

**The Kingery, episode 11x03 “The Net”**

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

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[Low churchy-type choral-ish music.]

[Low murmuring crowd noise as congregation waits for the service to start.]

CAL

May I join you?

CASSANDRA

Okay, Cal. But you've got to promise not to use anything I say in legal proceedings.

[Cloth rustle as Cal sits.]

CAL

I'm only here for the wedding, Ms. Arkell.

CASSANDRA

Eh, call me Cassandra. I'm not the only “Ms. Arkell” any more.

CAL

I saw Major as I got to the church. She was running around checking on things, nervous as hell.

CASSANDRA

Weddings require attention to many details.

CAL

Well yeah but I... I just never thought I'd see her like that.

CASSANDRA

Getting married?

CAL

Nervous! I mean, you ever see her in a shootout?

CASSANDRA

Remember what I said when you asked to sit here?

CAL

Lemme try again: I've seen her in a shootout, and she doesn't flinch no matter what. She's got nerves of steel... except when she's getting married.

CASSANDRA

Adorable. Well, that makes them well matched.

CAL

How's that?

CASSANDRA

When Kaylock was my bodyguard, he--

CAL

(Clears throat to interrupt) No details, please.

CASSANDRA

Well, there were incidents. Kaylock never backed down, even when we were outnumbered.

CAL

Like you said: they're well matched.

[Whoosh as we change location.]

CHRIS

The name's Chris. I'm a special counselor.

GEPPI

Je suis Geppi. Chocolatier extraordinaire. Do you have passion for ze best chocolate on ze planet?

E.S.I. SQUID

Passion is an essential component of... having fun!

CHRIS

What's that?

GEPPI

Is broken.

E.S.I. SQUID

Small talk eases emotional discomfort in social situations.

GEPPI

So, um, you are a diplomat?

CHRIS

I'm a marine. But the role of "special counselor" is more like... well, more like a cop.

GEPPI

(tsks) Un flic. 'Ave you ever destroyed a shop's inventory to apprehend a criminal?

CHRIS

That's strangely specific.

E.S.I. SQUID

We can get through this together, baby!

GEPPI

Hush! What crimes are you policing?

CHRIS

Nothing particular. The Commandant just wants us to keep an eye on things.

GEPPI

Ze Commandant! You must allow me to give you an exquisite assortment for ze Commandant. There is a woman who could afford-- appreciate ze best chocolate ze galaxy offers!

E.S.I. SQUID

(Strangled voice) You're holding me very tight!

[Whoosh as we change location.]

ERIN

You said you travelled a lot. You ever seen a Specimen 4-W service?

DAKEN

Ages ago, Erin. They called it an adoption ceremony.

ERIN

What's adoption got to do with it?

DAKEN

It's the closest thing they have to what we call a wedding.

ERIN

Oh, ew! That's just so wrong.

DAKEN

It's not like what you're thinking. Specimen 4-W's are sexually very different from humans.

ERIN

Stop talking now.

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[Restaurant kitchen ambience during off hours.]

[Metallic rattle and bang as Corry slams a commercial dishwasher shut.]

JACE

Jesus, Corry! You tryin' to impress somebody slammin' that thing shut?

CORRY

Eat me, Jace. You're in as much of a hurry as I am.

[Footsteps and clanking of tools as Jace and Corry hurry toward door.]

SARAH

(Calling across kitchen)

Hey! HEY! You two!

[Jace and Corry's footsteps stop; foot scuffs as they turn back toward Sarah.]

JACE

(Whispering) We're so close to the door. We could run for it.

CORRY

(Calling) It's good to go, Sarah.

SARAH

Get back here and show me.

CORRY

Right you are. C'mon, twinkletoes.

[Jace and Corry footsteps back to commercial dishwasher.]

[Jace demonstrates a rattly, metallic high-speed steam dishwasher of the future. And a few rattling dishes, too.]

