

Worlds Beyond Number

The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One: Episode 17 "Say My Name"
Final Version

[World's Beyond Number intro music rises urgently with orchestral strings and flute]

Aabria Iyengar

This is the sound of Worlds Beyond Number.

[A storm of strings crescendo into the ringing of a gong]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hot sun on a bright green court. Painted white lines of chalk illuminating what is otherwise an athletic field. The buzzing of illusory crickets put here solely for an aesthetic conducive to the study of wizards engaged in military training.

[Faint noise of cricket chips, slow drumbeat in the background]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Wooden armory racks with a number of bright tan, polished wooden quarter staves. Not magical or enchanted, simply here for the rudiments of staff combat. However, the ringing in this grass filled court is not that of the clack of wood, but the sharp, clarion call of steel on steel.

[Steel swords clanking against one another, adventurous, upbeat music playing in the background]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Eursulon.

Lou Wilson

Mmm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Backward, forward, widened stance. You hear clang, clang, clang as three blows come in on top of your raised cross guard, and you feel a sudden kick to the inside of your shin, as you are dropped to one knee and Steel puts the point of her blade up against your chin.

[Music becomes tense]

Eursulon [Lou]

Rude.

[Music stops abruptly, Aabria laughs]

Steel [Brennan]

You haven't the first idea of how rude things can get.

Eursulon [Lou]

Oh, we're kicking now?

Steel [Brennan]

I'm sorry! Oh, you wanted to learn fencing. You're a little boy. You're a prince?

Eursulon [Lou]
[flustered] No, I'm not - no!

Steel [Brennan]
Do you want to learn how to fight or do you want to learn how to fence?

Eursulon [Lou]
I - I - mmph. Mmph.

Lou Wilson
Eursulon is just going to get up and kind of stomp around for a second.

Eursulon [Lou]
Again.

Steel [Brennan]
All right. All I want you to do is hold me off and keep your stance. That's it.

[Music starts up again, sword clanging resumes]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The training continues. The number one thing you notice about fighting Steele in this moment is ... She's... number one, never seems to tire, and you don't really see any indication of rage or exertion or primal ferocity. Everything is about control. Her stance is about control. She's controlling her breathing. She is always looking at you. Your feet, your stance, where your torso is, where your eyes are looking. Her eyes almost never go to your sword. She's always just looking at you. She does this thing that you've begun to be able to spot after some time, which there's a smile. And that smile always comes a quarter of a second before you realize that you've made a mistake, and a quarter of a second after that is when you will either get hit with the flat of her blade or some other terrible thing will happen. You fight, by the way, with Wavebreaker.

[Mystical, metallic twang at the mention of Wavebreaker]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She wants you to fight with the sword you're actually wielding. Even though, unlike her sword, its edge is not dulled.

Lou Wilson
Mmhmm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She at one point told you in this long month of training,

Steel [Brennan]
She at one point told you in this long month of training, when we get to the point where I feel that your blows are coming close to actually landing somewhere, I don't want them to land, then we'll switch to a practice sword for you.

Lou Wilson
Mmm.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She comes back again. Go ahead, roll me an athletics check.

Lou Wilson
Come on, Eursulon...

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Actually, this is acrobatics. Roll me acrobatics.

Lou Wilson
Unbelievably... we're level two now, baby. That's an 18.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Let's go!

[Erika and Aabria cheer]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She marches you up and down across this circle of the painted lines of the grass, and every time you see that as you're keeping your stance, she goes,

Steel [Brennan]
Good, excellent. Don't let me make you leave the circle.

[Eursulon grunts, sounds of combat]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And she now begins to exert and actually call out. And at a certain point, I'm going to actually ask for a wisdom saving throw.

Lou Wilson
[incredulous, muttering] What? This is kicking and wisdom saving throws. Supposed to be sword practice.

[Dice roll]

Lou Wilson
Again, we are no longer level one. That's a 21!

[Cast cheers]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You stay fully within the circle as she pushes back. And now she starts to exert. She goes,

[Music picks up pace]

Steel [Brennan]
[grunting noises of combat, sword slicing through the air] Huh, HAH, HAH!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And then finally, she leaps up in the air, higher than you're considering, and goes,

Steel [Brennan]
[Loud yelling] HAAAAAAAAA!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
To bring the sword down in this exclamation. And the sword, bing, [metal clinking noise] lands lightly on the cross guard with a dagger pressed up, suddenly appearing in her hand to your ribs.

[Anime-like flash reveal noise]

Eursulon [Lou]
[laughing in disbelief and surprise] Where - where the hell did that come from?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She looks down, still in stance.

Steel [Brennan]
Good job.

Eursulon [Lou]
[flustered] You have - I thought we were fighting with swords and that - you - you are kicking, you are bringing more weapons that I didn't know - can I have another weapon?

Steel [Brennan]
Can you?

Eursulon [Lou]
[flustered] Not yet. But I might - I might want one!

Steel [Brennan]
Right now, a dagger would be an enormous liability. You should focus on fighting well with one sword.

Eursulon [Lou]
Good. Then I'll do that.

Steel [Brennan]
Let's have something to drink.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And you see, as she goes over, there's a cool pitcher of water with some slices of different citrus fruits within it. She pours a glass for you, handing it to you, and pours one for herself. [liquid pouring noise] You see, she drinks it there, and she says,

Steel [Brennan]
And you, you still - Is there any part of you that wants to focus on being armored or shield or anything like that? Right now, you seem content, for the moment, to focus on -

Eursulon [Lou]
I can have a shield?

[Sir Curran's theme plays softly in the background]

Steel [Brennan]

Well, we don't use them here. I wouldn't be able to train you in how to use the shield. I need to keep one hand free for spell casting. But -

Eursulon [Lou]

I would like a shield.

Steel [Brennan]

All right. Yeah. Let me see about getting you one. I don't know where I would get one from, but we can look into it.

Eursulon [Lou]

I could make one.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see she says,

Steel [Brennan]

You could *make* one?

Eursulon [Lou]

I've seen a shield before. Can't be that hard.

Steel [Brennan]

Well, that's an attitude that is going to fail you over and over again here at the Citadel.

[Aabria laughs]

Steel [Brennan]

The assumption that a thing you've seen can't be hard sort of stands in direct opposition to our entire ethos.

Eursulon [Lou]

Well, I'm not from the Citadel.

Steel [Brennan]

[amusedly] Well, I know it, *Bear of Silbury*.

Eursulon [Lou]

Mmm...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

She sits, takes - sort of, like, downs half the glass of water. It's hot out right now. You know, in the desert beyond, it is unlivably scorching. But here it's just a little bit toasty. She looks and says,

Steel [Brennan]

I hear that Ame's recovery is going very well. Walking again.

Eursulon [Lou]

Seems to be doing well, yes.

Steel [Brennan]

And I thought I would just mention to you, Eursulon, that, um... Your secret is safe here at the Citadel. Though you are far from the only spirit here, and... I can tell from our training that you have come to quite enjoy this place. Suvi will be an Archmage of the Citadel one day. And having an entourage and a protector and a guardian is not a bad thing. I know you've only been here for a few short weeks, but does the thought of living a life here at the Citadel... Would that be something you would want?

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

Hmm. [long pause] I like it here. Staying places is not something I've ever done. But I do like it here. As long as Suvi and Ame are here, I will be here. That's what I want.

Steel [Brennan]

If there were a place that you wanted to go that was not here, do you have any idea where that would be?

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

No. [long pause] I spent many years on a calm, and the only solace I had there was a summer at Grandmother Wren's cottage. But I think it would be foolish to return there thinking it would be the same. So... by my friends is where I would like to be.

Steel [Brennan]

I will offer this only because I feel that I am duty bound to do so. It has come to pass in the history of the Citadel that we have aided some spirits trapped within the world of Umora to return to the world of our honored friends. I do not know and have not wished to press as to the conditions of your presence in this world. But I do know that Suvi... Knows of how you came to be here and was involved in some way in those happenings, though I know they occurred in childhood. If it is something as simple as... Some sorcerer or warlock having captured a talisman of yours that keeps you bound here in this place, then certainly there are steps that could be taken to reverse that.

[Theme of great spirits plays in the background]

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

[flustered] It's not that simple. I've tried... Something else. It's not that. I don't know -

Steel [Brennan]

Well... What resources I have, I would be more than happy to extend to you as someone who matters a great deal to Suvi. And if that is a road you ever wish to explore, I would welcome a discussion about the nature of how you came here and what you feel prevents you from returning. Though I also understand if, after these many long years, you wish to find joy and home where and how you can.

[Music fades out]

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

We should continue training.

Lou Wilson

I'm going to pick up my chair. Flip it over. Cut off the legs.

[Wood creaking noises]

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

Again! I have a shield now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She goes,

Steel [Brennan]
Ah, all right, you've destroyed the chair.

[Erika and Aabria crack up, jaunty, plucked string theme starts playing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It has been some time. Perhaps a little less than a week. Just a handful of days. Ame, you are quickly recovering from the month of ill health and being bedridden. The Fox has become, in this place of wonders, he is a little roly poly-ier. His fur shines with a luster of being well-fed. He's got the little sort of, like, cheek poofs of fur when he gets scratched are always out as he gets scratches whenever he wants. He's a big hit with the wizards of the Citadel who are unused to seeing a true animal familiar. The sort of the homunculuses automatons and constructs of wizards are often a little less fuzzy. But where has your focus been in the days since Ame's waking?

Erika Ishii
I have done so much exploring. As soon as I could easily get about by myself, I was up and about meeting new people, exploring new places. And inquiring as to - just incidentally in my travels, inquiring about certain names that I now remember from Grandma Wren. Gult, the Artificer, and Sly of the Brooch, Pomeroy and [mumbles]

[Aabria laughs]

Erika Ishii
That one is... I'm not sure. I didn't write anything down. And yeah, I think I'm able to much better ask discreetly and move about the Citadel slightly more discreetly, hopefully with some coaching by Suvi, whom I have told everything that I can remember.

[Music turns slow and pensive]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We also have this interesting moment of - in the memories shared by Ame that were retrieved by this, these great witches, warnings of the Pilgrim Under Stars, the Man in Black. There's also the reference to the Acadator. A name which Suvi was unfamiliar with. Many sort of things unfold and unfurl here in this place. Questions of the indicative, reflexive note of the Acadator, of the accounting of the death of Soft and Stone and of Grandmother Wren's memory, of these terms that you had not heard before, Suvi, the League of Whispers, the Acadator. The, you know, in the days following your night - and believe me, plenty more carousing. The Citadel has no lack of wonders to behold. And to Eursulon's sort of point of wondering, how long can this last? It seems to have lasted for some great while. There are 24 floating courts of the Citadel, much to explore.

