

Worlds Beyond Number

The Wizard, the Witch, and the Wild One

Children's Adventure: Episode 04 (Version 0)

Lou Wilson:

I need to go home. I need to go home.

Erika Ishii:

But you'll come back, right?

Lou Wilson:

Mm-hmm.

Erika Ishii:

You promise?

Lou Wilson:

Yes. I want to know about Suvirin. Yes, I want to meet him and have him give me honor. So I will be back, but I want to go home. I want to go home. I want to go home.

Erika Ishii:

Oh, let's get you home. So we run out.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Ame, you take your newfound friend back to the woods and little children take time to learn to consider all the consequences of their actions. So perhaps it has not occurred to Ame what she was asking of Suvi to go out into the woods this close tonight. Or perhaps it has not occurred to Suvi that if Eursulon is brought home, she will have to walk through the forest alone on her way back to the cottage.

Suvi, as you watch Ame sprint down to the path underneath the shrine on the hill, you turn around and see the still closed door to the sewing room. You heard the door open and shut an additional time after Jasper had left, meaning that perhaps grandmother ran and stepped outside. But you hear nothing else coming from the sewing room and do not see any flicker of a candle. Even though the sun is still somewhat in the sky, the shadows are growing long, the light on the underside of the clouds is quartz pink, lavender, gold. Beautiful time of the day as the shadows grow longer and longer.

Aabria Iyengar:

Suvi, definitely. Yeah. I approached the door. I know what she said and what Ames told me about a closed door being a message in and of itself. But that information isn't a promise, so I don't mind being a little more intrusive and I don't know why it feels better to do so, but she knocks on the door frame instead of the door as if that's somehow different and better and just waits very quietly with her ear, very close to the crack, just listening for a response.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

No response comes.

Aabria Iyengar:

This isn't the first time I've been left alone and I don't think it will be the last. And she just walks back into the living room and is going to go sit. And then finally remembers from just a little errant width of pine and rosemary that she left a mess in the bathroom and goes back into the thing that she knows best. If she is good, the adults will be kind, kinder, so she'll go and just dutifully clean up everything and wait for someone to explain any of this to her.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You go to clean, give me a, we'll call this a constitution check.

Aabria Iyengar:

11.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

The reason I ask for a constitution check here is that for a child, most of cleaning is enduring the boredom and trudging tedium of a task that is not immediately rewarding. Cleaning is perennial. There is always more cleaning to be done and the things that you clean never stay clean so it's particularly loathsome to children. However, something within Suvi can make this matter more and the burning sensation of an unpleasant task does not burn as hotly as other worries in the mind of young Suvi. The bathroom is spotless, but it takes a long time and when you look out the window, the sky is dark. In this moment, perhaps a few things occur to you after your task of cleaning up this mess is done. The bucket is as yet unfilled with water, but of course the well is a little walk away.

Lou Wilson:

Oh, got to go outside for that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

And there's also the matter of the study, the door of which is a jar and a small lantern lit within and books, many books concerning matters that you had discussed with your fairy friend before.

Aabria Iyengar:

She, upon exiting the bathroom, just the bathroom was so warm and she worked herself up into a little bit of a more heat, that sort of rapid cooling. I think she runs up to the window and puts her hand on the glass and sees that little heat spread of her little hand as she looks out for any sign of Ame. And I think she holds there for a little bit and doesn't know how to process or hold that much worry. She's had to start releasing it because she can't stay in it. So I think she just waits a moment or two and then leaves and goes into the study and heads upstairs and can do the thing that she knows she can do and lose herself in the thing that makes her feel okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Give me a history check with Advantage.

Lou Wilson:
[foreign language 00:06:34].

Aabria Iyengar:
There we go. Okay. Eight. Is that 18? It is. It's an 18 plus one.

Erika Ishii:
19

Lou Wilson:
Good job.

Erika Ishii:
Good [inaudible 00:06:43].

Lou Wilson:
I am good at books.

Aabria Iyengar:
For a six year old I'm great.

Lou Wilson:
A six year old is tearing up this study right now. That is some Steve job shit I feel like, a six year old child just in a study being like, I have things to do here. I have business to attend to.

