

# E10 - Labyrinth Dragnet

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

**[00:00] Zem**

Don't hurt me...

**[00:04] Zem**

Spare me...

**[00:06] Zem**

Don't hurt me... Spare me...

**[00:07] Zem**

*I have the same dream a lot.*

**[00:13] Guard**

You had your fun for a while, didn't you?

**[00:15] Guard**

You paid a high price for it, though, Doc.

**[00:19] Zem**

Don't hurt me... Spare me...

**[00:24] Guard**

You're disgusting!

**[00:28] Zem**

Don't hurt me... Spare me...

**[00:33] Zem**

Don't hurt me... Spare...

**[00:39] Zem**

*And for a while after I wake up,  
I just lie there afraid,*

**[00:44] Zem**

*unsure if I'm awake  
or still in the nightmare.*

**[00:50] Zem**

Don't hurt me...

**SIGN** Ningen Fushin: Adventurers Who Don't  
Believe in Humanity Will Save the World

**SIGN** Ningen Fushin: Adventurers Who Don't  
Believe in Humanity Will Save the World

**SIGN** "Labyrinth Dragnet"

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**[02:26] Nick**

*Wha—*

**[02:30] Jun**

You're paying for that.

**[02:34] Nick**

I still can't believe we were right.

**[02:36] Curran**

I've never seen anybody  
who can move like that.

**[02:39] Zem**

She was just like the Stepping Man we saw.

**[02:43] Kizuna**

I refuse to accept that  
was Stepping Man, though!

**[02:47] Kizuna**

She was writing articles  
about herself? Nonsense!

**[02:51] Red**

Sorry to interrupt.

**[02:53] Red**

I've got a pretty girl who wants to see you.  
Not as pretty as me, of course.

**[02:58] Zem**

That's something to look forward to.

**[03:03] Reina**

Mom!

**[03:05] Ada**

You're the Survivors, right?

**[03:08] Nick**

You're all healed up now, Ada?

**[03:11] Ada**

I guess I'm famous and I didn't know it.

**[03:15] Rose**

What, you know her?

**[03:17] Nick**

The swashbuckler of the legendary  
A-Rank party Grandchef.

**[03:21] Nick**

"Ada the Sommelier".

She's been famous for ages.

**[03:26] Ada**

There's a name I haven't heard in a while.

**[03:29] Ada**

Yeah, I went on the Adventure of the Platinum Peach with Fifs and his gang.

**[03:32] Curran**

Fifs? Fifs the Solo Eater?

**[03:36] Ada**

I've heard he's S-Rank right now.

**[03:38] Ada**

But back then, we were all young.

**[03:43] Ada**

First, sorry for the trouble my daughter caused you.

**[03:47] Reina**

I'm sorry!

**[03:48] Ada**

She's too fearless for her own good. I don't know who she gets it from.

**[03:53] Ada**

But she's done with Stepping Man.

**[03:57] Zem**

That's right.

**[03:58] Zem**

Don't do anything dangerous anymore.

**[04:00] Reina**

But, Master...

**[04:02] Ada**

Master? What's that about?

**[04:05] Reina**

Mom, I want him to make me his student!

**[04:08] Ada**

Listen, kid...

**[04:10] Zem**

Reina, I want to make this clear right now.

**[04:14] Zem**

To me, you're an enemy.

**[04:19] Zem**

Maybe "enemy" is going too far.

**[04:23] Zem**

But whenever I see a girl your age, I get so scared.

**[04:32] Zem**

A long time ago, a certain girl deceived me.

**[04:37] Zem**

And because of that, I spent years in jail.

**[04:42] Zem**

When I got out, just the sight of a girl was enough

**[04:46] Zem**

to make me freeze in terror, to the  
point where I could barely speak...

**[04:53] Zem**

If it was just words,  
that would be one thing,

**[04:56] Zem**

but, at times, I can barely breathe.

**[05:00] Zem**

That goes for any girl  
your age. Not just you.

**[05:05] Reina**

But you protected me!

**[05:09] Zem**

That's...

**[05:11] Zem**

That's just what anyone would have done  
if they saw a young child in danger.

**[05:18] Zem**

But...

**[05:21] Zem**

It surprised me.

**[05:25] Zem**

It made me feel something akin to hope...

**[05:31] Zem**

Hope that maybe I could move on,  
maybe I could get over this...