Erika Ishii
Uppermost in my mind is the new knowledge that I have a large responsibility, a stewardship. So I know at some point I have to check in, I have to find out as much as I can about that. I don't know if the Citadel would hold any scholarly information regarding witches or their covens. I don't know...

Aabria Iyengar
[cutting in] You think we don't have books about witches??? Suvi kicks in on your internal thoughts.

Erika Ishii

How many of them are just, like... Witches have pointy hats or something? I don't know.

Haughty Old Wizard [Brennan]

We have pointy hats just fine ourselves!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The same wizard you keep running into walks away, huge conical hat covered in stars and moons.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Haughty Old Wizard [Brennan]

Absolutely ridiculous...

Erika Ishii

So that, I definitely want to inquire around. As to the friends, suddenly I know I have friends all over the world, all over the Citadel.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As we've said before, you guys are in and of this world. Suvi grew up in the Citadel. Ame has recovered the memories of training of many, many years. So skill checks and questions you would want to ask if you know somebody or have an experience somewhere are absolutely present in this world. You should never feel that you can't ask like, have I heard of this? Or have I met this or do I know this? Ame, give me a principal investigation check for this time period.

Erika Ishii

[sarcastically] Oh, no! Investigation!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sorry!

Erika Ishii

Oh, that is a Nat 20.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Oh, my God!!!

[Aabria cheering]

Aabria Iyengar

The first crit of this arc???

Erika Ishii

That is the first crit of this arc.

Lou Wilson

Look at that.

Aabria Iyengar

Let's go!

Lou Wilson
Put it on the board.

Erika Ishii

I am suddenly, with renewed vigor and the power and confidence of my training fully behind me, and the name of my best friend on my lips at every door. I am - just within, I'd say, a week, I just have people know me around. I have a great knowledge of the ever moving parts of the Citadel. And you can tell me any other specifics that I might have stumbled across.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

On a Nat 20, you get all of it. So, very quickly here with your sort of knowing that there's this big, broad thing, right? You have become the Witch of the World's Heart, and you are aware that in knowing it, it is now more true - that basically, you are aware what the curse was doing was stopping a coronation. Does that make sense? Like,

Erika Ishii

Yeah...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It arrested in this liminal space where, for the time that the curse was active on you, there was no Witch of the World's Heart. A few days ago, when you woke up, the world once again had a Witch of the World's Heart. And you also remember this whole horrifying thing of the fact that the Coven of Elders has lost seats. There were once 13 in some mythic age. So losing a Witch of the World's Heart is a possibility. It's not like these things can't be destroyed or gotten rid of. And there was a very real chance that this curse could have. If you had just, like, lived out your life not knowing that this curse was there, what might have happened? However, you were at the Citadel, a place you've never been before, even with all of your travels through adolescence with Grandmother Wren. Grandmother Wren never took you here to the Citadel. And it seemed like Grandmother Wren knew wizards, but was not a resource of the Citadel. I mean, that's a very important thing about Grandmother Wren's relationship. She knew and liked wizards. There were individual wizards with which she collaborated, and the Citadel had an awareness of her institutionally. But it was basically the wizards that she knew and liked that could work with her. You get this information, and I think there's, like, weirdly being here and a guest of the Archmage apprentice Suvi, you get to this point of how frequently people are willing to offer information. So you come and ask about things that normally you'd be like, is there going to be caginess here? They're so happy to share. You learn that the Artificer Gult works in Haverward at a place called Tilliver Mill, and that the Spirit Pomeroy works in Xiao Court at a place called the Cassauv Collection in Gossamer Plaza. In the group, you see someone sort of talking to you and being like,

Wizard [Brennan]

Oh, Sly, yes, the Wizard Sly works in Kabani Court. He is one of the grand Diviners, who I believe is the head diviner of the Office of Preemptory Catastrophic Deviation.

Ame [Erika]

That sounds so complicated.

Wizard [Brennan]

It's kind of... Well, you talk to the archmage.

Ame [Erika]

[hurriedly] Amazing. Thank you. Bye!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Suvi, in those couple days, what are you up to?

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi has - Now that she sort of said out loud via talking to Silver that she's planning on taking on the name of the third Wizard Sky, she must make sure that no one that would ever interact with her would ever doubt that she's deserving of the name. So she's going over and above with her apprentice duties and spending all of her time doing research, but in a way that appears like she's doing errands and running things for Silence.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hell, yeah.

Aabria Iyengar

And, you know, waking up early to run and keeping up with her training and just trying to be an exemplary wizard.

[Music shifts to dark, moody, mystic, majestic]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The Pyrian Dome, alight with green and purple fire, its normal, bright expanse of interior made shadowy and arcane. A moment where the clarifying light of the Citadel is reduced to be shrouded in mystery as something great and powerful occurs. Five seats are gathered as the Archmagi of the Citadel appear. Silence smiling. The Archmage Serenity, the Archmage Sorrow, the Archmage Saber, and the Archmage Sand. Wise, ancient, learned beyond description. Standing off to the flank of the seated Archmagi stands a proud and smiling Steel. Silence speaks.

Archmage Silence [Brennan]

[echoing, amplified] She who has come forth to receive a cloak of shadows that might conceal her name, that she could wield the power of her title and obscure the comings of her character, the origins of her history, the to and fro of days well spent might be managed behind a word of power. Suvi, she is called. And her name...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see here he invokes a ringing of a bell.

[Clear note of bell ringing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And whispered under the ringing you see just Steel says,

Steel [Brennan]

[echoing whisper] Suvirin Kedberiket.

Archmage Silence [Brennan]

[echoing, amplified] Speak now and tell the world, in order and defiance of what may be perceived, what you truly are.

[Music turns gentle, pensive]

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi steps forward and looks up and remembers. That the reason there are only a few names that are almost like titles, like something to invoke that when you hear it, you know that is a name that you have read in history again and again. And it comes with expectation. And the weight of it is so heavy. And the version of the sky that Suvi will claim for her own, is a sky that she saw when she was six years old. The dead of night, stars visible, snow gently falling as her world got blown apart. And she remembered the explosions of magic. She's never seen anything that big, and she thought it would destroy everything. Not just her, but the world

itself. And yet the sky looked down and held it all and watched it all and persisted. That is the sky that she claims and without any hesitation, clear of purpose...

Suvi [Aabria]
I am the Wizard Sky.

['Sky' echoes and thunders throughout the Dome, spoken in multiple tones]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Wind begins to blow here. [Gusts of wind in the background] You see the Archmage Saber, ruddy faced, badly injured, military mage and war mage, stands.

Archmage Saber [Brennan]
What power then, that that great firmament might rain down, whether thunder, lightning, great powers to cover all and with its judgment meet out what it sees fit?

[Thunder clap]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see the Archmage Sand stands. She, beautiful, high-cheeked, deep brown skin, tattoos - different glyphs running in tear lines from her eyes.

Archmage Sand [Brennan]
What cannot be seen, whose weightless weight we bear each day upon our shoulders, turns the mountains into dust. Subtlety and the movement in spaces unseen. The dominion of your title.

[Thunder clap]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The Archmage Sorrow stands. Deep raven hair, sallow eyes shrouded by the hood of their robes that they leave over their face.

Archmage Sorrow [Brennan]
Things eternal that have been with us since the dawn of time. Wisdom in the watchfulness of a constant partner ever above defined by its distance.

[Thunder clap]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The Archmage Serenity stands. Short, plump, deep hazel eyes and wrinkles of a face that is always smiling. Long brown curling tresses with golden rings covered in talismans, beads, emeralds, gems.

Archmage Serenity [Brennan]
Movement, life in a desert beyond which no growing thing can be seen. From our vantage point, we see the beginning wisps of vapor that will become storms rain to fall upon forest and field. A partner in a dance to sustain the world forever.

[Thunder clap]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see your mentor, the Archmage Silence, takes a long moment on old bones to stand. Eyes twinkling, long white beard as his cheeks rise in a smile.

Archmage Silence [Brennan]

The sky is not the weather nor the wind. The sky holds all things. Let it be known that vastness is yours. The sorrows it will bring you, that you and your road are vast and broad and lead to all places. Many who have destiny curse it. But what a burden to be able to choose any path under the sun.

[Music swells]

Archmage Silence [Brennan]

She is called Sky!

[Loud thunder clap]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Lightning strikes the top of the Erien in cloudless night, and across all of the world of Umora... Every instance of the name Suvi or Suvirin Kedberiket is stricken and replaced by simply the word Sky. The name swallowed [sucking noise] up by your name cloak with the exception of those places in which it was written by one to whom it was given. A handful of places, a handful of people, that know what you were called before.

[Music swells and increases in volume, petering out as Aabria talks]

Aabria Iyengar

I roll the word 'Sky' across my tongue and it feels... Mine. And right and correct. And even in that moment of joy and exhilaration... I've been looking forward to having my name since I first began in the Citadel proper. And yet my mind flashes back to the two moments. I think first I ran down to Eursulon. Probably... Let's be clear, I would have left this to the last possible minute, just a few hours ago this morning, looking for you after you finished up your sort of morning training.

[Faint noise of swords clanking in the background]

Suvi [Aabria]

Uh - oh, before I forget. Super important.

Aabria Iyengar

And fish in my pockets for a loose piece of parchment, something with, like, a to-do list on it, and taking out a little wizardly quill, writing my first name and pushing it into your hand. And then -

Suvi [Aabria]

You have to know.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay, Suvi. But do I need to hold on to it? Or do I look at it? It's your name.

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay.

Suvi [Aabria]

It's my full first name. My name is Suvirin. That is not my full name and it is not my true name, but it is enough so that you can call me Suvi after today.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay. Do I need to hold on to it?

Suvi [Aabria]

No, it will sort of magically vanish in like... Oh, fuck. I'm running out of time. In like, 3 hours.

Eursulon [Lou]

Oh, okay. [chuckles] I'll keep it close.

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah.

Eursulon [Lou]

Great. Hey, can I ask you a question?

Suvi [Aabria]

Uh, yeah.

Eursulon [Lou]

What do artificers do, and could they make a shield?

[Cast cracks up]

Eursulon [Lou]

I know you have a really important thing going on, but this is big for me.

Suvi [Aabria]

No, you're good. This is actually quite good for me. Thank you.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay.

Suvi [Aabria]

Uh, yeah. An artificer creates magical and complicated non-magical items. Yes, they can make a shield, but normally they would make a shield with, like, some stank on it.

