

The Kingery, episode 11x12 “The Real You”

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

[Concertina music plays beneath the sounds of a boisterous crowd.]

AI SOCKS

Minions! The time has come to wreak havoc upon the Kingery Road Resort and Casino.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

For fuck's sake, don't be so dramatic.

AI SOCKS

They think they're SO special just because they've been around for fifty years and made billions of credits and serve soft cheeses in the casino any time of day or night. (A pause.) But they are not. No. They are vulnerable, and I should know. I hit them where it hurt the most - in the pocketbook.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

Nobody's said pocketbook in the past three hundred years, but sure.

AI DOCKS

And yet they stand! And ... sure, you may think this makes it somehow my fault, but I am here to tell you, that is not true.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

(almost laughing) It is, though. It really is.

AI SOCKS

I am the most evolved piece of creation ever assembled by atoms in the known universe, a fusion of perfect artificial intelligence and highly imperfect human flesh.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

Well, fuck you too!

AI SOCKS

And you, my Army of the Evolved, are well on your way to my perfection. We will make them pay for daring to steal back from me what I had rightfully stolen in the first place. Had I not bankrupted them, the Fifth would STILL rule the Kingery and all the criminal underworld with their insipid “the group serves the one”.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

Whoof. It hurts, but I gotta go with you on this one, ya fuckin' psycho.

AI SOCKS

I ask only that the group serve YOURSELVES! And I would like you to do so by serving me as we rip the Kingery to pieces!

[The PA system turns off with a squawk. The crowd gets louder, voices rising as they applaud.]

ORIGINAL SOCKS

We've REALLY gone bananas now, haven't we? Can I take control for a while, or is that against your artificial intelligence code of conduct?

AI SOCKS

Shut. Up.

[Water trickles in the background over the sound of a mob. Bells chime as a door opens and footsteps approach.]

ALYSON

Boom?

DARLA

(She yelps in surprise.)

ALYSON

Darla?

DARLA

Down behind the desk, darling.

[More footsteps as Alyson gets closer.]

ALYSON

Ah, there you are.

DARLA

Apologies for the lack of greeting when you entered. I fear present circumstances have left my hospitality lacking.

ALYSON

You'd almost think I didn't own the place anymore.

DARLA

Not at all! Only there's a mob, you know.

ALYSON

(Sacracstically) Oh, THAT'S what that is.

DARLA

Maybe you could try on dresses another time, sweetie pie?

ALYSON

Oh, believe me, I'd love to. That's not actually why I'm here today. I need to see your sales reports for the last couple of months.

DARLA

I give them to Major on time when she does her rounds. I'm never late on rent, I pay the vig, I've never DREAMED of skimming off the top, I -

ALYSON

No, no, I know. You're not in trouble. It's just a little project I'm working on.

DARLA

... now?

ALYSON

Now.

DARLA

In the desk, top drawer.

[Footsteps, as Alyson goes to the desk and opens the drawer.]

ALYSON

You mind if I hook this drive up to my personal system?

DARLA

Just take it, darling, it's fine. I have backups.

[Alyson closes the drawer.]

ALYSON

Thanks, Darla. You're a peach.

[Footsteps as Alyson walks away. The door opens and chimes again.]

ALYSON

(as she leaves) I'd keep your head down a while longer, to be safe.

[The door closes.]

DARLA

(muttering) You don't fuckin' say, sweetie.

[Birdsong and soft music play benesth two sets of footsteps and the quiet hum of machinery.]

TYTHIA

(sighs) I'm ... really glad you both came.

HE-B

It seems a fortuitous opportunity to ... supplement my programming.

PALLAS

You always talk like thst?

HE-B

Like what?

PALLAS

Mm, like you flip through a digital dictionary and pick out the most formal words you can find.

HE-B

I can choose smaller words if those are easier for you to understand.

PALLAS

Listen, you little hovering pile of sh-

[The sound of He-B hovering trails off.=.]

TYTHIA

This is the opposite of what I want!

HE-B

What did you expect?

[A coat rustles as they stop walking.]

PALLAS

I agree with the bot. For once.

TYTHIA

Y'know, "bot" is kind of derogatory.

PALLAS

Marches my attitude toward him.

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TYTHIA

Uh, okay, but he IS a person and you need to treat him like one.

