

The Kingery, episode 12x03 "Where There's Smoke"

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

[Hustle and bustle of guests on their way to have fun through the Kingery thoroughfare.]

PHOEBE

A hot dog stand.

MAJOR

They have to pay their dues just like everyone else.

PHOEBE

Of course but surely this isn't actually worth the trouble for some pocket change-oh damn that's a long line.

MAJOR

It's also a good opportunity to try out going by Phoebe...

PHOEBE

Introducing myself with a new name. Again. Hooray. (sigh) You're right though, if I'm not keeping Stephanie I need to rip off the band aid and try something different.

MAJOR

Ah look even Bucko is up at the front. Hey Bucko!

BUCKO

Hey Major! Hello Boss.

BAXTER

Hot dogs! Get your hot dogs here!

MAJOR

Well? Should we go get a couple of dogs? Along with the money obviously.

[Major and Phoebe walk up to the front of the line.]

PHOEBE

Maj, you know what's in hot dogs right?

MAJOR

Yeah don't they just like congeal that fluid that comes out of dog's anal glands when you express them?

[Major and Phoebe stop at the front of the line, by Bucko and Baxter.]

BUCKO

I hear Baxter's supplier only accepts anal sac fluid that's been ethically sourced from dogs receiving their regular health exams.

PHOEBE

Ah well that is good news. Ethically sourced anal sac fluid.

MAJOR

Hey Baxter! Two dogs please.

BAXTER

Coming up Major! I am taking it outta of what I owe yous though.

[Baxter starts assembling the hot dogs.]

BAXTER

Although for your pretty friend here-

[Baxter adds some very gross sounding condiment on top.]

BAXTER

On the house.

PHOEBE

Why don't you go ahead and give that one to Maj and I'll just take the money you owe.

BAXTER

Now hold on, I don't just give my money to broads without knowing their name first.

MAJOR

Baxter...

PHOEBE

It's fine Maj. Phoebe. Phoebe Arkell.

BAXTER

No shit! You know I heard there's a whole buncha Arkell broads runnin' around the Kingery these days. Bucko, weren't you tellin' me about some gal named Stephanie?

PHOEBE

Oh no...

BUCKO

Bax, you idiot, this is the boss Stephanie you've been talking to!

BAXTER

Bucko, clean out your ears, the pretty lady clearly just said Phoebe.

PHOEBE

It's...it's fine guys. Also Bucko it's actually-

BUCKO

Seriously Bax, you must have misheard, this is clearly the boss, Stephanie.

[Major grabs Bucko by the collar.]

MAJOR

Listen up real good Bucko. Her name is Phoebe. And if you get it wrong again, you're going to learn how it feels to digest and then shit out whatever's left of your own teeth, got it??

BUCKO

I...uh...Phoebe! Phoebe Arkell it's so good to see you!

PHOEBE

This is the actual worst. Major just get the money and I'll find you later. And put Bucko down!

MAJOR

Ugh fine.

[Major sets Bucko down as Phoebe walks away. Phoebe gets a call, answers is.]

PHOEBE

What?

GIB (ON PHONE)

Well hello to you too Boss.

PHOEBE

Ah Gib. Thanks for calling me back.

GIB (ON PHONE)

Of course. What can I do for you?

PHOEBE

I want you to help Maddie with the investigation into Cal's death.

GIB (ON PHONE)

I thought it was just an accident.

PHOEBE

Yeah that's certainly what it looks like. But I know Maddie and she won't sleep until she understands exactly what happened. I'll cover all of your fees, I'd just like to call in some help so everyone can get a little more resolution.

GIB (ON PHONE)

Of course Boss. I'll connect up with Maddie right away and get caught up.

PHOEBE

Thanks Gib, I appreciate it.

[Hooks, Jace, and Corry are walking through the spaceport halls towards where the accident occurred.]

CORRY

This can't be too bad right? I mean they wouldn't send only three of us to do repairs after an accident if it was really ba-ah fuck.

