

JRATW EP15 DARK CITY

Scene: 1 EXT. Day

1 NARRATOR:

It's early afternoon. Our merry band has been walking for... for a long time, searching for the source of a garbled radio broadcast that Jim Robbie picked up. Distant and broken as the transmission was, it promised civilization and the chance to make some money.

2 CHARLIE:

You're sure that this is where the signal's coming from?

3 TANGO:

It's getting less static-y. That has to mean something, right? What do you think Jim Robbie.

4 JIM ROBBIE:

I don't know how this works. Charlie's the engineer.

5 TANGO:

Well turn it back on and we can check.

6 JIM ROBBIE:

Alright, alright.

7 SOUND: STATIC, THEN, THE SIGNAL BECOMES CLEARER. THROUGHOUT THE RADIO TRANSMISSION, THE STATIC FADES IN AND OUT. MOST OF IT IS QUIET, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO OBSCURE WHAT'S BEING SAID.

8 RAFAEL:

...getting some rain tonight folks. Which means you'll be able to see the glowing mushrooms from Lady's to Starline tomorrow. As always it promises to be a sight, so if you have the chance go down and check it out tomorrow. The earlier, the better.

A reminder that some of the mushrooms burst if you touch them so keep the children away, but enjoy the sight. This is Rafael Report ing from-

9 SOUND: RADIO CLICKING OFF

10 JIM ROBBIE:

So what do you think, Ms. Head Engineer?

11 CHARLIE:

It sounds more static-y this time than it did last time.

- 12 TANGO:
No, it doesn't. If anything it sounds clearer.
- 13 CHARLIE:
I don't think so Tango.
- 14 TANGO:
Well, which way do you think we should go?
- 15 CHARLIE:
Uh... This way!
- 16 TANGO:
This is almost the same way we've been going.
- 17 CHARLIE:
You asked. We haven't been getting anywhere that way,
maybe we need a little change.
- 18 JIM ROBBIE:
What could it hurt? We're lost either way.
- 19 TANGO:
No, we're not.
- 20 CHARLIE:
We aren't?
- 21 TANGO:
No. We just don't know where we're going yet!
- 22 JIM ROBBIE:
I'm pretty sure that's the definition of lost.
- 23 TANGO:
No, lost is knowing where you want to go and not being
able to find it. Wherever we get to is where we're
going.
- 24 CHARLIE:
That way looks like it goes downhill a little.
- 25 TANGO:
Sold!

Scene: 2 EXT. Day

- 26 NARRATOR:
Sure enough, a few hours later, the monotony of the
sand was broken by something new. A large rain cloud.
They'd spotted it in the distance, but they were almost
under it before Tango began celebrating.

- 27 TANGO:
 This is it!
- 28 JIM ROBBIE:
 It's a cloud.
- 29 TANGO:
 I know that. But that's gotta be it.
- 30 JIM ROBBIE:
 Why?
- 31 TANGO:
 Don't you remember the weather forecast? He said it was going to rain.
- 32 CHARLIE:
 What did I tell you? Perfectly leveled.
- 33 TANGO:
 We would have found it my way, too. Yours was just a, uh, a, uh... it was a short cut!
- 34 CHARLIE:
 It's a little weird though, isn't it?
- 35 TANGO:
 What?
- 36 CHARLIE:
 When's the last time you saw a farm?
- 37 TANGO:
 (BEAT)
 I actually don't remember. Like, a month?
- 38 CHARLIE:
 Exactly. If this is where the signal's coming from how are they feeding themselves?
- 39 TANGO:
 Maybe they just don't eat?
- 40 JIM ROBBIE:
 Everything eats something.
- 41 CHARLIE:
 What do you eat?
- 42 JIM ROBBIE:
 I don't see how that's any of your business.

- 43 TANGO:
Maybe they have something on the other side of town.
- 44 CHARLIE:
Maybe, but it's really dark. We needed all kinds of lamps to grow things inside the buildings in Chicago. And it was brighter there than it is here.
- 45 TANGO:
Wait! Look! There's a light! Maybe that's their farm.
- 46 SOUND: CHARLIE AND TANGO RUNNING, THE WAGON BUMPING BEHIND THEM. THEY STOP RUNNING.

Scene 2.5

- 47 TANGO:
What's it say?
- 48 CHARLIE:
Sevens.
- 49 JIM ROBBIE:
(BEAT, CONFUSED)
Sevens?!
- 50 CHARLIE:
(CONFIRMATORY)
Sevens.
- 51 TANGO:
Sevens? What's that mean?
- 52 CHARLIE:
No idea.
- 53 JIM ROBBIE:
Why doesn't it have any windows?
- 54 TANGO:
Maybe it gets too bright when it isn't cloudy? That'd explain why the radio announcer was so excited about the rain.
- 55 SOUND: THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN AND CASINO NOISE FLOODS OUT, AND DISAPPEARS WHEN THE DOOR SHUTS AGAIN.
- 56 CHARLIE:
Were they-
- 57 SOUND: CHARLIE PULLS OPEN THE DOOR AND PEERS INSIDE, MORE CASINO NOISE. THIS TIME THROUGHOUT.

58 CHARLIE: (cont'd)
They're playing cards.

59 TANGO:
Yeah. What was that game? Sink?

60 CHARLIE:
The one where you have to have a certain number of
dots?

61 TANGO:
Yeah, that one.

62 JIM ROBBIE:
Tops. It's called Tops.

63 SECURITY:
(CLEARS THROAT)
Are you going to come in or are you going to just stand
out there?

64 TANGO:
Oh, sorry! We were just trying to figure out what this
place was.

65 SECURITY:
It's a casino. You bet money to make more money. First
time in town?

66 TANGO:
Yeah!

67 SECURITY:
Well if you're coming in, do it, but either way shut
the door.

68 TANGO:
Right. Sorry.

69 SOUND: THE DOOR SHUTS AND THE CASINO NOISE STOPS.

70 CHARLIE:
So, where should we set up?

71 JIM ROBBIE:
How about finding a place to stay for the night first?
I think you got some sand in my radio and it's really
uncomfortable.

72 TANGO:
Sure. There's gotta be someplace to stay somewhere
around here.

Scene: 3 INT. Day

73 SOUND: TANGO OPENS A DOOR AND QUIET RESTAURANT NOISE IS HEARD.

74 TANGO:
Hi, I'm Tango! And this here is Charlie and Jim Robbie,
and we were wondering if you had someplace to stay?

75 HOST:
(THE HOST IS PERPETUALLY BORED.)
Do you have a reservation?

76 TANGO:
A reservation?

77 HOST:
Did you come earlier and set up a time when you would
come to eat?

78 JIM ROBBIE:
We know what reservation means.

79 HOST:
Yes, but do you *have* one?

80 TANGO:
No, but we- really.. would like one?

81 SOUND: NEWSPAPER RUSTLING

82 TANGO: (cont'd)
(PUT-OFF)
Uh. Sir?

83 HOST:
Reservation only, Miss. Please leave.

84 SOUND: NEWSPAPER RUSTLING MORE.

Scene: 4 EXT. DAY

85 SOUND: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING

86 CHARLIE:
What was all that about?

87 TANGO:
I don't know. Let's try the next one.

88 CHARLIE:
It looks like another restaurant.

- 89 TANGO:
Maybe they know where we can find someplace to stay?
- 90 JIM ROBBIE:
But do we really want to risk running into another host like that one?
- 91 CHARLIE:
As much as it pains me to say, he's right. They were about as helpful as rust.
- 92 JIM ROBBIE:
Tango, could you check my knobs, Charlie's agreeing with me so something must be loose.
- 93 CHARLIE:
As I said. Rust.
- 94 JIM ROBBIE:
You wound me.
- 95 CHARLIE:
You'll get over it. (BEAT.) That one doesn't look like it's a restaurant.
- 96 TANGO:
Let's check it out then.

Scene: 5 EXT/INT. DAY

- 97 SOUND: SOUNDS OF THE GROUP WALKING A FEW BUILDINGS DOWN THE STREET. WHEN TANGO OPENS THIS DOOR THERE'S A LITTLE BELL THAT GOES OFF.
- 98 TANGO:
Hi, I'm Tango and this is Charlie and Jim Robbie. And we were wondering- please have someplace ta-
- 99 HOST:
(BORED.)
No soliciting.
- 100 JIM ROBBIE:
Is that the same person from the restaurant?
- 101 CHARLIE:
(UNDER.)
Maybe? But how did they-?
- 102 TANGO:
We're not... soliciting?

