

## **CHAP Masks 16 - Revelations**

### **Content Warnings**

- Imprisonment & interrogation
- Police
- Food
- Invasion of privacy
- Discussions of: healthcare & medication, body horror
- Mentions of: smoking, physical violence, parental death & trauma
- SFX: background chatter & music, fire, continuous drone, electrical buzzing, phone vibrations, frequent beeping

**[Show Theme - Intro]**

### **THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER**

Rusty Quill Presents Chapter and Multiverse.

**[SFX: Interdimensional Tavern Ambience]**

Ah! Back again, are you? Excellent. I need someone to talk to about the developments in our superhero story, and you are the best listener of my regular customers. First off, our superheroes of course have now had their identities revealed by UTBC in retaliation against Joseph's video. But they must put such personal matters aside as they go to question Poltergeist, who is being held in a containment cell at TARGE.

**[SFX: Portal Woosh]**

**MADDY**

Hello and welcome to Chapter and Multiverse, the actual play podcast where we explore the same city across multiple parallel universes. I am your game master 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 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**

Hi, I'm Ahmed Aljabry and as always I'm stoked to be here. I'm playing Adeeb bin Yeslam, aka The Turban who apparently now everybody knows, or maybe some people know. Anyway. Adeeb's pronouns are he and him.

**MADDY**

Nice. And Lowri?

**LOWRI**

Hello, I'm Lowri Ann Davies and I am playing Blodeuwedd Morgan, aka Syphon. Both she/her.

**MADDY**

And Lydia?

**LYDIA**

Hi, I'm Lydia. My pronouns are they/she and I'm playing Mini Smithson whose pronouns are she/her and I totally didn't forget my own name halfway through that.

**MADDY**

And Pip?

**PIP**

Hello there, I'm Pip Gladwin. I will playing Joseph Teller, former protégé to the superhero Aquila and we're both he/him.

**MADDY**

Fantastic. So, last we left off, Zenith had outed himself as a superhero and brought UTBC's shady dealings to light with a whole bunch of evidence, and after UTBC retaliated in response blaming you all for the mess that you'd made at UTBC headquarters, some of which was fair, Joseph went back to The Nightjar, the bar where Amal's gig had happened, to tell the rest of the team what had occurred. So you decided to return to TARGE as a group and are about to question Adeeb's frenemy Poltergeist about his connection to the whole UTBC plot. So you are all perched in this glass box suspended in space in this warehouse containment facility. Vera is smoking and looking exhausted outside of the box and Poltergeist is avoiding your gaze. So what would you like to do?

**[SFX: Glass containment box ambience, heavy silence, fan hum]**

**LYDIA**

I believe the last thing that Mini did was express disbelief at the fact that completely untrained-

**LOWRI**

[laughs]

**LYDIA**

-inexperienced young people that have never done anything like this before are about to interrogate an apparently quite vulnerable and volatile person.

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Yes!

**MADDY**

I mean fair!

**LOWRI**

And Vera was like - "can't hear you, don't know what you're saying, sorry! Bye!" [laughs]

**LYDIA**

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Mini makes a note about humans. [SFX: Pen scratches on paper]

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Morgan is feeling quite business-like so will turn to Adeeb and be like-

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Adeeb, is there anything you wanna ask?

**AHMED**

I walk closer to him and just:

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

How are they treating you?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Well er, it's not particularly comfortable in here but um, like, I get why there isn't any furniture or anything. The food is actually quite good.

**LOWRI**

Oh yeah, we established that!

**LOWRI and AHMED**

[laughing]

**AHMED**

I sit down next to him. [SFX: Fabric settles on ground]

**[Tense, dramatic music]**

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I'll er, I'll go pick up your brother and I'll talk to my family. He can - he can stay with us for a while. Do you have anyone you need us to talk to or tell them or anything?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

You'd - you'd do that after, after everything?

