

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Bonus episode "Demonology Practicum"

Audio length: 12:36

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

SFX (00:02): A WOODEN DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

POLLUX Hey, Castor!

SFX (00:04): PAGES OF A BOOK TURNING.

CASTOR Oh, Pollux, hi! What is it?

POLLUX Just wanted to say goodbye before I leave for work!

CASTOR Is the shop open yet?

POLLUX Yeah, everybody's upstairs! And they already made a sale!

CASTOR Huh. Maybe we'll break even for a change.

POLLUX *(chuckles)*

Yeah... Uh, is today the day?

CASTOR *(takes a breath)*

I think so!

POLLUX Wow. Good luck!

CASTOR Thanks? I... don't even know if it will work.

POLLUX Be careful, okay? I've only got the one brother!

CASTOR I should be telling you that.

POLLUX Come on, Castor!

CASTOR *(emphatically)*

The accident rate at that mine—

POLLUX I'm going to be fine!

CASTOR How many people say that?

POLLUX You're so paranoid! It's going to be okay, really! It's just until I can get the tuition money saved up!

CASTOR Well, you'll always be the best chef in our book.

POLLUX *(insistent)*

But not in everyone else's! Not until I train with the best!

CASTOR *(sigh)*

Just... be careful. Okay?

POLLUX *(laughing)*

You first! I'll see you tonight! And I'll want to hear all about it, alright?

CASTOR Of course. Love you.

POLLUX Love you too.

SFX (01:15): DOOR CREAKS SHUT WITH A CLICK.

AUDIO (01:16): A PAUSE.

CASTOR *(takes a deep breath)*

Okay...

SFX (01:27): PAGES TURN.

SFX (01:31): A MATCH IS LIT.

CASTOR *(slowly)*

Here... we... go.

(echoing, confidently)

Hadegh zi psik kes soo chuznak rist wi.

AUDIO (01:46) : OMINOUS, DEEP HUM IN THE BACKGROUND. IT ELEVATES INTO A DEEP RINGING. IT STOPS SUDDENLY.

CASTOR Hello?

DEMON *(speaking in a dual voice, a deep and severe one with a higher-pitched and soft-spoken one simultaneously)*

"Hello"? That's a new one.

CASTOR Is it? You know, that's not very polite!

DEMON Aw, he thinks I run in polite company! How cute.

CASTOR What should I call you?

DEMON What do you want to call me?

CASTOR *(uncertain)*

Uh... Maybe an epithet will do? How about... the Gray One?

DEMON *(bored)*

Oh, classic. I'm flattered. And you'll be... Castor?

CASTOR Y... Yes. How did you know?

DEMON Well, you just told me, didn't you?

CASTOR Oh. Uhm... I guess?

DEMON Now, at the risk of leaning into a stereotype: why have you summoned me, mortal?

CASTOR Well...

(nervous chuckle)

Actually, I was hoping to ask you a few questions...?

DEMON Questions?

CASTOR I'm a demonologist. I research your kind and the ways your influence affects things here, on the material plane.

DEMON A demonologist. Been a while since I've had one of you. It's just information you want?

CASTOR Yes. Mmm...

SFX (03:17): PAGES TURNING.

CASTOR *(continued)*

Let's see. I have a list of questions here...

DEMON Hold on now, demonologist. Nothing comes for free. What are you offering?

CASTOR Oh! Ah... What do you want?

DEMON *(laughs mockingly)*

For all of your book learning, no one ever told you not to ask that question of a demon? Now I have all the leverage.

CASTOR Well... not necessarily. I could still say no, depending on what you say you want.

DEMON Hard to argue with. I like it.

(hums)

Unfortunately, it does put a bit of a stall on this deal.

CASTOR Why is that?

DEMON Because, Castor, what I want, you're not nearly desperate enough to give.

CASTOR You're... not willing to accept something... *less*?

DEMON I prefer only the best, and I know this must be hard for your tiny, temporally-fixed brain to understand, but I am actually rather busy.

CASTOR (*thoughtfully*)

And... now that I've summoned you...

(*resigned*)

I'm going to have a lot of trouble summoning someone else.

DEMON You *are* a demonologist. Well done.

AUDIO (04:37): A PAUSE.

DEMON I'm waiting.

CASTOR I... I'm not willing to give up everything for an interview. I'm... sorry.

DEMON Oh, well. Perhaps I can offer you something more... tempting. Have you ever wanted to learn magic? You seem... like the type.

CASTOR You're offering *me* a... a warlock pact?

DEMON In exchange for just one trifle.

CASTOR (*hums*)

It *would* be an incredible research opportunity.

DEMON It certainly would.

CASTOR But... But... y-you have to understand that... what's a trifle to you is... well, an awful lot to me.

DEMON (*sigh*)

(*pleased*)

I love a man that can drive a hard bargain. Unless there is nothing that you want enough to trade your soul for, in which case, our business today *might* be over.

CASTOR Well!

(fumbles)

You...! You can't leave until I unsummon you!

DEMON No, but I can make myself *very* annoying. Like I said, I'm busy.

(pause)

Come on now, Castor. There's nothing in your life you'd like a little bit more control over? Nothing you want to make sure is secure?

AUDIO (06:12): A PAUSE.

DEMON Ah, there *is* something.

CASTOR *(unsettled)*

This... *isn't* why I asked you here.

DEMON *(irritated)*

Point of order, you didn't ask.

CASTOR I just answers to a few questions.

DEMON I don't see why we can't include that in the deal.

CASTOR Really?

DEMON You act as if things are a cost to *me*. They're easy. Trifles for trifles. I'll even throw in some magic if you'd like.

