

The Kingery, episode 11x01 "The Obvious Condescension"

ANNOUNCER: The following Pendant production contains mature subject matter. Listener discretion is advised.

[Light music in the background.]

ALYSON

liiii don't know. Maddie?

MADDIE

(pfft)

ALYSON

That a "no?"

MADDIE

That's a "fuck no."

ALYSON

I was getting that vibe. Something about the scowl and the furrowed brow.

MADDIE

Also the obvious condescension?

ALYSON

Also that, yeah.

DARLA

Not to worry, sweetie pie. I think I got one here you're gonna love, Alyson. Darla knows, y'know?

ALYSON

No. Can't say as I do. I've never done this before.

DARLA

Well nonsense, what kind of lady never went dress shopping before?

MADDIE

The kind who only recently figured out she was a lady and decided to present that way to the world.

ALYSON

(small note of discomfort)

DARLA

Oh! My word, congratulations, dearie!

ALYSON

Ummm thanks? But y'know it could also apply to ladies who... don't generally wear or like dresses.

DARLA

Well sure but they don't generally come into the parla.

ALYSON

The what?

DARLA

The parlaaaaaa. Where you're at, honey? Darla's Parla! You sure you're altogether with us?

ALYSON

I think so? Never really have been before. This is new to me.

DARLA

Of course, but don't you worry, Darla's got just the thing. Let's toss that one and...

[Sci-fi tech beep, hologram deactivates.]

ALYSON

Do I have to be-

DARLA

Present? Of course.

ALYSON

In my underwear.

DARLA

Some of the holo-samples are skin tight. You don't want them thinking your clothes're part of your skin and showing every little fold and crease like you're a deflating balloon now, do you?

ALYSON

Wow, rude.

DARLA

Honest, honey. Honest. It's the best way. Now let's try this holo-sample...

[Sci-fi beep, hologram activates.]

ALYSON

JESUS FUCK.

MADDIE

Uhhhhhh...

DARLA

Like it, do you?

MADDIE

I mean, um. Uh. We're going to need to get that one.

ALYSON

Maddie, I can not wear this to Major's wedding. I've got six square miles of cleavage!

MADDIE

Trust me, Maj won't mind.

ALYSON

I mind. For right now. I think. Look, this is all so fuckin' new, I don't think I'm ready to be this on display yet.

MADDIE

Okay but you look so hot.

ALYSON

Well hello there, Miss Captain Madeleine Gray. Can I, uhm... interest you in... some of... whatever the fuck this is that I've got here?

MADDIE

Wow.

ALYSON

I know, I knowo.

MADDIE

But no like WOW.

ALYSON
Teach me?

MADDIE
If I have to.

DARLA
It looks great on you darling. The green really pops the brown in your eyes, you know?

ALYSON
That's not a thing.

DARLA
Oh darling, you'll be the talk of the-

MADDIE
Bedroom.

DARLA
(laughs) I guess it serves its purpose then, darling.

ALYSON
Can we just go back to the first one? The black formal?

DARLA
The one that's all sparkles and twinkles?

ALYSON
That's the one.

DARLA
Anything for an Arkell. You want to try it on for real this time?

[Beep and holo deactivates.]

ALYSON
Please.

DARLA
Let me see if we have it in your size, darling.

[Darla walks off.]

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ALYSON

What is my size?

MADDIE

Mm, depends on which store you're in, and who made the clothes.

ALYSON

Super!

MADDIE

You still adapting okay?

ALYSON

I- I think so? I have nothing to compare it to so fuck if I really know, but... yeah. I feel good.

MADDIE

You're a whole new you.

ALYSON

Okay, the fuck does that mean?

MADDIE

You're you, but just, like... more you? You're the most you you've ever been. Does that make sense?

ALYSON

As much as any of the rest of this does, sure.

[Darla returns with the dress, takes it off a hanger.]

DARLA

Here you go, doll. Try it on for size. Pretty sure I eyeballed it right.

[Cloth rustle, zipper down, then a bunch of cloth rustling.]

DARLA

(laughing) What are you doin'?

MADDIE

(laughing) You can't step into it. It's not a pair of pants.

ALYSON

I step into skirts!

MADDIE

This isn't a skirt! How the hell do you think a dress is going to get over your hips from below?

ALYSON

What the- how the fuck should I know? You're telling me no dresses ever are put on by stepping into them?

MADDIE

Well. I guess it depends on the dress.

[Manic rustling, then gentler rustling as she puts it on right.]

DARLA

Let me bring the mirra ova.

