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# Beyond the Realms

A full length play by Caetlyn McLean

Based very loosely on Chinese and Celtic mythology

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## Cast

### Asian Cast

**Kai Long** – male, mid-20s.

**Mayor/Li Yang/Da Gong** – male, 60s (Li Ying is a fire sorcerer)

**Resident/Messenger/Bi Xie** - female (Bi Xie is a Chinese winged lion)

**Su Lin** – fire sorceress, mid-40s.

### **Bear Demon/Dragon King**

**Yin** – a female Chinese Phoenix

**Ai Mei** – female, 60s.

### Celtic Cast

**Cora Nyland** – female green witch, mid 40s

**Peasant/Belanor** - human male/elven male in his 40s

**Terrios/Page** – Dragon/human

**Thalia** – elven female, mid 30s

**King Lachlan** – mid 30s

**Rueben Kobe** – male wizard in his 50s

### Non-speaking

**Cedric**

**Demons**

**Elves**

**Village residents**

**Two royal guards**



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**ACT 1 - SCENE 1**

**THE VILLAGE OF NING XIANG**

*It is dark and everything is still. The full moon shines brightly in the night sky and a single cricket can be heard chirping. The town resembles that of one in Imperial China. The cricket soon stops and the wind slowly picks up. The wind becomes stronger and a strange light glows brightly. All the dogs in the street start barking at once and a figure suddenly materialises out of thin air.*

KAI LONG *stands in the middle of the stage. He is not happy.*

*One by one, the residents in the town come out to see what is going on.*

MAYOR

Is that you, Kai Long? You are supposed to be dead. You died in that house fire last week.

KAI LONG (*determined*)

Yes, people of Ning Xiang, it is I, Kai Long! You ridiculed me while I was alive and now you shall pay.

RESIDENT

We did no such thing! We merely left you alone!

KAI LONG

I should have been respected but instead I was ignored!

RESIDENT (*annoyed*)

As a farmer's child, you did nothing to earn that respect!

KAI LONG

I worked hard, just as everyone else in this village did. Yet you paid a chicken more respect!

*MAYOR steps forward.*

MAYOR

Kai Long, it is the Festival of the Hungry Ghosts. Take the offerings of food and leave us alone!

*There is a general call of agreement from the residents.*

KAI LONG (*angry*)

Enough! I will do more than take the food and you will respect me now!

*He creates a fireball with his hands and throws it offstage. We hear something burst into flames and see a red glow. Residents start screaming in terror.*

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KAI LONG

I will have my revenge when I return from beyond the Western Mountains. I will rule over all of you as Emperor and you will kowtow to me!

*With a puff of smoke, he vanished into thin air. The residents gather around in fear.*

RESIDENT

What should we do, Mayor?

MAYOR

We shall inform the Sorcerers' Court. They will know what to do.

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## ACT 1 - SCENE 2

### SU LIN'S TEMPLE

*To the right is an altar with a red cloth, two unlit tall candles and smoking sandalwood incense. Several small statuettes of oriental deities line the back of the altar. In front of the altar lies a red horsetail whisk and golden gourd. Above the altar is the large plaque bearing the yin-yang symbol.*

*SU LIN sits cross-legged on the wooden floor, meditating. She is calm and relaxed, her breathing steady and her eyes closed. The stage is awash with a soft, orange light. We hear a bird singing a song that resembles the music of a piped instrument. There is also a soft sound of a Chinese forest ambience.*

SU LIN (VO)

Nature, I embrace you with an open heart. Connecting. Respecting. Honouring.  
The river. The trees. The animals. The earth. Forest, I thank you for your beauty.  
Forest, I thank you for ...

*SU LIN frowns slightly. There is the faint sound of a heart beat over the forest ambience which grows louder.*

SU LIN (VO)

Forest, I thank you for your ...

*The ambience fades but the heart beat continues.*

SU LIN (VO)

Open doors.

*There is silence for a moment. The doors open. MESSENGER enters left.*

MESSENGER

Honourable mistress, the Sorcerers' Court is requesting your immediate presence.

*SU LIN considers this for a moment and nods.*

SU LIN

Dismissed.

*MESSENGER exits left. SU LIN opens her eyes and takes another deep breath. She stands up from her cross-legged position and goes to the open window in front of her.*

*Outside on the branch of a tree, a majestic Chinese Phoenix, YIN, is perched. She is a composite of various other feathered creatures. She is the songbird we are currently hearing.*

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SU LIN *stands at the open window, watching and listening in admiration for a few moments.*

SU LIN  
Yin!

