

The Glam Gizmo: Season 4:
Episode 3: The Paradox Problem

By

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INT. PARADOX HALL

A figure appears as if like magic.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
Ah, oh dear.

KAMELIA
Should we be worried?

PROFESSOR PARADOX
A tall dark hooded figure with a large
skythe?

KAMELIA
That could only be one thing.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
Death has come for one of us.

The hooded creature lowers its hood and starts to speak.

DEATH
Well, well, well. If it isn't a few of
my favourite friends!

PROFESSOR PARADOX
I'm sorry?

DEATH
As I live and breathe, Professor
Paradox and his faithful friend
Violet.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
Wait, aren't you supposed to be-

DEATH
The Grim Reaper? Bahaha! What a load
of buzzle cock. My good pal, you
should never believe in the fictitious
lore of this universe.

KAMELIA
Then who are you?

DEATH
I am Death, simply put. And I have
come to assess both of your lives.
You're both dead, or, you should be.
Somehow you cheated the system, and we

can't have you crawling around like a pair of unaccounted sea urchins. Head Office would never approve.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

I'm sorry Mister Death, but where are we?

DEATH

My good buddy old pal, you've been displaced from the material realm. You're on your way to assessment.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Assessment of what?

DEATH

Whether ya been a good boy or not!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Why all the paintings of me? What does all this mean?

DEATH

Look at them again and listen. They're not just paintings.

Professor Paradox takes another glance at the portraits, and slowly but surely, he can start to hear the echoing voices of his other selves.

KAMELIA

Those voices, who are they?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

They're me, they're all different versions from me from across the multiverse.

KAMELIA

If they're different versions of him, why gather them here?

DEATH

I guess it would be fun to compare and contrast, ya know? See how you fell so wayward compared to other versions of the universe.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh, I see, I'm the problem child.

DEATH

Hey! None of that negative self talk.
I'm here to help you.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

You're condemning us to death.

DEATH

Yes, you were condemned to death by an
outside party. And I am Death! You get
to party with me all you like!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

God, this must be my personal idea of
Hell. Look, I think you've got
something wrong; I'm a interstitial
being from the Celestial Realm. Dying
is a concept that belongs to mortal
creatures.

DEATH

Then explain THIS!

Death whips out a piece of paper and hands it to Professor
Paradox

PROFESSOR PARADOX

That's me.

DEATH

That's right. You're Tom Denham,
aren't ya!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Tom Denham is a cover story I created
so I could stay in hiding on Earth.
The Celestial Realm doesn't like us
tinkering about with mortals.

KAMELIA

Then why do it? Why risk everything
for the sake of hanging out with a
bunch of people like us?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

It wasn't just to hang out. It was a
call to arms. (Beat) Earth has
imperfections, and they can be ironed
out by someone like me.

KAMELIA

Someone who is willing to toy and mold Earth to their own desire?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Not for my benefit, for your own! You lot have monsters on your doorstep who are hungry to eat and destroy and you're hardly equipped. So I had to work hard-

Professor Paradox glances in one of the portraits

KAMELIA

What's the matter?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

That's a mirror.

KAMELIA

No, it's not, it's a portrait.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Then why can I see a mirror and you can't?

KAMELIA

Professor, it's a portrait of you.

SFX: Smashing glass acts as a transition

INT. PARADOX HALL

In a different time, Violet and Lily have arrived in the hall, but it's alone and dark, with no sign of the Professor or Kamelia. However, Violet has just experienced the same thing as Professor Paradox, mistaking a portrait for a mirror.

LILY

Violet, it's just a portrait.

VIOLET

Ah, yes, of course it is. Sorry, I must've been seeing things, but-

LILY

But what?

VIOLET

I could of sworn it was like a mirror,

but, I saw the Professor on the other side.

LILY
What could cause that?

VIOLET
When we were on the Catharo home world, something happened when they gained power. It was like the Professor was caught in some kind of momentary stasis, like a ghost.

LILY
Could it mean anything?

