

CHAP Masks 15 – Newsflash

Content Warnings

[Show Theme - Intro]

THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER

Rusty Quill presents Chapter and Multiverse.

[SFX: Interdimensional Tavern Ambience]

Ah, good afternoon my friend, I'll have our fantastic new bartender make your usual order right away, they are quite adept at flair bartending, but that maybe just because they have several muscular arms but, before I go on too much of a tangent, I shall get you up to speed on our tag team. Adeeb and his companions finally manage to get to his sister's gig and, while they were there they also resolved a bit of family tension but, after the confrontation with Aquilla, Joseph had to act quickly in order to gain as much information about his former mentor as possible.

[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 continuing our campaign of Masks a New Generation, which is designed by

CHAP Masks 15 – Newsflash

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 Lydia?

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Hi, I'm Lydia, she/they and I am playing Mini Smithson, who uses she/her.

MADDY

And Pip?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Hello there, I'm Pip Gladwin, and I'll be playing Joseph Teller aka like, not I guess, not really Zenith anymore...

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Oooo

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...like that's [gasps!] I don't know, just Joseph Teller I guess for now, he's fine, and everything is fine, and our pronouns are he and him.

MADDY

And Ahmed?

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

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Hello, I'm Ahmed Aljabry and I guess I'm getting back to being stoked to be here.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Woo!

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

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

MADDY

Wonderful, and Lowri?

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Hello, I am Lowri Ann Davies, and I am playing Blodeuwedd Morgan, aka Syphon, both of our pronouns are she/her.

MADDY

And so last we left off, Joseph went back to Aquilla's HQ, The Eyrie, and had a confrontation which ended in her telling him to get out and him leaving. So, we don't know exactly what the aftermath of that is going to be.

Meanwhile, our three other heroes went to check in on the Grey Box and found it completely empty, with no Bluebell or plants to be found...

(Laughter)

...and they also went to Amal's gig, where there was an awkward moment with Amira, Adeb and Amal's mother turning up, being angry that she hadn't been told about this thing happening, but it ended in some reconciliation and understanding, which was very lovely...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yay.

MADDY

...and so, as we pick up, I would like to ask, where is Joseph? What's he doing?

(Laughter)

[SFX: City street night-time ambience]

[Mysterious music]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, there's a few things I guess, I guess Maddy, number one because, I have a set amount of time before Aquilla realises that I have stolen their phone!

(Laughter)

So, I think my first move is to get everything that I can off it.

MADDY

Cool.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Specifically, I think what I will focus on is her connection to UTBC and the pilot programme, any communication. I mean that's if I can even crack this thing, like I assume the security on it is pretty heavy, but I've been trained to break that kind of stuff, so you know...

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I'm basically looking for evidence, that is my main goal here before I assume this phone, I don't know, explodes, or electrocutes me.

(Laughter)

MADDY

I'm going to call this an "Unleash your Powers/Training" roll, because even though like the line between this and "Assess the Situation" is blurry, but yeah, either of those would work.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I mean if you're giving me the opportunity to use "Assess the Situation" I will use "Assess the Situation" because...

MADDY

Cool.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...I have a plus two rather than a plus nothing.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, no that makes sense.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

What about Pierce the Mask, because you've got a lot of mundane at the moment, don't you?

MADDY

Mm.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Because that is:

What are you really planning?

What do you want me to do?

What do you intend to do?

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mm, yes!

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

That Lowri is a, just a tremendous pitch.

(Laughter)

MADDY

That is an excellent idea.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

And my mundane is higher than my superior right now so, yes, yes!

MADDY

Let's do it.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Okay, that is an 11.

MADDY

Beautiful.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Ooooo. All the info. All the info.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I will go for what are you really planning, and also, well I got ten plus so I get to ask three Maddy.

MADDY

Yeah, lay it on me.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Sorry Maddy!

(Laughter)

MADDY

It's all good.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I will go for, how could I gain influence over you? Because that's a thing I've never had [gasps], and then the last one I'll take is, how can I get your character to admit fault?

MADDY

Mm, interesting so, in terms of, what are you really planning? You have access to a lot of information but a very short time to do it in, but if you are interested in UTBC, you can see that they basically approached her as a kind of sponsorship type deal where they would offer funds and she would speak about them favourably, and she would kind of protect their interests, but she

hasn't had any communications from them about the pilot programme, she has no information on there that you can find that implicates UTBC in anything dodgy, it's just a mutually beneficial business deal on her part.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I'll say, is there mention of, and I've forgotten her name now, I remember the surname was Claret?

MADDY

Fiona Claret.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Does she communicate with her at all?

MADDY

No, I don't think so, she was going through some of the more legitimate parts of the business.

In terms of other aspects of what are you really planning? You can see that she is very much focussed on the kind of cleaning up the streets angle. She's very much about getting into the criminal underworld especially the superpowers criminal underworld, breaking it down, making sure it's not a threat. She has a massive blind spot for people in positions of power who are abusing power. She has no interest in like dismantling the corporate structure or looking at superpowered people who may be overusing their abilities, she's very much like okay these people are criminals, we must deal with them; and in terms of, how could I gain influence over you? I think the answer to that question maybe to show that you are the next generation of superhero, that

you are your own person, that you are essential, that she's a thing of the past and that you are a thing of the future.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Okay.

MADDY

Kind of put her in her place, and as for your final question, how could I get your character to admit fault? I think Aquilla is someone who responds to cold hard evidence, and if you compiled all the evidence, all the footage of her messing up, then she would find it very hard to ignore that, if you were simply to spin a narrative around it, she would be able to rationalise it away, but if it was there in front of her in black and white she would have to consider it very carefully.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Okay, then I think I know the thing that Joseph is going to do. I have access to... and I'm guess at this point what I've managed to pull from Aquilla's phone it shuts down.

[Music fades out]

MADDY

Yeah, absolutely.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Just breaks. [SFX: Phone electrically fried]

MADDY

Suddenly Snake II appears...

(Laughter)

...and that's all you can do on it.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I have, I mean I still have my mobile device, if that is still functioning, I think I have access to more or less everything that we have found so far; everything we got on Clear Vision Trading, the links to UTBC, the stuff that Adeeb managed to pull from UTBC before deleting everything, I still have all of that right?

MADDY

Yeah, mm hmm.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

So, I'm going to parcel all of that up into a nice little set of files, you know pictures of any of the text base documents and then the documents themselves, and then I'm going to get my phone out, [SFX: Fabric rustles] I'm going to turn on the camera, going to flip the screen round so it's facing me, and I'm going to record a video [gasps!]

“My name is Joseph Teller. [Tense music] For the last 13 years I have been trained by and have been operating for the former superhero Aquilla under the codename Zenith.

My mentor has been embroiled in a plot, duped by the UTBC into aiding a so called pilot programme, a project that manipulates young and vulnerable powered people in Chapter.

UTBC is using a shell corporation named Clear Vision Trading to cover up this pilot programme under the eyes of CTO, Fiona Claret. They know my name, they know the names and faces of my team. That’s not going to stop us.

We’re coming for you.” and I’m going to end the video there, and then I am going to send it to, not to UTBC but to another news network [GASPS!] along with all of that evidence. [SFX: Outgoing text tone]

MADDY

Amazing.

I think within the next ten minutes, you get several notifications [SFX: Phone vibrates] on your phone of UTBC branded news content that is discrediting you, obviously not with the vast amount of evidence that you have, but just in kind of vague terms calling into question your competence as a team, accusing you of property damage in the UTBC...

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

That is fair.

MADDY

...Headquarters, which is fair.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

A lot of this is fair, frankly.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

A lot of this is fair. I did hit that building with a plane.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

They have no evidence.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I had a hoodie on, they didn't know it was me.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I wiped all their software.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

You don't have access to that plane anymore, so...

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah!

