

The Kingery, episode 13x02 “A Matter of Time”

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

[Muffled sexy times heard through the wall.]

[Sheet rustle.]

ALYSON
(sleepy moan)

[More sheets rustle, someone sits up.]

ALYSON
(yawns)
Fuck, feels like I barely slept.
Why's it so cold?

ROBERTA
(sleepy moan)

ALYSON
Maddie?

ROBERTA
(slowly waking up)
If you want.

ALYSON
You... are not Maddie.

ROBERTA
Told you, happy to be anyone you want. Unless... oh wait, Gray? Madeleine Gray? Fuck no, uh uh, no way. Last thing I need is it getting back to her and I end up sidewalk paste.

ALYSON

The fuck? This is...
This is Shenanigans. I don't
rememb-

ROBERTA
I'll be anyone but Gray.

ALYSON
I don't- you
should go.

ROBERTA
You sure? You paid for the full
day.

ALYSON
Yeah, yep. Get out.

ROBERTA
Well thanks for fun night and a day
off to recover. I'm gonna need it
to be able to walk normal again.
Hand me my robe?

ALYSON
Oh sure, it's cold after all.

[Roberta gets up, tosses on her robe, walks to the
door, opens it and leaves.]

[A couple footsteps in.]

MAJOR
Hey, you done already?! You usually
ride-

ALYSON
Maj?! What the fuck... get out! I'm
naked!

MAJOR
...this a trick? Oh, some kinda
test or something, right? Nah I

remember those curves, been all
over 'em, what, a few dozen times?
Y'think I'd forget?

ALYSON

You... what? I'd never forget,
because I never in a million
years... I mean, no offense, just
there's this platonic love and not-

MAJOR

Anyway you ain't entirely naked,
you... got that fancy bracelet.
Who'd you haveta kill to get it?
Got that fancy filigree an' all,
must be pricey.

ALYSON

It was a gift.

MAJOR

Oh yeaah, I getcha. A "gift" in
exchange for not cavin' someone's
face in, yeah? That's a good
racket.
Sooooo, you havin' regrets?

ALYSON

Do I wish I could go back and do
some things differently? Get a
different outcome? Sure. Story of
my life.

MAJOR

I meant about spendin' the night
with Roberta, since I gave you the
rec and all.

[Raygun picked up.]

MAJOR

You really shouldn't leave your
Worthington lyin' around in the

open like this. Y'never know when
an actual honest cop is gonna spot
it and bring you in.

Naw I'm just kiddin'. "Honest cop".
(giggles)

I'll put it in yer lil' holster for
safe keepin'.

[Worthington is holstered.]

ALYSON

I am losing my fucking mind.

MAJOR

You okay lady?

ALYSON

Is that a thing people who are okay
say, Major? IS IT? And since when
do you call me "lady?"

MAJOR

Since you... came out as a lady?
I'd never disrespect you.

ALYSON

And yet you didn't call me "boss."

MAJOR

Uh... no see, I wouldn't, 'cause
you ain't at the mo', and the last
thing I want is to be on the boss's
bad side.

ALYSON

I'm so fuckin' confused.

MAJOR

Musta hit the Elate hard last
night, huh? You gotta be careful
with that stuff y'know.

ALYSON

Major. Just... what the hell.

MAJOR

Fuck if I know. All's I do know is the boss has a job for you so we best shake a leg or two.

ALYSON

I'm the boss.

MAJOR

(laughs)

Not fuckin' yet you ain't. But don't worry, I know the plan. This time tomorrow, maybe, we'll see. If we ain't dead.

[The hustle and the bustle of guests at the Kingery thoroughfare... which slowly stops.]

[Kaylock is suffocating someone who screams and struggles from within his protoplasm, and then slowly stops.]

KAYLOCK

It is done.

CASSANDRA

Fuckin' good. Doc?

BRIGGS

Uh... whaaat-

CASSANDRA

Doc Briggs! Wake the hell up. I don't care how late you stay out with that horny old man as long as you do your damned job.

BRIGGS

Horny old-

CASSANDRA

He give you that swanky bracelet? I
won't ask what the hell you had to
do for it, because that's an image
I don't need in my fucking head.

