

Worlds Beyond Number

The Wild One: Then and Now

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Through the window and over the field and past the branches of the tall, tall trees, the shadows grow longer as the wood grows greener. And somewhere beyond where any can say, one deer path, and one switch of a stream leads to another until finally one is so turned around that the shadows have all switched ways and one no longer stands upon the foundation of the waking world. One stands in the world of spirits.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Their world is ours and yet, aside, behind and between, under and over and through all ways. For there is no part, no parcel of mortal affairs that is not touched by the presence of the spirit. And yet the spirit does extend beyond. How deep does the forest get, Lou?

[The cast starts yelling]

Lou Wilson

Oh. It goes deep.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Beyond the paths at the edge of Grandma Ren's cottage, this forest, which is a forest with a name, and which some enterprising humans have even had the audacity to place upon a map, there is an as yet unmapped forest that begins at the heart of this one. Beyond the edges of the map, or perhaps more truthful to say, within and through this map to a place that cannot be charted or ever fully beheld with a single mortal eye; the deepest wood of all shudders in the approach of not only a wild one, but one of the Great and Wild Ones. Before we meet your character, Lou perhaps it would behoove us to meet your family.

Lou Wilson

Oh, of course. Yeah. Eursulon travels along, kind of in the shadow of the Great Bear. Just this big, semi truck sized bear that's just, like, slow. He plods along and, like, dancing and playing. Amongst his feet are his children.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

A cavorting, pawing, screeching, shouting cavalcade of fairies and spirits. Entities of the great deep wood tumble and somersault, flitter and flap, each of different shapes and sizes cavorting and gallivanting amongst the steps of the Great Bear.

[There's a loud roar, as bright sounding wind instruments and drums rise up with a joyful chorus]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Now, the Great Bear, it is said, was born at the heart of the world before the spirits of Star and Sun first alighted and woke him with their terrible brilliance. And yet others say that it was the ending of the first winter that caused the bear to emerge fully formed from the world.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yet more have sometimes said that it is the Queen of the Sea and the King of the Forest who first fell in love and that their first child was the Great Bear himself. These stories are of little consequence to the Great Bear himself, who, if

asked with impertinence to describe his origin, would much rather and more clearly state his purpose: to live deeply and live well in the Wild Forest.

Erika Ishii

[Emphatically] Shit goes DEEP.

Aabria Iyengar

[Yelling, away from the mic] He's so cool. He's so cool!

Lou Wilson

[Proudly] My dad is cool. Daddy is cool!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The fur is as thick as night and within it grow flowers and moss near his ankles where the mud and water through which he travels allows for the sweet smell of honeysuckle that clings to his fur. Up above, thatched pieces of branches begin to sprout and even from his great back we have seen one or two sprouts of trees, as when he sleeps, he sleeps for a long, long time.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

His great eyes, deep hazel and brown gold that seemed to shimmer with all of the wonder of the deep forest of the spirits. Smell of moss and earth and sweet jasmine flow out from his enormous frame. The Great Bear is a source of wonder and noise and joy, his children heralding his approach with the wild caucus, the wild rumpus of approaching wonder.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And yet, when a long pink tongue licks his lips a fang greater and sharper than any sword or spear or mortal has beheld can be seen. The Great Bear knows many hours of peacefulness and rest and for this blessing is the world of spirits grateful.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

[With an upbeat turn] Of the many children cavorting within the wide boundaries of his mighty paws we see one such child cavorting. Lou, could you describe your character?

Lou Wilson

Okay. Eursulon is young but tall. Is childlike in kind of the way that he stands. It feels like he's constantly, like he doesn't stand upright. He stands slightly slouched and there's just constant motion in his body in that way that a child at play is. There is no stillness to Eursulon. He has, like, big—like the back legs of an animal kind of bent around like the knee area. Big kind of ursine body.

Lou Wilson

But then his head, his face especially has kind of a feline shape to it. Cleft lip like a cat, but with two what are they called when they're on the bottom? Are they still called tusks? Two tusks that jut up kind of deep. He has his father's eyes, that same kind of deep hazel and gold extending up into a plumage like that of a horned owl kind of jetting up and layered along the sides of his head.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Eursulon, being a child of the Great Bear is, to all the spirit world, a babe, a cub traveling under the protection of his father. And like many of this great and fearsome host, Eursulon knows not of what other parent he might have out

there. But though the spirit world might see him as a cub, the truth is this: he is a wild thing. As you cavort and make merry in this place, there are nearby spirits here as well, siblings of yours. And like most of your siblings, with some exception there are some twins and triplets and things of that nature here. But most of your siblings, these are half siblings as the Great Bear has fallen in love, and with many others, have fallen in love with him over the countless ages. And the Great Bear is a source of never ending love.

Aabria Iyengar

Mmm. Also thinking about just trying to be the great, just getting in that body count, trying to be about it.

Erika Ishii

Oh, no, I'm trying to BE that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This is the energy I'm trying to bring. You behold nearby two spirits. One of them nearby is a sibling of yours to whom you feel some closeness in the wild joy of this place there is not much cause for the type of camaraderie that mortals tend to worry about, because so much of camaraderie in the mortal world is based on concern of danger or the need to stick close and stick by. Danger is a foreign concept to you here, under the guise of—the only danger you've ever known is those who cross your father.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But that being said, there is one sibling close by to whom it can be said that you feel close or that you can trust. And there is another here who often has sought to make you the butt of their terrible jokes. So what I would ask is what the appearance of these spirits are nearby? For indeed, there is very little to be said in the way of family resemblance, at least from the dull eyes of a mortal, though, of course, you can see the resemblance in the great and varied host that now parades throughout the wood.

Lou Wilson

Yes, I think the spirit that I feel closest to is also animalistic like me, but a little more squat. I think, like Eursulon is kind of long and kind of tends to stand upright. I think this sibling tends to be on all fours, more like a badger, and like uh.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I literally wrote badger.

