

CHAP Masks 12 – Search for Poltergeist

Content Warnings

- Intrusive telepathy
- Food
- Self-recrimination & guilt
- Physical violence & injury
- Loss of consciousness
- Discussions of: hospitals
- Mentions of: exercise, anxiety
- SFX: background chatter, whirring & beeping, smashing (inc. glass)

[Show Theme - Intro]

THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER

Rusty Quill presents Chapter and Multiverse.

[SFX: Interdimensional Tavern Ambience]

Welcome back to the Betwixt and Between, old chum! It's always a pleasure. Oh, do remind me to get you some of our new bar snacks. The quantum scratchings are particularly moreish. But before I do, I must tell you all about our young heroes' most recent adventures. Returning to the Grey Box after visiting his mysterious mentor Aquila, Joseph joined his teammates to plan their next move. Their goal was to track down Adeeb's friend-turned-nemesis Poltergeist once and for all, and find out more about his connection to UTBC.

[SFX: Portal Woosh]

MADDY

Hello and welcome back to Chapter and Multiverse, the actual play podcast where we explore the same city across multiple parallel universes. I am your gamemaster Maddy Searle. My pronouns are she/her and today we are playing our campaign of Masks: A New Generation, which is desired by Brendan Conway, and allows players to take on the role of young superheroes. But before we go any further, I must introduce our wonderful and talented players. Could you please let me know your name and pronouns, and your character's name and pronouns, starting with Ahmed.

AHMED

Hello, I am Ahmed Aljabry, and as always I am stoked to be here. I am playing Adeeb Bin Yeslam, aka The Turban. Adeeb's pronouns are he and him.

LYDIA

Hi, I'm Lydia Nicholas, pronouns, they/she and I am playing Mini Smithson, who is pretty stoked to be here too. She's more of a stoked kind of person - anyway she uses she/her.

LOWRI

Hey, I am Lowri Ann Davies, and I am playing Blodeuwedd Morgan, both of us go by she/her aka Syphon.

PIP

Hi there, I'm Pip Gladwin and I'll be playing Joseph Teller, aka Zenith, and we're both he/him.

MADDY

Lovely. Alright, so last we left off - you were deep in the UTCB headquarters, trying to gather intel on their connection to Poltergeist, the green needle and the supposed pilot programme of gathering super villains for some purpose. Adeeb was in the server room, Morgan was chatting to Thomas, the annoying TikTok fan and Mini just stormed right up to floor 7 to chat to the CTO or Cu-Too.

LYDIA

Storming sounds like it was a lot more of a deliberate aggressive move. Whereas Mini genuinely thought that she could become like a technical intern and it would fulfil many of her objectives, in terms of learning about earth and journalism.

LOWRI

Aww... consolidate her three jobs into one.

LYDIA

Yeah, like... she's got so many jobs...

MADDY

What's another job between friends! So yeah... as Mini entered, she realised that Fiona knew who she was and that she wasn't going to get much information out of her. So, Zenith came to the rescue through the vents and set off a sprinkler and Mini used her amazing density and light powers to bamboozle the security guards, and they escaped after a couple of mishaps, through a broken window and into the stealth jet. Meanwhile Adeeb had a bit of a mishap of his own with absorbing everyone's clothes...

[Group Laughter]

MADDY

[SFX: Grey Box ambience]

And getting showered on by the sprinklers, but Morgan managed to carry him to safety and they went back to the grey box, to recharge, while Joseph slipped out to talk to his mentor, Aquila, back at her headquarters in the Eyrie, a similarly grey, bland box. She actually apologised for not keeping on top of things, and not realising that UTBC was not all they seemed. Now we pick up with Joseph. Are you heading back to the grey box, after your little meeting with Aquila?

PIP

Yes. I'll head back.

MADDY

Nice. It is probably - I would say around 6.30/7pm at this point. So, you've got a couple more hours before the 10.30 heist that Poltergeist is planning at Chapter Central Hospital. And then the gig that Amal is doing at a bar at 11 is also happening tonight.

LOWRI

If everyone's OK with this, Joseph finds us all eating the snakes that Adeeb and Morgan went to get?

LYDIA

Nice.

MADDY

What did you go for in the end?

LYDIA

Mini is dipping deep fried tofu in ketchup and mayo.

MADDY

Excellent.

LOWRI

A smorgasbord...

[Group Laughter]

LOWRI

... of snacks, 'cause we didn't know what Joseph wanted, so I just got a load of different things.

MADDY

So yeah, Joseph [SFX: Door opening] - you come into a smorgasbord of snacks. What is your reaction - and do you explain your absence to your colleagues/friends? Your human friends?

PIP

Absolutely not...

