

GENESIS AVALON: PATRIOT EPISODE 17 “Confounding Oath on Oath”

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot Theme plays]

Genesis Avalon: Patriot, Episode 17: “Confounding Oath on Oath”

[theme music ends]

(On the turbulent waters of the Otherworld, *The Wavesweeper* crashes against the seas as the wind rages on, then the sound dies down as they reach the shores)

MAC

Hang on, you two, bit of a rough docking here... There we go...

JACK

Woah, *what*... No *way*. Are we in the Otherworld?!

MAC

Aye.

JACK

But this isn't just *any* part of the Otherworld. *Bruv*, you brought us to the Isle of Apples?

MAC

Oh, so ye *do* study. *Bruv*. Glad to know “She” wasn't just talking you up.

JACK

Aw, ‘Licia, you were talking me up? I take back everything I said.

(The ship finally stills, there's a clanking of wood and they walk off the dock onto the grass.)

MAC

Oh, no. Not Alicia. We don't spend time wagging our tongues about you, lad.

JACK

(scandalized gasp)

MAC

Much more important things to discuss.

JACK

You are the *worst* best friend! (He teases)

ALICIA

Why is this about *me*? You should be glad that you just got a compliment from Manannan mac

Lir that I had nothing to do with. You shouldn't be annoyed that I didn't spend the limited, valuable time I've had to talk to him telling him about how cool you are. (Beat) Wait, if you didn't mean me, who's been talking to you about Jack?

MAC

Never mind that, lass, we have bigger problems.

(Hounds howl in the distance)

MAC

Listen... (darker) Ye're not safe here.

ALICIA

Oh come on, of course we're safe. We're with you!

MAC

Aye. But ye are still mortal. And this is a land of the dead and the undying. There are a number of natural defense mechanisms the isle has to keep souls lashed here.

JACK

But, uh, isn't that the purpose of the Wild Hunt? To find wandering souls?

MAC

It is, but those caught by the Sovereign King of the Ice are those who don't want to leave the mortal realm after death. The Otherworld ensures that some exceptionally ambitious druid, priest or king doesn't sneak back to your plane and possess some poor sod. Or, conversely, that those same priests or kings don't try to come *here* and steal the food of the gods. The apples here can grant immortal life and youth. But... all other food here? It's for the dead. Eat or drink of it, and you belong to the dead. Forever enthralled, drunken on the nectar of the fae.

ALICIA

What jackass would make a rule like that? They could've just made the food taste bad to the living or something! (pause) Why are you looking at me like that?

JACK

I know this, but, uh, you're not gonna like the answer.

ALICIA

Oh... don't tell me...

MAC

(very loud and annoyed) *AHEM*.

JACK

(clears his throat, then very evenly but clearly reciting from memory) Manannan mac Lir, "The Lord of the Isle of Apples, the Plain of Delight, and the Lands of Promise." The land. That we are standing on. (Beat) Right now.

ALICIA

That did not come out the way I meant it to. I'm sorry, Mac.

MAC

Are ye, though?

JACK

Oh, she is. Her ears are red. Dead giveaway.

ALICIA

Jack! I cannot believe... (clears throat) Can we just move on? We don't eat anything, we stick right by Mac's side. We can do that. Where do we go from here?

MAC

We cross that bridge in the distance. It takes you to Tech Duinn.

JACK

Right. The Land of the Dead, run by Donn, who apparently is on a white horse and that sounds a *lot* like Death from the Horsemen of the Apocalypse. That's sus.

MAC

Donn won't harm ye so long as you keep to yourself, lad. That iconography comes from the Christian monks looking to understand the stories of our people. Donn's no craven reaper. He's a... friendly foster father to anyone who lands on his isle. To him, *all* mortals are his people, his children. His idea of a good time is a table full of food and drink that makes you question how you could possibly eat more. But, as you somehow so smartly mentioned, Jack, he's not the only warden of the Dead, he doesn't lead the Wild Hunt. On the other side of that bridge, lining that sacred road that takes the soul to Tech Duinn... lay a forest always in winter. The realm of the fae King, Gwyn ap Nudd.

JACK

Hooold up. The actual King who leads the Wild Hunt? He's in those woods? Why do you keep leaving out all the good details until the end?!

