

WELCOME TO THE HORIZON

Part 3: Wayfaring Stranger

By

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Welcome to the Horizon

Part 3: Wayfaring Stranger

WE ONCE AGAIN HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE BREAKFAST RUSH AT THE SHEEP'S EYE. VERGE STANDS OUTSIDE.

ELDIN

Just so we're clear...

VERGE

Yes?

ELDIN

You're going to sit down with these Earthlings and just... tell them everything.

VERGE

I don't know about everything but I'm going to answer their questions.

ELDIN

Uh huh...

VERGE

What?

ELDIN

Well I'm no expert or anything.

VERGE

Eldin.

ELDIN

I'm no expert but it does feel like this falls outside of your usual modus operandi.

VERGE

Does it?

ELDIN

Do you disagree?

VERGE

I slew a gigantic hell beast in their parking lot last night, I don't think I'd be able to explain that away.

ELDIN

And your usual modus operandi would be to pack up immediately and head for one of many hiding spots, wouldn't it?

VERGE  
... I suppose.

ELDIN  
And yet.

VERGE  
And yet.

ELDIN  
... Would you like a reminder of how vulnerable the information systems are on this planet?

VERGE  
Not really.

ELDIN  
Everyone is basically walking around naked.

VERGE  
I know.

ELDIN  
From a data security perspective.

VERGE  
I get it.

ELDIN  
And yet.

VERGE  
And yet.

ELDIN  
... One of my directives is to make sure you're not killed.

VERGE  
And I appreciate it, Eldin.

ELDIN  
So I'm sure you can imagine how attracting attention on this planet is in conflict with that directive.

VERGE  
I understand.

ELDIN  
Then what the fuck, Verge?

VERGE  
Relax.

THE DOOR TO THE SHEEP'S EYE OPENS AND DEIDRE EMERGES.

DEIDRE

Okay, a Breakfast Burrito and a short stack. Enjoy, guys... Oh, hey.

VERGE

Hello, there.

DEIDRE

How was your night?

VERGE

Interesting.

DEIDRE

Interesting good?

VERGE

Sure.

DEIDRE

I owe you a drink.

VERGE

You do.

DEIDRE

Have you come to collect?

VERGE

I hear drinking in the morning is frowned on around here.

DEIDRE

Maybe by some people, not by anyone in the four walls behind me.

VERGE

Alright... Do you have anything spicy in there?

DEIDRE

All sorts of things.

VERGE

Great. I have to sit down with Frank and June for a bit, but I'll come see you later.

DEIDRE

Okay.

DEIDRE WALKS BACK INSIDE.

ELDIN

Oh yes, it's all becoming clear to me now.

VERGE

What?

ELDIN

No, no, don't mind me, don't let me interrupt you dipping your toe in the local finery.

VERGE

Finery?

ELDIN

The local peasantry? The local flavor? What would you like me to call it?

VERGE

Call what?

ELDIN

I'm sorry I'd love to continue this conversation but I need to, real quick, tally up the list of bounties you have on your head.

VERGE

You worry too much.

ELDIN

You worry too much. Suddenly you're not. I don't like it.

VERGE

What are you going to do, tender your resignation?

ELDIN

We agreed that coming here would require keeping a low profile, now you're spilling the beans with the local proprietors and beginning some sort of mating ritual with one of the local idiots.

VERGE

Quiet down. Here they come.

JUNE

Hey, Verge.

VERGE

Hello there... Heck of a night last night.

FRANK

Yeah, sure, heck of a night. Why don't we get down to business, okay?

VERGE  
Ok.

JUNE  
Let's sit.

VERGE  
Great.

THEY PULL THREE CHAIRS OUT FROM A TABLE AND SIT. THERE IS A LONG PAUSE.

VERGE (CONT'D)  
Frank, I get the sense that if I start this conversation you're going to want to take control of it as soon as possible so why don't you go ahead and start?

FRANK  
... Okay... What I witnessed last night, what we witnessed was you brandishing, what could only be described as, a ray-gun.