[Giggle]

LOWRI

I mean Morgan would be like - "oh, hey, yeah... we've got loads of stuff, but I couldn't find you so umm"...

PIP

Yeah, that's OK. I'll grab something and I'll... sit down on a vacant, uncomfortable looking chair/sofa thing. [SFX: Cushions squish, grab food] And yeah I grab something...

LYDIA

If you accidentally take some of the stuff that Mini's got in front of her, it will just be - like it works, but it's strange - you know...

PIP

I think I definitely look at the stuff you have in front of you, and then take something else [laughs].

LYDIA

It's just like... why don't people put jam/ketchup and tofu together. That is what I want to know...

LOWRI

Oh gosh... oh no... no... no... no...

LYDIA

... that's what I want to know...

MADDY

Maybe there's some pastries... maybe there's some cannoli, maybe there's some very arty farty vegan crisps, who knows...

PIP

Oh.. vegan crisps for me please - the greyest food you just described...

LYDIA

I'm going to say, that Mini asks how Joseph is, and because she's been talking to her mum and thinking about mind powers, accidentally does some telepathy.

LOWRI

Yes Mini!

LYDIA

"Where did you go? Are you OK?" Like a roll, unleash your powers, there's like a doubling... whatever you say, there's a kind of weird doubling for Mini of... we'll see whether it succeeds...

PIP

I like this.

LYDIA

Yeah.

PIP

Ok. I mean instinctively I think my verbal response is "I just had something I needed to take care of - nothing important".

LYDIA

So, I rolled 6 +1 is 7. So, it's a success but unstable, if I'm correct?

MADDY

Yes.

LYDIA

Which is kind of perfect because that's exactly what I was going for. Like it probably would have stunned Mini if she got like a full idea of what was happening. But like in an unstable, unsure telepathy incident, can you let - GM's decision, how much info Mini gets?

MADDY

Yeah. I think you probably get a pretty decent emotional read. You probably don't get any specific thoughts, or any words, but you probably get - to use the internally helpful word "a vibe" off of Zenith. What kind of vibe is there coming off right now?

PIP

I mean it's not too different from his usual one, to be honest...

[Laughter]

PIP

For Mini - I think it would be that he's been given new orders. I think the vibe here is like - oh, OK - confirmation that this person is being run by someone else, effectively.

LYDIA

A vague sense maybe of Aquila's presence, but nothing as clear as a face - like the emotional model of Aquila that Joseph has...

PIP

It's a tall, grey shape!

[Laughter]

LYDIA

With lots of complicated like resentment and awe and like love, but also fear. I guess like all the emotions but not the specifics. Is that the vibe?

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PIP

Yeah - absolutely. I think that's what you get. Do I... I'm guessing I don't. I have no idea that this has happened...

LYDIA

No, but Mini narrows her eyes...

[Group laughter]

PIP

I kind of narrow my eyes, back at you.

[Group laughter]

LOWRI

Morgan slowly reaches between you, to take a Snickers bar... [SFX: Candy wrapper crinkles]

[Group laughter]

PIP

They're just glaring at each other...

LYDIA

Yeah, it's like... there's tension here, what kind of tension is it? Who knows...

MADDY

So - yeah, your next port of call is the hospital, if that is indeed your plan. So, are you going to do any prep beforehand? Because you could try and find Poltergeist before he even hits the hospital. Or you could just round him off there. Because you do have information from the vision of door number 12, and the rough district that door might be in.

PIP

Yeah.

LYDIA

I think this is an Adeeb decision.

PIP

I think we need to talk to Adeeb about Lucas.

AHMED

How will you bring it up?

PIP

What do you want to do about Poltergeist? Do you want to wait, try to intercept him at the hospital or do you want to know where he lives right?

AHMED

Yeah. But he's not there.

LOWRI

I don't know if I mentioned before, it was all a bit much - but I did actually see how he's getting to the hospital, because I literally saw... the Plan My Route app that he was using. So I know the train/bus/tram - insert correct mode of transport, that he'll be using. We could meet him at the start.

AHMED

What if there are people around? People are going to get hurt.

LOWRI

Well yeah, as Zenith said, there will be people in the hospital, I mean...

PIP

Potentially more vulnerable...

AHMED

Yeah, we shouldn't wait, we should just go find him. Let's go back there and with the clothes that we have - I'm sure we could find something, catch them

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before they start moving. At least that district is not filled with people. At least not sick and innocent people.

PIP

Yeah. What do you know about his brother? Because if he's going to a hospital, maybe he's trying to get something that will help him.

AHMED

I don't think he can get something, unless there is something there that we don't know.

PIP

Will he just attack a hospital?

AHMED

No. It's usually about money. This is a weird choice. But then again, it wasn't his chose. It was this Fiona, picking targets.

PIP

That's a good point.

AHMED

Wait - why do they want them to attack a hospital, in the first place?

PIP

We don't know.

AHMED

Are they trying to make supers look bad?

PIP

Could be a distraction. Trying to pull TARGE's attention away from something else that's going on. That's certainly what the green needle thing felt like. I mean it was just such a pointless endeavour by a pretty pointless villain, let's face it.

[Laughter]

LYDIA

Ah, I just got that - Mini says!!

[Laughter]

PIP

Joseph takes a second and realises, to his horror, that he has unintentionally stumbled into a pun!

[Laughter]

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LYDIA

Mini giggles joyfully

PIP

And I'm going to blush... **[Laughter]**

LOWRI

Oh...

PIP

I activate...

LOWRI

... blush mood...

LYDIA

Unleash your blush powers...

PIP

Activate social anxiety!

AHMED

Ok - so we should just go. Let's just go and try and find them, and stop them, before they do anything. What's the point of fighting them, after the fact, when they already have hostages and they have people around, and they can abuse their advantage on everyone around them?

LYDIA

I mean - what's the point either way? It's very unlikely that we'll succeed - Mini is still hopeless...

LOWRI

Aw... Mini. Mini don't say that... come on... we did really well against the cactus man pointy needle boy...

LYDIA

I mean, as Joseph just said... he didn't have any powers, really. He wasn't strong and I still messed up, multiple times, and we still struggled.

AHMED

So what are we going to do? We're just going to step out and just...

LYDIA

No, I think you're right. I think we should go and we should try and we'll probably get beaten up again, and... it's fine.

AHMED

I get up. Yeah, well if we get beat up, we probably deserve it. And I start walking towards the exit.

LOWRI

Oh my Goodness. Right...."wow, wow" says Morgan...

MADDY

Do you have the guilty condition Adeeb?

AHMED

Yeah, for three episodes...

LOWRI

Plan - we're going to go to the start of his journey that I saw in my vision, right?

PIP

Yeah.

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LOWRI

We're going to go in the yet. And Morgan hates this tension. She hates that everyone's so sad. Mini and Adeeb - she's going to try and comfort you. Shall I roll first **[Laughter]**

MADDY

Yeah, give us a roll to see it goes, and then you can adjust your comfort to the level...

PIP

Is this affecting both of them?

MADDY

I'll say if it's a 10 or...

PIP

I'll jump in. it will be disastrous, but I'll jump in...

[Laughter]

LOWRI

Oh my God... I just rolled double 1s...

MADDY

Oh no...

LOWRI

Oh no...

LYDIA

Oh dang...

MADDY

Yeah - I was going to say, if you got a 10 or a higher, then you could like... you could affect both of them, but yeah... that's not happening, I'm afraid.

LOWRI

Well Morgan's going to try.

AHMED

I lash out back at her... like, what's the point - we had a plan, we went in, and we screwed everything. We couldn't do anything right. So might as well just go and wing it...

LOWRI

No - wait, wait... we did not have a plan. We went in and everyone just disappeared, and you just left me with this weak little man. And we should plan... what are we going to do?

LYDIA

I've told you - we're going to go in, we're going to get beaten up, and then we're going to tell whoever is in charge of whatever it is we're doing - slight sideways look at Joseph.

LOWRI

Look, I'm not good at planning, but I think we should stick together - Morgan says weakly!

LYDIA

Sure, then follow us, as we go to get beaten up... Come on Adeeb...

[Laughter]

LYDIA

Like, Adeeb and Mini knew each other before, right?

PIP

Yep.

LYDIA

They're in the same headspace... like it's just like... yeah...

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AHMED

Parallel headspace.

LYDIA

With her angry friend.

PIP

Big swings...big swings. I'm going to go for it. Maddy, will you let me try?

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah yeah - do it!

PIP

I'll roll first. This is 100% like a "guys wait"

[Group laughter]

AHMED

If it fails, do I roll or take a powerful blow!

[Group Laughter]

PIP

I think I do - if it fails. This is going to come back on me! I get hit by you, yep - alright so comfort support plus mundane, which is good, because my mundane just went back down to zero. This is for all the bananas. That's just a 6.

EVERYONE

Oh...

LYDIA

Can't draw team for that.

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA

I'd say that together we're quite a dangerous foe.

PIP

I do! That's true. That's 5 potential for me.

MADDY

Yeah, 'cause in another circumstance I would say Morgan can help, but since Morgan just failed, I think it's not going to happen, unfortunately.

AHMED

Ah right, let's go all upset and angry and guilty, try and find the bad guys.

PIP

I think the failure here is Joseph... guys wait...

LYDIA

[Laughs] is that it?

PIP

Yeah.

[Laughter]

LOWRI

Morgan's angry. Morgan takes the condition angry...

MADDY

Oh wow... everyone has a condition.

PIP

I don't...

MADDY

No, no no... yeah, you got rid of it by squishing the tracking device... yeah...
apologies, yeah...

PIP

I'll take one now though, if you like!! I'll go hopeless or insecure from what
just happened though **[Laughter]**. It's infectious.

MADDY

I think it's alright if Joseph, is immune for now, but we'll see what happens
later in the mission...

PIP

That is a completed potential track for me... Yeah, I think what I'm going to do
with my advancement is I'm going to add +2 to the label that my mentor
denies, which is the mundane label. And that doesn't involve a reduction in
any of the others, I don't think?

MADDY

No... I think - yeah...

PIP

Incredible.

MADDY

I think that, since that's an advancement, it just happens. That's great!

PIP

1, 2 +2.

MADDY

[Tense music]

So - yes - you begin your journey to [SFX: Jet in-flight noises] - I'm going to say that there's a bus stop that Morgan - you spotted - on the app that Poltergeist was using to plan his route, and so you can head to that bus stop and if anyone wants to do - assess the situation roll, you can have a look around to see whether the number 12 door is anywhere nearby, or if there's any clues as to where Poltergeist might be.

LOWRI

I'll definitely do a roll 'cause I would recognise the door.

PIP

Yeah, I'd say you go for it.

MADDY

Yeah, and if anyone wants to help you, you can add a +1 to that.

PIP

I will assist by giving you - you know a nice sort of panoramic camera view from the yet on screen, so you can spot the right place.

LOWRI

Oh nice.

MADDY

Yes - yeah... you can be hovering above the street, and looking down at this rather - down at heel...

LOWRI

Really like inconspicuous yeah...

MADDY

Yeah...

[Laughter]

MADDY

This rather down at heel area.

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LOWRI

Oh - for Goodness sake. Oh no - do I just get 1 from the assist?

MADDY

Yeah.

LOWRI

'Cause basically I got a 6, but unfortunately I have -1 superior.

MADDY

Oh no... so it's still a 6, damn it.

LOWRI

So I guess I don't see the door?

MADDY

Yeah - unfortunately - at least from this vantage point, you can't see it. It may be down a side street, it may be hidden away slightly. So you need to park up, and get out and hit the streets.

LOWRI

How much sooner... what time was Poltergeist due to get the bus, and what time have we arrived?

MADDY

He was due to get the bus, I will say at about 9.45...

LYDIA

Umm... lives near the hospital. Nice.

MADDY

And it is currently about 8pm.

LOWRI

Morgan's going to say... "I can't see it anywhere. It looks like the right area, but... I can't see the door".

LYDIA

One thing that Mini will be - I would suggest what will be happening for Mini, is that having kind of unleashed her mild telepathic powers, there's just a general openness to the buzzing of voices, [SFX: Faint vocal buzz] and that is not helping her mood. So I would say there's an unleash of powers for like... she tries to hear/listen amongst the buzzing voices for something poltergeisty. Do not worry, this won't succeed - being hopeless, she has -2 to unleash your powers.

LOWRI

Jeez!

PIP

You never know...

MADDY

Yeah, you never know... the dice tell a story...

LYDIA

If she does get it, it's going to be a complicated... vaguely in that direction... yeah... because I know I'm stretching the limits of telepathy here... but there we go. No 7 but then that's +1 but -2.

MADDY

Unfortunately the crowding of voices in your head just starts to become slightly more unbearable as you try and sift through them.

LYDIA

Small potential, and slightly more sulky...

[Laughter]

MADDY

So yeah, as you're hovering in this stealth jet, above this bus stop, this very mundane and run-down bus stop, we're going to take a short break, and be right back...

[Break]

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And welcome back. So as our heroes are poised above this bus stop, waiting to see if they can find out where Poltergeist is, is there anything else you want to do?

LYDIA

Sulking... is pretty full-on sulking...

AHMED

Adeeb is going to try to look around, hoping he can find any of the... companions of Lucas. Would that be assist?

MADDY

Umm yes. Do you want to stay in the stealth jet, or do you want to get down and have a look, on ground level?

AHMED

I would go out. This doesn't matter anymore, I just need to find him quickly.

MADDY

You can absolutely do an assess the situation roll. Does anyone want to help out with that? And does anyone go down with Adeeb, or does everyone just kind of go down?

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LYDIA

Mini's going to go with Adeeb. I don't know how helpful she'll be. I suppose she's there, and she's looking for the people and the features that he describes.

