

THE HIDDEN PEOPLE

Episode 2.17

“The Ship of Theseus”

Written by

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TEASER

SHAYLEE

I'm so sorry, Mackenna. I don't want to do this.

MACKENNA

Do what?

SHAYLEE

What they told me to do.

MACKENNA

What who told you? The Court? What did they tell you to do?

SHAYLEE

(to herself)

Kill Mackenna Thorne, or die trying.

(beat)

Or die trying.

MACKENNA

They want you to kill me?

SHAYLEE

I'm sorry, Mackenna. I...I...

(beat)

I hope you know.

MACKENNA

Shaylee? What are you--

Lamp pull chain. Small explosion. Shaylee explodes.

175. *MACKENNA*

Shaylee!

Piano underscore.

NARRATOR

Tragedy. Trauma. Everyone experiences loss at some point. But Mackenna keeps experiencing it. And re-experiencing it. She attributes her change in attitude to acceptance. To love. But she still fights for acceptance. Dances around love. The only constant in her life is pain. Tragedy. Loss. Perhaps, Mackenna, you are not shaped by acceptance, made stronger by love. Perhaps you are made harder by trauma, colder by loss, angrier by hate.

MACKENNA

No no no no no!

NARRATOR

Without the light of the lamp, the room is engulfed in darkness. Mackenna's desperation summons a thousand moonbeams to stream from every window, slicing across the room, catching every bit of dust and debris and reflecting, creating a kaleidoscope of cold, white light.

Mackenna crawls quickly across the room.

MACKENNA

(whisper)

No. No.

NARRATOR

Oblivious to the iron shards that sliced her face and arms, Mackenna gently holds the leaves that were once Shaylee.

(beat)

Oh, Mackenna. This is becoming a pattern.

MACKENNA

Why did you do that? Why?! We could have figured a way around the Court. We could have beaten them.

(beat) (MORE)

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

You can't be gone. You can't. I can't do this alone. Goddammit, I need you, Shaylee.

(beat)

I fucking love you.

(beat)

This is not over.

(beat)

Okay, let's think about this. We've done this before. I just need someone who can bring you back. Someone I haven't already killed. Someone who hates the Court and can undo the contract. Black Annis, Robin Goodfellow...can't exactly trust them.

(beat)

Fuck.

(beat)

We're going to do this. We're going to get you back. And then Niamh is going to pay for this.

NARRATOR

Jumping straight to vengeance, are we? That's the problem when your brash, mindless strategy of charging at every obstacle keeps working: you think that it's actually a good strategy. But you have at least one more giant mistake to make with your headstrong attitude, Mackenna. And its time draws ever closer.

END TEASER

176. Ethereal sounds.

SHAYLEE

(groggy sounds)

Did I fall asleep?

NATHAN

For a little while. It's been over a month.

SHAYLEE
(shaking it off)
Where am I? What is this place?
(beat)
Nathan?

NATHAN
Hi, Shaylee.

SHAYLEE
Oh my god. What? How? You're dead.

NATHAN
Huh. I take it you don't remember our last visit.

SHAYLEE
Last visit? What do you mean? When you fought my fetch?

NATHAN
Wow. You don't remember last month?
Okay, yeah, I guess it's been a really long while, then. What, five years, give or take?

SHAYLEE
What did you mean about our last--

DANE
Yep, just pretend I'm not even here.

SHAYLEE
(startled gasp)
Dane?

Shaylee runs to Dane and hugs him.

DANE
Holy shit. You never hugged me in the entire time I knew you, so now I know something is wrong.

SHAYLEE
What are you two doing here? I thought you were both...

DANE
Here it comes.

NATHAN
Maybe you should sit down.

SHAYLEE
Oh no. Mackenna. The Court. The lamp.

DANE
I was with you for the first two.

NATHAN
Yeah, I've reunited with a lot of
changelings here, but none of them have
ever mentioned a lamp.

DANE
Did you mean the light? Like you went
toward it?

