You have no idea the sacrifices
we've made.

She leaves Iona alone.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - MORNING

Iona drips sweat, bends over, gasps for air. You can see her
breath, it's so cold.

HEIDI

I didn't say you could stop.

Iona clenches her eyes shut. Stands up again, sticks her arms
out in front of her.

The lab is sparse, white. Cold, literally and figuratively.

Heidi stands in front of Iona, arms held in a specific angle.
Iona mimics her pose.

INT. HEIDI'S ANTECHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

In contrast to her lab, this room is warm and soft. Fur rugs,
thick blankets, massive stone fireplace.

Peter and Fig sit across from each other. Fig examines Peter
with innocent curiosity; Peter glares at her with malice.

FIG

You're sure it's not one of the
deep curses?

PETER

(teeth clenched)
I'm sure.

FIG

Because it still sounds a lot like
some of the curses I've made. I
remember one-

PETER

My father was a shapeshifter. His
father was a shapeshifter.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

His mother was a shapeshifter. It took me decades to master.

FIG

But whenever you get mad-

He's getting mad. And hairy.

PETER

I have complete control of my form.

FIG

Just not your temper?

He growls.

A SLAP from Heidi's lab. They both look towards the door.

Peter shakes his head.

PETER

She needs to cool it.

FIG

Spare the rod, spoil the child.

Peter glares again.

PETER

This isn't necessary. She feels betrayed and she's taking it out on Iona.

Fig cocks her head, suspicious, but amused.

FIG

Why are you telling me this?

PETER

I... I worry about her.

He softens, his hair recedes. He starts balding a bit.

PETER (CONT'D)

Is Isaac... she's eating enough, right? I know training is tough, needs to be tough, but is he-

Fig looks away, bored now.

FIG

He's too soft on her. She's going to get hurt.

Peter relaxes, nods.

PETER
She's still young. She has time.

Fig looks at him. Says nothing.

Another SLAP from the lab. Peter cringes.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - MORNING

Iona lies on the floor, clutching her face. Her eyes are wet, but she's not crying yet.

Heidi towers over her.

HEIDI
Is that it? Is that all it takes to
bring you to tears?

IONA
(angry)
I thought you were my friend!

HEIDI
I was! Now I'm your teacher.

She shoves Iona with her foot.

IONA
Stop! I'm getting up!

HEIDI
Don't get up, be up!

Another shove, but Iona blocks this one.

Iona makes a fist, but it's immediately encased in ice and frozen to the ground.

Heidi leans in to her face.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
You get to hit me one time. One
time only.

The ice drops off Iona's fist. They stare each other down.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
Go ahead.

Beat.

Iona stands up. Sticks her arms out.

IONA
Can we keep going?

Heidi chews on her tongue.

Assumes the same stance.

HEIDI
Keep up.

EXT. QUIET STREET - DAY

Fig and Iona walk down the street. Fig wears a large hat and dark sunglasses instead of a veil. There are only a handful of people around.

Four people across the street notice Iona and Fig, start paying them a lot of attention. They don't look friendly, but their hoods and high collars make it hard to get a good idea of what they look like.

Fig notices, but says nothing. Looks at Iona.

Beat.

IONA
What?

FIG
You tell me.

Iona looks around. Sees the group. Immediately acts like she didn't notice them.

IONA
What are they? Wizards?

Fig shrugs.

FIG
This way.

The group crosses the street. Fig ushers Iona into an alleyway.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Iona rounds a corner in the alleyway, sees it's a dead end.

IONA
Wait, this is-

She turns around. Fig is nowhere to be seen.

The group is, though.

FIG (O.S.)
Handle it.

IONA
I'm exhausted! Heidi just-

The group lowers their hoods, revealing decrepit skin and sharp teeth. Ghouls.

One of them speaks. His voice is high-pitched and unpleasant.

GHOUL
That's her. I'm positive.

He gestures to one of the others.

GHOUL (CONT'D)
Keep an eye out.

That one nods, disappears around the corner.

Iona takes a deep breath.

IONA
Listen up, fuckwits.

They chuckle.

IONA (CONT'D)
You caught me at the right time. I just got out of a few hours of training, so I'm tired enough to let you off with a warning.

They laugh harder.

GHOUL
You're so generous.

They move closer, claws out.

IONA
Not so generous I won't make the warning physical. I'm thinking a tooth each.

They hesitate, ever so slightly.

IONA (CONT'D)

Or maybe I'll take ears. I don't want to think about what you've been putting in your mouths.

GHOUL

Be more worried about what we will be putting in them.

IONA

Hopefully some toothpaste. I can smell your breath from here.

GHOUL

Enough of this. Kill her before her master-

ISAAC (O.S.)

Before I what?

Isaac rounds the corner, dragging the body of the lookout behind him. The lookout is missing its feet.

The ghouls jump and hiss. One of them just books it and climbs up the wall; Isaac watches and laughs.

GHOUL

Isaac! We were just-

ISAAC

I know what you were doing. I don't care. Go ahead.

They're confused. They look at each other.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Iona can take care of herself. I just wanted to make sure she remembered to let one of you live to tell the tale. She gets bloodthirsty when she's tired.

GHOUL

I... she...

ISAAC

Go ahead, Iona.

IONA

Should I take their ears like I said?

ISAAC
I missed that part. You told them
you'd take their ears?

IONA
As a warning, if they just left me
alone.

Isaac groans.

ISAAC
No, you can't... did she really say
she'd let you go if you gave her
your ears?

A hesitant nod from the ghouls.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Damn it, Iona. How many times do I
have to tell you, warnings make you
look weak.

IONA
I was tired! If you want me to kill
them-

ISAAC
No! A deal's a deal. Once you've
offered it, you can't take it back.

He sighs. Looks at the ghouls.

The ghouls look at him. At Iona. At each other.

IONA
So which is it?

GHOUL
We'll...

They look at Isaac again.

GHOUL (CONT'D)
We won't just... Do you...

ISAAC
Forget it. Just kill them.

GHOUL
Wait! Wait!

It takes a deep breath. Clenches its eyes.

Uses a claw to slice its own ear off; screams.

The other follows suit. They toss the ears at Iona's feet.
Iona coughs.

IONA
Both ears.

GHOUL
You didn't...!

Iona flexes a hand. It starts glowing.
The ghouls cut off their other ears. Throw them.
They don't hesitate, just climb up the walls, run away.
Iona laughs. Picks up the ears, holds them lightly; gross.
Fig appears next to her, shakes her head at Isaac.

FIG
You should've let her-

ISAAC
Let her what? Get mauled to death?

FIG
If she can't handle three ghouls-

ISAAC
She did fine from where I'm
standing. You're too hard on her.

FIG
Only once you showed up to help her
bluff. She would've figured
something out, I'm sure.

Iona laughs again. Isaac too.

FIG (CONT'D)
What?

ISAAC
Take those ears from her, they're
disgusting.

FIG
I don't want to-

ISAAC
Fig.

FIG
 You don't talk to me like-
 Isaac's angry.

ISAAC
 Do it!
 Fig snarls. But she walks over to Iona, snatches the ears.

FIG
 What do you expect me to do with
 them?

ISAAC
 You'll see in a second. Let's go.
 Fig sighs. Isaac disappears around the corner. Fig and Iona
 follow.

EXT. QUIET STREET - CONTINUOUS

As Fig and Iona round the corner, Isaac is gone, and the
 LOOKOUT is still there, leaning against the wall.

He jumps when he sees them.

IONA
 Your friends will probably want
 these back whenever you see them
 next.

She gestures to Fig.

Fig is more confused than the ghoul, but she hands the ears
 to the ghoul.

IONA (CONT'D)
 And for real, brush your teeth.

She keeps walking. Fig and the ghoul share a moment of
 confusion, then Fig follows Iona and the ghoul walks down the
 alley looking for his companions.

Iona and Fig walk in silence. Fig stares at Iona, sorts
 things out.

IONA (CONT'D)
 Were ears the right choice? Or
 should I have done teeth? Or a claw
 or something?

Fig finally understands. Iona eats it up.

FIG
I knew... I knew something was
weird about him. I knew. I just
didn't think...

IONA
Didn't think I was a freaking boss?

Fig's confusion is replaced with surprised respect.

IONA (CONT'D)
So are we cool now, or are you
gonna keep hazing me?

Fig chews on her tongue.

FIG
I can tone it down.

EXT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Fig and Iona walk up to the apartment. Isaac stands on the
steps, waiting.

He's pissed. At Fig.

ISAAC
I need to be able to trust you.

IONA
It's fine! I'm-

ISAAC
Inside. Now.

Iona goes inside.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Fig and Isaac's shouts carry, but not quite well enough to
make out what they're saying.

Iona walks over to the window. Looks out and sees a field of
stars.

She freezes.

A voice like a gentle breeze.

THE VOID
Be calm. You are safe.

Iona is not calm.

IONA

Isaac!

She turns to the stairs, but they're lost in darkness; she finds herself trapped in something like a spotlight. She's still in Isaac's apartment, but if she were to walk three feet in any direction, she'd be somewhere else.

THE VOID

You are very clever, earlier. We are proud.

A shadow like a hand reaches from the darkness around her. She steps back, and almost stumbles into the darkness behind her.

A GIGGLE comes from every direction at once.

THE VOID (CONT'D)

There's so much I can teach us.

IONA

No. No!

She brings her arms up in a defensive position.

The voice EXPLODES into its full force.

THE VOID

YOU CAN NOT RESIST US
IF YOU WILL NOT GIVE
I WILL TAKE

IONA

You'll... you'll have to!

Her arms glow as she moves her hands in a series of defensive gestures. A ROAR like a RAGING FIRE grows and grows until-

It's gone. She's back in the apartment, like nothing is wrong.

And Isaac and Fig are looking at her.

Isaac's not smiling. But he's happy. Or maybe proud.

ISAAC

We can't talk about it here. It...
draws it.

He leaves. Iona scrambles to follow.

INT. FLAMEL'S - NIGHT

Isaac and Iona walk into the bar. This time, Iona walks with the same confidence as Isaac. The patrons all nod towards them with at least feigned respect. The band plays Norah Jones.

The bartender walks towards their table, but Isaac waves him away before he gets there.

IONA
But I'm hungry.

Isaac looks at her. She shuts up.

Isaac stares at the band.

ISAAC
The... thing. The voice in the
darkness. It's-

Someone walks past Iona. Drops a small charm on her lap.

IONA
What?

Time slows to a crawl.

Isaac is barely able to throw a shield around himself, as an
EXPLOSION IMMOLATES THE ENTIRE BAR.

Isaac's shield saves him from the worst of it, but he's still
thrown backwards.

Iona's charm GLOWS BLUE, and the flames fan around her,
keeping her safe.

Everyone else in the bar dies. The explosion even takes down
the adjacent buildings.

Time returns to normal.

Isaac stumbles to his feet, covered in sweat, his eyes
bloodshot.

Iona freezes, panicked, stunned.

Isaac's scared for the first time that we've seen.

ISAAC
We need to leave, now. I'm weak,
and you're in danger.
I can't...

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I will leave you.

Iona gets on her hands and knees.

He tries to pull Iona to her feet, but he falls to the ground.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Where's Fig when you-

He turns around and sees Heidi, Peter, and Updike.

Heidi's eyes are steely. Updike hides his emotions. Peter looks around, horrified.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Shit.

Peter rushes over to Iona, scoops her up, carries her like a baby as he checks that she's okay.

Heidi's left hand is encased in razor-sharp ice. Updike's head is wreathed in a dark halo. They're ready for a fight.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I didn't think you had it in you.

HEIDI
Don't talk.

ISAAC
If you want-

A BLAST of ice and snow, and Isaac is completely imprisoned in ice, unable to move an inch.