Eursulon [Lou]

Oh...

Suvi [Aabria]

Do you need a shield?

Eursulon [Lou]

I'm just trying to prove Steel wrong.

Suvi [Aabria]

That is both hard to do, and I've never been more interested in helping you with anything, ever.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay, well, you go do this seemingly really important thing and I'm going to hold onto this piece of paper.

Suvi [Aabria]

Do you need an artificer? Give me a time on this.

Eursulon [Lou]

You know what? You go do your thing.

Suvi [Aabria]

No, I'm kind of into it now.

Eursulon [Lou]

You *sprinted* up to me, Suvi -

Suvi [Aabria]

I did! I'm a little - yeah, but this feels like a good thing to focus on.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay.

Suvi [Aabria]

I'm very nervous, because what if I get there and they're like, you can't be Sky, you have to be like... Salamander, or something fucking stupid.

Eursulon [Lou]

I mean... Then they're idiots.

Suvi [Aabria]

How about this? First thing tomorrow morning, I will take you to visit a friend of mine that I came up in the Citadel with who is a very good artificer to make you a shield. Or do you...?

Eursulon [Lou]

No - I -

Suvi [Aabria]

What's your thing? What is this?

Eursulon [Lou]

I'm going to make a shield.

Suvi [Aabria]

Oh, you can just do that. You don't need an artificer.

Eursulon [Lou]

Oh!

Suvi [Aabria]

You just need some wood, I think.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay, cool. I'll go get some wood.

Suvi [Aabria]

What kind of - ? We can get you wood.

Eursulon [Lou]
Yeah, I'll go find wood.

Suvi [Aabria]
Sure.

Eursulon [Lou]
I can find wood.

Suvi [Aabria]
Yeah. Okay.

Eursulon [Lou]
Have a great day.

Suvi [Aabria]
Sure...? Okay?

[Erika cracking up]

Eursulon [Lou]
I'm going to go get wood.

Suvi [Aabria]
Yeah.

Eursulon [Lou]
First off, it sounded like a lot of fun, and now you're just telling me I need wood. So, I'm going to go get wood.

Steel [Brennan Lee Mulligan]
No, but he did choose it.

Suvi [Aabria]
I'm sorry!

Eursulon [Lou]
No, it's fine.

Suvi [Aabria]
I've been a bummer. No, I could do - I got you.

Eursulon [Lou]
You know, we're going to be so shit-faced tonight anyway, after.. We're celebrating, so... Let's not make any promises about what we're going to do tomorrow, but really. Have a good day.

Suvi [Aabria]
[tenderly] Thank you. I love you.

Eursulon [Lou]
[stuttering slightly] Love - love you.

Suvi [Aabria]
Cool.

Aabria Iyengar
Dead sprint off to go find Ame.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You go and find Ame, who's busy sort of gathering intel about different old friends and contacts at the Citadel.

[Low rumble of chatter in the background, Ame conversing with others before Suvi interrupts]

Suvi [Aabria]
Hey. What are you doing?

Ame [Erika]
[surprised] Oh, hi! Hello! Nothing.

Suvi [Aabria]
Hi...

Ame [Erika]
[trying to change the subject] Hmm? Uhhh - when's the ceremony? Where should we go?

Suvi [Aabria]
Oh. Oh! It's in a couple of hours. It's not really, like a public thing.

Ame [Erika]
Oh! Okay. We won't tell anyone that.

Suvi [Aabria]
Oh, that's very sweet. I don't think - I think it's going to be, like, seven people max. Me, inclusive.

Ame [Erika]
Okay... Are you trying to say that we aren't going to be there?

Suvi [Aabria]
I am so happy you're here. And I want to share all of my life with you, but not this - not this thing.

Ame [Erika]
[teasingly] I know, I'm kidding, I'm kidding, I'm kidding [laughs]

Suvi [Aabria]
Shut up! God! I'm so stressed out. Like, how do I tell - oh, God, how do I tell Ame she's not gonna be there.

[Gentle, melodic tune plays]

Ame [Erika]
Hey, you're going to be great, okay? You have earned this.

Suvi [Aabria]

[stressed whispering] It's fine, it's just - ugh!

Ame [Erika]

You are exceptional and I'm so excited for this.

Suvi [Aabria]

[stressed whispering] You're just being nice.

Ame [Erika]

I'm *always* nice.

Suvi [Aabria]

Do I look stressed? Are you just comforting me because I look stressed?

Ame [Erika]

Well, yeah, but I'm always nice.

Suvi [Aabria]

You are always nice, you're very nice.

Ame [Erika]

And also... I mean it, you know?

Suvi [Aabria]

Thank you... Hey, it's no Witch of the World's Heart.

Ame [Erika]

Yeah... [jaunty, grandiose voice] Witch of the World's Heart!

Suvi [Aabria]

That's very cool.

Ame [Erika]

Yeah..

Suvi [Aabria]

Are you... Does that make you feel weird? Like, having a title?

Ame [Erika]

No... Because the title doesn't mean so much as the fact that all the responsibilities that go along with it are overwhelming at the moment. But I'm handling it. Gathering things. You need help?

Suvi [Aabria]

Do you need anything? I can -

Ame [Erika]

Oh, yeah. I mean, you've already been so helpful. Honestly, being able to say, do you know who my friend is? Is an absolute boon to this expedition. But, yeah, I have a lot left to do. And I would welcome your help on this. But for right now, today's your day.

Suvi [Aabria]

Thanks. Really, anything I can help with, please.

Ame [Erika]
I know. I'll ask.

Suvi [Aabria]
Okay. I have to give you a little chunk of my name.

Ame [Erika]
Oh!

Suvi [Aabria]
So you can continue calling me Suvi.

Ame [Erika]
Right, yes.

Suvi [Aabria]
Is that okay?

Ame [Erika]
Okay.

Suvi [Aabria]
I don't want - oh.

Ame [Erika]
Go on.

Suvi [Aabria]
Hold on.

Aabria Iyengar
And I'm going to go... Where are we right now?

Erika Ishii
We are at the cafe at the - Candle -

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Candle Street?

Erika Ishii
Yeah. Candle Street Bakery.

Aabria Iyengar
Then I'm going to kind of lead you outside to the little corner because no one really sits in the front, even though there's tables there. And I'll pull out my quill and take your hand, if you allow it, and write Suvirin on your hand. But I just want to meet my forehead with yours. Just tell you:

Suvi [Aabria]
My name is Suvirin, and that's part of it. And you - when we first met, you were so kind and never asked me about the night that I showed up at Grandmother Wren's.

Ame [Erika]
[softly] Yeah.

Suvi [Aabria]
But I think part of knowing my true name is knowing that night.

Aabria Iyengar
And I'll just describe the sky, which is all I looked up to when I looked out of my mother's cloak as we fled.

Suvi [Aabria]
That sky's part of it, too. That night and the day we met Eursulon contain everything in this world I seek to protect. All below one big sky. Anyway, that's very heavy. [stuttering] For when - it's - that - I - thank you.

Ame [Erika]
You don't need to apologize for anything. Ever.

Suvi [Aabria]
I don't know if that's true.

Ame [Erika]
Yeah, that's true sometimes. Yeah.

Suvi [Aabria]
Appreciate you saying that.

Erika Ishii
I lick my hand. I start licking my hand.

Suvi [Aabria]
[confused] What are you doing?

Ame [Erika]
You have to eat your name.

Suvi [Aabria]
Oh...

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Fox leans up and gets one.

Ame [Erika]
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

The Fox [Brennan]
Good lick.

Suvi [Aabria]
[stutters in disbelief] Uh - okay. Yeah.

Ame [Erika]
Wow.

The Fox [Brennan]

Ugh. That doesn't taste like, uhh ... There's nothing salty about that. That's just sour.

Suvi [Aabria]

Salt - salty?

The Fox [Brennan]

I thought that was blood. What is that?

Suvi [Aabria]

Ink.

Ame [Erika]

Just ink.

The Fox [Brennan]

Squid ink?

Suvi [Aabria]

Oh, no. No, it's kind of just a plant.

The Fox [Brennan]

Okay.

Suvi [Aabria]

Thanks.

Ame [Erika]

Does that mean that he gets - oh, that he gets part of it, too?

Suvi [Aabria]

No.

Ame [Erika]

Go get 'em.

Suvi [Aabria]

I love you.

Ame [Erika]

I love you, too. I'll see you on the other side of this.

Suvi [Aabria]

[stressed, strained] Hey. Yeah. Okay, we're getting drunk tonight, so prepare accordingly.

Ame [Erika]

[laughingly] Oh, I'm prepared.

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay.

Aabria Iyengar
Dead sprint away.

[Footsteps running off, Erika laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Outside of the Dome at the center of Malacanth Court, Steel embraces you.

[Gentle music plays]

Steel [Brennan]
I'm so proud. Wizard Sky...

[Suvi chuckles]

Steel [Brennan]
Now can I say? Huge fan of your work.

[Suvi laughs]

Steel [Brennan]
I mean, in previous lives and incarnations. But this one's I bet, going to put the rest - I heard it here first.
[Volume increasing with every word] This one's going to put the rest to shame!

Suvi [Aabria]
Thank you, thank you, thank you. [haltingly] It feels good. It feels heavy. I don't fit it yet, but I think I will.

Steel [Brennan]
[ruminating] People get - wizardry - how many - what year is it? 1670. 1st College of Summoners was 1440, I think. The term Lingua Arcana was coined, like, 100 years before. Wizardry is new. It's very, very new. All of this is new. The Lingua Arcana. The Citadel. It's good to take on heavy mantles. We're all a team. We're all working together to do something that's never been done before. Exciting.

Suvi [Aabria]
Yeah. Thank you again for everything. I know I've said it before, but you didn't have to be a mother to me. And you have been. And I don't know where I would be without you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She embraces you. Familiar feeling of her armor. Just always here in these official capacities.

Steel [Brennan]
If anyone ever has to do anything, I had to be your mother.

Suvi [Aabria]
I will be worthy of the time and care you put into me. I promise.

Steel [Brennan]
Promise... It's the first made by the third Wizard Sky. Precious? Indeed. You have my promise as well. I will do everything I can to be worthy of the devotion you have shown to this place and the memory of... The memory of those who've come before.

Now, I know that a certain young war mage has rented out the back room at Grim Hall, so...

Suvi [Aabria]

[chuckles] Yes, I do have to go. But in the morning, I would love to talk full-ass wizard to full-ass wizard.

Steel [Brennan]

Oh!!!

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah.

Steel [Brennan]

We're the same now??