MAC

Uhg.. Because ye keep interrupting me and I'm givin' you *context*, lad!

JACK

You're clickbaiting me, man! That's what this is! This is verbal clickbait! (Beat, to Alicia) *How* do you put up with him?

ALICIA

I put up with you and Cooper, it's really not that difficult. This is just how he is.

(The hounds get louder)

MAC

Oh that's not good. Come on, we need to move. The faster we get to the bridge, the better.

(They keep walking through the grass)

JACK

(half to himself) It's weird. This looks like grass, sounds like grass... but doesn't feel like grass. Feels like... nothing.

MAC

The further into the isles we go, the worse that feeling will get for ye, I'd wager. Ye're half-in, half-out.

ALICIA

Like fae. They like places between. We were right. Roxie, Merlin and Natalie went to the Isle of Skye because they were tracking the fae.

MAC

And they're certainly here. Well, not here-here. They're in the forest somewhere. Stay close, dinnae touch anything. So long as ye're close to me, the fae will see ye as I wish ye to be seen.

(As they walk, they pass into the forest, leaves crackling under their feet start to turn to snow and ice)

JACK

(shivers a bit) C-cold... you weren't kidding about it being winter. (To Alicia) How are you not freezing right now?

ALICIA

Oh, I love this jacket. It's completely insulated.

JACK

With what?

ALICIA

With... you know, magic. It's not important.

JACK

I've also never seen that jacket before...

(A spriggan starts to walk past, growling as they get too close)

ALICIA

Woah! Is that -

MAC

Spriggan. Won't hurt ye, just gnaw on you a bit. They get very possessive of their treasures. He's probably guarding a *lúchorpáin's* horde.

ALICIA

You mean a leprechaun?

JACK

No, he means a *lúchorpáin*. Leprechauns are a somewhat bad invention that use a ton of bad stereotypes about the Irish. (pause) Look, I care a *lot* about proper terminology, okay? Did you know there's like, 3 versions of Tim's sword with different names and they all have different histories to them?

MAC

Oh, you are *definitely* her acolyte...

ALICIA

Maaaaac, You're being cryptic. What does that mean?

MAC

I'm an old trickster god, lass. Cryptic is the job.

(Banshee scream in the distance)

JACK

Ooooh, no. Not okay! Banshees, I hate banshees -

MAC

Shhh, easy now, lad. They're not screaming for you. Unless ye plan to die of fright.

JACK

I mean, it would be super-extra of me and I'm kind of tempted.

MAC

But unnecessary. We're in *their* home, lad. Banshees, truth be told, have a very sacred duty to perform. Their keening and shrieks not only foretold death, but warned innocent folk away so that they wouldn't find themselves part of Arawn's ranks. But here in the Isles, they can be what they always have been: women disgraced by mortals and given a new purpose by Gwyn ap Nudd.

JACK

So they were mortals once? Really?

MAC

Aye. Women whose clans betrayed them in one way or the other. Because they drank, because they refused to marry, wanted to be warriors ... or because they were told to be chieftains when

their hearts told them they should be priestesses. So while they were slandered in their mortal life, Gwyn ap Nudd provided them a blissful eternity.

ALICIA

They fought for Morgan le Fay, they tried to kill all of us.

MAC

Because Morgan le Fay enthralled them. So many of the fae were bound to the lady of the Dark Water.... In fact, I wonder if that might be why Gwyn ap Nudd seems too eager to interfere in mortal affairs.

(As they approach the banshees, their screaming turns to kerning, sorrowful but beautiful)

MAC

They sing for that which they lost in life and do not remember... and for the joy of being free to sing forever. (quiet, thoughtful) For such fascinating creatures... mortals can be so cruel.

JACK

If we're so cruel... why are you helping us? Shouldn't you have been on the side of the gods wanting to flood the world? Not like they could do it without you. And you could have taught them to be better, you know!

ALICIA

Why would you say that? That's not fair, Jack.

MAC

(deep breath) You're right, lad. We could have. And I tried. If only it had been that simple. (beat) Come on. We're nearly there.

(Hounds get louder)

MAC

And we're being hunted.

(In the Arthur Estate's informal living room, Noir is sitting, drinking a cup of tea and reading a book)

NOIR

(Slowly getting more and more frustrated as he keeps flipping pages) "The Lecan Glossary..." "The Great Book of Lecan"... "The *Yellow* Book of Lecan"...

