The Glam Gizmo: Season 4: Episode 1: Feast Of The Catharo

Ву

Tom Denham

EXT. ALIEN WORLD

The Professor and Violet are running for their lives as they are being chased by an unknown evil.

VIOLET Do you really think that was a good idea back there?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I didn't have anything else!

VIOLET Proposing to the Queen of an alien species! Great work.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Maybe if I wood her enough it may sway her opinion on universal domination.

VIOLET Where's the Grandfather Clock?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Right here! Brace for impact!

VIOLET Professor, I hope you know what you're doing!

PROFESSOR PARADOX Take my hand Violet!

Violet tugs on without hesitation as the Professor clicks his fingers and the pair disappear.

SFX: Pause Sound, tape recorder stopping

Wanda, who acts as a narrator for the audience, enters to provide the context of the situation.

#### WANDA

I think it's best if I provide you with some context before we move forward, because things are going to get really messy. I hope you wore your old boots. Those two people there are our key players. First, there's Violet. Ferocious, determined, the lion heart. But she shouldn't be here. She died long ago. Go back to Episode

Two, Season One, and you'll find out what happened. (Clears throat) And that other individual there is Professor Paradox. Interstitial being from another universe, last of his people, quite the misfit. Between him and Violet, they make quite the pair. The last time you heard them, they just started on their adventures together after a near miss with death yet again. Well, there's been a few adventures since; The Dimension of the Gurple Fish, Comeback of the Crawlies - oh, THAT was a goodie. But now we come to the present day. Our heroes are in hot pursuit with a new foe riding on their coat tails. Who are they, I hear you ask? (Beat) Well, that would be telling. Let's take a slight detour - Someone who is yet to become apart of the story. She's very important. The fate of the universe sits on her shoulders, but she doesn't know that yet.

SFX: The recording un-pauses and continues to play

EXT. LAKE D/T

Sounds of moving water sway from ear to ear as Lily stands in a park, alone, after an unknown event has just occurred. From Lily's point of view, this is the aftermath, but for the listener, this is where the story begins.

> LILY Isn't it supposed to be on the worst day of your life that the whole world around you turns a little bit more greyer?

WANDA What happened?

LILY How much do you really want to hear?

WANDA Everything is important.

## LILY

I doubt that.

WANDA Then why would I be here talking to you?

LILY I suppose so? (Beat) How did I even get here?

WANDA Remain calm. That was because of the threat we faced back there.

LILY What the hell is going on?

WANDA

Don't focus on that. When you think about *them*, that's when all hell really breaks loose.

LILY

I need to know.

WANDA You really don't.

The sound in the world becomes distorted as we begin to flashback. Reverberated screams and the sounds of Lovecraftian horror swirl around the listener's headphones as it all dilutes down to a reverse or rewind sound effect.

#### WANDA

Wakey-wakey.

INT. LILY'S APARTMENT D/T

Lily wakes up.

It's daytime and everything is normal.

LILY It was just a dream.

BOLTIZOR A dream, or a truth?

Lily turns to look across her room as the villainous snake man slithers towards her

LILY Who on earth are you? What the hell BOLTIZOR Do not be afraid. My name is Boltizor. And I think it's time that you learned the truth.

LILY What do you mean? Get out! Get out right now!

Lily backs herself into a corner as Boltizor comes closer, afraid of her fate.

BOLTIZOR Are you having strange dreams?

### LILY

Yes! Doesn't every human?

## BOLTIZOR

You're talking to a walking serpent. I am not human. Although, I have the ability to dream. I have the ability as well to see who is weaving your dreams.

LILY What do you mean?

#### BOLTIZOR

There are dark forces at work. They exist in spaces that you and I could never imagine the full potential of. And as it stands, you're the only one who can stop it.

#### LILY

Why me? I'm just an ordinary unemployed uni student. What significance do I have?

BOLTIZOR

The fate of the universe lies in your hands.

#### LILY

No it doesn't! Of course it doesn't! You say the universe like some kind of Star Trek crap or whatever. What do you mean the universe? Boltizor realises he's not going to convince Lily, pauses, and reorchestrates himself.

# BOLTIZOR

These dreams that we're having are because of one force. Your life may me humdrum and normal, but that's going to change today. However, when you choose what you're going to do, you better make the right choice. Not for me, not for yourself, but for the whole world.

#### LILY

What is this force? Who is it?

#### BOLTIZOR

I can't even say their name. As soon as they're mentioned, they lodge themselves inside the heads of many, into people's psyche and dreams. It could drive you insane.

## LILY

You're telling me all this. I need proof.

Boltizor sniggers, realising that he is slowly convincing Lily.

#### BOLTIZOR

Then why didn't you say so. (Beat) You will meet someone equally as impossible today. Go with them, whatever the cost. Protect them from the creatures, because the universe might just depend on it.

Boltizor vanishes

Suddenly, Lily's phone vibrates, she picks it up.

#### LILY

(To herself) Alarm... Job interview, of course.

Quickly, Lily gets herself out of bed and ready for the day.

EXT. STREET D/T

SFX: Melbourne ambience

Created using Celtx

Lily disembarks off a tram and walks across the road to a window. She taps on it and a female clerk responds.

LILY Hello? Hello?

## CLERK

Yes love?

LILY Yes, I'm here for the job interview for the restaurant - Is this the right place?

CLERK (Mutters) Gee. (Beat) Yeah love, line's over there.

LILY There's already more than twenty people here!

CLERK Jobs are in high demand love. With the government pushing for high employment rate, everyone's getting their grubby hands on one.

LILY Right, I'll... um, join the line.

Lily unenthusiastically drags her feet to the end of the line, but hears someone beckoning her attention.

HECTOR Psst. Psst.

LILY Sorry, are you alright?

HECTOR Hey you, yeah you.

LILY

Me?

HECTOR Who else would I be talking to?

LILY Is there something I can help you with?

HECTOR

Follow me.

LILY I'm not just going to follow a stranger down an alleyway.

### HECTOR

If it's a job you're after, then it's a job I've got - You don't want to be seen serving D grade food at a shoddy old dump like this.

The clerk calls out from a distance

CLERK I heard that!

HECTOR Come with me.

LILY What if I don't?

HECTOR Who says you have to.

And with that, Hector strolls away.

# LILY

Wait, hold up!

Lily, now curious, follows Hector down the next street. She finally catches up to Hector, who swings around.

#### HECTOR

Have you noticed anything particularly strange today? Anything out of the ordinary, beyond your imagination?

## LILY

Erm-

HECTOR Has life been mundane? Your life beyond any institution is meaningless and inane? LILY Now, hold on-

HECTOR And more importantly, have you noticed the strange and absurd has circulated around this city more than ever in the last few years?

LILY Um, yes. Yes, I have.

Hector pulls a business card out of his jacket and hands it to Lily.

HECTOR Take my card.

Lily takes the card, confused.

LILY There's nothing on it.

HECTOR Have a look again. Flip it.

Lily flips the card and reads out the text.

LILY

The Department of Celestial Intervention. Are you from the government?

HECTOR We provide a service, but we're not governed by anybody of your world.

LILY Of my world- What?

HECTOR

Meet me at the address on the card this afternoon at 3. You'll find out everything you need then.

LILY Why are you telling me all this?

HECTOR Because it might just save your life. Lily turns around to face the restaurant again.

LILY I guess whatever this is, it beats serving cold food.

Lily turns back around, but Hector has disappeared.

LILY Hello? (Beat) He's gone.

Suddenly, the nearby restaurant starts to pulsate and vibrate. People around the building cry out and in a flash of energy it disappears.

LILY

What?!

PASSBYER 1 Did you see what just happened?

