

The Kingery, episode 11x05 “We had a Deal. Am I Right?”

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

[The background sounds of a moderately busy restaurant, people eating and talking indistinctly.]

[Fizzy wine like beverage pops open.]

TYTHIA

Whao! Ha!

PALAS

(Laughing) Sorry! Sorry! Those flowers were very beautiful.

TYTHIA

Ehhh, I- I would think your aim would be a lot better than that.

PALAS

Never point your weapon at anything you don't intend to hit.

TYTHIA

So you intended to hit the people across the room?

PALAS

No. I intended to miss. And I did!

TYTHIA

Uh-huh.

PALAS

Kind of. Anyway, I have taken the liberty of ordering for us. Only the finest koowee wings from the freshest, recently slaughtered...

TYTHIA

...Nah! No no! I know what they are. But if you say it, it makes it harder for me to pretend it is just hicken.

PALAS

That's fair. And only the second best, third shelf, house, green fizzy wine stuff that says sunset on the label.

TYTHIA

(Laughing) You spoil me. You didn't have to do all this, you know.

PALAS

Shut up. Yes, I did. Happy Birthday.

[Glasses clink.]

TYTHIA

Thank you for this. It's nice.

PALAS

You said your friend was coming? I'm glad they're not here yet so I get a little time with you beforehand.

TYTHIA

Yeah, I wonder what could be keeping He-B?

PALAS

Oh. He-Be. Of course.

TYTHIA

Mm. You're right. I should have told you before.

PALAS

No. It's your birthday. You can invite any ex you like, Tythia.

TYTHIA

Palas...

PALAS

It's fine. Really. I'm not bothered. Why should I be bothered?

TYTHIA

Well you're obviously bothered.

PALAS

Of course I'm bothered! I set this time aside for us to spend together. I knew you were bringing someone, but I didn't know that someone was going to be the person who broke your heart. I didn't know it would be the person responsible for you being on a hit list and on the run for two years. So, yes, I'm bothered. I'm terribly sorry that I'm just not totally fine with it.

TYTHIA

Okay, okay.. I get it. But he had to be complicit to protect me. And if I can understand that, forgive him, and put it behind me why can't you?

PALAS

(Exasperated sigh)

[He-Be hovers over.]

HE-B

Happy birthday, Tythia. My apologies for my tardiness.

TYTHIA

Uh, no- no problem, He-Be. Did you bring me flowers?

HE-B

Oh. Well... yes. I stopped at a florist on the way to pick these up. I hope that they are to your liking. I had them on order for the past three weeks. I think they match your head tentacles perfectly.

TYTHIA

Thank you. They're beautiful.

HE-B

As are you.

PALAS

Jesus Christ.

HE-B

Oh, Palas. Uh, I'm sorry. I didn't see you there.

PALAS

Sure. Right. Your sensors just happened to miss me sitting here.

HE-B

My sensors seem to be operating at optimal efficiency.

TYTHIA

I'm sure He-B didn't mean to ignore you.

PALAS

You're right. I'm sorry.

HE-B

My apologies, Palas. After supper, Tythia, I have made arrangements for you and I to celebrate your birthday together.

TYTHIA

Oh! Uh, that's - that's um... really sweet, He-B...

PALAS

Wait, wait... just the two of you? Excuse me?

HE-B

Yes, of course. You have had ample opportunity to...

PALAS

What, you don't think I meant to spend the rest of the night celebrating with her? You do realize that we're together, right? As in, Tythia and I are a couple?

HE-B

No, actually, I- I did not realize that there was a committed understanding between the two of you.

TYTHIA

Whoa, Palas, hold on.

PALAS

What?!

HE-B

So I take it that there is not, in fact, an agreed upon committed relationship between the two of you?

PALAS

Well, I thought there was.

TYTHIA

No! There is! Of course there is! We are together. I just- it's just that..

HE-B

If that is not the case, then I see no reason why the plans that I have made should not go forward.

PALAS

I'm confused, Tythia.

TYTHIA

You haven't misread the situation, it's just... changed.

PALAS

So you're saying we are in a committed relationship... but now things are different?

TYTHIA

No, that is not what I'm saying.

PALAS

(scoffs) Then, please, spell it out for me.

TYTHIA

I was really hoping to have us all sit down together and talk about this. Maybe with like some wine, somewhere nice? Y'know, that we could all feel comfortable and safe.

