**THE MIND FLAYER'S CURSE**

Written by [Writer's Name]

Based on the world of Baldur's Gate 3

FADE IN:

INT. BALDUR'S GATE TAVERN - EVENING

A lively tavern filled with music and laughter. MATHISON (20s, dashing bard, expensive clothes slightly disheveled) performs for an enthusiastic crowd, his lute playing masterful but deliberately showy.

AMARA (20s, sorcerer, practical clothes with magical trinkets, mischievous smile) sits at a corner table, rolling her eyes as she feeds a small FROG sitting on her shoulder.

MATHISON (singing dramatically) 🎵 And there the mighty hero stood, Against the dragon fierce... His blade of pure conviction showed, The beast's heart how to pierce! 🎵

AMARA (to her frog) See that strutting peacock up there? (frog croaks) Yep, unfortunately, I'm related to him. Well, sort of.

A beauiful female patron approaches Mathison after his performance.

PATRON That was incredible! You must teach me-

MATHISON (smoothly) Natural talent, my friend. Can't be taught. (winks) But I'd be happy to demonstrate more over drinks...

Amara makes a gagging motion. Purple sparks dance around her fingers as she magically tips over Mathison's drink.

MATHISON (jumping back) Ama- SISTER DEAREST, really?

AMARA (innocent) What? Magic has a mind of its own sometimes. (to her frog) Doesn't it, Mr. Ribbets?

MATHISON (to patron) Excuse me. Family matters. (approaches Amara) You know, most sisters would support their brother's romantic endeavors.

AMARA Most brothers wouldn't try to seduce half of Baldur's Gate. (grins) Besides, you love me.

MATHISON (sitting) Debatable. Very debatable. (notices frog) Another one? Mother's going to have a fit if you bring home-

A piercing SCREECH cuts through the night. The tavern goes silent.

AMARA (smile fading) That didn't sound like a normal-

The roof EXPLODES inward. Mind flayers descend on beams of light as patrons scream and flee.

MATHISON (drawing his rapier) Finally, a chance to be a real hero!

AMARA (magic crackling) Matt, don't-!

A mind flayer sends a psychic blast at Mathison. Amara deflects it with a shield spell, purple energy sparking.

AMARA (casting) No one messes with my idiot brother!

She launches a chaotic bolt of wild magic - it turns one mind flayer bright pink but doesn't stop it.

MATHISON (backing up) Not your best work, sis.

AMARA Oh, like you're doing better! (dodges tentacle) At least I'm not trying to seduce them!

MATHISON (offended) I have standards! (starts to play his lute) Maybe a charm spell...

The mind flayers advance. Amara grabs Mathison's arm.

AMARA Together?

MATHISON (nods) Together.

They combine their magic - his music and her chaos - but the mind flayers are too strong. Psychic energy overwhelms them.

AMARA (falling) Matt... I'm sorry about the drink...

MATHISON (reaching for her) I'm sorry about... well, everything...

They collapse as the mind flayers drag them away.

INT. NAUTILOID - HOLDING CELLS - UNKNOWN TIME

Amara wakes in a cell made of pulsing organic matter. Her frog companion is gone. Nearby, Mathison lies unconscious.

AMARA (groggy) Matt? Matt, wake up... (sparks magic) Don't make me zap you.

MATHISON (stirring) Five more minutes, like when we were kids... (opens eyes, realizes) Oh gods. Not a nightmare then.

AMARA (trying to smile) When have your nightmares ever been this creative?

A SCREAM echoes from nearby cells.

MATHISON (singing softly) 🎵 When darkness falls and hope seems lost... 🎵

AMARA Really? Now?

MATHISON Hey, music soothes the savage beast. Maybe it works on mind flayers.

AMARA (checking cell) If we get out of this, I'm telling everyone at the Blade and Stars about how you screamed when they grabbed you.

MATHISON I did not scream! I... vocally expressed surprise. Dramatically.

The organic door PARTS. Mind flayers enter with the SURGEON.

SURGEON (telepathic) The specimens are ready.

AMARA (to Mathison) Now might be a good time for one of your famous distractions.