BRIGGS

Cassandra, what's going on?

CASSANDRA

What's going on, doctor, is I'm
waiting for you to confirm the
fucking asshole is fucking dead for
fucking good this time.

BRIGGS

Uh...

[A few steps, a quiet rustle.]

BRIGGS

I'm not feeling a pulse. Back up!
Give me room!

[Rhythmic chest compressions.]

BRIGGS

1, 2, 3-

CASSANDRA

TELL ME you're not performing C-P-fucking-R
on the dead man. Back the
fuck off before you're the next one
with a whole lot of Kaylock in her
lungs.

[Compressions stop, a few footsteps.]

BRIGGS

I-

CASSANDRA

Quiet. Who's next?

KAYLOCK

This one.

[Kaylock drags someone over.]

MOOK

Miss Cassandra! Please... please
no!

[Cassandra approaches the mook.]

MOOK

No no no, I beg-

CASSANDRA

You think you can skim? You think
you can cheat the motherfucking
ARKELLS?

MOOK

I didn't- I
didn't think-

CASSANDRA

Fucking right you didn't, you
pathetic little asshole.

MOOK

Please! I'll never do it again!

CASSANDRA

Yeah no shit, because you'll be
choking to death on protoplasm
inside of two minutes.

MOOK

Can't you make an exception? Just
this once! Haven't I always been a
good earner! I bring mySound

[Cassandra grabs the Mook.]

CASSANDRA

If I let you off, the next dipshit expects to be let off, then word gets around the Arkells have gone soft. Then we lose money, and people get ideas about how maybe we're weak. And do you know what that leads to? WAR. We didn't wipe out every other fucking family just to open the door to let them back in again. This galaxy is ours, and letting one little shithead like you go opens the door that brings us down. So no... fucking... thanks.

[Cassandra shoves the mook.]

MOOK
(oof!)

[The Mook splooshes into Kaylock.]

KAYLOCK
(struggling a little)
This one... is a squirmer!

BRIGGS
This is... my god.

CASSANDRA
This is a fucking mercy. Be glad I'm not my sister.
Everyone see this? This is your reminder of what waits for you if you fuck with the Arkells. We will get what we're owed, one way or a-fucking-nother!

[The squirming stops, Kaylock drops the Mook's body.]

KAYLOCK
Doctor Briggs? Confirm.

[A couple steps, a quiet rustle.]

BRIGGS

No pulse.

CASSANDRA

And that's the end of fucking that.
You can run back to Asa now. Oh!
You got a little Kaylock on your
bracelet there, you'd best clean
that off. Wouldn't want to ruin
something so unique.

[Two sets of footsteps stop.]

MAJOR

Awright, I'll keep an eye out. I
know the bribe was late, but I
don't think she'd risk the entire
setup on taking you in over this.

ALYSON

I don't have a fuckin' clue what
you just said.

MAJOR

This game's gettin' old, can we
drop it already? You're startin' to
make me think I was wrong, backin'
you in your move.

ALYSON

(sigh)

Just tell me what the fuck we're
here to do.

MAJOR

Do? You're here to do what you
fuckin' do, the only thing you do.
The Arkell sisters, the baddest
bitches in the galaxy... but
honestly Cass's just mean. You...

You take it to an art. Lemme start
ya off.

[Maj knocks on a door.]

ALYSON
Major! What are you-

MAJOR
Ah shit, down!

[Major tackles Alyson as a SHOTGUN BLAST rips
through a window, showering glass around.]

MAJOR
Fuck fuck fuck, I don't wanna die!

ALYSON
Wha-

MAJOR
Go get him before it's too late!

[Gun unholstered, Alyson kicks the door open.]

ALYSON
(grunt with the kick)
Drop it o- HOOKS?!

HOOKS
I knew it wouldn't be long! Fuck!
Who sold me out, Jace or Corry?
Never liked those little twerps.

[Shotgun racks.]

ALYSON
Oookay okay, let's just put down
our weapons...

HOOKS
Honestly insulted you think that'd
work.

ALYSON

Hooks! We- well
I wouldn't say
we're friends, but we're friendly!
I've always liked you, I've tried
to do right by you...

