

FADE IN:

EXT. CLIFFSIDE - DAY

A cliff leading down to a deep gorge with a river. We hear two people screaming then they fall into view. One is HAWK FENWICK (35) holding a sword. The other is NYSSA GREYBEND (21). Their clothes are dirty, they've been through a fight. As they fall, Hawk reaches out and stabs the sword into the side of the cliff. She holds on with one hand and uses the other to grab Nyssa. They both catch their breath now that it looks like they're probably not going to die.

NYSSA

So I can't help but think this is probably partially my fault.

HAWK

This is entirely your fault!

She looks up at the cliff above and sees movement. Nyssa follows her gaze.

NYSSA

Well, now what?

Hawk sighs.

HAWK

I guess since you started this thing we'd better go finish it. Come on, kid, the sooner we sort this out the sooner I get back to the pub.

Hawk swings Nyssa as hard as she can towards a not so stable looking branch hanging over the cliff. Nyssa realizes what she's doing as she's doing it.

NYSSA

HAWK!!!

Hawk lets go at just the right moment, sending Nyssa flying toward the cliff.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN - DAY

One week earlier. A medieval style fantasy town. Hawk walks down the street, much cleaner and calmer now.

2.

Her clothes are impeccable, pants, a shirt with just the right amount of buttons unbuttoned, a vest, boots, and belt with a small axe strapped to the back. She grins confidently as she strolls down the street, waving and winking at people. Then we get closer and really see her at work. She's a master pickpocket, effortlessly limiting jewelry, wallets and coin bags from people. Everyone she interacts with seems so charmed by her that they don't notice. She's good at what she does and she knows it.

She makes it to the front of a inn and looks back down the street with a knowing grin.

CUT TO:

INT. HANNIGAN'S INN - CONTINUING

Hawk walks in the inn. It's cozy and comfortable with your usual assortment of fantasy characters. She looks over and spots the bartender and makes a beeline for her. Behind the bar is TESS WILDREST (32). She has a kind, friendly face and lights up with a smile when she sees Hawk, ignoring everyone else around her, much to the dismay of an ogre trying to get a refill. Hawk sits down on a barstool.

TESS

Hawk! Where have you been? It's been too long. I was starting to get worried.

She reaches across the bar and give Hawk a friendly punch in the shoulder. Hawk feigns pain.

HAWK

I was...around. Got in a couple scrapes but nothing I couldn't handle. A few things paid off, a few didn't. It's good to be back here though.

A beat.

HAWK

I missed you.

She smiles a real, genuine smile, not the kind she puts on for show for other people. Tess smiles back.

TESS

You know I missed you too. Don't stay away so long next time, yeah?

3.

HAWK

I'll try but you know me, always  
been wild.

TESS

Oh I know.

She finally takes the ogre's stein and turns around to refill it.

TESS

(To herself)

I know all too well.

She turns back around and hands the ogre his drink and fills another for Hawk. She glances to far corner of the bar and shakes her head, just remembering something.

TESS

Oh! I forgot, there's someone here  
to see you.

Hawk takes a sip of her beer and raises an eyebrow.

HAWK

What kind of someone? Because that  
could mean a lot of things to  
someone like me.

Tess points to the far corner. Two men are sitting at a table, VABRIL SHUSK (40) sits very straight, an untouched drink in front of him. His clothes are fancy and impeccable. He drips upper class. The other man, ORREN ALDREL (37), is nervous-looking with a satchel and a piece of parchment in front of him.

TESS

Well, they didn't seem like they  
were here to kill you. I wouldn't  
have let them in otherwise.

Hawk squints over at them.

HAWK

Even if they are here to kill me,  
I'm not too worried. Tougher guys  
have tried and I'm still here.

TESS

If they try anything, you know I'll  
have your back.

HAWK

Always.

4.

Hawk winks at her then drains the rest of her beer in one chug. She sets the stein down, stands up and straightens her vest.

HAWK

Better go find out what I'm about  
get myself into this time.

TESS

I'll be here if you need me.

Hawk gives her a grin and then strides across the tavern to Vabril and Orren. She drops herself into the seat across from them. She leans back, more casual and relaxed than them, and grins a charming grin.

HAWK

Hello, fellas. I hear you were  
looking for me?

VABRIL

Hawk Fenwick, I presume?

HAWK

You presume correctly.

Orren is scribbling away. He looks up at Hawk.

ORREN

Hawk Fenwick? Is that your real  
name?

Vabril rolls his eyes.

VABRIL

Of course it's not, you idiot.

Hawk shrugs.

HAWK

Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. It's  
definitely not any of your  
business.

She squints at them dramatically.

HAWK

And who are you, exactly?

Vabril clears his throat and straightens his already very straight shirt cuffs.

5.

VABRIL

My name is Vabril Shusk and this is my valet, Orren. I was hoping to hire you for a job. A quite lucrative job.

HAWK

I'm listening.

VABRIL

I need you to...acquire a certain item for me.

