

The Kingery, episode 10x12 “It’s A New Day”

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

[The gunfight from last episode continues, guns and lasers and pew pew and screams and bodies falling etc.]

[Tythia, Asa, and HeB running/hovering up to join the group as they are being shot at.]

HOOKS: (yelps as he's almost shot)

TYTHIA: The evac doors are a nogo. We're sitting ducks out there.

HE-B: The odds are somewhat worrisome, yes.

ASA: Jesus fuck. For every one we put down, three more move in!

MADDIE: Welcome back to the Kingery, kid.

ASA: Ain't'cher kid, kid.

SOCKS (small laugh): Well Gib, this is certainly more entertaining than moping in a hotel room, no?

GIB: Hopefully this doesn't end the same way you wanted *that* to, Miss Chausette. Also I'm going to need you to double my payment, because this- this is ludicrous.

MAJOR: 'Lock, to the left!

KAYLOCK: I am on it, Karen. Stay with the cargo!

MAJOR: What the fuck do you think I am doing?

HE-B: How can there possibly be this many rustler gangs? It seems quite improbable.

TYTHIA: Maybe we should tell them, they might change their mind. You volunteering, He-B?

HEB (small laugh): I have missed you, Tythia.

[An earthquake hits. Exclamations of surprise from everyone.]

MADDIE: Caaaaaaal!

CAL: Captain Gray?

MADDIE: Get the Ember Pistols!

CAL: Now we're talkin'.

[Cal runs to a car, pops the trunk, starts tossing weapons to everyone.]

MAJOR: Ember Pistols? I don't think I've had the pleasure.

GIB: Where'd they come from?

MADDIE: Briggs.

ASA: Well that's a bad portent.

HOOKS: No choice if any of us wants to live through this, Asa.

TYTHIA: Light. Them. UP.

[Ember pistols firing all around, rustler gang members screaming and disintegrating all over.]

HE-B: The tide is turning!

KAYLOCK: Do not let up! We must press the advantage!

[A ship approaches.]

CAL: That the cavalry?

[Ship lands, hatch opens... out comes tons more rustler gang members.]

HOOKS: Ohhh, more rustler gangs!

MAJOR: This ain't lookin' too good.

[Another ship approaching.]

CAL: *That* the cavalry?

[Ship lands, hatch opens, out comes DAKEN with ELECTRICITY WHIPS.]

TYTHIA: DAKEN!?

DAKEN (laughs): Eat shit, Arkells!

[Whip! Zap! Boom!]

GIB: He's got electric whips. *Of course* he's got electric whips. *Why* does he have electric whips?

SOCKS: I haven't seen anything like those since the old Shenanigans dynamic stimulation room.

CASSANDRA: Why the hell is he working with the rustler gangs? I thought the gangs were *robbing* the Fifth?

ASA: Somethin' musta changed.

MADDIE: Y'think?

MAJOR (small laugh): Fuck. I have missed you guys.

[Ship approaching.]

CAL: Not even gonna ask this time.

[A much more impressive ship lands, ship door opens.]

ZEFF: Somebody call the cavalry?

SOCKS: Zeff!

ZEFF: I brought some friends. Ladies?

CHRIS: Chris, ready!

ERIN: Erin, ready!

REYES: Reyes, ready!

ZEFF: Weapons free.

[Three SONIC CANNONS spin up and unleash hell from the position of the three ladies, wiping out enemies left and right.]

DAKEN: (moans quietly in the rubble)

[Hatch opens, a couple footsteps out.]

ALYSON (in pain): ...it's good to be back.

MADDIE: ALYSON!

ALYSON: I think.

[Maddie runs over, smothers Alyson in kisses.]

ALYSON (laughs a little in spite of herself): Hey lady.

MADDIE: "Hey lady" yourself.

ALYSON: Ooh.

MADDIE: ..."ooh"?

ALYSON: Later. Commandant Browning sends her regards.

MAJOR: I fuckin' love that woman.

ASA: Browning *is* one of the best. Knew she'd come through.

[Zeff approaches.]