PASSBYER 2 It's gone! That restaurant has just gone!

LILY How can a whole building just vanish?

INT. RADIO STUDIO

Chelsea Smith, a regional newsreader, follows on from the bizarre events, in a top-of-the-hour format radio news headline.

#### CHELSEA

And in a strange turn of events, the well-known Melbourne restaurant "Danny's", has completely vanished out of thin air. Onlookers have been left speechless as the building and everybody inside it have disappeared off the grid completely with no sign whether this is a trick or not. (Beat) What are your thoughts Dirk?

## DIRK GRIFFITHS

It does strike me as odd Chelsea, to make a whole building disappear like that must be one hell of a high school prank. But we have to ask - what on earth has happened to the occupants

10.

inside the building?

## CHELSEA

As it's only hours since the incident, we have no information at present, but we plan to keep everyone listening to 3AR updated across the day.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Chelsea Smith with the latest news affecting the nation, bringing it all to our Albury listeners, until we chat again.

## CHELSEA

Thanks Dirk.

Music: Station theme plays

Dirk turns the microphones off as both he and Chelsea exhale.

DIRK GRIFFITHS God, has the world gone mad. Taxidermy puppets, giant monsters stampeding the streets of the city, megalomaniac butchers and now disappearing buildings.

# CHELSEA

Does it strike you as odd that *all* of this is coming out of the one city?

DIRK GRIFFITHS You couldn't call it coincidence at all.

## CHELSEA

It's the talk of the town. That's why so many people are moving out here -They want to steer clear from being abducted or killed.

# DIRK GRIFFITHS

I don't blame them. Those city slickers can keep their monsters.

CHELSEA It does make me curious though.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Why? Are you thinking of investigating

#### CHELSEA

it?

Well, ever since that tram and car collision in Saint Kilda last year, I have been digging into it. Nothing like this has ever happened. When they dug up the bodies from the wreck, they found two giant spiders in there, both dead. This is a journalist's dream.

#### DIRK GRIFFITHS

You say that all you want Chelsea. I'm more than happy keeping Albury Wodonga on the straight and the narrow. (Beat) Oh Christ, would you look at the time. We're supposed to pre-record that interview with the Member for Welsworth.

# CHELSEA

What? Are they here?

## DIRK GRIFFITHS

They should be any moment. Can you see if he's out there actually? My producer is off sick today.

#### CHELSEA

You're producing again on your own while hosting?

#### DIRK GRIFFITHS

Yeah, Oscar had taken a trip to Melbourne in fact to see family. He was supposed to return this morning but I haven't heard from him.

CHELSEA I'll go bring in the Senator.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Thanks Chelsea.

Chelsea leaves the studio, leaving Dirk on his own briefly.

DIRK GRIFFITHS (Under his breath) Strike me pink.

The door opens again as Chelsea brings in Senator Hawkspur

DIRK GRIFFITHS Good morning Senator, a pleasure.

JOHN HAWKSPUR Dirk, big fan, lovely to meet you at last. Number One in Albury Wodonga!

DIRK GRIFFITHS Oh, we try our best.

Beat. There's an awkward silence.

JOHN HAWKSPUR Er, right, should we get straight to it?

#### DIRK GRIFFITHS

Absolutely, look, I appreciate you coming out this far for an interview on our measly little show.

Hawkspur interjects

#### JOHN HAWKSPUR

Ah-ah-ah, we don't say putdowns like that around me. I'm running a campaign and I'm more than happy to tell you everything you need.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Look, it's a pleasure Senator Hawkspur, it really is.

CHELSEA

Um, Dirk - Hi Senator Hawkspur, um, bi fan. Is it okay if I sit in and listen?

JOHN HAWKSPUR By all means! If that's okay with Dirk?

Dirk hesitates.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Oh, yes, of course. Okay, let's roll.

Dirk nervously fumbles around with the radio panel and starts recording.

## DIRK GRIFFITHS

Senator Hawkspur, a pleasure to have you on 3AR.

JOHN HAWKSPUR The pleasure is all mine.

# DIRK GRIFFITHS

Let's start off with your election promises. You're voicing that you want a safe Australia for all and that you're encouraging migration into our country. Why the push?

## JOHN HAWKSPUR

My dear Dirk, Australia is a country for all. We have the best to offer globally in so many key areas and I believe it is integral to the continuation of growth for our economy that we allow more permanent residents to come in. Gone are the days of skills or housing shortage. (Beat) We're building a better country and that starts with cooperation with one another.

#### DIRK GRIFFITHS

While this sounds great, more and more people are waiting to be convinced by you that this is the right plan going forward. Is there anything that you can reveal on 3AR this morning that can shed light onto your plan?

## JOHN HAWKSPUR

What I can reveal Dirk is that I will be making a special announcement in my electorate of Wellsworth that will encourage the rest of the country. By making these announcements on my home turf, I hope this encourages the rest of the nation to follow in my footsteps, to help build a better Australia and make one step closer towards the divine plan.

INT. CAFE D/T

Cafe walla

CHELSEA He said divine plan, what do you think of that?

DIRK GRIFFITHS Do you reckon he's trying to appeal to religious minorities?

CHELSEA He has no ties to the church. But, I've been doing some research.

DIRK GRIFFITHS (Bemused) Of course you have.

Waiter comes over to the table.

# WAITER

Two coffees?

# DIRK GRIFFITHS

Thank you.

The waiter puts down the two coffees and walks away as Chelsea brings out her dossier.

> DIRK GRIFFITHS A dossier? You have been busy.

#### CHELSEA

There's more to Senator Hawkspur than meets the eye.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Like I don't already know that.

#### CHELSEA

It's like he's just appeared overnight. And as the Leader of the Opposition? Surely, people would know who he is.

DIRK GRIFFITHS What are you saying?

#### CHELSEA

Imagine if someone had infinite realms of influence. What if they used that influence to manipulate the minds of the whole world?

# DIRK GRIFFITHS

Boulderdash.

## CHELSEA

Think about it. When did Senator Hawkspur even join the Opposition? How long has he been in parliament for? Where did he even come from? Questions that nobody is ready to answer because he is trying to win the popularity of the whole country in the lead up to a federal election. And once he becomes Prime Minister, the country is his do with what he wants.

# DIRK GRIFFITHS

He's trying to champion migration. What's wrong with that?

#### CHELSEA

Migration, yes. But he never said anything about people.

## DIRK GRIFFITHS

Oh, no, no, no. This has nothing to do with all that alien stuff going on in Melbourne.

CHELSEA What if it does?

# DIRK GRIFFITHS

You've lost me.

#### CHELSEA

Dirk, I need your help on this one. We need to go to that press conference tonight and see what on earth is happening. Maybe, we might get a clue.

DIRK GRIFFITHS

And here I was wanting a Friday night off.

CHELSEA No such luck I'm afraid.

Beat.

DIRK GRIFFITHS Alright. I'm doing this for you.

CHELSEA

I know.

DIRK GRIFFITHS How do you suppose we get there in time?

CHELSEA I'll arrange transport - You just turn up don't leave me on my own.

DIRK GRIFFITHS

(Sighs) Okay.

INT. CAR D/T

Hawkspur climbs inside the back of a car, nervous and sweating.

JOHN HAWKSPUR Oh, god. That was awful.

IRVING I thought you were fine Senator.

JOHN HAWKSPUR Please, you can call me John. You're my PA.

IRVING I know, sorry, just force of habit.

JOHN HAWKSPUR Now let's get back to work so we know what the hell we're doing tonight.

IRVING Big crowds expected tonight. All eyes are on you.

JOHN HAWKSPUR I know. That's why I don't want to fudge it up. Oh, for goodness sake, why do you have to make it so hot in here?