VERGE  
I think you could find a few more ways to describe it, but yes. That is what you witnessed. And what I witnessed last night was a monstrous dog. That I killed. And when I killed it, it exploded into a dozen smaller dogs.

JUNE  
Twnty-one dogs, actually.

FRANK  
That is what you saw, yes.

VERGE  
Okay. Afterwards I did some looking into it, and one big dog exploding into twenty one smaller dogs is NOT a common occurrence on this planet.

FRANK  
Yes, and I can tell you from experience, whatever Buck Rodgers nonsense you performed last night is also not a common occurrence on this... on this planet, you said "on this planet."

VERGE  
Yes. Yes I did... buried the lede, I guess.

FRANK  
...

JUNE

... Holy shit.

VERGE

... I heard about this Earthling. Enrico Fermi. He had some theory about life on other planets. He said, if there are so many habitable planets out there, well then where is everybody?... Hi.

FRANK

...

JUNE

... Frank's going to need a minute.

VERGE

Take all the time you need.

JUNE

I, however, do not need a minute. Let's get into it.

VERGE

Okay.

JUNE

You're an alien.

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

Where are you from?

VERGE

Space.

JUNE

What's the name of your planet?

VERGE

It was called Vapus.

JUNE

Was?

VERGE

It was destroyed.

JUNE

Your planet was destroyed?

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

How?

VERGE

An experiment gone wrong.

JUNE

You blew up your planet?

VERGE

Kind of. It's a black hole now.

JUNE

It's a black hole now?!

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

How did you survive?

VERGE

I was just a kid, I was on vacation with my parents.

JUNE

Then where do you live?

VERGE

Nowhere.

JUNE

Nowhere?

VERGE

Someone described it to me once. A hobo?

JUNE

Oh. So you just kind of wander around?

VERGE

Not wander really. I have a complicated assortment of hideouts.

JUNE

Hideouts, why are you hiding out?

VERGE

Bounty hunters.

JUNE

...Space bounty hunters?

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

Holy shit. Okay. Why? Are you a space criminal attracting space bounty hunters?

VERGE

You don't have to put "space" in front of every noun.

JUNE

Oh yes I do, Verge. Why are the space bounty hunters space hunting you?

VERGE

I'm worth a lot of money, let's leave it at that.

JUNE

How did you get here?

VERGE

In my ship.

JUNE

You... you have a space ship?

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

Where?

VERGE

It's across the road from your hotel. In the trees.

JUNE

Get the fuck out.

VERGE

It is.

JUNE

How come people can't see it? Wait... a cloaking device?

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

(Trying to keep it together.)  
This is... the most awesome shit I've ever heard in my life!

VERGE

Frank, how are you doing over there?

FRANK

I was hoping you were from the secret military base nearby.

VERGE

There's a secret military base nearby?

FRANK

No.

VERGE

... My turn?

FRANK

Yes, go ahead.

VERGE

What the fuck was happening in your parking lot last night?

FRANK

... It's never been the most normal town in the world but... A few days ago a.... A diner showed up in our parking lot.

VERGE

A diner?

FRANK

Yes.

VERGE

Aha.

FRANK

I know, it sounds ridiculous... ever since then, things have been getting a little weird here in town.

VERGE

... That doesn't sound so ridiculous.

FRANK

Really? This is a common occurrence in your world?

VERGE

... It was called Midnight Burger.

FRANK

Shit. Yes. You know what I'm talking about?

VERGE  
Looks like we have a mutual friend.

JUNE  
We do?

VERGE  
... Leif.

FRANK  
Leif, which one was Leif?

JUNE  
The guy on the roof.

FRANK  
You know him?

VERGE  
He was the one who sent me here. He said it was a nice place, he said I might like it.

JUNE  
How do you know him?

VERGE  
It's a long story.

JUNE  
Oh, Okay... I get it.

FRANK  
... The diner, they warned us that things were going to get weird here. Something about damage to the fabric of space/time.