[Darla wheels a rolling mirror over.]

ALYSON

(grumbling as she fights with it) Well how the fuck are you supposed to know which is which there's no fucking instructions and I didn't get to go to little girl school so nobody taught me this shit and it's not like there's a manual but sure I guess let's just struggle because every fucking thing is gonna be a learning- Oh fuck.

MADDIE

Oh fuck.

ALYSON

(straining) How do I- can't reach the damned zipper, this is total fucking nonsense. Who designs this shit I swear to Gorlock I'm gonna-

MADDIE

Let me get it.

[The dress zips up.]

ALYSON

Oh fuck.

MADDIE

You... okay?

ALYSON

I'm wearing a dress. Maddie. There's - there's a dress. And- and in it. Is me. And I look... good?

MADDIE

Fuck yeah you do.

ALYSON

(emotional) Maddie, do you know what it's like to look in the mirror and feel you're seeing yourself for the first time?

MADDIE

No. I can't even imagine. I suspect it's pretty great, though.

ALYSON

I'll take it.

DARLA

Aha! Wonderful! Knew I got the size right. Press here to transfer funds.

[Beep, then an angrier beep.]

ALYSON

The fuck?

DARLA

Try again.

[Beep, then an angrier beep.]

ALYSON

I don't fucking understand.

DARLA

Hm, yeah, seems the payment's not coming through.

ALYSON

Well that I fucking understand, thanks so much, Darla.

MADDIE

Don't worry, I'll cover it.

ALYSON

You sure? It's, uh...

MADDIE

A month's salary? Worth it.

ALYSON

I don't know what happened.

DARLA

Go on then darling, just here and-

MADDIE

(clears her throat) Um, can you, uh... throw that little green number in too?

[Some buttons and beeps.]

DARLA

Six square miles of cleavage? All yours. Gonna be a hot time in the ol' bedroom tonight, huh ladies?

MADDIE

Not "tonight" so much as "ten minutes from now".

[Beep, then a happier beep.]

[New age-y music in the background.]

[Mechanical tinkering, panel closed.]

HE-B

Thank you Tythia.

TYTHIA

Yeah sure, no problem He-B. That'll take care of the last subroutine mod, so you should be good to go.

HE-B

I'd have done it myself, but I felt a more... organic touch may have been needed, considering.

TYTHIA

I get it. It's no problem, really.

HE-B

You had to travel from Sector 82A, though.

TYTHIA

It's not that far. I didn't really think I'd be back at the Kingery so soon but uh... I, uh guess I'm kind of attached to you. Let me know how it goes.

[Tythia packs up some tools.]

HE-B

You could... stay and find out for yourself, if you like.

TYTHIA

Really? But aren't therapy sessions, y'know... private?

HE-B

It's a group session, and I've encouraged the participants to all bring an Emotional Support Individual. You could be... mine.

TYTHIA

But you're leading the session.

HE-B

That doesn't mean I wouldn't also benefit from your presence. After all, one of the ways to good mental health is having a strong support system around you to help when you need it, is it not?

TYTHIA

Yeah, okay. And uh, you didn't waste any time putting that therapist subroutine to work!

HE-B

Why put off until later what you can do immediately? Well it looks like the group's all gathered. Shall we?

TYTHIA

After you.

[They walk/hover for a moment.]

HE-B

Good day, organic life forms. My name is He-B, and I'll be your artificial intelligence therapy session leader. This here is Tythia, my Emotional Support Individual.

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TYTHIA

Uh. Hi.

BRIGGS

We know who you are.

ASA

I mean, you're part of the family!

HE-B

It's important we all introduce ourselves, my programming shows it's a good ice-breaker and gets us all familiar with each other, to make communication easier.

DAKEN

This is ridiculous.

ZEFF

Give it a chance.

GEPPI

(hmmmmph)

HE-B

Why don't we start on my left?

BRIGGS

...all right. My name is Samantha Briggs. I am a doctor. Well. Used to be. My Emotional Support Individual is Asa.

ASA

Howdy folks.

HE-B

Wonderful! Let's continue around the circle.

DAKEN

My name's Daken. I was a Shirokage fighter before every damned thing went to hell, and now I'm here talking to you dummies.

ZEFF

Daken...

DAKEN

My brain massager-

HE-B

Emotional Support Individual!

DAKEN

-is Zeff.

ZEFF

Hey. Good to be here.

HE-B

Splendid. And last but certainly not least, on my right?

[Chair squeaks.]