Aabria Iyengar:
Deep in those children's abridge to those animated, or not animated-

Erika Ishii:
Illustrated?

Aabria Iyengar:
Illustrated children's classics.

Erika Ishii:
Classics.

Aabria Iyengar:
Yeah. [inaudible 00:07:18]. She's got 80 of those. Yeah. Tale Cities. Not sure all of how that went, but I know the gist of it.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
19 is an incredible role. Now we're going to roll, for lack of a better word, a sadness check.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah. Good, good, good. Great.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

And I'm going to ask for Lou to roll it.

Lou Wilson:

What? Oh, because of my luck?

Erika Ishii:

That's hurtful.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Go ahead and roll a D 20.. High is good and low is bad.

Lou Wilson:

Great. Is this for Aabria or is this for Suvi?

Aabria Iyengar:

It's for me. Not for Suvi. Oh, it was a six right on my iPad.

Lou Wilson:

Yeah.

Aabria Iyengar:

That's very cool.

Lou Wilson:

I'm sorry it wasn't a better roll, but I like how I rolled it.

Aabria Iyengar:

That was very cool. Oh no, I didn't do a good job giving back.

Lou Wilson:

It's okay.

Erika Ishii:

Oh.

Lou Wilson:

I'm sorry.

Aabria Iyengar:

It's okay.

Lou Wilson:

Brennan knew what he was doing. That's why he asked me to do it. He knew he wasn't going to get a Nat 20 over here.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Ame and Eursulon head out into the forest. You head into the woods along the path. The shadow's growing long. Ame, you've cut it close a bunch of times. You're a mischievous little child. There are many times that you have been out in the woods when it was getting this late, but you've never been going deeper into the woods when it was getting this late.

Erika Ishii:

I can make it. I can make it. We can make it. We can make it. I mutter to myself as we sprint.

Lou Wilson:

I think Eursulon sprints for a little bit and then the honey starts to feel bad. And Ame is definitely in the lead at this point.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Ame is in the lead. I'm going to need a survival check to find the log.

Lou Wilson:

Stop being a dick.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

It is a DC-

Lou Wilson:

We're children. I know one day we will be adults, but right now... What's the DC?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

DC's 15.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh my God.

Erika Ishii:

Oh.

Lou Wilson:

You dick.

Erika Ishii:

That's an eight on the die.

Aabria Iyengar:
Plus seven.

Lou Wilson:
I got discussed. Hey.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
The die flew off the table.

Lou Wilson:
Can I use this roll?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You're determining we will play this game for years. You are determining right now if for the next several years we take fluor dice or not. Do we take fluor dice?

Lou Wilson:
I'm going to leave. I know what this dice is and I'm going to look at everyone else and I'm going to say, do we take fluor dice?

Erika Ishii:
I also know what it is.

Lou Wilson:
Okay, so Aabria and Brennan, do we take fluor dice?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Aabria? I have to be impartial. I'm the dungeon master. Do we take fluor dice?

Lou Wilson:
We'll play other games where you're not the Gm, so you have a-

Aabria Iyengar:
You have a say. Right.

Lou Wilson:
It's going to come down to you two. Do we take floor dice?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I don't think we do.

Aabria Iyengar:
You know what? I don't think we do.

Lou Wilson:

Great. Well we'll leave that Nat 20 on the ground. You don't take care of dice, so that lives there and instead we take the five.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh no.

Lou Wilson:

Okay. Hey, Aabria, I just want you to remember that for the rest of... I want you to know that's a part of my childhood story with this podcast.

Aabria Iyengar:

This is a villain origin story.

Lou Wilson:

This is how Eursulon gets Nash made.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Okay. I am going to say this right now. It is a 20 minute walk into the woods where you found Eursulon's tree and therefore a 20 minute walk back. You said that you had enough time, so I'm going to say that it's 45 minutes until dark. Enough time to get there and get back. Enough time to get there and get back. I'm going to roll a D 10 and that many minutes go away on that failed survival check. Five. 40 minutes.

Lou Wilson:

This is nasty.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

If you get it on this roll, it's exactly enough to get Eursulon to the log and to get back.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh my God.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Go ahead and give me a roll.