An all-too-familiar hissing sound is heard on the other side of the backseat.

BOLTIZOR I can only be comfortable in warm climates.

JOHN HAWKSPUR Yes, of course you are.

# BOLTIZOR

You've done very well Johnny boy. Soon enough, we'll have everything in place.

JOHN HAWKSPUR And then will I get a rest?

BOLTIZOR You'll be Prime Minister soon enough, you won't have time for sleep!

Boltizor sniggers delightedly as John sighs

INT. THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

The Professor and Violet reappear inside the Grandfather Clock, almost out of breath.

VIOLET Are we safe inside the Clock?

PROFESSOR PARADOX For now. Yes.

VIOLET Okay, are you going to tell me what that was all about?

PROFESSOR PARADOX That was a formidable alien race that should have all power stripped away from them.

#### VIOLET

Meaning?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

The Catharo are dangerous. And with power at the reach of their tendrils, we're all in trouble.

VIOLET So we better stop them. Are we going back?

#### PROFESSOR PARADOX

Not yet. I need... I need to breathe. Y'know, you make being brought back from the dead look pretty easy.

# VIOLET

You can talk.

PROFESSOR PARADOX I wasn't expecting that to happen.

#### VIOLET

What exactly were these Catharo trying to gain from you?

## PROFESSOR PARADOX

They wanted the power of the Grandfather Clock. With that, they could travel across the dimensional plane. Without the portals being created by the Keppell Machine, they're pretty stuck here.

## VIOLET

So, they could have been some of the bad guys we met on earth, along with the Crawlies and the rest?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Very much so. I think it's a good dose of jealousy there.

As gears whir around Violet, the Professor begins to calibrate the path for their next journey.

#### VIOLET

Are you ever tempted to go back to earth? Visit everyone again?

PROFESSOR PARADOX You know that we can't.

## VIOLET

Why not? At least Yodalin or Casper know that you're safe and out there.

PROFESSOR PARADOX I think Yodalin and Casper are much safer having moved on from me. VIOLET

Did you know that was always going to be the way?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

No.

## VIOLET

How on earth do you keep track of it all?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

It's a tricky game of cause and effect. Cat and mouse. One is always chasing the other. Best we're away from earth for a bit.

#### VIOLET

Then why did you take me with you?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I couldn't abandon you Violet. We had to ensure everyone had a happy ending.

VIOLET You had your eye over us all?

## PROFESSOR PARADOX

I started it all. And so, I feel obligated to. I brought Lucy to this world as a baby, I looked after Max in his human form, I made sure Casper and Yodalin would meet and both come here and I knew that Lucy would find you as well.

## VIOLET

How much do you know?

# PROFESSOR PARADOX

Believe me, Serenity and I have put a lot of work into making sure you all intersected with one another.

## VIOLET

You could totally choose anybody else and I'm sure your plans for universal harmony would be the same.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Other people have tried to be apart of it and have failed. Alex, Ted, Christina. For some reason, the universe said no to them.

VIOLET It had to be us?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Yes.

VIOLET Is this some kind of destiny trap?

PROFESSOR PARADOX My dear, it's making sure that you and your friends would always find the right path.

VIOLET You made them my friends. You're playing God.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Maybe sometimes I have to.

## VIOLET

How often do you get to choose Professor? When do your people ever get in the way of your planning?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I'm a lost cause to my people, they let me do what I want.

VIOLET What are your people like?

#### PROFESSOR PARADOX

Well, you've met me, Lydia and Wally. I'm sure you can say that we're far from normal.

Suddenly, there's a knocking from outside.

VIOLET Was... Was that a knock?

PROFESSOR PARADOX It couldn't be.

VIOLET That was definitely a knock.

Professor Paradox cautiously walks towards the clock door

PROFESSOR PARADOX We're floating across the dimensional plane in a never space of non existence. There can't be anyone out there.

VIOLET Shall we find out what it is?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Well, there's no time like the present.

The Professor opens the door as a small, feeble man presents himself, clearing his throat.

ARTIE Hello there, I was wondering if you would like to buy-

The Professor slams the door

VIOLET Was that a salesman?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I think it was.

VIOLET Are you just going to leave him out there?

PROFESSOR PARADOX You're right... I shouldn't.

The Professor reopens the door

ARTIE Excuse me! I don't mean to be rude, but-

PROFESSOR PARADOX Cup of tea?

ARTIE I beg your pardon?

## PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh, we couldn't leave you out on a night, morning, Sunday afternoon or Pancake Tuesday like this. You'll catch a cold or dimensional winding out there.

# ARTIE

Oh, how very kind of you.

Artie makes his way in and nervously waves at Violet

ARTIE Oh, erm, hello, I hope I wasn't interrupting anything.

#### VIOLET

No, no, no, not at all. You're quite fine. I'd offer a seat if there was one...

PROFESSOR PARADOX

One jiffy.

The Professor clicks his fingers as a lounge suite appears

## ARTIE

Oh! Couches and cushions, how very lovely. Tell me, are you a magician? Can you just magic up things like that?

#### PROFESSOR PARADOX

We're inside my ship. As long as we're inside here, I can produce anything I like that will provide me with comfort for my journey.

ARTIE How very kind of you.

Professor Paradox claps his hands together as he sits down with Artie and Violet

PROFESSOR PARADOX So! What are you selling?

ARTIE I beg your pardon? PROFESSOR PARADOX You're an interstitial doorknocker. That only suggests one thing.

# ARTIE

Oh, you saw right through me Professor.

PROFESSOR PARADOX How do you know who I am?

#### ARTIE

I ride the winds of time. The legend of Professor Paradox surely kicks around.

#### VIOLET

So you knew what you were getting into when you found us?

## ARTIE

Oh believe me my dear, I did. But I had no idea I'd get this far ahead.

#### PROFESSOR PARADOX

Why's that?

#### ARTIE

Well, usually because nobody else gives me a chance.

#### VIOLET

Well, let's give you the benefit of the doubt and give you a chance now. What is it exactly you want from us?

## ARTIE

Want? Oh, my dear. Only interest. I'm a healer. I go across the universe providing my pharmaceutical goods to those in need.

## VIOLET

Any samples we can try?

Artie fiddles around in his satchel, trying to find something that will do the job.

#### ARTIE

Oh, you madam may like this. Persuasive lipstick. Kiss your enemies 23.

and they fall under your influence or something to that effect. And for you Professor, have a try of this.

Artie produces a bottle handing it across to the Professor.

PROFESSOR PARADOX How in the universe did you get this?

VIOLET You know what it is?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I recognise it straight away. Blood of the Agra.

ARTIE It has remarkable healing properties.

# PROFESSOR PARADOX

Powerful beings that exist as apart of the fabric of space-time. I thought they had all died out.

ARTIE Dwindled, not extinct. You have to search very hard to find them. Beautiful creatures.

#### VIOLET

This is all very kind of you - but why shower us with gifts? Also, I didn't catch your name.

# ARTIE

Artie. Just Artie. At your service. I know you're always on the double Professor, as are your friends, and I know you'll repay me one day.

A contraption in Artie's pocket vibrates and sends off a notification alert.

#### ARTIE

And that's my next appointment. Look, it was lovely to meet you both. Let's do this again sometime, aye?

Artie vanishes into thin air.

# PROFESSOR PARADOX He's gone! And I was just getting to know him.

VIOLET Well, people come and go in this big old universe - don't they?

The space around Professor and Violet begins to pulse like a fire alarm siren, signaling that something is definitely wrong.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Oh, heavens. And no time to rest.

VIOLET What? What's going on?

PROFESSOR PARADOX We're being put on collision course!

