

THE CALL OF THE VOID - 303

"SPACE BATS FROM THE DARK PLANET"

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EPISODE THREE - SPACE BATS FROM THE DARK PLANET

SCENE ONE

EXT. ABANDONED NOLA SIX FLAGS - DAY

SFX: Night noises. A police car pulls up and stops. Car door opens and closes.

DEPUTY PAUL

Mason.

MASON

What are we looking at, Paul?

DEPUTY PAUL

Didn't really know how to call it in. It's...it's weird.

MASON

Alright.

DEPUTY PAUL

The site of the incident is just out here.

SFX: Footsteps through the forest.

MASON

The first call came three hours ago?

DEPUTY PAUL

Some local kids breaking into the old Six Flags here. They were dead by the time we found them.

MASON

Three bodies?

DEPUTY PAUL

Yes, sir. Looks like whatever it was upended the fun zone here and dragged them to the Ferris wheel. That's where they were buried. Couple of us think it might have been a bear or something.

MASON

(Beat) We don't have bears in New Orleans.

DEPUTY PAUL

Right, but...we were thinking it might have come from a local zoo....

MASON

Maybe you just show me the site.

DEPUTY PAUL

Yes, sir.

SFX: Footsteps continue.

DEPUTY PAUL

This was the first mound we found...we excavated our first corpse here. Andy Picard. Died from suffocation. Panicking might have sped up the process.

MASON

He was buried alive.

DEPUTY PAUL

That's what it looks like to me too.

MASON

The others were found the same?

DEPUTY PAUL

Yes, sir. We'll be checking with the locals to see if they know anything else.

MASON

These are the claw marks here?

DEPUTY PAUL

Feet and hands. Something else, I don't know. We're still waiting to get forensics on them.

MASON

You took pictures?

DEPUTY PAUL

Of everything.

MASON

Alright. We're going to need a perimeter around this. Flags and tape.

DEPUTY PAUL

Alright.

MASON

(Beat) So that means, you....right now.

DEPUTY PAUL

Oh, yeah. Okay.

MASON

And set up a road block out on ChefMenteur, no one else comes walking into this area, you understand?

DEPUTY PAUL

Yes, sir. (Beat) You don't think this...has anything do to with that uh...thing that was reported out in the Garden of Memories Cemetery?

MASON

Maybe. If it is, this time it got what it wanted. This time, there's blood.

TITLE SEQUENCE

SCENE TWO

EXT. MOON LAKE CASINO - NIGHT

SFX: Etsy breathing, quick and sharp. Feet pounding across the desert floor. A distant truck chases her.

TERA

(Distant) Where you going, girl? Hey!

SFX: The rattle of a wire fence as Etsy starts to climb. She jumps to the ground.

IVY

She turned right.

TERA

Get through the fence. Get through the fence!

ZEKE

Can we break through?

IVY
Hell yeah we can.

SFX: The truck barges through the wire fence. Ivy laughs.

ZEKE
Where is she going? I don't see her.

IVY
There! Going into the casino! Right there!

TERA
Pull over!

SFX: The car squeals to a stop.

SFX: They exit the car.

IVY
Come on. Let's go. Give me my bat.

SFX: Sound of a Baseball Ball being palmed.

ZEKE
She went in here.

TERA
Zeke. Go around. She don't walk out of this.

SCENE THREE
INT. MOON LAKE CASINO - MOMENTS LATER

SFX: Etsy collides with a door and busts into a casino.

CASINO AUTOMATED VOICE
Welcome to Moon Lake Casino.

CLERK
Good evening, m'am.

ETSY
Excuse me.

CLERK

M'am? There's a cover charge. You have to pay the cover charge. M'am!

CASINO AUTOMATED VOICE

Where your fantasies are only a slot away...Check out our newest machines in the east wing and win big...

SFX: The sounds of the casino rush by as Etsy runs past slot machines and partying.

TERA

(Distant) We ain't done with you tonight, Etsy Delmen!

SFX: Etsy bursts through another door into a kitchen. She collides with a bunch of kitchen dishes.