HEIDI
Let's just kill him.

UPDIKE
I'm inclined to agree.

IONA
No! I need his help!

HEIDI
Don't be stupid.

UPDIKE
With what?

IONA
It's coming for me.

The three of them share worried glances.

PETER

What is?

HEIDI

Lies he's told her.

PETER

I don't know. He seemed desperate before.

HEIDI

Why would he be desperate to save her?

UPDIKE

Even if it's for selfish reasons, can we risk it?

Heidi snarls, walks right up to Isaac. Stares at him.

HEIDI

Can we risk letting him live?

He disappears, solid ice in his place.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

No! NO! I had you!

Iona relaxes.

Updike scans the area, wary.

UPDIKE

He'll run. He can't take all of us in a fair fight.

ISAAC (O.S.)

What's fair about it?

They circle up, back to back. Peter's remarkably un-hairy.

PETER

Let's just leave. We have Iona.

HEIDI

He won't let us. He needs her for something.

Isaac's voice comes from every dark corner in the bar.

ISAAC (O.S.)

I don't need her. She needs me.

UPDIKE

If we're leaving, we need to do it now. If he's not attacking, he's gathering his strength.

Heidi gives one last glance to the pillar of ice.

Could it be...?

UPDIKE (CONT'D)

Heidi!

Heidi waves a hand at him; "Shut up."

ISAAC (O.S.)

You're in over your heads. You're going to get the girl killed.

Heidi walks over to the ice.

A smile spreads over her face.

Peter and Updike watch her, cautious.

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Do what you want. No skin off my back.

Heidi pulls her hand back; a massive icy javelin forms.

She hurls it through the ice.

Isaac reappears as the javelin pierces his heart.

The ice he was trapped in SHATTERS; he's slashed by the shards, pinned to the ground by the javelin.

Dead.

IONA

NO! NO!

Iona runs to him, panicked.

PETER

Is he really...?

Heidi breathes heavily. She's terrified despite herself.

She stops; gets control of herself.

HEIDI

Or he wants us to think so.

Beat.

PETER
Iona, we need to go. Now.

IONA
I'm not going anywhere with-

Heidi's eyes FLASH, and Iona slumps to the ground, unconscious.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - NIGHT

Iona awakens, chained to the wall.

Peter, Heidi, and Updike stand around her.

UPDIKE
There she is.

PETER
Iona! Are you okay?

IONA
Where's Isaac? What happened?

She starts to remember; hopes she's wrong.

HEIDI
God knows.

Iona's scared.

IONA
I need him! I need him now!

UPDIKE
I don't think you do.

IONA
You don't understand! There's a-

PETER
Iona. Stop.

He walks over to her, puts a hand on her shoulder.

PETER (CONT'D)
Take a breath. Do you trust us?

IONA
I don't know! Yes! But you don't know about-

PETER

If you trust us, then trust us.
Relax, just for a minute. Assume we
know what we're doing.

Iona's skeptical, but she calms down a little.

UPDIKE

We're not novices, dear. Do you
think you know more than us?

IONA

No, but-

UPDIKE

But nothing. We've been doing this
a long time.

PETER

Just relax. You're safe here.

Iona takes a deep breath.

IONA

...The chains?

HEIDI

You're safe. But you're also a
risk.

UPDIKE

You've spent a lot of time with
Isaac. There are... dangers.

PETER

Tell us what you think is
happening.

IONA

The thing that killed my mother is
after me.

UPDIKE

What thing?

IONA

It's... I don't know what it is.
It's dark and starry. He didn't say
it, but I think it's something from
the Outside.

Heidi laughs. Peter and Updike glare at her.

IONA (CONT'D)

I've seen it!

PETER

I know. But... I just, we need you to consider... What if you haven't?

IONA

What?

UPDIKE

Isaac is more cunning than all of us put together. If he had any of us alone for as long as he had you, I don't doubt he could convince us the moon was falling and only he could stop it.

Iona understands what they're getting at.

IONA

Oh, no! No no no, it's not like that, he really-

Peter squeezes her shoulder.

UPDIKE

Iona. What if it is like that?

PETER

We're not saying you're wrong.

HEIDI

I am.

Peter gets a little hairier.

PETER

Heidi!

Heidi's shocked, angry.

UPDIKE

I mean, Peter...

PETER

No!

He turns back to Iona.

PETER (CONT'D)

Maybe you're right. Maybe everything you saw is real, and we'll look into it.

He shoots a glare at the others, then looks back at Iona.

PETER (CONT'D)

But maybe... maybe the world's
greatest illusionist, and your
mother's greatest adversary, was
lying to you.

The possibility starts to sink in. Iona's overwhelmed but
keeps it together.

PETER (CONT'D)

Which is harder to believe? If you
were in our shoes, what would you
think?

Beat.

Iona's voice is quiet.

IONA

But... could he... I don't think...

HEIDI

It would be a great victory for
him, to turn you against us. You
see that?

Iona nods.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

Nobody in all of history has
pierced the Outside. It probably
doesn't even exist.

IONA

He said he built new magic...

UPDIKE

Do you know how difficult it is to
build a new magic? Ancient masters
have tried and failed.

Iona really starts to understand. She can't keep it together.

IONA

I'm gonna throw up.

PETER

I know it's a lot-

She dry heaves, but there's nothing in her stomach.

Peter looks at Heidi.

PETER (CONT'D)
Can we please...?

Heidi grimaces. She waves a hand, and Iona's chains disappear; Iona drops, but Peter catches her.

Iona sobs. Peter rubs her back.

PETER (CONT'D)
It's okay. We've got you. It's okay.

INT. HEIDI AND PETER'S HOUSE - SUNRISE

The house is quaint and tidy. Lace is a strong decorative element. A little bowl of grandma candies sits on a coffee table. There's an old tube TV in the corner.

Heidi, Peter, and Updike sit around the coffee table. Peter drinks something hot.

Iona sits at the dining table across the room, eating a bowl of cereal.

