

Episode 1 Season 4: Mirage  
Fished out by Zoe Embler and Iri Alexander

**Cast in order of introduction:**

**Narrator**  
**Jim Robbie**  
**Tango**  
**Frey**  
**Nico**  
**Byron**  
**TWIW**  
**Aubrey**  
**Jonah**  
**Mayor**

**Scene 1: The Grasslands**

- 1 SOUND: THE SOUNDS OF WIND BLOWING THROUGH GRASSES, IN THE DISTANCE FROGS AND CICADAS CAN BE HEARD, SOFTLY SCREAMING.
- 2 NARRATOR:  
The nightly crickets begin to break away to a chorus of frogs, and the chirping of cicadas. The endless plains through which the Wanderers travel end and make way for gnarled old oaks and spanish moss. We return to our travelling friends as they discuss yet another change that has come over their little robot companion.
- 3 JIM ROBBIE:  
... I felt like I needed something new, different, so I just changed.
- 4 TANGO:  
Huh, that easy? No shock or nothing?
- 5 FREY:  
I for one refuse to believe this voice thing isn't a part of some larger overly convoluted plot. I'm also choosing to ignore it for the sake of team unity. Go team.
- 6 JIM ROBBIE:  
Sure, plus we're figuring out more about me. Maybe Nico can figure out how to solve my stabbing problem sooner than later now.
- 7 NICO:

Not if it's got anything to do with shoving hair into your skull.

8 JIM ROBBIE:

Nah, I want mechano legs, fast stab forks, shoulder rockets.

9 NICO:

You don't have shoulders.

10 JIM ROBBIE:

You can make me some.

11 TANGO:

I'm sure Nico has plans brewing in his science brain. He'll figure out how to get you rocket hands. Ooh, or maybe wheelie legs.

12 FREY:

I think we should just strap a rocket to him. I mean, launch our valiant robot pal at our enemies, his cackling echoing off of the ranges as he flies. The screams of our enemies echoing off of his echoes until it becomes cacophony.

13 JIM:

If Nico makes me explosion-proof, we can do that multiple times!

14 NICO:

Maybe you're already explosion-proof since you seem to be science proof.

15 FREY:

Speaking of things that don't make sense, anyone else notice the moving pond over there?

16 NICO:

I don't think it's a pond. Must be some sort of mirage. But it's not hot enough for one of those.

17 TANGO:

(Excited because she knows something)  
That's a Fata Morgana! And I know this one, I've never caught one.

18 NICO:

(At the same time as the next line)  
Tango, you can't catch one. It's an optical illusion, it's not real.

- 19 JIM ROBBIE:  
(At the same time as the previous line)  
You can catch one?
- 20 FREY:  
Ooh, why don't we try!
- 21 SOUND: FREY BEGINS TO RUN OFF, AFTER TANGO YELLS AFTER HER SHE RUNS OFF AS WELL, DRAGGING THE WAGON WITH HER. NICO... RELUCTANTLY FOLLOWS.
- 22 TANGO:  
Frey, wait up.
- 23 NICO:  
You're not going to catch it!
- 24 JIM ROBBIE:  
Bet we can prove you wrong science boy!
- 25 FREY:  
(aside) HEY TANGO, I THINK WE'RE CATCHING UP!
- 26 TANGO:  
WHAT?
- 27 JIM ROBBIE:  
Yeah, it's definitely getting closer.
- 28 FREY:  
WE'RE GONNA CATCH IT!
- 29 NICO:  
(Trying so hard bro.)  
FREY... THE WAGON.
- 30 FREY:  
What?
- 31 SOUND: FREY SLOWS DOWN, AS DOES TANGO. UNFORTUNATELY, THE WAGON DOES NOT SLOW DOWN. JIM WARNS THEM, FREY AND TANGO YELP, AND THEN A HUGE SPLASH AS THEY GO DOWN.
- 32 JIM ROBBIE:  
TANGO, WATCH OUT OF THE WAGON.
- 33 TANGO:  
I've got it, don't worry.
- 34 JIM ROBBIE:  
NO YOU DON'T.

