

[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: **Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Seven: "Uncovered"**

[Somewhere outdoors at the edge of the city. Quiet traffic noise can be heard.]

KAILIRA: No no no no no, come on Mack!

[Kai shoves Mack]

KAILIRA: Wake up wake up wake up ... What can I do ... (lightbulb) Oh!

[Kai digs frantically through Mack's pockets, finds his phone, turns it on and starts scrolling through his contacts.]

KAILIRA: (scrolling through the contacts) Pawn shop ... pipe fittings ... there!

[Phone dialing, it rings a few times, then Plinio picks up]

PLINIO: (on phone) (wearily) What is it now?

KAILIRA: Plinio!

PLINIO: (on phone) Kai? Why are you playing with Mack's phone?

KAILIRA: Please, you have to help! He just ... collapsed and I don't know what's wrong or what to do!

PLINIO: (on phone) (urgent triage time) All right Kai, stay calm. Is he breathing? Is his heart working?

KAILIRA: (near tears) I don't even know what his heart's supposed to sound like!

PLINIO: (on phone) Okay, okay. Calm down, Kai. Where are you?

KAILIRA: I don't know. We went through some tunnels and he said we were leaving the city limits and that's when he --

PLINIO: (on phone) You're on the edge of town?! Damn it. (beat) Okay, Kai. Look around for some street signs, highway signs, anything. If I can figure out

where you are, I'll get there as fast as I can.

KAILIRA: (desperate) He's not even moving, there's no time!

PLINIO: (on phone) Panicking isn't going to help, girl! *Find a street sign.*

KAILIRA: I don't see ... (getting an idea) Y-you're ... you're in your shop, right?

PLINIO: (on phone) Yes, but --

KAILIRA: Nobody else is around?

PLINIO: (on phone) Will you focus?!

KAILIRA: (this is a terrible idea but I'm going through with it) Okay, you uh might want to put your phone on the ground. But whatever you do, don't hang up.
(takes a deep breath)

[The sound of something magical building up.]

PLINIO: (on phone) (baffled) What in the ...

KAILIRA: (mystical intoning) *Catenta foltian atropa makan ...*

PLINIO: (on phone) Kai, no! No magic! You could kill him!

[Cut to Plinio's shop. Kai's voice is audible on his phone as she finishes casting her spell.]

KAILIRA: (mystical intoning) *Dispertiray drifa rinn!*

PLINIO: (still yelling into the phone) You crazy idiot! Are you even listening to me?!

[Plinio hastily drops his phone on the floor. The magic builds, echoing Kai's last line, until ...]

PLINIO: Crap!

[Kai and Mack appear in the shop with a thump.]

PLINIO: (snaps) Get away from him!

KAILIRA: I'm sorry!

[Kai backs away. Plinio grabs some tools and kneels next to Mack, opens his shirt, and starts doing mechanic things to him]

PLINIO: What the hell did you do?! Everything's offline! (growling) If you've killed him, Chandley will have to get in line behind *me*.

KAILIRA: He was already dying! There wasn't any time, so I -- I used the phone connection to guide my teleportation spell.

[Plinio drags a large piece of equipment over, hooks it up to Mack, and turns it on.]

PLINIO: This is gonna be close.

KAILIRA: What's that?

PLINIO: It's cyborg life support. It'll keep his blood moving and oxygenated while I try to get his organs working. (beat) If I can get his organs working.

[Plinio continues to work on Mack under dialogue. His mechanic-ing starts off fast and frantic, then gradually slows down and becomes more deliberate as he gets things under control.]

PLINIO: (under his breath) C'mon you big dumbass. Pull through.

KAILIRA: (hesitant) Is there anything I can --

PLINIO: (snaps) You can stay the hell over there and out of my way. Or better yet, out of my life entirely. I told you *no magic around Mack*. I damn well meant it.

KAILIRA: (fed up) So you wanted me to do what, sit there doing nothing while you got in a car and drove to wherever we were?

PLINIO: No, Kai. We could've figured something out that *didn't* involve bigger magic than I've ever seen in my life!

