

THERE'S A WIZARD IN THE CORNER

Written by

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INT. HOUSE - MORNING

In a slightly messy home, moving boxes sit half unpacked on the floor.

In the corner, the WIZARD (young adult, black man, cloak for clothes) sits on a stool beside a work desk with papers and mugs spread about. He's stoic with his eyes closed. His eyes dart frantically behind his eyelids.

Near the Wizard in the Kitchen is NASHEA (young adult, black, messy natural hair). She's at the stove silently cooking.

There are faint sounds of war. Horses neighing, people shouting, swords clanging.

One shout rings over the rest.

The shout morphs into the Wizard's own cry. His eyes fly open and his body jolts forward.

WIZARD
(anguished)
They breached the wards!

Nashea drops the egg in her hand to the floor. It lays cracked on the kitchen tile.

NASHEA
No!

Nashea runs over to the Wizard who has his head in his hands. She crouches beside him, her hand on his shoulder.

NASHEA (CONT'D)
(frantic)
No no no. What do you mean? You
said there was no way anyone could
get through them.

The Wizard throws his hands up and stands to pace in the corner. Smoke begins to waft up from the pan Nashea left on the stove.

WIZARD
It shouldn't have been possible!

Nashea stands up with him. She rubs her forehead and bites her lip, thinking.

NASHEA
Okay so now what? Are the-- did the
Mardecians finally get in?

WIZARD

No, thank The One that the fight is still outside the wall. My people closed the wards but not before eight of those abominations made it through.

NASHEA

You're sure only eight?

WIZARD

By Shyron's count.

NASHEA

You told me he has the sight. How did he miss this?

WIZARD

No one could have ever trained their sight to foresee this.

SEMAJ (young adult, black male, half buttoned up dress shirt) enters into the kitchen frantically.

SEMAJ

Nashea, what are you doing?

He pulls the smoking pan off the stove and drops it into the sink, running water over it.

NASHEA

Oh shoot--thank you Semaj. I was cooking but then they got the wards and--

SEMAJ

--You almost burnt the house down. And why is it a mess in here?

He points down to the egg next to his foot. Nashea hurries over with a paper towel to wipe it up. Semaj doesn't move out of her way, so she cleans around him while he stares down at her.

NASHEA

Sorry.

She throws the egg and paper towel in the trash, walking back over to the Wizard who still paces.

NASHEA (CONT'D)

But the wards--it's just--how did they do that? They were supposed to be impenetrable.

WIZARD

This changes everything.

The Wizard sits back on his stool and closes his eyes. They dart behind his lids again.

SEMAJ

Everything in *your* world. Ours will be fine if the house doesn't burn down.

Semaj leaves the kitchen and stands in front of the desk. The Wizard still speaks with his darting eyes closed.

WIZARD

Half of my people have to recharge now.

NASHEA

But what if they break the wards again? They'll head straight for the wall and then the kingdom. Just half of you won't have enough power to close it up again.

WIZARD

They've no choice. If they don't recharge they'll be depleted if they try again. Then that means no mage protection at all.

NASHEA

'scuse me.

Nashea gestures for Semaj to move from the desk. After a beat he begrudgingly does. Nashea ruffles through the papers.

NASHEA (CONT'D)

Okay... okay there's got to be something...

She pulls out a paper and reads for a second.

NASHEA (CONT'D)

Wait, here you wrote about what the maker could do to slow the Mardecians. Why don't your people make another appeal to him?

The Wizard shakes his head.

WIZARD

No. Maybe they could have before the siege on his manor.

(MORE)

WIZARD (CONT'D)

But if they anger him any further
he'll release what's in the
dungeon.

Nashea still looks through the papers.

NASHEA

How about--

SEMAJ

--I thought you were going to
unpack the rest of the living room
stuff yesterday?

NASHEA

What?

Semaj doesn't repeat himself. She finally looks up from the
papers.

NASHEA (CONT'D)

I started to. But then there was a
peace summit--or an attempt at one--
but it went south. It set all
negotiations back.

Semaj stares at Nashea in annoyance.

NASHEA (CONT'D)

Anyways, I'll do it today.

SEMAJ

You said the same thing about the
dining room and it's still not set
up.

NASHEA

I'm going to do it.

WIZARD

The battle at the wards has ended.

NASHEA

(hopeful)

That's good right?

WIZARD

(solemn)

No, they got the wards down for
good. The Mardecians are charging
to the wall now.

NASHEA

Fuck!

Nashea bangs her fist on the desk, rattling the mugs.

SEMAJ

Are you coming to brunch at
Darika's?

WIZARD

It will be but moments before they
reach the wall.

NASHEA

This is terri--

SEMAJ

(sternly)

--Nashea. Are you coming to
Darika's?

NASHEA

(annoyed)

Did you not just hear that they're
on their way to the wall?

Semaj buttons up his shirt all the way.