- 35 FREY:  
(Yelps as she gets caught by Tango and the Wagon)
- 36 TANGO:  
(Yelps as she catches Frey and herself with the wagon)
- 37 SOUND: THE KIND OF BLOOP THAT HAPPENS AFTER SOMETHING LARGE GOES COMPLETELY UNDERWATER. NICO SLOWS DOWN AND STOPS.
- 38 NICO:  
(catches his breath)dr  
Are those idiots going to drown?
- 39 SOUND: BEAT
- 40 NICO:  
Those idiots are going to drown. Darn it!
- 41 SOUND: NICO DIVES INTO THE POND TO GET EVERYONE OUT. SPLASH AND BLOOP.

### Scene 2: The Pond

- 42 SOUND: WATER, EVERYWHERE, THERE IS THE WIGGLE OF FISH SWIMMING, THE BLOOPS OF LITTLE BUBBLES FROM THE CHARACTERS. WE LISTEN TO THIS SOUNDSCAPE FOR A FEW MOMENTS. BYRON COMES IN WITH HIS STATIC INTERFERENCE AND GOES OUT THE SAME WAY.
- 43 BYRON:  
Tango? Tango? I tried to ask for help. I don't know if it helped. The Queen is moving.
- 44 SOUND: WE CONTINUE FOR A MOMENT IN THE WATERSCAPE. AND THEN CHARACTER BEGIN SURFACING.

### Scene 3: On the Otherside

- 45 SOUND: STATIC CUTS, THEN A LOUD SPLASH AS TANGO SURFACES
- 46 TANGO:  
(Gasping for breath)
- 47 SOUND: FOLLOWING SPLASHES AS FREY AND NICO COME UP
- 48 FREY:  
What the hell.
- 49 TANGO:  
We dropped Jim!

- 50 FREY:  
I'll get him. Nico, help Tango.
- 51 SOUND: SPLASHING AS FREY GOES BACK DOWN, THEN RUSHING WATER NOISES, FREY KICKING DOWNWARDS, THE SOUND OF WATER GETS SUCKED VIOLENTLY AWAY, HALOGEN LIGHTS FLICK ON (SLOW AND SPOOPY)
- 52 FREY:  
What?
- 53 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING
- 54 TWIW:  
I can see the carriage, pulled by dark horses. I cannot hail it. I cannot hail it. Hail it for me.
- 55 FREY:  
I can't. I can't do that anymore. I don't, do that anymore!
- 56 JIM ROBBIE:  
(distantly as if through water)  
Frey!?
- 57 SOUND: HIGH PITCHED BYRONESQUE STATIC
- 58 TWIW:  
Struggle not through murky depths but be illuminated in our truth. Call. The. Carriage.
- 59 SOUND: FREY STANDS AND STUMBLES AWAY
- 60 FREY:  
No, no, no, no-
- 61 JIM ROBBIE:  
FREY!?
- 62 SOUND: FREY STARTS RUNNING
- 63 TWIW:  
What a shame, what a shame. This could have been so much easier.
- 64 SOUND: WATER RUSHING BACK IN.
- 65 FREY:  
JIM!

66 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS POUNDING, WATER RUSHING. A GREAT CLANKING NOISE AS FREY PICKS UP JIM. THE WATER GETS SO LOUD YOU CAN'T EVEN HEAR YOURSELF THINK AND THEN ABRUPTLY CUTS OUT.

67 SOUND: VIOLENT SPLASHING, THEN JIM BEING TOSSED OUT ON THE GROUND AND CLANG-A-LANGIN.

68 FREY:  
(coughing water up violently)

69 NICO:  
What. The. Hell

70 TANGO:  
Frey!

71 MUSIC: SWELLING SPOOKY MUSIC

72 NICO:  
(cont'd) The pond.

73 TANGO:  
It's gone.

**Scene 4 - Grasslands On the Move**

(THIS SCENE SHOULD FEEL RUSHED)

74 SOUND: LIGHT PATTERNING OF RAIN, CICADAS AND SHIT ALL OVER

75 NICO:  
What. The. Sh-

76 SOUND: JIM ROBBIE FALLS OVER AND GROANS IN EXHAUSTION CENSORING THE SHIT WORD

77 JIM ROBBIE:  
Swimming? Me? Who would've thought it'd be a terrible combination.

(IT'S MORE LIKELY THAN YOU THINK!)