(He claps the book shut)

NOIR

How many bloody books of Lecan are there?! This is ridiculous, I don't need genealogy, I need answers on how someone could masquerade as a diplomatic attache right under our noses...

(Cooper walks in)

COOPER

All right, Noir?

NOIR

Do I look all right to you, Cooper?

COOPER

Yeah... nah... Nah, you've looked better.

NOIR

Yes, well, I've gone through most of this library and I am no closer to answers on who Maeve Moran truly is, or what her agenda might be. It doesn't help that I got back too late to help Jack and Alicia. (beat) I should have been here. I told Leo that I would not shirk my duties as a guardian to the Priesthood of Avalon, but... I'm realizing now... I still did. Jack and Alicia shouldn't be doing this on their own.

COOPER

(doesn't normally do the big brother routine for anyone but Alicia, but he does genuinely feel bad) Ah, mate.. That's not on you.

(Cooper takes a seat next to him.)

COOPER

We've all watched those kids grow up in this house. They're both good eggs, solid heads on their shoulders. They haven't done anything that you wouldn't have agreed with. They'll find the gang.

NOIR

(changing subject) Putting that to one side, there's still the issue of Miss Moran.

COOPER

That's what I wanted to tell you. Gabe is headed to Maeve's room while she's in this conference with Tim. Hoping to rule out if she's anything obvious, like a selkie or changeling.

NOIR

If she were a selkie, then you're hoping he'll find her seal skin. But, I'm not convinced. Unless you've seen her try to head to the coast, then I doubt that's what she is. They cannot resist the call of their home.

COOPER

You know, maybe we're thinking about this all wrong.

NOIR

How do you mean?

COOPER

You're trying to comb through all these books for the answers, but maybe you already know, mate. You've been doing this for centuries. It's probably already in your head.

NOIR

You're suggesting I know who or what Maeve Moran is but I've locked it away somehow?

COOPER

Nah, I mean that you've probably got so much trivia in your noggin that you don't even remember what you do and don't know. Look, fact is, I'm a fighter. That's what I do, right? And in a fight? Doesn't matter if you've got someone telling you what to do over your shoulder. It's about instinct. You train until it's second nature. Easy as breathing. Like Alicia! That Sheila just up and summoned the primordial goddess of the wood to stop the rioters a couple days ago. And she did it because she just had to react instead of trying to overthink it. *You are* overthinking things.

NOIR

Alicia called upon Druantia? I had no idea she and Jack were beginning to ascend to their full status as priests. But... that also means we have Tuatha getting involved in whatever's going on... starting to take sides.

COOPER

Right?

NOIR

When did this happen? Before or after Tim declared war.

COOPER

Right before. Seemed to be the inciting incident, though.

NOIR

So before Jaina summoned the Morrigan... Cooper, I think we've been looking at this all wrong. The gods have been neutral because we asked them to, but now that our priestesses are calling them back, they're answering. There must be a conflict beyond the one we can see. (The pin drops) Find Gabe. We need to look at what's been happening on both sides of the globe *holistically*.

COOPER

Yeah, on it.

(Cooper hops up to leave)

COOPER

It's still early enough for you to call Anipa, you might want to see what her read is from Mumbai.

NOIR

I take it their Prime Minister has been giving less than stellar feedback regarding Tim's declaration.

COOPER

(little laugh) Oh, deffo... All right, be right back.

(Cooper walks out of the library, following his footsteps down the hall. Tim can be heard reciting the beginning of his speech at the end of the episode, very muffled, we're not getting close to his room)

COOPER

All right, if Tim's practicing, then Moran should be with him, which means... Gabe should be in her office.

(He checks a door, opens it.)

COOPER

(Whispers, trying not to get caught) Gabe?

(No answer, it's quiet.)

COOPER

Gabe, you in here, mate? Okay... so I guess he finished in here.

(He closes the door, keeps walking and pauses)

COOPER

Why's that door open?

(He goes over to the next door, it creaks open)

COOPER

The hell's it so dark in here for, draw back a curtain or something...

(He flicks on the light, takes a step closer)

GABE

(little groan, clearly unconscious but in pain)

COOPER

(panicked) GABE!

