

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 5, Episode 11, "The Economy"

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

(00:00) INTRO:

(00:00): PREVIOUSLY ON...

TESSA Previously on Inn Between...

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

MAX This is the deepest in the mountains that I've ever been!

TAVIV'KA *(warmly)*

Greetings, cousin!

YAK Hatk'it, yekipt!

TAVIV'KA Hratrrr! Tskik att'k'tto!

LARKIN *Cousin?*

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

(01:00) THE ECONOMY.

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

TAVIV'KA I have to be moving on, I have further to go, but it was good to meet you!

YAK Likewise! Any news to pass on?

TAVIV'KA *(grandly)*

Tell them Taviv'ka will be home soon!

Do you have anything?

YAK No.

TAVIV'KA Oh! Then...

SFX (01:20): CLOTH RUSTLING AND SMALL OBJECTS TINKLING.

TAVIV'KA Here!

YAK Thank you. Very much. Be safe out there!

TAVIV'KA Hatk'it!

SFX (01:27): STEPS FADE AWAY.

SFX (01:31): DOOR CREAKS OPEN AND SHUT.

LARKIN Taviv'ka isn't... actually your cousin, right?

YAK *(chuckles)*

No! That's a... dragonborn thing.

LARKIN What does it mean?

YAK Well, all of us are part of our own communities and family groups but, more than that, we are a part of the dragonborn as a whole. None of us are set apart, either better than or worse than the rest.

We're all family.

RUKES Sounds... idealistic.

YAK Yeah, it has its problems, but I prefer it to clawing ambition at the expense of your kin.

MAX *(cheekily)*

Clawing ambition can be fun, though.

YAK Yeah, for one person at a time, maybe.

RUKES *(dryly)*

You're saying all dragonborn are just... holding hands, singing Kumbaya?

YAK No, I'm saying that the ones that refuse to play nice don't get celebrated by their society. Usually, anyway.

Which is more than I can say for most of you ape types.

PHOEBE What about passing along news? What did you mean by that?

YAK Also a dragonborn thing. It's a... way of keeping connected and, if necessary, retracing someone's steps. This way, if anyone's desperate to know what happened to Taviv'ka, I can tell them what she wanted people to know.

LARKIN Seems sensible.

RUKES What did she give you?

YAK Let's see, uh...

SFX (02:40): SMALL METALLIC BEADS CLACK TOGETHER.

YAK Oh, it's a medallion!

SFX (02:43): SMALL METALLIC BEADS CLACK TOGETHER.

YAK This must be Taviv'ka's family crest. *Gorgeous* embossing.

MAX *(stunned)*

Yak... that's mithril.

YAK Is it? That's so kind. Taviv'ka's a good egg!

LARKIN *Mithril?*

PHOEBE *(faintly)*

Oh, gods.

RUKES That kid just gave you a *mithril medallion*. Out of nowhere.

YAK Yeah, I suppose so.

RUKES (*disbelieving*)

Why?

YAK It was a kindness! A... respect thing. I don't know. It makes more sense to a dragon— We're family! Sort of. See?

MAX (*scandalized*)

I wouldn't give a medallion worth more than a house to *anyone* in my family. Especially not for free!

YAK Ah, we don't think about possessions like you mammals do.

RUKES (*snorts*)

That's ridiculous. Utterly ridiculous.

LARKIN (*curiously*)

What about the concept of hoarding? I mean, dragons are known for hoarding.

YAK Yeah, we do it. We just... understand the hoard as belonging to a community rather than individuals.

LARKIN Then where did the... dragons' reputation of being selfish come from?

YAK Oh, *dragons!* Dragons proper are... different. They don't have to live in communities. Not like people do.

PHOEBE Dragons aren't people?

YAK Well, they're kind of *beyond* people, don't you think?

RUKES Do you... worship them?

YAK Just the godlike ones. Just like anyone else.

(firmly)

If you're worried about me having any hesitation about fighting Dorighet the Trapper when we get to where we're going, then rest assured, I'm looking forward to it.

MAX *(awed)*

A mithril medallion.

YAK They really are *such* a good kid.

MAX But, Yak, the *value!*

YAK What value? A mithril medallion won't save my life, but I bet Taviv'ka would.

LARKIN All this... codependence. It's hard to wrap your head around.

YAK *(slightly incredulous)*

No. Nah. Larkin.

It's not codependence. Every person alive has to rely on someone else, even if it's just a little bit, in order to... keep existing. The only difference between dragonborn and everyone else is that we're willing to acknowledge that and celebrate it.

Living in a community is just...

(deep breath)

The economics of being alive.

MAX *(scoffs)*

Not that your community worked out great for you.

YAK *(taken aback)*

What did you say?

MAX Let's be honest! Community is all well and good. Friendship, too.

(disdainful)

But family? The community forced upon you without your consent? That's just a curse.

RUKES *(scoffs)*

MAX *(angrily)*

Is that a scoff I hear? Go on, Rukes. Speak your mind.

RUKES I only scoff when someone's being wrong within earshot. I scoff a *lot*.