SARAH

It's not that I don't believe you. But this is a restaurant. And when the dishwasher doesn't work, the whole system falls apart.

CORRY

Too right! We fixed the steam pipes and replaced the gasket.

SARAH

Ahh. Yeah, there's a lot less steam than there used to be.

CORRY

Only on the outside. Inside, it's working right proper.

[Dishwasher completes cycle, door opens with a hiss of escaping steam. Glass and dish handling noises.]

CORRY

Gotta wear gloves, cause they're scalding. But look how clean.

SARAH

Very shiny. But it's gonna stand up to a hundred loads a night?

JACE

Shee-it, this baby can handle twice that. We fixed it up just right.

CORRY

Like it was our own. But now, we've really got to go.

SARAH

But you're supposed to be waiting tables at the reception!

JACE

Oh, we'll be back right quick. But we got more repairs booked.

SARAH

If you're so busy, why the hell did you sign on for waiting tables?

CORRY

We need the money.

SARAH

Buuut don't you get paid?

JACE

Just our salary.

CORRY

But we got no budget for parts or equipment.

JACE

So we take these little jobs here and there to get cash.

CORRY

For things like the gasket on your washer.

SARAH

Um.. oh! Uh, okay. Be back in forty-five minutes.

CORRY

Right you are.

[Footsteps and Jace and Corry walk to the door.]

SARAH

And please don't be late. You don't want to get on Major's bad side!

JACE

Personally, I'm more afraid of Kaylock. He could--

CORRY

Come on!

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[Organ music in the background.]

[Church ambience during service.]

REYES

You know anybody in the ceremony?

PALLAS

My girlfriend's one of the bridesmaids. I'm Pallas, by the way.

REYES

Reyes. I mean, Mariela Reyes.

PALLAS

Pleased to meet you.

REYES

This isn't a Gorlockian service, so why are we in a Gorlock church?

PALLAS

I heard Cassandra Arkell negotiated use of the church.

REYES

"Arkell," hm. Is she, uh--

PALLAS

His sister. I mean, her sister.

REYES

I know what you mean. (small laugh) Uh, she threaten anybody while negotiating?

PALLAS

Cassandra was an important member of the Church of Gorlock a while back. I doubt she needed to threaten anybody.

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[Oohs and aaahs from congregation as Major walks up the aisle to the altar.]

MADDIE

Don't you love seeing Major this happy, Alyson?

ALYSON

What? Oh, yeah.

MADDIE

Are you okay?

ALYSON

Course I am.

MADDIE

That doesn't work as well without the growl. Tell me what's up.

ALYSON

I dunno, Maddie. I guess I always thought if Maj got married, I'd... maybe give away the bride.

MADDIE

"Give away the--" (laughs) What century are you from?

ALYSON

Okay, bad example. But I just- I sure never thought I'd attend her wedding as a bridesmaid.

MADDIE

I'll give you that one. But you've been in this body for months.

ALYSON

Yeah I know, I just- It was one thing to joy ride in a female body, but I don't know, now that it's permanent, suddenly everything's different.

MADDIE

It's okay to regret it.

ALYSON

That's one of the things that's different. No regrets. I want this. And I didn't know that until it happened.

MADDIE

So what's going on? Do you like it?

ALYSON

(sighs) Liking it isn't even a question -- I'm home. That's the strongest feeling.

MADDIE

I get it: you feel like you're home, but at the same time everything is different.

ALYSON

That's it. Y'know, like my name.

MADDIE

You don't like Alyson?

ALYSON

It's okay. But I've been thinking there's gotta be a name that fits better. I just don't know what it is.

MADDIE

Want me to help you brainstorm names?

ALYSON

I'd love that. Thanks, Maddie.

MADDIE

You know you just gotta ask, Arkell, and I'm here for you.

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[Church ambience during service.]

ERIN

The service looks almost... improvised. You saw one before?

DAKEN

I'm no expert, but this isn't how I remember--

[Crowd reacts to something surprising.]

