

(Door opens and closes)

Mason:

Well, Miss Ito, Miss Ezra, a fine morning to you both. I figured I would let you know it's morning since it's hard to tell in these bright, windowless cell rooms.

Brynna:

How thoughtful.

Mason:

I try to be thoughtful, Miss Ito. Which is why you should consider what I have to say very carefully.

Karia:

And that is?

Mason:

You are both quickly running out of purpose to me, and you will be moved swiftly along to the next stage of your incarceration. So have you made a decision vis a vis joining our side to combat the evil of mages in this world?

Karia:

I would rather die.

Mason:

And I thought you two had accused me of being melodramatic with death threats. Nevertheless, that can be arranged. I will call for--

Brynna:

Now.

(Magic sound.)

(Rattling of handcuffs.)

Mason:

Wha--oh, I see what you've done, Miss Ezra. You can't teleport outside this room so you've settled for switching with me. I can't help but notice you've got my nose. Can you give it back please?

Brynna:

Grab his keys. Let's go.

(Alarm blares)

Mason:

Did you think I didn't have a precaution in case this happened? I believe you have roughly 75 seconds before they have searched the entire compound. Good luck, you two.

(Theme music)

Karia:

Okay, so how do we get out of here?

Brynna:

I don't know my way out so I'm just going to navigate towards the closest mana source. It's usually weak inside of buildings, especially this one, so it should lead us outside. But first, let me help with stealth. I'm gonna help you see invisible things okay? Don't panic. *Boiji anhneun geos-eulbosibsio. Boiji anhgehada.*

(Magic sound twice)

Brynna:

Okay, that should buy us some time. Unless someone has a third eye spell going they shouldn't be able to see us, but they can still hear and bump into us. Let's go.

Karia:

Got it.

(Brynna and Karia run down the hall)

Brynna:

Okay, I think we may have found it. I can sense an enormous amount of mana behind this door.

Karia:

Let's go.

(Door opens.)

Brynna:

(horrified) Oh my god.

Karia:
(horrified) Are these--

Bryнна:
Mages in tubs. Their mana is being drained. There must be over a hundred of them.

Karia:
I think I might throw up.

Bryнна:
Me first.

Karia:
We have to save them, Bryнна.

Bryнна:
We don't have time, Karia. C'mon, let's try to find the real exit. I think if we head down the other corridor we should be able to reach it in time.

Karia:
No.

(Karia detaches some equipment from a mage.)

Karia:
We need to save them.

Bryнна:
There's nothing we can do, Karia. We have to go. Now.

Karia:
I'm not leaving without them.

Bryнна:
All one-hundred-something of them? That's impossible.

Karia:
I don't care. I'm saving them.

Bryнна:
(Sighs) Shuijao.

(Karia falls and Bryнна catches her.)

Brynna:
I'm sorry, Kari. It's for your own good.

David:
Are you sure?

Brynna:
You get away from her, you piece of shit.

David:
Why so hostile? What makes you think I would harm my own daughter?

Brynna:
The years of abuse that led to her and her mother running away from you.

David:
That's only one side of the story.

Brynna:
I don't care what yours is, you cretin. Now do the right thing for once in your miserable life and let us go.

David:
I'm afraid I can't do that.

Brynna:
Okay, whatever, Hal. I'm going now.

David:
Don't you want to know what's going on here?

(A beat of silence.)

David:
That's what I thought. I'll let you hazard a guess.

Brynna:
I've suspected you're like Karia. You have unidirectional circuits.

David:
Inward, yes.

Brynna:
You're a battery.

David:
Yes, so it seems.

Brynna:
Why did you agree to that? Your cells must be nearly bursting with mana from all these people.

David:
Because it has kept me alive.

Brynna:
What do they want with all this mana? I thought they were dead set against magic of all forms.

David:
That I don't know. But I do know that they aren't against magic. They're against mages, and they will use any tool necessary to accomplish the genocide of our race.

Brynna:
You're a coward to be helping them. Make up for it by letting us leave.

David:
Do you know what they would do to me if they found out?

Brynna:
You have a couple months at most at the rate you're accumulating mana. You don't have much longer anyway.

David:
Perhaps you are right.

Brynna:
Let us go. Begin repenting of your sins now by setting your child free.

(A couple beats of silence.)

David:
Very well. I will teleport you out of here.

Brynna:
So you can do that.

David:
Yes. And with the mana I've stored up I should be able to penetrate the ethereal walls surrounding this place. Get her to safety.

Brynna:
I will. Thank you.

(Magic Sound)

David:
God help me.

Karia:
Wha--Brynna? Where are we?

Brynna:
Forest outside of town. Your dad teleported us here out of Anti-Arcanist HQ.

Karia:
(Disoriented) What was that about my--my dad?

Brynna:
About time he did the second good thing in his life.

Karia:
What was the first?

Brynna:
Having you.

Karia:
Aw, that's gay.

Brynna:
We should keep moving in the morning, but I set up shelter for the night. You need rest and I need my meds. I can synthesize the right chemicals in my body using alchemy given the right component materials.

Karia:
Whoa, you can literally self-medicate.

Brynna:

I learned how in case something like this were to ever happen. Karia, we can't go home until the Anti-Arcanists are taken down.

Karia:

I know. We have to save those mages. Wait a minute--I'm mad at you! I told you we needed to save them and you knocked me out.

Brynna:

Sleep spell.

Karia:

You can't just do that.

Brynna:

I'm sorry, but there was nothing we could do and you wouldn't have left willingly.

Karia:

We need to save them.

Brynna:

And we will, but first we need a plan.

Karia:

And what is that exactly?

Brynna:

I don't know. We still need one.

Karia:

(agitated) They're being drained of their life energy, Brynna! They don't have much time.

Brynna:

If you rush in there right now, you won't either.

Karia:

I don't care.

Brynna:

I do!

Karia:

You know what, Brynna? I don't want to be saved, and I don't think it's healthy the way you sacrifice everything for me.

Brynna:

So you admit that giving up everything for someone else is fucked up?

Karia:

Yes!

Brynna:

Then what the hell are you doing? Are you really so codependent that you'll throw your life away for the sake of being needed?

Karia:

I *am* needed.

Brynna:

Yes you are. And you don't have to do anything to prove it. You're needed because you're here, and that's all.

Karia:

Is that what you tell yourself?

Brynna:

You can assume that you're worthy just as easily as you can assume that you aren't.

Karia:

And who taught you that?

Brynna:

You did.

Karia:

Wait, what?

Brynna:

Karia, you showed me love ever since we met, and I realized that if you could love me, maybe I could, too. You aren't my entire world, dear. I love school and magic and being Overseer. My goal is to be the kind of Overseer who stops mages from doing the things the Anti-Arcanists fear. I have big dreams, and all of that is possible because your support helped me learn to support myself. That's all I'm trying to give you, and frankly it's infuriating that you won't let me.

Karia:

I--what?

Brynna:

Karia, I love you, but that isn't enough. You love others, so I know you can love yourself, too.
Then you'll be in a place where you can save others.

Karia:

I--

(Karia stops and the two sit in silence.)

Brynna:

I'm going to start alchemizing my meds. Get some sleep.