HOOKS

Oh fuck off. I know what you did to
Prok. To Devi. To... poor Tythia.

ALYSON

Tythia?

HOOKS

Oh did you forget her name? You cut
off her tentacles and fed them to
her. And you laughed.

ALYSON

N- no no, I wouldn't ever-

HOOKS

(rueful laugh)

So you're denying it? You aired the
fucking footage across the galaxy!
And sold tickets! But what else do
you expect from an Arkell.

[A few footsteps in, gun cocks.]

MAJOR

Drop- drop it, Mr. Hooks.

HOOKS

Or what, you'll shoot me? Alyson
will shoot me? That's preferable to
anything else. You know, one day
you're going to have to answer for
what you've done. I was a fool to
think I'd be the one to make it
happen. But there will be more. The

Arkell grip on the galaxy isn't as tight as you think.

ALYSON

Just shut up and give me a second!
I have to... have to figure out-

HOOKS

Fuck you, Arkells!

[Hooks charges, a shotgun blast and several gunshots ring out, a piece of the wall falls and crumbles, glass breaks around the room from errant shots.]

[A body falls.]

[And then another.]

HOOKS

(death rattle)

MAJOR

(weak and in pain)
Alyson- fuck,
he got me...

ALYSON

Major! Hooks! I... what-

MAJOR

"Boss." Heh. Not a bad ring to it,
you'd wear it well.

ALYSON

What the fuck is going on?

MAJOR

Sorry I won't live to see you take
over. I really did believe in
you...

ALYSON

(in tears)

I don't understand. This isn't
right. It's not-

MAJOR

Shoot her an extra time for me,
wilya? For all those times she made
fun of my knittin'.

ALYSON

Who-

MAJOR

And tell your mom I'll see her in
fuckin' hell.
(death rattle)

ALYSON

My mom?!

[Vehicles zooming by overhead.]

[Footsteps approach through grit.]

MADDIE

About fucking time.

ALYSON

Maddie. Fuck me, it's good to see
you.

MADDIE

Uh huh.

ALYSON

Why... are we meeting here? I found
the meeting on my calendar, but
don't-

MADDIE

Because the old man told you to,
just like I asked him? Like usual?

ALYSON

The old man?

MADDIE

Asa.

ALYSON

What does he have to- listen,
I really need you right now. I feel
like my brain's leaking out my
ears.

MADDIE

Isn't that what that old man's arm
candy is for? What's her name...
Briggs or whatever? She's a doctor.
Go see her when we're done, fuck if
I care.

ALYSON

Absolutely nothing is making sense.
Hooks, and Major... they're they're
dead. And so is Tythia, I
think? But he said-

MADDIE

(excited laugh)

We don't see eye to eye on a lot,
but the Tythia gambit was genius.
Broadcasting it like that-

ALYSON

You... you saw that?

MADDIE

This some negotiating tactic? Make
it seem like I never complimented
you on the move, so I never
respected you, this arrangement is
all one-way?
Something like that?

ALYSON

The fuck are you talking about?

MADDIE

The fuck are you talking about??

ALYSON

Since when is this how you talk to your wife?

MADDIE

(absolutely cracks up)

ALYSON

This is funny to you? This is- my friends are dead! I don't know what's going on, nothing is the way I remember it being. It's like I woke up from a dream to find I'm in a nightmare.

MADDIE

Okay, I admit, you're playing up the

(mock frail voice)

"oh my brain hurts, help me!" angle really well. It's... not a cover story I'm gonna buy and it's not gonna work, but I respect the effort.

ALYSON

I just... I need help. I need someone I know, someone I trust-

MADDIE

In this line of work?

ALYSON

Okay justjust look at this...

[Phone beeps.]

MADDIE

Your calendar for the day. So?

ALYSON

Right there? Just under "meet Gray
under the Paradise Overpass."

MADDIE

(reading)

"Deliver message to mom." And?

ALYSON

My mom is dead! She's been dead for
over a decade! I killed her!
Because she told me to and I could
never get out from under her
fuckin' thumb-

MADDIE

You really are strokin' out or
something, aren't you?

ALYSON Why won't anything make any fucking
sense?!