VIOLET
It means the Professor has been weakened, but he has an echo wondering about the universe.

LILY
Like a ghost?

VIOLET
Yes, exactly like a ghost.

LILY
Are all these portraits the Professor?

VIOLET
They all look very Professor-ish. Prim, proper, odd sense of dress. They all exist in different universes, but have some kind of symbiotic relationship with one another.

LILY
Do you reckon we'd be able to find Gary here?

VIOLET
I hope so. Whatever happened to him, there was some kind of outside intervention.

There's a sudden banging at a door down the hallway, as if someone is trying to break in.

VIOLET
What was that?!

LILY

Looks like we've got company.

The figure flings themselves through the door and dashes through, a creature of some kind on the outside is kept at bay as the door is forcibly shut tight again. The figure runs to Lily and Violet panting.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Right, now that we've got that all out of the way, I've got a hell of a lot to ask both of you.

VIOLET

Sorry, who are you?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Isn't it obvious? The hair? The pizazz? The impeccable dress sense?

LILY

I think you're going to have to give us more than that.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Well by your gaping expressions, I'd say the pair of you are rather dumbfounded. My name is Professor Paradox, and I need to know what the hell you're doing in my home.

MUSIC: Opening Theme

INT. PARADOX HALL

VIOLET

Sorry, but, you can't be the Professor.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Why not... Violet!

VIOLET

You know who I am.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Okay, let's cut to the chase. Usually, when you meet another Professor from across the multiverse, they have their own world, their own life, their own people, exclusive to their little

pocket. I'm a slightly different case.

LILY

How so?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

I'm physically aware of the other universes around me. I know everybody the Professor has met, befriended and fought in every version of history.

VIOLET

That would be enough to make your head explode.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Oh, you should feel the morning headache.

VIOLET

Then where does that place you? Which universe do you fit into?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

I don't.

LILY

Surely you must.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

But you see, I don't. I live here, in Paradox Hall.

LILY

Paradox Hall? Where in the world is that?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Well, maybe you should take a look out the window.

Lily and Violet do just that, and to their surprise, all their questions are answered.

LILY

Oh my god. We're on an asteroid. In space.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Yeah, you're going to start getting used to more of that.

VIOLET

Why on an asteroid in the middle of space?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

We're in an interfold between universes, in the never-space, the void between universes. See how the colors on the horizon dance?

LILY

And this is your home?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Oh, I had no choice in the matter. Banishment is a terrible thing.

VIOLET

Professor, can you please explain, why are there all these other versions of yourself hanging up on paintings down this hallway?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Oh, purely so I can keep an eye on them all.

VIOLET

But they're paintings... Aren't they?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Why don't you take another look?

Violet does just that, and as she is absorbed by each portrait, she can start to hear the voices of the different Professors.

VIOLET

I can hear them.

LILY

So can I.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

These paintings, they exist as a kind of pulse. So long as the painting is primed, that version of the Professor is alive and well.

Violet pauses and steps towards another painting.

VIOLET

What about this one?

LILY

I suppose that's not good.

VIOLET

I can tell, it's been defaced.

LILY

It's like you're trying to erase them.

VIOLET

What are you doing with my version of the Professor?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Ah, yes, well, it does that on its own. When a painting fades, or starts to disappear, that's when they're in great peril... Or about to be in great peril, I can never remember which one it actually is.

VIOLET

Can you help them?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Let me close my eyes, and sense them.

The Other Professor closes their eyes and starts to hum meditatively, then gasps.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

He's here with us.

VIOLET

What! No he isn't!

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

He's here in the future. Trying to get through. Someone has got him here.

INT. PARADOX HALL

SFX: Glass cracking

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Someone has got her here, like she's on the other side of a dimension, or in another universe.

KAMELIA

Professor, who are you talking about?

The Professor turns, and looks at Kamelia.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh, of course, you're right Violet. I must be hallucinating.

DEATH

Now now Professor, we need to understand why you're here. Why don't ya take a seat!