The ticking of the grandfather clock accelerates faster and faster until all of a sudden, it lulls and stops, spitting Violet and Professor outside.

INT. WAITING ROOM D/T

Lily sits in the waiting room in bated breath, the door opens and a tall figure stands, waiting for her.

> HECTOR Lily Stone. Come on in.

Lily stands up to enter.

LILY Before I do...

HECTOR Is something the matter?

LILY No, I just... Thought I had a moment of deja vu there.

HECTOR It happens to the best of us. Follow me.

Hector walks around the desk and sits down, followed by Lily who sits at the chair in front of him.

#### HECTOR

Thank you for coming in for this interview. I know this is very last minute, but we were very impressed by your experience, and, well, it would be a crying shame if we didn't consider you to join our team.

#### LILY

I'm willing to take anything at this point in time.

#### HECTOR

You've just completed your masters in literature but you also have previous study history in psychology. Why the change?

## LILY

The world is complicated enough. I decided I wanted to indulge. My question is for you however, what's so special about this curiosity shop?

#### HECTOR

It's more than a curiosity shop. Let's say it's our base of operations. The center of the web. I've been appointed to build a team and based on your skillset, I think you're just the kind of person we're after.

### LILY

On the title, you said you required someone who is experienced in understanding people but also has a grasp of the fictitious?

#### HECTOR

Exactly.

Lily leans in

LILY

Why?

Because nobody conventionally normal would believe it.

LILY What would you have me do?

Hector pulls out a large map which he spreads across the table

#### HECTOR

Harmless people have gone missing in these parts of Melbourne. And they're all linked to the one event. Each of them were alone at the exact same time.

LILY There's always people in the city.

HECTOR Enough people to blend their cover.

LILY What happened to them?

## HECTOR

They've been completely removed from reality itself. But something is changing. As each person disappears, there's something with our world that becomes... stranger.

LILY You're hallucinating. You're high on something that's convincing you all this crap.

HECTOR Lily - Look at where the map ends.

Lily observes the map of the city that Hector has produced.

LILY It's... blank.

HECTOR Someone or something wants our city.

## LILY

Or the rest of the world is being

transported elsewhere.

HECTOR Now you're thinking like a proper agent.

LILY But that's impossible. We can't rely on the information of one map.

HECTOR Then look at your phone.

LILY There's nothing different with my phone.

HECTOR Just look at your phone maps and tell me what you see.

Lily opens her phone with a few beeps and realises the horrible truth - there are indeed no maps that lead out of Melbourne.

LILY There must be something terribly wrong.

HECTOR

There is one force that's doing this. They're taking people and they're doing something to Melbourne.

LILY What are they?

#### HECTOR

I... I can't say. If I do, they will appear and take me. If you think about them, they will reveal themselves.

LILY

Just makes it that bit harder.

HECTOR

Let me write it.

Hector scribbles on a piece of paper and shows it to Lily

HECTOR You must never repeat this word. But you know what it is now.

LILY

Got it.

HECTOR (Groans and clenches)

LILY

What's happening?

Hector is breathless and holding onto reality as much as he can.

#### HECTOR

I'm failing... They're coming for me... But now you know... You have to commit to the mission...

LILY Is there anything I can do to stop them?

HECTOR

Once they find you, there's no turning back. Welcome to the Celestials, Lily. (Beat) You're one of us now.

Hector suddenly vanishes and screams in the process/

Lily walks over to where Hector was standing, something begins to emerge out of the ground.

LILY Hector, is that you?

The ground begins to reverberate as the Catharo creature stands where Hector was. The creature breathes heavily and starts moving towards Lily.

> LILY What the hell are you? (Beat) Stay back!

THE CATHARO You dare not mention our name because you worry what it might do to your heads! LILY I have no idea what you are.

THE CATHARO Yes, but you will soon!

LILY Are you the cause of what's going on? Do you know why people are disappearing?

THE CATHARO You seem like a very tasty snack to me!

LILY

Oh crap.

THE CATHARO Time for dinner!

The Catharo scuttles closer to Lily and opens its pincers, ready to consume Lily, until they are disturbed by a banging door. Lily jumps as the door finally breaks open where Gary Gizmo is standing.

> GARY GIZMO Well, isn't this the get-together we've all been waiting for!

Gary walks into the room to observe the creature, who still threateningly towers over Lily.

GARY GIZMO Stop - Catharo! (Beat) Oh yes, I know your name.

THE CATHARO You know our species?

GARY GIZMO

Of old.

THE CATHARO Then what would you have us do?

GARY GIZMO Fend you from this place and leave that poor woman alone! You're going to have to try harder than that!

# GARY GIZMO

Then by the order of the Celestial Realm, I command you to stand back immediately if you don't want to put yourself in eternal stasis.

The Catharo hesitates, and lowers itself back away from Lily.

THE CATHARO Just know you haven't defeated us yet. We will return.

The Catharo disappears through the window of the office. Lily gets back up to her feet and observes the trail.

LILY What was that thing?

GARY GIZMO I can't say it's name. Otherwise it will come back. But it's just as well this one was persuasive.

LILY What was it doing here?

GARY GIZMO Unfortunately it's been here for some time. A lot of them have... Watching, snatching, feasting on the human race.

LILY You know this bullshit?

GARY GIZMO

Um, yeah.

LILY Where the hell did Hector go?

GARY GIZMO

Your friend?

LILY The person who worked here. He was taken.

# GARY GIZMO Then I'm afraid he's as good as dead.

## INT. DANNY'S RESTAURANT N/T

Violet and the Professor fall flat on their faces in a crowded bar setting, one that does not sound particularly friendly by any nature, rock music blaring from a distant jukebox.

## VIOLET

We're at a restaurant. How on earth have we ended up here?

# PROFESSOR PARADOX A restaurant at the end of the universe? I've never heard that one before.

VIOLET "Danny's". (Beat) It feels awfully familiar.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Violet, have a look outside. It's not just any restaurant. It's a space restaurant!

Beat.

VIOLET The people here don't look overly friendly.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Then I suggest we keep to ourselves as much as we can.

VIOLET Well at least we have each other.

Beat.

# VIOLET

Professor?

PROFESSOR PARADOX What? What is it?

VIOLET See that hooded person in the cubicle?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I do. It seems they're trying to usher our attention.

VIOLET Shall we go?

PROFESSOR PARADOX It looks like we have no other choice.

Professor and Violet cautiously approach their newest match, expecting the worst.

They take a seat on the squeaky leather couch.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Hello, erm, whoever you are. To what pleasure do we owe?

The person under the hood is brooding, aware of their surroundings, so trying not to reveal themselves.

GARY GIZMO I suspected you would come to my call, Professor.

This version of Gary is from a future point in time and has travelled back to warn the Professor and Violet.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Your call?

GARY GIZMO Correct. I summoned you here.

PROFESSOR PARADOX For what reason?

GARY GIZMO To discuss business of course. Where better to do that than a crowded bar where nobody will suspect us?

VIOLET Everybody will suspect us here.

GARY GIZMO I come from a future time - One that is gravely feared by your people.

PROFESSOR PARADOX My people are dead.

GARY GIZMO The people in this universe, not your own.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Go on.

GARY GIZMO There is a criminal on our hands Professor. And you need to stop them.

PROFESSOR PARADOX What kind of criminal?

# GARY GIZMO

They remained masked from society very well. Too well, in fact. They simply go by the name 'the Perfidious Alchemist'.

#### VIOLET

Pft, what kind of self-proclaimed name is that?

# GARY GIZMO

That name was given to them infamously by the societies that fell because of the Alchemist. They are out there, destroying populations, destroying worlds one by one.