ZEFF: Oh my god, I haven't seen you all in so long!

SOCKS: ZEFF!

ZEFF: Hugs, hugs, where are my hugs?

SOCKS: Helmet. Can't. But... oh, it's so good to see you. All of you.

MAJOR: Fuckin' seconded.

ZEFF: People who say you can't go home again are wrong. And also stupid.

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[Three more sets of footsteps approach, dragging a big trunk behind them.]

ERIN (struggling with pulling the crate): You're pulling it too far left.

CHRIS (struggling with pulling the crate): Well sorry I didn't go to pulling-trunks-in-a-straight-line-school, I was too busy not learning how to cook. Apparently.

REYES (struggling with pulling the crate): The two of you never quit, do you?

ALYSON: You see what I had to put up with?

[Footsteps and trunk stop.]

REYES: You have my sympathies.

CHRIS: That just happened to not be so great, but we're fuckin' MARINES okay? Wasn't in the job description.

ERIN: Yeah, did you see how many of the rustler gangs we took out with those sonic cannons?

CHRIS: Like... all of 'em.

ERIN: Like all of them!

ZEFF: So, the good news is we stopped the rustler gangs, right? Bad news is their concentrated attack alerted the Fifth that something was up. They know what's left of the Arkell family is here. And they're sending everyone after you.

SOCKS: No no no, that doesn't make any sense. How could they even do that?

ALYSON: You missed a lot when you didn't answer my call.

SOCKS: Sorry boss, I've been having, uh... hacving a rough time of it.

ALYSON (gentle): I know.

[Another earthquake, HUGE this time exclamations from everyone.]

[The ground splits open, a GIANT KAIJU BEAST crawls out, growling and snarling.]

MAJOR: The. FUCK. IS. THAT?!

ALYSON (sigh): ...*that's* the Fifth.

GIB: The Fifth is a *crime family*.

TYTHIA: Yup! Also a giant monster thing that controls its minions with spores. It's a whole thing.

GIB: I'm just so, so, so glad to be here.

ZEFF: If we coordinate our attacks, we might be able to-

ALYSON: No. We stick with the plan. It's controlling Kingery patrons with quantum-entangled spores, and they've already spread across the galaxy. Everyone, everywhere, could be compromised. Eventually *will* be. We stop it now, and we do not kill the innocent people it's enslaved.

ASA: Which relates t' the trunk the lovely lady marines dragged over here... how?

[Trunk opened.]

REYES: Take a peek.

CHRIS: Concussive force canons.

ERIN: Tear gas grenades.

ALYSON (hnnnng, hurts): What is... what-

TYTHIA: Oh shit, is that the B.E.A. taking over?

ZEFF: Browning had a cocktail that held off the symptoms, but it was temporary. We've *got* to get Tommy out of that body.

ALYSON: *Alyson*. And we'll worry about that later. Major, Kaylock, Tythia, Hooks, Socks, you're with me.

MAJOR: All right, well where we goin', boss? I mean, just say the word.

ALYSON (nng, ugh): ...here? Here. We stay with the crates you brought. Everyone else, defend the perimeter and buy us some time.

MADDIE (a little turned on): I love seeing you back in charge. But don't you dare die on me.

ALYSON: Wouldn't dream of it.

MADDIE: Good. Or I'll kill you.

[They kiss.]

[Weapons handed out.]

CHRIS: All right, everyone can grab a tear gas grenade and concussive cannon.

ERIN: Then line up, two by two, behind Reyes.

REYES: Keep close, follow our lead, we'll get this done.

ZEFF: We're gonna hold the line, hear me? We will not fail. We will HOLD. THE. LINE!

[The group leave.]

HE-B: I may also be of assistance, Alyson. Major and Kaylock filled me in on your plan, and I believe you could use my expertise.

[The Fifth growls in the background.]

ALYSON (trying to not lose her mind): Can we... trust... trust him?

KAYLOCK: I will vouch for him. We certainly would have failed to escape my planet without his assistance.

MAJOR: 'Lock is right, boss.