Lou Wilson

Yeah, of course. Of course. You know. You get it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I get it

Lou Wilson

More like badger like, with streaks of, like, gray and white. Kind eyes and just incredibly playful as well. I think that the person who teases me is more of an elemental figure, a child of fire. Yeah, they've got age and they tend to stand above the rest of us, and they do not join in the playing. They tend to point and laugh and kid.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As the Great Bear comes to a halt, sniffing at the ground ahead, you see that your sister, Kalaya the badger, looks down and you see that she prefers to stay in this form. She is a shapeshifter, but like many shapeshifters of spirit,

she tends to wear one of two forms, that of a great badger or that of a young woman with streaks of white and black in her hair. And you see that she kneels down [snuffling noises] and digs in and finds an enormous puffy mushroom buried in the moss underneath the tree and says,

Kalaya [Brennan]

Eursulon, look, I found a snack.

Eursulon [Lou]

[With a voice of high-bearing, gentle and well enunciated] Delicious.

[The cast screams at the voice reveal]

Lou Wilson

Eursulon does everything he can to not just rip it from her and waits patiently for her to offer some of it to him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Give me an insight check.

Lou Wilson

That's an 18.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You get a quick sense that Kalaya, as much as she loves you, is not going to stop until this mushroom is gone.

Lou Wilson

Eursulon is going to, in a way that I think, for a human would seem rude, going to tackle her and attempt to wrestle the mushroom from her.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Nothing could be more de rigueur. Nothing could be more completely appropriate in the spirit realm. She knew what she was getting into when she disclosed the location of a mushroom. And this is absolutely rules-as-written as far as spirits are concerned. You tackle. Go ahead and we'll make opposed athletics checks.

Lou Wilson

Great. Eursulon is going for it. That's going to be a 19 from Eursulon.

[The whole cast "Woo's" in awe]

Eursulon [Lou]

Give me this mushroom. Give me this damn mushroom.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

On a 6, Kalaya is not going to get it done. She goes,

Kalaya [Brennan]

Eursulon, no, I found it!

Eursulon [Lou]

[Forcefully] Give me the Snack-uh!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You hoist it from her arms up above you, and you can see Anarion. Anarion is your elder brother. He is a mixed elemental of leaf and flame. The core of his chest is a column of fire that reaches up through his head. And there is a swirl of leaves ever catching alight that serve as the exterior of his body, such that flickering shapes of orange light exit from the dappled patterns of the leaves intermingling around him. An ever-burning body, arms and legs akimbo and the flame eventually reaching the crown of his skull and bursting into twigs and leaves and flame rippling out in hair behind him.

Lou Wilson

I mean, I don't like him, but, damn, is he hot.

Aabria Iyengar

He's the coolest dude.

Erika Ishii

Your family is hot.

Aabria Iyengar

Yeah, your family's hot as shit.

Lou Wilson

We all come from the Great Bear. And, I mean, that man lives WELL.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Anarion is getting to an age that many of your siblings get to. Not all. Some of your siblings do not age, and others do. Anarion is getting to the age where eventually he will either have to leave or your father will eat him, and—

Lou Wilson

As it goes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As it goes. But of course, the Great Bear always lets it be known when the time has come. And it is always the choice of the child whether to grow up, or [in a lower dramatic voice] whether to be devoured. You see, Anarion looks at you and says,

Anarion [Brennan]

[His voice layered and haughty] Ho there, Eursulon. Seems you've caught something for yourself from our dear sister.

Eursulon [Lou]

Well, I won it! Uh, rightfully!

Anarion [Brennan]

Did you? Let's see if I can do the same. Brothers, sisters, siblings, after him.

Eursulon [Lou]

[With a waver to his princely voice] Raah! It's my mushroom!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And as it often does, a wild chase begins.

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon is going to put the mushroom in his mouth and go down on all fours and start just bounding away from Anarion and his older siblings.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Go ahead and give me, you can either give me, like, if you're trying to go brute strength, give me athletics.

Lou Wilson

I think we're gonna go brute strength.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Let's do it.

Lou Wilson

That's going to be a 16.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

OOH.

Lou Wilson

This is what I'm, I think this is where Eursulon feels comfort. In this kind of like, just being in his body and running, jumping, all of those sorts of things

Brennan Lee Mulligan

in the pocket.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As you rush through the forest, you begin to peel away from everybody. You hear a sound. You hear a sound on the wind.

[The upbeat ambience of the cavalcade recedes]

A whisper on the wind [Brennan]

[Quietly, echoing] A road is different from a path. And you may know a road if it has known bounded wheel, or the iron shoe of horses.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What these words mean, you cannot say. But you know from where the whisper came. [An ominous tone underscores the words] Somewhere hidden, deeper in the woods past where you have traveled before. Before you lies a mossy hill, which, you can dart up that hill but you know that it is steep and the moss is slick with water. And you know that your siblings are nearer behind you seeking to take that which you have rightfully won.

Eursulon [Lou]

There's no way they'll get me at the top of the hill.

Erika Ishii

Love him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

At the top of that hill is farther than you have ever been, into a deeper part of the woods than you have ever known. Do you journey there?

Lou Wilson

Eursulon is going to look back one more time to see just how close his siblings are.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Anarion rounds the corner and you see, he smiles. You are not within sight of your father anymore.

Lou Wilson

With that, Eursulon is for sure going to take the hill.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I want you to roll two D20. But this will not be with advantage or disadvantage. You will take the number farthest from ten.

Lou Wilson

Great.

Erika Ishii

[Gasps]

Aabria Iyengar

Oh my God

Lou Wilson

18.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You surge to the top of the hill avoiding all the moss, avoiding every patch of damp that might give way under your feet and give you to your siblings and let them take what you have taken for yourself. You alight faster than wind, faster than lightning to the top of the hill and burst through the foliage. And see a thing you have never seen before. An absence of trees, stretching from one horizon to the other. You see before you a thing for which you have no name but for which, in a different world, two young girls do. You see a road.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see in a long line waving banners in the air from the ends of tall lances. You hear the sound of metal armor, and the ringing of bells and buckles on the saddles of tall horses. A line of armored knights moves down the road. Though these words would be unfamiliar to you, to say armored knights to a spirit of the wild, having never seen this before, would be nonsense, gibberish, undefined and therefore meaningless. And yet you see, and now behold this.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As the line of knights continues the sun breaks through the opening of the treeless road. And though dappled by the tall leaves of the canopy, the armor does something that before you had only ever seen water do, which reflects the gleaming sunlight. This magic is one you have never beheld before. What is Eursulon thinking and what is Eursulon feeling as you behold this? And how does your mind even process what this could be?

