

[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: **Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Six: "Persistence of Memory"**

INT. PLINIO'S SHOP

[Plinio's shop. Plinio is cleaning up. The door opens and Mack walks in.]

MACK: Where's Kai?

PLINIO: She fell asleep about five minutes after you left. How long had she been up?

MACK: Uhhh pff ("I dunno" noise)

PLINIO: Well, she's been on the run all day, I bet. (beat) So how did it go?

MACK: Not ... great.

PLINIO: Ha! Color me shocked.

MACK: Chandley was there but she didn't take the bait. I thought you said the Hall was going crazy searching for this chick.

PLINIO: My source *is* reliable.

MACK: But Her Royal Sorceressness would rather keep running around the city looking for her than take this stupid scribble off me!

PLINIO: Oh come on, Mack. You thought it would be easy?

MACK: I *thought* she'd recognize a good deal when she saw one. I thought Kai was *worth* something to her.

PLINIO: *Think* about it. The Royal Sorceress her actual self came down from her tower to a trash heap to offer you money. She wouldn't do that unless she was desperate.

MACK: Not desperate enough, apparently!

PLINIO: I don't know, Mack. Everyone's got their limits and you found hers.

Seems she's determined to keep you chained up with her magical mark, and it looks like you'll need more than that to get her to remove it. (beat) If she even can.

MACK: (shaken by the possibility) Oh uhhh... Y-Y-You -- You think she can't take it off?

PLINIO: (crap, shouldn't have said that) Aw, Mack. I'm -- I'm just talking out my ass, okay? I don't know magic. Maybe you should ask the teenager you've been dragging around all day. She's a sorceress too, isn't she?

MACK: (laughs) Yeah, no way. I am not, I repeat *not*, letting her into my personal business. (beat) (thoughtful) Chandley said something though. That she could uh ... she said she could track me.

PLINIO: (concerned) She said that?

MACK: This thing on me *is* her magic. What if she *can* trace it?

PLINIO: But that doesn't make sense. If she can find you like that, she could've found you any time.

MACK: Maybe she could've. Maybe she just didn't have a reason to.

PLINIO: (worried) And maybe you just gave her a reason.

MACK: I gotta ... oh ... lemme think ... mm? Okay. I gotta get Kai out of the city.

PLINIO: All right. Well, at the very least you need to get her the hell out of my shop. The last thing I need is a truck full of Hall agents in here.

MACK: Yeah, no kiddin'. (beat) (snaps fingers) I can use Oublie's tunnels. I know she won't squeal on me -- well, not to the Hall anyway. That'll keep us off the radar until we hit, uh, the edge of town. If I can just stash Kai somewhere in like, uh, Silverton or Fanville, let Chandley sweat for a while ...

PLINIO: Or you can stop with this ridiculous scheme and let the kid go.

MACK: Eh, I still got a few contacts. Someone's gotta have a spare room.

[Kai wanders into the room.]

PLINIO: Tell me, Mack. Are any of those "contacts" trained cybernetic

mechanics? Because if something happens and I can't get to you ...

KAILIRA: (yawning sleepily) What's uh ... what's going on?

MACK: (switching gears) Ohh hey kiddo, how'd you like to see more of the fine country of Hallamere?

KAILIRA: (fully awake now and excited) Really?? You mean ... there's more places I can see?

MACK: I mean the Royal Sorceress *is* nippin' at our heels. If you wanna keep her manicured mitts off ya, we gotta skip town for a few days.

KAILIRA: Can we go to Grinspire? It looked amazing in the books! Oh and there was the Crystal Forest, I think that's in bloom now, and then we could --

MACK: Ah ah ah let's start with uh Silverton, all right? I don't got the funds for a fancy vacation, yeesh. (beat) Well, c'mon.

KAILIRA: Right now?

PLINIO: Mack, it's a million o'clock and she's barely slept.

MACK: Pshaw, whatever, come on, teenagers are immortal. Grab your coat, kid. We're gonna take the uh ... not-so-scenic route.