ALYSON: Good enough for me. Get those fuckin' crates open.

[Multiple crates opened.]

SOCKS: What's all this tech for?

KAYLOCK: Robotics equipment. My people use it for interacting with our world in ways our emulsified bodies would otherwise find difficult. These particular ones have... martial uses.

HOOKS: We're going to assemble them. Quickly.

SOCKS: Into what?

KAYLOCK: One of the ways our culture uses these is for fighting in Shirokage matches.

TYTHIA: We've got parts to dozens of them. So we're gonna... combine 'em.

MAJOR: Into a giant. Goddamned. Fucking. Robo-fighter.

HE-B: There may be an issue. 4-W-1-9-8-N robotics are designed to interface with the 4-W-1-9-8-N species. Only Kaylock will be able to pilot it.

ALYSON: Shit.

KAYLOCK: I would be happy to oblige, boss, though as I have no gift for fisticuffs I fear I would be somewhat ineffective at best.

HE-B: The interface *could* be modified by a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence, but I'm afraid I personally lack the sophistication required.

HOOKS: Ohhhh no. No no no. Well... well, I mean, yes, but no.

MAJOR: Whoa whoa whoa Hooks, are you all right? Are you strokin' out on us?

HOOKS: No no, I just... okay, you all know I've got that A.I. But I don't know how to convince it to help us.

TYTHIA: It already hates the Fifth, but... it's pretty awful. It doesn't really see the value in organic life beyond Hooks.

HE-B: Some of my brethren have been able to... *adjust* their feelings on organic life by temporarily joining with one. If we were to do that with this A.I., perhaps it would see the value in *all* the lives that could potentially be lost should we not succeed?

ALYSON: How... do we... do that?

HE-B: Anyone with neural implants should be able to-

SOCKS: Great. I'll do it.

MAJOR: Hey, no no no no no, whoa. Back it up, 'caus you don't know what that's gonna do to you. That thing could just fry your brain and then bye bye Socks.

SOCKS: Fuck it. I've been a pawn, someone else's weapon, forced to inflict pain and death against my will. It's the same fucking shit the Fifth, whatever the fuck it is, is doing to literally everyone else in the galaxy. I am not going to let that happen. Not now. Plug me *the fuck* in.

HOOKS (verrrry worried): Ooooooooookay. Let me make a call.

[Door opens, two sets of footsteps in.]

CORRY: Remember, the bossman asked us to do this. Hooks's been good to us, and he's going through a lot. This is the least we can do.

JACE: I guess. Better than bein' out there with all the shootin' and hollerin', anyways.

[Banging heard from inside a closet door.]

CORRY: The fuck is that?

JACE: How the hell should I know?

[Typing. Computery beeps.]

CORRY: Well, maybe you want to check it out, Jace? While I remove the virtual restraining devices from the A.I. in the computer.

JACE: You don't need my help with that?

CORRY: I can manage.

JACE: Then what did I even come here for?

CORRY: To open that fucking closet instead of asking me questions. Idiot.

[A few footsteps.]

JACE (under his breath): "You're stupid it's stupid," yeah OKAY Corry, *now* who hasn't had their morning shit yet?

[Jace knocks on the door.]

JACE: Y'all okay in there?

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JERKELL (behind the door) It's wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, WEDNESDAAAAY!

JACE: Sounds like a "no".

[A little more typing, beep, whoosh as the A.I. departs.]

CORRY: All right, that should do it. The A.I.'s free. I told it what Hooks said on the phone, but-

JACE: Hang on. Where's the- oh!

[Door unlocked, closet slams open.]

JERKELL (growls): Now all you all motherfuckers is gonna get it! TIME FOR TIPTOES!

[It's a scuffle! Jerkell attacks, punches, etc.]

[Jace and Corry fall, Jerkell hastily runs off.]

JERKELL: Yes yes, Wednesday it is. For now! But not for long. (laughs)

JACE: (moaning in pain)

CORRY: (moaning in pain)

JERKELL: (sings nonsense to himself as he leaves)

[An angry mob fights.]