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

What plane? I don't know anything about a plane.

(Laughter)

MADDY ALSO AS NEWSREADER

So, yeah, and you flick to the 24 hour news channel, and you can see a newsreader saying, [SFX: News report music, television voice effect] "A new superhero team associated with the governmental agency TARGE, has been accused of gross incompetence and destruction of private property, Solartrix, Zenith, The Turban and Syphon who only became a functioning team last Saturday...

(Laughter)

...infiltrated the UTBC Headquarters as part of a work experience tour. They severely damaged thousands of pounds worth of expensive equipment by setting of the sprinkler system, and also used a jet to break one of the buildings windows. Authorities suspect that the team may have been working

with the established supervillain Poltergeist, that they have been seen together earlier today by witnesses in the Brick District.

Tonight, we will be speaking to superhero experts and asking, has TARGE gone too far?"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Sort of seeing that all just like start popping off and like people throwing accusations at other people and all this kind of chaos just kind of starting around it. I think he smiles a little bit.

(Laughter)

I think there's this moment of like, okay, good, and then I'm going to take the bag [SFX: fabric rustles] that I have my costume and the remainder of my gear, not the helmet but everything else in, I'm going to chuck it in a bin [SFX: Throw, glass smashes] and, because that I am certain is chock full of tracking devices.

MADDY

Mm.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I'm going to take my phone out, I'm going to crush it, I'm just going to stomp on it, [SFX: Metal, glass shattering] because that's also almost certainly chocked full of tracking devices, and then I'm going to, if we're still the night before, then I am going to head to The Night Jar, if it's still the night before, which we're saying it is?

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Cool, I'm going to try and link up with the others then.

MADDY

Nice, yeah, it is about midnight currently.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

I am so impressed that with a phone crushed you know where to go...

(Laughter)

...because since the advent of Google Maps the mapping and directions part, my brain has atrophied...

(Laughter)

...so like, I don't know if you're like scribbling down like an awkward map before you crushed the phone...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I've been running around jumping off rooftops of this building since I was eight, so...

(Laughter)

I think I've got...Pip is dreadful and would be lost instantly!

(Laughter)

...but Zenith is not. Joseph rather, not Zenith anymore.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

No. [Gasps]

Identity crisis!

(Laughter)

MADDY

[SFX: Night Jar ambience]

So, yeah I think for dramatic purposes, you enter just as the family hug between Amira, Amal and Adeeb is breaking up, and as the tablet that Mini has from TARGE is just going off, [SFX: Incoming call] just absolutely ringing off the hook.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini has no compulsions about like ignoring calls from TARGE as we've established before...

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...so like, very much more focused on the family get together.

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, understandable, and so yeah Joseph enters [SFX: Door opens and closes] as all this is happening.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Do you want us to see you?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, I'm not trying to hide.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Okay.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Gasps] runs over and gives a hug. [SFX: Hug]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Just kind of goes like freezes up kind of completely, and then I think I'll sort of like pat [SFX: Patting sounds] you on the shoulder.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“I don’t understand why you did what you did, but I think deep down you are a good person and Morgan explained that sometimes people do bad things, but they’re actually good people, and I really think that you’re a good person and that you’re trying as hard as you can and I...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

I...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...If I wanted everything to be logical...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...and explainable...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...I would have stayed on Specmarkalon...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...and I’m just glad that you care so much...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...even if it doesn’t always come out in the right way”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Mini?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“What?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“I’m guessing you haven’t seen the news?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“No, we’ve been watching Adeeb’s sister’s band. It’s amazing.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Okay, so maybe shelve the hug and um, yeah. I’m sorry?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan will be like, “That’s...(thinking you’re talking about what happened before like)...that’s okay Zenith, like I think, I don’t know why, but I think we can work through this, I think...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“No, guys? Guys?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I jump in and just hug him. [SFX: Hug}

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

Morgan’s like...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

God dammit!