Lou Wilson:

Okay. As we walk around frustrated, I know that unlike where I'm from, the plants cannot speak to me, but can I ask the trees for help?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yes, you can. Eursulon stops. I am going to ask for a persuasion check.

Lou Wilson:

Okay. I have advantage on this as per my speech of beast and leave. Okay. That's a big old 18. I do think Eursulon is just going to press up after walking around frustrated, feeling bad, is just going to lean up against a tree and whisper. I need to go home. I need to go home. I need to go home. Please let go home.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Wind blows in the trees. Dappled golden light. There is still sun in the sky. The underside of the clouds receives the rays. The setting sun under the canopy amidst the forest floor. It is already close tonight. Shadows under this many bows and branches can no longer be said to grow long for indeed. This part of the forest is already deep within the shadow. The trees move. Eursulon, you don't hear their voices so you will be unaware that you are rolling with advantage.

Lou Wilson:

Okay.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh my God. It's okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Roll again. Sorry. And only Eursulon is rolling with advantage.

Aabria Iyengar:

Ah beans. Those are good rolls.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

If you would like to have that roll be with disadvantage, you can.

Lou Wilson:

What do we need?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

15.

Aabria Iyengar:

12.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Eursulon, the trees move in the wind and the bows part in front of you trying to lead you on the path. But you are a child and in this world the trees cannot speak to you. What was your survival?

Lou Wilson:

Nine. Or excuse me, you want to get real nasty? Seven. Oh no, jk, we're not getting nasty. It's not. I'm going.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

There's still sunlight but Ame, you're starting to get a little worried about getting back home before it's dark.

Erika Ishii:

Please still make it out of the trees.

Lou Wilson:

We have to be close. We have to be close. Yeah, we are near. We are near.

Erika Ishii:

It's okay. It's going to be okay. We'll get you home. Just think about your family and the doorway. Just keep that doorway in your mind. Just keep going. Okay?

Lou Wilson:

I do not want to be here anymore.

Erika Ishii:

I'm sorry.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I'm going to need another survival check. And as the shadows deepen, if you cannot beat a 10, you are not only unable to find the log, you will become lost.

Lou Wilson:

This motherfucker. This nasty motherfucker.

Erika Ishii:

This is why you stay inside the house.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Eursolon is still rolling with advantage from the help of the forest.

Lou Wilson:

Different dice.

Erika Ishii:

Are we adding any modifier?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Survival is wisdom. It's wisdom.

Erika Ishii:

Dirty 20. Yes.

Lou Wilson:
Double seventeens.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Oh my God. Okay, Ame, you have been exploring for a month with Suvi. Suvi knows all these facts about the forest, about what side of the tree the mosque grows on, about the direction of the sky and celestial bodies, and if shadows are going in one way and it's a certain time of day, that means-

Erika Ishii:
They don't need all of that.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
... You look and see salon is scared and something in your heart lights and you know that you need to find your way back. As Ame surges ahead of you, you still sort of stumbling from the honey. You begin to smell and recognize as well and both of you move slowly but surely through the woods. There are minutes of daylight left, but there is still a soft gloaming in the forest. It is not pitch dark yet. It is that time just before night when all of the greens and browns and rich colors of the forest are rendered hues of indigo.

Lou Wilson:
I think as we come on to the kind of area, Eursulon knows that the tree was brought down by Suvi, which would be up here and I'm going to try and go back to the space where I would've grabbed your boot and begin digging.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You begin to dig. Give me an athletics check.

Erika Ishii:
I'm going to help.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Do that with advantage.

Lou Wilson:
It's just not here for me today. I just don't want me to go home. It's a six.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You dig through the rubble of the log for a long time. More minutes pass. Eursulon, you look and see pulp and wood from the rotten log and moss and forest scum of wet detritus, the rotten tree under your claws. Your hands are dirty again, but now you recognize it. You can see that your hands are not clean.

Lou Wilson:
Eursolon is going to push through those thoughts because I don't like the way they make me feel and I'm going to take off my cauldron and use that as a tool and dig harder and deeper.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You grab the cauldron and begin to use it and the rotten wood, the mess of moss and mud and pulp covers the cauldron until its golden gleam, can no longer be seen.