PIP

I'll bring us down [SFX: Jet descends, rooftiles crunch] and pop out onto a... me personally onto a rooftop. I'll be in full kitted up in costume, yeah.

MADDY

Excellent.

AHMED

So I will make a search roll, right?

LYDIA

+1 from me.

AHMED

I rolled a 7 and I have a +1 and +1. That is a 9.

MADDY

Excellent.

AHMED

But, because I am guilty, I have a -2 so that brings me down to 7.

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MADDY

That's still a success.

AHMED

I barely succeed.

PIP

We're scraping by, come on!

LOWRI

I'm just going to say now that Morgan will stick with Zenith, unless Zenith tells her not to, just because we're in 2 and 2 then.

PIP

Yep.

MADDY

Absolutely.

LYDIA

You don't want to split the party fractally?

PIP

It's all right. I'll jump in a vent in a minute! It'll be fine **[Laughter]**

MADDY

Yep. Just one of those sky vents

[Laughter]

MADDY

Alright, yes. Adeeb you and Mini go down a side street, and you are looking at the house numbers, and you stumble across a door with the number 12, and if you want to, you can take a photo of the door, send it to Morgan and Morgan can confirm that this is in fact the door that you were looking for.

AHMED

I'll just communicate - we found the door.

LOWRI

Oh great... where are you? I guess we know Zenith... I'm with Zenith he knows...

[Group Laughter]

PIP

Yep - Mr situational awareness over here.

AHMED

And I would not wait for everyone else to arrive. I will try and find a place to look inside.

LYDIA

Mini will hover [SFX: Alien hover tone] to get up to like a first-floor window, to look inside?

MADDY

Yeah, unfortunately there's windows at ground level are closed up, but if Mini hovers up to the first floor, looks in, sees just a load of like cat supplies - like cat towers and litter boxes and just lots of cats hanging out, and it's great and then you hover up another floor...

LYDIA

Oh wait... are there cats, as well as the cat supplies?

MADDY

Yes.

LYDIA

OK. Because - to me, immediately it was like - "ah... this person has an online business selling cat supplies!"

MADDY

No...

LYDIA

Ok. Cool. No there's just a lot of cats and their supplies.

MADDY

Yes. Yeah, and if you hover up to the second floor, you see a rundown room with peeling wallpaper and a dingy mattress, without any kind of bedding. Just a blanket, thrown across and a couple of shabby pillows. And you can see a young man, sitting on the edge of the bed, just kind of typing, on his phone. He is not currently wearing any superhero garb. It is street clothes. It's jeans and a t-shirt with some kind of metal band on it. But you can see, in the corner draped over a chair, is a black skin-tight suit with a green neon skull on it.

LYDIA

Mini will like slowly descend [SFX: Brief alien tone] - like a balloon losing helium and report all of this to Adeeb. Stressing the shabbiness of the pillows... specifically.

[Laughter]

LOWRI

Do you comm it or just to Adeeb?

LYDIA

Just to Adeeb... well I mean - it's on, but it's just that she wants to... like... he's there, so she'll describe it.

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LOWRI

Cool.

AHMED

Would I recognise the description?

LYDIA

Yes. Particularly the pillows.

MADDY

First the pillows, secondly the custom draped over the chair...

[Laughter]

LYDIA

How shabby were the pillows?

MADDY

Oh yeah - they were like feathers, bursting out of them all over the shop.

LYDIA

Oh, that sounds ruffled.

LOWRI

The cats got at them.

LYDIA

But they were feather pillows... so they were quite nice pillows to start with.

MADDY

Yeah, they were once, but... they were very focused on the pillows, for some reason...

[Laughter]

LOWRI

So, if I've heard you say that, and you acknowledge that it's a Poltergeist, Morgan's going to be like... "wait for us - don't go in". She's really angry with you!

[Laughter]

AHMED

I turn off the comm, and jump in... [SFX: Comm buzz, leap]

EVERYONE

Ahh...

PIP

He's doing it...

LOWRI

Oh...

MADDY

Oh... drama! Love it!

PIP

Just to add to that, I think - because it was happening in my brain, and I was about to do it, and then Ahmed's just jumped right in! There was a moment for Zenith like - OK - these guys are distracted, they're... no one's in a good headspace right now - I was 100% about to be like... OK Adeeb, you're the only one of us who can like talk to this guy. Talk some sense into him, you've got this! You're like about to try a little comfort before you manage to do that. and I think it's just like... Adeeb, Adeeb... Adeeb...

[Laughter]

Just turn to Syphon - just like...