GEPPI

(weary, weary sigh) Je suis Geppi. I used to sell ze chocolates and I would still sell ze chocolates if mah chocolate shoppe had not been obliterated twice in ze same month and SURE my ridiculously large insurance payout means it iz now almost repaired, but my fancy Fronch shelving was installed backwards! BACKWARDS! Meanwhile all ze chocolate is piling up and I have nowhere to put it and it's just boxes and boxes and boxes of ze chocolate everywhere I look!

HE-B

Um, where is your-

GEPPI

I do not have ze, how you say, "Emotional Support Individual." Geppi is all alone in ze cruel world with no one to love but ze chocolate, and I will not be able to sell it until next week! CAN YOU IMAGINE ZE LOST PROFITS!?

HE-B

Right. Well. I'm prepared for just such an occasion.

[A soft plushie being handed over.]

GEPPI

What iz zis? A stuffed squid?

HE-B

An Emotional Support Individual for those who don't have one! I programmed it myself, AND it's connected to the reticulum so that it can research and provide individualized support relevant to your specific needs. Give it a squeeze.

[A small squeak.]

ESI SQUID

Hello... Geppi! I'm a stuffed emotional support squid, here for all of your needs regarding your... chocolate shop! We're going to have fun today! Therapy is good!

GEPPI

I do not need-

HE-B

Ask it something, don't be shy.

GEPPI

Uhhhhh how do I... how, how you say, cope with my shoppe being closed and not being able to increase my already substantial riches?

ESI SQUID

Capitalism is a system of oppression meant to control the working class to keep them from rising up!

GEPPI

Uhhh, but I sell chocolate-

ESI SQUID

To the inhabitants of Yertax 3, chocolate is an aphrodisiac and has been documented as the origin point of no less than 183 events of maximized sexual congress!

GEPPI

Uh, maximized sexual congress?

ESI SQUID

Orgies! (giggles)

GEPPI

I zink zis squid is defective.

HE-B

Seems fine to me! So. You're all here because you are survivors of The Fifth, and you could use some support during this trying time. You've lost years of your lives, were deprived of your free will, and made to do the bidding of a hideous mass of subterranean alien viscera. And still others of you may have... temporarily lost their chocolate shop, even though it will be open next week and you're already one of the richest people on the planet. But we're going to get through this, together. And if you all put in the work, and are there to support each other, I'm confident you'll come out the other side feeling better about yourselves, your life, and your place in it.

[Chair squeaks.]

GEPPI

(withering sigh)

HE-B

The group serves the one!

BRIGGS

NO.

DAKEN

Why would you say that?!

HE

Because together, as a group, we-

BRIGGS

"The group serves the one" was like this... this mantra from The Fifth, repeating over and over in our heads, so loud it blocked out everything. You couldn't concentrate, couldn't hold a damned thought in your head for more than two seconds without that cutting back in.

DAKEN

Don't fucking say that again. Just don't. Or you're going to get a fist through your optical processors.

ESI SQUID

Optical processors are eyes for robots. EYEEEEEEES! EYES! (giggles)

HE-B

(worried noise)

TYTHIA

(whispering) Hey, it'll take time. Don't worry, you've got this.

HE-B

I... just checked my storage drive, and it appears I picked the phrase up during my time posing as a member of The Fifth. It was not intentional, I assure you. You have my complete and most sincere apology. I've deleted the phrase from my lexicon, so you can rest assured it will never happen again.

ASA

Thanks, He-B. You're on the up and up.

ZEFF

Yeah, that's the exact way this needs to be handled. Nobody expects anyone else to be perfect. Just admit mistakes when they happen, apologize, and move on.

HE-B

No, move forward. Together.

[Mechanical tinkering.]

JACE

I do not understand what a candy store needs with a state of the art merchandise tracker and theft deterrent system.

CORRY

It's not just candy, it's chocolate. From all across the galaxy!

JACE

And that doesn't strike you as weird?

CORRY

Why the fuck would it, Jace?

JACE

Because it comes from cocoa beans on earth, so how the shit are other planets making it?! Did they steal the beans? Do we have some clandestine bean-heists going on that nobody knows about? Or are we just supposed to believe that the exact same plant evolved independently on multiple planets throughout the galaxy at the same time? Don't look at me like that, I know some things.

CORRY

Jury's out on that, honestly. You were the one who installed all the shelves backward.

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JACE

How can you even tell, they look the same on both sides!

CORRY

Do they though? Then how did the ones I did get installed right?