- 103 CHARLIE:
It just a fancy word for talking.
- 104 TANGO:
Oh. I guess we are doing that. But we just need to know where we could sleep-
- 105 CHARLIE:
(UNDER.)
How'd they get here before us?
- 106 HOST:
No soliciting. But you look like travelers. Need anything? I can hook you up with some supplies.
- 107 TANGO:
No, we just really just need a place to stay the night.
- 108 HOST:
Sorry, fresh out of those. Now get out.
- 109 TANGO:
But-
- 110 HOST:
Please leave if you aren't planning on buying anything.
- Scene: 6 EXT. DAY
- 111 SOUND: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING, WITH ON OF THOSE LITTLE BELLS RINGING
- 112 TANGO:
So, not that one either.
- 113 CHARLIE:
Did you notice it was the same person from the restaurant?
- 114 TANGO:
They didn't look that alike did they?
- 115 JIM ROBBIE:
They looked like the exact same.
- 116 CHARLIE:
And had the same attitude.
- 117 JIM ROBBIE:
If anything, this one was worse. Oh, and he had a hat.

- 118 CHARLIE:
Should we go ahead and give up? It doesn't seem like anyone wants to talk to us.
- 119 TANGO:
We should give it a few more buildings first.
- 120 JIM ROBBIE:
Maybe we should split up. Me and Tango can check all of these buildings over here and Charlie can go down that way and we can meet in the middle again.
- 121 CHARLIE:
I can do that.
- 122 TANGO:
First one to find a hotel wins?
- 123 CHARLIE:
That's hardly fair. You have to carry the paper weight.
- 124 JIM ROBBIE:
I am *not* a paper weight. I'm in on this bet.
- 125 CHARLIE:
Fine. I hope you like losing though.
- 126 SOUND: CHARLIE RUNS AWAY FROM JIM ROBBIE AND TANGO.

Scene: 7 EXT. DAY

- 127 NARRATOR:
In short, there weren't any hotels. At least no where that our band could find. There were plenty of things to do. Lots of casinos, shops with little trinkets. But there was really no place to just spend the night. There might have been some inside the casinos, but they were only for casino patrons and they were very expensive.
- 128 SOUND: CHARLIE WALKING UP FROM CHECKING A SIDE STREET OF BUILDINGS.
- 129 TANGO:
Any luck Charlie?
- 130 CHARLIE:
Nope. Two restaurants, a shop that sold these eight-ball things, and another four casinos. I tried to ask someone the last casino where they were staying, but they told me to leave if I wasn't going to bet.

- 131 JIM ROBBIE:
Time to call it a day?
- 132 SOUND: TANGO AND CHARLIE START WALKING, THE WAGON BEHIND THEM.
- 133 TANGO:
Yeah, probably. We've wasted enough time looking for a place to stay. We can just camp out. Once we're set up I'll take care of the sand, alright?
- 134 SOUND: THE FOOTSTEPS GO FROM TWO PAIRS TO ONE AS CHARLIE STOPS WALKING. THE WAGON NOISE STOPS WITH HER.
- 135 JIM ROBBIE:
Thanks.
- 136 TANGO:
No problem.
- 137 SOUND: TANGO WALKS ALONE A COUPLE MORE STEPS IN SILENCE AND STOPS WALKING WHEN SHE REALIZES CHARLIE'S A FEW STEPS BEHIND.
- 138 TANGO: (cont'd)
What'cha doing Charlie?
- 139 CHARLIE:
(DISTRACTED. LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.)
Looking.
- 140 TANGO:
Looking at what?
- 141 CHARLIE:
(A LITTLE BEWILDERED. SHE'S NOT FINDING WHAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR.)
Nothing.
- 142 SOUND: CHARLIE CATCHES UP WITH TANGO THE WAGON BUMPING BEHIND HER AND THEY BOTH START WALKING AGAIN.
- 143 JIM ROBBIE:
Think she's finally cracked?
- 144 TANGO:
What are you looking for?
- 145 CHARLIE:
Power. You haven't seen any places without electricity, right?