SOUS CHEF

What are you doing?

ETSY

I'm so sorry.

SOUS CHEF

You're not supposed to be back here.

ETSY

I'm sorry, I didn't see the dishes.

SOUS CHEF

Look what you did? What is this?

ETSY

Hey, no no no, don't touch me.

SFX: The door bursts open again.

TERA

There is she!

IVY

I see her...

SOUS CHEF

What is going on?

TERA

Don't let her get out!

SOUS CHEF

Get out of my kitchen!

TERA

She's getting around. Cut her off!

SOUS CHEF

I don't know who you people are, but you need to get out of here!

SFX: Etsy throws a rolling stack of plates back to block her path and runs out of the room.

TERA

Goddamnit...

SCENE FOUR

INT. MOON LAKE CASINO - STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

SFX: We hear a mumble of people in the background passing by.

SHOWGIRL

I think I did something to my hip in the last kickline.

STAGE MANAGER

Call time is 6pm tomorrow.

SHOWGIRL

Okay! See you tomorrow night!

SFX: A stage door busts open. It is much quieter. Etsy ducks down in the wings of a theatre. She catches her breath.

JONAH

You're not safe here, Etsy.

ETSY

Stop talking.

JONAH

They're going to find you. What then?

ETSY

Shut up.

SFX: A door bursts open again.

IVY

She's not in the main lobby.

TERA

She went in here.

ZEKE

It's dark in here. What is this?

IVY

A theater.

TERA

Looks like it's a performance tonight, Etsy Delmen. Come out and join us!

SFX: Footsteps on the wooden stage.

ETSY

I see them.

JONAH

You can fight back. Stand up to them.

ZEKE

What's this light for?

IVY

It's a ghost light.

ZEKE

The hell's a ghost light?

IVY

It keeps ghosts away.

SFX: Tera pushes the light over and it smashes on the floor.

TERA

Looks like the ghosts' gonna have a hay day.

ETSY

I'm not going to touch them again.

JONAH

You don't have to touch them. Push them back. Unmake them.

ETSY

(Beat) I don't know how.

JONAH

Yes, you do. Listen to me. You and I can do this. Together.

SFX: Dark music rises.

ETSY

(Beat) Okay.

JONAH

Stand up.

ETSY

Okay.

JONAH

Face them.

SFX: Suspenseful footsteps.

TERA

There's the little witch. No where to run in here, huh?

ETSY

I won't hurt you if you leave now.

TERA

You gonna hurt us?

ETSY

Yes.

TERA
I think we're gonna stay.

ETSY
(Beat) Alright.

SFX: Etsy's powers surge. She blasts at them. They scream in agony. Etsy continues to blast with anger and hatred.

JONAH
Kill them, Etsy.

SFX: Etsy stops her blast.

ETSY
I'm not going to do this. I can't....

SFX: They writhe in agony. Etsy runs away.

TERA
We ain't done yet, Etsy Delmen. Hey!

IVY
What the hell was that?

TERA
Y'all believe me now? That right there.... That's the darkness we've been looking for. That's the darkness we've been praying will wash over this world.

ZEKE
She's got power over it. She doesn't want it to get out.

TERA
I know someone who can make her. (Beat) Y'all get up.

SCENE FIVE
EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

SFX: Desert sounds. Cicadas. A distant eagle. The sun pounds down as Etsy struggles to walk and breathe in the heat.

SFX: A truck comes to a stop beside her.

JASON

102's no walk in the park.

ETSY

What?

JASON

102 degrees. The weather.

ETSY

(Beat) Yeah.

JASON

I'm driving the 10 if you're going west.

ETSY

How far?

JASON

San Fan, a couple stops on the way.

ETSY

Can I sit in the back?

JASON

I've got a load of root vegetables in the back till Chino. Plenty of room up front though.

ETSY

(Beat) Okay. I'm coming up.

SFX: Etsy walks around to the passenger door. The car door opens and closes.

JASON

Buckle's on the side over there.