ERIN

Oh!

DAKEN

Yeahhh. Definitely improvised.

[Whoosh as we change location.]

[Wedding March plays on organ.]

JAYLOCK

The training should have been more rigorous.

MOOLOCK

What do you mean, Jaylock?

JAYLOCK

Do not be obtuse, Moolock. Our youngest budding clearly does not remember the ceremony.

MOOLOCK  
Shmu is doing fine.

JAYLOCK  
Shmu makes a mockery of the ceremony with this odd movement. Is the budding trying to dance?

MOOLOCK  
I agree that the ceremony is unusual. But that could not be avoided. Everything about this day is strange. From this drafty building honoring some alien god, to the mostly alien congregation...

JAYLOCK  
To the mixed-species participants.

MOOLOCK  
Exactly. And I find the way Shmu moves is... appropriate.

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[Church ambience during service.]

SHMU  
Bring forth the ceremonial artifact!

MAJOR  
The what now? Oh! You mean the net, Shmu?

SHMU  
Drape it over yourself and Kaylock.

MAJOR  
Okay, I gotcha, here we go. (Effort)

[Cloth rustle as Major unfurls a loose net of fine thread and places it over herself and Kaylock.]

[Reaction from congregation. Oohs and aahs.]

KAYLOCK  
Major, did you convince my buddlings to part with the prime ceremonial webbing?

SHMU  
Jaylock wouldn't allow it, but I sent her thread to make a new one.

KAYLOCK

You knit this yourself?

MAJOR

That's okay, right? I mean Shmu said I could make one if we couldn't get the family's.

KAYLOCK

Major, this makes me so happy, I'mmmmm-- (A continuous, pulsing hum that continues to the end of the scene)

SHMU

As the artifact encompasses two individuals, so do their multifaceted physiological, psychological, sociological, and parapsychological connections join them together within the--

MAJOR

Is this part of the ceremony?

SHMU

Not the ceremony I studied.

MAJOR

Ugh. Gorlocks's fucking cat, if something's wrong with him, I'll...

SHMU

Kaylock is happy, Major -- overwhelmingly so.

MAJOR

Ohhh, all right. Well, thank Gorlock.

KAYLOCK

You honor me, Majorino, by creating our ceremonial webbing.

MAJOR

Holy fuck. You have two voices?

KAYLOCK

You combined your skill and my species' traditions to create our personal webbing. I will never forget the joy of this moment.

SHMU

Dual voicings are rare, but not unknown for our species.

MAJOR

Shit, I wish I had a talent like that to show Kaylock.

SHMU

I think his point is that you, yourself, are everything Kaylock desires.

MAJOR

Fuck, Shmu, you're such a smooth talker, you make a girl blush.

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[Church ambience during service.]

HOOKS

You know anything about Specimen 4-W traditions, Socks?

A.I. SOCKS

Sure, I-I-I know a thing or two.

HOOKS

So tell me: what's with the net?

A.I. SOCKS

See, the net's, like, a symbol that says they'll always be connected.

HOOKS

That's so sweet!

A.I. SOCKS

You gonna cry now?

HOOKS

Aw, shut up.

A.I. SOCKS

Like you did when I-I-I used your dead lover's voice? That was fun.

HOOKS

Too much! Get your fucking parameters under control! Um... please?

A.I. SOCKS

Such language. Everyone's looking at us.

HOOKS

It's hard enough hearing you use Socks's voice. But you know what it did to me when you used Devi's voice. I can't stand it -- especially not joking about it. But... well y'know, I'm sorry. But I was provoked.

A.I. SOCKS

You know what you were? Entertaining.

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[Wedding reception ambience.]

TYTHIA

Ohh, they'd better start serving soon, or the guests'll eat each other.

[He-B gliding past in background.]

TYTHIA

(Calling) Hey, He-B!

[He-B glides up to Tythia.]

