

The Kingery, episode 13x03 “A BowerWorx Exclusive”

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

[Radio playing in the background.]

ALYSON

So this is not my office, but it IS my office. Ooh, tequila.

[Alyson pouring herself a drink, sits down, sips, sets glass down.]

ALYSON

I don't know what the fuck is going on, and I just killed my parents with a fuckin Worthington, but I have a drink, and that's okay.

[A warble in reality.]

ALYSON

...okay what the fuck was THAT. Uh, where's my tequila?

[Door slams open.]

JAWBONE

Auntie Aly?

ALYSON

Oh for fuck's sake, DARBY?

JAWBONE

Hey it's JAWBONE, Aunty Aly. No one's allowed to call me that! NO ONE. Except for ma.

ALYSON

No, no, no, no. You're not here. I don't like this. Nope. I refuse.

Not listening.

JAWBONE

Aunty Aly, this is weird even for
You.

ALYSON

Stop stop stop. I really, really
don't like Aunty Aly. This isn't
happening, right? Am I having an
Aneurysm? Do those start with hallucinations
of the worst person you ever knew?

JAWBONE

Who you talkin' about?

ALYSON

Y'know what, for a hallucination,
your intelligence level is bang-on.
Did someone clone you again?

JAWBONE

I don't know what yer talkin'
about, so I figure you must need
somethin' to do.

ALYSON

Please don't strain yourself
figuring.

JAWBONE

An' therefore, today you're
collectin' double! From everyone!

ALYSON

...I work for YOU?

JAWBONE

...uh yeah?

ALYSON

You don't sound sure.

JAWBONE

Well I am!

ALYSON

Are you?

JAWBONE

I'm ... yeah ... wait what were we
talkin' about?

ALYSON

Christ on a cracker, this is
getting realer by the minute.

JAWBONE

Collectin'! DOUBLE!

ALYSON

...yes. That means I get to leave.
YES.

JAWBONE

And how 'bout you get the fuck
outta my chair?

[Cassandra walks in.]

CASSANDRA

Hello sweetie. I was just about
To- what the fuck are YOU doing here?

ALYSON

God, I wish I knew.

CASSANDRA

Get out.

ALYSON

Oh thank you so fuckin much.

[Alyson walks out.]

ALYSON

Okay, someone has to know what the fuck is going on here, right?

GEPPI

And as you can see, zis chocolate has the highest butterfat content! It will make a difference in your bakery, I assure you! Au revoir, please come again!

[A customer leaves as Alyson comes in.]

ALYSON

Oh my god, Geppi!

GEPPI

Ah! Ms Arkell! I did not see you zhere.

ALYSON

You're okay! I mean, here. Or in my mind. Somewhere. Are you okay?

GEPPI

Zhat is not a question I am used to hearing from you, to be sure. But yes, I am well.

ALYSON

That's good, that's great.

GEPPI

I expect you are here to collect for Mr. Jawbone. And what is today's request?

ALYSON

Today's? Oh, hang on, I collect something for him that's different every DAY?

GEPPI

That is the way he does business,
yes.

ALYSON

Wow. That's like toddler level. I
guess I thought he was a little
smarter than that. At some point,
he might have been. Maybe? God I
haven't thought about him in YEARS.
And I LIKED IT.

GEPPI

Are you feeling all right?

ALYSON

I'm not sure. I'm not sure of
anything right now.

GEPPI

Ah. Well. Today is a bit busy.
Would you please let me know
today's payment request?

ALYSON

Yeah, sure, but he wasn't very
specific. He just said to collect
double.

GEPPI

Of course he did.

[Geppi packaging up chocolates.]

ALYSON

...hang on, you pay "Mr. Jawbone"
in CANDY?

GEPPI

Zis ees our current arrangement,
no?

ALYSON

No? I mean yes. Yes?

GEPPI

Alyson, I must say that as your friend, it pains me to see you demean yourself in this line of work.

ALYSON

And I am becoming more alarmed that I'm having a breakdown, but please, go on.

GEPPI

Everyone is well aware of how Mr. Jawbone and Cassandra are quite zee ... what is the word ... laughing-stock.

ALYSON

OH! Huh, I thought it was just me who felt that way.

GEPPI

(laughs)

Oh, you are such a joker! There is no protection, not really, and no respect for my work. Not for anyone's work, really. Not since the arrangement.

ALYSON

What arrangement?

GEPPI

The arrangement where all of zee most expensive adult care facilities bring all of their residents to the Kingery for their enrichment.

ALYSON

Enrichment ... of, like, old

people?

GEPPI

Indeed, the elderly are our main customers. It is why I have a popular low salt and low sugar candy selection. And all of my customers get free pencils. Pencils are surprisingly popular.