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Mm, of course.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Um, there's, there's no one else, it's just me and him.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I - we should probably go and pick him up after this, he's probably gonna get worried.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

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Yeah. I really messed up.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I messed up too. I'm sorry about what happened, like, I, I, I really lost it. [sighs]

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Well I - I lost it like, a few months before that, so... [laughs wryly] It just took you a while to catch up, that's all.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

[chuckles] Who would have thought like we would end up with superpowers?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Yeah. I mean just like started off playing video games and then suddenly we were the videogame.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

[laughs] Yeah.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

But I guess er you're involved in all this nonsense now. I'm, I'm kinda done for I guess. The least I can do is tell you what I know.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

You know, there are always second chances. I know it's gonna be harder than

before you make a mistake but life is just gonna keep going and if you're gonna just give up on yourself nothing is gonna ever change.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Yeah... thanks man. Er, for the record um, that, that hospital thing that I was gonna do? I, I persuaded UTBC to let me do that so that I could kind of stick one to the medical care industry type of thing and get some meds for Felix. And I was like: oh yeah we'll, we'll steal meds and sell them on the black market and it'll be a big scandal and it will generate a lot of news and all that stuff, but it was really, I was doing it for Felix.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

What did they actually want in the beginning, like what was the point of this?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

It was er all about generating news and clicks and talk and notoriety and stuff. Like TARGE has been doing an amazing job for years and there was just like nothing happening any more.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

So it's just tabloid? Just clickbaits and that's it?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Yeah. Well there's this - I, I, I've never met him but apparently like the CEO of UTBC, Julian Kenilworth I think, it's like all his idea.

**LYDIA**

Mini leans in.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

I don't understand people's motivations all the time but even I think that sounds very unlikely. Are you sure that isn't a cover story?

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Wait, why now? Like why is this timing, why is it happening now? Is there something else related to this and this is affecting it? Like why do they want to push news of all these things?

**AHMED**

And I look at everyone.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Is there anything happening in the news nowadays that could, I don't know, affect this?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

I mean there is something else that has been, er, I've been talking to um, this other villain called Wilt. She was saying that she was gonna, like, blow everyone else out the water and change everything and, and it's something to do with like space and, and time. She was really like excited about it, and I think -

**MADDY**

And he kind of does some quick maths in his head. And he's like:

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

I think like she was planning to like do whatever she was planning to do tomorrow.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

[gasps] Do you know where she is?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Oh yeah, um, she said that she has this lair in er the industrial district because she got like this massive inheritance or whatever and UTBC has also been funding her.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I still don't understand why a news company are to push for bad news about superpowers.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

I don't think it was to tarnish anyone's reputation, I think it was just: what is the most exciting, the most controversial, the thing that's gonna get people talking the most, and generate the most money. I think it's just about money.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Yeah. That makes sense.

**PIP**

Can I make a "Been Reading the Files" roll on Wilt to see if I know anything about this particular villain?

**MADDY**

Yes, you may.

**PIP**

OK. **(ROLL)** 7, 8? So er, a hit but not a massive hit.

**MADDY**

OK.

**PIP**

I get one important detail that I've learned from my studies about this person and then GM will tell me what if anything seems different from what I remember. So Wilt, what do I know about Wilt?

**MADDY**

I believe that the most salient point that you would know about Wilt is that her powers involve kind of withering people's bodies, so when she touches an arm it will kind of shrivel.

**PIP**

OK. That sounds sort of similar to, OK. OK. What's changed, what's, is there something different?

**MADDY**

She has been very under the radar for a long time. It's unusual for her to be kind of boasting and saying that she's gonna change everything, it seems like this is an unusual happening for Wilt.

**PIP**

OK, thank you very much.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I guess we should go check out this Wilt person.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Wait - do you know about any other attacks or hostages or bad things that are planned in the next - well, do you have like a shared calendar so that you don't clash or just to organise it that maybe we could get so that some of us and some of the other groups could maybe stop hostages getting taken and...

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Do you maybe have a WhatsApp group-

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Yeah.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Called like "Villainous Human Friends" or something like that?

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Yeah!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Er, I'm pretty low level in, in the organisation. I, I'm not really privy to a lot of stuff, um, I think Wilt was just very proud of whatever she was doing.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Wait, what is the name of this organisation, Villains for Hire?

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Well it's just kind of - there's no official name, it's either like Clearvision Trading or like Technical Services.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Ah. Ah, shame.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Oh goodness. And I wanted to intern for them. [sighs]

**AHMED**

[laughs]

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

But yeah I do know that tomorrow there's gonna be an attack by the hyena pack on the mayor, er, the town hall is gonna be under siege.

**LYDIA**

Mini writes that down and slaps it on the glass- [SFX: Pen scratches on paper, hand presses into glass]

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

-for Vera to read. Like: "Attack planned" - hopefully she'll pay some attention.

**MADDY**

Yeah, she turns around at the sudden noise and she just gives the most long sigh, you can't hear but you can just see that her, she's exhaling so hard!

