

E2 - The Witch's Pastime: Opening Act

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(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.)

[00:04] Narrator

Forbidden Instruments.

[00:06] Narrator

*Merely possessing these sorcery tools
grants might approaching that of a witch.*

SIGN Forbidden Instruments

SIGN Sorcery Tools

[00:12] Narrator

But while their wielders gain power,

SIGN Payment

[00:17] Narrator

*they must make sacrifices in payment
or else forfeit their lives.*

[00:24] Narrator

*Thus, the use of Instruments
is strictly forbidden.*

SIGN Sacrifice

[00:28] Narrator

*Yet those who turn to them
are never in short supply.*

[00:32] Narrator

For you see...

[02:11] Woman

What was that sound?

[02:13] Man

Did you hear something?

[02:15] Woman

Yeah.

[02:17] Woman

I'm going home.

[02:19] Man

If you're worried, I can walk you.

[02:20] Woman

I'll be fine. It's not far.

[02:23] Woman

Goodnight.

[02:35] Woman

There sure are a lot of crows.

[03:23] Shulk

Not yet. It's still not enough.

[03:27] Shulk

I've got to add more.

SIGN The Witch's Pastime:

Opening Act

[03:35] Guideau

Hey. Is there a witch around here?

[03:42] Ashaf

Beats me. They're supposed
to tell us the details in person.

[03:49] Ashaf

So what would you like us to do this time?

[03:52] Servant 1

Please keep this between us,

[03:55] Servant 1

but the master of the house
has a penchant for collecting.

[03:59] Servant 1

And I'm ashamed to say that a specimen
has escaped from his collection.

[04:04] Ashaf

Escaped? So it's an animal?

[04:07] Servant 1

Yes, sir. And quite a violent one at that.

[04:12] Servant 1

It has claimed many victims already.

[04:17] Ashaf

Since you called in the Order,
I assume it's not just a rare creature.

[04:23] Ashaf

Don't tell me you have a magical beast here.

[04:28] Servant 1

Yes.

[04:29] Servant 1

As you say, the creature is magical.

[04:39] Ashaf

So you want us to subdue that thing?

[04:42] Servant 1

You are to recapture it with the
utmost haste, and without harming it.

[04:46] Ashaf

Without harming it?

[04:48] Ashaf

I see. That explains why you're struggling.

[04:52] Ashaf

Hm? Where are you going, Guideau?

[04:54] Guideau

I'm done with this bullshit.

[04:57] Ashaf

Now, now. We're on the clock.

[04:59] Guideau

As if I care about a plain old beast.

[05:02] Guideau

You can handle the pet-sitting.

[05:05] Ashaf

Dear me.

[05:07] Ashaf

Who do you think you are, a king?

[05:16] Ashaf

Excuse me. Pardon the intrusion.

[05:19] Ashaf

Matter manipulation is the
most basic of magic spells,

[05:22] Ashaf

but controlling fluids
requires a particular knack.

[05:26] Ashaf

Honestly, I've always struggled with it.

[05:30] Guideau

You're full of it.

[05:32] Ashaf

You wound me, Guideau.

[05:34] Ashaf

It's not nice to call people liars.

[06:09] Ashaf

Will that do?

[06:15] Owner

Splendid work.

[06:18] Owner

I was right to call on you.

[06:21] Ashaf

We're honored.

[06:22] Owner

Magical beasts are illegal
in this country, you see.

[06:26] Owner

I wanted to handle this quietly.

[06:28] Owner

I heard that you'd take on any job,
and I see that info was correct.

[06:33] Ashaf

Oh, not quite.

[06:35] Ashaf

We only stick our noses into magical trouble.

[06:42] Ashaf

An occult organization of magic,
by magic, for magic.

[06:47] Ashaf

If you have any more difficulties,
call the Order of Magical Resonance.

[06:59] Ashaf

Treating oneself after work
sure hits the spot.

[07:04] Ashaf

What's wrong? Not eating anything?

[07:07] Guideau

Gimme a break.

[07:10] Guideau

Tell me what our last job was, jackass.

[07:14] Ashaf

We apprehended a petty burglar who had
committed heinous crimes using magic.

[07:20] Ashaf

Quite a good deed, if I do say so.

[07:22] Guideau

And before that?

[07:24] Ashaf

We exterminated a ghastly tree
that fed on magical power.

[07:27] Guideau

And before *that*?

[07:28] Ashaf

Let me think...

[07:31] Ashaf

Oh, yes. A stalker abusing magic—

[07:34] Guideau

Before that?!

[07:35] Ashaf

Babysitting a young magical beast.

[07:38] Guideau

Are you screwing with me?

