

WELCOME TO THE HORIZON

Part 4: The Recluse

By

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Welcome to the Horizon

Part 4: Recluse

WE BEGIN AT TRINKETT'S SHOP. WIND BLOWS THROUGH WINDCHIMES AS TRINKETT'S BARE FEET WALK INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM. SHE LIGHTS INCENSE AND SITS ON THE FLOOR. SHE BREATHES IN AND OUT FOR A MOMENT AND THEN SPEAKS.

TRINKETT

As the Earth holds me. As the Sky sees me. As the Sun rises within me. I step out to greet the Day.

SHE CONTINUES TO BREATHE UNTIL THERE IS A TIMID KNOCK ON HER DOOR. SHE TAKES ONE MORE BREATH AND ANSWERS.

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

Come in.

THE DOOR OPENS AND DOUG WALKS IN.

FLAT DOUG

Hello?

TRINKETT

Hello Doug, come in.

FLAT DOUG

Sorry, am I disturbing you?

TRINKETT

Not at all, Doug, come in.

DOUG SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

How are you?

FLAT DOUG

I'm okay.

TRINKETT

Just okay?

FLAT DOUG

I'm good... I'm sorry, that's a lie, I'm just okay.

TRINKETT

Do you remember the emotional intelligence wheel I gave you?

FLAT DOUG

Yes. Right. I'm uh... fragile. I'm feeling fragile.

TRINKETT

And because you used the word fragile, you feel less fragile, right?

FLAT DOUG

Yes. Yes, a little.

TRINKETT

Good. Sit down.

FLAT DOUG

Okay.

DOUG SITS ON THE FLOOR. TRINKETT BREATHES.

TRINKETT

I'm sorry I've been away for so long. Have you been able to drink the skullcap tea in the morning?

FLAT DOUG

Yes. Yes, I have, it helps a lot. I gave up coffee.

TRINKETT

That's great. I mean, there's nothing wrong with coffee, it's just very powerful and you need to pace yourself.

FLAT DOUG

I've had a little coffee.

TRINKETT

That's okay.

FLAT DOUG

... Things have been very strange in town.

TRINKETT

Yes, Doug, they really have, I'm glad you came to see me.

FLAT DOUG

I'm not really sure what to do with it all.

TRINKETT

Well, the first thing to do is, what you're doing right now, reach out to other people. Try and stay connected.

FLAT DOUG

Right.

TRINKETT

And what do you say to yourself?

FLAT DOUG

"I'm not sick."

TRINKETT

You're not. That's right. The stars have made you sensitive to things that others aren't. Things affect you differently than other people. That doesn't mean you're wrong, that doesn't mean you're broken, it just means you're different. Different is good. Different is important.

FLAT DOUG

Right... It would help if things weren't getting so strange. I mean, it's nuts out there, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

I know it is, Doug. It's not just you, it's hard for me too. It's been very hard to stay centered and connected for me, too. It's not just you.

FLAT DOUG

Okay.

TRINKETT

How are things with your Dad?

FLAT DOUG

Well, he's still an asshole.

TRINKETT

Okay.

FLAT DOUG

But he also can't take care of himself, so I'm over there a lot.

TRINKETT

Right. Well, we've talked about this before, your father spent most of his life working for timber companies. Bringing down old growth like that releases a huge amount of energy that was being contained in the trees. He spent far too many years being exposed to that, he's carrying a lot.

FLAT DOUG

He tends to make that my fault, though.

TRINKETT

I know, Doug. That's not an excuse, that's an explanation. He really is an asshole.

FLAT DOUG

Thank you.

TRINKETT

Don't spend more time over there than you have to.

FLAT DOUG

I won't.

TRINKETT

So... what do you need today? Is the tea enough do you think? I've got some linden oil that might help.

FLAT DOUG

Uh... actually something's going on, it could be nothing, but I thought, y'know, considering everything that's happening...

TRINKETT

What is it?

FLAT DOUG

It's about Cameron.

TRINKETT

Cameron, what about Cameron?

FLAT DOUG

He... you know how he has his Wall Street Journal delivered to my store?

TRINKETT

Yes. Thank you for doing that, by the way.

FLAT DOUG

It's no problem. It's easy. The paper gets delivered to the shop and I drop it off at his front gate every day. He pays me way too much money to do it.

TRINKETT

So, what is the problem, then?

FLAT DOUG

The papers have been piling up a little. He hasn't been picking them up. I dropped one off this morning and there's five newspapers at his gate now.

TRINKETT

I see.

