

DREAMNASIUM, episode 2: "The Lingering Grief of Twilight," part 2

[Synthy Dreamnasium theme]

THE MUSE: Dreamnasium. Function: noun. A vast, extra-dimensional space described by benign chaos and the germination of visions, revelations, and tales. "The Lingering Grief of Twilight," part two.

[Dreamnasium theme continues, then fades out]

[Occasional static on the comm line throughout.]

[Tense music.]

[The growls and beating wings of the creatures, more of their energy blasts.]

FARRAGUT: [over comm] Lady Justice! Are you there?!

LADY JUSTICE: (Recovering) I'm all right. But they have... matured since I last encountered them. They think they can beat me. THEY. ARE. WRONG.

[More energy blasts, this time colliding with afforce field, causing sparks and explosions, etc.]

[The creatures moving a bit further off]

FARRAGUT: [over comm] Looks like- YES! They're retreating. It's over! Thank God.

LADY JUSTICE: No. I... shocked them, is all. They aren't sure of their strength. They will recover.

FARRAGUT: [over comm] (low whistle) We could see the fireworks from here. Even without instruments.

LADY JUSTICE: "Fireworks." I suppose that's appropriate. They were born in *fire*.

[Flashback sound]

[An alien seashore. Birds, waves, etc. Serene and calm.]

[Fireworks bursting in the sky]

LADY JUSTICE: The pyrotechnics are lovely.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: And all in celebration of you, my Lady, and your child-to-be!

LADY JUSTICE: You needn't have gone to all this trouble, Magistrate Vugin.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: You tamed the great beast; you cleaned our atmosphere of the chemical taint left behind by our experiments with space travel! You put down attempts by would-be tyrants to conquer the globe!

LADY JUSTICE: It is my joy to be of help to you. I regret I must take leave of Khu'vua.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: Not forever, surely!

LADY JUSTICE: (Fond) No, Magistrate. But when my child is born, the energies released will be... well... large.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: Where will you go, my Lady?

LADY JUSTICE: Your sun's photosphere should be snug enough.

[Fireworks.]

LADY JUSTICE: (fond, sweet) The pyrotechnics really are lovely.

[Lady Justice flies off, leaving the world behind.]

[Delicate music fades as flashback ends.]

FARRAGUT: [over comm] Lady Justice? You okay out there?

LADY JUSTICE: (Concentrating) Odd... they're hiding from me but... I can *feel* them building power.

FARRAGUT: [over comm] We're getting nothing from the satellites. Now what?

LADY JUSTICE: Now we wait, I suppose. I can... go on with my tale, if you like.

FARRAGUT: [over comm] You burned him up on the first date. I'd like to know how the hell you got pregnant.

LADY JUSTICE: Do they not teach biology on Earth, Captain?

FARRAGUT: [over comm] (laughs) No I know how it happens but, how? You destroyed Eos.

LADY JUSTICE: But he left me a gift. Eolis.

[Flashback sound]

[Back on the alien seashore.]

[More fireworks.]

[Teleportation flash.]

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: Greetings, Eolis. Salutations on your tenth revolution!

EOLIS: (Disaffected) Thank you, Magistrate Vugin.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: Are you enjoying the sky-fires? A spectacular display of light, no?

EOLIS: If you recombined the chemical balance only slightly you could increase the destructive yield by a factor of seventy percent.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: Indeed. These are not- they aren't *weapons*, you know. They're meant to make you smile.

[Footsteps approaching.]

LADY JUSTICE: (Arriving) And it's a lovely smile, isn't it, Vugin?

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: (Flustered) Indeed, Lady. Um... indeed. Mm. Might I have a word?

LADY JUSTICE: Eolis, why don't you play with the other children so the Magistrate and can talk?

EOLIS: I prefer to stay.

LADY JUSTICE: There are sweetfruits. You love them.

EOLIS: Yes, mother. I do.

LADY JUSTICE: Off you go. And remember. Smile.

[Teleportation as Eolis poofs out.]

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: (freaked out but hiding it) Forgive me for saying, my Lady, but your Eolis, she does not possess the same spark as you.

LADY JUSTICE: Oh? You think not?

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: She seems... distant. Cold.

LADY JUSTICE: Eolis is a lesser fire than my own but she is hardly cold.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: *You* are a peacemaker, Lady. But Eolis, she sometimes seems to sow discord. Amongst friends, within families...