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Puts her arm around everyone and doesn't squeeze but just like encircles you,
[SFX: Gentle loose hug] "I think we're gonna be okay."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Guys?"

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Just so long..."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"GUYS!"

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...as we're making decisions together from now on, right?"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Yeah."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

“GUYS!!”

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“So, we all agree...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“GUYS!!!”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...about things that are... so that we don't have surprises for one another because I just don't know if I can cope if there was...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think at this point if I can have a tiny bit of agency over the control of this scene.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

(Laughter)

Yeah!

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think I start hearing people's phones going off... [SFX: Assorted phone rings]

(Laughter)

...and people are like, oh, what's going on, like lots of people taking their phones out and then like a couple of them are you know, there's probably music playing right now, but a couple of these people are taking their phones out and like have it on you know have the volume up and are just playing what's on there. [SFX: Joseph's video plays in background] So, I think you catch like moments of my voice being played out of other people's phones in this room.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"What's going on?"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Uh, just, check the news."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"Okay."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini pulls out the tablet. She was going to check the news, but as she's pulling it out you can see that it's like TARGE flashing red... [SFX: Incoming call tones]

(Laughter)

Incoming call!

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA THE TURBAN

“MINI!!!”

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“What, usually they just don’t say anything important, okay” presses call accepted, [SFX; Pick up tone] “Hi, um, we’re trying to check the news, could you call back later?”

(Laughter)

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “I’m in my pyjamas at home, and I really need everyone to come into HQ as soon as possible because the news is, well, I think we just, we need to talk, okay? We need to talk. We need to talk.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“What is the news?”

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “Well, Joseph has gone on record accusing UTBC of being involved in this conspiracy...”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“I mean they are.”

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “...[pause] okay, um, and...

(Laughter)

...they have responded by outing you all.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

[Gasps] “As in they know who we are?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“They know I’m an alien?!”

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “Yeah, they haven’t used your names, but there are pictures of your faces very clearly and your superhero names everywhere.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Forget what I said about the alien thing, that was a joke [laughs nervously]”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I’m sure it’s fine. I’m always wearing the mask.”

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “But you were in the headquarters walking around with no disguises on.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh no.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Yeah, but I deleted everything. Like, ctrl-A, ctrl-shift-delete.”

(Laughter)

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “They um, I think perhaps they have Cloud storage, and everything was automatically uploaded.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“I should have emptied the trash can.”

(Laughter)

MADDY AS VERA

[SFX: Phone call voice effect] “I think... I think either way that wouldn't have made a diff- anyway! Please come into HQ as soon as you can. I know it's been... I mean I'll... I don't know...” she's just kind of frantically rummaging through her house kind of absentmindedly, just kind of looking for her bag, her

keys, like a jacket and she's like putting a jacket on over her pyjamas and is like... and just really not in the right frame of mind to be doing this.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

This is all on speaker, so Mini looks up from that to Joseph and just, "But why?"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

"People know who you are now."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Needed to make a statement I guess...um... also..."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I'm going to breakaway and just go to my mother and sister. I'm assuming my mother hasn't checked anything yet because she's distracted with what's going on. "Hey, Mumma? I think I left some stuff with my friends, so I'll just go to their place, I'll pick it up and come back as soon as I can."

MADDY AS AMIRA

"Alright, alright my darling, yeah just stay safe and see you soon."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

"Always."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan's going to be like want to watch the video properly [SFX: Exempts from video] , so we'll be watching it on the tablet.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I'm just sort of standing there awkwardly while you...

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

No! I'm going to shove everyone outside.

(Laughter)

"Let's go, let's go, let's go."

MADDY

Cool, so as you're attempting to watch this video, Adeeb is shoving you out of the door [SFX: Door opens and closes] and you finally get a quiet moment to just take it all in, and as you are watching we're just going to take a short break and be right back.

[BREAK]

And welcome back.

As Joseph's video comes to an end, you're all standing around someone's phone or tablet outside The Night Jar, what happens? What's your reaction?

