

E7 - Seeds of Suspicion

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[00:00] Main

[00:00] Ferdinand

*Main lived a new life as part of a poor
soldier's family in a world without books.*

[00:06] Ferdinand

Wanting to read,

[00:07] Ferdinand

*she looked to make her own
books through trial and error.*

[00:12] Ferdinand

*But she had failed to account
for one huge problem...*

[00:16] Benno

If it is the Devouring,

[00:18] Benno

she'll die very soon.

SIGN Ascendance of a Bookworm

SIGN Ascendance of a Bookworm

SIGN Chapter Seven Seeds of Suspicion

[02:03] Lutz

Wow!

[02:04] Main

*Yeah. Hard to believe it's part
of the same town, isn't it?*

[02:07] Lutz

I bet lunch will be amazing, too.

[02:12] Main

Yeah... That invitation we received

[02:14] Main

was one for lunch with Mister Benno.

(Flashback) [02:20] Main

*"See me at Gilberta Company
by the fourth bell."*

(Flashback) [02:23] Main

Where's the Gilberta Company?

(Flashback) [02:26] Otto

It's on the first floor where I live.

(Flashback) [02:28] Main

Where you live?

(Flashback) [02:30] Main

So Mister Benno was the one who didn't want

(Flashback) [02:33] Main

to be separated from his dear sister?

(Flashback) [02:36] Main

Which means you and him

are... brothers-in-law?!

(Flashback) [02:43] Otto

Correct.

[02:44] Main

They got us.

[02:46] Main

Lutz, we have to be careful

not to be tricked today.

[02:50] Lutz

Huh? Aren't we just gonna have lunch?

[02:54] Main

This is the place.

[02:56] Lutz

Okay, I'm starting to get nervous.

[02:59] Main

Someone just went in.

[03:02] Lutz

I don't see many customers.

[03:05] Lutz

Not many goods, either.

[03:07] Lutz

Do they really make money?

[03:09] Main

I'm pretty sure they do.

[03:12] Main

The shop is squeaky clean,

[03:14] Main

the customer service is thorough,

and the employees are all classy.

[03:18] Main

Their clientele must be

nobility and the wealthy.

[03:28] Benno

I apologize for asking you to come on

such short notice. Now, let's eat.

[03:33] Main

Thank you.

[03:36] Main

Ugh, they've thrown all the broth away.

[03:40] Main

The soup at home is way better than this.

[03:46] Main

Is Benno mad at something?

[03:48] Main

What did I do?

[03:52] Benno

All right. It's time to talk.

[03:58] Main

He's gonna yell at me!

[03:59] Benno

Why did you turn to Otto?

[04:02] Benno

He told me that he provided nails for you.

[04:05] Benno

He also mentioned that it was a trade
for the liquid that makes hair shine.

[04:09] Main

You mean the Simple All-In-One Shampoo?

[04:12] Main

That's right. Is there a problem with that?

[04:15] Benno

Of course there is!

[04:16] Benno

You should've come to me first!

[04:19] Main

But we've only been conditionally accepted.

[04:23] Main

We're not your apprentices yet.

[04:25] Lutz

Yeah.

[04:26] Benno

That's not it!

[04:27] Benno

Listen. If the plant-based
paper you make has value,

[04:33] Benno

you two will be hired as
apprentices to this company.

[04:36] Benno

The paper will be Gilberta
Company's merchandise,

[04:41] Benno

so you should be talking to

me first about everything!

[04:47] Main

I'm sorry.

[04:49] Main

I failed to realize that it would
make you look bad as our employer.

[04:54] Main

It won't happen again.

[04:56] Benno

What are you doing?

[04:59] Main

*Crap! They don't bow their
heads in apology here!*

[05:04] Main

Nothing... I understand.

[05:07] Benno

As long as we're clear.

[05:09] Benno

Now, let's get down to business.

[05:13] Benno

I'll provide you with everything
you need to make your paper.

[05:19] Main

But isn't this our apprenticeship test?

[05:23] Main

Are you sure you want to help us with it?

[05:25] Benno

I can't assess your abilities fairly
without the right environment.

[05:29] Benno

Besides, you can't start a new
business without capital investment.

[05:33] Main

That's true, but still...

[05:36] Benno

Of course, I'm not doing it out
of the goodness of my heart.

[05:40] Benno

In return, I want the recipe for the liquid
that makes hair shine. How's that?

[05:45] Main

I see.

[05:46] Main

You want it instead of collateral, right?

[05:51] Benno

Where did you learn that word?

[05:55] Lutz

What's collateral?

[05:56] Main

When you lend money to someone, you take something in exchange for security's sake.

