INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 4 episode 8, "The Outfitter"

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

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(00:00) INTRO:

(00:00): PREVIOUSLY ON…

TESSA Previously on Inn Between…

AUDIO (00:01): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

CASTOR We're coming up on Drow and dwarf territory, right?

ZARA You're saying there's a way forward *under* the mountains?

TODE You know, "wildlands" is a bit of a misnomer; even here, people find a way to live.

KNOWLES You're saying there's a way forward *over* the mountain?

TODE Then, you and your friends are also going after the Gem of Fortune?

CYBILENE Yes! Oh, it's quite the quest! Very exciting!

ROSIE Time to get an edge on the competition.

AUDIO (00:58): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES.

(01:00) THE OUTFITTER.

AUDIO (01:03): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF A TAVERN.

KNOWLES So, we have a decision to make: either we… hoof it across the surface *over* the mountains, *or* we make our way underground through dwarf and Drow territory.

Gut reactions, go.

ZARA Anyone claustrophobic?

CASTOR No.

ROSIE *(snorts)*

No.

TODE *(cheerfully)*

I have not had the opportunity to find out!

KNOWLES I'm not.

CASTOR The tunnel systems can be *really* confusing though if you're not used to them.

KNOWLES If you're not used to *tunnels?* Or if you're not familiar with the tunnels you're going through?

CASTOR Oh, sorry. The latter.

(thoughtfully)

Although… being familiar with tunnels in general doesn't *hurt*.

ROSIE Well, between you and me we've pretty much got that part covered, right?

CASTOR Oh, yeah, for sure.

KNOWLES I don't suppose you're familiar with the area?

CASTOR Delaroca's in an entirely different range? I've… never been here.

ZARA There isn't *anything* up on the surface? No towns or anything? It can't *all* be wildlands.

ROSIE Unless we go underground, this is the last civilization we'll see until *just* outside the Glacial Caverns.

KNOWLES So *you're* familiar with the area?

ROSIE *(suddenly uneasy)*

Uhm... yes. Yep. Mhm.

KNOWLES This place isn't exactly the best spot to *re*supply for a long trip.

So… in summary?

ZARA Either we… stock up on subpar supplies *here* and try to walk overland through dangerous wilderness for multiple weeks, *or* we… go underground and have relatively the same experience as we've *been* having, just with a roof over our heads.

CASTOR Well. When you put it like *that*.

ROSIE *(nervously)*

Mm…

(clicks her tongue)

I mean, it's not, like… *that* bad.

KNOWLES How do you figure?

ROSIE Overland traveling can be *fun!* I mean, don't you like camping?

KNOWLES *No.*

ZARA *Why* don't you want to go underground?

CASTOR She *is* familiar with the area… Unless…!

(suspicious, nervous)

Do you know something we don't?

ROSIE Well, hang on. I'm familiar with the *immediate* area. If we went much further than the next city underground, we'd need a map!

KNOWLES *(considering)*

Mm. Good to know…

ROSIE But! We don't *have* to go underground! The first city is going to be a Drow city and, like…

(fumbling)

Well, like… think of the culture shock!

CASTOR *(dubiously)*

Culture shock?

ROSIE I don't suppose anyone's familiar with the principle of "reciprocity"?

KNOWLES Like… the concept or…?

ROSIE The principle. The… *Drow* principle.

TODE I don't believe I am.

ROSIE Okay, so… It's *pretty* complicated but, basically, you only take what you can repay and, when you give, you *expect* repayment.

TODE That doesn't sound *too* complicated!

ROSIE Doesn't it?

What if what you're giving is *time?* Or… emotional energy? Or *social effort?*

CASTOR But that's not hard to deal with! Back home, all you had to do with the drow *I* knew was make sure you were being *fair.*

ROSIE Those were expat drow!

They understood that interacting with them *was a cost* and paid you back by… not being weird about it!

(takes in a breath)

Trust me, it's a whole different world in a Drow city. The expectations are *higher.*

TODE Really?

ROSIE Mhm!

If you buy a map, they'll probably *upcharge you* for the mental labor of dealing with someone who doesn't "really get" reciprocity.

