

The Kingery, episode 12x07 “Parts of a Hole”

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

[Several people muttering.]

[Doors open. ARKELL enters on kill-a-man stiletto heels.]

ARKELL

You know, I have a meeting room at the casino. Great big mahogany table. I was on the waiting list for two years. Had to have an entire grove of trees grown just to get access. The chairs? Comfortable, but keep your back nice and straight. The air conditioning's perfect. There's a tea station. It's the perfect place to do business. And yet, here I am, at the spaceport Thunderbird, sitting in a folding chair at a folding table.

MASQUE

As if any of us would be allowed to leave your territory.

ARKELL

Where's Socks?

MASQUE

My associate, Ms. Buisson, is otherwise occupied.

ARKELL

Really. Looks like everybody else managed to make time in their schedules. Asa came all the way from Pine Ridge.

ASA

(sotto voce)

And thank goodness for that.

ARKELL

“Mister Arkell” is here...

PAPA ARKELL

I am?

MADISON

Yes. You are.

PAPA ARKELL

Ah. Yes. No matter where you go—

CASS

Are we just going to allow this parasite to sit at our table?

ARKELL

We'll get to that. First of all, I want to talk about the murders.

MASQUE

You'll have to narrow that down.

ARKELL

Oh, you got jokes? Because I got dead bodies.

[Phone beeps from around the room!]

ARKELL

Take a good look. See that? The body with a stump where a head should be? That's Sarah.

ASA

Jesus!

CASS

Who would— why didn't you tell us about this before?

ARKELL

To judge your reactions. Congratulations. You two passed.

CASS

For God's sake, St— Al-- I'm sorry, what's your name now?

ARKELL

Just call me "Sis" for the moment.

ASA

That's pretty cold, "Sis," to think me or my people would do that to Sarah.

CASS

As if I would!

ARHELL

I wasn't really worried about you two. Check out Screen-Face and The Enemy Within over here. They didn't even blink.

MASQUE

I don't blink. Besides, we had no reason to murder a restaurateur. Or a chocolatier, for that matter.

CASS

Geppi too?

ARHELL

Geppi. Sarah. Cal from the PD and a member of the Marine deployment. That's four people tangentially connected with the Arkells who were caught in death-traps.

CASS

Five. Don't forget Morgan.

PAPA ARHELL

"Death-traps!" That sounds ominous!

ARHELL

You seem to find this awful amusing, "Steve."

PAPA ARHELL

As it happens, we've experienced a similar situation, haven't we, Madison?

MADISON

...yes. We have.

[Whoosh!]

MADISON

You have to do it.

PAPA ARKELL

I don't "have" to do anything. That's what's great about being me.

MADISON

Look. You blithering idiot.

PAPA ARKELL

This is how you talk to your employer?

MADISON

When he's being an ass, yes! You do not have the resources to start disobeying your daughter.

PAPA ARKELL

Arkell's daughter, you mean.

MADISON

Oh, tell me you're not dissociating now. It's already exhausting dealing with you.

[Beep! Someone's at the door.]

PAPA ARKELL

I'll get it. You go get my lunch.

MADISON

(sotto voce)

Get you your fuckin' lunch...

[Door opens.]

PAPA ARKELL

...huh.

MADISON

(off)

What is it?

PAPA ARKELL
It's a monkey.

MADISON
(off)
A what?

PAPA ARKELL
A monkey. A creepy little mechanical monkey with cymbals.

[The creepy little mechanical monkey starts bashing its cymbals.]

PAPA ARKELL
...okay.

MADISON
(off)
Close the door. Don't let that thing in.

PAPA ARKELL
Don't tell me what to—

[The monkey shrieks!]

PAPA ARKELL
AHHHHHH!

[Papa Arkell falls! The Monkey's going for his face!!]

PAPA ARKELL
MADISON! MADISON! GET THIS FUCKING THING OFF ME!

[Sudden shift in perspective – we're in the kitchen, we hear the fight from off.]

PAPA ARKELL
(off)
MADISON!

MADISON
(calls out)
I'm coming!

PAPA ARKELL

(off)

You little bastard! MADISON! IT'S GOING FOR MY EYES!

MADISON

'I'm sorry, Ms. Arkell. There was nothing I could do. The thing just came out of nowhere and—'

PAPA ARKELL

(off)

AHHHHHHHHH!

MADISON

Dammit.

[Madison slams through the door and kicks the monkey!]

[The monkey screeches as it slams into the wall!]

[Bzzt! It shorts out.]

PAPA ARKELL

That... I was... I think you just saved my life, kid.

MADISON

Let's see where this thing came fr—

[A small, controlled explosion.]