78 TANGO:  
Where did it go? Where did it GO?! WHERE?! DID?! IT?! GO?!

79 FREY:  
(Wheezing and coughing)

80 NICO:  
We need to leave. We need to leave now.

- 81 TANGO:  
(growing gradually more panicked)  
It's just gone. It's just gone and the wagon is gone too and all of my clothes and -!
- 82 NICO:  
Tango we have to go!
- 83 FREY:  
(still coughing but gaining her feet)
- 84 JIM:  
What was that? What happened back there?
- 85 FREY:  
I don't know. I don't know.
- 86 SOUND: TANGO DROPS TO HER KNEES AND STARTS GRABBING THINGS WHICH HAVE SCATTERED ON THE GROUND
- 87 TANGO:  
Where's the wagon? I don't understand where the wagon is. This isn't- This is our stuff, some of our stuff. It's like it fell off when we fell in but-we there isn't anything here anymore.
- 88 NICO:  
(Urgently)  
We need to leave.
- 89 TANGO:  
No we can't, we need to- we need to get our things back.
- 90 JIM:  
Tango?
- 91 NICO:  
Frey, grab the robot. Tango we can come back tomorrow okay, we can come back tomorrow I'm sure we just missed it. Or. I don't know. It'll all come back.
- 92 TANGO:  
(unhappy)  
Wait just, just let me grab a few things.
- 93 SOUND: TANGO SCOOPING THINGS UP OFF THE GROUND

**Scene 5: The Town**

94 SOUND: THE SOUNDSCAPE OF A LITTLE TOWN FADES IN AS THE WANDERERS GET CLOSER SLOWLY REPLACING THE SOUND OF THE WANDERERS MOVING THROUGH UNDERBRUSH AND THICK FOREST. THE KIND OF TOWN THAT'S JUST A COUPLE OF LITTLE HOUSES A FEW STORES AROUND A PLAZA. PEOPLE ARE MILLING ABOUT, CHATTING, HOWEVER THE CHATTING STOPS AS SOON AS THE WANDERERS ARE RECOGNIZED.

95 NICO:  
Smell that?

96 JIM ROBBIE:  
No.

97 NICO:  
Real food, I can smell real food. And I think...  
that's smoke from a fire above the treetops.

98 FREY:  
Okay, I know you're not talking about my food.  
Because it's Tango who can't cook her way out of a  
tin pot.

99 TANGO:  
Hey.

100 FREY:  
Tango; babe, sweetheart, honey bunches of oats,  
lighthouse of my deadly coastal inlet, my lovely  
murderous care-bear with a heart of cheesy  
goodness; the love we all feel for you is  
immeasurable, immense, prodigious even. But-

101 JIM:  
Butt, heh.

102 FREY:  
(cont) the only person I've ever met with a weirder  
set of taste buds was a literal sentient God-plant.

103 NICO:  
(under) Excuse me? God-Plant?

104 TANGO:  
(Fervently ignoring the comment)  
I think I can hear something. We just need to get  
past some of this brush.

105 NICO:



(under) And yet again, we don't address it.  
Fabulous.

106 SOUND: TANGO AND THE REST PUSH THROUGH THE BRUSH IN A LAST EFFORT, AND THE CHATTING SLOWLY STOPS, AS THEY EMERGE. THERE IS AN AWKWARD PAUSE AS THE SOUND STOPS AND THE TOWNIES AND WANDERERS SEE EACH OTHER.

107 TANGO:  
Howdy!

108 SOUND: THE AWKWARD PAUSE CONTINUES

109 FREY:  
Wow. Is it just me or do they look both confused and upset to see us. Conset? Upfused? Is there a word for this?

110 NICO:  
(Taking a deep breath)  
You know what. I don't care. My back is killing me, my clothes are kinda crusty from whatever that pond had in it, and I want to sleep in a normal bed tonight. (beat) Please tell me that you guys have some sort of inn.

111 SOUND: A SCANT BIT OF WHISPERING STARTS UP. PAUSE FOR SOMEONE TO PRESUMABLY POINT.

112 NICO:  
Thanks.

113 JIM ROBBIE:  
What a lovely bunch. I'm fine with not having to stay here tonight.

114 NICO:  
NOPE, VETOED. I need a bed. I'll risk stunned townies, and whatever weirdness comes with this place.

115 FREY:  
Yeah, I want you to remember that statement when whatever weirdness this place comes up with comes back and bites you in the hiney.

