

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 3 episode 2, "The Experts"

Transcription details: Transcript for "The Experts"

Audio length: 13:13

Transcript provided by Ria Couh.

INTRO (0:00):

TESSA Previously on Inn Between...

AUDIO (0:05): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

ROSIE I'm Rosie, my specialty is... let's call it material acquisition.

KNOWLES Sergeant Teric Knowles of the Guard, pleasure to meet you.

CASTOR Castor Acroterion. I'm a scholar of demonology.

TODE I am Tode.

CASTOR Like the animal?

TODE No.

ZARA Zara. Sorceress.

ROSIE *(giggles)*

What a crew!

STERLING Can we count on you?

AUDIO (1:01): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES AWAY.

AUDIO (1:04): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF THE INN, PEOPLE CHATTERING.

SFX (1:06): CHAIR SCOOTS.

ROSIE Uh, is this the same inn?

ZARA How exactly would that be possible?

KNOWLES Oh! The Captain mentioned something about this!

(pleased)

The inn thinks we're interesting.

ROSIE Oh, is that what this is?

CASTOR *(bewildered chuckle)*

Ah, I'm sorry, the inn is... *following us?*

TODE How curious. Is it alive, I wonder? In the traditional sense?

ROSIE Fina talked about this, but I thought she was... joking.

KNOWLES So, it was Fina the Bard who recruited you, then?

ROSIE Yes. And Betty! But I've known Fina a *little* longer.

KNOWLES I'd give my *sword* arm to meet Betty!

(beat)

And you knew the two of them *before* they were famous heroes?

ROSIE We... ran in similar circles.

KNOWLES And Friar Velune recruited you, Tode. Is that right?

TODE Yes, Velune and I have been acquainted ever since they stumbled into my hermitage many, many years ago, and since then we have often relied on each other's various areas of expertise.

For example, when I needed hallowed ground placed around my latrine trenches.

CASTOR *(baffled)*

Why...?

KNOWLES And Zara, you're friends with Meltyre?

ZARA *(snorts)*

"Friends" is a little strong. He was the scholarship kid, and I was the weird demon woman in the circle. We were just sort of in proximity.

KNOWLES Then why answer his call, as it were?

ZARA *(scoffs, defensive)*

I didn't "answer" his "call." He... covered for me a lot before the Circle found out I was using wild magic. That's *all*. I... owed him a favor.

ROSIE Now it's your turn, Knowles. Why did you volunteer for this gig?

KNOWLES Oh, one of us had to. And it sounded interesting. More interesting than another palace patrol, anyway.

CASTOR So... Captain Whitetower just... randomly assigned us a guard?

KNOWLES Well, no... not really. He did ask me specifically.

ZARA *(scornful)*

There's no need for modesty.

KNOWLES *(humorous)*

I don't have a lot to begin with, I gotta find it *somewhere*.

ROSIE *(laughs)*

KNOWLES Alright, last one. What's your story, Brother Castor?

CASTOR For the last time, I'm not...

(sigh)

I'm no monk or priest, it's just... Castor.

ZARA Then why do you live in a monastery?

CASTOR I was just... staying there. Studying.

KNOWLES Who recruited you?

CASTOR Uhm... not anyone, I don't think.

The head of the monastery got word that they needed an expert in, uhm... demonology? They had the largest library on the topic in the kingdom.

KNOWLES But they sent *you* because...?

CASTOR I have read them all.

KNOWLES (*impressed*)

Oh.

ZARA So, you're really *just* a scholar?

CASTOR That is what I've been saying.

ZARA You don't know *magic* or martial arts or...? Anything?

CASTOR (*chuckle*)

No! Course not! I don't have any talent for wild magic and studying wizard magic outside of a Circle is... illegal.

ROSIE (*voice strained from holding back a laugh*)

We... wouldn't want to do... *anything* illegal, now, would we?

KNOWLES Well, the law is the law, but it is not a very well enforced rule.

CASTOR It is among dwarves. I could get in serious trouble! So... no magic for me!

ZARA (*she is decidedly unimpressed*)

Hm. Better hope we don't run into anything too dangerous.

CASTOR Shouldn't we *all* be hoping that?