FLAT DOUG

I'm sure it's nothing. Considering what's going on lately, though, I thought I should say something and I know you go up to see him sometimes so I thought... Maybe I should come see you.

TRINKETT

Okay... thank you for doing that. I'm glad you told me.

FLAT DOUG

I'm sure it's nothing.

TRINKETT

I'm sure. But I'm glad you told me.

FLAT DOUG

Should I tell Frank?

TRINKETT

No, don't worry about it. I'll check on him, you don't have to worry about it.

FLAT DOUG

Okay.

TRINKETT

In fact I'll do that right now.

FLAT DOUG

Great.

THEY BOTH GET UP. TRINKETT OPENS A BOX ON THE COUNTER.

TRINKETT

Before you go, I want you to take this. Keep this with you. It's sodalite, it'll help you stay cool out there, okay? Just keep it in your pocket, don't leave home without it.

FLAT DOUG

Okay great. I'm so glad you're back.

TRINKETT

Me too, Doug. I'll let you know when more skullcap comes in, okay.

FLAT DOUG

Great.

DOUG EXITS.

TRINKETT

... What's going on, Cameron?

WE MOVE TO THE HORIZON MOTEL. JUNE IS OUTSIDE DRINKING COFFEE. A CHICKEN APPROACHES.

JUNE

Ah... You again...

FRANK WALKS OUT OF THE OFFICE.

FRANK

What is that sound?

JUNE

Estelle's back.

FRANK

You named Clementine's chicken Estelle?

JUNE

I did. Good morning, Estelle.

FRANK

Why did you name it Estelle?

JUNE

Look at her. It works right?

FRANK

... It does.

JUNE

Estelle.

FRANK

How has one lone chicken been surviving in a forest full of chicken-eating things?

JUNE

Ooooh, I do not want to know the answer to that question.

FRANK

Nor do I.

JUNE

Maybe Estelle's a survivor. When Trinkett's comet swings by and obliterates the Earth, Estelle's still going to be here. Just Estelle and cockroaches and Nick Nolte.

FRANK

I see we've added "getting obliterated by a comet" to our daily parlance.

JUNE

I see we've added "daily parlance" to our daily parlance. Are you a Dickensian banker?

FRANK

We're not going to be obliterated by a comet.

JUNE

Trinkett says there's a comet heading for Earth and it's going to obliterate us.

FRANK

That's not what she said, she did not say obliterate.

JUNE

It's just like you to quibble over terminology when the world is on the brink of destruction. Can you believe this, Estelle?

FRANK

Don't drag Estelle into this.

VERGE EMERGES FROM THEIR ROOM LIGHTING A CIGARETTE.

JUNE

Morning, Verge.

VERGE

Morning.

JUNE

What's up this morning?

VERGE

Oh you know, just taking it all in before we're obliterated.

JUNE

See?

FRANK

I thought it was my job to be the pessimistic one. I don't like you two moving in on my territory.

JUNE

Nobody elected you the President of Pessimism, it was a volunteer position that you always took on pro-bono.

FRANK

Well, I've resigned my position and now I'm switching sides since you two seem to have it covered.

JUNE

Well look at you. Look at the growth.

FRANK

I'm just saying, just because there's a lot of weird shit going on doesn't mean that every hair-brained theory is correct.

JUNE

It's like I don't even know you.

VERGE

That's a chicken, right?

JUNE

Verge, this is Estelle. Say hello, Estelle.

VERGE

You eat these, right?

FRANK

We're not eating that one.

JUNE

Oh no, we are not. Stay away from this chicken, Verge. It's cursed. Bad Juju.

VERGE

Juju?

WE HEAR TRINKETT'S BICYCLE COMING UP THE DRIVEWAY.

JUNE

Hey, speaking of witches and curses.

VERGE

Who's this?

JUNE

It's Trinkett, the local mystic, Verge. Do you need your chackras hoovered?

VERGE

My what what-ed?

FRANK

Trinkett, what's up?

TRINKETT

I need your help. Hi, June.

JUNE

What's going on?

TRINKETT

It's Cameron.

FRANK

Cameron?

TRINKETT

I talked to Doug, Cameron hasn't been picking up his newspapers.

FRANK

Well, maybe he just realized he was the last person in America to get the newspaper delivered.

TRINKETT

I think he may have regressed while I was gone. We need to check on him.

JUNE

What do you need us for?

TRINKETT

I tried ringing his intercom several times, he's not answering.

FRANK

What can we do about it?

TRINKETT

We're breaking in.

FRANK

... Oh, we are, are we?

TRINKETT

Yes.

FRANK

Trinkett.

TRINKETT

What?

FRANK

I'm not going to break in to Cameron's high-tech compound, I wouldn't even know how to do that.

TRINKETT

Would you just get your tools and come with me?

JUNE

Maybe he's just out of town, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

He's an agoraphobe.

JUNE

Oh shit. Really?

TRINKETT

I was working with him before I left... I shouldn't have left... He didn't trust doctors so he would call me once a week. We set up a plan where he would, once a day, leave his house to go pick up the paper at his front gate. It wasn't a lot but it was working for him. Now there's a pile of Wall Street Journals at his front gate.

FRANK

Trinkett, Cameron's gate is solid steel, the locks are all computerized, he's got security cameras, he could have machine gun turrets for all I know. My bolt cutters aren't going to do the trick.

TRINKETT

We've got to do something.

JUNE

(Talking only to Verge.)  
Hey, space friend.

VERGE

Who are they talking about?

JUNE

Cameron Winterborne-Welsh. Local reclusive billionaire. Do the rich people get really weird and eccentric where you come from?

VERGE

Totally.

JUNE

This guy's like that. He invented a couple of things and made a bunch of money and then one day he buys a big plot of land up here, builds a high tech compound and then we never see him.

VERGE

And you're going to break into his house?

JUNE

Well, I was wondering-

VERGE

Oh boy.

JUNE

I was wondering if your magic pocket pal had the ability to hack into a high tech computer lock situation.

VERGE

I'm assuming, yes.

ELDIN

Please don't talk about me like I'm not here.

JUNE

Hey Eldin. Do you have some sort of Asimov's law that prevents you from doing crimes?

ELDIN

June, look who my owner is. This is the longest Verge has gone without committing a crime.

JUNE

That's cool. You guys are so cool.

ELDIN

I'd recommend against this but what a waste of processing power that would be.

JUNE

(To Frank and Trinkett.)  
Guys, I have an idea!

WE MOVE TO THE FRONT GATE OF CAMERON'S COMPOUND. VERGE APPROACHES THE INTERCOM PANEL.

INTERCOM

Good morning. Please enter code or scan your passkey.

ELDIN

I hate it when they talk to me.

VERGE

This is it. Do your thing.

ELDIN

One moment...

TRINKETT

(To Frank and June.)  
Who is this person?

FRANK

This is Verge.

TRINKETT  
Okay.

JUNE  
Verge is staying with us at the Horizon.

FRANK  
Verge is a... skilled person.

TRINKETT  
They're a criminal.

JUNE  
No.

FRANK  
They-

JUNE  
Not in the classic way-

FRANK  
We don't like to ask a lot of questions.

JUNE  
Privacy is important, Trinkett.

FRANK  
We recognize the irony of saying that while we're  
breaking into someone's home, but still...

ELDIN  
Hmm.

VERGE  
What?

INTERCOM  
Good passkey. Please morning your enter or code  
your scan.

ELDIN  
Interesting.

VERGE  
What's happening?

ELDIN  
The estate has its own operating system. Not bad  
for Earth, actually, but something's corrupting the  
system. Connections are being made where there  
shouldn't be.

VERGE

Is there a workaround?

ELDIN

Yes. Hang on.

WE HEAR A BEEP AND THE HUGE GATE BEGINS TO SLOWLY OPEN.

VERGE

There we go.

ELDIN

I'd watch yourself in there.

VERGE

Why?

ELDIN

The system appears to have been hacked but not in any useful way. There's been a randomization of the code that I can't seem to put my finger on.

VERGE

I'll keep my eyes open.

ELDIN

As will I.

JUNE

I can just imagine Cameron talking to his architect. "Yes, that gate is nice, but does it open ominously?"

TRINKETT

Thank you. I can take it from here.

FRANK

Are you sure?

TRINKETT

... No. No, I'm not, would you come with me?

FRANK

Sure.

JUNE

I was going in anyway, I have to see this place. C'mon, Verge. Crime!

VERGE

Lead the way.

THEY MAKE THEIR WAY ON FOOT UP TO THE ESTATE.

FRANK

... So he's an agoraphobe, huh?

TRINKETT

It's not about open spaces for him, it's about purity. Feeling clean. The house is completely sealed off from the outside world and he's got a complicated filtration system that everything runs through. He said he began to feel like every time he was outside, something was trying to infest his body. He didn't want to feel that way, it was just an inescapable feeling for him.

FRANK

Jesus.

TRINKETT

Apparently when you work with microchips you have to do it in a clean room without any dust particles. You have to wear this head-to-toe suit that keeps you from corrupting things. He said the first time he ever stepped into one of those clean rooms was the most calm he'd ever felt in his life. He got obsessed with the feeling. It took over everything.