YIN *stops her song and looks at her.*

SU LIN  
I have been summoned to the Sorcerers' Court and will return as soon as I am able.

YIN (VO, *bowing*)  
Acknowledged.

YIN *returns to her song. SU LIN picks up her horsetail whisk and gourd, and fastens them both to her sash. She exits right.*

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## ACT 1 - SCENE 3

### SORCERERS' COURT

*A hall with two impressive wooden pillars. The traditional yin-yang symbol is shown in the backdrop. Fire sorcerer LI YANG sits cross-legged on a mat facing stage right. MESSENGER enters right and bows before LI YANG.*

MESSENGER

Honourable master, Sorceress Su Lin requests your audience.

LI YANG

Granted.

*MESSENGER exits right, passing SU LIN who kneels opposite LI YANG and presents him with a single kowtow.*

SU LIN

Respected Elder Yi Yang, your subject bows before you.

LI YANG

Sorceress Su Lin, I apologise for summoning you to the court this early in the morning. This is a very unusual situation.

SU LIN

What has happened? I was in the middle of my meditation session when you sent the messenger.

LI YANG

Kai Long has done the unthinkable. He surpassed the boundaries of Fugong some time late last night.

*SU LIN raised an eyebrow in surprise.*

SU LIN

Which direction did he go?

LI YANG

Passed the Western mountains. You are the only fire sorceress who knows and can outmatch his magic. I implore you to consider accepting this quest.

SU LIN

What do we know of the region beyond the Mountains?

LI YANG

I have no information as no one has ever ventured that far. I do not know what he will bring back on his return. If he does indeed return.

---

SU LIN

He will. There is no reason for Kai Long to leave without the need for return. I fear his adventures outside of Fugong will feed his ego.

LI YANG

Then you must pursue him and bring him back without haste. We cannot afford to have the region's delicate balance thrown by such a youthful fire spirit. Especially this close to the Hungry Ghost Festival.

*SU LIN lowered her head and bowed respectfully.*

SU LIN

In that case, I shall take my leave as soon as I am able.

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**ACT 1 - SCENE 4**

**SU LIN'S TEMPLE**

SU LIN *is now alone in her temple, sitting cross-legged in the middle of the stage with her eyes closed her eyes. She takes three deep breaths and begins to relax, her hands in a meditative position.*

SU LIN (VO)

Bi Xie! I wish to speak with you!

*There is no movement for a few seconds. The stage slowly fills with red mist but she doesn't move. BI XIE flies in.*

BI XIE (VO)

Sorceress, how may I assist you?

SU LIN (VO)

Gracious Bi Xie, I am to travel past the Western Mountains. I ask you to protect the temple in my absence.

BI XIE (VO)

Certainly. Will you need assistance on your journey?

SU LIN (VO)

Not as yet. I will call upon the dragons if need be. Kai Long may try to elude my capture.

BI XIE (VO, *bowing*)

As you wish, Sorceress.

SU LIN (VO)

I thank you, Bi Xie, for your assistance. You may take your leave.

*BI XIE disappears as quickly as she arrived. The red mist finally clears. SU LIN goes to the open window.*

SU LIN

Yin, I must go on a quest. I invite you to join me.

YIN (VO)

I accept your invitation.

*YIN flies out through the open window as SU LIN exits right.*

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**ACT 1 - SCENE 5**

**FOREST**

SU LIN *enters the stage with YIN flying next to her. YIN suddenly screeches in alarm.*

YIN (VO)

An enemy approaches!

*There is a gush of wind. A bear DEMON suddenly ambushes SU LIN. Drawing her sword, she fights back and, after a long battle, wins. She pins him down on the ground with a magical force field. She walks up to him and points the sword down at him.*

SU LIN (*angrily*)

What is the meaning of this, demon?

DEMON

Forgive me, Sorceress. I did not recognise you.

SU LIN

Lies! You were asked to stop me from completing my journey. Why?

DEMON

Because he promised fame, fortune and fear on his return.

SU LIN (*suspicious*)

Was he headed beyond the Western Mountains?

DEMON

He was.

SU LIN (*to self*)

Kai Long. (*to Demon*) What were his instructions?