[07:40] Guideau

What the hell do you think
I joined your shitty Order for?

[07:44] Ashaf

You don't need to remind me.

[07:48] Ashaf

Oh, dear. That was good wine.

[07:51] Guideau

Hurry up and find me a witch!

[07:53] Guideau

If you can't do that,
the Order's a waste of my time.

[07:56] Ashaf

You must realize that cases
involving witches don't grow on trees.

[08:01] Ashaf

And our relationship is give and take.

[08:05] Ashaf

In exchange for our full support
in achieving your goal,

[08:08] Ashaf

you agreed to serve
at the Order's discretion.

[08:11] Ashaf

We get priority when witch cases comes up.

[08:16] Ashaf

So until one does, do your job.

[08:19] Ashaf

If you slack off like you did today,

[08:21] Ashaf

we won't give you witches,
fine food, or anything else.

[08:27] Guideau

You didn't need me today, anyway.

[08:31] Ashaf

True enough.

[08:33] Waiter 1

Excuse me, sir.

[08:35] Waiter 1

I was asked to give you this.

[08:37] Ashaf

Thank you.

[08:41] Ashaf

It's from the Order.

[08:43] Guideau

Is it a witch?! Gimme!

[08:47] Ashaf

How many times must I tell you? You need
an Order signet ring to break this seal.

[08:55] Ashaf

Although you should have
one of these brands, too.

[09:02] Ashaf

Oh? Cheer up, Guideau.

[09:05] Ashaf

Speak of the devil.

[09:27] Guideau

A witch!

[09:28] Ashaf

This lady is merely our client.

[09:31] Guideau

So where's the damn witch, then?!

[09:33] Ashaf

We represent the
Order of Magical Resonance.

[09:36] Ashaf

I believe you have a job for us?

[09:38] Old Woman

I'm sorry to have you come
all this way. Please come in.

[09:44] Old Woman

I can't seem to open this case anymore.
Can you do something about it?

[09:53] Ashaf

I see. A runic inscription.

[09:57] Ashaf

You're in luck.
Undoing spells is my specialty.

[10:01] Old Woman

Goodness.

[10:14] Ashaf

Then what was that
"Speak of the devil" about?

[10:20] Guideau

Get ready for what's coming to you, asshole.

[10:25] Ashaf

I never said anything about a witch, did I?

[10:28] Ashaf

You should have realized that
when I left the coffin behind.

[10:32] Guideau

Then what was that
"Speak of the devil" about?

[10:34] Ashaf

I was just saying that you should
take non-witch cases seriously.

[10:38] Guideau

Bullshit!

[10:40] Ashaf

If you feel you were fooled,

consider it a learning experience.

[10:43] Ashaf

It taught you a lesson.

[10:45] Guideau

Like hell I will.

Trusting you was my big mistake.

[10:50] Ashaf

"Mistake" is another word for "experience."

[10:53] Ashaf

They're both shortcuts to wisdom.

[10:55] Ashaf

Sorry, but we don't have time to argue.

[10:58] Ashaf

Our next job just came in.

[11:01] Ashaf

Hope for better luck on this one.

[11:06] Guideau

I'll let it slide, but only for the time being.

[11:09] Guideau

As soon as my curse has been lifted
and I don't need the Order anymore,

[11:13] Guideau

the first thing I'm gonna do is kill you.

[11:16] Ashaf

Glad to hear it.

[11:18] Ashaf

I'm looking forward to that day myself.

[11:27] Ashaf

A peaceful, witch-free month
has passed since then.

[11:32] Ashaf

What a tranquil afternoon.

[11:36] Ashaf

I'd say the day you reclaim your
real body is still a long way off.

[11:40] Guideau

I'll kill you later,
but I can always kick your ass now.

[11:44] Ashaf

Temper, temper.

[11:47] Ashaf

Anyway, eat your fill.

[11:49] Ashaf

Good, isn't it?

[11:50] Guideau

It's gross as hell.

[11:54] Waiter 2

For you, mister.

[11:56] Guideau

From the Order again?

[11:58] Ashaf

Yes.

[11:59] Guideau

More busy work, I bet.

[12:02] Guideau

To hell with that crap. Rip it up.

[12:05] Ashaf

No, you'll like this one, Guideau.

[12:09] Ashaf

It came in a black envelope.

[12:12] Guideau

So what?

[12:14] Ashaf

They only send these when a witch is involved and central to the case.

[12:22] Ashaf

It seems a witch is committing serial murders in Hayden, the capital of Pheres.

[12:28] Ashaf

They even make a point of calling the case "grotesque."

[12:33] Ashaf

Besides which—

[12:34] Guideau

Enough. Gimme.