116 TANGO:  
We can look around after we settle everything down. We could use some packs, and maybe some new clothes. We lost a lot of stuff with the wagon. Plus maybe they'll be less weird afterwards.

117 JIM ROBBIE:

When has anything been less weird, Tango?

118 NICO:

(uneasily)  
Why won't they stop staring?

119 FREY:

(whispering)  
Let's just go.

120 SOUND: THEY START TROTTING QUICKLY DOWN THE MAIN STREET

121 JIM:

(actually uncomfortable)  
Guys, I don't want to alarm you but I can see them looking out the second story windows at us.

122 FREY:

Regretting that choice now, mi amigo?

123 NICO:

Oh shut up.

124 TANGO:

GUYS!

125 JIM:

NOT A GUY!

126 TANGO:

INN!

### **SCENE 6: In the Inn**

127 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE ON THE PORCH OF THE INN, THEN THE DOOR OPENS

128 NICO:

Oh, fantastic, no people to stare at us.

129 AUBREY:

(RETAIL VOICE)  
Can I help y- (Realizes that these are complete strangers) Um... can I help you?

130 NICO:

(BEAT) Maybe? Uh... We're just looking for a place for the night, some food and supplies. Traveling

gear, maybe some fine, uh, spirits to warm us up as we wait for some food, ma'am?

131 FREY:

(SHOUT-WHISPERS AS NICO MENTIONS ALCOHOL, UNDER)  
We have no money!

132 AUBREY:

(OVER) They, please.

133 NICO:

Oh, I'm sorry.

134 AUBREY:

It's okay, mistakes happen. My name's Aubrey. This is my husband, Jonah.

135 SOUND: JONAH GRUNTS.

136 JIM ROBBIE:

So do you have a room or what, meatbag?

137 AUBREY:

Yes?

138 NICO:

(FACADE'S KINDA FADING FROM THE SHORT ANSWER AND AWKWARD AIR)  
A-ha... uh... well, about payment? Do you need a down payment, or-

139 FREY:

(under) Are they looking through the windows at us?!

140 AUBREY:

(VERY UNCERTAIN IF THEY SHOULD BE TALKING TO THEM)  
You can pay- you can- (pause) you don't have to pay.

141 FREY:

What?

142 AUBREY:

You're our....special guests? One hundredth this...month?

143 NICO:

Uh?

144 AUBREY:

Yes, the room is....free. For our very special guests. Jonah could you go and prepare room five.

145 SOUND: JONAH LEAVES

146 SOUND: AUBREY GRABS A RING OF KEYS.

147 AUBREY: (cont'd)  
Ah, I never. Caught your...names....

148 NICO:  
Oh, well... uh... I'm Nico.

149 TANGO:  
I'm Tango! I'm so happy there's a friendly face in town!

150 JIM ROBBIE:  
Jim...Bobbert.

151 TANGO:  
(under) That's not your name Jim.

152 FREY:  
(In a blatantly fake happy voice)  
Tiffany. Ann Tiffany Smith but Ann is fine.

153 TANGO:  
Frey!

154 SOUND: THE FULL SOUND OF FREY'S NAME IS CUT OFF AS FREY SMACKS A HAND OVER TANGO'S MOUTH

155 FREY:  
So- (She lets out an almighty holler as Tango licks her palm) DID YOU JUST LICK ME?!

156 TANGO:  
(Cackles)

157 AUBREY:  
Oh uh are they?

158 JIM ROBBIE:  
Don't ask, it won't make any sense.

159 NICO:  
Okaaaay I'm just going to throw out a preemptive blanket apology for my companions present and future actions.

160 TANGO:  
Your hand tastes like Tofu!

161 FREY:  
Is that? Should I take that as a compliment or an insult?

162 TANGO:  
Either or!

163 AUBREY:  
Wonderful. Tango, Nico, Ann, and...Jim Bobbert. I'm afraid I only have one set of keys. I'll have to escort you up to let you in. It's just been so long, since we had a (beat) Such a lucky customer...customers (Nervous laugh). Such a shame, such a real shame. It won't be a problem, will it?