ETSY

Thanks, I appreciate it. Can I put my bag here?

JASON

Yep.

SFX: Engine accelerates.

JASON

Where you headed?

ETSY

Anchorage.

JASON

Alaska?

ETSY

Yeah.

JASON

You've got a long way to go. What's up there?

ETSY

A temp job.

JASON

I got a cousin works up there in the fishing industry. He loves it up there. (Beat) Where you coming from?

ETSY

Quartzsite, most recently. Before that Colorado. Before that Oklahoma, Tennessee. Missouri. (Beat) Before that New Orleans.

JASON

That's a lot of places. San Fran will get you about a quarter of the way or so.

ETSY

That's huge. Thanks.

SFX: Paper noises.

JASON

That's my daughter in that picture there. Annabelle.

ETSY

She's really cute.

JASON

Photo's a couple years old. She turns 12 next month. Almost a teenager. Wants to be an orthodontist. Don't know where she got that from. (Beat) How about you, you got a name?

ETSY

Cole.

JASON

Jason.

ETSY

Nice to meet you.

JASON

I never heard Cole as a girl's name before.

ETSY

My dad used to love the song "Unforgettable" by Nat King Cole, so.

JASON

Your dad still around?

ETSY

No.

JASON

What about your mom?

ETSY

Uh, no, she's gone too.

JASON

I'm sorry to hear that.

ETSY

I'm sorry too.

JASON

I'm not winning any awards for best dad of the year. But I love her. I'm sure your parents loved you too.

ETSY

Yeah.

SFX: Etsy shifts in her seat.

ETSY

I really appreciate this. Thanks for stopping for me.

JASON

If you need to take a nap, there's a blanket under the seat.

ETSY

Okay. Yeah. I might just...just rest my eyes for a second.

JASON

You want to listen to a podcast?

ETSY

(Sigh) No.

SCENE SIX

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

SFX: Ocean waves. Seagulls calling in the distance. The same soundscape as before. Rolling of a wheel-barrel.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

(Singing) Oh-ho! Why don't you blow

High-O! Come roll me over.

One girl to strike the bell

High-O! Come roll me....

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

What'cha doing lying on the ground there?

SFX: Etsy gets up from the ground.

ETSY

I don't know. Where am I?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Don't you 'member, girl? You feel the wind about you. Swelling and rising with the sea.

ETSY

Where's Jonah. Why isn't he here?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

He'll come a wail'n as a Ravaging Current. Roaring blasts full o' wind and sea lest you keep the light.

ETSY

Unless I keep the light...

SFX: Footsteps. Etsy looks around the coastline.

ETSY

There's a lighthouse here. But it isn't lit.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Hollow it stands, at the brink of the sea. Like a splinter in the dark.

ETSY

I've seen this before.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Mark the lighthouse with ye eye, girl.

ETSY

What are you talking about? Who are you?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

While the tide arisin' on the Island's shores. The beacon at the top is waiting for ye.

ETSY

What are you talking about...How...how do I light the beacon in the lighthouse?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Look to the heavens. Look up, girl.

ETSY

Oh my God. What's happening?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

See the heavens fit to burst, falling down upon ye!

ETSY

The stars are falling.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Aye. Light the beacon with the falling stars, titan child. Let it reign...

SFX: Etsy breathes in, transfixed.

SCENE SEVEN

EXT/INT. AUBREY'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

JASON

Hey. Cole.

SFX: Etsy jolts awake.

ETSY

Get back!

JASON

Woah, woah. Hey. I didn't mean to startle you.

ETSY

Did you touch me?

JASON

No. Just...your sleeve. Sorry about that, are you alright?

ETSY

Yeah. (Beat) Sorry.

JASON

We just got to a truck stop. Are you hungry?

ETSY

Sure.

SFX: Car door opens. Footsteps to the diner. A door chime and kitchen sounds. A television plays in the corner.

MEG

Is that Jason?

JASON

Meg! How we doing? I thought you were on the Jacksonville circuit.