146 TANGO:
No.

147 CHARLIE:
Neither have I. But I haven't seen any power lines or generators or anything to make the power. Even the zombies in New York need power lines and they're great with electricity.

148 TANGO:
Now that you mention it...

149 JIM ROBBIE:
Could they be underground or something?

150 TANGO:
(UNDER)
Should we set up here?

151 CHARLIE:
(OVER)
I guess, but we would've seen something. Right? And sure, this is as good as anyplace.

152 TANGO:
Alright. Let's get the sand out of you.

153 SOUND: TANGO RUMMAGES IN THE WAGON FOR A TOWEL.

154 CHARLIE:
So what should we do tonight?

155 TANGO:
Start with "Inkling's Lullaby" maybe?

156 CHARLIE:
Maybe before we go to bed.

157 TANGO:
Okay. What do you want to play?

158 CHARLIE:
Maybe "The Suitcase Song"? It's cute, people generally like it.

159 TANGO:
Good idea. Especially since we couldn't find a place to stay tonight.

160 JIM ROBBIE:
Don't tilt my head too far you're going to drop it.

161 TANGO:

Sorry.

162 CHARLIE:

Yeah, definitely appropriate.

163 TANGO:

Would you mind being our penny jar, Jim Robbie?

164 JIM ROBBIE:

I guess not. Nicoletta evicted Charlotte so it won't bother her.

(CHARLOTTE IS THE NAME OF THE SPIDER THAT LIVED IN JIM ROBBIE'S RADIO.)

165 TANGO:

Sounds like a plan then. And maybe if we get enough money we can rent one of the rooms at the casino.

166 CHARLIE:

I don't think we could possibly make that much in one night.

167 JIM ROBBIE:

We don't need to make that much money. We just need to make *some* money. We just need enough to gamble with. Then we can win the rest of the room price.

168 TANGO:

Yeah, we can be in a room by tomorrow night no problem.

169 CHARLIE:

You couldn't even remember what Tops was called, let alone win it.

170 TANGO:

Then you'll win big for me.

(END SCENE)

SCENE: 8 EXT. DAY

171 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS, CHATTERING CITY-LIFE BUSTLE, ABSENT FROM THE NOISE OF CARS.

172 JIM ROBBIE:

Spare a penny for the arts?

173 SOUND: COINS CLATTERING

- 174 JIM ROBBIE: (cont'd)
Ow, jeez, no need to be rough! Agh, it's caught in my face!
- 175 TANGO:
(WAKING UP)
Hah? Whuh?
- 176 JIM ROBBIE:
Good morning, sleepyhead! Or afternoon? It's still dark, I really have no idea.
- 177 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS (UNDER)
- 178 CHARLIE:
(OVER)
It's still morning, according to the bakery over on 8th Street. I've been walking around this place for an hour, now. Got us some breakfast!
- 179 TANGO:
(HAPPILY)
Ooh, biscuits!
- 180 CHARLIE:
Yeah, with local goats milk.
(BEAT)
Whatever that is. How are we?
- 181 JIM ROBBIE:
Well, Tango seemed to sleep well, and people have been throwing money in my can.
- 182 TANGO:
(EATING)
How much did we get?
- 183 JIM ROBBIE:
About three dollars and a poker chip.
- 184 CHARLIE:
(SARCASTICALLY)
Great, we at least had some net gain.
(ANXIOUSLY)
Now let's get heck out of this city. This place gives me the creeps!
- 185 TANGO:
Why? Cause of the sky?
- 186 CHARLIE:
Yes! And that there's no powerlines or anything! Everything just works by itself.

- 187 JIM ROBBIE:
I can relate! Kinda.
- 188 TANGO:
Are you related?
- 189 JIM ROBBIE:
Maybe only by marriage.
- 190 CHARLIE:
(EXASPERATED)
C'mon, guys, stop clunking about! I'm really getting the creeps about this. There's no way that this city should even exist in this total darkness, let alone be functional! New York is one thing, but this isn't right!
- 191 TANGO:
Charlie, I'm sure we'll be okay! No one's bothering us, no one even notices us! We can get some supplies, maybe even stay here.
- 192 JIM ROBBIE:
She's got a point.
- 193 CHARLIE:
(GROANS)
- 194 TANGO:
I'm sorry, Charlie.
- 195 JIM ROBBIE:
(BEAT)
How much was that poker chip worth?
- 196 CHARLIE:
(OVER)
Who cares? I vote we get out of here!
- 197 SOUND: (UNDER) COINS CLATTERING AROUND JIM'S CAN
- 198 JIM ROBBIE:
It says... 1000?
- 199 TANGO:
1000 dollars?
- 200 CHARLIE:
(SHOCKED)
Oh motherboard.