[SFX: City street night-time ambience]

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

I think Mini might be almost the least affected so is going to be the one that is first able to pull themselves together to say, "Why?"

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Morgan has been very quiet and very still and very early on in the video, [SFX: Exer and then... so, we're just outside The Night Jar?

MADDY

Yes.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

We're next to the door, she's going to pull the door off its hinges and throw it as hard as she can, [SFX: Wood tearing, glass shattering] just not even caring where it's going, push Zenith up against the wall and say, "Aquilla?"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Yeah."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

She's shaking, "You've been working, for Aquilla?!"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Yeah, I always have."

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

She's going to punch the wall next to your head, [SFX: Bricks smash and crack] like...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Ooph.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

...obviously trying not to hurt you, “Aquilla killed my parents” and then just...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, I don’t know how to respond to that, just colour drains out of my face and I... Joseph’s just like, “What? When? WHAT?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“When I was three. I have to go!” and she’s just going to run off, she’s just going to run off into the night, because she’s so angry she might kill you.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I think I get dropped. [SFX: Dropped]

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Mm hmm.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

So, for the second time tonight, slump down a wall. [SFX: Slump into wall]

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

I feel like that might... if I scared him...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, for sure. When you...

MADDY

Oh yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Okay cool, I'm taking a doom point for that...

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Woo!

MADDY

Yeah.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

...which means I do miss five which means I get to get a new ability, but let's deal with that later maybe.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, okay so...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I guess everyone else heard that?

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

MADDY

Yeah.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

So, I'm just on the... I'm just... I'm where I landed slumped against this wall just like yeah, I kind of felt sort of weirdly good about what was happening and now it's just....

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh no, I'm sorry.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

...it's just instantly, instantly nosedived.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh no.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Why? And you've work- there's so many layers of lies! What... I... how old were you 13 years ago?"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Eight.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini's doing calculations on fingers, "I mean you were just a larva that's not..."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"She um, she pulled me out of an orphanage."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

[Sighs].

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Um"

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"Are you a villain?"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

[Sighs] "I didn't think so, but maybe I've been working for one. I'm sorry Mini."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"We should get to TARGE."

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

"Adeeb, I'm sorry."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Adeeb is just fixated on the device, he's like inching to zoom in, if his facial features are clear or not, is visible. "I should have gone in a hoodie, why didn't I wear a hoodie? I always wear a hoodie, why didn't I wear a hoodie?!"

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

"I mean to be fair Adeeb they probably would have taken the hoodie off we were supposed to be on a work experience trip. If you'd covered your face, I would have been very suspicious. Even I know that! We weren't very well trained to be honest. This has all been a big mess. You should all go to TARGE. I'm going to try and find Morgan."

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Let's go to TARGE. I turn off my phone, [SFX: Shut down sound] because I don't want to deal with calls from my parents right now.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini flies off [SFX: Alien flight tones] in the direction that Morgan went.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Okay, well Morgan's new power is about to manifest.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Ooo.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

She stomps off angrily, just getting more and more angry and her new power manifests, and her new power is called portal [gasps] which means I can portal to appear in a scene with anyone I want. [SFX: Portal expands open] So, Morgan is going to pop back up right in the middle of you all...

(Laughter)

...which you've never seen her do before.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini has like flown off in the wrong direction, [SFX: Alien flight tones] so is actually the furthest away.

(Laughter)

Is like screech in the hover boots...

(Laughter)

...8ft in the air, turn around.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Grabs Zenith [SFX: Grab Zenith] and be like, "Where is she? Take me to her now!"

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“It’s the top of the Apex building, but I won’t be able to get in. I... we fought. I left.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“You fought?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Yeah.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“You’re not with her anymore?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“No.” I think there’s like a dawning moment for Zenith, which is not great to only be having right now. “Bluebell?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Yeah, she wasn’t in the Grey Box.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Yeah, we went, she wasn’t there. I thought she’d left with you?”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“No.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“She wasn’t safe with you? Oh...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“That means Aquilla’s got her.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh great, let’s go look for Bluebell.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Yeah, yeah, yeah.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“We should go to TARGE first, because they might have access to tools and technologies and things that could help, and information, some information.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“I think Mini might be right, but we don’t stay around long, we’ve got to get ahead of this or on top of it or something.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON.