PROFESSOR PARADOX With an army? A weapon?

## GARY GIZMO

No - with one concentrated contagion. A contagion that is powerful enough to rip through the fabric of time and erase everything around it.

PROFESSOR PARADOX How can something have that much power?

GARY GIZMO It's a good question, one that I do not have the answer to. But what I can tell you is this; That contagion must not fall into the wrong hands. If it does, it might just destroy everything that you know.

#### VIOLET

How do you know all this?

# GARY GIZMO

Because I come from the future. I come from that place where everything is erased. Everything is gone. Beware the Perfidious Alchemist, Professor. Your life might just depend on it.

Gary, still hooded, walks away out of the bar, leaving the Professor and Violet on their own.

VIOLET Beware the Perfidious Alchemist?

Beat.

# PROFESSOR PARADOX Ah, right. Should we get a drink... or a cocktail... or a coffee?

#### VIOLET

We can't stop now. We obviously need to find this Alchemist and stop them in their tracks.

Suddenly, there's a banging at the door of the bar and everybody goes quiet. A new figure walks into the room.

VIOLET What the hell is that?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I know it looks exactly like it... And it is.

BAR ATTENDEE 1 Everybody bow! Everybody bow in the presence of Death himself!

The whole pub goes eerily quiet as Death glides across the bar, he lifts a bony arm extending out to the Professor.

VIOLET He's pointing at us!

BAR ATTENDEE 2 It's them! The Grim Reaper has arrived for you both!

PROFESSOR PARADOX I think this is a good time to get out of here.

VIOLET I think your right.

BAR ATTENDEE 1 Death to the non-living! Death to the non-living!

The bar roars into fierce cries as they cheer on Death.

VIOLET Professor, what do we do?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Take my hand!

VIOLET

Why?

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Now!

The Professor and Violet both disappear, leaving the bar in disbelief.

BAR ATTENDEE 1 Where the hell did they go?

BAR ATTENDEE 2 Witchcraft has been performed here!

BAR ATTENDEE 1 That was no witchcraft! Death made his verdict.

BAR ATTENDEE 3 Then if Death made his judgement, why is he still here?

Death spinally moves around the bar.

BAR ATTENDEE 1 He's come for you!

BAR ATTENDEE 3 No he hasn't! My time hasn't come yet!

BAR ATTENDEE 1 Hold him down!

The bar breaks out into brawl mode as Death slips away.

EXT. STREET D/T

Gary and Lily exit the building onto the street back into the daylight.

GARY GIZMO These creatures need to be stopped before they take anyone else.

LILY Then what do you suppose we do?

GARY GIZMO Whoah-whoah-whoah. I don't think you're up for this.

LILY And what makes you say that?

GARY GIZMO This is way too dangerous for any human to get involved with.

LILY There's not much I'm risking.

GARY GIZMO We will be in constant danger.

### LILY

Beats staying at home. But I want to understand this - do you know anything about the maps?

GARY GIZMO Ah, so you've noticed?

LILY Only because Hector pointed it out to me.

### GARY GIZMO

Look around you. Everybody in this city is going on as if it were normal. Little do they know the world has been devoured and eaten away by these creatures.

LILY The whole world? Where does it go?

GARY GIZMO Into a place called the Chasm. An anti-world where everything is upside down, inside out, etcetera.

LILY Is that's what's going to happen to me if I don't do anything.

Gary pauses, and turns around to Lily.

GARY GIZMO Gary's the name. Gary Gizmo.

LILY That's quite... novel.

GARY GIZMO Ah well, that's one way to put it.

LILY My name's Lily.

EXT. LAKE D/T

The listener is transported out of past events and back to the lake where Lily and Wanda stand.

> WANDA So that's how it all started?

> > LILY

I assume so.

WANDA And you started running away from all your problems.

LILY What else was I supposed to do?

#### WANDA

Well, this is where it's lead us. What do you suppose we do now?

LILY I... I don't know.

### WANDA

Fat lot of good that's going to be.

### LILY

It's okay not to know. This is all beyond me. My whole world exploded out of proportion that day and I didn't know what to do. What would you have done? Probably stand there like a deer in a headlights until BAM, impact, BAM, gone.

#### WANDA

What are you trying to tell me Lily? I'm not here to hurt you.

LILY You're right. (Beat) I'm sorry.

WANDA So tell me. This Gary Glitter-

#### LILY

Gizmo.

WANDA Whatever his name is, whisked you away and then what?

LILY Well... (Beat)

The narrative is transported back to Gary and Lily who have found somewhere to discuss their movements...

INT. CAFE D/T

Lily and Gary sit inside the cafe, coffee machine steaming and a walla of people in the background. A waiter brings over two coffees for the pair.

> WAITER Two cappuccinos.

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GARY GIZMO Thanks. (Beat) You looked like you could do with some caffeine.

LILY I'll pretend I didn't hear that.

GARY GIZMO

Well, if the world is slowly dying, at least we still have Melbourne coffee.

LILY What are you really Gary? What are you

GARY GIZMO You wouldn't believe me.

doing here?

### LILY

And you're just going to leave it at that. What do you know about this Resistance and why are they trying to recruit me?

GARY GIZMO You're fresh meat.

LILY I'll pretend I didn't hear that either.

### GARY GIZMO

As in you're susceptible to influence. The Resistance can do what they like to lead you and make them believe that is the way.

LILY Do we try and find them?

GARY GIZMO I feel like they'll find us first.

LILY Why are you so worried?

### GARY GIZMO

The thing I'm concerned about at the moment is how and why *they* have come here.

LILY And there's no way of knowing unless we do one thing-

### GARY GIZMO

Don't! (Sigh) I know you're thinking about summoning them, but it's too dangerous when we know so little. (Beat) You're not paying attention to me!

### LILY

Gary, stop. Listen. What do you notice about everyone in this cafe?

GARY GIZMO I don't understand what you mean.

LILY Look around you. What are they saying?

GARY GIZMO They're having conversations.

LILY

Are they?

Gary and Lily listen in. The more they listen, the more the walla begins to warble and distort.

GARY GIZMO They're not really talking.

LILY Because maybe, and just a stab in the dark - they're not really here.

The cafe around them begins to slowly disappear

LILY What's going on?

GARY GIZMO Everything is fading.

LILY This can only mean one thing. If Melbourne is disappearing, then this building isn't really here. LILY They've won.

The sound around Gary and Lily fizzes with demonic frustration as the complete backdrop disappears as they enter a white void.

INT. SPACE HOPPER

Meanwhile in deep space, a lone traveler makes his journey across the vastness of empty space.

Agent Langley turns on his communicator to speak to superior voices, who are located below.

AGENT LANGLEY This is Agent Langley speaking, requesting access to the designated landing area.

Silence, no response.

AGENT LANGLEY This is Agent Langley speaking, once again asking for request to land.

Still silence.

AGENT LANGLEY This is Agent Langley speaking, I'm low on fuel and need to land. Requesting immediate access to dock... Please.

Beat, then suddenly the transmission turns on from the other end.

AGENT LANGLEY (To himself) This is ridiculous.

HALIFAX V/O You are speaking with security.

AGENT LANGLEY Yes, ah, thank you, can you please let me down? HALIFAX V/O Under what jurisdiction are you here?

AGENT LANGLEY Just a quick pit-stop, nothing more, nothing less.

# HALIFAX V/O

May I please have some proof of identity?

AGENT LANGLEY My name is Agent Langley. I come from the Morrow-Gear-Cluster and I'm carrying out an exploration mission.

HALIFAX V/O Nobody from the Morrow-Gear comes this far out into our regions of space.

AGENT LANGLEY Well, <u>I'm</u> here, can you let me in please?

