

**Song of Machi**  
**Episode Two**

"Servant of the Spirit"

Written by  
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FADE IN:

**EXT. VANTAGE POINT - DAY**

ANGLE ON field, HILLTOP, WOODED RIVER, CASTLE, and TOWN in the background.

An explosion rocks the screen and a plume of smoke rises from the upper levels of the castle.

STARLA (O.S.)  
Brigesto!

Pause.

STARLA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Princess!

CUT TO:

**INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

Smoke spills across the room and STARLA charges in from right.

STARLA  
Princess! Princess Faliyah!

BRIGESTO comes to and stands up.

BRIGESTO  
Ack! Who lit their smoking pipe in here?

STARLA  
Princess!

BRIGESTO  
Rookie?

BRIGESTO snaps alert and turns around.

BRIGESTO (CONT'D)  
Oh! Princess Faliyah!

He and STARLA inch their way through the smoke. They collide in the smog and take a step back as the smoke fades away.

BRIGESTO (CONT'D)

Kid? Where's Princess Faliyah?

STARLA

I saw someone in the smoke. Where does that breach lead?

BRIGESTO

That window doesn't lead to anything. It's just a narrow ledge.

STARLA turns and leaves the throne room to the right.

CUT TO:

**INT. THRONE ROOM GRAND HALL - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

ANGLE ON STARLA walking right to exit the grand hallway.

BRIGESTO (O.S.)

Hold on!

BRIGESTO sprints in from left, catching up. STARLA stops and turns. BRIGESTO takes an aggressive stance.

BRIGESTO (CONT'D)

Who in the world are you, new kid?

STARLA, aghast, takes a step back and assumes a defensive stance. She pauses before responding.

STARLA

Me?! Who the hell are you?

BRIGESTO

I have little reason to trust that you're on our side. All I know is that something happened as soon as you joined our ranks.

DISSOLVE TO:

OS shot of BRIGESTO ready to strike toward STARLA.

BRIGESTO (CONT'D)

I am Elite Guard Brigesto, and no enemies of the crown will slip by me unnoticed.

CUT TO:

**SONG OF MACHI OPENING ONE AND EPISODE TWO TITLE CARD**

CUT TO:

**INT. THRONE ROOM GRAND HALL - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

OS shot of BRIGESTO ready to strike toward STARLA.

BRIGESTO

I am Elite Guard Brigesto, and no enemies of the crown will slip by me unnoticed.

Pause.

STARLA

Don't be an idiot, Brigesto! Lower your weapon!

BRIGESTO

I could very well have an agent of the enemy in my grasp. What do you know, Starla?

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE ON BRIGESTO and STARLA on opposite ends of the hallway.

STARLA

All I know is that you were supposed to stay right on Princess Faliyah, yet someone managed to capture her while under your guard. Besides it's almost too convenient don't you think? As soon as I'm

promoted someone makes an aggressive move right under your nose. As if to implicate me in some nefarious plot. Which you've just done, Brigo.

BRIGESTO  
Sounds like you know more than you're letting on.

SARINYA dashes in from right, stepping between the elite guards.

SARINYA  
Peace! What are you two doing?

STARLA  
Get behind me, love! I don't know if we can trust Brigesto here.

SARINYA  
What are you--

BRIGESTO  
(interrupting)  
So your girl was spying on us? Is that it?

SLISTRELA enters right. She pauses behind STARLA.

SARINYA  
I need both of you to stop being stupid! What's going on?!

SLISTRELA jogs left past everyone.

CUT TO:

**INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

SLISTRELA examines the breach while the others continue arguing among themselves.

SARINYA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
What's happened that's got you at  
each other's throats?!

BRIGESTO (O.S.)  
You had their flank, Slistrela. You  
should've apprehended them there  
and then.

SLISTRELA turns cautiously.

ZOOM INTO SLISTRELA'S eyes. Certain they are paying her no  
attention, she turns and picks up an object from the ground.

She exits right.

STARLA (O.S.)  
We're wasting time, Brigesto.  
Sheath your sword so we can start  
tracking the princess down and get  
her to safety!

CUT TO:

**INT. THRONE ROOM GRAND HALL - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

SLISTRELA enters left and steps between the guards, facing  
BRIGESTO.

BRIGESTO  
Rookie fell asleep while on duty,  
Slistrela. Can you believe this?

SLISTRELA  
Brigesto, go now and advise the  
castle guards. Order them to remain  
sharp in defensive formations. I'll  
handle things here.

BRIGESTO stands at attention.

BRIGESTO  
Understood.

SLISTRELA leads BRIGESTO out of the hallway, while SARINYA and STARLA keep their distance, and circle around left.

SARINYA

Keep calm, Star. I don't think getting on Brigo's bad side will do anyone any favors.

STARLA turns to face SARINYA.

SARINYA (CONT'D)

That was scary.

SARINYA embraces STARLA.

STARLA

Love, what was that?

SARINYA steps back.

STARLA (CONT'D)

What just happened?

Pause.

STARLA (CONT'D)

One minute he's ready to kill me, the next he's leaving as if nothing happened?

SARINYA

You're both tense. I'm just glad you're not hurt.

STARLA

I'm glad he didn't hurt you too. Next time we're in a dangerous situation just stay by my side.