[Creepy dark tunnels under the city. There's the occasional drip or rat squeak or skittering bug.]

MACK: Okay, okay, watch your step. Here, take the flashlight. You can't really see very well, huh?

(He hands her the flashlight and she fumbles it a bit)

KAILIRA: Oh. Uh, sure. I-I grab this end, right?

MACK: (mostly to himself) Man, I miss my old night vision ...

KAILIRA: Are you sure we're safe down here?

MACK: I mean ... safe as anything. Right? And even better, safe from anyone snoopin' on -- uh, on your spells, right. Best way to get magical contraband across the city.

KAILIRA: If you say so. (beat) Hang on. I want to look at this.

[Kai stops to peer at the wall, and Mack stops too]

MACK: Look at what?

KAILIRA: This leyline right -- oh. You probably can't see it.

MACK: I mean, it *does* like a wall covered in rat crap to me.

KAILIRA: The way it's worked into the bricks ... I haven't seen anyone with skill like this in Hallamere.

MACK: (nervous) Yeah, that would be Oublie. Who's probably gonna notice us if we don't hurry.

KAILIRA: No wonder you use this for contraband. The whole tunnel system is shielded. But the shield just blends in with the ground unless you're right --

MACK: Fascinatin' and all but we should really keep moving.

KAILIRA: But look, right here it's so finely woven I just --

MACK: Kai.

KAILIRA: (with great reluctance) Okay, okay ...

[They continue onward.]

KAILIRA: Who's Oublie?

MACK: Uh ... these tunnels are kinda her ... domain, I guess they call it.

KAILIRA: One person did all of this? It must have taken years!

MACK: Nobody's really sure how old she is. She's just always been here.

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KAILIRA: I don't suppose I could talk to her? I wanna know how she calibrated the --

MACK: Kid, I'll be straight with you, she kiiiiinda creeps me out so can we *please* --

[Oubliette's voice echoes around the tunnel, almost like it's coming from several places at once.]

OUBLIETTE: Well, well, well.

MACK: Ah, dammit. (resigned) Hey, Oublie.

OUBLIETTE: You haven't been down here in a while.

MACK: Yeah well you, uh. You know how it is. Busy busy.

OUBLIETTE: Or rather, *not* busy. Nobody hires you much anymore, do they.

MACK: (laughs) You always hit me where it hurts.

OUBLIETTE: What brings you to my little slice of heaven?

MACK: Ah, you know, usual. Just got someone to take from Point A to Point B without attracting attention, that's all.

OUBLIETTE: Someone, eh? Let's see who it is, then.

KAILIRA: Um. Hi, wherever you are.

OUBLIETTE: (low whistle) Oh, bless. You've brought me quite the specimen.

KAILIRA: (with sudden anger) I am not a specimen!

OUBLIETTE: But you are. The only known living, breathing Senexian in the entire world.

KAILIRA: (still angry) Oh thank you so much, you had to bring it up. You couldn't just let me live.

MACK: (chuckling) Oh, come on -- Oublie. She's a *kid*. Senexia was, like, ancient history. Legends and crap.

KAILIRA: (angry huff)

OUBLIETTE: You don't follow the world of magic, my half-metal friend. I do.

KAILIRA: (sarcastic) Well, congratulations. You know who I am.

OUBLIETTE: They found you in the Spellweft Tower, perfectly preserved in magical crystal it took three weeks to break. Like an insect in amber.

KAILIRA: You're still talking like I'm a fossil or something!

OUBLIETTE: Aren't you?

MACK: (chuckling) This? This is crazy talk. You're trying to tell me this girl is like ... a thousand years old?

OUBLIETTE: Go on. Tell him.

KAILIRA: (reluctantly) Seven hundred fifty-eight. But most of that, I was ... oh, you don't have a word. Unconscious? In stasis, that's it.

MACK: (flabbergasted) Okay, just wait. Wait wait. Really? But didn't Senexia ... explode or something?

KAILIRA: (reluctantly) There was a volcano. It wiped us out.

OUBLIETTE: All except you.