NATHAN
No, see, I don't think so. I never saw
a light.

SHAYLEE
So we're all...and this place is...

NATHAN
We are. I don't think this place works
like that, though. What held us
together is magic, and that magic had
to come from somewhere before us. Ergo,
it had to go somewhere after us. I
think this is that somewhere. Of
course, that's all speculation from
years of curiosity.

DANE
Sounds about right to me.

SHAYLEE
I need to get back.

NATHAN
Just relax for a bit. There's nothing
you can do.

SHAYLEE

You don't understand. She needs me.

DANE

Mackenna?

SHAYLEE

Aye. She needs me.

NATHAN

Is she in danger?

SHAYLEE

Yes!

(beat)

Well, not really right this moment, but she's always in danger.

DANE

I'm not really surprised, to be honest.

NATHAN

Shaylee, you can't go back. That's not how it works.

SHAYLEE

You said "last visit." I've been here before.

NATHAN

Yes, but you apparently don't remember it.

SHAYLEE

(getting it)

Because she brought me back.

NATHAN

Who did?

SHAYLEE

Mackenna! Or, rather, she had the Magister bring me back.

DANE

I fucking hate that guy.

SHAYLEE

Well, you'll be happy to know that after she made him bring me back, she killed him.

NATHAN

Holy shit.

DANE

Holy shit times two. I don't think I've ever heard Nathan cuss.

SHAYLEE

It's warranted. Because she did kill the Magister. And she brought me back. That's why I was here and then wasn't.

NATHAN

That's fine, but the Magister is dead now. Who else would bring you back? Who else has the power and the reason?

SHAYLEE

She does.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

177. Paris penthouse.

MACKENNA

I don't know what to do, Shaylee. What do I do?

NARRATOR

She's not going to answer, Mackenna. She has...more important things to do just now.

MACKENNA

I can't just ask a monster who has already betrayed me to help. They could remake you evil or stupid or bald. They could remake you not...you. And I need you, not some fake copy.

(beat)

Shit. I can't do this alone.

Digital tone from phone.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
Call Nissa.

Phone rings. Answered.

ALFIE
(through phone)
Hi. This isn't Nissa, but it is her phone. She made the mistake of letting me use it to take a picture of this cute Maltese in some lady's purse, so now this is her voicemail message. Leave Nissa a message if you would like to.

(to dog)
Oh, who's a cute doggo? You are! You're a cute little--

Voicemail tone.

MACKENNA
Nissa, I need help. Shaylee...she's gone, and I don't know what to do. Please call me.

Phone hangs up.

NARRATOR
How touching. She could have stepped directly to Nissa, but she won't leave Shaylee's side. Or front. Or back. It's really hard to tell where she's facing when she's just a pile of leaves.

Digital tone from phone.

MACKENNA
Call Thomas.

Phone rings. Answered.

THOMAS

(through phone)

Hi, you've reached the voicemail of Thomas Thorne. I'm sorry that I'm unable to answer your call, and I promise to get back to you as soon as I am able. Leave me a message, and have a great day.

Voicemail tone.

MACKENNA

Thomas. Please call me. I need you.

Phone hangs up.

NARRATOR

Could you be any more desperate, Mackenna?

Digital tone from phone.

MACKENNA

Call Alfie.

NARRATOR

Yes. Yes, apparently you could be.

Phone rings. For a while.

MACKENNA

Of course you set up voicemail on Nissa's phone but not your own.

Phone hangs up.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Fuck. Shit. What do I do?

(pure desperation)

What do I do?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

178. Back in the changeling heaven.

DANE

Mackenna? How could she do that?
Changelings can't recreate other
changelings.

SHAYLEE

Mackenna isn't a changeling. She's a
halfling.

NATHAN

I still don't understand. Dane's a
halfling, and he never had any magic.

SHAYLEE

She's a true halfling. Half Hidden,
half human. Liliana was her mother, and
she died.

DANE

Damn.