KAILIRA: My magic got him to the one person who can save him! (beat) He is

gonna make it, right? This isn't ... this isn't how it ends ...

PLINIO: I'm working on it, okay?

[Complicated electronic/electric/mechanical sounds, then Mack's system boots.]

PLINIO: (sigh of relief)

KAILIRA: What? What happened?

PLINIO: His basic systems are back online. Now I just gotta get the rest sorted out.

KAILIRA: (with great relief) Oh, you did it. Thank you so much.

[Plinio turns off the 'cyborg life support'.]

PLINIO: Well, at least *somebody* thanks me. So, what happened to him anyway? Since he was already down before your little parlor trick.

KAILIRA: I don't know. We just left the city and he was telling me how we were going to get to Silverton when ... (beat) Wait. The city limits.

PLINIO: Yeah? What about them?

KAILIRA: Can I see that sigil on his chest?

PLINIO: Nuh-uh. He's pretty private about that. Doesn't like people staring.

KAILIRA: Please. I think I know what happened.

PLINIO: (sigh) Fine, fine. But I'm still working here so don't get in my way.

[Kai walks over and kneels next to Mack.]

KAILIRA: (quietly, to herself) Around here, across here ... that part wasn't changed ... wait. (louder) There. That's the problem.

PLINIO: Huh?

KAILIRA: This sigil has an extra phrase added on. Right here.

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PLINIO: Oh, that scribble? Just looks like a -- (realizes who he's talking to and corrects himself) -- a sausage roll to me.

KAILIRA: It's a geographic trigger. It's designed to go off if the sigil leaves the city.

PLINIO: You're joking.

KAILIRA: He said we were crossing the city limits just before he fell. That's what happened.

PLINIO: (thoughtful) Well ... that explains a few close calls we've had in the past.

KAILIRA: It's not right.

PLINIO: You're damn right it's not. Poor Mack.

KAILIRA: Can I ask you something?

PLINIO: If you must.

KAILIRA: Are you Mack's ... boyfriend? Husband?

PLINIO: (soft sigh) Not anymore.

KAILIRA: What happened?

PLINIO: (deeply bitter) Chandley happened. She put this *thing* on Mack. It messes with all his systems. I was able to get the essentials back up and running, but the rest ... gone.

KAILIRA: (puzzled) Why did that come between you?

PLINIO: (sadly) You don't understand, because you didn't know him before. He was big. Powerful. But when you build your life around being big and powerful, and then suddenly you're small and fragile, you find out most of your friends aren't really your friends at all. They just liked using you.

KAILIRA: (to herself, remembering Mack's words) It threw his whole life in the

dumpster ... (to Plinio) But you stood by him.

PLINIO: Of course I did. But what Mack went through ... losing everything he'd built for himself ... He couldn't handle it. It broke him. (beat) Things were said. Things were done. And eventually I had to walk away. Had to take care of myself, because I couldn't take care of *him* anymore.

KAILIRA: But you didn't walk away entirely. You're still here.

PLINIO: (small rueful laugh) Yeah. Up to my elbows in his chest wiring. It's because he knows all he has to do is pick up the phone and I'll come running. (beat) But make no mistake, as fancy as all his cybernetic heart is, there's only room in it for one person. And that person is Mack himself.

KAILIRA: You really think so?

PLINIO: I know him better than you do.

KAILIRA: (quietly) And I know a thing or two about losing everything in your life.

MACK: (groans) Huh? Wha ...?

KAILIRA: (relieved) You're back!

MACK: (groggy) Plin? What're you doing here?

PLINIO: It's my shop.

MACK: Oh ... then what am I doing here?

[Plinio starts closing panels and picking up tools.]

PLINIO: Well, your little friend magicked you here after you collapsed.

MACK: Was I out ... entirely?

PLINIO: Yes, Mack. This was a bad one. Don't do that again, okay? Besides, the girl says your mark's made to go off if you leave town.

MACK: Ugh, for real?

PLINIO: Remember that one time we were gonna go to Fanville for drinks? Or when you had to bail on that highway job?

MACK: Huh. Now that you mention it ...

PLINIO: I told you the kid could read that thing.

