

E8 - Lutz's Main

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[00:00] Ferdinand

After tense negotiations,

[00:02] Ferdinand

*Main secured the rights to
produce and sell her paper.*

[00:05] Ferdinand

However,

[00:06] Ferdinand

that made Lutz suspicious of her.

[00:10] Ferdinand

*With his unspoken doubts
still up in the air,*

[00:13] Ferdinand

*the two were about to dive headlong
into the process of paper making.*

SIGN Ascendance of a Bookworm

SIGN Ascendance of a Bookworm

SIGN Chapter Eight Lutz's Main

[01:58] Mark

This will be your workshop.

[02:02] Mark

It's already been given a quick cleanup.

[02:04] Mark

You can see your pot and ashes right there,

[02:07] Mark

and we'll have your materials brought here
as they're delivered to the company.

[02:11] Main

Thank you, Mister Mark.

[02:13] Lutz

Let's carry the stuff
we brought from home inside.

[02:17] Main

Okay.

[02:20] Main

Lutz is interacting with me like usual.

[02:24] Main

I was worried that he'd figured out that I wasn't really Main.

[02:28] Main

I'm glad we've made up.

[02:33] Mark

I have to return to the store.

[02:36] Mark

Here is the key to this place.

[02:38] Mark

Be sure to lock up and return the key every day.

[02:42] Main

Understood. Thank you for everything.

[02:48] Lutz

So, what are we doing today?

[02:51] Main

Hmm... Decide what size the steamer will be,

[02:54] Main

take another look at the order forms, and...

[02:57] Main

Oh, we also need to make bamboo sticks.

[02:59] Lutz

Bamboo sticks? For what?

SIGN Drainer

[03:02] Lutz

We'll put a bunch of them together to make a drainer.

[03:06] Main

It's part of the deckle, used to screen the paper solution.

SIGN Deckle

[03:12] Lutz

It broke again.

[03:14] Main

These are really difficult to make.

[03:17] Main

Maybe we should just decide on a length and have someone else make it.

[03:22] Lutz

We're going to the lumberer's to order the steamer and stuff tomorrow.

[03:25] Lutz

We can ask then.

[03:27] Main

Yeah...

[03:29] Craftsman

Huh?

[03:30] Craftsman

What kinda wood did ya say ya want?

[03:32] Main

U-Uh... To make a steamer...

[03:37] Craftsman

Yeah, so what kinda wood?!

[03:39] Main

E-Er... It should be hard and dry
so that the steam doesn't alter its shape.

[03:47] Craftsman

Okay, good. You do know your stuff.

[03:52] Craftsman

I'd say you want hedwan,
tworso, or peditree.

[03:55] Craftsman

Which will it be?

[03:56] Main

How am I supposed to decide?

[03:59] Main

Do you know, Lutz?

[04:01] Lutz

Hedwan is probably the easiest to use.

[04:04] Craftsman

Do ya have a size in mind?

[04:06] Main

Yes, it's on the order form.

[04:09] Main

We would also like a mallet to pound fibers.

[04:13] Main

Something Lutz can hold and swing.

[04:16] Craftsman

Pound fibers?

[04:18] Craftsman

What for?

[04:20] Main

Unfortunately, I can't tell you that.

[04:24] Craftsman

Striking the right balance between
hardness and weight will be key.

[04:27] Craftsman

What ya use as a base
will also change things.

[04:30] Main

A base?

[04:32] Main

I hadn't considered that.

[04:35] Main

Can we have the mallet and
the base made together?

[04:38] Main

I'll write another order form now.

[04:40] Craftsman

Sure, that's not a problem...
But *you're* gonna write the form?

[04:45] Main

Yes.

[04:47] Main

Will this do?

[04:51] Craftsman

Y-Yeah...

[04:54] Craftsman

Unbelievable. This looks good.

[04:56] Main

Oh, one last thing.

[04:59] Main

We want bamboo sticks like this one.
Can you make them?

[05:03] Craftsman

Hmm... Precision work
like this is beyond me.

[05:08] Craftsman

You should ask a craftsman.

[05:09] Main

Understood!

[05:11] Main

Thank you for all your help!

[05:14] Craftsman

Sure. Drop by anytime ya need anything.

[05:18] Craftsman

Bamboo sticks, eh?

[05:19] Craftsman

Does it have to be wavy?

[05:22] Main

I was trying to make it
nice and straight, actually.

[05:26] Craftsman

Then coming to me was the right decision.

[05:29] Craftsman

Is that all you need?

[05:31] Main

Can you also make a drainer for us?

