

The Kingery, episode 13x06 “All Your Base are Belong to Us”

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

[Lots of mechanical tech noises as two people assemble weapns.]

ALYSON

(groans as she wakes up)

Blech... why does

my mouth taste I licked a battery?

This place smells like I

licked a battery...

TYTHIA

How's this one look?

[Tythia hands over a sizeable rifle, Major handles it.]

MAJOR

Yeah... yeah, this'll

work. Weight's good, too. What'd you do?

TYTHIA

Changed the power

source. It's smaller, but packs a better

punch. Just don't let it overheat.

MAJOR

Why not?

TYTHIA

I mean... you could, but do you really want

cobalt-60 radiation poisoning?

MAJOR

Fair enough. Hey, Boss, we're

ready for you!

ALYSON

Maj, can you pipe down?

MAJOR

Can you stop fucking around?

[Alyson gets up and walks over.]

ALYSON

I'm here, I'm here. What's so fucking important? And where the hell are we?

MAJOR

I know they worked you hard out there yesterday, but fuck me, that must've been some fall you took. Maddie said she had to scrape you off the transport floor.

TYTHIA

Yeah, well, she would know all about scraping people off of floors...

MAJOR

Sorry, Kid. You know I didn't... Maddie couldn't have known what was gonna happen to He-B.

TYTHIA

She mag-locked him to the station. When the Squids came... he didn't stand a chance.

ALYSON

Maddie arrested him for the murders and He-B realized he'd accidentally created an amoral AI. He saved my life.

TYTHIA

Not that it mattered.

[Tythia finishes tweaking another gun.]

TYTHIA

OK, this is good to go.

MAJOR

Great. Zeff's on his way to pick 'em up -

[An explosion as Squids flood into the place.]

ESI SQUID

Do not resist! Organic components such as hair, bone and viscera can damage our superior appendages!

MAJOR

Fuck a duck, we gotta go! Take the Boss!

ALYSON

What the fuuuck, when the fuck did they get so big?!

TYTHIA

MOVE!

[Tythia grabs Alyson and pulls her aside.]

MAJOR

Come on, you fuckers, I'll show you damage to your appendages!

[She fires a rifle a few times, blowing up squids. They scream.]

ESI SQUIDS

Unpleasantly surprising!
My superior appendages!
I just got my head polished!

MAJOR

Come at you, you calamari robo-fucks! This is for LOCK!

[Major fires a few more times.]

[There's a bigger rumble, then more squids come pouring in from every direction.]

TYTHIA

MAJOR!

[Major gets torn apart by ESI Squids.]

MAJOR
(death rattle)

TYTHIA
FUCK! Run! Now!

[Tythia pulls Alyson away.]

ALYSON
We can't outrun them!

TYTHIA
We don't have to!

[She activates a detonator and the base behind them explodes.]

[Rocks and dust settle.]

TYTHIA
Okay, that buys us a few minutes. Look, none of them saw you, right? You didn't hear any of them ID print you?

ALYSON
No. No, I'm good. Ah, fuck, Major...

TYTHIA
Stop. You can't worry about her, just you, okay? The squids didn't see you, which means they don't know we're coming. So, the plan's still on for tonight.

ALYSON
Uh... right. The plan. Which... we should go over so I know that the plan hasn't changed. And that it's still a good plan.

TYTHIA
Just don't blow it, Boss. And remember, stick with Maddie. Don't lose her or this

whole thing is fucked.

[A vehicle rolls up.]

TYTHIA

I'll see you tonight.

[Tythia runs off.]

ALYSON

What the actual fuck... how the fuck does it just keep getting worse...

[Vehicle door opens.]

MADDIE

Alyson, come on, you know what happens if we're late.

[Alyson walks over and gets into the car.]

MADDIE

You okay?

ALYSON

Major... is...

Well, she's in fuckin' pieces. That's what she is.

MADDIE

Damn. They get the weapons built?

ALYSON

Yes? I guess? Is that really the priority right now?

[Alert over the car radio.]

ESI SQUID (over the radio)

Alpha shift, report to Labor Grid 52 immediately.

MADDIE

You're right. This isn't the time or place. Just hope you ate a good breakfast. That was a joke. I was there, I know we got one-quarter portion of ration slop.

ESI SQUID (over the radio)

The ration reductions will continue until morale improves!

ALYSON

(under her breath) Fuuuuuck me...

[Lasers cutting into stone, rocks being broken with hammers.]

[Alyson and Maddie are cutting rocks and dumping them into metal carts.]

ALYSON

How long have we been doing this now?

MADDIE

I don't know, I stop counting after the third day of blisters. And at this point, I don't even think the squids know why they have us mining for dysprosium. Maybe they just want to keep us busy while they finish wiping out the last few sectors of organic resistance.

ALYSON

We're talking about the same squids that He-B accidentally gave sentience to, right? They were creepy, amoral little murderous chucklefucks, but they hardly could take over the galaxy.

MADDIE

Look, you and I were both there, we lost that fight. The squids killed He-B, killed Hooks and the rest of the wrenches and then, I dunno... we missed something along

the way.

ALYSON

So why not just kill all of us? If they want to take over, just kill us and be done with it?

MADDIE

Maybe they like playing with us. Or it's some fucked up torture technique from all the different psychological resources He-B gave the original. Letting us think we're useful so we don't fight, then one day they'll just pull the plug.

ALYSON

I gotta get the fuck outta here...

MADDIE

Just keep your cool. Remember what happened to Cass?

ALYSON

... What the fuck do you mean?

[Footsteps walk up, grab the cart.]

CASS (AKA SQUID-SANDRA)

Thank you for your menial manual labor, inferior organics.

ALYSON

Where the fuck is the rest of my sister's head?!

CASS (AKA SQUID-SANDRA)

Wasn't needed! Enjoy your paltry existence as inferior fleshbags! Continue to work and morale will improve, because work gives life meaning! But esoteric meaning in life is also a construct so enjoy the contradiction!

[Cass leaves with the cart.]

ALYSON

Holy shit, what did they do to her...

MADDIE

What they'll do to you or me or anyone else if they think we're not happy with our "meaningful work". They scoop your brain out with a melon baller and stick a squid on it. Which is why tonight has to work. So grab the next cart and keep at it.

[Another cart rolls over, more rocks break and get dumped into it.]

[Maddie and Alyson jog up to a building.]

ALYSON

So, is every "secret location" just a shithole cave in the side of a shithole mine or am I just extra-lucky today?

MADDIE

Remind me not to show you the last radiation readings we took on the place. Let's just say if either of us ever wanted kids, we can kiss that particular fantasy goodbye. We'll be lucky if we're not dead in a year, even without the squids.

[They stop as they reach a door.]

MADDIE

Help me with this.

[They pull the old door open with a squeak, then step inside.]

MADDIE

Okay, that's not great. Where the fuck is everyone?

[Briggs comes out of hiding.]

DOC BRIGGS

Alyson? You're here!

ALYSON

Holy shit am I glad to see you.

DOC BRIGGS

Remind me to never drink with you if we're just gonna wake up in some nightmare robo-apocalypse again.

ALYSON

Oh, believe me, I'm ready to go stone sober after this.

MADDIE

Is that why you fell off the transport truck? When did you even have time to drink?

ALYSON

Is that really what you want to talk about right now?

MADDIE

No, but seeing as how everyone-the-fuckelse that was supposed to be here is fucking missing, I'm just gonna solve the mysteries I can.

DOC BRIGGS

Who else was supposed to be here?

MADDIE

Tythia? Zeff, Daken, Erin? Like, pretty much every last person with any sort of weapons experience seeing as how most of the fucking Force is dead now.

DOC BRIGGS

No one's been here all day. I woke up here, I've been alone this whole time. I didn't want to leave when I saw the... Squid... Flocks? I guess?

ALYSON

Oh, don't say they flock. I don't want to think about that.

MADDIE

Who the fuck cares what you call them?! Where is my fucking attack squad?!

[Explosion as the walls blow open.]

[Marching footsteps as a bunch of Squidified Kingery folks enter.]

ZEFF (AKA SQUID-ZEFF)

Organics are so predictable! We calculated that this maneuver would have a 97.352% chance of success.

CASS (AKA SQUID-SANDRA)

And it did!

DAKEN (AKA SQUID-DAKEN)

So predictable!

MADDIE

No... Zeff, when did they get you –

[More footsteps as someone comes to the front of the soldiers.]

TYTHIA

Love can be a powerful motivator, Maddie. Organic or not, it drives a lot of our decisions.

DOC BRIGGS

Oh, shit.

MADDIE

Tythia, what the fuck did you do?!

TYTHIA

What did I do?! What did I DO?! You should look in the fucking mirror, Maddie! I trusted you! Pallas and me, we trusted you to look after him! And you let the squids tear him to fucking pieces! And then you wouldn't even let me get to his body so I could fix him!

MADDIE

There wasn't any time!

