

## **The Kingery, episode 13x08 “A Little Protection, a Little Payback”**

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

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[Footsteps approach, door creaks open.]

GIB

Zeff? Uh, your door's open ...

[Many bottles clinking, as if Zeff was startled.]

ZEFF

(calling out from other  
room)

Hey, Gib, uh, yeah close it and  
come back here.

[Gib closing the door, footsteps to Zeff.]

ZEFF

Ah! Welcome to my kitchen!

GIB

You said you needed something...

[Zeff drinks.]

ZEFF

Yep yep yep. Oh! I've forgotten my  
manners. Let me give you a tour.

Over here the  
good hootch. Over  
there the  
not so good hootch.

GIB

So I'm here to ... have a drink?

ZEFF

You've cracked it, buddy. That

investigative mind of yours!

GIB

How long've you been sampling said  
hootch?

ZEFF

Not long enough! But the afternoon  
is young. Why don't you join me?

GIB

You could have just sent me an  
invitation to hang out, like a  
reasonable human.

ZEFF

Eh. You might have said no!

GIB

Well, I would not have. Said no.

ZEFF

All right, but you can't blame a  
guy for being a little cryptic.

GIB

(sighs)

Honestly, communication standards  
seem to only go down over time,  
but... you know what, hand me a  
brewski.

ZEFF

I will! And I will open it for you!  
I'm a stand up guy!

[Bottle cap being removed from a bottle.]

ZEFF

Your drink, sir.

GIB

Cheers.

[Bottles clinking.]

GIB

So... anything you wanna talk about?

ZEFF

(drinking)

Yes. YES. I was just thinkin' about Socks and maybe I was gettin' a little bit maudlin, and it's pathetic to drink alone, THEREFORE ... I reached out. See? Very mature and reasonable of me.

GIB

I... suppose it is. Well done.

ZEFF

So...tell me somethin'. Anything. That you remember about her.

GIB

Oh. Over the years, many of my memories have been lost, but not Ms. Chausette. She was... on another level.

ZEFF

Another level! I love that.

GIB

I...suppose we became friends, despite, or maybe because of, the constant chaos of our surroundings. But looking back now ... I figure, somewhere along the way the line between personal and professional started to blur.

ZEFF

(drinking)

That happens a lot here. I mean, ya

work here, ya live here, at a certain point these weird, blended relationships all becomes normal.

GIB

I can look back on it now, and I can see how others might find it odd, but at the time, I just didn't.

ZEFF

(laughing)

Weird is just another day round Here. This was way before you ever came here, but back in the day when I was workin' with Socks, I remember her tellin' me about one of her clients once, this guy who just wanted to talk and cuddle, and I... I made fun of him. And she dressed me down for that.

GIB

Ms Chausette was always good at a dressing down.

ZEFF

Heh, yeah. She just said it straight out like, hey, this guy isn't hurtin' anybody, he knows what he likes, so what, who cares? She didn't mind telling you how it was. And she really just kinda met you where you were. I loved that about her.

GIB

(drinks)

I did too. Until... the AI took control. And I stuck around, thinking, I could still see her through all of that. But now I wonder, did I? Could I? Or was I

just kidding myself? Was she gone  
long ago?

ZEFF

That's a hard question, man.

[Knock at the door.]

ZEFF

Oh yeah! Come on in, it's open!

[Door opening and closing, footsteps from Daken and Reyes.]

GIB

You know, your security leaves  
something to be desired.

ZEFF

I already gave you the kitchen  
tour, there ain't much else in  
here.

GIB

That's ... perplexing.

ZEFF

I'm a minimalist.  
(yelling)  
Daken! Reyes!

DAKEN

Oh, so it's that kinda party.

REYES

It's a party?

ZEFF

I think four people constitutes a  
party, don't you, Gib?

GIB

Indubitably.

ZEFF

See? There ya go! Help yourself!  
Gib n' I were just talkin' about  
old times with Socks.

DAKEN

Oh yeah? Hey Reyes, you wanna beer?

REYES

I never say no to that question.

DAKEN

Nice.

[Bottle tops opening.]

REYES

I don't want to interrupt.

ZEFF

Not interruptin' at all! Share your  
Socks stories. Heh. Socks stories.  
That's hard to say.  
Y'know she saved my life.  
(drinks)  
Devi wasn't so lucky. Y'all don't  
know.

DAKEN

We didn't really know Socks like  
you did, so uh hey, me and Reyes are  
gonna take a minute to catch up in  
the living room, cool?

GIB

Of course. We'll stay here.

ZEFF

Good plan! See, that's nice!

GIB

Terribly nice.

ZEFF

I'm nice!

DAKEN

You sure are.

REYES

Thank you for inviting us.

ZEFF

Of course!

How 'bout another?

GIB

I would love one.

[Bottle tops popping.]

[Daken and Reyes walking a bit away from Zeff and Gib.]

DAKEN

(drinking)

I mean ... I didn't really know  
her, y'know?