Pause. STARLA turns to face the exit.

STARLA (CONT'D)

Is there a way for you to read whether or not he was afflicted by some spell? Did Slis... do someth--

SARINYA  
(interrupting)  
Slis is fine. Why is everyone  
levying accusations?

Pause.

STARLA  
Nothing. Maybe I'm just being  
overly-cautious.

Pause.

SARINYA  
I'll ask my teacher if there's a  
way to detect spells. I should go  
check on the advisers and see if  
anyone's injured.

STARLA  
Thank you, little one. Be careful  
and stay safe. Here. Take one of my  
daggers, you might need to use it  
at some point. Come find me if you  
run into trouble.

SARINYA  
Of course! I'll keep it hidden.  
Don't get into anymore fights,  
Star! I mean it!

SARINYA quickly exits right. STARLA pauses, then exits  
right.

CROSSFADE:

**EXT. BALCONY - DAY**

ANGLE ON a balcony overlooking the castle, hills, and  
plains. STARLA enters left. She faces out from the castle.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Taking refuge from the chaos,  
Starla found a quiet balcony and  
watched the horizon.



CUT TO:

**EXT. PLAINS VIEW - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

WIDE ANGLE ON distant PLAINS.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BALCONY - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

SLISTRELA is now behind STARLA.

SLISTRELA  
Star. What happened?

STARLA turns. She pauses to think, then replies.

STARLA  
There was an explosion. The room  
filled with smoke.

Pause.

STARLA (CONT'D)  
I think someone in the smoke  
captured Princess Faliyah.

Pause.

STARLA (CONT'D)  
Do you know any magic, Slis?

STARLA turns round to look over the plains.

STARLA (CONT'D)  
Maybe we can investigate the breach  
for residue.

SLISTRELA  
I don't know anything too advanced.

Pause.

SLISTRELA (CONT'D)  
See anything else?

Pause.

STARLA  
No.

SLISTRELA  
Anything comes to mind let me know.

STARLA  
Absolutely. Where's Brigo?

SLISTRELA  
I think I managed to speak some  
sense into him. But keep an eye on  
him, just in case.

Pause.

SLISTRELA (CONT'D)  
I need to adjust some patrols. Keep  
watch for now, Star.

SLISTRELA exits left. STARLA thinks to herself.

STARLA  
Damn it. Can I trust her? Or was  
that shaman just toying with me?

CUT TO:

**EXT. PLAINS VIEW - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

ZOOM INTO a clearing along the horizon.

STARLA sees a red cloaked figure running out from the  
treeline.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BALCONY - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

STARLA steps forward for a closer look. She slowly steps back and runs inside.

**INT. THRONE ROOM GRAND HALL - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

STARLA enters right and takes a moment to think.

STARLA  
Damn it, damn it! Can I trust her  
or not?

She deliberates a while, then quickly exits right.

SARINYA enters left, pauses, then chases after STARLA.

SLISTRELA slowly enters left then slowly follows SARINYA.

CROSSFADE:

**EXT. PLAINS - DAY**

ANGLE ON PLAINS. A PURPLE ARMORED figure, whose face is obscured off-screen, exits right. The RED DRUID follows, but turns in time to see STARLA approaching. The RED DRUID waits.

PAN left to reveal STARLA who is still a short distance away. She draws her sword.

STARLA  
Elite Guard. Where is Princess  
Faliyah?

PAN right. The RED DRUID walks toward STARLA.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
The red druid approached Starla.

PAN left. STARLA walks forward.

STARLA  
Huh?

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Suddenly, Starla froze.

Pause.

STARLA

Damn it. Move!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The druid continued steadily while Starla stood motionless.

STARLA

Come on! Come on! Move, you pathetic coward!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Her body was unable to listen to her command, and there she remained, as if she were wrapped and shackled in place by some wicked spell.

An eerie sound fills the air.

Suddenly a bright flash knocks the RED DRUID away and blinds STARLA. who is now constricted down to a kneeling position.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A sudden flash blinded Starla, and a heavy presence dominated over her. Then spoke a voice from the light.

SPIRIT

O brave youth...

Pause.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

With all her willpower Starla attempted to utter words, but none arose. With all her courage she wished to look into the light, but her body, constricted in the grasp of some powerful force, remained

paralyzed, bowing, kneeling, before  
something greater than herself.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. PLAINS (THE TRANSFIGURATION OF STARLA MACHI) - DAY -  
CONTINUOUS**

ANGLE ON STARLA bowing before the spirit in the light.

SPIRIT

Long have I sought you, hero.

Pause.

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

The world weeps. It is draped in a  
noxious agony and distrust, and  
mischief runs amok.

Pause.

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

Within you rests tremendous power  
and virtue. Use your efforts, noble  
knight, to cleanse those who would  
stand in your way.

Pause.

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

And now I say unto thee that you  
are Machi. And with this shield and  
sword forged of my essence, I house  
in you my nature. Look upon your  
awakened form, and know that the  
gates of hell shall not prevail  
over you.

Pause.

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

Now imbued in you, I have untangled  
your potential. Secure our pact in  
secrecy, for none shall be trusted.

Go forth, fierce Machi, use your  
strength in my service. Go now, my  
daughter, and face the aether.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. PLAINS - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

The flash recedes and knocks Machi to the ground.

**END**