

Out of the Rubble – (S4, E14)

SFX:

INTRO MUSIC

Rev: Hey, everybody. Rev here. A couple of things before we get into this week's episode. First, I want to take a moment to explain a reaction, for those of you who aren't aware of it. In the last episode when they heard the name of the person who was Mercury, there were some sharp responses around the table. And that's not a name that all of you have heard before, and I've gotten a couple of emails asking why they reacted to that name. That is because that is a name of a villain that we encountered in Tass's Hero Salad game, which is on our Patreon, and he was quite a pain in my ass, in particular. So that was just a nice little Omniverse moment, there.

Which brings me into a wonderful segue: our Patreon. I'd like to take a moment to thank the patrons who joined us in the month of October. Chandler Bolding-Martinez, Jeremy Dunlap, Brian Pike, Matt, Casey Fate, Ted Kern, Dante Ryman, Robin Mims, Morgandedd, Quinton Reykdal, Audrey, Alex Stowe, ButeoBelle, and Daniel Dela Vega. So thank you for joining us on Patreon, and thank you to all of our patrons who join us every month. If you would like to support us and the things we create, you can head over to Patreon.com/TheCritshow. Tiers begin at just one dollar, and that gets you access to our Discord server. And the \$5 tier gets you access to Tass's Hero Salad campaign, our current Perilous Tides campaign, which is RapsCALLIONS. It also gets you access to all of our Tales from the Omniverse games, which include Fate of Cthulhu, Pugmire, a very cool Neverland hack, all kinds of stories that the game masters were really passionate about telling. And those can range anywhere from three episodes to, I think, a dozen episodes. So again, you can head over to Patreon.com/TheCritshow to learn all about our tiers. All of our patronage goes to supporting the things that we create and the people who create it. So we thank you so much for those of you who join us over there.

And as we are getting towards the holiday season, we've mentioned signing up for the mailing list before, the IPT Secure Dispatch. But today I want to take just a moment to make sure that folks are receiving the Dispatch, especially those of you who use Gmail. Because we're gearing up to do some merch-related things around Black Friday and Cyber Monday. So we want to make sure that you're getting the things we're actually sending out to you. We have discovered lately that some folks in our Discord are not

getting the messages we send out, and then they're finding them in their Promotions folder or their Junk folder, which is a separate section of your Gmail. And if you're a person who doesn't check those sections very often, you might be missing some discounts or some reduced merchandise or the release of some new items. So if you're a Gmail user and you're on a computer, to make sure that all of the future messages from us go to your Primary inbox instead of your Promotions, you can literally just drag any one of the messages we've sent you from that tab over to the primary tab and then click Yes when they ask if you want to make this change permanent. And if you're on a mobile device, you just open the email, click the three little dots menu in the corner, and click Move To and then select Primary. If you're more of a visual person and hearing me explain how to adjust this does not help you at all, you can go over to thecritshowpodcast.com/dispatch, where you can see just a quick little video about how to do these things. And if you think that you're on our mailing list but you can't find the messages we're sending you today, we did send out a message yesterday titled May the Force Be With You, and so you can search your Gmail account and figure out where that went. If you think you're on our mailing list but you still can't see the messages, you can also go to that same page to check your email address and check the status and see that you are in fact signed up, or if you're not. And we want to make sure that everybody who wants to be seeing these emails are, because in addition to new merch and discounts and things like that, I'm also working on another free mystery, which will be sent out to the mailing list in just a few weeks. So again, if you have any questions about that, you can head over to thecritshowpodcast.com/dispatch.

And speaking of the email entitled May the Force Be With You, this is a reminder that next Monday, November the 8th, we will be starting our Omniverse Chronicles stream, Star Wars: Force and Destiny. I am very excited to play this game. That will be every Monday for the next eight weeks over at Twitch.tv/TheCritshow. And that will be starting every Monday at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. And then if you are unable to make it at that time and you want to catch up on the videos of that show or any of the other shows that we've done on Twitch, you can head over to YouTube.com/TheCritshow.

And then lastly, just a reminder that you've got just a few days left if you want to submit your Halloween costume or your pet costumes to be entered into our annual Crit-or-Treat costume contest. I have bought the boxes that we're going to cram the prizes into. I am actually very excited about making these prize boxes, because it's just going to kind of be a deluge of whatever it is the people feel like adding, based off what we know about

the winner and their costume. So you can submit those by tagging us @TheCritshow on Twitter, or by emailing those to us at thecast@thecritshowpodcast.com.

And I think that's it. How many times in the course of the last five minutes can I say something, something something /thecritshowpodcast.com? I think the real takeaway here is that if you ever want to know how to find us on anything ever, just go to it and put in /TheCritshow. [Chuckles]

All right. And with that, it's time to get into the episode.

SFX: CRITSHOW STINGER

Rev: Jake, the last thing you remember is being dragged into a stairwell by a member of New Canterbury and then being bitten on the neck, and then everything going fuzzy. You can vaguely remember the sound of an explosion and familiar voices shouting, then the sensation of being picked up, carried and then falling. And as your senses start to return to you, there is a haze of dust in the night sky. All around you are the sounds of shouting voices. As Jake looks around, what is he see?

