

James:
I spy with my little eye something grey.

Brynna:
My handcuffs.

James:
You got it.

Brynna:
I spy with my little eye something blue.

James:
(sighs) My eye.

Brynna:
Nope.

James:
Fine, Karia's eye.

Brynna:
Yup! Your turn.

James:
I spy with my little eye something white.

Brynna:
Our cell walls.

James:
Yeah. You're up.

Brynna:
I spy with my little eye something pretty.

James:
Ugh, Karia's eye. You are disgusting.

Brynna:
What?

James:

Please quit flirting with your girlfriend through me.

Brynna:

She's not my girlfriend! I don't have girlfriends.

James:

You don't have boyfriends either.

Brynna:

Or nonbinary partners. Way to adhere to the gender binary, James.

James:

Whatever. I'm saying you should tell her how you feel.

Brynna:

That would require me knowing how I feel first.

James:

Well, you have plenty of time in this cell. If they don't kill us first.

(Theme music)

(A door opens to James and Brynna's cell)

Mason:

You failed to mention that Karia can teleport.

Brynna:

Oh? That's cool.

Mason:

You also neglected to tell me that your mother is still alive.

Brynna:

Is she? Good for her.

James:

Wait, what?

Mason:

I saw her through the Looking Glass as Karia escaped. They're both in Japan now.

Brynna:
Why are you telling me all this?

Mason:
Because I want you to know that we will find out everything sooner than later. So you might as well make yourself useful and talk.

Brynna:
I have been called many things in my life, but never useful.

Mason:
How about deceased then? The Late Brynna Ito.

Brynna:
You sure do throw death around a lot as a threat. It's lost its punch at this point, cartoon villain.

Mason:
I try to make the most of my resources before disposing of them. But it seems you two might be nearly spent.

Brynna:
What do you want to know?

Mason:
Why did your mother fake her death?

James:
I would also like to know that.

Brynna:
To escape you and your friends, duh.

Mason:
Why Japan?

Brynna:
It's where she's from and it's far away.

Mason:
Very well. I have more questions, but they can wait.

Brynna:

For what?

Mason:
For Karia of course.

(Karia walks along a busy street in Japan)

Karia:
(thinking) Well Emi was no help at all. Not that I want her help. What a monster. But what am I going to do now? I don't have the Looking Glass anymore, so I can focus on getting Brynna and James out of there. Maybe I can find two people on the outside and one by one switch them out for Brynna and James. But then two strangers would be caught up in all this. Plus I already swapped an eye and lips with people during the teleportation process. I guess I'm still not great at this.

(Karia sighs)

Karia:
I wish I could talk to Brynna. See her again. Figure out a plan. (gasps) That's it! I'll switch with James, figure out a plan with her, and then switch right back. It's risky, but I need help on this. I'll do it.

(Karia breathes deeply)

Karia:
Okay.

(Magic sound)

(Karia appears in Brynna's cell)

Karia:
Brynna! What have they done to you?

Brynna:
Karia! No, leave now!

Karia:
We need a plan. Please help me figure out what to do.

Mason:
Just take a seat, Miss Ezra. That's all you need to do.

(Karia yelps in surprise.)

Brynna:
Go! Now!

Karia:
Got it!

(Magic sound malfunctions)

Karia:
It's not working.

Mason:
It's nice of you to join us, Miss Ezra. I see you've gained some new features in your adventures.
Still working on getting teleportation down?

Brynna:
You have an ethereal jammer, don't you?

Karia:
An ethereal what?

Mason:
It's essentially a barrier that prevents you from teleporting outside this room. I turned it on after
you so kindly returned to us.

Karia:
Shit.

Mason:
We have many resources here, you'll find. We just need to be prepared and know which to
employ. That's where you two come in.

Brynna:
You want us to help you set the right traps for other mages.

Mason:
That and teleportation could prove to be a useful tool.

Karia:

We would never help you. What self-respecting mage would ever turn against their own kind?

Mason:

I don't know about self-respecting, but I do have one example. (snaps) Bring him in.

(A door opens and a man walks in)

David:

Hi, Karia.

Karia:

...Dad?

Karia:

I don't--I don't understand. What are you doing?

David:

It's been a while, Kare-Kare.

Karia:

Get away from me! And don't call me that.

Mason:

Your father has been most useful to us. He has helped develop many of the technologies used against mages today.

Karia:

Why would you--why?

David:

It's complicated. Mages are...well...

Mason:

I believe what David is trying to say is that Mages are not worth protecting like you think they are.

Karia:

What?

Brynna:

Don't listen to him, Karia.

Mason:

Of course the Overseer wouldn't approve of this. Boys, please take her away.

(A couple men lead Brynna away by her handcuffs.)

Karia:

Brynna!

Brynna:

I'll be fine. Just don't believe anything he says.

(The door closes)

Mason:

Now, where were we? Ah, yes, the things Mages have done to humanity.

Karia:

Why should I believe you?

Mason:

Because I have proof. Ancient texts, early photographs, contemporary video recordings. I'll show them all to you.

Karia:

...like what?

Mason:

Well, I presume you've met Miss Ito's mother by now. She is not known for her pleasant personality.

Karia:

That I'll grant you.

Mason:

During her time as Overseer we have documented 14 missing persons cases conveniently tangential to her work. We believe they saw something Miss Ito wanted kept secret, and so she got rid of them. We don't know if they're still out there or if they're dead. But is there much difference to their families and loved ones?

Karia:

No, she wouldn't--

Mason:

What about her makes you think she wouldn't? You've met her.

Karia:

Okay. So Emi may be ruthless, but Brynna isn't. She's kind.

Mason:

She's had the Overseer gig for two weeks. That's hardly enough time to give a performance review.

Karia:

Well just because one mage has done terrible things doesn't mean they should all be hunted down.

Mason:

Don't you see, Miss Ezra? They all do this. James, your little friend with whom you traded places? He stole the looking glass from a museum for his own gain. And we believe he may have killed a security guard to do it. Not to mention the member of our recovery unit sent to retrieve the precious artifact.

Karia:

But that was in self-defense. At least one of them. He--

Mason:

Our research indicates 1347 active police investigations into disturbances likely linked to magical activity. They range from vandalism to burglary to homicide.

Karia:

That's--okay, but what you're doing is a crime, too. Stalking, breaking into people's houses, illegal detainment, cruel and unusual punishment, murdering mages? How do you explain that?

Mason:

We do it in self-defense.

Karia:

Self-defense?

Mason:

If you have an entire race of people with extraneous and dangerous powers to harm the populace, the only responsible thing is to neutralize the threat before it grows.

Karia:

What about me? I'm a healer. What danger am I posing?

Mason:

You're a teleporter. Do you realize what you did to that poor tourist you brought onto the plane? You separated them from their family and forced them against their will to travel to an unknown location far away, without even their passport. How were they supposed to explain to customs how they entered Japan twice without leaving it?

Karia:

I--I did what I thought would protect people.

Mason:

But who are the ones who need protecting, Miss Ezra? The ones with unjust, unregulated power? Or those without?

Karia:

(stuttering) I...

Mason:

I'll let you meditate on that for now. I just want to leave you with one more tidbit.

Karia:

What?

Mason:

Your friend, Miss Ito, doesn't have as clean a record as you may think. I suggest you ask her for yourself. I'll bring her back in so you can have a little chat. Ta-ta for now, Miss Ezra.