Erika Ishii:

Ame is digging desperately with both hands just like paddling, like a dog.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Ame, you smell it now too. You smell petrichor. You smell something like the smell of rain and deep under the wood you see a small ring of ivy far under here. Eursulon, there are leaves here in this place. There is something under all of this long ago. This has to be it.

Erika Ishii:

There it is! It's your door.

Lou Wilson:

Yes.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

The cauldron in your hand covered in mud. Do you carry it with you through the door or do you leave it?

Lou Wilson:

I carry it with me.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You move through the door. As you move through the ring of ivy, you are standing two steps past the ring of ivy in the forest with Ame there. Nothing has happened.

Erika Ishii:

Okay, do you have to say something or-

Lou Wilson:

No, it just will just happen and I'm going to go through it again.

Erika Ishii:

... Okay. Bye.

Lou Wilson:

I'll-

Erika Ishii:

You'll come back.

Lou Wilson:

... I will be back.

Erika Ishii:

Okay.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You move through ivy, the leaves rustle. Ame, this doesn't look anything like magic to you. This looks like a scared boy.

Lou Wilson:

I must-

Erika Ishii:

What's wrong?

Lou Wilson:

... I don't know. I'm going to go through it again.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You move through it again. Ame, give me a perception check.

Lou Wilson:

That's natural 20, baby.

Erika Ishii:

Natural 20.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Oh my god.

I'm going to describe a couple things that you see and a couple things that you hear and a couple things that you smell. This is as a point of order and something that maybe Ame doesn't know now but will know in the years to come. There is not just one witching hour. There's many magic is that its most auspicious at the darkest depths of night, at the brightest sun of day, but perhaps most especially at those times in between. And here at the final closing moments of day as it fades in tonight, you become a witch.

Your senses are filled by the forest. On a natural 20 perception check you come into a full awareness of not only this forest but the forest beyond this forest. And though you have only ever known this world, you know a door and you open yourself to all of the things that the forest is whispering. You hear the trees of this forest weeping as they have tried their very best to send this child home. The trees of this forest weep for the young boy. You smell familiar smells. All of your senses awaken, which is magic is that they can see this world, the world behind the world, the world between the world.

Wisdom is the core of what a witch is and in your deep need to see, not for yourself but for a friend. Your magic opens in a moment of deep and profound sorrow. You know what the trees see? You smell the rich loam and the rotten wood but you smell something else as well. Pine and rosemary. And there is something you no longer smell. There was a wild musk, a smell of something primal, a smell of something

eternal and unchanging that announced the coming of a spirit to the mortal world. That smell on Eursolon is gone.

The last thing you see nearby is a ring of mushrooms. Long ago, a fairy child left something here and it has been some time on that Nat 20. Beyond your awakening in this moment you sense the ability in this opening of magic within yourself and your understanding of why grandmother Wren a month ago began to train you in the arts of witchcraft, began to train you in alchemy. You have been learning witchcraft for a month and now it seems that the magic of your witchcraft has come to meet you here. At first in this moment you detect magic. You see it everywhere and all around you and in this opening of this power you may choose to speak to one of the things that I have described here. If there's one you wish to speak to.

Erika Ishii:

At first it comes like a crashing wave. Completely uncontrolled, a force of nature itself. But as I close my eyes, listen, I smell, I honed my senses. I do like she taught me, a countdown. Four smells, three sounds, two things that I feel, one taste. It's the lingering taste of honey. I ask the mushrooms, why can't he go home?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Eursolon you have been stepping through the door to no avail. You feel different somehow, to know your hands are dirty, to feel afraid, to feel scared. You hear Ame ask that question and that is when you hear the words, why can't he go home?

You look and see Ame tiny child where she walks, the leaves scatter in her wake and you see the forest move around her, not physically but simply the space she occupies. The forest knows that she is here and you see her approach a small ring of mushrooms and a little bed of moss. You recognize these mushrooms.

Before you, Ame, in the center of the ring, a single mushroom stands and grows. You would've been so overjoyed to see an act of magic this profound at any other time. As the mushroom grows first to your height and then taller and then taller still until it towers before you. It occurs to you that things that are wondrous might not always be fun.

