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The Magnus Protocol

**Episode 57
"Personality Conflicts"**

**Written by Alexander J Newall
Edited by Jonathan Sims**

[Intro Theme]

ANNOUNCER

**Rusty Quill Presents: The Magnus
Protocol.
Episode Fifty-Seven – Personality
Conflicts**

[Music]

**1. OIAR BASEMENT STORAGE (CCTV), INT., NIGHT,
RAINING**

ALICE picks her way through a mass grave of derelict
technology.

**She drags something heavy out of the way triggering a minor
avalanche of nicotine-stained plastic and corroded electronics
that sweeps her off her feet.**

ALICE

Argh!

**The avalanche subsides and Alice takes a moment to review the
damage. She has a sprained ankle.**

ALICE

(cont.)

...OW.

ALICE starts to more carefully dig her way out of the mess.

ALICE

**(cont. muttered impression
of Gwen)**

Oh, didn't you get the memo?

(normal muttering)

**No Gwen I didn't read your bloody
memo about literal rubbish because I
was too busy doing your job! Christ!**

ALICE finally extricates herself.

ALICE
In fairness Lena what were you
thinking, this is an absolute
shambles...

ALICE picks up a broken piece of hardware and considers it.

ALICE
(Sighing)
What are we even doing here?

She chucks the hardware into the corner where it lands with a clatter.

Beat.

The CCTV zooms on ALICE a little.

ALICE
(cautious)
Hello?

Beat.

ALICE
(cont.)
Helloooooooooo?

The CCTV zooms a little more.

ALICE
(slightly afraid)
Is there someone there?

ALICE picks up some hardware and brandishes it as a weapon.

ALICE
I warn you I've got a...
(reads)“Keytronic Ergoforce”
keyboard with, like, well over half its
keys and I am not afraid to use it!

Beat. Nothing moves.

Eventually:

ALICE

**All right screw this. I refuse to die
buried alive under 3rd hand fax
machines.**

ALICE limps off laboriously through the mess.

After a while an old piece of tech shifts by itself in the darkness.

2. OIAR OFFICE INT (COMPUTER), INT. NIGHT, RAINING

ALICE limps in. She dumps her ancient keyboard on a desk and then slumps into her chair and starts her PC.

CELIA

(relieved)

There you are. I was getting worried.

ALICE

You can talk. I spend twelve point nine percent of nights worrying you might be dead in a ditch.

CELIA

That's a precise number.

ALICE

Gwen asked me to run the numbers on your absences.

CELIA

And that's what you told her?

ALICE

No, I told her to piss off. But then I did the maths anyway.

CELIA

Well I'm twelve point nine percent sorry then I guess. But still, where were you?

(noticing)

And what happened to your leg?

ALICE

Lost a fight with a fax machine.

CELIA

(concerned)

What?

ALICE

(nonchalant)

I was just poking around in the basement following one of Colin's old hunches. There may have been a minor... cave in.

CELIA

Are you okay?

ALICE

I'm fine. Apart from smelling like asbestos and toner...

CELIA

(harshly)

That was really stupid Alice.

ALICE

(taken aback)

All right calm down it's just a twisted ankle.

CELIA

(pressing on)

Yeah, this time. You can't go off on your own like that without even telling anyone!

ALICE

I'm sorry, but somewhere between being held at gunpoint by an old lady and you storming off when I tried to talk about Gwen, I kind of got the impression you didn't want to be involved anymore.

CELIA

That's not fair.

ALICE

Isn't it?

Beat.

ALICE

(cont.)

**Do you think I want to be doing all
this on my own?**

CELIA

(smaller)

No.

ALICE

**No. I don't. I'm tired and I'm scared
and I need help. But right now I don't
know what's going on with you...
and it's not like I have anybody else I
can trust so...**

CELIA

It's complicated Alice-

ALICE

So you've said.

Beat.

ALICE sighs.

ALICE

(cont.)

**Let's just get some work done, shall
we?**

ALICE starts to work and triggers a case.

NORRIS

**Herein lies the household Ledger for
Wychwood Hall held in trust for the
Lady Mowbray in the year of our
Lord 1919 by her butler Mr. T.J.
Rochester.**

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ALICE
(sighing)
Brilliant.