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon immediately forgets the mushroom and Anarion and the chase. He's desperately just, trying to connect it to anything he's ever experienced. And like you said, the closest thing is that kind of, that dance of water. But the fact that it moves with these men as they move, that it's not still. That they are of it, that they are of this play of light. Eursulon wants to see it more, and get closer to it. I think in the kind of cavalcade of his siblings, discovering something or bringing something to the group is held as, like, special or celebrated. And I think there's a part of Eursulon that wants this to be his, then. This gleam and this light with you as you move.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Go ahead and give me a perception check and do this with disadvantage.

Lou Wilson

Oh, must I? Okay, here we go. It's a 19 and a 17 minus, minus two to 15.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay, you, in that case, notice the mushroom fall from your hands and tumble back down the hill, through a little door of ivy that clings to the boughs of these trees. You have stumbled through a door. There's a natural arch of where the ivy meets the tree branches and grows here, that it is covered by leaves, and the mushroom rolls back through it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As wild as you are, you have never been inside of a door, but you have seen many. Your father has traveled to many places. And, of course, in the world of spirits, there are many spirits which dwell in palaces and in great places. Not all of our honored friends are, in fact, wild ones, and there are some spirits that dwell in these places. So you know a door when you see one and realize that this is the first door you have ever walked through.

Lou Wilson

Yeah, I think Eursulon is going to pick up the mushroom. I'm not going to leave a loose mushroom. My snack. So I'm going to grab my mushroom.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think on that perception check, there is a smell in the air here. The enchanting deep earth and jasmine and flower and musk of the world of spirits that invigorates wild things and lulls mortals to sleep is not present here. There is a crisp smell in the air. There is something dangerous here, and alive.

Lou Wilson

I think with those scents and those smells, Eursulon is going to start to move toward the knights, but with a sense of not wanting to, not greeting them like his family or his friends, to treat them as strangers.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Do you think Eursulon ever seen a mortal?

Lou Wilson

Definitely not.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Definitely not. So it's about 50 yards of thick underbrush that gets to the last line of trees by the side of the road. And then there's about 5ft before the ditch. And the ditch is about a foot and a half wide, and then the road is maybe 20 to 25 feet wide.

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon is going to move with stealth. I think Eursulon wants to watch and if possible, take one of these. I think Eursulon is already thinking of, like, "If I can get a piece of this gleaming light, I'll be special. I'll be the one everyone will celebrate. The father will notice me," like kind of that excitement.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You are going to give me a stealth roll.

Lou Wilson

Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm not going to roll for all of these nights, but I am rolling for one of them in particular, and the one for which I am rolling adds a plus eight to perception checks.

Aabria Iyengar

Okay.

Erika Ishii

[Incredulously] What?

Aabria Iyengar

Sure. Sure, sure sure!

Lou Wilson

How about that knight.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You are trying to beat an 18—

Lou Wilson

18?

Brennan Lee Mulligan
—on your stealth roll.

Aabria Iyengar
You could do it. You could do it.

Erika Ishii
Yes.

Aabria Iyengar
You got this!

Lou Wilson
Okay. [With a deep sigh, and a pause...]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Now what'd you roll there?

Lou Wilson
We don't, you know—

Erika Ishii
Go on...

Lou Wilson
We'll say, I have as many hit points as quality of stealth. A clean four.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You give yourself more distance to travel trying to get to the middle and see what the deal with all these knights could possibly be. And you arrive at the vanguard of trees. As you arrive there, you hear the cry of a falcon. Overhead, a proud and deep voice speaks from the center of the column.

Perceptive Knight [Brennan]
Brothers, ride on. I must tarry a moment.

Aabria Iyengar
[Nearly silently] Oh my god.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And Lou, I'm going to need you to describe the symbol of the crest, and the bearing and appearance of a mounted knight that pulls from the column and rides on his horse, not looking at you, towards the side of the road.

Lou Wilson
I think it's golden plate. I think, like shining golden plate, wearing one of those helms with the visor that goes up with, like, a full plume coming out of the top of, like I think of red and orange feathers carrying a shield that bears his symbol. Which I think is a deeply rooted tree, with roots that crawl down to the corners of the shield. And a gorgeous rich green, like a very deep earthen brown of the tree that then blooms into a gorgeous voluptuous greenery, with three blue flowers.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The knight moves from the—breaks from the column, moves to face the oncoming train of knights that are moving in column. He looks to the approaching knights and smiles a deep, warm smile of camaraderie. And you look at this knight filled with this sense of purpose, and you get the sudden sensation that he would never, ever take one of their snacks.

[The cast attempts to contain shocked laughter]

Lou Wilson

Whew. Wheew. Eursulon's heart is racing. He feels his paws getting, like, sweaty in a way that's, like, every person he's ever met has been familiar to him or, like, comfortable. Or, every person that he's ever met has kind of fit into two categories; like big, scary, but never close, and like family. I think there is, like, there's a wanting in this person. Eursulon wants to know them, to be them. I don't know.

Lou Wilson

The thing I'm closest is like, a child reading a picture book about astronauts and then seeing one in an actual suit but not knowing what—there's just something about him and his presence that Eursulon wants. I want to take it from him. I want what he has. I want. And I think that's the word that Eursulon starts to grab onto is just wanting it's like, I want this. I want the way people look at him. I want his armor. I want his saddlebags. I want his horse. I want, I want.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As you want that, you do turn to look, and this knight has your fascination. He is so different to anything you have ever beheld in the World of Spirits. And the final mesmerizing moment comes when you see, as strange as you are feeling in this moment, to aspire, to desire something beyond what is in front of you, to grab and wrestle for and consume, to want something that you cannot put your hands on, in the eyes of the knights that ride past him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

As the rest of the column advances, you see visors raised, and the knights put hands to brow and salute and smile, and you see that what you want, they all want as well. And you cannot tell what has caused the appearance of this most desired and yet wholly invisible and intangible thing. There is something that you cannot name that is in the air around this man, and it is sweeter than any honey you have tasted and brighter than any gold you have seen. It is swifter and more sought after than the whitest hind that flees through the forest from any hunter, and this man has it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

They look at him and smile, and there is something there. And he meets their gaze and smiles in return, as though to acknowledge that this is shared between them. Before the moment where you realize that your window of opportunity to somehow seize whatever this thing could be is rapidly closing, a falcon descends from a tree overhead, lands on the shoulder of the knight, and the knight, not looking, speaks in a soft voice.

Perceptive Knight [Brennan]

Ygraine, I must say, has clearer and sharper eyes than I. But even so, your approach was noted. Honored friend, I am Sir Curran of the Hawthorn. Mean you harm, or help, or neither of the two, I honor your presence in this wood.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

When he says honor, it's a word you've never heard before.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

I suppose what I am saying, honored friend, is that I can see you, and I hope that that does not give you embarrassment.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Embarrassment also a word, that—

[Erika and Aabria start cackling]

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon is, like, trapped. I think, in that way that when you ask a child a question, even about something that they love or deeply interested in, they just say nothing. I do think Eursulon just kind of gazes, is just... holding.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm gonna roll a little insight check for our knight here. That is a nat 20.

Erika Ishii

[Gleeful laughing]

Aabria Iyengar

My god. Here's the thing. The knight is Brennan.

Erika Ishii

[Whispers] What have you done?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The knight doesn't look at you, but you see—

Lou Wilson

He still is not looking at me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He's still not looking at you. But you see, as he senses something, he looks up at the falcon, and the falcon is looking right at you. And you see, he says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Ygraine, is our honored friend still where he was before?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You hear this falcon go

Ygraine [Brennan]

AHK

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And this knight dismounts. He takes off his greaves and boots, takes off his helmet, takes off his pack, draws his sword, lays it on the ground, puts his halberd on the ground, takes a dagger from his belt and puts it on the ground. Leaves his armor on, looks at his shield for a moment, slings that on his back, does a little hop, which in full plate armor, a little hop is pretty impressive. This is a brawny, broad framed knight. Does a little hop to walk barefoot in the forest.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And now as he walks, he just goes enough to cover the ditch. So he has crossed that liminal space. He's crossed that threshold. And he kneels down and looks at you and says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Hello, friend. I am called Curran. Many spirits ask for deference and respect in their terms of address. But I did not mean to frighten you by being perhaps overly courtly. It is a pleasure to meet you. Do you protect these woods?

Eursulon [Lou]

Mhm.

[Erika and Aabria laugh at this and yell "no!"]

Sir Curran [Brennan]

A fierce champion, I am sure.

Lou Wilson

Eursulon is going to close the distance between them. Eursulon is going to move on all fours and just move closer to Curran and put a hand or paw onto his plate.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You touch this plate, and the gold; it is a feeling like nothing you have ever felt. This is as cool as moonlight and harder than stone. And it captures all of the light of the sun with none of its heat. You have never seen a magic like this. And you see your face reflected in its shining surface.

Lou Wilson

Fuck off, dude.

[The score ceases. Everyone laughs]

Erika Ishii

We hurt!

Lou Wilson

You know what you're doing.

Erika Ishii

Dying in here. You don't understand!

Aabria Iyengar

Please!

Lou Wilson

You know what you're doing.

Aabria Iyengar

Please.

Lou Wilson

I see my face reflected in it?

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, my God. I'm screaming and shitting.

Lou Wilson

Oh, that's fucked up, bro. Bro, that's fucked up. That's crazy.

[The soft, sweet music peppered with sounds of the woods comes back in]

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon, noticing his reflection, steps back, moves closer, steps back, and is then going to try and not not like force it off of him, but just grab it and pull at it as to see if he could have it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You pull on it and a full throated laugh as you attempt to take his armor apart, bellows from Curran

Lou Wilson

I think, skitters back like, two or three feet.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

No, it's all right. Would you like to see?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And he takes off one of his pauldrons. You see that one of his pauldrons can come off separately, the shoulder plate of his armor. And he takes that off and takes his shield off as well. You see that the shield is also bright but is painted. It has a very subtle gloss, so it doesn't luminously reflect light like his armor, except for in a couple of places here and there where there are cuts into the shield.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see that this thing is proudly kept. It has not fallen apart. But this is not a palace guard. This is a knight that has known war. And so the shield, though it is strong and sturdy has met its foes on the battlefield. And he holds them both to you and says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Would you like to try it? You are of a frame that you might be able to wear this pauldron.

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon then pushes up off of his four legs and stands on two.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Honored friend, what might I call you?

Eursulon [Lou]

[Slowly, quietly] Eursulon.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Eursulon. Well met.

Eursulon [Lou]

Who is your father?

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Who is my father? My father is Lord Aelthred. The Lord Aelthred of the Holly. The Bear of Brockvale.

Eursulon [Lou]

Your father is a bear? Oh, my father is a bear.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He looks at you and says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Well met. Then perhaps in some way we are brothers, you and I.

Lou Wilson

Eursulon, I think in hearing that word looks at Curran, and in that moment, they are brothers. And I think Eursulon is going to hug him. It's like a head first, like nuzzle. It's like head into chest and then arms slowly around.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Curran responds immediately. Responds in the moment, to cover you with his armored arms and hold you in this way. And I think this is the moment where Curran realizes you are a child.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Well met, brother. Little one, I feel that I should say that our fathers are indeed great. And I feel that your father may not only be a bear but may in fact be The Bear. In some ways, my father is the bear as well, though he is called the Bear of Brockvale, and—

Eursulon [Lou]

He's not THE Bear.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Not The Bear, no. But, brothers, still we remain. My father earned his name from his ferocity, but more his stalwartness that he held Brockvale for six nights and seven days.