AHMED

I'll be using my ribbons [SFX: Fabric ruffles] to quickly go to the open window, and just crash through it. And you'd probably hear the glass breaking, as you're running in. Adeeb is in a point where this is all my fault. If I did not just take a serious stand against Lucas, things would never have reached this point.

PIP

Let's go.

[Laughter]

MADDY

Yeah, you crash in through the window, [SFX: Glass shatters] and Lucas - your old friend, immediately stands up [SFX: Stand up] and looks at you, and yells out - "I told you to stay away from me - why do you keep coming after me?"

AHMED

Because you keep coming after people. I unleash my threads [SFX: Fabric whipping through air] and just go wild.

MADDY

Whoa... Directly engage a threat please - if that's what you're going for.

AHMED

Yeah. Alright. That would be danger, and I have a zero danger. I got an 8.

MADDY

Nice. Yes. So you can chose one of the benefits, if you want to, but also you trade blows, you can get a hit in on this guy. So what does it look like, as you engage Poltergeist in combat?

AHMED

I am frightening him. Trying my best. Adeeb has gone mad right now.

PIP

Oh no.

MADDY

So are you just kind of - are you trying to tie him up? are you trying to hit him?
Are you trying to just yell in his face?

AHMED

Adeeb is yelling at his face, he is unleashing his ribbons around him, and he is just fighting him - trying to pin him down...

MADDY

Excellent.

AHMED

And not give him any opportunity to fight back.

LOWRI

Just FYI, I think - I assume Morgan and Zenith are running towards the broken window, and Morgan's going to try and enter but... you can insert that at an appropriate point, dramatically.

LYDIA

You've got to climb up two floors...

PIP

Well, we were on the roof, so once we hit the window breaking, I'm imaging a really cool, dramatic shot of Morgan and I jumping off the roof and making our individual ways towards this window.

LOWRI

Yeah.

PIP

Me, sort of swinging and flipping on stuff. [SFX: Swings and flips] And you - I assume, just kind of...

LOWRI

Just running and jumping... [SFX: Roof tile scrape, leap]

PIP

Big strong leap - haha!

LOWRI

Yeah...

PIP

Yeah, yeah, yeah...

MADDY

Alright, so Poltergeist is definitely going to take the afraid condition, as Adeeb is absolutely wailing on him. He's going to take one of the villain moves - lash out without thought at a threat. So, he's going to use his telekinetic powers to lift up a dresser from the side of the room, and just hurl it at Adeeb. And I would like Adeeb to take a powerful blow please.

AHMED

Do I still have my condition, the guilty condition?

MADDY

Yes. So, you can roll plus your condition is marked, so it would be 2D6+1.

AHMED

And I got a... 4 total.

MADDY

Nice. On a miss you stand strong, so yeah. What does it look like, as this chest of drawers just slams into your back? [SFX: heavy wooden dresser thuds]

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AHMED

Because it's filled with cloth...

LYDIA

Ah... Ha...

AHMED

Now, there is just pieces of cloth flapping everywhere [SFX: Fabric billows and waves] around Adeeb's body and it's just making him look a lot bigger than he is, and he's standing now on the ground, but pieces of cloth are just slipping up. More of a - in a certain evil form - mechanical armed sort of villain...

LOWRI

Yes, that's what I am thinking of.

[Laughter]

PIP

So you've kind of taken the lesson from earlier...

AHMED

Yeah...

PIP

Of like, pulling the cloth in, by accident and making yourself bigger and gone like... what if that, but effective - for combat... and like bulked yourself up. That's so cool.

AHMED

Yeah, so there's a cloth extending from all over his body, just flapping all over and he's shouting back to him... "these are not guards, are being paid to protect and taking a risk. You're just going after innocent people now"...

MADDY

Yeah, Lucas yells back... "you don't understand, that everything is stacked against us. I have to do this to protect Felix".

AHMED

I would continue to engage with him.

MADDY

Nice. I would like to ask... so what's everyone else doing? Are you coming into the room?

PIP

I think Mini has probably got...

LYDIA

Well, no... Mini had gone down to talk to Adeeb. So it's possible that behind the two of you, given how quickly you've moved, and like she was taken off balance, she now hovers up [SFX: Alien tones] and is like glowing and yeah is hovering outside the window. And I would say... no she doesn't say anything. She just hovers ominously. She supports Adeeb. Adeeb's got this.

LOWRI

If Morgan could get there before Zenith, a little... or maybe around about the same time, Morgan is just going to somehow flip into the room...

[Laughter]

LOWRI

Probably not flip... like just grabbing handfuls of concrete, [SFX: Climbing] to climb down into the room, just so angry...

PIP

I love the image of like we've got the window where Adeeb came through, and then when Morgan comes through, it's like - you smash an even bigger hole...