MADISON

...or not.

[Whoosh!]

PAPA ARKELL

I've had people try to kill me before, but robot monkey is a new one.

ARKELL

That... yeah. I can imagine. Good work, Madison.

MADISON
Thanks. Boss.

ARKELL
Let's take five, shall we?

[The meeting breaks up a little. Arkell and Cassandra walk and talk.]

CASS
Now I'm pissed.

ARKELL
Oh, now you're pissed.

CASS
They tried to kill our father.

ARKELL
Our father's body which is apparently still inhabited by an alien intelligence.

[Asa catches up with them.]

ASA
So between your dad and Socks, that's two heads of families who are being mind controlled by something else. There anything you two wanna tell me?

CASS
This isn't funny, Asa.

[Doors open into hotel foyer. Slightly more activity in the background.]

[Beep! Cass's phone is ringing.]

CASS
'scuse me.

[Beep! As she answers the call.]

CASS
Kaylock.

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

Ms. Arkell. You asked for a status update.

CASS

Right. What have you heard from our people?

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

Nothing.

CASS

Nothing? Nothing is not acceptable. I want results.

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

And we will get them.

CASS

They are making us look stupid, Kaylock. They are making me look stupid. They killed Morgan and left them in my apartment just to rub my nose in it. They cannot get away with it.

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

I understand you're upset.

CASS

Upset? "Upset?" Is that a joke?

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

You've taken Morgan's loss to heart. It does you credit.

CASS

Don't handle me, Kaylock.

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

The team is working as hard as—

CASS

If they were working as hard as they could, I would have this prick's blood under my nails by now, wouldn't I? Spread the word. I want answers or I start making examples.

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

Ms. Arkell...

CASS

You understand me?

KAYLOCK (ON PHONE)

All too well. I'll just go tell your loyal employees to work harder or else, shall I?

CASS

You do that.

[Beep! She ends the call.]

CASS

Pissy little amoeba... What?!

ARHELL

You... when you said... you sounded like Ma just now.

CASS

Did I. Well. Thank you.

ARHELL

It wasn't a compliment.

CASS

You know what—

ASA

Okay, okay, nothing good ever follows that phrase. Come on, Cass, let's find a decent place to eat.

CASS

...fine.

[Cass stalks off.]

ASA

Sheesh. Did everyone wake up pissed off today?

ARHELL

Can you think of a good reason why they shouldn't?

[Gun firing multiple times.]

ERIN
Shit.

MADDIE
You mind some constructive criticism?

ERIN
Computer, reset program.

[Beep! A series of holographic targets reset themselves.]

[Gun firing multiple times.]

[Mechanical explodey noises as she hits two out of four targets.]

ERIN
Shit!

MADDIE
Because if you just--

ERIN
Computer, reset program.

[Beep! Reset.]

[Multiple gunshots. Only one target is hit this time.]

ERIN
Shit! Compu—

MADDIE
For fuck's sake—

[Maddie crosses over to Erin and starts adjusting her.]

MADDIE
Your stance is all wrong.

ERIN

This gun is all wrong! Dinky little handheld piece of shit, if I had my rifle--

MADDIE

This isn't a war zone. You can't tote around a weapon that big.

ERIN

That's what she said.

MADDIE

Awful. Look, adjust your grip, bend this knee, lift your right shoulder... try it now. Computer, reset program.

[Beep! Reset. Multiple gunshots. She hits all four targets. Computer victory noise!]

ERIN

...thanks.

MADDIE

You're welcome. Been sleeping?

ERIN

No. You?

MADDIE

Nope.

ERIN

...I've lost people before. In the field. This isn't new. Why does this feel so different?

MADDIE

Because whoever it is, they're laughing at us. Like the thing at the Terrace. Exploding robot flies? Really? It comes right out of a comic book.

ERIN

We should be doing more.

MADDIE

Like what?

ERIN

Something! I don't know!

MADDIE

There isn't anything else. There's just this. Follow the clues. Ask the questions. And in this case, shoot things while we wait for lab results.

ERIN

Yeah. Yeah. Your girlfriend was tight with the Terrace lady, right?

MADDIE

About as close as she gets with anybody. So we'd better be the ones to find this mutt. Because if the Arkell family gets to them first, the killer's going to end up buried out on the salt flats. In a bunch of different holes.

[Echoey. Dripping.]

[Phone typing clicks.]

JACE

I knew it.

CORRY

Knew what?

JACE

That thing we found? Looked like a two-headed hamster? It's a totally new species! That means I get to name it!

CORRY

Good for you.

JACE

"Rodentia Jace."