VERGE  
They said it was going to make dogs explode into other dogs?

FRANK  
No, they couldn't tell us how they just said that it might get weird.

VERGE  
Okay. I think we can confirm that, right?

FRANK  
Yeah.

VERGE  
What else has been happening?

FRANK

Um...

JUNE

The other day we had an encounter with a bandit.

VERGE

You have bandits here?

JUNE

A bandit from about a hundred and seventy-five years ago.

VERGE

Oh really?

JUNE

Relentless Rick.

VERGE

Relentless Rick?

JUNE

Yes.

VERGE

That's a little much.

JUNE

I mean, he was pretty relentless.

FRANK

And then you showed up.

JUNE

But honestly, being visited by aliens is the most normal of the three.

FRANK

So you're only here because you heard it was nice?

VERGE

Yes. And quiet. Which it is. If you overlook the whole two-ton dog part.

JUNE

You look human.

VERGE

I'm in disguise.

JUNE

What, are you wearing a wig or something?

VERGE

I'm wearing an Earthsuit. It disguises me on Earth.

JUNE

So what, you can unzip yourself and you're a little green man on the inside?

VERGE

Actually Vapians look really similar to Earthlings aside from two very key details. The Earthsuit hides those two things. Everything else is me.

JUNE

What are the two things?

VERGE

Mind your business.

FRANK

Okay, I'm going to go ahead and put a stop this conversation because... because what the fuck... Verge, thank you for what you did last night, I'm pretty sure we'd be dead if you hadn't have...

VERGE

Used my ray gun?

FRANK

Yes.

VERGE

Don't mention it.

FRANK

Fucking aliens... sure.

VERGE

Sure.

FRANK

You're welcome here as long as you want okay? Just... if you're going to plant eggs in someone's throat or something we would like a heads up.

VERGE

Oh Frank, it's been years since I planted my eggs in someone's throat, don't worry about it.

JUNE

Do you seriously do that?

VERGE

No, June.

JUNE  
How the fuck am I supposed to know?

FRANK  
Shit. I forgot.

JUNE  
What?

FRANK  
I have to go talk to Trinkett.

JUNE  
Oh good. This means you'll be in a great mood for the rest of the day.

FRANK  
Goddamnit.

VERGE  
Who's Trinkett?

JUNE  
Frank's favorite person.

FRANK  
Please God, let her not know about all of this.

JUNE  
Of course she's going to know, she speaks to the birds and they tell her secrets.

FRANK  
I have to go. Verge... y'know... welcome to Earth?

VERGE  
Thanks.

DEIDRE  
Hey, Frank, do you want to order something?

FRANK  
No, I've got to go, thanks.

DEIDRE  
Bye. Hey June.

JUNE  
Hey, Deidre.

DEIDRE PUTS A GLASS DOWN ON THE TABLE.

DEIDRE  
I made you a Bloody Mary.

VERGE

You did?

DEIDRE

You said spicy, right?

VERGE

Yeah.

DEIDRE

Give it a try, let me know.

VERGE

I will.

JUNE

Where's my Bloody Mary, Deidre?

DEIDRE

Coming right up.

JUNE

So... let's talk alien shit.

VERGE

Okay.

THE DOOR OPENS TO "THE NEW AGE EMPORIUM." NEW AGE MUSIC PLAYS.

FRANK

Good God, what is that smell?... Trinkett?

TRINKETT

(From upstairs.)  
I'm on the roof.

FRANK

Great.

FRANK CLIMBS THE STAIRS AND OPENS THE DOOR TO THE ROOF. WE HEAR THE SQUEAKING OF TRINKETT'S OLD TELESCOPE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Trinkett, I think the key to using that telescope is waiting for nightfall.

TRINKETT

I'm adjusting it right now because I won't be able to see the coordinates on this piece of paper later tonight.

FRANK

Okay...

TRINKETT CONTINUES TO ADJUST THE TELESCOPE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

... You wanted to talk to me?

TRINKETT

... Frank, is there anything you need to tell me?

