

The Kingery, episode 12x09 "The Bright Idea That I Was Cool"

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

[Light rain.]

[A sound like a washing machine full of scrap metal and broken glass walking. It sounds heavy. Distant THOOM. It gets closer. THOOM. THOOM. THOOM.]

REYES

(whispering)

Will you look at this shit. What is this thing?

ASA

(whispering)

Damn if I know. Looks like it was made in a hurry. .

ZEFF

(whispering)

Pipe down. Hold your fire...

[THOOM. THOOM. THOOM.]

ZEFF

(whispering)

Steady...

[THOOM. THOOM. SQUELCH! Something heavy and mechanical falls through a tarp into a mud pit.]

ZEFF

(loud)

NOW!

[Everybody fires their weapons.]

[THE RATTLETRAP SCREAMS! It sounds like the squeal of a fax machine going through a shredder!]

[IT FIRES BACK!]

[SOMEONE SCREAMS!]

ASA

Valentine's down! I'm gonna—

ZEFF

Hold your position! Take it down!

[Ricochets! The firing continues!]

[A panel opens! DRONES LAUNCH FROM THE RATTLETRAP'S INTERIOR!]

REYES

Drones! It's launching drones!

ZEFF

GET TO COVER!

[THE DRONES FIRE! SOLDIERS DIE!]

ASA

NO!

[Asa picks his shots. One, two, three, drones blow up!]

REYES

Asa! ASA! GET DOWN!

[The whine of a weapon powering up. Asa's still picking off drones. Four! Five!]

ZEFF

Shit! It's gonna fire! Asa, get back here!

ASA

Come on... come on...

REYES

ASA! He's just standing there!

ZEFF

He's picking off the drones, he doesn't see— ah, shiiiiit!

[ZEFF CHARGES TOWARDS ASA! As he does, we hear the pin pulled off a grenade.]

ZEFF
GET DOWN!

[A grenade is thrown and explodes!]
[Several tons of metal crash into the mud pit and start to sink.]

ZEFF
When I say get down, you fucking get down!

ASA
I had it under control.

ZEFF
Clearly.

ASA
I was leading patrols on this radioactive shithole before you knew you were queer, Zeff.

ZEFF
Shows what you know. I was born fabulous.

REYES
You're not funny.

ASA
Wasn't really going for funny, Reyes.

REYES
I'm gonna go around, get a sitrep.

ZEFF
Right. I'm startin' to really hate this place.

ASA
That's how you know you're gettin' used to it.

[Low music and chatter from a dive bar.]

MOUSE

Haven't heard anything.

GIB

Come on, Mouse—

MOUSE

If I knew, I'd tell you, Gib. Fact of the matter is, no one's seen Buisson in weeks.

GIB

What about Masque?

MOUSE

That creep? He comes into town every once in a while, mostly to the spaceport. I hear he's bringing in lots of tech. That's nothing new.

GIB

Do me a favor, beep me when you hear something, yeah?

MOUSE

Long as you're buying the drinks.

[Gib leaves. Mouse drinks his drink.]

KAYLOCK

Your name is Mouse, I hear.

MOUSE

You hear correctly. Something I can do for you?

KAYLOCK

My employer wishes to speak with you on a matter of some urgency.

MOUSE

Nothing personal, but I don't do business with go-betweens. If your employer wants to meet, let me look at my calendar.

KAYLOCK

You don't know me, do you?

MOUSE

I know you're alien, that's pretty obvious.

KAYLOCK

My name is Kaylock.

MOUSE

The... Kaylock that works for Cassandra Arkell.

KAYLOCK

The very same.

MOUSE

Ah. Bye.

[MOUSE TRIES TO RUN! SQUOOK! Kaylock wraps tendrils of ooze around them!]

KAYLOCK

Come along, Mouse. Ms. Arkell is right outside.

[Kaylock drags Mouse outside.]

MOUSE

No no no no no! She's fuckin' crazy! She's been running riot all over town! She's got everyone freaked out! She—

[Cassandra walks up.]

CASS

--has excellent hearing.

MOUSE

...ah, Ms. Arkell, there you are, I understand you are in need of some information, and I will be all too happy to share what I can!

CASS

Yes. You will. Because if you don't, I'm going to have Mr. Kaylock shove you face-first into his body.

MOUSE

Don't say the thing, please don't say the thing, please—

CASS

You understand me?

[Mouse passes out.]

CASS

Did they just faint?

KAYLOCK

If you insist on being terrifying, generally people will be terrified of you. You wouldn't really have me shove someone... inside me. Would you?

[Bing-bong! Doors open.]

MADDIE

Hello?

[Maddie and Erin walk in.]

ERIN

I don't smell blood or anything...

MADDIE

Hold on, there's a sign on the counter.

[She picks up the sign.]

MADDIE

"Due to these unprecedented times, The House of Aida had decided to embrace self-service shopping. Please bring your purchases to the terminal and check out with your credit chit or device of your choice. This establishment is being monitored and all shoplifters will be reported to law enforcement."

ERIN

That's one way to keep overhead down.

MADDIE

If I had to work a regular job while all this is going on,
I'd stay home too. Well, come on, let's get you glammed up.

[They look through racks of clothes.]

ERIN

No dresses.

MADDIE

Understood.

ERIN

And no skirts.

MADDIE

Right.

ERIN

And no heels.

MADDIE

Erin, it's a disguise. You've got to make a compromise or
two.

ERIN

I'm not going into that... that...

MADDIE

...den of spiders?

ERIN

Yes. That. I'm not going in there in some kind of girlygirl
outfit. Just because I'm a trans woman doesn't mean
I'm femme. Find me a suit or something.

MADDIE

You're lucky Socks isn't a leg woman.

ERIN

What is she into?

MADDIE

Hard to say. I hooked up with her a couple of times, but it was in a professional capacity, so it was more about me than her.

ERIN

...you slept with Socks?

MADDIE

No, we just had sex.

ERIN

That isn't, like, awkward for you? Since Socks worked for Arkell?

MADDIE

Not really. Life's short and lingering on who fucked who is a waste of time. I wouldn't do it now. Arkell and I are together. We're monogamous. ...you know, unless we met somebody we were both into.

ERIN

I think you're a little more tuned into your sexuality than I am. Maddie?

MADDIE

Hmm?

ERIN

Why'd you leave Gib behind? If it's about me, I don't have a problem telling him about myself. He just caught me off guard.

MADDIE

I'm just not sure about him. He leans a little hard into the whole "down these mean streets a man must go" thing. If this thing with Socks goes sideways, I'm not sure where his loyalties would lie.

ERIN

You don't trust him?

MADDIE

Not yet. We'll see.

All right, here's something.

[A quiet room in the lodge. Sounds of activity from outside.]

[Door opens.]

DOC BRIGGS

Asa? Are you hurt?

ASA

How many did we lose?

DOC BRIGGS

...seven.

ASA

Fuck. This is how it started last time.

DOC BRIGGS

Last time?

ASA

Before. When I was "Mister Amargosa." Hot shit outlaw. They didn't come for us all at once. Just... whittled away at us.

Until I was all that was left.

[Briggs crosses over to him.]

DOC BRIGGS

Zeff told me you... you weren't taking very good care of yourself out there.

ASA

I'm fine.

DOC BRIGGS

Don't give me that shit.

I know you, Asa. You're always taking care of everyone else. Picking us up when we're down, shoring up the ones about to fall. You've certainly been doing that for me.

ASA

I can handle it.

DOC BRIGGS

I know. You don't have to handle it. That's what this is. You and me. When you I— When you love someone, you're not just picking up their burdens. You're sharing the load.

ASA

I thought coming back here... I thought I was going to set it all right. Put it back the way it was, before everything went to hell. I thought I could do it. I had to do it. I had to take care of everything. I'm so fuckin' tired, Doc.

[Doc pulls him into a hug.]

DOC BRIGGS

Okay. You be tired for a while.

[Gentle knock on the doorframe.]

ZEFF

Uh, Doc? Reyes was looking for you.

DOC BRIGGS

Right.

[She gets up.]

DOC BRIGGS

Don't go anywhere, okay?

ASA

I won't. Hey, Doc?

DOC BRIGGS

Yeah?

ASA

Love you, too.

DOC BRIGGS

...well. Good.

[She leaves.]

ZEFF

Feeling better?

ASA

That's a hell of a person right there.

ZEFF

Clearly.

ASA

I don't know where I got the bright idea that I always had to be the strong one.

ZEFF

Yeah.

ASA

That's how it works, though, right? You've gotta let your pardner take the reins once in a while.

ZEFF

Right.

ASA

Let them lead.

ZEFF

Uh huh.

ASA

I'm talkin' about Daken.

ZEFF

Yeah, you're not subtle.

ASA

Got a text from him while we were out there. He let me know he's leaving today.

ZEFF

Leaving?

ASA

Catching the 4:35 shuttle to the next system.

ZEFF

That's... pretty close.

ASA

It is.

[ZEFF takes off running.]

ASA

Godspeed...

[Thrashing and burbling.]

KAYLOCK

This is revolting.

CASS

It's effective.

KAYLOCK

I have a living being inside me, Ms. Arkell. I assure you, it's revolting.

CASS

Let them up.

[SQUORK— Kaylock pulls MOUSE out of his body.]

MOUSE

(GASPS FOR AIR)

CASS

Do I have your attention, Mouse?

MOUSE

(spluttering)

I've got goop up my nose!

KAYLOCK

I beg your pardon. My body is not compromised of goop. Show some respect.

MOUSE

Screw you, snot ball!

[Mouse is slapped.]

CASS

Keep a civil tongue in your head or I'll instruct Mr. Kaylock to remove it.

KAYLOCK

For Gorlock's sake...

CASS

Now. I understand you're a big noise in the information game, Mouse. You've noticed the murders happening around town, I take it?

MOUSE

I don't know anything about that.

CASS

Mr. Kaylock?

KAYLOCK

Must I?

CASS

Kaylock.

KAYLOCK

(sigh) Fine...

MOUSE

Nonononono—

[SQUORK! In they go. Flailing, burbling.]

KAYLOCK

This is a disgusting display.

