

Karia:
I can't believe you used a knock-out spell on me.

Brynna:
Sleep spell.

Karia:
Is there a difference between putting someone to sleep and getting knocked out?

Brynna:
I've never been knocked out by a turkey sandwich?

Karia:
So when do we begin training?

Brynna:
Now.

Karia:
Oh. Okay.

(Theme Music)

Brynna:
We're gonna try a few things to see if we can get mana to stream into your system instead of out. Maybe heal some of the nerve damage you've accumulated along the way.

Karia:
Got it. How do we do that?

Brynna:
Well, let me try something first. Maybe if I force mana into your circuits it will force open pathways leading into your body. Let me see your hand.

Karia:
Sure.

Brynna:
Okay, this might feel a little warm. *Qi*.

(Magic sound sustained.)

Karia:

Ow ow ow ow, hot hot hot hot.

Brynna:
Sorry! *Napr.*

(Magic sound quick)

Brynna:
Tried to cool your hand down a bit, did it help?

Karia:
Yeah, it just got really hot for a second.

Brynna:
It didn't feel like anything was going through, so it must have built up at the contact point. Which was kind of what I expected would happen, but I had to try.

Karia:
Does that mean it didn't work?

Brynna:
Mhm. We're gonna have to try something else.

Karia:
Like what?

Brynna:
Lemme grab something real' quick.

(Brynna rummages through a drawer.)

Brynna:
Aha! Okay, here we go. Hold this stone in one hand and this one in the other.

Karia:
Okay...what are these?

Brynna:
The one in your right hand is called a mana capacitor. It's like a battery of stored-up mana. The one in your left is just a rock with a crack in it. Try to use the mana in the capacitor to fix the rock. I'm hoping the flow through your body will open up a circuit. It's worth a try at least.

Karia:

Okay. I've never healed a non-living thing, though.

Brynna:

It should be the same process, don't worry. Just give it a shot.

Karia:

I'll do my best.

(Karia strains)

Karia:

Nothing. Still cracked.

Brynna:

I think you might be right. You might only have healing magic, not mending magic.

Karia:

Ah. So how does my power work exactly?

Brynna:

To be honest with you, I don't know. Most healing magic is complex mending: placing mana into a damaged area to restitch tissues and cell membranes back together. It requires a comprehensive understanding of anatomy and biochemistry. Your magic seems to be more intuitive.

Karia:

Plus I take on the pain of the person being healed.

Brynna:

Oh right. I forgot about that part.

Karia:

I didn't. My chest still hurts from yesterday.

Brynna:

This is what I'm talking about, Karia. What you're doing is dangerous. You need to be careful.

Karia:

Yeah, yeah, so you've said. So what's next?

Brynna:

(sighs) Well, I still want to see if we can use the capacitor as a mana source, but we need to get you to use your magic to be able to experiment.

Karia:
I could go to work then.

Brynna:
Yeah, but I want to observe and I doubt they'd let me tag along.

Karia:
Hmmm.

Brynna:
Can you think of a place where I could watch you heal but nobody would be smart enough to catch on to what's happening?

Karia:
Oh, you know what? A buddy of mine moonlights as a medic for professional sports events. He said there's an extreme motocross event this Saturday.

Brynna:
Plenty of broken bodies, low intelligence. It's perfect.

Karia:
That's a little mean.

Brynna:
I'm sorry, are extreme sports erudite now?

Karia:
Erudite?

Brynna:
Nevermind. This sounds great. See if you can get in.

Karia:
Will do!

(Motorcycles in background)

Brynna:
It smells like gasoline and body odor.

Karia:
Ah, America.

Event Representative:
You must be Karia.

Karia:
I must be. This is my friend, Brynna. I hope it's okay if she shadows with me today.

Event Representative:
Yeah, sure. Right this way to the medic tent.

Karia:
Thank you!

Brynna:
(whispering) Here, put this on.

Karia:
What is it?

Brynna:
It's another capacitor but a little more subtle. If anyone asks, you just say you're into crystal necklaces now.

Karia:
What, you're making me a witch now?

Brynna:
You are a witch.

Karia:
Oh. Yeah, I guess I am.