Lou Wilson

That means nothing to Eursulon at all. Just kind of glazes over. But it's just the intention and the like, the, I think Eursulon sees the way in which current communicates this information and the pride that he has in his father from where he gets his name. And I think Eursulon connects to that.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

As you have said, you are the protector of these woods, and I honor you and thank you for allowing my brethren and I, my fellow knights—

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And this is the first time you've heard the word knight.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

—fellow knights, passage through your woods. I hope that we remain in your blessing and with the honor of your safe-keeping.

Eursulon [Lou]

Mhm. You are a—

Sir Curran [Brennan]

A knight.

Lou Wilson

Eursolon cocks his head.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He smiles and says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]

At their best, a knight is a warrior. Which is to say, one who prizes danger for themselves over the thought of danger for another. A knight is one who puts himself in the path of chaos and dismay, of trouble and trial and tribulation, who seeks the doing of great deeds that the sun might shine more brightly on those in need.

Sir Curran [Brennan]

There are some, I should say, brave spirit, who give themselves this name falsely. There are some knights who move through the world believing that their birthright is that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see, he points to the sword which he left on the side of the road. And he turns his shield around, swiveling it on its point, this kite shield. Swivels it, shows his crest, and he says, but this is the mark of a knight

Lou Wilson

Eursolon nods, and is going to reach down for the shoulder piece and hold it and just clutch it to his chest.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Curran smiles, looks at that and says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]

For the protection of such a noble spirit, a pauldron is a respectable price to pay.

Lou Wilson

In that moment, Eursolon is going to mirror the kneeling of Curran back to him.

[Erika and Aabria hold back quiet sighs and squeals]

Sir Curran [Brennan]

Thank you for safe passage. May you wear the pauldron in peace, and with pride.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You can tell that Curran is venerating you in this moment. He knows that you are—he can feel that you are young, but you can feel him readying to leave. You can feel him, that he has come, that you have— to him, he this is an honoring of the spirits. He has come to the woods and a magical creature has arrived. And there is no shrine here, but he has given an offering, the pauldron of his armor is the offering he gives. And he waits calmly in a way, even though he can tell that you are young and a child, he waits almost for your leave. Unless there is anything left that Eursulon wishes of him, but you can see that he waits for your leave.

Lou Wilson

They kneel there like an awkward amount of time. I think Eursulon doesn't want to leave, but also the idea of going with him, I think, is conflicted. And so I think Eursulon just wants to stay in this moment.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Give me a wisdom check.

Lou Wilson

18. Big daddy rolls over here.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Big daddy rolls over here.

Lou Wilson

For this child!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

This is a moment of actual awareness, in a moment. I think you do, on an 18 realize that there's something—if you were to follow him on the road, he would not want you to follow without telling your father.

Lou Wilson

And I think also it doesn't feel right for, Eursulon doesn't, as much as he doesn't want the moment to end, now that he has the Pauldron and it's his, and the man's not going to be mad that he takes it and he's going got all these words that he, wants understanding, but maybe isn't even sure how he'd go about getting it, is going to just put the mushroom—do we still have this mushroom? Canon, I still got this mushroom?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yeah.

Lou Wilson

We'll give this man this mushroom.

Eursulon [Lou]

A snack. My snack.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
He cradles it in his hands.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Brother Eursulon, you honor me. The blessing of safe passage was gift enough, and I can say only that a debt is owed.

Eursulon [Lou]
I'm going to go home. I gotta go home.

Sir Curran [Brennan]
Blessings, then. And safe speed on your travels.

Lou Wilson
Eursulon is going to go back down. He's going to walk upright carrying the pauldron and just slowly take steps back, not wanting to turn away from Curran.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Curran stands and smiles. He looks at you as you walk away. Before he turns, he calls out to you and says,

Sir Curran [Brennan]
I have your back, brother. I know you guard these woods. My quest takes me elsewhere.

Brennan Lee Mulligan
And when he says quest. [The word echoes out] Oh, man, something, look, because that's the thing that was invisible. He HAS a quest. He he can have it. It's a thing you can get your hands on somehow. But he doesn't gesture to something on him that a quest could be.

Sir Curran [Brennan]
But my quest takes me elsewhere. I know that we fight under the same banner after all. To a brighter world, Sir Eursulon.

Lou Wilson
I think that is overwhelming to Eursulon and he's just going to turn around, and put the pauldron in his mouth, and hit all fours and start running back home as fast as he possibly can.

[The quiet, soothing tones turn to the sounds of an excited crowd.]

Brennan Lee Mulligan
[Brennan's narration fades in] ...You see a sort of pink and rosy sunset, torches get lit and a big banner unfurls on one of the wagons. [An organ kicks in with dramatic tones] And there, wearing a top hat with sort of a black and silver wand, you see there is a "Professor J. B. Adelaide." And you see that a ringmaster comes out onto the stage saying

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you one and all for coming out to this evening's festivities here in Joras. I think you fine people have worked hard enough over the summer for a show!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see a dove [Brennan trills softly] comes out of his sleeves.

Ame [Erika]

[Clapping and squealing with delighted laughter] Oh my gosh, yay!

Aabria Iyengar

The utter contempt on Suvi's face right now.

Ame [Erika]

Wow!

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]

Many fine shows we have here. But you've come here to see the show of shows. That beloved tale of love lost and love won. The story of Sir Gallant and the Princess of Bryony! Without further ado, we whisk you away to a world of wonder!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see the curtains part. You see a cardboard backdrop painted, two dimensional trees, and a tower that's literally about like four steps tall. So it's like an eight foot tall sort of flat structure. And leaning over the edge, you see that there is a woman in a pink gown, an actress, a very fair, lovely looking woman. But you see she's wearing a blonde wig, but some of her own real blonde hair is coming out from under it? Confusing. She calls out and she says,

Princess of Bryony [Brennan]

[In a light, lilting but awkward cadence] Long has the ogre, kept me, hidden away, high here, in the tower. And long years have I wondered, wherever art, for there, could be, brave knight, for which to find, that he might traveleth to this yon tower, wherein might rescue make, of me, his lady love.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see a tall armored figure walks out on stage. The armor is gleaming and shiny, more reflective, sort of like almost falsely reflective, with one hand holding a prop sword and the other holding a cardboard cut out of a horse with barding that kind of wraps around the waist. And this figure of Sir Gallant appears on stage. Lou, what happens next?