NATHAN

A halfling with the power of one of the
greatest Hidden? Yes, I'd believe she
could bring you back.

SHAYLEE

She can. I know she can. I believe in
her. But I don't know if she believes
in herself. Would she even try?

NATHAN

You might not want to get your hopes
up. I certainly want her to bring you
back, but what if she can't or doesn't
even try? In this place, there isn't
much to do. You'll drive yourself crazy
if all you do is pace while you wait
for resurrection.

DANE

Nathan's right. We have no way to know
whether or not Mackenna can and will
remake you. What if she can't get to
your remains?

SHAYLEE

That shouldn't be a problem.

NATHAN

I was assuming you died in battle, and you can't know how that would turn out.

SHAYLEE

It wasn't battle. It was because of the Court.

NATHAN

The Court had you killed?

SHAYLEE

Not exactly. I...sort of killed myself.

DANE

What the fuck, Shaylee?

NATHAN

I'm going to echo Dane here. Why would you do that? Suicide is never the solution to anything. Except the riddle: what thing should you never, ever do.

SHAYLEE

You don't understand. The Court ordered me to kill Mackenna or die trying. So I used the trap I set to kill her on myself. I figured that would satisfy the "die trying" clause in their command.

DANE

That's very clever, but you could have, and just hear me out, not died by killing Mackenna.

SHAYLEE

What?

NATHAN

I gather that she's your friend, but Shaylee, her life isn't more valuable than yours.

SHAYLEE

Says the man who sacrificed his life to
save mine.

NATHAN

I walked right into that one, and I'll
own the hypocrisy, but I stand by what
I said.

SHAYLEE

I could never hurt her. That isn't...I
could never do anything like that to
her. This isn't something you could
ever understand, Nathan.

DANE

I think I understand. You said that you
have to get back because she needs you.
But I think the truth is that you need
her.

NATHAN

Ah. I see.

SHAYLEE

It isn't like that.

DANE

Uh, we're all dead, and I'm the last
person who would ever judge you for
crushing on your girlfriend, so I don't
see the point in lying to us.

NATHAN

Or to yourself.

DANE

Bingo.

SHAYLEE

Fuck you both. You're obnoxious.

DANE

Obnoxiously right.

NATHAN

We are rarely wrong, and this is not one of the outliers.

SHAYLEE

It's just...it's...

DANE

If you say "complicated," I'm finding a new place in which to spend my death.

SHAYLEE

We never...never really expressed things. You know? We're close, yes, but we spend most of our time together running or chasing or fighting...monsters, mind you, not each other.

NATHAN

So?

SHAYLEE

So it isn't like we've had an awkward first date at some second rate chain restaurant.

DANE

(wistful)

First dates at Applebee's...

SHAYLEE

It isn't like she's told me, specifically...anything like that. I don't know how to categorize what doesn't even exist.

NATHAN

Shaylee, what are you now, thirty?

SHAYLEE

Aye.

NATHAN

I shouldn't have to tell you this, but
I'll play the mentor one last time.
Even though you're nearly my age. Do
you love her?

SHAYLEE

Love? I don't know. How can you really
love someone you've never been in that
kind of relationship with?

NATHAN

Semantics. Fine. Do you care about her?

SHAYLEE

Of course.

NATHAN

Do you put her needs above your own?

SHAYLEE

Always.

NATHAN

Do you miss her when she leaves?

SHAYLEE

Right away.

DANE

Do you think she's super fuckin hot?

SHAYLEE

She's...it's just...she's fecking
gorgeous.

NATHAN

Well, I think--

SHAYLEE

I've never seen a more beautiful smile.
And the way her eyes sparkle before she
insults you. And when she turns
around--

NATHAN

Yeah, you're in love with her. I think we're good on the details.

SHAYLEE

I have to get back to her.

DANE

See? I was right. You need her.

SHAYLEE

I do. I need her more than anything. Without her, I'm...

(beat)

Who we are, Mackenna and I? That's who I am. That's all I am.