MADDIE

Enough of this. Where's my money?

ALYSON

What money?

MADDIE

My fucking money?

ALYSON

I could not have less of an idea
what you're talking about.

MADDIE

Fuck's sake she's gonna make me say
it out loud- (nearly shouting) The fucking money you pay me to
look the other fucking way while

you and your fucking mother run
fucking roughshod over the entire
fucking galaxy.

ALYSON

You... want a bribe?

MADDIE

Our arrangement hasn't changed.

ALYSON

You? YOU? Madeleine Gray, the
fuckin' incorruptible, moral
stalwart. The Grayhawk. YOU. YOU,
Madeleine Gray, want a bribe. From
me. To not arrest my mother.

MADDIE

Hey, she finally caught the fuck
up.

ALYSON

Did I die? Maybe I died. Yep, I'm
dead. And this is some twisted joke
of an afterlife.

[Body slammed up against a car.]

ALYSON

(oof!)

MADDIE

Do not fuck with me, Arkell. I do
not need this shit. You know what's
sitting in my safe... the copies
that are stashed in safe deposit
boxes all around the galaxy. Your
life will be a living, walking,
shit-eating
hell inside of ten
seconds if I say so.

ALYSON

Fucking let go of me.

[Alyson is let go.]

MADDIE

There's the Alyson I know. Just had to knock some sense into you. Do not fucking play around.

Fifty G's. Tonight.

Do not make me fuckin' ask again.

[Car door opens.]

MADDIE

Say hi to your mom for me.

[Car door closes, car starts and drives away.]

[Kingery thoroughfare hustle and bustle.]

[Sirens approaching.]

[Two sets of footsteps running in.]

BERNICE

Back here!

ASA

Get down!

[Sirens pass by, fade into the distance.]

ASA

What the particular hell.

BERNICE

I was just going to ask you that very thing! Jinx, you owe me a coffee abase.

ASA

I didn't even change that much!

BERNICE

Pebbles cause ripples. And sometimes those ripples hit other stones and cause an avalanche that floods the pond and then all the fish are dead and the pond water splashes onto the bank and causes mudslides and-

ASA

Criminy.

BERNICE

I mean, we discussed the risks. Hey, what do you think those cops meant by "you're wanted for conspiring with Alyson Arkell to defraud the chief of police?"

ASA

Seems self-explanatory, though I don't remember doin' that!

BERNICE

Right, because of the quantum field generators.

ASA

The bracelets.

BERNICE

It happened, but not to you. It happened to the other you. Who you now are, yet actually are not.

ASA

My head's swimmin'.

BERNICE

Oh! Welcome, the water's nice, isn't it? Until it all splashes out

of the pond, anyway.

ASA

I didn't think this'd be so hard.

BERNICE

I can't believe you thought it'd be easy.

[Sci-fi warble.]

ASA

What- what is that?

[The following Corry, Jace, and Hooks lines are ghostly and muffled, like heard from the other side of a barrier.]

CORRY

Yeah, c'mon Hooks, all work and no play makes for a miserable Jace and Corry.

JACE

Way to make it all about us, Corry.

CORRY

At least I'm trying, Jace.

HOOKS

You're both sweet to help, but I have too much to do. I don't know who I am without the work.

JACE

That's maybe part of the problem, bossman.

BERNICE

Fascinating!

HOOKS

Fasci- what?

Who? Jace? Corry? You see this right? Tell me you're

seeing this?

[Reverse sci-fi warble.]

ASA

What'n the hell?

BERNICE

If I had to guess, I'd say we just witnessed a singular weakening of the barrier in the spacetime continuum.

ASA

But we saw on the news that Hooks was found dead...

BERNICE

This Hooks. Not that one. I think.

ASA

Well I don't like the way things turned out for either of 'em.

BERNICE

Our time here has been... not-dull, to say the least.

ASA

You're not usually so, uh... understated.

BERNICE

Hey! Mad scientists can work on themselves too! I'm trying new Things! But no, it didn't really feel like "me," did it?

ASA

Well listen, we just gotta try again. Obviously it didn't work, so we'll just... give it another go. As many times as it takes.