[05:59] Main

You'd want to ensure you got your money back, wouldn't you?

[06:03] Benno

But a recipe can't serve as a collateral, so I'll buy it outright.

[06:09] Main

That certainly doesn't sound like a bad deal.

[06:14] Main

When you say "everything we need," is that limited to tools and equipment?

[06:17] Main

Or can we ask for materials as well?

[06:19] Benno

That's fine by me.

[06:20] Benno

I've already heard that Lutz has been talking to lumberers.

[06:26] Benno

You're looking for a tree with soft wood, aren't you?

[06:28] Main

So this is a merchant's connections at work.

[06:32] Main

How long will your backing last?

SIGN Apprentice Age 7 Age 6

SIGN Baptism

SIGN Salary 10%

SIGN Paper Gilberta Company

SIGN Gilberta Company Sale Money

[06:35] Benno

Until your baptism.

[06:37] Benno

We'll buy all the paper you've produced by then.

[06:40] Benno

Once we deduct the material costs and commission, the rest of the money is yours.

[06:44] Main

And after our baptism?

[06:46] Benno

The paper will be sold through us.

[06:49] Benno

Ten percent of the profits will be added to your pay as royalties.

[06:53] Main

Instead of those royalties,

[06:55] Main

I want to reserve the right to produce the paper.

[06:57] Main

And Lutz will have exclusive rights to sell it.

[07:01] Benno

What do you mean?

[07:02] Main

Royalties added to our pay will mean nothing if we're fired.

[07:07] Main

I'd rather not be cast aside as soon as you have the product in hand.

[07:12] Benno

You want job security rather than short-term profits, huh?

[07:17] Main

That's right. Is that a problem?

[07:20] Benno

I'm impressed that you already have the wherewithal to protect your interests.

[07:26] Benno

You've only mentioned the rights to the paper.

[07:29] Benno

What about the liquid...

Simple All-In-One Shampoo, was it?

[07:32] Benno

Don't you want to reserve the rights to that as well?

[07:34] Main

No, that's all right. I'm selling it to you.

[07:39] Benno

Very well.

[07:41] Benno

That's that, then.

[07:43] Benno

Go ahead and make your order forms.

[07:45] Main

Wait, how am I supposed to...

[07:48] Mark

Pardon me.

[07:51] Mark

I'm Mark.

[07:52] Mark

Rest assured, Master has
filled me in already.

[07:56] Main

*And so, I learned how to write
order forms from Mark,*

[08:00] Main

while Lutz practiced how to write.

[08:04] Mark

You can calculate without
using a calculator?

[08:07] Mark

How intriguing.

[08:10] Main

I just don't know how to use one, actually.

[08:21] Main

Lutz, are you okay?

[08:23] Lutz

Yeah.

[08:28] Main

I'm done writing out the order forms.

[08:31] Benno

Good.

[08:32] Benno

Mark, prepare the contract magic.

[08:35] Mark

At once.

[08:36] Main

Huh? Contract magic?

[08:39] Main

Did he just say "magic"?

[08:42] Main

Is this a fantasy world?

[08:44] Main

Will I get to use magic, too?!

[08:49] Benno

As I'm sure you know,
only nobles possess mana.

[08:54] Main

*First the books, and now mana?
Darn those lucky nobles!*

[08:58] Benno

Contract magic was created as a way

of curbing high-handed nobles.

[09:04] Benno

When signed, the magic ensures
that the terms are binding,

[09:07] Benno

and it can't be canceled without
the consent of all parties.

[09:11] Benno

This is the paper and special
ink used for contract magic:

[09:16] Benno

magical items only granted to
merchants that cater to nobles.

[09:22] Main

*That's a strange ink pot.
The ink is blue, too.*

[09:27] Mark

It's highly expensive,

[09:28] Mark

so it's only used for deals that
are considered very profitable.

[09:32] Main

So wait, the Simple All-In-One Shampoo?

[09:38] Main

I let it go too easily!

[09:41] Main

"Main reserves all rights to produce
the paper or decide who makes it.

[09:46] Main

Lutz retains exclusive
rights to sell the paper.

[09:49] Main

Neither shall retain any rights to
decide its pricing or the profits."

[09:53] Benno

Is that acceptable to you two?

[09:56] Main

Yes, it looks fine to me.

[09:58] Lutz

I'm okay with it, too.

[10:00] Mark

Then please sign here.

[10:22] Benno

Mark.

[10:35] Main

The ink turned from blue to black!

[10:38] Benno

It's your turn now.

[10:41] Main

What? I can't!

[10:49] Lutz

Main? Aren't you going to sign the contract?

[10:57] Lutz

Hold out your hand. I'll do it for you.