(beat)

Whatever it takes, we are not done.

QUICK TRANSITION

179. Paris penthouse.

MACKENNA

We are not done, Shaylee. This is not over. I'm...fuck it. That's it. I'm just going to walk into Arcadia and start taking heads until they bring you back. Properly. No contract. Or I die trying. Just like they told you. And even if they do kill me, I'm taking Niamh with me.

(beat)

I'll be back. I promise. I think. I'll try, anyway. I--

Mackenna's phone rings.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Oh god.

(beat)

Nissa?

NISSA

(through phone)

Mack? What's wrong? Where did Shaylee go?

MACKENNA

She's gone, Niss. She's...gone.

NISSA

(through phone)

(realizing)

Oh no. Are you okay? Are you safe? Was it the Court? The Old Ones? A giant monster?

MACKENNA

It was the Court. Kind of. I can't really...I don't really want to talk about the details.

NISSA

(through phone)

Are you safe?

MACKENNA

I am.

NISSA

(through phone)

Where are you now?

MACKENNA

I'm in Paris. In a...like some fancy apartment at the top of this tower.

NISSA

(through phone)

A penthouse in Paris?

MACKENNA

Yeah.

NISSA

(through phone)

Is that where...where it happened?

MACKENNA

Yeah.

NISSA

(through phone)

Mack, this happened before. And they brought her back.

MACKENNA

The Magister did. But he's dead. And they can't all just do it. Her creator's dead. Liliana's dead. The alders are probably strong enough, but they would never. Some of the Old Ones might be able to, but we couldn't--

NISSA

(through phone)

Mack. If Liliana could do this, so can you.

MACKENNA

It doesn't work that way.

NISSA

(through phone)

I think that's exactly how it works. You have her power.

MACKENNA

Not all of it. My blood is diluted.

NISSA

(through phone)

Bullshit. Do you think any of them ever made a construct the size of Cygnus? I highly doubt it.

MACKENNA

How would you know?

NISSA

(through phone)

Well, they hate you, right? Don't you think they'd send fucking Megatron if they could?

MACKENNA

Yeah, okay, that's fair, but it's not the same thing.

NISSA

(through phone)

Look, this is not a conversation for the phone. I'm drawing a circle in my kitchen. You can find it if you know it's there, right?

MACKENNA

I don't want to leave her.

NISSA

(through phone)

So bring her with you. Just get your ass over here. Now.

MACKENNA

Niss, I'm--

Phone hangs up.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

(sigh)

Your support can be infuriating, Nissa.

(beat)

Okay, Shaylee. We're just going to scoop you into this silver dome thing. I won't leave any behind like last time. I promise.

Scraping up the leaves and sticks and such.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's find Nissa's circle.

Stepping sideways departure.

Nissa's apartment. Stepping sideways arrival.

NISSA

Oh, Mack. I'm so sorry. Do you...is this a hug time?

MACKENNA

Yeah, maybe.

Nissa hugs Mack.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)
Okay, maybe not. I'm good.

NISSA
Is that...?

MACKENNA
Yeah.

NISSA
What can we do?

MACKENNA
We can't do anything. I can't bring her back, Niss.

NISSA
Do you understand the superhuman shit I've seen you do? Can you even comprehend it? If you could make Cygnus a body, you can remake Shaylee.

MACKENNA
That was completely different. Cygnus's body didn't have a brain. Or a personality. Or memories. I could mess any of that up. And that isn't even accounting for making her look right.

NISSA
First of all, I'm pretty sure you've memorized every inch of her.

MACKENNA
What?

NISSA
Right. I'm supposed to pretend I don't see how you look at her.

MACKENNA
I don't look at her like anything.

NISSA
Uh, you have never checked anyone out like you check her out.

MACKENNA

You're being stupid, and this isn't the time.

NISSA

This is precisely the time.

(beat)

Here, close your eyes.

(beat)

Don't give me that look. Close them.