FRANK

And he turned to you for this? I didn't think there was a magic spell for Agoraphobia.

TRINKETT

Very funny.

FRANK

Is there a magical spell for Agoraphobia?

TRINKETT

Frank, are you honestly asking me about my work or are you just looking for an opportunity to make fun of me?

FRANK

Can't it be both?

TRINKETT

You're such an asshole... I'd start with passion flower tea. Then if that didn't work, Black Tourmaline.

FRANK

A rock?

TRINKETT

Wear it as a necklace near your sternum.

FRANK

Did any of that work?

TRINKETT

He never tried it. He was just as skeptical of me as he was a conventional doctor. He just felt like he could talk to me. I accepted him for who he was, without any judgement. That can be very powerful for someone.

JUNE

There it is.

VERGE

Fuck, it's huge.

JUNE

Yeah, not exactly a cozy, blanket-on-the-legs cabin in the woods is it? I guess if I lived there I'd get a little agoraphobia too.

VERGE

Eldin, define Agoraphobia.

JUNE

I got this one, Eldin. It's a fear of going outside.

ELDIN

It's not.

JUNE

It's not?

ELDIN

No. Agoraphobia is a rare human condition wherein a person develops an irrational fear of locations that appear to have no easy escape. Because of this fear they may have the tendency to avoid leaving their homes. Based on what we've heard, a more accurate assessment of this man may be mysophobia, an irrational fear of germs and contamination.

JUNE

But Trinkett said he was an agoraphobe.

ELDIN

There are no experts on this subject in our immediate vicinity.

VERGE

Sounds like airlock shock.

ELDIN

There are some similarities between mysophobia and airlock shock.

VERGE

Sometimes if you're on a long haul, you spend a lot of time with recycled air and sealed airlocks. If you spend enough time in the black you can get attached to the idea that you're in control of your entire environment. Then, the next time you need to dock somewhere, you hesitate. You don't want to leave the safety of your perfectly manicured air supply. You begin to fear what's out there.

JUNE

Wow. Did that ever happen to you?

VERGE

Once. I was in some pretty deep trouble so I had to make my way into some uncharted territory. I was in a sealed environment for how long?

ELDIN

Approximately two Earth years.

JUNE

It took you two years to get where you were going?

VERGE

Two years. No stops along the way.

JUNE

Jesus. How big was the ship?

VERGE

It was very, very small... I remember reaching out to depressurize the docking port for the first time. My hand shook. It took me a while to get up the courage to leave. I'm sure space travel seems pretty romantic to you, June, but it's definitely not a place to make your home.

JUNE

How long have you made it your home?

VERGE

... My whole life.

TRINKETT

Fucking hell, Cameron.

FRANK

Has he blacked out the windows?

TRINKETT

He's blacked out the windows.

FRANK

Well, what do we do? Should we just knock?

TRINKETT

What else can we do?

TRINKETT STEPS UP TO THE FRONT DOOR AND BEGINS KNOCKING.

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

Cameron?... Cameron, it's Trinkett... Cameron are you there?

ELDIN

Something's not right.

FRANK

Trinkett, stop knocking.

VERGE

What's wrong?

TRINKETT

Cameron, I had to break through your gate I'm pretty upset right now.

FRANK

Stop knocking.

TRINKETT

What?

ELDIN

There's a high particulate count in the air. Organic. It looks like... spores.

FRANK

The windows aren't blacked out.

TRINKETT

What do you mean?

FRANK

Look...

TRINKETT

... What is that?

FRANK

It looks like fungus, Trinkett. It's completely covering all the windows.

TRINKETT

How do you know?

FRANK

Look at the door jamb.

JUNE

...Are those mushrooms?

ELDIN

I highly suggest your friends step back from the windows and doors.

VERGE

Let's move back, people.

TRINKETT

What?

VERGE

Ever had a lung full of spores? Move back.

JUNE

Spores?

THE MUSHROOMS AROUND THE DOOR BEGIN TO HISS AS THEY EMIT A CLOUD OF SPORES.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

FRANK

Back back back back back!

THEY ALL STEP AWAY FROM THE HOUSE.

JUNE

Did cameron's house just try to kill us?

FRANK

Every single window is black and there's a lot of them.

JUNE

The entire house is full of mushrooms?

TRINKETT

What happened?

FRANK

I thought his house was hermetically sealed from the outside world?

TRINKETT

It is.

JUNE

Well he should fire his contractor.