164 TANGO:  
Oh no problem.

165 NICO:  
This is totally going to end well.

166 FREY:  
(under) Your hiney's taking the bite on this one, science boy. I'm blaming you when this all goes bad.

167 AUBREY:  
Follow me if you please.

168 SOUND: THEY HEAD TOWARDS THE STAIRS

169 SOUND: AUBREY PAUSES ON THE BOTTOM STEP WHICH CREAKS OMINOUSLY

170 AUBREY: (cont'd)  
Oh, and, I should warn you. Don't leave your room after dark. Lock the doors and cover the windows.

171 SOUND: THEY STOP IN THEIR TRACKS AT THAT INCREDIBLY OMINOUS WARNING

172 NICO:  
Uhhh... why exactly?

173 AUBREY:  
(trying to cover up the spooop factor/speaking quickly)

There's a mine, a few miles away from here, it's been shut down for decades but at night the gases they...climb out.

174 TANGO:

Oh!

175 SOUND: THEY BEGIN CLIMBING UP THE STAIRS AND THEN DOWN A CARPETED HALLWAY.

176 AUBREY:

Don't worry, it's not lethal, and we're safe indoors. It just causes confusion, lightheadedness, sometimes hallucinations. I don't want you three to get stuck in that! A couple of people have gotten lost or hurt because of it!

177 NICO:

Thanks for the warning.

178 TANGO:

Um... do you know anything about the pond? In the grasslands, north of here?

179 AUBREY:

(SUDDENLY SERIOUS AND POINTED)  
Stay away from there. It's not safe! (Beat) Oh, your room! Here we are! Dinner. Yes right, we'll have dinner out in just a jiffy. If you'll excuse me.

180 SOUND: THEY TURN AND WALK AWAY

### Scene 7: In the Room

181 SOUND: WOODEN DOOR OPENING, FOOTSTEPS AS THEY ALL CLAMBER IN

182 FREY:

"Noxious gas" yeah, cause that's not suspiciously vague or anything! Or the fact the room is free?

183 SOUND: FREY LOUDLY LOCKS THE DOOR BEHIND THEM

184 FREY: (cont'd) (to self)

This place isn't right.

185 SOUND: SHE PACES OVER TO THE WINDOW AND LEANS AGAINST THE SILL LOOKING DOWN AT THE STREET.

186 TANGO:

Hey, maybe they're telling the truth! Why would they lie to us?

187 SOUND: (UNDER) FOOTSTEPS AS NICO GOES TO INSPECT THE WINDOWS.

188 FREY:

Okay, but why only at night? Wouldn't any strong wind bring it into town? Last I remember the wind doesn't only work at night.

189 JIM ROBBIE:

Oop, point for Frey.

190 SOUND: NICO OPENING THE WINDOWS

191 TANGO:

Well, maybe...

192 NICO:

No, Tango, Jim's right, point for Frey. There's nothing airtight about these windows.

193 SOUND: HE TAPS ON THE WINDOW GLASS

194 NICO: (cont'd)

-and the glass doesn't look like anything special.

195 TANGO:

(DOES NOT APPRECIATE BEING INTERRUPTED)  
Well maybe...they're... hard to see! Why do you always have to assume the worst Nico? Not everyone is a liar!

196 NICO:

(DEADPAN, MEAN SNARK)  
Are you trying to sound more serious by not saying "invisible," Tango? And I want to remind you how many times you've said the same exact thing and then, guess what, they were LIARS!

197 JIM ROBBIE:

Listen, that doesn't matter. What does matter is which one of these beds I'm taking. I'm calling dibs on the window bed, because everyone knows window beds are inherently superior.

198 NICO:

(distracted from being mean) What, absolutely not you can't have a whole bed you're like the size of my torso, and also, YOU DON'T NEED SLEEP.

199 TANGO:

(also distracted) Hey, I wanted the window bed!

200 JIM ROBBIE:

Tough luck, sugar cookie girl, I called dibs first!

201 NICO:

(AMUSED BUT FRUSTRATED)

Tango are you really-

202 TANGO:

(FRUSTRATED NOISE)

203 SOUND: (UNDER) SHE GRABS JIM ROBBIE AND WALKS OVER TO THE CLOSET, OPENS IT, AND TOSSES HIM IN ONTO THE EXTRA BLANKETS

204 JIM ROBBIE:

(OVER)

Tango? Tango?! TANGO!? UNHAND ME FOUL VILLAN!