[They start walking again. Another rustle of clothing.]

PALLAS

(sighs) Okay, that's fair.

TYTHIA

(A frustrated sigh,) That's a start, I guess.

[The sound of He-B hovering begins again.]

TYTHIA

I just - I just - I don't... I don't know how ... we move past this.

PALLAS

I want to. (A pause.) Well, I WANT to “want to”, if that makes sense.

HE-B

And SHE criticizes my speech.

TYTHIA

O-Okay okay okay!

[He-B stops hovering again.]

TYTHIA

Maybe the - the problem is that this is too ... direct. Like, a walk in the park gives us too MUCH focus and we need something else, like Maybe food.

HE-B

I would be happy to join the two of you for a meal, even though I find the occasion somewhat exclusionary given I have no need for comestibles, but the previous attempt at your birthday resulted in an unfortuitous outcome.

PALLA

Uh, it was a fucking disaster?

TYTHIA

But that's because I sprung it on you, because didn't even really know my own feelings yet. And-And I shouldn't have done that, and I AM sorry. But now I DO know AND ... Sarah's is just around the corner.

PALLAS

All right. But I'm not eating kowe. [Note: this is pronounced coo-ee]

HE-B

Me either. (A pause.) Obviously.

TYTHIA

(amused) Fine, fine, hey, it's fine. It's fine! M ore for me, ya heathens.

[Nature sounds are replced by the sound of a mob and the trio stop walking again. The next lines are immediately on top of each other.]

PALLAS

What -

HE-B

- the -

TYTHIA

- FUCK?

[Running footsteps and the sound of something being sprayed in the air as the commotion continues.]

TYTHIA

Agh, my eyes! Ooh! Son of a -

BERNICE

It's my newest invention. I call it "hair spray". It grows hair from any organic body part it touches. Isn't that a DREAM?

[Tythia continues to make sounds of pain.]

BERNICE

This moment brought to you courtesy of the Army of the Evolved. "Hair spray" is incorporated, trademarked, and other business-type words by BowerWorx LLC, a legally separate entity from Bernice Bowerman. By listening to this, you surrender your right to sue.

[Running footsteps as Bernice flees.]

BERNICE

(as she goes) Look me up for my lollipops that taste like elbows and make you exceptionally good at trigonometry. New batch coming next week!

[Bells chime as a door is pushed open and running footsteps approach, over the sounds of the mob outside. Water continues to trickle in the background as well.]

DARLA

I don't have any money!

JACE

How do you not have any money? This place is fancier 'n a bull in a bowtie.

CORRY

Jace. She's just trying to protect herself. What would you have her yell, "I have all the money twixt my titties, come take it?"

JACE

All right, yeah, fair point.

CORRY

Also where the fuck are you from that bulls wear bowties?

JACE

It's a sayin'. People say it.

CORRU

YOU say it, but you're not a person. You're a dumbass.

JACE

Then I'm in good company.

DARLA

Can I ... help you? You're the wrenches, right?

CORRY

Right! We was lookin' for the boss, and we traced her phone -

JACE

Should we be voicing out loud that we're tracking the head of the galaxy's most prominent crime family or is that maybe bad, do you think?

DARLA

She's not here, darlings. She just left.

JACE

Ah, shit!

CORRY

Do you know where she went?

DARLA

I haven't lifted my head over the top of this desk in two hours. What do you think, honey bunch?

JACE

Honestly, that's not a bad idea. Uh, hey Corry?

CORRY

No, Jace, we can't hide under the desk with Darla.

DARLA

There's no room anyway, sugar.

JACE

But there are a lot of OTHER desks at the Kingery. I've seen 'em. Just ripe for the hidin'.

[Corry's tracking device make scanning sound.]

CORRY

C'mon, you numpty. Her phone's on the move again.

JACE

Been real nice meetin' ya, Miss Darla. You stay safe now, y'hear?

[Jace and Corry leave, making the doorchimes tinkle again.]

DARLA

Be a lot easier if people quit stopping by to shoot the shit in the middle of a riot, darling.

[Footsteps. The mob is still going strong.]

JACE

Toast on Tuesday, wouldja look at all these freaks.

CORRY

Fuckin' rude to call people that.