HALIFAX V/O I'm sorry, I'm going to need more information than that.

AGENT LANGLEY That's all that I can provide I'm afraid.

HALIFAX V/O Well then, we won't be letting you in.

AGENT LANGLEY Please! It won't be long.

### HALIFAX V/O

Very well. I'll make communication with your superiors and get to the bottom of why your spacecraft isn't registered.

AGENT LANGLEY What?! No! Please!

# HALIFAX V/O

I thought as much. You're a space highway fugitive. What is your real business here? AGENT LANGLEY (Beat) Information.

HALIFAX V/O Information on what?

Beat.

AGENT LANGLEY I need to find out more about the Celestial Realm.

HALIFAX V/O For what purpose is it useful to you?

AGENT LANGLEY Research. Scientific study of the universe.

HALIFAX V/O Very well. I'll let you in through the next portal.

The transmission flicks off

AGENT LANGLEY (Whispers) Yes!

INT. THE GALLOWS, CELESTIAL REALM

Agent Langley's space hopper materialises, the door opens and he walks across the metal grate onto the echoey marble floor. A figure rushes towards him in a hurried state.

HALIFLAX

Agent Langley.

AGENT LANGLEY You're the person I was talking to through the intercom?

HALIFLAX That's me. So were you really in need of fuel or were you planning to snoop around the Gallows of the Celestial Realm?

AGENT LANGLEY I'll leave that up to your imagination.

### HALIFLAX

Oh, I think I can hazard a pretty easy guess. Based on your records we were able to find, you will be supervised on your visit here to the Realm.

AGENT LANGLEY Well, isn't that great! Supervised by whom?

HALIFLAX Well, who better than the chief of security themselves.

AGENT LANGLEY And when shall we expect them to arrive?

HALIFLAX You're looking at her.

AGENT LANGLEY Ah, delighted.

HALIFLAX All our information can be found in the Imaginarium.

AGENT LANGLEY Is that like a library or a study?

Haliflax starts to walk and leads Agent Langley with her.

HALIFLAX Our depository for all knowledge and wisdom that we gather exists in an extension of reality, one where information is easier to find than searching the shelves of a library or the index in a filing cabinet.

AGENT LANGLEY You don't have the space?

HALIFLAX No, we just like to be minimalist.

Haliflax opens a set of grand doors that lead into the Imaginarium.

HALIFLAX After you, Agent Langley, if that is your real name.

AGENT LANGLEY I suppose you'll never know.

Agent Langley steps into the Imaginarium as the doors bolt closed.

MISC. THE IMAGINARIUM

Suddenly, all diegetic sound disappears and lulls into a low drone ambience.

AGENT LANGLEY Why has everything gone dark?

# HALIFLAX

The Imaginarium exists in the nether. There is no concept of space, light or life from the outside world. Everything in here is controlled by an interface.

### AGENT LANGLEY

Do we have to enable some kind of decrypted firewall or something for that?

### HALIFLAX

We'll have to enable my settings and find what you're after.

AGENT LANGLEY Hold on. You're the interface?

#### HALIFLAX

Everything in the Celestial Realm has the ability to be sentient my dear. So what is it that you're after?

# AGENT LANGLEY

I require information on two of your biggest rogues.

### HALIFLAX

There are many rogue Celestial beings. Whether you believe they are the greatest or not comes down to the factual summary of the Imaginarium.

# AGENT LANGLEY

Tell me about Genesis Serenity and Exodus Chaos.

HALIFLAX Ah, so you do have a keen eye.

AGENT LANGLEY What can you tell me?

### HALIFLAX

Two incestuous beings where their very existence hinges on the balance of good and evil, which lead to their demise.

### AGENT LANGLEY

They're dead?

### HALIFLAX

In the material sense, yes. They do however live on in the Eternal Realm. A metaphysical construct beyond what reality could contain.

### AGENT LANGLEY

What happened when they left here?

### HALIFLAX

There were rumblings across the universe of their waking to the Eternal Realm. Empires built on the very construct of their moral compass heralded them as gods. And those civilsations have erected monuments in their name.

AGENT LANGLEY How sanctimonious.

HALIFLAX There is however more to it.

# AGENT LANGLEY

Go on.

### HALIFLAX

These structures weren't merely just built for the purpose of show and grandeur. They were all connected. Suddenly, there's a quaking noise coming from outside.

HALIFLAX We're not alone anymore.

AGENT LANGLEY What's happening?

### HALIFLAX

Langley, if you want to preserve your safety and livelihood, I suggest you make yourself scarce, on the double.

AGENT LANGLEY You're chief of security, surely you can hide me.

# HALIFLAX

I'm not security. I'm not even an interface.

AGENT LANGLEY Then who are you?

#### HALIFLAX

Just a helpful intern. That's all you need to know. Now quick, they've probably realised you're here.

AGENT LANGLEY But what about the information?!

### HALIFLAX

Locate the monuments. You'll find what you're looking for. Now go!

The large doors open again as Agent Langley dashes out, leaving Haliflax behind.

HALIFLAX (To herself) And good luck.

A siren starts to whirr, Haliflax re-enters as guards and people rush by.

HALIFLAX What's going on?!

GUARD There's a spacial disturbance across the universe. All hands on deck!

HALIFLAX What kind of disturbance?

GUARD I'm afraid the legends are true. The Catharo are on their way.

INT. THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

The Professor and Violet appear back inside the Grandfather Clock as it whirrs back into action.

VIOLET What on earth was all that back there?

PROFESSOR PARADOX What? The Perfidious Alchemist?

VIOLET No, the whole Grim Reaper thing.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Ah, yes, well.

VIOLET Well, what? I've got all day Professor.

PROFESSOR PARADOX There's more to all of this than you might realise.

Violet is now angry and lets out a sheer burst of sarcasm.

VIOLET Oh, like I haven't been suspicious this whole time. PROFESSOR PARADOX You and I are both dead.

VIOLET Yes, I get that.

PROFESSOR PARADOX But how are we here?

VIOLET Because I saved you.

PROFESSOR PARADOX And you were saved too. I've only known of you in your after life Violet. I think it's time we learnt about each other in our previous lives.

VIOLET Like that's any information you need to know.

PROFESSOR PARADOX The fate of the universe might just rely on it.

VIOLET Does it now?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Where did you live? Where did you grow up? Why did you go to that house on that night in the first place?

VIOLET You're asking too much.

PROFESSOR PARADOX It's time to wake up Violet.

#### VIOLET

NO-

But before Violet can consciously make another action, everything blips and fizzles out of existence as time slowly starts to rewind.

EXT. FERNTREE GULLY MAIN STREET D/T

The sounds of country meeting suburbia bounce off one another

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as Violet navigates herself. She is now outside, on the main street of shops, near a train station.

VIOLET I'm home.... This is home....

PROFESSOR PARADOX Was home, I assume?

### VIOLET

I grew up here. Ferntree Gully. The gateway into the Dandenongs. Most beautiful place on earth as Mum would say.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

We're travelling back through your personal time stream. We're observers, but we're also players, so let's press on carefully.

#### VIOLET

Hold up, we're not interfering with my past.

#### PROFESSOR PARADOX

This won't fracture anything! Consider it a simulation.

#### VIOLET

I lived here with my Aunt Tabby. She was a strange woman. Very cagey, bit of a hoarder.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

Cat lady?

### VIOLET

No, why?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Most hoarders usually are.

The sound of a stone object can be heard appearing like an apparition.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Now then, things are getting interesting.

Violet's mood completely changes as she's struck by a

horrific trauma that this thing has triggered.

VIOLET That thing! It's come back for me.

PROFESSOR PARADOX What? What is it?