FRANK

Has there ever been anything I NEEDED to tell you?

TRINKETT

Frank, I asked you last night if there was anything strange going on.

FRANK

Uh huh.

TRINKETT

Is there anything strange going on?

FRANK

... Ok, look-

TRINKETT

A bandit from the 1850's?

FRANK

...

TRINKETT

Disappearing dogs?

FRANK

That was-

TRINKETT

How about one huge dog? The size of a car?

FRANK

(Cursing her name.)  
June...

TRINKETT

I know we don't see eye to eye on a lot of things, Frank, so let me clear it up for you. A man from another time and a cow-sized dog? I think I'd categorize those things as strange.

FRANK

Trinkett, you think faeries are real, how am I supposed to know what you think is strange?

TRINKETT

Frank. Was there a time-traveling bandit,  
disappearing dogs, and a huge monster in your  
parking lot?

FRANK

... Yes.

TRINKETT

So can you stop bullshitting with me, please?

FRANK

... Yes.

TRINKETT

What is happening?

FRANK

I don't know.

TRINKETT

... Okay. Like I was saying, I was in Cairo, New  
York. I was there because I was working on a book.  
It's a book about forests and the power that they  
hold. In Cairo, New York is fossilized evidence of  
the oldest forest in the history of the world. I  
was trying to get in touch with all of that, trying  
to commune with an ancient place to get a sense of  
its power. Things hide in forests. Not just spirits  
and entities but also ideas. Ideas that have been  
long forgotten can hide there from the modern  
world. They can be safe there. It's why I live  
here. I know that you think I'm ridiculous. I know  
you like to make jokes when I proscribe an herb  
smoke for someone's migraines, I know you think  
that my crystals and my Tarot cards are all stupid.  
You forget that I'm used to you making fun of me  
because you've been doing it since I was a goth in  
middle school.

FRANK

You looked pretty ridiculous in middle school.

TRINKETT

I know I looked ridiculous, Frank, but every goth  
is just a witch in training and here I am now...  
I've never expected you to believe in what I do,  
but now, with these very strange things happening  
in town, I think maybe I'm due a little respect,  
okay?

FRANK

... Okay. I apologize.

TRINKETT

And, not for nothing, the herb smoke worked.  
Celeste doesn't have migraines anymore.

FRANK

I remember.

TRINKETT

... So there I was in the middle of an ancient forest. I had just gotten my fire started and the sun was going down. I got a very strange feeling and I decided to pull some cards. And there, right in a row: The Wheel of Fortune, Death, The Tower, and Judgment... Change is coming... So the next morning I went into the nearest town and I called a friend of mine, Kacy Howe. Kacy works at the Rubin Observatory in Chile. Like a lot of astronomers, Kacy is secretly an astrologer, and will admit in private that the things that happen in the stars above our heads have a very real impact on the things that happen on Earth. I tell Kacey about this feeling I had and about the cards I pulled... And they tell me that something is happening on their end as well. Something in the sky...

FRANK

What is that?

TRINKETT

The conventional wisdom is that it's a series of comets that follow a similar path in the solar system, they call them X-1604 through x-1612. But people like Kacey and people like me have a different idea. The series of comets that astronomers see in the sky is just one comet. A comet with an unpredictable orbit. A comet that returns to Earth whenever it needs to. A comet that brings drastic change and upheaval. It's called The Wayfaring Stranger.

FRANK

So this comet just waits around until it's time to come back to Earth?

TRINKETT

I don't know what it does in it's free time, Frank, I'm not all up in its business.

FRANK

That's sounds a little impossible, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Okay, again: Time Traveling Bandit.

FRANK

... Point taken.

TRINKETT

Kacey has a few things they need to check and then I'm going to call them later today. Kacey is going to make some adjustments and do some readings and then will let me know.

FRANK

Let you know what?

TRINKETT

If The Wayfaring Stranger is returning.

FRANK

And if it is?