HEIDI
The question needs to be asked,
even if we don't have an answer.

UPDIKE
"Is he really dead?"

PETER
This is the problem with
illusionists. Everything about how
things happened makes me want to
say yes. But the fact that
everything makes me want to say yes
makes me want to say no.

HEIDI
He's faked his death before.

UPDIKE
That convincingly?

Heidi nodded.

HEIDI
And more. We buried the corpse.
Penny could tell somehow, but I
thought she was being paranoid.

UPDIKE

So there is a way to tell. We need to figure out what she could sense.

IONA

Um.

Everyone looks at her.

IONA (CONT'D)

We also need to talk about if there's really something coming to... kill me.

Heidi sighs.

PETER

You're right. Tell us-

HEIDI

This is not pressing.

PETER

It is if she's right.

UPDIKE

To be fair, is determining Isaac's status particularly time-sensitive? If he's dead, he's dead, if he's not, he's not. And regardless of what we think, we're going to behave as though he's alive for at least the next few years.

Heidi takes a deep breath. Sighs.

HEIDI

Fine. Tell us about your demon.

Iona's a deer in the headlights.

IONA

Um, it's... like... a star-thing. I think I dreamed about it a couple times. Isaac said he and my mom used it to kill Harold, but that it came back when I was born.

UPDIKE

What did he tell you about the magic they built for it?

IONA

Not a lot. It didn't play by the rules? I think he said it was sideways.

Heidi looks at Peter. "This is ridiculous."

UPDIKE

But it never actually attacked you?

IONA

No, it attacked.

Heidi looks at her, now barely intrigued.

IONA (CONT'D)

I was on the sofa, and suddenly I was, like, in outer space? But there was a shadow thing shouting at me. Isaac dragged me back somehow and I threw up. He saved my life.

UPDIKE

Or he convinced you he did.

An awkward beat.

UPDIKE (CONT'D)

Something else I've been chewing on. Why try so hard to teach Iona her Gebaren?

PETER

Red herring?

UPDIKE

He went to a lot of personal risk to lie, then.

IONA

I think Gebaren were important to fighting the thing that's after me.

Heidi's done with entertaining that line of thought.

HEIDI

That's one theory. I think it was in his own interest.

PETER

How do you figure?

HEIDI

Gebaren are the bedrock of defensive magic. If he really intended to keep Iona as an apprentice, he'd know she'd be a target. He needed her to be able to defend herself.

UPDIKE

But why not teach her himself? He knows plenty of defensive magic. And why use Gebaren rather than something he's more familiar with?

HEIDI

That's exactly it. He needed something she couldn't use to see through his illusions. If he wanted her to buy this Outside story, she couldn't be familiar enough with his magic to see his lies.

IONA

I mean...

They all look at her.

IONA (CONT'D)

Either way, you can keep teaching me, right?

Heidi scowls at her.

HEIDI

A master needs to be able to trust her apprentice.

Iona shrinks.

Peter glares at Heidi.

PETER

Okay, Iona, let's get you some sleep.

IONA

But I want to hear-

PETER

I'll tell you everything we discuss.

IONA

And-

PETER

And I'll make sure Heidi considers
your side of things.

Heidi looks away.

Iona nods, gets to her feet. Peter leads her to a back room.

Updike looks at Heidi, serious.

UPDIKE

Between you and me. What do you
think?

HEIDI

About the Outsider?

UPDIKE

All of it. What're the odds she's
really in danger, and we just
killed the one person who knew how
to keep her safe?

HEIDI

Low.

Updike nods slowly.

UPDIKE

I agree. Low.

He sighs. Leans back.

UPDIKE (CONT'D)

But not zero.

Heidi chews on her tongue.

UPDIKE (CONT'D)

We need to talk to Fig.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - DAY

Updike and Heidi stand in front of a mirror; instead of a
reflection, they see Fig facing them.

FIG

I am a busy woman. There is more to
my life than one illusionist. If
you say you killed him, so be it.

UPDIKE

I don't expect you to confirm anything one way or the other.

Fig hisses softly, annoyed.

FIG

I'm immortal, but that doesn't mean I can't get impatient.

UPDIKE

Iona is convinced she's in danger.

FIG

She is. Imminently. I didn't figure you cared, seeing as all of your actions this far have served to increase it. Or are you asking how to finish the deed?

HEIDI

(to Updike)

This is pointless. We can't trust her. Nothing she says will-

FIG

If that's all, I'm in the middle of something.

UPDIKE

We want to protect her.

FIG

Prove it.

UPDIKE

Look at it this way: if you do want to keep her safe, convincing us of the danger will accomplish just as much as whatever you're working on, won't it?

Fig hisses again. But she considers his words.

She lowers her hand.

FIG

How much do you know?

UPDIKE

Just what Iona claims to know. That Isaac pierced the Outside and something from there wants her.

FIG

Not something from the Outside.
Someone who's there presently.

HEIDI

If you're so impatient, speak
clearly. What do you mean?

FIG

Unless she's out now. She was
always willing to pay more than
Isaac was, and now he's not here to
stop her.

HEIDI

Who?

Updike realizes. His face contorts in fury.

A cruel smile crawls across Fig's face.

FIG

He understands.

UPDIKE

You lie.

HEIDI

What? You know...

She looks at Updike.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

No. That's not possible.

Heidi glares at Fig.

UPDIKE

You lie!

Fig laughs.

Updike blasts the mirror with a burst of energy; it SHATTERS.

INT. HEIDI AND PETER'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - DAY

Iona lies on a frilly bed, already asleep. Peter sits in a
chair next to the bed, looking through a magazine.

He sits up straight. Sniffs the air.

His muscles bulge, his teeth grow. Danger.

Heidi and Updike storm in, and Peter's on his feet.

HEIDI

AWAKE.

She raises a hand, and Iona lifts into the air, jolts awake, terrified.

IONA

No! What!

Now she's terrified and confused.

