

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 4 episode 7, "The Guard"

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

(00:00) INTRO:

HANNAH Hi, everyone! Hannah, here!

TESSA And Tessa as well.

HANNAH And we're here to thank a patron!

TESSA Yes!

We would like to thank Colibri for their support. Thank you, Colibri.
Your name sounds like a mage.

HANNAH Tessa, we've talked about this.

TESSA Well, I'm right. Just say the name.

HANNAH Colibri.

TESSA *Colibri.*

HANNAH Colibri.... Yeah, okay.

TESSA I told you.

HANNAH If you would like to support the Inn, go to
[patreon.com/thegoblinshead!](https://patreon.com/thegoblinshead)

TESSA And now, let's go to the Inn!

(00:28): PREVIOUSLY ON...

TESSA Previously on Inn Between...

AUDIO (00:30): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TODE Finally, some goblin country we can depend on!

KNOWLES I figure we'll be ambushed before too long. Castor, why don't you take point?

CASTOR Me?

SFX (00:44): GOBLIN GROWLS, A WORDLESS HISSING NOISE.

ZARA No time like the present.

ROSIE Here we go!

AUDIO (01:28): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES.

(01:30) THE GUARD.

AUDIO (01:31): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF A TAVERN.

CASTOR I feel like I'm getting pretty good at magic.

ZARA You have more control! That's obvious.

CASTOR I wish I'd brought more of my books on warlocks. I feel like there's more variation in what I can cast than I'm utilizing.

ROSIE Wait, sorry... *More of?* How many *books* did you bring?

CASTOR Oh, lots! Just one on warlocks, though, and it focuses on demonic patronage.... I know I read something about... psychic magic at some point—

ZARA Why *wouldn't* you use psychic attacks if you could?

CASTOR They never really appealed to me before. I mean... magic was already hard; did I really need to be trying to mess with my brain? Or other people's?

TODE Hm, that seems sensible to me.

SFX (02:15): FOOTSTEPS COMING CLOSER.

CASTOR I think it's worth exploring now! Might be interesting.

SFX (02:18): GLASS CLINKS AS ITS SET DOWN.

SADIYAH Glad you're making good use of the magic.

CASTOR *(suddenly uncomfortable)*

Uhm... Yeah.

AUDIO (02:23): A PAUSE.

ROSIE *(slowly)*

Could I... get another cider, Sadiyah?

SADIYAH *(pleasantly)*

Of course, dear Rosie. Anything else?

AUDIO (02:32): A PAUSE.

SADIYAH I swear, it's like a funeral whenever I'm around.

ZARA *(bitingly)*

Forgive us for not being ourselves around a *god*.

SADIYAH *(sigh)*

Most gods get worship and admiration. None of that for Lady Luck!

KNOWLES Just prayers and curses?

SADIYAH Exactly, Teric. Prayers and curses. Or... Excuse me, not Teric. *Sergeant Knowles*.

I'll be back soon. It might be a little while. Rosie?

ROSIE Uhm, that's...

(with fake cheer)

That's fine!

SFX (03:10): FOOTSTEPS FADING AWAY.

ZARA Does she *really* expect us to be friendly after the deal she struck with us?

ROSIE It's... honestly? Not very professional.

KNOWLES I keep trying to figure out a way to arrest her for extortion. It's pretty close to the definition of the law.

ROSIE No, wait. You can't!

KNOWLES Can't what?

ROSIE Arrest anyone.

KNOWLES I mean, I wouldn't. I'm on the job with *you*, but—

ROSIE No, no! We left the kingdom yesterday.

ZARA You're out of your jurisdiction.

KNOWLES *(lost)*

I'm... I...

ROSIE This is wilderness! Above drow and dwarf territory. The towns out here are on their own.

TODE Ah. Different laws and all that?

ROSIE *(humored)*

When there are laws at all!

KNOWLES What do you mean "when there are laws at all?"

ROSIE Well, Drow law really only applies underground.

CASTOR And dwarves live so close to... goblins and things, most of our laws are only applicable in the cities.

Keeps the peace that way.

KNOWLES So, on the surface?

ROSIE Wild country. Lawless.

KNOWLES It's not *that* wild. We're literally in a village *right now*.

CASTOR Sure, there are scattered roadside places like this, but otherwise it's pretty barren.

Nomadic folks pass through sometimes. Orcs, humans...

ROSIE And they kind of... take their law with them.

AUDIO (04:40): A PAUSE.

TODE Are you quite alright, Knowles?