KAILIRA: (reluctantly) It's not just that.

MACK: What do you mean?

KAILIRA: There's something else I need to tell you. About that sigil.

MACK: Just spit it out.

KAILIRA: (bracing herself) I ... designed it.

[Plinio drops a tool.]

MACK: Huh.

PLINIO: (cold fury) You *what*?

KAILIRA: (defensive) It wasn't supposed to be like this, okay? I was learning about technology and Cas -- *Lady Chandley* asked me to design a sigil that would interfere with electronics. I thought it was just an assignment,)-I didn't think she'd actually use it!

PLINIO: (furious) So this is *your* fault!

KAILIRA: It was never supposed to be used on people!

PLINIO: Ah, right, well *that* makes everything better!

KAILIRA: I'm sorry!

PLINIO: Sorry is for when you spill the coffee or step on a foot! Not for this!

MACK: Everyone chill out a second, okay? Jeez!

PLINIO: (under his breath) I should've known.

KAILIRA: That's why I found the geographic trigger. The thing that goes off when you leave the city? It wasn't in my original design, she added it.

PLINIO: (suspicious) Back up. You thought it was an assignment?

KAILIRA: Yes! (realizing she may have said too much) I mean ... it's just ...

MACK: Plin, listen. The poor kid's like a lab rat to Chandley. It's not like she has a choice. She-she's not some regular Hall of Magic flunky.

KAILIRA: (afraid to say it, but doesn't want to lie) That's ... kind of true, but ... to be completely honest, I'm a little more than just a lab rat.

PLINIO: Don't tell me ...

KAILIRA: (very small voice) I'm an apprentice.

PLINIO: Oh I *see*. She's not just studying you, you work for her.

KAILIRA: I can explain --

PLINIO: Get out.

KAILIRA: Please!

PLINIO: (yelling) Get the hell out of my shop this instant, or I'll get a trash compactor to escort you out!

MACK: Plin ...

KAILIRA: I'm sorry! I-I didn't -- I didn't mean ... (bursting into tears) Sorry ...

[Kailira runs out of the shop and the door slams behind her.]

PLINIO: (I told you so) Well. Are you happy now?

MACK: I'm not happy you scared her off!

PLINIO: Okay, did I cross a wire? Listen to yourself, Mack! You know who just ran out that door? Chandley's actual damn apprentice! Her *lackey*, Mack. Her *goon*. Handpicked to do her dirty work. (noise of disgust) Good riddance.

MACK: Will you shut the hell up for one damn minute?

PLINIO: You almost died tonight, you jackass! And all because of her!

MACK: I gotta go find her before --

PLINIO: No.

MACK: You tellin' me what to do now?

PLINIO: I warned you. I told you she was dangerous. I told you to walk away from her and not look back. But you didn't listen, oh no. What would Plinio know? He's just the guy who scrapes you off the pavement and keeps you alive!

MACK: Yeah, I don't need this right now. I'm going.

PLINIO: You walk out that door, Mack, you can find yourself another mechanic. And good luck with that, you selfish bastard.

MACK: Are my ears on the fritz or did you just say --?

PLINIO: I mean it, Mack. I can't keep standing here watching you destroy yourself and everything around you. I can't take it anymore. I'm done.

MACK: Can you just trust me a little? Would it kill you?

PLINIO: No, Mack, it'll kill you. But you're so dead set on your stupidass plan that you won't listen to reason!

MACK: Ohh, and what's your plan, huh? I stay like this till the damn mark strangles me to death?

[shop door opens quietly in the background.]

KAILIRA: Mack? I --

PLINIO: You never think things through. Ha! Do you really think you're gonna call Chandley back and trade the girl for your freedom?

KAILIRA: (gasp)

MACK: Oh come on, you ... you don't gotta talk like that!

PLINIO: Mack, she's not just a prisoner or some rando intern from the Hall of Magic! That's an apprentice, Mack! Chandley's not gonna let you use her as a bargaining chip! Your plan was stupid from the start, Mack, and it's even stupider now that we know what she is.

KAILIRA: Your ... plan.

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MACK: Oh hey, I-I uh ...