(In the forests of the Otherworld, the hounds sound again, much closer than before)

ALICIA

OK, they are getting way too close.

MAC

That they are. We're nearly there. Just turn left here and -

(One of the hounds is suddenly RIGHT THERE with a blast of magic portal power, snarling and knocking Mac to his back)

MAC

You bloody rabid cur! GET OFF ME!

(There's a swell of wind and thunder above them, Mac blasts the hound off of him and gets up)

MAC

To me, you two!

JACK

Shit! We're surrounded! This is bad, this is really bad!

ALICIA

How did they get around us so fast?!

MAC

They're the Hounds of Arawn, they can be wherever they need to be in service of the Hunt. But we're NOT LOST SOULS YE MANGEY FLEABAGS!

JACK

Arawn! He's the guy who runs this whole place, right? I mean, you created it but he runs it or something?

MAC

Lad, there are so many treaties and arrangements I could go through but that wouldn't really even begin to cover it -

JACK

Yes or no, man! That's all I need! Your'e giving me too much!

MAC

Oh fine, Yes, Arawn is the lord of Annwn, this is *his* realm. Donn's rule doesn't extend off the path from the bridge!

JACK

Then I have an idea!

(Jack runs and dodges around a hound, grabs a branch of one of the trees)

MAC

Jack, *don't!* Ye've no idea what that could do to you -

JACK

(Struck with divine inspiration from his patron) Cerridwen, lady of knowledge I beseech, grant me the words I seek! The great giver of apples be my guide, his acolyte at my side! Ring the silver bells of the silver bough! To rest, Great Hounds, no longer to howl! (that last phrase is epic and flowing with magic)

(A great wash of power sweeps over them, the forest goes completely still and quiet)

ALICIA

And I thought my sleep spell was a big deal...

MAC

You daft boy, you could've gotten yerself killed. How did you do that? How did you *know* to do that?

JACK

I... the silver apple trees. I just... remembered in The Voyage of Bran that they were trees from the drops of Cerridwen's cauldron. That they lull mortals to sleep. And you grow them, so I figured between the two of you... I could make the dogs sleep.

ALICIA

And to think, I used to just think you were reading for fun. That's amazing!

MAC

Told ye. Just like his patron. All that rote memorization is natural, and spinning up a spell on his own? That's talent. Come on.

(They get another five or so steps before there's suddenly a blast of icy power and they pass through a barrier)

MERLIN

Jack! Alicia! How did you - *when* did you - Oh, I'm dead chuffed right now. Crackin'.

ROXIE

(Pained, fading fast) 'Bout time you guys showed up...

ALICIA

Roxie! What'd they do to you?

ROXIE

I'm good... can't feel anything anymore, so... you know. One step forward, two s-steps back...

GWYN AP NUDD

Mortals that have subdued the Hounds of Arawn and infiltrated my forest? You will regret such insolence...

LADY OF THE LAKE

They are no simple mortals. These are the young Priest and Priestess of Avalon. (to Jack and Alicia) You have truly exceeded my expectations. (turns to look at Mac, then with a very suffering look) Brother.

MAC

Och, don't you "*brother*" me, where have you been, Nimue?! Have ye really been just hiding in that woman's body this whole time? That's... och, that's rich. Real rich.

GWYN AP NUDD

Mannanan! You weren't expected... as for Nimue, Her departure from the Otherworld was just as much a mystery to us as it is to you, Grand Over-King of the Tuatha.

MAC

Platitudes will get you *nowhere*, Gwyn Ap Nudd. Ye have much to answer for.

GWYN AP NUDD

I apologize if I have offended, I intended no disrespect. I know that you have been... absent from your throne, but I did not think you had truly abdicated -

MAC

I was on Sabbatical. I dinnae think my children needed to be micro-managed, but *apparently*, I was wrong. They've let the Aos Si run roughshod over the agreements we made. That *I* made with your King.

GWYN AP NUDD

The Lord of Annwn is the ruler of his domain, Son of the Sea, I do not presume to know his wishes and machinations. I am but an extension of his work -

MAC

Bollocks. *You* are the Sovereign King of the Wild Hunt, the Aos Si charged with ensuring that the lost souls of this realm are brought back to their respective places of rest. Instead, I find you here trying to kill not one, not two, but *three* of the most important people to the Isles. Why?

