

CHAP Masks 14 – The Night Jar

Content Warnings

- Trauma & depression
- Physical violence & injury
- Emotional abuse
- Food
- Family conflict
- Discussions of: surveillance & loss of privacy, betrayal
- Mentions of: guilt, medical experimentation, bombs, electrocution, alcohol
- SFX: background chatter/cheering & music, crying/sobbing, phone beeping, mechanical sounds

[Show Theme - Intro]

THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER

Rusty Quill presents Chapter and Multiverse.

[SFX: Interdimensional Tavern Ambience]

Welcome once again, I must admit it has cheered me up enormously to see you. Our superhero story has been taking some twists and turns that had me very concerned for our protagonists. Unfortunately, they're still succumbing to internal strife in the wake of Adeeb's showdown with Poltergeist and the rest of the team, and poor young Joseph has now become the centre of attention, due to his unscrupulous use of gadgetry.

[SFX: Portal Whoosh]

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 designed by Brendan Conway and allows our 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 AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Hello everyone, and I'm sorry.

(Laughter)

I'm Ahmed Aljabry and unlike always, I am guilt ridden.

(Laughter)

I am playing Adeeb Bin Yeslam aka The Turban. Adeeb's pronouns are he and him.

MADDY

Beautiful, and Lowri?

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Hi, I'm Lowri Ann Davies, and I am playing Blodeuwedd Morgan, known as Morgan aka Syphon, and our pronouns are she/her.

MADDY

Nice, and Pip?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Hello there, my name is Pip Gladwin, I will be playing Joseph Teller aka Zenith, and he's not a good guy.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh no.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

And we're both he/him.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Sadly] He's misunderstood.

MADDY

Nice, and Lydia?

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Hi, I am Lydia Nicholas. Pronouns they/she, and I am playing Mini Smithson, who is she/her and is overwhelmed by the social complexities of the situation.

MADDY

Understandable, yeah, and just before we get into today's episode, we are currently on episode 14, so we're very, very close to the end of the campaign, which is terrifying. Our final episode of Masks will be episode 18, which we will release on 24th of August and then after that we have two fun filled specials lined up each lasting three episodes, with players from our reoccurring cast and some special guests, and then in October, we will have our second campaign ooo, exciting times.

(Laughter)

But for now, last we left off in Masks, Adeeb had had a reckless standoff with Poltergeist which led to his fellow teammates getting him to back down and you brought Poltergeist back to TARGE, only to discover via the electric shock that Adeeb had received during the previous altercation that Joseph had been using some nefarious technology that you were not aware of, causing even more tension among the group; and to top it all off, you still have a gig to go to! And you have for several episodes, but that may not be at the forefront of your mind right now.

[SFX: TARGE Medical Bay ambience, gentle fan hums]

So, as we jump right back in, Joseph had just said farewell to the group, but is there anything anyone wants to do before he leaves?

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini is going to turn to the others and say, “I know it was a shock to hear that I’m an alien, but now it feels that I feel okay to ask you uh, is that normal amongst human friends?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Um, you’re all my first friends so I don’t really know, but I mean okay, oh do you mean specifically the electrocution ability?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Yeah.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“No, that’s not normal.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Okay, and the electrocuting your friends and controlling them without telling them?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“No.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“No, okay, just- I just wanted to check that wasn’t something that I had missed in my human socialisation sessions.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Um, Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Yeah.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Can I have your earpiece please?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini removes the earpiece [SFX: Earpiece clicks] and hands it over.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I don’t put it in my ear because...

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

No.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I just bring it close to my mouth and, “Listen, I know you’re hearing me and all my life I knew exactly who I wanted to be, Adeeb, I know who Adeeb is. Even when it was against my family it was against other people, I knew exactly who I

wanted and what I stood for, but [sighs] I have no idea what I am doing as the Turban, and clearly today, I have so much to figure out. I understand that you don't know who you are, and I am glad that you said it like that because if you had any idea...

(Laughter)

...[sighs] this would have been a very different conversation. Anyway, you're welcome to join us tonight, you know figure ourselves together" and just hand back the earpiece. [SFX: Hands object]

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini looks at the earpiece, throws it on the floor and stamps on it. [SFX: Light toss, stomp, technology crunch]

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan will also stamp on hers.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Foot straight through the floor.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

Actually, yeah, she's been booping Poltergeist the whole ride home to make sure he's asleep.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Oh, then surely it's a, take the earpiece out and just crush it in your hand until it's dust.

MADDY

Oh, yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

No, no, no, no, between finger and thumb just kind of crushes it, [SFX: Smushed metal] yeah and it turns to dust and...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Oh, between fingers.

Into pure carbon.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

It's diamond.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Oooh, a diamond!"

(Laughter)

MADDY

Where is Joseph going and what was his reaction to hearing that from Adeeb?

[SFX: TARGE Corridor ambience, fans and vents whir]

[Tense music]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

That plays right into the helmet as Joseph is like walking down the corridors of the TARGE building and I think Joseph gets like a, that full like ripple effect through your body you get when you have a really strong emotional reaction to something; and I think there's an instant where his body is just like you know and now you cry now, you cry now because of how that's made you feel and how you are already feeling and then I think that really drilled into him mechanism just goes no, and just pushes all of that down...

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Ooooooo, oh no, no, no.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...into that little secret place where we keep all of that stuff just compact it up into a little cube and sets it aside.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Does Joseph hear the distinctive [Lydia makes two crunching sound effects] of two of the devices being crushed?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think the sort of top, you know somewhere in the top left-hand corner of his heads up display are like your names and codenames and the little icon next to them and I think I see [SFX: Display tone plays three times] [Pip makes clicking sound] they just cut out, all three of them just disappear.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Just a little emotional beep.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

You're making worse.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

He's got damp eyes.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I will keep leaving. I'm not turning back now far too...

(Laughter)

Nope!

(Laughter)

And I think I, as I'm leaving, I'll send a message back to Aquilla who I know has been watching this whole thing, I'll just text, [SFX: Smartphone typing tones, outgoing message tone] "What now?"

MADDY

Yeah, I think what she'll just say is, [SFX: Incoming message tone] "Rendezvous back at the Eyrie, we'll discuss."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[SFX: Smartphone typing tones, outgoing message tone] "Understood" and I guess go back to the jet and leave.

MADDY

Alright, what's the plan for the rest of the... now sundered team?

(Laughter)

[SFX: TARGE Medical Bay ambience]

[Music ends]

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Well, Mini is going to that gig. This is a research trip, and likely be like...

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...four or five listicles and possibly you know, if she's lucky, maybe like a feature in this, this is...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Big event.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Big event! Big event and she's told everyone now that she's writing articles...

(Laughter)

...she's like, "I have to go write an article". Oh, I think actually that... maybe that's something she's agonising about, she's going to turn to everyone, "You should all know that, you know when I'm saying that I'm writing articles, I'm actually writing articles about humans for Specmarkalons, and I haven't named you or quoted you, but I just I know that we're now, I'm not sure what's normal about surveilling your friends, and so I just want you to know that I wrote [getting upset] one article that um, that you featured in.

Adeeb, I wrote one about people trying on shoes, and I said that some people loved shoes a lot, [crying] and I was writing about you, but I didn't use your name, I swear, and I just... but I liked how you feel about shoes so I did write about that; and Morgan I wrote about protective friends and how humans love to protect one another and..."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Mini. Mini. Mini...”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Crying] “I’m so sorry!”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan puts her hands very, very carefully on your shoulders, [SFX: Gentle shoulder touch] wants to hug you.

[Gentle camaraderie music]

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Crying] “I’ve been exploiting you.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“No!

(Laughter)

But Mini, Mini that sounds lovely, I mean you’ve just written about us. You’ve written really... actually I would quite like to read those. I’d be interested in knowing what you write. Like maybe it would have been nice to yeah get permission, but you didn’t put debilitating devices in our... on our bodies so that you could take us out, like that’s a very different thing.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Crying] “I’m sorry.” Mini like just cuddles up [SFX: Fabric wrinkles] inside Morgan’s... and it’s so awkward...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yes!

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...because like you want to hug but also do not crush.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Awww.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

Ah, she needs to get this in check because Morgan needs hugs!!

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Hang on, is there not an argument here where Mini can make herself incredible heavy and dense [gasps]...

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...so you could hug her.

MADDY

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh my gosh I just realised that you could do that. You are like the ultimate weight...

(Laughter)

...for Morgan to train with.

(Laughter)

Anyway...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Just benching this adorable alien girl.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

Yeah, I'd be like, "Heavier!"

(Laughter)

"Go, I can take it!"

(Laughter)

Anyway.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Crying] "And I... I wrote an article about Joseph giving me milkshakes, about how lovely it was that he brought a milkshake for me".

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"That is lovely Mini, and..."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"I thought he was a good friend."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Sometimes people do bad things, but doesn't necessarily make them a bad person, I don't know, I'm confused.

What time is your sister's gig, it's soon right? Should we...?"

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Shall we go?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I don’t think we should go without him. Nobody’s perfect, nobody is ever perfect, and I screwed up so badly today.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Well, you were reacting to emotional things, like...”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I wanted to help him for years, and then I just felt like I am only making things worse. I wanted to just do the right thing. I think I thought I was doing to the right thing. In that moment, and I was so wrong.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“But that’s the point, right? You wanted to do the right thing, and you made a mistake, that’s okay.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I get up from whatever couch or medical bed [SFX: Metal bed frame crackles] that I was sitting on for my ear.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini immediately like explodes out of Morgan’s like careful non-hug and like wraps around Adeeb and gives a squeeze hug. [SFX: Hugs]

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Yeah, and he would hug back with a cloth wrap as well. [SFX: Fabric hug]

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Aw.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Aw.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Because he has so many of them around.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

So much squish.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Right, I think we should go to the gig, and we should... if you two are okay with this, like, I want to talk to Zenith.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

“We’re going to go and drag him with us, and this time he doesn’t have something to explode in our ears to stop us.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“We, we can’t find him. Do you know where he is?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“I was just going to suggest that we message human friends - oh, that makes so much more sense now Mini.”

(Group laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Ah, incredible. Absolutely incredible.

MADDY

The payoff, the payoff.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

But anyway, “Message human friends, tell them we’re going, maybe, I don’t know drop a pin, well he knows where the thing is, and that we want him there and then hopefully he’ll come...? If doesn’t, I’m then all for the going to find him plan.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“How are we going to find someone that’s in a stealth jet?

Ooh, unless I ask my boss and he uses his powers...

Okay, we can absolutely find him.

(Laughter)

We can find the stealth jet and maybe other things, I don't know, it will depend ([murmurs] on dice rolls) but you know it will depend on his mood"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"What are you bosses' powers?"

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Mostly emailing important people."

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"How could your boss find the stealth jet, is more what I was wondering?"

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Oh, well, he is quite a senior alien."