Kim: The moment we appear on the other side of The Vault and I watch it fall, I scream and start trying to run back into the building.

Tass: "No, Kim, no!" I'm gonna leap forward and try to get my arm around her waist to drag her back.

Kim: "Let me go!"

Tass: "No, we can't go back for her yet. It's too dangerous."

Kim: [Through tears] "She's dead." And I just start crying into his chest.

Tass: I literally am like picking her up and coming back to the group and holding her. "No, she's not. That wouldn't take her out."

Kim: "Yes." [Stammers] "All of the jars were in The Vault."

Tass: "Kim. Hey, focus. Come on. They're not. They're not all in The Vault. I'll explain later. But if he still has it, Damien has one of her organs. We can save her, but we have to go now."

Rev: And as this conversation is happening, all the oracles are rushing across the street towards all of you. Megan, what are you doing?

Megan: I think I'm just trying to get all of the oracles across the street to safety. I'm definitely looking out to see if there were any other vampires that we missed.

Rev: As the field has come down, from the shadows, you do see maybe half a dozen, as if they were just there just in case.

Megan: "Everybody pull back. Everybody get over here, get over to the side!" And I'm taking shots at vampires.

Rev: And as Megan is firing her repeating crossbow at the remaining vampires, Jake, your senses are finally stable enough where you can kind of process everything that is happening. What are you doing?

Jake: "The Rookery! Everyone, fall back to The Rookery."

Kim: "Wait." And I want to grab Kester. "Aiden thinks that the two of you are dead. We should keep it that way. Megan, can you get them somewhere safe?"

Megan: "Yeah, I can — I can get them to one of the empty safe houses."

Rev: KESTER: Very good. Thank you. Shall we?

Rev: And he holds an arm out to put it around your shoulder so that you can help support him. And he's got Tiresias under the other arm.

Megan: "Yeah, let's cut this way."

Kim: I'm gonna use the Shield spell on Megan and Kester and Tiresias as they take off. "We'll regroup back with James."

Megan: "OK, I'll meet you there."

Tass: I'm summoning the motorcycle with the sidecar, and if anybody is particularly rough, getting them seated and just trying to lead the way out of this chaos before we're spotted by anyone else.

Megan: "Stay safe."

Tass: "You too." And we fade out on this city street as Megan leads Kester and Tiresias into an alley, Tass starts to burn his way on his fiery motorcycle down the street, clearing a path, and Jake and Kim help usher the oracles towards The Rookery.

SFX: CRITSHOW STINGER

Rev: All right, so here we are back in the faction turn. A little time is gonna pass, some events are gonna happen. Both because of you all trying to do things, also some of the factions in the Circle trying to accomplish some stuff. But before we get into that, do we want to talk about your Dread experience? I know there were some mechanics that were happening that you all weren't aware of. Do you have any questions about it?

Tass: I'm just curious about like what was different with this one than some of the more kind of basic versions that we have done before. You know, we've done a few little things with Dread, but nothing quite that intense.

Rev: Yeah. Really, the biggest thing that was different here was the overall event timer, and then the sometimes used pull timers.

All: [Laugh]

Tass: Yeah, that's fair. So like, I mean, I think we had a good idea of that in a few moments where it was very specifically like an action has happened based on nothing other than you casually glancing at something. [Laughs]

Rev: Yeah.

Tass: So we have to assume that that's those timers going off, and like part of the building starting to get destroyed, or footsteps in the stairs, things like that. I like that. Well, it adds a little ... A little "dread" to it.

Rev: That is an NPC, I think it's safe to say, that you will never meet. But the footsteps that you heard coming down those steps at minute 40. So my event timer was every ... Every 10 to 20 minutes, sometimes 5, something would happen unless something was done to prevent it from happening. So at minute 40, one of the kind of monstrosities employed by Aiden was released: Humphry the Combiner.

Megan: Oh my gosh.

Rev: And, uh ...

Jake: [Laughs]

Rev: Jake remembers that name. That is TJ's character from Fate of Cthulhu.

Megan: [Gasps] Oh my gosh. Yup.

Rev: With the ability to absorb other people into his body and use their mass. And so he was coming down the stairs to absorb anyone he could find and fight you.

Megan: Oh, I remember that.

Tass: Nice.

Megan: Oh, that was so gross. I'm so — thank you so much for not letting that happen.

Kim: So you mentioned that you had things on a timer that were set to go unless we prevented them. Did we prevent any of the things that you had on your timer?

Jake: Sounds like Humphrey the Combiner.

Rev: Yeah. Other than that, no.

Jake: Oh, good.

Rev: But I think it's because you all had such a strong drive towards protecting all the people and getting them out. It was really interesting, the way Tass was using his super speed to collect all the people. And pretty early on I was like, OK, so are you like looking for things to help you? Or are you looking for people? And you're like, I'm looking for people. And I think that kind of put us all in a mindset of that's the goal. Get the people, get down, and get out. And so a lot of the stuff that could have helped you in different situations on the timer just never got searched for, because you were all kind of doing other things as Tass was searching the floor solo, specifically for survivors.