[05:35] Main

It's a screen of sorts, with the bamboo sticks tied up in a row like this.

[05:39] Craftsman

That seems like a pain,
but it's not impossible.

[05:42] Craftsman

However, I will need
really sturdy thread for it.

[05:45] Main

Sturdy thread?

[05:47] Craftsman

Like in spinne webs.

[05:49] Craftsman

I can pick something out for you
if we can go to a thread seller now.

[05:53] Main

Absolutely!

[05:54] Lutz

Hey, don't push yourself.

[05:56] Lutz

You'll go down first.

[05:58] Main

I'll be fine! I'm not exerting myself...

[06:01] Mark

Then I'll bring her there.

[06:04] Mark

It seems she's once again
in the mood to be carried.

[06:12] Main

Sorry to make you do this again and again.

[06:14] Mark

Oh, it's nothing. Please don't worry about it.

[06:17] Main

A month and a half later,

[06:19] Main

*we had everything in place
to start making our paper.*

[06:23] Main

Blue skies! White clouds!

[06:26] Main

'Tis the perfect day to make paper, Lutz!

[06:33] Main

Lutz?

[06:34] Main

Are you okay?

[06:36] Main

Do you want me to carry the steamer?

[06:38] Lutz

Nah, you can't handle it.

[06:48] Main

Maybe you should take a break, Lutz.

[06:51] Lutz

Nah.

[06:52] Lutz

Once we start steaming, we'll have to sit around and wait for a bell's time, right?

[06:56] Lutz

That can be my break.

[07:00] Lutz

Okay.

[07:01] Lutz

I'm gonna go chop some wood.

[07:02] Lutz

You watch the pot and rest up.

[07:06] Main

But you need the rest more than I do.

[07:09] Lutz

I can't have you falling sick
before we finish the paper.

[07:13] Lutz

You can pick up twigs or whatever around here,
but don't try to do too much.

[07:17] Lutz

And yell if anything goes wrong, okay?

[07:21] Main

Got it.

[07:28] Main

We're out of twigs.

[07:30] Main

Guess I'll go pick up some more.

[07:39] Main

What is that?

[07:46] Main

That is one red fruit.

[07:48] Main

Is it edible?

[07:55] Main

Ow, hot!

[08:10] Main

H-Huh? What's with this sprouty thing?

[08:15] Main

Lutz... Lutz!

[08:17] Lutz

What's wrong?

[08:18] Main

What is this?

[08:20] Lutz

Trombe!

[08:22] Main

Trombe? What's that?

[08:25] Lutz

I'll explain later!

[08:27] Ralph

What's the matter, Lutz?

[08:29] Lutz

We have a trombe!

[08:32] Lutz

You run away!

[08:33] Main

Okay.

[08:48] Ralph

See any more sprouting?

[08:50] Kid

There shouldn't be.

[08:54] Main

What the... What a weird plant.

[08:59] Lutz

Are you okay?

[09:01] Main

Yeah... Lutz, what was that?

[09:05] Lutz

A trombe.

[09:07] Lutz

If it's not weeded out as soon
as it starts sprouting,

[09:09] Lutz

it'll suck up all the nutrients
in the soil and grow in a flash.

[09:13] Main

So that's why it sprouted so quickly.

[09:16] Lutz

Yeah. It becomes a real danger
if it gets too big,

[09:19] Lutz

and the knight order
would have to be called in.

[09:21] Main

*They have a knight order?
Sounds like a fantasy world, all right.*

[09:25] Lutz

But that's weird.

[09:27] Lutz

It's not trombe season yet,
and it was growing really fast.

[09:31] Lutz

But it hasn't affected the soil here much.

[09:35] Main

Huh...

[09:37] Lutz

What? Don't you find it strange?

[09:42] Main

Well, I've never seen one before.

[09:46] Lutz

Right.

[09:48] Lutz

You only started coming to
the forest this spring.

[09:54] Main

I have an idea!

[09:55] Main

Why don't we try make paper
out of that trombe?

[09:58] Main

There's a bunch lying around, and you
chopped it down right after it sprouted,

[10:02] Main

so the fibers should still be soft.

[10:06] Main

And so we started making the paper with trombe.

[10:13] Lutz

Will this do for the steaming part?

[10:16] Main

Probably.

[10:18] Main

Let me try peeling the bark off.

[10:26] Main

Oh, wow!

[10:28] Main

It came off!

[10:29] Main

This might be the perfect
material for paper!

[10:33] Lutz

I'm surprised you can tell.

[10:36] Lutz

So, what next?

[10:39] Main

We stretch it out and let it dry.