MADDY

I just have a vision in my head of Benson McDyke just kind of reaching out his hands in a kind of Solaire pose, and then just beams of light shooting into the sky like a search light, that could like light up the stealth jet, that's just something that I have in my head.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah I mean, that would be awesome, “But I’m sure we can find him. Except for the fact that he definitely is getting orders from someone else who is very secret and so...”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Wait, what if they don’t let our messages get to him?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“We should text him right away.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Yeah.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini’s going to send a... [SFX: Smartphone typing tones]

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Okay.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

You can all send one as well, I think.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

All three of us.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah, yeah.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

We spam him.

(Laughter)

[SFX: Various text tones]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Joseph, we love you!

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Joseph – send. [SFX: Message tone]

Joseph – send. [SFX: Message tone]

Joseph – send. [SFX: Message tone]

Joseph – send. [SFX: Message tone]

(Laughter)

@Joseph [SFX: Message tone]

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

(Laughter)

Yeah, @Joseph JOSEPH! [SFX: Message tone]

(Laughter)

MADDY

As this stream of messages suddenly comes in on your phone, [SFX: Many message tones] presumably it also appears on your heads up display, what is Joseph thinking and feeling about this?

[SFX: Jet interior ambience]

[Music ends]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I mean I think I mute that group instantly [SFX: Group muted] [GASPS!] just, I mean... c'mon.

(Laughter)

Like when it's just ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, I think it's like okay, other stuff on my mind right this second.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

The messages say things like, “We still care about you, even we don’t understand you, please come to the gig so I can give you a hug and ask you what on earth is happening.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“We should talk” says Morgan.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Uh...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Joseph”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...just going to pop...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Joseph”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...uh...

(Laughter)

Just going to give myself the angry and guilty conditions because...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

[Wails]

MADDY

Yeah.

(Laughter)

This feels like a double condition kind of day.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, yeah.

(Laughter)

And I don't... I think in this moment, and I think at the point I'd probably be you know, almost at the Eyrie by now, the stealth jet is very fast and we're flying in inner city, I'm not flying it to another city, it's literally you know point A to point B.

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think Joseph is just trying to stay neutral I think, because of his emotional state tips in any one direction at this point, it kind of feels like you know, he's either going to break some things or just curl up into the foetal position and weep...

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Aww.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

So, he's kind of just like just trying to stay on a level and report in, because that's what he's been ordered to do.

[SFX: Eyrie ambience]

[Ominous music]

MADDY AS AQUILLA

Alright, yeah as you get into the Eyrie, there's all the familiar bleeping and blooping of the surveillance tech, and Aquilla with her steely ice blue eyes and grey hair spins around in her chair [SFX: Chair spin] and says, "I see that our methods of surveillance have rather clashed with your recent attempts at a connection with your fellow heroes?"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[SFX: Zenith's vocoder] "Seems that way."

MADDY AS AQUILLA

“Now, you’ve done very well with the bugging of TARGE, and I have been able to get a lot of excellent data, and I know that you will be interviewing Poltergeist tomorrow, or at least, I hope you will be.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[SFX: Zenith’s vocoder] “And the other location?”

MADDY AS AQUILLA

“There is an experimental facility, I have been assured many times that it is no longer in use, but I am not the trusting sort and I want to be certain that it is no longer in use, and it is in the lowest basement of the building, and I would very much appreciate if you could just check it for me, but in the meantime, I see from your footage that you’ve had a rather busy day, and perhaps some light training before rest and then up early tomorrow would be prudent; and do you think that you would be able to get access to Poltergeist without your friends?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[SFX: Zenith’s vocoder] “Shouldn’t be difficult.”

MADDY AS AQUILLA

“Alright, good to know. Very well. Yes, get some rest and I will see you in the morning” and she does her habitual spin around [SFX: Chair spin] in the chair.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Joseph does his habitual kind of stand there for a few seconds, [SFX: Zenith’s vocoder] “How did... how did you do it?”

MADDY AS AQUILLA

“How did I do what?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[SFX: Zenith’s vocoder] “When you were still operating, you worked with teams, you worked with other heroes, were you watching them all the time? Did you put bombs in their ears? Did you not trust anybody?!”

MADDY AS AQUILLA

“Not at first, but the world hasn’t been very kind to me.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think there’s a moment of him kind of looking around this opulent penthouse secret base...yeah.

(Laughter)

MADDY AS AQUILLA

“People have betrayed my trust more times than I can count, and as I became older, I realised that there were a lot of things I could do to reduce the possibility of such a thing happening again.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[SFX: Zenith’s vocoder] “Like what, never leaving this building? I can’t remember the last time I saw you out of that chair. Can you even fight anymore?”

MADDY AS AQUILLA

She stands up [SFX: Stand up from chair] at that and towers over you, because she is a tall, gaunt women, and you can see that she is not as strong as which she once was, but her fists are clenched and her kind of wiry, veiny arms are tense, and then she just stands there for a few seconds and then relaxes her arms and she just says, “Get out.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think he will try and reject the influence, because I think the last time, I just let it happen.

2D6?

MADDY

Yes.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

That is exactly a ten.

MADDY

Oh my goodness!

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

[Gasps!] Joseph got a spine!

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I sweep her leg [GASPS].

[Music transitions to adventurous]

MADDY

Yes.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Or at least I try too.

MADDY

(Laughter)

Directly engage a threat please.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Alright.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

[In a small voice] I'm so excited.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...plus danger... oh, hell no, really, really, really bad.

MADDY

Oh no.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh no.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

That was a four with a minus one [GASPS] so, a three total.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh no Zenith!

MADDY

Yeah you...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I tried.

