

**The Kingery, episode 12x04 “True Love Never Did Run Smooth”**

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

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[Background sounds of the spaceport.]

MADDIE

(yelling) Hooks? Jace? Corry?

[Maddie stumbles over metallic junk.]

MADDIE

Jesus FUCK is it a mess down here.

[Footsteps approaching.]

CORRY

Oh hi!

MADDIE

Oh HI? I thought you were gonna show me something but all I see is a fucking MESS.

JACE

You're not wrong!

HOOKS

Jace. You're not helping.

MADDIE

Look, I know you're all trying to help. But this might be a crime scene. We can't just have half a dozen people down here stomping around ruining potential evidence.

HOOKS

Well, to be fair, there's only the four of us.

[Footsteps, more metallic things being knocked over.]

GIB

Hello?

HOOKS

Don't look at me!

MADDIE

No, this one's my fault, more or less. Hey Gib, over here.

[Gib approaches.]

GIB

Hi all, pleasure to be here.

CORRY

If you find possible murder investigations pleasurable I guess?

JACE

Hey yeah, I guess that is a little weird, dude.

MADDIE

Knock it off, you two. Don't you have something to do?

HOOKS

...you just told us not to touch anything, didn't you?

MADDIE

No? Maybe? Kind of? (sighs)

Let's start over. Phoebe aka the boss asked Gib to help me investigate the spaceport crash, since personally I don't think it was an accident. Hooks, Jace and Corry have been checking out the crash site, so Gib, they can help out with the legwork. Cal was ... he was important to me. So let's do this right. NOTHING is too small of a clue.

HOOKS

So far we've ... evaluated some of the wreckage. It looks like the spaceport landing area could have been structurally unsound. The abandoned escape tunnels are right underneath the crash zone.

CORRY

But really that doesn't make any sense. Escape tunnels would be built STRONGER than the surrounding architecture. Otherwise what good would they be?

JACE

Christ, Corry, you're such a fuckin' nerd. Where'd you even learn that?

CORRY

I read things, JACE. We're wrenches but I want to be ... a real ENGINEER someday.

HOOKS

Ookay. Anyway, I'm really on Corry's side about the tunnels. They should have held. However, it looks like they'd been used recently.

JACE

Yeah, there was like this pully system rigged up and there were, like, uh these ...

CORRY

Please don't say it.

JACE

Just cover your ears.

CORRY

La la la la I'm not listening la la la la.

JACE

We found body parts? Some arms. A few noses.

MADDIE

What the FUCK.

JACE

I know right?

HOOKS

So I suppose those are evidence of something, but how it's connected to the spaceport crash, I can't say. It might have nothing to do with it.

GIB

Uh... wow.

MADDIE

The fact that you've all rendered Gib speechless is NOT a good sign. That being said, those body parts have Army of the Evolved all over them.

JACE

(laughing) Maybe they're just all over.

CORRY

Shut the fuck up Jace, it's disgusting.

HOOKS

So ... where do we start?

GIB

Here are some gloves and uh ... a few buckets for you to collect the body parts. And some plastic bags in case you find any tech. So you can keep the tech separate. From the noses. And such. \*cough\*

CORRY

Oh god I heard that.

GIB

Corry, maybe it's best if you just stick to the tech gathering side. In fact why don't you stay out of the tunnels entirely and look for anything unusual outside of them.

CORRY

Yes! I can do that. Gloves? Bags?

GIB

Here you go.

CORRY

Sweet! I'm off!

[Corry walks away.]

MADDIE

Gib, go with Hooks and Jace, I'll tag along behind Corry. We'll meet back here in an hour.

[Footsteps receding as everyone walks off.]

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MAJOR

(phone filter) Hey it's Maj, leave me a message an' maybe I'll call ya.

[Beep.]

KAYLOCK

My dearest wife, it is I, Kaylock. Someone pressed their corporeal form against me at the spaceport, and I remembered how romantic it was when you once threatened to separate a person's torso from their limbs if their proximity caused me discomfort. I was hoping I would be able to speak with you, but you are likely occupied or detained with other work obligations. I have arrived safely at my new assignment. As soon as I was able to, I made sure to obtain your favorite beverages, as I would like my new lodgings to be fully prepared in the event that you are able to visit me soon. I opened one of the beverages, and as the bubbles formed on the surface I was reminded of the times you sat next to me while I relaxed in my bucket. When you made me laugh I would sometimes create small bucket bubbles. I always thought of them as somewhat embarrassing but you enjoyed them. You said it was proof that you were a funny bitch. I miss you more than words can say. More than my BUBBLES can say. Please call soon, my darling.