**[05:39] Reina**

And that's why you said in fifteen years?

**[05:41] Ada**

What are you talking about?

**[05:43] Ada**

I won't let you marry her!

**[05:45] Ada**

She ain't marrying no adventurer!

**[05:47] Zem**

No, ma'am. It's nothing like that.

**[05:50] Reina**

That's right, Mom!

**[05:52] Reina**

He's my master, not my boyfriend!

**[05:55] Reina**

If I was picking a boyfriend,  
I'd be more careful!

**[05:58] Red**

Oh, my.

**[06:00] Tiana**

She's smart for her age.

**[06:04] Curran**

I think you just got rejected, Zem.

**[06:07] Zem**

Fifteen years from now,  
she'd totally be my type...

**[06:12] Ada**

As a former member of Grandchef...

**[06:15] Ada**

Do you want me to slice you  
into finely fileted strips?

**[06:17] Zem**

Please, no!

**[06:24] Ada**

Okay, I think I see what's going on, now.

**[06:26] Ada**

You really were there when  
she needed help, huh?

**[06:29] Ada**

Let me thank you again.

**[06:31] Ada**

But you need to give this up, too, Survivors.

**[06:37] Ada**

Just forget this whole thing.

**[06:39] Ada**

You understand, if you fought it, right?

**[06:42] Ada**

We can't defeat it.

**[06:46] Nick**

We don't have to take orders  
from you there, Ms. Grandchef.

**[06:49] Nick**

If an adventurer wants to go  
after a bounty, he's free to.

**[06:54] Ada**

You're not strong enough right now.

**[06:56] Nick**

Of that I'm aware,

**[06:58] Nick**

but I can't sit idly by and  
allow these kidnappings to happen.

**[07:02] Ada**

That's the Solar Knights' job.

**[07:05] Nick**

Yup.

**[07:07] Nick**

But I don't like the way she's using an

urban legend as cover to kidnap kids.

**[07:14] Ada**

And I took advantage of that.

**[07:18] Ada**

The Solar Knights are too busy to respond to every single kidnapping case.

**[07:27] Ada**

So you decided to pretend the kidnapper was the Stepping Man,

**[07:32] Ada**

use the bounty, and get the adventurers to go after him.

**[07:40] Ada**

I'm out of this business, though.

**[07:42] Ada**

I don't want her to do something dumb and get caught up something bad,

**[07:48] Ada**

and I don't want to die and leave her without a mom.

**[07:51] Red**

That's the right move.

**[07:53] Nick**

You said we're not strong enough to win right now, right?

**[07:56] Nick**

Then tell us how we can win.

**[08:02] Ada**

Your leader bows his head and begs for help that easily?

**[08:07] Zem**

Yes, actually.

**[08:09] Tiana**

He decided it was the logical thing to do.

**[08:11] Curran**

That's what makes Nick great!

**SIGN** Sea Anemone

**SIGN** Southgate Legal

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**[08:14] Ada**

Drink this first.

**[08:18] Nick**

What is it?

**[08:19] Curran**

This smell... this is glory mushroom soup?

**[08:22] Zem**

Your sense of smell's amazing, Curran!

**[08:26] Curran**

It's an expensive soup that never goes for less than 50,000 dinah!

**[08:32] Nick**

It's good.

**[08:33] Nick**

So what's this soup got to do with our victory?

**[08:37] Nick**

It's not a good luck charm or anything, right?

**[08:40] Ada**

These mushrooms will draw out your latent magical potential.

**[08:45] Ada**

Fighting Stepping Man means a lot of jumping around

**[08:47] Ada**

and switching between melee attacks and dodging.

**[08:52] Ada**

What'll determine your victory is how you use your magic.

**[08:56] Nick**

Magic, huh?

**[08:58] Nick**

I don't think that's my thing...

**[09:01] Tiana**

And I can't cast while in melee range...

**[09:04] Zem**

We casters spend our time in the back, after all...

**[09:07] Curran**

I'd like to try it, but I'm not good with complex stuff.

**[09:11] Ada**

Oh, my.  
You Survivors sure are quick to give up.

**[09:15] Kizuna**

I don't need advice.

**[09:19] Ada**

Hold this in your hand and say this word in your mind:

**[09:22] Ada**

"Burn".

**[09:24] Tiana**

An Igniter?