[10:42] Main

When it's fully dried,
we wash it in the stream again.

[10:45] Lutz

Hey...

[10:47] Main

What?

[10:50] Lutz

Never mind. We'll talk about it
when we finish the paper.

[10:55] Lutz

You can never predict
when trombe will grow.

[10:58] Lutz

We'll have to try other plants as well.

[11:02] Main

Is Lutz still suspicious of me?

[11:11] Main

*The paper making process
continued to go smoothly,*

[11:14] Main

but I couldn't tell what was on Lutz's mind.

[11:20] Main

Today, we boil the dried bark!

[11:24] Lutz

We just have to let it boil for a bell, right?

[11:26] Main

Yeah, but we also need to stir it...

[11:31] Main

Gah! I just remembered
another thing we're missing!

[11:35] Lutz

What is it?

[11:36] Main

Lutz, make me two long sticks
to stir the pot.

SIGN Basically...

[11:41] Main

Bamboo would be nice.

SIGN Chopsticks

[11:46] Lutz

Will this do?

[11:47] Main

Yeah! Thanks, Lutz!

[11:55] Lutz

It's impressive that you can
hold them like that to stir the pot.

[11:58] Main

U-Uh... Yeah, aren't I cool?

SIGN Ascendance of a
Bookworm

SIGN Ascendance of a
Bookworm

[12:17] Main

Today's work involves

[12:19] Main

me removing any knots and bruises in the fiber

[12:23] Main

and Lutz beating the fiber down.

[12:26] Main

*Once the edible fruit mixed in water
produces a sticky starch,*

[12:31] Main

we mix the fiber in it,

[12:33] Main

completing the paper solution.

[12:36] Main

We finally got to a stage I'm familiar with!

[12:40] Main

*You see, I made paper out of milk cartons
back when I was Urano.*

[12:44] Lutz

Are you really familiar with it?

[12:46] Main

I've done this before. I got this.

[12:48] Lutz

When and where?

[12:52] Main

I, uh... I-I...

[12:53] Main

It's a girly secret! No prying!

[13:05] Lutz

Why are you shaking it like that?

[13:08] Main

It balances out the thickness of the paper.

[13:13] Lutz

Huh. And you know that
because you've done it before?

[13:22] Main

Lutz...

[13:24] Main

Please don't glare at me like that.

[13:28] Main

A few more days passed...

[13:31] Main

Everything went smoothly,

[13:33] Main

and we finished our first pieces of paper.

[13:39] Main

It's paper.

[13:40] Main

It's actually paper.

[13:43] Main

We really did it.

[13:47] Main

It'll be dry by sunset.

[13:50] Main

Once it's dried, we have to
peel it off carefully so it doesn't tear,

[13:53] Main

and we'll be all done.

[13:55] Lutz

So it's as good as finished, right?

[13:59] Lutz

I said we'd talk when
we finished the paper, remember?

[14:05] Main

Do you want to do it out here
or inside the workshop?

[14:09] Lutz

Here is fine.

[14:12] Main

So, what did you want to talk about?

[14:17] Lutz

Tell me...

[14:19] Lutz

Who are you?

[14:23] Lutz

You know how to make paper,
and even said you'd done it before.

[14:28] Lutz

There's no way you're Main.

[14:33] Main

You're right.

[14:36] Lutz

Then if you're not her...

[14:42] Lutz

Where is the real Main? Give her back!

[14:52] Main

Okay.

[14:54] Main

I don't mind giving her back,

[14:56] Main

but it'd be better if I did it back home.

[15:01] Lutz

Why?

[15:03] Main

Because I'm pretty sure
only a corpse will remain after I'm gone.

[15:11] Lutz

Y... Wha... Wh... What are you saying?!

[15:14] Lutz

You mean she's gone forever?

[15:18] Lutz

She's never coming back?!

[15:22] Main

I think so.

[15:31] Lutz

Answer me this:

[15:33] Lutz

did you devour Main with your fever?

[15:37] Main

That's half-right and half-wrong.

[15:41] Main

I believe that the real Main
was consumed by her fever, too.

[15:45] Main

But I am not the cause of the fever.

[15:49] Main

Hell, it's eating away at me, too.

[15:55] Lutz

What does that mean?!

[15:57] Lutz

Isn't this all your doing?!

[15:58] Lutz

Didn't Main disappear because of you?!

[16:01] Lutz

Tell me I'm right!

[16:04] Main

You know...

[16:07] Main

It's not like I wanted to be Main!

[16:11] Main

I lived and died in a different world,

[16:15] Main

but suddenly I found that
I'd become some child!