DEMON

To prevent you from reaching the Western Mountains so he can return with his promise of glory.

SU LIN

What sort of glory?

DEMON *whimpers in fear.*

SU LIN

Speak!

---

DEMON

He intends to rule over Fugong and has promised let us be his loyal guards.

*SU LIN says nothing. She is too angry to speak. The DEMON struggles to get up but SU LIN keeps him firmly pinned.*

SU LIN (*seething*)

I have other instructions for you. You will tell the other spirits to stay clear of my journey or they will face the same treatment as you. Understood?

DEMON

Understood.

*SU LIN stands back and lets the DEMON go.*

SU LIN

Leave. If I see you or your brothers on my journey again, I will not be so forgiving.

DEMON (*kowtowing*)

Thank you, Sorceress.

*He scurries away in fear. SU LIN watches him go.*

SU LIN (*to YIN*)

Kai Long must be stopped.



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**ACT 1 - SCENE 6**

**PARENTS' COTTAGE**

*To the right of the stage, there is a one-room house. It is rustic yet simple. To one side are two beds. On the other, a middle-sized table used for meals and a small stove had a single pan to cook food. In one corner lies a straw mat. A single candle on the table flickers in the night.*

DA GONG, an Asian man in his 60s, and AI MEI, a small petite Asian woman in her 60s, sit at the table, eating.

SU LIN enters left and takes a deep breath, nervous.

YIN (VO)

I shall meet you at the mountain's edge when the sun rises.

*SU LIN just nods and YIN flies off. She makes her way slowly to the front of the house.*

*DA GONG is suddenly alert and picks up a long wooden staff that is lying by the table. He stands up and heads towards SU LIN but stops short by the "front door".*

DA GONG (to SU LIN)

Who's there?

SU LIN

It is I. It is dark and I come to seek shelter.

AI MEI

Da Gong, who is it?

DA GONG

It is our daughter. She has returned home.

AI MEI

Let her in. I want to speak to her.

*Eventually, the front door swings open.*

DA GONG (suspicious)

Are you alone?

SU LIN

I am.

*He appraises her briefly and steps aside, gesturing her inside.*

---

DA GONG

Your mother wants to speak with you.

*They both go inside.*

DA GONG *goes to sit back at the table with AI MEI. She looks at SU LIN and pats the seat next to her.*

AI MEI

Take a seat.

SU LIN *sits at the table with AI MEI and DA GONG.*

DA GONG

What brings you by?

SU LIN

I have been asked by the Court to capture a fire spirit who has crossed the Western Mountains.

*There is a moment's pause.*

AI MEI

We were not expecting your return.

SU LIN

I did not expect to return. I did not think you wanted to see me again.

AI MEI

You are our only child. Of course, we want to see you again.

*She starts to pour several cups of green tea.*

DA GONG

We are only surprised you chose the path of Fire. Why could you not have chosen the path of Wood or Earth? At least that would have been more practical.

SU LIN (*annoyed*)

I did not choose Fire. It chose me. Why can you not be happy for me? I am an honourable subject of the Sorcerers' Court.

*AI MEI and DA GONG look at her.*

AI MEI (*matter-of-factly*)

The Court does not know all.

DA GONG

Ai Mei, let us not speak ill of the Court. They only act in the interest of Fugong.

---

*There is silence.*

DA GONG *fleetingly glances at AI MEI. They obviously know something that they aren't telling their daughter. Their little secret.*

SU LIN *watches them both. Silence. She stands up to leave.*

SU LIN

I did not realise you are against the practice of sorcery. Perhaps I should leave. I am a disappointment to you.

AI MEI *gently places a hand on her arm and looks straight into her eyes.*

AI MEI

Stay. You are not a disappointment.

DA GONG

You have accomplished much. We... just have different opinions of the Court's proceedings.

SU LIN *stands there for a moment then sighs.*

SU LIN

I am tired. I have a long journey tomorrow. Kai Long will not wait for me to capture him.



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## ACT 1 - SCENE 7

### CORA'S COTTAGE/FOREST

*The stage is divided into two halves. CORA's cottage to the left and forest scenery to the right.*

*In Cora's cottage, there is a small table situated in the middle with two chairs. Behind it is a shelf filled with a variety of small bottles of herbal medicines. Perched on top the stove to the right is a large cast-iron cooking pot. Above the stove is a window looking out into a garden. A long wooden spoon magically stirs its contents. To the left, is a small wooden altar adorned with an orange cloth with an unlit candle. It is surrounded by plates of food and a big, bright orange crystal.*

CORA NYLAND *stands by the stove with a book in her hand. A dusty old black cat, CEDRIC, sits on the window sill. CORA heads to the shelf and frowns.*

CORA *(to self)*

I'm sure I had it here. What did I do with it?