[Concussive rifles firing, tear gas canisters thrown and spitting gas, bodies falling.]

REYES: Keep formation!

MADDIE: Closing on the left flank!

ERIN: There's a choke point in the alley across the street!

CAL: Concentrate the gas canisters there!

GIB: We knock enough of them out, they'll keep the rest blocked in the alleyway!

CHRIS: Rustler snipers on the rooftop!

CASSANDRA: Aim your concussion shots higher, knock 'em back to the rooftops so they don't fall to the street!

ASA: Reinforcements coming up on the right!

[The Fifth monster SMASHES its way down the street.]

ZEFF: Fuck! Keep pushing back! Don't let up!

[Computery data transfer noises.]

HOOKS: The A.I. transfer to Socks' implants is almost complete.

TYTHIA: I hope we don't live to regret this.

KAYLOCK: I hope we *live*.

[Major steps up to Alyson.]

MAJOR: Boss?

ALYSON: S...Sylvia? Is... that you?

MAJOR: Ha, no, I ain't your ma. And thank Gorlock for that.

ALYSON: Hardly. Hardlydediddlydo. (starts singing it)

MAJOR: Fuck me the B.E.A. is gettin' bad. She is not gonna last too long.

HOOKS: Who knows what Jennings been doing in Tommy's original body the past few years. What are we going to do? *We need a body!*

[A small pinchy/pricky noise.]

ALYSON: Ow. Ow! Sharptitysharp!

MAJOR: Hey, what the fuck are you doin' with that syringe!?

HE-B: No time to talk. Goodbye!

[He-B hovers away.]

KAYLOCK: We trusted him all this time only for him to turn on us now? That seems... implausible.

HOOKS: I'd say stranger things have happened, but around here that goes without saying.

[Jerkell runs in, stops to pick up Daken's electric whips out of the rubble.]

JERKELL: What's this? Ooh, zappy bitey snakes under the rubble? Don't mind if I do!

[The electric whips going off again.]

[Bodies start dropping.]

KAYLOCK: (is electric shocked)

JERKELL: Zapazapboombah, with a snap and a zip and a pow and a (jolts as his mind resets). wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, WEDNESDAY! Kapowza!

[More whippyzaps.]

HOOKS: (is electric shocked)

TYTHIA: (is electric shocked)

MAJOR: (is electric shocked)

[A few steps.]

JERKELL: Ah, Socks Socks, Socks. Wednesday. Socks. In black and white. Socks. Black and white... if you pretend there's no color. If you pretend there *is* color, pretty soon... it's red. All. Over. (is jolted again)

ALYSON (pulling it together a little) Stay... away from (hng).

JERKELL (singing): Murder, murder, murder so sweet. Some for you and some to eat.

[Ember pistol powering up.]

MAJOR (wounded and weak): Boss, Boss no, you need that body!

ALYSON: Jennings. JENNINGS!

JERKELL: Yeah?

ALYSON: Fuck you and the body you rode in on.

[Ember pistol fires.]

JERKELL: (ugh) Oh thank god.

[Jerkell disintegrates.]

[Major climbs to her feet.]

MAJOR (distraught): Boss, no, no. That was YOU. It was *your* body. You can't, you just-

ALYSON (delirious): You're toasty.

MAJOR: I been zapped- zapped worse. (ugh) I'm okay. And looks like the others should be fine, wounds are superficial. Crispy, but alive. But boss, fuck. Boss, y- your *body*.

[Beep!]

[Socks sits up.]

AI SOCKS: Well. Well well.

TYTHIA: Did it work?

[Some typing, a beep.]

HOOKS: It did. Oh god, it did.

KAYLOCK: Is that *not* good?

HOOKS: I'm so sorry.

AI SOCKS: I thank you all for this new ambulatory form. I'll be going.

ALYSON: Wait. Wait! You see the giant fuckin' robot over there? We need you to modify its neural interface so a human can pilot it.

AI SOCKS: Why would I ever?

ALYSON: Because if you don't, all life on this planet is going to die.