[11:23] Benno

With this, our contract is signed.

[11:29] Main

I didn't expect to spend so much time there.

[11:32] Main

I was surprised that you managed
to write your name perfectly.

[11:36] Lutz

I was taught how to write it before.

[11:38] Main

You did well not to forget.

[11:43] Main

Now all that's left is to make the paper.

[11:46] Lutz

Yeah.

[11:48] Main

What's the matter, Lutz?

[11:55] Main

Lutz!

[11:56] Main

Wait, Lutz!

[12:02] Lutz

Hey, uh...

[12:07] Lutz

You *are* Main, right?

SIGN Ascendance of a
Bookworm

SIGN Ascendance of a
Bookworm

[12:22] Lutz

If you are, how were you able
to have that conversation?

[12:26] Main

What conversation?

[12:28] Lutz

All that stuff you were talking about
with the boss. I didn't get half of it.

[12:36] Lutz

Main talking to an adult about stuff I don't
know like an equal doesn't seem right.

[12:43] Lutz

Are you really Main?

[12:48] Main

Are you saying I seem
like someone else to you?

[12:55] Lutz

Uh, sorry. That was a weird thing to say.

[13:00] Lutz

I'm just a bit surprised by all the
complicated stuff you were saying.

[13:12] Main

I messed up. I was too eager today.

[13:18] Main

But once we start making the paper,

[13:21] Main

*Lutz will definitely
realize that I'm not Main.*

[13:25] Main

What will he do when he finds out?

[13:35] Main

Lutz...

[13:47] Main

I'm home!

[13:49] Eva

Welcome back. You were out late.

[13:52] Main

Yeah. I had to write out order
forms at Mister Benno's place.

[13:56] Tuuli

I have to prepare for tomorrow.

[14:03] Gunther

I know you only just got back,

[14:05] Gunther

but could you get some water for us?

[14:08] Main

Oh, sure.

[14:12] Ralph

Hey!

[14:13] Ralph

Who are you?

[14:16] Lutz

Where's Main? Give her back!

[14:24] Main

Help!

[14:27] All

Who are you?

[14:28] All

Who are you?

[14:28] All

Who are you?

[14:29] All

Who are you?

[14:30] All

Who are you?

[14:30] All

Who are you?

[14:30] All

Who are you?

[14:31] All

Who are you?

[14:32] All

Who are you?

[14:33] All

Who are you?

[14:34] Main

No!

[14:37] Eva

Main?

[14:39] Eva

Did you have a bad dream?

[14:43] Main

I'm fine now.

[14:45] Eva

Then go back to sleep, okay?

[14:51] Main

If they find out that I'm not Main...

[15:03] Main

*then I can just let the fever
consume me and disappear.*

[15:10] Main

*I don't wanna have any
regrets when that happens,*

[15:13] Main

*so I'll put my everything
into making that paper.*

[15:23] Main

*Facing Lutz is a little
awkward now, though...*

[15:27] Lutz

Morning.

[15:28] Lutz

I have to go to the forest today, so I can't
come with you to see Mister Benno.

[15:34] Main

Got it.

[15:36] Main

I should finish all my dealings with adults while Lutz isn't around.

[15:40] Main

That way, I'll avoid any more suspicion.

[15:43] Main

That's it!

[15:49] Mark

Shall we go place our orders, then?

[15:51] Main

Yes, please.

[15:54] Main

Mister Mark, could we have a workshop to put all our equipment?

[15:59] Mark

A workshop, is it?

I'll talk to Master about it.

[16:04] Mark

Do you have any requirements?

[16:05] Main

We'll be going to the forest a lot, so something near the south gate would be nice.

[16:10] Mark

Understood. I'll take a look around that area.

[16:14] Mark

Oh, we're nearly at the lumberer's.

[16:17] Main

Oh, is that it...

[16:21] Mark

Miss Main?!

[16:31] Main

Huh? Where am I?

[16:33] Corinna

You've come to, Main?

[16:36] Benno

Oh, you're up, lass!

[16:38] Benno

I lost years of my life when I heard you'd collapsed!

[16:42] Main

I'm terribly sorry!

[16:45] Benno

Wh-What are you doing?

[16:48] Main

Kowtowing!

[16:51] Main

W-Well, uh, it's my way of showing
I mean it when I say I'm sorry.

[16:57] Benno

Otto did tell me you were frail,

[17:00] Benno

but I didn't expect it to be quite this bad.

[17:03] Main

I'm fine now!

[17:07] Benno

Your fever's gone down.

[17:09] Main

Yes, it has! It's gone!

[17:12] Benno

Go straight home today.

[17:13] Main

But there's so much to do!