MATHISON (to mind flayers) Say, have you considered a career in entertainment? With those tentacles, you'd make amazing puppeteers-

A psychic blast silences him. The Surgeon approaches with a writhing tadpole.

AMARA (struggling) No no no- Take me first!

MATHISON Amara, don't-

SURGEON (telepathic) How touching. Witness each other's ascension.

The tadpole burrows into Mathison's eye. His scream is genuine this time.

AMARA (tears streaming) Matt! Look at me, stay with me! Remember when we stole Dad's sword to fight imaginary dragons?

MATHISON (through pain) You... turned it into flowers... Mother was so mad...

The Surgeon approaches Amara with another tadpole.

AMARA (defiant) I hope you like chaos. (whispers) Wild magic, don't fail me now...

Her magic SURGES as the tadpole enters - the cell briefly fills with frogs before they vanish.

INT. NAUTILOID - LATER

Amara and Mathison lie in their cells, both infected. Black veins spread across their faces.

MATHISON (weakly) Remember... when we promised to die heroically? This isn't... what I pictured.

AMARA (fighting pain) We're not dying here. I refuse. (touching veins) Though I have to say, not your best look.

MATHISON Please. I make everything look good. (winces) Even parasitic infection.

Suddenly, EXPLOSIONS rock the ship. Alarms blare.

AMARA That's not good.

MATHISON Since when do you worry about 'not good'? You once set the tavern on fire to catch a mouse.

AMARA It was eating my spell components!

The ship LURCHES. Their cell doors malfunction and open.

AMARA (standing shakily) Well? Coming, brother dear?

MATHISON (grinning despite pain) Wouldn't miss it... sister dearest.

INT. NAUTILOID CORRIDORS

They stumble through chaos. Other prisoners run past. Mind flayers rush to battle stations.

MATHISON (singing quietly) 🎵 Through darkness deep and dangers dire... 🎵

AMARA If you're going to sing, at least make it something useful!

She grabs his hand, purple magic swirling. Mathison's song changes to a healing melody. Their steps strengthen.

AMARA (surprised) That... actually helped.

MATHISON (smug) You could stand to admit I'm right more often.

A mind flayer appears ahead. Amara's wild magic combines with Mathison's song - the creature finds itself tap dancing uncontrollably.

AMARA (running past) Now THAT'S entertainment!

EXT. NAUTILOID SHIP - NIGHT

The massive ship plummets toward Faerûn. Fire and magic streak across its hull.

INT. NAUTILOID - CONTINUOUS

Amara and Mathison race through chaos, dodging debris.

MATHISON (dodging falling beam) Just like dodging Mother's broom after we broke her favorite vase!

AMARA (casting shield spell) Which time? (grins) The flowerpot incident or the 'let's practice juggling inside' disaster?

MIND FLAYER (O.S.) (telepathic roar) STOP THEM!

AMARA (pulling Mathison) Jump point ahead!

MATHISON (sees portal) You can't be serious-

AMARA When am I ever not?

MATHISON (counting on fingers) The frog wedding, the tavern séance, that time with Gale-

AMARA We agreed never to mention that!

They reach the portal. Ship debris rains around them.

MATHISON (takes her hand) Together?

AMARA Like always. (kisses frog charm) For luck!

They jump.

EXT. SWORD COAST FOREST - DAWN

Amara wakes in a crater. Nearby, Mathison lies face-down.

AMARA (crawling to him) Matt? If you're dead, I'm telling everyone you cried at my frog's wedding.

MATHISON (muffled) It was a beautiful ceremony... (rolls over) Ugh. Did you get the name of that dragon?

AMARA (touching black veins on face) No dragon. Worse. We're... (voice breaks) We're infected.

MATHISON (sitting up) Hey... remember what Father always said?

AMARA (mimicking deep voice) "Mathison, stop flirting with my fellow paladins"?

MATHISON (laughs, then winces) No! "Where there's magic, there's hope."

AMARA That was Mother, actually. (stands shakily) And she was usually talking about fixing things we broke.

EXT. FOREST PATH - DAY

They walk through dense forest, supporting each other.