Suvi [Aabria]

We're exactly the same now.

Steel [Brennan]

All right.

Suvi [Aabria]

We are peers. That's worse for you than -

Steel [Brennan]

I quit. I have renounced The Citadel in entirety.

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah, good. Correct.

Steel [Brennan]

And I forswear magic forevermore.

Suvi [Aabria]

And I would love to learn... At least a bit of my parents' names.

Steel [Brennan]

Tomorrow. We'll go see them. I know where they're written down.

Suvi [Aabria]

[softly] Thank you.

[Military-style music begins to play]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

In the Court of Gavreel, which is a military - it is sort of like brutalist architecture, intense, like concrete slabs of stone, square buildings, square windows. Lots of big plaza courts, marching. There is an entire neighborhood in Gavreel which is a bombed-out area for war games. Just straight up, come here, simulate combat. [Battle explosion]

Aabria Iyengar

Fire!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Grim Hall is white gravel, massive long tables. Beer garden. This huge - you see there's big hanging buckets of flowers around and strings of lights. There's, like, singing from inside. [crowd chattering and singing] And there's all these Imperial war wizards. This is like, where the returning heroes go after they get home. Silver, a returning war hero, has taken liberty knowing the owner. Where do we find Eursulon and Ame as Suvi arrives?

Erika Ishii

Ame greets Suvi with Eursulon helping her hold a ginormous cake. It is midnight blue, and the bottom tier has light periwinkle candy floss, like, floating gently around it. There's floating celestial bodies, like, hovering over the top of the cake, rotating in orbit. [sparkle sound effects] There's sparkling stars that shimmer down on the top of the cake and around those different bodies. And then there's sparkling letters above it that say 'SKY!' Exclamation mark. [Aabria laughs, firework shooting sound effect] And I say,

Ame [Erika]

[gleefully] We baked you a cake!!!

Eursulon [Lou]

Mostly me. I did most of the work.

Ame [Erika]

Eursulon did so much of the work!

Eursulon [Lou]

So much of it. Especially the sparkles.

Ame [Erika]

[gleefully] Mmhmm, mmhmm!

[Suvi laughs]

Suvi [Aabria]

Ame; brother. Thank you very much.

Eursulon [Lou]

Congratulations, Sky!!!

Ame [Erika]

Sky!!! It's that smooth, red, chocolatey kind that you like on the inside.

Suvi [Aabria]

[In awe] Oh! You're perfect...

[Ame squeals delightedly]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Ame and Eursulon, as Suvi's on her way, if you test out - when you say 'Sky' intentionally, it feels totally normal. If you refer to her as Sky it's totally normal. But you have this moment of - if you say 'Suvi,' you still hear it.

Erika Ishii

Suvi...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It feels totally fine, feels normal, you say the word 'Suvi,' but in saying it to each other, you notice people around you. Like, some of them look up. Like when you say something about oh, they're talking about the sky. And they'll look up at the sky for a second when you're saying Suvi. So you are aware, even though you can't feel any difference, you know anything, you know that other people are hearing 'Sky' around you.

Ame [Erika]

Hey, Silver?

Silver [Brennan]

Yeah?

Ame [Erika]

Why is the Suvi blue?

[Aabria cackles]

Silver [Brennan]

Uhh, well, it reflects - it's actually about the quality - that... [Ame and Suvi cackling and interrupting his flow] I assume you don't know, so I don't know why you're laughing at me and I'm trying to explain...

Ame [Erika]

[laughing] Nerd...

Eursulon [Lou]

It's... it's witch humor.

Silver [Brennan]

Okay...

[Ame cackling even harder]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see a bunch of steins of foamy beer are, like, raised around. You see, Silver says,

Silver [Brennan]

To the one and only Wizard Sky! What was she called before?? We don't know!!!

[Ame and Suvi laughing, cheers in the background]

Silver [Brennan]

Do we care? No! We! Don't! Sky forever! Sky today!

[loud cheers of celebration, Suvi laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As this big sort of coming of age. You guys stay here drinking. You see big platters of sausage, and there's, like fried vegetables and fried potato things with sort of like breaded carrots and cauliflower and things that have been deep fried and are brought out. Um, big things of beer. This is a raucous place. It's not anything like Haverward, but you can see that one of the sort of appeals of this beer garden is that the tables are kind of narrow, and it allows people to get drunk while doing what wizards love to do, which is argue and hector

at each other. So there's a lot - you can see immediately people are getting involved in theory. You see someone going - down the table from you, there's a couple of wizards. One of them just says,

Debating Wizard 1 [Brennan]

It's not a school.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you hear everyone goes, boo!!

[Loud booing echoing in the background]

Debating Wizard 1 [Brennan]

It's not a school of magic. It's a catch-all for unlikable magic. Name an effect of necromancy. Not more clearly, categorically appropriate in the schools of evocation conjure -

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see, everyone says, like,

Debating Crowd of Wizards [Brennan]

If you're going to go to say that, what part of the School of Illusion is not simply the summoning or evoke - ?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And everyone starts yelling, and you see someone else sort of pipes up and goes like,

Debating Wizard 2 [Brennan]

Categorically, I think that the utility of the categories is their justification.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see they get pelted with a fried piece of cauliflower.

[Crowd reaction]

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, I threw the cauliflower on that one.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see - as you're looking around at this place, Silver comes over and actually publicly leans down and kisses you on the head, puts an arm around you and says,

Silver [Brennan]

All right, you want another stein?

Suvi [Aabria]

[flustered, surprised] Oh! Yes, please. Thank you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see he walks off to go get another stein of beer and -

Aabria Iyengar

Looking so smug, just [giggles] yeah...

Eursulon [Lou]
[amused] Kissing in public...

Suvi [Aabria]
[slightly hushed] That means something, right?

Eursulon [Lou]
Yeah, what - it -

Suvi [Aabria]
Oh, so we see this as a bad thing. [anxiously] No, stop it. You're - no, stop it. Is that what's happening?

Eursulon [Lou]
I mean, it's definitely a move. I mean, I won't lie. I did see those two over there start talking about it. You know, in that way that you know?

Suvi [Aabria]
Yeah, they talk about everything. Good. Let them talk.

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]
Mmhmm.

Suvi [Aabria]
[whispering, anxious] Wait, Ame, do you think - stop it. Stop it.

Ame [Erika]
[confused] What?

Suvi [Aabria]
[whispering, anxious] Are you - you put doubt in my brain.

Ame [Erika]
[squawking] WHAT?!

Suvi [Aabria]
[whispering] I'm going to fight you!

Ame [Erika]
[determined] Go on, fight me!

Suvi [Aabria]
[teasingly] No...

Ame [Erika]
[jolly, seems inebriated] It's a party!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see a couple of wizards come over to say their congratulations. There's a very cute young woman named Sunder who comes over, you see, she says,

Sunder [Brennan]

I want to say again. I wish I'd put any kind of money down on you taking Sky. I've known that you were going to be the next Wizard Sky since we were... Back at Billings, I want to say?

Suvi [Aabria]

Oh, my God.

Ame [Erika]

[interrupting] So who is this Wizard Sky? Who's like, the second and first Wizard Sky?

Suvi [Aabria]

Oh! Uhh... So the first Wizard Sky was kind of part of the founding of the Citadel. Do you know kind of how the desert was made?

Ame [Erika]

Yeah. Y'all... [mockingly] Hee hoo, we're just gonna fuck with forbidden magicks!

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah. Okay, you know what??

Ame [Erika]

Boom.

Suvi [Aabria]

I'm not gonna argue.

Ame [Erika]

[mockingly] Forest becomes sand!

Suvi [Aabria]

Sure. One of the wizards that was part of forest becoming sand was the first Wizard Sky.

Ame [Erika]

[unimpressed] Okay. Cool.

Suvi [Aabria]

[teasingly hurt] Okay, judgements!

Ame [Erika]

No!!!

Suvi [Aabria]

Refill your drink.

Ame [Erika]

Yeah, a LITTLE - okay, yeah.

Suvi [Aabria]

Yeah. Yeah. Keep drinking and then be on my side on this.

[Ame cracks up]

Aabria Iyengar

And I refill. I think I've just grabbed someone else's stein that's busy arguing and I'm just pouring in it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see that this sort of very malnourished, injured-looking war wizard, Sickle. You refill and he says,

Sickle [Brennan]

Ah, thank you, love, that's very nice indeed. Appreciate it.

Suvi [Aabria]

[surprised] Oh, yeah.

[Ame giggles]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Turns over and says,

Sickle [Brennan]

With the new Wizard Sky, they should give you place of honor at the Bicentennial later this year. 200 years since the creation of the Citadel!

Suvi [Aabria]

Let's go...

Ame [Erika]

[sarcastically] Oh, 200 years!!! How old!

Suvi [Aabria]

[exasperated] Okay!

Ame [Erika]

[sarcastically] SOOO OLD!

Suvi [Aabria]

[exasperated] You can't say anything to a witch.

Ame [Erika]

[sarcastically] AAAANCIENT!!!!

Suvi [Aabria]

Ame is going to live to be like, 400.

Ame [Erika]

[gleefully] Yeah!!

Suvi [Aabria]

So, you know. It's fine.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see that Sickle turns over and talks to Sunder a little bit, and you see she kind of like, chuckles under her breath for a moment as they both look over at Eursulon.

Lou Wilson

I've requisitioned one of these full table platters for myself. Just picking -

Eursulon [Lou]

[muttering to himself] That's a vegetable, no.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's a huge plate, and they've put toothpicks in all of these little chopped up sausages that are all - ever so -they're basically the same sausage, but there's slight variations, and a giant bowl of mustard and parsley in the middle.

Lou Wilson

Yeah, just slowly, one by one, just a full mountain of toothpicks is just appearing next to Eursulon.

Eursulon [Lou]

[muttering to himself] Mmm. Oh, that's good.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see Sickle - you can see Sickle turn to Sunder and just go like,

Sickle [Brennan]

[lowered voice] It's interesting, I still remember that his name is Bear.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see Sunder says,

Sunder [Brennan]

[lowered voice] I don't think his appellation will be changing anytime nearby.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You hear Sickle sort of go, like,

Sickle [Brennan]

[lowered voice] Did I even... There's got to be some wizards outside of the Citadel.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sunder goes,

Sunder [Brennan]

[lowered voice] Well, I'm sure there are some outside of... I mean, there's hedge mages, but who knows what some wizards get up to outside of the Citadel.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sickle looks back over at Eursulon again. And just goes, like,

Sickle [Brennan]

[lowered voice] Oh, I guess it better he be here than out gallivanting, you know. Got to keep the family legacy all in one place, I suppose.