[17:16] Benno

Why, you little!

I said to go straight home!

[17:20] Main

Ow!

[17:21] Benno

You're hereby banned from coming here alone!

[17:24] Benno

The lad should be with you every time!

[17:26] Benno

If you have any memory at all,
you'll never forget that!

[17:29] Main

Okay, okay! I won't!

[17:31] Main

Ouch!

[17:33] Main

And so, I was forcibly brought home,

[17:38] Main

where I was given a real earful by Mom

[17:42] Main

and found myself bedridden again.

[17:46] Benno

That lass...

[17:48] Benno

She really may have the Devouring.

[17:51] Otto

You brought that up last time.

What exactly is it?

[17:55] Benno

It manifests in commoners
who are born with mana.

[17:58] Otto

But don't only nobles possess mana?

[18:01] Otto

Besides, I've never even heard of this.

[18:04] Benno

It's not well known because most of these
kids don't live to see their baptism.

[18:10] Otto

What? Don't live to see their baptism?

[18:13] Benno

Yeah. As one grows, so does their mana.

[18:16] Benno

But if it grows too much,
it'll devour and kill them.

[18:20] Benno

And the more mana they
have, the sooner they die.

[18:24] Otto

Is there any way to survive it?

[18:26] Benno

Yes, but it needs magical items that can
extract the excess mana from their body.

[18:32] Otto

Then without them, Main will...

[18:35] Benno

We don't know that for sure yet.

[18:37] Benno

But if it really is the Devouring,

[18:41] Benno

she will die very soon.

[18:44] Otto

The captain will be inconsolable.

[18:47] Gunther

Listen up, Main!

[18:49] Gunther

Push yourself one more time, and I'm
not letting you out of the house!

[18:51] Main

I-I get it, Dad.

[18:54] Gunther

Lutz, take care of her.

[18:56] Lutz

Sure, Mister Gunther.

[18:58] Gunther

Also, you are to accompany her every

time she has to go to Gilberta.

[19:04] Main

They said I'm banned from
entering if you're not with me.

[19:07] Lutz

Banned?

[19:15] Gunther

I'm counting on you, Lutz.

[19:23] Lutz

I was just really upset, you know?

[19:26] Lutz

When I saw you doing calculations and
talking about all that complicated stuff,

[19:31] Lutz

I felt like you didn't need me at all.

[19:35] Main

Lutz...

[19:36] Lutz

That's why I lashed out.

[19:39] Lutz

Sorry.

[19:41] Main

Oh, that was you lashing out?

[19:44] Main

Thank goodness. I thought
you'd come to hate me.

[19:53] Lutz

I-I don't hate you!

[19:55] Lutz

Come on, let's go.

[20:01] Benno

Lad! Looking after the lass
is your number one priority!

[20:06] Benno

Know that it's a vital mission
that only you can handle, okay?

[20:11] Lutz

Only I can handle it?

[20:13] Benno

That's right.

[20:14] Benno

Do you think anyone other than you and her
family could babysit this reckless lass?

[20:20] Lutz

Nope.

[20:21] Benno

Do you think anyone here could do it?

[20:25] Lutz

Nope.

[20:26] Benno

Then let me ask you:

[20:28] Benno

do you think she can walk
to the south gate today?

[20:34] Lutz

Should be fine as long as
she doesn't walk too fast.

[20:37] Benno

Excellent.

[20:38] Benno

I'm letting you have a workshop
close to the south gate.

[20:42] Benno

Have Mark show you there.

[20:45] Main

Thank you!

[20:47] Main

We should move everything as soon as...

[20:54] Benno

Don't do anything stupid!
Just behave yourself!

[20:57] Lutz

I'll do the heavy lifting, so don't
do anything that'd leave you in bed.

[21:01] Mark

Please, just take care of your health.

[21:07] Lutz

From that look on your face, I bet all
that went in one ear and out the other.

[21:11] Main

Huh? How'd you know?!

[21:21] Main

Sheesh!

[21:23] Main

At the time, I hadn't yet realized

[21:25] Main

*that Lutz had completely stopped
calling me "Main" since that day.*

SIGN Next Chapter Lutz's Main

[23:08] Main

From this day onward, Lutz came to be
highly valued as the Main Supervisor.

[23:13] Ferdinand

Well, I can certainly see why.

[23:16] Main

What's that supposed to mean?

[23:18] Ferdinand

Can you imagine how shocking it
is to see you suddenly collapse?

[23:22] Ferdinand

I truly empathize with Benno and the others.

[23:28] Main

Oh, Head Priest! I'll actually
make plant-based paper next time,

[23:33] Main

so look forward to it!

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