GWYN AP NUDD

Roxanne and Myrddin have both escaped death once before. It was time to bring them to heel.

MAC

They were granted their new lives through the deeds of others, and those covenants were made according to the Old Ways, the Old Magick. You have *no* claim to them. But, to also imprison the Lady of the Lake? Another of the Tuatha de Danaan -

GWYN AP NUDD

I assure you, I did not know she still possessed her vessel! And now that you are here, well, I can release her back to you and your... quaint mortal pets.

ALICIA

"Pets"? Oh, I don't care what you're the king of, you're about to regret that. I will come over there and tie your legs into knots so you can't get away while Mac kicks your butt-

JACK

Woah, woah, okay, let's not threaten the scary ice king, please.

MAC

You will release them all. Now. And you will tell me why Arawn instructed you to partake in this folly.

GWYN AP NUDD

I will do nothing of the sort! Roxanne Dawes belongs in the pit of her own suffering! That was a judgment I carried out, and to have one mortal priestess take her from my realm *once* is a travesty! A second time? I refuse!

(There's a sudden clang of metal and magic as Mac summons Fragarach, his sword)

MAC

(lethally dark) Do ye truly wish to start a civil war between the Aos Si and the Tuatha over the lives of a few mortals, Gwyn Ap Nudd? Because I am swiftly running out of patience. Let. Them. Go.

GWYN AP NUDD

Why? Because you tell me to? I do not answer to you. Arawn's will must be done, and if it is not, *I* will suffer, not *you*, Old Man. You outlast everything, even your own usefulness!

JACK

Look, I know you don't know us, okay? And you don't trust us, but Mac is right. It's not worth it? Especially once we tell everyone on the mortal plane what you've done.

GWYN AP NUDD

What?

JACK

How do you think the Druidic and Pagan communities are going to react to us telling them that the god who should be protecting us during the Wild Hunt to make sure we're not attacked by

spirits in search of mischief and mayhem, is instead taking the court of King Arthur hostage? You're powered by their worship, after all...

MAC

He's absolutely right. Can your reputation handle that many people losing faith in you? Death may be an absolute, but do not pretend that you have existed without relying on laughably inaccurate depictions of you. (beat) You once fought alongside the Once and Future King. Why do you turn against him now?

GWYN AP NUDD

You do not see the forest for the trees, Old Man.

MAC

No. I see all too clearly. Your ambitions have dragged you down a path that would make you the enemy of the people who trust you to protect them. But you can turn back. Let them go.

GWYN AP NUDD

(Sigh, reluctantly) Very well.

(The ice shatters and Roxie drops to the ground)

ROXIE

(Gasps as she's let go, coughs and tries to catch her breath)

(Merlin hugs her tight)

MERLIN

I've got you, love...

GWYN AP NUDD

Tell me, Manannan mac Lir. Can you do what your father could not? Can you truly tame the Lord of Death?

MAC

I've no desire to break the cycle of nature, you foolish boy.

GWYN AP NUDD

Then if you will not tame him... you will fail. And he will have what he wants. Which means... I will see all of you again. Very soon.

(There's an ice portal and Gwyn Ap Nudd disappears through it)

ROXIE

(shudders) I think I'm ready to go...

ALICIA

You look rough, Rox...

(Alicia walks over to her and takes off her jacket)

ALICIA

Here. This should warm you up.

ROXIE

Appreciate it, but... That jacket is tiny...

ALICIA

It won't be for long.

(She shakes out the jacket and it becomes the cloak, wraps it around Roxie's shoulders)

ALICIA

There. Better?

ROXIE

Oh, this is so much better than a snuggie...

MERLIN

The Cloak of Manannan mac Lir! Brilliant, love it. Love this. Love this for us. This is exactly the kind of content I lived this many lives to see.

MAC

Y'know, they call me Old Man, but I think ye might be as old as I am by the time this is all over, Merlin, ya old sod.

MERLIN

Good to see you, too, Manannan. Don't feel that old right now, though. Being in the Otherworld has levelled me out. Have to admit, I hate to see that go.

MAC

Eggs still scrambled up there?

MERLIN

Oh, aye. Scrambled, over easy, in a little egg cup and nary a toasty soldier in sight...