**[09:27] Ada**

Curran, right?

**[09:28] Ada**

You first.

**[09:29] Curran**

O-Okay...

**[09:32] Curran**

Burn! Burn! Burn!

**[09:36] Tiana**

Relax.

**[09:39] Tiana**

Focus your mind on the area  
around your belly button.

**[09:44] Curran**

It's not working!

**[09:45] Curran**

I can't do this!

**[09:47] Curran**

If I want fire, I can just breathe it!

**[09:50] Ada**

You're having trouble focusing, aren't you?

**[09:53] Ada**

Well, take your time.

**[09:55] Ada**

Next.

**[09:56] Nick**

I've never been a mage...

**[10:05] Tiana**

You did it, Nick!

**[10:07] Curran**

Wow!

**[10:09] Red**

You're the best, Nick!

**[10:12] Nick**

I'm surprised I could do that, sure.

**[10:14] Nick**

But a flame that size won't even  
drive away one of the city's thugs.

**[10:18] Ada**

I'm not telling you to fight with fire.

**[10:21] Ada**

I just wanted to see your potential.

**[10:23] Nick**

And? How'd I do?

**[10:27] Ada**

Well...

**[10:30] Ada**

Depends on how hard you train.

**[10:35] Ada**

Stepping Man uses two enhancement spells:  
Light Body and Heavy Body.

**[10:41] Ada**

Those of you who'll be fighting directly,  
start with Light Body.

**[10:44] Ada**

Give me ten jumps.

**[10:48] Nick**

If that's all...

**[10:51] Nick**

One, two...

**[10:54] Curran**

Three, four...

**[10:57] Reina**

Five... wow!

**[11:00] Red**

Seven...

**[11:01] Nick**

*Eight, nine—*

**[11:08] Nick**

N-Nine...

**[11:13] Ada**

I thought you had the most potential, but...

**[11:30] Kizuna**

If we know the hours you're out hunting,

**[11:32] Kizuna**

and where you hunt, you're as good as ours.

**[11:34] Zem**

Why always the same time, though?

**[11:37] Nick**

Are you Olivia?

**[11:45] Kizuna**

Wait!

**[11:49] Nick**

Isn't he Olivia?

**[11:52] Kizuna**

Attack magic, movement magic,  
and illusion magic at the same time.

**[11:56] Kizuna**

Could any mage really do all that at once?

**[12:00] Zem**

So one of them must be a magic item?

**[12:03] Kizuna**

Yeah...

**[12:05] Nick**

I know what's on the store shelves, but I don't know anything about rare artifacts.

**[12:11] Tiana**

We know someone who does, though.

**[12:20] Leon**

So? You didn't come all this way just to recommend me

**[12:22] Leon**

the dragonian's favorite meat buns, right?

**[12:26] Nick**

I want your help.

**[12:29] Nick**

Do you know of any magic items that can hide your presence or disguise you?

**[12:34] Leon**

That'd be...

**[12:39] Leon**

the Illusion King's Jewel.

**[12:42] Leon**

Or more specifically, a magic item that incorporates it.

**[12:45] Nick**

That's awfully specific.

**[12:49] Nick**

How do I deal with it?

**[12:50] Leon**

Breaking the illusion isn't that hard.

**[12:53] Leon**

The easiest way to shut it down for sure is to speak the user's name.

**[13:00] (Flashback) Nick**

Are you Olivia?

**[13:04] Leon**

You can't just say names randomly, though.

**[13:07] Leon**

You're strengthening the idea in your mind that it has to be that person.

**[13:12] Leon**

So if your mind's not certain, it won't work.

**[13:15] Leon**

It's gotta be the first name you say.

**[13:18] Nick**

*It's not Olivia... then?*

**[13:35] Ada**

Come on! One more time!

**[13:37] Ada**

No time to rest!

**[13:39] Nick**

O-Okay!

**[13:41] Nick**

It's been forever since I've  
had to train this hard.

**[13:44] Nick**

*It reminds me of the old days...*

**[13:53] (Flashback) Argas**

He who truly becomes a master of war can  
destroy a monster without any weapons.

**[13:59] (Flashback) Argas**

First, focus on nothing but  
learning to improve yourself!

**[14:13] (Flashback) Argas**

You can learn magic after that.

**[14:16] (Flashback) Young Nick**

Y-Yes, sir!