Lou Wilson

From around the other corner comes in his unglamoured form, bear-like body, large hind legs or hind feet into clawed hands with opposable thumbs. The only thing is—Eursulon—the only thing different is that covering his kind of plumage is a kind of a cloth hood, that has little cloth warts and things hanging off of it, though his kind of feline face and tusks are still visible. Arms up, outstretched. Walking out.

Eursulon [Lou]

[Exaggerated] Aaurgh, aaauurgh. I am... The Ogre! I am.. a monster [laughs], auuuuurghhh, hisssss. [more laughing] Aaaauurghh HISS!

[Erika and Aabria cackle]

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see that, you see Eursulon. Eursulon's wearing his true form. You remember Eursulon is large. He is impossibly large. He's seven foot?

Lou Wilson

Seven and a half feet tall.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Seven and a half feet tall, towering. A lot of people sort of like, it's lit by torch light. And the torch light and the light sort of reflecting out from the sort of scallop sconces of the stage lights, it adds this sort of otherworldliness so that you can tell, both of you a wizard and a witch, look and see that people simultaneously do and don't understand the sacred thing they're seeing. They don't understand that they're seeing a real spirit because they're seeing something on stage in this lighting that's made them accept that a cardboard cutout is a tower and that sort of like pressed wood painted could be trees.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

But you hear, especially a lot of children, just scream. A lot of children scream and you hear an eruption from a couple of, like, plants working for the fair. As people like, you see that some people try to grab their kids and run. They don't quite know what to do. But you see a couple of plants go "boooo" in a way to get a boo going to remind people that this is, like, part of the show. And you hear "boo, boo!" [The crowd erupts in boos]

Ame [Erika]

Boo yourself!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Do you yell that?

Erika Ishii

Yes!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Eursulon, give me a perception check with advantage

Brennan Lee Mulligan

17.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You look out and see—did you guys take a seat or are you just, like, standing near the entrance?

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi's standing in the back.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Standing back.

Erika Ishii

We're standing near the entrance because we had just walked in following...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So standing. Standing in the back. Thankfully, people are seated. Otherwise you probably couldn't see Ame over other people. Eursulon, you look out and see two adult women that you instantly recognize far off, though they are past seven or eight rows of seated spectators, standing and looking at you. [A quick heartbeat pulses under the words] What is the expression that Eursulon sees on your faces?

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi is a rictus of, like, contempt for the form, and confusion at what you're doing.

Erika Ishii

[Emotionally, struggling to find words] Ame, who had, prior to this been enjoying herself quite a lot, is... feels... looks as though her stomach has dropped out. I'm just aghast at the indignity of it all. And livid it at these... yokels! Booing her friend!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Eursulon. What do you do? You recognize them? You see the looks on their faces, and you see that Sir Gallant is waiting there, looking because he heard there was a shout. But Sir Gallant is looking at you as well, expectantly. It's his line next. But there was, like, a disruption and he's just waiting for a moment. Do you do anything in this moment?

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon's entire body goes slack in, first confusion, and then deep shame and pain and forgets where he is entirely.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sir Gallant looks at you and goes,

Sir Gallant [Brennan]

[Muffled, from within a costume. Also stilted in cadence] Huh, stamp your mighty feet, ogre though you may. Long days have I traveled to rescue the Princess Bryony that you have captured, and put in your mighty tower. Draw steel if ye dare, beast of beasts!

[The claustrophobic tone and heartbeat drop out and the sound of the jeering audience rushes back in loudly]

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon, just going through the motions, reaches down and pulls his sword out. But then it falls slack at his side.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Sort of goes slack. The guy playing Sir Gallant covers his face with the front of the horse and goes,

Sir Gallant [Brennan]

This is fight two. Fight—you start fight two.

Lou Wilson

Eursulon's going to drop his sword [The wood clatters] and walk away. Walk around.

Ame [Erika]

[Loudly and dramaticall] That's no true knight!

Erika Ishii

Ame says, as I point my finger towards the cardboard wearing actor.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You say "that's no true knight". You see Eursulon, walk off. Someone from the crowd is heckling. The guy playing Sir Gallant looks up and says,

Sir Gallant [Brennan]

That's right. [Slowly, without confidence] I am no true knight, because a true knight never flees from a battle. So, though the ogre has uhh run away, I shall pursue him, and princess Bryony shall sing a song to lull... uh, I'm going to get the ogre. She's going to sing a song for birds. Birds!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And he rushes back, and the princess Bryony, looks out and you see, hisses at someone in the wings you can't see and says,

Princess of Bryony [Brennan]

I don't sing. I don't sing!

[The cast laughs]

Aabria Iyengar

I have the observant feat. Could I read her lips?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Yes, you absolutely can read her lips.

Aabria Iyengar

As I turn to leave, I just yell,

Suvi [Aabria]

You can't act either.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see that there is a jerkin wearing, like, pitchfork holding guy over here for this, like, farmer's festival who leans into both of you and says,

Refined Farmer [Brennan]

I'm sorry, ladies, this is sort of a show for kids. I know that might not be to your liking, but the families don't get many shows.

Suvi [Aabria]

You're right.

Refined Farmer [Brennan]

They come in from a long way around.

Suvi [Aabria]

We'll go. Okay.

Aabria Iyengar

And we turn and leave.

Refined Farmer [Brennan]

It's fine if you don't like it. I don't like it either, but, you know.

Lou Wilson

I like this educated yokel. This yokel of fine taste!

Ame [Erika]

You know what? A city this big deserves a better caliber of performance. Alright?

Erika Ishii

And then I also turn around and go.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The two of you march off. Eursulon, you walk backstage. Professor Adelaide goes,

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]

[Angrily] What the hell are you doing back here?