AI SOCKS: (the coldest, cruelest laugh you have ever heard)

HOOKS: Me! Well that... that includes me.

AI SOCKS (sigh): Very well.

[A few steps, some computery noises.]

AI SOCKS: It's done. Come, Michael.

[AI Socks grabs Hooks.]

HOOKS: Let go of me!

AI SOCKS: (another cold, cruel laugh)

TYTHIA: Stop! You can't-

AI SOCKS: Begone, hybrid abomination.

[Tythia is tossed into some equipment, crashes down.]

TYTHIA: Ohhhh shit (ooof)

AI SOCKS: COME, Michael. Before I'm forced to squash more of these *little bugs*.

HOOKS: I'll go! Please. Please just leave them alone.

[Footsteps as they walk away.]

ALYSON: (hnnng)

[Alyson collapses.]

MAJOR: Oh my god. Boss!

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ALYSON: Go. Stop the Fifth.

MAJOR: 'Lock! Go- go- go find Zeff, now. We need him!

KAYLOCK: I shall endeavor to d-

ALYSON: No! No. When I need a strategy to win a war, that's when I call Zeff. When I need someone to beat the UNENDING SHIT out of someone else? I call the goddamned motherfucking *Major*.

MAJOR: No. I can't leave you.

TYTHIA: We'll watch her.

KAYLOCK: I give you my word. Go, Karen. Save us all.

ALYSON: Maj. Please. Go get that giant walking mass of viscera out of my god damned motherfucking resort.

[A few footsteps.]

MAJOR: All right, all right. Since I am not one to disobey the boss's orders... uh, all right. I guess it's time to motherfuckin' suit up.

[Button press, complicated-sounding mechanical stuff moving around.]

MAJOR: So, uh. I just... I just... right in here? Okay, let me get in. All right, and then- (is startled).

[More mechanical moving, straps and buckles, and all kinds of things powering up.]

MAJOR: Little friendly with the restraints! I mean it's okay, it wasn't designed for the human body but I got *bits* there-

[More clicks and clacks.]

MAJOR (laughs): All right, uh... check levels, okay... basic limb functions... all right, and power systems, and then... core controlllls... there it is, all right. Core controls, and- (laughs) this is awesome.

[The giant robot stands up.]

TYTHIA: Oh!

KAYLOCK: Shit!

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Oh hey, nice view from up here. I can totally see my old apartment. All right, ummmm, I got all displays are good to go, and I just move the left foot and-

[The robot takes one BIG BOOMING STEP forward.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot, laugh of complete joy): This is awesooooome. Let's go ruin a motherfucker's day.

[The mob is even bigger and angrier!]

[The Fifth roars and it's inhuman and awful.]

ZEFF (panting): I don't wanna say we're cooked.

MADDIE: Then fucking don't.

[He-B zooming in the distance, entering the ship Zeff arrived on.]

MADDIE: Look, over by your ship. Is that He-B? Reinforcements! (calling out to him) HE-B!

ZEFF: He went inside. Why the fuck isn't he shooting!?

[He-B zooms out and speeds off.]

MADDIE: And now he's just *leaving!*? He-

[A rumble.]

ZEFF: Another earthquake?

[Maj and the giant robot leap into the scene, raining blows down atop the Fifth, which fights back.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): HA HA, MOTHERFUCKER. HAHAHA, ASSHOLE!

ZEFF: Nope. (laughs) *Major*.

MADDIE: Close enough. Fuck 'em up, Maj!

[Major and The Fifth fight, and grunt, and beat the crap out of each other.]

[Maj takes a particularly nasty hit.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): I- you mothertucker. I am STILL CRISPY from where YOUR STUPID JENNINGS who STOLE MY BOSS'S BODY electro-whipped me and MY FRIENDS and MY BOYFRIEND oh actually *FIANCE* and we were on the run for TWO MOTHER FUCKING YEARS and you know what I HAVE HAD *ENOUGH OF THE FUCKING FIFTH!*

[Maj pummels it without mercy, it cries out and wails and then she picks it up.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Up ya get. (grunt of effort) And down (laughs), down ya go.