Megan: Yeah. And I think it was ... It was definitely ... I mean, "dread" is the right word. Like we were aware that there was a timer that we couldn't see and we just had descriptions of this building like crumbling down literally above us and breaking apart as we're trying to descend and fight things. And then it's like, "You're in a movie theater. What are you looking for?" And I'm like, "Nothing, man. I'm trying to go!"

Rev: I gotta get out of here.

Megan: Yeah, I have no idea. There definitely was a lot of like anxiety and like panic and like trying to make pulls and like, keep your mind straight, and like, follow the story. So I think it was a very good game mechanically for the story that we were doing. I mean, I think, you know, a tower crumbling.

Rev: Yeah.

Megan: And falling down is very thematically appropriate.

Rev: Yeah. All right. So let's talk about some faction moves. What would you all like to do during your faction turn?

Kim: Well, first thing's first, I believe I have a roll of Foretellings that I do.

Rev: Oh, that's right.

Kim: So that's a nine. So on a mixed success, I can choose one of three, like, kinds of visions to have. Like someone's plotting a betrayal, there's a threat closing in, something like that. And then you tell me the character that I'm having this vision about.

Rev: OK.

Kim: An ally is plotting a betrayal. The MC will tell you when the hammer will fall. And you tell me whose future I'm seeing.

Rev: All right. So the vision that you have is of Borbalk.

Megan: [Gasps]

Kim: [Gasps]

Rev: Borbalk is going to be betrayed.

Megan: Oh, OK. [Exhales]

Rev: By Sweet Vendetta.

Megan: Oh no!

Kim: [Gasps]

Rev: Because Borbalk took the hairs to try to, like, make himself more like Sweet Vendetta. What Borbalk doesn't know is that infusing those hairs into himself will allow Sweet Vendetta to take him over. And it's going to happen the first time that Borbalk goes out in his new fiery form and Sweet Vendetta is also out for the night, via the open gate.

Tass: I don't like this this. This sounds like a whole lot of horseplay.

Rev: Hmm. What are you all doing for your city moves?

Kim: I am going to Tend to my Business. I think this is a week of making sure that all of the oracles that we rescued from The Vault are OK in The Rookery. It's trying to go through the rubble of The Vault to see if there's anything salvageable. It's looking through what little of Strohm there is left. It's arranging funerals for AI and the other people that were lost in The Vault. It's ... It's a lot of that.

Rev: All right. So when you Tend to your Business instead of meddling in city affairs, tell the MC how you pass the time and roll. On a hit, an interesting opportunity presents itself. The MC will tell you what you need to do to seize on it. On a 10+, ask the MC a follow up question, they will answer it honestly. On a miss, an NPC interrupts your ordinary life to cash in a debt, mixing you up in a mess within your Circle you'd rather have avoided. All right, so let's see that roll.

Kim: Seven.

Rev: So I think that as you are taking the time to deal with all things House of Strohm related, at one point you go to visit Kester and Tiresias in the safe home that Megan had put them up in. And as you come in, Tiresias has made two cups of tea and he slides one across to you.

Rev: KESTER: I realize that there are many things for us to be dealing with right now, but there is one rather large thing that needs to be dealt with, and that is who is going to take control. I'm not exactly sure what it is that you're doing. Strohm was very tight-lipped about your activities. I could do it, if you would like to keep your anonymity and be able to work more freely. Or if you would like to take over, I would gladly stay in hiding and I could be of great assistance to you and whatever it is you're trying to do. Tiresias, as well.

Kim: "Kester, I think that one of the biggest priorities is making sure that you and Tiresias stay safe. I don't trust Aiden when he says that he was only going after Strohm. I think he's going after all of us. So keeping the two of you safe is important. I ... Huh. So I guess that means I take over, at least on a temporary basis. There's a chance that Strohm might be able to come back. I don't exactly know the details of that, but I'm gonna look into it."

Rev: KESTER: Yes, I'd heard stories that she was quite resistant. Always seems to find a way back.

Kim: "I sincerely hope that it's more than just stories, but we'll see."

Rev: KESTER: Very well.

Rev: And so Kim, this will not come into effect until the next faction turn. But taking over House of Strohm does move your status with Power to 2.

Kim: OK.

Rev: Who's next?

Tass: I would like to attempt to Weaken Someone's Standing.

Rev: OK. Who and how?

Tass: Aiden Chambers, that son of a bitch.

Rev: Go on.

Tass: I think I want to start spreading the rumors from the various people that got out, from any of the vampires that were left and under his employ that were fighting ... I want to spread the rumors that not only was he the one responsible for what happened with Strohm, but that he just came and watched as his people got slaughtered and didn't even jump into the fight. That he went in for this ham-fisted attempt. And yeah sure, maybe he brought the place down, but how sloppy for so many people to get out, and he didn't even jump in to help his people as they got wrecked.

Rev: All right, roll it.