ALYSON

So then why the hell would you need protection? I hardly think a bunch of old people are coming in here and whacking your kneecaps.

GEPPI

That did happen last week.

ALYSON

Wow, really? Okay then.

GEPPI

But as I was not seriously injured, I can see your point.

ALYSON

Still though, why do you pay? It can't be worth it.

GEPPI

Because Mr. Jawbone does not know. It is valuable, you see, to know something that your employer does not. I sell fine chocolates here. But I take my fine chocolate boxes and I replace the candy within with the lowest quality of chocolates that I can find. It is not fit to be sold here, therefore I do not sell it.

[The wrapping is finished.]

GEPPI

I will have this sent to his office immediately.

ALYSON

Won't he be able to tell?

GEPPI

They are his favorite. And why would I tell him otherwise? That would not be ... respectful.

[Footsteps in.]

CASSANDRA

Oh my god, you decided to do your JOB today?

ALYSON

Uh maybe?

GEPPI

Ms Cassandra, it is excellent to see you today! You are ravishing!

CASSANDRA

Can it, chocolate nerd, my sweet boy is looking for his payment.

GEPPI

Your timing is impeccable! I was just packaging up his order!

CASSANDRA

It's DOUBLE today!

GEPPI

Yes, yes, Ms Alyson has already informed me of this! I have it right here.

CASSANDRA

Good. And hey, sister, you better get going on the rest of the rounds, if you're actually doing them. You're late.

ALYSON

Uh, yep. Rest of the rounds. Sure will.

CASSANDRA

...That means NOW.

ALYSON

I'm going. I just ... have a headache.

CASSANDRA

...and?

ALYSON

And ... I need to get something for it.

CASSANDRA

So why are you standing here jabbering like I should care? Go see Doc Briggs and hurry up!

ALYSON

Oh hey yeah, she can tell me if I'm dying!

[Alyson hands the chocolate to Cassandra.]

ALYSON

Here's the candy, and I desperately hope I don't see you soon.

[Footsteps away.]

CASSANDRA

What is up with her today?

JAWBONE
HEY MA!

CASSANDRA
Coming, sweetie!

[Alyson enters.]

ALYSON
Hey, doc?

DOC BRIGGS
But it couldn't be ... and a
hormonal imbalance test would take
hours to run, and a general test is
showing nothing...

[Footsteps up to Doc Briggs.]

ALYSON
Doc?

DOC BRIGGS
(startled)
Alyson, you scared me half to
death.

ALYSON
I am also scared half to death so
we're even.

DOC BRIGGS
Are you all right? What's going on?

ALYSON
I feel terrible, my head hurts, and
nothing makes sense.

DOC BRIGGS
Okay ... pupils look even... Did
you hit your head?

ALYSON

Not that I can remember.

DOC BRIGGS

What did you have for breakfast.

ALYSON

Tequila?

DOC BRIGGS

That's not breakfast.

ALYSON

It's the last thing I remember
having, cut me some slack! Maybe
I'm dying.

DOC BRIGGS

I don't think you're dying.

ALYSON

But how do you KNOW?

DOC BRIGGS

You may not know this, but a lot of
times when someone is dying, they
feel pretty certain that they're
dying.

ALYSON

So because I DOUBT that I'm dying,
I'm probably not dying?

DOC BRIGGS

Honestly, yeah. Let me do a scan on
you.

[A medical scanner activates.]

DOC BRIGGS

I don't see any evidence of brain
trauma and you don't think you hit

your head, so I don't think there's anything physically wrong.

ALYSON

So would anything else show up on the scan? Like a complete mental break from reality?

DOC BRIGGS

You seem pretty lucid to me. But that being said, you're not the only one that's noticed things don't seem to be ... quite right around here.

ALYSON

So are you also seeing a bunch of people who were already dead, but now they're not dead, and maybe you murdered your mom, who was also dead before, so how can it be murder?

DOC BRIGGS

...maybe you should start over.

ALYSON

My mother was somehow alive again, and I killed her, and I wasn't the boss, she was... and then things changed, and now I'm also not the boss, and my nephew is back from the dead, and also Geppi is back from the dead...

DOC BRIGGS

I don't think I've seen anyone dead, but Cass and Kaylock were not behaving like themselves, and then they were gone, and now Cass is completely different and her son is running the place, who I've never seen before in my life.

ALYSON

Wait, you have a bracelet?

DOC BRIGGS

What? Oh, yes, Asa gave it to me.

ALYSON

I have one too. I got it as a wedding gift but I don't know who sent it. And it matches yours. What the hell is that about?