KNOWLES (*unsure*)

Yes. I'm... fine.

CASTOR You don't look fine.

ZARA (*disbelieving*)

Are you *that* scared about a lack of rules?

KNOWLES (*firmly*)

I am not scared. I am recalculating.

ZARA Whatever you want to call it.

ROSIE You aren't going to lose it like you did before Sadiyah stopped helping our luck, are you?

KNOWLES I'm fine, Rosie. Gods! It's just...

CASTOR Just... what?

KNOWLES If we want to know our odds, we have to know the framework in which we're working –who we can ask for backup, what we can depend on being enforced or allowed...

So... working in a different jurisdiction... changes that! That's all. Recalculating. It's all... right!

TODE I would have more confidence if you sounded just a *tad* more convincing.

KNOWLES (*shakily*)

Thanks, Tode.

TODE You know, I used to believe you were an easygoing sort of person, but I believe I was mistaken.

ZARA (*laughs*)

You thought they were *easygoing*?

ROSIE They were ready to arrest me for like... that *whole* first week!

KNOWLES It's easy to take things in stride when you *know* what to expect next!

TODE Ah! Why fear what you can control?

ZARA So, wait, *that's* why you care about rules? That's about control, too?

KNOWLES (*dubiously*)

Ah... Well!

(*sheepishly*)

That's not a flattering thing to admit, is it?

ZARA So, it *is*.

KNOWLES (*defensive*)

What's wrong with wanting to have a *little* security about what's going to happen next?

ZARA Besides the fact that that's *impossible*?

CASTOR I mean, are you sure about that?

ZARA What?

CASTOR Because Knowles is usually right about what's going to happen next.

ROSIE Yeah, like... as far as certainty goes, they've pretty much got us covered.

KNOWLES (*warmly*)

Aw, I'm touched!

ZARA (*matter-of-factly*)

Something unexpected is *always* going to happen. Something always goes wrong.

KNOWLES Oh, I know. After the life I've had, Zara? I *know*.

(*beat*)

(*solemnly*)

I just... decided at one point that I wanted to be able to see it coming.

ROSIE That's why you got good at odds?

KNOWLES Sort of.

It was an obsession for a while. And I've always had a knack for math! It was just asking some different questions.

CASTOR What kind of questions?

KNOWLES Ah! Well...

(beat)

(impersonal, reciting each sentence as if practiced)

Twins both catch a fever. These twins are exactly alike in almost every way. They start to get sick on the same day... neither one worse off than the other. Both very ill.

One gets better, the other gets worse and dies.

(pause)

(dryly)

What are the odds?

CASTOR *(awkwardly)*

Oh. Those kinds of questions.

ROSIE What were they like? Bailey?

KNOWLES Bailey was...

(fondly)

They had a million ideas. They always knew what we should do for fun. And I knew how to do it.

(chuckles)

We were never bored.

ROSIE So, you were the ones giving everyone ideas about twin shenanigans?

KNOWLES Oh, yes! We were... troublemakers.

CASTOR *(disbelieving)*

You?

ROSIE *(delighted)*

Really?

KNOWLES *(amused)*

The guard weren't always my coworkers.

ROSIE I'm... kind of in love with this idea! Little Knowles and Bailey, running amok around the capitol!

KNOWLES Little *Teric* and Bailey.

ROSIE Oh! Oh, right.

KNOWLES Bailey never changed their name, you know. Even when I did. So, I had to make sure mine sounded good with theirs.

It felt like... we belonged as much to each other as we did to ourselves.

CASTOR That's interesting. Pollux and I kind of felt the same way when we chose ours.

(pleased)

That's why they match!

ROSIE Oh! Do... do dwarves choose their own names?

CASTOR Uh... only when they don't like their deadnames.

ROSIE Oh...

(with dawning realization)

Oh!

KNOWLES Hey, one of us!

ROSIE *(overlapping)*

One of us!

You never said!

CASTOR I don't know. It never came up.

ZARA (*considering*)

Matching names.

CASTOR Yeah. Our sister thought it was a little *cutesy*.

ZARA (*honestly*)

I was going to say it's kind of satisfying.

CASTOR That's what we thought too!

TODE I don't understand. Why do Castor and Pollux match?

ROSIE Oh! It's from this old story!

KNOWLES You want to tell it, Castor?

CASTOR Oh, I'm not much of a storyteller.

ROSIE You have to at least explain the reference.

CASTOR Well, that's part of the problem, you know.