Death makes a sofa appear for the Professor and Kamelia to sit on.

DEATH

Well go on, don't be shy, take a seat, the both of ya!

Death forcibly sits down the Professor and Kamelia on the sofa.

KAMELIA

It's very... snug.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

You could say that.

DEATH

Now Professor, you've gotten yourself in quite a nasty bother, haven't ya. You've displaced yourself, ripping yourself in two across the universe. Now why in the world would you go and do that?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

I'm struggling to recall... It was a state of emergency. The Catharo were growing in power.

DEATH

Whoah-whoah-whoah, the Catharo! What in the name of Serenity were you doing with them?

Beat

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Reality was tethering away like ribbons. The Catharo Queen made her race exist all across reality, so it could eat away, bit by bit. Did they succeed?

DEATH

You tell me.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Well, I... don't know what happened.

DEATH

Let me show you.

Death turns on an audio visual display, where people are screaming, fire rages, and the Catharo grow in number, consuming everything in their wake.

KAMELIA

Is that... Is that...

PROFESSOR PARADOX

The Catharo? Yes.

KAMELIA

What are they doing?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

They're destroying the universe.

DEATH

Atom by atom, star by star, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

KAMELIA

Then what's going to happen?

DEATH

The universe won't exist... Poof! Gone! Disappearing in smoke and flame. I'm going to be kept very busy.

KAMELIA

Is there anything that we can do to save it?

DEATH

The Professor already tried to do that. By splitting himself in two,

he's attempted to go into the eye of the storm, to find out what on earth is going on. How is that other half of you holding up Professor? Hmm?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

I... Feel... Weak.

KAMELIA

It's like as if he's connected to the universe.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

I can feel it burning and boiling and raging and screaming and dying. It must be stopped.

DEATH

What would you do to stop it Professor?

Beat

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Anything.

DEATH

Anything? Would you even sacrifice yourself?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

If it means the universe can exist in harmony without the wrath of the Catharo, yes.

DEATH

Then, there is something you can do for me.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

You can fix all this?

DEATH

I can at least give you an advantage.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

And what might that be?

DEATH

Time. I can give you time.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What do I have to do?

Another figure joins the party, walking down the long cathedral-like hall to greet the Professor.

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

You have to learn to coexist with us,
as you swore you would never do.

Professor Paradox, exacerbated enough, looks at Grandfather Paradox, completely shocked.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What are you doing here?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

I wondered when you would come home.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

This is Paradox Hall?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Oh my son, you've been away for so long that you don't even recognise the wallpaper of your own corridors. You loved that satin red so much, and those purple velvet drapes. Your mother picked them out just for you. Seems you kept the colour on your coat.

KAMELIA

Professor, who is this?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Violet, may I introduce you to Grandfather Paradox.

INT. PARADOX HALL

SFX: Cracking glass, but more severe, to signify the distortion of timelines

VIOLET

So you think my Professor is here in the future?

LILY

Well if we hang around long enough, do you think he'll arrive.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

I think you would have to wait a very long time for that to happen. Thousands of years from now, your Professor will be placed here. He's currently pitted to make a dark decision, fate stands on the cards of doom. Whether he claims it, it's entirely his call.

VIOLET

What about you? You're the Professor too, aren't you? Can't you just go out and whisk us away across the universe and save us from this mess?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

I... Don't have the means to. My eternal curse is that I can never leave here.

VIOLET

You're quite literally grounded.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

If that helps you to understand it, yes.

Beat.

VIOLET

Lily, are you okay?

LILY

Oh, ugh, now I'm starting to feel faint.

VIOLET

What's happening?

LILY

I can see her again.

VIOLET

Her? Who's her?

LILY

Wanda.... Are you there? Wanda?

VIOLET

What's she going on about?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

It seems she's entering some form of paralysis... or a dream state, you can't disturb her.

VIOLET

Can we help her at least.

Beat.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

It seems you have your own problems to deal with.

VIOLET

What do you mean?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Behind you.