VIOLET I know what that thing is.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Tell me! I've never seen it before.

VIOLET It followed me. It was always around. It was called the Grey Lady.

PROFESSOR PARADOX That's the Grey Lady?

VIOLET You've heard of it?

PROFESSOR PARADOX It's an echo from across time and space. And it's here to find you.

VIOLET It <u>was</u> here to find me.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Why on earth would it come after you?

THE GREY LADY Because I am aware of your future, your past, your present. Have you not considered that the three can interact Professor?

VIOLET It's talking to you, it knows we're here!

PROFESSOR PARADOX Yes, as I said, we're interacting with the past and everybody in it.

THE GREY LADY You never once suspected that Violet Phelps was the target of the Grey PROFESSOR PARADOX What on earth would you want with her?

Beat.

### THE GREY LADY

To guide her. To lead her. To show her the way to her destiny. Isn't it remarkable though that her life comes after death.

#### VIOLET

You knew this all the long? You knew I was going to die?

### THE GREY LADY

If I told you how your life was going to play out, would you run away or run to it? Knowing all of history is a dangerous feat in itself. Best not repeat it too loudly.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

Why are you following Violet? Why is she your target?

### THE GREY LADY

Violet is the key to saving the universe. There will come a dreadful day where all hope is lost but she will save us. Until then, I have to protect her.

# VIOLET

You let me die.

THE GREY LADY Death never stopped you, didn't it?

PROFESSOR PARADOX She's right. You were brought back from the dead for a reason, and we have to make sure you stay alive.

VIOLET Can you tell me exactly what the Grey Lady is? PROFESSOR PARADOX I... I... I don't know. But from what I understand, you're a guardian, a keeper, is that right?

THE GREY LADY You can figure that out yourself. I've already told you too much.

The memory around the Professor and Violet begins to disappear.

VIOLET No, no, wait! We have more questions!

THE GREY LADY Questions will have to wait dear, we'll see each other again very soon.

Violet's memory completely disappears as she and the Professor return back to the Grandfather Clock.

INT. THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

The Professor and Violet gasp for breath as they both regather their thoughts.

VIOLET How did you do that?

PROFESSOR PARADOX I projected your memory. And we stepped inside it.

VIOLET Did you know we were going to see that?

PROFESSOR PARADOX No, but it's proven very helpful.

VIOLET Something is going on.

PROFESSOR PARADOX You're right. First the Catharo, then Artie, now Death is on our doorstep and we have to outrun him.

VIOLET If that was the past version of the Grey Lady talking to us, how did she know what was going on?

PROFESSOR PARADOX The Grey Lady is a construct that exists in the past, present and future all at the same time. She sees everything, everywhere all at once. I guess she knows at least where we're heading.

A voice booms overhead

CATHARO QUEEN That's more than we need to know.

The Catharo are standing outside the Grandfather Clock, waiting for the Professor and Violet.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Oh no.

VIOLET What, what is it?

PROFESSOR PARADOX They've found us.

CATHARO QUEEN Come out Professor! I'm so ready to accept my proposal!

PROFESSOR PARADOX Oh, crumbs.

VIOLET What do we do?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Stay here.

INT. CATHARO LAIR

In a dank, Coliseum-esque cavern, the Professor walks out of the Grandfather Clock, surrounded by the Catharo.

> CATHARO QUEEN Welcome Celestial! Welcome to the Hall of the Catharo Race!

The Catharo cackle and slither in delight like spiders, with

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the fly (the Professor) at the heart of their web.

PROFESSOR PARADOX What do you want with me?

# CATHARO QUEEN

Oh Professor, it's not what we want with you. It's what we want with what you've got!

PROFESSOR PARADOX You're not taking my Grandfather Clock, it's a priceless antique. And it works tremendously well for it's age!

# CATHARO QUEEN You're so stubborn Professor! We're not talking about the bloody clock! (Beat) Search him!

One of the Catharo slithers towards the Professor and rips off his coat.

#### PROFESSOR PARADOX

My coat!

CATHARO QUEEN Give me the vile!

PROFESSOR PARADOX (Whispers) The Blood of the Agra...

CATHARO QUEEN Oh, we knew you'd meet our good friend Artemis in enough time.

PROFESSOR PARADOX

Artemis?

Artie appears on a holographic screen in front of everyone.

Artie's voice is static-y as he appears through the transmission.

ARTIE V/O Artie, short for Artemis. Really, I didn't know you weren't going to pick that up.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX You're Artemis!

You're Artemis!

# ARTIE V/O

The one and only! And I knew I had to give you the vile so you could pass it onto the Catharo here. They were dying to see you again.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

I have a question for you Artemis, if that is even your real name, or should I call you the Perfidious Alchemist!

### ARTIE V/O

I'm sorry, I don't know what you just called me!

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

So... You aren't the Alchemist? I so thought that was you when all the pieces started to fall together.

### ARTIE V/O

I'm afraid not my dear boy, but I do like the execution. Nine out of ten.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

So whoever they are... They're still out there. (Beat) Why couldn't you deliver the vile yourself?

### ARTIE V/O

I unfortunately cannot be in the presence of the Catharo because of my Elemental properties. I needed a Celestial who would do it for me.

### PROFESSOR PARADOX

So you're using me as a pawn in your little game.

# CATHARO QUEEN

And thanks to you Professor, we will now conquer your precious little world.

PROFESSOR PARADOX My world is dead.

CATHARO QUEEN Oh, we weren't talking about the Celestial Realm. We know somewhere much more delicious.

The Catharo Queen opens the vile as a surge of energy pours out into the Catharo. With it, they start to grow into terrifying monsters.

CATHARO QUEEN

With the Blood of the Agra, we're able to become beings of unstoppable power!

PROFESSOR PARADOX No, no, no! What are you doing?

CATHARO QUEEN We're becoming the Catharo that we should be!

ARTIE V/O Don't you see what's happening Professor? The Agra exist as apart of space-time, well so can the Catharo!

PROFESSOR PARADOX No! This can't happen! They'll gain too much power!

CATHARO QUEEN And with that power, we will destroy the universe!

The Professor falls to his knees as he watches the Catharo army revolt and mutate into beings of unimaginable power.

PROFESSOR PARADOX This can't be how it ends.

The sound of shattering glass splits realities in two.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Get out of here Violet! Get out while you can!

CATHARO QUEEN She's beyond your help Professor! All you can do is help yourself!

The Professor begins to run away and trips over.

CATHARO QUEEN (Laughs) You will be pitted to the chambers of Hell!

Reality shatters again, and a splinter of the Professor emerges

PROFESSOR PARADOX Not on my watch!

The Splinter Professor runs away, back in the Grandfather Clock and disappears

ARTIE V/O Let him go. He has shattered himself across reality. He will have to return to unify all parts of himself again.

PROFESSOR PARADOX (SPLINTER) I will win this war against you!

CATHARO QUEEN Oh, no you won't. We will be the race to have defeated Professor Paradox, and you know how we're going to do that? By destroying your precious little planet Earth!

PROFESSOR PARADOX (SPLINTER) You won't!

CATHARO QUEEN We already are. Across space and time, we exist everywhere. It's already happening.

ARTIE V/O Watch Professor, as we destroy everything you love.

Artie produces a vision on Earth as it slowly is engulfed by the Catharo.

PROFESSOR PARADOX (SPLINTER) This can't be true.

MISC. VOID

Alone with nobody else, Gary and Lily observe the void, it's glass like floor and the soft iridescent humming around them.

60.

LILY Are we dead?

GARY GIZMO I don't think so.

LILY I feel alive. I can touch and see and smell.

A new opponent appears, slowly finding form as they transport themselves in the void to confront the duo.