MEG

I am, I had a quick pop up to Seattle.

JASON

This is Cole. Meg's another I-10er.

MEG

LA to Jacksonville.

ETSY

Nice to meet you.

JASON

We're gonna grab a bite.

SFX: Inside footsteps. Jason and Etsy sit down.

JASON

A lot of truckers stop here. Always seem to run into someone I know.

ETSY

Where are we now?

JASON

Lost Hills. Off the I-5.

ETSY

We already passed LA?

JASON

Yeah, drove around it. Once we get to San Fran I could probably hook you up with another driver heading farther up the coast.

ETSY

Thanks. That'd be awesome.

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Can I get you two anything to drink to start?

Uh, black coffee?

ETSY

Diet Pepsi for me.

JASON

Be right out.

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

The coffee here is pretty middling. Just to warn you.

JASON

That's alright. I'm used to the cheaper stuff.

ETSY

Sure. (Beat) So, you've been on the road for a while?

JASON

About a year.

ETSY

What is it a....drug problem? Abusive relationship? Something like that?

JASON

What?

ETSY

No judgement. I'm not trying to make you talk about anything you don't want to. But I've dealt with all kinds of people. You start to see signs. Certain vibes.

JASON

So I'm giving off vibes of an abused drug addict.

ETSY

Well...

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Your Diet Pepsi, and a black coffee.

ETSY

Thank you.

Thanks.
 JASON

Are you ready to order yet?
 BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Uh, yeah, Filibuster Rueben for me.
 JASON

Okay, and for you?
 BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Uh, I'll take the grilled cheese.
 ETSY

That's only on the kids menu.
 BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

I look very adult for my age.
 ETSY

(Sigh) Okay, whatever. One Filibuster and a grilled cheese.
 BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Thank you.
 JASON

Thanks.
 ETSY

SFX: Etsy shifts uncomfortably in her seat.

I've been clean for two years.
 ETSY

I'm going on six. A lot of people say it gets easier. I don't think so.
 JASON

Yeah?
 ETSY

SFX: TV plays distantly with breaking news energy.

You got to be kidding me. Why does everything crazy always happen in New Orleans?
 MEG

ETSY

What?

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV)The attack happened to a local tour guide two nights ago around 1:00am at the Garden of Memories Cemetery.

ETSY

What is that? Sorry, can you turn that up?

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Is it the New Orleans thing again? It's all over my newsfeed.

SFX: The waitress walks to the TV and turns up the volume.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) Now, this footage was taken by Dr. Fargo Kaminski...

ETSY

Holy shit.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

...An accomplished scientist and author with a background in...uh, it looks like several things here. We're going to show the clip again in just a moment but first, Dr. Kaminski, thank you for joining us. The footage is quite extraordinary.

FARGO

(On TV) Yeah, Gwen, thanks for having me on the show.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) My pleasure.

FARGO

(On TV) What we're dealing with here, Gwen, we're dealing with a cryptid from another dimensional stratosphere. Now, I recognize that might be a little, um...challenging for many of your viewers to absorb, so the way I like to explain it is it's basically a cosmic bat from another orbital terrene.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) You're saying this could be an alien from another planet?

FARGO

(On TV) Well, a space bat, Gwen. Yeah, basically a space bat from a dark planet. Or dimension. Either or.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) Are there any theories right now on what this creature, or creatures could want from us?

FARGO

(On TV) There are theories, Gwen, but currently nothing is confirmed. We'd like to keep that information classified at this moment. We have not been able to communicate with said creatures directly at this time. They don't seem to like to communicate.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) Alright, well, we're going to show the footage now. Just a warning, some viewers may find this distressing. Discretion is advised.

SFX: Footage of the Night Gaunt plays, including Topher running and screaming.

ETSY

(Beat) Topher.

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Not even a convincing deep-fake.

JASON

It looks pretty real to me.

MEG

No way.

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

I'm pretty sure that's just the creature from Alien with wings.

ETSY

No. (Beat) I know those monsters.