Moss hanging from the brim of its cap along the stock seems open and milky white pools with neither pupil nor iris open and weep a strange honey smelling milk as a mighty mushroom. Spirit looks down upon you.

Wreaking rotten sweet breath and a cloud of moths emerge from its open ma as it sits back in the center of the ring. The ring itself alights in a light and a pale luminescence as it must for indeed the sun is gone. Lou, ask me why can't the boy go home. Well we might ask him why we cannot.

Erika Ishii:

Are you stuck here too?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

For 250 comings of cold winter, have we've been trapped?

And Eursolon at this moment? Do you stay far behind as you see this spirit in this place? Are you still by the ivy door and Ame, how close are you to the edge of the ring?

Erika Ishii:

I don't want to enter it unless you know it seems proper. I don't know all of the niceties of the spirit realm yet, so I maintain a bit of a respectful enough distance.

Lou Wilson:

And I think Eursulon has kind of come maybe a few steps behind Ame. I think in the most hopeful mindset that between whatever occurrence is happening with Ame that he's witnessing and I think as the spirit talks it's becoming not what he wants to hear, but at first the idea that this is possibly going to be the answer.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You know, little witch, why the boy cannot return. You have named the reason in your mind.

Erika Ishii:

Is this is my fault?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Fault? I do not dwell on thoughts of fault for I am still pure. I have not eaten of their food, I have not walked within their homes and I certainly have not let them wash me.

Erika Ishii:

I didn't think... I was just trying to be kind.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You found a wild one and thought to have him for your own, you and your friend both.

Lou Wilson:

You would not have me. They will help me get on.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Heat rises and a hory staff of toad stool covered wood appears in a deep blood soaked claw and he points it at you and says, "You are the witch and you are spirit, neither you are a boy." Nothing more. You know what you have given up. You want to know why the door will never open to you again. I tell you now, you wished for a quest. There is no quest without failure or its chance. And so failure is yours.

And a beam of light erupts from the staff and hits Eursulon in the chest.

You wished for honor. There is no honor or no chance of it without shame.

And another bolt erupts and hits your chest.

You want it to be a knight? Well there is no chance to be a knight without-

Erika Ishii:

Ame jumps in front of him.

Lou Wilson:

What is the feeling of these?

Erika Ishii:

Sorry.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You know deeply and in a moment you deeply know failure and you deeply know shame.

Erika Ishii:

Trying to push him out of the way.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Ame, I am going to ask in this moment for you to... You're trying to push Eursulon out of the way, so I am going to need a dexterity check and if Eursulon doesn't want to be moved, he can contest that. But this is going to be an opposed check unless Eursulon you feel unable to.

Lou Wilson:

If she's not jumping directly in front of me, then I will not be moved. If she comes like if she's trying to push me, if she's trying to push me out of the way, Eursulon is not moving.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Okay, copy that. So this is you trying to basically dive in front.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Do you think Eursulon seeing what Ame is trying to do-

Lou Wilson:

If I see it, I don't think Eursulon fully understands being washed with a wave of, and that is what shame is. I don't think Eursulon will let Ame, especially because he's not feeling physical pain. I don't think Eursulon would let Ame take this, whatever this is.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

... So this is going to be an opposed role. Okay? In that case, it's going to be Ame's either your acrobatics or athletics versus Eursolon's acrobatics or athletics.

Erika Ishii:

10

Lou Wilson:

That is a 18, or excuse me, a 19.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

The mushroom spirit states the final curse pointing it at you and says, "You wish to be a knight. There is no chance of knights in a world without-

Ame leaps.

"... monsters."

And he points it at you. What this would have done to you, Ame, you do not know, but you were willing to accept it to make right a wrong. There is a moment where you turn seeing that Ame is about to take this spell. As you turn to save this little girl accepting whatever will come, the spell strikes the golden cauldron reflects back, hits the mushroom spirit in a blast of smoke and light. It is gone and the ring rots and disappears.

Erika Ishii:

Oh my God.

Lou Wilson:

I think Eursolon has that child moment of trauma and just reaching and grabbing Ame and holding them. I think as not knowing, I think instinctually wanting to hold somebody, but his head is still just filled with thoughts of did I fail? Is this failure? Am I failing? Is this failing? I feel bad. Ame is looking at me and realizing how wrong I am and how bad this is and how stupid I am and how much I should never have come here and how I will never have honor and how foolish that was. I think as he just holds Ame physically.