SEMAJ

Didn't you hear we need to be on
our way to Darika's? You know she's
worried about you right? We were
talking and she doesn't think it's
healthy for you to do nothing all
day.

He walks to lean his lower back against the kitchen counter.
Nashea turns her back to the desk and crosses her arms.

NASHEA

As much as you guys talk, isn't it
crazy how you never mentioned her
before we moved here? How long have
you known her again?

The Wizard continues to give updates.

WIZARD

Four-hundred paces away.

SEMAJ

(dismissive)

Does it matter?

NASHEA

It does when you let her say things about me. How would she know what I'm doing all day?

SEMAJ

(shrugging)

Like I said, we talk.

NASHEA

I don't like that.

SEMAJ

And I don't like that there's a wizard in the corner, but he's still there isn't he?

WIZARD

Three-hundred.

NASHEA

He's working with the guild to finish the device. You know he can't leave the corner until he's linked to it.

SEMAJ

No, Nashea. I didn't know that.

NASHEA

You never listen to his updates, that's why.

SEMAJ

Because I actually go outside. Y'know, to work and to see our friends.

NASHEA

Your friends. You go see your friends. They aren't mine.

WIZARD

Two-hundred.

SEMAJ

And it's not good you don't have any.

NASHEA

I have friends back home that I left to move with you.

Nashea points at Semaj.

WIZARD
(grimacing)
One-hundred.

SEMAJ
You chose to do that.

NASHEA
(under her breath)
Well maybe I shouldn't have.

WIZARD
They've made it.

Nashea turns to the Wizard, watching him breath heavily, his eyes darting faster than before.

SEMAJ
What did you say?

She waves a dismissive hand behind her back at Semaj.

NASHEA
Nothing.

Semaj walks in front of Nashea, the Wizard sitting between them both.

SEMAJ
No. What did you--

WIZARD
--They're bringing the wall down!

Nashea and Semaj both jump at his outburst.

SEMAJ
(angry)
Make him be quiet!

NASHEA
Why won't you just listen to him
for once?

WIZARD
Queen Mara just ordered soldiers at
the southernmost part of the
kingdom to engage with the
Mardecians.

SEMAJ
Because nothing he says matters!

NASHEA
Just listen to him!

WIZARD
My One, the Mardecians are pushing
towards the villages now.

Semaj paces around in frustration.

SEMAJ
I can't do this anymore. I can't
sit here and listen to him talk.

NASHEA
(pleading)
Listen to him, Semaj. Listen to me!

WIZARD
They're burning the homes.

SEMAJ
Why won't you make him leave!

NASHEA
I told you, it's not up to me!

WIZARD
The wall--the village, it's all
going to ruins!

SEMAJ
Ever since he appeared here all you
do is sit and listen to his stupid
updates. I can't do this with you!

NASHEA
You don't do anything with me!

WIZARD
No! Shyron is down!

NASHEA
Oh my god, not Shyron!

Nashea has to steady herself on the desk. Tears well up in
her eyes.

SEMAJ
How could I do anything with you?
You don't let me! I'm shut out
while you cry over people you don't
know.

WIZARD
(excitedly)
The guild finished it!

The Wizard opens his eyes and stands up, knocking his stool over.

NASHEA
The device? You're leaving?

SEMAJ
Oh fina-fucking-ly. Maybe now
you'll remember you have a fiancé.

Nashea rushes at Semaj, the Wizard to her back as she gets in Semaj's space.

NASHEA
There is a wizard in the corner!
The people are dying! They're
losing their homes, their kingdom,
their lives! And you want me to
care about you? Why won't you
listen? They brought the wall down!
The goddamned wards, Semaj!. Those
wards kept the peace, it kept those
Mardecian monsters out for hundreds
of years. It's gone and you want me
to care about Darika's brunch? You
want me to care about you?

WIZARD
I'm linked.

NASHEA
Why should I? You don't care about
me. You don't even like me. I have
never! Ever! Gotten this much
attention from you before we got
this fucking wizard in the corner.
You just want to control where I
put my attention. You want to
control me and now that you can't
it's a problem. Now that there's a
wizard in the corner it's a
problem. I'm my own person, Semaj.
I am! I'm sick and tired of doing
everything you want. I moved across
the country for you. I left my
friends for you. I left my job for
you. But it wasn't enough.

WIZARD
Goodbye, Nashea.

Nashea turns away from Semaj to face the Wizard. She takes a step toward him, her arm outstretched, but he's gone.

NASHEA
(devastated)
No!

Tears stream down Nashea's face. She sobs.

NASHEA (CONT'D)
After all that--

Nashea roughly points to the empty corner then gestures between her and Semaj.

NASHEA (CONT'D)
-- all this. I still wasn't enough
for you. I can never be enough for
you. Well I'm done. The wall is
down! The Kingdom's on fire. He's
gone and I won't know who's gonna
take the throne after this! I won't
know if there will even be a
throne! There was a Wizard in the
corner, Semaj! And I'm done with
you!

FADE OUT.

THE END