MAC

(loudly, as if for the Lady's benefit to hear because he's calling her out) Och, how *wretched* a fate ye have. How cruel and capricious must a fae goddess be not to lift her own curse after all these centuries lived and yet lived! Especially when ye've helped so many of Avalon's most trusted warriors and advisors. And *hosts* on the mortal plane. Like *Natalie*.

LADY OF THE LAKE

(annoyed, but trying to ignore him, not looking at him) Yes... *well*... to lift such a curse would require that the Myrddin be in the realm of the fae. And he... hasn't... been.

MAC

Until now! (Playing innocent) Well, brilliant! That settles that, then. Guess there's nothing stopping anyone from letting go of said grudges. Eh? *Sister?*

LADY OF THE LAKE

It would take *time*...

MAC

And we have quite the walk ahead of us so... hop to it! All of ye. Back to the Wavesweeper. And maybe, when we get there, Nimue will have decided to stop *hiding*.

(The group start to walk off)

LADY OF THE LAKE

(to herself, mocking impression of Mac) "Oh, aye, I'm Manannan mac Lir. I'm so impressive. Everythin' I do is soooo impressive, never held a grudge or made a mistake in my whole life, noooo, not me..." (scoffs, back to her proper self) I am not doing it because he told me to. I am doing it... because it needs done.

(In the Arthur Estate, paramedics roll Gabe out of the building as Tim opens the door to his office.)

TIM

What on earth - *Gabe?! Gabe*, are you alright? - is he gonna be all right?

NOIR

I'll call you as soon as we reach hospital, Olivia!

TIM

Hospital!? Noir, when did you get back? How - *what* is going on with Gabe?!

(The paramedics keep going, Olivia and Cooper intercept Tim)

OLIVIA

Tim, stop, you have to let them work -

TIM

Work? Wh... what *work*? What happened? I went inside to work on my speech for an hour and -

COOPER

And Maeve was with you the whole time?

TIM

Would someone just tell me what's happened!

OLIVIA

We don't *know*. Cooper found Gabe passed out in one of the studies and called 999. We don't know what's wrong with him.

TIM

But... but he was fine, he was... (trails off, genuinely scared) I... don't understand.

COOPER

Tim, we've all been worried about you, especially Gabe. He was trying to help you when I found him like this. So we need to know - was Maeve with you the whole time you were working on your speech?

TIM

Of course she was, she never leaves my side... (stops, realizes that's not true) Wait... I... she was going to call for the car, I haven't seen her since... That would have been... a half hour ago.

COOPER

(growls) If you hadn't been so up yourself, maybe you would've noticed that she's been *playing* you, mate.

TIM

How dare you!

COOPER

Well, you've not listened to any of us about anything else, so yeah! Yeah, no, I'm done biting my tongue around you right now, mate. Gabe's hurt, no idea how, but I've got some idea *who*. So I'm gonna go find her.

(Cooper stalks off and slams the door behind him. The paramedics are gone, the sirens have faded, it's just Tim and Olivia)

TIM

I don't... I don't understand what just happened. Cooper's *never* been that angry with me and Gabe - he - I -

OLIVIA

Tim, just *stop* talking!

(There are shimmers of magic as Olivia unintentionally uses the power of love to snap Tim out of Maeve's mind control.)

OLIVIA

I need you to breathe. And *listen* to me, which you have not wanted to do since you got back.

TIM

That's not fair, I've... I've been... busy and... preparing for meetings...

OLIVIA

Yeah, meetings you haven't let me in on. We're a team, we've always done this together. You, me, the Round Table. Except you *haven't*. I don't even know what it is you're working on because you won't give me five minutes.

TIM

I'm... I have to take a strong arm to the United States government if we expect to get Jaina, Sam, and Leo back. And the people here nearly killed you and the others. I cannot let that happen again. I must make Parliament understand that assemblies such as the one that nearly turned into a riot *cannot* happen again -

OLIVIA

Woah, hold up. Since *when* were you against people expressing their right to protest and assemble? Do you even hear yourself? This doesn't sound like you, like the guy I know. You sound like... like a thug. A *bully*.

TIM

I... no, I... (Sounds less convinced) No, I was protecting you...

OLIVIA

I don't need that kind of protection, Tim. We've been safe for six years, moving towards a goal of peace and co-habitation with the United Kingdom.