Tass: Six.

Rev: All right, who's next?

Megan: I'm gonna Put Out the Word.

Rev: OK.

Megan: I am looking for information on Lady Jense. So looking within my own Circle, I think what I'm gonna do is I'm going to head to the Cloud Gate and wait for Lana to show up. I mean, I didn't really get a chance to talk to her before she sent me back from Seattle, but I kind of just want to see what happens when she shows up. If she's bringing more humans, kind of get them ready to be sent back to The Red Line. And just talk with her a bit, and see what information she knows.

Rev: OK. And so for Put Out the Word ... You know you're looking for, in this case it seems, secret information. What specifically do you want to know?

Megan: I kind of want to know Jense's deal. Like what — what kind of drives her? She's come in and she has all this power over all these demons, and we really need a way to, like, get in with her to be able to get to her item. And she seems very intimidating. And I just want some sort of information that is not readily available that I can maybe utilize to get closer to the item.

Rev: All right. Roll it.

Megan: Ten.

Rev: All right. So during the course of this week, at midnight we find Lana dropping someone off at Cloud Gate, and she recognizes you.

Rev: LANA KING: Oh, hello.

Megan: "Hi, Lana. Just a second. Can you just stay here for a moment?"

Rev: LANA: OK.

Megan: And I would like to motion to the other member of The Red Line that I brought with me to kind of get these humans that Lana has brought and take them back.

Rev: They hustle off into the night.

Megan: "Hey, how are you ... How are you doing?"

Rev: LANA KING: OK.

Megan: "Good. It's it's great to ... It's great to see you again. I was just wondering if I could ask you a couple of questions. We didn't really get a lot of time to talk, the last time we saw each other."

Rev: LANA KING: I haven't come to visit yet, but I'm gonna.

Megan: "Great. I'm sure everybody'd be really, really glad to see you. I had a couple of questions, though. We had learned that you were the person that was bringing humans here. I'm just kind of curious about how you got into this, and people have said that you're maybe connected with working with Tranquil Silence?"

Rev: LANA KING: They just claim me because I seem like a ghost.

Megan: "I get that. Yeah. Do you ... Do you claim them?"

Rev: LANA KING: I don't know. What does that mean?

Megan: "Like, do you know the person that's in charge of Tranquil Silence? Or do you talk to them? Do they ... Do they talk to you?"

Rev: LANA KING: No. I go there sometimes, just to see people. I know a couple of folks, but I'm not involved with the politics. There was too much of that before.

Megan: "Yeah, that makes ... That makes sense. I don't blame you for staying out of that. But I mean, that's great. I'd definitely be interested in hearing about some of that, or maybe meeting some of the people that you know there. While you were there and, you know, just listening and trying to maybe overhear whatever people were talking about, did you ever hear them talk about Lady Jencie? She heads up the, like, demon family."

Rev: LANA KING: Mmhmm.

Megan: "Yeah. Um ... What's her deal? She seems really powerful, and we're kind of trying to get in to maybe talk with her or get into her office to meet with her, and we don't really have a good reason to. So I'm just curious about maybe what you've heard, in your time here."

Rev: LANA KING: I know what we think she wants.

Megan: "Oh, what's that?"

Rev: LANA KING: She wants to get as many on her side as she can and then take them back home.

Megan: "Take the demons back home?"

Rev: LANA KING: Uh-huh.

Megan: "Where's home?"

Rev: LANA KING: I don't know, but not here. Some people say that she was a failed monarch wherever she comes from. That she lost her army, her followers. That she was banished and she's rebuilding. And she's gonna take all the souls and all of the people who show her fealty and go back and retake her throne.

Megan: "That's pretty cool, actually. Uh ... Not great, though, for some of the people we know. That's really interesting I wonder where she's from. Huh ..."

Rev: LANA KING: Father O'Hanna thinks it's Hell, but he's a ghost now. That seems kind of a strange thought, still.

Megan: "Yeah, I wonder if they maybe have some more thoughts on that. You said you were gonna come visit us soon?"

Rev: LANA KING: Yeah.

Megan: "That sounds really nice. I think that, you know, maybe Jake and Tass and Kim might have some other questions that ... We'd really love to get in to maybe talk to Father

O'Hanna or anybody else that you — you know in Tranquil Silence. So we'd love to really have a discussion with you about that. Is there anything that you would like?"

Rev: She kind of seems perplexed by that question.

Rev: LANA KING: I don't know. What's your favorite food?

Megan: "I don't think I really have a favorite food. It just kind of depends on what I'm feeling hungry for that day. I mean, I know that you've kind of been on your own for a while and you haven't really had a chance to relax or be comfortable, it seems like. So if you're gonna come hang out with us, like, yeah, we have questions. But also, we're just all really glad to see you. And if you could just take some time to be with friends and be with people that care about you, I just ... You know, if there's anything that I can have ready. Like if there's a snack that you used to have all the time or something that you and Anastacia liked to make, I can ... I can maybe have that ready for you."