“This, what is this?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Don’t say they’d lock us up, we might go to TARGE, and they decide that we’re more trouble than we’re worth and then lock us up. I mean that wouldn’t be good, that would not... my boss would not be happy about that.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“I don’t know, I’m not the leader. What do we do?”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Why are you looking at me? I am, I’m just following you!”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Well, that wasn’t smart.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“It’s not like any of us know what to do in this.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Look, TARGE might be archaic and somewhat irrational with a lot of their funding, but I don’t think they’re nefarious, I don’t think they’re up to anything, and we need help.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“You know what, I’m getting pretty good at reading minds, I think we go to TARGE and we stay near an exit, and I read their minds to see if they’re going to lock us up, and if they don’t, if they seem like they want to help, then we go with them and we ask for help and we get help and we get Bluebell back and then... honestly, I’m not sure if I’m cut out for this Earth superhero thing, it’s very confusing!”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Right, fine, let’s go. Let’s go to TARGE, and if they try to lock us up, I’ll punch us out.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Sounds good.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Just so long as you punch us out before my boss explodes the entire building and turns everyone inside into dust.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“He can do that?”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“Um...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

Just cut the scene there.

(Laughter)

MADDY

And scene.

And you make your way stealth jet less across town to TARGE.

[Adventure music]

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

On our stealth legs.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I give everyone a hoodie.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah, love it.

MADDY

Yeah, and just like “I heart Chapter” hoodies.

(Laughter)

And as you approach, Vera is waiting for you on the steps in front of TARGE in her pyjamas with a suit jacket over the top.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini quite intensely reads her mind, [SFX: Melodic mind tone] what is Vera thinking? This is an, I suppose an “Unleash your Powers”?

MADDY

Yes.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Cool, that is Unleash Powers – okay, five plus one, six. Yeah, not great.

MADDY

I think the reason that you can't get a read on her is she's just in a bit of a panic.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Right.

MADDY AS VERA

Her thoughts are going all over the place. Not really settling on anything. You don't get any sense of like immediately danger to any of you, she just seems to be in a bit of a state, and she's like, "Oh, um, good you're here, right. So, there's a lot going on and your faces are out there. I've been going through the... all the evidence that Joseph sent to the Daily Cormorant, and yeah, it looks like you're on to something, and the reason that UTBC are going so hard is because you've caught them in a lie, and they're trying their best to wriggle out of it. So, while it looks super bad and my superiors are very, very angry, I know that you are just doing your best and I think we need to see this through."

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“What does that involve?”

MADDY AS VERA

“Well, we have Poltergeist in custody, he is our most... he is our closest link to the UTBC pilot programme currently. So, I think... I mean, I think we have to push up the interview, if that’s alright with you? I know you’re probably exhausted...”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Yeah, no let’s do it, let’s go now.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“No, we need to work the night.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Wait, I need to know...”

MADDY AS VERA

“Yeah.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“...can your teams do something about our videos? Can they manage to scrub us out?”

MADDY AS VERA

[Sighs] “That is... that is a big job, but it’s not impossible, we have been working on technology to deal with this kind of situation. I will drop a message...”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“My father’s asleep right now, he always sleeps early, he wakes up to pray, first thing he does he checks his phone.”

MADDY AS VERA

“Alright.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“My mom probably won’t look at her phone until later, so I don’t know how much time until they figure out that I am Turban, and I don’t want other people as well to find out who I really am.”

MADDY AS VERA

“Alright.”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“But anyone that checks the news will have seen.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Yeah.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Yeah, well not everybody checks it immediately. I don’t check it except for alarms about Poltergeist. Oh no, my friend, she would have... they would have seen it as well.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“It’s out there man, your family, I think this is happening, Adeeb.”