**[14:18] (Flashback) Argas**

You won't get that much taller.  
Your parents were short.

**[14:23] (Flashback) Young Nick**

Yes, sir!

**[14:24] (Flashback) Argas**

But being short isn't a weakness!

**[14:26] (Flashback) Argas**

Find what you're good at and increase the  
number of things that make you strong!

**[14:32] (Flashback) Young Nick**

Yes, sir!

**[14:46] Tiana**

Are you about ready?

**[14:49] Nick**

No. The magic spell ends  
if I'm not focusing.

**[14:52] Nick**

It'd be hard to do a fight like this.

**[14:57] Zem**

I used the files Ada had to  
go around and ask questions

**[15:00] Zem**

about leaky roofs and people  
getting their roofs fixed.

**[15:02] Nick**

I see!

**[15:04] Nick**

He jumps from roof to roof.

**[15:06] Nick**

If we look at where the damage  
is concentrated, then...

**[15:09] Tiana**

Yup.

**[15:10] Zem**

We can narrow it down.

**[15:14] Nick**

This is...

**[15:19] Nick**

Any new info?

**[15:21] Gatekeep**

Two of Greg's puppies died.

**[15:24] Gatekeep**

His 20 percent discount is over,  
'cause he figures it's bad luck.

**[15:28] Gatekeep**

And somebody brought a child's  
body to the common graves.

**[15:32] Gatekeep**

Nothing new.

**[15:34] Tiana**

A child's body.

**[15:37] Nick**

A boy? Or a girl?

**[15:41] Gatekeep**

I don't remember.

**[15:42] Gatekeep**

I don't remember if they had  
short hair or long hair, even.

**[15:48] Gatekeep**

It happens all the time.

**[15:52] Zem**

I don't like this.

**[15:56] Kizuna**

*Be careful.*

**[15:58] Zem**

*Telepathy?*

**[16:00] Nick**

*What is it?*

**[16:01] Kizuna**

*We're being followed.*

**[16:04] Kizuna**

*We could be attacked at any moment.*

**[16:15] Nick**

*I just learned that stuff.*

*Will it work on her?*

**[16:17] Kizuna**

Light Body!

**[16:23] Olivia**

Light Body. I knew you were Stepping Man.

**[16:27] Nick**

No, you're Stepping Man!

**[16:35] Kizuna**

Parallel!

**[16:37] Olivia**

No way!

**[16:38] Olivia**

Parallel!

**[16:40] Nick**

Seriously?

**[16:43] Olivia**

I stopped your best move.

**[16:47] Nick**

*Be certain... and speak their name.*

**[16:51] Nick**

Olivia!

**[16:52] Nick**

You're Olivia, right?

**[17:00] Olivia**

Yes, I am Olivia!

**[17:03] Olivia**

Oh, if it isn't Nick?

**[17:05] Olivia**

It's me, Olivia!

**[17:07] Olivia**

The Olivia you suspected  
of being Stepping Man!

**[17:09] Olivia**

Not that I hold it against you  
or hate you for it, though!

**[17:11] Olivia**

But, some nights, I did cry myself to sleep!

**[17:13] Olivia**

Yes, it is I, Olivia!

**[17:17] Nick**

Let's try and figure this out...

**[17:19] Nick**

So, basically...

**[17:21] Olivia**

You're Stepping Man, right, Nick?

**[17:24] Nick**

Obviously, I'm not!

**[17:25] Zem**

We were pretty sure you were actually Stepping Man...

**[17:30] Olivia**

Well...

**[17:32] Olivia**

Don't get too surprised.

**[17:34] Olivia**

But not only am I a reporter, and an adventurer,

**[17:38] Olivia**

I am also Stepping Man!

**[17:40] Nick**

We know.

**[17:41] Olivia**

Or actually, that's just what they used to call me.

**[17:45] Zem**

What's going on?

**[17:47] Tiana**

So you're Stepping Man, right?

**[17:53] Olivia**

I'm not the Stepping Man everyone knows for being a kidnapper, though!

**[17:58] Olivia**

Basically, Stepping Man is a name used to refer

**[18:01] Olivia**

to every weirdo that jumps around the city's roofs at night!

**[18:05] Curran**

So Olivia's true identity was "weirdo"?

**[18:07] Tiana**

Well, we knew that a while ago.

**[18:10] Kizuna**

I see.

