

THE CALL OF THE VOID

Season 2

Episode 8: The Doorway Effect

by

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EPISODE EIGHT - THE DOORWAY EFFECT

SCENE ONE

EXT. ETSY'S TREE FORT - DAY

SFX: Birds CHIRPING in the distance.

MALCOLM

Etsy? Are you back here?

SFX: FOOTSTEPS on a ladder

MALCOLM

You're in the tree fort.

ETSY

Yeah.

MALCOLM

Feasting on nostalgia.

ETSY

I guess.

MALCOLM

The man who built this tree house wanted it to last for a thousand generations. He said, on his deathbed, not a single plank or board should be changed, it must stand as a monument, the pride and glory of Peebles, Ohio.

ETSY

Um. You made this tree fort.

MALCOLM

Whaaat? Is Baxter back here?

ETSY

Our dog?

MALCOLM

(Teasing) Wow. Really? He's a member of our family.

ETSY

I guess I haven't seen him.

MALCOLM

(In a Russian accent) That's probably because he turned to a life of crime.

ETSY

Wow.

MALCOLM

I heard he is being deported back to Russia.

SFX: Dog BARKS

MALCOLM

Oh there he is. He straightened out. He's been sober for nine months. Haven't you? Haven't you been sober for nine months. Say hello to Etsy. You're siblings you have to like each other.

ETSY

Hi buddy. How are you?

SFX: Dog BARKS and PANTS.

MALCOLM

He can't talk, Etsy. He's a dog.

ETSY

Ha ha.

MALCOLM

I'll have to take him for a walk later. (Beat) Are you sure you're alright?

ETSY

Yeah. I'm fine.

MALCOLM

You're not. I happen to be your father.

ETSY

Sorry. The world just feels really heavy right now.

MALCOLM

Twenty pounds? Thirty pounds?

ETSY

A lot of pounds.

SFX: Malcolm SITS DOWN on the floorboards.

MALCOLM

You get to decide how you want to feel and how long you need to feel that way. No one gets to tell you otherwise. Not even me. Alright?

ETSY

Alright.

MALCOLM

Alright?

ETSY

I heard you the first time.

MALCOLM

Alright...well, there's a Star Wars marathon starting in the living room in the next ten minutes or something?

ETSY

On TV?

MALCOLM

No, I'm playing them on DVD. In the right order.

ETSY

Which is the wrong order.

MALCOLM

That's exactly what that means.

ETSY

I'll stop in.

MALCOLM

You're going to stop in?

ETSY

Daddd...

MALCOLM

(Teasing) How kind of you to grace us with your presence.

ETSY

Wow.

MALCOLM

Causally, for a few minutes. But not for too long, I have some terrible, deep, and complicated moods to contemplate.

ETSY

You are a ridiculous human being.

MALCOLM

Oh, how the pot calls the kettle black. (BEAT) What was that? Was that a smile?

ETSY

It wasn't a smile.

MALCOLM

I'll have to arrange a celebration.

ETSY

It's not a smile.

MALCOLM

Shoot off fireworks!

SFX: A sudden BLAST OF FIREWORKS

SCENE TWO

EXT. MIDWEST FIELD - NIGHT

SFX: FIREWORKS in the background, CRICKETS and the sound of BIKES RIDING through a field.

MONICA

What were you saying?

ETSY

What?

MONICA

You said you were writing your own language.

ETSY

I was telling you about that?

MONICA

Yeah. You were saying it would look like scratches, but it would be a whole secret code.
(BEAT) Who are you writing the message to?

ETSY

What do you mean?

MONICA

If it's a secret message, it's going to someone.

SFX: Another FIREWORK

MONICA

Is it a boy?

ETSY

No. It is definitely not a boy.

MONICA

What's his name?

ETSY

You're not hearing me are you?

MONICA

Charlie.

ETSY

Ew. No.

MONICA

Steven. If it's Steven...

ETSY

It's not Steven. Gross.

MONICA

He's so weird.

ETSY
He's not as weird as Topher.

MONICA
Who's Topher?

ETSY
(Confused.) Topher...Sommers.

MONICA
(BEAT) Are you going to tell Steven what it means?

ETSY
What?

MONICA
You're secret code. I think he would really like it.

SFX: The bike SCREECHES to a halt.

ETSY
What's your name?

MONICA
What?

ETSY
I don't know your name.

MONICA
I don't get it, is this like a joke? I've lived on your block since literally first grade.