[Pieces of the spaceport creak and moan as bits that were barely held together start finally succumbing to gravity. One big piece falls down with a thud.]

JACE

Well that's gonna take awhile. Hooks did they tell you the whole floor was gone?

HOOKS

Yup. That's the only reason there's three of us instead of just you two.

CORRY

Lucky us. We actually are glad you're here but...fuck.

JACE

Agreed. Fuck.

HOOKS

Yeah well, stop your lolligaggin' and let's at least go secure some of these wires. Wouldn't want any fires starting while we're working.

[Hooks heads towards the accident site.]

CORRY

(groans) This is gonna be a long day.

[Corry and Jace follow after Hooks.]

[Major hurriedly busts through the door.]

MAJOR

(out of breath) Oh good. I'm sorry 'Lock, I got held up dealing with a...hot dog thing.

KAYLOCK

That is alright. I am pleased that you made it back before my departure.

MAJOR

This fucking sucks.

KAYLOCK

It is unpleasant to leave your side. Are you sure you don't want me to speak with her about staying?

MAJOR

I told you 'Lock...that's not how this works. We both know the boss asking is more of a command than a request. (sad sigh)

KAYLOCK

What is it, my love?

MAJOR

You're taking your bucket.

KAYLOCK

Would you prefer I acquired a different one to sleep in? I'm sure they have buckets there-

MAJOR

No no you're comfortable in that one. You should take it. Seeing it just suddenly felt more real.

KAYLOCK

Here, perhaps this will make you feel better.

[Kaylock extends out his protoplasm, hands something to Major.]

MAJOR

A locket?

[She takes it from him and opens it.]

MAJOR

'Lock...this is very sweet. I'll find just the right photo to put in it.

KAYLOCK

Actually, I had a better idea.

[Kaylock extends out his protoplasm again, and drops a very small blob of himself into it.]

KAYLOCK

Now you can always carry me close to your heart. Well, not your actual heart. Your sternum, perhaps.

MAJOR

This is the weirdest and most thoughtful thing anyone has ever done for me. I love it. And I love you. Thank you.

[They kiss.]

MAJOR

You're going to be late. You should go.

KAYLOCK

Alright dearest. I will call you the moment I arrive.

[Kaylock heads out the door.]

MAJOR

(tearing up) You fuckin' better!

[Bzzzzt! Corry is shocked by a wire.]

CORRY
FUCKING FUCK!

JACE
Corry you're supposed to try to not get shocked.

CORRY
Oh fuck off fuckface.

HOOKS
So you two have been the primary people keeping the Kingery in one piece while I was away?

JACE
Sure have.

HOOKS
We need to add some more inspections into the calendar.

[Someone drops a metal tool and it thunk thunk thunks its way down the collapsed floor.]

HOOKS
Did one of you drop a tool?

CORRY
Noooo.

JACE
Nope.

HOOKS
Corry...are you sure you didn't drop something and you just don't want to go down to the bottom?

CORRY
Nope no idea what you could possibly mean.

HOOKS
Jace, go with her. We need to go down there at some point to see how the foundation is looking anyway.

JACE

(groans) Come on clumsy, let's go.

[Doorbell. The door opens.]

ZEFF

Hi.

DAKEN

Hi.

ZEFF

I...had a really hard time walking over here. To say goodbye.

DAKEN

Well duty calls. I get it.

ZEFF

Literally yes but that doesn't make it any easier.

DAKEN

I just...I feel like I just got you back. Like I just got us back. Forgive me if I'm a little grumpy over the whole thing.

ZEFF

I know. But Asa needs help. And you have to admit, calling in some marines was probably the right move when you need to kill off some monsters in a wasteland.

DAKEN

Yeah well, just because it's true doesn't make it any easier. Who am I going to have coffee with?

ZEFF

Oh I'm sure there's someone. No now that you mention it everyone is pretty shit company compared to me.

DAKEN

(laughs) See!

ZEFF

It's too bad you couldn't just come have coffee with me.