Event Representative:
Here you go.

Karia:
Thank you!

Brynna:
And now we wait for some prey.

Karia:
You are terrifying while on a mission.

Brynna:
I'm going for the cold-blooded, practical type.

Karia:
(muttering) And it's working.

Brynna:
What?

Karia:
What?

(A commotion follows as the man returns with an injured athlete.)

Brynna:
Well that was quick.

Karia:
What happened?

Event Representative:
Overshot the down ramp of the jump and landed flat on the hard ground. She lost control and crashed.

Brynna:
Huh, girl motorcyclist. Challenging my personal biases. Also, hot.

Karia:
It looks like her shoulder is dislocated. Miss, we're going to have to reset your shoulder. It's going to really hurt, but it will feel a lot better after, okay?

Motorcyclist:
Yeah, just do it.

Brynna:
Definitely hot.

Karia:
Okay, just a moment while I consult with my colleague.
(Karia walks over to Brynna)

So I just heal her like normal?

Brynna:

Yeah, just imagine that whatever you're doing when you heal is coming from the pendant on your neck. Focus on letting the energy course through you, okay? And try not to draw any attention.

Karia:

Got it.

Okay, miss, are you ready?

Motorcyclist:

Just get it over with.

Karia:

Okay, on three. One, two, three--

(Magic sound malfunction)

(in pain) Aaaaaa, I think it worked.

Motorcyclist:

Oh my god that's so much better.

Karia:

(straining) Good. Someone get them some ice. I just need a minute.

Brynna:

Whoa, what's wrong?

Karia:

I dislocated my shoulder.

Brynna:

I thought you could distribute pain to avoid taking the full impact?

Karia:

I was focusing on the pendent and couldn't think of distributing it, too.

Brynna:

(sighs) Okay, well, does that mean we have to get someone to pop it back in place?

Karia:

That would be correct.

Brynna:
So much for not drawing attention. Just let me do the talking.

(Back at Brynna's house.)

Karia:
I can't believe you convinced Vaughn to pop my shoulder blade back in without him asking any questions.

Brynna:
I'm just that good.

Karia:
Brynna.

Brynna:
Huh?

Karia:
What did you do to him?

Brynna:
Nothing. Just some mild charm magic and a teensy mind wipe afterwards to make sure he didn't remember anything strange happening.

Karia:
Brynna!

Brynna:
What?

Karia:
You can't just wipe people's memories!

Brynna:
Why not?

Karia:
That's bad, Brynna!

Brynna:
We had a mission and we accomplished it. That's what I do as Overseer.

Karia:
You really are terrifying.

Brynna:
Thank you. Now we learned that the capacitor doesn't seem to get through to your circuits either. I'm starting to think that maybe instead of having dormant intake circuits, you might just not have them at all.

Karia:
Is there any way to fix that?

Brynna:
Well, the main options are either to modify the circuits you have or to implant new ones. Neither of which are ideal.

Karia:
Why's that?

Brynna:
Well, I still don't know how your magic works, so I don't want to risk putting in new circuits and possibly having them be rejected. And as for modifying your current ones...

Karia:
What? What's wrong with that?

Brynna:
It would mean cutting you open, taking out your nerve endings, reconfiguring them, and then reinserting them.

(A couple beats of silence.)

Karia:
Will it hurt?

Brynna:
Arguably the most something can hurt, yes.

Karia:
I'll do it.

Brynna:
Now hold on there, Tiger. I'm not sure it would work in the first place and it would most likely leave at least your arms paralyzed if not done 100% perfectly.

Karia:
That's fine.

Brynna:
Let me put it this way: you might also lose your powers. Meaning you would be unable to help people magically or physically. Is that what you want?

Karia:
(sighs) Fine.

Brynna:
We really need to talk about your priorities, Kari.

Karia:
Whatever. So what's next?

Brynna:
We need to figure out how your healing works. And to do that, I think I'll call in a favor.

Karia:
A favor?

Brynna:
Yeah, a colleague, if you will. He owes me, so it should be easy to get him to help.

Karia:
Why does he owe you?

Brynna:
Oh, nothing, I just helped him get away with murder.