Violet slowly turns and sure enough, the Grey Lady is standing behind her, dormant.

VIOLET

What the Hell are you doing here?

THE GREY LADY

I promised the Professor I would protect you.

VIOLET

But what are you? Why are you in my dreams? Why did I see you as a kid?

THE GREY LADY

I've existed throughout all your life. Your dark days and your good ones.

VIOLET

Yes, you exist, but what's your relevance?

THE GREY LADY

Violet, you're the quintessential thing that exemplifies living and dead. Why did you die? Who were you before death?

VIOLET

I was nobody!

THE GREY LADY

Is that right? Or did you have another life completely all-together? Let me reveal everything to you. For once, you can understand why you can't remember your real life.

Violet enters a trance-like state.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

What are you doing to her?

THE GREY LADY

She's beginning to remember what she was before all of this. The very reason that Violet is here is because she died. She died in a house that kept her anchored to earth and forced her into becoming a ghost. And when she was restored, her life started again. But what was Violet before all of that?

There's a flash of white light as Violet spirals down her own past.

EXT. FERNTREE GULLY MAIN STREET D/T

SFX: Birds chirping

VIOLET

I was just a normal person.

THE GREY LADY

Were you? Then why on earth did I choose you?

VIOLET

What on earth would a statue with glowing green eyes want with me?

THE GREY LADY

Maybe I saw something in you. Don't you remember any of the adventures?

VIOLET

What adventures?

THE GREY LADY

You thought school was a bore, but you knew when the home time bell rang, you

could walk up the street in the main road of Ferntree Gully to that strange little street. Where that bookshop was. Full of mystery and secrets and adventure. The world of Celestial Avenue had you encapsulated.

VIOLET

But Celestial Avenue is in the city... That's where the bookshop is, isn't it?

THE GREY LADY

You tell me...

Violet gathers her surroundings of her distant memory of teenage-hood.

A younger more youthful version of Violet can be heard walking down the street towards a bookshop on the corner.

YOUNGER VIOLET

Hello Professor!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh, hello Violet! How was school?

YOUNGER VIOLET

Boring as per usual.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Did you keep out of trouble?

YOUNGER VIOLET

When do I?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

That's the spirit. Now, I have some books you can help me sort. You up for it?

YOUNGER VIOLET

Oh, but I hate sorting!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Violet, Violet, Violet! Books are adventures all of their own. You are the gatekeeper to each one. Because you place the book on one particular shelf means one person far from now will pick it up when they need to go

on that particular adventure.

Beat.

VIOLET

That's... me.

THE GREY LADY

Little did you know that the Professor has been apart of your life this whole time.

VIOLET

Then why wouldn't he tell me?

THE GREY LADY

Oh my dear, because of something terrible that happened. A very long time ago.

The scene begins to change around them as they slowly appear in another version of the Celestial Avenue bookshop.

INT. BOOSKHOP D/T

The bell on the door rings as young Violet enters into the shop while the Professor is scouring through piles of books.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Ah, Violet! How are you? How was school? Is your aunt still as tenacious as the day I met her? (Beat) How about an adventure?

YOUNG VIOLET

Actually, Professor, I was just popping by briefly today. I just wanted to come by and say maybe it's time that I moved away from the bookshop and the adventures. If that's okay.

The happiness from the Professor's voice completely disappears as he slumps over the shocking news.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh, yes, that's fine. Is there anything that's caught this on?

YOUNG VIOLET

It's nothing to do with you, or the bookshop. It's been wonderful. It's great. But I think it's time that I grew up.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Grow up? Violet, you're one of the most grown up people I know.

YOUNG VIOLET

I'm about to finish school, and I have to start thinking about university. It's time that I made some big decisions for myself.

The Professor is awkward by the whole dismissal, but does his best to compose himself.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh, well, that's all good then. Well, you always know where to find me, if you ever need me.

YOUNG VIOLET

Yes, thank you.

Beat.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Let's at least, shake hands or something. It's been... an honor... Violet.