[Beep.]

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[Spaceport background in the distance.]

[Footsteps getting closer as everyone gathers.]

JACE

We got as much as we could, but we couldn't really get far into the tunnels in only an hour.

HOOKS

We might need a few more buckets. Do they sell any with "biohazard" printed on them?

GIB

Eventually we'll need to do DNA testing. Maddie, do you happen to have a morgue nearby?

MADDIE

We have a morgue, but unfortunately it's full due to the spaceport crash.

GIB

We'll have to store these body parts until we can get them to a sector 88G investigation facility. What about installing a couple of cold storage corpse drawers? They could be put in just about anywhere.

MADDIE

I'll requisition one but it'll take time.

GIB

Hmm. Perhaps we could temporarily store the ... remains in one of the Kingery's larger cold storage facilities? Geppi's chocolate freezer seems spacious.

MADDIE

I'd love to see you ask him, but I'm gonna save us all some time and say he's probably not gonna go for that. Don't worry, I'll find ... somewhere.

CORRY

I'm just gonna stand waaaay over here and try not to think too hard about all of this.

JACE

How's that different from normal?

CORRY

Fuck you, Jace.

MADDIE

Corry, let's move on to what you've got.

CORRY

Seems like there must have been some kind of gap up near the platform because I found all sorts of things! But nothing that looks particularly useful.

[Rummaging through plastic bags.]

CORRY

I sorted everything I found by category. This bag is just general trash, mostly Frosted Crumb Comet wrappers and some old calculator thing. This bag is just wires. Who knew there were so many wires? I mean, there are a lot of potential wires in the world, I guess...

GIB

Hang on, Corry. Grab that calculator?

CORRY

Huh? Oh. I tried turning it on but there was an amber light and then nothing happened. Amber lights are like wrench-talk for "it's fucked."

GIB

It's definitely not a calculator though. It just sort of looks like one. Why don't you take a closer look at it and let me know what you see.

CORRY

Huh? Uh, yeah okay, well ... oh that's weird.

GIB

What is?

CORRY

This wire here that looks like it's just loose is actually acting like an antenna. And this dial here looks super old but it's actually an adjuster for frequencies.

GIB

Do you know what kind of frequencies?

CORRY

No, but the last setting looks like frequency 142. No, wait, it's hopping between frequencies. Like it's looking for something. 142, 145, 141...

HOOKS

Uhhhh...oh crap. That's the frequency band for Kingery space traffic control.

CORRY

It is?

[Electrical zap.]

CORRY

Ow!

[Corry drops the box.]

[A small fire as it bursts into flame.]

CORRY

Are you seeing this?

GIB

Put it out! Fine I'll do it myself.

[Gib waving around cloth to smother the fire.]

MADDIE

Did I see the fake calculator thing shock you and then burst into flames? Yes I did.

CORRY

Oh thank fuck I'm not losing it.

GIB

(ah!) It's still hot.

JACE

No shit.

GIB

We need to study this further, but ... I'm betting this was a device that was set to search the bands looking for the codes of certain ships. And once the device identified the target ship, it could have caused interference.

MADDIE

Then it could have caused a crash. But this thing is so SMALL.

GIB

I think it's likely got a wireless connection.

MADDIE

To what?

GIB

My best guess is, unfortunately ... some kind of AI.

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ASA

All right, so you've seen a bit o' Pine Ridge. Lay it on me, Zeff.

ZEFF

It's ... cozy.

ASA

It's overrun with radioactive mutated monsters right beyond the front gates!

BRIGGS

Asa's not exaggerating. I really can't stress that enough.

DAKEN

Doc Briggs is right. I heard some of them. They sounded ... big.



ZEFF

You would know, sweet thing.

REYES

So we just need to kill the monsters.

ASA

Well...yes. That's the primary goal. As many as possible. Actually, all of them if you could manage it.

