

[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: **Mage and Machine. Season Two, Episode Nine: "It's Complicated"**

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[A quiet plush meeting room, soft carpet, very nice.]

WINLOW: (wrapping up her TED talk) ... so as you can see, if these trends continue then the projections are not good. We aren't gaining qualified magical personnel as fast as we could, and we're losing what graduates we have to the private sector. (beat) We can't allow this to continue, Your Majesty.

KING: I understand your concerns, Apprentice Winlow. But I don't believe this is a matter that requires my intervention.

WINLOW: With all due respect, I disagree. This may not be an emergency now, but if nothing changes it'll *become* an emergency and by then it'll be much more difficult to reverse the trend.

KING: I doubt it's as dire as all that.

WINLOW: The Hall of Magic is losing ground.

KING: You seem to see the Hall of Technology as some kind of rival. Eh ... this is not a competition, you know.

WINLOW: I'm aware of that, Your Majesty. But magic is vital to Hallamere, and Lady Chandley is wasting Hall resources on her own pet projects instead of addressing the real issues.

KING: That's quite the statement to make regarding your own superior ... Apprentice.

WINLOW: It's the truth. Look at all the time and money she spends researching the past, when it's the present and the future we should be focusing on. (beat) Right now, as we speak, instead of doing her job, Lady Chandley is off on a wild griffin chase. In a pile of dirt!

KING: Don't dismiss our Senexian roots so readily, young lady. What we've learned from their artifacts has helped make us who we are.

WINLOW: And yet the one artifact I've been told is the rarest and most important ... the one entrusted entirely to Lady Chandley's care ... walked right out of the Hall of Magic, and it took a huge amount of resources just to get her back.

KING: (disapproving) I wouldn't classify Miss Solaneria as an artifact.

WINLOW: The fact remains that she was carelessly allowed to wander the city like a stray cat. If Senexian history is *so important* to us, that kind of carelessness is an inexcuseable dereliction of duty.

KING: You've made your point, Apprentice. That whole episode was ... rather worrying.

WINLOW: (with fake concern) Poor Kailira ... anything could have happened to her. She's so innocent that one of Hallamere's most violent criminals was able to gain her confidence, just like that. (beat) She's safe now, but what if it happens again?

KING: (troubled) Indeed.

WINLOW: (so very sincere) It's just another example of the direction the Hall of Magic is taking under Lady Chandley's leadership. All I ask is that you read my report, and think about what I've said. The Hall itself is at stake and we can't afford to let it fall into decline.

KING: I shall take it under consideration. You may go now, Apprentice.

WINLOW: (smug) Thank you, Your Majesty.

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[The ruins of Building 58. Elinor and Mack are walking down dusty, crumbling stairs.]

MACK: *Damn* it's good to have night vision again. I've missed this cybernetic eye.

ELINOR: Honestly, getting that put back in on such short notice was practically a miracle. It can't have been cheap.

MACK: Aw, Plin always finds a way. (beat) (sing-song) You should get one of these, Elinor. They're so handy.

ELINOR: Nope. Thanks. Some of us prefer to keep our tech external. Oh, speaking of which -- when we get to our target I'll be using these goggles to get some video footage. So don't do anything you don't want recorded.

MACK: I'll try not to pick my nose.

ELINOR: Wait. Stay back, someone's here.

[Hawthorn can be heard banging on the door to the generator room.]

ELINOR: I've gotta get into character.

HAWTHORN: (over by the door) Come on! It's really dark out here!

MACK: I'll jump in if it gets messy.

ELINOR: It won't.

[Elinor turns on a flashlight and walks up to Hawthorn.]

ELINOR: (as "Nora") Hawthorn? What are you doing here?

HAWTHORN: Nora! What are *you* doing here?

ELINOR: (as "Nora") Well, uh, look-looking for *you*, obviously? I mean, I thought I saw someone come down here and I --

HAWTHORN: (worried) You've got to help me. Kai's locked herself in that room and I don't know what to do!