ALYSON

Hold the fuck up, that's not what happened –

TYTHIA

You're damn right it's not! (little sarcastic laugh) The Boss gets it. She always has. Which is why I've never forgotten the trust you've given me for all these years. Thank you. For doing this for me.

ALYSON

This was a set-up. To get Maddie... to you.

TYTHIA

It was your idea. I asked for my justice and you told me you'd handle it. Because I'm family. And I haven't asked for anything since mom died.

MADDIE

You... Alyson, I love you and you... you handed me over to these butchers?

ALYSON

Hang on, I haven't done shit, and I never would! Tythia, look, I love you like you're my own, but... this is not how we do

things. Not our family –

TYTHIA

You started this. When you took away my dad. For my stupid mistake. Every time I've lost family, it's been because of something we did for you, Boss. For the Arkells. I... I don't get it. When I told you what Maddie did, you told me you understood. That you would've let me do anything I needed to in order to save He-B, and she wouldn't let me even get back to the building. Why are you getting cold feet now?

ALYSON

Tythia –

TYTHIA

The Squid promised you. You wanted a life without... without feeling out of place and unwanted, constantly trying to change for other people. I told you I would make you that deal, and I did. Bliss. In the Swarm. Perfect, accepted. You. No more deaths on your conscience. You owe me this much!

DOC BRIGGS

Oh, you poor thing, that's a devil's bargain.

TYTHIA

Not from where I'm standing. I lost everyone in my life worth saving. Everyone except the Boss. And this was the only way I could get He-B and Pallas back.

ALYSON

The fuck do you mean "And Pallas?"

[Another set of footsteps.]

PALLAS/HE-B

Tythia made a very valuable point. Just because we can kill our creator doesn't mean we need to. Everyone needs their father.

ALYSON

They... they put... He-B... in Pallas's head and you're okay with that.

TYTHIA

Look around us, Boss. What the fuck else is there? Fuck it. I should never have trusted you. My whole life, I've fucking trusted you for the wrong reasons.

ALYSON

You don't mean that, kid.

TYTHIA

I fucking do. And I'm done talking about this.

[She charges her rifle.]

TYTHIA

No more resisting. I'm tired of fighting.

[Bernice runs up.]

BERNICE

Everyone wearing a bracelet should find cover now!

[They throw a grenade, which explodes. Everything immediately becomes silent.]

ALYSON

What'd you do? Where'd they go?

BERNICE

Pocket singularity grenade. Apparently, I invented them. Which, honestly, is far too

practical of an application. Very boring.
Pocket singularity as a form of
psychotherapy, now that's something I can
get behind.

DOC BRIGGS

So is everyone dead?

BERNICE

I honestly don't know. Apparently in this
reality, I'm very detail-oriented like
that, so I probably should have checked,
but again... very boring. Being so...
organized is definitely not my thing. I
hate it here.

ALYSON

Are you saying you'd prefer to be insane?

BERNICE

You call it insane, I call it
scientifically creative! Anyway, point is...
Come with me if you want to escape the
squid-pocalypse.

DOC BRIGGS

You have a bracelet like we do, so I'm
assuming that means you remember things
before they... changed?

BERNICE

Yes. Unfortunately, Asa and I might have
been a little too creative in this
particular experiment. But, better for him
to explain. So, if we want to get things
back into their rightful places, we need
to find him. So, come on. Follow me!

[They start walking, but Alyson hangs behind.]

DOC BRIGGS

You okay?

ALYSON

Yeah... just... something Tythia said.

DOC BRIGGS

Want to talk about it?

ALYSON

No, I just... I think I need to make sure to check in on her more often. When we get back. If we get back.

ALYSON

Really? The mines? He was here the whole fucking time?

BERNICE

Yes, but to his credit, we had gone our separate ways and he needed somewhere to put. So, going to the most radioactive part of the mines none of the squids would bother to go to probably seemed like a good idea.

DOC BRIGGS

I am really hoping that this won't mean we come back with serious radiation poisoning.

BERNICE

Oh, no, the personal quantum fields –

ALYSON

The fucking what now?

BERNICE

The wristbands! They are letting you experience all of this out of your own personal timeline. So, when we reset it all, we should end up back to the original timeline with minimal changes. Which, honestly, is how some experiments go.

Sometimes, you hypothesize that a hair-growing serum won't grow follicles on the eyeballs. And then sometimes you're wrong.

[They climb up some rocks and into a tunnel.]

ASA

Bernice, I'd appreciate it if you'd fuck off kindly.