205 TANGO:

You're grounded!

206 SOUND: SHE SLAMS THE DOOR OF THE CLOSET CLOSED

207 JIM ROBBIE:

(MUFFLED BY THE DOOR)

If you think for even a second I will forget this grievous insult, woman, you are mistaken! I will have my vengeance upon thee! You will know my wrath! No mere mortal can ground a god! TIS FUTILE! SUCH EGREGIOUS WOUNDS WILL BE AVENGED!

208 NICO:

Wow, going medieval? He is mad.

209 SOUND: THE ARGUMENT FADES OUT

210 SOUND: WATER SOUNDS, JUST LIKE IN THE POND, STARTS OVERPOWERING ALL THE OTHER ROOM NOISES.

211 TWIW:

Freyja.

212 SOUND: WATER RUSHING GETS VERY LOUD OVERPOWERING EVERYTHING

213 FREY:



(breathing uneasily)

214 SOUND: NICO WALKS OVER TO FREY WHO IS STANDING STARING OUT OF THE WINDOW

215 NICO:

Frey

216 SOUND: WATER RUSHING CONTINUES MAKING NICO'S ABOVE LINE HARD TO HEAR

217 NICO:

Frey!!

218 SOUND: THE WATER NOISES CUTS ABRUPTLY

219 NICO:

Are you okay? You're doing the creepy staring thing again.

220 FREY:

(confused) What....I'm fine I just-don't like this place. I don't like any of this. I don't like this town, that pond, these people. I don't want any part of it. None of it makes any sense and I don't like it.

221 NICO:

(seriously) I get it. We're out of here as soon as the sun is up, before even if we can manage it. I'd say we should leave now but- if this gas cloud thing is true, we don't want to mess with it. And if it's not true we don't want to mess with whatever they're covering up with it.

222 FREY:

Right. Okay. First thing tomorrow.

223 NICO:

First thing. I promise.

224 SOUND: TANGO GRABS THE GUITAR AND TUNES IT AND MESSES WITH IT.

225 TANGO:

Okay so since we don't have anything else to do until the food shows up, I have made the decision that we must -

226 SOUND: TANGO STRUMS AGGRESSIVELY.

227 TANGO: (cont'd)  
Practice!

228 NICO:  
Okay, but, I'm sorry I got a bit too snarky with you earlier.

229 TANGO:  
It's okay. We're all just a little bit too wound up and hungry. Once we eat and practice a bit I'm sure we will be fine!

230 SOUND: SHE STARTS PLAYING THE FIRST FEW NOTES OF A SONG

231 TANGO: (cont'd)  
(TRYING TO MAKE A SONG)  
Pond pond... pond... ponds and... voices and missing things.

#### SCENE 8:

232 SOUND: SNOOZING NOISES, THE SOUND OF A GRANDFATHER CLOCK

233 NARRATOR:  
Sometime early in the morning, Frey lay awake in her bed, eyes staring blankly at the ceiling. Insomnia was an aggressively uncomfortable feeling at the best of times, in situations like these it was nearly unbearable. In that tremulous time between the sleeping and the waking world, Frey's inability to sleep and curiosity reached a boiling point. It would surprise no one to discover that this was neither the first nor the last time Frey wasn't able to sleep and made boneheaded decisions as a result.

234 SOUND: TWO THUMPS AS FREY STANDS FROM THE BED. SHORT WALKING SOUNDS. WINDOW BLINDS BEING OPENED.

235 FREY:  
(Speaking to herself)  
That gas had better be invisible and scentless, I don't even see anything or smell anything. Other than... Are those people, what are they-?

236 NARRATOR:  
Frey paused to spare a glance at her sleeping friends. It would be a matter of seconds to wake either, both, or all of them but would the benefits outweigh the risks? After a moment's deliberation

the detective made her decision. She'd let them sleep, for now.