LADY JUSTICE: (Fondly amused) Nonsense. How... how could she? Remember, despite her looks Eolis is still only a child. She has her little moods, I suppose, but... that's all.

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: (not convinced) As you say. Children must be taught, of course. None of us is born mature.

LADY JUSTICE: Precisely. Precisely *that*. Now, Magistrate Vugin, my dear friend, what brings you to me this day?

MAGISTRATE VUGIN: I did not want to disturb the festivities, but... the Science Presidium has detected a meteor swarm, one which will collide with our orbit in a most inopportune fashion.

LADY JUSTICE: Say no more. (Beat, calling) Eolis!

[Teleportation flash.]

EOLIS: Yes, mother?

LADY JUSTICE: What have we discussed about teleporting?

EOLIS: But it's faster than walking. More efficient.

LADY JUSTICE: We mustn't flaunt, my love. And walking allows us to see more, to be *in* the world instead of outside it. Yes?

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EOLIS: Yes, mother.

LADY JUSTICE: Now, I must go. There's a thing I must do for the Presidium.

EOLIS: How long?

LADY JUSTICE: A few weeks at most. I will need you to protect the Khu'vua while I'm gone. Can you do this?

EOLIS: I can.

LADY JUSTICE: Wonderful. Enjoy the rest of your birthday, my love, and know that I love you with all my heart. And remember. Smile.

[Lady Justice flies away.]

[Silence for a moment, then Lady Justice Flies up and begins punching meteors to pieces.]

[Crunchy, rocky explosions all over.]

LADY JUSTICE: (grunts of exertion, she grows more tired as they go on) Presidium Base, I have nearly finished with the swarm. Only a few more rocks to destroy. I will return in-

[Eventually the rocky crumbling stops.]

LADY JUSTICE: (quiet breaths as she recovers) I am on my way home now. (Beat) Presidium Base? Presidium, please respond. (beat) It's possible my communicator is damaged. I am returning home.

[Lady Justice flies back the way she came.]

[An eerie wind. No waves. No birds. Fires burn in the distance.]

[Lady Justice lands in rubble.]

LADY JUSTICE: (shock and confusion) Eolis? (Beat, distress) EOLIS!

[Teleportation flash.]

EOLIS: Welcome back, Mother.

LADY JUSTICE: What has happened here?!

EOLIS: Nothing at all.

LADY JUSTICE: (overwhelmed by horror) The cities are... radioactive craters! The atmosphere is nearly gone! The oceans, they're littered with shipwrecks and corpses!

EOLIS: They wanted to fight so I helped them. Isn't that what we do, help them to get what they want?

LADY JUSTICE: This is not... Eolis... no... we- don't you understand? This isn't what we are. We're Life. We're made for Life not this- this-

EOLIS: I see you're sad. Let me show something that will make you smile.

LADY JUSTICE: What? What could possibly ever... after this? After *all* this?

EOLIS: Come and see. See what I've made.

[Two footsteps through the rubble for a few seconds. As the footsteps stop, we hear the quiet gurgling roars of the crystalline beings from before.]

LADY JUSTICE: (Shock. Grief) Eolis. No. No.

EOLIS: Aren't they pretty, Mother? Aren't they SO pretty?

[The gurgling roars grow into a storm, followed by the same energy attack we heard in the present day.]

LADY JUSTICE: Eolis! Look out!

EOLIS: (Laughing, just a bit creepy)

[The roar of energy becomes too loud to hear Eolis]

[Battle sounds from before.]

FARRAGUT: [over comm] --Justice! Lady Justice! Do you copy? LADY JUSTICE!

[The Sound FX stops, though the quiet gurgling roars can still be heard. Beat]

LADY JUSTICE: (Winded) I am... unharmed, Captain. No need to shout.

FARRAGUT: [over comm] What about the bogies? Did you get them?

LADY JUSTICE: (Recovering) I did not. They seem as surprised as I am.

FARRAGUT: [over comm] Remind me never to get on your bad side. Think you can... redirect them?

LADY JUSTICE: (Angry) No. No more. They wouldn't see reason and they won't turn away. This must stop. Here. *Now*. Before they find another inhabited world.

[NOTE: When Lady Justice speaks in all caps, her voice booms, and musical tones are heard mixing with her voice.]

LADY JUSTICE: (With regret) I'M SORRY IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY. I GAVE YOU EVERY CHANCE.

