

[Mage and Machine theme plays.]

Announcer: **Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Two: "The Special"**

[A low-rent diner. It's pretty busy.]

BEE: Hey! No contraband on the tables!

SHADY PATRON: (calling out across the restaurant) Hey, where's my refill?

BEE: Bend over and you'll get it, honey.

[Some patrons laugh. The door opens, and Mack and Kai enter.]

BEE: Back, huh? Couldn't get enough of my girlish charms?

MACK: (weary) Don't start with me, toots. Is Plin here yet?

BEE: Ain't seen him.

MACK: Damn.

KAILIRA: Hi, excuse me, what kind of fish is in the fish wraps?

MACK: (under his breath) Oh, you gotta be kiddin' me.

BEE: Today it's sewerfish.

KAILIRA: (a bit horrified) It's ...?

MACK: They wash it first, okay?

BEE: (heavy sarcasm) Sorry to disappoint your royal highness but the market didn't have any magical golden swankfish.

MACK: All right, all right. Coffee for me, the special for her, got it?

[Mack puts some money on the counter]

BEE: Got it.

MACK: Kid, the first rule of Skeezy's is you don't ask what kind of friggin' fish they're frying.

[Plinio comes through the door.]

PLINIO: Mack!

MACK: Finally, there he is.

PLINIO: You look like crap, what the hell did you do?

MACK: You think I did somethin'? I didn't do nothin'!

PLINIO: Sure. Bee, we need the back room.

BEE: Be out in twenty or I'm gettin' the hose.

PLINIO: Ugh, not for that! (beat) Wait, who's the girl?

[A quiet electrical short is heard.]

MACK: (grunt of pain) Plin ...

PLINIO: Okay, forget it, just get in there.

[Kai follows Mack and Plinio as they go into a back room. It's cramped and has dripping pipes. Plinio pulls over a chair.]

PLINIO: Okay, here. Take a seat, big boy.

MACK: (collapsing into a chair sigh) Ohhh that feels good.

PLINIO: All right, Mack, what's happening? Dull pain? Sharp pain? Tight chest? How about the electricals?

[Plinio unzips his toolbag and starts getting out tools.]

MACK: I dunno, I just -- (winces) I just feel out of sync or something.

PLINIO: Let's start by getting that shirt open.

[Plinio undoes Mack's shirt. Not in a sexy way.]

KAILIRA: (horrified gasp!)

PLINIO: Hey girl, privacy! Do you mind?!

KAILIRA: (struggling to find her voice in shock) I -- I -- s-sorry!

[Kai flees the room.]

PLINIO: Does a closed door mean nothing to anyone?!

MACK: You better make it quick, who knows what trouble she's gonna find out there.

[Plinio starts doing mechanic-sounding things to Mack as they talk.]

PLINIO: Mack, all your systems are out of whack. What the hell happened? Did you lick a power line for fun?

MACK: (snorts) I go around lickin' things, ain't gonna be a power line. Hell if I know. Chandley's goons caught up to me over at my place and ... I did some running and ... (realization) Oh. The girl.

PLINIO: (laughs) Oh, you've got a new type?

MACK: C'mon Plin, you know I don't rob cradles. She uh -- ow ow owwowww!

PLINIO: Well, hold still. I'm trying to get your heart rebooted.

MACK: Oh oh oh, with *what*, a lug wrench?

PLINIO: Hmm. Don't tempt me.

MACK: The girl's a sorceress. She did something that, uh, teleported us across town somehow. That's when I started -- (voice suddenly cuts out)

PLINIO: Okay, your voice'll be back once your lungs reset. (sigh) Damn it Mack, just stay away from magic. Okay? You never know how it's gonna affect you. It must've made your mark flare up somehow.

MACK: (voice cutting back in) -- didn't know she was gonna do it! We were running and then she was grabbing my hands and talking weird and then everything went blue!

PLINIO: (sighs)

MACK: (voice lowered conspiratorially) You still got ears in the Hall of Magic?

PLINIO: (voice also lowered conspiratorially) Maybe.

MACK: So Kai -- the girl -- she says Chandley herself is looking for her.

PLINIO: (groans) Oh for crying out loud.

MACK: Hear me out. I need you to find out if it's true. And if it is, how badly she wants her.

PLINIO: Fabulous. So best case scenario, you picked up a crazy stray. Worst case scenario, Chandley's got another reason to be on your ass. This is great, Mack. Really.

