

JRATW EP17 CACTUSCI

Scene: 1

(IN A SANDSTORM, SOMEWHERE IN THE DESERT.)

1 SOUND: HOWLING DESERT WINDS

2 NARRATOR:

A sandstorm moved in as our friends traveled along an the old and cracked pavement of a road. They hadn't found another rest stop for days, and their supplies are thinning. And the storm. Well, the storm made it hard to hear.

3 CHARLIE

(YELLING)
I'm thirsty!

4 TANGO:

(YELLING)
EEEW. I'm covered in sand too, and that word is just unnecessary. I don't want to know how (Said with disgust) *crusty* you are.

5 JIM ROBBIE

(YELLING)
Tango, she said dusty! She's dusty. I'm enjoying myself though. This is a nice facial treatment.

6 CHARLIE

(YELLING)
THIRSTY!

7 TANGO

(YELLING)
Okay, no need to yell into my ear, Charlie. Get a drink from that roundy bottle we got.

8 CHARLIE

(YELLING)
There's no water left.

9 SOUND: THE WIND STOPS ABRUPTLY, HALFWAY THOUGH CHARLIE YELLING, LEAVING HER JUST YELLING. FOR THE REST OF THE SCENE WE JUST HEAR TANGO AND CHARLIE PLODDING ABOUT IN THE SAND. LIKE IDIOTS.

10 TANGO

(YELLING)
THERE'S NO WATER?

(NO ONE IS YELLING ANY LONGER)

11 CHARLIE

That's what I said. Now hold on while I try to knock some sand out of my hat.

12 JIM ROBBIE

Nevermind the hat. You water balloons need water. I will not be stranded out here by myself till some schmuck finds me. You will live forever, understand?

13 TANGO

I PLAN ON IT, BUDDY.

14 CHARLIE

Don't you need to find, like, a rock or something for that. Or kill everyone that looks like you. Or an egg.

15 TANGO

I wouldn't mind eggs right about now.

16 JIM ROBBIE

(EXASPERATED)
WATER!

Scene: 2

(NO BREAK, SAME TIME SAME PLACE)

17 SOUND: DIGGING SOUNDS, THE CHILDREN ARE BACK AT IT AGAIN, AND THEN VINCENT POPS OUT OF THE GROUND

18 VINCENT

Hey again! Oh, looks like you guys are stuck in a nasty situation. I've got just the thing to make it better. Here you go?

19 CHARLIE

A letter? Is it magic, does it have water in it?

20 VINCENT

No.

21 TANGO

Do you have any water, or food or something that will feed us? (quietly) I'm hungry.

22 VINCENT

Look lady, do I look like I'm wearing a baseball hat and carrying a tray full of hotdogs? I ain't got anything for you two. Enjoy the letter.

23 SOUND: DIGGING STARTS UP AGAIN, VINCENT IS HASTA LA VISTAING

- 24 CHARLIE
(TOP)
I'm gonna get you Vincent! You'd better bring me a pop next time you show your little pink face.
- 25 JIM ROBBIE
You know he's not a mole rat right?
- 26 CHARLIE
Might as well be. I have no idea how those kids stay so healthy living underground delivering mail.
- 27 TANGO
Charlie.
- 28 CHARLIE
Yes, Tango?
- 29 TANGO
Read the letter.
- 30 CHARLIE
- 31 SOUND: TEARING OPEN THE ENVELOPE AND OPENING THE LETTER.
(SARCASTIC)
Oh golly gosh, it's our dear friend Nicoletta, writing to tell us about her grand adventures again. Do you even want me to read this?
- 32 TANGO
I dunno? Is there even anything interesting?
- 33 CHARLIE
(CLEARS HER THROAT)
"Dear Tango, Jim Robbie, and Charlie. I hope you are all doing well. I've made it up North..." (Beat as Charlie scans the letter, Mumbling as needed.) You know what, there's nothing interesting here, just more stuff about forgiveness and her quest for whatever. (Beat) Tango I really don't have the patience to read this. Let's just pack it up for later, okay?
- 34 TANGO
Okay, Okay. Just shove it in one of the bags. We have all the time to get to it anyways.
- 35 CHARLIE
Got it.
- 36 SOUND: CHARLIE UNZIPS A BAG, STUFF THE LETTER INTO IT, AND ZIPS IT BACK UP, THERE'S A CRUNCHING NOISE, AS SHE ZIPS IT BACK UP.