TRINKETT

If he's still in there he's...

FRANK

Trinkett.

VERGE

If he's still in there he's been dead for a while... sorry. If this place is really full of that much active fungal spores... no way he lives.

FRANK

...

TRINKETT

...

VERGE

Sorry, I thought I should cut to the chase.

TRINKETT

I need to get in there.

FRANK

Absolutely not.

TRINKETT

I'm going in there.

FRANK

Trinkett, listen to what Verge just said. There's a very high chance of there being a dead body in there.

TRINKETT

I'm not afraid of that. I'll put a mask on.

FRANK

That's not enough.

TRINKETT

It has to be.

FRANK

No, Trinkett, I've been through this when I used to work demolition, okay? It's not just a mask you need.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

For mold spores it needs to be a full-face gas mask  
AND with something called a P100 filter. Nobody in  
town has those.

TRINKETT

Why not?

FRANK

Because it's a town of 600 people, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

He could be alive in there, too, Frank. We're  
forgetting that part, he could be alive in there  
and he needs help. We need to get in there right  
now.

FRANK

Even if it kills us?

JUNE

(To Verge.)  
Excuse me, Spaceperson?

VERGE

Yes.

JUNE

I think we need you to go put your spacesuit on.

VERGE

My spacesuit?

JUNE

I'm assuming your spacesuit would protect you from  
mold so, yeah. It's an emergency. Spacesuit on.  
Let's go.

VERGE

I don't have a spacesuit.

JUNE

What are you talking about, you have a spaceship  
but no spacesuit?

VERGE

It's not that kind of spaceship.

JUNE

What the hell kind of spaceship doesn't require a  
spacesuit?

ELDIN

Verge's ship is a converted racing sloop. It has no  
airlock therefore no spacesuit is required.

JUNE

Well... I'm very disappointed in your spaceship.

ELDIN

We do have a set of two hazard masks.

JUNE

What are those?

ELDIN

Masks that are meant to adapt to hostile environs should you touch down on a planet with a less than favorable atmosphere.

JUNE

That works, right? Are they anti-mushroom?

ELDIN

Most definitely.

JUNE

Now we're cooking. Nice work, Eldin.

ELDIN

I live for your approval.

JUNE

Guys, I'm crushing it today. I've got good idea number two. Frank, take us back to The Horizon.

LATER. WE HEAR A CASE POP OPEN AND DECOMPRESS.

VERGE

Okay, here they are.

TRINKETT

This looks really complicated, you just travel around with these?

VERGE

Lot of hostile environments out there.

FRANK

Are you sure you want to do this, Tinkett?

TRINKETT

I'm sure. How do you put it on?

VERGE

I'll show you, are you ready?

TRINKETT

Yes.

VERGE

You don't look like you're ready.

TRINKETT

I am. I'm... it's going to cover my whole face and I'm a little claustrophobic.

VERGE

Doesn't sound like there's any time for that now.

TRINKETT

You're right. Go ahead.

VERGE

Okay, I'm going to put this over your head like so...

VERGE PUTS THE MASK ON TRINKETT.

VERGE (CONT'D)

This part goes in your ear so I can talk to you. Since I know how these work I'll wear the other one and go in with you.

JUNE

You don't have to do that Verge.

VERGE

We might need to make adjustments while we're in there, also, I'm a little curious what the hell's going on past that door.

VERGE PUTS THEIR MASK ON.

VERGE (CONT'D)

Can you hear me?

TRINKETT

I can hear you. This is very disorienting.

VERGE

You'll get use to it.

TRINKETT

Just give me a moment, okay?

VERGE

Sure. Focus on breathing... Eldin, are you connected to my camera?

ELDIN

I am.

VERGE

You two take Eldin. His screen will show you everything I'm seeing, okay?

JUNE

Okay, Eldin, I promise not to drop you. Also, do you break if a drop you?

ELDIN

Please give me to Frank.

JUNE

Good call.

TRINKETT

Okay, I think I'm going to be alright. Let's go.

VERGE

Alright. I'll go through first. Stay close.

TRINKETT

Okay.

VERGE

Knock knock.

VERGE KICKS THE DOOR OPEN. THEY SLOWLY WALK INSIDE. THE ENTIRE HOUSE SEEMS TO REACT TO THEIR ENTRANCE. IT MAKES SOUNDS LIKE AN OOZING AND TEEMING ENVIRONMENT.

VERGE (CONT'D)

Well, this is something.

FRANK

(In earpiece.)

Jesus Christ, the whole place is covered in mushrooms.

JUNE

(In earpiece.)