TYTHIA

Any word on the serving situation?

HE-B

I'm happy to report that all interpersonal interactions between the servers are frank and open.

TYTHIA

What?

HE-B

I was surprised, too! It's a great success, and all because of your elegant programming, Tythia!

TYTHIA

What are you talking about?

HE-B

Your therapy program! Most of my clients are working as servers tonight, and I was just in the kitchen checking on them.

TYTHIA

I getcha, okay, all right. And how soon do you think they'll start serving?

HE-B

Just as soon as they all have a chance to express themselves.

TYTHIA

Uh huh. Oh that's... that's great, He-B. That's really great.

[Cloth rustle as Tythia hugs He-B.]

HE-B

I've reached new levels of empathy and understanding with organics.

TYTHIA

That's amazing! I'm so happy for you, He-B.

HE-B

My emotion stack is overflowing.

[Footsteps as Pallas approaches.]

PALLAS

The bar is slow, but well stocked.

[Pallas sets down two drinks on the table.]

TYTHIA

Oh, alcohol! Hi, Pallas. Thank you!

PALLAS

So, what'd I miss?

TYTHIA

He-B and I were talking about his therapy work.

HE-B

Tythia's programming -- and even more importantly, her encouragement -- helped me grow as a person. I'd better go... check on more of my therapy clients.

TYTHIA

All right yeah, catch you later He-B.

[He-B glides off.]

PALLAS

“Grow as a person”?

TYTHIA

Hey! He-B’s a person.

PALLAS

How many hugs does it take to “encourage” him?

TYTHIA

What the fuck? What, are you jealous?

PALLAS

(scoffs) I don’t know! But, yeah, a little bit.

TYTHIA

I am just helping He-B lead group therapy sessions. He wanted a way to contribute.

PALLAS

But he’s your ex. And you’re spending a lot of time with him.

TYTHIA

Well he needs emotional support. The program requires a whole new level of empathy.

PALLAS

But no matter what he asks, you always say yes. Do you still have feelings for him?

TYTHIA

Where the fuck is this coming from? God, no! Jesus! Shit, I don’t know... maybe.

PALLAS

“Maybe”?! What does that even mean?

TYTHIA

I haven’t figured out my feelings for He-B, I haven’t had time to. But I do know that I love you just as much as ever, Pallas.

[Pallas’s chair scrapes back, foot shuffling.]

PALLAS

I’m gonna get another drink.

[Tythia’s chair scrapes back, foot shuffling.]

TYTHIA

All right then I'm coming with you.

PALLAS

You want to stand in line with half the people at this reception?

TYTHIA

I want to stand in line with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

[Busy restaurant kitchen ambience and general chaos.]

[Footsteps as Zeff approaches Daken.]

ZEFF

You owe me, Daken. I'm missing the most fabulous reception ever out there.

DAKEN

(chuckles) Sounds kinda tame to me.

ZEFF

Major and Kaylock still have that shimmery net over them. And Major blushes bright red every time she looks at Kaylock. It's a lot more fun than serving dinner.

DAKEN

Sorry, Zeff. But He-B told us new experiences might help us recover. And with the depleted population, Sarah needed waiters.

ZEFF

And I'm here in case you need emotional support.

DAKEN

Zeff, thank you. Truly. I wasn't trying to ruin your night.

[Footsteps approach.]

DOC BRIGGS

I didn't expect to see you two here.

CORRY

Just earning a little money, Doctor Briggs.

DOC BRIGGS

You can call me Samantha.

JACE

Hey, Corry, seems we can, uh, help out more down the other end o' the table. Know what I mean?

CORRY

Good point, Jace. Nice to see you, Doctor. We're just going to... help over there.

[Receding footsteps as Jace and Corry relocate.]

DOC BRIGGS

See, Asa? People are still afraid of me.

ASA

Looks like. I guess I oughta ask how you feel about that.

DOC BRIGGS

Oh I'm fine. Just sorry I got you roped into this.