*She takes another look but fails to find the herb in question. CEDRIC gives a small meow.*

CORA *(sighs)*

Yes, it looks like I'm going to have find more Emerald Sage.

*CEDRIC suddenly looks up, his ears pricked up. He purrs.*

*PEASANT enters from right through the forest and stops short of the cottage. He knocks on the invisible door. CORA stops what she is doing and gives the door a quick wave but her eyes don't leave the shelf. It opens.*

*PEASANT walks through, looking rather timid. His nose and eyes are red from sneezing and he seems to have a slight sniffle. CORA looks at him.*

CORA

Let me guess. Lion Cold?

PEASANT *(surprised)*

How did you know?

*He gives an almighty sneeze. CEDRIC screeches and jumps off the window sill, into the garden.*

PEASANT *(sniffing)*

Sorry about that. It seems to get worse when I'm around plants.

---

CORA

Well, we certainly can't have that. Luckily for you, I have just the potion made up already for exactly that ailment.

*She goes to the shelf and takes out a small bottle. She then gives the bottle to PEASANT.*

CORA

There you go. The "Elixir of Breath". Take two drops three times a day for a week by mouth. That should clear it up quite nicely.

PEASANT *(still sniffing)*

Thank you so much.

CORA *(smiling)*

My pleasure.

PEASANT

I'm sorry about your cat. I didn't mean to scared him.

CORA

That's alright. Cedric won't have gone far. He'll just be in the garden somewhere.

*PEASANT happily heads out the door. CORA watches him go for a few seconds and then goes to the window.*

CORA

Come on, Cedric! We must forage.

*CEDRIC jumps back through the window. CORA picks up a basket and they head out the door to the front of stage, closing it behind them.*

*CORA kneels by a small bush with her head down in slight meditation. Beside her is a small bowl and a knife.*

CORA

I honour you, earth's child. I honour your growth, your flower and now your fruit. I thank you for your energy. May I who harvest your fruit be blessed by the act.

*There is a slight breeze. CORA looks up and smiles.*

CORA

Thank you.

*She cuts a few branches of the bush with her knife before pours water from her bowl into the base of the bush. She freezes.*

*Behind her, KAI LONG enters right into the cottage.*

---

KAI LONG

Ah! The Hungry Ghost Festival must be celebrated in all regions.

*He sees the crystal.*

KAI LONG

Now, that looks much more interesting ...

*He slowly picks it up and he grins in sheer delight.*

KAI LONG *(smiling)*

You shall be mine!

*Pocketing the crystal within his robe, he exits the same way he came on.*

CORA *unfreezes.*

CORA

Emerald Sage! Just the ingredient I'm looking for.

*She starts to gather the herb. An unusually strong gust of wind stirs the surrounding leaves above the trees.*

*CEDRIC gives a hiss. CORA looks up curiously and reaches for the wand, tucked away under her tunic. Looking up, she shields her eyes from the afternoon sun.*

*CORA watches as SU LIN and YIN enter. YIN perches herself on the branch of a nearby tree. CORA quickly presents her wand in defence. CEDRIC hisses once more.*

SU LIN

I urge you not to react rashly. I am only here to find someone.

*CORA slowly places the wand back in her tunic. CEDRIC continues to hiss at YIN.*

CORA

Cedric! Be quiet!

*CEDRIC stops hissing but continues to guard YIN who completely ignores him.*

CORA *(to Su Lin)*

Who are you? And where did you come from?

SU LIN *(bows)*

Forgive me. I mean you no harm. My name is Su Lin. I am a fire sorceress from beyond the West -

*She hesitates slightly and looks back towards the mountains behind her.*

---

SU LIN

The Eastern mountains. This - (*gestures to YIN*) is my companion, Yin.

*CORA looks briefly at YIN who bows in greeting.*

CORA (*confused*)

The Eastern mountains? Oh, you mean the Bradhurst Summit. (*pause*) Forgive me for asking but what manner of creature is your companion?