MAX Oh? Suddenly the *skeptic* is all about blood obligation?

RUKES *(matter-of-factly)*

You're just showing off your baggage and calling it fact.

MAX I bet Phoebe agrees with me.

PHOEBE Well... maybe.

MAX *(smugly)*

Mhm! Your family ever do you any favors, Larkin?

LARKIN I can't really say that they did.

MAX There's some evidence for you!

RUKES *(dryly)*

Aha. You call it evidence. I call that sad.

MAX Now.

(short sigh)

In Yak's case, you'd think with all the dragonborn talk of *cooperation* and *community*, their family would be more forgiving, but—

YAK Max, do you value your life?

MAX Yes?

YAK *(firmly)*

Then shut up.

MAX Come on, Yak! I was just saying—

YAK You talk... far too much sometimes, Maximilian. Shut your mouth.

(darkly)

And mind your business.

RUKES *(intrigued)*

Oh, this is interesting.

LARKIN *(whispering firmly)*

Stay out of it. For once.

RUKES *(whispering)*

I'm out of it! I'm out of it! I'm just...

(riveted)

Watching carefully.

MAX I'm not trying to say that there's anything wrong with dragonborn in particular. The problem is with *family* in general! They screwed you over! You're the one that told me that!

YAK *(unamused)*

How long have we known each other, Max?

MAX It's been years!

(gaining volume)

Which is how I know—!

YAK *(seething)*

Maybe you forgot, then, when I told you *specifically* not to talk about my family.

MAX I'm not talking about your family! I'm talking about the *concept* of family! Yours just happen to be a prime example of—

SFX (07:04): SEVERAL WOODEN OBJECTS THUD LOUDLY. GLASSES TIP OVER.

MAX *(pained)*

Ugk! Gods! Yak! What was that?

YAK *(irate growling)*

You know *full well*—!

SFX (07:13): SHARP, METALLIC CLANG OF BLADE BEING UNSHEATHED.

LARKIN Wow! Hey! Hey, now!

PHOEBE *Yak!*

(gasps)

MAX Alright! Alright! I'm sorry! Alright?

YAK Yeah, you're about to be!

RUKES *(nervously)*

As—!

(steadier)

As much as I would *love* to watch this play out, Yak, I don't think Miss Tessa would take kindly to murder in her inn.

SFX (07:30): HEAVY PAUSE.

MAX Yak, please. I was just talking.

(softer, confused)

You know me. I talk.

YAK I thought you knew me better. I don't make idle threats.

MAX And I thought I was immune to your threats. Because we're friends!

YAK *(vehement)*

You're *not* immune. We clear?

MAX *(nervously)*

Crystal.

SFX (07:58): LONG PAUSE.

YAK *(scoff)*

SFX (08:04): METAL AND CLOTH SLIDE TOGETHER. BLADE IS SHEATHED.

SFX (08:06): CHAIRS CREAK AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR ONE AFTER THE OTHER, CLOTH RUSTLES.

LARKIN *(shaken)*

So... in the interest of *not* crossing this line, could we perhaps know where it is, Yak?

YAK Do *not* talk about my family. It's a situation you don't understand, and you don't know the nuances of my people enough to try.

PHOEBE You're trying not to be found by them.

YAK *(dangerously)*

How would *you* know that?

PHOEBE You didn't pass any news along to Taviv'ka?

YAK *(reticent)*

Alright. Well-spotted.

RUKES You're not in danger of being hunted down, are you?

YAK *(losing some anger)*

No. Your skins are safe. Don't worry.

RUKES What about your scales?

YAK *(huffs)*

(hotly)

What do you want from me? Details? You want details?

PHOEBE *(quickly)*

Don't make them talk about it!

RUKES I'm not making anyone do anything. Yak can do whatever she likes.

LARKIN But if details are on the table...

YAK *Look.*

(tired, angry sigh)

If you must know, my grandfather ran my community like a tyrant. He was in charge, and he kept the peace, so no one dared to challenge him.

I got fed up with it and I defied him. For my trouble, I was cast out. They do not care about me. They're under... strict orders not to.

LARKIN *(anxiously)*

Maybe... Maybe it's best to... to keep the peace, then. Not rock the boat.

YAK No.

(grimly)

No quarter for bullies. I don't regret it.

PHOEBE It must be... awful to lose your community like that.

YAK No, Phoebe, it was just what had to happen.

(deep breath in)

And I don't want to talk about it anymore, and I sure don't want to hear *you* talk about it.

PHOEBE *(small)*

Okay.

YAK And that goes for all of you. I *will* kill you.

LARKIN O—of... course. Whatever you need.

RUKES *(impressed)*

Now, *that* is how you set a boundary. Learn from them, Larkin.

LARKIN *(blankly)*

Learn what?

MAX *(snorts)*

It's a rare club you've entered, friends. Yak doesn't tell just anyone about this.

YAK *(furiously)*

What did I say? What did I literally *just* get done saying?

MAX But, Ya—

(frustrated sigh)

YAK I don't know why you think you're so special, Max! Don't talk about my family or I'll kill you. That's not that hard to understand!