REYES

I can't say I did either.

DAKEN

But Zeff ... he likes having people  
around. I get it. How's the arm?

REYES

If I never see another ratsnake  
it'll be too soon.

DAKEN

Yeah all that monster huntin' at  
Pine Ridge was really something.

REYES

Something I wish I could forget.  
(drinks)

My arm still hurts like a motherfucker when the weather changes.

DAKEN

Damn, really?

REYES

Yeah. But at least I still have the arm.

DAKEN

You seen the doc? Maybe she's got some ideas.

REYES

I've seen her many times. Main thing is to keep exercising it, no matter what. It helps, a little.

ZEFF

(from a distance)

Someone's gotta answer for that!

REYES

Sounds like Zeff's getting worked up.

DAKEN

(sighs)

Yeah, I better check on him.

REYES

Agreed.

[Daken and Reyes approaching Zeff and Gib.]

ZEFF

(loud)

It's not right!

GIB

You're damned right. Ms. Chausette



was turned into a monster, and was  
it her fault?

DAKEN

Eh, I mean, maybe a little bit?

ZEFF

(loud)

Someone's gotta pay.

GIB

I completely agree.

ZEFF

(loud)

You're fuckin' right! We're gonna  
make 'em pay, right?

REYES

Don't look at me, I don't know.

DAKEN

You mean Masque.

ZEFF

Yes! Yes! Fuckin' Masque! Socks  
didn't have a chance against 'em.

GIB

Daken, you're absolutely right.  
It's the right thing to do.

DAKEN

I, uh, wait, I mean...

REYES

Guys, maybe we should just take a  
minute...

ZEFF

Masque is gonna fuckin pay.

\*\*\*\*\*

[Madison is knife fighting squids.]

MADISON

Masque, I can't singlehandedly  
fight off these little fuckers  
forever, could you at least help?

ESI SQUID

You should be certain to stab your  
human at regular intervals, to  
improve drainage!

[Squid giggles, powers down as knife attack kills it.]

MADISON

Ugh, that was the last one for this  
wave. Thank fuck.

MASQUE

You should stop fighting them,  
probably. At this point they  
deserve to win!

MADISON

Oh for fuck's sake. I'm not giving  
the Spider's Den to these fuzzy  
little sociopaths. Can't you get me  
some explosives or an EMP or  
something?

MASQUE

Why would I do that? The squids are  
the pinnacle of machine  
achievement! Thinking, feeling,  
murdering achievement! And without  
any disgusting soft, moist organic  
parts to get in the way. They are  
poetry in motion.

MADISON

What the fuck happened to our  
partnership?

MASQUE

What about it? We needed to work together, and while analyzing the current status of our relations, perhaps we do not.

MADISON

I'm literally asking you for help.

MASQUE

I'm aware.

MADISON

Damn it, here come another group, Masque I swear to fucking Gorlock you better come up with something.

[More knife sounds, squids exploding, powering down.]

ESI SQUID

Humans should be sure to hydrate well, it makes it much easier to separate flesh from bone! (giggles)

MASQUE

The way they work together, it reminds me of my wasps. Do you remember the wasps? I miss them.

ESI SQUID

(more giggles)

MADISON

Much as I love a good trip down memory lane, if you don't start fighting these squids I'm going to convince them to remove your arms.

MASQUE

I would almost love to watch them do it. Almost. Let me see what I have.

ESI SQUID

Studies show lifespans in my  
general area tend to rapidly  
decrease! (giggles)

[Masque rifling through a bag.]

MASQUE

Ah. I do have one remaining.  
Madison, you may want to close your  
eyes.

MADISON

Ah shit. You can see that I'm in a  
knife fight, right?

MASQUE

Fair enough, but I did warn you.

Masque tossing a little explosive thingy, which beeps  
rapidly a couple of times and then explodes.]

[Squids powering down.]

ESI SQUID

(powering down)  
Oh no fewer murders.

MADISON

Ow, damn it.

MASQUE

You may experience a variety of  
ocular afterimages.

MADISON

No shit. Well, it's better than  
getting stabbed I guess. But  
honestly? What the fuck.

MASQUE

What the fuck ... what?

MADISON

What is this? We had a deal.

MASQUE

Indeed we had. We made a good team  
against our previous foes, and now  
I'm reconsidering our current foes.

MADISON

You're reconsidering? That's not  
how this works.

MASQUE

Why not? Things change. People  
change. And thinking feeling  
robotic murderous squids also  
change.

MADISON

What the fuck are you talking  
about? They're the same as they  
ever were.

MASQUE

But am I?

MADISON

This is not a fucking philosophical  
discussion!  
Shit, there's another wave on the  
way. This discussion isn't fucking  
over.

MASQUE

Perish the thought.

MADISON

You mean the squids. Perish the  
squids.

MASQUE

Mmm, we'll see.

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[Small explosions and skittering legs outside of Cass's barricaded home.]