SFX: The recording of the footage ends.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) And the young man being attacked in the video is your collaborator Christopher Sommers?

FARGO

(On TV) That's correct, Gwen. Yes, he was buried alive, but rest assured we did excavate him from the ground.

ETSY

It buried him.

JASON

What's that?

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) That's great to hear.

ETSY

It wanted to isolate him too.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) Sommers declined an interview but he is reportedly recovering on his own without serious injury.

FARGO

(On TV) Yes. Thank heavens, Gwen.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) The city has been wondering if the three bodies recovered at the abandoned Six Flags amusement park could be connected to this creature. Dr. Kaminski, any information on that?

FARGO

(On TV) May I address your viewers directly for a moment?

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) Oh. Of course.

FARGO

(On TV) To the brave people of New Orleans. Surrounding cities...And the world. I can say with utmost faith in the cosmic order of magnitude...that we have certainly not seen the last of these bastards. Stay safe. Stay informed. Stay free.

GWEN THE NEWS REPORTER

(On TV) (Beat) Alright. Well, you heard it here first. Thank you so much for joining us today, Dr. Kaminski.

FARGO

(On TV) And thank you, Gwen.

SFX: News extro theme music plays.

NEWSCASTER

With Gwenneth O’Conner, you’re watching WNOL....

ETSY

Did you say that’s all over the internet?

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Yeah, have you not seen it yet?

ETSY

Three people died.

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Apparently.

MEG

I don’t know why anybody would live in New Orleans.

ETSY

Hey. Meg. You said your route is the I-10 from LA to Jacksonville?

MEG

That’s right.

ETSY

Then you pass right through New Orleans.

MEG

Yeah...

SFX: Placing dishes.

BROOKLYN THE LA WAITRESS

Okay, one Filibuster Reuben...and one grilled cheese from the kids menu.

JASON

Thank you. (Beat) You okay, Cole?

ETSY

(Beat) Yeah.

JASON

We’ll get back on the road as soon as we’re done. (Beat) You still want to head to Anchorage?

SCENE EIGHT
INT. SOMMER'S HOUSE - DAY

*SFX: Distant sound of street jazz. Footsteps outside.
Phone rings and goes to Officer Mason's voicemail.*

TOPHER

Hey, Mason. It's Topher again. Just calling back to check in. I really think I could be a valuable asset to this investigation because..I've seen these creatures before and they are kind of evil incarnate. So...yeah, let me know when you're free and we can figure out how to purge the city from hellspawn. Great. Thanks again, man!

*SFX: Phone hangs up. Topher enters the Sommer's house
and puts his keys on the counter.*

TOPHER

Dani. Oh. Hi.

DANI

Hi.

TOPHER

Were you... I was just heading out to meet Simone for lunch. She's back for the day.

DANI

I've got a box of things you left at my place.

TOPHER

Oh. (Beat) We're doing...okay.

SFX: Dani boxes things up in the house.

TOPHER

I didn't know your were coming over.

DANI

No. I didn't tell you. (Beat) I think I left a few things here too.

TOPHER

Do you need help or um...?

DANI

I got it. If you want to head out to see Simone, that's fine.

TOPHER

Do you want me to make you some green tea?

DANI

I don't like green tea, Topher.

SFX: Topher sorts through a box.

TOPHER

Thanks for bringing this record back. I forgot about that.

DANI

You're welcome.

TOPHER

I think you have a couple things upstairs too.

SFX: Sound of things being boxes up continue.

TOPHER

Dani...I'm sorry about the other night.

DANI

It's fine.

TOPHER

No. I wasn't... I was cruel and that's not okay.

DANI

Topher...why did we start this again?

TOPHER

I don't know. I thought it would be good for both of us.

SILENCE

DANI

I have to grab my cell phone charger from your room. Then I'm out.

TOPHER

Okay.

SFX: Footsteps to stairs.

DANI

You know, maybe someday you'll want to be with someone because you love them. Not because they're broken and you need to fix a problem.

SCENE NINE

INT. CAFE DU MONDE - LATER

SFX: Street jazz. Crowd applauds and chatters in the background.