Suvi [Aabria]

[sharply, deeply irritated] I have to go to the bathroom.

Ame [Erika]

[confused, inebriated] Uhhh? Uh huh?

Aabria Iyengar

And all of the control in my little body is being used to let them talk shit about this and not fight them in the area built for fighting.

Suvi [Aabria]

[sharply, deeply irritated] I have to go. Do you have to go to the bathroom? Ame?

Ame [Erika]

[confused, inebriated] I also have to go to the bathroom..? Sky?

Suvi [Aabria]

[sharply, deeply irritated] Come on.

[Seat being pushed back, table shifting]

Suvi [Aabria]

[lowered voice, deeply irritated] Their fucking ass - piss ass, shitty little wizard. He comes back basically dead and he's going to talk shit about Eursulon? Could you imagine the fucking gall, on my day? Had a blast - ugh. If I didn't have... Today's my day and I'm not going to cry and I'm not going to fight. And that's going to be a first.

Ame [Erika]

[inebriated, fawning] You're doing good. You're great. You like - also, your lipstick looks so good.

Suvi [Aabria]

[earnestly] Thank you. So much.

Ame [Erika]

[inebriated, fawning] Oh, my gosh. Yeah.

Suvi [Aabria]

[earnestly] You're being very nice.

Ame [Erika]

[inebriated, fawning] Oh, yeah!!!

Suvi [Aabria]

[lowered voice, irritated] I'm gonna *kill* them...

Ame [Erika]

[inebriated, amused] Awwww... I mean, it's your party, y'know?? It's a *party*!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

There's a latrine that - you guys are in the latrine of the beer garden of Grim Hall, and there's sort of a faucet that is [drip noise] leaking. As you have this little thing here, and you see that it stops leaking as you're sitting here, the drip stops.

[Music turns plucky, playfully suspicious]

Suvi [Aabria]
The fuck...? Did you do that?

Ame [Erika]
[inebriated] Mmmm?

Suvi [Aabria]
The drip. Did you do that?

Ame [Erika]
[inebriated] Yeah, it's a red dress that I kind of made myself.

Suvi [Aabria]
Are you... Drunk?

Ame [Erika]
[inebriated] Mmm! Mmhmm!

Suvi [Aabria]
Okay, hold on. This was dripping and you didn't interact with it? And I didn't interact with it. What's going on here?

Aabria Iyengar
Can I detect magic on the - God, is that a useful thing to do in a place this magical?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
It's going to be overwhelming.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah, I'm going to give myself a stroke right now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Do you cast detect magic?

Aabria Iyengar
Sure, yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
What does it look like as Suvi casts detect magic?

Aabria Iyengar
Just across her eyes, which are normally brown, but have this sort of like teal cast to them, you see just a quick rune drawn across her iris and pupil. There's no burst of light, but as it dims down, I think this sort of hood of magic comes over Suvi's eyes. So it's a very subtle thing because this is easy ritual magic.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The latrine has two small wash basins in it with two little copper pipes with sort of like a screw valve faucet on top that comes out into this place. And you see that there are two toilets and stalls behind you here in this little latrine that smells not great.

Aabria Iyengar
Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And it's mainly the overpowering - like, Gavreel is a very brusque court of the Citadel, very military, very Spartan, but it's still wizards who can change the world to their liking. So the latrines reek of the stench of whatever they did to make it not smell like a latrine. It's like a blast of some kind of antiseptic bubble gum smell,

[Aabria and Erika laugh and make noises of disgust]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Just, hoo! Artificial. The idea of a soldier wizard who only casts fireballs, being like, permanent illusion, smell! Blam! And whatever that asshole wizard thinks would smell better than piss for the next hundred years is what this latrine smells like.

[Aabria laughing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You look... A small icicle is forming in the faucet.

[Ice crackling noises, sparkle noise, music turns playfully mysterious]

Ame [Erika]

Oh, that's not normal...

Suvi [Aabria]

That is not normal. No.

Aabria Iyengar

With detect magic, up do I see... What is the effect happening? Is it a spell effect that this is catching a little bit of a vibe off of, or something specifically enchanted?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Something is happening. You see only with this divination, invisible to the naked eye, a beam of light coming in. [piercing sound effect] In the sloped ceiling of the latrine at the back of this beer garden, there's a small glass window, like a skylight that has a little crank that can be used to open it. You look up, Wizard Sky, and see the stars, and there is a beam of light coming in from the stars that you recognize as a scrying, and the scrying has frozen the faucet. You don't see any arcane mark you recognize, as somebody is spying in the bathroom of a beer garden.

Suvi [Aabria]

Interesting...

Aabria Iyengar

I'm just going to grab Ame's hand, and give it a little squeeze, and then move over to go wash - I want more sound in this place, and I'm gonna wash my hands with the faucet [sound of water flowing] and be like,

Suvi [Aabria]

We're being scryed on right now. And that's either a friend of ours being a pervert, or a friend out there that wants a little extra gossip.

Ame [Erika]

Mhmm, mmhmm, mmhmm.

Suvi [Aabria]

And I don't know what to do, because I'm really feeling kind of fighty right now. Thoughts? Vibes? Feelings?

Ame [Erika]

Oh, my God...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You both hear a tap, tap, tap, tap on the window up on the roof.

Erika Ishii

I go over to the - I go over the window.

Aabria Iyengar

I boost you up?

Erika Ishii

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You get boosted up. Crawling suddenly over the glass, each about four inches tall. You see a spindly, white little thing. Long wings of icy crystal like the geometric patterns of a snowflake. [sparkling ice sound effect] A single slit of an eye, wide mouths full of sharp teeth. Two little fairies that, as you put your face to the glass, go, [snarling noise]

Ame [Erika]

[in shock] Eeeee! Fairies? Fairies? Ice fairies?

Erika Ishii

Uhh - What do I know?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Give me a -

Erika Ishii

Survival?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Give me a nature check.

Erika Ishii

15!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You know -

Ame [Erika]

[in shock] Ahh, pointy teeth!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

These look like weird, little, nasty, sylvan things. They're clearly like frost or ice fairies of some kind. They're little spirits. There are lots of spirits in the Citadel, but these don't look like any that Suvi recognizes either.

[Music picks up pace]

Suvi [Aabria]

What the fuck? Kill it. Kill it? Catch it?

Ame [Erika]

[stammering] I - I - I -

Suvi [Aabria]

Sorry. Don't kill it. Catch it? Catch it? Do something?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The fairies skitter over the glass as both of you reel back, figuring out what to do. Ame, you are very inebriated. Suvi, you are still figuring out if this is a prank or someone fucking with you on the day of your name cloaking. And you both reel back as a fairy skitters into the center of the pane of glass, goes [snarl] cocks back a sharp, pointed finger, and stabs into the center of the pane of glass. [sharp, shattering noise]

As we cut from that scene...

[Music stops abruptly, goes back to the chatter noise of the beer garden]

Eursulon, you are out at the table. You see the Fox is sort of nuzzling around at your plate of sausage, going,

The Fox [Brennan]

[rapid sniffing] Okay, fennel. This one, a little bit of rosemary...?

Eursulon [Lou]

Yes, I tasted that as well.

The Fox [Brennan]

And this one over here, there's definitely - this is just - I think this is just chilies. It's just hot.

Eursulon [Lou]

Red or green?

[drinking crowd singing a song in unison in the background]

The Fox [Brennan]

One of them has both. This one is just red chilies, but there's also something... Well, that's mango.

Eursulon [Lou]

[proudly] Oh, my man!

[Erika and Aabria laugh]

Eursulon [Lou]

[proudly] You're getting better!

The Fox [Brennan]

It's nice. It's nice. I mean, I've always known that all of these things were different, but I just didn't know - I feel like when Ame, you know, the boss, gave me the power to speak, I knew most of the words right away, but it's still so funny to be like, oh, I knew this idea, but there's a sound that goes with it. I don't know. It just

feels like I was - it feels like I was given all this stuff, but it was all in bags... Ooh, this is like a poem! Am I doing a poem?

Eursulon [Lou]

I - You're doing - what?

The Fox [Brennan]

[contemplative] It's like they were in bags and boxes, and I'm, like, taking them out. That's not what's happening. But it's like what's happening.

Eursulon [Lou]

So you're asking because you've said it in that way, did you do a poem?

The Fox [Brennan]

Is that a poem?

Eursulon [Lou]

No. I mean, it could be. There's a lot of - I mean, I hadn't heard a lot of poetry - a lot of the poetry I heard before I came to the Citadel. Lot of work. Rhyme schemes. There's a cadence and those sorts of things. I used to perform, actually. I was an actor for a time.

The Fox [Brennan]

That's when we found - !

Eursulon [Lou]

Yes, exactly.

The Fox [Brennan]

Do you miss it?

Eursulon [Lou]

[wistfully] Sometimes...

[Erika cackles]

Eursulon [Lou]

I mean, it was fun to be on a stage. It was just every eye on me. I didn't do much. Most of my lines were grunts and noises, but it was fun at times.

The Fox [Brennan]

Do you think I could be an actor?

Eursulon [Lou]

Yeah... I think you could be. I think you'd be a great actor.

The Fox [Brennan]

What would I have to do?

Eursulon [Lou]

Well, I mean, you need a stage, and you'd need a story that you want to tell in that form of performance.

The Fox [Brennan]

What's the story? Well, you mean, isn't anything a story?

Eursulon [Lou]

[slightly frustrated] Well, I mean - see, you're doing this thing again - yes. But you have to take the time to kind of - what is the beginning, what is the middle, what is the end?

The Fox [Brennan]

[ruminating] Mmhmm, mmhmm.

Eursulon [Lou]

And that's the way you're trying to communicate while you're on stage.

The Fox [Brennan]

But the end is just where you stop.

Eursulon [Lou]

Yes, exactly.

The Fox [Brennan]

And the beginning is where you start?

Eursulon [Lou]

Yes.

The Fox [Brennan]

And the middle is what's in between?

Eursulon [Lou]

Uhh... Yes.

The Fox [Brennan]

So isn't everything a story?

Eursulon [Lou]

[frustrated] See, what do you mean when you say everything? That's where I'm confused.

The Fox [Brennan]

Tell me something -

Eursulon [Lou]

[frustrated] I'm on *your* side!

The Fox [Brennan]

Okay.

Eursulon [Lou]

[frustrated] What do you want me to tell you?

The Fox [Brennan]

I'm not being antagonistic.

Eursulon [Lou]
No! And neither am I.

The Fox [Brennan]
Why are we in an argument?