MATHISON (singing softly) 🎵 Two siblings cursed, but still alive, Through darkness deep they'll brave... 🎵

AMARA If you're writing our tragedy, at least make me sound cooler.

MATHISON 🎵 One sister blessed with chaos wild, Who talks to frogs all day... 🎵

Amara's wild magic SPARKS, turning his hair bright blue.

MATHISON (touching hair) Really?

AMARA (innocent) Matches your eyes now!

Their laughter turns to coughing. Black veins pulse.

MATHISON We need to find help.

AMARA (points) Smoke. Settlement ahead. (grabs arm) Matt... if I start turning...

MATHISON (serious) Not happening. We're staying us. Both of us.

INT. VILLAGE TEMPLE - LATER

A small temple to Selûne. They speak with an elderly PRIESTESS.

PRIESTESS This corruption... it's beyond my power. But there are legends. A cure in the ancient ruins of-

AMARA (excited) See? Hope! And ancient ruins! (to Mathison) Just like our childhood adventures!

MATHISON Those were basement storage rooms.

AMARA I made them more exciting!

PRIESTESS (continuing) -but none have returned from seeking it.

MATHISON (bowing dramatically) Then we shall be the first, good lady. (winks) Perhaps when we return...

AMARA (dragging him away) Stop flirting with the priestess!

EXT. TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

MATHISON I was gathering information!

AMARA With your eyebrows?

Suddenly, they both CLUTCH their heads. Voices whisper.

NETHERBRAIN (V.O.) (telepathic) My children... come home...

INT. ANCIENT RUINS - NIGHT

Amara and Mathison stand before a ceremonial altar. An ornate chalice glows with mysterious liquid.

AMARA (examining runes) This has to be it. The texts mentioned a "purifying flame of the soul."

MATHISON (peering at liquid) Looks more like glowing pond water. (beat) Your frogs would love it.

AMARA (soft smile) First thing when we're cured - I'm getting a new frog. Maybe two.

MATHISON (preparing chalice) Name one after your favorite brother?

AMARA (taking chalice) You'd hate that.

MATHISON (grins) Exactly.

They share a look. The black veins on their faces have spread significantly.

AMARA Together?

MATHISON (takes her hand) Bottom's up, sis.

They drink. For a moment, nothing. Then - PAIN. They collapse, screaming.

AMARA (clutching head) No... no no no...

MATHISON (reaching for her) Amara!

The black veins PULSE and spread faster. The parasites grow stronger.

AMARA (crying) It was supposed to work! All that research... (magic sparks wildly) I failed us...

MATHISON (crawling to her) Hey... remember when you tried to teach Mr. Ribbets to sing?

AMARA (through tears) What?

MATHISON (holding her) Everyone said it was impossible. But you kept trying. For months. (wipes her tears) That's who you are. Who we are. We don't give up.

AMARA (clutching his shirt) I can feel it... in my head. Getting stronger.

MATHISON (starts singing weakly) 🎵 Two siblings lost in darkness deep... 🎵

AMARA (joins in, voice breaking) 🎵 But never truly alone... 🎵

They hold each other as the parasites take stronger hold.

INT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - TIME PASSING MONTAGE

* Amara using wild magic, increasingly unstable, as Mathison's music tries to calm it
* Them supporting each other through nightmares
* Fighting off mind flayer hunting parties
* Studying ancient texts together
* Mathison stopping Amara when the parasite almost takes control
* Amara pulling Mathison back from the brink with memories of home

NETHERBRAIN (V.O.) (growing stronger) Submit... join the collective...

INT. FOREST CAMP - NIGHT

They sit by a fire. Both look haggard, but their eyes show determination.

AMARA (watching flames) Remember when we were kids? Playing heroes?

MATHISON (tuning lute) You always wanted to be the wizard.

AMARA And you wanted to be the dashing rogue. (laughs) Some things never change.

MATHISON (serious) Some things do. (touches veins) We're running out of time.

AMARA Then we stop running. (stands) We find the source. This... Netherbrain.

MATHISON (concerned) That's suicide.