KAILIRA: You were going to take me back to Lady Chandley. This whole time.

MACK: (caught with his hand in the cookie jar) Kid ... it ... it ain't what it looks like ...

PLINIO: Ha! Isn't it?

KAILIRA: That's why you kept telling me to stick with you. You didn't want to lose your "bargaining chip".

MACK: Okay, yes, that's how it started. But I mean like --

KAILIRA: I thought you were my friend!

MACK: (sigh) Kai ...

KAILIRA: I was wrong. Just like I've been wrong every other time. (beat) I should've known better. None of my friends have been real since I got here. Maybe nobody's real in this whole stupid world.

[Kai heads for the door.]

MACK: Don't --

KAILIRA: (with sudden fury) I won't be traded like some kind of object! Goodbye. *Hefad skerda.*

[Door slams.]

MACK: (heavy, exhausted sigh)

PLINIO: The hell language was that?

MACK: Senexian ... probably.

PLINIO: (snort) Mages.

MACK: You don't get it, Plin. She didn't learn it in magic school, it's her actual

friggin' language.

PLINIO: Yeeeah, suuure.

MACK: Really, Plin. Kai's from Senexia. You know, that place where all the history comes from? All the ruins and crap? They found her in the damn ruins.

PLINIO: Did you bend the pins off your CPU? That's ridiculous.

MACK: Oublie said so. And you know Oublie, she doesn't make things up. That's why Chandley wants the kid so bad, she sees Kai like a friggin' artifact. (beat) I have to go after her.

PLINIO: Oh, for f -- we just went over this, Mack. You go out that door, I'm done.

MACK: I know.

PLINIO: You're really going to toss me aside to try and bribe Chandley with her own apprentice.

MACK: It's not about that, dammit!

PLINIO: Then what?

MACK: That kid out there ... she's got nothing. Nobody. She woke up and everything she ever knew was gone. (beat) I know how she feels. But when I woke up, I ... I still had you.

PLINIO: (sighs)

MACK: All she had was Chandley, and now she knows what kind of person Chandley is. (firmly) I can't let her go out there alone.

PLINIO: I meant what I said.

MACK: (sadly) I know you did. So ... bye, I guess. Thanks for everything, Plin.

[Mack leaves the shop, and the door shuts behind him.]

PLINIO: (quietly) *Damn* you, Mack.

[The Hall of Magic Command Center. It's busy and full of people. Lady Chandley is tinkering with some magical equipment.]

WINLOW: So, I've got three agents monitoring the roads, Lady Chandley. Nothing so far.

CHANDLEY: Keep me updated, Winlow. If Mechanimo has someone try to smuggle her out, we'll have our opportunity.

WINLOW: Tracing the sigil really didn't work?

CHANDLEY: No. I found nothing at all. I don't know what he's done to camouflage himself.

WINLOW: Does he know he can be tracked?

CHANDLEY: (intentionally vague) It would be ... very unstrategic to apprise him of this fact.

WINLOW: (realizing Chandley is being vague to cover up a screwup) Of course, my lady. One would never accuse *you* of such a failure of strategy.

CHANDLEY: (you're stepping into dangerous territory) No, Apprentice. One certainly would not.

ARVEN: Lady Chandley, I've got something!

CHANDLEY: Good, Arven. Show me.

[Arven hurrying up.]

ARVEN: Huge magic surge, near the edge of the city. It has to be her teleportation.

WINLOW: Definitely Kailira. Look how quickly it ramps up.

CHANDLEY: With this much power, she wasn't teleporting alone. (beat) You two. Get a team of agents together and be ready to head out the moment I give you a location.

WINLOW: You're going to work out where she teleported to?

[Chandley's magical equipment aligns with a magical ping!]

CHANDLEY: No need. I know exactly where they are.

[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Seven: "Uncovered"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Anjali Kunapaneni as Kailira

Garan Fitzgerald as Mack

Dan Foster as Plinio

Emaline Tuck as Lady Chandley

Jordan Drayer as Apprentice Winlow

Colton Flick as Apprentice Arven

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Produced by Pendant Productions

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