[16:18] Main

If I had the choice, I'd never have
picked such a sickly body!

[16:24] Lutz

You didn't want to take Main's place?

[16:31] Main

Would *you* want to?

[16:34] Main

Her body is so frail, just walking a little
leaves it bedridden the next day.

[16:45] Main

Is that fever gonna eat you alive,
just like Main?

[16:50] Main

Yeah, probably.

[16:54] Main

So if you want me gone, just say so.

[16:58] Main

I'll go away anytime.

[17:01] Lutz

Why are you telling me that?

[17:03] Main

Because I would've been long gone
already if it wasn't for you.

[17:09] Main

I fell sick after Mom used
my wood tablets as firewood, remember?

[17:16] Main

At the time, I didn't mind if
the fever swallowed me whole.

[17:21] Main

Try as I might, I was never getting
my books, so I didn't care anymore.

[17:27] Main

But then...

[17:29] Main

I saw your face,

[17:32] Main

remembered the promise I made to you,
and came back to myself.

[17:37] Lutz

What promise?

[17:39] Main

To introduce you to Otto.

[17:43] Lutz

Oh, but that was...

[17:44] Main

We met Otto and Benno,

so I fulfilled my promise.

[17:48] Main

I even managed to make paper.

[17:50] Main

I do still want to complete a book,

[17:54] Main

but if you want me gone, I'm okay with that.

[17:59] Lutz

That's just absurd!

[18:02] Lutz

Since when have you been Main?

[18:06] Main

What do you think?

[18:08] Main

When do you think I stopped
being the Main you knew?

[18:13] Lutz

Why, you...

[18:22] Lutz

Was it when you started wearing that thing?

[18:27] Main

Yeah, that's correct.

[18:32] Lutz

That's almost an entire year ago!

[18:36] Lutz

The family hasn't realized?

[18:40] Main

They have noticed that I'm weird,

[18:43] Main

but I don't think they've ever considered
that I might not be Main.

[18:46] Main

Besides, Dad was saying he was happy
just seeing how active I'd become.

[18:55] Lutz

I see.

[19:03] Main

Lutz?

[19:05] Lutz

I don't think it's my place to decide.
It should be Main's family.

[19:11] Main

Are you saying things
can stay like this for now?

[19:14] Main

And you're okay with that?

[19:15] Lutz

Again, it's not my place to decide!

[19:21] Main

Are you sure you don't want me gone?

[19:24] Main

I'm not the real Main, you know?

[19:34] Lutz

It's fine.

[19:36] Lutz

It's not like Main will come back
once you're gone.

[19:40] Lutz

Besides, if it's been you for an entire year,

[19:44] Lutz

most of my memories with "Main"
are actually of you.

[19:58] Lutz

So... You can still be Main to me.

[20:06] Main

*Lutz's words made everything
fall into place deep inside of me.*

[20:12] Main

It may have only been a tiny piece,

[20:16] Main

*but it was the final piece of the puzzle
that is my life here.*

[20:24] Main

And as the river grew colder,

[20:26] Main

and paper-making became that much harder...

[20:29] Main

Mister Benno, we've brought
prototypes of the paper.

[20:33] Benno

Oh?

[20:34] Main

We've made three samples of varying
thickness each from two plants.

[20:39] Benno

Let me see for myself how good it is.

[20:47] Benno

Wow, it works.

[20:50] Benno

It's easier to write on than parchment,
but it does blot the ink a little.

[20:53] Benno

It's not that big a problem, I suppose...

[20:56] Main

So, do we pass?

[20:58] Main

Can Lutz be your apprentice?

[21:03] Benno

You pass.

[21:06] Main

Yay!

[21:08] Main

We did it, Lutz!

[21:10] Lutz

Yeah!

[21:11] Benno

This one is higher quality.

[21:14] Main

We made those from trombe.

[21:16] Benno

What? Trombe?!

[21:19] Main

Hmm... It'd be nice if we could mass-produce paper from it.

[21:23] Lutz

No way! Not with something that dangerous!

[21:26] Benno

Do you want to turn the forest into a wasteland?!

[21:29] Main

Huh? We can't use it?

SIGN Next Chapter The Guild Master's Granddaughter

[23:09] Main

How do you like that, Head Priest?

[23:11] Main

I went and finished my paper!

[23:14] Ferdinand

Good. Now you can finally start making books.

[23:18] Main

U-Uh, no. There's a lot left to do yet.

[23:22] Main

Apparently, you need some kind of license to sell paper.

[23:26] Main

And the next step in the book-making process will need even more capital...

[23:31] Ferdinand

I see you still have a long, long way to go.

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