NOLA WAITER

An order of three. Hot chocolate with cinnamon, and a black coffee.

TOPHER

Thank you.

NOLA WAITER

Y'all enjoy the beignets.

TOPHER

We will, thanks.

SIMONE

Wow, I missed these. They have more powdered sugar on the table.

TOPHER

Do they need more powdered sugar?

SIMONE

For the inside. After you bite into them.

TOPHER

Ah.

SIMONE

Since when do you drink black coffee?

TOPHER

Oh, it's just something I picked up recently.

SIMONE

Before or after being buried alive?

TOPHER

Honestly, not even the worst thing to happen to me this week.

SIMONE

The video of you looks terrible.

TOPHER

This morning a group of people came to the shop to take selfies with the guy who got buried by a space bat, so...that was great.

SIMONE

You're sure this is the same species that attacked us last year?

TOPHER

I am.

SIMONE

Theories?

TOPHER

I mean...something is making The Void cross over into our world. These creatures are native to The Dark City.

SIMONE

Is there anything significant about the cemetery location that would connect to that?

TOPHER

I don't think so. The only other places that have had a connection with The Void have been the bayou and JM Labs.

SIMONE

Oddly enough that's not the first time I've heard JM Labs mentioned this week.

TOPHER

Oh.

SIMONE

My professor. Professor Fulton. He worked with dad at JM Labs.

TOPHER

Really?

SIMONE

He didn't say much about it. I think it's not something he talks about a lot.

TOPHER

That's machiavellian. Is he...dangerous?

SIMONE

Why would he be dangerous?

TOPHER

Not a lot of good people worked at JM Labs.

SIMONE

Dad did.

TOPHER

How long was he there?

SIMONE

He said not long. I think he left shortly after dad.

TOPHER

Okay.

SIMONE

Maybe I do a deep dive into dad's old papers to see if I can learn more about Fulton's days in early quantum.

TOPHER

Yeah. I think that's a great idea.

SFX: Topher's ringtone.

TOPHER

Oh. Wow. Hold on. Sorry. Mason is calling.

SIMONE

Officer Mason?

TOPHER

Yeah. (Beat) Hello, this is Topher Sommers speaking.

MASON

(On phone) Do you always answer the phone like that?

TOPHER

Mason! It's great to hear from you, sir. Did you get my phone calls?

MASON

(On phone) Yes. All of them.

TOPHER

Great. Do you happen to be familiar with the works of H.P. Lovecraft? Because in his mythos there are these things called Gaunts or Night Gaunts which are basically humanoid bat creatures, and that's a pretty good comparison to the thing I saw out in the cemetery with Fargo. (Beat) Are you still there?

MASON

(On phone) Unfortunately. Topher, I'm calling you concerning the incident at the abandoned Six Flags.

TOPHER

Oh. Okay.

MASON

(On phone) The incident has some significant similarities with your experience at the cemetery.

TOPHER

I saw the people were buried alive on the news.

MASON

(On phone) That's correct. We weren't able to save them this time.

TOPHER

I'm so sorry about that.

MASON

(On phone) Believe it or not, you're the closest thing we have to an expert on the subject.

TOPHER

(Beat) Okay.

MASON

(On phone) Topher.

TOPHER

Yes?

MASON

(On phone) (Sigh) I would like...to ask you...to join me for a ride-along.

TOPHER

You want me to work as your partner?

MASON

(On phone) No.

TOPHER

Or like a consultant.

MASON

(On phone) A consultant has a salary, I don't need a consultant.

TOPHER

I have a uniform if you need me to...

MASON

(On phone) You wear that uniform and I will arrest you for impersonating an officer.

TOPHER

That seems counter-productive.

MASON

(On phone) Topher...

TOPHER

Sorry, I would be...I'm thrilled. I won't let you down.

MASON

This is going in the books as a ride-along. You're a civilian accompanying me to observe my duties as an officer.

TOPHER

Got it. I'm working undercover.

MASON

(On phone) No! Be at the station today at 5:00pm

TOPHER
5:00pm at the station. That is a copy. 10-4.

MASON
(On phone) We don't say 10-4, Topher.

TOPHER
Over and out.

SFX: Topher hangs up the phone.

SIMONE
What was that about?

TOPHER
I think I'm a consulting detective.

SIMONE
I don't think you are though.

TOPHER
I have to prepare for this.

SIMONE
Okay.

TOPHER
Mason and I are going to Six Flags.

SIMONE
Great.

SCENE TEN
INT. MASON MOBILE - LATER

SFX: Detective Jazz music plays. Car driving.

TOPHER
Do cop cars have more leg room than other cars? It seems like they do.

MASON
I don't think so.

Is that dial for the siren?
TOPHER

Yes and I'm not going to turn it.
MASON

(Beat) Are you sure?
TOPHER

Yes, I am sure.
MASON

I think this is the first time I've seen you out in the field, Mason.
TOPHER

Thin ice, Sommers.
MASON

It's funny because we've been doing things illegally for so long it's actually sort of strange to not have to sneak around or anything.
TOPHER

Thin. Ice.
MASON

Of course.
TOPHER

(Beat) You and Delmen keep in contact at all?
MASON

Oh. Um. No. Her, uh...her cell phone was disconnected six months ago, so...
TOPHER

I'm sorry to hear that. I hope she's alright.
MASON

Yeah. She never said anything to you about where she was going, did she?
TOPHER

No. (Beat) But if I know anything about her, I'm sure she's taking care of herself. Staying out of trouble? Probably not.
MASON

Yeah.
TOPHER

MASON

Do you know why she left?

TOPHER

No. But I know she's afraid of hurting people.

MASON

Because of her history at the lab.

TOPHER

The lab?

MASON

Ohio.

TOPHER

(Beat) How much do...how much do you know?

MASON

How much were you assuming I didn't know?

TOPHER

Well, she doesn't really...not a lot of people know.

MASON

I'm aware.

TOPHER

She told you what happened last year.

MASON

Yes.

TOPHER

The darkness didn't come from her. It's not from her. It's from something else.

MASON

Where is it from?

TOPHER

Some unchallenged part of the human psyche.

MASON

(Beat) Why do I bother asking?

SFX: The road rushes on.

TOPHER
How did you meet?

MASON
She stole my ID. And then my car.

SFX: Topher laughs sentimentally.

TOPHER
I can see it.

SFX: The car turns.

MASON
Looks like here we are....

SCENE ELEVEN

EXT. ABANDONED NOLA SIX FLAGS - MOMENTS LATER

TOPHER
It looks like there's a spot to park right over there.

MASON
Are you always a side seat driver?

TOPHER
You know what, I think so.

*SFX: The car comes to a stop. Car doors open and close.
Outdoor sounds.*

TOPHER
Woah. Do you see the ivy on the Ferris wheel. How white it is?

MASON
I do.

TOPHER
Have you ever read *The Whisperer in the Darkness*?

MASON
I don't read science fiction stories.

TOPHER

Technically it's cosmic horror.

MASON

Is it relevant to the current moment?

TOPHER

In the book they mention a planet called Yuggoth. It's described as a desolate landscape set in eternal dusk. Pillaged by gods and monsters. It's actually supposed to be Pluto.

MASON

(Beat) Okay.

TOPHER

I think this looks a lot like that world.

MASON

I don't know if you're joking.

TOPHER

I'm being serious.

MASON

These are the graves up ahead here.

SFX: Footsteps.

TOPHER

Three of them.

MASON

Buried alive.

TOPHER

It wants to suffocate and isolate its victims.

MASON

Why?

TOPHER

I don't know.

MASON

You are our best shot at understanding this, Sommers.

TOPHER

These are definitely the same claw marks we saw in the cemetery.

MASON

Then it moved here?

TOPHER

Or there are multiple creatures. (Beat) It could have clawed them to death. But it didn't. It buried them alive. Isolating them in silence. They're definitely getting more aggressive, if they're killing multiple victims.