[Laughter]

PIP

And take some of the masonry with you... [SFX: Glass and masonry smashed]
like...

MADDY

The window frame is done for...

[Laughter]

PIP

We've done a lot of collateral damage, in this episode, it's good.

LOWRI

Morgan is coming in and it will be like... "Adeeb, we were supposed to be a team... I... you... why... I don't understand why... we're supposed to be friends... all of us should be doing this together". And what she's going to be trying to do, is shouting at Adeeb, but she just wants to put Poltergeist to sleep. So that we can continue our own little talk...

[Laughter]

So I guess she's going to have to fight through the ribbons to get there.

MADDY

Yeah. Please give me an unleash your powers to... yeah... first of all unleash your powers to see if you can get there. And then if you can get there, we can do another one to see if you can affectively, put him to sleep.

CHAP 12 - Search for Poltergeist

PIP

It had not occurred to me, until this, like how potentially scary Adeeb's powers are!!

MADDY

Yeah...

AHMED

I can make people naked!

[Laughter]

LOWRI

Oh no, that's very scary... would it, may be directly engage... Is Adeeb a threat to me?

MADDY

Yeah, that's a question for Ahmed. Is Adeeb going to lash out at Morgan if she gets in the way?

AHMED

Yes.

LOWRI

OK.

CHAP 12 - Search for Poltergeist

AHMED

Like, he wouldn't attack. But just pushed him away - like stay away. This is my thing - this is my problem.

MADDY

Cool. OK. Yes, directly engaged, and then unleash - perfect. So a bit of variety in the rolls.

LOWRI

So I just rolled a 7 and I've got +3, so I've got a 10 for directly engage.

MADDY

Amazing.

LOWRI

So, take something from them - I'm going to take Poltergeist from you. And also impress surprise of frighten the opposition, I want to frighten Adeeb, because I then get a + doom.

[Laughter]

MADDY

Yeah...

PIP

Gotta play them dooms!

MADDY

So do you rugby tackle Poltergeist and grab him down, or what do you do?

LOWRI

No, I think I just rip straight through, and without really looking, like hand on... oh gosh - OK, hand on Poltergeist's face and neck, put him to sleep, [SFX: Energy drained] as I'm not even concentrating on that, and I'm just shouting at Adeeb - like "where supposed to be friends... why... I don't like how we're all just not talking properly"... and probably getting a bit like... eyes start to glow, because she's taking the power...

PIP/AHMED

Oh no...

LOWRI

Oh gosh, please let her stop, before she hurts him too much...

PIP/AHMED

Oh no...

AHMED

We're all turning evil here!

MADDY

Yeah, give me an unleash your powers please? If you roll well, then you manage to control it well. And then if it's a low roll, then it might go a bit skew-whiff.

LOWRI

OK. Oh - but good - I rolled a 10.

MADDY

Excellent, excellent. The anger kind of focuses you, and keeps you in the moment...

LOWRI

Mm...

MADDY

And - maybe even because you're so focused on Adeeb, and you're not self-conscious about how you're using your power and you're not worrying about whether it's going to hurt this guy or not, then it's more natural, and it's more easy...

LOWRI

Yeah...

MADDY

And, so yeah, Poltergeist just slumps back on the bed, [SFX: Gentle fall onto mattress] kind of - half on the bed, half not... completely unconscious, but still breathing, still absolutely fine. Just asleep, and yeah... and you and Adeeb are facing off with Mini floating ominously behind you **[giggle]**.

LOWRI

I think I've actually cleared my anger there as well, because frightening... oh not it's hurt someone or breaks something important. OK. No I haven't... damn it!

PIP

She's still very much angry, right now!

LOWRI

Shaking... I'm now stronger!

PIP

[Laughter] Good, good. That's not a difficult combination. It's all...

LOWRI

No...

PIP

We're going to be fine.

MADDY

Mini and Zenith, what's your plan?

LYDIA

Mini is going to - with a bit of a squeaky scream, [SFX: Alien tones] glowing, hovering, bending, light around her into strange and uncanny colours, yell... "can all of you calm down. This would never happen on Specmarkalon. Everyone there... you know what you're supposed to feel, and you do the things that you're supposed to do... and you don't get angry at your friends... you just be normal all the time and sometimes that's very good because no one gets upset or scary... and you're never scared of your friends... and so DON'T DO THIS!". That's what she says, what she's trying to do with that, is to provoke people into calming down...

MADDY/PIP

Uh hm...

LYDIA

And it's using her not so different after all... describing the glories of your home like that, that's clearer condition, but I don't know if that feels like it lines up with that would make her feel less hopeless.

AHMED

What your describing fits more with comfort. You have an ability that lets you use another label for it?