[laughs] And then instantly like turns on a communicator and makes several calls, takes several notes and starts getting things organised.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

OK! Thank you! That's sorted.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

If we're um, heading out to try and stop this Wilt person I'm gonna need to get some gear, I don't have my uniform.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Oh, well that's not a problem.

**AHMED**

I just tap his shoulder and [SFX: Hand pats shoulder, soft transmutation magical tones] I shift the clothes that he's wearing into his usual uniform and with spots for whatever gear he usually has and puts in.

**PIP**

I just kinda look down at myself with this sort of grey and black approximation of the costumes I used to wear.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I can't do helmets though, it's just, it's not cloth.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

No that's - that's OK. I guess they know my face now, so what's the point?

[laughs]

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Well you can have mine.

**AHMED**

And I hand over my dominos masks which I haven't been using properly apparently!

**PIP**

[laughs] I take it in, [SFX: Grab cloth] in both hands and:

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Thanks Adeeb.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Oh!

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

You're um, er, you're a good friend.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

We're all friends.

**PIP**

And I put on the domino mask, [SFX: Slide mask onto face] finally completing

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my transition into just Robin.

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

Excellent.

**LYDIA**

Ah but kind of without the actual acrobatic skills...

**PIP**

Hey now, I get an event!

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

I'll get an event, I'll get an event right now! Maddy, I get an event!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

Clang clang clang!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

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So do you exit the - exit the cell with Poltergeist or do you stay a bit longer, do you have any further questions for him?

**AHMED**

I tell him:

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Listen. They're gonna give you a lawyer, if they're not good just let me know. And don't talk to anyone without a lawyer. I mean you should tell them as much as you can, but make sure a lawyer's there.

**LOWRI**

[laughs]

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

OK, cool.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Like we watched all the movies together, so we know.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. I mean yeah like, I have the right to remain to silent all that, all that stuff, yeah.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

You probably shouldn't have really talked to us, I mean... they're recording all of this, and...

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

True.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

You know, yeah. Um, so sorry about that.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Yeah, so keep quiet until a lawyer is present.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Except for us.

**PIP**

[laughs]

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

OK. I'm confused, but grateful. Thanks guys.

**AHMED**

I tap on, on his knees and get up. [SFX: Gentle pat, stand]

**MADDY**

Cool. Are you making your way out of the cell? [SFX: Door lock beeps, motor whirs, door slides]

**PIP**

Yes.

**MADDY**

Nice.

**AHMED**

Er, one last thing. I, before I step out I turn round and tell him:

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

You know, Linh is gonna lose their mind.

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Oh man, oh. I, I do not wanna be in the room when that happens. [laugh]

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Yeah, you're gonna be far away! I'm probably gonna take the brunt of it!

**MADDY (as POLTERGEIST)**

Yeah! Oh man!

**AHMED**

I continue walking out now. [SFX: Motor whirs, door closes]

**LYDIA**

Mini asks what I am wondering which is like -

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Who - who's Linh?

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Er Lin, we were, we were like a trio. Me, Linh and Lucas.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Oh.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Lin doesn't know about our powers. They know that er Lucas is going rogue and doing crazy stuff, but they didn't know about me.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Hm. Maybe Linh has powers and YOU didn't know.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

[laughs] That would be a fun conversation.

**LOWRI**

[laughs]

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

I mean to be fair most of the people we've met recently have had them, so...

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

And I mean you didn't even spot that I was an alien and apparently that was very obvious to quite a few people.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

What?

**LYDIA**

Looks at Zenith.

**AHMED**

[laughs]

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

It was, it was pretty obvious Mini.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Mm, you know. Maybe everyone's a superhero and they're all hiding it from

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each other and if everyone was just honest with one another and straightforward and said what they mean then everything would be fine.

**PIP**

[laughs]

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

That's a very good point.

**PIP**

I look ashamed. [laughs]

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Morgan has lost all the colour in her face and says:

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

On that note, I think maybe we need to talk.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Yeah, yeah.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

But I don't wanna do it here, viewed.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Yeah.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

OK yeah, let's um, let's get out. I'm gonna grab a couple of things, um, you know-

**PIP**

And I sort of gesture to my like suit that has sort of you know, a couple of little hooks and pouches for like gear that are empty.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

They have their whole armoury so I'm gonna get some stuff and I'll - I'll meet you guys outside.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Oh let me come and weave some Kevlar on, with your clothes.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Er yeah, thanks. Thanks man, yeah, OK. That's er-

**PIP**

And I'll go real quick, real quick scene, go to the armoury.

**AHMED**

And Adeeb's sweating as he's trying to focus on the clothes.

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

I'm gonna do a full like original TV series Wonder Woman thing where I'm gonna stick my hands out in a "T" pose and spin round in a circle while Adeeb is like [SFX: Magical cloth sounds, whirling noises] [Pip makes whooshing noise], like-

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

That's what happens, no one else is watching, we have a great time, we tell no one!

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

And I will grab TARGE's sort of lower budget approximations of the gear that I had before so the sort of standard like smoke bomb stuff. [SFX: Metal clinks]

**LYDIA**

I imagine you're like: "This isn't even scented! What?!"

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

Yeah, little, little sort of touchpad computer thing for my, little wrist computer, [SFX: Attach wrist computer] I obviously don't take a helmet because I've got my domino mask now. And I think the last thing that I'll do - they have a wide selection of weapons here I'm guessing?

**MADDY**

Yeah, yeah.

**PIP**

I'll grab a like, like off-brand, like [SFX: Chain clinks] Western-made kusarigama-

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

And just be like: the hook on this is too long, this is stupid.

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

Wrap it round myself, like tie the chain off, [SFX: Chain rattles] and then the last thing that I'm gonna do is I go to exactly where I know that the bug I

placed in this room is-

**OTHERS**

[gasps]

**PIP**

I will pull it off the bottom of the shelf, [SFX: Bug unsticks] I bring it close to my mouth and I say:

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

You and I need to talk.

**PIP**

And then I crush it between two fingers. [SFX: Small snap]

**MADDY**

Oh yeaahhhhh!

**LYDIA and LOWRI**

[both squeal excitedly]

**MADDY**

Excellent!

**PIP**

And I'll meet - we'll head back out and meet the guys outside.

**MADDY**

Nice. Meanwhile I would like to suggest that Morgan and Mini spot that the coffee shop where you first met, The Tip Top Coffee Shop, it's not normally open at this late hour, it is getting into the early hours of the morning but you see that the light is on and the door is open and-

**[SFX: Night-time street ambience]**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

We are absolutely not going in there because that is where TARGE holds all their meetings and so they will absolutely have bugged it just as much as they have the inside of their own building.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Yeah, that's a really good point. Shall we go to the, er, the bus?

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

That is extremely obvious!

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

There's the 24 hour dessert shop round the corner, I think we should go there.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Oh OK. Yeah.

**MADDY**

There's a man in a waistcoat just kind of peering out of the window looking very disappointed as you walk away.

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

So you manage to find a kind of greasy spoon 24 hour chip shop type place that serves coffee in polystyrene cups like that café that they send the losers on The Apprentice to. And you enter [SFX: Door clicks open and closed, faint diner music] and soon after Adeeb and Joseph join you.

**AHMED**

I order my usual chocolate - hot chocolate with whipped cream and everything and then when I get it I get disappointed because it's not as good as the other one.

**MADDY**

Yeah it's a - it's a hot water mixture hot chocolate and the, the cream is very much like one of the poorer from a can variety.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Let's not come back here again.

**LYDIA**

Mini on the other hand is absolutely fascinated by the difference in taste of the coffee from a polystyrene cup. She's like:

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

This is incredible, is this what they're talking about when they say that wine should be served in those carafes? Mm!

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

Enjoying the aroma of the instant coffee from the polystyrene cup.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

There's so many different interesting chemicals leaching into it.

**PIP**

Can I just ask for my visualisation of this scene - are we all in costume or is it just me?

**LYDIA**

Mini always looks like she's in costume.

**PIP**

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I know, Mini's costume is kind of like which, it's just: which outfit am I wearing?

**LYDIA**

Yeah.

**PIP**

Rather than like - superhero persona/human persona. It's just both.

**LOWRI**

So, oh - we went straight from Poltergeist to dropping Poltergeist off, to the grey box which was empty to the gig, so actually yes I guess I am in my costume. [laughs]

**LYDIA**

But your costume just looks like you're a super-cool body builder basically.

**LOWRI**

This is true.

**AHMED**

Yeah.

**LOWRI**

Yeah yeah yeah. Yeah. I don't have my mask on, but yeah.

**LYDIA**

Yeah. Mini doesn't have a mask on.

**AHMED**

Well I guess Adeeb is also in his black suit and all stuff upon it.

**PIP**

Great, I feel less awkward!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

So yeah, as you are variously in your costumes/eccentric but very well put together dress wear, we're gonna take a short break and be right back.