MADDY

Yeah, you reach out to try and sweep her leg and she just grabs onto your arm, [SFX: Arm grabbed brusquely] and despite the fact that she is not as strong as she once was, she has this wiry persistence to her grip.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah.

MADDY

And she holds... like just stares into your eyes for a few seconds, and then throws you back [SFX: Throw, slam into wall, slide down] and you slam against a wall and slide down.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

I will hit the wall and slide down it.

(Laughter)

Joseph is going to pick himself up, just going to pull his helmet off and he's fully crying at this point [gasps].

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Oh!

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I chuck it away [SFX: Metal helmet hits ground] I'm just going to run at her again.

MADDY

Alright.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh, Joseph!

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Wait, did you, what did you choose when you succeeded on rejecting because you have two choices?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Oh! Oh, we didn't do that! I will take some choices.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Thank you, we're all too caught up in the moment.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

The two choices I'm taking for the influence rejection are, I don't think I can realistically clear either of those conditions because I'm still very much feeling angry and guilty, I think that's fair.

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I'm going to take the cancel her influence and take a plus one forward, which I will now immediately use, and just for the fun of it and the narrative of it, I am going to shift my superior down to a plus two, and I'm going to shift my mundane up to a plus three.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Amazing.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

Wooo! Mundane boy!

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Just for fun...

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

He's so normal!

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Because, yeah, I'm so normal.

(Laughter)

Yeah. Yeah, I'm going to... I run at her. I run at her...yeah, I attack her, we will see how it goes.

MADDY

Excellent, yeah, directly engage a threat – go for it.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Squeals nervously].

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, I have a plus one!

(Laughter)

Because I took plus one forward, c'mon be a better roll, please be a better roll... that is 11 [GASPS!]

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh Scheiße!

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

MADDY

So, you absolutely hit, you can pick two of the benefits if you want, or you can just completely obliterate her.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I will resist...actually no, I am not going to... if she wants to hit me back that's fine, that can happen.

MADDY

Okay.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I would like to impress, surprise or frighten the opposition, I think it's probably just going to be impress or surprise, I don't think I scare Aquilla. I don't think a lot of things do.

MADDY

Yeah, that's fair.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

And I would like to take something from them, and Maddy, the pitch I would like to make is I would like to try and take it from them without them noticing.
[Gasps].

MADDY

Oooh, nice.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I'm guessing Aquilla has like a phone, personal computer – that kind of thing.

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, she will.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

In this like clash, I would like to take it from her without her noticing.

MADDY

Yeah, I think on 11, absolutely you can do that, just sneakily...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Nice.

MADDY

...while she is distracted by a blow coming from the right, [SFX: Solid punch] you just slip into her left pocket and yank it out. [SFX: Fabric rustles]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think that's moment where I let her hit me. If she does, again, obviously I don't know if she's actually retaliating or not.

MADDY

Yeah, I think in this moment she is going defensive...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Fair.

MADDY

...and she's not aiming to hurt you but, in the way that she blocks like her elbow may kind of check you...[SFX: Thud]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Sure.

MADDY

...in a way that is quite painful.

Do you want to continue attacking, or do you want to call it quits now that you have a trophy?

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think there's a still a little bit of adrenalin, but I think after that, I will take step... still in a you know, in a stance but I'll take a step back and see what she does.

MADDY AS AQUILLA

Yeah, she stands astride her hands still balled up into fists and she just says to you, "I never want to see you again [GASPS!] You're not useful to me anymore."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Oh.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think that deflates Joseph slightly for a second, and he sort of takes a couple of steps backwards... opens his mouth to, like he's going to say something, and doesn't really know what it is that he wants to say or... and he's going to turn and as he's walking out he's going to like scoup the helmet up off the floor [SFX: Pick up helmet] from where he dropped it, turn and throw it like as hard as he can into, there's like a display case in one point in this room, and in that display case I would like to say is Aquilla's old costume...

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...from like the golden age, when she was a superhero herself.

Did you have any idea of what that looked like?

MADDY

Yeah, I think it is a really dark navy blue that is almost black; and has a very subtle kind of angular feather motif to it, and there is a sort of cape that is attached to both of the arms that just, you just know billows so good in the wind.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

Yeah, I'm going to scoup the helmet up and just hurl it [SFX: Helmet flies, glass shatters] into the glass of that cabinet, like hard as I can.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Ooh, does that clear your angry?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think it might, and leave, and I think the difference here is, I think as Joseph kind of is walking out there's like the stealth jet's like where it was where it landed, and then as he's kind of coming out in that direction almost not really thinking about it like we see the stealth jet just get like lifted away by like robotic mechanical arms [SFX: Machinery whirs] and sort of drawn off into some other like repair bay to fix the damage that was done to it, but it's like no, that's gone and I think he takes a lift down like one of the secret ones that nobody else has access to, and he changes in the lift and we just see like a minute or so later a very unassuming looking boy in a grey hoodie kind of

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

leaving this big skyscraper building at the bottom floor and wandering off into the city, and I guess I'll leave myself there.

MADDY

Yeah.

As we leave Joseph walking away from the Apex building atop which the Eyrie sits, we will take a short break, and be right back.

[BREAK]

And we're back.

So, after that intense interaction between Aquilla and Joseph we now go back to our three other heroes, where are you? Are you going to the gig or are you going to be looking for Joseph?