KNOWLES Don't worry, Castor. I'll look after you.

CASTOR I can... hold my own, if it comes to that, but this is a fact-finding mission, isn't it? We should be fine.

ZARA (*pointedly*)

Famous last words.

ROSIE Oh, you never know! Maybe this will be an easy hundred gold!

ZARA You're awfully optimistic.

ROSIE (*easily*)

I try to be.

KNOWLES You know, you don't see many drow this far south of the mountains.

ROSIE Except for the one I see in mirror every day! She's always around.

KNOWLES (*chuckles*)

ROSIE You're not wrong, though. I'm unusual, but I like the sunshine too much to be any different.

ZARA *Gods.*

ROSIE What?

ZARA You sound like a nursery school teacher.

ROSIE (*less cheerful now*)

There's nothing wrong with that.

ZARA (*yeah there is*)

Hm.

TODE I think it would be best if we speculated a little about what's ahead. It might do to be prepared for a variety of situations.

CASTOR Uhm, yeah. Probably a good idea.

KNOWLES Alright, experts, do your thing.

ZARA, CASTOR AND TODE *(overlapping)*

Right

AUDIO (5:54): A RATHER AWKWARD PAUSE.

CASTOR *(hesitant)*

Uh... Why don't *you* go first, Zara?

ZARA Are you *condescending* to me, dwarf?

CASTOR No! I—I just—I thought after I made all those assumptions yesterday—

ZARA *(cutting him off)*

(faux-pleasantly)

Oh? Were there more?

CASTOR *(sigh)*

Is there any way I'm going to come out of this conversation... favorably?

ZARA There's not. I'd love to go first.

(clears throat)

Thinking about this blood feud in the context of wild magic doesn't make a lot of sense. Wild magic is sudden, spontaneous and quick. If this is wild magic, it's someone casting it over a long period of time, not a naturally occurring incident.

KNOWLES But who would want to do that?

ZARA You remember that sorceress from the Wood of Woe?

TODE A powerful and dire personage indeed.

ZARA Look, the stereotypes about wild magic are mostly people being alarmists, but... I mean, power corrupts. That's why wizard magic is regulated and that's why people are afraid of sorcery.

ROSIE So, one possibility is a sorcerer. Check.

ZARA Right.

(same faux-pleasant tone as before)

Now you can go ahead.

CASTOR Uhm... right.

(hesitant)

Um. It's... entirely possible that the blood feud is part of some greater, fiendish design. It wouldn't be the first time the powers of the abyss invaded this plane to sow chaos among mortals. It's just the sort of thing they like, honestly. A hundred years of people killing each other.

There are a lot of ways they could do it, too, from minor enchantments to full possessions.

(beat)

The trouble is... if that's the case, then the kingdom might have a real problem.

One demon who could do this would be bad enough, but it's rarely just one demon. They're hierarchical and bureaucratic. Uhm... if it's a demon, we'll be lucky if they're working on their own.

ROSIE *Ooh-kay!* Demon hoard! Also a possibility!

KNOWLES *(with a sigh)*

Check.

TODE *(pleasant)*

Interesting proposals, all. Multifaceted, like a snowflake.

ZARA Let me guess, you have a different theory.

TODE Was that not the point and purpose of getting us together?

KNOWLES He's not wrong.

TODE For my part, there are many creatures that could cause the sort of terror a blood feud comes from, most of them sentient: a mind flayer, for example, or an especially determined beholder. Even something that only has temporary control over the minds of other beings could set things in motion.

In which case, it is a matter of finding the creature and turning it away.

KNOWLES Or killing it.

TODE I suppose, if we're left with no alternative.

KNOWLES You're not talking about some poor animal. You're talking about a monster.

TODE *(firmly)*

All creatures only try their best to survive in a harsh and unforgiving world. If the creature is sentient, then perhaps just action is required in order to stop the violence.

(considering)

But perhaps it is not sentient, perhaps it is a fungus or a parasite.

ROSIE *(sarcastic)*

Oh, *delightful!*

KNOWLES Some kind of monster then.

ROSIE Check.

KNOWLES I don't love any of these possibilities, I'll be honest.

ZARA If we do our jobs right and we're lucky, you *might* not have to deal with any of them.