- 37 CHARLIE (cont'd)
We lost another tooth. How old is this backpack!
- 38 JIM ROBBIE
Definitely older than the dinosaurs.
- 39 TANGO
Well, yeah, (beat) we really should visit their cupcake shop again.
- 40 CHARLIE
TAANNGOO, stop talking about food, now I'm thirsty and HUNGRY.

Scene: 3

(SAME PLACE, IN THE DARN DESERT, STILL THIRSTY, STILL USELESS, COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY USELESS. A COUPLE HOURS HAVE PASSED)

- 41 CHARLIE
Do we have anything to eat? My mouth is like paper. It's been hours
- 42 TANGO
We have some chips, I think.
- 43 CHARLIE
Ughhhh, those are sour or something. I'm going to die out here with no water and nothing but salty vinegary chips.
- 44 JIM ROBBIE
Look on the bright side. My torment will be ended.
- 45 TANGO
Charlie, you were once stranded on the ocean. What did you do?
- 46 CHARLIE
I dunno, paddled? (Beat) I saw a tree. I paddled towards a tree. It was one tall tree at the edge of the ocean.
- 47 TANGO
You know I didn't really think much about it, but there's a little thing sticking out from the ground, really really, far that way.
- 48 SOUND: TANGO STARTS RUNNING, AND STOPS. SOUND SHOULD BE RUNNING FOOTSTEPS AND THE WAGON RATTLING, AND JIM JANGLING A BIT. CHARLIE'S BEING A LAZY WUMPUS TODAY.

49 TANGO CONT.

Come-on, Charlie, we'll get there faster if we run.

50 SOUND: EVERYONE RUNNING, WAGON RATTLING, JIM JANGLING. MAYBE SANTA IS THERE, READING THIS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS NONSENSE.

Scene: 4

(AT THE THING THAT WAS POKING OUT IN THE HORIZON)

51 SOUND: ONE OF THOSE LITTLE MARACHA EGG SAND SHAKERS

52 TANGO

It smells like smoke, nice smelling smoke, flowery maybe.

53 CHARLIE

(RUSHED AND WHISPERED)

Shhh, Tango there's someone there. Up on top of the dune, by the weird log stuck in the ground. (Forget's she's whispering) Really, that was what you saw from so far away. What is wrong with your eyeballs.

54 PICA:

(STOPS HER MARACA EGG)
Huh?

(TANGO AND CHARLIE ARE NOW BEING RUDE AND TALKING HUSHED TONES, ABOVE THE MARACA EGG CONTINUES, JOINED IN BY THE SOUND OF WIND CHIMES)

55 TANGO

Did you see what she looked like. Those flowers on her head were so pretty.

56 CHARLIE

Yeah, but did you see the spikes running down her arms? What is she?

57 JIM ROBBIE

(NOT WHISPERING)

Guys, she's a cactus.

58 SOUND: (ON TOP OF THE WORD CACTUS) THE WIND PICKS UP AGAIN, LIKE SOUNDING LIKE A SWIRLING TORNADO

59 CHARLIE

Tango, get your goggles up.

60 TANGO

No you. I've had mine up. I look like a cool bug with them on!

- 61 JIM ROBBIE
Guys, the storm, look at it. That tornado is right over that log.
- 62 SOUND: THE WIND START DYING DOWN, AND IT BEGINS TO RAIN. SLOWLY. GIVE IT TILL AFTER CHARLIE'S LINE FOR IT TO SOUND LIKE AN ACTUALLY LIGHT RAIN AND NOT JUST WATER DROPS.
- 63 TANGO
Do you all feel that rain? (sneezes) A raindrop fell on my nose.
- 64 CHARLIE
(SURPRISED)
How is it raining?
- 65 TANGO
Shhhh, there's someone new up there.