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini believes that we should go there, and he might turn up.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

I think Morgan also is of the opinion that we can't find him, but if we let him know where we are, which we have repeatedly, and go to the gig hopefully... so I guess it's like can we convince Adeeb that's what we think we should do.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Do we invite Blue to join us?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh! Yeah.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Oh! Yeah, absolutely, let’s message her.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Do we need to go get her or is she... I don’t know how that works?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Can she get out?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

You would know she can’t leave on her own.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Oh, let’s go get her.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Do you think it’s safe for her to leave the building?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I mean it’s the three of us are going to be with her, so it should be safe.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Yeah, I suppose, we just have to be really careful.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“She’s been couped for a couple of days there, she probably wants to go out and do something.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“I guess Joseph might be there as well.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Yeah! I just, you know, she hid there for a reason because it was dangerous, but I... I agree it’s also dangerous to... to not do anything.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I’m sure it will be fine, like there’s the three of us and we’re all capable superheroes kind of, somewhat.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Yeah, very capable...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Under no circumstances is anyone going to this gig Maddy.

(Laughter)

No matter how many times you say, “There’s a gig” “You’ve not gone to the gig yet” we’re not going.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, definitely.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Is there anything we're doing on the way up or is it a smash cut to like...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Just three of you standing outside an elevator just having your passes rejected repeatedly.

(Laughter)

MADDY

So, as you come up to ExoPlanet Corp, and you go to the usual elevator, it is just wide open and it never is, you always have to use your pass to open it, it's just open.

[SFX: ExoPlanet Corp. Ambience]

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Is... is this a trap?"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Um, I mean..."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Why would it be a trap?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“I can struggle to sometimes interpret human mental states, and emotions, and intentions, they don’t always make great sense, but the one word that I have never associated with Joseph is... open”.

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I’m sure it’s fine.” I walk in.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh Adeeb.

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

My assess of the situation is minus two, so I’m not even going to worry.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Well, Adeeb has influence over Mini. Mini thinks Adeeb is cool, smart and well put together, and Mini is going to confidently stride after you.

MADDY

Cool.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Cool, smart and well put together and as of earlier this evening...terrifyingly powerful.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah!

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan will be like, [sighs] “I’m not sure about this” but will follow because won’t want to leave you.

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Are there even buttons or does it go automatically to the...

MADDY

There is a single button that you press, [SFX: Elevator button] and it sends you up to the correct floor.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

As the lift is going up, I am texting my sister, “I am definitely not going to miss tonight...”

(Laughter)

[GASPS] ...Bringing more friends.”

MADDY

Tempting fate.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

ADEEB!!

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

ARGHHH.

MADDY

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

As the lift doors open [SFX: Lift doors slide open] onto the apartment, which was once the Grey Box, you see that it is now completely empty. There is absolutely nothing there. There is no Bluebell, most importantly.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Hello?”

MADDY

And there’s even no plants, the plants are gone [gasps].

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

My plants are gone?!

MADDY

No tech.

No weapons.

No milkshakes.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

WHAT?!

(Laughter)

MADDY

It’s just completely stripped clean.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Okay.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Did he move out or something?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Sadly] “That was quick.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh my gosh.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“That is too quick.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

It’s like to the point where the... those windows that had the like screens on them that could project as well as see through, have like they’ve also gone.

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

Like everything... the paint’s been stripped.

(Laughter)

Like the floorboards are up like this is just...

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

It's a white room now.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

It's just a completely blank room, like everything has gone!

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, they somehow managed to get the bulletproof-ness off the glass.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, yeah.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

[Sadly] "Well I guess, Joseph really doesn't want to be friends..."

MADDY

No! That's not what I want you to take from this!

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I know, but this is where we are!

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“I’m just... I’m gonna call him!” She’s got his actual phone number so that she’s not calling the group chat anymore, it’s like actually, Joseph – phone number! Probably one of 12 that directs to his phone.

(Laughter)

Or through multiple VPNs, but like calls...[SFX: Dialing]

(Laughter)

Just rings...nothing...[SFX: Phone rings]

This is the one thing that Mini has definitely picked up from socialising with humans that are of an equivalent, though not the same age, because like we don’t talk about the pupa stage, is the terrifying nature of actually calling...

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...someone on the phone, like that is...

MADDY

Legit.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah, not going to do that so, like this is the point where it's brrr, calling on the phone, and the secret relief when it's not picked up.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, again, not to grind things to any halt or anything, but I just don't know what he would even say.

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

From his point of view seeing any of you call, like if he's looked at his phone he's seen all the messages, and...yeah, I don't think Joseph is going to answer his phone at this point in time.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Awww.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Which is a shame because he doesn't know what's happened so, yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Sadly] "He really doesn't. He doesn't want to be our friend [sniffs]".

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Well..."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"I thought he was quite nice [crying]"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Apart from the electrocuting..."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Upset] "I... my opinion of him has changed a lot over the course of the day..."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"The two days I've known him..."

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

Yeah.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, you met on Saturday, this is Monday.

(Group laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

We're superheroes, we...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Ignore that.

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Super friends.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Exactly, we form very fast bonds.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

We've got 18 episodes, everything needs to matter, a lot...

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...in a short amount of time.

MADDY

You had very intense bonding experiences.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“So, do you think Bluebell left with him? He’s probably trying to protect her and took her with him or something.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“I...”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“I think we should get out of here because I don’t know what to expect from him anymore.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I’ll make one last Bluebell echo... “Bluebell?... [Ahmed creates echo]
Bluebell...Bluebell...” nothing, I’ll go to the elevator. [SFX: Lift opens, moves,
and closes]

MADDY

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

Alright, you head back down and walk slowly out of the ExoPlanet Corp building; and where are you going next?