HE-B

There is wine here. It seems nice, comfortable, and safe.

TYTHIA

Well- maybe, y- I don't know, not on my birthday? But never mind. You're right, we're all here now, so why put it off? Let's sit and talk.

[They sit.]

TYTHIA

Palas, you have been my rock and my sanity and my heart for two years. Okay there is absolutely something there. Please don't make me say what it is; uh, I- I'm not ready for that yet.

PALAS

Fair. I can deal with that.

TYTHIA

Okay but I- I have been putting a great deal of thought into this. Um... (clears throat) even before I left the Kingery two years ago. I can't deny that I still have feelings for He-Be. I cannot imagine my life without both of you in it. I don't even know my own mind on this. Um, y'know, what to do or where to go. But as far as tonight was supposed to go, I was just hoping that we could all just be together. (long beat) Please, someone say something.

PALAS

Just how "together" are you talking here?

TYTHIA

I don't know... nice dinner, moonlit walk? Catch a vid? I hadn't exactly planned it out.

PALAS

Yeah but it definitely wasn't just three buds hanging out.

TYTHIA

I suppose not, no.

HE-B

It does sound rather like you were hoping for a three person date.

TYTHIA

Maybe I was. Maybe not consciously, but... I guess so.

PALAS

Ugh. Look, I'm not above considering the idea of sharing you for certain things, but it's not something you can just decide for both of us. Least of all when it's with someone I don't trust.

HE-B

I would have to agree that if such an arrangement is what you desire, those you wish to involve should first be consulted.

PALAS

Much less an AI you had nightmares about for two fucking years!

HE-B

My actions were necessary to protect not only Tythia but hundreds of thousands of other lives.

PALAS

Why don't you talk to the hundreds of thousands of people infected before you lifted a finger to help anyone besides yourself!

TYTHIA

Oh my god please stop!

PALAS

Tythia, I'm sorry. You are my best girl. You are my only girl and that is just the way I am. I care and feel more for you than anyone I have ever known in my life, but this is too much for me right now. I've got to get some air. Call me later. Okay? Happy birthday.

[Pallas leaves.]

TYTHIA
Pallas!

HE-B
Is this true? That you feel for the both of us?

TYTHIA
Yes.

HE-B
I don't believe I can accommodate such things. I wasn't programmed for it.

TYTHIA
He-Be, sentience means you are not being bound by program parameters, right?

HE-B
But I'm bound by who I am. And I'm not sure that sharing you is part of that. I'm sorry.

[He-B leaves.]

TYTHIA
He-B? I... (cries softly)

[Footsteps of a group walking.]

AI SOCKS/DAPHNE
As you can see, the new Mason de L'Areignee has been completely rebuilt and refurbished. We have dedicated ourselves to the idea of luxury and refinement as our minimum standard. As a small taste, we think You might enjoy a walk through the casino. Step into mmy parlor!

HOOKS
Jesus.

[A sliding door opens. Casino background sounds, slot machines and games of chance, a crowd.]

[Reporters taking pictures.]

REPORTER

Oh wow!

AI SOCKS/DAPHNE

Impressive, no?

REPORTER

Tres Chic! Mademoiselle Buison? I have just a few questions.

AI SOCKS/DAPHNE

Bein sur. Of course.

REPORTER

The casino seems very full. If the official opening isn't for another three days, why is this place so crowded?

AI SOCKS/DAPHNE

Ah, yes! We wanted to be sure that the quality of the Spider's Den Casino met with our new standards. We had sent out a few invitations to some very select clientele. Who would have known that word of mouth would travel so quickly?

REPORTER

Is this a beta test then?

AI SOCKS/DAPHNE

No, no! This is a soft opening preview. "Beta test" sounds so cold and impersonal, don't you agree?

HOOKS

Lord knows we wouldn't want to seem to be cold and impersonal.

REPORTER

Last question for now. And- and please forgive the personal tone. How do you intend to distance yourself from your mother's previous apparent connections to organized crime and the devastation her actions caused to this sector in the past?

AI SOCKS/DAPHNE

We are delighted that you have asked that question. It's understood that mmmmy family name has brought nothing but shame and pain to this sector for decades. It is mmmmy hope that through determination, class, and style that liii can eventually show... that I am not my fucking mother.