IONA (CONT'D)

Peter?! Heidi?

PETER

Heidi, what's going on?!

HEIDI

We want the truth, girl!

IONA

What truth?

HEIDI

If you won't tell us, we'll rip it out of you!

PETER

Heidi!

Updike holds Peter back as Heidi extends a hand forward; Iona's head jolts back, and her eyes fade to black.

EXT. THE STARRY VOID

Stars.

The gentle voice.

THE VOID

Isaac. Be reasonable.

Isaac floats in space, barely conscious.

THE VOID (CONT'D)

The rules don't apply here.

Isaac stirs.

THE VOID (CONT'D)

There is no hope. There is no
 despair. No victory. No defeat.
 There is only me. Only us. Only
 you. Alone forever.

Isaac's eyes shoot open. His perspective shifts; he doesn't
 change position, but now he's standing instead of laying
 down.

ISAAC

Death is an illusion.

THE VOID

You know all about illusions, don't
 you?

ISAAC

I know more about death.

A GIGGLE.

The voice changes to the MASSIVE ROAR it was before.

THE VOID

NOT AS MUCH AS ME

Isaac grits his teeth.

ISAAC

Empty threats.

The voice grows louder, angrier. It presses in on Isaac,
 tries to crush him with sound.

THE VOID

I AM POWER
 WE ARE ETERNITY
 THIS IS THE BEGINNING

Beat. Isaac's sad.

ISAAC

It's too far, Pen. Even for me. I'm
 no altruist, but I might try to
 stop you even if my life didn't
 depend on it.

A giggle.

THE VOID

HYPOCRISY

ISAAC

Think what you want. You can hold me here as long as you like, but I gave Iona everything she needs to beat you. You're as stuck here as I am.

THE VOID

A WAY OPENS

He cocks his head, listening to something.

ISAAC

No. No! Not NOW!

Another giggle.

Isaac panics, shouts to nobody we can see.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Stop! You don't know what you're doing! STOP!

INT. HEIDI AND PETER'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - DAY

Peter's a scrawny little man. Heidi's in tears. Updike is on his knees.

Iona floats in the air in front of them, stars in her eyes.

Iona seems to gain awareness. Her eyes still stars, she floats down, lands on her feet in front of the bed.

She looks at the others. Looks at herself.

She closes her eyes. Wavers. When she opens her eyes, they're normal again.

IONA

...Mommy?

HEIDI

How could she...? Penelope would never... I don't...

PETER

Penelope made compromises, but they were always for the greater good. Would she really...

Heidi looks at Iona as if seeing her for the first time.

Iona's dazed, in tears. Heidi drops to her knees, embraces Iona. They both cry.

INT. ISAAC'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Fig stands in front of a circle of ash; a pillar of smoke obscures the inside of the circle.

FIG

Isaac, this one was bad. I think you lost something. I think I lost something.

The smoke fades away, revealing PENELOPE.

Penny, big smile, examines herself.

PENELOPE

Oh, Fig. You've outdone yourself. Of course I always suspected he was reviving, but thought for sure nobody could come back from the Void so intact. I shan't underestimate you again.

Fig's shocked, terrified, furious. She grabs her veil, rips it off, revealing brilliant eyes like gemstones.

She glares at Penelope; Penelope stares right back, with eyes full of stars.

Fig stumbles backwards.

FIG

No. How? No!

Penelope smiles, advances towards Fig.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - DAY

Heidi runs in circles around the lab, preparing defenses. Peter and Updike finish scribing a runic circle around Iona, who's too emotionally exhausted to keep crying.

HEIDI

This isn't... if those maniacs really built this themselves, I can't know how my defenses will react. Iona might be standing there one second, Penny the next. They have a blood connection, there's a lot she can do with that.

UPDIKE

We have to do something.

HEIDI

Do you see me twiddling my thumbs?

She finishes. Brushes her hair out of her face.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

That Rotzak! Telling the truth the entire time. If he'd just lied a little, maybe we would've believed him!

UPDIKE

It was unexpected.

PETER

Iona, are you okay? Do you... feel anything?

Iona shakes her head.

They finish the circle. It flashes, then disappears.

PETER (CONT'D)

That should give us some warning if she tries to get in your head. Probably.

IONA

She's not... something's different. I didn't know there was anything happening before, but there was, and it's not happening anymore.

HEIDI

Is that good or bad?

Iona's at a loss.

Peter swears.

UPDIKE

Are we sure Isaac's dead?

They all look at him.

UPDIKE (CONT'D)

If he's not, we could really use his help right now.

They all look at Iona.

IONA
I... I don't...

PETER
Do you have a code? Any secret way
of communicating?

IONA
No. I don't... yes! Yes! There is
one thing I can try!

PETER
Then let's do it!

IONA
It's at his workshop.

Peter looks at Heidi. She shakes her head.

HEIDI
I'm not even sure I can keep you
safe here. If we leave-

PETER
If we can't keep her safe here,
what's the difference?

HEIDI
There's a massive difference! Just
because we can't be sure doesn't
mean our odds go down drastically
if we step foot out that door!

IONA
But it's my mom! Surely she
wouldn't...

She can't say it. Nobody else can, either.

Beat.

PENELOPE (O.S.)
Surely I wouldn't what?

INT. HEIDI'S ANTECHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Penelope leans against the door to Heidi's lab, nonchalant.

PENELOPE
Kill you all? Of course not, don't
be ridiculous. Open the door.

Beat. Penelope smiles.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
 Or don't. I've got nothing but
 time. Let's just chat.

Beat. Her smile fades. She affects a voice.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
 "Penny, it's so good to see you! We
 thought you were dead!" Why, thank
 you, it's good to see you too! I
 was dead, but it's no big deal.
 You'll see soon enough.

Beat. She laughs.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
 Oh, sorry, that came off as a
 threat, didn't it? I just mean,
 sooner or later, you'll die, right?
 And in the grand scheme of things,
 it'll be "sooner." Even if I don't
 kill you all now - and I really
 might not - you're still going to
 eventually. It's unavoidable. For
 you.

