

EPISODE 1. THE MIRROR CAULDRON  
INT. OPENING

(intro music)

NARRATOR

Within the multiverse sits a fantastic, magical realm: a place we call Hearth. This is the world of Magus Elgar. Episode one: The Mirror Cauldron.

EXT. SORCERER INCADALE'S HALF DESTROYED TOWER, NIGHT

NARRATOR

Magic is everywhere throughout the world of Hearth, though each spell comes with a price. Without totems to channel their power, one could easily find themselves covered head-to-toe in symbols from dimensions unknown, sputtering about a beast with a million eyes. But, thankfully, our tale does not follow a descent into such madness.

UDO MALAAKI

**Dragon!**

SFX Dragon roaring followed by Destroying a portion of wall in the tower.

NARRATOR

It begins with the death of a sorcerer who was nice enough to do that for us already. Now, this-

UDO MALAAKI

Get **down**, sir!

SFX: Udo Tackles the Narrator, Dodging fire that shoots over head.

NARRATOR

Oh goodness! Accursed eyes, Get off me!

UDO MALAAKI

You'll have plenty of time to explain this later, get **out** of here!

NARRATOR

Y-you don't have to tell me twice,  
uh, later then!

SFX: retreating footsteps. The dragon roars and destroys a  
bookcase.

MAGUS ELGAR

Cast true, dear Udo! Hold your  
hands high. Remember! Magic is  
about confidence! Declare your **will**  
and show that dragon you mean  
business!

UDO MALAAKI

I **declare** that this is a horrible  
idea!

MAGUS ELGAR

That's the spirit, Acolyte!  
Incadale can't maintain this dragon  
form for long! Just remember the  
root of all magic!

DRAGON INCADALE

Toovas Firtroph!

UDO MALAAKI

Uh... uhhh no-no-no-no-no **no!**

SFX: lightning strikes to the sound of udo screaming.

MAGUS ELGAR

Incorrect, Udo! Offensive magic is  
derived from **being** offensive! You  
have to **insult** the laws of nature  
in the ancient tongue of Trite!

UDO MALAAKI

I have to **what?!**

MAGUS ELGAR

Insult the dragon! Honestly, I'm  
talking to myself here...

UDO MALAAKI

Magus Elgar, a little **help** here?!

MAGUS ELGAR

Patience, Udo, I have to examine  
these scrolls before they get  
burned. It's not every day a  
sorcerer actually **writes** something  
down.



MAGUS ELGAR

In a moment, I need to think of a snappy line to go with his death. It's only respectful.

Udo is sobbing uncontrollably in pain. Magus elgar snaps his fingers.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

Got it! Oh **dragon**?

The dragon moves his head and snorts menacingly.

DRAGON INCADALE

Ko Votar!

MAGUS ELGAR

You know, I have to say I'm rather impressed. You probably had to eat a lot of plopcakes to maintain that mass as a dragon. Though, you know what they say about junk food.

DRAGON INCADALE

Rrrr?

MAGUS ELGAR

It goes **right. Through. You! Kale digess!**

Sfx: gurgling followed by a massive explosion. The dragon howls and dies.

UDO MALAAKI

Ugh... Oh, **gegh**, it's in my mouth. Ugh. Couldn't you have, I dunno, changed him back or something? Instead of turning half his blood into oil?

MAGUS ELGAR

That sorcerer's dragon spell was going nowhere. Besides, all I did was accelerate the process by a few millennia.

UDO MALAAKI

I thought you told me the point of magic was benevolence and higher understanding, not violence and murder?



MAGUS ELGAR

That just made me want to cast it even more. No, there's nothing to it but to test it. Also, bottle some of this dragon oil. The innards should give a nice spark during midnight reading. There's all kinds of things you can do with dragon innards! Pack up the cauldron, Udo, put it in a baggie or something.

UDO MALAAKI

It's **half** my size and **twice** my weight!

MAGUS ELGAR

A... **mastiff** bag then, I can't walk you through **everything**... even if I am your mentor.

INT. STAIRWELL MAGUS ELGAR'S TOWER, DAY

SFX: Narrator dusting off and clearing his throat.