HOOKS

I'm afraid that's all we have time for today! Here. Have some free credits to the casino! Have fun! We'll see you in three days time for the official grand opening!

REPORTER

But I just need a follow up on that last statement.

HOOKS

I'm sorry. Not possible. Mademoiselle Buisson is very busy. Goodbye.

[Hooks and AI Socks Rushing off.]

HOOKS

What was that all about?

AI SOCKS

Impertinent questions! I I I refuse to answer anymore. We have Mr. Gib waiting in my office with our guest. We shouldn't keep him waiting.

HOOKS

Are you sure you're alright?

AI SOCKS

liii said lii'm fine.

[Bar background ambience, patrons drinking and talking.]

SAMANTHA

We find ourselves sans therapist today. Soooo what sort of mischief do you think we should get into?

DAKEN

We could rob a bank.

ZEFF

Hardly.

DAKEN

(scoffs) You have no sense of adventure.

ZEFF

I have plenty of adventure in my day to day job, thank you.

ASA

I have an idea. Why don't Zeff and I go over here and talk support stuff. And you two go to the VIP lounge and discuss patient stuff?

SAMANTHA

Divide and conquer, Asa?

ASA

Nope. Sometimes, we all need to rub the feet of the people wearing the same shoes.

SAMANTHA

I could have done without the mental image, but I think I've got it.

ZEFF

Sounds good.

DAKEN

Okay, I'm game.

[We travel to the VIP lounge with Daken and Samantha. The music changes as well as the environment. It's a little more quiet.]

DAKEN

This is a rough session today, huh?

SAMANTHA

You know, Daken, I think these things would go a lot easier if I could remember anything from the past thirty years.

DAKEN

I hear ya. Anything other than "The group serves the one."

SAMANTHA

Ugh. Yeah, anything other than that.

DAKEN

I mean, I didn't lose as much time as you did, a couple of years... but I think I'd give anything just to remember at least bits or pieces of my relationship with Zeff. Whatever there was of it anyway. I mean, because I'm sure...

ZEFF

It's not how much was lost, but what was lost. You know, Asa?

ASA

Oh, believe me, Zeff, I understand. Good times you can't talk about. Bad times you can't scream about. Uh... you have this whole other life with someone that they don't even know about. It seems like it'll drive ya crazy.

ZEFF

Exactly! I can't recreate the time that we thought we lost his keycard in the couch and just about dismantled the thing trying to find it, only to find that it was in his back pocket the whole time. I can't rediscover what his favorite coffee is to serve him in bed in the morning. I can't call a redo on the time I made him laugh so hard he fell out of his chair and broke his nose.

ASA

(laughs) You have one hell of an odd idea of romance.

SAMANTHA

I will never know what our first date was like. I'll never know if I liked the smell of his cologne... or if he even wore any the first time I met him. There are a whole list of firsts that I can't ever know, that I have to make new but, well they'll be old for him.

DAKEN

I mean, but isn't that exciting?

SAMANTHA

I don't follow.

DAKEN

Well, you both get to have a whole new list of firsts. Most relationships seem to go stale. That raw, passionate, excited heat tempers off and goes away because there seems to be nothing left to find. We get to find that all over again. Hell, you don't even know if you found it in the first place. Do you know if you ever were dating?

SAMANTHA

He says we went on dates and that we were flirting with each other for years.

DAKEN

Uh huh. And what do you think now?

SAMANTHA

Oh, I think I like him a lot. A whole lot.

DAKEN

So isn't it great to have the opportunity to start fresh?

ASA

Well you still got feelings for Daken, right?

ZEFF

I suppose. I know I have feelings for the Daken that I used to know. But that guy cheated on me and betrayed me.

ASA

But this one didn't. The rare position that we find ourselves in is that we know we like what we see and the possibilities that come with them. We know them, but we don't know them. What if we find out that all the things we thought they liked before... they don't? What if we remembered wrong? What if their tastes changed? What if there's something new that changed when the spores died? Or what if the nostalgia hits us so hard that we're even happier than we ever were before? We can't just lock ourselves out of this because we're afraid to start over.

ZEFF

So what do you suggest?

ASA

Well I don't know about you, but I'm gonna buy a lady a drink. Now you might want to consider doin' somethin' a bit more bold and Zeff-like.

[Zeff walks to Daken and Samantha followed by Asa.]