ASA

It's okay.

DOC BRIGGS

No, it's not. I should be able to do a simple task like waiting tables without taking you away from your life in case I fall apart.

ASA

(small laugh) It's not exactly how I thought I'd see Major's wedding, but I like spending time with you.

DOC BRIGGS

I... well. That's kind of you to say. But I don't remember what we might have...

ASA

It's okay, Samantha. I mean, uh, is it okay for me to call you "Samantha"?

DOC BRIGGS

...yeah. Yeah, I like it.

[Loud hand claps as Sarah calls for attention from the milling waiters.]

SARAH

Okay everyone, listen up! We're behind schedule. But the chef worked out the kinks. It's gonna get crazy-busy in a couple minutes, don't panic. We all have to work together to serve the--

DAKEN & DOC BRIGGS

The group serves the one!

SARAH

Okay what in the fresh hell was that?

ZEFF

Sorry, Sarah. That's a brainwashing phrase that The Fifth used. You must have triggered it.

SARAH

I was just trying to get you guys organized.

ASA

Uh, we're gonna need a minute.

DOC BRIGGS

Ugh, I fucking hate that phrase. It's just so easy to say, sometimes I- I can't stop.

ASA

C'n I help?

DOC BRIGGS

Hold me? Just for a while?

[Cloth rustling sound as Asa embraces Doc Briggs.]

DOC BRIGGS

That's... that's really nice, Asa.

ASA

I like it, too. So, when you said that, does that mean you're still, like uh... programmed?

DOC BRIGGS

No, no. It's just a strong neural pathway. I'll reinforce other pathways over time.

DAKEN

You could hold me too, Zeff.

ZEFF

You're a strong boy, Daken. You'll be okay.

DAKEN

Zeff I was brainwashed, okay? No, it was worse than that! My brain was a slave to that thing. I didn't sign up for The Fifth; I was a victim. You've got to forgive me!

ZEFF

Oh, I will. Some day.

DAKEN

C'mon, Zeff! I didn't have any mental defenses. I'm not one of you Deep Six Tactical super soldiers. I'm just an athlete.

[Loud hand claps as Sarah calls for attention.]

SARAH

Okay sorry about my word choice, everyone! Let's try this again. Pick up main entrees here. Salads over here. Everybody clear on that?

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[Reception ambience.]

MADDIE

Okay, Gib is on his way over.

ALYSON

Good. Why don't you go get us all some drinks. I want to talk to him.

MADDIE

You can trust me.

ALYSON

I do. But, y'know, sometimes...

[Footsteps as Gib approaches.]

MADDIE

I get it. I'll take my time.

[Footsteps as Maddie walks off.]

ALYSON

Ah, Gib. Are you enjoying the reception?

GIB

Did I do something wrong?

ALYSON

Like what?

GIB

Maddie told me to see you. I feel like I've been summoned.

ALYSON

No, no. Nothing like that.

GIB

So what should I call you? Ms. Arkell?

ALYSON

Call me Alyson. For now, anyway.

GIB

What do you mean, "for now"?

ALYSON

Tell me: how's your agency? Need a hand with anything?

GIB

(sigh) Alyson, I get the feeling you want to ask me something important.

ALYSON

I hate thinking about things this way, but it's my job.

GIB

Go ahead. Ask.

ALYSON

If Socks's brain is gone forever, annihilated by the computer program... where do your loyalties lie?

GIB

I don't believe Miz Chausette is gone.

ALYSON

I don't, either. But what if?

GIB

No. After what she went through and the courage she showed every moment? She's still there.

ALYSON

Mm.

GIB

Good answer?

ALYSON

(scoffs) Fuck if I know. But if you want Socks back in charge of her body, you better go talk to her. Make a fuss, keep her attention as much as you can. About ten minutes. And don't let her leave the restaurant.

GIB

And are you gonna pay for this job? Or am I supposed to do it out of the goodness of my heart?