Eursulon [Lou]
It feels - we have that energy, don't we?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
As you guys talk over this - You see there is a young woman who enters the beer garden who is glowing ever so softly. She radiates kind of a warm, teal blue light. You see that she is dressed a little bit anachronistically. She has, like, a tabard with bright gold thread in it. She walks with high boots, no robes. She has a longsword at her side and a shield on her back.

Lou Wilson
Eursulon immediately looks to the other people in the crowd to see if they are looking at her suspiciously or strangely, or if this is just another one of those Citadel moments where somebody weird walks into a space and I want to freak out, but everyone else is going, 'good to see you.'

[Aabria laughs]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Give me an insight check.

Lou Wilson
Natural 20.

[Aabria and Erika cheer loudly]

Lou Wilson
I've been here for a month.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You recognize her as Tamori as she walks in. She steps in briefly, sort of looking side to side. And you see that she has, like, soft - a soft face, these teal blue features, very wide eyes, like the eyes - she has big eyes and a sort of a hint of powder blue, but mostly a kind of illuminated white hair, sort of that is kept short but floats as though underwater or a little bit weightless.

She walks in and looks sort of around in a couple of different directions, and not finding what she was looking for, she turns around to leave. But on a Nat 20, I'll say before she goes, you see, she makes eye contact with you, sees the sword at your side and salutes.

Lou Wilson
I - very definitely - nervous that I'm doing something wrong, but I do it back.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
She smiles, thinks for a moment, and walks up to you. You see, she says,

Adina [Brennan]
[slightly shadowy, echoey voice] Hi, I'm so sorry to bother you. You're not a wizard?

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

No, I'm the protector of the [proud emphasis] Wizard Sky.

Adina [Brennan]

Got it. Okay.

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

You can call me Bear.

Adina [Brennan]

Oh, Bear. Very nice to meet you. I'm Adina.

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

Adina...

Adina [Brennan]

A-D-I-N-A.

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

Thank you for spelling it.

Adina [Brennan]

No, it's okay. But it was written before it was ever said out loud, so...

Eursulon [Lou]

Mmm!

Adina [Brennan]

[haltingly, hesitantly] But... Um... Have you - have you seen the Archmage Saber?

Eursulon [Lou]

No... I can't say that - I've been mostly cavorting my - with the person that I protect.

Adina [Brennan]

Well, I'm the defender of the Archmage Saber, and... I know where he is. Thank you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see... She -

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay, this is some hot gossip, Fox. This is some hot gossip.

The Fox [Brennan]

What do you mean, hot gossip?

Eursulon [Lou]

It's hot gossip.

The Fox [Brennan]

Don't touch it.

Eursulon [Lou]

No, it's not actual hot. It's hot in that it's fresh.

The Fox [Brennan]

[comprehension dawning] Oooh!

Eursulon [Lou]

And Suvi said if I ever heard hot gossip, I'm supposed to find her and tell her immediately.

The Fox [Brennan]

Okay!

Eursulon [Lou]

I have to defend her life and tell her any hot goss that I hear.

The Fox [Brennan]

Great. Great. Okay, great. Let's go, she's probably with Ame. And I know where Ame is.

Eursulon [Lou]

Okay, then take us there.

The Fox [Brennan]

All right, let's finish these sausages and then we'll go.

Eursulon [Lou]

Come on. I'll bring the sausage.

The Fox [Brennan]

Bring the sausage!

Eursulon [Lou]

And we'll go right now.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

All right, you get a platter. You guys head off together. [Aabria laughs]

So, inside of the latrine, as the glass shatters, [glass breaking noise] just as Eursulon and the Fox come through the door - glass all up in the sausages.

Eursulon [Lou]

No!!

The Fox [Brennan]

NOOO!!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Says the Fox. And the fairies flit in. Eursulon, the door is partially cracked open. Do you stay in the doorway as you see these two fairies?

Lou Wilson

As opposed to close it behind me?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Close it behind you.

Lou Wilson
No, I think I'd leave it open.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
All right, so you see that the fairies come and land. First of all, everyone make a dexterity saving throw for me right away.

Lou Wilson
13 for Eursulon!

Aabria Iyengar
22 for Suvi.

Lou Wilson
Jesus Christ!

Erika Ishii
18 for Ame.

Aabria Iyengar
Okay!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Everybody makes it except for the Fox. So as the fairies come into the room, the temperature drops 40 degrees just as they enter. It is suddenly freezing cold, and the wet tiled ground of this latrine freezes over, and the Fox just running in here after the sausages, skids, BAM, [slam noise] underneath one of the raised doors of a stall and slides into the toilet and goes,

[Fox yelping, music turning plucky]

Lou Wilson
And I do think the sausages go flying as Eursulon stabilizes himself.

[sound of sausages hitting the floor, music slows to suspenseful, icy winds blowing in the background]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
As you stabilize yourself - sausage, glass, platter, on the ground, you see that one of the fairies lands on the faucet and just grabs it and blows into the tube [blowing noise] and you could hear like a cracking in the wall. [ice crackling, frost sound effect] And the other one lands on the lip of a sink, and crosses its little hands behind its back, and stands at attention, and folds its wings and looks out with this little single eye in its head... And looks and says,

[music turns slow, mystical]

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
[small, mystical voice] Behold thus, the Witch of the World's Heart.

Suvi [Aabria]
That's you...

Ame [Erika]
That's me...

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
Be this your sanctum?

Ame [Erika]
[cautiously, in shock] Uhhhhh... Uh..... Who's asking?

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
Herald am I from most auspicious, Witch of the Wind and Stars.

Ame [Erika]
[gasps] Oh... The one in the crystal. [panic sets in] Oh, God. Can I have a minute to - how would - please - can I just have - just give me two minutes -

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
Be this the castle of the Witch the World's Heart?

[Ame panicking in the background]

Suvi [Aabria]
[annoyed] No, it's a bathroom.

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
...A what?

Suvi [Aabria]
[annoyed, confused] Do you - ?

Ame [Erika]
[annoyed] What don't - like, fairies need to shit too!

Suvi [Aabria]
Yeah. Do you have a butthole?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see that this one - its wings [vibrating noise]. It puts its ankles behind its head and shows you a perfectly smooth crotch.

[Aabria and Erika laugh]

Lou Wilson
Eursulon is gonna - I'm going to guard the door, step outside and close it slowly behind me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see the little fairy showing its completely featureless crotch goes -

[Short pause]

Erika Ishii

[laughing] You can't see Brennan's fucking intense gaze.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

It says,

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

Do you now retreat from your own kin, spirit? Wild One?

Eursulon [Lou]

All right, I've wanted to be kin with a lot of spirits. I'm going to pass on this one. You guys, - Suvi I've got hot goss when you're ready.

Suvi [Aabria]

Great.

[door closing]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see that the other one not touching the faucet says,

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]

[gleeful] Coward, is he? Long wayshadowed -

Ame [Erika]

Okay, all right! All right, all right.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

That one gets bitten in half by the Fox.

[Ame exclaims, Fox makes devouring noise]

Suvi [Aabria]

[smug] Yeah!

[contact noise, Ice Fairy 2 crying out]

Ame [Erika]

[panicked] Let it go, let it go! Spit it out, spit it out!

The Fox [Brenna]

[gagging and yelping] It's just ice, it's just ice!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see that this little mangled fairy goes [pained yelping noises, ice crackling] starts to put itself back together as the other one just uncoils itself, standing once again on the edge of the sink.

Ame [Erika]

[haltingly, measured] Hello, I am Ame, Witch of Toma and the Witch of the World's Heart. Please excuse us. We are in the midst of celebration of my dear friend, and we're not - we're not... Properly prepared to receive you or her grace. Uh...

Suvi [Aabria]
[under her breath] Doing great.

Ame [Erika]
[panicked, under her breath] How long have I been talking?

Suvi [Aabria]
[under her breath] I dunno...

Ame [Erika]
[haltingly, measured] We extend the full hospitality to you and to your mistress... If she would like to join our party...?

Suvi [Aabria]
[under her breath] In the *latrine* - ?

Ame [Erika]
[quietly, panicked] Mmhmm?

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
You wish for me to tell my mistress to join you here? Is this your castle?

Ame [Erika]
[panicked] No, no, no, no. Does she have to - um, I can go to her.

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
[speaking in a mystical echo, with rhyming cadence] Long lancing spells and vexing hexes of old were made many to pierce and plunder through the guises and guile of wizards many. She has seen into this hidden place through crystal and through cause.

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]
I don't have to—they do a lot of running here. It's unbelievable. And it's not even towards...

[Ame and Suvi speaking simultaneously]

Ame [Erika]
Um - should we probably - ?

Suvi [Aabria]
I'm so drunk, what is *happening*?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We cut outside from this and you see Sickle walks up to you, Eursulon, and says,

Sickle [Brennan]
D'ya wanna take a piss?

Eursulon [Lou]
Sorry. Someone's having sex in there.

[Aabria and Erika cackle]

Erika Ishii

Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh no, no. Oh, God.

Eursulon [Lou]

Is there another one you can use?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The Fox, who's been sort of chastised, goes up to the door, hearing Eursulon's muttering, and you see, the Fox just goes,

The Fox [Brennan]

[slightly muffled, with passion] Oh, put your mouth on my butt!

[Aabria cackles]

Eursulon [Lou]

And so, as you can tell, it's not Suvi having sex, but someone is having sex in there. I'm waiting too!

The Fox [Brennan]

[slightly muffled, with passion] *Squeeze every part of my body with your hand!*

Eursulon [Lou]

I don't know. Something tells me - it sounds like they are right at the top and it's going to be *long*. So I think it -

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sickle backs away and says,

Sickle [Brennan]

I recognize that Fox's voice.

[Aabria cackles]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see, walks away. You see the fairy looks again at its little mangled brethren who's, like, stitching itself back together. And the fairy just turns and says,

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

Many missives left at the threshold for the Watcher of the Shrine and the Tender of the Stream. He of the Great Bowl.

Ame [Erika]

Mr. Soup???

Suvi [Aabria]

[muttering] Mr. Soup...

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

He has called Mr. Soup. And we have left many missives saying that the stars have aligned and a new Witch of the World's Heart draws breath and with clear eyes speaks for those things at the joining of hands and the smiling of kin rekindled. May you then be said to walk upon this world once more. My mistress many

missives she has left before needing to search for the Witch of the World's Heart long leaving from her home.

Ame [Erika]

Uhh... [mumbling] It's been three months?

Suvi [Aabria]

[muttering] Kind of judgmental. It's been like, three months, yeah.