ETSY
(BEAT) Monica.

MONICA
Yeah. Anyway, are you ready?

ETSY
For what?

MONICA
The reason we came out here. Here's the knife. It doesn't hurt if you just do it fast.

ETSY
How do you know that? Have you done this before?

MONICA

No, stupid, you only become blood sisters with one person. That's the only way to do it.

ETSY

I thought you were supposed to use a needle to just prick your thumb.

MONICA

That's the wimpy way. I'll go first. Ready?

ETSY

I mean, I guess.

MONICA

(In pain) Ahhh....

ETSY

Shit. Are you okay?

MONICA

Yeah, it's fine. Your turn.

SFX: A SLICE from a knife.

ETSY

(Matter-of-factly) Ow...that stings.

MONICA

Now we press our fingers together.

ETSY

Like this?

MONICA

Yeah. We're blood sisters now. No matter what.

ETSY

Yeah.

MONICA

Even if we live a million miles away or across the ocean...

ETSY

(BEAT) Wait. What did you say? When did we agree to do this? We've never talked before....

SFX: DIMENSIONAL SHIFT. A cacophony of SOUNDS AND PEOPLE TALKING.

ETSY

What am I doing here?

SCENE THREE

INT. A GREEN HOUSE - DAY

SFX: BIRDS CHIP and DISTANT SPRINKLING SYSTEMS.

CHRISTOPHER

Hi.

ETSY

Hey.

CHRISTOPHER

Are you part of the tour?

ETSY

(BEAT) I think I got lost. Where are we right now?

CHRISTOPHER

The Perennial Herbaceous Plant Enclosure.

ETSY

Like a greenhouse.

CHRISTOPHER

Yeah. Hence all the plants.

ETSY

(BEAT) Oh. Yeah. Wow. Sorry. I am...out of it right now.

CHRISTOPHER

(Laughing) No, you're fine.

ETSY

Sometimes I walk into another room and just completely forget where I am and what I'm doing.

CHRISTOPHER

Yeah! They actually call that the Doorway Effect.

ETSY

I didn't realize it had a name.

CHRISTOPHER

Oh, it's fascinating. They say it's because any action we take has to be thought out on different levels if we are going to carry it out successfully. And as we go throughout the day our attention shifts between these levels, from our goals and ambitions, to our strategies, and finally to our basic concrete actions, right? And sometimes we're so focused on one of these levels that we forget the other ones. My sister actually did her capstone on this, so I know...more than you probably wanted to hear just now...

ETSY

(Laughing) No, no...that's, uh...that is fascinating.

CHRISTOPHER

Is this your first time here?

ETSY

At the....

CHRISTOPHER

Botanical Gardens, Grand Rapids.

ETSY

Wow. Yeah. Sorry. Uh, yeah, yeah. Yeah it is. I'm on a trip with my family, so...

CHRISTOPHER

Well, I might be biased, but I personally think this is the highlight of the city.

ETSY

Plants.

CHRISTOPHER

They are really cool plants.

ETSY

I'm sure they are.

CHRISTOPHER

This one for example.

ETSY

Uh-huh.

CHRISTOPHER

Do you know what this is?

ETSY

Um....no.

CHRISTOPHER

The Atropa Belladonna. Commonly called “Deadly Nightshade”. Just five berries can kill a fully grown adult, and chewing on a single leaf can cause paralysis, or delirium, or really awful hallucinations...

ETSY

Wow. That is a small savage thing.

CHRISTOPHER

You’d be surprised how much violence and gore there is in the botanical gardens tour business.

ETSY

(Laughing) Really.

CHRISTOPHER

I guess I’m pretty desensitized to it at this point.

ETSY

(BEAT) Do I know you from somewhere?

CHRISTOPHER

Maybe? I’m mostly here expounding on plants Monday through Friday these days, but....oh, I was at Ohio State for herpetology before that. Christopher Sommers, by the way.

ETSY

I’m from Ohio.

CHRISTOPHER

Me too. What do you do there?

ETSY

(BEAT) Um. I'm not...I'm not really sure right now.

CHRISTOPHER

Okay.

ETSY

I'm not...I don't remember. I can't remember. (BEAT) I know you. Who are you?

CHRISTOPHER

Do you need to sit down?

ETSY

What is this?

SFX: DIMENSIONAL SHIFT. A cacophony of SOUNDS AND PEOPLE TALKING. MECHANICAL SOUNDS bleeding into PIANO MUSIC.

SCENE FOUR

INT. BALLET CLASS - DAY

SFX: BALLET MUSIC in the background.

BALLET INSTRUCTOR

Now we'll do the sequence again. Back in position. Five, six, seven, eight.

SFX: The MUSIC becomes chaotic and disjointed.

ETSY

I've heard that before.

MONICA

Are you okay?

ETSY

Monica.

JONAH

(A whisper) Let go, Etsy.

ETSY

What are we doing here?

BALLET INSTRUCTOR

Etsy. Monica. Are we dancing or talking?

ETSY

Why am I here right now?

JONAH

(A whisper) Let go of them.

ETSY

Where am I?

*SFX: COSMIC SHIFT. MUSIC intensifies. RAIN POURS
and a REFEREE WHISTLE blows.*

SCENE FIVE

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

SOCCER PLAYER

Etsy! Get your head in the game!

ETSY

What?

SFX: BODY SLAM and FALL. Another COSMIC SHIFT.

SCENE SIX

INT. GRADUATION HALL - DAY

SFX: POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE plays distantly.

COMMENCEMENT ANNOUNCER

Etsy Miriam Delmen. Graduating Summa Cum Laude.

ETSY

This isn't what happened.

GRADUATION GUEST

Is she alright?

ETSY

I never went to college.

GRADUATION GUEST

Could somebody get her some water? She's probably just dehydrated.

ETSY

What is this?

JONAH

Let go, Etsy.

ETSY

What is this?

*SFX: VARIOUS REALITIES FLASH IN FRONT OF
ETSY. A PLAYGROUND SWING. BANGING ON A
DOOR. A MIDNIGHT TRAIN.*

SFX: COSMIC CRUMBLING into HOLLOW WIND

SCENE SEVEN

EXT. AN OCEANSIDE - NIGHT

*SFX: The RUSH of the waves at night. A small fire
CRACKLES with life.*

JONAH

There's over 3,000 miles of coastline.

ETSY

That seems like a lot.

JONAH

It stretches all the way around. More coastline than any other state.

ETSY

Except Alaska. I think Alaska has more.

JONAH

Yeah. That would make sense.

ETSY

Oo. My marshmallow is on fire.

SFX: ETSY BLOWS out the burning marshmallow.

ETSY

Babe, can you pass me the graham crackers?

SFX: SHUFFLING.

JONAH

It's beautiful, isn't it?

ETSY

What the ocean that we can't see? Because it's night?

JONAH

It's just emptiness.

ETSY

Yeah.

SFX: Shuffling as the two sit closer together.

JONAH

(Beat) I was looking at lots the other day.

ETSY

Lots like vacant land?

JONAH

Properties. On Zillow.

ETSY

For what like, burying people's bodies? (BEAT) Wow. You're talking about like...

JONAH

This is not a pressure thing, because I don't want you to feel like I'm trapping you at all, because I'm not. I was just...

ETSY

Keeping your eyes open.

JONAH

Right.

ETSY

(BEAT) Okay. So. Did you find anything?

JONAH

There's a couple places. There's one that has implied waterfront.

ETSY

Oh, "Implied waterfront."

JONAH

It's not technically waterfront but I think it has access to the water. Or there's a gate or something, I haven't looked into it yet.

ETSY

You sound like my parents.

JONAH

There's a coffee shop at the end of the block.

ETSY

I do like my coffee.

JONAH

I can't remember the name of it.

ETSY

How big is the property?

JONAH

1.2 acres.

ETSY

That's a good number.

JONAH

I thought so too.

ETSY

Now is that also “implied”?

JONAH

The other number is a little bigger.

ETSY

Oh no. How much?

JONAH

That...

ETSY

How much is it?

JONAH

Listen if it's something you want, we'll get it. The price doesn't matter.

ETSY

It's funny how people say that but then they're poor for the rest of their lives.

JONAH

I'll have to show you the place. It sounds like you really like it.

ETSY

I don't know.

JONAH

It has waterfront. You like waterfront.

ETSY

I do like waterfront. (BEAT) My parents took me on vacation to the ocean. There was this old lighthouse. It's one of the last happy things I remember before...

JONAH

What's wrong?

ETSY

(Realizing) Before my dad died... (BEAT) This isn't real.

JONAH

Okay.

ETSY

This isn't....real.

JONAH

Etsy.

ETSY

(Beat) Where are we right now?

JONAH

What are you talking about? This is our place. This is where we go when the world closes in and everything gets too small.

ETSY

No, I've never been here before.

JONAH

We look out at the ocean, and nothing matters.

ETSY

Where's Topher?

JONAH

Nothing matters, Etsy.

ETSY

What is this place?

JONAH

Etsy. You need to focus.

ETSY

No....NO!

*SFX: DIMENSIONAL SHIFT. A cacophony of
MACHINE SOUNDS and PEOPLE TALKING.*

JOANNE

Find your father and we'll be a family again, alright? (BEAT) Close your eyes and reach.

SCENE EIGHT
INT. CAR - DAY

SFX: CAR ACCELERATES.

MALCOLM'S FRIEND

(On phone) Tell me about your start-up, JM labs.

MALCOLM

It's amazing. Whatever I thought it was going to be, this is, this is more...

ETSY

Dad?

MALCOLM

Etsy?

SFX: CAR SWERVES and CRASHES. ETSY BREATHES HEAVILY. HAUNTING MUSIC. AN EMERGENCY SIREN

ETSY

Oh my God. Oh my God, Dad. Dad, no. I'm sorry...

EMC

We have to move to emergency room one now or we're not going to be able to save this patient.

ETSY

Dad. Dad! Dad....

SFX: A STRETCHER rolls through a hospital hallway. ETSY CRIES and BREATHES HEAVILY.

SFX: MUSIC RISES UP

KP

Well, well. You got spiders crawling through your mind again, huh baby?

SFX: SPIDERS CRAWLING.

ETSY

I don't want to be here. I don't want to be here anymore, please take it away. I don't want to be here!

SFX: ETSY BREATHES HEAVILY, frozen.

KP

Now you can prune the branches, but the roots grow real deep. That's where the demons got a home, don't they?

*SFX: KP LAUGHS, mockingly. AN INJECTION SOUND.
A demon CHANTS.*

JONAH

(A whisper) Etsy.

SFX: The noise calms suddenly to a HOLLOW WIND.

ETSY

It was my fault. When I opened the rift I saw my dad in every dimension. Every timeline always ends the same. Me breaking through is what causes his death. Sometimes I wonder if I had any memories of him at all. Or if all I ever had was his old things. His books. His movies. I pieced together a picture of what I thought he might be like. He'd build a tree fort in the backyard. And we'd spend hours in it together.

SFX: ETSY CRIES softly.

SCENE NINE

INT. ETSY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - DAY

*SFX: A RECORD PLAYER PLAYS AN OLD SONG.
FOOTSTEPS FROM A HALLWAY. A DOOR GENTLY
CRACKS OPEN.*

JOANNE

Etsy?

ETSY

Mom?

JOANNE

Hey. I thought I heard you crying, can I come in?

ETSY

(Sniffing) Yeah.

JOANNE

Hey. (Beat) No tears on my girl's face.

ETSY

It just feels like a long time since we've been here.

JOANNE

It's okay. I'm here. We're both here. That's the only thing that matters right now.

ETSY

This isn't how it was, was it? I wish to God it was.

*SFX: COSMIC SHIFT, MACHINE SOUNDS. THE OLD
SONG GROWS UNDERNEATH THE SOUNDS OF THE
LAB.*

FLASH TO:

INT. JM LABS - DAY

JOANNE

The coils are cooled with fluid state copper hydroxide...

JOANNE

What we are doing here. It's bigger than you or me.

JOANNE

You are done when I say you are done. When I say!

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. ETSY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - DAY

JOANNE

You don't have to think about the lab, Etsy. We can just be here.

ETSY

We could make this real?

JOANNE

We can be what was supposed to happen.

ETSY

Supposed to happen.

JOANNE

I miss you, Etsy.

ETSY

I miss you too.

JOANNE

I found your father in here. He's here too.

MALCOLM

Etsy.

ETSY

...Dad?

MALCOLM

You look all grown up.

ETSY

I don't feel grown up.

MALCOLM

I think that's how it works.

JOANNE

This is what I wanted. All those years ago.

MALCOLM

I know.

JOANNE

Family.

MALCOLM

Together.

JOANNE

As one.

ETSY

(BEAT) I want this more than anything. But it isn't ours. I'm sorry. I have to leave. I can't stay here.

JOANNE

You don't have to leave, Etsy.

ETSY

I do.

MALCOLM

Baby girl, look at me.

ETSY

This isn't what happened.

JOANNE

It's better.

ETSY

(BEAT) I know it is. I know it's better than what happened. Because what happened is that this family was shattered. And we all lost each other. I was so alone for so long. In the lab. And after. But it made me who I am. And people need me...as I am. And I need them. And so I have to go back.

JOANNE

Etsy!

MALCOLM

Stop it.

JOANNE

Don't do this to us! We're the only family you have!

MALCOLM

No one is going to love you like we do.

SFX: SOFT DIMENSIONAL CRUMBLE

ETSY

(BEAT) I know.

SFX: DIMENSIONAL CRUMBLE DROPS INTO SILENCE.

LONG SILENCE.

SCENE TEN

INT. ETSY'S APARTMENT - DAY

SFX: MORNING BIRDS CHIRPING from a window

JONAH

Etsy.

ETSY

Hey.

SFX: Shifting on a bed

JONAH

Are you okay?

ETSY

We're in my apartment.

JONAH

Yeah.

ETSY

How did I get here?

JONAH

You fell asleep.

ETSY

Oh. Yeah

SFX: ETSY CLEARS HER THROAT and SHIFTS again.

JONAH
Did you have a bad dream?

ETSY
I guess.

JONAH
Do you need anything?

ETSY
Maybe just some water.

JONAH
Sure.

SFX: Water POURING from sink. BIRDS CHIRP out the window again as ETSY SITS UP on the bed.

ETSY
Is it morning already?

JONAH
I saw you didn't have work today. We can just stay here if you're not feeling well.

ETSY
Okay.

SFX: Cat MEOW

ETSY
Oh. Shit. I didn't feed him last night.

JONAH
I fed him for you.

ETSY
Oh. Cool. Thanks.

JONAH
I was thinking about starting Star Trek.

ETSY
Okay. That sounds great, actually.

SFX: CAT continues to MEOW.

JONAH

But the question is which one to start with.

ETSY

Depends on how Shakespearean you're feeling.

SFX: CAT MEOWS. SILENCE.

JONAH

What? (Beat) What's wrong?

ETSY

(BEAT) You know how sometimes in dreams, something can almost seem right but it's just a little off...

SFX: EERIE MUSIC RISES.

JONAH

What are you talking about?

ETSY

This cat has four black paws.

JONAH

That's your cat.

ETSY

No it isn't.

JONAH

Yes it is.

ETSY

I know my cat when I see it.

SFX: DIMENSIONAL CRUMBLE

ETSY

This still isn't real. What is this place?

JONAH

(Gently) No, no...look at me.

SFX: ETSY LEAFS through BOOKS.

Baby girl, look at me. MALCOLM

Don't do this to us! JOANNE

There's nothing written in these books. ETSY

Etsy! JONAH

What's out the window? ETSY

Stop it! MALCOLM

SFX: CURTAIN being DRAWN.

Outside. Where is the world outside? It's empty... ETSY

What are you talking about? This is our place. JONAH

Even if we live a million miles away or across the ocean. MONICA

5, 6, 7, 8. BALLET INSTRUCTOR

Come here. JONAH

This is the Dark City. ETSY

This is everything. JONAH

SFX: DIMENSIONAL FALLOUT. CITY GROWING.

Who are you? ETSY

JONAH

This is our home. The place we built together.

ETSY

I touched you, and I saw nothing.

JONAH

(With Void voice) Yes. You know who I am. A single darkness to call your own.

ETSY

There was nothing to see.

JONAH

(With Void voice) You are my only, Etsy. From the moment I was brought into this world...

ETSY

The part of you that was hidden. I see it now. How is this happening?

JONAH

(With Void voice) You gave me purpose.

ETSY

I see it.

JONAH

(With Void voice) You gave me life...

ETSY

I see you.

JONAH

(With Void voice) I just needed to find you.

ETSY

I see past the host you inhabit.

JONAH

Etsy.

ETSY

You're my monster.

JONAH

(With Void voice) You are my only, Etsy.

ETSY

Get out of my head.

JONAH

(With Void voice) I am yours and you are mine...to master, to mold. The closer we become, the more powerful we both are. I know you feel it.

ETSY

Get out...of my head.

JONAH

(With Void voice) We can be everything. This is what we were meant for.

SFX: DIMENSIONAL CRUMBLE

ETSY

No.

JONAH

(With Void voice) Listen to me when I'm speaking to you.

ETSY

I'm done listening.

JONAH

(With Void voice) This is who we are.

ETSY

It isn't who I am. And I will end you.

JONAH

(With Void voice) Not this time.

CLOSING SEQUENCE