**[18:11] Kizuna**

I've never heard the "Multiple Stepping Men" theory before.

**[18:15] Kizuna**

But...

**[18:16] Nick**

If you'd answered us instead of running, we wouldn't have had to deal with this.

**[18:19] Olivia**

Very true!

**[18:20] Olivia**

I can't get anywhere near the guild or the

editing department anymore because of that.

**[18:26] Nick**

Oh, what was that thing you just did?

I heard you say "Parallel".

**[18:31] Olivia**

My...

**[18:33] Olivia**

"Mysterious Boy? Girl? Discovered Who Uses Parallel, an Advanced Ancient Spell."

**[18:38] Olivia**

Wouldn't that be a good article?

**[18:41] Kizuna**

Then maybe I'll just submit  
an article to *Lemuria Monthly*

**[18:45] Kizuna**

about how Stepping Man is  
actually a female reporter

**[18:48] Kizuna**

and a witch who uses ancient magic!

**[18:52] Olivia**

Remember that we're under no obligation to  
run every article that gets submitted...

**[18:59] Kizuna**

Well, let's just forget it for now.

**[19:02] Kizuna**

It feels like we're both  
after the same thing.

**[19:05] Olivia**

Y-Yes.

**[19:07] Olivia**

Let's do our best to capture  
Stepping Man together! Hip-hip hooray!

**[19:12] Nick**

Is that really okay?

**[19:30] Zem**

I don't see anything really unusual...

**[19:33] Olivia**

Really?

**[19:36] Olivia**

What does her face look like?

**[19:39] Olivia**

Tell me specifics, as accurately as you can.

**[19:43] Olivia**

What does her mouth look like?

Is it big? Small?

**[19:46] Olivia**

Is her nose pronounced? Or flat?

**[19:48] Olivia**

Her eyes? Any freckles? Or scars?

**[19:52] Nick**

I'm not sure what to say...

**[19:55] Nick**

She's got eyes, a nose...

**[19:59] Zem**

No, it's strange.

**[20:03] Zem**

It's strange how nothing's strange.

**[20:05] Olivia**

Yes.

**[20:06] Olivia**

It's strange.

**[20:07] Olivia**

Everything about it is strange.

**[20:11] Olivia**

Our recognition abilities are  
being jammed on every level...

**[20:15] Nick**

Which means...

**[20:18] Kizuna**

Let's see what's beneath it.

**[20:31] Zem**

What's this?

**[20:32] Olivia**

A fragment of the Illusion  
King's Jewel, probably.

**[20:37] Olivia**

Its jamming feature is small, but there.

**[20:41] Kizuna**

And that's how they got past the  
Solar Knights' forensics team?

**[20:46] Nick**

But why?

**[20:59] Nick**

There's a burn mark on her arm...

**[21:01] Zem**

It looks old.

**[21:03] Curran**

There's a mole on her neck.

**[21:08] Zem**

Signs of treatment for  
Yellow Demon Sickness.

**[21:11] Olivia**

She's not a nameless corpse.

**[21:15] Olivia**

She was precious to somebody.

Somebody loved her.

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**[21:26] Tiana**

Martha Canning. Age 10.

**[21:28] Tiana**

Daughter of a man who runs a shop  
selling armor on Blacksmith's Street.

**[21:31] Tiana**

A burn mark on her left wrist.

**[21:34] Tiana**

A mole on the right side of her neck.

**[21:36] Tiana**

Missing for a month.

**[21:38] Tiana**

She had a habit of running away from home,

**[21:40] Tiana**

and so her parents were slow  
to contact the Solar Knights.

**[21:43] Nick**

This is her.

**[21:45] Zem**

Yes. The missing girl's body was  
found inside the Garbage Collection.

**[21:52] Tiana**

So Stepping Man's there, too?

**[21:55] Kizuna**

Or, at least, going in and out.

**[21:59] Zem**

Let's return her to her parents.

**[22:02] Zem**

And then we avenge her.

**[22:04] Nick**

You figured out who Stepping Man is?

**[22:09] Zem**

Unfortunately, yes.

**[22:12] Zem**

We have to stop them.

**SIGN** Next time:

"Survivors VS Stepping Man"

**[23:35] Olivia**

Next time: "Survivors VS Stepping Man".

Updated 2024-04-26 22:30:00 UTC by whimsee