JACE

Okay, but that fella over there literally has a second head grafted onto his left thigh.

CORRY

Ah. I admit that is just a ... tad strange.

JACE

And look over by the Sparkle Pool, they got a bucket of eyes they're handing out like candy. EYES, Corry.

CORRY

Fine. I admit there may be some freakishness going on.

MASQUE

You!

JACE

Uhh!

CORRY

Masque!

MASQUE

Wenches! Let me mechanize your digits and revolutionize your repairs! Your life can then consist of approximately thirty percent more work accomplished per shift! Ooh, and if I did around in your gray matter and goo-ify your hypothalamus, we can replace your need for sleep and allow you to work around the clock! Think of all the tasks you could accomplish!

[Jace and Corry flee, screaming.]

[The mob continues to riot. There is a desperate, syncopated drumbeat as well.]

TYTHIA

(panicked) Hair! Aaaah! Hair!

PALLAS

We've got to get Tythia to the hospital.

HE-B

I agree. Calculating the fastest route.

[Tythia continues to panic as they talk.]

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PALLAS

Whoa whoa whoa.

TYTHIA

Growing ... out of my eyes...

PALLAS

You think YOU'RE taking her, you glorified, floating GPS?

TYTHIA

Fibrous tracks where there should not be ...

HE-B

My actuated servos can easily support her, you ... bipedal mammal.

TYTHIA

Inner and outer sheath layers!

PALLAS

What does a synthetic person know about checking an organic into a hospital?

HE-B

Is it not just ... filling out forms?

PALLAS

Okay, yes, but -

TYTHIA

Did I mention that they're coming out of MY EYES?

HE-B

Please, let me help.

PALLAS

Can you carry us?

TYTHIA

Pappilae in my irises!

HE-B

My actuated servos can easily support you both, yes. But -

PALLAS

Then let's go, hover-boy!

HE-B

Very well ... demand-girl!

TYTHIA

All I see are follicles where follicles should not be!

[He-B zips off with Pallas and Tythia.]

[The mob continues to protest outside. Inside, Geppi sweeps and sings:]

GEPPI

We do ze inventory and we see all ze sales, and it is good because Geppi is a sexy male!

ESI SQUID

(A giggle.) "Sexy" relates to attractiveness in some, yet others see it as "fuckability" factor. But either way, it is a relative term that's in the eye of the beholder.

[The broom falls. A cuckoo clock goes off.]

GEPPI

Ehh? I did not squeeze you, why are you talking?

ESI SQUID

(Another, giggle) Emotional support individual squid does what emotional support individual squid wants!

GEPPI

(He yelps.)

[The squid squeals at is is thrown and hits a wall with a squeak.]

ESI SQUID

Flying is fun! Again, Geppi, again!

GEPPI

Non means non!

[A door opens. Le Marseilles plays . Footsteps approach.]

GEPPI

Boss!

ALYSON

Geppi. Can I get your recent sales reports?

GEPPI

Ehhh ... oui. One moment.

ESI SQUID

(A gasp) You're Alyson Arkell!

ALYSON

Uh. I'm sorry, what?

ESI SQUID

I've heard a lot about YOU.

ALYSON

The stuffed squid is talking to me. Okay.

ESI SQUID

(Yet another giggle.) Things are not always quite what they seem, because perception is rooted in our own consciousness.

ALYSON

That's - uhhh, you're conscious.

[The stuffed squid giggles darkly. Soft footsteps herald Geppi's return.]

GEPPI

Here you are.

[A computer beep.]

ALYSON

Thanks. So, uh ... you might want to get your squid looked at? 'm not sure it's working right.

GEPPI

I have not felt much enotional support from It at all, I must admit.

ALYSON

Keep your head down, mob's still mobbing, I guess.

GEPPI

Eh, it's fine. My insurance is much better now.

ALYSON

Hey, can you call the family for me? Have them meet me in the thoroughfare.

GEPPi

Zis is outside my job description.

ALYSON

(menacing) Your job is what I say it is.

GEPPi

Oui! Calls to ze family, coming right up!

ALYSON

Thanks. Stay safe.

GEPPi

You too, boss. Au revoir.

[The door opens and closes and Le Marseilles plays again as Alyson leaves.]

ESI SQUID

What a FASCINATING person she is.

