

Brew

written by

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INT. POTION SHOP - DAY

DAPHNE (20s) kicks her feet onto a counter, lounging. A large book is open on one end of the counter. She uses a small syringe to drip a liquid onto a small ball. The ball is unaffected by gravity, moving completely linearly. Daphne starts to bounce it from wall to wall in her small shop.

The walls are only 10 feet apart, just enough to fit her potion machine behind the counter. The machine is a tangled network of beakers, bottles, funnels, and tubes that all culminate into a bottle at the bottom center of the contraption. On the other side of the counter, a singular shelf of potions is displayed, randomly organized, low in stock.

The front door of the shop suddenly swings open, revealing an elven woman, MARIN (30s) wearing a large cloak. She holds a longbow in one hand. Daphne quickly drops her legs from the counter and stands up straight as the floating ball hits the side of her head.

DAPHNE

Oof-- welcome in!

The elven woman steps up to the counter.

MARIN

The defense potion you gave me was great, I took a bite from a *Dire Wolf* just fine! Can I get some more?

DAPHNE

Oh! I remember you, was it... Mary?

MARIN

Marin, close.

Daphne nervously giggles.

DAPHNE

Of course, how could I forget? So... more obsidian skin potions. I have two bottles made but I'm running low on an ingredient... is one okay?

MARIN

Sure it is, I'll need to come back though. Do you think you'll be able to get more soon?

DAPHNE

Yeah, I'll definitely try. This sale should let me to buy some more, thankfully.

Marin puts down her bow, leaning it on the side of the counter. She digs into a pouch tied to her waist under her cloak and pulls out a handful of coins. She lightly slams them on the counter and slides them towards Daphne.

MARIN

Keep the change.

Daphne's eyes glow looking at the coins then Marin's face.

DAPHNE

I- th-thank you.

Marin grabs the bottle and ties it to her belt, swapping it with a different potion. She picks up her bow and walks towards the door, taking a sip from her bottle. She suddenly vanishes from the room.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Oh shoot, I should make some more of that, too.

Daphne gets on top of a stool to grab the floating ball that's now resting toward the ceiling, then a large, muscular man named DAVID (30s) walks in. He is wearing a suit of armor without a helmet. He takes a sidestep to get in front of the only shelf in the shop and picks up one at a time to inspect them.

DAVID

This is all you got?

Daphne's mouth moves from a pout to a grin.

DAPHNE

Oh? No-no. I can make somethin' for ya if you need.

DAVID

Like what.

Daphne takes a second to look at his armor, which looks like what the King's army uses.

DAPHNE

Pretty much anything legal.

David comes up to the counter, putting both his hands on it and leaning forward. He looks at Daphne with a tired, disappointed expression.

DAVID

Oh yeah?

Daphne leans back from him, concern on her face. She nods her head.

David's face jumps to a menacing grin.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Love potions are legal, right?

DAPHNE

Um... yep.

DAVID

I need one. My girlfriend needs something to raise her mood.

Daphne slowly nods her head, looking at David with perplexation.

DAPHNE

Love potions are usually saved for beasts...

DAVID

(sighs)

We've been getting in arguments lately, and if she starts something, it will end up really badly. I'd like to keep her.

DAPHNE

Okay... what species is she?

DAVID

She's human. Why would there be an issue?

DAPHNE

Human emotions are very... complicated, and using a potion could have pretty bad side effects.

DAVID

Such as...?

DAPHNE

It's just, not good, okay?

DAVID

It works though, right? I've seen these kinds of potions get used on non-humans just fine, how different could it be? Make it a different way.

David glances at the display shelf.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You clearly need my business, so make something. Now.

Daphne frowns and looks at the shelf behind him.

DAPHNE

Alright, alright. I'll make it.

Daphne turns to face the potion machine in the back of the room, and she starts measuring out different ingredients and putting them into different beakers. She snaps her fingers and sparks fly out from her flint-embedded gloves, lighting small flames under each beaker.