SU LIN (*in surprise*)

She is a Chinese Phoenix. Have you not seen one before?

CORA

No, Phoenixes here are of fire and rise from the ashes.

SU LIN (*thoughtful*)

Fire? That sounds familiar.

YIN (VO)

I believe the stranger is referring to the Vermilion Bird, Sorceress.

*CORA, not being able to hear the conversation between SU LIN and YIN, looks on in confusion.*

SU LIN

My apologies. Yin has just reminded me that your description refer to the Vermilion Bird.

CORA

I see ... I'm Cora Nyland, by the way. And this is Cedric, my familiar. You might call me a sorceress of sorts as well. Although, around here I'm commonly referred to as a green witch.

*SU LIN nods and looks around.*

SU LIN

Where am I?

CORA

This is Convenwick Forest in Belafax. You aren't from this realm, are you?

SU LIN

I am from a region known as Fugong. My temple is within the Pingdao Forest. We are looking for a fire spirit who entered here in the last few days.

CORA

What does this fire spirit look like?

---

SU LIN

He wears a white dragon robe with a golden sash around his waist.

*CORA shakes her head.*

CORA

I admit I haven't seen any spirits fitting your description but the forest faeries did.

SU LIN

In which direction did he go?

CORA (*thoughtful*)

I didn't ask because I didn't think it was important at the time. Sorry. Mind you, there aren't many beings – living or otherwise – around here that would so he won't be hard to miss.

SU LIN *nods.*

SU LIN

No matter. I will continue my search. However, if you do see him, I urge you to be careful. He is vengeful and only thinks of himself.

CORA

Thank you for the warning. I'll keep an eye out.

*SU LIN gives one last bow.*

SU LIN

Come, Yin.

*She and YIN exit right.*

*CORA continues her forage. Lights slowly change to orange. CORA gets up and heads back into the cottage.*

CORA (*to self, blissfully*)

Ah! Home sweet -

*She stops short of the door. Taking out her wand, she cautiously enters the cottage.*

CORA

Who's been here?

*She glances over the area for any signs of presence. She places her wand back under her tunic.*

---

CORA

Surely not Su Lin. She wouldn't be that disrespectful. Besides, she wouldn't know where the cottage was.

*Her eyes rest upon her altar and sees the crystal has gone.*

CORA

The fire spirit. He's taken the Ambernyte crystal. *(takes a deep breath)* This isn't good. *(pause)* Well, this certainly is a Samhain I'm not likely to forget.

*CORA looks out the window and makes a quick decision.*

CORA

Now, where am I going to find him?

*CEDRIC meows.*

CORA

Yes, you're right, Cedric. I'm going to need Su Lin's help on this. She can't have gotten very far.

*She looks around the cottage.*

CORA

Looks like the cooking's going to have to wait. Pity.

*She takes out her wand and waves it.*

CORA

Stad bia!

*The cooking magically stops.*

CORA

Come on.

*She grabs her besom and they exit upstage right.*

---

**ACT 1 - SCENE 8**

**FOREST**

SU LIN and YIN enter downstage right. SU LIN is starting to get disoriented.

SU LIN (to YIN)

Where are we?

YIN (VO)

Apologies, Sorceress. All I see is trees ahead.

SU LIN

The sun is setting. So that direction must be east.

*Despite this, SU LIN hesitates.*

YIN (VO, thoughtful)

Perhaps if you focus on the fire spirit's soul, you can locate him.

SU LIN looks at YIN.

SU LIN

Agreed.

*She finds a nice soft patch of grass. Sitting down in her usual meditative position, she closes her eyes and concentrates. We soon hear the faint sound of a distant waterfall.*

*SU LIN opens her eyes and takes a deep breath. The wind soon picks up.*

YIN (VO)

The green witch approaches.

CORA soon enters right with CEDRIC.

CORA

I'm glad I caught up with you. I think I might be able to help you.

SU LIN nods and stands up.

SU LIN

I believe you may. How well do you know the area?

CORA

I was born and bred here. (pause) Listen, you need me to help you find Kai and I need you. He's taken something of mine that is susceptible to misuse.

---

SU LIN

Then we shall find Kai Long together. I need a guide in these parts and Kai Long can be very unpredictable. *(pause)* What has he taken?

CORA

The Ambernyte crystal.

SU LIN

What is that?

CORA

It's a bright orange crystal with tremendous power. It's said to increase your confidence, abilities and willpower tenfold as long as you have it on your person.