(THIS BUMPKIN IS GONNA BE PLAYED BY A FEMININE VOICE, AND YOU, LAURA, ARE GONNA TAKE HER VOICE AND MODULATE IT DOWN TO A MAN'S REGISTER, EVEN IF THERE'S NO TIMBER. AND THEN YOU'RE GONNA OVERLAY THEM. BECAUSE I SAID SO. -IRI OUT P.S. ADD THE SOUND OF A BABBLING BROOK LIGHTLY IN THERE.)
- 66 RIAN:
Pica! I really had thought I would never see you again. I've missed you, intensely. How did you manage all of this?
- 67 PICA:
I snuck into grandpoppa's library. There was a book with a list of things to do.
- 68 RIAN:
But-
- 69 PICA:
(TOP)
Don't worry, I have it. He won't know what to do to summon you, or dispel you back. I promise. We have to run. I never want to see Grandpoppa again. I want to be with you. Somewhere safe.
- 70 RIAN:
I don't know of any place on this plane. But I promise you, my love, we'll find somewhere.
- 71 TANGO
I know somewhere! We can give you directions - Do you need directions, we had directions, we have like 50 map-

- 72 CHARLIE
(TOP)
Shut up, we're probably not supposed to be here!
- 73 PICA:
(TOP)
Who are you?
- 74 TANGO
Don't you elbow me. We can help them!
- 75 JIM ROBBIE
It's RAINING NETS
- 76 TANGO AND CHARLIE
What?
- 77 SOUND: ROPE SWISHING AND STONE FALLING INTO SAND, EVERYONE FALLS OVER, JIM JANGLES
- 78 CHARLIE
Hey, let us out!

Scene: 5

(RIGHT AFTERWARDS, NO TIME HAS PASSED, MAN.)

- 79 GRANDPOPPA
(WHAT A DICK)
(Angry Laughter) We've caught you. You're going to have to stand trial, Pica. And what have we here. Humans! Oh, darling granddaughter. Consorting with demons, again, earned you a trial to begin with, but humans?! Why must you disgrace me like this? Incessantly?!
- 80 RIAN:
For the last time. I am *not* a demon. I am merely a spirit.
- 81 GRANDPOPPA
(Sarcastically) Yes, of course, how could I not have known. (No longer sarcastic) As if I would believe the words of a monster. Spare me the ink from your snakish tongue, demon.
- 82 RIAN:
I don't even have a snakish tongue.
- 83 GRANDPOPPA
I will not listen to anymore of your lies, shifter! Gather them up and let's move!

- 84 TANGO
Hey, can you just leave us here? We were just about to leave. You know, not get in your, uh, spiky head stuff.
- 85 SOUND: WHAPPING SOUND, TANGO HISSES AND YELLS OW, AT THE SAME TIME, PEOPLE GRUNTING AS THEY START DRAGGING THE NETS AWAY.
- 86 SOUND:
- 87 CACTUS JOE
You, human, will not talk to the Judge.
- 88 CHARLIE
Wait. Are you kidding me, he's going to judge his own granddaughter. What kind of messed up, OW, justice, OWWWW.
- 89 SOUND: THERE ARE WHAPPING NOISES BEFORE THE OWS THAT CHARLIE SAYS.
- 90 CACTUS JOE
You humans will be quiet!
- (MORE DISTANT)
- 91 JIM ROBBIE
Quit hitting my humans, or I will saute you on my forks.
- 92 SOUND: ANOTHER WHAPPING NOISE
- 93 JIM ROBBIE (cont'd)
(LAUGHS)
I feel no pain, cactus man!
- 94 CACTUS JOE
(PLEADING MISERABLY)
Oh please be quiet.
- 95 SOUND: THE DRAGGING NOISES CONTINUE OFF INTO A FADE.

Scene: 6

(DOWN IN THE CACTUS TUNNELS, AWAITING TRIAL)

- 96 NARRATOR
Our trio has been dragged beep under the rolling sand dunes, to a system of tunnels maintained by their kidnappers. Once an hour a light flickers into their cell. On the plus side, they have been provided water. Whoever said that cacti aren't friendly?

97 SOUND: CAVERNOUS ECHOS OF FOOTSTEPS IN THE DISTANCE,
WHISTLING WIND.

98 RIAN:

So, Tango, What was that place you were talking about earlier. Before they captured us.