Castor and Pollux are in dozens of stories and some of them are good, and some are terrible, but... we chose their names because they were... always ready for an adventure.

(*a little embarrassed*)

Which is... probably more than I can say about me and Pollux, but it was kind of... aspirational, I guess?

ROSIE Oh, you *aspired* to twin shenanigans.

CASTOR (*chuckles*)

Yeah... Most of ours weren't very impressive. They mostly involved kitchen disasters and cookbooks.

Oh, Pollux is a chef.

KNOWLES (*delighted*)

Kitchen disasters?

CASTOR (*sheepish*)

Some recipes worked better than others.

ROSIE (*laughing*)

Amazing!

KNOWLES Bailey and I had kitchen adventures.

CASTOR Yeah?

KNOWLES (*nostalgic*)

One time, the two of us stole *four* crates of food from the market. Mostly from the cheese monger. Narrowly escaped being caught! But we feasted like *lords* that week!

AUDIO (10:40): A PAUSE.

KNOWLES (*self-conscious*)

Ah... I guess you had to be there?

ROSIE You... weren't joking... about the guard not always being friends of yours.

KNOWLES Why would I joke about that?

ZARA You... were a thief.

KNOWLES It was just kid stuff!

CASTOR What if a *guard* caught you?

KNOWLES That... would have been a problem, yes.

ZARA They would have chucked you in jail with the other urchins.

KNOWLES Luckily, I'm not a mischievous urchin anymore.

TODE If you don't mind the question, was it the death of your sibling that changed your ways?

KNOWLES (*confused*)

Changed my... ways?

TODE You are rather... derisive of the unlawful behaviors of other people.

ROSIE Myself, for example?

CASTOR And Max, too.

KNOWLES Oh, no. Tode, it wasn't Bailey... Not exactly.

I... actually got worse after Bailey died, trying to act like nothing had changed. I kept getting in trouble, but without them... I had a hard time caring if I got out of it.

(*beat*)

(*slowly*)

I've always been a gambler, but I haven't always been a good one. Caring about consequences is... *hard* when it feels like you're alone for the first time in your life.

(*softly*)

When you feel like maybe... you won't survive long either.

ROSIE (*rattled*)

I don't even recognize the Knowles you're describing.

ZARA (*disdainful*)

What could possibly make you change into... *this*?

KNOWLES You're acting like it's all so... complicated. I was *tired*, alright?

After my mother died, when I was really alone, I was fed up fighting a system of odds stacked against me! I went with a safer bet.

AUDIO (12:41): A PAUSE.

ZARA (*venomously*)

You joined the *guard* because it was a *safe bet*?

KNOWLES Yes?

ZARA And all that talk about "law is law?"

KNOWLES What about it?

ZARA It's not a *moral code*?

KNOWLES I mean, it is.

Look, it's a system that works, but... it's also a system designed for justice. That's a morally *good* thing.

ZARA Designed by whom?

ROSIE (*quietly*)

Rich people, mostly, trying to protect what's... theirs.

CASTOR It's kings and lords who make the laws.

KNOWLES But in the grand scheme of things—

ZARA (*cuttingly*)

It doesn't matter if a few people get the short end of the stick?

TODE You were rather ready to arrest Rosie.

KNOWLES (*offended, hurt*)

I—I... I pour my heart out about my *dead sibling*, and you all repay me by calling... into question my whole *life*?

ROSIE Are you trying to change the subject?

KNOWLES I'm saying you don't *know* what it was like.

TODE Then, Zara is wrong. The law acting as your moral code leaves no one behind.

AUDIO (13:47): A PAUSE.

KNOWLES (*pained groan*)

If you look at the odds...

ZARA (*furious*)

Oh, my *gods!* You single-minded, *inflexible*—

KNOWLES Whoa!

ZARA It's like you're so smart, but you're not smart enough to see what's right in front of you!

KNOWLES What is it you think is right in front of me?

ZARA (*disbelieving anger*)

Do you have any idea how *miserable* you could make life for people by just... *blindly* following the numbers?

KNOWLES But I *don't* make life miserable for people!

ZARA Oh, you know that for *sure*? You're certain of that? Because you *could!* And so could any *one* of your guard friends!

And you don't see that! Because as long as your system is working *for you*, you're just fine not thinking about the rest!

KNOWLES What...? You...

(*angrily*)

You act like anything *I* come up with is going to be better! Like any mortal, moral code could *possibly* be perfect!