SU LIN

That is very concerning. If he has the crystal, that is very bad news. He is very power hungry and very persuasive.

CORA

I'm guessing he won't give the crystal up easily.

SU LIN

Correct. Once he knows its powers, he will not let anyone else see it.

CORA

Then we must find it before he does any real damage.

SU LIN *nods.*

SU LIN

Is there a waterfall of some description near here?

CORA

Well, the main waterfall is near Terrios' cave. Not far east of here by air. Why?

SU LIN

I believe that is where Kai Long is heading. What is Terrios?

CORA

Not what, who. He's a much feared dragon around these parts. No one dares to go near him because of his temper.

*Suddenly, there is a distant angry roar from the direction of the cave.*

SU LIN

Except perhaps Kai Long.

---

**ACT 1 - SCENE 9**

**TERRIOS' CAVE**

*The stage is dark. Spotlight on KAI LONG. TERRIOS speaks offstage. His voice has a booming, deep resonance.*

TERRIOS (*offstage*)

Who dares enter the cave of Terrios?

KAI LONG (*confidently*)

I do. You are Terrios?

TERRIOS (*offstage*)

I am. Who are you? Give me one reason not to roast you with my fiery breath!

KAI LONG

I am Fire Spirit Kai Long. I am immortal. You cannot roast me!

TERRIOS (*offstage*)

A fire spirit? What are you doing in my cave?

KAI LONG

Show yourself! I will not speak to an unseen opponent!

*There was another growl deep within the cavern. TERRIOS isn't impressed.*

TERRIOS (*offstage*)

I do not bow to total strangers. I'll ask again. What are you doing in my cave?

KAI LONG

And I repeat my command, show yourself!

*There is a moment's silence and something moves in the darkness. TERRIOS enters the stage.*

KAI LONG (*in awe*)

What creature are you?

TERRIOS (*surprised*)

Have you not seen a dragon before? Most men tremble at the sight of me.

KAI LONG

No, certainly not one like you before. The dragons in Fugong are snake-like with four eagle-clawed legs.

TERRIOS

Fascinating.

---

KAI LONG *approaches TERRIOS and examines him with interest.*

KAI LONG

You will do quite nicely. How would you like to join me in a quest of fame, fortune and fear?

TERRIOS

Fame and fortune sound extremely ideal. What does fear entail?

KAI LONG

Fear from all those who oppose us, of course. From within and beyond the realm.

TERRIOS *roars with laughter.*

TERRIOS

And just how do you propose to achieve that? There are some powerful enchanters out there. You will never achieve it on your own.

KAI LONG

Perhaps. That is why I am asking you to join me.

TERRIOS (*suspicious*)

You still haven't convince me you are worth my alliance. What are your objectives?

KAI LONG

Have you not yearned for respect from those who have opposed you?

TERRIOS

They already fear me. I have no need for their respect.

KAI LONG

Agreed. However, the fear is only confined within this region, is it not?

TERRIOS

It is.

KAI LONG

With my assistance, you will be able extend that fear beyond this region. As we gain strength, thousands will bow before us.

TERRIOS

Us? How can I trust you, human?

KAI LONG

I will offer you equal reign in our conquest. You have my word.

TERRIOS *studies the fire spirit for a moment and nods.*

---

TERRIOS (*cautious*)

Very well. You have my alliance - for now.

*Lights down.*

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**ACT 1 - SCENE 10**

**CLEARING/CORA'S COTTAGE**

SU LIN

What do you suggest? Should we attempt to confront them?

CORA

No. It's getting dark. I'm guessing you're quite getting tired from your journey.

SU LIN

That is true. I am.

CORA

In that case, why don't you come to my cottage for the night and get some rest? I don't think Terrios or Kai will be going anywhere tonight.

SU LIN (*lowers head gratefully*)

Thank you. I graciously accept your offer.

*They move to CORA's cottage as lights come up again. Outside, the moon is full.  
SU LIN and CORA sit at the table.*

CORA

I'm curious. Tell me about your realm.

SU LIN

Fugong is majestic and peaceful. Much respect is given to the Elders of the Court and its subjects.

CORA

Court?

SU LIN

Sorcerers' Court. It houses the five Elemental Elders of Sorcery with Fire Elder Li Yang residing.

CORA

Interesting. I'm guessing the subjects are sorcerers like you?