Erika Ishii:

Ame's face is buried and the warm soft fur and she breathes a moment. It's not fair. I am sorry, but we have each other still. I know that that's not much of a consolation. Now you'll have honor. You can have the opportunities that all the rest of us have to make things better. I guess now you know some of the bad things about our world, but if we work hard together, you can make it so that they don't have to feel that all the time. She doesn't know what else to say because even though at this age and at this level of her power, she knows how she wants to make people feel, she doesn't know how to do that yet.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Give me an insight check.

Erika Ishii:

17.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You are a child of seven years. You know that you want Eursolon to be happy. On a 17 Ame recognizes that it would be wrong for Eursolon to be happy right now.

Erika Ishii:

Let's go back.

Lou Wilson:

I do not like this world.

Erika Ishii:

It can be very hard. Yeah, it can be scary and bad and confusing, but there's a lot of good in it, I promise. It might take some time, but I'll show you. Okay? I promise.

Lou Wilson:

Eursulon's going to I think take one look down at the ring of mushrooms. Do the rest. It just seemed normal.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

When whatever that spell was hit the golden cauldron, it seems like the rest of the mushrooms rotted. You see that they've like crumpled up and turned into these pulpy ashon stubs where they once were a small ring of weather burnt or simply rotted mushrooms around here. In the center there's white soot, dust where the spirit had been.

Lou Wilson:

Eursulon is going to crawl over to where the rotten mushrooms are, lay his face down so that it's upon the earth and just whisper. I'm so sorry. This is my fault. You should not be here. And that is my fault.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I'll ask Eursolon for an insight check now

Lou Wilson:

The fuck are we doing?

Erika Ishii:

Oh my god.

Lou Wilson:

Nasty. Now we played children experiencing trauma. That's an 11.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

As you apologize and say that something is your fault, you know you're not a spirit anymore.

Lou Wilson:

I think Eursulon is just going to lay there and I think if anything just rotates that his head is fully in the earth just wishing you were not here. This world is not good. I do not like it here.

Erika Ishii:

Hey, but grandma Wren can help us, can figure out how to get you back, or at least with the sinking feeling all my trails off and knowing that the idea of having a good life here is just all but impossible. Let's go. Let's go see grandma Wren. She tugs at his hand.

Lou Wilson:

I think there is a weird one of those tantrum. It's quiet, but I think there's that tantrum moment where our Eursolon gets dragged two or three inches, just face just on the ground, just not moving.

Erika Ishii:
Okay, well-

Lou Wilson:
And then goes, yes, it's dark. You should not be out. You should not be out after dark. That will not be my fault as well. I think Eursolon will follow, will stand up still holding Ame's hand and let her lead him from the forest.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
You walk through the forest at night. It's a lonely feeling. Ame, your intercession likely saved Eursolon from whatever the fullness of that curse would be. And you know that three is a powerful magical number. Whatever that third thing was, it did not work, but there is perhaps a loneliness in that Eursolon is not a monster and is not a spirit and is not a mortal. Perhaps some wizard in some lofty tower would be able to consult a book to determine what Eursolon is in this moment, after he has eaten mortal food, been washed and kept in one of their homes, but for now he's a kid like you and you make your way back through the woods.

Aabria Iyengar:
That was good. And I'm devastated. Okay?

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Reverse change link.

Aabria Iyengar:
Yeah. Oh my God.

Erika Ishii:
[inaudible 00:46:48].

Aabria Iyengar:
All right.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I clocked it When you said when you had the golden prine tied on, you said, I run away on all fours and I went, what happened to the mushroom? I said, the mushroom's lost.

Aabria Iyengar:
Oh my God. My snack.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
My snack.

Erika Ishii:

Yeah, he dropped it. He dropped it for-

Lou Wilson:

I dropped it for Suvirin and I walked away.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Yes, that's right. He dropped it for Suvirin and walked away. That's right.

Lou Wilson:

So I mean that didn't take my mushroom. That left my mushroom on the damn floor. God damn, Suvirin. Ruthless being like, I don't want this child's mushroom sucks.