MAX *(disbelieving)*

You're not still mad at me!

YAK *Yes!* And I plan to be for a while!

MAX *(beat)*

(quieter, without edge)

I don't like you being mad at me.

YAK Yeah, well, maybe you'll learn this time, then!

MAX What can I do to make it right?

YAK You can start by *shutting up*. It'd help not to look at you for a while.

SFX (11:02): CHAIR DRAGS AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR.

MAX I'll get us drinks!

YAK Yeah, you do that.

SFX (11:06): STEPS FADE AWAY. A PAUSE.

RUKES Well, that was *fascinating*.

YAK *(exasperated)*

Don't you start.

RUKES Hm, and that's a friend of yours, is he?

YAK *(furious sigh)*

(gruffly)

One of my oldest.

RUKES Mm, how depressing.

LARKIN You can't just... make judgments about other people's friendships.

RUKES Are you trying to rob me of my favorite hobby? How cruel!

LARKIN No, I *mean* it! We haven't known either of them for very long and it's... presumptive to try and undermine what they have.

RUKES (*snorts*)

If undermining what they have can be accomplished by a stray comment, then it's not worth preserving.

LARKIN I'm sure this isn't how Max usually acts.

RUKES Respectfully, Larkin, where on earth have you been?

LARKIN Well, then—!

(*sighs*)

Well, he must be worth it the rest of the time.

RUKES A bold assertion. Why's that?

LARKIN Because it's *Yak!*

(*incredulous*)

I mean, who's going to order *her* around, or make *her* feel small?

PHOEBE (*quietly*)

No quarter for bullies.

LARKIN Yeah, exactly.

RUKES Well then, our many-scaled protector, why do you put up with Max?

SFX (12:16): PAUSE.

YAK (*thoughtfully, through a sigh*)

Maybe it's time I start asking myself that question.

RUKES There is *hope* for us yet, praise the name of Sune.

PHOEBE How did you become friends in the first place?

RUKES Don't ruin this with nostalgia, Phoebe!

YAK (*distantly*)

I got into this bar fight. Wasn't pretty. I was going to be lucky to be *alive* by the end of it, and at that point... I didn't care. I was fresh off exile.

But... then Max jumped in and helped. They told me they felt like evening the odds. They can *really* fight, too.

PHOEBE We've seen him fight.

YAK (*amused*)

Heh, not like he does when he's backed into a corner.

LARKIN And you've been friends ever since?

YAK They've always looked out for me.

(*beat*)

Mostly.

They're not a great person but...

(*sighs*)

(*self-deprecating*)

Then again, neither am I.

PHOEBE (*gently*)

Are you alright?

YAK Oh... I'm...

(beat)

I'm frustrated with Max, but I'm alright.

LARKIN Are you sure? I mean, you were just ready to do a murder, so...

YAK *(firmly)*

My *past* does not bother me. People trying to interpret my past *does*. Just avoid that and we'll be fine.

(pointedly)

You got that, Rukes?

RUKES Hey, I see *very* clearly what you want people to perceive about you, Yak.

YAK Good.

LARKIN Why does Max feel so strongly about family being terrible?

YAK *(sardonic laughter)*

You want to know something ironic?

LARKIN *(dubiously)*

Yes?

YAK He's never told me.

RUKES Of course he hasn't.

LARKIN *(incredulous)*

They haven't said anything?

YAK Oh, they make vague allusions from time to time. I think they were some sort of nobility in their youth? But... they've never told me anything more.

RUKES *(spiteful)*

Gods forbid people interpret him in a way that he can't control.

LARKIN Well, that's not very... sporting.

YAK No. It isn't.

AUDIO (14:19): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

(14:20) OUTRO:

(14:20) NEXT TIME ON...

AUDIO (14:21): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between...

RUKES *(deep sigh)*

It's already hard traveling in the winter without having to do it in the mountains.

LARKIN *(shakily)*

At least things won't get too much worse!

SFX (14:35): THUNDER ROARS LOUDLY.

RUKES *(sharply)*

You were saying?

(14:41) CREDITS:

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

The voice of Larkin is Mason Amadeus. The voice of Max is Malcolm Jay. The voice of Phoebe is Soulara Jane Joslin. The voice of Yak is Emma Laslett. The voice of Rukes is CJ Tanuan.

This episode featured the voice of Ren as Taviv'ka.

Our theme song is by Eli Hamada McIlveen, and our artwork is by Gabrielle Buxman. Our transcriber is Ria Couoh. Special thanks to Emma Wright for foley assistance.

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

If you like the show, give something valuable away! Like a ring, or a secret. Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (15:35): MUSIC ENDS.

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.

(15:48) POST-CREDITS:

AUDIO (15:51): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN.

TESSA We do occasionally have a “dine and dash” or whatever you want to call it, but the Inn must have seen how upset I was when it first happened to me, and now it slams the door on them before they can leave! They run right into it.

(amused, fond)

It's actually quite funny.

AUDIO (16:13): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

EPISODE ENDS.