**[BREAK]**

**MADDY**

And welcome back. So you are all sitting in this rather dingy all-night café, about to go into some details, what would you like to discuss?

**LOWRI**

Morgan is looking pretty shaken and pale and just not OK.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

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OK, um. So I suppose I've had a, a secret though it wasn't really relevant but um, I kind of know Wilt. Well I don't actually know her, she's, she used to work for my parents. Um. My parents were villains, um - well ... [struggles for the right words] ... I don't know very much, that's why I live with Owain, he, he's my mum's brother. Um she, they - I don't really know what they were planning, what they were doing but my mum could, um, open portals so you could travel through to anywhere in the universe I think, I was quite young when they died. My dad could travel through time so together they were quite powerful I'm told. And Wilt - Wilt was their protégé I think. I don't really, Owain wouldn't tell me much what their plan was or why it was more important than being there for me and Aquila was the one that stopped them. Wilt is - Wilt is dangerous, Wilt is so powerful, so dangerous and as far as I know her powers are irreversible, like she'll touch your arm and it will wither and that's it. Like I'm - and she... [sighs] Well she's not like found me, but I think Owain was suspicious that she wanted me in some way or, I don't know. I don't know what to do. [voice trembles] I think I need to speak to Owain.

**LYDIA**

Mini gives Morgan a hug, or at least offers one. [SFX: Hug]

**LOWRI**

Mm, yeah, Morgan will kind of fold onto you.

**LYDIA**

Mini is so small-

**PIP**

Like a big tree!

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

And she tries so hard to give the biggest squish!

**LOWRI**

Would you like increase your density, [SFX: Alien density magic] so-

**LYDIA**

Yeah, like-!

**PIP**

[makes Hulk noises]

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

[crying] Thanks Mini.

**LOWRI**

Says Morgan.

**LYDIA**

It's a very reassuring crush.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

I don't know what to do. Like I don't want you to get hurt because she's dangerous, but if, if, I mean this is probably big, right? Like I know my parents' plan was, was big. And she worked with them, and maybe she's doing what they were doing, I don't know. Maybe we need Aquila? Joseph can we maybe, can we talk to Aquila? She, she stopped my parents, maybe she can stop Wilt.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Er... I doubt she would talk to me. Not after what happened.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

We, there's, this sounds very big and very important. Are we saying that TARGE wouldn't be putting lots of other more qualified superheroes on this issue? We - we should tell them.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Yeah.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

And - and - all the superheroes including the ones that have been doing it for more than three days-

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

-should perhaps be helping out.

**AHMED**

Sorry to jump in, I'd like to imagine the TV in this place just, [SFX: TV news music] somebody raises the volume and we hear the news: a meteor falling to earth-

**(Group laughter)**

**AHMED**

-and all the big superheroes are getting... [laughs]

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

Yeah, I think definitely-

**PIP**

There's a minor alien invasion happening in Nicaragua, they've got to go over there and deal with that, like, you know!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

## CHAP Masks 16 - Revelations

Yeah, meanwhile you do know that the mayor is gonna be in danger and I think definitely if, if not a meteor strike there is definitely something on the news about a prison break of villains from the local maximum security prison. So yeah, there's a lot going on right now.

**PIP**

Mm hm - small, small satellite's been knocked out of orbit, er...

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

But we've literally had - I mean the, the obvious answer is that UTBC has been deliberately starting both real and exaggerated chaos.

**PIP**

Super - supercrime, yeah.

**LYDIA**

Supercrime.

**LOWRI**

Yeah.

**LYDIA**

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That just means that they've planned to have all superheroes in other places.

**LOWRI**

Mm.

**MADDY**

Yeah, absolutely.

**LYDIA**

But I, like, I think Mini's reaction would definitely be-

**AHMED**

Oh, that makes sense!

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

We are young and small, and it's - I am very small!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

I mean legit, yeah.

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

I am only small, do not - do not want!

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Leave me alone! I wanna sell shoe!

**PIP**

Maddy - Maddy, we didn't have this discussion I don't think early on and maybe we should have done. As far as Joseph is concerned and as far as the public information about Aquila as a superhero when Aquila was being a superhero, did they have a Batman-style "I don't kill people" thing? Have I been trained that way? So is there - you know it's been about an hour, give or take, since Morgan told me that Aquila killed her parents. Is the idea that Aquila killed anyone a shock to me, or is - you know? Like did they kill?