SU LIN

They are. What are the expectations here?

CORA

Unfortunately, we don't quite have the same luxury as you do.

SU LIN

Explain.

---

CORA

Well, some people here are scared of the magic we possess. Even though they come to me when they are sick. Here, the Norms - non-magical folk - have the final say on what magic can be performed.

SU LIN

That is unfortunate. I fail to understand why sorcery is so feared. It should be embraced and respected.

CORA (*smiles sadly*)

Yes, well, we have been trying to tell to those living in the villages for years that but ignorance yields fear.

*There is a pause and CORA looks out the window.*

CORA

Danu is really showing her beauty tonight.

SU LIN (*curious*)

Who is Danu?

CORA

She's the mother of all deities. We often offer our blessings to her on a full moon. (*pause*) Who is your moon deity?

SU LIN

We often give thanks to Lady Chang'e when we look at the moon. (*pause*) Legend has it that she sacrificed herself to save mankind from her power-hungry husband, an Emperor. She drank the Elixir of Immortality while he slept and floated up to the moon.

*There is a pause.*

CORA

I have an idea. How do you feel about combining our powers during the moon ritual?

SU LIN

What would it entail?

CORA

Well, I usually face the direction of my future intentions and ask Danu for guidance on the open altar. In this case, we would be facing east as we head to Terrios' Cave tomorrow.

*SU LIN glances at the moon and nods.*

SU LIN

Very well. Do you have a plate I can place food for a blessing?

---

CORA

Of course. What sort of food do you use?

*SU LIN reaches into her robe and produces a small box which she opens.*

SU LIN

We call these moon cakes, made with lotus paste and pastry. We eat them once they have been blessed by Lady Chang'e. I will offer one to you.

CORA (*smiles*)

Thank you. It sounds intriguing and you will be welcome to my offerings as well.

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## ACT 1 - SCENE 11

### OPEN FIELD

*Lights change as they move to the right side of stage again. There is a small table with lit incense lamps and as well as plates of food.*

*CORA and SU LIN stand behind the table. CORA's wand is on the table in front of her as is SU LIN's horsetail whisk closest to SU LIN.*

*YIN stands behind SU LIN singing a song. CEDRIC sits by CORA. SU LIN creates a small fireball within the palm of her hands which she nestles.*

SU LIN *(to the moon)*

Lady Chang'e, we thank you for the brightness you shine upon us tonight. We wish that you give us the strength and power in completing our quest for justice. May you guide us in defeating the evils of which we are faced. *(pause)* Lady Chang'e, we honour your sacrifice to save us from evil.

*She throws the fireball up in the air and picks up her whisk from the table. She flicks the tail-end of the whisk towards the fireball.*

SU LIN

Fireworks!

*The fireball changes into a small volley of fireworks. Putting the whisk back down on the table, she picks up the plate of mooncakes and offers one to CORA.*

SU LIN

Cora Nyland, I offer you a mooncake as a symbol of our friendship.

CORA *(bows and takes it)*

I accept. Thank you.

*SU LIN kneels down on the ground as CORA gets up. She picks up a lit incense stick and, holding it in both hands, lifts it towards the moon.*

CORA

Oh Great Mother Danu, Mother of all. Thank you for your most gracious bounty and your most generous light and energies, that helps us through our daily lives.

*She picks up a plate of food and lifts it towards the sky.*

CORA

At this time oh Great One, we ask that you send your elements - water, air, earth, fire and spirit, to guide Su Lin and myself to find that which is lost. *(pause)* We beseech you most gracious one to save us from this evil one who wants to hurt, maim and even kill your loyal subjects and even those who do not know you. *(pause)* Goddess Danu, we thank you and leave it in your most gracious hands.

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*She puts the food back on the table. She picks up her wand and mutters a small incantation under her breath before pointing her wand towards the moon.*

*There is silence for a moment. The moon suddenly shines even brighter. CORA puts her wand down and picks up another plate with some muffins on it. She turns to SU LIN.*

CORA  
Sorceress Su Lin.

*SU LIN stands up and walks towards CORA.*

CORA  
On this night of the full moon, I offer you some food to celebrate our friendship.

*SU LIN takes a muffin.*

SU LIN (*bows*)  
I accept your offering of food and friendship with full gratitude.

*They both turn and look at the moon which is shining brighter than ever. Lights down.*

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