3. CASE (CYBERSPACE)

NORRIS

**Week Commencing Monday 16th
September 1919**

Monday:

**Debited 3 shillings sixpence for
weekly milk delivery to Mr. Thomas
(seven quarts).**

**Debited One pound and six pence for
this week's bread deliveries to the
baker Mr Lars.**

Tuesday:

**Debited one pound two shillings for
two pounds of Darjeeling tea from
Dosen & Mason.**

**Credited ten shillings from Lady
Mowbray for ammunition and
shooting sundries, debited the same
from Loxley & Sons.**

Wednesday:

**Debited 5 shillings ninepence for
three pounds of cod from the
fishmonger Mr. Hill.**

Thursday:

**Debited three pounds six shillings
for delivery of a dozen bottles of
claret from Edwards, Thatcher &
Rudd.**

Sunday:

**Debited one pound for household
contribution to Sunday Service.**

Considerations:

Increase milk delivery by 1 quart on request of The Cook Mrs. Masey.

Gratuity to be afforded to the Scullery Maid Ms. Smith on account of her engagement to Wormwood, the delivery lad.

Lady Mowbray informs me we shall be hosting the Associate's dinner next week. I shall make additional arrangements with Mr. Wainright and warn the Footmen.

**Week Commencing Monday 23rd
September 1919**

Monday:

Debited 4 shillings sixpence for weekly milk delivery to Mr. Thomas (nine quarts).

Debited One pound, 3 shillings and fourpence for this week's bread deliveries to the baker Mr Lars.

Credited twenty-five pounds from Lady Mowbray to prepare for the Associate's gathering.

Tuesday:

Debited fifteen pounds from Mr. Wainright for three butchered pigs and trappings.

Credited five pounds from Lady Mowbray for the discretionary gratuity fund.

**Thursday:
Debited nine pounds sixteen shillings to Edwards, Thatcher & Rudd for replacement of the thirteen bottles of Rothschild to be served at the Associates' Dinner.**

**Sunday:
Debited one pound for household contribution to Sunday Service.**

Debited one pound gratuity to Ms. Smith for her engagement.

Debited eight shillings gratuity to Footman Thatcher for cleaning and discretion at the Associates dinner.

Debited eight shillings to Footman Clark for cleaning and discretion at the Associates dinner.

Debited seven pounds ten shillings to the family of Senior Footman Steward as a token of the household's sympathy and recognition of his faithful service.

**Considerations:
Mr. Clark is to be promoted to Senior Footman despite his protestations.**

Mrs. Masey has again asked if the Scullery Maid's betrothed might be considered for the vacant Hall Boy position. Given the loss of Mr.

Steward I am forced to offer him a provisional position. Mrs. Masey shall be responsible for ensuring they maintain proper decorum.

Lady Mowbray asked that I congratulate the staff on another successful Associates' dinner. I have elected to delay such sentiments until after Mr. Steward's effects have been removed and the North wall has been fully cleaned.

**Week Commencing Monday 30th
September 1919**

**Monday:
Debited 3 shillings sixpence for weekly milk delivery to Mr. Thomas (seven quarts).**

Debited One shilling and tuppence for this week's bread deliveries to the baker Mr Lars.

Debited three pounds eight shillings and fourpence for general larder stores to Dosen & Mason.

**Tuesday:
Credited ninety five pounds by lady Mowbray for anticipated household expenses in the month of October.**

**Wednesday:
Debited one pound seven shillings and sixpence to Belney's Ironmonger for replacement of**

Groundskeeper equipment damaged during the Associates dinner.

Friday:

Debited five pounds for contribution to village Harvest festival.

Sunday:

Debited one pound for household contribution to Sunday Service.

Considerations:

Lady Mowbray has informed me that we are to entertain an Associate's dinner *again* next week. I have suggested this may be inadvisable given how recently we lost Mr. Steward but she has insisted.

I shall need to break the news to Mr. Clark tomorrow.

**Week Commencing Monday 7th
October 1919**

Monday:

Debited 4 shillings sixpence for weekly milk delivery from Mr. Thomas (nine quarts)

Debited One pound two shillings and sixpence for this week's bread deliveries to the baker Mr Lars.

Tuesday:

Credited thirty pounds from Lady Mowbray to prepare for the Associate's dinner.

Debited twenty pounds to Mr. Wainright for four butchered pigs and trappings.

Credited five pounds from Lady Mowbray for the discretionary gratuity fund.

**Wednesday:
Debited fourteen shillings and thruppence for replacement cleaning supplies ahead of the Associates' Dinner.**

**Thursday:
Debited nine pounds sixteen shillings to Edwards, Thatcher & Rudd for replacement of the thirteen bottles of Rothschild to be served at the Associates' Dinner.**

**Sunday:
Debited one pound for household contribution to Sunday Service.**

Debited ten shillings gratuity to Footman Thatcher for cleaning and discretion at the Associates dinner.

Debited three shillings to Hallboy Wormwood for cleaning and discretion at the Associates dinner.

Debited eight pounds to the family of Senior Footman Clark as a token of the household's sympathy and recognition of his faithful service.

Considerations:

Lady Mowbray has informed me we are to entertain the Associates again next week.

I have advised her that we cannot afford to lose any more staff at this time but she insists it is of the utmost importance that she maintain the Association's good humor and so recommends I promote Wormwood the Hall boy given how he comported himself after the last dinner.

I shall speak to now-Senior Footman Thatcher about training him up as quickly as possible.

**Week Commencing Monday 14th
October 1919**

**Monday:
Debited 4 shillings sixpence for weekly milk delivery from Mr. Thomas (nine quarts)**

Debited One pound 2 shillings and sixpence for this week's bread deliveries to the baker Mr Lars.

**Tuesday:
Credited thirty-five pounds from Lady Mowbray to prepare for the Associate's dinner.**

Debited twenty-five pounds to Mr.

Wainright for five butchered pigs and trappings.

Credited ten pounds from Lady Mowbray for the discretionary gratuity fund.

**Wednesday:
Debited one pound for replacement cleaning supplies ahead of the Associates' Dinner.**

**Thursday:
Debited nine pounds sixteen shillings to Edwards, Thatcher & Rudd for replacement of another thirteen bottles of Rothschild to be served at the Associates' Dinner.**

**Sunday:
Debited one pound for household contribution to Sunday Service.**

Debited ten shillings gratuity to Footman Wormwood for cleaning and discretion at the Associates dinner.

Debited nine pounds to the family of Senior Footman Thatcher as a token of the household's sympathy and recognition of his faithful service.

**Considerations:
The Wormwood boy is to be made Senior footman.**

Lady Mowbray seems impressed by his composure and wishes to make

him a greater part of the household despite my objections.

I have tried to speak to him directly on the matter but he seems already enamoured by the swift change in circumstance, especially after I saw a gold coin pass to him from that peculiar merchant on his departure. I know he is a member of the association in good standing, but I dislike having tradespeople attending the Dinner. Especially one carrying a sack.

I shall have to speak to Mrs. Masey and see if we can arrange for young Wormwood's betrothed to talk some sense into him but we shall have to hurry, Lady Mowbray informs me we are to host the last of the season's Associate's Dinners next week. It would seem her position as chair has been ratified.

**Week Commencing Monday 21st
October 1919**

Monday:

**Debited 4 shillings sixpence for
weekly milk delivery from Mr.
Thomas (nine quarts)**

**Debited One pound and sixpence for
this week's bread deliveries to the
baker Mr Lars.**

Tuesday:

Credited fifty pounds from Lady

Mowbray to prepare for the Associate's dinner.

Debited twenty-four pounds and 10 shillings to the farm owners Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard for delivery of seven live pigs. (Mr. Wainright services shall not be required).

Wednesday:

Debited three pounds for special cleaning supplies ahead of the Associates' Dinner.

Credited ten pounds from Lady Mowbray for the discretionary gratuity fund.

Thursday:

Debited ten pounds four shillings to Edwards, Thatcher & Rudd for thirteen bottles of 1904 Latour to be served at the Associates' Dinner. (Rothschild on back order)

Friday:

Debited five pounds to village council with apologies from Lady Mowbray for any possible disturbances during the associates dinner.

Saturday:

Debited two pounds honorarium to local constabulary for assistance with discretion.

Debited five pounds to Dr. Winslow for medical services rendered at the estate with discretion.

Sunday:

Debited two pounds for household contribution to Sunday Service.

Debited twelve pounds to the family of the former Butler Mr. T.J. Rochester as a token of the household's sympathy and recognition of his faithful service.

Considerations:

Farewell Rochester. You served the household well, but you never understood it, were never truly part of it. Not as I am now.

We are of the household as the household is of the house and the house of is of the land and together... together, together we form the whole and the whole is... noble.

So whilst this endures in blood and stone, I shall serve all the strange and wonderful people that visit in their deference and you? You shall have the rest you always craved in life.

Enjoy your retirement Mr. Rochester and know that Lady Mowbray asked me to thank you for your service.

Hereafter lies the household Ledger for Wychwood Hall held in trust for the Lady Mowbray in the year of our

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**Lord 1919 by her Butler Mr. F.
Wormwood.**

Alice Sighs.

4. MANAGER'S OFFICE (LANDLINE), INT. NIGHT, RAINING

ALICE enters still limping.

GWEN

(occupied)

**Celia tells me there was an incident
in the basement. I hope you weren't
too badly hurt?**

ALICE

**I can still type if that's what you're
worried about.**

GWEN

**Good to know. I'd still like you to file
an accident report before the end of
the night though.**

ALICE

(snorting)

**What, so you can file it alongside
Colin and Sam's?**

GWEN

Something like that.

Beat. ALICE fidgets.

GWEN

(cont.)

Was there something else?

ALICE

What's the deal with Lady Mowbray?

GWEN

(paying attention now)

What do you mean?

ALICE

She was in here not long before you stabbed Lena in the back, right?

GWEN

She visited before I was promoted.

ALICE

And Celia said she was definitely an External.

GWEN

Look if you are trying to imply that Lady Mowbray was somehow connected with Lena's departure-

ALICE

I mean, I wasn't but hearing you say that I definitely am now...

GWEN

(frustrated)

So what are you getting at then?

ALICE

So is she like queen of the Externals or what?

GWEN

(sharply)

What?

ALICE

I literally just got a case with her from back when butlers still roamed the earth and it seemed pretty bloody clear that she was chief weirdo back then, so I just want to know if she's still the head monster or whatever. Just so we know where we stand.

GWEN
(concerned)
What case was this?

ALICE
The one open on my PC right now. It
only just finished prattling.

GWEN
Show me.

ALICE
I will as soon as you tell me what the
deal is with -

GWEN
(sharp)
Now!

5. MANAGER'S OFFICE (LANDLINE), INT. NIGHT, RAINING

GWEN is pushing **ALICE** out of her office.

ALICE

No, you're going to tell me what's
happening right now otherwise-

GWEN

(shouting and shoving)

Get out of my office!

She finally manages to slam the door shut and lock it.

ALICE hammers on the door a couple of times.

Finally, she grunts and wanders off muttering.

Beat, **GWEN** centers herself.

She stands, heads over to her desk and sits heavily. Then she
picks up the phone and calls a number.

It rings.

It rings again.

NIGEL DICKERSON picks up the phone. **BONZO** is banging
around unhelpfully in the background.

NIGEL

(nervously)

Hello?

GWEN

Mr. Dickerson? It's Gwen, with the
O.I.A.R.

NIGEL

Oh. Hello Gwen.

GWEN

I was wondering if you had a moment to talk about your... uh... client?

NIGEL

Bit late for that.

GWEN

What do you mean?

NIGEL

I told you it was a mistake to cut him off didn't I? I told you what would happen but would you listen to me? Oh no. No, no, no, no one listens to Nigel-

GWEN

(restrained)

Listen Mr. Dickerson, I understand you're frustrated-

NIGEL

Frustrated!? You have no idea what it's like to live with him, especially now! Trying to keep him happy, keep him distracted after you went and took away the only thing he wants...

GWEN

I realize that Mr. Dickerson but-

BONZO loudly breaks something in the background.

NIGEL

(cont. distracted)

Oh god... Not the cooker...

GWEN

Nigel. I need to know if Lady Mowbray has been in contact.

Beat.

BONZO wanders off to make chaos in another room.

NIGEL
(quieter)
Who told you that?

GWEN
So she has?

NIGEL
Wasn't long after you decided you
were putting Mr. B on sabbatical.
You know I didn't realize you were
cutting them all off...

GWEN
There were others there as well?

NIGEL
I ran out of chairs, had to grab a
picnic bench from the garage.

GWEN
What were they saying?

NIGEL
Now Gwen, you know what they say
about snitches...

GWEN
(fearful and forceful)
What did they say Nigel?

Beat.

NIGEL
They said that if the O.I.A.R. doesn't
get its act together they'll have to...
take matters into their own hands.

Beat.

GWEN
And Lady Mowbray?

NIGEL
Oh, they uh... they voted her in as leader again.

GWEN
I see.

Beat.

GWEN
(cont.)
Well, she seems a reasonable woman, relatively speaking. I'm sure she'll understand when I lay it all out.

NIGEL
If you say so. I think she's already organising a- what did she call it? A little delegation.

Pause.

GWEN
And how long do you think until they pay us a visit?

NIGEL
Not long.

Beat.

NIGEL
(cont.)
Listen Gwen, I have to go. He doesn't like it when I talk to other people and it's snack time soon.

GWEN
(small)
Sure.

NIGEL

He's very keen to come over with Lady M. "He wants to play, he wants to stay", and all that. So, I'll probably be seeing you soon.

GWEN

Right. Goodbye Nigel.

NIGEL hangs up. GWEN sits shellshocked holding the receiver.

6. OIAR MAIN OFFICE (PC), INT, NIGHT, RAINING

CELIA is sat working.

ALICE enters agitated and sits at her workstation.

Beat.

CELIA
Want to talk about it?

ALICE
Not really.

BEAT.

ALICE
(cont.)
I lied earlier.

CELIA
Okay.

ALICE
I'm not okay with this. I thought I was, or at least I thought I could be, but I'm not. I can't deal with all this extra unsaid stuff on top of all the bullshit with Gwen. I'm so scared all the time, and I need to know that there's someone, anyone I can trust and right now you're all I've got. So, no more secrets. No more pointed silences or weird ambiguous comments or half-truths or any of that. I need you to be straight with me. I need you to be straight with me or I need you to go. It's one or the other, non-negotiable.

Beat.

CELIA
(hesitant)
Alice I-

ALICE
(hard)
Don't. You tell me what the hell is
going on with you, the truth, the **real**
truth, right now, or we are done..

Pause.

CELIA squirms.

Eventually:

CELIA
I'm not... from here. I'm from
somewhere else ... on the other side
of the tear at the Hilltop Centre.

Beat.

ALICE
You fucking what?

[Music]

ANNOUNCER
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alike 4.0 International License.
The series is created by Jonathan
Sims and Alexander J Newall, and
directed by Alexander J Newall.
This episode was written by
Alexander J Newall and edited with
additional materials by Jonathan

Sims, with vocal edits by Nico Vettese, soundscaping by Meg McKellar, and mastering by Catherine Rinella with music by Sam Jones.

It featured Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer, Lowri Ann Davies as Celia Ripley, Anusia Battersby as Gwendolyn Bouchard, with additional voices from Alexander J Newall. 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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The Magnus Protocol 57 – Personality Conflicts

power (peerage) -/- estate (succession)

Incident Elements:

- explicit language
- abuse of power

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Directed by [Alexander J Newall](#)

Written by [Alexander J Newall](#)

Script Edited with additional material by Jonathan Sims

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Jonathan Sims, Dani McDonough, Linn Ci, and Samantha F.G.
Hamilton**

**Associate Producers Jordan L. Hawk, Taylor Michaels, Nicole
Perlman, Cetius d’Raven, and Megan Nice**

Produced by April Sumner

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer

Lowri Ann Davies as Celia Ripley

Anusia Battersby as Gwen Bouchard

Steve Newman as Nigel Dickerson

Alexander J Newall as Norris

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Art by April Sumner

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