Beat. She gets annoyed.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
 Time doesn't work like I thought it
 did. I've only had myself to talk
 to for a long time, and I've gotten
 very good at it.

Beat. She GROANS LOUDLY.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - CONTINUOUS

Peter, Heidi, and Updike are in battle positions by the door.
 Iona hides behind Peter.

PENELOPE (O.S.)
 That doesn't mean I won't get
 bored! Or angry! I can wait
 forever, but not patiently!

Everyone speaks quietly, almost whispering.

IONA
 It doesn't even sound like her.

Updike gives her a sad look.

UPDIKE
It does, though. When she was
young... it does.

PENELOPE (O.S.)
Fine! We'll do it like this!

A BLAST; the door rattles, but holds.

HEIDI
What do we do?

Peter looks around.

Another BLAST.

PETER
We can't take the front door.

HEIDI
There isn't a back door.

UPDIKE
Blow a hole open?

HEIDI
Too strong. The door is the only
thing we could possibly blow open.

BLAST.

She thinks. Swears under her breath.

HEIDI (CONT'D)
No. I've trapped us here.

Beat.

IONA
I have an idea.

Everybody looks at her.

IONA (CONT'D)
It's... not a good one.

INT. HEIDI'S ANTECHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Penny gathers energy in her hands, hurls it against the door;
a huge, final BLAST, and the door SHATTERS.

INT. HEIDI'S LAB - CONTINUOUS

Iona and the others just have time to hop into a portal leading to a snowy wasteland.

Penny dives for the portal, but it closes just before she can reach it.

Penny SCREAMS; the walls shake.

She charges out the door.

Beat.

She walks back inside, sniffs the air.

She smiles.

PENELOPE

You almost had me. But our ties go deeper than you can ever know.

She pulls at the air, rips away an illusion hiding Iona in the corner.

Iona has a rune drawn in blood on her forehead.

IONA

Actually, Heidi thought of that.

Penelope looks around.

PENELOPE

Where is she, anyway? And the others? They can't hurt me.

She turns back to Iona.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Or are they really gone?

Iona shrinks back against the wall.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Did you sacrifice yourself for them? Is that what just happened?

She grabs Iona's chin. Penelope's eyes turn into stars.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Very heroic.

She stops. Something's wrong.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
 What's going on? Why aren't you...

She looks at the rune on Iona's forehead.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
 What is that? Some sort of
 protective...

She wipes it off. SNARLS.

Iona TRANSFORMS INTO A MASSIVE BEAR, pins Penelope to the ground.

The bear speaks with Peter's voice.

PETER
 You'll never get her.

Penelope SCREAMS in anger.

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

Iona, one fingertip bloody and bandaged, leads Heidi and Updike down the sidewalk, all of them sprinting. Iona's short of breath, but Heidi and Updike are hale and hearty, chanting under their breath.

Iona stops in front of a sushi place. She bends over, catches her breath.

HEIDI
 Here?

Iona nods.

UPDIKE
 Is there a key?

Iona steps to the sushi restaurant. A pair of PATRONS try to walk out, but Iona holds the door shut.

The patrons stare, confused.

PATRON
 Hey! Open the door!

Iona draws with her finger on the glass of the door: a complicated series of runes, invisible to all but her.

UPDIKE
 This seems a little highly-
 trafficked to be a workshop.

IONA
It's a back door. If it still
works.

Then she pulls the door open, revealing Isaac's workshop.

INT. ISAAC'S WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

They all enter from right next to the hole Hazy blew in the wall.

Updike can't help looking around, curious. Heidi scans the area for threats. Iona scans the room.

IONA
I hoped Fig would be here.

Heidi sees the circle of ash.

HEIDI
This was how she came back.

She examines the ash.

UPDIKE
Penelope? Who summoned her?

HEIDI
Fig?

IONA
She wouldn't. I don't think.

UPDIKE
(ignoring Iona)
Possible, but unlikely.

She considers.

Heidi looks at Iona. Gestures to the ash.

HEIDI
What do you know about this?

IONA
N-nothing. At least, I never saw
him do anything like this.

She considers.

IONA (CONT'D)
 Honestly, I'm not sure I actually
 saw him attack anyone ever. I guess
 Hazy?

Heidi looks at Updike.

HEIDI
 It looks like whoever it was, was
 using a variant of Paul's Calling.
 I could try it, see if we can bring
 Isaac back.

UPDIKE
 But in doing so, open us up to
 attacks from god-knows-what.
 Forbidden beasts.

IONA
 Wait, aren't those bad? Like, bad?

HEIDI
 Yes.

Beat.

UPDIKE
 Do it. Iona, we need to keep an eye
 out. Activate any defenses he has
 left. I'll see what I can do about
 this hole in the wall.

Iona hesitates; Updike hurries to the hole.

Heidi kneels next to the circle of ash, starts performing a
 complicated series of gestures.

Iona notices. Stares.

IONA
 What are you doing?

HEIDI
 Concentrating.

Iona kneels next to her.

IONA
 No no no, those gestures. Gebaren.
 I know those ones.

Heidi looks at her.

HEIDI
I didn't teach them to you.

IONA
No. Isaac used something like them
when Hazy attacked. Sucked all the
fire out of the room.

Heidi considers.

HEIDI
Show me.

IONA
I don't think I can remember them
myself, but seeing you-

HEIDI
Whether or not you remember what he
did could be the difference between
summoning Isaac back from Hell, and
summoning something else.

Iona's eyes widen, then she steels herself. Nods.

IONA
Okay.

EXT. THE STARRY VOID

Isaac drifts, legs crossed, meditating.

Something tugs at him. His eyes open.

Beat.

It tugs again. He turns his head to look.

ISAAC
I'll be a son of Zeus.

INT. ISAAC'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Heidi and Iona stand in front of the circle of ash, which is
filled with smoke, just like before.

IONA
When do we know if we summoned a
monster?