TRINKETT

... Most ancient cultures have a flood myth. These myths came into being right around the same time all around the world. That was the last time The Wayfaring Stranger visited our planet. The last time this comet passed by us, the world flooded. And later today, we're going to find out if it's coming back.

FRANK

Trinkett, I know I've been dismissive of you in the past, but I've never thought you were stupid or naive for believing the things that you believe.

TRINKETT

Sure you did.

FRANK

Okay, maybe a little, but look... Do you honestly believe that a comet is heading for Earth and there's going to be a massive flood around the world?

TRINKETT

I don't know, Frank. But I'll say this: I'm glad we're at the top of a mountain right now.

FRANK

I really don't know what to say to that, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

This mysterious bandit that came through town, he was running from something, right?

FRANK

He was.

TRINKETT

That's exodus. That's a standard reaction to impending doom. All the dogs in town, all their spirits combining into one collective soul? That's consolidation. That's another standard reaction to impending doom.

FRANK

What are some other reactions?

TRINKETT

Denial. I think you've got that one pretty well handled, Frank.

FRANK

Okay.

TRINKETT

I need more information, obviously. But if I get on the phone today and hear that The Wayfaring Stranger is coming back? I think we're going to start seeing the people in this town reacting to something. Their spirit selves are going to be sensing something. There's going to be denial, rebellion, acceptance, resilience, it's going to be a lot. I honestly don't know what we're in for.

FRANK

Denial, rebellion, acceptance, resilience. That just sounds like life to me, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Maybe. Regardless, there are people in town that listen to you and there are people in town that listen to me. They're going to need both of us.

FRANK

Okay. What happens now?

TRINKETT

Now we wait to hear. I just made nettle and ginger tea, do you want some?

FRANK

God, I really don't.

BACK AT THE SHEEP'S EYE.

JUNE

Anybody can get pregnant?

VERGE

Anybody.

JUNE

How does that work?

VERGE

Humans have sexes. Vapians don't.

JUNE

So who... how does the... wait... if you-

VERGE

Eldin?

ELDIN

Vapians, like Earthlings, reproduce through sexual contact. Unlike humans, that sexual contact can result in either partner being inseminated.

JUNE

You have a talking space phone?

VERGE

June this is Eldin.

JUNE

It has a name?

ELDIN

Hello, June. Don't take this personally, but I think Verge is making a terrible mistake in talking to you.

JUNE

Nonsense, I'm great.

VERGE

If you have questions, Eldin is probably better at answering them than I am.

JUNE

Oh my god, are you serious?

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

Eldin, how much battery life have you got?

ELDIN

My current charge will last approximately eighteen Earth months.

JUNE

Well see, that's already amazing, I'm constantly at a five percent charge somehow.

ELDIN

Yes, lithium-ion was really one of your worst ideas.

JUNE

So Eldin, tell me, how many different types of aliens are out there?

ELDIN

Current census data reads that there are currently 556,349 species of sentient life in The Triad.

JUNE

Five... Holy shit. What's The Triad?

ELDIN

The Triad is "Out there".

JUNE

So what's like, the weirdest one?

ELDIN

I'm talking to one of them right now, June.

JUNE

Ha! I like it. It's kind of a dick.

VERGE

Definitely.

JUNE

So why don't you want Verge talking to me, Eldin?

ELDIN

The longer Verge stays on this planet, the greater the risk to their safety.

JUNE

Oh shit. Is that true?

VERGE

He's exaggerating.

JUNE

Are you exaggerating?

ELDIN

The worst place for a Vapian to be is in an environment with unsecured data networks. There are a lot of people out there looking for Vapians, especially this particular Vapian. One stray photo of Verge on a networked security camera could mean big trouble. This entire planet leaks data like submarine with a screen door.

JUNE

Hey, I'll have you know that I have never repeated a password in my life, pal.

ELDIN

In the time it took you to say that I hacked into your phone and I now have all of your personal banking information. Do you mind if I go shopping?

JUNE

Jokes on you, Eldin, I don't have any money.

ELDIN

That is... true.

VERGE

It's his job to worry about things, don't let him freak you out.