Aabria Iyengar:

Whole ass raw mushroom.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

He's had a lot of bites out of it at that point.

Lou Wilson:

It's funny to imagine he's waiting until I go away and he goes, Ew.

Aabria Iyengar:

Yeah, that mushroom was damp.

Lou Wilson:

He's like, I don't want this.

Aabria Iyengar:

It smells like petrichor.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Okay, incredible.

Speaking of Suvirin, Suvi, you consult those books for a long time, finding the text of herbology. You go back to some old adages about that time and you consult finally a book in grandmother Wren's study containing songs and poetry, one of which is the Ballad of the Battle of Starlings Ford. And it sings the song of many brave knights who fought and died in that battle. And within the lyrics of that ballad are contained mention of a mighty horse named Cori, a great falcon named grain and of the brave Suvirin that fell in that battle 250 years ago.

Aabria Iyengar:

Suvi reads it. And I already knew that it was a long time ago because the way she's been told stories about knights. Those are told things from long ago so she had a hint, an inkling, but it doesn't stop her stomach

from dropping out at the realization that yes, he's gone and all that's left are stories and that she'll have to explain that. I think it's the explaining that she gets sort of stuck on and turned on and reads and reads the ballad again and again, her fingers kind of tapping lightly together because I think this is something that she thinks needs to be kept. She doesn't really know why. And eventually sort of distracted by the emotional weight of whenever he comes back, having to give him bad news and still sort of turning on the things that she's learning and not understanding. She'll keep flipping through the books and starts trying to read other things to soothe herself. I don't think it works very well.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

After some minutes of literary self soothing, trying your best to find something that's going to make this all okay. Unpleasant feeling when things make sense, but when they still don't feel good, you hear the noise of footsteps out on the grass coming up the hillside and immediately know that something is wrong because you hear two sets of footsteps.

Aabria Iyengar:

She bounds up immediately and moves to run down the stairs, but doesn't realize that her legs are falling asleep and is just sort of tumbling hand over foot and kind of almost moving between running and kind of galloping on all fours as she scampers towards the sound towards the door to find her friends/

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You scamper towards the door and Ame and Eursulon approach. It is still early night and the sound of crickets has started to fill the nighttime along with the running of the stream. Often the distance, a small owl announces the beginning of its day and a symphony of beautiful forest noises can be heard. Stars twinkle overhead as you approach the door in quiet, or perhaps I should say somewhat raucous disharmony with the events you bear on your return to this home.

Erika Ishii:

Still without crossing the threshold to the door, I'm just going to start yelling out what happened? Did you go home? Are you back? What happened? Are you okay? Are you hurt?

Lou Wilson:

I think partially, subconsciously, I think that Eursulon is going to turn invisible, not wanting to have to deal with the weight of this questions, at least knowing that well, he can't think to talk to me if you can't see me. That's as far as his brain goes. I think as he kind of moves to cross the threshold of the door. But as Suvi begins peppering him with questions, I'm going to turn invisible. Still like walking, it's not like I run off. It's still on the way to the door. Still I think he's thinking about a hearth and warmth. But Eursulon turns invisible.

Aabria Iyengar:

No. What happened? No. What is he doing? What?

Erika Ishii:

Ame doesn't say anything, but you can see the sadness in her eyes. And at this point, even after a month, they developed that kind of nonverbal language that best friends do.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh no. Oh no. And I think it's right in that moment where Eursulon like brushes past her and she immediately flattens herself against the doorframe to let him pass. And just whispers very quietly. I'm sorry. And just opens her hands to hug Ame.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Eursolon, you seek out the hearth. There is a small fire. Suvi, would you have kept the fire going?

Aabria Iyengar:

No, she's not smart. No, no. I would love to say that she's smart.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

There are a few glowing embers still, but no open flames.

Erika Ishii:

Oh, I run to the hearth and I stoke it and put in little twigs and starting from the kindling pile. Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't... I forgot.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

You see there is a small wooden box filled with kindling and tinder and little strips of twigs and branches. And like everything in grandmother Wren's cottages beautiful and handmade. You see that there is a bow of pine with some small red berries over a small image of a bear on the outside of the box, the kindling of lights, and on the other side of the chimney stacked up against wooden beam, you see there are some small logs that have been cut.