ZARA So, you're just fine using one made up by the rich and powerful, who *don't* care about you at all?

(sharply, demanding)

Have you forgotten what it's like to be *poor*?

KNOWLES *(matching her anger)*

And how could I forget?

(growing progressively more and more incensed)

How could I forget when there are *still* days that I wake up hungry and wonder if we're going to eat today before I remember? *How could I forget* what it's like to be so desperate to tip the odds even *slightly* in our favor? When everything is *stacked* against us?

ZARA So, instead you join the side that keeps doing the stacking?

(reproachful)

Because it's *easy*? Because you were *tired*?

KNOWLES *Yes!* Because I was tired! What do you expect me to *do*?

ZARA *I expect you to think!*

Gods! Even for a *second* about what you're doing!

KNOWLES I—

ZARA Bailey isn't here to think about consequences for you, Knowles!

(darkly)

You have to do that *yourself*.

KNOWLES Leave them out of this!

ZARA Why should I? *You* won't!

SFX (15:48): CHAIR SCOOTs ABRUPTLY.

ROSIE *(worried)*

No, Knowles! Don't storm off.

KNOWLES I'm not storming off! I'm just...!

(defeated)

I... just...

SFX (16:00): HEAVY FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY BEFORE COMING BACK.

KNOWLES You expect me to hammer out *every* individual aspect of my moral compass? Like Castor?

ZARA Ideally.

CASTOR Uhm, I *wouldn't* recommend the overthinking part.

ZARA *(acidly)*

That'd be *better* than the current state of things!

KNOWLES Fine then. Fine.

SFX (16:22): CHAIR SCOOTs AS THEY SIT DOWN.

KNOWLES *(carefully)*

I'll think about it. I'll... recalculate.

ZARA Why?

KNOWLES Why? What do you mean "why?"

ZARA If you're doing it to shut me up, that's *not* a good reason.

KNOWLES I'm doing it because...

Because...

(pause)

(somber, each word spoken with great caution)

Because you're right. I've... been... complacent. And being a good guard is... easy. But, if I'm actually using my head about this, it's... more important to me to be a good person... than to be a good guard.

ZARA *Good.*

KNOWLES *(sigh)*

ROSIE So... That sounded... like a consensus. Right?

CASTOR I think it was.

ROSIE Right! So...

Are we friends again?

KNOWLES *(fondly)*

Beacon of sunshine.

TODE *(earnestly)*

I don't believe we ever stopped being friends today.

ZARA *(scoffs)*

Speak for yourself! *Some* of us never started.

KNOWLES *(overlapping)*

Oh, come on.

ROSIE *(overlapping)*

(snorts)

Zara, stop lying!

CASTOR *(overlapping)*

Okay.

AUDIO: BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

(17:42) OUTRO:

(17:42) NEXT TIME ON...

AUDIO (17:43): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between...

ADVENTURER Oh no! Not a freak hailstorm!

ZARA There goes some of our competition.

ADVENTURER 2 Not direwolves!

(screams)

KNOWLES I've got a feeling we haven't faced our toughest challenge quite yet.

ADVENTURER 3 *(groans)*

No gem is worth this!

ROSIE *(with forced cheer)*

But we're great! We're going to be fine, right guys?

CREDITS:

HANNAH This episode, "The Guard", 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. The voice of Tessa is Hannah Wright. The voice of Sadiyah is Arrianna Abraham.

The voices of the adventurers are Maksim Avdeev, Haden Ezekiel Felix and Vic Hawley.

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

Special thanks to ItMe Productions who provided script editing for this episode. Check out their show, InCo.

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

Find and follow us on Twitter, [@inn_between](https://twitter.com/inn_between). Or support us on Patreon, at patreon.com/thegoblinshead.

AUDIO (18:48): MUSIC ENDS.

HANNAH If you like the show, deconstruct a power structure or two. Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

HANNAH This story was created in the traditional territory of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples, and edited in the unceded territory of the Salish, Kootenai, and Kalispel peoples.

(19:06) POST-CREDITS:

AUDIO (19:07): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN.

TESSA Well, I don't know. I can't say I know many gamblers.

SADIYAH I know too many. It's funny how people get so obsessed with luck, only to try and control it.

TESSA *(thoughtfully)*

Mm, there is a lot of satisfaction in thinking you can control something that no one else can. And nothing's less controllable than luck.

SADIYAH Very true.

TESSA What's got you thinking about this?

SADIYAH Oh... nothing.

AUDIO (19:35): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

EPISODE ENDS.