The beakers boil up and the steam all culminates into a small bottle at the center of the machine. Daphne removes the bottle and gives it one good shake, turning the liquid to a light pink color.

Daphne holds the bottle towards David and then pulls it back as he reaches for it.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

20. Gold.

DAVID

An expensive sample.

DAPHNE

Such is the cost of love, you just saw me make it. It has lots of parts.

DAVID

If this doesn't work. You're making a new one for me.

Daphne nervously slumps downward, making herself small, until David throws a handful of coins onto the counter.

DAPHNE

Okay, we'll find out later. For this though, you'll want to mix it in with some food and get her to eat it. Simple.

DAVID

Expect to see me soon, one way or the other.

David snatches the bottle from Daphne's outstretched hand and stomps out of the shop. Daphne contemplates for a moment, staring at the coins. She slides them into a pouch. She turns around and takes a moment to breathe.

DAPHNE

Phew. Hopefully he buys more.

2 INT. POTION SHOP - LATER

Daphne looks closely at a napkin she left on the table. She sprinkles a layer of a gray-colored dust onto the napkin, then looks up at a spider's web sitting in a corner of the shop.

Daphne kicks a stool under the web and puts a few drops of liquid onto the web using a small syringe. A spider quickly crawls to the droplets then suddenly vanishes.

Daphne walks back to the counter and sees the spider sitting on the napkin, completely intact.

DAPHNE

(under her breath)

Yes!

She moves the napkin to the floor below the spider's web.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Good luck, little guy.

Daphne hears the shop's door open behind her.

DAVID

You potion didn't work right, girl!

Daphne jolts to her feet and quickly puts the remaining teleportation potion under the counter.

DAPHNE

Woah! What happened then?

David snarls and leans a hand onto the counter.

DAVID

She was flirting with our CAT all day. I'm not sure it's even worn off yet!

DAPHNE

Oof, was that the first thing she looked at while eating?

DAVID

The cat wasn't even in the same room as us! How does that work?

DAPHNE

The potion I made was mainly meant to raise her mood, make her lovey.

Daphne is trying her best to sound compassionate under her nervousness.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Her mood must've gone straight to the cat instead of you.

DAVID

I asked for a love potion. MAKE me one.

DAPHNE

I-I'm sorry. Let's try something new. Can you give me a hair?

DAVID

What?

DAPHNE

A hair, from your head.

DAVID

Is there anything else that will make it work?

DAPHNE

Nothing I've tried or seen before. I think you can use blood... BUT hair works well enough.

Daphne concocts a new potion with the machine. She hands it to David.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

It's a bit different, but do the same thing as last time, and try to put yourself on her mind.

DAVID

What do you mean?

DAPHNE

Talk to her. Treat her in a way that she could fall in love with. Maybe the cat cuddles with her more than you.

David grunts.

DAVID

This better work.

David looks at the shelf of potions for a second, looking along the shelf, looking at a red one for a few seconds. He faces Daphne.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What other potions can you make?

DAPHNE

A lot. Strength, healing, defense... sleep.

David's eyebrows raise as Daphne says "sleep".

DAVID

Strong sleep? Like for a beast?

DAPHNE

Yes...

DAVID

(impressed)

Okay. Good to know.

David walks out of the shop. Daphne lets out a "huh" and walks up to the shelf. She puts together a new potion and leaves it behind the counter.

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INT. POTION SHOP - MORNING

Daphne faces the potion machine and starts writing a list of ingredients, and she hears the door open behind her.

Daphne smiles and turns around, jolting upon recognizing David.

DAPHNE

Woah, hey you!

Daphne leans down behind the counter and quickly drinks a potion.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

So, did that next potion work right? We can try something else.

DAVID

Yeah, it worked pretty well, I came to get another.

DAVID (V.O.)

Tori was saying "I like the old you better" she sucks.

Daphne tries to smile but can't resist cringing a bit.

DAPHNE

Ayy, very nice! Good to know that recipe works right. Maybe I can make it better though, what exactly happened?