[Sparkle and fire, wind and pain, energy rushing out of every pore of Lady Justice.]

LADY JUSTICE: (nnnnnng)

FARRAGUT: [over comm] The *whole sky's* lighting up! What the hell is that!?

LADY JUSTICE: (Struggling) BURN, grandchildren! Burn, you monsters! BURN in the fires of creation! (Beat) (rrrraaaaaaaaagghh!)

[Her attack reaches a crescendo, the creatures writhe and wail and disintegrate into dust.]

[That light wind of the exosphere, and nothing else.]

LADY JUSTICE: (Gasping, trying to recover her breath after the most physically and emotionally exhausting moment of her considerably long life, holding back tears)

[An earth beach, with normal waves and birds.]

[Footsteps approach through the sand.]

FARRAGUT: No more monsters, sunset on the beach... what's bugging you?

LADY JUSTICE: Oh, old things. Though not as old as *me*.

[Two bottles of beer being opened]

FARRAGUT: Beer?

LADY JUSTICE: Thank you.

[She takes the bottle, they clink them together.]

FARRAGUT: You know my motto?

LADY JUSTICE: No. What's your motto?

FARRAGUT: Bury the past. Dig it a nice hole, put a bullet in its forehead and cover it over good.

[She takes a drink.]

LADY JUSTICE: Been there. Done that.

FARRAGUT: (awkward) So. Your daughter, Eolis? What happened to her?

LADY JUSTICE: (steadying breath) It was not easy but... I could not let it happen again.

FARRAGUT: That um, that must have been hard.

LADY JUSTICE: Sh- (super difficult to get this out) She was strong. She resisted, she pleaded, she begged for forgiveness but, in the end... no.

[A moment of silence.]

LADY JUSTICE: I knew her creations would probably become eaters of life and light, powerful beyond most measures. I knew they shouldn't be allowed to exist another moment. (Beat) I *had* to give them the chance I gave myself, and my daughter, and all the other lives I've ever encountered.

FARRAGUT: And they were... all you had left of Eolis.

LADY JUSTICE: Just as she was all I had left of her father. And now? I am truly alone.

FARRAGUT: Look, Lady Justice, we—

LADY JUSTICE: (soft but defensive) That's not my name. (Beat, gentler) I don't know why your superiors insisted on saddling me with it. Or with this ridiculous costume.

FARRAGUT: Oh. It's an easier sell to the public than "Government Sponsored Alien Fire Goddess". And you may not like that skintight thing with the sunburst across your chest but, uh... you gotta know we're... we're doing our best.

LADY JUSTICE: (Amused) Appreciated. Truly. But, just once, I'd like for someone to use my name, my real name.

FARRAGUT: I'd do it. But I don't think you ever told anybody.

LADY JUSTICE: I did. No one could pronounce it.

FARRAGUT: Try me.

[The musical tones from under Lady Justice's all-caps lines before, only brought up front and center, no words over it. Clear and beautiful... the audio/musical equivalent of a sunset over the ocean.]

FARRAGUT: Whew. (laughs) Yeah, I can see why they had some trouble. Um. Does it have any, y'know, uh... transla- meaning?

LADY JUSTICE: You see how it's getting darker all around us as the sun sets? My name means that.

FARRAGUT: (another low whistle) Okay. (small laugh) Pleased to meet you, Twilight.

LADY JUSTICE: (amused again, still in spite of herself) *That* isn't my name either.

FARRAGUT: Nope. But it's a start. Everything has to have one, right?

LADY JUSTICE: (a true laugh, filled with joy, her grief temporarily at bay. Then, softly.) Yes. Everything does.

[Dreamnasium theme plays.]

THE MUSE: Geoffrey Thorne's "Dreamnasium", episode two. "The Lingering Grief of Twilight," part two.

Featuring the voice talents of:

Darian Lindle as Lady Justice

Philip Weber as Captain Farragut

Channe Nolen as Magistrate Vugin

Barbra Dillon as Eolis

And Melissa Autumn Hearne as The Muse

Written by Jeffrey and Susan Bridges, based on the original short story "The Lingering Grief of Twilight" by Geoffrey Thorne

Dreamnasium theme by Vincent Morrison

Music by Josh Molen at TheTunePeddler.com

Directed by Kathryn Pryde

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Dreamnasium theme fades out.]