99 TANGO

(Extended beat as she thinks and tries to remember) Oh yeah, right, that. Uhhh, I did hear about this one really safe town, somewhere around here. It's real safe. It's got 2 sheriffs. That's gotta be safe. We could head there after this!

100 RIAN:

Well, that does sound safer than here.

101 CHARLIE

So, Pica? What is even going on? Why does your grandfather want to put you on trial. And he's the judge? That doesn't seem... what's that word Tango, you taught it to me, but I forgot.

102 TANGO

Kosher?

103 CHARLIE

I dunnooo. (Beat) It just doesn't seem right.

104 PICA:

He's very superstitious. Everyone down here is. They think my Rian is a demon. But that book that I found, it was written right there, they're just a rain spirit. I met them when the seasonal floods came. They were so beautiful, sitting on the bank of a new river, watching it run. I never thought the floods could do anything but destroy and bring out lizards. (Starting to sob) And now we're not going to go anywhere, they'll put me on trial, and I don't know what they'll do to me, but they'll dispel Rian! I can't stand it.

105 RIAN:

I know, darling. but I will find a way back. Or (Beat as they realize something) I will find us a way out of here right now!

(CLEARS THROAT, WHICH PROBABLY SOUNDS WATERY)

Hey! Guard!

106 SOUND: CACTUS RUSTLING

- 107 RIAN: (cont'd)
Yes! You! The dried-up jailer!
- 108 GUARD:
(GRUFFLY)
Shut yer waterhole, demon.
- 109 RIAN:
I will not, because that's not my name, Guard!
- 110 GUARD:
Well, me name ain' 'guard!' It's Carpus!
- 111 PICA:
Carpus! Carpus, listen to me! (nervously, knowing that this probably won't work) Grandpoppa is a powerful man, you know he is. If you let us go, you can just tell him that we... (top) we overpowered you!
- 112 SOUND: (UNDER) WATER FLOWING, THE FAINTEST CLINK OF KEYS BEING ABSORBED INTO LIQUID
- 113 CARPUS:
(DRY LAUGH)
What'd'ya have to offer me? A promotion? Yer leavin', ain' ya? Aside's, I've heard the talks in the tunnels - demon's gettin' dispelled, and it's the Wanderin' Exile for you.
- 114 PICA:
(BROKENLY)
No. No, no, that can't be true! (sobs)
- 115 CHARLIE:
What does that mean?
- 116 PICA:
(SNIFFLING)
I'll be forced to wander the desert. Until my body wears into dust, all of my flowers gone.
- 117 RIAN:
(REASSURINGLY)
Don't worry, Pica. I won't let that happen.
- 118 CARPUS:
(SCOFFS)
Like to see you try, demon.
- 119 SOUND: JINGLE OF KEYS, CELL DOOR OPENING

- 120 RIAN:
Not that hard.
- 121 CARPUS:
Me keys! You slipperly little thief!
- 122 SOUND: WATER JET BEING BLASTED FROM THEIR HANDS, CARPUS
YELLING AND IMPACTING INTO THE ROCKWALL BEHIND HIM
- 123 CHARLIE:
Wow, he hit the wall hard. I hope he's going to be
okay.
- 124 RIAN:
Quick! We need to leave!
- 125 PICA:
(TO THE GANG)
Do you have weapons?
- 126 CHARLIE:
(EXCITEDLY)
I have a hammer!
- 127 TANGO:
I can punch things real hard!
- 128 JIM ROBBIE:
Don't encourage the lunatics.
- 129 RIAN:
There's no time for this! We must hurry!
- 130 TANGO:
Should we bring the bucket of water?
- 131 JIM ROBBIE:
Just don't leave me behind!
- 132 RIAN:
Yes! Bring it!
- 133 PICA:
I'll lead the way!
- 134 SOUND: THEIR FOOTSTEPS AND THE WAGON FADING AWAY

(END SCENE)

SCENE 7

(IN THE CACTUS COURT)

135 GRANDPOPPA:

(WITH AUTHORITY)

So, it is decided! My granddaughter, Pica Sulcora Pereska, shall face the wastes of the desert in the Wandering Exile, (top, loudly) a sentence not given to one of our people since the Great Flare!