MADDY AS VERA

“Yeah, I’m sorry, the technology that we have is still in development and I don’t think that our teams can get it ready in time.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Yeah.”

MADDY AS VERA

“I think your family knows, whether it’s now or later, they’ll know, but for now you have a job to do.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I will turn to Vera, well and Adeeb, “Should we bring them in? They could be in danger.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Oh.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“I mean any of us who have people, they might come after them.”

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

“Would they go that far?”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Oh, luckily I don’t have many”

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini is like texting desperately, [SFX: Texting tones] letting Benson know what’s going on, because like the most important thing for her is that this doesn’t spark an intergalactic war...

(Laughter)

...because of some kind of miscommunication...”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

“Yeah, that would be bad.”

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“...it means that you know, if she gets hurt in something that seems like it’s a state run operation, like that could cause some problems for like future...”

MADDY

Mm, diplomatic stuff.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

“...kind of above board diplomatic relations.”

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

It's good to know that your terrifyingly powerful alien friends have such a hair trigger!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Well no, just like Mini is...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Oh, Mini's stubbed her toe – INTERGALACTIC WAR!!!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Well, one of the whole reasons that Mini wanted to come to Earth is that everyone on Speck Markleon is like, so logical and dull. So, like the risk of anything actually going wrong is like low...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Sure.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

...but Mini doesn't want to be the person that's...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

But wouldn't it be embarrassing?

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

It would be really embarrassing! And it would prove her mum right, and that would be like the worst; and also, people might get hurt, you know that's another thing.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, people tend to in intergalactic wars, yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah. Well, you know so even if it's an incredibly boring intergalactic diplomatic misunderstanding that is mostly done through forms...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Uh huh.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini just doesn't want that to happen, that would be very embarrassing, so like just...

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

That's... it's an entire affair.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

CHAP Masks 15 – Newsflash

...letting... just updating like, [SFX: Texting tones] “Hello, so um, I’ve been operating as a superhero...

(Laughter)

...just like you know you said that we should take some jobs in order to like expose us to different aspects of human culture, um and I may have been unmasked, they don’t know I’m an alien yet, um, just that I have superpowers and that seems pretty normal on this planet...

(Laughter)

...um, so that’s fine, but just, you know don’t tell my mum and...

(Laughter)

...don’t worry if you see me on the news, it’s all fine, we’re not revealed yet xx [thumbs up]”

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Milkshake emoji.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah, chicken emoji.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Excellent, so I think once the storm of texting has subsided...

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yeah.

MADDY AS VERA

...Vera's like, "Okay, um, I realise that this has massive implications for all of you personally, but we have a limited amount of time, UTBC is on red alert, whatever they're planning they're probably going to be kicking it into high gear, because they are on the verge of being found out so we really need to get on this" [SFX: Keycard beep, heavy door slide, elevator descent] and she leads you down into the containment facility in the basement of TARGE where in a, because it's fun, in a Magneto style glass box hanging in the mid-air [gasps] Poltergeist is there.

(Laughter)

It is suspended on these metal wires, and he is just sitting in this completely empty glass box. Vera pushes a button [SFX: Button press, motors] and a metal walkway extends out.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

CHAP Masks 15 – Newsflash

This is where the budget went!

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, this where the budget went, yeah.

(Laughter)

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Uh huh, they've got like bespoke cells for each villain depending on their power set kind of thing.

MADDY

Mmmm, yeah, yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

And upstairs they've just got like basic tea, you know?

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

It's all Ikea upstairs, it's just...yeah.

MADDY

Yeah.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah, the tea tastes like dust – awful!

(Laughter)

MADDY

But all the supervillains are really locked up!

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah.

MADDY

Which I mean, kind of fair.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Sure, but they get really better food than is in the canteen upstairs as they get like you know...?

(Laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, you don't want anger the supervillains you have with bad food.

(Laughter)

Anyway, Poltergeist is still in his metal tee shirt and jeans kind of slumped in the corner of this glass box, and Vera opens a kind of airlocked door [SFX: Airlock pressure opens, pressure closes] so that you can go in and then closes it

behind you and then opens the second set of doors so that you are all now in the glass cell with Poltergeist.

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

But before Vera opens the second door, Morgan will be like, “I mean can he, is there some kind of power dampener in there or what? Why...how is this safe?”

MADDY AS VERA

“Yeah, we um, we do have some special magnetic fields that dampen telekinetic powers for this particular cell.”

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

“Right.”

MADDY

You go on through and he is just not looking at you, he’s especially avoiding Adeeb’s eyes.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Is Adeeb still under a condition right now?

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I should still have guilty.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

I’m going to see if I can clear that, yeah again like I guess just before they open the second door I’ll you know, we’re in a small space everyone’s going to hear

it but I'll take Adeeb aside, "Hey, um, so I know everything seems pretty dark right now and I know you're worried about your family and them finding out, but they seem to really care about you man and I think whatever happens, that side of things are going to be okay; but remember, this guy, he doesn't have people, he's just got you, so let's help... let's help clear him of all of this okay?" Cool, I'm going make a little roll, see if I can help.

MADDY

Do it.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Plus three because I'm suddenly very mundane.

(Laughter)

That's ten!

MADDY

Excellent.

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

Oh, we add also a team to the pool.

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

Yeah, team to the pool, perfect! And yes, you can...

AHMED AS ADEEB BIN YESLAM AKA TURBAN

I'm guilt free!

PIP AS JOSEPH TELLER AKA ZENITH

(Laughter)

Your condition is cleared!

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

WOOOO!

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Yay, skipping!

MADDY AS VERA

After the guilt condition has been removed from Adeeb and the second set of doors opens up, [SFX: Airlock pressure opens, pressure closes] Vera with absolute exhaustion behind her eyes says, "Well um, I suppose you're the ones who know the most about this case" and shoves you all through the door and then it closes behind you and she leaves out the first set of doors.

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini turns around and is like trying to yell through the door, "I, um, I thought interrogation was a skill that people got trained for and we're just a... we started on Saturday..."

(Laughter)

MADDY AS VERA

And yeah, she is mouthing, “I can’t hear you”

(Laughter)

Behind the glass, and she just sits down on the walkway and like gets out a cigarette and just...

(Laughter)

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

I think we need to investigate Vera!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Yeah!

LOWRI AS BLODEUWEDD MORGAN AKA SYPHON

Like, what the hell!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS MINI SMITHSON AKA SOLARTRIX

Mini is just like, this is going to be a lot of articles, and I... I do not understand these people.

(Laughter)

MADDY AS VERA

Yeah, and so as you are now alone in this glass cell with Poltergeist who is very studiously avoiding Adeeb's gaze, we're going to end the episode there.

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

LOWRI

Hey, yeah, you can find me @LowriTweets and I'm also in other Rusty Quill podcasts, listen to them.

MADDY

Excellent, and Ahmed?

AHMED

You can find me everywhere @mr_aljabry mostly on Twitter, where I share Arab titbits about tabletop RPG characters and war building.

MADDY

Wonderful, and Pip?

PIP

Hi there, I'm Pip Gladwin, you can find me @Pip_Gladwin on Twitter, where I'll likely be sounding off about stuff that I am in. They will be time appropriate

because when you're listening to this the stuff that's on Twitter will be like up to date, because right now, I'm in different stuff to what I will be in when you're actually listening to this, so accuracy is difficult so, so check the internet for me.

MADDY

(Laughter)

And Lydia?

LYDIA

Hi, I'm Lydia, I'm on Twitter @Lydicholas.

MADDY

Fantastic.

LOWRI

Yay!

PIP

Alright.

(Laughter)

MADDY

Show off.

PIP

Efficiency – boom!

(Laughter)

MADDY

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

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