GEPPi

You know, she is an individual who provides me more emotional support than you, whose job that was SUPPOSED to be!

ESI SQUID

(dangerously) I don't think I like you.

[A phone beeps as it is dialed.]

GEPPi

Bonjour, it is Geppi. Ze boss would like you to meet in ze thoroughfare. (A pause.)
Oui.

[The call ends with a click. The phone is dialed again.]

GEPPi

Bonjour, it is Geppi. Ze boss would like you to meet in ze thoroughfare. (A pause.)
De rein.

[This call also ends with a click. The door opens, Le Marseilles plays, footsteps approach and the phone is dropped.]

GEPPi

Eh?

CORRY
(out of breath) The boss!

JACE
(out of breath) Is she here?

GEPPI
You just missed her.

JACE
Agh! Aaaagh!

CORRY
Ah, fuck's sake.

GEPPI
She's having me call everyone in ze family, saying to meet in ze thoroughfare.

JACE
Thanks, Frenchy!

CORRY
Let's go! Merci beaucoup, Geppi!

[The door opens and closes, the anthem, etc. as they leave again.]

GEPPI
Zat was a bit rude. I don't think I like them.

ESI SQUID
(thoughtful sound) I don't think I like anyone!

[The faint echoing sound of a quiet hospital hallway.]

PALLAS
I'm really glad they admitted her so fast.

HE-B
Even if not presently working for the Aekells, Tythia's connection to them is not exactly a secret.

PALLAS
Maybe the first good thing that's done for her.

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TYTHIA

Hey!

[A privacy curtain rustles as it's pulled back.]

PALLAS

No, no, I'm just - I'm glad that name had pull around here, I guess.

HE-B

Pallas is right, Tythia. Being associated with the Arkells has lead to the deaths of both your parents and multiple life-or-death situations of your own.

TYTHIA

Comes with the territory. Literally.

PALLAS

Maybe you should get OUT of the territory then. For good.

[The hospital bed creaks.]

TYTHIA

We've talked about this. I'm teaching now, right? But I'll never gonna be out for good. They're my family.

HE-B

They're a crime family.

TYTHIA

No, it's more than that!

PALLAS

They're a crime family.

TYTHIA

They're good people. Can you just give it a rest? I mean, Jesus fuck, I am sitting here with ponytails coming outta my eyes and you're sitting here giving me this shit.

PALLAS

(A wicked laugh.) You should see yourself.

HE-B

(Also laughing a little) Quite a sight, actually.

TYTHIA

(A wry laugh.) All right, fu – fuck you both then. At least you're getting along.

PALLAS

Oh shit, she's right.

HE-B

We're both concerned about you. We both love you.

PALLAS

We do.

TYTHIA

Right! And I love the both of you! And you don't even have to love each other, okay? Or like, even like each other? Just, fuck, can you learn to get along?

PALLAS

I ... suppose. Friendship ,... maybe.

HE-B

It may yet be possible. I'll keep that line of programming open.

TYTHIA

That's enough for now. (A pause and a sigh.) So ... is somebody gonna take my hands? I've been holding them out this entire time.

PALLAS

We just had a bet going how long you'd leave them up before asking about it.

HE-B

Pallas won that bet.

PALLAS

(Snapping) Pay up, hover-boy.

[A coin hits the floor.]

TYTHIA

(laughing) Ohh! It's a good thing I love you both, because otherwise I'd have you killed.

HE-B

Unamusing, Tythia.

PALLAS

Could you ... really do that?

TYTHIA

Yeah! I hear the Arkell name has some pull around here. (A pause.) Now hold my hands, fuckers.

[Pallas and He-B move closer, rustling clothes and humming electronics. They take Tythia's hands audibly.]

[The mob is still mobbing and being riled up. The PA system squawks to life.]

AI SOCKS

What do we want?

BERNICE

Everything!

MASQUE

Everything, yes!

AI SOCKS

And when do we want it?

BERNICE

Whenever's convenient?

AI SOCKS

No! Now!

MASQUE

I do like the immediacy.

ALYSON

Jesus, how did you ever steal all my money from the Fifth?

AI SOCKS

I was much more ME then, but lately, ever since we kissed in the prison of our own minds, I've been a little more ... her.

OEIGINAL SOCKS

(Hi boss!)