136 SOUND: (UNDER) COURTIERS GASP AND TALK AMONG THEMSELVES.

137 GRANDPOPPA: (cont'd)

(QUIETLY)

I do not pass this sentence lightly - (with fury and then disgust) but my heir has sullied her royal self by cavorting with a water demon!

138 SOUND: THE COURT HISSES AND BOOS - WATER DEMONS ARE BAD!

139 GRANDPOPPA: (cont'd)

As for the demon, it shall be dispelled and shall never return to our lands!

140 SOUND: THE GROUP RUNNING PAST THE TUNNEL, YELLING AND SCREAMING, BEING CHASED BY GUARDS

141 GRANDPOPPA: (cont'd)

(FLABBERGASTED)

What?! How did they escape?! Guards! Get them!!

142 RIAN:

(ANGRILY)

Enough!

143 SOUND: WATER WHIPPING THE GUARDS BACK, WHO CRY OUT IN FEAR

144 RIAN: (cont'd)

Leave us be! We've done no harm to you!

145 TANGO:

Yeah! Just let them be together, what's so wrong with that?

146 GRANDPOPPA:

Silence, outsider! And you! Demon, you will leave my granddaughter alone!

147 PICA:

Their name is Rian, Grandpoppa! I love them!

- 148 GRANDPOPPA:
(ANGRILY)
I don't care how you feel, we don't consort with
abominations!
- 149 JIM ROBBIE:
Hey! Don't be so spiky, old man!
- 150 GRANDPOPPA:
Silence, auton!
- 151 JIM ROBBIE:
Why I oughta go over there, and give you a piece of my
mind, stick my forks...
- 152 RIAN:
(FURIOUS)
Enough! If you won't let us be, we're going!
- 153 SOUND: WATER WHIPPING THE GUARDS BACK
- 154 PICA:
This way! Follow me!
- 155 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS AND WAGON CLANGIN' AROUND, CACTUS PEOPLE
RAVING AND YELLING
- 156 RIAN:
You will leave my beloved and I alone for good!
- 157 GRANDPOPPA:
Guards! Seize them!
- 158 SOUND: THE GUARDS RUNNING, WEAPONS CLATTERING
- 159 GRANDPOPPA: (cont'd)
I will knight the ones who dispel that wretched demon!
- 160 SOUND: THE GUARDS CHEERING
- 161 SOUND: RIAN GRUNTING, WATER WHIPPING THEIR HANDS AGAIN.
- 162 JIM ROBBIE:
Where are we going?!
- 163 SOUND: DARTS BOUNCING OFF THE WAGON AND INTO THE ROCK
- 164 CHARLIE:
They're shooting at us! Oh mechanic!
- 165 TANGO:
We gotta get outta here, there's too many of them!

- 166 CHARLIE:
Quick! Down here!
- 167 PICA:
Not here!
- 168 GRANDPOPPA:
(FEARFULLY)
NO!
- 169 PICA:
(JUST AS FEARFULLY)
No! Not this way!
- 170 TANGO:
We gotta lose 'em!
- 171 PICA:
(HORRIFIED WHISPERING)
No, no, no, no, no.
- 172 CHARLIE:
Shh! Pica, We'll be okay!
- 173 PICA:
(GETTING MORE AND MORE WORRIED WITH EACH SENTENCE)
These tunnels are cursed, no, no no no, we're going to
be dried out and ground up, we're going to die!
(SOBS)
- 174 RIAN:
I won't ever let you get too dry, my desert flower.
- 175 PICA:
(sniffling)
- 176 GRANDPOPPA:
(OFF-MIC)
Find them! Head down into the cursed tunnels!
- 177 GUARDS:
(off-mic, worried grumbling and mumbling)
- 178 GRANDPOPPA:
(OFF-MIC)
Do as I command, you knaves!
- 179 TANGO:
Alright, what do we do?
- 180 CHARLIE:
Well, I have my hammer. I just need some string, and I
can maybe throw it around and hit every single one of
them!

(IMITATING FIGHT SOUNDS)

181 SOUND: A FEW BEATS OF AWKWARD SILENCE FROM THE GROUP,
PUNCTUATED BY CHARLIE GOING "EHH? EHH?"

182 JIM ROBBIE:
That's the dumbest idea I've ever heard, Charlie. I'm more amazed that Tango wasn't the one to suggest it.