DAVID

I worked just fine, make the same potion again. I'll pay.

DAVID (V.O.)

I'll ask for a sleep potion, too. Use that on Tori.

David plucks a hair out of his head and holds it in front of Daphne. Daphne takes his hair and starts making the potion in the potion machine.

DAPHNE

Okay, I'll make it the same way.

With Daphne facing the potion machine, David looks at the shelf of premade potions.

DAVID (V.O.)

Let's see... we've got strength... I shouldn't ask for any kind of poison.

Daphne focuses on what David is thinking as she faces away from him, confused and concerned.

DAVID (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I'll just say I'm going hunting for
a beast, then I'll use it on Tori.

Daphne takes the finished potion out from the machine and puts it on the counter.

DAPHNE
Would you like anything else?

DAVID
You know what, sure. I'll be going
on some hunts this weekend, have
any sedatives... or something that
can paralyze?

DAVID (V.O.)
That should be good, if I give one
to Tori, it will be super easy to
kill her without resisting.

DAPHNE
(nervously)
Sure! Whatcha hunting?

DAVID
(he chuckles)
A few different Dire beasts.

DAPHNE
Let's see what I got.

Daphne crouches behind the counter and hyperventilates for a moment. Her heart is beating furiously and her eyes are wide. She catches her breath and grabs a teleportation potion from behind the counter. She stands up straight and holds the bottle up to David.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
This is a sedative, it should be
good enough for bait. Have
something eat it, and it'll put
those beasts right to sleep! Just
20 gold.

DAVID
Great, thank you.

David tosses some coins onto the counter and takes the two bottles.

DAVID (V.O.)
I can use this on Tori, I'll
finally get rid of her.

DAPHNE
P-Pleasure to help!

David faces the shelf, looking at the other options again.

DAVID (V.O.)
I shouldn't have to come back to
this pathetic shop again.

David walks out of the shop and Daphne turns around and slides her back down behind the counter, sitting on the floor. She starts heavily breathing.

DAPHNE
(whispering)
Why why why. He wants to kill her??
(she inhales sharply)
Phew. Okay, teleport.

Daphne gets up and spreads teleportation powder in front of the counter. Then she walks to the front door and locks it, flipping a small "Open" sign around.

Daphne grabs a couple potions and puts them onto the counter. One is obsidian skin, one is strength.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
Shoot, I still can't make more of
these.

4 INT. POTION SHOP - LATER

Daphne paces around the shop and behind the counter with an impatient attitude.

Suddenly, TORI (20s) appears in front of the counter, falling down from a seated position. Tori yelps as she falls. Daphne quickly walks up to her and crouches down to her level.

DAPHNE
Hey! Are you Tori?

Tori hastily crawls away from Daphne.

TORI
(frightened)
What just happened? Where am I?

DAPHNE
You were just eating something,
right?

TORI

Um, yeah. I was... eating soup my boyfriend made for me?

DAPHNE

Mhm. He's been feeding you potions... from me.

Daphne winces as she admits it. Tori's eyes widen.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

(tearing up)

I'm SORRY. He wants to KILL you. I didn't have any other ideas.

TORI

To think he could redeem himself.

(standing up)

What have you been giving him?

DAPHNE

He asked for a love potion. I'm desperate for business... it didn't seem like a big deal at first.

Daphne looks down at her shoes, teary eyed. Tori puts a hand on her shoulder.

TORI

I've definitely been feeling happier recently, so something was working right. Now what, though?

DAPHNE

I-I made a potion that can protect you. He'll probably show up soon!

Daphne walks around the counter and pushes a bottle to the edge towards Tori.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

I owe you more than this, I'm so sorry.

TORI

No need to apologize now. We don't know what he'll do.

DAPHNE

Wait, take this too. You'll read his mind.

Daphne gets a telepathy potion and hands it to Tori. Daphne grabs a strength potion left on the counter and drinks it as Tori drinks both the obsidian skin and telepathy potions.