HOOKS

Do you smell that?

[Various sniffs.]

CORRY

Not really. I think we might be kinda noseblind, all this time down here.

HOOKS

Not me. I smell everything. It's a curse.

JACE

Don'tcha mean "a gift and a curse?"

HOOKS

No. Over here.

[Dripping gets a little louder.]

JACE

Probably another body. What are we up to now, five?

CORRY

Six. That guy in the mattress--

JACE

--guy in the mattress, right, right.

HOOKS

It's coming from this hatch...

[Dripping is still louder.]

[Squeak! Hooks starts opening the hatch.]

CORRY

Boss? I'm, uh, I'm gonna throw it out there that maybe we don't wanna be right under that thing when it opens.

HOOKS

Good point.

[Cogs and beeps as Hooks attaches a gizmo to the hatch.]

JACE

What's that?

HOOKS

It's a remote wrench. Good for hard to reach places. It tightens around a bolt or a socket or whatever, exerts pressure, and...

[Squeak! Squeak! Squeeeeeeeak!]

[The hatch flops open. A reservoir of fluid splashes out.]

CORRY

Blood?

HOOKS

Some of it. Some of it smells like the bio-waste the Evolved produced.

JACE

You can smell that from here?

HOOKS

That's not an odor you forget.

[Something meaty flops to the floor.]

[Hooks, Jace, and Corry yelp in surprise.]

JACE

It's a hand!

[Another something meaty flops to the floor.]

CORRY

Another hand!

HOOKS

...they're both right hands.

[Many more meaty things flop to the floor.]

JACE

What the hell—

HOOKS

Back up, back up now—

[Horrible, fleshy plopping sounds as a chamber full of body parts empties itself onto the floor.]

[Hooks, Jace, and Corry are disgusted.]

HOOKS

...there's got to be... there's so much.

JACE

I don't feel good. I—I don't feel good.

CORRY

I'm calling it in.

HOOKS

Yeah. Thanks. What the hell were those maniacs doing?

ARKELL

Yes. Yes, I see. Is everyone all right? ...good. Get yourselves out of there. You're not equipped for that right now. ...right.

[Arkell ends her call.]

[Arkell walks around the table.]

MASQUE

As I was saying, we did happen to find a body in one of the subbasements of the Spider's Den recently, but there was no evidence of any sort of attack. It could have been death by misadventure for all... we... can I help you?

ARKELL

What was I thinking?

MASQUE

Stop hovering.

ARHELL

What made me think it was going to be any different this time around? I give you a little bit, the smallest piece of power, and what do you do with it?

MASQUE

What are you yammering abo—HHHKKKK!

[Arkell has Masque in a choke hold.]

ARHELL

What's the matter? You don't have some kinda superefficient breathing tube?

[The sounds of Masque choking.]

CASS

Sis!

ASA

Calm down!

ARHELL

My people just found a pile of body parts in the escape tunnels. How many, Masque? How many people did you and your "Army" grab off the street and cut up? How many?

PAPA ARHELL

Stephanie—

ARHELL

That's not my fucking name!

[Masque elbows Arkell in the stomach.]

ARHELL

(OOF!)

[Masque rises from their chair.]

MASQUE

Don't you ever touch me again.

ARKELL

I'll rip that fuckin' Lite-Brite off your skull, you fuck!

MASQUE

Target!

[All around, from up on high, we hear energy weapons powering up.]

MASQUE

Did you really think we were going to let you control this meeting, Arkell? I had my people standing by. They're up in the rafters now. This isn't a ballroom. It's a shooting gallery. Why are you smiling?

ARKELL

Because I bought something earlier. This hotel. Major!

[Masque's team dies!]

173. MAJOR

Area secured, boss.

ARKELL

Thank you. The only reason... the only reason you're not dead is because you don't matter enough to kill. Scurry away, Masque. Tell Socks I'm gonna get to the bottom of this. And if she is in any way responsible? I will end her.

MASQUE

You'll regret this.

[Masque hurries away.]

ARKELL

Probably. So who's left? My sister. My father. My mentor.

ASA

Long as you don't think of me as a grandparent.

ARKELL

This organization has one goal; we find whoever's doing this, and we drag them into the light. Any objections? Let's get to work.

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season twelve episode Seven, "La Vie Est Un Combat"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Arkell

Adam Blanford as Masque

Edward Herman as Asa

Justin Fife as Papa Arkell

Bridget Guzewicz as Madison

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Kristine Chester as Erin

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Perry Whittle as Hooks

and M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Sensitivity Reader Kristine Chester

Written by Pete Milan

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

Assistant director Kaitlyn Kliman

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]