DAKEN

Hey, soldier!

ZEFF

I'd like to try something. Just an experiment.

DAKEN

Mmm. Kinky. I'm listening.

ZEFF

What would you say if I told you I would like to find out if those tattoos go all the way up those legs?

DAKEN

(laughs) I'd say, "I think I've heard that before."

ZEFF

Good! I have the opportunity to think of something more subtle.

DAKEN

Or different. Let's try different.

ZEFF

Want to take a walk?

DAKEN

Oh. Um. (laughs) That is different. See you later, Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Later.

[Zeff and Daken leave.]

ASA

Hello there, darlin'.

SAMANTHA

Well hello there, stranger.

ASA

Can I buy you a drink?

SAMANTHA

That'd be awfully kind if you did.

ASA

And maybe make some new memories?

SAMANTHA

Hm. Maybe.

[AI Socks and Hooks enter an office.]

AI SOCKS

Gib, you remember Michael Hooks.

GIB

A little. Nice to see you again, Hooks.

HOOKS

Nice to see you again, too, Gib.

PAPA ARKELL

This place looks like a fucking refrigerator.

AI SOCKS

Ah. Mr. Arlo. So nice to see you again.

PAPA ARKELL

Do I know you?

AI SOCKS

Ill don't expect you would remember mmme, no. Mmmy name is... heh. Iii don't suppose that matters right now. Would you rather I call you Mr. Arkell?

PAPA ARKELL

That is who I was a really long time ago. Or so I'm told.

AI SOCKS

There are questions that need answers and Iii suspect you have those answers.

GIB

He's not likely to remember much. He was under the influence of that blob spore thing for a long time.

AI SOCKS

The hypothesis is only that he has what Iii want in his mind, somewhere. We are prepared to dig. If one wants treasure, one often has to mine for it. Wouldn't you agree, Michael?

HOOKS

What do you mean by "mine?"

AI SOCKS

The thought was that I was going to have to enhance Mr. Arkell. But he has been so kind as to have already had brain implants installed. And thanks to your wonderful upgrades, it's possible to bypass his safeguard systems and just look through his conscious thoughts. But the subconscious, now that takes a bit more drilling.

[A light high-pitched whirring sound.]

PAPA ARKELL

AHHHHHHGHGHG! STOP PLEASE!!!

HOOKS

What are you doing?!?!

GIB

Stop! You said you wanted to just ask him questions!

PAPA ARKELL

(yells of pain)

AI SOCKS

With the help of the weapon he and his friends so generously put in mummy head llii can force out his thoughts. I just have to open mummy mind and let them flow in!

GIB

You said no torture!

AI SOCKS

Did liii?

PAPA ARKELL

The group serves the one. The group serves the one.

HOOKS

This is something Emily would do! Stop it!

AI SOCKS

Shut up!

PAPA ARKELL
AGGGGHHHHHHHHHHH!

GIB
We had a deal!

AI SOCKS
Do not interfere! This is not enough!

PAPA ARKELL
(Screams of agony)

GIB
Fucking Stop!

HOOKS
Please!

AI SOCKS
Damn. He's useless for now.

PAPA ARKELL
Ahhhhhh!

GIB
Hey? Hey, buddy? You okay?

PAPA ARKELL
Huh? Where- where is Sylvia? Are the Kids okay?

GIB
Oh shit. I'm so sorry, man. I didn't know. I thought she'd just... shit!

AI SOCKS
Step away from him.

GIB
He needs help!

AI SOCKS
There is further use for him once he recovers. He will be looked after.

GIB

You're going to torture him more. I'm not leaving him behind, and I'm not staying to help you anymore!

[Gib grabs Papa Arkell.]

AI SOCKS

Attempt to leave this room with him, and we will kill everyone in this room without hesitation.

HOOKS

You can't keep doing this. You- you can't keep using people like they are nothing.

GIB

We had a deal.

AI SOCKS

Both of you be quiet! Mr. Gib, if you no longer desire to help, you are more than free to leave. Your payment waits at the front desk.

GIB

Fuck your money! And Fuck you! I'm done!

[Gib stomps out.]

HOOKS

You will not get away with this.

AI SOCKS

Iii hardly think you are in a position to assure that outcome.

[AI Socks exits.]

[Huge metal door wrenching open.]

JACE

(Effort sounds.)

CORY

(Effort sounds.)