KNOWLES Oh, *that's* annoying!

CASTOR Wait! So… what if you change your name? Would they consider that a cost? Like… the mental energy of remembering a new name?

ROSIE Oh! Uhm… *No*, actually. The… the opposite.

If anything, correcting someone when they call you the wrong name or… pronouns or… *whatever* is saving them from accruing debt to *you*.

Like, *they* owe *you* if they call you the wrong thing.

KNOWLES Alright. I think that tracks.

ZARA If we're going into Drow cities, isn't it a good thing we have *you?*

ROSIE *(alarmed)*

No! Seriously, I am terrible at being a drow!

You don't want me keeping track of your reciprocity! Why do you think I came out of the mountains?

KNOWLES *That's* why you don't want to go underground? Culture shock?

ROSIE Yes! Well… no.

(sigh)

Sort of.

ZARA Which one of those answers is the *right* one?

ROSIE *Look,* it's just like…!

SFX (05:38): DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

ROSIE *(shocked)*

(under her breath)

Leaping Lolth, it's Stella.

KNOWLES What? What's wrong?

CASTOR Who's *Stella?*

ROSIE Uh…

(loudly)

Look over there!

CASTOR Where?

SFX (05:51): SOFT CHAIR SCOOT.

TODE Rosie?

ZARA *(baffled)*

Where did she go?

SFX (05:53): FOOTSTEPS COMING CLOSER.

STELLA *(brightly, cordial)*

Good evening, folks! May I have a moment of your time? I'm sure it will be worth your while!

KNOWLES Uh… Yes, sorry. Sure.

STELLA Thank you.

(charmingly)

My name is Stella Muneshyl. And am I *right* in thinking that you are adventurers? On your way to the Glacial Caverns?

TODE Why, yes! Yes, we are!

STELLA This lovely village *isn't* ideal for resupplying! Oh, whatever route you take, no *doubt* you'd like to start from Rello Holennish!

ZARA *(to herself)*

Twice Sound City…? That can't be right.

STELLA *(pleased)*

Oh! You speak Elvish!

ZARA I'm rusty.

STELLA Ah, you speak the wood elf dialect!

In Drow, it's *Echo* City. It's not too far from here.

I thought you might like to know that my family's shop, Muneshyl Supply, is *very* conveniently located in the city center! And that mentioning me will get you a discount? Wink, wink?

KNOWLES Now, *that* is worth our while.

ZARA Do you sell maps?

STELLA We do! Both overland *and* underground.

TODE Sounds promising.

KNOWLES Thanks, Ms. Muneshyl. This might be exactly what we were looking for!

CASTOR *(hesitant)*

I don't know, Rosie was pretty adamant about not going underground at all.

STELLA *(faltering)*

Uh, did… Did you say… *Rosie?*

KNOWLES Yes, friend of ours! Do you know her?

STELLA Uhm... Mm. S-sorry, uhm…

(trying to recover her previous cheer)

Likely not! Ah… probably a different Rosie. Mine has...

(sighs)

(with great difficulty)

Passed away. Uhm… quite some time ago.

ROSIE *What?*

AUDIO (07:36): SEVERAL GASPS FROM THE CREW AND STELLA.

STELLA *(awed)*

ErshiLolthley!

CASTOR *Where* did you come from?

ROSIE *(angrily)*

I'm not *dead!* Why would you think I'm *dead?*

STELLA *(shell-shocked)*

I... I… I can't believe it.

ROSIE *(losing her anger)*

U–Uhm…

(uneasy cheer)

Hi, Stella.

STELLA *(with a disbelieving laugh)*

Hi?

CASTOR *(whispers)*

Uh, so… is that her sister or…?

KNOWLES *(hurried, panicked shushing)*

Sh! *Sh!*

STELLA *(polite tone brimming with rage)*

How do you want to do this?

ROSIE *(heavy sigh)*

(tiredly)

Can we not? Can we just… *not* do this?

STELLA Rosie…

ROSIE This is *exactly* why I ran away in the first place, *okay?* Can't we just… *talk?*

STELLA Well!

(scoffs)

(sharply)

That would be really convenient for you, wouldn't it?