The Professor and Violet shake hands, Violet exhales.

YOUNG VIOLET

Goodbye Professor. All the best with the book shop and everything...
(Trails off)

Violet leaves the shop, leaving the Professor on his own.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Goodbye.

EXT. FERNTREE GULLY MAIN STREET D/T

Violet walks out of the bookshop and onto the main street, where her Aunt Tabby is waiting for her.

AUNT TABBY

Well, what did you say? Did you cut him off?

YOUNG VIOLET

Yes, I did exactly what you wanted.

AUNT TABBY

Like we rehearsed?

YOUNG VIOLET

Exactly.

AUNT TABBY

Good then. Now you won't be preoccupied with that stupid man and his smelly old bookshop. You've got better things to do like looking after me.

As Young Violet and Aunt Tabby trail off, Violet begins to make sense off the past that she forgot.

VIOLET

She told me to stop seeing the Professor?

THE GREY LADY

Because she knew whatever you were getting caught in was too big for your world. She was doing what she could to protect you.

VIOLET

I'm remembering now. She ruined my life.

THE GREY LADY

Did she? You eventually got yourself caught back in it all, didn't you? One paradox wasn't enough for you.

INT. AUNT TABBY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN N/T

Young Violet storms around the house, collecting her coat and keys, ready to go out.

AUNT TABBY

For the last time, I told you, you're not going out with some tall stranger!

YOUNG VIOLET

He's not a stranger. I've met him, he's lovely, he's everything. And I really wish you could just give Hector a chance.

AUNT TABBY

You met him at an art gallery for goodness sake.

YOUNG VIOLET

Have you ever fallen in love before Tabby? Would you know what it feels like? You've never been married, how would you know?

Beat, Aunt Tabby sits down, shocked.

AUNT TABBY

You don't know what love is.

YOUNG VIOLET

My parents did, and you didn't.

AUNT TABBY

Don't tell me what love is and isn't. You're still a kid.

YOUNG VIOLET

Stop calling me a kid! I'm an adult now, I can make sense of the world!

AUNT TABBY

Violet, if you leave this house, I won't be here when you come back.

YOUNG VIOLET

Yeah, and how are you going to get rid of all your shit that you've filled the house with? Stop lying to me and let me just live for once.

AUNT TABBY

(Sniffs, trying not to cry) How dare you.

YOUNG VIOLET

I'll see you later.

Violet slams the door, leaving Aunt Tabby alone.

THE GREY LADY

That was the last you saw of her.

VIOLET

I'm beginning to remember now. She was such a sad old woman. She was never happy. Why did she take me in when Mum died?

THE GREY LADY

Maybe, she cared enough to show you love.

EXT. AUNT TABBY'S HOUSE D/T

Young Violet walks back to Aunt Tabby's house the next morning, as the magpies start to sing.

YOUNG VIOLET

I hope she's nice to you.

HECTOR

Oh, come off it, I'll try and do my best to please.

YOUNG VIOLET

She can be horrid, but underneath it all, I'm sure there's something there.

Suddenly, Young Violet stops.

HECTOR

Violet? What's wrong?

YOUNG VIOLET

What the hell?

Aunt Tabby's house is caught in a raging fire, with no sign of life inside.

YOUNG VIOLET

Fire! Call the fire brigade!

HECTOR

I'm on it now.

YOUNG VIOLET

Is she in there? (Beat) Aunt Tabby! Tabby!

Young Violet runs towards the house.

HECTOR
Be careful Violet!

EXT. AUNT TABBY'S HOUSE D/T

The smoke clears, as the fire brigade extinguish the blaze. Men can be heard in the background with machinery and hoses.

VIOLET
There was no evidence of human remains in there. She completely disappeared.

THE GREY LADY
Did she die?

VIOLET
I never found out. I didn't think she was being serious.

THE GREY LADY
And then you went with Hector?

VIOLET
I'm remembering... He let me stay with him... And then we went to that house in Fitzroy... And...

SFX: A harrowing screaming and a whoosh of fire

VIOLET
I died.

THE GREY LADY
And now you are here.

VIOLET
Where do you fall into all this?

THE GREY LADY
You'll find out in due course. But not yet. Know that if anything, I'm a friend. And I will help you when you need me most.

Everything slowly disappears around Violet as she begins to re-enter reality.

FLASHBACK ENDS

EXT. LAKE D/T

There's a draw of silence; Suddenly, Lily gasps and wakes up in her familiar dream state.

WANDA
You still with us?

LILY
I have questions.

WANDA
I know you do.

LILY
What part do you have in all of this?

A figure emerges and walks towards Lil

GARY GIZMO
Perhaps I can help.

LILY
Gary! What are you doing here? I thought we lost you!

GARY GIZMO
In the physical sense, but we've got this connection. I'm able to tamper into your psyche connected by a bridge of pure mental energy.

LILY
Violet and I are trying to find you, where did you go?

GARY GIZMO
Oh, I'm safe Lily, you don't need to worry about me. Who's with you?

LILY
Me and Violet are with a person who calls themselves Professor Paradox in a kind of large castle somewhere.

GARY GIZMO
Oh, if you're with the Professor, I'm guaranteed you're safe. No matter which version of them. (Beat) Who's your friend here?

LILY

I... I don't know.

GARY GIZMO

What are you doing prancing around inside Lily's mind like you own the place?

WANDA

Whoever said that I did?

GARY GIZMO

What are you up to?

WANDA

None of your concern. This is between me and Lily only.

LILY

Gary, how do I come and find you?

GARY GIZMO

Stick with the Professor. They're smart and will know what to do.

Gary starts to fade

LILY

He's gone.

Gary comes back instantly.

GARY GIZMO

I just wanted to tap in your mind to let you know that I'm safe... And I know it's a big universe out there, it must be overwhelming, all of this with the Catharo, that submarine. Just hold tight. I'll find you soon and you'll be as right as rain.

Gary vanishes again.

LILY

Dammit.

WANDA

Who is he? He sounds like a good friend.

LILY

I just met him. I barely know him.
Just like I barely know you.

WANDA

You know me all too well.

LILY

Then why don't I remember?

WANDA

There's something blocking your memory
of me. You'll find out soon enough.

The landscape around Lily begins to dissipate as she wakes up.

INT. PARADOX HALL

Both Violet and Lily wake up, gasping at the same time.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Still with us?

LILY

Just about!

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Good, because I think I'm going to
need your help.

VIOLET

What on earth can we do?

There's a banging at the door from outside.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

That thing that was following me
outside. It's getting stronger.

VIOLET

Any idea what it is?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Haven't the foggiest, but we must be
ready. Stand behind me.

The door is blasted down as two people walk in.

ANGUS

Can always rely on a ray gun to blast
down a door.

LILY

Who are you?

HELEN

I could ask the same of you. Where's
the Professor?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Right here, hello!

ANGUS

You're not the Professor we're after.

Helen walks down the hall of paintings

HELEN

We're after this one. The one with his
face erased.

VIOLET

What, my Professor?

ANGUS

Your Professor is a fiendish scoundrel
who is up to no good.

VIOLET

What makes you say that?

ANGUS

I've known him for many years. He set
us up on Celestial Avenue, and when we
needed him most, he wasn't there.

VIOLET

Hang on, I've never seen you at
Celestial Avenue.

HELEN

Where have you been hiding then?

ANGUS

You're going to come with us I think.

VIOLET

What?!

HELEN

You have information that we can benefit from. We cannot afford to lose any time.

LILY

You won't be taking her anywhere without me!

ANGUS

I'm afraid you have no choice in the matter.

LILY

And why's that?

ANGUS

Because we've already made that decision. Goodbye.

Angus and Helen vanish, taking Violet with them.

LILY

Violet! Where did you go?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Celestial displacement. They're using teleportation technology.

LILY

So what do we do?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

We do the logical thing. We follow them!

LILY

Why on earth would they want Violet?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

More to the point, what do they want with her Professor? Believe me Lily, when I say I understand all versions of the Professor, this one is hoarding many skeletons in his closet.

LILY

Where do I go though?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

What I can identify from this universe that you come from is that it's falling apart. The Catharo are destroying it bit by bit. You'll need help from the outside.

LILY

Can't you help me?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Lily, if I walk through that door and leave, I will be obliterated into atoms. This is up to you.

LILY

I don't know what to do! I don't know where I am, how I got here or why I ended up in this mess! I just need help. I need to find Violet, find Gary and somehow by some miracle restore the universe.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

And all that is achievable if you wish hard enough.

LILY

What do you mean?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Who's that tapping away in your subconscious? Who's always there with every moment you think and feel, processing all that information.

Beat.

LILY

How do you know about Wanda?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

I can see her in your eyes. She's trying so hard to reach out to her. I may be confined to my quarters here, but maybe a little unsolicited Celestial magic can help you on your way.

LILY
You can bring her here?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR
If you ask me, I think that's exactly
what she wants as well. (Beat) Close
your eyes and take my hands.

Lily does so, and momentarily, a psychic energy begins to
thrum like a homing beacon.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR
It's working!

LILY
It's hurting my head!

THE OTHER PROFESSOR
Just hold on for a bit longer Lily.
She's arriving!

Suddenly, one of the portraits smashes like a mirror as Wanda
emerges, Lily opens her eyes.

WANDA
Hello Lily.

LILY
Wanda? How did you get here?

WANDA
With your help of course. And your
friend.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR
Hello!

WANDA
I understand you need help.

LILY
Honestly, I don't remember much about
you, but your face and voice is so
familiar, it's nice to see someone
that I kind of know.

WANDA
This is all beyond me, but I'm
receiving new information by the
second. The universe is being blown to
smithereens, we need to fix it.

LILY

That's easier said than done.

WANDA

Lily, what I do know is that Gary is an integral part of all this. The sooner we find him, the better.

LILY

How do we get out of here?

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

I usually possess the power of teleportation myself, and I've gifted this to your friend, but it's only temporary... I don't know when it will run out, so just be careful.

WANDA

Lily, will you have my honor?

LILY

Here goes nothing.

Lily takes Wanda's hand as they disappear in a flash of magic lightning, leaving the Other Professor on their own.

Beat.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR

Excellent. Just excellent. Now, I have another Grandfather Clock. I wonder what mischief we can get up to...

As the Other Professor steps into the clock, the cosmic angst travels across the multiverse.

INT. PARADOX HALL

The source of energy finds Professor Paradox and hits him like an immense stabbing pain.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

(Cries and grunts)

KAMELIA

Are you okay?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Something's wrong with my Grandfather Clock.

KAMELIA

Your what?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

You know, the Grandfather Clock I travel in. You of all people know that Violet.

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Just as well you came home in time. So we can mend you and make you feel better.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh believe me, (grunts) I won't be staying here with you in this haunted house.

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Why not? Your mother would be so ever upset.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Don't talk about Mummy like that! I know exactly what you did to her!

KAMELIA

Can you run me up to speed please?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Oh, the petty mortal is lost, isn't she? Well, us Celestial beings aren't bound by physicality like you humans are. We come in many various forms.

The whole structure suddenly groans angrily

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

It appears you have woken her up.

KAMELIA

What do you mean?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Mother Paradox is the very infrastructure we stand in. The house that makes no sense, whizzing around from world to world.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

She makes me scared!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

I know Perseus, but you don't have to be.

KAMELIA

Professor, is now the the time that we get out of here?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

No, I don't think so.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

At least let my friend go!

Beat.

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

It's laughable that you can't see it. You were always so naïve.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What do you mean?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Your friend isn't who she says she is. Isn't that right?

Kamelia gives a slow clap.

KAMELIA

(Sarcastic) Bravo, bravo. You got me!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Why do I think your Violet?

KAMELIA

My name is Kamelia, derived from chameleon. My purpose was to blend in so I'd become believable, so I can observe.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

You're acting as someone's eyes and ears. Who are you here on behalf of?

KAMELIA

Artemis. I work for Artemis.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

You will never go back to him, you hear me?

KAMELIA

Why ever not? I've got all the information I need now. I needed to know your greatest weakness, how we could destroy you completely. And it's yourself. You can't bear to be proud of who you are, or your family.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What are you going to do?

KAMELIA

Artemis is going to ensure that you stay exactly put. We can't have you wondering around the place when we start universal domination/

PROFESSOR PARADOX

But the Catharo are already destroying the universe as we speak!

KAMELIA

Imagine this; What if I told you it hasn't happened yet? That moment exists in a semblance of time that must be protected at all costs?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

It mustn't happen. It can't!

KAMELIA

My dear Professor, you're too late.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Then I must stop you!

KAMELIA

How do you plan on doing that? You're trapped here now, aren't you?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

With my help he can.

Grandfather Paradox pushes Professor Paradox out of the way.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What?!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Get out of the way son!

Grandfather Paradox performs a psychic attack on Kamelia

KAMELIA
(Screams)

Kamelia flings herself back

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Now, you'll do exactly as my son says.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
Kamelia, I have a friend that can help. I need you to go and find her. She's out there somewhere. Her name is Lydia. She will know what to do.

KAMELIA
Professor, my head hurts. I don't know who to trust anymore.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
Trust me, I want to help. Artemis does not.

KAMELIA
Okay.

Kamelia disappears in a flash of light.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
Go well. (Beat) Now that you've got me here, what do you plan to do?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Tell me everything.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
About what?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Oh, your adventures, Celestial Avenue, defending the earth. I want to hear it all.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
(Laughs)

DEATH
Aren't you forgetting something?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

I beg your pardon?

DEATH

I've come to bring your son to his final resting place!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

I thought we were over that.

DEATH

B-b-but, NO! You guys can't just pull the rug away underneath me like that! Everyone has to die eventually!

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Then if you're so desperate, take me. Take me to my final sanction.

DEATH

You really want it to be that easy?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What point is it if I start running? You'll eventually catch up with me.

Grandfather Paradox barges in.

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

No son.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

What?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Put me in Percy's place.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

No! You mustn't!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

Son, I started wasting away a long time ago. You still need to get out there and restore the universe to order. (Beat) It would be nice to finally rest peacefully with your mother.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

I can't let you go. We just got back together!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Right in the nick of time too.

DEATH
You can't just switch places!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Oh, you don't write the rules Death; I do. I'm the greatest paradox there ever was and there ever will be.

DEATH
And what makes you say that?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
I'm surprised you haven't noticed yet.

Beat.

DEATH
You... You can't be the same person!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Oh, but you see, we are. I stand here because I release Perseus here back out into the wild to go voyage new worlds yet again. I released myself, and when I knew my time would come. And when I would be ready, I'd greet you Death, like an old friend.

DEATH
You knew this day would come because you lived it before.

PROFESSOR PARADOX
I watched myself die, so I knew when to come here.

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Exactly.

DEATH
I could easily take you both!

GRANDFATHER PARADOX
Take us both and you write your own termination paper, and then another taller, thinner, grimmer reaper will come along.

DEATH

Then if that's your wish...

Grandfather Paradox turns to Professor Paradox

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

My boy, you need to be careful as you leave this place. Things are about to get very dark.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

But what am I supposed to do?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

I can't tell you that. Keep your friends close Perseus. They can provide light in this dark time.

Grandfather Paradox snaps his fingers and Professor Paradox starts to disappear

PROFESSOR PARADOX

No-no-wait-

The Professor is cut off as he disappears

DEATH

Are you ready, old pal?

GRANDFATHER PARADOX

As much as I'll ever be. Goodbye universe. You were too good to me.