CASTOR *(a bit more confidently)*

Let's talk.

DEMON *(smug)*

Let's.

AUDIO (06:50): BACKGROUND NOISE FADES OUT.

SFX (06:51): CHALK SCRAPING AGAINST A HARD SURFACE.

SFX (06:52): DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

POLLUX Castor!

SFX (06:56): CHALK STOPS.

CASTOR *(yelps)*

Oh my--!

(annoyed)

Oh my gods!

POLLUX *(laughs)*

You were so scared!

CASTOR *(sigh)*

Yeah, sorry. How was work?

POLLUX Who cares!

(excitedly)

How was summoning a demon?

CASTOR Oh! Uh...

(pause)

It... didn't work.

POLLUX *(softer)*

Oh. Really?

CASTOR Yeah... I

(sigh)

I think I probably pronounced the Infernal wrong, or maybe the summoning circle was... off.

POLLUX I'm sorry, man. You gonna to try again?

CASTOR *(uncertain)*

Yeah, maybe.

(quietly)

Maybe.

AUDIO (07:43): BACKGROUND NOISE FADES OUT.

SFX (07:44): SOFT THUMPING AS CASTOR PACES AROUND THE ROOM.

CASTOR *(distressed grumbles)*

SFX (07:51): STEPS STOP.

CASTOR *(groans)*

Gray One. You there?

SFX (07:56): DEEP, MAGICAL RUMBLING.

DEMON *(distorted and staticky, their voice becomes clearer as they speak)*

Always for you, Castor.

CASTOR *(shudders)*

Look, I can't... I can't do this anymore.

DEMON Do? Do what?

CASTOR I can't... I can't be a warlock! I can't do magic... I can't... I can't have this deal with you!

DEMON *(darkly)*
Can't you?

CASTOR Can we... renegotiate?

DEMON *(echoing laughter)*
(mocking)
Oh, Castor, Castor, Castor. Naïve little Castor.
(with finality)
No. I do not renegotiate deals. This is permanent.

CASTOR But I can't... I can't keep lying!

DEMON No one is making you.

CASTOR *(sarcastic)*
Hah. Sure! Cause my family will *love* that this year's only been good because I messed with things that were out of my depth!

DEMON It has been good for them, hasn't it?

CASTOR They're fine, now!
Pollux is almost done saving up for his tuition and the shop is thriving and—

DEMON And accidents happen in kitchens too. And goodness me, but this place is falling apart, *isn't it?*

CASTOR *(firmly)*
We can take care of ourselves from here.

DEMON Can you? So the cave-in last week in that mine doesn't concern you?

CASTOR Cave-in? What cave-in?

DEMON *Ah*, Pollux didn't tell you! No doubt he didn't want you to worry.

CASTOR (*worriedly*)

He... didn't...

(*fumbles, cuts himself off*)

(*louder*)

This isn't what I wanted! I just wanted you to answer some questions!

DEMON You really should've thought of that before you agreed, Castor!

CASTOR Why won't you just *leave me alone*?

DEMON You want me to leave your family alone?

CASTOR No, please, don't! Just—just me.

DEMON I thought you wanted to research my kind.

CASTOR (*sharply*)

I've learned *all* I want from you.

DEMON (*hums*)

(*pause*)

Well, I'll hold up my end of things. We need not talk again.

(*sourly*)

I've already got what I want from you.

SFX (10:06): OMINOUS HUM AS THE DEMON DISAPPEARS.

AUDIO (10:11): BACKGROUND NOISE FADES OUT.

SFX (10:15): RUSTLING. CASTOR IS PACKING.

POLLUX I don't understand!

CASTOR We've been over this. I'm just going away to study.

POLLUX Yeah, I don't understand why!

CASTOR (*mutter*s)

Learned all I can here. I've already read and reread every book in the libraries about demons, and the college isn't ready for further study, so it's time for me to explore other options.

POLLUX *By leaving!*

SFX (10:35): RUSTLING STOPS.

CASTOR What do you expect me to *do*, Pollux?

POLLUX (*angrily*)

I expect a little more than a week's warning that I'm going to be losing my twin!

CASTOR You're not losing me! I'm just going away for—

POLLUX For how long?

CASTOR I'm... not sure yet.

POLLUX Castor, what is going on with you? You've been acting... so *weird* and distant!

CASTOR Nothing's going on!

POLLUX (*worriedly*)

Let me help you.

CASTOR There's nothing to be helped!

SFX (10:50): PACKING NOISES RESUME.

CASTOR *(reassuring)*

I'm alright, really. You'll be fine without me.

POLLUX *(softly)*

I don't want you to go.

SFX (11:06): RUSTLING STOPS.

AUDIO (11:06): A PAUSE.

CASTOR I'll write, I promise.

POLLUX You better.

SFX (11:11): SOFT RUSTLING. A HUG.

POLLUX *(small chuckle)*

I love you, nerd.

CASTOR I love you too.

(beat)

And who are you calling a nerd? You've got more books than I do!

POLLUX About food! Who doesn't like food?

CASTOR *(warmly, fond)*

Nobody. I'll see you soon.

AUDIO (11:29): BACKGROUND NOISE FADES AWAY.

OUTRO (11:30):

AUDIO (11:30): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

CREDITS (11:31):

HANNAH This bonus episode, "Demonology Practicum", 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.

This episode featured the voices of our special guests: Tareek Talati as Pollux, and Gary Scales and Liz Morey together as the Gray One.

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

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

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Keep a weather eye out, adventurers! The Inn will return to you soon.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (12:45): MUSIC ENDS.

EPISODE ENDS.