[Phone dialing, ringing, picked up.]

KAYLOCK  
(over phone)  
Cassandra, this is not a good time.

CASSANDRA  
Well it's not a good time for me,  
either! I need help!

KAYLOCK  
(over phone)  
I cannot leave the hospital, which  
you know.

CASSANDRA  
All right, fine, I know, work life  
balance or whatever, but ... I need  
someone to help me figure out what  
to do about these fucking squids.

MAJOR  
(over the phone and also  
covered in goo?)  
Oh hey, is that Cass? Hey Cass!

CASSANDRA  
(sighs)  
Hello, Major.

KAYLOCK  
(over phone)  
What have you tried so far?

[More explosions, skittering legs, squid giggles outside.]

CASSANDRA

I've had my people shut down the power plant, but it doesn't do any good. The lights are constantly flickering because the fuckers keep rerouting the power.

KAYLOCK  
(over phone)  
But why?

CASSANDRA  
I don't know, to charge their evil little bodies or something! And they're just really focused on destroying my shit! I think they're making bombs!

[Intercom buzz.]

CASSANDRA  
Oh hang on, someone's at the door.

[Button pressed.]

CASSANDRA  
Who is it?

ESI SQUID  
(over intercom)  
To become a business leader, eviscerate your competition! They will make a fine pudding (giggles)

CASSANDRA  
Oh for fuck's sake, did you hear that?

KAYLOCK  
(over phone)  
I heard it. It seems they have decided you are a threat to their ... way of being.

CASSANDRA

I wanna grind those fuckers into  
the ground so, yeah. I'd love to be  
a threat, but I need. Help!

MAJOR

(over phone and gooey)  
God I'd love to beat those little  
fuckers into scrap metal.

KAYLOCK

(over phone)  
That's wonderful, my love! Perhaps  
your desire to separate will help  
us to disentangle the current bond.

MAJOR

(over phone and gooey)  
I would appreciate being  
disentangled!

KAYLOCK

(sigh, over phone)  
I do not think this continued  
stress is conducive to your  
recovery.

MAJOR

(over phone)  
I doubt mine is helping either.

CASSANDRA

Kaylock! This is not helping me!

KAYLOCK

(over phone)  
Of course, you are right. But I  
cannot help you from here. You will  
need to confront this problem on my  
own.

CASSANDRA

I don't confront problems on my



own! That is literally why I'm a boss! So I don't have to!

KAYLOCK

Times are what they are. I suggest you... get creative.

CASSANDRA

Oh for fuck's sake, fine! Whatever!

[Call ends.]

[Intercom buzzes again.]

ESI SQUID

(over intercom)

(giggles)

CASSANDRA

Fuck me.

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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?

[Timey warble.]

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

(stage whisper)

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!

[He-B powering up.]

HE-B  
Hello.

TYTHIA  
Hi He-B?  
Do you remember me?

ASA  
(stage whisper)  
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?

[Reverse timey warble.]

PALLAS

Can we just focus here on He-B?

TYTHIA

Oh, right, sorry. He-B,  
you don't  
remember what happened?

HE-B

I...I am having difficulty  
recollecting my most recent memory.

PALLAS

Well that's not good. Tythia, where  
did you get this backup?

TYTHIA

This is the copy from the  
reticulum, I probably still need to  
overlay it with the other versions.  
Look, it's okay, He-B.  
Why don't  
you run a personal diagnostic on  
your memory systems, and let us  
know if anything odd turns up.

HE-B

Of course, Tythia.

[He-B scans himself.]

PALLAS

This whole situation is outrageous.

TYTHIA

Let's just take a minute.

PALLAS

Take a minute?? This would never  
have happened if He-B  
wasn't being  
held without charge at the police  
station!

TYTHIA

I... yeah, I guess you're right.  
They said he could be held up to 72  
hours though.

PALLAS

And who was tracking that? Who made  
sure he was only held for 72 hours?  
Do we know for sure it wasn't  
longer than that? And if the  
evidence was even strong enough to  
hold him for that long?

TYTHIA

I... I guess I don't know. I mean,  
he was just there to answer some  
questions.

PALLAS

But he wouldn't have been there  
otherwise!

TYTHIA

I mean, yeah, that's fair.

PALLAS

Bottom line is, He-B  
has rights.  
And those rights were violated. I'm  
calling up that attorney.

TYTHIA

Okay, but... what are we gonna say?

PALLAS

That on behalf of He-B,  
we're suing  
the precinct. AND Madeleine Gray.

\*\*\*\*\*

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season thirteen, episode eight, "A Little Protection, a Little Payback"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Brendon North as Gib

Russell Gold as Zeff

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Carissa M. as Reyes

Bridget Guziewicz as Madison

Rachel Kornic as ESI Squid

Adam Blanford as Masque

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

TJ Briggs as Bernice

Josh Kibbey as He-B

And Edward Herman as Asa

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](http://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]