FIELD REPORT
ODDISH QUESTORS • HQ

FIELD JOURNAL

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CASE: The Harvest King Case

DATE: October 16. All day. Everybody's reports collected at 9:00 p.m.

WEATHER: 0°F, sun, then clouds. windy all day

LOCATION: Various, see below

EQUIPMENT: Really nothing today

PICTURES AND RECORDINGS: Cera's phone, screen capture, 2:14 p.m. Madelyn's mirror (no picture, it wouldn't take one)

THOSE INVOLVED: Conor, Cera, Madelyn, Andy, Mason, Freddie

WITNESSES: Just us

ACTIVITIES AND NOTES:

And it wasn't a better day. Should have known not to wish for something like that while on this investigation. He went to each of us. He made sure to get each of us individually, alone and at our weakest.

Madelyn was first at 7:15 a.m., She was brushing her hair, and saw in the mirror behind her, the antlers. He said she could have more. Magic that wouldn't slip. No more spells failing when she's scared. No more being scared. Her voice wavered when she said this. She threw a hairbrush at the mirror. He disappeared. Madelyn said it was her favorite mirror.

Cera was later, at 12:58 p.m Her phone beeped that she'd received a message, but it didn't appear on her computer screen. Cera has everything connected, it should have been passed to her other devices. Curious, she saw a message, but without a number. Instead, she got a photo of the Harvest King, perfectly clear, better than anything we've ever gotten. The message that came with the photo, "Flawless code and future tech without end." Cera had been expecting it and wasn't rattled. She took a screenshot for evidence. Then she deleted the message and hasn't touched her phone the rest of the day. As she said, except for him, if she needs to communicate, she has other methods.

Stan says: always note the weather.

He went after Freddie next, an hour later at 3:30 p.m. This had me worried, because Freddie can be impetuous and full of bravado. He had just arrived at the faire, and it appeared as a reflection in the window of his car. The King promised him to always have a crowd, to be known, famous and popular. Freddie says he told the King he already has one important crowd that knows his name, and they're a pain. He says he said this very heroically. I'm recording his version because I wasn't there. And I hope he knows he was talking about the rest of us. But I'm glad he's ok.

And then Mason. He was very excited to tell us the entire story which I've truncated for these notes. While walking home, a pile of leaves spoke to him. Not really the leaves, but the King. The King said Mason could be big. Old enough for every investigation. Nobody leaving him in the truck. Nobody saying "not this time, bud." Mason said, and I got this from Mason himself, so it's exact: "I'm going to get big anyway. That's how it works." Then he ran home. I suspect he may have been tempted, but he did a good job resisting. Madelyn gave him a hug. He tried to appear brave, but he was shaken.

Andy was asleep. I hope it took the King a long time to wake him. Unlike Freddie and Mason, Andy was very succinct. "Always silence, no stares." That's it. Something we all know Andy wishes in his heart of hearts. To not be bothered by all the noise in the world and to go places without everyone always staring at him, that would be absolute heaven for Andy. This may be the best offer the King made.

"What'd you tell him?" Freddie asked.

Andy looked around the table at each of us.

"No," Andy said, looked around at us one more time, then gave a very affirmative nod and grunt.

Madelyn's eyes went wet. "I think Andy knows to take the deal would mean losing us. And families more important."

Andy nodded again, though without an accompanying grunt.

"Hey, that's like what I said," Freddie added.

Several pillows hit Freddie at the same time.

THOUGHTS:

It studied us. Every offer was right. Not just close. Exactly right.

I hadn't realized Madelyn doubted her magic abilities that much. Something we'll have to discuss, when it's over.

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No wonder it's so difficult for people to resist when offered. These are the types of wishes people make every day. Like Mr. Dunsmore wishing for better crops and Eli wishing for his dog. Or Mrs. Pruit wanting her plants to not die. Simple wishes, and most made without any consideration of the Harvest King.

For us, he read deep into us to get our most desired wishes. The thing that we want the most.

And yet we all said no. Yeah, we want things, but we also have everything we could really want right now, with each other.

I want that on the record.

That, and the fact that the Harvest King will need to watch out, because the Oddish Questors are going to defeat him.

Stan says: always note the weather.