KAILIRA: I was going to compliment your leylines but now you're just being an insensitive jerk.

OUBLIETTE: I've been wondering what happened to her.

MACK: What d'you mean?

OUBLIETTE: Oh, the excitement when she was discovered! The accolades to the archaeologists who uncovered her! All those talks and conferences and speeches when she was revealed to the elite of the academic world! (beat) But then ... at every appearance she was a little paler, a little thinner. Wasting away, right in front of the cameras.

OUBLIETTE: The academic appearances stopped. The research papers became vague as to her whereabouts. The Hall of Magic stopped answering questions about her. (sigh of satisfaction) Now I know she hasn't vanished forever.

KAILIRA: I'm right! Here! (frustrated punching noise)

[Kailira punches the wall and it reverberates in a weird magical way.]

OUBLIETTE: (sharp breath sucked between the teeth)

MACK: (nervous) Whoa hey there, kiddo. Simmer down. I'm uh-hh (nervous laugh) pretty sure the walls shouldn't wobble like that.

KAILIRA: (not very simmered down) You don't have to talk about me like I'm not a person!

MACK: (still nervous) Did I mention we're like a zillion feet underground?

OUBLIETTE: (absolutely calm) You are in my domain. I speak as I please.

KAILIRA: And who are you then? Do I get to pick apart *your* history?

MACK: (between his teeth) Stop poking her, Kai.

KAILIRA: Why don't you show yourself? Talk face to face?

OUBLIETTE: (laughs) Tell her.

MACK: (sigh) Kid, nobody sees Oublie, ever. She's just ... here.

KAILIRA: (realizing) Oublie is short for Oubliette.

OUBLIETTE: Yes.

KAILIRA: You stay down here to be forgotten.

OUBLIETTE: Stricken from the records forever. I am forgotten ... but I remember.

And now, I can remember you.

MACK: (under his breath, to Kai) You see why she creeps me out?

OUBLIETTE: My tunnels are secret from the world, but within them I turn over secrets. He knows who you are now. I wonder, do you know who *he* is?

MACK: Look, no need to overcomplicate things, now. I'm just tryin' to get her outside of the city. Would you be so kind, would it be in your power, could you *please* just point the way?

OUBLIETTE: Of course.

[The soft magical sound of something lighting up along the tunnels.]

OUBLIETTE: Follow the lights.

MACK: Thank you. We'll get outta your hair now, okay?

OUBLIETTE: Do come back and let me know how it went. (laughs)

[The laugh echoes and fades out until it feels like Oubliette is gone.]

MACK: (shudders) Okay. Now look. C'mon. Let's get outta here before she gets *personal* again.

KAILIRA: I'm gonna come back here sometime and if she doesn't apologize I'll start a feedback loop in her leylines that'll --

MACK: Would you just quit it already? Come on!

[Chandley's office again. It's nice and plush and quiet and swank.]

[Chandley is trying to calibrate something complicated and magical-sounding,

and it's clearly not working.]

CHANDLEY: (to herself) Oh, come on ... (beat) If I just ...

[She fiddles a moment longer, then the whole thing just shuts down like the plug's been pulled.]

CHANDLEY: (frustrated noise) This doesn't make any sense! He couldn't have just vanished!

[A knock at the door.]

CHANDLEY: (snaps) What?!

ARVEN: (taken aback) You ... sent for me, Lady Chandley?

CHANDLEY: (everything is completely under control) Ah. Yes. Apprentice Arven. I have a task for you.

ARVEN: Yes, my lady.

CHANDLEY: It appears I will need another change of tactics. Pull the data from the magical sensor network for the past hour. Look for any major surges that might indicate something like a teleportation spell.

ARVEN: Check the sensors for powerful magic use, got it.

CHANDLEY: Have someone watch the cameras on the roads out of the city as well. We can't alarm the public by setting up road blocks, but if someone tries to sneak her out, I want to know when and where.

ARVEN: Yes ma'am.

CHANDLEY: Let me know the instant you find anything. Now go!

Sound FX: Arven hurries away

CHANDLEY: (wearily) Damn you. Where are you hiding her?