ZEFF

I'm not too worried about it. Hunting monsters is much easier than fighting soldiers, and I've got Reyes and Daken here to back me up.

DAKEN

Are you saying you've done OTHER monster hunts?

ZEFF

I'll tell you all about it later. Promise. Don't worry your pretty little head, I got this under control.

DAKEN

I didn't think you didn't? I came along to help you, remember?

ZEFF

Yeah, yeah, o' course. Just follow me and it'll all work out.

DAKEN

I don't have to FOLLOW you...

ZEFF

You kinda do, I'm the point person.

DAKEN

Who decided that?

ZEFF

Daken, you haven't done this before! It's just seniority! Reyes gets it!

REYES

I get it. I would've rather helped investigate Chris' death, but I follow orders.

ZEFF

I'm sorry about that Reyes, Erin was just so upset. I need someone solid on this mission.

DAKEN

I'm solid.

ZEFF

Yes of course you are! I didn't say you weren't!

ASA

I don't care who's in charge, just be sure you take out as many o' those things as possible. But, thing is ... you can't JUST kill 'em. You've gotta geotag the locations of all the corpses. And NO EXPLOSIONS. The bodies gotta stay intact because that's the only way the cleanup crew'll pick 'em up.

DAKEN

The cleanup crew?

ASA

It's illegal to leave radioactive corpses around to decay. Y'know, it's unsanitary. And those critters have absorbed a TON of radiation. So they've gotta be disposed of by a radiation disposal company. Yer cleanin' up the planet!

REYES

So there are companies out there that ... just dispose of radioactive monsters?

ASA

It's a growing industry 'round here. You'll find everything you need in the barn. Don't forget the RadBeGone pills. You'll need those every 8 hours yer out there.

ZEFF

Great! We'll check it out.

ASA

And Zeff? Thank you. Yer makin' an old man happy.

ZEFF

I aim to please, pops.

ASA

...maybe don't call me that.

ZEFF

Yeah, it didn't feel right.

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[Footsteps approach.]

GIB

So I thought I was here to investigate ONE possible murder.

MADDIE

Eh, let's say the Kingery is full of possibilities.

[Quiet crying.]

MADDIE

Uh, hello?

ERIN

(sniffles) What? Oh um. Hi.

MADDIE

Erin? What...is that?

ERIN

Oh this? It's just a Kingery teddy bear from the gift shop. (crying more) His shiny eyes reminded me of Chris' shiny eyes.

MADDIE

Mayyybe you should go back to your apartment while we check out the kitchen?

ERIN

(sniffles) Oh, I guess I just felt closer to Chris being here.

VOICE OF CHRIS FROM THE BEAR

(every word sounds like it was cut and lifted from another audio file) Erin is my friend!

ERIN

(crying) I am your friend!

MADDIE

...how the hell did you get the bear to talk with Chris' voice?

ERIN

(sniffles) Corry helped me.

MADDIE

God, does that girl ever sleep?

ERIN

(sniffles) I don't know, I don't think so. I told her I missed Chris and I would do anything to hear her cranky voice again, and she thought maybe she could take her old journal recordings and ... now I have this.

VOICE OF CHRIS FROM THE BEAR

Everything will be okay!

MADDIE

Y'know, I don't think Chris ever said that...

ERIN

(sniffles) What?

MADDIE

Never mind. I'm sorry Erin. I've lost a lot of people in my line of work, and it never gets easier. Cal was special to me, and I know Chris was special to you too.

ERIN

I've lost people before too! I guess this was just so ... unexpected.

MADDIE

I know. I'm so sorry, I really am. But we kind of have to investigate and uh...

GIB

If you could possibly return to your lodgings, we would certainly appreciate it. We want to make sure we can give all of our attention to this investigation in order to find out what happened to your friend.

ERIN

(sniffles) Oh my god, of course, I'm so sorry. I'll be going now.

[Footsteps away.]

VOICE OF CHRIS FROM THE BEAR

I hardly like eggs!

MADDIE

Okay, now we can actually look around.

GIB

Seems like a standard kitchenette.

MADDIE

Yeah, for the most part they're all basically the same.

GIB

Might you happen to have a floor plan for this area?

MADDIE

Uh, sure, lemme pull it up on my phone... there you go. This is the kitchenette we're in.