MASON

I don't like the sound of that.

TOPHER

Do we need a warrant to walk the area?

MASON

It's under NOPD jurisdiction right now.

TOPHER

Oh, nice. I think we should walk the perimeter. Is that how cops say it?

MASON

There isn't a way we say it.

SFX: A distant rustle.

MASON

What was that? (Beat) Sommers?...Sommers?

BECKY

Edward?

MASON

(Beat) Beck?

SFX: Mason takes a hesitant step.

BECKY

Edward.

MASON

Becky...

Are you home again?
BECKY

SFX: Mason steps close to Becky and holds her.

It's been a lifetime.
BECKY

I'm here...
MASON

Why didn't you come home, Edward.
BECKY

I was coming back. I was on my way.
MASON

No. You weren't here to protect our son.
BECKY

I wanted to be.
MASON

They came in like animals. Like vultures.
BECKY

I'm sorry, baby. I'm so, so sorry.
MASON

They came into his room. Our child's room. Look at our son, Edward.
BECKY

SFX: The vulture men begin to pick at and eat becky and the child's flesh.

Becky, please. Oh God, please, if I could take it all back. Make it all go away.
MASON

SFX: Mason starts to cry.

You weren't there. You let it happen.
BECKY

SFX: Vulture noises.

MASON

Get away from them!!

BECKY

They killed him because his father was a cop. Because you were his father.

MASON

Don't leave me, Beck.

SFX: Topher grabs hold of Mason and pulls him back.

TOPHER

Mason. You're alright. Hey. You're alright. Look at me.

SFX: Mason struggles to catch his breath.

TOPHER

What happened?

MASON

She was here.

TOPHER

Who?

MASON

They were right here.

TOPHER

There was someone here?

MASON

I saw my wife. She was holding our son. The vultures were eating their flesh.

TOPHER

You're okay. You're going to be alright, okay? Why don't we sit down over here...

MASON

I was in my first home with Beck. The walls of the rooms were here in the park. Covered in these same vines. Details that didn't make sense...

TOPHER

Okay.

MASON

For a moment they were there...then they were gone.

TOPHER

You're going to be okay, Mason, you're going to be fine.

SFX: Distant creature noise.

MASON

Topher...

TOPHER

What?

MASON

There's something coming towards us. Look...

SFX: In the distance they hear a familiar cry.

TOPHER

Mason. Do you remember the 14 messages I left you?

SFX: Flapping wings.

MASON

Shit.

TOPHER

Night Gaunt.

MASON

Stay back, Topher.

SFX: Mason fires his gun multiple times.

TOPHER

Did you get it?

MASON

Nope. Just made it mad.

TOPHER

Run?

MASON

Run!

SFX: Mason and Topher running. The Night Gaunt screeches.

TOPHER

Try to stay low. It has claws.

MASON

I see that. Get to cover! Now!

TOPHER

MASON!

SFX: Gun shot. Night Gaunt screech.

MASON

It's not dying.

TOPHER

Now might be a bad time to tell you but we've never been able to destroy these things.

MASON

What did you say?

TOPHER

Look out!

SFX: The Night Gaunt flies in. Mason gets grabbed.

TOPHER

MASON!

SFX: Topher struggles to get ahold of Mason. He loses him.

SFX: Suddenly, we hear a loud blast. The creature is knocked sideways. Topher and Mason catch their breath.

TOPHER

Are you okay?

MASON

What just happened?

TOPHER

Something knocked it back.

What?
MASON
SFX: Footsteps.

(Beat) Oh my God.
TOPHER
SFX: Badass synth music rises up.

Etsy.
TOPHER

Hey.
ETSY

Look out, Delmen.
MASON
SFX: The Night Gaunt starts to fly towards them.

I see it.
ETSY
SFX: The Night Gaunt screeches at Etsy. .

Make my day, bitch.
ETSY
SFX: Etsy blasts as the synth music rises up

CLOSING SEQUENCE