TORI

Seems like I can read yours, too.

DAPHNE

Sorry, please try to ignore me.

TORI

It's okay, sounds like David scared you bad.

DAPHNE

His thoughts... It was so terrible.

Tori looks at Daphne for a moment, reading her mind.

TORI

Wow. But hey, you said this other potion protects me, right? Throw me a punch.

DAPHNE

(concerningly)

I just drank a strength potion.

TORI

Punch my hand then.

Tori holds up a hand towards Daphne. Daphne winces and flings her arm at the hand. Tori's hand flies back.

TORI (CONT'D)

Woah, that didn't hurt at all, but it definitely hit... Hey, what's your name?

DAPHNE

Daphne.

TORI

Well done Daphne, this potion definitely works.

DAPHNE

Good to know.

Tori turns, facing the front of the shop.

TORI

I hear him...

The front door's handle rattles violently, followed up by loud knocking. Tori and Daphne both take a step back.

DAPHNE
(whispering)
I... don't think I can do this.

The knocking becomes a series of loud thuds, the door is being kicked into now. Tori and Daphne take another step back and Daphne slowly begins to hyperventilate. Tori looks at her with concern. THUD. THUD. THUD. BANG!

The door swings open and David steps through the doorway. He holds up a sword toward Daphne.

DAVID
YOU! You lied! You'll be sorry!

Tori takes a step forward, infuriated.

TORI
Shut your mouth!

David steps up to the potion shelf and sweeps his hand across it, shattering the bottles onto the floor.

DAPHNE
No!

DAVID
(grimacing)
I should have just done this in the first place.

David steps up to Tori and swings his sword at her, and she raises her hand in front of it. The blade bounces off her skin. David kicks Tori and she stumbles back, falling onto the floor. David stomps a foot onto Tori's chest and points his sword to Daphne.

TORI
Get off of me!

DAVID
What did you give her now?

Daphne backs up to the counter, looking around for anything she could throw at him or use as a weapon. The shop is barren. She shuffles behind the counter. David swings his sword at her and the tip grazes her arm, which starts to bleed.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(tauntingly)
You can't even make a potion for
yourself?

DAPHNE
I'm saving her life.

David tries stabbing his sword into Tori, but all it damages are some of her clothes.

TORI
You're horrible. I can hear it all.

Tori starts to tear up and holds onto the end of David's sword. David stomps on Tori's chest again and pulls away his sword from Tori's grasp.

David swings his sword at Daphne again and she catches the blade with a gloved hand. She squeezes her hand into a fist and the blade snaps in half!

David roars and steps off of Tori and charges at Daphne with the half of his sword still left.

DAPHNE
Get. Out. Of my SHOP.

Daphne kicks David in the groin and it launches him backwards, blasting through the door.

Daphne walks over to Tori and stretches out her hand. Tori grabs in reply and Daphne helps her up. They look outside to see that David is laying on the ground, unconscious.

TORI
Thank you, Daphne.

DAPHNE
I...

Daphne frowns as she looks at the spilled potions. Tori looks at her with pity, clearly reading her thoughts.

TORI
Don't sweat it.

Tori walks out to David and grabs a pouch off of David.

Daphne crouches to the ground and hugs her knees. She sniffles.

DAPHNE
My shop... it's ruined.

Tori walks back into the shop. She slams the pouch onto the counter.

Daphne stands up and her eyes flutter as Tori opens the pouch, revealing a pile of coins.

TORI
Take this. Fix it.

Daphne looks around the shop, and quickly wraps her arms around Tori, hugging her. Daphne sniffles.

DAPHNE
I will. Thank you.

The two women step outside and look at David, groaning on the dirt street. A few passers-by are looking at the scene from around the street. Tori looks around at them, then grabs one of Daphne's hands, raising it in the air.

TORI
This girl is an AMAZING brewer!
Shop at her store, no scumbags
allowed!

Some of the people gather closer, and she greets them. They start to banter as a carriage with some knights shows up and starts asking what's going on.