NARRATOR

I'll never get these soot marks out of my robe. Ah. Udo Malaaki's tolerance of the greatly respected Magus Elgar is sadly not by choice. The young spell caster is part of the once feared Malaaki sorcerer family. Yet, Udo is the first magically inclined Malaaki for generations. Instead of taking the path of the feared sorcerer, he has chosen to follow the studies of the magi, a respected balance between research and magical talent. Though with the reputations of a historically malevolent sorcerer clan and its witless remanence, Udo makes an undesirable student amongst magi. Now, the item they find themselves in possession of is a cauldron made of silver blood.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Our bewildered student prepares to address the issue of recreating the sorcerer's spell before his teacher has, yet another, destructive incident.

UDO MALAAKI

Bet that's easier to do now that you're not on fire.

NARRATOR

Much easier, thank you.

UDO MALAAKI

I could use a little... privacy.

NARRATOR

It's a stairwell.

UDO MALAAKI

All the same.

NARRATOR

Very well. I know when I'm not needed.

SFX: walking upstairs.

UDO MALAAKI

\*defeated sigh\* All right, let's try this again, Kakkay.

SFX: Kakkay squeaks. Paper shuffling.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)

Magus, I must protest about your current study. There are some magics mankind wasn't meant to tamper with, and I have to- No, I **must** request you stop before you damn all of us to the Unblinking. I know I'm just your apprentice, but I feel it's my duty to be make a conscientious objection.

SFX: Kakkay doesn't believe him.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)

No, I don't think I'm being hypocritical.

SFX: Kakkay squeaks

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
Just because I turned you into a Repika doesn't make my point any less valid! If you think my rookie mistakes are bad, what kind of accidents do you think a full-fledged magus would make?

SFX: the Door SLAMS as Magus sounds like he's doing something dangerous on the other side.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
Oh that was loud. Nope, I want nothing to do with this.

SFX: Kakkay squeaks sharply.

UDO MALAAKI  
Listen, I wanna figure out magic as much as you do, but I also like keeping my inside parts where they belong: **inside**. Not all over the floor or...  
(quietly embarrassed)  
Made into a pair of stockings like that one time.

SFX: Kakkay asks a squeak.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
No, I haven't figured out how to switch you back yet. If I had, this conversation would be a lot less one-sided. I know, it's my responsibility...

Udo sighs.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
Try to be patient, Kakkay. Once I finish Magus Elgar's training, I'll be able to change you back for sure.

SFX: Kakkay asks a squeak.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
Have **him** do it?

SFX: Slam against the door. Muffled sounds of chanting and maniacal laughter.



UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
You want him to find out what you were before? Do you remember what happened to the last person who got transformed? He tried **experimenting** on it, and he made that strange dragon rabbit instead of finding a cure.

(shudders)  
How could something so cuddly and something so **terrifying** mix together to be... well, **both**?

SFX: Kakkay squeaks curtly

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
Well yes there **is** you. If you were anyone else you'd be a smear on the bottom of my shoe.

SFX: Kakkay squeaks hopefully.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
No, I'm not going to kill you. Stop asking that.

SFX: Kakkay pouts.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
I don't think I even can, you're as indestructible as you are...  
Erm.... **Charming**, question mark?

SFX: Explosion.

MAGUS ELGAR  
(other side of door)  
Kaliak metreon! **Hup!**

SFX: loud slam on the door.

UDO MALAAKI  
Elgar must be experimenting in the kitchen again... M-maybe this is a **bad** time.

SFX: Kakkay Squeaks Sharply

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
Fine! F-Fine. Fine.  
(sighs)  
(MORE)

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)

I should have just stayed at the farm...

SFX: DOOR OPENS

INT. MAGUS ELGAR'S KITCHEN, DAY

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh, dear Minister, you are **much** too early! The earwig isn't quite producing the secretions I need for your balance potion. but, fear not! you'll be dancing by the end of the week.

UDO MALAAKI

Magus, it's just me.

MAGUS ELGAR

I admit, it's challenging when you're born with two left feet. You might think a good jig is impossible, but it all boils down to telling your bran there's only a left foot to dance with!

UDO MALAAKI

Magus?

MAGUS ELGAR

Sh-Shush, not now, Minister I'll be done in a jiffy! Now all we do is add a little glycerite and **Shadakala!**

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)

Magus those two compounds are highly volatile! You shouldn't do that in the kit-

SFX: Explosion, wood splintering. Kakkay squeaks in shock and surprise.

MAGUS ELGAR

Ha! Ha **ha!** Brilliant! Here we are, Minister, your balance potion! It only cost us a table... and a few utensils.

UDO MALAAKI

Accursed eyes! I've been trying to tell you it's me: **Udo!** Why do you **insist** on casting in the kitchen?! You have **three** floors dedicated to magic.