- 201 TANGO:
Where's it from? Does it say?
- 202 CHARLIE:
What's that on the back? That looks like a bug?
- 203 JIM ROBBIE:
It looks like a bee!
- 204 TANGO:
Bees? Think there are any around here?
- 205 CHARLIE:
I wouldn't put it past this place to have like, night bees or something like that around here. But there's a casino just a block away, I'm sure that's where it came from.
- 206 TANGO:
Then that's where we're headed!
- 207 JIM ROBBIE:
And we'll actually get rich! Maybe you can buy me an actual set of legs!
- 208 CHARLIE:
(EXASPERATED)
I got a bad feeling about this, but alright.
- 209 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS, WAGON SQUEAKING AND JIM ROBBIE CLANGING
- 210 JIM ROBBIE:
(FADING)
No, really, some legs would be great!
- SCENE: 9 INT. DAY
- 211 SOUND: SLOT MACHINE NOISES AND DICE CLATTERING, CHEERING AND CHATTER, AND DRINK GLASSES CLINKING TOGETHER.
- 212 JIM ROBBIE:
Whoa. Very nice.
- 213 TANGO:
Wow, it's really Shiny in here!
- 214 CHARLIE:
Wow, this feels like too much gold. Are we in a sea serpent's lair?
- 215 TANGO:
Where do we cash in that chip?

216 JIM ROBBIE:
Hm... You know, we could make... 2000 dollars?

217 CHARLIE:
(ANNOYED)
No. No, no. Bad idea.

218 TANGO:
Wait, how?

219 JIM ROBBIE:
You know how to play blackjack, right?

220 CHARLIE:
(EVEN MORE ANNOYED)
No. And also again, no.

221 TANGO:
Nah, I never actually learned how to.

222 JIM ROBBIE:
I have an idea.

223 CHARLIE:
Oh no.

(END SCENE)

SCENE: 10 INT. DAY.

(SUDDEN CUT TO THE NEXT SCENE.
CARD-SHUFFLING AND POKER CHIPS RATTLING TO INDICATE IT)

224 JIM ROBBIE:
Alright, hit me, my good man!

225 CHARLIE:
(SOURLY)
I wish he could.

226 TANGO:
I'm so bad at this game.

227 JIM ROBBIE:
But I'm good at it! Trust me, we got this!
(WHISPERING)
All we need is a face card, and we'll be fine!

228 SOUND: CARD FLIPPING

229 JIM ROBBIE: (cont'd)
(WHISPER-SHOUTING)
YES

- 230 PLAYER #1:
(ANGRILY)
Dammit! I fold to the junk with a bad pokerface.
- 231 JIM ROBBIE:
(ANNOYED)
I'll poke your face, meatbag!
- 232 PLAYER #2:
(IRRITATED)
Shut up!
- 233 CHARLIE:
(THROUGH GRITTED TEETH)
Yes, Jim, shut up. *Please.*
- 234 TANGO:
How much do we win?
- 235 PLAYER #2:
About 500 dollars from me and her.
- 236 PLAYER #1:
200 of mine. Figured you junkers would be up to no good!
- 237 SOUND: CHAIRS SCRAPING, HEAVY, ANGRY FOOTSTEPS RECEDING.
- 238 TANGO:
(OVER)
That king card looks familiar.
- 239 CHARLIE:
Why's his arm the same silvery color as his crown?
- 240 SOUND: UNDER) JIM ROBBIE BOASTING AND HAVING THE CHIPS
POURED INTO HIS CAN
- 241 TANGO:
(SLOWLY REALIZING WITH EACH WORD)
He looks... kinda like...
- 242 CHARLIE:
(FEARFULLY)
Pick Jim up and let's get the hell out of here.
- 243 TANGO:
Got it.
- 244 SOUND: JIM ROBBIE RATTLING AROUND