237 SOUND: FREY TIPTOES THROUGH THE ROOM, OPENING AND CLOSING THE DOOR CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO WAKE UP ANYONE, SHE WALKS OVER TO THE DOOR AND PULLS IT OPEN SOFTLY TO NOT DISTURB HER SWEET SWEET FRIENDS - BUT IT CREAKS LOUDLY

238 JIM ROBBIE:  
(SOFTLY)  
Frey?

239 FREY:  
(COMFORTING WHISPER)  
It's okay! It's okay. I'm just going out to go pee.

240 JIM ROBBIE:  
Okay. Be careful if the gas from outside comes in.

241 FREY:  
(IS TOUCHED BY HER TRASH ROBOT FRIEND'S LOVE)  
I'll be okay, Trash King. Thanks.

242 SOUND: FREY WALKING DOWN A CARPETED HALLWAY

243 SOUND: DOOR KNOB TURNING BUT THE DOOR IS AUDIBLY LOCKED

244 NARRATOR:  
Criminality, it can be said, spares more than a passing resemblance to investigation when viewed by an outside party. Frey's methodical approach certainly screamed "professional" either way you looked at it.

245 SOUND: FREY LIGHTLY PICKING THE LOCK.

246 SOUND: DOOR SQUEAKS OPEN

247 FREY: (cont'd)  
(intake of breath)

248 SOUND: THE DOOR SLAMS OPEN

249 FREY: (cont'd)  
Aubrey are you-?!

250 SOUND: FREY RUSHES FORWARD

251 FREY: (cont'd)  
Aubrey, why the hell aren't you moving?!

252 SOUND: FREY GRABS AUBREY AND TRIES TO PULL ON HER AND AUBREY SIMPLY FALLS OVER LIKE A MANNEQUIN WITH A LOUD THUD

253 FREY: (cont'd)  
(PANICKED)  
What the hell! What the hell is this!

254 SOUND: FREY RUNS BACK UP THE STAIRS, THROUGH THE HALL AND THROWING OPEN THE DOOR TO THE ROOM NOISILY.

255 FREY:  
GUYS, GUYS. GET UP. GET UP RIGHT NOW!

256 TANGO:  
Frey?

257 FREY:  
Tango, sweetheart, I know you're waking up. BUT WAKE UP FASTER.

258 SOUND: A COUPLE OF FOOTSTEPS ARE HEARD, AND THEN THE SHAKING OF SOMEONE IN A BED.

259 NICO:  
Frey, this better be a bad dream visiting me, because if you are shaking me while I am sleeping in a bed I will find a way to murder you.

260 FREY:  
(Very seriously)  
Nico, I need you to listen to me, and I need you to take me seriously. The two people that checked us into this hotel room, they're standing in the middle of the lobby, staring at empty space, not moving, FREEZING COLD to the touch! And everyone else I could see outside the main window is doing the same thing. It's not natural.

261 TANGO:  
(waking up) What? Frey did you go outside? (waking up panicked) Frey they told us not to do that! The gas!

262 FREY:  
(frustrated) Tango, there isn't any gas!

263 TANGO:  
It could be invisible!

264 FREY:  
(angry vocalization) Just look outside, Tango!

265 NICO:  
Great. Now let me sleep.

266 FREY:  
(Very unhappy Frey Noises)

267 TANGO:  
Nico, this is creepy!

268 NICO:  
Are we dead yet? No. I want to sleep, and it seems like they can't get to us right now, since we're not frozen. So go back to sleep and we'll deal with this in the morning.

269 FREY:  
Stop trying to go back to sleep Nico. We need to deal with this problem I don't know, NOW, before it becomes a bigger problem.

270 NICO:  
Nope, vetoed, bed, sleep. Wake me up when the sun comes up.

271 TANGO:  
Frey's right, we should get out of here.

272 NICO:  
Dawn.

273 JIM ROBBIE:  
Don't come complaining to me when you're a frozen science boy.

274 NICO:  
Look, the way they talked indicated that it only lasted during the night, and may affect us if we go outside. So, go back to sleep, we'll leave in the morning.

275 FREY:  
(snippy & unhappy) I'm not sleeping.

276 NICO:  
Don't care!

**SCENE 9: DAWN**

277 JIM ROBBIE:

WAKE UP, I can see the sun.

278 FREY:

Yeah, I wasn't sleeping, I was thinking of sleeping, you know, sinking into a well protected warm feather bed, watched over by my dearest companions to ensure that I was safe at night. Not trapped into a living statue, forced to watch the days move without you, unable to speak or breathe.

279 NICO:

I slept great if anyone's asking. Like a baby log.