TIM

Yes, but Sam -

OLIVIA

Is with Jaina. That's why Noir's back. She rescued him from the Stewards, they're safe and together, but they're going to stay for a while to deal with a much bigger issue over there. And you'd know all this if you had bothered to stop and talk to me for two minutes. We don't need to go to war with the US. It won't help them, it won't help anyone.

TIM

So what, I let the fascists steamroll over Avalon?

OLIVIA

No, you sit down and look at what's going on around you. One of your knights was just found incapacitated! In your home! We need to figure out why, not try to pick an international fight. I thought you trusted Jaina to get Sam back, and I know you trust Leo to steer them in the right direction, so stop trying to start a war. Is that really what you want for your family and friends?

TIM

... Of course not. I've never wanted to... to have to send any of the knights to war. It was terrifying enough to see them all fight against Morgan le Fay, I would never want any of them hurt. They should be diplomats, not soldiers. Not the collateral damage of my petty squabbles. (beat) What have I been doing? I was marching us... right towards that path. Without even realizing it. And Gabe... I don't even know how this got so far. How he got hurt.

OLIVIA

I think Maeve's "advice" to you is based on one agenda: hers. And I don't know exactly what that is, but I do know two things: 1) She has not let any of us near you. And 2) She wasn't supposed to be your attache at all. We confirmed with the Diplomatic Service. So you need to get your head together fast.

TIM

She wasn't supposed to work with me? Then who... (Coming to the realization he's been played, ashamed) Olivia, I am so sorry... I will fix this. Somehow.

OLIVIA

(Softer, comforting) I know you will. Cause you have a good heart and a solid head on your shoulders. Most days.

TIM

I'll go to hospital, see how he's doing -

OLIVIA

Gabe would be the first to tell you that he doesn't need people hovering over him. Noir's with him.

(An alarm goes off on Tim's phone)

TIM

(checks his phone) Damn. The press conference... I'm supposed to be announcing that Parliament will support the... my foolish war.

OLIVIA

Tim, you have to stop the runaway train. Fast. We haven't committed any troops or condoned any of the fighting in the US, but we can't stay silent. Noir told me that there are demons in the highest level of the government in the US. We can't fight this head on, we have to be smart. If you go out there and demand that Parliament pass a resolution to go to war with you... this fight will be over before it starts.

TIM

I know... (deep breath) Time to go catch a train, then. (kisses her forehead) I love you. Thank you for putting up with me when I'm a blistering idiot.

(Tim gets up and walks off quickly, determined)

TIM

(calling as he leaves) Edward, have the car brought around.

OLIVIA

(Shouts after Tim) By the way, you are still in trouble for all of this! Couch! For a month! (beat)
Wait up...

(Olivia jogs after him to catch up)

(At Ten Downing Street, the UK Prime Minister's Residence, the press are assembled and waiting in the distance while Cooper marches towards the press conference location)

COOPER

(Talking on the phone) I'm almost there. I spotted her on the BBC coverage leading up to Tim's speech. Who would've thought that having the news on every TV would actually lead to something? How's Gabe?

NOIR

(On the phone with him) Stable, but there's been no change otherwise. They have him on IV fluids, but there's no immediate reason why he won't wake up. Not a medical reason, at the least.

COOPER

Which means a magical one. And Maeve's gonna answer to that.

NOIR

Cooper, don't rush into this. I know you think you can fight anything or anyone, but she is an unknown variable. We don't know what she can do.

COOPER

Which is why I'm just gonna have a conversation.

(Cooper hangs up on Noir as he spots Maeve)

COOPER

Ms. Moran, I need to speak with you.

MAEVE

Mr. Brown, I'm afraid I'm a bit busy. As you might have noticed, His Majesty should be arriving any moment to give an excellent speech, if I say so myself.

COOPER

Lemme guess, cause you wrote it?

MAEVE

I am an advisor. I advised.

COOPER

Yeah, bet you did.

MAEVE

Did you have a reason we needed to speak? Otherwise, I don't have time -

COOPER

Gabe. He's been hurt. Taken to hospital.

MAEVE

Unfortunate. I'll say a prayer for him tonight.

COOPER

You don't seem surprised.