MAGUS ELGAR

Ah... Oh, well, dear Udo, that's what the magic would **expect**. A good magus knows when he has to be unpredictable!

UDO MALAAKI

Or you forgot this was the kitchen, **again**.

MAGUS ELGAR

Ha, got it in one Udo! Way to keep on your toes. Terribly sorry, I got scrambled: the Dragonbone plate in my skull probably needs its focus enchantment aligned.

SFX: bone knocking.

UDO MALAAKI

That's not the only thing that's misaligned!

MAGUS ELGAR

Quite right, my apprentice, the attuning crystal needs a bit more calibration too.

Udo sighs in frustration.

SFX: Tuning fork tinks.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

Aaaaaaah~

UDO MALAAKI

Magus, I came here to talk to you about something important.

MAGUS ELGAR

Ah, perfect!

UDO MALAAKI

You were expecting this?

SFX: Magus is still handling beakers in a frantic fashion.

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh, I was expecting the pitch to go well but you talking is nothing special, my dear student. We can all talk, it's what makes us good magi.

UDO MALAAKI

Er... when you say pitch... uh. Oh, oh the tuning fork! No... Magus, this is something I need to confront you about.

MAGUS ELGAR

If you're looking for that, you'd have better luck in your bedroom, Udo.

UDO MALAAKI

**Confront.**

SFX: udo grabs magus and sets him still.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)

Please. Just... sit still for a moment and let me say my piece.

MAGUS ELGAR

All right.

Beat.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

...Well?

UDO MALAAKI

Uh, I wasn't expecting it to be this easy.

MAGUS ELGAR

It isn't; you haven't said a thing.

UDO MALAAKI

I'm getting to that... Er... You... uhm... **mankind**... study... m-magic?

MAGUS ELGAR

...I know you don't approve of my haphazard research methods, but it comes with the territory. If we never took risks, we'd never make progress.

UDO MALAAKI

You **understood** that?!

MAGUS ELGAR

Of course! Magi are supposed to understand the gaps in the universe. That and you left your prompting parchment on the floor.

UDO MALAAKI  
...Writing makes things clearer.

MAGUS ELGAR  
I never found a reason to write  
myself. It's all up **here**.

SFX: knock knock

UDO MALAAKI  
I didn't know you had such a good  
memory.

MAGUS ELGAR  
(singsong)  
No dear boy, dragonbone plate~!  
(normal voice)  
It's the perfect way to attune my  
magic without all that mental  
interference. Do you smell grapes?

UDO MALAAKI  
Uhm...

MAGUS ELGAR  
Anyway, would it assuage you if I  
**included** you in this research?  
Sorcerer Incadale was working on  
something huge! Ah.. It doesn't  
matter to you if it's.. a tiny bit  
**forbidden**, doesn't it?

UDO MALAAKI  
It's **forbidden**?

MAGUS ELGAR  
Why else would the ministry  
politely request we go put a stop  
to it?

UDO MALAAKI  
That was less polite and more...  
uncontrollable sobbing.

MAGUS ELGAR  
I always get those two mixed up...  
Regardless, Incadale was determined  
to cast his spell no matter the  
cost.

UDO MALAAKI  
But the magic mutated him into that  
horrible dragon.

MAGUS ELGAR

Yes, it seemed like quite the backfire. Left him little more than a sack of blood and guts.

UDO MALAAKI

**You** did that.

MAGUS ELGAR

But remember the cardinal rule of magic Udo!

UDO MALAAKI

Always know what your spell **does**?

MAGUS ELGAR

**No!** A backfiring spell provides a backlash **equal** to the potency of the spell being cast.

UDO MALAAKI

Yeah, well... what does that mean?

MAGUS ELGAR

It means whatever he was casting was **really** powerful! So it's our job, nay, our **duty** to figure out how to cast it!

UDO MALAAKI

Let me get this straight, you've been researching how to cast a spell that **accidentally** mutated a sorcerer into a power-mad dragon and you don't even know **what** he was casting?!

MAGUS ELGAR

Exactly! That's how the best spells are discovered. Throw it at the wall and read the tea leaves! Or... scorch marks, it depends on the spell's potency.

UDO MALAAKI

Magus! That's exactly how the rabbit dragon happened.

MAGUS ELGAR

He was just **adorable** wasn't he? Wasn't he? Come now Udo, you can't deny that you're curious.