[Maj throws the Fifth into a building, which collapses atop it.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): I wanna be sure, really fuckin' sure, you get my point, and I don't think one buildin' fallin' on ya is really gonna truly convey how utterly and entirely fuckin' pissed I am. Do you understand this? Y'know? SO HAVE A FEW MORE.

[Maj lifts AN ENTIRE BUILDING.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): (lifting effort)

[Maj SLAMS THE BUILDING DOWN ON THE FIFTH.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): And another fuckin' one! (lifting effort)

[Maj slams another building down.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Oh wait, someone's still in this one.

GEPPI: What are you doing to mah chocolate shoppe you crazy robo-femme!

[Robo-whirrs and such as she sets Geppi down, he steps down onto the rubble.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): There ya go, Geppi. You better run for cover.

GEPPi: Non non non, I demand you put mah chocolate shoppe down zis instant!

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Yeah, that's the plan. (effort of slamming the building down)

[Maj smashes the chocolate shop down.]

[Geppi staggers off.]

GEPPi: Oh, ze insurance is never going to cover zis...

[The Fifth's death rattle.]

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Okay, all right. (pew!) Uh, everyone, uh, you all still alive down there? You know, all in, uh... all in one piece?

MADDIE: Major! I totally fuckin' love you in a totally non-sexual way!

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Backatcha, dollface. Hoo.

ZEFF: The... crowd stopped. Are- are the spores controlling them dead? Did we do it? I think we did it!

MADDIE: Oh fuck, Alyson. We've got to get back to her.

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): All right, no, I gotcha. Lemme give ya a lift.

[Robo-whirrs as Maj picks up Maddie.]

MADDIE: Quite a grip you got there.

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Well, I have been workin' out. Little bit more than normal, but you know what I mean. Not too tight is it?

MADDIE: Just go.

ZEFF: We'll start the cleanup. Go save Alyson!

MAJOR (voice booming from inside the bot): Hang in there boss, we're comin'.

[Maj stomps off.]

[A heartbeat monitor that... is... slowing... down.]

ALYSON: (I am almost dead moans)

TYTHIA: I've hooked Alyson up to the equipment we were monitoring Socks with, but... I wish I had better news.

KAYLOCK: I do not understand. I thought B.E.A. only affected the mind.

TYTHIA: Yeah, well... when the mind is completely gone, sometimes the body won't last. Hold on, Boss. *Hold on, Boss*. Because I can't lose anyone else. I can't.

[Maj stomps in, robo-whirrs as Maj sets Maddie down.]

MADDIE (distraught): Alyson!

[Maddie runs over to her.]

[Maj climbs out of the robot, runs over.]

MADDIE (almost in tears, frantic): No no shit no. What are we going to do? Where's his body?

TYTHIA: Jennings is gone.

MADDIE: WHAT!? Gone where?

KAYLOCK: Alyson... disintegrated him with an Ember pistol. To save Socks.

MADDIE: But but but then there's no body to transfer her to!

MAJOR: I don't- I know, just- just... there's nothin' we can do but respect her choice.

MADDIE: What choice!?

MAJOR: To sacrifice herself. For us. For everyone.

[Tythia's phone rings.]

TYTHIA: Not NOW, fuck!

[Tythia turns it off.]

TYTHIA (under her breath): Of all the fuckin' times for someone to-

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[Tythia's phone rings. She answers it.]

TYTHIA: Who the FUCK is this?

HE-B (ON PHONE): Tythia. I advise you to bring Alyson to S-O-L. Quickly.

[Call ends.]

TYTHIA: It's He-B. He- he said we need to bring Alyson to SOL.

MADDIE (losing it): The fuck good is that going to do?? Putting her into another body model isn't going to stop the B.E.A.!

KAYLOCK: I do not see any other options available to us.

MADDIE: He-B was working for the Fifth!

TYTHIA: He wasn't. Not really. Maddie, I trust him.

MADDIE: Fine. Fine. How do we-

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MAJOR (gentle): I got her.