MACK: Look, look -- *actual* best case scenario, I got something to negotiate with. She wants Kai bad enough, maybe she'll take her damn mark off my chest.

PLINIO: (uneasy) I dunno ...

MACK: Just get me some intel. Okay?

[Plinio finishes up his work.]

PLINIO: The things I do for you. Fine, I'll see what I can learn. Do us both a favor and don't get yourself arrested again. (beat) Now let's get back out there before Bee gets the hose.

MACK: She'd do it, too. (deep breath) Oh yeah. Much better. *You* are a miracle worker.

PLINIO: More like a saint. But coming from you, I'll take it.

[The two of them leave the back room.]

MACK: Oh good, you managed not to start a fight or anythin'.

KAILIRA: What? No! I was just trying to read all the things that're scratched into the table here, but I don't recognize some of these words ...

MACK: Ah, okay, no, I ain't gonna be the one to expand your vocabulary with that stuff. (quick subject change!) Plin, this is Kai. Kai, this is Plinio, the best damn mechanic that still takes my calls.

Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Two: "The Special"

PLINIO: Listen carefully. No. Magic. Around Mack. You got that, missy? It screws up his systems and I don't know how much longer I'll be able to patch him together.

KAILIRA: (upset) I ... didn't mean to ...

MACK: Aw Plin, ease up.

[Bee sets a plate and a mug on the table.]

BEE: One special, one coffee.

PLINIO: Okay, well, I gotta go. I wasn't planning on doing a housecall today. I'll look into that thing we talked about. Let you know what I find. (beat) Take care, Mack.

[Plinio leaves.]

MACK: There you go. I promised you the best fish wrap this side of the river? There it is. Dig in.

[They sit.]

KAILIRA: (sounding very guilt-ridden) Are you feeling better?

MACK: Ah yeah yeah, don't worry 'bout it. Plin got me fixed up as good as -- eh, well. Good as usual these days. (takes a sip of coffee) Ohh, yeah, hits the spot.

KAILIRA: You didn't get any food for yourself?

MACK: Nah, not till I'm sure my stomach's working right. Don't really need much anyway.

[Long silence while Mack takes another sip and Kai pokes at her food.]

KAILIRA: So. Uh. That sigil on your chest.

MACK: Oh look at that. You got a whole heapin' plate of none-of-ya-business right in front of ya. Eat.

KAILIRA: How did --

MACK: Not talkin' about it. Eat your food.

[Kai takes a bite.]

KAILIRA: (around a mouthful of food) This is amazing.

MACK: Didn't I tell you?

KAILIRA: I've never had anything like it! This is better than the baked royal scallops they have on Solstice Night! Someone told me there's fifty-eight herbs and spices that go into that but now I don't even know why they bother when apparently they could just fry it and wrap it and --

MACK: (chuckling) Just eat the damn thing before it swims away! (beat) What's your story anyway? Where are you headed?

KAILIRA: I don't know. Anywhere?

MACK: If you want my advice, running *from* never ends well. You gotta be running *to* somewhere.

KAILIRA: (sigh) I was kinda just hoping to grab a room and live out here in the city a little before Cassia found me and made me go back.

MACK: Uh, you mean Lady Chandley, Royal Sorceress of Hallamere, Chief Mage to the Royal Court and head of everydamnthing that's magic in this country? You call her by her first name?

KAILIRA: I guess I do. Force of habit?

MACK: What's goin' on with her and you anyway?

KAILIRA: How did you put it ... (mimics Mack) "None of your business. Not talking about it."

MACK: Oh come on, I didn't sound like --

KAILIRA: (with dread) Oh no.

MACK: What?

KAILIRA: I can feel her magic. She's close.

MACK: You mean *Cassia*?

KAILIRA: Yes!

MACK: (calling across the restaurant) Hey Bee, get your ass out here! You got some trouble comin'!

BEE: (calling back) For who?

MACK: Me 'n' her!

BEE: Shoo then! (making an announcement to the restaurant at large) Anyone who's not squeaky clean better get that way before the door's kicked in!

[The patrons start to scramble.]

MACK: Look, we gotta get outta here. C'mon.

[Mack grabs Kai's arm and pulls her to her feet.]

KAILIRA: She's almost here.

MACK: Don't worry. Ain't you learned yet I always know the back way out?

[The two of them hurry toward the back just as the front door gets kicked in.]

AGENT VELL: Nobody move!

BEE: You got a warrant, officer? I wanna see your warrant!

[Mack opens a trap door.]

MACK: Down there. Hurry!