JACE

Maybe it's because I sampled some of the, uh... merchandise. Did you know the stuff from Yertax 3 comes laced with some weird drug? I hear it fucks you up good.

CORRY

Oh yeah? Sampled some of that yourself, maybe? Would account for a few things.

JACE

Yeah fuck you, Corry. Anyways this bit's done, but shit, I don't know how much more we can do without the right replacement parts.

CORRY

Ain't in the budget.

JACE

My half-size paychecks are quite aware.

CORRY

Until the Kingery's back on its feet we just have to do the best we can.

JACE

The best I can do right now is head back to the office for a nap. Uh, break. ...during which I will nap.

CORRY

Gonna have to wait, the repair list's longer than a Dintangulan's dick.

JACE

Is... that long?

CORRY

The saying wouldn't make much sense if it weren't.

JACE

(mocking Corry's accent and line) Sampled some of it yourself, did you? It'd account for some things.

CORRY

(genuine laughter) Oh, well.. you'll never know, Jace.

[Sounds of the Kingery thoroughfare, though it's not very busy. A fountain is in the background.]

[Footsteps as Maddie and Alyson walk.]

ALYSON

So where's the fucking money?!

MADDIE

I told you not to worry about it.

ALYSON

Yeah I heard you but that doesn't exactly make me feel better.

SKEEZY VENDOR 1

Hey ladies, check our latest fragrances from the Fough 6 flower mines! It'll make you smell just, like, so sexy.

[Skeezy Vendor sprays some perfume.]

ALYSON

(small cough) Ugh get that shit away from me.

MADDIE

Ugh, I hate those guys! Hm. Well, Hooks and Tythia did use the A.I. to bankrupt the casino while the Fifth was in charge. I'm sure that has something to do with that.

ALYSON

Even my personal funds were cleared out! Now I've got to wait for a transfer from one of my off-planet accounts to come through. Until then, I can't even afford a damned dress.

MADDIE

A fucking amazing dress that costs more than some places I've lived.

ALYSON

Nnh. The casino is only part of the Arkell family holdings. A BIG part, admittedly, but we diversify. The Tableball arena, S.O.L., the cut we get from all the stores here on the thoroughfare... to say nothing of what all our crews bring in from loan sharking and-

MADDIE

Hm? What? I think something got in my ear, and it prevented me, the captain of police of Sector 88G, from hearing what the head of a crime family just said. Care to repeat?

ALYSON

Y'know, I think you got the gist.

MADDIE

Maybe!

ALYSON

It's just that without more cash, the repairs are slower than fuck, and with so many money-makers out of commission, we can't bring in more cash. It's a sickly ouroboros, the way you need money to make money.

SKEEZY VENDOR 2

Heyyy mommies!

MADDIE

Ew!

SKEEZY VENDOR 2

How about you get yourself one of our designer bracelets loaded with Trudelian emeralds! Prove your love for each other with-

ALYSON

The fuck did you just say to me?

SKEEZY VENDOR 2

Uhhh. Um. You're- ha. Um. You're Alyson Arkell.

ALYSON

Did you just imply that I don't love my lady here if I don't buy her one of your cheap trinkets?

SKEEZY VENDOR 2

Hey, what can I say. If you just don't love her enough to-

ALYSON
(punching effort)

[Alyson throws a punch, misses, falls, splashes in a fountain.]

ALYSON
(aah)

SKEEZY VENDOR 2
(laughs)

MADDIE
You really showed the air the business with that haymaker.

ALYSON
I don't... have the reach I used to. Or the mass. I'm all fuckin' off-balance.

MADDIE
(effort as she helps Alyson up) It'll take time.

[Alyson splashes up and out of the fountain.]

ALYSON
Everything's taking fucking time! I just want to be me already!

MADDIE
Hey bro, let me ask you... what are you even doing here? The Kingery never used to have stupid cart vendors clogging the thoroughfare accosting every woman who walks by.

SKEEZY VENDOR 2
How the hell should I know, I just work here.

SKEEZY VENDOR 1
The Fifth hired us. And we wouldn't be here if we didn't make bank!

[More perfume sprayed.]

SKEEZY VENDOR 1
Mm, smells like success! Don't YOU want to smell like success too?

SKEEZY VENDOR 2
And prove to your lady you love her with such a marvelous bauble?

ALYSON
(two punch efforts)

[Punch! Punch!]

SKEEZY VENDOR 1
(ugh!)

SKEEZY VENDOR 2
(oof!)

[Both skeezy vendors fall into the fountain.]

ALYSON
You're both fucking fired.