LYDIA

No, that's not a thing that she does.

AHMED

Do you have the best of them?

LYDIA

I do. But that's me telling them how they exemplify the best parts of earth. I've just told you that you're all... not as good as my alien friends.

PIP

Yeah... we're all feeling pretty inferior right now...

AHMED

You're telling us to live up to that [Laughter].

LYDIA

I think that this is a bad attempt to provoke you all into calming down...

PIP

Sure.

LYDIA

But this is GM's decision...

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA

Because what she wants is for everyone to stop yelling and be sensible.

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA

Like people on Specmarkalon are, all the time! Just so boring...

[Laughter]

MADDY

Cool. Yeah, let's make this absolutely a provoke someone roll and roll+ superior, and we'll see how it goes.

LYDIA

Oh... so she got a 4. And superior is +2, so that's a 6.

PIP

I'll a throw a team on top of that - if we have any left. Do we have any left?

MADDY

Even though considering the ramshackleness of the team at the moment, there aren't any team points available. You can always assist. So you can add a +1 if you want to help, Zenith.

PIP

Yeah, I just can't think of what it is that I'm doing in this moment, that might be supportive or helpful to Mini, really!

LYDIA

[Laughter] - Like there can be a failed attempt at assisting, which is like... yes being sensible, is what works. Calm.

PIP

[Laughter]

LYDIA

... If you can't think of a way, then probably Zenith can't think of a way.

MADDY

You can always just go like... she's right. Just like back her up and be like...

PIP

I don't have a +1. I think what, for the audience, we will see is 'cause right now, like Syphon and the Turban are like kind of almost in a fight... I think what we'll see is just from the inside of Joseph's helmet, you'll see him isolate probably just Adeeb's at this point actually - no and Morgan's, because I can see that Morgan has gone like, green eyes... we see them isolate their ear pieces... [SFX: Electronic click, comms lock vocal confirmation]

LOWRI

Oh...

PIP

And there's like a button that could be pressed. He's not pressed it, but this has effectively taken the safety off something here. Just in case you guys get carried away.

LOWRI

What's that button?!

PIP

That's it

LYDIA

This is not character knowledge, so...

LOWRI

Oh yeah I know I got - oh my gosh...

PIP

The button I will say has a little lightning bolt on it!

LOWRI

[Laughter]

MADDY

Wow.

LOWRI

Oh my goodness!

LYDIA

If people want to describe how little they react to Mini's attempt at conciliation...

LOWRI

In my head, Adeeb has his back to the window, so isn't getting the light show. And all of this fabric is flowing... [SFX: Fabric rustles] so actually there's no... I can't see you either... [laughter]

LYDIA

Barely even hear, let alone see... argh...

LOWRI

Yeah, there's so much flapping!

AHMED

It's even worse now, with the gloomy shadows...

LOWRI

Yeah!

LYDIA

There's drama!

MADDY

Yeah - so I think at this point, as the threat of the mysterious lightning bolt button hangs in the air, as the fabric is flapping, as Mini is yelling on death ears, we're going to end the episode there.

PIP

Uh-oh.

LOWRI

Oh no...

LYDIA

In the midst of combat...

PIP

What's happened to our young heroes... what have we become?

MADDY

They were so wholesome, just a few episodes ago!

LOWRI

It's the hormones!

LYDIA

Episode 12 titled now villains!

[Laughter]

PIP

Let's be bad guys now!

MADDY

So yeah - thank you so much for listening to this absolute drama that is unleashed and as always, I would like to ask our fantastic players, where we can find them on the Internet and if they have anything to plug. Starting with... Ahmed.

AHMED

Hello. You can find me everywhere at @mr_aljabry - mostly on Twitter, where I share Arab titbits, to be used for your tabletop RPG characters and world being. Just find the avatar with the turban.

MADDY

Wonderful, and Pip.

PIP

Hi, I'm Pip Gladwin and you can find me at @Pip_Gladwin on Twitter or wherever good podcasts are made!

[Laughter]

MADDY

And Lowri.

LOWRI

You can find me at @LowriTweets. I'm still reeling a bit, sorry!

MADDY

Fair. I mean obviously fair... and Lydia.

LYDIA

Hi, I'm Lydia. You can find me at @LydNicholas and in varying podcasts on podcast players of varying quality. I mean if you want to download them from a place that has bad podcasts - cool. I respect your choices. Not everyone likes sound quality or whatever. It's cool. You do you... you do you! Excellent - bye!

MADDY

You can find me on Twitter and Instagram at @maddy_abstract, where there are links to all the various things that I do, and we hope to see you next time on Chapter and Multiverse, but until then from all of us here in the space between worlds, goodbye!

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER

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