- 245 JIM ROBBIE:
 (INDIGNANT)
 Hey, hey, what are you doing?!
- 246 CHARLIE:
 Cash and dash!
- 247 TANGO:
 Didn't you recognize that King on the card?
- 248 JIM ROBBIE:
 (BEAT, INCREDULOUS)
 No!
- 249 TANGO:
 That was -
- 250 SOUND: OVERHEAD PA CRACKLING
- 251 OVERHEAD ANNOUNCER:
 And now, gracing the place with his presence, ladies,
 gentlemen, and those of unspecified gender, please
 welcome, Mr. James! STINGEEERRRR!
- 252 SOUND: CHEERS AND APPLAUSE
- 253 STINGER:
 (COCKILY)
 And how's everyone doing tonight?
- 254 SOUND: MORE CHEERS
- 255 PLAYER #1:
 (SHOUTING OVER THE CHEERS)
 Not good!
- 256 PLAYER #2:
 (AT THE SAME VOLUME)
 Yeah! Awful!
- 257 SOUND: CHEERING DIES DOWN
- 258 STINGER:
 Aw, Emily, Bruce, what's wrong? Tables take a turn for
 the terrible?
- 259 BRUCE:
 Oh, shut your f-
- 260 SOUND: BRUCE'S SHIN BEING KICKED

- 261 EMILY:
 (TO BRUCE, WHISPERING)
 Brother! Shut up!
 (TO STINGER)
 We went a bit in over our heads and lost to a tin can!
- 262 STINGER:
 (BEAT)
 Did you have a dive at the bar beforehand?
- 263 SOUND: PATRONS LAUGHING, BRUCE GRUMBLING AND EMILY GROANING
- 264 TANGO:
 (URGENTLY)
 Go, go go go go go!
- 265 CHARLIE:
 Forget the money, let's scam!
- 266 JIM ROBBIE:
 (ANGRILY)
 No! CASH AND DASH, REMEMBER?!
- 267 CHARLIE:
 Well, then, screwdrive this! I'm getting the wagon!
- 268 TANGO:
 (FEARFULLY)
 Charlie, no!
- 269 CHARLIE:
 (VOICE FADING)
 I'll be back, I swear!
- 270 TANGO:
 Don't leave! This guy's a monster!
- 271 BRUCE:
 We lost to that girl over there! With the junkpile!
- 272 STINGER:
 (CONFUSED, THEN THIN-VEILED RAGE)
 Girl?
 (BEAT)
 Junkpile?!
- 273 TANGO:
 (HORRIFIED)
 Oh no.
- 274 STINGER:
 (QUIETLY, WITH A VOICE FILLED WITH VENOM)
 You.

Credits

275 NICOLETTA:

Okay I know that it's dark and storming outside so I'm gonna make this quick, alright kid. You're gonna deliver this letter to Tango and Charlie and Jim Robbie. Yes, this IS the next letter I'm sending, I've sent 27 already. I KNOW, OKAY, SO... I'm going to read to you, and you're going to make sure that it's right, alright? GOOD!

Episode 3: Dark City. The creator was Ileana Sheremet. The writers were Kelsey Leigh and Jack Pevyhouse. The sound editor was Laura Bramblette. Narrator and Stinger: Gavin Waters, Mako Horikoshi as Charlie, Ileana Sheremet as Tango, Aleksandr Wilde as Jim Robbie, Jake Song as Rafael and Overhead Announcer, Devon Sullivan as Security and Host, Adam Lishua as Bruce, and Mandy Fugate as Emily. Music was done by John Bradley. Supplemental music is "Rock and Gravel" By Sid Valentine and His Patent Leather Kids, "I'm Wild about that Thing" by Bessie Smith, "Washboard Cutout 1927" By Booby Leekin's Need More Band. our website is jimrobbieandthewanderers.com, please support us on patreon.com/jimrobbieandthewanderers, and as always you can listen to us on iTunes and Google Play, please remember to rate and subscribe.

Wait... That's not the letter, that's not the letter that I wrote, that's just a random piece of paper that was lying on the floor. Alright, Alright, start