DAKEN

That would be quite the commute. Unless...?

ZEFF

Unless what, you could teleport?

DAKEN

No...well actually that'd be great but...what if I came with you?

ZEFF

To visit? It's a little dangerous but I'm sure you can handle yourself so that'd probably be fine.

DAKEN

No no, what if I just came with you? To help?

ZEFF

Seriously?

DAKEN

Seriously. What am I even doing here? I don't have a job.

ZEFF

Sure, but you can find something.

DAKEN

I contribute absolutely nothing.

ZEFF

Okay well that's just not true.

DAKEN

Do tell.

ZEFF

You're super hot.

DAKEN

(laughing) You get what I mean.

ZEFF

Not really, I feel like being super hot contributes plenty.

DAKEN

And you know I can fight. You were just saying I could handle myself. And I'm not going back to shirokage anytime soon. Maybe I can be more useful there. With you. You're smiling.

ZEFF

I am smiling.

DAKEN

You're okay with me coming with you?

ZEFF

Abso-fucking-lutely, go pack and I'll make some calls.

[Lots of zaps and creaks. Sounds echo.]

HOOKS

Did you find it yet?

CORRY

I told you, there's nothing to find!

JACE

Corry, I saw you drop the lenker wrench.

CORRY

Yeah well Hooks doesn't need to know that does he? Just...help me find it.

JACE

Nah, I'm gonna go over to the other side to check the foundation. Have fun though!

CORRY

Jace. Jace! (groans) If I were a wrench where would I fall...well I am a Wrench...who would prefer not to fall...Jace...

JACE

I told you, I'm busy checking the foundation!

CORRY

Yeah that's why you need to come back over here!

JACE

Woahhhh that...explains a lot about why the floor collapsed. Hey Hooks! You should probably come down here!

CORRY

I wonder where they lead. After you.

JACE

No no no. After you.

[Hooks arrives at the bottom of the hole.]

HOOKS

Ah, the old emergency escape tunnels. Probably didn't have enough support to withstand the crash. We'll want to build that back up a little better this time.

JACE

Are we expecting more crashes?

HOOKS

You never know at the Kingery.

[A whirring noise.]

CORRY

Oh I don't like that.

JACE

What is it?

CORRY

Doesn't matter. Don't like it.

[Hooks clicks on a flashlight.]

HOOKS

Looks like...some sort of mechanical pulley system. To move something through the tunnels.

JACE

Like what...?

HOOKS

I think something is stuck in that gear.

[The three move in closer to investigate.]

JACE

Ohhhh it's an arm jammed in there. Very cool.

CORRY

(retches) Why do we always find the weirdest shit.

HOOKS

Fortunately the arm appears to be robotic...

CORRY

Well that's less gross but this is still pretty fucked.

JACE

Oh look there's a puddle of goo up there too. And some more arms. Are those noses?

HOOKS

The Army of the Evolved must have been using these tunnels. We should go.

JACE

Don't have to tell us twice. Wait where's Corry?

HOOKS

Ah, she's already vomiting back up top.

CORRY

(retching/dry-heaving)

[Chris is pulling various kitchen items out of drawers. Lots of clanging.]

REYES

You don't have a pot?

CHRIS

Of course I have a pot! It's just...behind some other stuff...

[Clanging and shuffling.]

REYES

Okay, you keep looking. Uhh Erin let's just pull out ingredients.

ERIN
Okay sure.

[Erin pulls things out of bags as Reyes goes down the list.]

REYES
Garlic.

ERIN
Check.

REYES
Crushed tomatoes.

ERIN
Uhhhh...

CHRIS
That's fine, I keep a can of sauce in the cupboard.

[Erin opens up the cupboard.]

ERIN
There is...only a single can of sauce in that cupboard. Do you own other food?

CHRIS
Irrelevant, because I'm technically right about having a can of sauce in the cupboard. AHA!

[Chris finds the pot and places it on the stove.]

CHRIS
Told you I owned a pot.