JUNE

Is he serious though? Is it dangerous for you to be here?

VERGE

I mean... a little.

ELDIN

A lot.

JUNE

Why?

VERGE

(Sighing.)  
Eldin, what is The Triad?

ELDIN

The Triad is a cluster of three galaxies in close relative proximity that are connected by a series of stable wormholes. The Milky Way, Andromeda, and Trianguulum.

VERGE

That's where you live, okay? The Triad.

JUNE

Okay.

VERGE

And what is the political climate right now in The Triad, Eldin?

ELDIN

Political tensions in The Triad are at an all time high in the aftermath of a series of rebellious acts referred to colloquially as "Gloria's War", wherein an anomaly known as "Midnight Burger" disrupted current power structures across several systems and fomented rebellion on many planets.

JUNE

The diner from our parking lot?

VERGE

Look, I owe you a much longer explanation than this but... There's a lot going on above your head, June. A lot. And I think I know which way the wind is blowing... I think there's going to be a war.

JUNE

...A space war?

VERGE

Yes, June. A space war.

JUNE

Are we in danger?

VERGE

No. That's the whole point. This place may be dangerous for me right now, but if things go the way I think they're going to go, Earth will be the safest place. If a war happens, it won't touch Earth. Earth is too important to both sides.

JUNE

What? We're Switzerland or something?

VERGE

Eldin?

ELDIN

Switzerland is a nation on the continent of Europe know for its political neutrality.

VERGE

Sure. Like that. Kind of... Eldin's right though. For the time being it's dangerous for me here. And if it's dangerous for me, it's dangerous for someone else, too. If I'm going to stay here I should probably find a place further away from people, less collateral damage.

JUNE

Hey hey hey, no you shouldn't. We don't turn away business at the Horizon Motel.

(MORE)

JUNE (CONT'D)

If you want to be here, you should be here. Jesus Christ, Verge, you saved our lives last night, how bad would we suck if we kicked you out?

VERGE

You're not kicking me out, I'm leaving.

JUNE

No, you're not. It's going to be fine.

VERGE

If you don't mind me saying, you've been strangely fine with my situation from the moment I killed the big dog in your parking lot.

JUNE

Well, of course I have. Look... when I would get home from school as a kid there would be these reruns of a show on called "Star Trek", have you heard of this?

VERGE

I think so.

AS JUNE TALKS, WE SLOWLY BEGIN TO HEAR THE SOUND OF A CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE COMING UP THE STREET.

JUNE

The whole thing took place in space, and there was aliens and shit, it was great. But it kind of ruined me, because everything else looked looked boring by comparison. I was dating this guy, and he really wanted us to move to the city. "It's all happening there," he would say. And I was like "Oh really? It's all happening there? Are there Gorns there? I don't think so." It ruined me. It's a cruel trick, you know? We're given these wild imaginations while being trapped in a world that can never live up to them. I think it's why I've lived here most of my life... But now... well, look at me now, Verge. I'm sitting here with my new alien friend who's in danger of space bounty hunters and trying to avoid a space war. You can't leave, Verge. It's too awesome.

DEIDRE

Uh. June?

JUNE

What?

DEIDRE

Are you seeing this?

THE PARADE IS NOW VERY CLOSE TO THE SHEEP'S EYE. JUNE'S PHONE STARTS RINGING.

JUNE

... Hello, Frank.

FRANK

(On the phone.)

What the fuck is that coming up the street?

JUNE

You can see it too, huh?

FRANK

(On the phone.)

We're watching it with Trinkett's telescope.

JUNE

Well it's... Frankie, I have no idea what it is.

VERGE

Is this not normal?

DEIDRE

It looks like a Chinese New Year Parade.

JUNE

Deidre says it looks like a Chinese New Year Parade.

FRANK

(On the phone.)

We've never had a Chinese New Year Parade.

JUNE

He says we've never had a Chinese New Year Parade.

DEIDRE

We did one time.