ROSIE *What?*

STELLA *(progressively losing her temper)*

After what you've put me through! And Mother! And… And then just showing up out of the blue!

I thought you were dead!

ROSIE Well, I'm *not!* I'm here!

STELLA Ah, yeah! Yeah! I can see that *now!*

ROSIE *(fumbles)*

Does Mother know what happened? Did you *tell* her?

STELLA Of course not! I keep up *my* end of reciprocity!

ROSIE What are you *talking* about?

STELLA *(hurt)*

You said you would write to me.

(choked breath)

You said you would let me know you were *alive!*

ROSIE I said I would… *try* to write.

STELLA *(pointedly)*

And did you? Did you try?

ROSIE Uhm… I- I… did. Yes.

STELLA *(groans)*

Why did I ever trust you? I *should* have told Mother.

ROSIE Why did you just *assume* I was dead?

STELLA What *else* was I supposed to think?

ROSIE *(a touch scared)*

You're not going to tell her now, are you?

STELLA I *owe* her that much, don't I?

ROSIE *(groans)*

(unhappily)

What do you want?

STELLA *(low)*

I want *you* to tell her.

ROSIE No! Absolutely not!

STELLA After *all* the suffering you've caused her—

ROSIE No! She'll just want me to… come home and act like nothing's changed and take over the business…

STELLA *(disbelieving)*

Well, not if I have anything to say about it!

ROSIE Oh! Oh right!

(sarcastic)

You were real torn up when I left, weren't you? Must be *so hard* for you to ascend to your *rightful* place at Mother's side!

STELLA As if you even wanted to be involved!

(exasperated)

Everything's such an *ordeal* with you!

ROSIE And for you it's… roses and rainbows!

(mockingly)

Is there a single thing that doesn't come easy to you, Stella?

STELLA Oh!

(scathingly)

Just because *you* don't have *one reciprocal* bone in your body—

ROSIE *(darkly)*

ErshiLolthley, nulwishelil ruma unMima!

STELLA *(yelling)*

Nultimeshilen harata, alshura! Etnulrishilen *myret* unnyr!

KNOWLES *(alarmed)*

Ladies! Ladies, can we cool it *just* a little bit?

STELLA *Hm!*

ROSIE *(grumbles)*

CASTOR *(uneasily)*

You… should have written her a letter, Rosie.

ROSIE *Not you too!*

CASTOR This is maybe the *worst* possible way to leave home!

ROSIE You don't know what you're talking about!

ZARA *Seriously,* Rosie?

STELLA Why didn't you at least let me *know* you were okay, hm?

ROSIE I just…

(beat)

I just thought a clean break would be *easier!*

STELLA Easier for *who,* Rosie?

<u>AUDIO (10:57): A PAUSE.</u>

STELLA *(hesitant, without any of her previous anger)*

Did you… ever join a circus?

ROSIE No…. That… didn't work out. Did you ever get up the guts to talk to that girl down the street?

STELLA *(softly)*

She moved away.

ROSIE Oh.

AUDIO (11:18): A PAUSE.

ROSIE *(sighs)*

(slowly, earnestly)

Look, I'm sorry.

(struggling with her words)

I'm really, really sorry. I've made a… a *lot* of stupid, selfish decisions in my life, but… pretending you didn't exist was… was probably the *most* selfish.

STELLA Yeah. It *was*.

ROSIE I would like the chance to make it up to you.

STELLA Then *come home* with me.

ROSIE I… I can't do that! I can't go back to trying to be someone I'm *not*.

STELLA What? A drow?

ROSIE I'll always be drow, but… I can't live my whole life keeping score!

I owe Mother a lot, but I *don't* owe her that! Anyway, I'm more concerned with making this up to *you*.

STELLA If you want reciprocity, then… then…

(sigh)

(continued)

… come home and at least *speak* to Mother? Please?

ROSIE She is going to *hate* me for leaving.

STELLA She *loves* you, Rosie. She never understood you…

(mutters)

And, if I'm being honest, I don't think I do either…

(normal volume)

But… she loves you.

(sigh)

Let her see you *alive*.