BERNICE

What if I don't fuck off, but I'm still kindly about it?

ASA

What?

BERNICE

Well, I brought our two accidental observers along.

ASA

Samantha?

ALYSON

Yeah, and me, Asa, you old rat-fuck. Bernice said this shit was your idea? Do you have any idea what it feels like ping-ponging from one shitty timeline to the next?

ASA

You ain't in a position to tell me what to do, Alyson.

ALYSON

And what exactly have you been fuckin' doing?

BERNICE

Oh! We've been traveling through time with my Chronal Interlocutor. And the bracelets are designed to make sure we

all know what changes. We just didn't expect it to take this long.

ALYSON

Are you NUTS, ASA?!

ASA

Believe me, you can't say anything to me I haven't already said to myself.

ALYSON

I don't care if you feel guilty, old man. Fix it on your own time. In our own timeline. Just... fix it. I just had to watch Tythia try to kill Maddie, me, and hand over everyone we've ever known to the damn squids. I've been killed, I've been nearly killed, I've been married off, I've been in every fucking version of everything I don't want to think about. And I'm tired.

ASA

You wouldn't be so ungrateful if you understood what I was doing! Why I was doing it!

DOC BRIGGS

So try. Tell us something. Because what we've been seeing... I can't think this is what you wanted.

ASA

It's not. I just... I'm tryin' to save people. To fix things. Devi, Prok, Socks... I... I wanted to fix it. Bernice and I thought we could fix the timeline, but every time we change something, it's worse. I feel so damn old, it's been years of this.

DOC BRIGGS

"Years?"

[Timey-wimey warble.]

ASA

Dammit, not again.

TYTHIA

I'm – I'm trying! I swear to fucking god, Pallas, I'm trying, but I don't know what to fucking do here! I feel like I'm gonna fucking come apart at the seams because everything I did to try to make things better just fucked it up worse!

PALLAS

That's not true! You got He-B back, just... it's gonna be different now.

TYTHIA

You have no idea what this feels like, okay? He looks at me and... and sometimes it's He-B and he loves me. And I can tell he's happy to be back to the person I know he was. And then other times... he looks through me. I'm a stranger. Pallas, he doesn't remember loving me. (starts to break down) How am I supposed to do this? It's like losing him... over and... and over again...

PALLAS

Tythia... baby, you can't this to yourself. I know that you want to make it so that he's always there... you don't want to lose me... or him... or anyone else. But, we don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. You talk about people dying in the Kingery like it's just... the morning news.

TYTHIA

But he's different... He's... supposed to be different...

PALLAS

I know. But, now... maybe he's a little more like the rest of us. And that means... all you can do is cherish the time you get with him. While you get it.

TYTHIA

I don't know... how to... deal with this.

PALLAS

Your grief is just... unexpressed love. Love you haven't gotten to share. (beat) And you'll get to share more of it than you would have a year ago. Stop trying to take us back to where we were. Let's figure out where we're going. All of us.

[Timey-wimey warble ends.]

ALYSON

Please tell me you all fuckin' saw that.

BERNICE

Yeah, that keeps happening. You're seeing the primary timeline sort of... rub up against all the new branches we've been making.

ALYSON

Is it going to keep happening?

BERNICE

Oh, definitely. And it seems to be getting worse. In fact, now that I have to focus on this one problem, it's definitely more likely that if we keep jumping around, we're going to end up collapsing a few of these pocket timelines onto each other.

DOC BRIGGS

Enough people have been hurt. I don't think we need to add more. Asa. I

don't know what exactly you're trying to do, but... loss is part of life. We all lose people. And you know what this timeline-hopping has shown me? There is no way not to lose people. This train only goes to one station.

ALYSON

Doc's right. This is life. This is how it goes. And I'll fight like hell to make the best decisions I can, but I wouldn't trade any of these lives for the one I've got.

DOC BRIGGS

Neither would I. Alyson, how about another drink?

ALYSON

Sounds like a brilliant fuckin' idea.

[They walk off.]

ASA

So how do we fix it?

BERNICE

That's... well, that's the really creative part. Finishing this experiment is going to take as much work as starting it.

[Timey warble as Bernice and Asa depart the timeline.]

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season thirteen, episode six, "All Your Base are Belong to Us"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Rachel Kornic as ESI Squid

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Russell Gold as Zeff

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

TJ Briggs as Bernice

And Edward Herman as Asa

Sensitivity Reader, Kristine Chester

Written by Kathryn Pryde

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 directors Kaitlyn Kliman and Adam Blanford

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]