[The door clangs open.]

JACE
Doors. Am I right?

CORY
Shut up, Jace.

JACE
What?

CORY
You have been on this kick for days where if you can't think of anything clever to say, you just state the obvious and then add, "Am I right?"

JACE
It's a classic!

CORY
It's annoying! We got the impossible heavy door open, so all we have to do now is fix the sub flooring in the sex basement. This is just a straightforward fix up the whorehouse job.

JACE
Right. Nobody wants a fucked up whorehouse. So, Shenanigans? Am...

CORY
I swear to Gorlock! If you end that sentence with "Am I right?" I will bury my hammer so far in the top of your head, I will pull out your balls when I take it out!

JACE
So what you're saying is..?

CORY
Knock it the fuck off!

JACE
Gotcha. Cory? You feeling okay?

CORY
No, Jace, I am not. All of this deep dark basement stuff has given me the willies. And then you mix it with low light and broken down, spank me-daddy sex gear... you can't tell me it don't make you want to run in the other direction.

JACE

It's a job. We face worse and worse things every day. I mean, literally worse and worse lately. Wouldn't you feel better if I go hit the lights and we can see what we are actually dealing with here?

CORY

It might.

JACE

Sure. Yah, big baby! I'll leave a diaper for you here too.

CORY

Eat an entire box of dicks! Things are scary out here! That guy they picked up the other day? They say whatever that Masque nut bag did to him left him with no eyes! No eyes, Jace! They ripped the fucker's eyes out of his head and replaced it with these cyber-orb things! He says he can see sounds! I don't want to see sound, Jace!

JACE

Nobody is going to ask you to see sound. And where the hell did you hear any of that?

CORY

I've got a mate at the precinct what cleans up floors and replaces light bulbs. He says that Masque had no face! Just a screen! And that he runs around with these insane people who have been doing weird shit all over the fucking place!

JACE

You need to calm down. Jesus! You're letting rumors run you ragged. We have enough work all over the resort to drive us crazy.

CORY

I guess you're right. You have to admit that shit is unnerving. How's it going with those lights?

JACE

Stop pissing your panties. I'm getting to it.

[Lights come on overhead.]

JACE

Well, shit.

CORY

What?

JACE

It's not just the sub flooring. It looks like the far wall is cracked and it leads out to a tunnel or cavern. We're going to need to repair it all.

CORY

How big is the tunnel?

JACE

It's like a hallway. You could fit a few people through it.

CORY

Great. That's more expense and supplies.

JACE

We'll figure it out somehow. Send over the float pallet. Looks like there's some stuff got shifted into the tunnel.

[Tools gathered up.]

CORY

I'll send over the work light, too.

JACE

Sure.

[A float pallet moving and then a worklight switching on.]

JACE

Jesus tap dancing Christ! Hey, Cory?

CORY

What?

JACE

How beat up is everything over there? I- I mean all the equipment.

CORY

Fixable but I wouldn't use it until then. Why?

JACE

Uh-huh. And you're comfortable with that, right? Like you could stay there and... not freak out. You- you- you could just call the police and be happy all day?

CORY

Jace? What did you find in the cavern?

JACE

Now don't panic. I could have found a pristine medical fantasy set up just sitting there in the dark, minding its own business.

CORY

But you didn't! Didn't you?

JACE

I would have if it weren't for this jar!

[Cory runs over.]

CORY

Fuck Me! What the fuck is that??

JACE

So, that guy's eyes. Am I right?

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season eleven episode five, "We Had a Deal. Am I right?"

Featuring the voice talents of:

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

Jason R. Wallace as He-B

Rene Christine Jones as AISocks

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Lisa Michaud as the reporter

Kim Gianopoulos as Doc Briggs

Andrew Hackley as Daken

Russell Gold as Zeff

Edward Herman as Asa

Shawn Traill as Gib

Justin Fife as Papa Arkell

Brady Hendricks as Jace

And Kirsty Woolven as Corry

Sensitivity Reader Kristine Chester

Written by Rene Christine Jones

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

Kingery Theme by Tom Stitzer

“On Hold for You”, “Suave Standpipe”, “Jazz Brunch”, “Neon Lazer Horizon”, “Ether Vox”,
“Darkest Child”, and “Long Note One” by Kevin MacLeod at incompetech.com

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[Kingery theme fades out]