That is so fucking creepy. Trinkett, how're you doing, it looks pretty weird in there?

TRINKETT

(To herself.)

Goddess my shield, my encircler, each day, each night, each dark, each light. Goddess my shield, my encircler, each day, each night, each dark, each light.

VERGE

What's that?

TRINKETT

Just asking for some protection.

VERGE

Not a bad idea.

INTERCOM

Good beautiful, Cameron. Morning The today be a day. air quality clear is mostly should.

VERGE

Any hope for this operating system, Eldin?

ELDIN

No. It's completely scrambled.

VERGE

It's like a farm in here. How many different kinds of mushrooms am I looking at?

ELDIN

I've counted sixty-seven varieties at this point. Some of them...

VERGE

What?

ELDIN

Some of them not native to this planet.

VERGE

What?

ELDIN

In this main room alone are clusters of Aboobalooth, Jambles, and the very rare Green Mountain Hermit with Asure Blue Eggs. These are all fungal strains from planets in Triangulum.

VERGE

The plot thickens.

ELDIN

Indeed.

FRANK

(In earpiece.)

This doesn't make any sense. Fungus needs decay to live. There's nothing in his house that decays, what is the fungus feeding on?

ELDIN

The Cro-Magnon is right. None of this makes sense biologically.

TRINKETT

I can't believe what I'm seeing.

VERGE

Neither can I.

TRINKETT

I don't... I know mushrooms. When it's the season I'm harvesting at least once a week... I've never seen half of these. I don't understand... Cameron?... Cameron, can you hear me?...

VERGE

Look, if he's somehow alive he definitely can't call out for help.

JUNE

(In earpiece.)

Hey Trinkett, do you know if he had one of those... shit, what do you call them? When rich people are scared of poor people?

FRANK

(In earpiece.)

A safe room?

JUNE

A safe room. Trinkett, did he have a safe room? Maybe he's hiding in there?

TRINKETT

No, he didn't... I need to check the bedroom.

VERGE

Ok.

TRINKETT

I can't.

VERGE

Why?

TRINKETT

... The bedroom is this way... it's completely blocked.

VERGE

You're telling me this wall is a hallway?

TRINKETT

Yes.

VERGE

It's a wall of mushrooms now.

TRINKETT

I need to get through there.

JUNE

Wait, what's happening?

VERGE

The hallway is completely blocked by a fungus wall.

JUNE

Gross.

FRANK

That's a bad idea, Trinkett.

VERGE

Stand back, okay?

TRINKETT

What are you going to do?

VERGE

Eldin, what's a good setting?

ELDIN

.06 power on a scatter setting.

VERGE

Okay.

VERGE TAKES OUT THEIR PLASMA GUN AND MAKES ADJUSTMENTS.

TRINKETT

What is that?

VERGE

Do you want to go through that hallway?

TRINKETT

Yes.

VERGE

Then don't worry about it.

JUNE

Are you going to laser beam the mushrooms?

VERGE

Plasma.

JUNE

Are you going to plasma beam the mushrooms?

VERGE

I'm just going to give them a little shove. Here we go.

VERGE FIRES THE PLASMA GUN AT THE WALL OF MUSHROOMS. IT'S A LOW CASCADE RATHER THAN A VIOLENT BLAST. WE HEAR THE MUSHROOMS BEGIN TO RECOIL.

JUNE

It looks like it's working.

VERGE DISCONTINUES THE BEAM.

VERGE

Okay, looks like you're good to go.

TRINKETT

Thank you.

VERGE

At the end of the hall?

TRINKETT

Yes...

VERGE

... Do you want me to come with you?

TRINKETT

No... No I should go alone.

VERGE

Okay. Shout if you need me.

TRINKETT TAKES A LONG WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY.

TRINKETT

Goddess my shield, my encircler, each day, each night, each dark, each light. Goddess my shield, my encircler, each day, each night, each dark, each light...

FRANK

... Trinkett?

TRINKETT

... I found him... He's gone... It's like... It's like the infestation started with him and then moved out to the rest of the house... He's completely covered by them.

FRANK

... Shit... Okay... I'm very sorry Trinkett.

JUNE

I am too, but Trinkett, you really need to get out of there now okay? This doesn't feel right.

TRINKETT

... There's something I need to do.

FRANK

Okay... okay make it fast, Trinkett...

TRINKETT

... I'm so sorry, Cameron... I shouldn't have left... I abandoned you... I hope you can forgive me...

SHE TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

Goddess of death, I stand here as your priestess knowing that life must be winnowed to thrive. This is a holy act I perform...