Rev: LANA KING: I can't really eat anything, except for the waves that come off of people. When you're happy, when you're enjoying your favorite thing or around your favorite people, they're better.

Megan: "OK. I can ... I can work with that."

Rev: LANA KING: OK. I'm gonna go now.

Megan: "All right. Uh ..."

Rev: LANA KING: Bye.

Megan: "Bye."

Rev: And she just starts to fade away.

Kim: [Laughs]

Megan: "Great ... Great to ... Great to see you." And I go, "OK, she's gone. Well ... And now I'm alone. All right. Well, damn. I need a ride."

Rev: All right. So Jake, what are you up to?

Jake: Oh, I hate to say it, but I think I'm also gonna try to Weaken Someone's Standing.

Rev: What?!

Tass: Good luck. That ...

Jake: That's a hard move.

Tass: You don't get that one done. I don't know why you're even gonna try.

Jake: Yeah.

Rev: Who and how?

Jake: Grayson Winters.

Rev: Oh.

Jake: I am going to start spreading the news. [Sings] I'm leaving today ...

Tass: Yes!

Jake: That maybe people shouldn't be relying on him for security if he couldn't even handle ... Couldn't even keep his own house in order.

Rev: Hmm.

Jake: Because my hope is that he has to pull back the wolves or people stop utilizing them, so that some of the places they're guarding are more open to us.

Rev: OK. Yeah. Roll it.

Tass: I told you, bro.

Jake: Four.

Tass: I told you.

Kim: [Laughs]

Jake: Let's just see what the next one would have been. Six. Cool. Well, at least I don't have to feel that bad, like I missed it by one.

Kim: The face palm that Rev did. Just, when you rolled that four.

Rev: All right. So with that, we move into the section of the faction turn where I spotlight some of the factions from the Circles. So one faction from each Circle gets to take a move, and the order of those again is Mortalis, Night, Power, and Wild. I have decided what it is the factions are going to try to do. I'm gonna roll for them now. And since a lot of things are shifting around instead of rolling all of these and just kind of moving into the rumors phase, we're actually gonna do a couple little things inside of each faction's turn. So first, Mortalis. The group being featured this time is The Red Line.

Megan: Woo!

Kim: [Snorts]

Rev: And, uh ... [Laughs]

Megan: Yeah! Red Line!

Rev: I won't tell you what they're doing, because that is part of what you hear in the rumors section. But during this time, Megan, you had talked a while ago to Grandpa Tincher about your powers.

Megan: Oh, yeah.

Rev: So here's what I need from you. He has done some research over this last chunk of time. You're gonna give me four questions. Unlike moves that we're used to where you

kind of ask one question, then based off of that answer, you can ask me a different one. Give me the four things you want him to try to find an answer to. And so you get more possible answers. The downside is that you might ask a question that the answer is, you know, nothing, that doesn't exist. And you may have asked me a follow up question to that one, which will then kill another question.

Kim: All right, you're ready for these?

Rev: I am.

Megan: Where do my powers come from? Why did I get them? Who has them now? And how do I get them back?

Rev: All right. So when you come down into Grandpa Tincher's subterranean lair, you see that he is looking through a very large and beat up tome for answers, and he seems happy to see you.

Rev: JAMES FRANCIS TINCHER: I think I have some answers for you. They may raise more questions, but there are at least some bits that I know.

Megan: "That's wonderful!"

Rev: JAMES FRANCIS TINCHER: So as for where do your powers come from? It seems that there was an event long, long, long ago. I can't find exactly what the event was, but in the doing of it, some gods died. Three. And when those gods were killed, they didn't totally go away. Just a little bit of them stayed, and it moves from person to person, imbuing them with the thing that made them what they are. Your powers, they come from a god called The Empath. You got them because it seems that you have some very deep well of emotions, that you can empathize with people and that you have the space in you to maybe take on the burden of those thoughts, those feelings, whatever it was you used to hear. Who has them now? I ... I don't know. It seems after you all vanished from your time, someone else did show up wielding them and had them for a while. But they died, and I wasn't able to find exactly how. And another occurrence of those powers, I haven't been able to find anything about them popping up again. As for how you can get them back, if you could get back to your time before that amount of time passes, I would imagine the host would pick you again. If that's not the case, I don't know. Maybe the

person could give them up willingly? I imagine this is not like a Highlander situation. I don't think if you kill someone, The Empath will then let you be The Empath.

Megan: "Wow. How long was it, before the next person started showing that they had them, after I disappeared?"

Rev: JAMES FRANCIS TINCHER: About two months.

Megan: "Oh, OK. So not a lot of time. All right, thank you. Thank you very much. I've never heard of this before. The Empath. These ... Who were the other gods?"

Rev: JAMES FRANCIS TINCHER: I don't know exactly. I not even positive of the event.

Megan: "Well, it's more information than I had before I came here. So thank you. I at least, um ... I do feel a little better."

Rev: JAMES FRANCIS TINCHER: Good. Don't thank me, thank the boys, actually. This tome they gave me when we first met? Very useful.

Megan: "I will."