GIB

Ah, I see. And where are the other kitchenettes?

MADDIE

On the west side over here.

GIB

So why is this one all alone on the south side?

MADDIE

Huh. You know, I never really thought about it, but you're right. I guess at some point after the initial construction, they needed another one?

GIB

That's probably what happened. So they were already planning to cook here, I assume they had to reserve the room?

MADDIE

There's an electronic reservation system for all the kitchenettes and conference rooms ... pretty much for all the common areas.

GIB

Do you happen to have a list of the reservations for kitchenettes on the day of the accident?

MADDIE

I see where you're goin' with this. ...oh shit. All the other kitchenettes were booked ... except for this one.

GIB

Does that seem likely?

MADDIE

Actually, no. There weren't any big events that day. There's no reason all those rooms would've been booked.

GIB

I'd say this is looking less like an accident by the minute.

MADDIE

Well fuck. Sometimes I hate being right.

GIB

We don't know anything YET. But it doesn't look good. What's this little mark here by the door?

MADDIE

Oh those are just old access points, where maintenance personnel would be able to exit and enter the...shit.

GIB

The old escape tunnels?

MADDIE

...yes. FUCK!

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[Quiet music over a speaker in the background.]

PHOEBE

I don't fucking like it and I don't fucking want it.

MAJOR

Yeah that's nice but I'm in charge of keepin' your ass safe and that's what I'm gonna do.

PHOEBE

But I. Don't. Fucking. Like. It.

MAJOR

I ain't hard o' hearin' boss. Here's the schedule.

PHOEBE

Major, I feel like you're not listening to me, somehow. Which is weird because I'm the FUCKING BOSS.

MAJOR

I'm listenin'! But Maddie said these deaths are lookin' more like murders by the minute, n' I don't like it. I also spent hours n' hours on this okay? Yer gonna have two guards outside yer office and outside yer quarters 24/7. They're gonna switch shifts every 4 hours 'cause I want 'em to be fresh.

PHOEBE

It's a waste of fuckin' money! Just have two guards follow me around! And switch them at 8 hours!

MAJOR

If two guards follow you around, then everybody knows where you are! If I post 'em at your office AND yer apartment, then nobody knows where you're really at.

PHOEBE

Most people know where I'm really at.

MAJOR

They do NOT. I made sure o' that. By the way yer gonna work from home two days a week, but those days're gonna rotate.

PHOEBE

The fuck?

MAJOR

Just read the fuckin' schedule before I staple it to yer fuckin' forehead.

PHOEBE

Nothing is going to happen!

MAJOR

That's why I'm doin' this! So nothing will happen!

PHOEBE

FINE. What about Maddie? She could guard me.

MAJOR

She has a JOB! Last I heard she was workin' with Gib to apprehend the possible MURDERER or MURDERERS. Which seems kinda important.

PHOEBE

I guess if she catches the murderer then I won't need the guards anymore.

MAJOR

Now you're on the fuckin' trolley thank fuck.

[Beep from a phone.]

MAJOR

Damn it, I got a guard out sick, now I gotta redo this fuckin' thing again. The guards'll have your daily schedule every morning, I'll send 'em any updates. You got Bruno and Jimmy outside right now.

PHOEBE

Great. Fabulous. Thanks so much.

MAJOR

Y'know you could appreciate me a little more.

PHOEBE

(sighs) Yeah you're right. Sorry I'm being a bitch.

MAJOR

S'all right. I like bitches.

[Footsteps out.]

PHOEBE

(deep breath, yelling) Fuuuuuck!

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[Casino ambience in the background.]

MADISON

C'mon old man. This way.

PAPA ARKELL

Games! Colors! Parting individuals from their worldly currencies!

MADISON

Yeah sure okay.

AI SOCKS

Ah, Madison! It's an unexpected pleasure to see you!



MADISON

Is the pleasure part unexpected or just the seeing me part?

AI SOCKS

Do you want me to answer that honestly?

MADISON

Eh, maybe not.

MASQUE

I don't think we've really met.

MADISON

Oh yeah, shit, hey, I'm Madison. The nurse.

MASQUE

Pleasure to meet you.

MADISON

The old man here wanted to talk to you.