WE MOVE BACK TO VERGE.

VERGE

Eldin... am I seeing what I think I'm seeing?

ELDIN

You are... That is the Space Foot.

JUNE

What is that?

VERGE

How is this here?

ELDIN

I have no idea how any of this is here, but this little bit of fungus especially. Scientists have been trying to cultivate Space Foot for a generation.

VERGE

And here it sits.

ELDIN

What the fuck is going on in this town?

VERGE

I'm supposed to ask you questions, remember?

ELDIN

Damn... Verge one of the seals in your mask is losing integrity. I can't guarantee a seal anymore, you'd better head back outside.

VERGE

Shit. Okay.

VERGE HEADS BACK OUTSIDE.

VERGE (CONT'D)

Trinkett, I've got a bad seal I have have to head back out, are you okay?

VERGE EMERGES FROM THE HOUSE AND STRIPS OFF THEIR MASK.

FRANK

Are you alright?

VERGE

DAMN that was creepy. Everything squished.

FRANK

Where's Trinkett?

JUNE

Trinkett? You need to come out now, Trinkett. No spelunking in the fungus cave without a buddy.

FRANK

... Trinkett?

JUNE

... Trinkett?...

FRANK

Oh God.

JUNE

Damn it, I knew we should've tied a rope to her.

FRANK

Trinkett? Trinkett, Verge's mask isn't working anymore, we can't come and get you, you've got to get out of there...

JUNE

Oh shit... oh shit... C'mon, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

... I can't find the door...

JUNE

Shit.

TRINKETT

I don't know where I am.

FRANK

Fuck. We've got to get her out of there.

VERGE

My mask's no good anymore, she needs to figure it out for herself.

TRINKETT

I think... I think the walls keep changing...

FRANK

Trinkett, just keep moving forward, one foot in front of the other.

TRINKETT

I can't see the door.

ELDIN

She's becoming hypoxic. She's having a panic attack, she needs to leave right now.

JUNE

Try to breathe, Trinkett. You're having a panic attack.

TRINKETT

I can't... I can't breathe...

FRANK

Oh, fuck this-

JUNE

Frank! Whoa!

FRANK OPENS THE FRONT DOOR AND WALKS INSIDE. WE MOVE TO TRINKETT. SHE TRIES TO CATCH HER BREATH.

TRINKETT

... Cameron, I'm so sorry...

WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS APPROACH. FRANK HAULS TRINKETT TO HER FEET.

FRANK

Hey there, Trinkett. Can I get you some Black Tourmaline.

TRINKETT

Frank...

FRANK

Let's go.

THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT DOOR.

TRINKETT

You can't be here-

FRANK

I know, which means if you don't move it, it's going to be all your fault when I die, c'mon, keep moving.

THEY BURST OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

JUNE

Frank, what the fuck!

FRANK

Get the mask off her.

VERGE

Hold still.

VERGE GETS THE MASK OFF OF TRINKETT. TRINKETT DROPS TO THE GROUND AND TRIES TO CATCH HER BREATH. JUNE STARTS REPEATEDLY HITTING FRANK.

JUNE

You... stupid...

FRANK

Ow!

JUNE

Fucking... asshole!

FRANK

Stop hitting me!

JUNE

You just sucked in more mold than a truffle pig, you dick!

VERGE

Eldin can you give Frank the once over?

ELDIN

Hold still, Captain America, I need to sonogram your lungs.

JUNE

You're a fucking asshole and I hate you.

FRANK

What was I supposed to do, sit here while she turned into a toadstool?

ELDIN

I think... I think you're going to be fine, Frank.

FRANK

Okay. See? Everything's fine.

JUNE

Everything's not fine, you yutz!

FRANK

Trinkett, are you okay?

TRINKETT

... Thank you, Frank...

FRANK

No problem.

VERGE

Well... I don't know about you three but Auntie Verge needs a little drink. How about we pack up here and go raise a glass to the mushroom guy?

LATER. WE CAN HEAR THE SOUNDS OF DRINKING AND LAUGHING INSIDE THE SHEEP'S EYE. THE DOOR OPENS.

VERGE (CONT'D)

Hey.

TRINKETT

Hey.

VERGE

... That was a very nice service you performed in there.

TRINKETT

Thanks... I wish I could've done more...

VERGE

I'm sure we all do...

TRINKETT

... I was in the high desert with five other practitioners once... One of us was going through a very scary time and we decided we would try and invoke a spirit for courage... The Great Horned God is what we call him... Not that horned god, a different one, okay?

VERGE

Okay.