HAWK

And by acquire you mean steal, right?

VABRIL

(Sighing)

If you must be so brash about it, yes.

HAWK

Got it. And what, exactly is this item?

Vabril looks around and then leans in.

VABRIL

A magic sword.

He waits for Hawk's reaction. She doesn't give him one.

HAWK

Not the craziest thing I've ever been asked to steal. And far from the first magical item.

VABRIL

I knew you were the right choice for the job.

He nudges Orren.

VABRIL

See Orren? This is why we had to come all this way. I wanted the best and Ms. Fenwick here is, in fact, the best.

HAWK

Flattery will get you everywhere, my friend, but just Hawk is fine.

(MORE)

6.

HAWK (CONT'D)

Now down to business. Where is this magic sword.

Orren pull a map out of his satchel and hands it to Vabril who spreads it on the table.

VABRIL

Are you familiar with the kingdom of Lamid?

Hawk glances over the map.

HAWK

Yeah. I've...spent some time there. Friendly place. At least, no one there tried to kill me and there isn't a warrant out for my arrest...that I know of.

Hawk grins with the last remark. Vabril doesn't find it amusing and ignores her.

VABRIL

The sword is here.

He points to a drawing on the map of a castle.

VABRIL

Somewhere in this castle.

Hawk leans back.

HAWK

Whoa. The castle? Are you saying I'd be stealing from the king?

VABRIL

That is the idea, yes. Is there a problem?

Hawk holds her hands up.

HAWK

Yeah, I don't steal from kings. Kings have armies and knights and things can get real bad real fast. Not my show, buddy.

VABRIL

And here I was thinking you were the best.

7.

HAWK

Oh I am the best, and this is one of the reason why. I'm very good at picking my fights.

Vabril doesn't seem bothered.

VABRIL

So you wouldn't be interested even for...

He leans over and whispers something to her. Hawk raises her eyebrows.

HAWK

I mean, that is a lot of money but it's not worth my life. Sorry, mate, I'm out.

Vabril sighs. He pulls a card out of his pocket.

VABRIL

Very well. But if you change your mind, here's how to find me.

Hawk pockets the card.

HAWK

Yeah, thanks.

She stands up.

HAWK

Good luck with your magic sword thing.

She walks back towards the bar. Orren looks at Vabril confused.

ORREN

So you're just giving up? Just like that?

Vabril smiles a smile that says he's got everything under control.

VABRIL

Oh I'm not giving up. She'll come around, just wait.

He looks over to the bar where Hawk has rejoined Tess.

VABRIL

We're not out of this yet.

8.

We shift focus over to the bar where Hawk has sat down again and Tess is handing her another drink.

TESS

So what was that all about?

HAWK

Some guy wanted me to steal a sword from a king a couple of kingdoms over.

TESS

Are you going to do it?

Hawk shakes her head.

HAWK

Nah. Stealing from a king is a little to risky even for me.

She takes a sip of her drink.

HAWK

The money would have been nice though.

Tess shrugs.

TESS

Sure, but it's not worth your life.

HAWK

Very true! I wouldn't want to deprive the world of my brilliance.

She grins, Tess rolls her eyes but smiles.

TESS

So, since you're not taking the job does that mean you can stick around awhile?

HAWK

I might be convinced.

Tess turns around and leans through a small window behind the bar. When she turns back around, she has a big bowl of stew. She holds it up in front of Hawk.

TESS

How about dinner on the house?

HAWK

That's all the convincing I need.



9.

Tess sets the bowl down in front of her.

TESS

Good.

She pulls a key from her pocket and tosses it to Hawk.

TESS

Got you usual room all ready too.

Hawk pockets the key.

HAWK

You're too good to me, Tesfira  
Wildrest.

TESS

I really am. But you're my oldest  
friend and I know if I don't take  
care of you, no one else will.  
Including yourself.

HAWK

I'll drink to that.

She holds her beer in a salute to Tess and then digs into her  
stew. Tess laughs and watches her with an absolutely adorning  
look that Hawk doesn't notice. There's more than friendship  
in her eyes and just little sadness.

CUT TO:

INT. INN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hawk and Tess walk up the stairs together, laughing.

HAWK

So then he's left standing there on  
one side of the river in nothing  
but his nightshirt while I was  
hightailing it out of there on his  
horse with all the treasure!

Tess laughs.

TESS

I can only imagine the look on his  
face!

HAWK

Well, that's what he gets for trying to cut me out of my fair share of the loot just because I'm a woman. He never wouldn't have know where to find that dragon's nest if it wasn't for me in the first place!

TESS

Sounds like quite the adventure.

She yawns. They stop at a door.

TESS (CONT'D)

Tell me more tomorrow?

HAWK

Of course. Night Tess.

TESS

Goodnight, Hawk.

Hawk watches her walk down the hall and up a staircase at the end. She has the same more-than-friends look in her eyes that Tess had earlier. When Tess is gone, she shakes her head, as if to shake away the feelings and steps into her room.

CUT TO: