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The Magnus Protocol

**Fluff Episode 1
"Plenty More Fish"**

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Edited by Alexander J Newall**

**05-07-2024
Draft 2**

[Intro Theme]

ALEXANDER J NEWALL

Hi everyone, Alex here to pep you up with Big Cable Knit Jumper Energy. Now, some of you might not know this, but after a long hard day of brutally murdering your favourite characters, there is nothing I like more than sitting down in a big comfy armchair and enjoying a nice hot cup of Fluffy-Wuffy-uwu-Nonsense-Juice.

Now I know what you're thinking: "Alex, the world is dying, held hostage corporate greed and myopic self-interested political leaders. I don't have time to check in on my favourite blorbo skrunkily twink ship drama! I've got go eat the rich!"

And I hear you, I really do. Eating the rich IS important. But so is self-care. And sometimes you've got to slow down to smell the flowers. So, with that in mind, we wanted to give you a little something to help you out. A soupçon of silliness to send you on your way.

And so we present to you this lovingly crafted season one bonus fluff episode, affectionately titled "Plenty More Fish", which is full to the brim with positivity like friendship, love, and ...punctuality. And is guaranteed completely

organic and free from artificial horrors.

So, while you are waiting for your Amazon Basics Guillotine to arrive, why not sit back, relax and enjoy a taste of our delicious nonsense.

[Sip]

mmm... yum.

1. INT. THE PUB – EVENING, CLEAR (COLIN’S PHONE)

The pub is quiet, but not empty. COLIN is sat drinking.

ALICE enters.

ALICE

There you are! What happened to the usual table?

COLIN

Already taken.

ALICE

What? How are we supposed to mope about in the corner when we’re in the middle of room? The vibes here are uncondusive to bitterness.

COLIN

Yeah, well tough so sit your vibes down and get drinking, already. Got you a pint of your hipster piss.

ALICE

IPAs aren’t hipster, Colin, they sell them in Tesco.

She sits.

COLIN

Almost thought you weren't going to show.

ALICE

And miss the chance of seeing you moaning into your pint? Never!

COLIN

It's a better listener than you.

ALICE

True, bet it hardly ever calls you a sour old wanker with no taste in women or drink.

COLIN

Harsh but fair.

ALICE

Speaking of...

Alice raises her glass.

ALICE

Merry divorce!

COLIN

And a happy piss off!

They clink their glasses together in cheers, then take a sip.

ALICE

What is it now, three years?

COLIN

Four and twelve.

ALICE

Still living the bachelor dream?

COLIN

What dying alone? That's the plan.

ALICE

**Is your next of kin still that hard
drive where you keep all your porn?**

COLIN

**Oh, you think it's just the one? Poor,
naïve Alice. So young, so foolish in
the ways of love. Speaking of -**

ALICE

(Sighing)

**And there it is. Go on then, take your
shots at poor little Alice.**

COLIN

It's been, what, a month now?

ALICE

About that.

COLIN

**I still can't believe you got him the
job, after everything you said.**

ALICE

**Hey, moaning about exes on
Divorcemas is just what you do. He's
actually a good guy who just needed
to catch a break.**

COLIN

**Sure, sure. Must be hard for you
though All those unfamiliar human
feelings bubbling to the surface...**

ALICE

EW. Are you trying to upset me?

COLIN

Aye.

ALICE

**Then you up your game, Becher,
because I'm a stone-cold emotional
fortress.**

COLIN sees SAM entering the pub.

COLIN

**Oh good. Then you probably won't
have a problem with what's lurking
behind you.**

ALICE

What?

SAM

(distant)

Alice! Colin!

ALICE

Oh god.

COLIN

Alice. What is Sam doing here?

ALICE

I, uh...

Sam comes up to the table.

SAM

Heya! Am I early?

COLIN

No. Did Alice invite you?

SAM

Uh, yeah? She said you were having a “divorce party”, which I assumed was just her way of saying a bit of a booze-up, so...

COLIN

You see, Alice. This is what happens when everything that comes out of your mouth is a sarcastic joke? People get confused.

SAM

Oh, ah. Listen, if I’m intruding I can-.

COLIN

You’re here now. What’re you drinking?

SAM

Uh, IPA, thanks.

Colin snorts slightly, then gets up and heads to the bar. Sam sits.

SAM CONT’D

Alice?

ALICE

Ok, so... Colin’s been divorced a couple times, and as part of some bizarre cosmic joke, both of them ended up being finalized on the same day of the year. So he and I, we’ve kinda got this little tradition now where on that day, today, we get together, get pissed and uh-

SAM

And?

ALICE

And bitch about our exes.

SAM

Oh.

(realizing)

Oh.

I should go.

ALICE

Too late for that, Colin's already gone to get you a drink. You duck out now, and you're as good as dead.

SAM

Sure but-

ALICE

I wouldn't worry, he loves to see me squirm so I'm sure he'll have a great time.

Colin returns, setting Sam's drink down in front of him.

COLIN

Here you go.

SAM

Thanks.

Colin sits.

COLIN

Drink it.

SAM

Er... okay.

Sam sips.

COLIN

Well go on then.

SAM

Sorry?

ALICE

(reluctantly)

I think what Colin is trying to say is that as the newest member of this particular bitchy subcommittee you have to spill on your exes.

SAM

Um, ok... So, uh, there was this girl-

ALICE

I'm right here.

SAM

Hey, I'll have you know I have plenty of exes!

ALICE

What, like actual humans?

COLIN

Get on with it!

SAM

Right yeah, sorry. So her name was uh Kelly and she worked at my old office, in HR.

COLIN

Red flag.

ALICE

(smirking)

Did she make you sign a form?

SAM

She was nice.

ALICE

That's not what I asked.

SAM

She... may have needed us to
declare a potential conflict of interest
but-

COLIN snorts

SAM CONT.

But that wasn't why we split up.

COLIN

Christ, what was the reason then?

SAM

Oh it just didn't work out.

Beat.

COLIN

Right.

ALICE

(faux conspiratorial)

Listen Sam, if you're going to hang
with the Mean Girls you're going to
have to do better than that! What
sucked about her? What obnoxious
habit did she have, what drove you
up the wall and made you want to
gnaw your arm off?

SAM

Oh I don't know...

COLIN sighs, bored.

SAM CONT'D

Oh actually, she had this weird thing where, when she laughed, her tongue came like all the way out of her mouth. It was so weird, I can't really do it, it was like... Hahahaha

He imitates it, badly.

ALICE

Ew!

COLIN

Now we're talking.

SAM

Right? And she was into old black and white comedies. You know, Laurel and Hardy, the Marx Brothers, that kind of thing.

ALICE

I mean that's annoying sure but-

SAM

(getting into it)

No, I mean, she was really into them, as in every date was round her place watching old movies and every time we ended up... uh...

COLIN snorts.

ALICE

I'm sure you looked very fetching dressed up as Charlie Chaplain in stockings and handcuffs.

SAM

What No! it was nothing like that!

He thinks for a second.

SAM CONT.

Although, she did ask me if I smoked cigars and seemed a bit disappointed when I said no.

ALICE

Oh Sam. My poor little oblivious baby shrimp.

SAM

I'm telling you it wasn't like that, we were just talking abo- Oh my god.

ALICE

(eager)

What?

SAM

She bought me a bowler hat.

ALICE

I'm sorry. What do mean she "bought you a bowler hat"?

SAM

(sheepish)

It was a gift. She said she thought I'd look good in it.

COLIN

(chuckling)

I bet she did.

ALICE

Amazing.

SAM

It's not like I wore it out on the street or anything, just once or twice when... well...

COLIN laughs

ALICE

Oh Sam. I know you think you want normal, but I think it's pretty obvious that deep down you only go for the truly depraved and bizarre.

COLIN

Sounds about right.

ALICE

Damn skippy.

SAM

Well what about you then eh? I'm guessing it was non-stop horror stories when I wasn't on the scene.

COLIN

Mate, you have no idea. You're a well-adjusted, genius, alpha-male heartthrob compared to what Alice has been dating.

ALICE

I'm not that bad.

COLIN

Oh no? So you'd be happy to hang out with Amy again then?

ALICE

Look say what you like about Amy-

COLIN

(interrupting)

All right I will. She was a psycho who got you mixed up with your own brother and then stabbed him for being an imposter.

SAM

I'm sorry what?

ALICE

Ok, Colin is exaggerating. She barely broke the skin and, in her defense, she was very high at the time.

SAM

Jesus...

ALICE

Obviously we broke up after.

COLIN

Yeah a month after.

SAM

A month? Jesus Alice...

ALICE

As I was trying to say earlier: “say what you like about Amy but she was a fabulous lay.”

COLIN

My theory is Alice can only get off with people who are properly batshit y’know. Like, oh god what was his name...

ALICE

(wearily)

Ignatious.

COLIN

That was it! Bloody Ignatious, the man who was being hunted for the secret to cold fusion.

ALICE

Okay in my defense, he didn’t tell me that until the second date.

COLIN

Sure because he was too busy on your first date explaining how he might need to go “off grid” because he was being pursued by... What was it he said.

ALICE

(sighing)

“Despicable Agents of numerous foreign powers”.

SAM

And there was a second date?

ALICE

He could have been a sexy superspy!

SAM

I mean, I don’t know how super he could be if he told you that on the first date.

ALICE

Oh, stick it up your bowler hat.

COLIN snorts

ALICE CONT.

You have no idea how bad it is out there for a trans woman with basic standards.

COLIN

Aye, so if I meet one, she’ll have my sympathies.

They all laugh.

ALICE

You’re up Becher.

SAM

Oh yeah, this is your divorce party or whatever, isn't it? So go on then, weirdest hook-up?

COLIN

I don't hook-ups. I mostly just hate people, marry them then divorce them.

ALICE

Speaking of, you're about due to drop down on one knee again aren't you? I'd watch out if I were you Sam...

Sam laughs nervously.

COLIN

If I'm on my knees near any of you lot it'll be because I'm finally rigging the entire place to blow with you inside it.

ALICE

Charming.

SAM

(laughing)

Alright then, how about the first marriage. What happened there?

COLIN

He cheated on me with my manager. Had been for a while.

Beat.

SAM

Shit.

ALICE

Right, sure, tragic. A terrible breach of trust and all that, blah blah blah. But that's not the real reason, is it Colin?

SAM

Alice, come on you don't need to -

ALICE

Colin?

COLIN

I... might have been sort of, maybe, looking to break it off anyway for a while.

SAM

Oh yeah?

ALICE

Because...

COLIN

(sighing)

Because he was turning into a crypto-bro.

SAM

(laughing)

I'm sorry what?

COLIN

Oh yeah, laugh it up! You try living with someone when they fill the flat with bloody graphics cards running non-stop. He never put towards the energy bill and every conversation was just another lecture on bloody blockchain or "blobcoin" or whatever the latest bullshit doing the rounds on reddit was.

SAM

That does sound... a lot.

COLIN

Yeah. So when I caught him messing around with Clive I dropped his Crypto Wallet in the bog, took a dump, then flushed.

(smiling)

Last time I checked that shit would be worth about 1.2 million now.

SAM

Jesus christ....

COLIN

Yeah.

ALICE

And that Sam, is why we celebrate this most holy of days. To drink, moan and remind ourselves that it's absolutely the right decision to die bitter and alone. "There's plenty more fish in the sea..."

COLIN

"And they're all covered in their own shite."

COLIN and ALICE drink deeply.

SAM

Mmm. Well, I don't know if I'm quite at your level yet. Still got the heart of romantic...

ALICE

Oh we'll cut that out of you and burn it on the altar as a sacrifice to the gods of messy breakups.

SAM

I see. And would the high priests of
heartbreak accept a pair of pints as
sacrifice instead?

ALICE

I suppose they could be convinced
to lightly amend our dread litany...

COLIN

Just as long as it isn't any of that IPA
piss.

SAM

(standing and heading to
the bar)

Of course your holiness.

Beat.

COLIN

I expect a full report on him next year
after you wreck your life reopening
that particular scrawny can of
worms.

ALICE

Bite me.

COLIN

No thanks. Vegetarian remember?

ALICE

Then go suck a carrot or something.

COLIN

I wish I could Alice. I really do.

[Music]

ANNOUNCER

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The series is created by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall, and directed by Alexander J Newall.

This episode was written by Jonathan Sims and edited with additional materials by Alexander J Newall, with vocal edits by Nico Vettese, soundscaping by Tessa Vroom, and mastering by Catherine Rinella.

It featured Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer, Shahan Hamza as Samama Khalid and Ryan Hopevere-Anderson as Colin Becher

The Magnus Protocol is produced by April Sumner, with executive producers Alexander J Newall, Dani McDonough, Linn Ci, and Samantha F.G. Hamilton, and Associate Producers Jordan L. Hawk, Taylor Michaels, Nicole Perlman, Cetius d'Raven, and Megan Nice.

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Mmm, Yum.

Incident Elements:

- **Alexander J Newall.**
- **Harsh Language**
- **Sexual Innuendo**

You can find a complete list of our Kickstarter backers
<https://rustyquill.com/the-magnus-protocol-supporter-wall/>

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Art by April Sumner

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