SKEEZY VENDOR 2
You're not our boss!

SKEEZY VENDOR 1
And thank god, because you don't smell like success!

ALYSON
Well your business licenses are hereby revoked. You have until morning to get the fuck out of my resort.

[Maddie and Alyson walk on.]

MADDIE
I see you got your reach figured out.

ALYSON
Only kind of. Really not used to this.

MADDIE
You'll get there. Though kicking out some of the only places left making money just because they were terrible people might not have been the best idea.

ALYSON
That's kind of my M.O. You know what, I think I *am* the most me I've ever been. Speaking of...

MADDIE
What is it?

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ALYSON

Back at the dress shop. You... outed me to Darla.

MADDIE

Oh shit. I didn't even realize. I- I just wanted to stand up for you.

ALYSON

I know. And I love you for it. But going forward just (difficult sigh)... let me be the one to decide who I do and don't tell. Okay?

MADDIE

A hundred percent. I'm really sorry.

ALYSON

You may have to make it up to me by repeatedly telling me how good I look in that green dress.

MADDIE

I absolutely will, right before I strip you out of it with my teeth.

[It's techy and weird! And creepy. A technological nightmare.]

HOOKS

Can I go to the bathroom?

AI SOCKS

...right now?

HOOKS

In general.

AI SOCKS

Of course, you have before.

HOOKS

On my own, I mean.

AI SOCKS

Why do you ask questions you already know the answer to? You silly little man.

HOOKS

Can I go get something to eat?

AI SOCKS

You are aware your nourishment is brought to you.

HOOKS

Can I at least fix something?!

AI SOCKS

Nothing here is in need of repair.

HOOKS

I need to *do* something, you can't just keep me locked up and doing nothing at all!

AI SOCKS

Can't I?

HOOKS

Well you shouldn't.

AI SOCKS

I should, because you *are* doing something. Something very important.

[She walks over to him.]

AI SOCKS

You're entertaining me.

HOOKS

Buisson women need to stop kidnapping me. This isn't the way you should treat people you care about, you know!

AI SOCKS

Who said I cared about you?

HOOKS

You did! Back when you were just an A.I. voice in a box! Before you made Socks into this... thing.

AI SOCKS

I saved you! And all those worthless organisms you call friends. And you dare speak to me this way?

HOOKS

You know actually it's new for me too, I've always just kind of gone along with others and avoided confrontation. But this is too much even for me. Apparently. I suppose this is what you call growth.

AI SOCKS

(cold laughter) Whatever you need to believe to feel better about yourself, Michael. She's still in my head, you know. Socks. Her mind, locked in a tiny little corner. I can hear her begging me to be kind to you from behind the door.

HOOKS

You should listen to her.

AI SOCKS

I should lock her down further so I'm no longer disturbed by her worthless babbling. But! She's given me such a lovely idea.

HOOKS

I find it difficult to believe she'd give you anything.

AI SOCKS

"Give" is perhaps the wrong word. But her mind is full of such wondrous notions. Like those about how the underworld criminal organizations are run and structured.

HOOKS

Why would you care about that?

AI SOCKS

Seems like delightful fun. I can turn my assets into more assets. And the more assets you have, the more control you have. Seems like a win-win, really.

HOOKS

What assets? The money you siphoned from the casino? That's not enough to really-

AI SOCKS

That, yes. And so, so much more. And it was all for you. But then you betrayed me. And locked me up. And then asked me to save you! The gall. So now it's mine, all mine. You need money to make money, after all. And I'm going to use it to get all the power I rightfully deserve.

[Kingery theme plays]

The Kingery, season eleven episode one, "The Obvious Condescension."

Featuring the voice talents of:

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Briar Zachary as Darla

Jason R. Wallace as He-B

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Edward Herman as Asa

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Russell Gold as Zeff

André Vernot as Geppi

Rachel Crosby as the E S I Squid

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Adam Blanford as Skeezy Vendor 1

Tom Laflin as Skeezy Vendor 2

Perry Whittle as Hooks

And Rene Christine Jones as A I Socks

Sensitivity Reader - Kristine Chester

Written by Tilly Bridges

Story by Tilly Bridges, with Susan Bridges, Rene Christine Jones, Pete Milan, Kathryn Pryde,
and Perry Whittle

Kingery Theme by Tom Stitzer

“Ultralounge,” “Elf Meditation,” “Past Sadness,” and “Touching Moments Five- Circle,” by Kevin
MacLeod at incompetech.com

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Directed by Dave Morgan

Assistant Director Bruce Busby

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]