TRINKETT

We sat around a fire as the sun set. After an hour... I swear to you we saw him... He was standing in the fire. I could see the flames curling around his legs... it was transformative... We were all really deeply changed by that moment... And I remember thinking to myself that that would be it for me. That will be the strangest thing I ever experience. Some curved flames in a campfire... After today... After today I... I think today broke me. I don't know how to bring meaning to what I do anymore, I can't explain what just happened... It broke me.

VERGE

... There's a saying where I come from... "May you be blessed by the world breaking you. May you survive the blessing and break the world."

TRINKETT

... I get a very strange energy off of you.

VERGE

Thank you... Here.

TRINKETT

What is... You took one of the mushrooms?

VERGE

I did.

TRINKETT

...I don't know what this is.

VERGE

It's got a stupid name. It's called the Space Foot.

TRINKETT

Why?

VERGE

Because it looks like a little foot and because it can survive in the void of space... Space Foot.

TRINKETT

Why did you take this?

VERGE

Because it's important. If you can figure out how to process it, that little fungus can obliterate any disease it comes into contact with. It's one of the rarest things in existence.

TRINKETT

How do you know that?

VERGE

Because I used to smuggle them... I thought it might help you to know that your friends body isn't lying in a tomb right now... It's laying in a fucking pharmacy.

TRINKETT

... Who are you?

VERGE

You realize you're not ready to ask me that question yet, right?

TRINKETT

... Yes... Yes I do... It's a beautiful little thing, isn't it?

VERGE

Yes.

TRINKETT

... Tell everyone I said thank you.

VERGE

I will.

TRINKETT

... It's nice to meet you, Verge.

VERGE

You too, Witchy-poo.

TRINKETT

Goodnight.

A FEW DAYS LATER. THE DAY BEGINS AGAIN, TRINKETT WALKS TO THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM, LIGHTS INCENSE AND SITS.

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

As the Earth holds me. As the Sky sees me. As the Sun rises within me. I step out to greet the Day.

THERE IS A KNOCK ON HER DOOR AGAIN.

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

Come in.

FLAT DOUG

Hey there.

TRINKETT

Hey Doug. Come in... How are you doing?

FLAT DOUG

Uh... I actually came in to see how you were doing.

TRINKETT

Oh... That's kind of you.

FLAT DOUG

I'm so sorry about Cameron.

TRINKETT

Thank you.

FLAT DOUG

I didn't really know him.

TRINKETT

... I guess I didn't either.

FLAT DOUG

...

TRINKETT

...

FLAT DOUG

Did he have any family?

TRINKETT

No, it was just him.

FLAT DOUG

... The whole place had really been taken over by mushrooms?

TRINKETT

... Yes... How have you been feeling about that? I imagine it's a little worrying for you.

FLAT DOUG

It's funny I...

TRINKETT

What?

FLAT DOUG

It effected you.

TRINKETT

It really did, yes.

FLAT DOUG

... Is it weird that that helped me?

TRINKETT

How do you mean?

FLAT DOUG

... I've been hit by two snow plows, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Yes, I know, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

I live in a small town at the top of a very big mountain to avoid things like that happening and it happened to me twice.

TRINKETT

It did.

FLAT DOUG

So there's no getting away from it. That's what I said to myself. It's all inescapable so I better just worry about everything all the time.

TRINKETT

And you did.

FLAT DOUG

And I did. All the time. So there I would sit, either worrying about the things I did or worrying about the things that could happen, never on the present moment, like you always tell me to do, and it sucks real bad, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

I know.

FLAT DOUG

And I watch people walk around all day and they're fine. They don't think about everything all the time like I do, their minds are free and clear and... it's just today for them... I really hate them for that sometimes... Why can't I be like that? Why can't it just be today for me... And then I saw you at Cameron's wake and I saw you were upset and... I don't know... you helped me by being upset... just by being human... And I just thought that maybe, with you being here and us always coming to you with problems, maybe you feel like you always have to be... better. Above it all... and maybe that's a little exhausting.

TRINKETT

... It really is sometimes.

FLAT DOUG

There's a lot going on right now, Trinkett. It's okay to be freaked out like the rest of us... in fact maybe we'd appreciate it. Maybe it would help us.

TRINKETT

Thank you do saying that.

FLAT DOUG

I need to open the store. You should come by the Sheep's Eye sometime. We'd all love to see you. Even Frank.

TRINKETT

Ok... I'll think about it.

FLAT DOUG

Alright. Have good day, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

You too, Doug.

THE DOOR CLOSES. TRINKETT TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

THE END.