280 FREY:

(under) Oh I'm so happy for you.

281 TANGO:

They're moving. Looks like Nico was right.

282 NICO:

(Excited and full of himself)  
Say that again?

283 TANGO:

(Taking things literally)  
They're moving. Looks like Nico was right.

284 FREY:

(Under)  
Tango, really?

285 NICO:

Okay first let's all take a moment to appreciate I was right and Frey was wrong. hah.

286 FREY:

I'm going to dunk you in a retention pond.

287 NICO:

(to Frey) You can try!  
But as I was saying now that they're moving it makes it harder to just get out of here. We're gonna have to figure out how to sneak past.

288 TANGO:

They know we're here.

289 JIM ROBBIE:

Well, yeah, they did give us the room.

290 TANGO:

No, I mean that man just looked up at the window and saw me lookin' at them. And he's leading a group into the inn.

291 FREY:

Great. Well Nico, do you want to deal with them, since you vetoed us leaving and all?

292 NICO:

Oh no, you're not throwing me to the hounds (Tapers off when he hears the knocking) that easily.

293 SOUND: MANY FOOTSTEPS COMING UP THE STAIRS OUTSIDE THE ROOM AND WALKING UP TO THE DOOR. ALMOST JUST AFTER NICO SAYS HOUNDS THERE COMES A KNOCK FROM THE DOOR.

294 FREY:

(Pointedly)

Ohh, you gonna get that one Nico, you need a little help, you want me to go answer the door for you too?

295 JIM ROBBIE:

I'd get it, but...

296 NICO:

Uhh.

297 TANGO:

Fine, I'll get it.

298 SOUND: THE DOOR OPENS.

299 TANGO:

(Best customer service voice)  
Can I help you?

300 MAYOR:

(Hesitating.)  
Can you?

301 TANGO:

Uhhh?

302 MAYOR:

Would you mind if I stepped in for a moment. I do have something ya'll can help us with. Well I hope that you can.

303 NICO:

(Uncomfortable)

Sure?

304 SOUND: THE MAYOR COMES IN, THE DOOR SHUTS BEHIND HIM.

305 FREY:

Alright buddy, my guy, umm, are you gonna explain the weirdness to us, or just leave us in sweet uncomfortable suspense.

306 MAYOR:

Well, (Pauses a moment to collect himself) You have to understand we haven't seen new people in the town in two years. Not because of tourist numbers dwindling, mind you, but because we can't leave, and no-one seems to be able to come back.

307 FREY:

(Mild panic)  
Are you telling me we're stuck here?

308 MAYOR:

I, uh, don't think so? We tried testing it a little after it started happening, but, well the tests were inconclusive.

309 NICO:

Ahh, yes, the bit where no one came back.

310 MAYOR:

Yes. Look, I can answer your questions, but I have something to ask of you first. I assume you'll try leaving, and since you made it here, I assume that you'll be able to. Two years ago, a woman came into the town, with sweet water. Water that seemed to call out to us. We all drank it. The woman left and well, that's when the troubles started. We can't do anything from the town, we can't contact anyone, or leave, or else we disappear. But maybe you can. There is a witch, not far from here, who may know what happened. I have a map. You can take it.

311 FREY:

Of Course, there's something else. I know how this goes. What else you got for us?

312 MAYOR:

Um, well, my daughter left this last year to look for her fiance. If you find her, well, I'm not sure-

313 TANGO:



Maybe we can help her get back!

314 NICO:

Tango, no, we can't volunteer ourselves for that.

315 JIM ROBBIE:

While she's in charge we'll be volunteering ourselves for every stupid thing that crosses her path.

316 NICO:

(Defeated)

I know. I know. But we don't even know what's happening out there.

317 TANGO:

We can find out. I'll take the map.

318 FREY:

Alright Mr. Quest Giver, anything else?

319 MAYOR:

Take care, we don't know what's out there. And perhaps try not to travel at night, lots of dangers in the swamps.

320 FREY:

Right. Ahem (Coughs pointedly) I don't want to make this awkward for anybody, but can you let us go now?

321 MAYOR:

Of course of course.

322 NARRATOR:

And with that the Wanderers packed up and made their way out of town, confused, concerned, and mentally preparing for another bizarre set of events.