DOC BRIGGS

I don't know what the bracelet means, but I think we need to find Asa, since he gave it to me.

ALYSON

I mean, sure, at least it's a start. As long as I don't have to talk to my sister or my nephew again, maybe we'll be okay.

DOC BRIGGS

We need to get out of here before someone else comes in expecting something. I'm not really good at acting. And It'll be easier for us to cover for each other if we're together.

ALYSON

I guess, but I think I'm just some kind of lackey here.

DOC BRIGGS

You're still related to the boss, right?

ALYSON

Allegedly and unfortunately.

DOC BRIGGS
Perfect. Let's go.

ALYSON
But I have no idea what I'm going to SAY if someone asks me what we're doing.

DOC BRIGGS
Say you're not feeling well. That you hit your head while hanging a clock.

ALYSON
I don't think anyone's gonna buy that.

ASA
Y'know I didn't think this would be super easy but...

BERNICE
But you didn't expect it to be so hard, I gather.

ASA
Well, yeah.

BERNICE
It's all science! Isn't it exciting, though!

ASA
You think this is exciting? These are my friends!

BERNICE
Of course, but it's intoxicating regardless. You simply don't know what might happen next! That's wonderful!

ASA

I feel like "wonderful" might be
pushin' it to be honest.

[A warble in reality.]

ASA

Oh no. It's happening again, isn't
it?

BERNICE

Keep your voice down, we may be
perceived! Come here, behind the
counter!

[Tythia, Pallas, and He-B's voices are muffled and warbly.]

TYTHIA

Pallas I just ... I don't even know
where to start.

I've got like four backups for He-
B, but none of them are recent and
none of them are complete.

PALLAS

You're usually so organized, so I'm
kind of surprised this is the
situation?

TYTHIA

That's because ... I gave He-B a
choice.

PALLAS

A choice? You mean, like when to
back him up?

TYTHIA

Yeah. And unfortunately he's a lot
like organics who hate to get
regular checkups and so he kept
putting it off and putting it

off...

PALLAS

So how old is the most complete backup?

TYTHIA

...two years.

PALLAS

Two YEARS??

TYTHIA

I know, okay! I'm frustrated too!
And the worst part is I'm gonna use it!

PALLAS

Well, okay, but what about the other backups you have?

TYTHIA

They're all just partial. But if I overlay them on the older backup, then maybe we'll get something approximating the old He-B. But there's no way to know until we do it.

PALLAS

All right, let's get started.

BERNICE

(whispering)

You see, Asa, this is like what we are doing right now! We can see and move small pieces around, but we're not sure of their effect on the whole, because the whole is constantly changing! It makes things delightfully unpredictable!

[Computery beeps as He-B powers up.]

HE-B
Hello.

TYTHIA
Hi He-B? Do you remember me?

ASA
(whispered)
But they're still trying, isn't
that the point! I've got to try,
don't I?

HE-B
Hello, Tythia? Why would I not
remember you? What has happened?

PALLAS
Kind of a long story, buddy. Can
you take a minute and let us know
what's the last thing you remember?

TYTHIA
Hey wait, did you hear something?

BERNICE
Shh!

ASA
I'm shushing!

PALLAS
Huh? Oh, I thought it was just
someone out in the hall.

TYTHIA
It kinda sounded like Asa didn't
it?

[A warble in reality.]

BERNICE
It's over, we can come out now.

ASA

I'm not giving up, Bernice, and you can't make me!

BERNICE

Asa, I didn't say you should give up and I'm not going to make you do anything! But you need to continue considering the various factors that we're dealing with.

ASA

And I'm considerin'! It's gotta work! It's just maybe gonna take longer than we thought, is all.

BERNICE

We can keep trying, and we will. There are many more iterations to test. It's lovely, really.

ASA

It's not lovely it's stressful!

BERNICE

But also lovely.

ASA

To you, maybe.

BERNICE

Just think of all the wonderful possibilities!

ASA

I am! And so far they ain't wonderful in the slightest.

BERNICE

But that's how science works. Once lovely step forward, two less lovely steps back.

ASA

It would be nice to see ANY steps forward.

BERNICE

You're probably hungry. We should take a break. Oh, I know! Would you like a lollipop?

ASA

A lollipop?

BERNICE

They're a BowerWorx exclusive! I made them myself.

ASA

Then I definitely do not.

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season thirteen, episode three, "A BowerWorx Exclusive"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Jillian Morgan as Jawbone

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Andre Vernot as Geppi

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Edward Herman as Asa

TJ Briggs as Bernice

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

And Josh Kibbey as He-B

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

Directed by Jillian Morgan

Assistant director Kaitlyn Kliman

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]