Erika Ishii:

We go about tending the hearth. We grab a log once it's hot. Once the kindling has lit and I put it in, I poke it with the rod iron poker, wait until it catches and almost absent mindedly. I grab the little cinnamon broom and I sweep the hearth clearing it. The smell of cinnamon of the ever-present dust kicked up.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Go ahead Eursulon and give me a constitution check with advantage as you attempt to fall asleep.

Lou Wilson:

Big 14.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

There's the smell of cinnamon and dust. The fire gets warm. Another wonder of this mortal world, the witch summons fire using some spell you've never seen before because you've never seen work in your life.

Lou Wilson:

I think Eursulon watches for a minute and then it's just too much. It's just too much to try and put together. Why the small trees?

Aabria Iyengar:
No.

Lou Wilson:
And the big trees. Why they're all put, why the sweeping happens. What is sweeping? Why is any of this? And I think on that thought, just fully closed this as eyes and I think eventually becomes, it becomes visible again.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
I think in the moment of your falling into sleep, your body appears curled in front of the fire.

Aabria Iyengar:
Okay, hold on. And I'm going to run upstairs and the cloak that I've not even let Ame touch, I run and grab. And I used the good side that smells good. And I put it over him.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
Wow.

Aabria Iyengar:
And I think you're asleep. But she's just sort of without touching, you just sort of standing in a weird vigil over you, not quite sure what happens, what happened, but knows it was bad and somehow feels like if she had been better or understood something more. If she had missed something because she's small and doesn't notice when she's being hidden away. If she was a little smarter, she could have figured this out. So whatever bad thing happened wouldn't have happened. And there's just a low litany to whatever the beat she thinks that the Ballad of the Battle of Starling Ford would have been. She's just apologizing and watching over.

Erika Ishii:
Ame sees the fingers going, the rhythm. She slips her smaller hand into Sui's and squeezes it partially to stop the movement, interrupt the beat, then you can feel her small squeeze and the warmth of her hand.

Aabria Iyengar:
Her entire tiny body sags as she falls into rhythm with you.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
As your tiny body sags, could you go ahead and give me an arcana check with Advantage?

Lou Wilson:
Advantage.

Erika Ishii:

What can you do with a six?

Lou Wilson:

What can we make work with six Brennan in this beautiful moment? Let's not forget how beautiful everything is. And so I feel like maybe the DC was a five so that we just have whatever we need.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

Well, I think that in this moment we are learning something very sorrowful about Suvi's magic. Ame gives Suvi peace. She stops the ticking of the fingers, she stops the beat, stops the rhythm, stops the meter, stops the time. And that does give Suvi peace and it allows her to relax. And if Suvi was a witch, maybe that would've given her some strength or power. But that's not SU's gift. And the beating of those fingers stops ticking, worry. The repetitions and the counting, the memory and the time and all that understanding exhales away from the sharp and lucid front of SU's mind. All that means for our purposes is that Suvi see the magic that she's doing.

Aabria Iyengar:

Okay. Okay. Cool. Cool, cool, cool.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

The words that Suvi uttered and remembered thinking about Starling Forward and the movements of her fingers performed the first somatic components of the first spell because her mother taught her those movements. Knowing that this cloak would be with her, and though it was her mother's intention that this spell should come to protect Suvi in a time of need. Suvi has seen fit to gift it to another for the time being. Suvi and Ame share a moment as Kindred Spirits and Friends whose story we have yet to tell. But it can be said that in this moment of their friendship, it was worthy of remark that they became a witch and wizard on the same night. I would very much like for both of you to adjust your proficiency bonus to plus two and Ame, you can go ahead and take Detect Magic and Suvi, you can take protection from evil and good.

Aabria Iyengar:

Oh, okay. Cool. I don't know why I'm crying.

Lou Wilson:

Oh, I know. I know why you're crying.

Aabria Iyengar:

It's fine. This is good. Cool. I love magic.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:

I'm going to have some almonds.

Lou Wilson:

Great. Yeah, we got an hour left.

Brennan Lee Mulligan:
We got an hour left?

Aabria Iyengar:
I-