

A STUDY IN HAPHAZARD MAGIC

1.02 | RUN IT AGAIN

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CLOTHING BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - EVENING

EVIE stands in the center of a GLOWING PURPLE RING on the floor. She is in a ready stance, eyes darting between things off screen.

MILES (O.S.)

Go!

Her muscles tense, ready to move-

A projectile FLIES towards her.

Evie quickly raises her hand and the projectile bounces off a BURST OF PURPLE. It lands on the floor - a POTATO.

A second potato, then a third, are thrown at her. She deflects them both.

On MILES, LINK, and ASHER. Miles stands in-between the two younger men, watching as they hurl potatoes at their teammate.

MILES (CONT'D)

Good. Watch her, boys, this is how it's done.

Link and Asher hurl another potato each.

MILES (CONT'D)

This ability to deflect and shield is the basis of a good magical defence. It doesn't make you infallible however. You're limited to defending against attacks you know are coming, and your expenditure of magic for defence needs to be equal to that of the attack to work.

(beat)

Evelyn's energy is enough to stop a potato, but most magical attacks will require a significantly stronger defence.

Evie frowns.

EVIE

How much energy?

MILES

More than you're probably ready for.

The next potato Evie deflects goes bouncing out of the circle with the force of her magic.

(CONTINUED)

EVIE
That much?

MILES
(bored)
More.

Evie's lips purse, her annoyance obvious. The next burst of energy is enough to send a potato clear across the room.

MILES (CONT'D)
Don't even bother.

Link throws another potato.

Evie's eyes narrow. Her hand raises in a sweep to deflect the vegetable-

SPLAT.

The potato explodes in front of her.

Link and Asher hesitate, glancing to Miles.

EVIE
Well?

MILES
You did alright.

A small smile betrays he is more impressed than he lets on.

MILES (CONT'D)
Alright, time for a break. For me. You three need to pick up those potatoes. Be ready for round two when I return.

Miles heads towards the far end of the building and the door leading into the BOOKSTORE. As he walks by the ring of light he CLICKS his fingers and it disappears.

LINK
(to Evie)
That was amazing.

EVIE
Thanks.

She steps carefully over the splattered potato on the floor and starts collecting the fallen ones. Asher joins her while Link drags the bag of potatoes over.

ASHER

If you had told me a couple of months ago that magical training would involve potatoes, I don't think I would have believed you.

LINK

If you had told me magical training was *thing* a couple of months ago, I wouldn't have believed you.

Evie chuckles as she drops an armload of potatoes into the bag.

EVIE

I can't believe Miles could be bothered training the three of us individually for a month before he pulled the whole 'surprise, here's two other people just like you that I never mentioned because *secrets*'.

She looks thoughtful suddenly.

EVIE (CONT'D)

Hey, you ever wonder *why* we're being trained to use magic? It seems way too good to be true.

LINK

Maybe that's just how new sorcerers and sorceresses come about. One day we might have to do the same thing to make sure there's always new people to use magic. I mean, did either of you have any idea you would be able to do *this*-

Link gestures to the potatoes scattered on the floor.

LINK (CONT'D)

-before Miles found you?

Both Evie and Asher shake their heads.

LINK (CONT'D)

I think we should ask Miles.

EVIE

Getting a straight answer out of him is nigh on impossible.

ASHER

No, I think Link is right. We should ask. And by 'we' I mean 'you'.

Asher points to Evie.

EVIE

And why do I have to ask?

LINK

He likes you.

ASHER

He does. You're just like him-

EVIE

Excuse me?

ASHER

-in the best way possible. It was also your question in the first place.

Evie frowns, but before she has a chance to answer there's the sound of a door opening and loud footsteps on the concrete.

MILES (O.S.)

Time to quit the chatter. We have potatoes to throw and defence to work on.

And with that Asher, Evie, and Link are back in student mode.

INT. ASHER & MEREDITH'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - NIGHT

Asher steps into the apartment. He's trying to be quiet but soon finds there's no need.

MEREDITH (O.S.)

You can stop sneaking, I'm still awake.

Asher sheepishly makes his way over to MEREDITH who is standing in their small kitchen.

ASHER

Sorry. I know I said I would be home way earlier but-

MEREDITH

But you got distracted, or something came up. You know, I was okay when this was an occasional thing but this last

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
month it's like you're never
home.

Meredith opens the fridge and pulls out a container of leftover pasta. She pops the lid and puts it into the microwave before hitting start.

MEREDITH
What gives, Asher? What has you
so busy lately?

Asher is nervous, not wanting to tell the truth but not wanting to lie either.

ASHER
Uh, you see, it's kinda hard to
explain...

MEREDITH
Try again.

ASHER
I'm serious!

The microwave's shrill BEEP sounds. Meredith takes out the container and then a fork from a nearby drawer. She places them both on the bench in front of Asher.

MEREDITH
Here's the dinner that you
missed.
(beat)
Again.

Asher flinches. She has him there.

ASHER
(sheepish)
Thanks.

He reaches for the food but Meredith drags it back out of Asher's reach.

MEREDITH
But before that, I want you to
tell me what you're up to.

ASHER
(sighing)
Meredith...

MEREDITH
No, no 'Meredith'. The more you
avoid, the worse I'm thinking it
is. Why don't you want to tell me
Asher? Is it something to do with
us? Our relationship?

(CONTINUED)

ASHER

No! Trust me, our relationship is not a problem. Ever. In fact, it's probably one of the best things in my life right now.

MEREDITH

(relieved)

Okay. Good.

(beat)

You know you can tell me anything though, right? We're *partners*. Your problems are my problems, so-

She motions to herself.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

-lay it on me.