(MORE)

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

I see the way your temple is  
throbbing: pulsing with excitement  
at the promise of adventure and  
**discovery!**

SFX: udo gives a long inhale. Clearly appealed to his  
curiosity.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

"The secrets of the universe are in  
the palm of my hand."

UDO MALAAKI

Magus Horvitz, third sun, 12501.

MAGUS ELGAR

A wise magus who also **ined** for the  
impossible.

UDO MALAAKI

All right, I'm curious. *Curse it  
all...*

MAGUS ELGAR

Excellent! Ha ha! Another lesson  
you need to learn, Udo: magi have a  
**thirst** for knowledge whether they  
like it or not. It's why the non-  
magical Council of Nine that moan  
about "forbidden texts" are so  
crotchety: jealousy!

UDO MALAAKI

(under breath)

They're crotchety because your  
student mortality rate is so high.

MAGUS ELGAR

Pardon?

UDO MALAAKI

(quickly)

Nothing...

MAGUS ELGAR

Well, follow me upstairs.

SFX: magus lifts some debris out of the way. Kakkay whines.

UDO MALAAKI

Kakkay!

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh dear, I'm sorry kakkay: I didn't realize you were down there.

SFX: Kakkay hisses. then a quizzical meep when he is lifted.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

(picking up kakkay)

Easy now... Here we are, your familiar... thing. How has the little Repika been? Did you solve that **secretion** problem?

UDO MALAAKI

Making progress. He only does it when he's stressed, or annoyed, Or... **upset**.

SFX: gooey sounds.

MAGUS ELGAR

Seems like he's all three at the moment, isn't he?

UDO MALAAKI

(embarrassed)

Yeah....

MAGUS ELGAR

Well, come along udo, and bring kakkay with you. It's too shrapnel-y in here for the poor thing. And we've no time for a robe burning today!

SFX: wood clatter.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

Someone ought to fix that table.. This way, the Mirror Cauldron is upstairs.

UDO MALAAKI

The **what**?

FADE TO:

INT. MAGUS ELGAR'S RESEARCH TOWER, DAY

Udo pants heavily as the two ascend the stairs.



UDO MALAAKI  
Magus, couldn't we just give this  
to a wizard to study?

MAGUS ELGAR  
(chiding)  
Udo. Need I remind you the  
difference between us magi and....  
those **wizards**?

UDO MALAAKI  
Sorcerers cast without study.  
Wizards study but can't cast  
without components. And Magi try to  
balance between the two.

MAGUS ELGAR  
Close. Sorcerers use their own  
ether instead of channeling through  
totems, making them crazy. Wizards  
hoard knowledge, so they're social  
shut-ins. And Magi research and  
have the talent to cast without  
components. Do you honestly think a  
wizard would do anything more than  
try to destroy it or hide it in  
some library?

UDO MALAAKI  
(sheepish)  
I was kind of counting on that.  
Sorcerer magic usually ends in  
explosions, or something similar.

MAGUS ELGAR  
They'd be great at parties if it  
weren't for all the sacrificing and  
inane cackling that tends to  
follow.

SFX: door opens to the research hall.

UDO MALAAKI  
Do you have an **idea** what it does,  
at least?

MAGUS ELGAR  
The mirror cauldron? From what I  
gather, Sorcerer Incadale, may the  
spirits rest his bloody paste, was  
trying to cast a transmutation  
spell with it. **That** resulted in the  
horribly unstable dragon he turned  
into.

UDO MALAAKI

(aside)

You'd think it was being a **sorcerer** that made him unstable...

MAGUS ELGAR

But, I believe this cauldron is a means to cast a spell based on a practitioners **intelligence**, instead of one's spirit!

UDO MALAAKI

What's the point of that? The texts always say that spirit is the motivator. And knowledge is the awareness behind it. It can't be the other way around, right?

MAGUS ELGAR

Why not? Doesn't fire occasionally **cool** the body? Can't water set kindling ablaze?

UDO MALAAKI

**No.** That's why fire **burns** things and water **douses** them.

MAGUS ELGAR

Bah, **semantics**, when has fire ever burned anything worth keeping?

UDO MALAAKI

(heartbroken)

My sister died in a fire...

MAGUS ELGAR

So, my theory is: why not try a conjuration instead, and see what comes out?

UDO MALAAKI

My best guess? The Unblinking. It's **always** going to be the Unblinking no matter what you do.