Rev: Next we have Night, and the featured faction is New Canterbury. So Tass, as you are in your downtime trying to deal with the various things that have come up, one of the blue imps appears in a burst of flame next to you and holds out a card.

Tass: "Oh. Hey, little buddy."

Rev: IMP: [Snarls]

Tass: "Yep. Same, I guess." And I'll take it.

Rev: You take it from them, and there's a burst of flame. And you are standing in the downstairs lobby of Lady Jencie's building.

Tass: OK. Is anybody around?

Rev: You don't see anyone, but you do hear voices in her office upstairs.

Tass: OK. I'll just sit and wait, because I think that's probably the polite thing.

Rev: After a moment, Damien steps out. And he gestures to you, and you can see that his eyes are big. For a demon who's kind of made of fire, it seems like he's sweating.

Tass: OK, so it's that bad. Can I ... I don't know, can I get a read off of him? Like, what level of worry I need to have here?

Rev: Yeah, why don't you roll a Figure Someone Out? Because he he isn't saying anything to you, but his facial expressions are tragically grotesque.

Jake: God.

Kim: He's going on a face journey.

Rev: Yeah.

Tass: Seven.

Rev: All right. So you can ask two of those questions on the list. He will ask you one back. And since Damien is in your Circle, you also get to ask an additional question, even on a miss. So you get three.

Tass: OK. What does your character worry is going to happen?

Rev: Damien is worried that you're going to be found out as not a member of this faction. And he is worried of that because you can tell he's not talking because he cannot talk.

Tass: Oof, OK.

Rev: And so I think that's the thing he's trying to get you to understand is shut up. Because we can't talk in this room. Like not not supposed to, can't.

Tass: OK. Intriguing. I think I'm suddenly shifting to a little worry for him as well, as opposed to the constant worry about myself.

Rev: Yeah, yeah.

Tass: So I think I would ask, what's your character hoping to get from me going in here? Like, it's kind of a long winded way of saying, how can I help you? As opposed to just stay safe?

Rev: What he hopes to get out of this is ... Frankly, the thing he wants out of this is both of you out of this room. Like he wants it to pass, and for it to be done, and the two of you to be OK. So I think the thing that he wants to get out of this is both of you accepting whatever punishment is coming.

Tass: Got it. How could I put you in my debt?

Rev: By being the model underling. If you come in and it is clear to Lady Jensie he has done a good job of reforming you — someone who was brought here because they have disciplinary issues and don't follow orders. If you come in and seem to fall in line, that will reflect well on him.

Tass: OK.

Rev: He wants to know ... What is your character's beef with him? He's heard you say that like he and Strohm are kind of the same to you, and that really hurts his feelings.

Kim: [Laughs] I was like like, really?

Rev: What does your character worry is going to happen?

Tass: Man, I don't know how this could possibly be conveyed, but it's ... Really, it's worry over whatever I'm about to walk into is going to cause enough problems that it's gonna be harder for us to get into this room safely to deal with the Flintlock.

Rev: OK. With that, Damien turns and escorts you into the room. It is a beautiful office. Hardwood, a beautiful desk, very plush chairs, a chandelier. On the wall, behind Lady

Jensie's desk, you can see the Flintlock on a frame. Sitting in the chair across from her at her table is a face you recognize: Aiden Chambers.

Tass: [Sighs]

Rev: He is holding a drink that Lady Jensie has just poured for him. And when you step in the room, she stops and looks at you.

Rev: LADY JENSIE: Is this the one?

Rev: He nods. And she starts to walk towards you.

Kim: [Laughs]

Rev: LADY JENSIE: Now my understanding was that you said we would be in line with the ways of acting, with the ways that this house should be represented. And I have just gotten word that just the other night you made a threat against the life of one of the other faction heads, one we are allied with. And no less, in defense of Strohm.

Tass: I don't think that it's an act here at all that I do look ashamed, because I am. I didn't want it to play out like this.

Rev: [Chuckles]

Tass: So I simply give a small nod.

Rev: LADY JENSIE: I'm curious what would happen if I were to ask you why you were aiding Strohm, someone who has caused this house no end of grief. Someone who this good boy, Damien, has had a very longstanding grudge with.

Rev: She examines you for a long moment and then turns away.

Rev: LADY JENSIE: I'm not sure I want to know. The answer might just ... Well, it might just push me over the edge and lead to some unfriendliness happening in this office, and none of us want that. So Mr. Chambers, what can we do to rectify this, in your eyes?

Rev: Aiden looks from her to you and grins.

Rev: AIDEN CHAMBERS: Well, he made such a beautiful statement about my outfit, about how he loved the look of it, and he thought it was just his size. I think a few favors from him certainly would start the ball rolling. Of course, dressed just like this, since he likes it so much.

Rev: Lady Jensie sits on the edge of her desk and gives a shrewd smile.

Rev: LADY JENSIE: If I were to grant you these favors, then the deals we have made could continue unhindered?

Rev: AIDEN CHAMBERS: Yes, I believe so. I have been more than a little absent the past few months, and my house is out of sorts. I've been doing a little cleaning. So I think it will be nice to have someone I can send out for special jobs, as a surprise.