[12:36] Ashaf

You're so impatient.

[12:40] Ashaf

We're about to be busy.

[12:42] Ashaf

There's an ocean between us and this case.

[12:45] Ashaf

Pack your bags.

[12:51] Ashaf

So a witch and a grimoire?

[12:56] Ashaf

We won't have an easy time of it.

[13:07] Police Officer

Ms. Haines, it's dangerous!

[13:09] Haines

My children are in there!

[13:11] Haines

Shulk! Loran!

[13:24] Detective

You were groaning in your sleep.

[13:26] Detective

Are you okay?

[13:28] Haines

Yeah, I'm fine.

[13:30] Detective

If you say so.

[13:39] Detective

Sorry. She gave us the slip again.

[13:43] Haines

How many dead?

[13:44] Detective

At least five.

[13:47] Detective

And the bodies were...

[13:51] Haines

"Consumed, sacrificed,
or something similar by a witch"?

[13:56] Detective

How could anyone do something
so horrible? She must be crazy.

[14:01] Haines

"Crazy," huh?

[14:05] Haines

I've seen plenty of perps with a screw loose.

[14:08] Haines

They all had one thing in common.

[14:10] Haines

Know what that is?

[14:12] Detective

No.

[14:13] Haines

Unfulfilled desires born
from a sense of inferiority.

[14:18] Haines

Losing control of them can turn even
upstanding people into crazed villains.

[14:24] Detective

You mean no person is born evil?

[14:27] Haines

"Person," huh?

[14:29] Haines

Is a witch a person?

[14:32] Detective

Beats me.

[14:33] Detective

But witch or human,

anyone who can do this must be scum.

[14:40] Haines

I couldn't agree more.

[14:42] Detective

We didn't expect this fight.

[14:44] Detective

Is that why you didn't set
all your wards in time?

[14:48] Haines

You mean she wouldn't
have escaped if I'd finished?

[14:51] Detective

Er, no.

[14:53] Haines

Closing off the scene would've made
no difference. She slips through wards.

[14:58] Detective

What I meant was—

[14:59] Haines

I know.

[15:01] Haines

We need to box her in to make
her cast as many spells as possible,

[15:07] Haines

or we'll never figure out her magic.

[15:10] Haines

But even if we solve that mystery,
it's just the first step.

[15:13] Haines

The full force of the Hayden Police
still has to take this slow and steady.

[15:19] Haines

A feeble police force can't
fight a monster any other way.

[15:24] Detective

Ms. Haines, I shouldn't have to tell you

[15:27] Detective

that this goes way beyond
regular serial murder.

[15:31] Detective

You're the only mage we've got.

[15:34] Detective

If you feel powerless, talk to the mayor.

[15:39] Detective

Witches are the Paladin Corps' jurisdiction.

[15:42] Detective

Unless something changes,

the body count will just keep growing.

[15:46] Haines

I know.

[15:49] Haines

I know that.

[15:55] Detective

I know it's easier said than done,

[15:57] Detective

but try not to beat yourself up over
what happened to Inspector Cole.

[16:01] Haines

I've handled plenty of horrific cases.

[16:04] Haines

I thought people always
remembered the perpetrators

[16:08] Haines

and forgot the victims in no time.

[16:12] Haines

But then someone murdered
people I cared about,

[16:18] Haines

and I realized that I'd never
forget the names of either.

[16:22] Haines

Don't worry. I'll do my job.

[16:35] Ashaf

Oh, dear. It appears we're too late.

[16:38] Guideau

Don't give me that crap.
You let her slip right out from under us.

[16:42] Ashaf

Cut me some slack.

[16:44] Ashaf

And rest easy. The witch
in this case will be back.

[16:50] Ashaf

Grotesque mass murder committed by
a witch, a.k.a. the "Witch's Pastime" case.

[16:56] Ashaf

As of last week, the victims
numbered 36, including police officers.

[17:00] Ashaf

Quite a tough nut to crack.

[17:02] Ashaf

What did tonight make the body count?

[17:06] Haines

Who are you two?

[17:09] Haines

You're saying things
I don't want to think about,

[17:12] Haines

so I guess you know who I am.

[17:15] Haines

And you look suspicious.

[17:17] Haines

What's in that coffin?

[17:19] Ashaf

Grilling us already?

[17:22] Ashaf

Well, I can't blame you.

[17:24] Ashaf

Rest assured, we're perfectly respectable.

[17:28] Ashaf

So please, stay your hand.

[17:34] Ashaf

We mean you no harm.

[17:36] Ashaf

In fact, we'd like to help you.

[17:40] Haines

Help how?