(beat)

Okay. Picture Shaylee. Think about her hair when it's tousled after fighting. Think about that cute sweater she has with the jagged stripes that inverts the colors when it's inside-out. Think about how her ass looks in those black jeans.

(beat)

Yep, you definitely just grinned a little.

MACKENNA

Fuck you, I did not.

NISSA

Come on. Get over yourself. Everyone knows it.

MACKENNA

Okay, so I might have a teensy crush on her. So what? What does that have to do with this?

NISSA

Well, as I was trying to say, you can definitely remake her body. And you know all about her mind.

MACKENNA

That's absurd. I couldn't possibly know her memories. And just because I know how she behaved doesn't mean I can just program her personality like a computer. It's not like I just select INTJ and Pisces from a drop down menu.

NISSA

I don't know how it works because I'm not the superhero here, but I know that you have the power to do this, the desire to do it right, and the love for her to make it happen.

MACKENNA

It isn't that easy.

NISSA

What if it is?

MACKENNA

What if it isn't?

NISSA

Dammit, Mack, what the hell are you worried about? Why are you being so combative? You can bring her back. You love her. Just do it. Fuck.

MACKENNA

And what happens if I screw it up?
Shaylee could be gone forever.

NISSA

As opposed to now?

MACKENNA

But if I could find someone else--

NISSA

But you can't. Everyone else who could do it is evil. Like super fucking evil. So it's you. You know it's you. And you can't just wait forever. What happens when those leaves dry up completely and start to crumble? You only waited a day, maybe less, to bring her back last time. If you wait too long and then fail because you never even tried, you'll hate yourself forever. And honestly, I'd never forgive you either.

MACKENNA

How very supportive.

NISSA

Don't turn this around on me. Shaylee is my friend, too. I might not feel like you do about her, but I care about her because she is my friend. And that's independent of you. I can't bring her back. If I could, I would in a heartbeat, but I can't. You can. And if my friend dies because you're too scared to try and save her, I will never forgive you.

MACKENNA

Niss...

(a single tear)

I'm so scared.

NISSA

I know, Mackenna. But I have never believed in anyone like I believe in you. And that was before you became Captain Marvel. You are the smartest person I know, even if you never show it off. Except for your plans to fight evil, because those have been seriously badass. And even when you're feeling at your most disconnected, I always know that you love me, and Alfie, and Thomas. You can do this because honestly, you've done way, way more difficult things. But beyond that, I know you can do this because you have to. Because there is no alternative. And I know that you know that.

MACKENNA

(broken)

I know.

NISSA

So take her home. Not her home. Homes. Whatever. Take her to your home. To your room. Your most personal space, where she's never even been before. Tell her how much you love her. Tell her why you love her. And then bring. Her. Back.

Some silence.

MACKENNA
(quiet)
Okay.

NISSA
You can do this. I love you, Mack.

MACKENNA
I...love you, too, Niss.

NISSA
Go on.

Stepping sideways departure.

NISSA (CONT'D)
(breathing heavy, verge of tears)
Goddess, please let this work.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

180. Changeling heaven.

NATHAN
That's quite a story, Shaylee. A lot happened after I left. I'm glad you were able to figure things out, get back on track. I'm glad you saved a lot of changelings. I'm glad you found Mackenna. Thank you for helping her, Dane.

DANE
What the hell else was I supposed to do after you went and died for her?

SHAYLEE
I felt awful about what happened to you. Every day. I always wanted to tell you, wished I could see you again to say how sorry I was for how I treated you.

NATHAN
I know.

SHAYLEE

No, you couldn't know how...wait, did I already tell you all of this last time I was here.

NATHAN

Well...basically, yes.

SHAYLEE

Why didn't you stop me? I made you listen to my life story again?

NATHAN

Okay, first of all, remember how I said this place doesn't have much to do? Even an old story is better than nothing at all. And second of all, I didn't get to hear about the giant monster the last time.

DANE

For the record, who was right about that one, hmm?