183 TANGO:
I was actually about to suggest something like that, though, with a bunch of rocks.

184 JIM ROBBIE:
Okay, that's just stupid. We don't have that much string, we'd end up with like, three rocks. On some string. Besides, we need that, whenever I get a real body, you can make me a cape!

185 TANGO:
But you have a real body!

186 JIM ROBBIE:
Yes, but I just mean lie, cooler and larger maybe, like an androi-

187 RIAN:
(CUTTING HIM OFF, STERNLY)
May I borrow that bucket?

188 TANGO:
Yeah, sure!

189 BUCKET SOUNDS, WATER SLOSHING

190 PICA:
Rian, NO! Don't!

191 RIAN:
Pica, I can do this!

192 GUARD 1:
EY! THE DEMON!

193 WEAPONS CLATTERING, RIAN SETTING THE BUCKET DOWN

194 RIAN:
If I allow you to take me, will you let her stay? Those are my terms. Honor them, if you can.

195 GUARD 1:
(LYING)
Oh yeah, we'll honor them, alright.

- 196 RIAN:
Thank you.
- 197 GUARD 1:
(YELLING)
But there ain't no honor among demons, so I ain't
giving any! HYAH!
- 198 SOUND: SPEARBLADE SPLASHING AMONG WATER
- 199 PICA:
NO! No, you barbarous fiends, stop it!
- 200 SOUND: SPLASHING AND YELLING, UNTIL THE GUARD STOPS,
BREATHING HEAVY.
- 201 RIAN:
(CALMLY)
I'm alright, Pica.
- 202 PICA:
(RELIEVED LAUGH)
My spirit!
- 203 RIAN:
(SLIGHTLY ANGRY NEAR THE END)
I'm not so certain, my love. Right now, I'm feeling
quite *demonic*.
- 204 GUARD 1:
Eh?
- 205 SOUND: BUCKET BEING KNOCKED OVER, THEN WATER WHIPPING AND
THE STONE UNDERNEATH RIAN CRACKING, THEN WATER FLOWING, A
WAVE PUSHING THEM BACK INTO THE TUNNEL.
- 206 RIAN:
Hah. I'm tired.
- 207 PICA:
Rian, come, lean on me!
- 208 SOUND: WATER FLOWING DOWN AS RIAN GRUNTS AND LEANS ON HER.
PICA KISSES THEIR CHEEK. THE GROUP ALL STARTS WALKING TOWARD
THE EXIT
- 209 PICA: (cont'd)
Releasing those rivers from the ground, my powerful
spirit.
- 210 JIM ROBBIE:
Well, I guess that means we're going to be getting more
of a drought.

- 211 TANGO:
(CHASTIZING)
Jim Robbie!
- 212 JIM ROBBIE:
What?
- 213 RIAN:
No, it's true. Pica, I shouldn't be near you, you'll
dry out!
- 214 PICA:
I'll be the judge of that, now come on! We're almost
there. (somewhat happily) Almost there to our happy new
life.
- 215 SOUND: THEIR FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY, UNTIL THEY'RE GONE AND OUT
OF THE CAVES.

(END SCENE)

SCENE 8

(HEADING DOWN THE OTHER PASSAGE)

- 216 NARRATOR:
But precisely why did the Cactus People call the other
tunnel "cursed?" What's down there?
- 217 SOUND: THE ABRUPT CRUNCH OF AN APPLE, THEN FOOTSTEPS COMING
INTO HEARING.
- 218 KINGHORN:
(CLEARS THROAT)
I seek an audience with the Fig Wasp King.
- 219 FIG WASP KING:
(BEAT)
And so ahead of schedule. This is unlike you, Anton.
Have you come to check on my crops? They're growing
very nicely.
- 220 SOUND: ANOTHER CRUNCH FROM HIS RICH, RED APPLE. THERE IS A
HEAVY, AWKWARD SILENCE FOR A MOMENT.
- 221 KINGHORN:
I'm only a sponsor, I'm hardly a necessary nail in the
beam.
- 222 FIG WASP KING:
Hm. Perhaps not, but, I like to manage everything
closely. Now, what is it that you want? You never roam
far from your shadows, (sarcastically) King of the
Cash.