[17:41] Ashaf

The Order of Magical Resonance sent us.

[17:45] Ashaf

A major incident is disturbing your city.

[17:47] Ashaf

If you suspect a witch is responsible,
then we have much to offer you.

[18:02] Haines

Hayden Police business.

[18:04] Haines

We'll take a table in the back,
but I'd like to set a soundproof ward.

[18:08] Waiter 3

S-Sure.

[18:10] Haines

I got confirmation.

[18:12] Haines

It seems the mayor really did
sign off on a request to the Order.

[18:16] Ashaf

I would never lie to a beautiful lady.

[18:19] Ashaf

By the way, could you hold off on that ward
until we've ordered and gotten our food?

[18:24] Haines

Of course. At least let me
have a cup of coffee.

[18:28] Ashaf

No, please wait for our full meal.

[18:31] Ashaf

Replacing wards is a hassle, no?

[18:40] Ashaf

For our part, we'd like to hear
about the case as soon as possible.

[18:44] Haines

Tell me your story first.

[18:46] Haines

You may have the mayor's approval,
but I don't trust you.

[18:50] Ashaf

But you have a witch case on your hands.

[18:53] Ashaf

Sooner or later,
the Paladin Corps will step in.

[18:55] Ashaf

But for some reason,
the mayor is stalling them.

[18:59] Haines

Making you our only hope?

[19:01] Ashaf

Looks that way.

[19:03] Ashaf

To begin with,
this whole situation is strange.

[19:06] Ashaf

Police forces aren't
equipped to combat witches.

[19:09] Ashaf

What you need is an army.

[19:12] Ashaf

That's why global peacekeepers
like the Paladin Corps handle witches.

[19:17] Ashaf

The mayor is probably refusing their help

[19:21] Ashaf

to claim the glory of
solving the case without them.

[19:24] Ashaf

Anyone can see how foolish that is,
so why do you all go along with it?

[19:29] Ashaf

As the Hayden Police's only mage,
I believe you're in charge of the case.

[19:34] Ashaf

You ought to protest. Why don't you?

[19:39] Guideau

Who gives a shit?

[19:40] Guideau

Just tell me everything
you know about the witch.

[19:44] Guideau

Then I'll kick all the witch ass you want.

[19:47] Haines

Why are *you* so fixated on the witch?

[19:50] Haines

Most people would steer clear
of a witch serial killer.

[19:53] Guideau

That's—

[19:54] Ashaf

Guideau, have a bone.

[19:58] Ashaf

For our organization, essentially.

[20:01] Ashaf

We collect the essence of magic.
Witches, naturally, and—

[20:05] Haines

Don't hide anything unless
you want to lose even more trust.

[20:09] Haines

I came up with this ward myself.

[20:13] Haines

Lies can't fool me inside it.

[20:17] Guideau

Asshole.

[20:21] Ashaf

Dear me. How shrewd of you.

[20:25] Haines

Answer me.

[20:32] Ashaf

Well, our circumstances aren't worth hiding.

[20:36] Ashaf

We just want to undo a curse.

[20:40] Haines

A curse?

[20:42] Ashaf

A witch's curse. You must know of them.

[20:45] Haines

Sure. Anyone who's even dabbled in magic does.

[20:49] Ashaf

Then I'll be brief.

[20:51] Ashaf

My friend here is under a witch's curse.

[20:55] Ashaf

So we're looking for the witch who cast the curse.

[20:58] Ashaf

And more or less at random, since we have almost nothing to go on.

[21:01] Guideau

That's not all.

[21:03] Guideau

I'll find her and kill her.

[21:06] Guideau

This is revenge.

[21:08] Haines

Revenge...

[21:13] Ashaf

I don't believe we're lying.

[21:17] Haines

Right.

[21:19] Haines

No, I believe you.

[21:21] Haines

You have extremely personal reasons,

[21:24] Haines

but I can trust them over great and noble causes.

[21:27] Ashaf

Oh? You need to use reasoning?

I thought you could tell if we were lying.

[21:32] Haines

I lied about that.

[21:34] Haines

I can't cast a spell *that* good.

[21:37] Guideau

What?! Screw you!

[21:39] Haines

All right, fine.

[21:41] Haines

I'll take your help.

[21:44] Haines

Our partnership starts tomorrow.

[21:46] Haines

Meet here at 9 AM.

[21:51] Guideau

Hey, when you get down to it...

[21:53] Ashaf

She found out what we knew
and gave us nothing.

[24:01] Ashaf

Now, shall we go see a witch?

[24:05] Ashaf

Next time: "The Witch's Pastime: Final Act."

SIGN The Witch's Pastime

SIGN Final Act

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