ELINOR: (as "Nora") (surprised) Kai's in *there*? How did she get in?

HAWTHORN: There's some kind of panel she used. I can't just leave her down here.

ELINOR: (as "Nora") Okay, let's think logically. Right? So why don't *you* ... uh ... take my flashlight -- here -- and go find somebody. I think Breeley is all the way over at the chow tent. It might take you a while to find him. And I'll stay here in case something happens.

HAWTHORN: No, I've got it -- Lady Chandley.

ELINOR: (as "Nora") Whoa, we don't need to wake up the Royal Sorceress.

HAWTHORN: If anyone knows how to open this, it's her. Thanks, Nora!

[Hawthorn starts to leave, then stops.]

HAWTHORN: Wait. Don't *you* need this flashlight?

ELINOR: (as "Nora") Oh, uh, I'm not going anywhere. As long as I stay here by the door it's not like I'm gonna bump into anything.

HAWTHORN: Right. I'll be back as quick as I can.

[Hawthorn hurries off up the stairs.]

ELINOR: (as herself) Ugh, damn it. If he comes back with Chandley, we're toast.

MACK: (worried) Uh, did he say uh, *Kai* is in there?

ELINOR: Focus on the job. Get the door open.

MACK: I'm on it.

[Mack goes to the door and starts trying to pull it open, turbolift-style. It's very heavy and hard to move.]

MACK: (trying-to-pull-the-door-open type sounds) It's just uh ... I have a friend named Kai? And this is kind of her forte.

ELINOR: Unless you've been rubbing elbows in the Hall of Magic --

MACK: Apprentice, right?

## **Mage and Machine. Season Two, Episode Nine: "It's Complicated"**

ELINOR: ... You're telling me that you're friends with someone who works for the woman who single-handedly wrecked your career.

MACK: It's ... complicated.

ELINOR: You're not a complicated man.

MACK: Hey, I could be. (laughs)

ELINOR: Just keep working on that door. We don't have a lot of time.

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[Outside at the digsite. Chandley and Vell are walking together.]

AGENT VELL: We don't have any details on who it is. We just know they're targeting the generator.

CHANDLEY: (seething a little) Of course. Worthless thieves will always try to get their grubby little hands on anything of real value.

AGENT VELL: They'll have a hard time getting it out of the building without specialized equipment. I did a quick visual check from the air but I'll need to do some scans here on the ground to make sure they haven't stashed a forklift or a tractor or something nearby.

CHANDLEY: Think deeper, Agent Vell. Are they working with someone on staff here? Do we have a traitor lurking among us?

AGENT VELL: Unclear. It would certainly make their lives easier, though.

CHANDLEY: Supervisor Breeley showed me the security measures they've taken. I didn't spot any glaring oversights, but perhaps you'll see something I don't.

AGENT VELL: A site like this has far too many weak points. It would be easy to get someone through. The equipment, though -- wait, who's that?

[Hawthorn comes running up.]

HAWTHORN: (out of breath) Lady Chandley ... thank goodness ...

CHANDLEY: Yes? Is there a reason you're bothering me?

HAWTHORN: (still getting his breath back) It's ... it's Kai.

CHANDLEY: (he now has her full attention) Apprentice Kailira? What happened?

HAWTHORN: I was checking the cameras and ... I saw her by Building 58 ...

CHANDLEY: Get to the point.

HAWTHORN: Yes! Sorry! She insisted on going down to see the generator room and she got in somehow and now she's shut the door and won't come out.

CHANDLEY: (sternly) My apprentice is inside the generator room?

AGENT VELL: I thought they weren't going to open it until tomorrow.

HAWTHORN: She opened it herself.

AGENT VELL: Is she alone?

HAWTHORN: Nora -- my assistant -- she's down there too. But nobody is in the room with Kai.