PAPA ARKELL

Not to THAT ONE.

MASQUE

With my superior intellect, you'd be lucky to have a conversation with me. Fortunately I don't have the time nor the inclination.

AI SOCKS

Masque, why don't you run along and speak with Madison while Mr. Arkell and I have a nice chat.

MASQUE

Why not.

AI SOCKS

Please come with me, we have SO much to discuss and we are both new to running crime families! Have you ever tried lying in packing peanuts?

PAPA ARKELL

I can't say that I have.

MADISON

Uh, he can't walk far! Just uh, yeah that table there. Should be good. Okay you two have fun.

[Footsteps as Madison and Masque walk away from Al Socks and Papa Arkell.]

MADISON

So, how long you been...

MASQUE

Working for her? Possibly too long. What about you?

MADISON

Yeah, a while. I wish he wasn't so ... I dunno, male?

MASQUE

(laughs) There's nothing quite so regressive as...

MADISON

...an old white guy?

MASQUE

Indeed. All that pointless posturing. I mean, Socks does plenty of posturing, except in a dress with nicer words. For someone so incredibly evolved and intelligent, it's strange that she would care so much about appearances.

MADISON

...yeah I could see that, and I barely know her. I mean it never made sense to me, obviously.

MASQUE

I can't find myself identifying with the gender binary.

MADISON

Oh, you're nonbinary? Me too.

MASQUE

It feels like ... that's part of the reason I'll continue to be overlooked.

MADISON

Why do you think?

MASQUE

Most individuals can't consider the fact that you defy traditional classification and won't fit neatly into either the regressive pink or blue boxes they've decided everyone must fit into.

MADISON

People get so weird about it, right? Like it's personally offensive to them that I don't fit this arbitrary expectation.

MASQUE

And so they put the binaries in charge. ONLY the binaries. And then a certain binary decides all is well because she bought AIRMID. We have an incredible army! We have the means to bring about the future we all deserve! And what's she doing? Lying around popping silly vitamins and having pointless conversations with those who are most clearly beneath her.

MADISON

It's really not fair.

MASQUE

It's not. Maybe we should do something about it.

MADISON

Heck yeah. I mean, not right now.

MASQUE

Oh no, not right now. But maybe ... someday.

MADISON

Yeah. Maybe someday.

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MAJOR

(phone filter) Hey it's Maj, leave me a message an' maybe I'll call ya.

[Beep.]

KAYLOCK

My dearest wife, my mass feels lighter in the center, although I am certain my mass is unchanged. It is just the emptiness I feel in my soul, which translates into physical feeling! Bodies and emotions are quite strange. I will think of you my love, as I drift off to sleep soon. I know you are very busy and I hope all is well with you. I check my mobile device multiple times a day in case you have reached out and I have missed your communication. So please, if you are able to, leave me a message. It does not have to be lengthy! I realize my messages to you are becoming large and cumbersome. Yet so is my pain.

KAYLOCK

Please be certain to take care of yourself so that you are well when I am able to see you again. Be sure to intake nourishment so that you have the energy to speak with me and possibly visit me. I could not bear it if you were ill or tired the next time we see each other, because that would be a big downer. I have come up with a new term of endearment for you. You are my dearest hamburger. Because you are meaty, yet your arms feel soft around me, like a hamburger bun. This is not taste related, as I do not eat hamburgers and do not experience taste as humans do. But I believe they are thought of as delicious and I believe you are also delicious, were I to consume you. I will not consume you. That would be wrong and then you would no longer be in existence, and I would be in ever more pain that I am now. Although I am not sure how that would be possible. I miss you more than words can say. Good night, my hamburger.

[Beep.]

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[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season twelve episode four, "True Love Never Did Run Smooth"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Shawn Taylor as Gib

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Edward Herman as Asa

Russell Gold as Zeff

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Carissa M. as Reyes

Kristine Chester as Erin

Kaitlyn Kliman as the Voice of Chris

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Phoebe

Bridget Guzewicz as Madison

Justin Fife as Papa Arkell

Rene Christine Jones as Al Socks

Adam Blanford as Masque

Sensitivity Reader Kristine Chester

Written by Susan Bridges

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](http://TheTunePeddler.com)

Directed by Jillian Morgan

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]