**MADDY**

I think she was very Batman-esque in that she tried not to kill in most cases. She's probably hidden this particular part of her history from you.

**PIP**

Yeah, I figured.

**MADDY**

But if you look into it, it kind of correlates around the time that she became much more insular and much more isolated.

**PIP**

Uh huh.

**MADDY**

And got away from society and shut herself in her tower.

**PIP**

Thank you. Sorry, I just wanted to get that.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

I mean I could go to the Apex building, but I...

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

I think I need to know what actually happened. I'm gonna go and speak to my uncle. I'll be back really soon.

**LOWRI**

And Morgan's just gonna disappear, because she can portal now. [SFX: Portal opens]

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI**

She's gone!

**PIP**

What?!

**LOWRI**

And she's going home.

**LYDIA**

Did that, is that, Mini-

**PIP**

What?! [laughs]

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

She didn't mention that before did she, I didn't miss something?

**LOWRI**

[laughs]

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Is that something you can all do?

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

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No! No.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

OK.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

That's not a human thing, Mini.

**LOWRI**

[laughing]

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Cool. Cool cool cool.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

That's, that - I didn't even know that was a Morgan thing.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

OK.

**LOWRI**

Morgan has just acquired another doom point.

**MADDY**

Cool.

**LOWRI**

To pay to teleport.

**MADDY**

Excellent.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Um Joseph - I know you said that Aquila wouldn't talk to you but if only there was some way that we could Aquila know about some of the things we've been talking about and just - then we'd know that she could hear us and she could decide whether to help bring down her old enemy or not. But...

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

I still have some, um, listening devices in the TARGE building, I didn't destroy all of them. It's been a big couple of days.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

We have been busy.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

That was part of the - that was part of the mission. She was suspicious of TARGE. Apparently there were some less than savoury dealings back in the day but nothing er, nothing provable, nothing apparently as far as I can tell nothing grounded either. She was just, I dunno. Paranoid. Maybe she always

has been.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Joseph did you - did you bug us?

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Technically, the earpieces, yeah. My helmet recorded everything.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

OK.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

I'm sorry, I...

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Is there anything else that you haven't told us, it seems like there's a lot.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

I think that's most of it. Er, I've been recording everything since we met. My job wasn't to watch you guys, my job wasn't to-

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

You just did that for fun? [laughs]

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

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I did that because that's what I was told to - everything, everything is recorded- my whole life has been recorded, Mini. I think this is the first time in a very long time that I'm not actively being watched by Aquila. I, I burned everything. I think I got all of the trackers out of my gear, I don't know. But I just, I just burned all of it. I don't think the trackpants and the hoodie were bugged but with her it's really hard to tell. But that's my - I didn't, you guys didn't, you didn't sign up for any of that, I did.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

Do you want me to check?

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Yeah, actually

**AHMED**

Alright, so I touch his shoulder on the cloth and just focus for a minute. Is there anything that seems unusual amidst his clothes? [SFX: Cloth magic]

**MADDY**

To your relief, you don't notice anything that is non-fabric integrated into Joseph's clothing, so he seems to be bug-free for now.

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

No, seems fine.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

OK, good. Er...

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

It's OK, Joseph. I, I get the feeling that it hasn't been clear to you what's obvious or right or - she really messed with your sense of reality.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

Yeah.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

You didn't mean to hurt us.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

If it's any consolation Mini, I think I've, it's been kind of nice hanging out with you guys. And look, I know I said some things about how it was really obvious that you were an alien.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Yeah, that was hurtful.

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

And I'm not gonna say it wasn't really obvious that you were an alien, because Mini it was.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Oh OK.

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP (as JOSEPH/ZENITH)**

But you taught me a lot about being a human, so.

**LYDIA**

[gasps] Mini starts crying, jumps over and gives a hug [SFX: Leaps, hug] and says:

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

You can read all my articles about being a human if you want, I'll translate them back into human readable format.

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

And there's all sorts of details about what's appropriate at what times and exceptions to those rules because whenever there's a rule there are so many exceptions and, and-

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

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All of that, anything that will, that, that you want.

**LYDIA**

And yeah, Mini gives a big, again squishy hug. [SFX: Hug]

**PIP**

Aw. I, I hug Mini back and I think there's a like - I think the tension breaks a little bit for Joseph there slightly and I think he is sort of almost kind of laughing. Not in a "ha ha, you're crying" kind of way but in like a-

**LOWRI**

[laughs]

**PIP**

There's a - emotion is kinda coming up to the surface her.

**LYDIA**

Yeah.

**LOWRI**

Awww!

**LYDIA**

It's one of those tension break lasts that happens through tears, yeah.

**PIP**

Yeah. My first hug.

**ALL**

[gasp] Oh my gosh!

**PIP**

Apart from any other that may have happened in other episodes.

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

Mr first reciprocated hug. There we go.

**LYDIA**

Aww!

**LOWRI**

I'm so sad I teleported away! Why?!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

And speaking of Morgan teleporting away, you appear once again in Owain's

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kitchen. [SFX: Portal sounds] Always quiet, always dark, there are no lights on. It is in the middle of the night so you suspect that Owain is probably in bed.

**LOWRI**

Yeah. And Morgan will head to his room, knock. [SFX: Three knocks onto wood] Is there - does he say come in or no?

**MADDY**

Yeah. You hear, you hear a kind of muffled-

**LOWRI**

[sighs] OK.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

[SFX: Muffled voice effect] Mm - what, what is it? Um...

**LOWRI**

I'll just be-

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Owain, Owain it's me. I'm - I'm coming in.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

[SFX: Muffled voice effect] Oh, alright. Um - are you OK?

**MADDY**

And as you open the door you can see him kind of sitting up in bed, kind of grabbing a dressing gown from beside the bed and pulling it on.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

No, no. Not really. Um OK. I know you've not told me what really happened, possibly for a reason, but Wilt is - Wilt is planning something big and I think I'm gonna have to face her and I just, I can't, I can't face her without knowing what, what were my parents doing?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

[sigh] Alright. I knew this would come at some point and I probably should have done this sooner, but - so Mab and Math, your parents. Er, you know that they could travel through space and time.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Yes I know Mammy could manipulate space, Daddy could manipulate time. I know what - why, what were they doing?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Yeah. They er - they wanted to combine their powers to open a portal to another universe and let loose monsters into the city.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

But... why?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

They thought that society was broken. They thought that the only thing that could fix it was to rip it up and start again. And with them at the top.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

That's... outrageous.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Yeah. I um - I think the power that they had was so unique and so powerful for want of a better word, and they brought out the worst in each other and they egged each other on to greater and greater heights.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

But what about - what about me? They were just gonna start again?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

I think um, they were a bit wrapped up with Wilt. They er picked her up when she was quite young and-

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Mm.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Trained her up. And I - I think that once their plan was carried out they would have come back for you and they would have raised you as a sort of, I don't know, an heir?

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

OK.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

But they were so wrapped up in each other and themselves and their plans, they were-

**LOWRI**

Morgan's gonna like push down the emotion of the implication that they preferred Wilt to her.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

How can I stop Wilt? She can't do the things that they did though, surely. Like how could she-?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

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I don't know how she could mimic their powers, er, with her power set, it doesn't make sense. But she must have found something. Her whole obsession was continuing their work and finishing what they started.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Now would be a really good time for a vision Owain.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

I wish I could just turn these things on and off, but...

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

I know. I know.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

They-

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Oh, by the way - I had one.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Oh really? Are you alright?

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Yeah, it was a bit scary. I sapped my friend's energy though. She was fine, she's awake now, but. Also I can um- [SFX: Portal opens]

**LOWRI**

I'll just like teleport backwards a few metres.

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Oh. Wow. Er... right. Er, seems like your er, your family line is continuing I suppose.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Is that how Mammy would move through space?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Yeah, I think so. Um-

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

So the prophe-hmm

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

Yeah.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

OK. And even you have no idea how Aquila stopped them?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

I um, I know that she was a very powerful hero in her day and she didn't have any powers as such but she was very skilled in combat and she attempted to take them down non-lethally and it went wrong. That's what I've heard.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

Hm. But no idea of the method?

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

No. I think it's been kept pretty quiet.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

OK. Um, I need to go. Um, I love you.

**LOWRI**

And she'll give him a hug. [SFX: Hug]

**MADDY (as OWAIN)**

I love you too.

**LOWRI (as MORGAN/SYPHON)**

See you soon.

**LOWRI**

And she'll just pop out back [SFX: Portal opens] to the café where hopefully you still are!

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

Where we're all hugging!

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Oh, yes!

**LYDIA**

Yeah, Mini has definitely reached out an arm and like beckoned Adeeb over.

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Join the hug!

**AHMED**

Adeeb would be just busy on his phone. At this, during this time he turned off his phone again and ignoring all the missed calls and all the missed messages from everyone, he just goes straight to the chat with his sister and types down everything he can say to her.

**PIP**

You've got like so many texts from people you know, just so many WhatsApp notifications from people being like - "Hey dude, is that you on the news?"

**(Group laughter)**

**AHMED (as ADEEB/THE TURBAN)**

I don't have time for this!

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

It kind of looks like that's you on the news dude!

**LYDIA**

I like the idea that all the cosplay buddies are like: "I KNEW, I KNEW this is why you always won the competitions! I knew it!"

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

It was rigged!

**PIP**

You cheated! I'm gonna get that award taken away from you!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

Unfair advantage!

**LYDIA**

[high pitched] Argh, his advantage, yeah!

**AHMED**

Ignoring - Adeeb is ignoring all of these frustrating messages! [laughs] He would go straight to the chat with his sister and explain everything to her. His parents are probably still awake, she might be awake with the, I don't know. But he's not going to wait for an answer, he's just going to explain everything and tell her to go pick up Lucas's brother and just turn off the phone again after saying: I will be back as soon as I can, I need to see this through. [SFX: Brief texting tones, outgoing message]

**LOWRI**

Aw!

**MADDY**

Alright yes, that is done.

**LYDIA**

## CHAP Masks 16 - Revelations

There was a slightly awkward moment where like - so Mini and Joseph are hugging and then like Mini kind of looks over and like beckons Adeeb and Adeeb's like-

**AHMED**

[makes phone clicking and pinging noises]

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

And there's like nothing! Like-

**LYDIA (as MINI/SOLATRIX)**

Adeeb - Adeeb...? OK. OK.

**PIP**

And then Morgan appears. [SFX: Portal opens]

**(Group laughter)**

**LOWRI**

Yeah. As Adeeb turns his phone off again Morgan appears and sees the hug and that Adeeb's not in it and is like - aw! And kind of like pulls Adeeb in and just puts her arms around everyone.

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**LYDIA**

Yeah!

**LOWRI**

So let's finish on that!

**LYDIA**

Yay! Group hug!

**PIP**

Let's finish on like - camera pans to the side as the bemused person who's actually running this little café and just kind of stand behind the counter watching four superheroes hug in a corner.

**(Group laughter)**

**LYDIA**

Hey, we're not wearing masks, we might just be strangely dressed people.

**PIP**

I'm 100% wearing a domino mask.

**LYDIA**

Oh right, OK!

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

And the camera does a kind of Looney Tunes kind of circle in on their face as the episode ends.

**(Group laughter)**

And they go: "it's a living!"

**LYDIA**

[sings Looney Tunes theme]

**MADDY**

That's all folks!

**(Group laughter)**

**PIP**

A serious show about serious stuff!

**MADDY**

Yeah! Trauma!

**LYDIA**

## CHAP Masks 16 - Revelations

Emotions!

**MADDY**

Backstory! And funny camera gags.

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

And on that note yes, absolutely, we have to end the episode there for today unfortunately. But we will be back very soon with a new episode for you, the second last episode of the campaign!

**ALL**

[gasps] No!

**PIP**

Penultimate!

**MADDY**

And so as always I must ask our fantastic players where we can find them on the internet, starting with Lowri.

**LOWRI**

Oh! Hello, you can find me, Lowri @LowriTweets on Twitter and on other podcasts.

**MADDY**

Nice! And Pip?

**PIP**

You can find me @Pip\_Gladwin on Twitter and on this feed - look out for upcoming Rusty Quill shows, I'm gonna be doing some stuff in Cry Havoc which you might have heard about and er yeah, um, other things as well as that. I'm finished.

**MADDY**

Excellent. And Lydia?

**LYDIA**

Hi, I'm Lydia, I'm on Twitter @LydNicholas, my chickens on @urbanhooks and I am scattered across the RQ podcast universe in various guises so, you know. Hunt me out. But don't, like, stalk and devour me. Hunt in a friendly way.

**PIP**

Yeah, yeah. Don't hunt me for sport.

**LYDIA**

Don't hunt me for sport, just enjoy the voice acting that've done.

**(Group laughter)**

**MADDY**

And Ahmed?

**AHMED**

Hello! You can find me everywhere @mr\_aljabry, mostly on Twitter where I share Arab tidbits for tabletop RPG characters and world building. And just look for the avatar with the turban.

**MADDY**

Excellent. 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**

Bye!

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

**THE ETERNAL TAVERN KEEPER**

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