ALYSON

You do the job, you'll get paid plenty.

[Gib walks through the reception to find Socks.]

GIB

Miz Chausette. It's good to see you again. How are you?

A.I. SOCKS

I-I-I'm good. But you should call me Socks now. Chausette was someone else.

GIB

I can try... Socks. I'm glad to see you're not wearing that helmet.

A.I. SOCKS

Don't need that shit. I-I-I'm in control now.

GIB

That's great... You know, I never expected anything like this when you hired me. It's been quite the ride.

A.I. SOCKS

You regret coming here?

GIB

No, no. I like it. Well, mostly. I, uh... I think I'll stick around.

A.I. SOCKS

Would you travel for a job?

GIB

If it paid enough.

A.I. SOCKS

How about triple your old rate? To do the same job you did before.

GIB

You want to hire me as an investigator again?

A.I. SOCKS

Find Apho Arlo for m-m-me again.

GIB

But this time he could be anywhere in the galaxy.

A.I. SOCKS

This time we know he's Cassandra and Alyson's father. And if you provide data, I-I-I'll predict where he might go. So you'll have a plan. And first class tickets every step of the way.

GIB

I won't do it if you're gonna kill him.

A.I. SOCKS

I-I-I just want to ask him some questions.

GIB

No torture, either.

A.I. SOCKS

Course not. Just questions about how to run a crime family.

GIB

I don't know his life story, but has he done that?

A.I. SOCKS

The Fifth controlled his mind for years. If he remembers anything about how that family ran, I wanna know.

GIB

That's just perfect.

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[Alley ambience. Footsteps on asphalt.]

[Door flies open with a bang.]

MAJOR

Oooh, so this is how it is.

ZEFF

Hey, Major.

CASSANDRA

Great reception, Major. Why doncha go back to it?

MAJOR

Now I'm married, I'm too fuckin' delicate for family business?

MADDIE

Major, the party's in your honor. People will notice if you're gone.

ASA

And we've been over a lot of ground.

MAJOR

Uh huh. Then somebody better summarize.

TYTHIA

Come on, we didn't want to bother you on your wedding night.

MAJOR

I got married -- my brain didn't turn into pudding. I'm still me, and I'm still a part of this family!

ALYSON

Enough! Everybody's right; most of all, Major. So here's the crib-sheet: the Arkell family needs money. And the A.I. that fused with Socks has got our money -- almost all of it. So we're gonna fucking steal it right back. All in favor?

MAJOR

Whoa, whoa, whoa! What's this fuckin' vote? This family doesn't need a fucking vote! What do you say, Boss?

ALYSON

I say we do it.

MAJOR

Then we do it. Case closed. I'll just jump back inside before anybody-- oh. Uh one question, Boss.

ALYSON

Yeah?

MAJOR

Just y'know, as a matter of interest... this time we ain't gonna swim in a river of shit, are we? Right? Right?!

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[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season eleven episode three, "The Net"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Christopher Gilstrap as Cal

Kristen Bays as Cassandra

Kaitlyn Kliman as Chris

André Vernot as Geppi

Rachel Crosby as ESI Squid

Kristine Chester as Erin

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Brady Hendricks as Jace

Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Susan Bridges as Sarah

Carissa M. as Reyes

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Jack Calk as Kaylock, Jaylock, Moolock, and Shmu

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Rene Christine Jones as AI Socks

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Jason R. Wallace as He-B

Russell Gold as Zeff

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Edward Herman as Asa

And Shawn Traill as Gib

Sensitivity Reader - Kristine Chester

Written by Perry Whittle

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

Kingery Theme by Tom Stitzer

“Agnus Dei X”, “Chromatic Fantasia”, “Wagner Bridal March”, “Rites”, “Cantina Blues”, “Modern Jazz Samba” and “Tango De Manzana” by Kevin MacLeod at incompetech.com

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Assistant Director Bruce Busby

Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]