AMARA Since when has that stopped us? (grins) Remember the dragon's cave?

MATHISON That was a large dog.

AMARA I made it more exciting!

They share a laugh that turns serious.

MATHISON (stands) We'd need an army.

AMARA (eyes glowing) We have wild magic.

MATHISON (picks up lute) And charm.

AMARA And each other. (holds out hand) One last adventure?

[Continued...]

INT. MIND FLAYER COLONY - DEPTHS

Amara and Mathison descend into the heart of the colony. The walls pulse with psychic energy.

MATHISON (whispering) You know what's funny?

AMARA Your hair still being blue?

MATHISON I was going to say - all those years pretending to be heroes... (draws sword) Never thought we'd actually become them.

AMARA (magic crackling) Speak for yourself. I've always been heroic.

NETHERBRAIN (V.O.) (booming) MY CHILDREN... WELCOME HOME.

The chamber opens to reveal the NETHERBRAIN - a massive, pulsing brain connected to countless tubes and tendrils.

AMARA (staring) That's... significantly more gross than I imagined.

MATHISON And you keep pet frogs.

NETHERBRAIN YOUR RESISTANCE IS ADMIRABLE. BUT FUTILE.

Tentacles whip toward them. Amara's wild magic creates a shield as Mathison starts to play.

AMARA (straining) Any requests?

MATHISON (playing fast) Something upbeat! For old times' sake!

They dance between tentacles. Mathison's music empowers Amara's spells, creating chaos of purple fire and light.

NETHERBRAIN YOU CANNOT RESIST THE COLLECTIVE.

AMARA (launching spell) Watch us!

But the Netherbrain's power is overwhelming. They're pushed back.

MATHISON (parasites pulsing) Amara... I can't...

AMARA (grabbing his hand) Remember the promise? When we were kids?

FLASHBACK - INT. BALDUR'S GATE TAVERN - YEARS AGO

Young Amara and Mathison sit in their parents' tavern.

YOUNG AMARA Promise we'll always stick together?

YOUNG MATHISON Through every adventure.

BACK TO PRESENT

AMARA (power building) One last wild magic surge?

MATHISON (music swelling) Make it count.

They combine their powers - Mathison's music weaving with Amara's chaos magic. The parasites in their heads WRITHE.

NETHERBRAIN IMPOSSIBLE...

AMARA (to Mathison) Remember when Mother said never to mix bardic magic with wild sorcery?

MATHISON (grinning) When has that ever stopped us?

Their combined power EXPLODES in a surge of wild magic and musical energy. The chamber fills with:

* Dancing lights
* Floating frogs
* Musical notes made of fire
* Pure chaotic power

The Netherbrain SCREAMS. The parasites in their heads shrivel and die.

AMARA (weakening) Matt...

MATHISON (catching her) I've got you, sis.

The chamber starts to collapse.

MATHISON (looking up) So... about that exit strategy?

AMARA (laughs weakly) Since when do we plan ahead?

They run through collapsing tunnels, dodging falling debris. Just like when they were kids, running from trouble - but this time, they're running toward freedom.

EXT. SWORD COAST CLIFFS - SUNRISE

They emerge into dawn light. Behind them, the colony entrance collapses.

AMARA (touching clear face) Did we just...?

MATHISON (checking reflection in sword) Save the world? Being incredibly attractive while doing so?

AMARA (creates small magical frog) You know what this means?

MATHISON (sighs) You're getting more frogs.

AMARA A whole family of them! (beat) And maybe... we are kind of heroes.

MATHISON (starts playing) 🎵 The tale of two siblings brave and bold... 🎵

AMARA (groans) Please tell me you're not writing a ballad about this.

MATHISON Already did. Three verses and a chorus. (winks) I made you sound cooler this time.

They walk into the sunrise, bickering like always. But now with the weight of their shared victory - and survival - binding them even closer.

AMARA (after a moment) Matt?

MATHISON Mm?

AMARA I'm glad you're my brother.

MATHISON (soft smile) Even when I flirt with priestesses?

AMARA Don't push it.

FADE OUT.

THE END