SHAYLEE

Regardless, you should have told me. I could've talked about something else.

NATHAN

If you could see how much it clearly means to you to share your experiences, you'd understand why I just enjoyed the story again.

SHAYLEE

I never deserved you, Nathan.

NATHAN

This isn't a competition for who's worse than the other. We both wound up in the same place, right? We're not different. I'm not better than you.

SHAYLEE

I don't think that's true.

DANE
Neither do I.

SHAYLEE
Fuck off, Dane.

DANE
It's good to have the band back together, y'know?

SHAYLEE
How have you put up with this guy for so long? I hope he leaves on weekends.

NATHAN
Aw, come on, Dane's not so bad.

SHAYLEE
Are we talking about the same person?

DANE
I am standing right here, just as dead you two.

NATHAN
And really, it's not like it's been so long.

SHAYLEE
I spent four years working with him, and yes, I would call over a month with him a long time.

NATHAN
Over a month?

SHAYLEE
Yeah. Over a month. Time must move differently in here.

NATHAN
I don't think it does. Didn't you die a little over a month ago?

SHAYLEE
Well, yes, but he died just an hour or so before me.

NATHAN

Yeah, you did say that in your story,
didn't you? But I don't
understand...Dane just got here right
before you. Today.

SHAYLEE

(beat, accusatory)

Who are you?

MUSICAL TRANSITION

181. Mackenna's basement bedroom. Mackenna comes down the stairs.

MACKENNA

Home sweet basement. Hello, ant farm.
Hope you've been doing well. I wish I
could check on you more, but I can't
really hang out in this house very much
on account of all the neighbors
thinking I'm in prison.

NARRATOR

Do you think, Mackenna, that your
inability to deal with your feelings is
a strength or a weakness?

Mackenna sits on the bed and puts the silver dome and platter beside her.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

Yeah, if ants could talk back, they'd
tell me I'm talking to them to avoid
dealing with this. Okay, Shaylee. Here
it is.

Removes dome from platter.

MACKENNA (CONT'D)

You've quickly become the most important person in my life. You're my best friend in a way that Nissa never could be, even though she's still also my best friend. But you're that and more. I want you, and I need you, and this is starting to sound like a really bad pop song.

(beat)

Okay, okay, I'm avoiding and deflecting again. Nissa was right. I need to just say it and mean it. I love you. I don't really know what that means. I've never felt like this about anyone before, man or woman. Quite honestly, I didn't think I was even capable of it. Ace and aro all the way. Clearly that was before you. So I don't really know if what this is is love, but I think it is. And I don't really care if it fits the dictionary definition, because it means something to me that transcends anything I've ever known. And I refuse to let that go without a fight. So I'm doing this. I'm going to bring you back. Right now.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

182. Changeling heaven.

DANE

Who am I? Uh, Dane?

SHAYLEE

No. No you're not. Dane didn't die today. And what's more, if this place is where magic escapes to when it's not in use, a halfling wouldn't be here. A halfling isn't brought to life by magic. Its entire essence isn't just magic and life force. So I'm asking you one more time: who are you?

DANE
Who am I? Who am I?
(chuckles)
Who do you think I am?

NATHAN
Shaylee, get behind me.

SHAYLEE
You get behind me, old man. I've come a
long way since you last saw me fight.

DANE
Away, Nathan.

Loud wind, whoosh of magic.

SHAYLEE
What happened to him? Nathan!

DANE
He's fine.

SHAYLEE
Who are you? What is this place really?

DANE
Oh, Nathan was right about this place.
Magic has to go somewhere. Come from
somewhere. And who do you think created
you, changeling?

SHAYLEE
Mirielda.

DANE
And where do you think she got that
power? Just where do you think all of
that magic comes from? No, you don't
need to ask again.
(beat)
You know who I am.

SHAYLEE
The sun.

Vortex begins to swirl. Nearly inaudible at first, increasing through the scene.