ISAAC (O.S.)
I've been called worse.

The smoke fades, revealing Isaac. He smiles, and Iona runs to hug him. Isaac lets her, but doesn't hug back, just looks at Heidi.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You used Paul's Calling?

HEIDI
A variant. Iona helped me with some of the particulars of your new magic.

Iona lets go, takes a step back.

Isaac shakes his head.

ISAAC
I hadn't taught her any of that yet, just the defensive ones.

IONA
I watched you when you fought Hazy. You opened a hole, sucked all the fire in.

Isaac grins, impressed.

ISAAC
That I did. You wouldn't have made a terrible apprentice.

IONA
I thought I was your apprentice?

ISAAC
You know it's more complicated than that.

HEIDI
Can you stop Penelope?

Isaac sighs.

ISAAC
You did better than anyone could've expected, but there's only so much you knew about.

HEIDI
It didn't work?

ISAAC

It did. But there are costs. I lose a little bit every time I come back.

HEIDI

Every time?

UPDIKE

I knew it.

ISAAC

Fig spent years practicing for it, and I still lost more than I'd like. You half-assed it based on some similar magic you could recall, and what Iona saw one time.

HEIDI

What's the cost?

ISAAC

I'm dry as a bone. Not a lick of magic left.

Iona's shocked. Updike shakes his head. Heidi spits.

HEIDI

So this was for nothing?

ISAAC

I'm more than my magic. But we don't have much time. We need to leave.

HEIDI

She sensed the Call?

ISAAC

She senses Iona.

HEIDI

Should we leave her behind?

IONA

What?

ISAAC

Just let Penny eat her and ascend to godhood, great plan.

He jogs towards the exit.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Shall we?

As he reaches the door, the entire wall DISAPPEARS. The ceiling, now lacking support, collapses on top of all of them.

Updike throws a shield above himself and Iona, while Heidi blasts beams of force at the rubble that would hit her, disintegrating it.

Isaac barely dives outside.

EXT. RUBBLE - CONTINUOUS

Penelope stands on the other side of where the wall used to be, grinning like a fox.

PENELOPE

Isaac! Or whatever's left, it looks like. Out of juice?

ISAAC

Oh, Penny. I tried to spare you all this trouble.

Heidi floats above the debris, ready for battle, but nervous, content to let Penelope and Isaac talk.

PENELOPE

You know me. Have to do things the hard way.

ISAAC

Even when the easy way would spare you so much grief.

She glares. He struck a nerve.

PENELOPE

You think I still care at all about Aaron?

ISAAC

I was talking about your daughter. But your husband is another good example.

Penelope sighs. She looks at Iona and Updike as they emerge from the debris.

PENELOPE

You don't understand eternity like I do. If you did, you'd know there's no cost that isn't worth paying.

ISAAC

I guess if you didn't mind killing the man who loved you...

She snarls.

Iona looks up, like she can see something nobody else can.

PENELOPE

If I didn't mind killing him, just think what I'm willing to do to you.

ISAAC

Promises, promises.

She moves towards Iona. Isaac is in the way, but that doesn't bother her; she barely notices him.

Iona looks at Isaac. Takes a deep breath.

Heidi prepares to attack Penelope, but-

Penelope stops right in front of Isaac. She's surprised.

PENELOPE

You're really going to make me do this? You're powerless.

ISAAC

You just need to learn the same lesson over and over again, don't you?

Penelope swipes a hand, telekinetically hurls a nearby steel bar at him; the bar sweeps right through him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You are nothing next to me.

Unnoticed by Penelope, Updike leads Iona away.

Penelope holds up her hands. Her eyes glow and her hair lifts, buoyed by unseen force. All of her focus is on Isaac, who just stands there, smiling, unaffected by whatever she's trying.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Spend the next ten thousand years practicing, I could beat you with a word.

Penelope stops, catches her breath.

Heidi drifts to the ground, drawing Penelope's gaze just a little further away from Iona.

Penelope looks back at Isaac.

PENELOPE

You're powerless.

She's furious, frustrated.

ISAAC

I understand if you're frustrated.

Iona and Updike get around a corner; they're out of sight now.

HEIDI

Enough toying with her. Let's fight.

ISAAC

Oh, that's a terrible idea. One on one? She'll cut right through you. You're only still alive because she hasn't cared enough to kill you.

Now Penelope and Heidi are both confused.

HEIDI

But you...

ISAAC

Oh, please. I'm powerless. Not a drop of magic left. I can't do anything to help.

He considers.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Although... I guess I'm still imposing enough a figure to make an adequate distraction.

Penelope doesn't just glow, she IGNITES with fury and power.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Especially with an apprentice who's
so good at illusions.

Penelope shoves her hands forward, and a WAVE OF DARKNESS
pulses out, DETONATING all of the debris.

Heidi is blown back. Isaac just laughs and disappears.

Heidi stops herself in midair. She's scared, but she readies
an icy spear.

Penelope glares death at her.

PENELOPE
He wasn't wrong. Don't be worth the
effort.

Heidi hesitates.

Penelope shoots straight up into the air at a hundred miles
an hour.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Iona and Updike run off the street and into the park. Isaac
runs next to them.

ISAAC
That was perfect. Couldn't have
done it better myself.

IONA
Why is she so different?

ISAAC
This is her first time back. My
first time wrecked me. Couple that
with how much she'd grown to rely
on the Void in our last fight, I'm
not surprised it's taking its toll.

UPDIKE
So you did kill her?

ISAAC
It didn't take.

Iona's betrayed.

IONA
You told me the Thing killed her!

ISAAC

Iona, she is the Thing. I needed you to trust me enough to let me teach you how to kill her for good.

IONA

Kill her?

Updike grunts approvingly.

UPDIKE

Glad there's a plan.

ISAAC

There was a plan. It relied on about a year more of practice.

IONA

What? So what are we gonna do?

ISAAC

Probably all die. But I aim to annoy her as much as I can beforehand.