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Adeeb, where’s the gig and what’s the dress code?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Aw, important questions...

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Obviously, I know the dress code, but the location, what was it called?

MADDY

The Night Jar.

[SFX: Night-time street ambience]

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Alright, and it’s Muslim friendly so there’s no alcohol and there’s no age limit.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Cool.

MADDY

Yeah, so it’s a dry bar.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

I’ve just been imagining The Bronze from Buffy, this whole time.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

That's where I'm going to be.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

You put me in any club or bar, describe it however you like, but I will be in The Bronze from Buffy, that is where I will be, thank you very much!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

But with milkshakes instead of cocktails! [GASPS]

MADDY

(Laughter)

So, you make your way to the kind of student-y district of the city where a lot of the dorms are, a lot of the student accommodation and you head to this dry bar that is very hip and trendy and has a whole host of caffeinated beverages and juices and smoothies on offer.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Whispers] And milkshakes.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah, I think Mini's about to have a milkshake.

MADDY

Yeah, absolutely there is. There is a bespoke menu of luxury milkshakes on offer, and you can even add your own toppings, but as you enter [SFX: Door swings open and closed again]you can see a small but dedicated crowd of fans of Amal's band Panthera, and you can see that they are all getting set up on the stage with their amps and their guitars and their drums; [SFX: Amps click on, guitars are tuned] and Adeeb would know, and would probably tell you as you enter that each of the band members of Panthera have a stage name based on the scientific name of a big cat. So, Amal is Uncia, which is snow leopard, and her fellow members of the band are Tigris, Pardus and Onca.

[SFX: The Night Jar ambience, friendly quiet student bar]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Dope.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Amazing!

MADDY

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

And so yeah, what do you want to do, do you want to grab some drinks, do you want to sit down, do you want to go say hi to Amal and her friends?

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Probably go head to Amal and drag those two with me.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah, yeah, we'd love to meet your sister.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Cool.

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

Nice, and as soon as she sees you Adeeb, she is very excited and she's like, "Oh thank you so much for coming. This is so great to see you. Yeah, this is Tigris, Pardus and Onca, and (I think we're just going to go by stage names tonight because that's fun) yeah, so, can I get you anything? Do you want to take a seat or...yeah, just make yourself comfortable"

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"No, we're going to be fine. I just want to introduce you to my friends."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Little wave.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Okay, so their names are their stage names as well...

(Laughter)

So, “This is Mini, and this is Morgan.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Hi”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Hi.”

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

“Amazing to meet you.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

[Shyly] “Nice to meet you.”

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

“How are you doing?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Yeah, good. This looks cool.”

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

“Thank you, yeah, yeah we’ve been rehearsing a lot. So, yeah, we... when we started off we were quite like, I don’t know, all over the place but at the

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

moment I think we're in a good place, and we've really improved our sound, and I think we've, yeah..."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"This is a good place!" Mini is looking around like in awe, [sings] never been to a bar like this beforrrrrre...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Is there a disco ball?

(Laughter)

Because there's a human disco ball now.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

(Laughter)

Yeah, I think there's a disco ball.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Cool.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Cool.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini is going to go and order a milkshake.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Before I leave, I just touch my sister's shoulder, [SFX: Fabric touch] I'm assuming she has like a white scarf or something like that around her head, and I will just change it to have like leopard spots [gasps].

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yay!

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Just to add some colour, just "Go kill em"

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Aw.

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

"Thank you so much, that's amazing! Oh my god – okay, thank you, thank you."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"That's really sweet."

MADDY

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

As you settle in for the gig, are you keeping an eye out to see if Joseph's coming through the door?

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini is focussing on like the right arrangement... so, Mini is going to mix up, so, I'm guessing there's going to be an ice cream kind of... and different sort of mocktail type smoothie things, so there's lots of fruit, and there's lots of... and there might be snacks as well on sale. So, like Mini's going to kind of have lemon and like turkey bacon on a strawberry milkshake...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh no.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...and it's going to be incredible. It's going to blow her tiny mind.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan is next to her at the bar and is just taking the first sip of her chocolate malt, that has cream on top and peanut M&M's.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

How many lit sparklers are in Mini's milkshake, that's what I want to know?

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

As many as are permitted.

(Laughter)

MADDY

I'll say a nice round three.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

As many as legally allowed by the fire department.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

You try to get more but they were like, no we actually, we can't, we're not insured to put more than three sparklers per drink.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

Morgan's going to get some chips like with cheese and jalapeños and things on as well, thanks. She's starving.

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, it's been a busy day.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini's going to put some jalapeños in the milkshake.

MADDY

Excellent.

Okay, yeah, you settle down with your feast of treats and delights and the gig starts [SFX: Upbeat punk rock music begins] and you can see that Amal and the others are a bit nervous to start off with, but their fellow students who have become their kind of loyal fanbase are really into it and they soon warm up and they become more confident; and they get into the groove and they're playing this really quite cheerful but also like aggressively cheerful punk.

[SFX: Upbeat punk rock music continues throughout the scene]

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Perfect.

MADDY

Yeah, it's kind of like you're so happy that it makes you slightly angry.

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Aggressively happy, which is not the mood that Morgan's in.

MADDY

Yeah, yeah this is quite jarring for some of you I'm sure, but partway through the gig as you're having a lovely time listening to this uplifting punk music, someone comes in through the door and Adeeb, you would recognise this to be your mother.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I turn... I try... I don't know what to do...

(Laughter)

I panic.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Get her guys!

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Do you make that obvious to us that...?