Eursulon [Lou]

[Morosely] I am sorry. There are people, I do not want them to see me here.

Lou Wilson

Hood comes off walking walking toward my stuff, realizing I don't really have anything. Just really, Eursulon's thinking about leaving, just walking away.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You got to finish the show. You got to finish.

Eursulon [Lou]

I can't... they are.. I am...

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I'm going to say go ahead, actually, and roll initiative. [To Aabria and Erika] We'll go with the higher of the two you roll, [To Lou] and then you're rolling for yourself.

Aabria Iyengar

13

Lou Wilson

23, uh natural 20 on the die for 23.

Aabria Iyengar

Oh, my god!

Erika Ishii

Okay, well, that beats my dirty 21.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Brutal.

Lou Wilson

Brutal. Hate to see it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Hate to see it. So backstage. So Adelaide is following you off towards—there are kind of like, there's a small canvas tent that has some easy to set up sort of tables, and there are, sort of, canvas sacks of costumes. Your stuff is in here. There's also a little private, almost like one of those armor stands at a joust, those, like, little skinny striped tents. And that's sort of where you go in, honestly, to kind of like Superman-style like, change your glamour if you need to. But Adelaide is following behind you and goes,

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]

Bear, we need you back on stage! We make our money from selling the tomatoes that the kids throw at you at the end of the show!

Eursulon [Lou]

[Stumbling over his words] I cannot. I cannot. Not tonight. The music box. Can I have the music box back for now?

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]

You want to walk out of the middle of the show, one of our biggest shows of the year. And get this, this is exactly why I kept the music box, because you don't understand the meaning of work. You don't understand the meaning of putting in an honest day's labor. You don't care about Oscar or Agnes or any of the performers in Adelaide's troupe. All right.

Eursulon [Lou]

I'm sorry. I did not know that they would come.

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]

All right, look, kid, are you in danger?

Eursulon [Lou]

No.

J. B. Adelaide [Brennan]

Then what the hell's the problem?

Eursulon [Lou]

These are people who know me from a part of my life where I could have been something else. And I am not that thing. I do not want them to see me.

Lou Wilson

Now, I'm going to glamour.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Do you do that just right in front of Adelaide?

Lou Wilson

No, I wouldn't. No, I know better. I am going to turn to Adelaide and say,

Eursulon [Lou]

[Raising voice] There will be NO show tonight.

Lou Wilson

And I'd like to intimidate him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Give me an intimidation roll.

Lou Wilson

That's going to be a 17.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I think on a 17, that's loud enough for the two of you to hear. And I think even some other people, like, up on stage, Bryony, she's going,

Princess of Bryony [Brennan]

[Truly terrible "singing"] The birds. The birds are ever... uh... friends.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see—

Erika Ishii

Keep going. We want to hear the song.

Aabria Iyengar

Three! Verses!

Princess of Bryony [Brennan]

Ever our friends. The birds. Every bird, the... sparrow, the... [deep sigh] Oh god. Sparrow, The, um, penguin. The sparrow.

Lou Wilson

Name other birds!

Erika Ishii
Keep naming birds.

Lou Wilson
I'd like to think that the yokel in the back is just rattling them off. "Woodpecker. Jay bird. Come on."

Erika Ishii
Bower bird

Lou Wilson
"This is not hard."

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Chickadee, titmouse, uh nut hatch

Erika Ishii
Egret!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
Egret, heron, crane.

Erika Ishii
Stellar's Jay!

Brennan Lee Mulligan
You see, uh—you yell that, Oscar runs back, the actor who plays Sir Gallant, and sees Adelaide, who has taken a step back or two, and Oscar just goes once again like,

Oscar [Brennan]
Hey, I think Bryony's holding 'em out there. Is everything going to be all right? Did you forget the fight? It's the one that you start.

Eursulon [Lou]
I know it is fight number two. I know fight number two. I'm well aware that it is fight number two. My fri—There are people here I do not want to see me.

Oscar [Brennan]
Do you need help stalling them out?

Eursulon [Lou]
Please.

Oscar [Brennan]
All right.

Erika Ishii
Alright, so we head back toward the backstage.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You come around. There's a little lit area outside of the larger canvas tent with all of the props and gear and stuff like that. As you're approaching, by the way, the fox just goes, like [sniffing noises],

"Cool Dog" Strange Fox [Brennan]

Everywhere. I mean, it's just the smell's everywhere. He's been working here.

Erika Ishii

Okay. Great job[?] So far.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

And you see the actor who plays the knight turn around and say,

Oscar [Brennan]

Oh, sorry, this is a performers only area, my apologies.

Ame [Erika]

Hi. Yes, we know the actor who plays the ogre. We need to see him immediately.

Aabria Iyengar

I slam my staff on the ground, revealing it to be that tall, jagged glass spire of the citadel. [A sound of crashing glass] She's at her full 6ft tall, and pulled back a sleeve enough to see that, like, ring. This is a big enough city that they should know how to respond to this energy.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Amazing. Go ahead and give me intimidate with advantage

Aabria Iyengar

Thirteen!

Brennan Lee Mulligan

What do you say to Oscar as he's standing in front of you?

Suvi [Aabria]

Move.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He goes, "Yep" and moves to the side and—moves to the side. And you see Professor Adelaide off at one of the wagons that's not creating the encirclement around the stage, but you see him look. Oscar looks at you. You can tell that Oscar doesn't clock the Sigil but just clocks "Wizard," and that's enough for him. You can see Adelaide clock the sigil and sort of stumble up the steps into his wagon and close the door.

Erika Ishii

Do we see Eursulon?

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You don't see Eursulon, but you see that Oscar just steps out of your way essentially.

Aabria Iyengar

I stride forward and I'm just looking around, kind of using my staff to open little flaps of tents, not saying anything else.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Okay, Eursulon, you've changed into your glamour at this point.

Lou Wilson

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

I am going to say—are you going to stay in the tent after you change the glamour? You can hear Suvi and Ame searching for you out amongst the performers tents here at the fair.

Lou Wilson

I think Eursulon looks out into open field, and considers for a moment just running. And then just waits.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Go ahead and give me a stealth check. And I'm going to ask actually for you to do it, because you're staying put. I'll ask for it with disadvantage and you're trying to beat passive investigation.

Lou Wilson

Only a six.

Aabria Iyengar

Oof.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

So you're standing in the tent. Your glamour up. The flap of the tent is moved with the head of a crystal staff that is partially illuminated, and soft blue light fills the tent as you are face to face with Suvi.

Lou Wilson

You would look upon the face of someone who looks as much like a brother you never had as they could. Of around your same age, if not maybe a few years older. But I do think I'm not looking at you. I think my face is down. I don't meet your gaze, but I know you're there.

Aabria Iyengar

Suvi will snap in Ame's direction to get her attention, to pull her focus, to follow her into the tent.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

The tent you now stand in is very small. It's only about like 5ft wide. So you'll be elbow to elbow, but you step inside. Ame, you see the fox follows you in. You see, strange fox.

"Cool Dog" Strange Fox [Brennan]

Wow. I hate to break it to you boss. We've been following the wrong scent since the start. This is just a guy.

Ame [Erika]

Could you give us a moment, please?

"Cool Dog" Strange Fox [Brennan]

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

He just stays in the tent.

Ame [Erika]

Alone?

"Cool Dog" Strange Fox [Brennan]

Give you a moment alone? How would I do that?

Ame [Erika]

You would go outside of the tent.

"Cool Dog" Strange Fox [Brennan]

Oh, you're asking me to leave? Oh yeah leave. Yeah, yeah yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

You see the fox turns and whips out through the tent flap.

Erika Ishii

And I flip around and I launch myself at Eursulon's middle.

Lou Wilson

I take it a step back and away from you.

Erika Ishii

I, in turn, pull back my arms. Alarmed.

Suvi [Aabria]

I'm sorry if we disrupted. You're my best friend and it's very good to see you.

Ame [Erika]

You're more of a knight than that guy's wooden performance.

Eursulon [Lou]

I am not... I am not.

Suvi [Aabria]

How did you end up here? Like this?

Lou Wilson

I think at this point, Eursulon turns to take you both in and sees you, and your incredible clothing and your gorgeous staff. And you, and your put-together witch's outfit with your perfect hat and your full pouches, which he can smell are filled with delicious treats and natural things.

Eursulon [Lou]

The years have not been as kind to me as they seem to have been to you both.

Ame [Erika]

I'm so sorry. I wish you'd come back.

Eursulon [Lou]

I could not bear to face you.

Suvi [Aabria]

You are magnificent.

Ame [Erika]

You don't ever have to feel ashamed of anything. I know that you went off searching for honor and I can't imagine that you didn't find some along the way. Doesn't matter what you're doing now or what you look like, but I'm certain that you have acted honorably.

Eursulon [Lou]

I have tried. But this world is not the one I first encountered. It is not the one that I came to this, to your world seeking. And I have given up much to remain. Your music box... gone.

Ame [Erika]

What do you mean, it's gone?

Eursulon [Lou]

To remain here with these people, who are some of the kindest I have met.

Suvi [Aabria]

These people took your music box?

Eursulon [Lou]

I gave it to them. At the beginning, I was not consistent. I missed shows.

Suvi [Aabria]

No.

Aabria Iyengar

And Suvi puts her hand up and turns and marches in the direction of the man that shut himself into his wagon.

Ame [Erika]

I'm sorry that you didn't feel that you could come back to the cottage. It was always your home.

Eursulon [Lou]

I know. And it was clear, even when you were very young, that your kindness and loveliness would extend forever to me. But I had already given up so much that was important to me from that time when we were young. And I feared that you would look upon me the same way you did tonight. With pain and confusion. I could not bear to see that from—to have my true friends see me so low.

Ame [Erika]

If you'd wanted to be an actor, I would even have supported that.

Eursulon [Lou]

I didn't want to, I don't want to be an actor, it was—

Ame [Erika]

Oh, thank goodness.

Brennan Lee Mulligan

Suvi, you reappear. And you see that Suvi has come back with the music box.

Lou Wilson

I think. Eursulon melts. Eursulon melts just a little bit.

Suvi [Aabria]

They call you Bear?

Eursulon [Lou]

No one says Eursulon right.

Erika Ishii

It's not that hard. They can put in a little effort.

Eursulon [Lou]

I mean, there are some yokels here who are more cultured, and have more elocutious tongue, but they are few and far between. There's one particular one [The cast laughs] who's been coming to the show kind of every night, stands in the back and comes up to me afterwards and has notes on my performance.

Ame [Erika]

Everyone's a critic!

Eursulon [Lou]

Everyone is a critic. But that is truly kind of you, Suvi.

Ame [Erika]

We need your help. You and the sword that Suvi bestowed upon you, that we have found out is called Wave Breaker.

Lou Wilson

I think in this moment, as you say that, I think there is such another wave of shame that crashes over Eursulon. His glamour form is a full foot shorter than he is in his true form. And I think you see that even that person kind of their shoulders slouch, or my shoulder slouch. My head goes down, and I would say I partially begin to disappear. And again, I turn my head away from you, unable to look at either one of you.

Suvi [Aabria]

Please don't go.

Eursulon [Lou]

The sword is gone. During one terrible winter, when I needed a place to take shelter, I gave it away.

Ame [Erika]

That shelter should have been offered to you freely. That's not your fault. Whether they knew you were an Honored Friend or not, hospitality to strangers is required! It's sacred.

Aabria Iyengar

I just want to go over and try to hug you.

Lou Wilson

I think now Eursulon takes it.

Suvi [Aabria]

It's okay.

Ame [Erika]

It's not your fault.

Suvi [Aabria]

It's okay.

Ame [Erika]

Well, at least now the sword is gone. Now we know. We have a quest for you.

Eursulon [Lou]

Ooh ho ho [Incredulous, satisfied laugh]

[Gentle, sweet organ tones fade out]