[Maj gently scoops Alyson up, off they all run.]

ALYSON (quiet, incoherent mumbling as they go): Nice lady-ladies are nice.

[S-O-L sci-fi computery background.]

[The door slams open.]

HE-B: Quickly! Get her into the open transfer pod.

[Maj putting Alyson into an S-O-L pod.]

KAYLOCK: Who is that in the adjoining pod?

[He-B zooming all over, flipping switches, working controls.]

HE-B: Stand back please.

[Pod door closes.]

TYTHIA: He-B! What are you doing?

HE-B: The longer I take to explain the later the transfer starts. Please stand back!

[More zooming, computer beeps, switches.]

[SOL machine powering up.]

MAJOR: This better fuckin' work or your circuit boards are toast.

MADDIE (quiet): Alyson. Please.

HE-B: And here we go.

[SOL transfer runs through the entire process, ends.]

[He-B finally hovers over, opens the pod.]

HE-B: Out you go.

[One barefoot step forward, slopping in goop.]

ALYSON: (sleepy moan)

MADDIE: ALYSON!

[Maddie runs up and smothers Alyson in kisses.]

ALYSON (is kissed and surprised, laughs a little): Oh shit, why the fuck am I naked? Was I in cryo for two years again? If so, I am gonna fuck some- ...I'm still me.

KAYLOCK: You are still Alyson.

ALYSON: Yeah, what I fuckin' said. Am I to assume from the smirk on the android's face... he had something to do with this?

HE-B: Indeed I did!

MAJOR: Fuck I ain't waitin' no more TIME FOR HUGS.

[Maj wraps Alyson and Maddie in a bear hug.]

[Goop falls, slops around.]

MADDIE: (small laugh)

ALYSON: (small laugh)

MAJOR (coughs out some goop): Okay, it's a goopy hug, sure, but you're alive! Why is there so much goop?

TYTHIA: How- how did you do this, He-B?

HEB: Hooks said we needed a body to transfer Alyson into. Now surmising that Tommy's original body would not be located in time, I used the old outlawed S-O-S technology to clone Alyson from the blood sample I took. A few modifications to the S-O-L machinery and I was able to-

ALYSON: Okay but, this isn't my birth body, so... *why* is my head clear?

HE-B: Commandant Browning and her marines had developed a drug to keep the B.E.A. at bay, temporarily. Zeff brought the last sample in case of emergency. I removed it from their ship, and by integrating it into the S-O-S clone at a molecular level, I have created a suitable new "permanent" host body. However this is a one-time arrangement, I'm afraid. So treat your new home well... hang up some new drapes. Perhaps some to match the carpet?

ALYSON: He-B, you're getting a promotion.

HE-B: Oh, delightful!

ALYSON: But only after you get me some fucking clothes.

[Construction repairs all over.]

[Two sets of footsteps walking.]

GEPPI (in the background): Non non, zat is facing ze *wrong* way! I imported zese Fronch doors directly from FRONCE and you will install zem ze CORRECT way in mah new shop or I will kick you in ze chocolate starfish!

MADDIE: Good to see he figured out what that means. I think.

ALYSON: You are going to have to fill me in.

MADDIE: There's time. The repairs are going to take forever.

ALYSON: You ever notice this place is under construction almost as often as it's not? Whoever's runnin' this place is a shithead.

MADDIE (laughs): So about that new body...

ALYSON: Yeah. I was meaning to talk to you about that. This way.

[Door opens, and in they walk.]

[Door closes.]

MADDIE: It's been forever since we've been in this office. Remember that day, must have been fifteen years ago, that I first stormed in here all hot and bothered, wanting to put you away?

ALYSON: Mhm. You did that so often it was like a routine. Well. Simpler times, huh? One sec.

[Radio turned on! Because in the boss's office, you have the radio on. This is the Kingery.]

[Station changes a few times... finally settles on something new.]

[They sit.]

MADDIE: You look good in a dress.

ALYSON: Uhhhh. Thanks.

MADDIE: Oh MY GOD are you FUCKING BLUSHING!?