Rev: And Lady Jensie nods, and she turns to you and to Damien.

Rev: LADY JENSIE: Get out of my sight.

Tass: I turn on a heel and leave.

Rev: He follows. The two of you make it down the stairs, and you see the sheen of sweat on Damien evaporate, like he is no longer under this compulsion. And he takes a deep breath and pushes his way out the front door away from the house, like towards his car.

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Holy fucking hell, man.

Tass: "Sorry."

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: What happened?

Tass: "Let's take a drive."

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Yeah, all right.

Rev: And the two of you get into his car and drive away. That brings us to Power, and the featured faction is Clan Ozymandias. And during this time, we find Kim. Kim, where are you staying now?

Rev: If the oracles are staying at The Rookery, then that's where I'm staying. Jake, do you need a roommate?

Jake: Hell yeah, we're gonna get bunk beds.

Kim: OK.

Jake: We're gonna do masks.

Kim: [Laughs]

Rev: So we find Kim unpacking her few belongings at The Rookery. And as you are going through the things that you had on you, you do have, essentially, Strohm's shell. You know, the the look that she had before she drained it of all the beetles.

Kim: You're really trying not to say skin suit, are you?

Rev: I'm really trying not to say skin suit. And as you are kind of separating the clothes and tucking this away, you do notice that with it is the Necklace of the North Wind.

Kim: God. I forgot that logically this would have been on her. I assumed that this had been lost at The Vault. Yeah, I will hold it and stare at it. Could I use Psychometry?

Rev: Yeah. Roll it.

Kim: Thirteen.

Rev: All right. You get a hold 3.

Kim: The first one, what is the history of this object?

Rev: This object is very old, and you get this weird sense of it existing in other places than this reality. You know, there has been just a little talk from them about going to dimensions, and you have read through the journals left by the IPT. There are some lynchpins in dimensions, something that always exists.

Kim: Like the Baba Yaga.

Rev: Exactly. And you get the feeling that this necklace is another one of those items.

Kim: Huh. OK. What bans, wards, or limits are attached to this object?

Rev: You get this very strange read off of this item. It seems as if it should be able to give you a prophetic vision of the day. Like that is what Strohm has told you, that is what it seems like you have experienced her doing. But as you study it closer and you take the energy from it into yourself, you can feel that it interferes with what's going on with you Kim, as an oracle. Strohm had talked to you about how since the moment she became an oracle, she never had a clear or correct vision. It might be because the magic of this was interfering with her own new innate magic. That if she had removed this, she might have gotten useful visions. But that something about it, if you have power or if you have access to your power, they seem to scramble. So I think that there are two things that that means. One, if there was someone without power, they might be able to use it. Two, if you could put yourself in a position where you are cut off from your powers, you might be able to use it.

Kim: So you're saying, I can't just put this necklace on and then instantly know everything that's going to happen all the time, everyday?

Rev: You will get some wild visions, like Strohm had been getting.

Megan: [Laughs] This game is broken.

Rev: You're gonna get otherworldly visions.

Kim: Is there a way to keep it on my person? Because I don't want to leave it in my room. Is it, like, can I put it in my pocket and it's OK?

Rev: Yeah, absolutely. Like, you could wear it ... How do I want to say this? You could wear it symbolically. Let's think of it like, um ... What is it? Like, don't attune to it.

Megan: Yeah, that's what I was about to say.

Kim: Yeah, OK.

Megan: Like, it's not attuned, so it's not affecting you.

Rev: Yeah.

Kim: Yeah. I mean, I already use the tarot as my prophetic tools. Like as long as I don't like, say "this is my prophetic tool."

Rev: Yes, absolutely.

Kim: OK. OK.

Rev: Strohm had made this her prophetic tool, and that's where some of the interference came from.

Kim: Gotcha. OK.

Rev: Absolutely.

Kim: OK. Cool, cool. Because I do want to wear it. Of course I want to wear it. [Laughs]

Rev: Yeah. And I think that you do know that what it will do if you put it on and you have found a way to, you know, I don't know, put yourself in a Faraday cage of psychic powers, or if you put it on someone without powers, that ... Because I've worked on this a very long time. Like, what do I do if someone ever gets this necklace? So basically, it gives you the ability to turn any failed role into a success instantly, once a day. But it does, after that point, give you a -1 ongoing to perception based things.

Kim: Gotcha. Um ... What secrets or mysteries has this object been privy to?

Rev: That's a very good question.

Kim: Thank you. I didn't come up with it. It's on my sheet.

Rev: [Chuckles] This necklace has been there since the beginning. That as part of the creation of any dimension, any reality, this seems to instantly be part of it. And at moments of great change, it is almost always present. And so it has seen the fall of gods, the rise of empires. But I think in connection to our specific story, it has seen what happened the first time death was captured.

Kim: Do I see that vision?