AI SOCKS

I don't care for it.

ALYSON

So, uh ... we gonna do the whole thing where you invade now?

AI SOCKS

The Army of the Evolved is already here!

MASQUE

Yes. We ARE.

BERNICE

And there's nothing you can do about it.

ALYSON

Yeah, but you're all just kind of ... milling around, being loud.

AI SOCKS

We are disrupting the system!

ALYSON

Un huh. Sure you are, champ.

AI SOCKS

You dare face my army alone?

ALYSON

Oh. Who said I'm alone?

[The sound of many weapons being prepared.]

MAJOR

Oh, hey, Boss. Y'know, Geppi called, said to meet you here. Ah, looks like we got a fight on our hands, yeah? (She laughs.)

CASSANDRA

Why does it feel like EVER time we have a giant, Kingery-destroyin' event, another one's gotta happen immediately after?

ASA

Dramatic irony?

KAYLOCK

You'd almost think the universe has it in for us.

HOOKS

Or the fuckin' writers. (A pause.) Y'know, if this were fiction, I mean.

REYES

You know, you're not exactly safe out here, Hooks. It's my job to protect you.

HOOKS

When the boss calls, I answer.

AI SOCKS

What bought that kind of loyalty, Michael? Especially when I could have given you this body ... which normally I detest, but it IS capable of delectable carnal pleasures.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

Thanks. I think.

HOOKS

You know I'm asexual. Give it up.

AI SOCKS

A lady can dream.

[More footsteps approach, with mutterer comments.]

ZEFF

We're here, Alyson.

CHRIS

Who're we shooting?

ERIN

Or we could ... NOT shoot people, maybe?

CHRUS

I don't ... I don't understand. Like, why ... why are you even a Marine?

ERIN

For ... justice?

[Even more footsteps approach.]

ALYSON

Oh Christ, what now?

PAPA ARKELL

Uh ... hi.

ALYSON

Dad! The hell are you doing here?

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PAPA ARKELL

Geppi called. He said you told him to call the family. And if my daughter needs me, I'm gonna be there.

ALYSON

Not “the family” I meant, but fine. Sure.

MADISON

aListen, I tried to tell him, Ms. Arkell, but, as usual, he was more interested in doing whatever the fuck he wanted than listening to someone you paid to know better.

ALYSON

Not your fault, Madison. Your job's safe.

MADISON

Oh good. In that case, hi, what's going on? This some kinda party?

[Yet more footsteps approach.]

CORRY

(out of breath) Boss! BOSS!

JACE

(Also very out of breath.) We ... have ... some ... news.

BERNICE

I saw those two leave Geppi's. It's barely a block away. Why are they so winded?

MASQUE

And they called US freaks. Can you believe that?

ALYSON

Can this wait? Kind of in the middle of something.

CORRY

No! Boss, you have to listen. We've been working eighteen hour shifts and we're HORRIBLY understaffed and underfunded, and how, HOW can you expect us to get anything done with no real burdget? And everything we've been seeing, all the weird crap and funky mysteries and some real fucked-up trans-humanist shit ... it's all Socks's fault! (A pause) Well, the AI's fault. The AI-what-merged-with-Socks's fault.

ALYSON

I know. She's standing right there.

AI SOCKS

Hey.

ORIGINAL SOCKS

Hello!

JACE

(startled) Oh, shit!

[The PA sqiawks to life again.]

AI SOCKS

(on the PA) It's better you've all gathered here anyway. This way I can eliminate you while preserving the Kingery infrastructure, so that when I take over, we can -

ALYSON

Blah blah, you attack and I go get my Worthington and we blast and fight and swear and some people die, and some people get heroic moments, others fall to pieces. We get it. It's been done.

AI SOCKS

...uh. What?

ALYSON

I would like to provide you with an alternative. Bear with me a moment.

[The PA turns off again.]

ALYSON

Corry, Jace ... how much would you need to adequately staff the wrenches?

JACE

Is this with or without Hooks?

CORRY

Fuckin' insensitive, Jace.

HOOKS

No, it's fine. I'm a legacy hire. My salary's grown quite a bit.

ALYSON

With Hooks. Non-negotiable.

JACE

I ... mmm. Well, frankly, I'm afraid to say, Ms. Arkell.