BERNICE
I like that can-do
attitude! But we
cannot-do
until the Interlocutor is
fully recharged.

ASA
How long will that take?

BERNICE
It's only a matter of time.

[Door opens, footsteps in, door closes.]

[A few footsteps, someone sits in a leather chair.]

SYLVIA
...is it done?

ALYSON
This isn't happening.

SYLVIA
Alyson? Answer your mother when she
speaks to you. I raised you better
than that.

ALYSON
Did you though?

SYLVIA
Excuse me?

ALYSON
No, I'm dead. I have to be. I'm
dead, and this is hell.

SYLVIA
If it's hell you want, I can

arrange that for you.
You understand me.

ALYSON

I...

(small rueful laugh)

Y'know, I thought I'd never have to
hear those words again. Those...
passive-aggressive,
threat-laden,
fucking awful words no parent
should ever say to their child.

SYLVIA

Mm. I know.

ALYSON

Sure. Of course you do.

SYLVIA

You think I didn't?

ALYSON

...what are we talking about?

SYLVIA

This very meeting. You were
planning a hit and thought you, you, would be taking my place.

ALYSON

Major said-

SYLVIA

I know what Major said. I know what you said. I know everything that
happens at the Kingery.

ALYSON

This is not the Kingery.
Not the Kingery I know.

SYLVIA

It's the only Kingery you've ever
known.

[Door opens, footsteps in, door closes, footsteps over.]

PAPA ARKELL

Sylvia.

[Small kiss.]

SYLVIA

Stephan.

ALYSON

Dad? You're... you hate her-

PAPA ARKELL

I love your mother. Always have.

ALYSON

You LEFT. You left me and Cass to deal with this monster on our own, because you couldn't be bothered to wrestle with the complexities of a wife with a life you didn't approve of! You could have taken us with you! You could have taken us both and saved us from a life of her shitty fuckin' manipulative mind games and emotional terrorism and-

PAPA ARKELL

That's enough! Yes, I- I left. I made a mistake. Sylvia reminded me that my place is at her side.

SYLVIA

You understand me.

PAPA ARKELL

I understand her.

[Gun drawn and cocked.]

ALYSON

Oh Dad. What the hell. Do you even know how to use that?

PAPA ARKELL

It's your fault, Alyson. If you hadn't set this meeting to kill her-

ALYSON

I didn't- I
Wouldn't- well
okay, I did, once, but not by choice, I-

SYLVIA

Your position was never as secure as you thought it was. Asa was... extremely cooperative. An annual pass to Shenanigans and he opened like a book, and gave up everything you ever told him.

ALYSON

Asa?

SYLVIA

And you've forced my hand, now it's you or me. And it won't be me.

ALYSON

I understand you.

SYLVIA

Good. I am truly sorry it's come to this, but as this is the last time I'll get to speak to my child, let me just say this...

This "Alyson" business is offensive. Parents name their children, and when you tossed off that name like yesterday's stale bagels, well... I knew what you thought of me.

ALYSON

The fuck? It's not about YOU.

SYLVIA

Goodbye, Thomas. I'd like to say
you'll be missed, but... well.

ALYSON

Fuck this.

[Alyson draws her Worthington.]

[Papa Arkell fires.]

ALYSON

(gasp of pain)

SYLVIA

You barely grazed-

[Alyson fires the Worthington.]

PAPA ARKELL

(wail of pain)

[Papa Arkell is disintegrated.]

SYLVIA

That's my Worthington! You fucking
entitled brat, I-

ALYSON

Fuck you, mom.

[Alyson fires the Worthington again.]

SYLVIA

(wail of pain)

[Sylvia is disintegrated.]

ALYSON

(small rueful laugh)
Guess I wouldn't change some things
if I got to do them over again.
Fuck.
I need to find that old man.

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season thirteen, episode two, "A Matter of Time"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Sian Luxford as Roberta

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Josh Wells as the Mook

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

TJ Briggs as Bernice

Edward Herman as Asa

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Fiona Thraill as Sylvia Arkell

And Justin Fife as Papa Arkell

Sensitivity Reader, Kristine Chester

Written by Tilly 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

Directed by Jillian Morgan

Assistant director Kaitlyn Kliman

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]