DANE

That's right. And you're going to deliver a message. Because there is something that Mackenna Thorne is going to need if she is to have any hope of ending the threat of the Unseelie Court. Something you found out about not long ago.

SHAYLEE

The stone of the sun.

DANE

She may be a powerful force, but she is no match for the unified might of the Court. Not on her own, anyway. And if she isn't properly prepared, they will kill her.

SHAYLEE

I don't even know if she'll--

DANE

Oh, she's bringing you back. Don't forget, Shaylee. Don't forget. Mackenna is counting on you. Don't forget.

Vortex takes over his last sentences. It swirls

into: **WHOOSH TRANSITION SOUND**

183. Mackenna's basement bedroom.

SHAYLEE

(gasping for breath)

MACKENNA

Oh god. Please be Shaylee. Please don't be evil or stupid.

SHAYLEE

(still wheezing)

MACKENNA
Oh no I didn't give you a voice.

SHAYLEE
(slowly catching breath)
I...I can speak.

MACKENNA
Oh god, I can't handle these emotions.

Mackenna hugs Shaylee.

SHAYLEE
I knew you would. I knew you would
bring--

Mackenna slaps Shaylee.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)
Ow?

MACKENNA
What the fuck, Shaylee? What the actual
fuck?!

SHAYLEE
Okay, I see that these emotions are
overwhelming and also very conflicting.

MACKENNA
You killed yourself!

SHAYLEE
To save you.

MACKENNA
Y'know, maybe you could have told me
what was going on so that we could at
least try to find a way around it
before you solved the problem by dying!

SHAYLEE
I knew you'd talk me out of it, and I
had to make a choice. It was you or me.

MACKENNA
Well, I would have chosen me.

SHAYLEE

I couldn't have brought you back.

MACKENNA

I could have failed to bring you back.

SHAYLEE

I never doubted you.

MACKENNA

Perhaps you could have told me that ahead of time.

SHAYLEE

I'm sorry. I was just...I couldn't let anything happen to you. The Court--

MACKENNA

--is done with you.

SHAYLEE

What?

MACKENNA

I brought you back with my life force. Only mine. So you're no longer bound to the Court. They have absolutely no power over you whatsoever.

SHAYLEE

I...I don't know what to say.

MACKENNA

I freed you from years of slavery. You can thank me if you want.

SHAYLEE

Thank you. Oh my god, thank you.

MACKENNA

I would do anything for you.

SHAYLEE

I would do the same for you.

MACKENNA

I don't really know if this is a thing
I'm supposed to say right now, or if
I'm supposed to wait or whatever, but
I'm tired of waiting. We could be dead
in five minutes with the lives we lead.
So I'm just going to say it.

SHAYLEE

I love you.

MACKENNA

Well, yeah. Duh.

SHAYLEE

(kisses Mackenna)

MACKENNA

That was...unexpected...

SHAYLEE

What did you think I was going to do?

MACKENNA

Well, I didn't even really get to say
it.

SHAYLEE

(bigger kiss)

MACKENNA

Shit, do you even want me to say it?

SHAYLEE

(kissing Mackenna)

MACKENNA

(while being kissed)

I love you.

SHAYLEE

(laughing)

You sound like one of those dogs that
talks.

MACKENNA

Oh my god, you say the sexiest things.

SHAYLEE

(laughs)

You just brought me back to kiss me,
didn't you?

MACKENNA

Uh, excuse me? Who kissed who, exactly?

SHAYLEE

Semantics.

(beat)

That...I feel like there's something
I'm supposed to tell you.

MACKENNA

You already said it.

SHAYLEE

No...something else...

MACKENNA

Whatever it is, it can wait until
morning.

SHAYLEE

You're tired?

MACKENNA

Not even a little bit.

Mackenna tackles Shaylee to the bed.

MACKENNA/SHAYLEE

(giggling, kissing)

Mackenna/Shaylee music plays

NARRATOR

Enjoy tonight. But don't forget,
Shaylee. Mackenna's very life depends
on it. Yours might, too.

THE END