REYES
I mean most people have more than one-you know what nevermind. Erin do we have olive oil?

ERIN
...nope.

REYES
Ugh. Okay, that's fine. Salt and pepper?

[Erin rustles through the bag an extra long time.]

ERIN

No.

REYES

Ground meat?

CHRIS

(snorts)

REYES

What?

CHRIS

Just grinding...and meat...there's a dirty joke to be had there. Okay listen, I'm dealing with trauma, and you're trying to admittedly very kindly-help me deal with my trauma by making me do something I don't even like, so let me have my dumb jokes okay?

ERIN

I mean you're pretty much all trauma and dumb jokes under normal circumstances but yes, we can let the bad joke slide, right Reyes?

REYES

(ugh) Sure, okay yeah. Do we at least have spaghetti noodles? Seriously? Whose job was it to buy ingredients?

CHRIS

Hers.

ERIN

Hers.

REYES

Okay, okay this is fine. Erin, let's go pick up some more things. Chris stay here and...visualize boiling water.

CHRIS

Visualize.

REYES

Don't actually do it until I'm back to supervise.

CHRIS

Trust me, I wasn't going to do anything until you're back. Also probably after.

REYES

Let's go Erin.

[Reyes and Erin walk out the door, it closes itself and a fire alarm goes off.]

CHRIS

What in the universe...

REYES (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Chris I told you, only visualizing!

CHRIS

I didn't... I didn't even turn anything on! Actually there's no smoke or fire or anything...

REYES (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Maybe a false alarm then? Just stay put, I'm sure someone will be by soon to turn it off and unlock the door.

CHRIS

Okay. This alarm is really annoying though. You two are doing a pretty shit job of cheering me up.

[Something sizzles...the burners on the stove have been turned all the way up.]

CHRIS

Uhhhhh...

ERIN (BEHIND THE DOOR)

You okay Chris?

CHRIS

Hey...I know I don't cook a lot but burners aren't supposed to turn themselves on and get super red right? (coughing) And smokey?

REYES (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Chris I told you not to touch anything!

CHRIS

I didn't!! (coughing)

ERIN (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Okay this is a serious problem. Chris, Reyes and I are going to try to get the door open, you stay low to the ground and get to the door okay?

CHRIS

Staying low!

[Lots of thudding and clanging as Reyes and Erin try to get the door open.]

CHRIS

This is what I get for even considering cooking. You know who's getting takeout after this? Me.

[Chris rawls her way to the door. The thudding and clanging continues.]

CHRIS

Uhh...it's getting pretty smokey... (coughing and gasping) You sure you two can get that by yourselves? Ah hell... (exertion grunts)

[Chris gets up and tries to open the door. Thudding, button mashing, mayhem.]

[Chris collapses.]

ERIN (BEHIND THE DOOR)

Chris?

[Reyes finally gets a panel open, and rips out some wires. The door opens and the fire alarm stops.]

REYES

(coughing) Get her out!

[They pull a limp Chris out of the room.]

ERIN

She's not breathing is she? Chris??

REYES

...she's gone.

ERIN

(teary) No, no that's not true.

REYES

Erin-

ERIN

(more teary) Chris...hey you snarky dummy we need to finish cooking...

REYES

Erin...

ERIN

DON'T!!

[Erin punches the wall.]

ERIN

FUCK!

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season twelve episode three, "Where There's Smoke"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Phoebe

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Bonnie Calderwood Aspinwall as Bucko

Sarah Palmero as Baxter

Shawn Taylor as Gib

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Russell Gold as Zeff

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Carissa M. as Reyes

Kaitlyn Kliman as Chris

And Kristine Chester as Erin

Sensitivity Reader Kristine Chester

Written by Kaitlyn Kliman

Story by Tilly Bridges, with Susan Bridges, Rene Christine Jones, Kaitlyn Kliman, Pete Milan,
and Kathryn Pryde

Kingery Theme by Tom Stitzer

All other music by Josh Molen at TheTunePeddler.com

Directed by Jillian Morgan

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]