KNOWLES *(gently)*

Will you be in danger if you go home, Rosie?

ROSIE No, no. It's… nothing like that.

CASTOR Your mother *definitely* thinks you're dead, though…?

ROSIE Does she?

STELLA Eh… you disappeared *really* convincingly. She was on the lookout for ransom letters for, uhm… Quite some time.

ROSIE *Oh,* Leaping Lolth…

ZARA Ransom letters?

STELLA *Eldest* daughters of the wealthiest people in the city don't just disappear willy-nilly!

KNOWLES *(with good humor)*

Well, look who's secretly refined and highfalutin after all!

ROSIE I… *guess*.

CASTOR I'm starting to see why you didn't want to go home.

TODE You won't be alone, Rosie. Whatever you choose.

ZARA Maybe you need the help of a… walking confrontation?

ROSIE Maybe so.

(beat)

(softly)

Thanks, guys.

AUDIO (13:41): A PAUSE.

ROSIE Okay. I'll come home. For… a short visit, okay?

STELLA *(with great relief)*

Good. Okay.

ROSIE Yeah.

STELLA *(with a more casual, lighter tone)*

Now, are you going to introduce me to your friends, or…?

ROSIE Oh! Silly me.

Uh, this is Tode, Zara, Knowles, and Castor. Guys, this is my baby sister—

STELLA *(fake, forced laugh)*

(seriously)

We are *twins*.

ROSIE My tiny widdle *sweet* sister, Stella… who should definitely eat with us! I mean…

(warmly)

If you're not *too* busy playing brand ambassador.

STELLA Well…

(beat)

Uh, you *are* the only adventurers here at the moment!

SFX (14:31): CHAIR SCOOTS.

STELLA So! What have you been doing all this time?

KNOWLES *(with an exaggerated, overly curious tone, high pitched)*

Wow! Look…

(clicks their tongue)

Look… Look at… Look over there! Look… at the bar! I bet there's food there! I'll go over there!

SFX (14:48): CHAIR SCOOTS. FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY.

STELLA *(weirded out)*

Uhm. Uh, why did…? Uhm…?

ROSIE *(fondly)*

They're a really good friend.

I'm a thief.

STELLA *(delighted)*

You are *not*.

ROSIE I am!

TODE A very good thief too.

ROSIE *(proudly)*

One of the best!

STELLA *(a little panicked)*

Okay, aha, maybe don't tell Mother that?

AUDIO (15:13): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

(15:14) OUTRO:

(15:14) NEXT TIME ON…

AUDIO (15:15): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between…

STELLA I *bet* I can get you a map with all the shortcuts marked… *After* you talk to Mother.

ROSIE Be polite to everyone, no matter what. Don't window shop unless you mean to buy something, and above all…

(warning, serious whisper)

Do not cross *my mother.*

MOTHER *(gasp)*

Rosie? My Rosie?

ROSIE *(uneasy)*

Hi, Mom.

MOTHER Where have you been, young lady?

ROSIE Leaping Lolth…

(15:50) CREDITS:

HANNAH This episode, "The Outfitter," 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.

Additional voices this episode by Kira Apple, Alice Jooren, Steven Goldman and Hannah Wright.

This episode also featured the voice of special guest Sena Bryer as Stella. Listen to her *incredible* show, *Dreambound*.

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.

AUDIO (16:26): MUSIC ENDS.

HANNA Find and follow us on Twitter, @inn_between_. Or support us on Patreon, at patreon.com/thegoblinshead.

If you like the show, get permanently trapped in an AI-generated MMORPG. 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.

(16:53) POST-CREDITS:

AUDIO (16:54): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN.

CUSTOMER *(petulantly)*

The quality of service here is very disappointing!

STELLA *(fascinated)*

Wow.

TESSA *(flatly)*

Oh, you're absolutely breaking my heart.

CUSTOMER Isn't the customer always right?

STELLA *(snorts)*

What?

TESSA *(with disbelieving laughter)*

Who on earth told you *that?*

STELLA That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard!

(laughs)

TESSA Some people have no idea how to behave!

AUDIO (17:15): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

EPISODE ENDS.