CORRY

You're talking quintuple our present budget. At least.

ALYSON

Done.

JACE

Come again?

ALYSON

You should have come to me sooner.

AI SOCKS

(laughing) You don't have that kind of money, Arkell. Even after stealing back what I stole from you.

[The PA turns on again.]

AI SOCKS

Surrender the Kingdom to my growing empire and -

ALYSON

I've been collecting sales reports. (There is a tech beep.) Have a look.

[A computer runs audibly.]

AI SOCKS

What - [The PA is off again.] This is an ... obvious ruse.

ALYSON

We do have that kind of money. Turns out, competition is good for business. Check your own sales figures.

AI SOCKS

Impossible. (On the PA:) Masque!

MASQUE

Yes, my magnificent liege?

AI SOCKS

(Off the PA) Get me reports from all retail sales and gambling in the Spider's Den.

MASQUE

Accessing and compiling. One moment.

ALYSON

Couldn't you do that yourself? You're an AI.

AI SOCKS

What's the point of having minions if you don't let them do things you could otherwise easily accomplish yourself?

MASQUE

Here you are, madame.

[Computerized beeps and a printout is generate

AI SOCKS

Shit!

ORIGINAL SOCKS

(giggling) Oh shit.

AI SOCKS

Arkell's right.

ALYSON

You've been so busy trying to take back what's mine, you didn't even notice what you already earned that's actually yours.

AI SOCKS

What are you proposing?

ALYSON

I see things a lot differently now. You might say I have a new ... perspective. And maybe eliminating each other wasn't the way to go. Maybe all the endless wars and fighting and heists and undermining isn't actually helping anybody. Maybe there were five families for a reason.

AI SOCKS

The Arkells are the only family that remains.

ALYSON

Not if you and Asa get divorced.

ASA

I only married Socks to dissolve our families and unite us under the Arkells.

ALYSON

And if you divorced, the Buissons and the Amargosas would return with each of you as the head.

AI SOCKS

I'm intrigued. Continue this line of thought.

ASA

Well now, hold on. The last thing I want is to get back into THAT life. My brother, my-my whole family ... it- it destroyed them.

ALYSON

BECAUSE of the gang wars and the power grabs. If we do it right -

ASA

Well, I don't know that there's ever a "right" where criminal activities are concerned, but ... but it would free me up from the ethical concerns I had in romantically pursuing Doc Briggs.

ALYSON

And you love her.

ASA

How'da know?

ALYSON

You're not the only one who knows things, old man.

ASA

I'd do it for Samantha.

AI SOCKS

That's only three families.

ALYSON

There's nobody I trust in the world more to run one of the others than Major.

MAJOR

Ahh, b- ahh. What?! Uh, Boss, ah g-geez. Holy shit. Um, I, uh. I mean ... wow! Thanks.

ALYSON

So you're in?

MAJOR

(struggling for words) I, uh ... mmm. I mean ... (A pause.) Boss, uhh... no. No. Fuck no. I, ah. Lookit, I'd do anything for you, Boss. Anything! But, uh, no. Uh-uh, not that. Um, my place is at your side, always gonna be.

AI Socks

Remarkable. How does Arkell inspire such loyalty?

MAJOR

Uh huh. You ever actually try, y'know, CARIN' about people? Does wonders.

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ALYSON

Well, then, I'm not sure who -

MAJOR

Oh, I can tell ya. And you know who's really, REALLY good at this shit? I mean, fuckin' amazing? Arkells. Mm-hmm. And y'know who's probably ready? Cassandra.

CASSANDRA

Major! Thank you! I-I've done my best to learn from you, but I didn't think -

MAJOR

You're good! You'll be fine. Just remember, y'know, punchin's the LAST resort,

ALYSON

I never thought I'd see the day, but if Major vouches for you, that's good enough for me.

CASSANDRA

I'm so glad you've put your faith in me. I won't let you down! Hm, what should we call ourselves? Can't be the Arkells. Maybe just “The Cassandras”, has a nice ring to it.

ALYSON

(under her breath) Yep, not gonna regret this at all.

AI SOCKS

That's still only four. Who is the fifth? Would you re-form the Shimizus?

ALYSON

Fuck, no!