MAGUS ELGAR

And this is why you shouldn't guess, Udo. You've got a terrible habit of choosing the worst case scenario. But, good point, we must take every precaution possible, here.

SFX: liquid sloshing in bottle.

UDO MALAAKI  
What's this? A fire counter-potion?

MAGUS ELGAR  
No, *mead*.

UDO MALAAKI  
...how long have you been drinking?

MAGUS ELGAR  
(laughs mischievously)  
Not important! If you're going to metaphorically splash magic on the wall, you need to absolve all responsibility. If anyone asks, the mead compelled us.

UDO MALAAKI  
What? *No!*

SFX: Drink! chug chug.

MAGUS ELGAR  
Ahhh! *Right!* Here we go then!

NARRATOR  
Excuse me, a moment?

MAGUS ELGAR  
What is it?

SFX: the sound of something clicking in place, a harness.

NARRATOR  
Got it, the clip on this thing is fiddly.

MAGUS ELGAR  
Oh good, I was worried you were going to miss something.

SFX: magus chants his magic incantation. The cauldron starts to bubble fiercely.

UDO MALAAKI  
Are you sure about this?!

MAGUS ELGAR  
Of course not! That's why it's *magic!* Leuptocus, Foruntate, Porthis, Ulavon!

SFX: Magic churns and swirls as everyone exclaims to the mirror cauldron opening up. Strangely. Whirring sounds can also be heard as well.

UDO MALAAKI

Oh **Elemeeeeents!**

MAGUS ELGAR

It's working! I can't believe it!  
Oh, blast it, this room is too small. I didn't think this one through: **curse you meeeead!**

SFX: Portal transition. Explosion!

NARRATOR

With a bloom of arcane power, the cauldron swallowed them both: drawing them into a portal of silvery confusion before a backlash ripped through their research laboratory. And **if** they come to, they will no longer be in the world they called home... Unlike myself, because I was smart enough to bring a harness. Ahh....

(struggles a bit)

It appears I'm stuck... Hello? Anyone?... I suppose I'll wait for something to happen then.

INT. MYSTERIOUS LABORATORY, NIGHT.

Udo shuffles through some debris. Groaning in pain.

UDO MALAAKI

Oh... Oh, ouch... **everything** hurts.

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh good, you're awake.

Kakkay squirms and skitters about. Sniffing the room.

UDO MALAAKI

What... what happened?

MAGUS ELGAR

We seem to be in another **realm**. Possibly inside an eldritch temple.

UDO MALAAKI

...this isn't the Unblinking is it?

MAGUS ELGAR  
Well, I don't see any eyes so...  
opticalistic outlook. opti-  
optimistic. Sorry.

UDO MALAAKI  
Are you all right, kakkay?

SFX: kakkay whines.

MAGUS ELGAR  
Once you've dusted yourself off,  
you can help me. There **appears** to  
be something stuck in my arm.

UDO MALAAKI  
Can you give me a moment, Kakkay's  
tail is pinched to... Nhh!

Kakkay yelps at his tail being pulled out of debris.

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
There we go. So wh-oh... Oh dear,  
you got something stuck in your  
arm.

MAGUS ELGAR  
Owch... Indeed. It looks like a  
halberd. But I can't fathom why it  
would be so **tiny**.

UDO MALAAKI  
Pulling it out might help. Here...

SFX: yanks out scalpel. Magus Yelps

MAGUS ELGAR  
Ah. Th-there we go. \*grunts\* Thank  
you Udo, now things are much  
clearer. It seems to be a writing  
quill, but its tip has been  
replaced with a stabbing implement.  
I shall call it: a **slicing** pen!

UDO MALAAKI  
What barbarian would design this?

SFX: Thump from upstairs!

UDO MALAAKI (CONT'D)  
What was that?!

MAGUS ELGAR  
(whispered)  
It came from above us...

UDO MALAAKI  
(whispered)  
What should we do?!

MAGUS ELGAR  
(whispered)  
As a magus, Udo, my curiosity  
compels me to investigate.

SFX: Thump!

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)  
Though... my self preservation has  
a stronger argument: **hide!**

NARRATOR  
What world has Magus Elgar and his  
assistant stumbled upon? Will they  
learn the secrets of the mirror  
cauldron? If you ask this casual  
observer... they're dead, and are  
obviously in a hellish dimension  
for their hubris. But don't take my  
word for it. Find out next time!...

The narrator struggles in his harness.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
It's not like I'm going anywhere.

END OF EPISODE 1