223 KINGHORN:

(SWALLOWING FRUSTRATION)

I. Would like to be (through gritted teeth) *allowed* to leave my city.

224 FIG WASP KING:

You may do as you wish, your location has little affect on my business.

225 KINGHORN:

(SIGHS)

No, I was wondering if you might give me some protection, from the sun. Like you did with my city.

226 FIG WASP KING:

No. I have already given you so much. Do not make a waste of my gifts, Anton. Remember, I can take it all back. I'm certain you don't want that, after everything has been going so well for you.

227 KINGHORN:

Yes, it has. I've made a new life for myself. Even some friends. Maybe even (half a beat, reticent and under the breath) someone; look, I came here for your help, not to chat about my day.

228 FIG WASP KING:

Oh? And why do you want to be able to walk in the sunlight? It's nothing special. Do you want me to fix your arm, too? Or your condition? Do you think of me as some cheap enchanter, Kinghorn?! I think you are, because I am not working for you, but you are for me. I am not here to fix every issue that may arise.

229 KINGHORN:

(FRUSTRATED)

I need to be able to hunt someone.

230 FIG WASP KING:

(BEAT)

Who?

231 KINGHORN:

Someone who needs to pay for ruining my old life.

232 FIG WASP KING:

Ah. So, you want revenge.

233 KINGHORN:

(SOMEWHAT UNSURE)

I do.

- 234 FIG WASP KING:
And you want to drink their blood?
- 235 KINGHORN:
(SURELY)
Yes.
- 236 FIG WASP KING:
I see. Then, go. Drink their delicious blood. Rip them apart, destroy them; I don't care what you do, Anton. You are your own monster, after all. As long as it doesn't interfere with my work.
- 237 KINGHORN:
I understand.
- 238 FIG WASP KING:
My work must see fruition. My figlings must be born strong, and that strength will help me take back my bride.
- 239 KINGHORN:
(BEAT)
But you have no way of helping me survive?
- 240 FIG WASP KING:
I do not.
- 241 KINGHORN:
(UNDER HIS BREATH)
You've got to be joking.
- 242 FIG WASP KING:
I am not, Anton.
- 243 KINGHORN:
Well. I just wanted to inform you of my whereabouts.
- 244 FIG WASP KING:
Mm. Of course. Thank you, you may go. Happy hunting.
- 245 SOUND: HE TAKES ANOTHER BITE INTO HIS APPLE. KINGHORN TURNS AND LEAVES, HIS FOOTSTEPS FADING UNTIL THEY'RE GONE.
- 246 FIG WASP KING: (cont'd)
(TO HIMSELF)
They will grow. They will be strong. I will win her back.

Credits

247 WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THESE ODD VOICES, WHERE IS GAVIN?:

Ah, what a lovely day at the beach. Oh and a message in a bottle, I wonder what it could say. "Please help me, I've been stranded on this island for 35 years, with only one mantra to keep me going.." Uh, Okay, the mantra reads. "Episode 17: Cactusci, created by Ileana Sheremet, written by Ileana Sheremet and Jack Pevyhouse, with sound editor: Laura Bramblette." That's a pretty weird Mantra, I wonder what else he has to say, "I've made up these friends to keep me sane on this island," weird. "Narrator and Kinghorn played by Gavin Waters, Charlie by mako Horikoshi, Tango by Ileana Sheremet, Jim Robbie by Aleksandr Wilde, Rian by Laura Bramblette, and Pica by Mandy Fugate. Grandpoppa and Cactus Joe by Adam Lishua, Crumpus by Jake Song, and the Fig Wasp King by Jack Pevyhouse." What an odd bunch of names. It says here: "My made up friends and I have been enjoying music by John Bradley, and supplemental music 'Wildwood Flower' by The Carter Family, 'She Ain't Built That Way' by Asa Martin, and 'You Are My Sunshine' performed by Wilf Carter. Please send food, and make sure to check out my website jimrobbieandthewanderers.com, and check me out on patreon.com/jimrobbieandthewanderers. Also check us out on iTunes and Googleplay, rate, comment, and subscribe.