Updike stops running. Iona and Isaac stop, turn to face him.

UPDIKE

I won't give up hope so easily.

ISAAC

That's fine. I really don't care. In fact, if it means you'll try harder, I'm all for it.

UPDIKE

I've been around a long time. Penelope has power and talent, but she was never as technically skilled as me.

ISAAC

Okay. Let's go, Iona, I guess he's got this.

Isaac jogs forward. Iona hesitates, watching Updike.

UPDIKE

You are infuriating.

Beat.

He starts running again. Iona runs alongside him.

Something like a METEOR slams into the ground in front of them.

The dust clears; Penelope is here, and she's PISSED.

PENELOPE

It's time to end this.

ISAAC

Iona! She's stronger than you!

IONA

(no shit)

I know!

ISAAC

But it's her connection to you
that's her greatest strength! She's
going to absorb you, like I did the
fire!

Penelope's voice reverberates; it's like the universe itself is speaking.

PENELOPE

ENOUGH

She puts a hand up, and Isaac flies backwards, hits the ground hard.

Updike holds his arms out; the skin on his arms blackens and chars and falls off, leaving vicious, spiky, bladed bones, claws the size of butcher knives.

Penelope STOMPS, and the ground around Updike reaches up to entomb him. He's sucked into the earth.

Penelope turns to Iona.

Iona puts her arms up in defensive gesture.

Penelope advances.

Iona throws a fireball at her, but Penelope doesn't even duck, and it dissipates harmlessly against her.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

I know your tricks. You're
powerless.

A BONY CLAW bursts from the ground, grabs Penelope's ankle.

She snarls at it. Then it DRAGS HER INTO THE GROUND.

Iona looks around, terrified.

She picks a direction and starts running.

The ground beneath her feet EXPLODES. Penelope soars out of it, bloody and shredded.

Updike leaps out behind her, his face sunken and bloodless.

UPDIKE

You think death is your domain? I
spoke the language of the grave
before you were born!

PENELOPE

THE UNIVERSE IS MINE
I HAVE NO MORE NEED FOR DEATH

Her wounds FALL OFF. It's like they were all costume makeup. Even the tears in her clothing fall, leaving her whole and unharmed.

Nearby, Isaac stirs.

Updike takes a step back, surprised. He steels himself.

Penelope throws a GLOWING ORB OF STARLIGHT at Updike. It moves faster than the eye can see, hurls him away.

Heidi swoops in, catches him, lands next to Iona.

IONA

Why are you doing this?! Why me?
I'm your daughter!

PENELOPE

ESSENCE OF MY ESSENCE
IN YOU, I CREATED MYSELF
IN MYSELF, ETERNITY

IONA

I don't understand!

PENELOPE

YOU DO NOT NEED TO

Isaac gets to his feet. He's behind Penelope; he starts stumbling over to them.

HEIDI

We'll stop you.

PENELOPE

YOU CANNOT

Iona sees Isaac, a quick flash in her eyes. She looks back at Penelope.

IONA

No. We can't.

Penelope laughs. Heidi and Updike look at Iona; Heidi's still in combat mode, Updike is horrified.

UPDIKE

We can't give up.

IONA

There's nothing we can do. She can only be stopped by her weird magic. Right?

PENELOPE

DON'T THINK THE PITIFUL AMOUNT
ISAAC TAUGHT YOU IS ENOUGH TO
DEFEND YOURSELF

IONA

No, probably not. At the very least, I'd have to catch you off-guard. Which I couldn't do with you staring at me.

Penelope stops laughing. Iona is up to something.

PENELOPE

WHAT ARE YOU-

IONA

Of course, if Isaac was lying about being powerless, and he managed to get right behind you...

Penelope SHRIEKS, wheels around to see Isaac right behind her, arms crossed.

She reaches out, and shadows shoot from her hand, entwine Isaac, lift him up in front of her.

PENELOPE

THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU WILL-

ISAAC

Oh, no, don't worry. I'm spent.

Penelope hesitates, confused, furious.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

It was a good idea. It makes perfect sense that I'd lie about being out of magic. Solid gamble on Iona's part. But unfortunately, no, I really am dry.

Penelope GROWLS.

PENELOPE

ALL THE SAME, I THINK IT'S TIME WE-

IONA

Hey mom.

Penelope, startled, turns around to see Iona right behind her, rhythmically moving her arms, with eyes full of stars.

Iona pulls her arms apart. Penelope EXPLODES into stars, is ABSORBED ENTIRELY by Iona.

Iona's eyes FLARE. She lifts into the air; light shines out of every pore in her body.

As the light fades, she hovers in mid-air, eyes still glowing.

Updike and Heidi don't know what just happened, or what to do.

Isaac pats Iona on the shoulder.

Iona looks at him like he's an ant, but does nothing.

UPDIKE

(horrified)

What did you do?

ISAAC

She used her enemy's strength. The connection Penny wanted to take advantage of went both ways.

HEIDI

You knew it would work like that?

ISAAC

I wondered. I hoped it wouldn't come to that. I'd prefer nobody had this level of cosmic power.

He looks at Iona.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Well. Nobody other than myself.

Iona closes her eyes. When she opens them, her eyes are starry voids. Once more, and they're back to normal.

She drifts back to the ground.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

That's my cue.

He turns to leave.

Iona's voice echoes.

IONA

No.

She doesn't need to do anything. Isaac lifts an inch into the air, drifts over to her.

IONA (CONT'D)

You used me.

ISAAC

I handed you deific power.

IONA

To save your own skin.

ISAAC

This didn't go like you think it did. Put me down, I need to show you something.

Iona cocks her head. She's not glowing anymore, but it's clear she's perfectly aware of how powerful she is.

She releases him. Before his feet touch the ground, he DISAPPEARS INTO THIN AIR.

She chuckles. Laughs. Laughs louder.

Heidi and Updike are terrified.

Iona's laugh ECHOES WITH POWER.

FADE OUT

THE END