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[Oubliette's domain, those creepy dark tunnels under the city.]

MACK: So. Uhhhh ... that was all true, wasn't it. I mean, I've never heard of Oublie being wrong about anything.

KAILIRA: (sigh) Yes. Everything she said was true.

MACK: And you're really ...?

KAILIRA: (exasperated) Yes!

MACK: You coulda said.

KAILIRA: (sarcastic) Oh sure, I just go "My name is Kai, my country is gone, and everyone I knew died over seven hundred years ago, surprise!" (beat) And then you'd treat me like everyone else does. Like a "specimen".

MACK: Hey! Do I look like I can even *spell* specimen? That crap's for nerds.

KAILIRA: This whole thing has been my first chance since I got here to meet people who didn't already know who I am. I was kind of enjoying it. (beat) Almost started to feel normal again. (angry) And then somebody had to ruin it.

MACK: Eh, I should've warned you about Oublie. She loves draggin' up stuff like that. (beat) (still wrapping his head around it) Man, I can't believe this whole time, you've been ... I mean you saw all that ancient stuff and ...

KAILIRA: Just stop, all right? Please. That's my home you're talking about. For you and everyone else it's been centuries but for me it's only been a few years and it still hurts.

MACK: Oh. I-I didn't ... ah, jeez. I'm sorry, kid.

KAILIRA: It's okay. I mean it's not, but ... I know you're not trying to be cruel. Unlike *some* people.

MACK: You don't have any kind of family still around? Like great-great-great-

great-great-great grandcousins or something?

KAILIRA: No. Nobody in my family made it.

MACK: Damn. (beat) Look, I'm not gonna pretend I know exactly what you're goin' through. But I ... (clears throat, he's not good at this feelings crap) Yeah, uh. A couple years ago, something happened to me. It, uh, it-it kinda took my whole life and threw it in the dumpster. And that's ... that's a feeling I'm never gonna forget. (beat) If what you're goin' through is anything like what I went through, then ... I'm sorry. It friggin' sucks.

KAILIRA: Yeah. It does.

[Pause as they keep walking.]

MACK: Is that why Chandley's looking for you? She wants to study you or something?

KAILIRA: Basically. It's not *just* that, but she's been studying my people since she was a kid. She wrote a twenty-page paper about a single sentence I said to her once. (beat) I just ... I just want to have a life, you know? Nothing can bring back my home, but I could at least try to get used to living in Hallamere. Someplace besides the Hall of Magic.

MACK: (ruefully) I guess I can't really argue with that. You got a bad deal. I don't blame you for trying to get out.

KAILIRA: For all the good it does me. It's only a matter of time before I have to go back.

MACK: Nah, don't talk like that, Sparkles! Givin' up don't suit ya. Now look. You see that ladder up ahead? That'll take us out of Oublie's tunnels and up to the storm drain. Once we're out of the city, I bet Lady Fancypants will have a harder time followin' us. Come on.

[They get to the ladder and start climbing.]

[Mack and Kai emerge from a storm drain just outside the city.]

MACK: All right. City limits are right here. It's a bit of a hike but if we can get to the rest stop off Ninety-Eight we can catch a bus to ...

[A faint electrical noise is heard.]

MACK: (faltering) Mmm ... to ...

KAILIRA: What's wrong?

MACK: Ah. I dunno, I ... (grunt of pain, gasp) ... I can't ...

[More electrical sparking noises]

[Mack falls heavily to the ground.]

KAILIRA: (worried) Are you okay?

MACK: (trying to catch his breath) Not ... again ... (sharp exclamation of pain)

[More electrical noises and Mack collapses completely.]

KAILIRA: Mack?! (beat, no response) Mack! *Mack!*

[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Six: "Persistence of Memory"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Anjali Kunapaneni as Kailira

Garan Fitzgerald as Mack

Dan Foster as Plinio

Emaline Tuck as Lady Chandley

Colton Flick as Apprentice Arven

Alexandra Jameson as Oubliette

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Produced by Pendant Productions

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