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

I panic! Yeah, I am trying to cover my face, but I don't know how and I'm just... on discovering my face with my hand I forget that I can change my clothes. So, now I'm just covering my face with my hands and stuff.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

You just instinctively become a fabric cocoon.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini's going to bend light around you, [SFX: Alien light warp tone] like so that you become quasi-invisible...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Nice.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...while light... you're blurred, you know, you're like a person in the background when blur is put on your Zoom call kind of thing, like bits are coming through but it's not quite you know like, "What's wrong?"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Yeah."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Why are you hiding? Who's attacking us?"

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Uh, uh, me no, it’s my mother, she’s here.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Oh, lovely!”

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Is that not...”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Oh, is that not, not lovely?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

...good?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“It’s um, it’s complicated, she doesn’t know about these things.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Does she not like the band?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“They have their opinions about people who go on stage.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh, so should we...”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Bad?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

...this is not good for Amal either?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“No”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Okay”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I don’t think you can do that thing with her, can you?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“I... it would...”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“It’s kind of too late...”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...be quite hard to hide people on the stage, um..."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"Um."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"I could give your mum a migraine...?"

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Oh! I mean...I could put her to sleep but I don't think maybe that's what we should do right now."

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"I don't..."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"No, I don't think that's a good idea, but thanks for the thought I guess."

MADDY

While this conversation is going on, you have successfully managed to hide Adeeb in either hands or darkness.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

A blur.

MADDY

A blur, yeah. Amira is just sitting at one of the tables right in the back near the front door of the bar and just kind of staring at the stage with a steely glare.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Uh oh.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Uh, I don't know what to do, like I want to get out of there and not get caught as well here, but I don't want to leave my sister.

(Laughter)

Staying upfront, alone, and I'm really lost on what to do.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan is like, "I'm really... sorry, I don't know... Mini did you know your parents? I grew up without mine, I don't... I don't know what to do in this situation?!"

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Oh yeah, mine um, they're well, I mean I am not really sure, we don't, we've got a lot of parents, but my first mother, she's very supportive, almost too

supportive sometimes, but she... I mean she wishes that I was nearer home and sometimes you know, she worries that I'm in danger here because you know obviously, humans are [nervously laughs] um, but, uh...

(Laughter)

...no, they're usually very um, nice. She comments on all my articles."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"That's nice."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"With a score out of ten."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Oh."

(Laughter)

Morgan's just going to turn away at that and be like looking at Adeeb like, "Do you want to, maybe, I don't know, I guess it's too late to warn Amal..."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"Yeah, I think let's do damage control and just go... let's go and talk to her."

MADDY

Okay.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Like how, is she upset, or is she like just keeping a cold face or is she... what is her facial expression?

MADDY

Yeah, it is... she is trying to keep as neutral as possible, but you can see that there is... it's a kind of mixture of concern and fury behind the eyes.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Oh god! "Okay, so, yeah, we should probably go."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"You mean go talk to her?"

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"I guess let me introduce you to my mother."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Okay!" Mini, removes the blur that has been censoring you. [SFX: Alien tones end]

MADDY

Alright, yeah, so as you go up to her table...

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Timidly.

MADDY AS AMIRA

Yeah.

(Laughter)

She turns and suddenly spots you and is like, “Adeeb! You’re here as well?!”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Um, yes, yeah, yeah, hi mamma.”

MADDY AS AMIRA

“Hi darling, but excuse me, did you know about this?!”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I... [sighs] these are my friends.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Hi!”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Hi.”

MADDY AS AMIRA

“I appreciate the politeness of introducing me to your friends, but that’s not going to distract me from the matter at hand, which is that your sister is in a

band that neither of you told me about, that is very possibly going to damage her career and make her not be taken seriously as a scientist.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Or she could be having a really good time and managing herself well, so she can work hard on her career, and not get burnt out.”

MADDY AS AMIRA

“But it’s past 11 at night. How... Surely the definition of burning out is being out late and doing things that aren’t relevant to your career?!”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“When you do stuff that you really, really enjoy, it works the opposite, it’s just... it gives you so much motivation to work harder.”

MADDY

Could you please do me a provoke roll to see if you can persuade your mother, that this is actually a good thing?

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

That’s a seven.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Ah!

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Ooooh!

MADDY

So, yeah, in this moment she is somewhat flustered, and you can take plus one on your next roll against her.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Against your mum...

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

We're all fighting family here.

(Laughter)

MADDY AS AMIRA

And she kind of goes, "Well, I wouldn't know about that, I just think that it's much more sensible to have a clear goal in mind and follow it through."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"That's true, that's absolutely true, but sometimes you need to get out of the box and look at things from a different perspective and look, look (and I point at the stage) how amazing she is, and look at how everybody is just so amazed by her talent. Listen."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Oh.

MADDY AS AMIRA

As she takes a moment to take in the scene and she does linger on the happy faces of Amal on the stage and her friends, her fellow big cats in Panthera and the audience members and you can see that she is considering carefully what you are saying, and she says, “Well, um, perhaps I’ve not been thinking very clearly about this. Let’s... let’s just wait until the end and I’ll speak to Amal and see what she has to say for herself, how about that?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Would you like me to bring you something to drink?”

MADDY AS AMIRA

“What kind of thing do they offer her?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Oh this is Muslim friendly, they don’t have anything alcoholic, so it’s perfect.”