CASS

Don't question me in front of— you know what, just don't question me.

KAYLOCK

Ms. Arkell, in all seriousness, I feel your behavior these past few days is uncharacteristic.

CASS

Uncharacteristic? Why? Because I'm willing to get my hands dirty?

KAYLOCK

Because you haven't been listening to anyone. Because you have become a law unto yourself.

CASS

That's ridiculous.

KAYLOCK

In a short time, you've become as much a figure of dread as...

CASS

As who?

KAYLOCK

As your mother.

CASS

Kaylock! That's an awful thing to— oh shit, pull them out, they've stopped kicking!

[SQUORK!]

MOUSE

(gasps)

Stop that!

CASS

Do you think you should be shouting at me right now?

MOUSE

I don't know anything about the murders! Whoever's doing it, they're no one I know, and I know everyone!

CASS

Nothing about the Spider's Den?

MOUSE

Buisson's got that place locked down tight! I couldn't hear a whisper in there!

CASS

You don't have a lot of information for an information broker, do you? Mr. Kaylock—

MOUSE

NO!

[SQUORK!]

CASS

Comparing me to my psychopath of a mother is a low blow, Kaylock.

KAYLOCK

And yet. Since Morgan's death, you have become...

CASS

Focused?

KAYLOCK

Cruel.

CASS

...I'm not cruel.

KAYLOCK

Again, I have a person drowning inside my body right now.

CASS

Let them up.

[SQUORK.]

MOUSE

(gasps)

The power grid!

CASS

...what about it?

MOUSE

It's been having these weird fluctuations! Like something's feeding off it! No one's talking! I thought it was those Evolved weirdos, but they're all scattered from hell to breakfast!

CASS

Interesting. Very well, Mouse. Scurry. If you learn anything, you'll come find me.

That wasn't a question.

MOUSE

Find you. Right.

CASS

Release them, Mr. Kaylock.

[Kaylock drops Mouse. They land on their feet and take off running.]

CASS

(sigh) That was classic Sylvia Arkell, wasn't it?

KAYLOCK

Yes. It was.

CASS

Dammit.

I was just... they killed Morgan in my home.

KAYLOCK

I know.

CASS

I hate that this is my default. When I'm angry, when I'm scared... I go right into Mom mode. She certainly programmed me. My sister, too, in her way. I need to get it together.

KAYLOCK

We all need that. Boss.

CASS

We're going to need some help. This thing with the power grid might be nothing, but I don't want to investigate it on our own. I don't suppose Major—

KAYLOCK

I haven't spoken to her directly in... I have quite literally lost count.

CASS

That's not great.

KAYLOCK

It is not.

CASS

I'm sorry. It's time we remedied that.

KAYLOCK

"We?"

CASS

We.

[Cass walks away.]

KAYLOCK

I believe this feeling is known as "dread."

[Spaceships coming and going in the background of the spaceport.]

AGENT

[over PA]

Now boarding Flight P123 at Gate Epsilon. Repeat, now
boarding Flight P123 at Gate Epsilon.

ZEFF

Daken! Daken!

AGENT

Your boarding pass, please.

DAKEN

Here y'go.

ZEFF

Daken!

AGENT

There you are, just step down the passage and—

ZEFF

DAKEN!

DAKEN

What the hell?

ZEFF

Daken! Wait! Just wait a minute!

DAKEN

...Zeff?

ZEFF

(out of breath)

Yeah! Just... give me a second...

DAKEN

What are you doing here? Wanted to make sure I got off planet without getting a boo-boo?

ZEFF

(still out of breath)

No! I... okay, I was an asshole.

I didn't... I thought I was protecting you. And... and what I should have been doing was trusting you.

I should have let you take point. I should have known you can take care of yourself. I'm sorry.

Are you just gonna stand there looking pretty or is this doing anything for you?

DAKEN

Did you just do the thing where the guy runs through the spaceport to stop the person he loves from getting on the Transport? Have you ever seen anyone do that?

AGENT

Usually security stops them.

ZEFF

I have a badge.

You've heard me say I love you a hundred times. But I need you, Daken. Not just the love stuff. I need you to come with me and kick some ass. Shoot some monsters. Wreck shit. ...and the love stuff too.

AGENT

...sir? Are you boarding?

DAKEN

...no. My plans have changed.

[Daken walks up to Zeff and they share a BIG DAMN KISS.]

DAKEN

You must be pretty desperate.

ZEFF

Desperately handsome.

[They walk away.]

DAKEN

You ran through the spaceport.

ZEFF

Yeah, not doing that again.

DAKEN

It was pretty great.

You're pretty great.

ZEFF

So are you.

DAKEN

So tell me about this ass we're going to kick.

ZEFF

There might be giant robots.

DAKEN

Well, shit, that's all you had to say...

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season twelve episode nine, "The Bright Idea That I Was Cool"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Carissa M. as Reyes

Edward Herman as Asa

Russell Gold as Zeff

Brandon Gamblin as Mouse

Shawn Taylor as Gib

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Kristine Chester as Erin

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Sarah Palmero as the Agent

And Andrew Hackley as Daken

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]