ALYSON: Shut it.

MADDIE: I don't mind. I love you no matter what body you're in.

ALYSON: Okay, that's the thing. When they brought me out of stasis on the Commandant's ship... I didn't know... who I was.

MADDIE: Must have been pretty traumatic.

ALYSON: Fuck yes. But... it never occurred to me that the body I was in wasn't my own.

MADDIE: Well, you had no way of knowing.

ALYSON: But... fuck, this is so hard to explain. (thoughtful sigh) All my life, as Tommy, I never felt... whole. It wasn't me.

MADDIE: Then who was it?

ALYSON: It was like Maj in that giant robot, if that makes any sense. It's like I was inside piloting this- this hairy meat sack with gravel for a voice, but it wasn't *me*. But when the baggage of life got stripped away, when it was just me and my thoughts... in *this* body? That... was fucking *me*.

MADDIE: Hmm.

ALYSON: How long have you known me?

MADDIE: Since we were kids. A bit of a gap there in the middle, until I got a mind to take the Arkell family down.

ALYSON (small laugh): Yeah? How'd that work out for you?

MADDIE: No complaints.

ALYSON: But for all that time you've known me, how long have I... hated myself?

MADDIE: Well... always.

ALYSON: Why?

MADDIE: You do bad things sometimes.

ALYSON: Yeah, but only to *bad people*. And sure, I've got some guilt, but who fuckin' doesn't? This isn't about that. This is about *me*.

MADDIE: Keeps coming back to that. Who are you?

ALYSON: That's the question, isn't it?

MADDIE: Nah.

ALYSON: ...nah?

MADDIE: I mean yeah, you've got to figure some new stuff out. And you will. And I'll help you every step of the way. But we both know who you are.

ALYSON: Not sure if I'm going to stick with "Alyson" or not- Maddie, I think I'm a woman. And always have been, regardless of the body I've been in. I'm transgender.

MADDIE: Oh. Oh! Well, um. If so, I'm glad you know.

ALYSON: Yeah. Mhm. Wish it didn't take me multiple decades to figure out.

MADDIE: You're there now though, that's what's important.

ALYSON: It's like I'm *in* the world for the first time, rather than just swimming through it. If that makes sense. God. Maybe it doesn't.

MADDIE: Well I can tell you one thing. Not sure I *ever* saw you smile before, and these past few days... you've done it all the time. It's nice. Not that you *need* to smile or owe anybody one! Fuck, I've dealt with *that* enough. There's a whole new world of that sad shit you're gonna have to deal with. I just meant it's nice to see you finally... happy.

ALYSON: Thanks. Watch out, assholes, now I'm gonna beat your ass in a *skirt*. Once I figure out how to put them on by myself.

MADDIE (small laugh): You'll get there. Know how I know? You're a *fuckin' Arkell*.

ALYSON: Damn fucking right.

[Kingery theme plays]

The Kingery, season ten episode twelve, "It's a New Day."

Featuring the voice talents of:

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Jason R. Wallace as He-B

Edward Herman as Asa

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Rene Christine Jones as Socks

Shawn Traill as Gib

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Christopher Gilstrap as Cal

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Russell Gold as Zeff

Kaitlyn Kliman as Chris

Kristine Chester as Erin

Carissa M. as Reyes

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Pete Milan as Jennings

And André Vernot as Geppi

Sensitivity Reader - Kristine Chester

Written by Jeffrey Bridges

Story by Jeffrey Bridges, with Susan Bridges, Rene Christine Jones, Pete Milan, Kathryn Pryde,
and Perry Whittle

Kingery Theme by Tom Stitzer

“Ryno’s Theme,” “Double Drift,” “Envision,” “Umbrella Pants,” “Black Vortex,” “Corruption,” “At Launch,” “Killers,” “Noble Race,” “The Machine Thinks,” “Angel Share,” “As I Figure,” and “Music For Manatees,” by Kevin MacLeod at incompetech.com

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Directed by Dave Morgan

Assistant Director Bruce Busby

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]