# ARTEMIS And good to know you both still have your senses. It would be difficult for me to talk to a bunch of dead door knobs.

Artemis fully takes form, standing in front of Gary and Lily, takes a deep breath as he has fully traversed into the void.

# ARTEMIS Gary Gizmo - the day has come when I finally get to meet you.

### GARY GIZMO

You know me?

### ARTEMIS

Oh, it's not like those of us in the Elemental Realm don't talk about you lot.

Gary has a moment of realisation when he understands Artemis' origin.

# GARY GIZMO

Ah-ha! You're an Elemental! I wondered when I'd come across your kind face-to-face.

LILY Can you run me up to speed please?

Gary gestures to Lily

# GARY GIZMO

The Elemental race are mirrored with my kind - the Celestials. They specialise in playing with the

elements that make up time, space and reality.

# ARTEMIS

Enough squabble Gary, you're only confusing the poor woman. (Beat) My name is Artemis. And I've come to put a stop to these Celestial gimmicks once and for all.

### GARY GIZMO

Well then Artemis, if you're so clever, can you pinpoint down exactly what is going on here?

### ARTEMIS

(With sheer sarcasm) Oh, please. Don't you realise the Celestials are responsible for this mess? These creatures that have devoured Earth below are a virus that have taken over the Celestial Realm and somehow, they've escaped and gotten into reality, and it's because of one of you meddling idiots that it's happened in the first place.

### LILY

One of them? You mean the Celestials?

### ARTEMIS

Yes! And I've been sent by the authorities of my people to clean it up! Starting with the two of you.

#### LILY

What on earth did I do? I have no part in this.

#### ARTEMIS

You (beat) were caught in the crossfire. Unfortunately through affiliation I have to transport you both and remove you from the equation.

#### LILY where will we d

Then where will we go?

### ARTEMIS

Oh, like that matters. I've got way too much to do. Please just bear with

Artemis takes a deep breath

ARTEMIS Goodbye Gary, it was nice to meet you finally.

Another player approaches, entering into the void to intervene.

THE CATHARO Stop this at once!

LILY It's the Catharo!

THE CATHARO How observant of you!

ARTEMIS What are you doing here?

THE CATHARO Devouring this world bit by bit, but it seems a sneaky morsel got away. What are you doing with these people?

### ARTEMIS

Uh, ah, I've brought them into momentary stasis for a short period while I get to the bottom of the current situation.

GARY GIZMO That's a funny way to describe graverobbing.

The Catharo slithers towards Gary.

THE CATHARO

Explain.

GARY GIZMO Artemis here is an Elemental. He'd do anything to get his hands on a Celestial body.

THE CATHARO As would we. Imagine the power we could possess. GARY GIZMO Unfortunately, that's not going to happen for you today.

### LILY

What are you really doing here though? You had no idea Gary was going to be on earth at the time you started eating away at it.

### THE CATHARO

Ah, but don't you see, it makes the meal all the more scrumptious.

LILY You're just here to destroy our world?

### THE CATHARO

That's exactly it. Why do we need any other reason?

### LILY

You're monsters. And anyone who opposes, you appear at the very mention of your name. What happens when you've finished this world?

THE CATHARO Then we float through space until we find the next.

GARY GIZMO If I may intrude?

The Catharo swings around

THE CATHARO What do *you* want, little man?

GARY GIZMO

There's something else at play here. You're not just destroying the world. You're taking away individual people one by one. Why?

THE CATHARO I don't know what you're talking about.

GARY GIZMO Then why are they disappearing... ARTEMIS (Chuckles to himself)

LILY It's you... What are you doing to these people?

#### ARTEMIS

What else? You've figured out where I come from. I've arrived on a dying world where worthy people are going to waste. Why not elect them to become apart of the elite?

### GARY GIZMO

Oh no...

LILY What? What's he doing?

GARY GIZMO He's taking people and transporting them to the Elemental Realm.

### ARTEMIS

Boom! Bang on the money Mr. Gizmo! I was beginning to worry that it was taking you too long.

### LILY

What use do you have for people?

### ARTEMIS

My dear, I'm merely a curator. I collect and hoard. If a planet is minutes away from extinction, you bet your bottom dollar I'm going to be there.

LILY You're collecting people?

### ARTEMIS

You know it. For the great complete collection of living life in the galaxy! We have the last living dodo, the Tasmanian Devil, the Prince of the Medusoids, and now the last humans. (Beat) Maybe I could add the last Celestial being to my collection too.

GARY GIZMO We will not be coming with you.

ARTEMIS Oh, that would be for me to decide.

THE CATHARO I do not see the gain or value in your plans Artemis. You will be eliminated from the equation.

#### ARTEMIS

Wait, wait, no!

### GARY GIZMO

Artemis, there's still time, come with us and you won't have to deal with this.

ARTEMIS Like I'd ever go with you!

# GARY GIZMO

Wait Artemis!

Artemis clicks his fingers as Gary and Lily disappear, both of them screaming. Artemis pauses, relishing in their absence and takes a deep breath.

> ARTEMIS Now that they're out of the way, what are we going to do now?

MISC. VOID

Gary and Lily travel through black dark void as strange winds rush past them.

LILY Gary? Gary! Are you there?

GARY GIZMO I'm here, don't worry. Wherever we may be going, we're going together.

LILY What the hell happened back there?

# GARY GIZMO

It may not of been his intention, but Artemis saved us from being eaten alive by the Catharo.

LILY What about Melbourne?

GARY GIZMO I'm afraid I have no idea what's going to happen to the world. It seems as though we're well and truly doomed.

Lily and Gary fall further down into the abyss, their destination unknown.

EXT. LAKE D/T

Lily stands across the lake, Wanda still with her, processing the events of what has occurred.

LILY Wait a minute, if the earth died, where are we?

WANDA Ah, isn't that a wonderful mystery.

Lily turns to Wanda

LILY I need you to tell me.

WANDA I will, one day, but not know.

LILY What do you know about all of this?

WANDA Probably more than I should.

LILY I need you to tell me what's going on. Now.

WANDA Well Lily, that's a whole other story. INT. THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

The Splinter Professor who escaped tries his best to outrun the Catharo by flying the Clock across the dimensional plane.

> VIOLET What happened to you out there?

PROFESSOR PARADOX The Catharo literally pulled me apart. I'm not complete. But that's okay. We can still get out of here.

VIOLET I suddenly don't feel well.

A rip in space and time starts to pull the Grandfather Clock apart.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Hold on Violet!

VIOLET Professor! What's happening?

PROFESSOR PARADOX The Catharo are trying to rip through the clock. They want us separated!

Violet struggles to hold on but grips for dear life.

VIOLET What will happen if I let go?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Don't worry. I'll find you. Or you'll find me. What we know is that we need to keep Death off our back.

VIOLET Where will I end up?

PROFESSOR PARADOX Anywhere across reality. Find help. Tell them that the universe is ending.

Beat.

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VIOLET Good luck Professor. PROFESSOR PARADOX And to you too.

Violet lets go as she falls into the chasm that is the universe. Suddenly, the Grey Lady appears.

PROFESSOR PARADOX You'll look out for her, won't you?

THE GREY LADY It's my duty to do so.

PROFESSOR PARADOX You've followed her all her life on Earth?

THE GREY LADY

Yes.

PROFESSOR PARADOX And you know she's apart of the divine plan?

THE GREY LADY That's why I guarded her.

PROFESSOR PARADOX Then you will continue to do so.

The Grey Lady disappears, leaving the Professor on his own.

PROFESSOR PARADOX I do hope this works out.

The Grandfather Clock blows up in a mysterious white light.

(END OF EPISODE ONE)