KAILIRA: I can't see --

MACK: Trust me, you don't wanna. Go!

[Kai drops down into a hidden room, with Mack close behind her. The trap door slams shut behind them. The hidden room is greasy and squelchy and gross.]

KAILIRA: Where are we?

MACK: The basement. Now where ... yeah, okay ... ha!

[Mack turns a handle and another door opens.]

MACK: Like any classy establishment, Skeezy's got some useful tricks.

KAILIRA: A secret passage?

MACK: Dunno what you're talking about. This is a totally innocent drainage pipe.

KAILIRA: Riiiiight, right.

MACK: Now let's beat feet before your friend Cassia starts sniffing around.

[Back in the main room of the diner. There are police/guards gathered around, and some grumbling patrons getting investigated.]

AGENT VELL: You need to cooperate.

BEE: I told you I ain't sayin' nothin' till I see a warrant.

WINLOW: My lady? No sign of her.

[Lady Chandley walks in. This gal knows how to make an entrance. She's got dramatic boots on.]

CHANDLEY: Miss ... (pauses and reads Bee's nametag with distaste) ... Bee. I don't need a warrant.

BEE: Warrant or no, I have a business to run here. You can't just --

CHANDLEY: (cutting her off) I most certainly can. (beat) Let me make this simpler for both of us, shall I? I'm looking for a single person. Give me what I need, and I'll take my guards and leave.

BEE: I don't get my payin' customers in trouble. You want someone, you go find 'em.

CHANDLEY: A young girl. Seventeen years of age. Incredibly out of place in an ... "establishment" such as this.

BEE: (sniffs) Ain't seen her.

CHANDLEY: (laughs) I know she came here. Tell me where she is.

BEE: Ain't. Seen. Her.

CHANDLEY: Well. What a shame. Perhaps one of these fine people can be of more assistance. (to the room at large) My gratitude can be most valuable.

BEE: (in a dangerous tone) We don't serve *rats* here. So if you wanna find your little lost kitten, pick another tree to bark up.

CHANDLEY: Tsk. Winlow, my spellcase.

WINLOW: Here, ma'am.

[Windlow hands over some kind of expensive leather case. Chandley opens it. Something inside is humming quietly.]

BEE: Keep your glowy junk off my counter. People eat here.

CHANDLEY: There's no accounting for taste, I suppose.

[Chandley pokes something in the case and it activates, making some kind of ringing sound like a glass harmonica.]

CHANDLEY: Let us see ...

[Ringing gets suddenly louder, then ping! and some lingering sparkly noises, the audio equivalent of glitter, then the ringing stops.]

BEE: I *said* --

CHANDLEY: She came in the door. She stood at the counter a few moments. Then she walked to that room and out again. And she sat ... (with distaste) Ugh. What *is* that?

BEE: The special. If you were gonna use your sparkly crap to tell a story about this alleged girl why were you jawing at me?

Mage and Machine. Season One, Episode Two: "The Special"

CHANDLEY: (absently) Information from sentient beings is much more nuanced.

WINLOW: She must have left right before we got here.

CHANDLEY: Mm, yes. She probably detected my arrival. (beat) (realizing) But she wasn't alone.

WINLOW: Ma'am?

CHANDLEY: Look at this place. Do you really think Kailira would come *here* of all places on her own?

BEE: (indignant) The hell is that supposed to mean?

CHANDLEY: Somebody led her here. A regular, I suspect. Probably the same person she was seen with in the slums before she teleported. Let's see if they left any traces, shall we?

[Magical noises similar to before, but with a different, deeper undertone to them.]

CHANDLEY: (very quietly, to herself, in a gasp) No.

WINLOW: (puzzled) Is that ... *your* magic?

CHANDLEY: (getting that cool, collected facade back up) The person who sat here bore a very familiar sigil.

[Expensive leather case is snapped closed.]

CHANDLEY: (deadly serious) Our search just became much more urgent. Call the other apprentices together, we can't rely on the Royal Guard for this. (beat) He's going to regret getting in my way.

[Mage and Machine theme plays]

ANNOUNCER: Mage and Machine, Season One, Episode Two, "The Special"

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

Katy Milholland as Agent Vell

Phoenix Emrys as Bee

Marte Brengle as Shady Patron

Created and written by D. X. Blink

Hammered dulcimer music by Vince Conaway at vinceconaway.com

Directed by Samantha Reed

Assistant Director VC Morrison

Produced by Pendant Productions

This production is copyright 2019 Pendant Productions