MAEVE

He doesn't factor into my life outside of his existence as a Knight of the Round Table. Unfortunately, in my line of work, people fall ill, are sidelined. I try to keep a level head about, finds that I'm less upset if something goes wrong. More relieved if it goes right. (Bit of her goddess voice coming through) *So I think you should drop the issue.*

COOPER

You can't... (trails off, whatever he was going to say won't come out. He's been magic whammied)

MAEVE

(Little chuckle, quiet) You won't remember this anyway, but I must say... you are *exceptionally* banal. You posture, have this big personality, but you're just a walking stereotype. Attractive but ultimately exhausting.

COOPER

(Struggling to talk still, but it's just a few groans)

MAEVE

I have tried to play nice. But, I have been waiting centuries for this opportunity. None of you children will stop us. Lucky for you, maybe in the coming days... Arawn will have use for you. I cannot say the same for your friend...

(Before she can do more, there's commotion as Tim's car pulls up and he gets out, the press start snapping pictures and clamoring)

MAEVE

But, no matter. You cannot stop this any more than you can stop the whirlwind.

(The press go quiet as Tim begins to speak)

TIM

Thank you all for joining me. I had a great deal to consider and the safety of my fellow citizens of both Avalon and the United Kingdom has been of utmost concern. Olivia would say that it is because I have a good heart... and a solid head on my shoulders. Most days.

(Polite chuckle from the press)

TIM

(clears his throat) She has also been here amongst my people while I have been in Geneva attempting to negotiate for Sam Tyler's release. As you know, the negotiations have considerably broken down. I did not declare my intent to go to war with the United States lightly. (Beat) But, after further consideration, I have... realized the error of my ways.

MAEVE

(This is bad, quietly to herself) ... What?

TIM

My advocacy and gusto to both protect citizens at home and abroad was... well-intentioned but shortsighted. The fact of the matter is... war is not a solution to the larger problem. Because the problem is not what the American government wishes to do to Sam Tyler or any one individual, but rather what the American government will do to its people. The lack of transparency, the violence, the fear, the false superiority we see from those in power in the country... these are all symptoms. Symptoms of a disease that has plagued humanity since the earliest days. That for some, they mistake peace for silence and obedience. And that disease... that single-minded focus to make everyone live one way, with *one* set of morals at the cost of everyone else... *that* is what must be drummed out. A war with America does not solve America's problems, and it does not solve our own problems. Those who came to my estate, who protested - you have a *right* to your voice. To your anger. Keep *me* accountable, that is your right and it is my privilege to serve you.

MAEVE

That is *not* the speech I gave him... (dark, turns to Cooper) What did you do, you foolish man? This... this cannot stand.

(Maeve storms off, then after a moment, the magic snaps off of Cooper)

COOPER

(gasping for air) Where did she go... bloody hell...

(Olivia finally has reached him in the crowd)

OLIVIA

Cooper... You okay?

COOPER

No. Maeve, she... she did something... Something's very wrong.

TIM

I am calling for peace. Not obedience, not silence, but *peace!* And I understand that sometimes in order to achieve peace, we feel we must call for war. But war cannot be the way forward here. It was not my negotiations with the American government that has freed Sam Tyler. It is the work of American people in spite of their government that freed him. And I urge Parliament and the UN to empower the American *people* against their tyrannical government -

(A shot rings out, the crowd screams. Tim gasps as he is shot by a sniper and collapses)

OLIVIA & COOPER

NO!

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot theme plays]

Featuring the voice talents of:

Chris Stadther as Tim Arthur

Teresa Stacy as Olivia Arthur

Sarah Palmero as Alicia Arthur

Jalen Frisby as Jack Arthur

Chris Hackney as Noir

Adin Rudd as Cooper Brown and Gwyn Ap Nudd

Alicia Laine Matheson as Natalie Hall/The Lady of the Lake

Sian Luxford as Roxanne Dawes

Kris Bays as Merlin

Ailish Jeffers as Maeve Moran

Adam Blanford as Manannan mac Lir

Brady Hendricks as Gabriel Sinclair

Sensitivity Readers - Mark Allen Jr and Sarah Palmero

Written by Kathryn Pryde and Kris Bays

Music by Josh Molen at TheTunePeddler.com

Directed by Kathryn Pryde

Produced by Pendant Productions

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