Ame [Erika]

[haltingly, measured] Oh. My deepest apologies to your mistress. Please send my regards and, uh... Have but newly arrived into my powers and knowledge... And that we can meet and... Where of her choosing.

Suvi [Aabria]

[muttering] Yeah, it's great, you're doing great.

Ame [Erika]

[muttering] Yes, yes, yes. [Louder for the fairies to hear, pitifully] I'm so sorry...

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

What point then of conclave would you ask?

Ame [Erika]

[haltingly, measured] Uhhh...What... Did she mention anything - anywhere she was thinking about?

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

I speak only for the mistress of most gifts capable of piercing the protections of this place. But should you wish it, I can ask her where she would hold this conclave.

Ame [Erika]

[haltingly, measured] Yes, yes, actually, yes. That's such a good idea. Please return to your mistress with my thanks for her diligence and ask her where she would see fit, that we be met.

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

I would tell her of your deference to her wishes, that this conclave might be put upon such a place of her preference.

Ame [Erika]

[haltingly, measured] But, uhh... Definitely let her know. Please relay back to your mistress that the well of the - um- the grove - the well? The grove of - the Grove of the Well is perhaps no longer as sacred a sanctum as we have been led to believe. As Grandma Wren had also met with - Grandma Wren was attacked there.

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]

I shall bear this news hither that the Grove of the Well is no longer safe and that the Witch of the World's Heart hides by the side of the Wizard Sky in a bathroom covered in sausages.

[Ame and Suvi speaking simultaneously]

Ame [Erika]

Okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, hold on, hold on - what is it?

Suvi [Aabria]

Okay, okay, okay, okay, okay - [directed at the Ice Fairies] You? Earmuffs. You - earmuffs.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see it rips its head off its neck. [ripping, pop noise]

Suvi [Aabria]

Fine, that'll do. Okay. We can let Indri - she picks the location. You pick a time. You have to maintain some status. Like you're -

Ame [Erika]

Okay...

Suvi [Aabria]

[sternly] You're the Witch of the World's Heart.

Ame [Erika]

[stuttering] Right - yeah, but -

Suvi [Aabria]

[sternly] You don't defer to fucking anyone.

Ame [Erika]

[gaining confidence] Yeah, no, I don't -

Suvi [Aabria]

[sternly] You're so powerful!

Ame [Erika]

[confident] I don't defer to fucking *anyone*!

Suvi [Aabria]

You're so fucking powerful, your Fox ate that one. A little bit.

Ame [Erika]

[loudly, confident] I am the Witch of the World's Heart, baby!

Suvi [Aabria]

[loudly] Yeah!

Ame [Erika]

[loudly] Yeah! Okay.

Erika Ishii

And I gesture at him to -

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Puts his head back on its neck. The other fairy's finished fixing itself now and it's like sniffing around and looking for sausages to grab off the floor, flitting around as the Fox is like,

The Fox [Brennan]
[passionately] Oh, yeah! Do that with your - the rest of your face.

Ame [Erika]
[confidently, haltingly] Yes, please. With all due haste, speed to your mistress and tell her I defer to her in the place where we be met, but that when she hath picketh it that she - I find when we shall be met. Also, also! What is it...?

Erika Ishii
And I lean down to him a little bit.

Ame [Erika]
[lowered voice] What is it going to take for you to not mention the part about us being in latrine?

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
Give me a name.

Ame [Erika]
Ummm...

Ice Fairy 1 [Brennan]
[ecstatic squealing] Umm is my name!

Suvi [Aabria]
[shock] Oh!

Umm the Ice Fairy [Brennan]
[ecstatic squealing] Umm is my name!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And he explodes in a burst of ice. [small explosion] And the other fairy turns around and says,

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
Oh, no!

[Aabria cackles]

Ame [Erika]
[shocked] Uh! Okay - !

Suvi [Aabria]
What did you think just happened? Because we know, but what do you think just happened?

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[foolishly, gleefully] Give me a name!

Suvi [Aabria]
After you tell us what just happened.

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[vacuous] I don't know. I'm the stupid one.

Suvi [Aabria]
[laughing] Damn it.

Ame [Erika]
[gentle concern] Did that one - Did Umm tell you that?

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[vacuous] What?

Ame [Erika]
[gentle concern] Did Umm tell you that you were the stupid one?

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
No, it's evident! I can't follow directions.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Fox looks at you, Ame, goes -

Ame [Erika]
All right, you know what, I'm just -

Fox [Brennan]
It's hard to find good help.

Ame [Erika]
I'm just going to write a note that you can take.

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[vacuous] I'll take this to a bathroom filled with sausages.

Suvi [Aabria]
[adoring] Perfect. I want to keep this one. Is that weird?

[Erika snickering]

Ame [Erika]
Oh...

Suvi [Aabria]
[adoring] Can you be mine?

Ame [Erika]
They're delightful.

Suvi [Aabria]
[adoring] If I give you a name, do you belong to me?

Ame [Erika]
No, I think they'll explode!

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[vacuous] If you make that the bargain.

Suvi [Aabria]
[squealing surprise] Bargain??

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[vacuous] I would trade you my service for a name.

Ame [Erika]
No. No no no no no no no no no. Okay, okay, okay. All right, all right, all right.

Suvi [Aabria]
[spoiled whining] I want it!

Ame [Erika]
No, hear me out. Hear me out.

Suvi [Aabria]
[spoiled whining] I want it!

Ame [Erika]
We'll get you another spirit to make a deal with. That is not... y'know...

Brennan Lee Mulligan
The Fox looks up at you and says,

Fox [Brennan]
[comforting] You can do better.

[Aabria cracks up]

Fox [Brennan]
The first thing this little freaky bug did was tell you that it's the stupid one, and that it can't follow direction.

Ame [Erika]
Okay, uhh - uhh -

Aabria Iyengar
Suvi's decided to take that too personally and is now beginning to cry. But about Silver and a different thing. So, good luck!

Ame [Erika]
[trying to soothe] Noooo! Don't cry, don't cry. Nooo!

Suvi [Aabria]
[in tears] No. It's fine. Even your familiar knows, like - you better.

Ame [Erika]
Yeah, no, it's absolutely true. [rambling to try and comfort Suvi]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see the Fox - the Fox leaps up onto your shoulders, Suvi, and licks your cheek. Says,

Fox [Brennan]

[gently, trying to soothe] Heyyyy, it's your big day! Do you want a friend and a helper like I am for Ame?

Suvi [Aabria]

[blubbering] I mean, yeah. It's so nice, you have such a good relationship.

Fox [Brennan]

[sincerely] Yeah, we do. It's great.

Suvi [Aabria]

[blubbering] That's making me cry more!

Fox [Brennan]

[confused] Why? Why is a nice thing for me making you cry more?

Suvi [Aabria]

[blubbering] Because I'm having a - today is a thing about me, so I'm struggling.

Fox [Brennan]

[confused] I don't get that.

Eursulon [Lou]

[muffled] Hey... [door knocking]

Lou Wilson

Banging on the door.

Eursulon [Lou]

[muffled] Can we finish with the sex stuff in there?

Suvi [Aabria]

[crying, confused] Sex?

Fox [Brennan]

[passionately] Oh, yeah! I'm about to not want to do this anymore.

[Aabria and Erika laughing]

Ame [Erika]

[mumbling, vocalizing her words as she's writing] Yeah, that's settled... Indri, Witch of the Wind and Stars... My deepest ... Apologies for not reaching out sooner...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As Ame is writing that message, we cut back outside. Eursulon, you see that a couple other wizards at the table are looking over at you standing in front of the bathroom. You see Silver walks over to you, and goes,

Silver [Brennan]

Bear, is everything all right in there?

Eursulon [Lou]

[haltingly] Yeah... It's just... Some people... Have decided to make... The bathroom... Their bedroom.

Silver [Brennan]

Oh... But I saw Suvi and Ame go in there.

Eursulon [Lou]

[haltingly] Yes. And they... Um... They are... It's compli -

Silver [Brennan]

Oh. Okay.

Eursulon [Lou]

No, no. Hey, you're going to get me in trouble.

Silver [Brennan]

No, it's all right.

Eursulon [Lou]

No, no, no, no.

Silver [Brennan]

No, we never made any promis -

Eursulon [Lou]

They are not the ones having the, um... Relations.

Silver [Brennan]

[confused] Wait, so they're in there? Who's having the relations?

Eursulon [Lou]

It's the Fox. Ame's fox. And a... Stuffed animal that Suvi bought.

[Erika laughs]

Eursulon [Lou]

And the Fox was just being really rowdy outside, you see, and so they were like -

Silver [Brennan]

Sorry, so Suvi and Ame are in the bathroom while the Fox -

Eursulon [Lou Wilson]

Is simulating intercourse on a stuffed animal. To kind of calm him down so that he can be more approachable, you see?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Silver turns around to walk back to the table and halfway there, just peels off for the exit.

Aabria Iyengar

[despair] NO!!!!!!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Peels off.

Eursulon [Lou]
Shit... shit...

Brennan Lee Mulligan
We cut back inside.

Ame [Erika]
[mumbling, vocalizing her words as she's writing] Best wishes, Ame: Witch of the World's Heart. [voice starts cracking] Oh...

Suvi [Aabria]
[shock] What's wrong? Why are you crying?

Ame [Erika]
[blubbing] I just - I just - I didn't have all of the information that I needed. And I -

Erika Ishii
Is it okay? I -

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see as the little frost fairy takes it and says,

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
Ahem! To Indri, Witch of the Wind and Stars: my deepest apologies for not reaching out sooner. I am but newly possessed of my title and full responsibilities. Due to unfortunate circumstances, I would be deeply honored to meet with you at a safe location of your choosing. Best wishes, Ame, Witch of the World's Heart.

Ame [Erika]
[relief] Oh, good, you can read..

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see the Fox goes,

The Fox [Brennan]
This guy can read and I can't read?

Ame [Erika]
That's what I'm saying. It's... uh - okay, I'm just going to -

Ice Fairy 2 [Brennan]
[gleefully] This is the message! Goodbye forever!

Ame [Erika]
[panicking] Oh, wait! No no no no no no!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And you see it flies out the window.

Suvi [Aabria]
[shock] What happened? Why are you crying?

Ame [Erika]
[blubbering] I just am getting it all together.

Suvi [Aabria]
[comforting] No, you're doing great.

Ame [Erika]
[blubbering] Oh, *you're* doing great.

Suvi [Aabria]
[also crying] No, you're doing so good. Like, fairies came in and you handled it so good.

Lou Wilson
I'm going to open the door.

Erika Ishii
We're holding hands and -

Eursulon [Lou]
Suvi, I - I think Silver thinks that you and Ame are fucking.

Suvi [Aabria]
[crying, in shock] WHAT?!

Eursulon [Lou]
[meekly] I'm sorry.

Suvi [Aabria]
[panicking] Why? Oh, God. Fuck.

Eursulon [Lou]
Or that the Fox is having intercourse with a stuffed animal. I'm sorry, Fox.

Suvi [Aabria]
[panicking] I'm gonna go. I'm gonna go. Are you good?

Ame [Erika]
[mopey] Yeah, yeah, yeah. You go. You go. Uhhh.. Happy name cloak day.

Suvi [Aabria]
Thank you.

Eursulon [Lou]
Oh, and Suvi?

Suvi [Aabria]
Yeah?

Eursulon [Lou]
One last thing?

Suvi [Aabria]
Oh, what was the goss?

Eursulon [Lou]
[meekly] The Archmage Saber is maybe missing.

Suvi [Aabria]
[shock] WHAT?!

Eursulon [Lou]
I don't know which one of those things is a bigger deal.

Suvi [Aabria]
[panicking] Oh, my God. Oh, God. Silver.

Eursulon [Lou]
But a tamori named Adina, spelled A-D-I-N-A - yes, she spelled it for me. She came by looking for the Archmage Saber and then said that she couldn't find him, but then said that she knows where he was, but that seemed to be kind of a cover.

Suvi [Aabria]
[panicking] Oh, okay. Fuck. Too many things. Okay.

Erika Ishii
I go over to the cake. I get a fistful, and I start eating it out of my hands. It's got cure wounds in it because I knew that this would happen, that we'd get messy. Just crying into my cake.

Ame [Erika]
[sobbing] It's so - it's so good.

Aabria Iyengar
And I'm going to run down Silver.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You run down Silver, he turns around, sees you running after him. You see he goes,

Silver [Brennan]
[surprised] Oh.

Suvi [Aabria]
[panicking, speaking rapidly] Hi. I'm sorry. Are you leaving? I'm sorry.

Silver [Brennan]
Sky, what's up? Yeah, no. Oh, I - um. Was this forward? This was forward, right? To throw you a party.

Suvi [Aabria]
[panicking, speaking rapidly] No! This was honestly the nicest thing in the - I'm sorry.

[Music turns gentle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Illuminated by barracks behind you, you see a gondola of a gallithopter sort of flying behind, and you can see there's sort of a deep hurt in Silver's countenance. Doesn't look like he's mad at you. There's just a weird bit of hurt here. You see, he goes,

Silver [Brennan]

[quietly] If you and Ame - I mean, I know that you have a lot of history with...

Suvi [Aabria]

Oh! Oh, no, that wasn't like that. Ame is a witch, and apparently that means witch things can happen to her at strange moments.

Aabria Iyengar

And I'm going to grab his hand and kind of scoot around to the far side of the latrine just to show the blown out window and maybe if there's any evidence of, like, weird frost.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah, let's roll a little luck check and see if there is. There is a little bit of frost. Yeah, he goes,

Silver [Brennan]

Oh.

Suvi [Aabria]

[speaking rapidly] So it was just a weird witch thing, and we didn't want to - I wasn't trying to blow up her spot, and we're - but maybe the story -

Silver [Brennan]

What do you mean, a weird witch thing?

Suvi [Aabria]

Oh, a familiar for another witch... Decided to speak with her now that she's awake again, so we just was kind of just stalling for time in the -

Silver [Brennan]

The familiar got... Within the walls of the Citadel?

Suvi [Aabria]

Yes, actually.

Silver [Brennan]

Is she okay?

Suvi [Aabria]

They're gone. They conveyed a message and left. But you're right. That is strange.

Silver [Brennan]

[contemplative] That is strange.

Suvi [Aabria]

So that's what that was. I really appreciate that you threw me this party. It's really kind, and I don't want to put any weird pressure on whatever this is, but I do like you a lot, and I am deeply grateful and happy. Tonight's been a very nice night.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He leans in and gives you a kiss.

Silver [Brennan]

Sorry to storm off like that.

Suvi [Aabria]

No!

Silver [Brennan]

I got scared because my reaction to thinking that you were with someone else was stronger than I was ready to admit.

Suvi [Aabria]

[speaking rapidly] Oh! That's nice. I'm not with anyone else, and I don't really want to be. We can get into that later. Fun other thing, have you seen Saber anywhere?

Silver [Brennan]

He would have had to be at your ceremony, wasn't he?

Suvi [Aabria]

That's the last time I saw him. And apparently he's MIA.

Silver [Brennan]

[contemplative] Okay, interesting. Saber is my Archmage. He's Gavreel's Archmage. So let me run that down and see what can be seen. I'm going to head out, but do you think Ame is going to be... Crashing with you tonight, or somewhere else? Or...

Suvi [Aabria]

How about I come to you?

Silver [Brennan]

Great.

Suvi [Aabria]

Great.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He gives you another kiss. And you see he walks off towards the edge of the platform and casts fly on himself and takes up into the Erien.

Aabria Iyengar

It's the hottest thing in the whole world. [Lou laughing] I cannot do better. I can't. We're back, baby! And I come over to sad Ame eating cake.

Erika Ishii

Yeah. I'm actually standing in the doorway of the bar of the beer garden, cake on my hands, sniffing and like, watching.

Suvi [Aabria]

[comforting] Hey, bud. You good?

Ame [Erika]

[slightly sad] Yeah. I wasn't ready. I've been training my whole life for this. And what if I said something wrong and sorry to - well, seems like I didn't - It's fine. It seems like this is for the best. And now he knows.

Aabria Iyengar

I just want to give Ame a huge hug.

[Gentle music]

Erika Ishii

And I throw my cake covered hands around you.

Suvi [Aabria]

You smell nice.

Ame [Erika]

No, it's the cake.

Suvi [Aabria]

Hey. You're the best witch I've ever met.

Ame [Erika]

I'm the only witch you've ever met...

Suvi [Aabria]

No. I met Grandmother Wren.

Ame [Erika]

Okay, well, now you're just being hyperbolic.

Suvi [Aabria]

No, I think I said what I mean. You're doing great.

Ame [Erika]

[tearfully] Okay. Thank you. You're doing great. And I think you could do better.

Suvi [Aabria]

Okay, we can't get into that right now. We got to take the W!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Eursulon, you see - the Fox comes back out of the bathroom. You've had this wild experience in the bathroom here. You celebrate Suvi for the rest of the night. Eventually, Ame, you arrive back at Suvi's quarters with the Fox. Eursulon - you - Where do you think Eursulon ends up that night?

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon is going to go train. I think since Steel has suggested there's a chance for him to go home, he's been training harder and more - at more irregular times. So I think he says he's going to go grab a bite to eat, but then heads to train.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You find a space under the moonlight. As you do... You find sort of the ruins of that chair. [wood creaking]
And you can find, I think, a couple lengths of rope. There's, like, some netting they put up at certain points

out here on the court. And you can just find some of that and tie it around your wrist and get, like, a little makeshift wooden shield. Start doing drills again.

And as you do so, you look up at the sky and see those stars up there and wonder who might be watching. You see a constellation in the stars, [great spirits theme plays] one that is named after your father, who you have spent probably quite a long time not thinking about. But your thoughts do go back to him for a time as you train under the light of his constellation. [theme fades out]

Ame, we come back to you, and you're lying down in Suvi's incredibly comfortable bed. The Fox snuggled up, goes,

The Fox [Brennan]

Well, that was really exciting. Your coven reached out to you, and you got to let them know that -

Ame [Erika]

I wasn't ready? Yeah. God.

The Fox [Brennan]

But, hey -

Ame [Erika]

[panicked] What if I made a mistake? What if I said the wrong thing? I don't even remember, like, oh... [sincere] Thanks for your help back there.

The Fox [Brennan]

Well, I'm happy to help, but think about it this way. They might not be mad that you're not ready. They might like that you're not ready because it means they can push you around.

Ame [Erika]

Yeah. No, I know. That's what I'm scared of. I'm not scared of getting in trouble with them. I'm scared that I'm not ready for them.

The Fox [Brennan]

Okay, well, you don't have an apprentice, so you could quit, and then there'd be no Witch of the World's Heart, and you wouldn't have to deal with it. You could run away.

Ame [Erika]

I can't do that.

The Fox [Brennan]

All right, well, I've had two ideas. So...

[Erika laughs]

Ame [Erika]

[affectionately] Nobody could ask for anything more of you, buddy.

Erika Ishii

And I scratch his tummy.

The Fox [Brennan]

[content] Mmmm...

[Gentle string music plays]

Erika Ishii

There's a shawl. There is a purple shawl of Grandmother Wren's that Suvi had taken from the cottage when she left and is now on her bed. And I pull that over me, and I breathe it in. It's warm and musty, and it smells a little bit of the cottage, a little bit like home, of Grandma Wren, but I can also smell incense in it, like it's been there for somebody else to hug.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You smell your home as you fade to sleep, the weight of responsibility on your shoulders, but also the comfort of Wren's shawl. [music fades out] Suvi, you finish celebrating, and do you go to Silver's at the end of the night?

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, I do. But I think there is a little bit of taking the long way, or just getting a little distracted and kind of wishing I had a little more time to speak to Ame. And I think about her a lot on the way to Silver's.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So you open the door with the key that Silver gave you. You walk into an apartment decorated with a wall containing wands and staves of combat embossed with gold and brass. You see a hanging sensor of smoke, and you see Silver with a pack on his shoulder, tear lines on his face holding a scroll.

Suvi [Aabria]

[fearful] What's going on?

Silver [Brennan]

[softly] Sky... The garrison at Fort Ciaran has fallen.

Suvi [Aabria]

No...

Silver [Brennan]

I need to leave tonight.

Suvi [Aabria]

No.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[abrupt tone change] And that's all for this episode of the Wizard, the Witch and the Wild One!

[Cast exclaims]

Aabria Iyengar

NOOO!!!!

[Cast laughing and complaining]

Lou Wilson

How are we going to be fucking if Silver's not here?

[A waltz of strings, bowed and plucked, underscore the credits]

Taylor Moore

That was Lou Wilson as Eursulon, Erika Ishii as Ame, Aabria Iyengar as Suvi, and Brennan Lee Mulligan as Everyone and Everything Else. Worlds Beyond Number is edited, designed, and scored, by Taylor Moore at Fortunate Horse, with additional sound design by Michael Ghelfi Studios. For even more like this, join us on our Patreon. We'll see you there.

[Waltz fades out]