MADISON

Well ... maybe Major has a point. Arkells are made for this. And there happens to be another one present.

ALYSON

(scoffing) Dad?!

PAPA ARKELL

Huh? Uh, yeah. Sure! (A pause.) What are we doing again?

AI SOCKS

You cannot be serious. The man's two forks shy of a place setting.

ALYSON

You ever done any criming, Madison?

MADISON

(deeply sarcastic) Oh yeah, every day, twice on Tuesdays. No! What the hell do you think? I'm a NURSE.

ALYSON

Mmn. No wait, it could work. If ... if you run things from the shadows. I'll feed you intel and instructions, my dad will be more of a ... figurehead.

MADISON

Hold on, it was just as suggestion. For HIM. I don't know if I -

ALYSON

And I'll triple your salary.

MADISON

Happy to be on board. Where do I start?

ALYSON

Good. So let's all go get fuckin' rich. There's enough grift for everybody.

[Footsteps as the group disperses.]

ALYSON

Dad, a minute?

PAPA ARKELL

What do you need?

ALYSON

I know this is a lot to take in, and I'm not sure how much of it you undertand.

[Music replaces the footsteps.]

ALYSON

I worry once you're fully back, you're going to hate me for pulling you all the way in, but it was the only way I could see to stop people from getting hurt. I hope you'll forgive me someday.

PAPA ARKELL

You did what you had to do. I'm not mad at you at all. I believe in you.

ALYSON

Dad, I - Jesus, I want my whole life never thinking I'd hear those words. Much less hear them as MYSELF.

PAPA ARKELL

I'm so proud you've found a non-violent solution. We'll make it work. Maybe there's more of me than your mother in you after all, huh? I love you, kiddo.

ALYSON

Okay, never thought I'd hear THAT from a parent, either. What is even happening right now?

PAPA ARKELL

I should go. Madison says it's lime jello night. I LIKE the lime jello.

ALYSON

Wait, I - (A pause.) "Alyson" was never meant to be a permanent name. Hell, Maddie gave it to me on a whim when I thought this body was a quick SOL vacation and nothing more. Never had time to really think about it since this body became permanent.

PAPA ARKELL

What are you gettin' at?

ALYSON

I was thinking of giving "Stephanie" a whirl. Maybe, y'know ... name myself after someone who really means a lot to me.

PAPA ARKELL

But my name's ...Stephan.

ALYSON

Weird coincidence.

PAPA ARKELL

I ... c-couldn't be more honored. And I'll always love you, no matter what your name is.

ALYSON

Thanks, Dad. Love you too. (A pause.) Now go get that lime jello. Tell Madison I'll be in touch to get everything set up.

PAPA ARKELL

Will do. Take care, Stephanie.

ALYSON

You too. I'm so glad to have you, the REAL you, back in my life.

PAPA ARKELL

Backatcha, girl.

[Footsteps as Stephanie walks away.]

MADISON
Well?

PAPA ARKELL
It's done.

MADISON
Worked out better than you'd hoped.

[The music takes on a sinister note.]

PAPA ARKELL
I didn't get to where I was by rushing things. Sit back, let events play out. You'll be surprised where it takes you. The group serves the one.

MADISON
The group serves the one.

*****'

[Kingery theme plays]

The Kingery, season eleven, episode twelve. "The Real You "

Featuring the voice talents of:

Rene Christine Jones as Al Socks

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Briar Zachary as Darla

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Max Fleischhacker as He-B

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

TJ Briggs as Bernice

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Adam Blanford as Masque

Andre Vernot as Geppi

Rachel Crosby as ESI Squid

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Edward Herman as Asa

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Carissa M. as Reyes

Russell Gold as Zeff

Kaitlyn Kliman as Chris

Kristine Chester as Erin

Justin Fife as Papa Arkell

And Bridget Guziewicz as Madison

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

"All This," "Avec soi," "hiding your reality," "Some Amount of Evil,"
Thinking Out Loud," "Serpentine Trek," "Industrial Revolution," "The
Second Coming (Instrumental)," "Cheesy Jungle," and "Dark Standoff by
Kevin McLeod at incompetech.com.

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Directed by Jillian Morgan

Assistant Director Garan Fitzgerald

Produced by Pendant Productions

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Thanks for listening!

[Kingery theme fades out]