MADDY AS AMIRA

“Okay. Alright. Well, that is... that is better than I expected, okay, um, could you please get me a lemonade?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Absolutely, before I go, this is Mini, this is Morgan.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Hi!”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Hi.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

And I just walk away from everybody leaving them with my mum.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Now comes the time for the awkward sitting at the table while Adeeb goes to get the lemonade.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini isn't awkward at all! Mini is going to like immediately sort of just be talking about like... “It's really incredible the way that music and science and thought, all kind of combine...” and will just start talking about the way that instead of one being different from the other like you know, “...sound is about like space and time and it...” I don't even think she's necessarily trying to be helpful, she's continuing what she...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...saw as an interesting conversation about the relationship between science and art and the way that the divisions between the two are actually not particularly like real, and the thinking about things from a creative perspective is necessary, all the time, so...

MADDY

Nice.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan is going to be very awkward, very silent, just “Uh huh” every now and then at like Mini’s points.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Will speak if spoken too obviously.

MADDY AS AMIRA AND AMAL AKA UNCIA

Yeah.

Amira just sits back and kind of takes everything in. Is on receive mode, she’s not going to be broadcasting anytime soon until the gig is finished, she’s just taking everything in, and so Adeeb comes back with the drink, and you take a seat [SFX: Chair scrapes] and she sort of allows everyone to just enjoy the rest of the show without any further comment, and as the show comes to an end and the keen audience at the front are clapping and cheering [SFX: Upbeat punk rock ends, clapping and cheering] and having a wonderful time and the

band members are taking their bows; eventually as the lights dim down and Amal can get a good look around she spots you all with Amira there with you, and in a very similar way, in a very familiar way you can recognise the mannerisms across the family, she tentatively walks up to the table and...

(Laughter)

...she's just like, "Hi, hi mum, how you doing? So, are you good?" and Amira's like, "You didn't tell me about any of this" and Amal was like, "Well, um, it's something that I really enjoy, and it actually gives me a chance to have a break from work and clear my head and make friends, and uh...actually um...uh...Adeeb can you help me out here?!"

(Laughter)

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"Yes, absolutely and those are her college friends, I mean they are doing a lot of activities together to entice their scientific creativity..."

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

"Yes, yes because creative thinking in science is very important. People are so focused on the facts and the figures when actually you need to be creative and thinking of new solutions to all the problems".

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"That's exactly what I was trying to say!" Mini concludes.

[Sweet soft music]

MADDY AS AMAL AKA UNCIA

“Oh yeah, yeah, what Mini was saying, mm”

(Laughter)

And Amira, she holds for a moment and just kind of looks Amal up and down and then eventually very slowly reaches out her arms and gives Amal a hug, [SFX: Hug] and says...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Ah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Aw.

MADDY AS AMIRA AND AMAL AKA UNCIA

“Alright, I don’t understand this, and I’m not sure I ever will but, you’re happy and as long as you don’t hide things from me again, we’re alright, okay?” and Amal says, “Thanks mum” and she just kind of nuzzles in for a hug [SFX: Hug] and Amira gestures to Adeeb to join in if he wants.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I join in because I never say no to my parents. [SFX: Hug]

(Laughter)

Only behind their backs...

(Laughter)

MADDY

In this moment of a family coming to terms with some very aggressively happy punk, we're going to end the episode there and we'll be back next week...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Aw.

MADDY

So, thank you so much for listening to this episode of Chapter and Multiverse; and as always, I would like to ask our fantastic and talented players where we can find them on the internet and if they have anything to plug, starting with Pip?

PIP

Hello there, I am Pip Gladwin, and you can find me @Pip_Gladwin on Twitter, and you know what, if you like the sound of my voice and also Maddy's, you should check out the Podcast, Realms of Peril & Glory RPG pod.

MADDY

Woo hoo.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Rusty Quill Gaming – CHAP - Masks 14 - The Night Jar

And check out our inaugural from way back when our sort of first veil campaign, Maddy and I are players in it, and it's great fun and I play a much more emotionally available and supportive character in it...

(Laughter)

...who like enjoys stuff, and likes things, and doesn't just spend the whole time through that final scene there thinking, I don't know Adeeb I think you should sweep your mum's leg... um... uh, yeah.

(Laughter)

So, that's me and yeah, done now.

MADDY

Yes, please do check out Realms of Peril & Glory if you like this show, you'll definitely like that show too; And Lowri?

LOWRI

Hey, you can find me @LowriTweets and on other podcasts from Rusty Quill...

(Laughter)

Oh, I'll be in...sorry, the hesitation is because I'm like what's been announced, but I will be in Trice Forgotten, that's exciting.

PIP

Wooo!

MADDY

Yeah, excellent, and Lydia?

LYDIA

Hi, I'm available @LydNicholas on Twitter and in similarly scattered across the podcast universe you know?

LOWRI

Nice.

LYDIA

It's like a treasure hunt – find me!

(Laughter)

MADDY

Excellent, and Ahmed?

AHMED

Hi, you can find me everywhere @mr_aljabry mostly on Twitter, where I share titbits for middle eastern and cultural stuff from there. I'm also doing a couple of things that I don't know when they will come out, so I'll let you know next time.

(Laughter)

LOWRI

Yay!

LYDIA

Woo hoo!

MADDY

Okay, you can find me on Twitter and Instagram @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

Goodbye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER

Chapter and Multiverse is a podcast distributed by Rusty Quill and licensed under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial share alike 4.0 international license. It is directed by Maddy Searle and produced by M Lindeman, with executive producers, Alexander J Newall and April Sumner. The Eternal Tavern Keeper was played by Karim Kronfli. This episode was edited by Lowri Ann Davies, Tessa Vroom and Maddy Searle, with music by Nico Vettesse. Thank you for listening.