Rev: Yeah, I think so. I think that as you are clutching it and getting these visions from it ... There are eight figures standing in a circle. They fluctuate in the way that they look, but they all resonate with a different energy. And at the center of this circle is this gaunt, long haired figure, carrying a very long, two handed sword. And there are two other people there besides whoever is wearing this necklace in this moment. Like you realize you're seeing out of someone's eyes.

Kim: Mmhmm.

Rev: But you're not sure who. Standing to your left and right, on your left is someone you've read about and never seen: this ancient crone, hunched down. Her flesh, wrinkled yet stretchy. She's got these large metal teeth, and she is watching what is going on in the circle. And then on the other side is this woman with long, dark hair and ebony skin. She is wielding a two handed spear and it is shining with a bright light. And it seems like the three of them are waiting for a moment before they act. And then it fades out.

Kim: Wow, OK. I'm gonna put on the necklace.

Rev: And as you do, there is a soft knock at your door.

Kim: "Who is it?"

Rev: MAXWELL: It is Maxwell. I am here to deliver a message from the head of Clan Ozymandias.

Kim: Yeah, I'll go over and open the door.

Rev: In front of you is a very impeccably dressed older man. He's got silver hair slicked back, and is wearing a very nice suit.

Rev: MAXWELL: With the change of leadership, the one who leads us thought it might be time for a meeting of the leaders of the Circle.

Kim: "I agree. It would be good to meet everyone."

Rev: MAXWELL: Very well. Tomorrow night, at the Carbide and Carbon building. We'll be expecting you.

Rev: And he hands you an invitation.

Kim: I will look at it.

Rev: It's dapper as fuck. It's, uh ...

Jake: It says ... The same stuff.

Rev: Yeah. Except —

Jake: He was reading all of it.

Rev: Except really frilly, and in gold.

Kim: Ooh.

Rev: Yeah.

Kim: Does it say that I can bring a plus one?

Rev: It does not.

Kim: Damn. OK.

Rev: Yeah.

Jake: Chicken or fish?

Rev: And then that brings us to Wild, and this faction is The Lost Ones. So Jake, as you are leaving The Rookery, you notice that there are five or six people dressed exactly the same, carrying briefcases. The same hat, the exact same face. And they are just lined around your car, waiting.

Jake: Are they watching me?

Rev: They're not, they are ...

Tass: Keying the shit out of here.

Jake: [Laughs]

Kim: They're egging it.

Rev: No, they are admiring your car.

Jake: I'm gonna go back inside.

Rev: As you turn to go back inside, there are four more of those men standing there, but without the suitcases. And they're just looking inside the building. But they are on either side of the door.

Tass: You broke him.

Kim: This is awful.

Jake: And they weren't there a moment ago when I walked out that door?

Rev: Correct.

Kim: [Snorts]

Jake: I want to look around and see — just is everybody these? Like is everyone I see these briefcase individuals now?

Rev: They're not. But you don't see a whole lot of other people out on the street at this moment.

Jake: I think I turned back to the ones by the car and just call out, "Hey, what are you doing?"

Rev: And you notice that they don't have their suitcases anymore. And as you call out to them, they turn in different directions and just walk away.

Jake: What the fuck? I'm gonna — I'm getting one of them. I'm going to try and grab one of them.

Rev: OK. You go up and you grab a hold of one of them, and they spin and look at you. And as soon as they're facing you, they look exactly like you.

Megan: Hmm, no.

Kim: No.

Jake: "Who are you? What are you all doing here?"

Jake: DOPPELGANGER JAKE: We've come to take you for a visit.

Tass: I hate this so much!

Megan: This is so scary! Oh god. I want to throw up. Oh ...

Jake: "A visit, where?"

Jake: DOPPELGANGER JAKE: Just get in the car. We'll show you the way.

Tass: Don't fuck with the fey.

Jake: I don't know how to ask ... Like overall, this seems very creepy. But do I get the impression that they mean me harm? Or does this really just seem like a very poorly calculated ... Like they're not doing a good job of making a good impression, but like they really just, like, want to take me somewhere or show me something?

Rev: Why don't you Figure Someone Out?

Jake: Yeah, OK.

Megan: I would never be this nice to myself.

Kim: They're wearing your face.

Jake: Boxcars.

Megan: Nice.

Rev: All right. So you get to ask two.

Jake: What's your character hoping to get from me coming along?

Rev: Praise, for doing a good job.

Jake: Who's pulling your character's strings?

Rev: Mother.

Jake: I think I let go of them and kind of just push them away from me a little bit, like a couple inches. And shake my head a little bit, and then nod instead. "Well, one way or another, this is gonna happen eventually, so ... OK."

Rev: It gestures to your car. And as it does, it turns back into the same look that they're all wearing.

Jake: I'll go get in the car.

Rev: You open up the car and climb inside, and there's this brief moment where it doesn't quite feel right, the car. The seat's a little too leathery, as is the steering wheel. The camera pans out of Jake's driver's side window and we see the whole body of the car shift and shudder as the hood opens just a little bit, revealing a set of sharp teeth and a long tongue. A pair of eyes open just above the windshield as this enormous mimic drives off into the night, with Jake inside.

SFX:

OUTRO MUSIC

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