JUNE

Deidre says we did one time... wait... when was this one time, Deidre?

DEIDRE

... 1923.

JUNE

Uh-huh. Sure.

DEIDRE

They held them in several towns across the state as a way to try and ease anti-Chinese sentiment.

JUNE

Uh-huh. Well, it's working on me, it looks like a lot of fun.

THE PARADE IS IN FULL SWING AS THEY PASS BY THE SHEEP'S EYE.

FRANK

(On the phone.)  
What is Deidre saying?

JUNE

Frank, this is apparently a Chinese New Year celebration from 1923.

FRANK

(On the phone.)  
Uh-huh. About a hundred years ago.

JUNE

Yep.

FIREWORKS BEGIN TO GO OFF.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Oooh. They've got fireworks. I bet Trinkett's got her peasant skirt in a twist about this one.

FRANK

(On the phone.)  
Are you kidding me, she's never been more in her element. We have some news, actually. Stay put, we're coming to you.

JUNE

Okay, enjoy the parade.

FRANK

(On the phone.)  
You too!

THE PARADE HAS BEGUN TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE SHEEP'S EYE.

JUNE

Everybody wave.

VERGE

What was that all about?

JUNE

Look, I know you think you're cool with your talking box and your space ship and your alien parts, but that was a time-traveling parade you just witnessed my space-friend. Suck on that.

LATER IN THE SHEEP'S EYE. A LARGE CROWD HAS GATHERED AGAIN.

VERGE

Large crowd all of a sudden.

DEIDRE

Oh hey. Yeah. I think the sudden parade outside might have attracted some attention. Please don't ask me to explain it, by the way, I really have no idea what's going on.

VERGE

So are you the town historian, or something?

DEIDRE

Me? No. I just get interested in things. My family has been here a long time, my grandfather moved here when he was a kid and now he owns half the town.

FRANK

Hey Deidre.

DEIDRE

Hey Frank, what the fuck with the parade?

FRANK

Yeah, I know, give me a minute, okay? Verge.

VERGE

This is a fucked up town, Frank.

FRANK

Yeah, no shit. Listen, what can you tell me about comets.

VERGE

Comets?

FRANK

Yes.

VERGE

Um. If you position your ship to the far side of one, it's a great way to dodge long range scanners.

FRANK

Anything more terrestrial? What can a comet do to a planet?

VERGE

A lot. The closer it gets to a star, the more debris it sheds.

(MORE)

VERGE (CONT'D)

Depending on what the comet is made of, it can rain all kinds of hellfire on a planet.

FRANK

Goddamnit.

JUNE

So you're going to call your friend Kacey in where?

TRINKETT

Chile.

JUNE

And they're going to tell you if a comet is headed for Earth?

TRINKETT

Yes.

JUNE

And if it is, that's bad.

TRINKETT

It could be. There's no way of knowing for sure.

JUNE

Great to have you back in town, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Here I go.

TRINKETT DIALS THE PHONE BEHIND THE BAR.

FRANK

Well this has been quite a day.

JUNE

Frankie, it's not even fucking noon.

TRINKETT

Hola, ¿puedo hablar con el doctor Howe? Por favor, díles que soy Trinkett Coralee.

VERGE

Hey, another thing about comets, most cultures regard them as harbingers of doom or drastic change.

FRANK

Yeah, I think we're aware of that part, Verge.

JUNE

Hey Verge, remember how I said this is a great place and you should stay? Maybe I was wrong.

VERGE

Because of a comet?

JUNE

Yeah.

VERGE

I'm fine. I had a hideout on an unstable centaur  
for a while, that's way more dangerous.

FRANK

What's an unstable centaur?

VERGE

A planet that could collide with another planet at  
any time.

FRANK

... And you just hung out there?

VERGE

Kept the tourists away.

TRINKETT

Okay, Kacey. Thank you... if you hear anything else  
you can leave a message at this number, okay?  
Please, if you hear anything else... okay... bye...

FRANK

... Well?

TRINKETT

... It's coming back.

**THE END.**