AGENT VELL: So if our thieves are making their move tonight, they can't do it without the Apprentice seeing them. But that might put her at risk.

CHANDLEY: An unacceptable risk. (beat) Not to mention, she might try something ... foolish. She's been very moody lately.

HAWTHORN: (worried) Is she in danger?

CHANDLEY: (sharply) Why did you allow her to go into the ruins?

HAWTHORN: *Allow her?* Ma'am, she's *your* apprentice, I can't just --

CHANDLEY: Vell. Start those scans you were talking about. Make sure we're not dealing with a heist in progress on top of this ridiculous tantrum Kailira is throwing. Take this radio and keep in touch.

AGENT VELL: Yes ma'am.

[Agent Vell leaves.]

CHANDLEY: Now. Let's go down to the generator room and I'll get my apprentice under control.

HAWTHORN: Uh ... this way, ma'am.

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[Inside the generator room. Kai is doing something magical and it's not going well.]

KAILIRA: (frantic) No ... no no no it can't ... (still trying to cast her spell) *Menera ... curetis menera ... uh -- st-starun!* (beat) (struggling) I just ... have to ...

[Mack finishes yanking the door open.]

MACK: (yanking-door-open noise) Kai!

KAILIRA: Mack?!

[As Kai's concentration wavers, the magic wobbles further out of control.]

KAILIRA: (desperately trying to get in control) *Starun! Withutan vanda ... ret behersen!*

MACK: (urgently) What's going on here, Sparkles? It looks uh ... *bad*.

KAILIRA: (through gritted teeth, still trying to concentrate) I tried to -- *bilanx genole* -- do something, but it didn't work and -- no no no, *curetis menera!*

MACK: (getting nervous) Mmm, okay. Should that thing be g-g-*glowing* so hard?

KAILIRA: How did you even get in here?!

MACK: How d'you think? Ripped the door open.

KAILIRA: You shouldn't -- ohhh come on, uh, *aldniwe nuralt behersen trowe* -- don't distract me or --

[Something changes in the magical sounds. It's starting to ramp up to some kind of meltdown.]

KAILIRA: (dawning horror) Oh no.

MACK: (urgently) Haha, uh, I need some *words*, Kai. What's happenin'?

KAILIRA: It's going critical. I ... I can't ...

MACK: Critical like a reactor critical?!

KAILIRA: Like it's going to *blow up* critical!

MACK: (shouting over his shoulder) Ellie! Get some cover!

KAILIRA: (near tears) It's my fault, I-I couldn't ... Mack, get out of here!

MACK: (thinking fast) We gotta be able to do something. It's a generator, there's gotta be a cutoff, or a kill switch, or --

KAILIRA: I can hold it back long enough for you to run. Please.

MACK: Look, magic is *your* deal but this is a *machine* right? What's fueling this contraption -- ooh, that glowy thing?

KAILIRA: Yes, but --

MACK: If I just take it out --

KAILIRA: (in horror) *No, don't touch it!*

[Mack pulls the energy source out of the machine just before the "amping up" reaches its peak. There is the briefest of pauses, and then all magical hell breaks loose. Amid the noise we're able to hear the second half of Kailira's teleport spell]



KAILIRA: (casting in a panic) ... *dispertiray drifa rinn!*

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[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: **Mage and Machine. Season Two, Episode Nine: "It's Complicated"**

Featuring the voice talents of:

Genny Sherard as Kailira

Garan Fitzgerald as Mack

Emaline Tuck as Lady Chandley

Jordan Drayer as Apprentice Winlow

Katy Milholland as Agent Vell

Rukshin Shafer as Elinor

Kai Miller as Hawthorn

and Philip Weber as the King of Hallamere

Created and written by D. X. Blink

Hammered dulcimer music by Vince Conaway at [vinceconaway.com](http://vinceconaway.com)

Directed by Samantha Reed

Produced by Pendant Productions

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Thanks for listening.