ROSIE Ah, Lady Luck. Not exactly a dependable gal.

TODE But she does have a sense of humor.

ROSIE *(laughs)*

True.

CASTOR So... what *do* we do, if we find out it's one of these things?

KNOWLES We have plenty of time to think about that on the way. It's still a few weeks out to Belling.

ROSIE *(cheerfully)*

And, in the meantime, maybe we can get to know each other a little.

ZARA *(laughs)*

Yeah, no. I'm going to my room.

KNOWLES Little... early for bed there, Zara.

ZARA Didn't say I was going to bed.

SFX (9:47): CHAIR SCOOTTS.

SFX (9:48): FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY.

TODE I better begin looking for a nice tree to sleep in.

CASTOR You're not going to sleep inside?

TODE Why would I do that?

SFX (9:57): CHAIR SCOOTTS.

SFX (9:58): LIGHTER FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY.

CASTOR Uhm... I think I'm going to get a drink.

KNOWLES Not you too, Castor.

CASTOR *(uncomfortable)*

I can... come back, I guess.

ROSIE *(that's worse, actually)*

Oh, no. Don't feel pressured.

(disappointed)

You can do what you want.

CASTOR Right.

SFX (10:16): CHAIR SCOOTTS.

SFX (10:17): FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY.

KNOWLES Well, I'll stay to get to know you, Rosie.

ROSIE Thank you! At least someone around here is interested in making friends.

KNOWLES What exactly is it you do for a living anyway? I was never clear on that.

ROSIE Oh...

(awkward)

Ooh, boy. Knowles, how on-duty are you right now, would you say?

KNOWLES Looking after all of you? I don't plan to be off-duty pretty much at all.

ROSIE Mhmm. Well, then... The information I can share with you about my job is going to be somewhat... limited.

KNOWLES Why?

ROSIE *(exasperated)*

Leaping Lolth. Uhm...

(low tone)

I might go to bed early, too.

KNOWLES I don't understand.

SFX (11:02): CHAIR SCOOTS.

ROSIE Goodnight!

SFX (11:04): FOOTSTEPS GOING AWAY.

SFX (11:06): A DIFFERENT SET OF FOOTSTEPS RETURNING.

CASTOR What happened?

KNOWLES I'm not really sure.

CASTOR Oh.

SFX (11:14): CHAIR SCOOTS.

CASTOR Kind of a shame. I would've liked to talk to her.

KNOWLES *(very interested, teasing tone)*

Oh, you think she's cute, don't you?

CASTOR *(increasingly awkward)*

I... Uhm uh... she is... She is *cute*. Right? Isn't she?

KNOWLES *(pleased)*

She is.

(serious once more)

I just don't know why she's so evasive about her job. And after she said she wanted to get to know people, too.

CASTOR I think it's because she's a thief.

KNOWLES She's a *what*?

AUDIO (11:48): INN SOUNDS FADE AWAY.

OUTRO (11:48):

AUDIO (11:48): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES IN AND PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between...

ROSIE Did I say something wrong? Why don't you want to talk to me?

TODE Some bridges are very hard to cross.

CASTOR And we've still got so far to go.

CREDITS (12:10):

HANNAH This episode, "The Experts", was written and directed by Hannah Wright with assistant director William Wright. The show is produced and edited by Katherine Ayers.

The voice of Castor is Caleb Del Rio. The voice of Zara is Quin Leigh. The voice of Tode is Anthony Morales. The voice of Rosie is Lucille Valentine. The voice of Knowles is JV Hampton-VanSant.

Our theme song is by Eli Hamada McIlveen and our artwork is by Gabrielle Buxman. Our transcriber is Ria Couoh.

The transcripts for this and every episode can be found on our website, thegoblinshead.com.

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If you like the show, give a forty-minute lecture on its literary themes. Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (13:04): MUSIC ENDS.

POST-CREDITS (13:07):

AUDIO (13:07): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF INN CHATTER.

TESSA Listen, sir, I realize you are just trying to confide in me, but I think you're in the wrong here. I mean, that's no way to treat a lady.

(beat)

Well, that's no way to treat a sentient ooze either! I mean, really.

EPISODE ENDS.