Asher groans, both hands raking through his hair. He knows there's no easy way out of this.

ASHER

Okay. For the last couple of months...

A beat. He gathers his resolve.

ASHER (CONT'D)

(rushed)

For the last couple of months I've been learning magic. That's why I haven't been around as much. Magic.

Asher watches Meredith closely, waiting for her reaction. What he gets is confusion.

MEREDITH

Magic.

(beat)

You mean pulling rabbits out of a hat, magic? That's what you've been hiding?

Asher's eyes are wide, he's forgotten for most people magic is not *his* kind of magic.

He jumps on the excuse.

ASHER

Yes? Yes, it's, uh, magic.

(beat)

Are you mad?

(CONTINUED)

MEREDITH

Am I mad?

(beat)

No. Maybe a little. You did have me thinking there was something really wrong for a minute but, magic? Why couldn't you tell me what you were doing instead of making me worry?

ASHER

I wanted it to be a surprise? And I'm not very good at it yet. I'm practicing with a couple of other people. They're new to it too.

Meredith sighs, but there is a small smile on her face now. She finally slides the food back to him.

MEREDITH

Here you go idiot extraordinaire, you've earned it. You and your perfectionism, you know you don't have to be perfect all the time for me, right?

(quietly; amused)

Magic. And to think I thought you were doing something terrible, like drugs.

ASHER

I don't know the first thing about drugs. Where do people even go to get them?

MEREDITH

That guy who hangs out on the corner of our street deals.

ASHER

Wait, he *deals*? Like, actually deals *drugs*?

MEREDITH

Oh honey. Yeah, he does.

Meredith laughs and pats Asher on the cheek as she walks past.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

I'm going to bed. Don't take too long eating, I want you to tell me all about this little magic club of yours.

(CONTINUED)

ASHER

Sure thing.

Asher watches her leave then lets out a huge breath.

He slowly lowers his head until it hits the countertop with a soft thud.

ASHER

(mumbled)

What am I doing with my life?

One hand slowly creeps towards the container of pasta.

INT. CLOTHING BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - DAY

Inside the glowing purple circle on the floor sit Asher, Link, and Evie. They face outwards, backs to each other.

Pacing around the outside of the circle is Miles, lecturing.

MILES

Elemental magic can be difficult to master without an open mind. It's also dangerous. We are literally playing with fire, hence why you are all inside the circle while we practice this.

Asher has his hand out in front of him, palm up. He chokes the break in Miles' monologue to speak.

ASHER

If this is so dangerous, why are we in the circle together? Wouldn't it be better to have us all in separate circles?

MILES

If I had more than two eyes and the ability to split my attention between three places at once, then yes, we could do that.

ASHER

So I take it that's a no to the three circles idea?

MILES

You'll have to trust that should the worst occur I can activate the barrier in time to smother any magic gone awry. You'll also have to trust your *team* won't screw up their magic.

(CONTINUED)

EVIE

Have a little faith, Asher. Also,
if we have fire what do you want
us to do?

Evie has her hand stretched out in front of her in a similar pose to Asher, but in her hand sits a small flickering PURPLE FLAME.

Link and Asher turn to stare at her in shock.

LINK

How do you do that so fast?

Evie shrugs.

EVIE

Open mind or whatever.

MILES

Well done, you've summoned fire.
Lesson two.

(beat)

Get rid of it.

ASHER

You didn't tell us how to get rid
of it.

That doesn't stop Evie.

Asher and Link watch on as she studies the fire. Then, suddenly, she closes her hand around the flame.

The boys jerk forwards, worried, but-

When she opens her hand the flame is GONE.

MILES

Good.

He starts to move on-

EVIE

So, Miles.

-and pauses.

MILES

I'm sure I'm not going to like
this question but go on.

EVIE

We want to know why you're
teaching us magic.

MILES

Do you care? It's magic.

EVIE

You have to be getting something out of this. Full offence, you don't seem like the kind of guy to do this out of the goodness of your heart.

Miles looks to Asher and Link.

MILES

And you two. Do you feel the same way?

LINK

Evie has a point.

ASHER

No one does something like this for free, surely.

MILES

Pah, you twenty-somethigs are all so cynical these days. Though it is nice to see team bonding has progressed to the plotting-behind-your-mentor's-back level.

EVIE

We want an answer.

Miles sighs, looking serious for once.

MILES

I won't tell you why I'm doing this, not yet-

EVIE

We-

MILES

-BUT, I will tell you eventually. In the meantime I assure you there is no ill will or nefarious reason behind my teaching.

EVIE

When?

MILES

Give me until the end of the month. You can choose to stay and learn, or you can go, no strings attached. If you are here at the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MILES (CONT'D)
end of the month however, I
promise I will answer your
question.

Miles holds out his hand to Evie and raises his eyebrows.

MILES (CONT'D)
Deal?

Evie stands slowly but takes his hand and shakes on it.

EVIE
Deal.

MILES
(at Link and Asher)
The same goes for the pair of
you. Feel free to leave, no
questions asked, but if you stay
you'll get some of the answers
you want.
(beat)
Eventually.

LINK
That sounds okay to me. I mean, I
won't lie, this is the coolest
thing to ever happen to me.

ASHER
I'm on board too. For now.

MILES
Then it's settled. Now we can
return to me telling you what to
do and you following without
question.

He takes Evie by the shoulders, turns her, and pushes her
not entirely gently towards Link.

MILES (CONT'D)
Evelyn, my dear, you can help
Lincoln since you're obviously
finding this too easy. Asher,
you're with me.

As Evie and Miles move to help Link and Asher
respectively-

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE