

UNCLE GRAVELY THEME

UNCLE GRAVELY

Hello, join me won't you? I'm your dear Uncle Gravely, and this is my SPOOKY HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!

FX: LIGHTNING

UNCLE GRAVELY (CONT'D)

Oooohhhhhh! I have all sorts of treats lined up for you tonight. All to celebrate the most morbidly macabre menagerie of ghouls, goblins, and girls dressed like Harley Quinn. I love this time of year, the chill in the air, the dead leaves, the new season of Kevin Can Wait, but fall is never complete without a spooky story. And boy, do I have a whopper for you tonight. And maybe even a few surprises and special guests, oooohh who could they be?! Are you dying to know? Well too bad, because I'm dying to start my story, also I'm dying from kidney failure so if anyone out there's a donor, give me a call. But for now... turn down those lights, huddle for warmth, and grab something sweet from that candy bag, maybe a spiced gumdrop... or a NERD'S ROPE! It's with fearsome glee that I present to you... The Gramble!

Kennedy Roundhouse's familiar sax music plays.

Ken

The thing about living on the moon is: It's always dark. They keep the lights on, but that black sky is always in the corner of your eye. People say on old Earth, there was no sight more breathtaking than a sunset. People who like that kind of rhetorical nonsense have never seen Lin, wrapped in stark Earthlight and not much else. She even makes my

dime-store bed look classy. Wish I could stay here all morning and watch her doze, but I got a case, and rent's due.

Ken gets walks to the front door and opens it, we here the distant police sirens of a troubled city.

Lin

Ken? Where are you going? It's early...

Ken

Sorry Lin, got a call, got a case.

Lin

A case of the shakes, maybe. Come back to bed.

Ken

Next time, kid. Don't forget to lock the door when you go.

Lin

Of course. Someone might walk right in and steal a closet full of dirty shirts.

Ken

Go back to sleep, if the case turns out to be nothing I'll rush right back and you can let me know what else in my flat you think is dirty.

Lin (sleepy)

You silver tongued devil.

Ken closes the door, she's on the street now.

Ken

She'll be gone long before I get home. Sometimes she is. Sometimes she's not. Besides, this case isn't nothing. This case is big. Big money. I got a call from the tippy top. Which means I'll have a long way to fall if I lose. Could be a setup for all I know. The call I got was from the last person who would ever ask for my help.

Bzzzzz.

Kat
Councilman Kingsley's residence, can I help you?

Ken
I was summoned.

Kat
Name?

Ken
Damn it, Kat you know who it is. Open up.

Kat
The councilmen will see you now.

Bzzzz, the door opens.

Kat
Follow me, please.

Footsteps. The parlour door slides open. A fire crackles, the prisoner song plays quietly.

Kat
Kennedy Roundhouse.

Kingsley
Thank you, dear.

She leaves. Ken walks into the room.

Ken
Councilman Kingsley, I gotta admit, I'm not really sure how to talk to you without being adversarial.

Kingsley
Then you may proceed with the restrained hostility reserved for the denizens of the lower class who think they don't belong there.

Ken (vo)

That didn't take long. Maybe my usual tactic of open hostility right out of the gate didn't help, but he's the one who called me, if this is some kind of setup he wouldn't-

Entering from an opening door.

DeWhitt

Kinglsey, you should know by now if You don't keep Ms Roundhouse constantly talking she falls into one of her dead eyed stupours.

Ken

DeWhitt. You guys getting the band back together, or am I having a nightmare? Am I gonna find myself standing in a crater with the two of you before I wake up?

Kinglsey

Without the so called 'moon-dream' I doubt you'd have imagination enough to dream about anything more than booze and button-stitching.

Ken

Watch it, Kinglsey!

DeWhitt

Stand down, Kingsley, we asked Ms Roundhouse here for our aid. Let's try to keep the insults to only one every minute or so.

Kingsley

Quite right, old man. I humbly apologize. Let's get right to it. Have you ever heard of GRAMBLE?

Ken

GRAMBLE? Not ringing any bells. What is it?

DeWhitt

Let's take a different trajectory for a moment. GRAMBLE is an object, an object of great value to the council. We are authorized to offer you a good deal of money if you can locate it for us, with a healthy degree of surreptitiousness.

Ken

I like a good deal of money, and my middle name is surreptitious. But for money and secrecy you can get any eye you want on this. I think you want me because I'm disreputable enough that you can have culpable deniability if I screw up.

DeWhitt

Quite right.

Ken

I just want to make sure we're all in the same orbit here. How much money does a quiet eye get these days?

Kingsley

10,000.

Ken

Blues?

DeWhitt

Green.

Ken

Pfft, greenbacks. Make it blue backs and I'm in.

DeWhitt

You're in even if we offer you 1,000 green. Let's not pretend this is a negotiation, if you're not seriously interested in that still rather hefty sum, then you may leave.

(beat)

DeWhitt

Very well then.

Ken

So what's GRAMBLE?

Kingsley

We can't say.

Ken
That'll make finding it harder.

Kingsley
Here's what we can tell you. Our sources--

DeWhitt
Careful Kingsley.

Kingsley
Settle down, settle down. Our sources have led us to believe GRAMBLE is very valuable. It's a bright red cylinder. Small. Light weight. We want
wants inside

Ken
Which is?

DeWhitt
I hope you've got a good memory. I'm going to play for your a recording of our only description.

Ken
This your source?

DeWhitt
This is Councilman Yaeger. He received the...let's call it a transmission, of sorts. Listen.

DeWhitt stops the record player. He puts a new record on.

Dean Yaeger
...Rare and powerful. It comes from far away, another planet, they think. Raided by pirates in a distant part of our own galaxy. Find the red cylinder. Light as a feather. We also received the words "Get GRAMBLE. Do it now. Hurry up and get the GRAMBLE."

Ken
You boys aren't making this easy on me.

Kingsley

That's what the 10,000 is for. We'll give you half now, for expenses and as retainer. This can't be connected to us. Leave our names out of it.

DeWhitt

Stay the course. We will have many eyes on you, Ms Roundhouse.

Transition noises. The very faint sound of an eye in a crater. Ken's walking again.

Ken

The good news is this probably isn't the worst case I've gotten. The bad news is I drink away most of my memories so I can't be sure. Lucky for me and my clear-eyed headache, my next stop is a bar. I think I know someone who can point me in the right direction. It's not quite playing by the rules, but it's not quite cheating either. Course I gotta hit up a bar a little classier than I usually like. Or at least, it doesn't usually like me. But my connection sings there most nights, so I drag myself to Cosmic Ray's Lunar Lounge...

Transition noises. Ken's in a fancy night club loung. A beautiful voice is singing with a classy piano backing her up.

Mandy

(sing's the martian crooner song. lyrics to be inserted.)

Ken

Tonight she's Mandy Licks, Lunar Lounge singer. But during the day she's Mandy DeWhitt. Councilman DeWhitt's trophy wife. She's got a soft spot for me and a taste for rebellion. If anyone can give me a whiff of what or where GRAMBLE is, it's her.

Mandy

Thank you, my moon darlings. That's an old Martian classic. Now it's time for my favorite part of the show--I'm getting a drink. (rimshot. the crowd laughs) But I'll be back after one or two litte ones. I gotta keep an eye on my girlish figure. Last year I had so many Frozen Earthshine's I had to loosen my astroid belt. (rimshot. People laugh and groan at the joke) Take it away, Astro.

Astro starts playing light lounge music on the piano. Mandy walks to the bar.

Mandy
Martini, Ray. Dirty.

Ken
You sure know how to order a drink, Mandy.

Mandy
Hello, Big Eyes. Don't see you in here too often. Have the stars aligned, and you're here to try and wisk me away from my life as a glamorously kept woman?

Ken
You think I could talk you into running away with me?

Mandy
I think it would be fun to see you try. But I would bet half the chits in my jar that you're here because my husband just got done dangling a chunk of taxpayer money in front of you.

Ken(vo)
Mandy always knew how to play the game. It's my genuine pleasure trying to keep up

Ken
Guilty. What can you tell me about GRAMBLE?

Mandy
Not much. Some hot new toy the council is after. They don't even know what it is.

Ken
They implied it was a secret. Should have figured they were lying.

Mandy
That's men for you.

Ken

Or at least politicians. I stay away from either when I can help it.

Mandy
Lucky me.

Ken
What do you know about pirates from another planet?

Mandy
Think I can help you there. I know a woman who makes a habit of stowing away on ships. She likes to travel, you know?

Ken
Think she knows about my pirates?

Mandy
I think she knows more than you do about them. And that's a start.

Ken
What'll it cost me to get name?

Mandy
I'm feeling nostalgic. Stay for a drink and she's all yours.

Ken (vo)
A bargain at half the price.

Ken
Anything for you.

Mandy
Ray, another martini for me. And a glass of the strongest stuff you got for my friend here.

Ken
Make it a double, Ray.

Mandy
Fresh. When you leave, head to the docks. A ship is leaving tonight. Check the baggage storage area. You'll see a team of robots loading

up, and one woman, milling around trying to look invisible. That's her.

Ken
You're the best.

Mandy
Don't I know it, Big Eyes.

Ken
What's the name of the ship?

Mandy
The Saratoga.

Unce Gravely
Oh ho hoo! things are certainly heating up for our young hero. How about we let things cool off a moment while I teach you how to make the famous Uncle Gravely jacko-lantern! First things first, you need a pumpkin and a very sharp knife. Next make an incision right around the pumpkin's butthole--

FX: DOORBELL

UNCLE GRAVELY (CONT'D)
Trick or treaters! Oh I love trick or treaters, let's see who it is.

FX: DOOR CREAK

PAUL LYNDE
Trick or treat! I'm a spooky ghost.

UNCLE GRAVELY
Why, that's no trick or treater, that's my good friend, Paul Lynde!

PAUL LYNDE
Uncle Gravely, you are an absolute fright. And I should know, I've been dead for thirty years! (laugh)

UNCLE GRAVELY

Come in, come in. Of all the
celebrity spirits I know, you are
without a doubt, one of them.

PAUL LYNDE

Such biting wit, that's why I love
you, you old sack of bones.

UNCLE GRAVELY

And fluids. Now Paul, what are you
dressed as this Halloween?

PAUL LYNDE

The scariest thing I could think
of, Richard Nixon's prostate!
(laugh)

UNCLE GRAVELY

So topical, how lovely. Do you want
to carve a jack-o-lantern with me?

PAUL LYNDE

Why, Uncie Grave's, it'd be a
pleasure.

UNCLE GRAVELY

Great, now that we've cut off the
top, it's time to scoop out the
seeds.

PAUL LYNDE

Sounds like Agnes Moorehead's
hysterectomy! (laugh)

UNCLE GRAVELY

What makes my jack-o-lanterns
famous is the patented Uncle
Gravelly eyes. I carve spooky skulls
into the pupils.

PAUL LYNDE

What makes my jack-o-lanterns
famous is I fill them with about a
fifth of gin. (laugh) And a twist

of lime. I call it a Lynde-olantern.
(laugh)

UNCLE GRAVELY

It's been so great having you,
Paul, but it's time you headed back
to that ghostly plain so we can get
back to our story.

PAUL LYNDE

Fine, Gravesly, but before I go,
what do you call a wolfman in a
hottub?

UNCLE GRAVELY

I don't know, what do you call--

PAUL LYNDE

A good way to spend a Saturday
night! (laugh)

FX: DOOR SLAMS!

UNCLE GRAVELY

Great. Let's get back to our
frightening tale. Here's the next
spine-tingling installment... of
the Gramble.

Drinks clink. Transission noises. We're on the street now.

Ken

The Saratoga. I've heard of it. Spatial Planetary Union ship. Top of the
line. I've never danced with the SPEW. To hot for my blood. Never been
off this rock, either. In over your head again, Roundhouse. Lucky for
me, I know a couple guys who can throw me a life preserver...

Transission noises.

Atende

Vince, look what's landing on our platform.

Vince

Kennedy Roundhouse. As I stand and struggle for breath.

Ken

You two still cheating people with loaded dice?

Atende

Cops took away our three card moony table.

Vince

You have the look of woman lost and in need of wisdom.

Atende

She always looks like that.

Ken

I only come to you boys when I need a light in the forest.

Atende

How can we illuminate you tonight?

Ken

Short version: Something called GRAMBLE, pirates from outer space,
and the Saratoga.

Vince

You gonna poke the SPEW? You're moving up in the world.

Atende

THE GRAMBLE?

GRAMBLE MUSIC

Ken

You know it?

Atende

Old story.

Vince

More of a con-man's prayer.

Atende

Some kind of good luck charm. Supposably it's an old Martian artifact.
Hidden for years 'cause it's as red as the dust. Changes probability,
reads thoughts.

Ken

A lucky charm from Mars?

Vince

So it goes.

Ken

Doesn't quite add up. What can you tell me about the Saratoga?

Vince

Not much. Military ship. Top of the line. Self tesseracting core.
Supposably it's not like other ships. It's a little...funny.

Ken

Hm. I meeting a woman tonight at the docks. Likes to sneak into ships
and hop around. Any ideas?

Vince/Atende

Arliana

Ken(vo)

These boys never let me down.

Atende

Careful around her. She's one of those activist types.

Vince

Get's burned up fast. Tougher than she looks.

Ken

I'll keep an eye on her. Thanks fella's. Don't let the beat keep you
down.

Transition noises. We on the train now.

Ken

I shoulda kicked the boy's a few green for the tips. But I don't want to set a precedent. Plus I need the money for my hobbies.

Bottle opens. She drinks.

Ken

An activist ship hopper. Takes all kinds. What does the council want with a lucky charm? You don't need luck at a poker game when you own the casino. I don't feel like I'm getting closer to anything except the docks. I need answers. I need a lead. Right now a filthy apartment with Lin and a bottle almost seems worth turning down 10,000 greenback. Almost.

She drinks again. Train transission noises. We're at the docks now. Wind blows. A voice making announcements over a speaker system can be heard indistinctly in the background. Ken walks through the dust toward some clanky robots.

Ken(vo)

There she is. Right in the middle of a team of maintenance robots, trying her best to look like she's supervising them. She's a looker too. Long black hair.

Ken

'Scuse me, miss.

Arli

This is a restricted area, ma'am. Ticket holders have to board the ship at the main dock. Down that way.

Ken

Not a ticket holder.

Arli

I'm sorry, I got a job to do here. If you don't head back I'm going to have to call security.

Ken

No, no, no. Don't threaten to call security, Arliana. You don't even know what I want. Maybe I just need to know where the bathroom is. Maybe I AM security. You jump straight to that you're gonna yourself caught. Then how are you gonna sneak onto that big fancy ship?

Arli

I...ah...what-who are you??

Ken

I'm Kennedy Roundhouse. A friend said you might be able to give me some information.

Arli

What friend

Ken

I don't give up my sources. Sorry, dollface.

Arli

You a reporter or a private dick?

Ken(vo)

Boys were right. Let a pretty face distract me and she saw right through me.

Ken

I was a reporter. Now I'm a private eye.

Arli

Okay. What do you want?

Ken

Heard some space pirates took something I'm looking for. Heard you might know something about them.

Arli

I know something about a lot of things. You want to ask me something specific or should I just guess till I get it right?

Ken

Any pirates nearby? Maybe recently? Maybe carrying something special?

Arli

No. The pirates spend all their time in Dogless Space. They mostly just steal from each other. The SPU takes them down if they enter normal space.

Ken (vo)

Damn. I shouldn't mention the GRAMBLE. I don't know her and the less everyone else knows the more I do. But it's the last card I have to play. And I'm a sucker for long black hair.

Ken

You ever heard of a Martian Artifact called a GRAMBLE.

GRAMBLE MUSIC

Arli (scared)

What?

Ken

It's some kind of good luck charm. Red tube?

Arli

GRAMBLE is not a Martian artifact. GRAMBLE is a military mission. Top Secret. It's a desperate suicide run for unmanned starships to self destruct in Giest Space.

Ken

How can an unmanned mission be a suicide run?

Steam vents from cooling tower. A soft alarm klaxons. A distant countdown.

Arli

Damn! The ship's leaving. Good luck Cathy.

Ken

Kennedy

Arli

Fine. I need to sneak aboard. The GRAMBLE mission plans are stored in the computer banks. I need to stop them.

Ken

GRAMBLE is on that ship??

Arli

Yes!

Ken

Can you get me on board?

Arli

I don't have time for tourists.

Ken

Help me sneak in or I'll tell security on you.

Arli

You'll TELL ON ME?

Ken

Thems the breaks, doll.

Arli

Hell. Fine. Keep up. We gotta crawl into the fuel vents and get into the air duct system.

Ken

Lead the way.

They run through the dust as the ships engines charge up and the countdown finishes. Transition noises. Efforts and grunts as they wiggle through metal ducts.

Ken

You do this all the time?

Arli
Sometimes you can sneak in with the crew. This is safer.

Ken
Why not just buy a passenger ticket?

Arli
I don't like leaving a paper trail.

Ken(vo)
I think I'm in love.

Arli
Here!

She pops the vent out and it clatters to the floor. They shuffle out.

Ken
Where are we?

Arli
Bottom of the ship. Maintenance levels, infirmary, some lifeboats.

Ken
Where's the ship's mainframe? I need to get GRAMBLE.

Arli
The mainframe is everywhere? Because...wifi?

Ken
Oh.

Arli
Not really a computer person, huh?

Ken
Don't really use them on the moon.

Arli pulls out a device that ping and boops.

Arli

I noticed. I use this to piggyback into the system and cloak the signal. The program has to run for a bit to get through all the security systems without calling attention to it self.

Ken

So...we just...wait here?

Arli

Mm-hmm.

Ken

And what are we gonna do to pass the time, Big Eyes?

Arli

I really don't think you can use cheap lines like that outside the ships bar.

Ken

...there's a bar?

Arli

Yeah, at the front of the ship.

Beat.

Ken rushes out through an automatic door.

Arli (calling after her)
What about GRAMBLE?

Ken (distant)
Back soon!

The door closes. Transition noises. We're in the bar now. The automatic doors hiss open.

Ken (vo)

What I love about bars is they're always bars. Even on the fanciest ship in the fleet, it's home. The chattering crowd, the mirror lined shelves

behind the barstools, Nicky...

Ken
Nicky??

Nicky
Kennedy! The usual, as usual?

Ken
What the beautiful living hell are you doing here?

Nicky
Got a seasonal gig here. Sometimes I earthlight as a bartender for cruises and the like. This goverment job pays ol' Nicky pretty good.

Ken
Oh. Okay. Stack me up, Nicky.

Nicky
You got it.

Drinks are stacked.

Nicky
What brings you to the Saratoga, Kennedy Roundhouse?

Ken
Workin' a case. Maybe you can fill in some blanks?

Nicky
Hang on, Ken. What can I get for you sir?

Geist
We require a full glass of gin...with tonics inside.
up. Anything for your friend?

Go-Over Alien
Filling within cannot remain as poisons. Poisons inside.

Nicky

Club soda it is.

Go-Over Alien
Go Over.

Nicky
No problem. There you go, boys.

Geist
These are acceptable!

Nicky
G & T, coming
They leave with their drinks.

Ken (vo)
You get all kinds on these passenger voyages. Aliens, Humans from all over. It's a real mixer.

In the background you can hear the couple from Host having a conversation briefly having a conversation about 'Stand Ashore Timeless'

Ken (vo)
That's why I like my bars dived.

Nicky
Ken? Moon to Ken, come in.

Ken(vo)
Right.

Ken
I'm looking for something called GRAMBLE, but I'm getting the runaround. Know anything about it?

GRAMBLE MUSIC

Nicky
What have you heard?

Ken

Heard a few things. Supposedly stolen by pirates in Dogless Space. Maybe a Martian artifact. Military operation, even. And the phrase "Get the GRAMBLE. Do it now. Hurry up and get the GRAMBLE."

Nicky

I don't know from pirates. But...(lowers voice) the SPU folks were in here after hours.

Ken

What have you got for me Nick?

Galen on PA

This is your captain speaking, Saratoga, we want to thank our commercial passengers for joining us on...(indistinct as Nicky keeps talking)

Nicky

Heard some of the brass, a captain Vasquez talking about it late last night. Some kind of misinformation op. Trying to flush out terrorists. That's why they're shuttleing passengers to and from the moon.

Ken

GRAMBLE is a sham? A sting?

Ken(vo)

That's queer. Kingsley and DeWhitt pick up on a military transmission? Or is this a coincidence? The SPEW is after terrorists, why would the council give a damn about-

Ken

It's a trap!

Nick

Shh! Yeah. That's the idea.

Ken

They're after Arli!

She runs off.

Nick (calling after her)
Ken you gotta pay for your drink! This isn't...ugh... .

Galen on PA
...hope you're all comfortable inside Sara.

Transition noises. Ken is running down the halls.

Ken(vo)
I don't like to think about what happens to Arli if the SPEW gets her.
Damn. I hope I get to her before they do.

Adam
Over here!

Andy
Grab her, Bright Eyes!

Bright Eyes
Grr gRRR GRrr

Arli
Damn it! Let me GO! I haven't done anything!

Ken stops running.

Ken (vo)
Damn.

Adam
We tracked your remote syphon the second you brought it on board.

Andy
We built this ship. We know everything that goes on here.

Adam
It's the brig for you, terrorist. Bright Eyes, take her away.

Bright Eye
GGrr Rrg grggr

Arli
You can't stop the Naked Singularity! We are everywhere!
EVERYWHERE!

She's dragged off.

Ken(vo)
Sorry, doll face. Caught red handed. Maybe I could-

Adam
Hey! Who are you?

Ken
Oh! Hey fellas, I'm a little lost. Got turned around looking for the
bathroom.

Adam
Uh-huh. So you came to th subbasement?

Ken
Yeah. I'm stupid like that. Point me in the right direction.

Adam
What's your name? Let's see your ticket.

Ken
I'm Heather Oswald, I work at the bar. You can ask Nicky about me.

Andy
I think you better wait here till our head of security checks you out.
He's already on his way.

Ken
Hey guys, I just need to pee, know what I mean? I'll find my own way.

Felder
Why am I not surprised to see you here, Roundhouse?

Ken(vo)
Felder.

Felder
Gentlemen, what she doing here?

Andy
We're not sure. She says she works at the bar.

Adam
Says her names' Heather Oswald.

Felder
This is Kennedy Roundhouse, and if she's here she's up to no good.
Was she working with the terrorist?

Andy
No sir, Bright Eyes has taken her to the brig. She came in after.

Felder
I hate that robot. Launch it, Roundhouse.

Ken
Hey I just follow where my bartender goes. What are you, rent a cop for
a cruise ship now?

Felder
The Spacial Planetary Union has teamed with Lunar Police in a top
secret operation. They sent their best man.

Ken
Their BEST man?? These two guys caught Arliana, and they look like
engineers to me. YOU just showed up after they called you. Don't pat
yourself on the back too hard.

Felder
You wanna tell me how you know the name of the woman I just
arrested?

Ken(vo)
Damn it Roundhouse.

Ken
Yeah I can probably do that. See, when I got down here-*KELLY
'ZZZZZZ' NOISE*

She shoves felder and runs.

Ken(vo)
Not the most elegant solution but I'm pretty sure GRAMBLE isn't in that
jail cell with Arliana.

Red alert!

Galen on PA
This is your captain speaking. There is a stowaway on board. Bright
Eyes, report to the lower decks and assist Lunar Police in capturing
her!

Ken
Damn! Now I'm in a real tight spot AND my cover's blown. Not sure
how I'm getting out of this one.

Galen on PA
Security, the position of the stowaway is the sub basement, section
SW-1. Near the life boats. Two lefts and a right to the life boats.

Ken
That's very specific. I get that feeling in my guts and pull my gloves
tighter on my hands. I take two lefts and a right. Lifeboats! Is it
possible the captain is...helping me?

Click click. distant footsteps coming. Bright Eyes growling.

Ken
No. The doors security locked. I'm stuck.

Suddenly the door hisses open.

Ken
Or maybe not.

She hops in. The door closes right as Felder arrives.

Felder
Kennedy Roundh-

He's silenced by the airlock door hissing closed.

Ken(out loud)
Great. Only I don't know how to fly this thing.

Sara (who will be speaking through a speaker so she sounds different
from Ken)
I do.

Ken
AAH! Who's there?

Sara
Hi, I'm Sara. I'm the ship, it's nice to meet you!

Ken
Uh, Hi...ship. I'm Kennedy.

Sara
I know. Nicky told me. He's working with Arli, Andy, and Adam I'm
gonna get you out of here, okay?

Ken
Working with Arli? At the bar?

Sara
No. Hold on.

LAUNCH! The life boat is away!

Sara
We're trying to free as many of my sister ships from military slavery as

we can. Arli's going to find her cell door unlocked tonight and she'll escape on another life boat.

Ken (vo)
Should have stayed with Lin.

Ken
Okay, good luck with that.

Sara (starting to break up)
Thanks! Soon you're going to be out of range of my underground radio signal. Where would you like me to program the ship to land?

Ken
You've been around the galaxy, know anything about Pirates and GRAMBLE?

GRAMBLE MUSIC

Sara (breaking up more)
GRAMBLE? Like the animal?

Ken
I don't know.

Sara (breaking still)
I know some people like to hunt GRAMBLES. They're big and can fly so it's tough.

Ken
GRAMBLE is a monster now, huh. I could see the council benefitting a lot from having an on call flying monster.

Sara (breaking worse)
Not much time now. Better hurry.

Ken
Know anyone who can get me to a GRAMBLE?

Sara (barely here)

I know of a man who can help you hunt one down. Landing sequence programmed. Good...luck..

Ken
Thanks, ship.

Ken(vo)
GRAMBLE, GRAMBLE, GRAMBLE. Everyone has an answer and none of them add up. A good luck charm, an monster, and military plan in a civil war? At least I know Arli's going to be okay. Because she's friends with a spaceship, apparently.

She pops her flask and takes a swig.

Ken(vo)
This one's making me miss the quiet headache of a family case.

UNCLE GRAVELY
Are you sufficiently spooked yet?
No? Well good because there's so
much more scary story left. But
first, I want to introduce someone.
It's my cousin Orson.

ORSON
Hello children, or whoever.

UNCLE GRAVELY
He's staying with me while his
condo is being fumigated.

ORSON
The moral of the story, silverfish
like Ritz crackers.

UNCLE GRAVELY
You have something prepared for us.

ORSON
Yes yes, what is this thing?

UNCLE GRAVELY
It's my Halloween Special. I'm

telling one of my scary stories of
fright!

ORSON

Right, okay, well, as I'm sure
everyone knows, I am a classically
trained thespian.

UNCLE GRAVELY

They just met you.

ORSON

So tonight, as a real treat, I am
going to perform the Edgar Allan
Poe tale, The Masque of the Red
Death. In it's entirety!

UNCLE GRAVELY

How long is that?

ORSON

Twenty to forty-five minutes,
depending on how winded I get.

UNCLE GRAVELY

But, we have to get back to MY
scary story.

ORSON

(over-acting)

The "Red Death" had long devastated
the country. No pestilence had ever
been so fatal, or so hideous. Blood
was its Avatar and its seal--the
redness and the horror of blood.

UNCLE GRAVELY

(talking over Orson)

Okay, now we must be moving--

ORSON

There were sharp pains, and sudden
dizziness, and then profuse
bleeding at the pores, with
dissolution. The scarlet stains
upon the body and especially upon

the face of the victim,
were the pest ban which shut
him out from the aid and from
the sympathy of his fellowmen.
And the whole seizure,
progress and termination of
the disease, were the
incidents of half an hour.
But the Prince Prospero was
happy and dauntless and
sagacious.

UNCLE GRAVELY

He practiced this in the
bathroom last night. I was
forced to relieve myself in
the backyard, but now I can't
remember where. Should make
for a spooky scavenger hunt.
I'm going to let me keep
going while we get back to
our haunting tale, The
Gramble

Transition noises. The ship lands.

Ken

I haven't been to Earth before. So I wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't
expect what I saw through the port hole.

The life boat door opens. Synth music pours in. The wind blows.

Ken(vo)

I nearly go blind. I've never seen this much light before. Not much to
look at though. Sand in every direction. I left the moon for this?

Sand Whale noises.

Ken(vo)

What's that? Is that GRAMBLE maybe?

Louder sand whale noises.

Ken(vo)

I don't like whatever it is. I'm thinking maybe this case is too hot, like the desert i'm stuck in. I'm thinking maybe I'll take my chances with the lifeboat.

Southern Mark
ExcUSE us.

Ken
Yeah?

Pilar
You almost landed your ship right on top of us.

Ken
Oh, sorry. It was on autopilot.

Southern Mark
Got no business flyin' around a spaceship you can't fly.

Ken
Sure. You know what that is?

Southern Mark
What what is?

Sand whale noise.

Pilar
No, I have no idea. It's weird is what it is. How come Earth is all weird now?

Southern Mark
That goofy music playin all the time. Where's that even comin from?

Ken
Is that unusual? This is my first time on Earth.

Pilar

Yes! It's so weird. I'm trying to get back to New Orleans.

Southern Mark

First time on Earth? Where you come from, outer space too? You look like you're from earth.

Ken

The Moon.

Southern Mark

Not from Earth enough. You know, I don't think them aliens dropped us off at the right planet.

Pilar

Poor Rooster.

Ken(vo)

These two don't sound like they can help me.

Southern Mark

Take us all the way into space, and can't even return us to the right planet.

Pilar

Rooster's my cat. I'm trying to get back to make sure he's safe. These alien guys took us.

Southern Mark

Took damn near everyone.

Pilar

It was a whole thing. Do you know the way to New Orleans.

Ken

No.

Southern Mark

You hear that?

Distantly, a cruiser whine.

Ken
What is that?

Pilar
There! It's like a...floating minivan or something.

It get's louder. Suddenly a space cruiser whines up. The door pops open.

Mil
Ho there!

John
Excuse me friends, but you're in terrible danger!

Ken
Usually.

SAND WHALE ATTACK! Ken screams! Mark screams! Pilar screams! The whale burbles! Mark and Pilar get fucking eaten! Mark yells BEAUTIFUL LIVING HELL. John JUMPS to action and lazer spears it to death!

Mil
Are you okay?

Ken
Not a scratch on me.

John
I'm sorry about your friends. The destert seas are harsh. Cruel.

Ken
That's okay. I just met them. Pretty sure they were in the wrong place anyway.

John
What are you doing out in the sand seas, with only an overcoat and gloves to protect you from the beasts?

Ken

A...friend..sent me here. She said I could find someone who can help me find something I'm looking for.

John

And what are you looking for?

Ken

GRAMBLE.

John

Hmm...Strange word. What is it?

Ken

Not sure. My latest lead is that it's some kind of flying monster. That's why I got sent here.

John

Could that be Anuk?

Mil

Hmm he goes by many names, but I do not know that one.

Ken

What about "Get the GRAMBLE. Do it now. Hurry up and get the GRAMBLE." Sound familiar?

John

No.

Mil

An old nursery rhyme, perhaps?

John

What do you want with your GRAMBLE.

Ken (vo)

Careful Ken. These guys look tough. These guys don't look like they'd take to kindly to me taking this 'Anuk' back to the moon with me. Or telling the counsel where they can find it. Gotta play my cards

straight...gotta make sure-

John

What's wrong with her?

Mil

She seems deep in thought. Meditating perhaps?

John

Maybe she has sun sickness.

Ken(vo)

-matter where I go or what I do, I'm the one who comes out on top. I tighten my gloves again. Gotta use a light touch. Moon rules are right out the window, baby and all.

Ken

I'm an explorer. I'm writing a book about my travels and heard about this mysterious GRAMBLE. Thought it would make for a good chapter. The name's Heather Oswald.

John (concerned for her health)

I am John Savage. This is my partner Mil.

Mil

At your service.

John

Come into our cruiser. We'll share our water and boar meat with you.

Ken

Water, huh? Usually I only drink water to drown out my dry mouth every morning. But this heat's telling me not to argue with you boys.

Transition noises. The cruiser speeds off.

Mil

You're in luck, friend Heather. We are friends with Anuk. If you wish we can take you to him.

John

That should make for a whole chapter of your book, ay?

Ken

Perfect.

The cruiser speeds off. Transition noises. We're at the cave now. In Anuk's castle.

Anuk

The sun rises and sets 1000 times. The winds and sands blast mountains down to hills, down to nothing. Even Anuk the Tenth expires and his bones bleach then crumble. All this will happen, then a millions more years will pass and you will STILL BE SITTING THERE WAITING TO MAKE YOUR MOVE!

Queen

I have a full hour before I am required to move. This was what we agreed to.

Anuk

You're obviously stalling. You have no choice. You can see it as plain as me. You have to move your back row.

Queen

If I move my back row you'll be able to move in and I'll have to king you!

Anuk

Then move this piece here or this piece here!

Queen

You'll jump either of those pieces if I move them!

ANUK

THEN YOU MUST MOVE YOUR BACK ROW!

Queen

I still have 45 minutes to decide what I'm doing! Honor the ancient rules of checkers!

Anuk
grumble grumble

The cruiser whines up. The cockpit pops open.

John
Ho there, Anuk!

Anuk
Ho! This mut-ant is wasting my powerful time with her dithering.
Perhaps my spider friends will entertain me for an after noon.

Queen
Rules are rules!

Mil
I see she has not changed her ways. How is the match going?

Queen
Wretched.

Mil
You need to move your back row to avoid losing a man.

Queen
I have 45 minutes to decide!

John
Anuk, we found this one out in the desert trying to get eaten by the
sand whales. This is Heather Oswald. She comes from very far away
just to meet you.

Anuk
I am not surprised. I am very impressive to behold. Hello, tiny spider.

Ken (vo)
If this thing is GRAMBLE, DeWhitt can keep his money. I may not shy
away from a punch, but this is a dragon. This is a dragon. This. Is. A.
Dragon. No way I can take this thing back to the moon.

A nuk
What's wrong with her?

Mil
Sun sickness.

Ken
Ahh...uh hello. I'm...writing a book. I was hoping you could tell me about yourself. If it's you I'm looking for. Does the word GRAMBLE mean anything to you?

A nuk
Hm m m m m. No. No that's a nonsense word. You sound ridiculous when you say it.

Ken
So you're not GRAMBLE.

A nuk
HAW HAW HAW! No! I am anuk the tenth! SLIMEY KING OF THE SAND!

John
Still, your book I'm sure, could use a chapter about the dragon king?

Ken
Why not?

Queen
Oh she's not writing any book!

John/Mil
What?

Ken
What?

Queen
Her names not even Oswald. It's Roundhouse. Kennedy Roundhosue. She's a detective looking for GRAMBLE so she can take it to the moon

and sell it.

Ken
How the hell do you know all that?

Ken(vo)
DeWitt and Kingsley. She's working for them. She's one of the eyes
they said would be watching-

Queen
No no no. I can read minds.

Ken
read minds?

Queen
I am Queen Judge Krastick! I'm a mutant, you silly child.

Anuk
You came to take Anuk the 10th like some meager bounty??

Ken
Well...technically no. I came for GRAMBLE.

John
In the desert, .

Mil
Not a woman of honor, I can see now.

Ken
I never said I was!

Queen
I know where you can find your GRAMBLE, Middle-Woman.

Ken(vo)
I look at her. Hard. She's blue and bald and has a massive head. But I
don't see a lie behind those red eyes. I feel like taking my ball and
going home, but if this can finally be the end of my case...10,000 is a

lotta nights at an expensive hotel with Lin, or maybe Mandy. Gotta chance it.

Ken
Why would you help me?

Queen
Because I can every single one of your ridiculous, bombastic thoughts!
Inane and flowery! I want you away from me so I can focus on my game in peace!

Ken
fair enough. Launch it.

Queen
That sort of thing is exactly what I'm talking about. You need to go to Palms Iron. There's a man with a machine that lets him pass between reality and other places. He can find anything. Almost.

Ken
Need a name, Queeny.

Queen.
Ugh. Brooks. Benjamin Brooks. Now go. I only have 39 minutes left!

Ken
Thanks. Boys, how 'bout a ride to this Palms Springs place?

John
Palms IRON. And you have deceived us. We will take you nowhere.

Ken
Oh don't be like that. It's just a little bloody nose, don't get dramatic about it. What am I supposed to do, live in this cave with the giant monster?

Mil
We will take you back to your aircraft. From there you may do as you wish.

Ken(vo)

Damn. Played it all wrong this time Roundhouse. Closer than ever to GRAMBLE but with a couple of local rubes who don't take kindly to have the wool pulled-

Queen

BEAUTIFUL LIVING HELL! Anuk will you please take this woman to the city so I don't have to listen to her nonsense?

Anuk

ANUK IS NOT A TAXI OR FERRY WHISKING ANTS TO AND FRO!

Queen

I will move my back row if you go right now.

Anuk

HA! Come tiny ant!

Ken

Do what now?

Anuk

Come!

Anuk grabs her and BOOMS into the air, wings flapping. Kennedy screaming.

Mil

What a strange sort of person.

Queen

Good riddance.

John

When you and Anuk finish, John Savage will play winner.

Kennedy yells. It's very windy. Anuks wings flap.

Ken(vo)

Flying over the desert of Old Earth, being carried by a talking dragon

has a way of focusing the mind. I'm just glad I brought my flask.

Ken

Hey buddy, I hope you're not sore about me showing up to sell to back on the moon.

Anuk

Haw! Little spider, Anuk was never in any danger from you. I would have crushed you without hesitating and would not even remember you tomorrow.

Ken

Right. No hard feelings then.

Anuk

HAW HAW HAW!

Ken

You know where you're going, right?

Anuk

I know the way to Palms Iron well! I was once obsessed with it's destruction. I wanted it's power crystals for my own. But they built their wall, and keep the solar gems at the top of the high castle, deep inside.

Ken

Yeah I hate when that happens.

Transition noises. We're in the city of Palms Iron. It sounds like whatever it will end up sounding like when we design it in 6 weeks.

Ken(vo)

Palms Iron. A city totally surrounded by an Iron Wall with a heavy domed roof. Feels like I'm back home. Back on the moon. Except every person I see is sick and covered in boils. Just like Mil was. I don't know what's going on down here, but if this is Earth, you can keep it. The moon's the only girl for me. I don't know where to start looking, so I start where at the usual place.

Ken opens a door. We're in the Palms Iron bar, it sounds like Tron again.

Carlo

Welcome to my humble establishment, miss. Come in, come in. What can I offer you?

Ken

Glass of the strongest you got.

Carlo

Right away. A heady draught for the most, if I may say so, striking middle-woman to ever grace my bar.

Ken(vo)

Queen Judge called me middle-woman, too. I decide not to ask. That's not what I'm here to find out.

Ken

Listen, friend-

Carlo

Carlo

Ken

Carlo-

Carlo

Or a girl's name.

(beat)

Ken

Okay. I'm looking for a man called Benjamin Brooks. Know him?

Carlo

Not by name, I'm afraid.

Ken

You'd remember this guy. He has a device let's him pass from this realty to other places. Apparently.

Carlo

Oh him! Yes of course. Strange fellow. Odd voice! A Middle-Man, like yourself. Whyever didn't you just say so?

Ken

Okay, I'll bite. What's a middle-man?

Carlo

A person neither inflicted with the perpetual diseases that kill us or NOR a mutanic overloard who can read our every thoughts, Praise be to them...

Ken

Makes things less clear actually. Know where can I find Brooks?

Carlo

I'm afraid not, m'deary.

Ken

Well, there's other bars. Somone's gotta know where this guy is.
Thanks for the drink.

She leaves. Walking the street again. The soundscape changing for to reflect the different bars she's visiting.

Ken(vo)

Bar after Bar, same story. People have heard of him. No one knows where he is.

Shorss(distant memory)

If I see him I'm gonna rip him in half!

Band(distant)

No but I been keeping an eye out! My dad knew a middle man once...

Ken(vo)

I'll find him though, even if I have to go to every bar in this cased up 'berg.

Sylar
You're looking for Dr Brooks, right?

Ken(snapping out of it)
What? Uh, yeah. Who are you?

Sylar
My name is sylar. Dr Brooks' work requires a lot of hard to find items,
I'm working with him. We have an underground network.

Ken
You run the black market in these parts.

Sylar
Well it WAS an army for revolution, but the city's under new leadership
now so...yeah crime pretty much.

Ken
And how did you hear about me?

Sylar
Word travels fast when a Middle-Woman's in town asking about the
only other Middle-Man who's here. He wants to meet you. Come on.

Ken(vo)
Lucky break, or is she asking me to step across the palm fronds layed
across a hole in the jungle? Could be a trap. But everyone in this city
looks to be on their deathbed anyway. Pretty sure I could tak em on in
a fist fight. I squeeve my gloves.

Ken
Lead the way.

Transition noises. We're with Dr Brooks in his makeshift lab in Palms
Iron. It sounds like his clunky lab. A machine is making a weird
ooOOOoo noise. Ben is tinkering with tools.

Ben
Got to...very nearly...this time it's going to work. It's got to work.

Door opens. Ken and Sylar enter.

Sylar
Dr Brooks

Ben
Sylar! Finally, did you find out where they are? Do you have one?

Sylar
No doctor, we're still looking. But I found the woman who's been asking about.

Ben
Mm? Oh yes! Yes! Come here, come in!

Ken(vo)
This guy's a few something's short of the right number. He's got a mad look in his eye.

Ben
Hello dear, I'm Dr Benjamin Brooks. From the looks of you, you don't belong here anymore than I do.

Ken
That's right, doctor. I hitched a ride from the moon when a freedom fighting starship sent me here to ask about a dragon.

Ben
I see. I see that's...disappointing. Based on the descriptions I thought I had found another proxy-naut. If you've come from no further away than the moon then...

Ken(vo)
Proxy-naut. Everyone on this planet is insane or a literal monster. But this guy...that thing happens in my stomach again. This guy knows something. You know that feeling you get when you wake up 2 seconds before your alarm goes off.

Ben
Do you know Michael Last?

Ken
Never met the guy.

Ben
Damn.

Ken
I'm looking for something called GRAMBLE. I've been getting jerked around a lot trying to find it. I was told Dr Brooks and his miracle machine could find anything.

GRAMBLE MUSIC

Sylar
The GRAMBLE?

Ken
You know what it is?

Sylar
Yeah, it's a dance.

GRAMBLE MUSIC NEEDLE SCRATCH STOPS

Ken
The what?

Sylar
GRAMBLE is a new dance. The young, those who can still move well, do the GRAMBLE in taverns and night clubs.

Ken(vo)
I don't think Kingsley and DeWhitt are looking for the hottest new dance craze to bring the speakeasies on the moon.

The door opens again. Scarfweather enters

Ben
Scarfweather! Have you found anything out about our search?

Scarfwether
No Ben. I went out to buy food.

Ben
Oh. Well where is it?

Scarfwether
The food here seems to be rotten meat covered in flies. So I thought
instead we could eat nothing.

Ben
There's a good man, Scarfwether.

Scarfwether
Uh, who is this?

Sylar
This is the woman who's been asking about us all day.

Ken
Hey.

Scarfwether
Ben, is she...a proxy-naut?

Ben
No, she's from the moon. There was something about a dragon.

Scarfwether
Hi, I'm Felix Scarfwether. Call me Scarfwether.

Ken
That's an unusual name.

Scarfwether
What do they call you?

(beat)

Ken
Kennedy Roundhouse

Scarfweather
Okay. What can we do for you?

Ken
Way my day is going, probably nothing. I'm looking for GRAMBLE.

Scarfweather
Like the dance?

Ken
No. I don't think that's it. It's supposed to be a very lightweight red cylinder. Possibly stolen by pirates from somewhere called Dogless Space.

Ben
Hm, space pirates you say. I had dealings with something like that once. Not here though. Another universe. A silly universe.

Ken
Can you take me there?

Ben
No! No I can't take anyone anywhere! Don't you understand? The machine! It's drained!

Ken
Your uh...reality hopping machine?

Scarfweather
Ben and I designed a small, handheld version of our larger machine. It creates portals between worlds, alternate universes. Like Sliders.

Ken
Okay.

Scarfweather
We were trying to get to the Last universe, to save Micheal-

Ben
Miachael!

Scarweather
But we ran out juice before we got there. Ended up here.

Sylar
The network and I have been trying to help Ben find a new power source for two days. Ben said he would try to find a universe with a cure for our diseases -

Ben
After we find Micheal!

Sylar
After he finds...of course. But no one in the city knows where the power gems are kept. They power everything in the city, but the exact location is a secret to almost all.

Ken
I know where they are.

Ben
You do?

Sylar
How?

Ken
little birdie told me. You help me get GRAMBLE, I can tell you where the batteries for your jump box are.

Ben
Yes! Yes if you get me closer to Michael I will take you across every universe in God's eye to find your GRAMBLE!

Ken
They're at the top of something called the High Castle. Deep inside, sources say.

Sylar
Of course!

Scarweather
What's that?

Sylar
It's the throne room of the Ruler of Palms Iron.

Ken
The "new management" you said turned your revolution into a
unground goodie grab?

Sylar
Yes. The new King isn't cruel like Queen Judge was. He's no mutant.
He's actually a middle-man, like all of you. But he's still not very
friendly. Even gaining an audience would be almost impossible. I can't
imagine he would give us a precious power stone.

Ben
No! We must try!

Ken
Agreed. Lucky for you I'm a private eye. I can talk my way into any
building on the moon.

Scarweather
Moon? Don't you mean Earth?

Ken
Or whatever.

Transition noises. We're in the city, but it's quiet. We're approaching
the castle.

Ken(vo)
Something to be said for rolling with the punches. Sure beats taking a
punch. I'm getting closer to GRAMBLE, whatever it is. "Get the
GRAMBLE. Do it now. Hurry up and get the GRAMBLE." You better

believe I will. Then it's easy living from here on out. But first I gotta do a little song and dance for this guy.

Guard

Ho there! Middle-Woman! State your business!

Ken

I have to see the king.

Guard

No one sees the King! The king is too busy running the city to take meetings every person who comes knocking on his gate.

Ken

It's actually very important. This is serious stuff. It's Middle-people stuff. I got a couple more with me. See over there? Yeah those two.

Guard

Middle-people business?

Ken

Yeah.

Guard

Leave. NOW.

Ken

It's like that, is it? Okay what's your name?

Guard

My name??

Ken

Yeah, when the king messages me pissed off as anything because we left the city and didn't show up for our meeting, I wanna tell him "hey it's not me. It was what's his face, downstairs"

Guard

Your meeting...he's expecting you?

Ken

Yes, yes, yes. Please try to keep up. I know I'm telling you upwards of 3 things here but I need your focus. We're here for a meeting with the king.

Guard

I wasn't..told of any meeting.

Ken

Yeah cause It's middle people stuff.

Guard

Come back tomorrow, I will verify your story with the Kings peronal aid, then you will have an audience.

Ken

No we're leaving town tomorrow. We won't be here. So when you see the kings personal whatever, just let 'em know you turned us away. We wanted in and you said no.

Ken(vo)

Doesn't matter if it's a bouncer at crooked strip club, or a palace gate-keeper. A guard's a guard, and they dance to the same song.

Guard

Very well. You may enter. Your sick friend may not.

Ken

She's with us. Don't be a dick.

Guard

What?

Ken

Let's go!

They walk past the guard.

Sylar

Thank you.

Ben
Thanks

Scarweather
Thank you.

Walking across echoey marble now.

Sylar
I can't believe I'm in the Castle of Palms Iron!
I've always wanted to see inside it.

Ken
Look around, kid. See how the other half lives.

Ben
Very impressive getting us in so quickly.

Ken
It's all part of working the case. Working the king, that's going to be a whole different trick. If these rocks are as powerful as you say, he won't give it up just cause I talk fancy at him.

Scarweather
We'll have access to every imaginable universe. I'm sure we find something to trade for the stone.

Ben
The barter system will servie us very well on our misadventures, old friend.

Guard 2
Halt! Who are you and how did you get into the castle?

Ken
We'r here to see the King. Guy downstairs let us in. He said it was cool.

Guard 2
Who?

Ken
Didn't catch his name.

Guard 2
I'm not just going to let you into the king's chambers without any kind of official word.

Ken
Yeah, no of course not. It's the KING'S. CHAMBERS. You don't know us, you can't just- look I'm sorry, I thought this was on the level. We don't want to bother the king if he's not expecting us.

Guard 2
You believe he's expecting you?

Ken
I couldn't say. The other guy, down stairs, he led us to believe we could take an audience. If that's not the case- Look look look, we'll wait here. Why don't you go down stairs and find out what that guy was talking about.

Guard 2
Down...stairs?

Ken
The other guard. What's his face? I mean, if we go in there and the king gets pissed, he kicks us out, we look like jerks, YOU get fired maybe. It's a whole thing. headache I don't need. You go check and make sure this is all on the level. Then let us know what to do.

Guard 2
Fired, huh? Yeah that would be bad. Okay, you wait here. I'll come back with Chort and we'll see what's going on.

Ken
Thanks.

Ben
Good man.

Scarfweather
Chort?

He leaves, walking down marble steps.

Scarfweather
And now we just...open the door and go see the king?

Ken
Yup.

Ben
Won't he just...kick us out.

Ken
Let's find out.

They open the heavy door and walk in the chamber.

Ken
Pardon the intrusion, your majesty, but I have a deal that will make
your dynasty legendary through the ages.

Wally
KENNEDY ROUNDHOUSE, WHAT THE BEAUTIFUL LIVING HELL ARE YOU
DOING IN MY CASTLE?

Ken(vo)
Somehow, I still managed to feel surprised.

Ken
Wally?

Ben
You know this man?

Wally
Like a hemerroid knows an anus.

Scarfweather
so are you hemerroid or the anus?

Sylar
What's a hemmeroid?

Ken
This is getting stupid.

Wally
I don't know what you're doing here, Ken, or how you got past the guards, but I'm busy trying to run a city. So if you don't mind.

Ken(vo)
I don't know how or why Wally went from newspaper editor to king of a desert city, but after the day I've had-

Wally (snapping)
No, no. Hey! Kennedy! None of that. Out. Everyone out.

Ben
No! We need one of your cities gems to power our Mobile Brooks Gate remote! To save Michael!

Wally
I don't...who are you?

Scarfweather
This is Dr Brooks, my name is Scarfweather, and this is Sylar, she's helping us out during our vist, uh, your highness.

Wally
Wally's fine.

Scarfweather
Wally. We're kind of stranded here until we can find a power source for-

Wally
Mobile Brooks Gate Remote, Yeah I heard him. You think because Ken and I have a history I'll just hand over one of my solar crystals! I got

bad news for you.

Ken

Wally, wait. These guys say if you help them, they'll help me. I'm working a case. A big one.

Wally

Your cases are your business.

Ken

Wally, we go back. Long time.

Wally

So?

Ken

So we both know you're not going to leave me stranded in the middle of some desert just because we poke each other in the ribs!

Ben

Please.

Ken

Come on, guy.

Wally

I fired you, I changed jobs, I even left the Moon! And you still manage to find me and ask for the shirt off my back! FINE! Here!

He opens his desk drawer. A stone hums softly.

Wally

But this is the last time I help you out, Kennedy! I mean it!

Sylar

You keep the power crystals in your desk drawer?

Wally

Some of them, yeah! Now all of you, get OUT!

Transition noises.

Ken(vo)

Dr Brooks get's his gizmo working and we say goodbye to Sylar. Ben says it should work just fine-

Ben(dreamy)

-I'm not familiar with the matrix of these crystals, but it shouldn't be any trouble.

Ken(vo)

scarfweather seemed to have doubts.

Scarfweather(dreamy)

We don't really have any other choice

Ken(vo)

So it's a crapshoot either way. He set's the coordinates, and we step in to the swirling, purple whirlpool. For some reason, I wonder if Arliana ever got away in that lifeboat.

Brooks gate opening noises. Ken, Ben, and Scarfweather step in. Between the universes again!

Lindy/Hop

Hey! Dr Brooks! Help us! Don't leave!

Ken

Friends of yours?

Ben

Ah, uh...no.

Scarfeather

They said your name.

Ben

Never mind that, never mind that now. We're approaching...yes there! Just ahead, the Last Universe!

The approach the last universe, Michaels diary is playing. Suddenly, a bell tolls, the entertain music plays, there's a kerfuffle and WHOP! They're on solid ground again.

Ben
No! NO!

Scarfweather
What happened?

Ken
Where are we?

Ben
I don't know! A transuniversal cluster seemed to form around us just before we arrived. We've fallen into some kind of...intersectional universe, would be my best guess.

Scarfweather
Look out the window. Earth. We're on a spaceship, in orbit.

Ken
Back on the Saratoga?

Captain Kelly (on PA system)
Enjoy your meal, discuss with one another, but have a decision by the time coffee is served [audio lifted directly from Humanity

Ken
Not the Saratoga.

Ben
She sounds dour.

Scarfweather
Decicion about what?

FWOP! The cruise ship pops away!

Ben

My god!

Scarfweather
Fascinating.

Ken
What the hell?

Ben
We seem to have jumped instantly to another planet.

Scarfweather
But...there's Africa, Asia...that's still Earth

Zach
Confirmed! (Confiiiiirmed!)

Everyone yelps!

Ben
A robot?

Zach
Confirmed! (confiiiiirmed!)

Scarfweather
Why does he keep saying that?

Zach
It's what I do guys! Say hello to all my listeners and followers!

Scarfweather
Hello.

Ben
ah..hello?

Ken
Your 'followers'?

Zach

Hell yeah! We're here today to try and confirm or debunk the local cryptid, a "Bylar". (Bylaaaaar!)

Ben

You say their's a crypid on this space ship?

Zach

Not on the cruise ship, old man. This party is right outside the ship!
Let's take a look.

Ken

Is that...their's a space battle raging outside the ship.

Scarfweather

Are those ship...holograms of some kind? They don't quite look real.

Zach

Looks like we've got a weird one on our hands gang. Those Bylar ships seem to be totally real (Confiiiiirmed!) However they are also 100% computer generated pixels. That's a video game (debuuuuunked!)

Ken

You seem like a robot who's been around and knows alot. You ever hear of GRAMBLE? Red cylindar, possibly stolen by pirates.

GRAMBLE music plays for the briefst time yet

Zach

I don't know about the pirates, but GRAMBLE is a multi-purpose cream.

Ken

Forget I asked.

Scarfweather

What's that that other ship shooting at the Bylar video game ship?

Zach

That's a geist tankship, my guy. And it 100% does NOT belong here!
(beutiful living heeeIIIII!)

Captain Kelly on the PA
Everyone votes (suddenly the Evening show music starts playing.)

Evening show Mark
Thank you, and welcome to The Evening show. I'm your host, Clan Fandang-Mo. (waaa. music from Host plays. loud.)

BOOM. the cruise ship is hit. But the saratoga red alert plays. CHAOS.

Scarfwether
What's going on?

Ben
This universe is unstable!

Zach
Right you are, my guy! The technology that causes the cruise ship to manipulate reality has interfered with your own universe popping ray gun powered by a magic crystals. The resulting convergence is the new chaotic hellscape that this universe will never escape.

Senator Mario over PA system
Which is it, Mr Tungsten, this is one unstable universe, or a conglomerate of several destructive ones?

Zach
Far out.

Ken(vo)
Things are getting out of control. I close my eyes and pretend to have a headache. I need to get out of here. I need to find GRAMBLE. I need a drink.

Ken
Dr Brooks, maybe we should get out while the getting's good.

Scarfwether
We don't know what a jump from inside this universe will do!

Ben
We don't have a choice!

Ben activates the remote.

Dukayne
A magic portal conjured by a crystal from the dragon's lair? What
adventure awaits!

Ken
Let's go!

They run into the portal.

Dukayne
Alex, your game's being weird again.

The universe, sadly, collapses.

Ken(vo)
I empty my flask. This is it. Circling the drain. Last stop before Dr
Brooks takes me to his pirates. Not much of a lead. But my gut tells me
I'm going to find GRAMBLE. I'm all outta booze, which means I'm all
outta patience.

Everyone's floating thru the inbetween space.

Lindy/Hop
Dr Brooks! Hey! How do we get out of here?

Ben
Lindy! Hop! Back that way! It's a left, a right, and two more lefts!

Snippets of Michaels diary echos by. FWLORP. They step out into The
Last Universe.

Scarweather
Is this it?

Ben

I believe...yes! Yes the coordinates match the transmission of the diary.
We are in his universe. In fact I believe this is his home! This must be
the very basement from which he transmits!

Spender (muffled)

What's that racket? Is there someone down in my basement??

Ben

Someone's coming!

Ken(vo)

Hate to travel halfway across 5 universes only to get busted on a B &
E.

a door opens, Spender comes down the stairs.

Spender

Who's in there?

Scarfweather

Is that me?

Ben

My god. We seem to have found your..ah, counterpart.

Spender

What's going- is....is that..me?

Scarfweather

My name is Scarfweather, my friends and I are proxy-nauts.
Interdimensional travelers. In a sense, yes , I am you.

Spender

That's...a little hard to believe.

Scarfweather

It's either that or you have a twin brother that no one told you about.

Spender

The twin brother thing I can buy.

Scarweather

It's a hard pill to swallow, I know. But proving it is going to take time.

Spender

Time is something we don't have a lot of.

Scarweather

Exactly, we need answers.

Spender

Wait...which one of us said that? You or me?

Scarweather

I...am not sure. It's getting a little hard to follow.

Ken

Boys...

Spender/Scarweather

Sorry.

Ben

We're looking for a Man named Michael Last! We've been receiving his transmissions for several years, Please, have you heard of him?

Spender

Did you say Michael Last? You've been listening to Michael Last for years??

Ben

Yes! You know him??

Spender

Yeah! Michael Last and his Wacky Journal is an audiodrama podcast I write and produce! My son, Spender Jr, does the voice of Michael!
WOW! I can't believe space aliens listen to MY podcast?

Ken

We're not aliens.

Ben

You mean...it's all....just a fiction? There is no other-nation war? No camps?

Spender

No, no! It's just something I do on the weekends. Father son bonding stuff. You want to meet him? HEY! SPENDER JR! COME DOWN HERE!

Cameron

WHAT?

Spender

I SAID COME DOWN HERE! THERE'S SOME PEOPLE I WANT TO YOU TO MEET?

Cameron

In the basement?

Spender

YES! THEY'RE FANS OF THE SHOW!

Ben

My god.

Cameron

WHY DON'T YOU BRING THEM UP HERE? WHY ARE THEY IN THE BASEMENT?

Spender

JUST COME DOWN- hang on. Sorry folks, wait here, I'll go get "Michael".
Ha!

He runs up the stairs. Muffled argument through the ceiling.

Ben

It's not...none of actually happened. This is Tommy Westphall all over again.

(beat)

Scarweather
You gonna be okay, Ben?

Ben
I...suppose I'll have to be.

Ken
We don't have to stay and meet this kid do we?

Ben
It's as close to meeting Michael as I'll get, I suppose.

Scarweather
He's like the son I never had.

Ben
But I remember our bargain, Miss Roundhouse. Here-
PORTAL REMOTE NOISE. PORTAL.

Ben
You go on ahead. They man I'm sending you too is...a little strange. But
he can return you to your own universe when you're finished.

Ken
Thanks for the memories, boys.

Scarweather
Good luck.

Ken
Who should I ask for when I get there?

Chet Music swells

Ben
His name is Chet Cosmos.

She steps through the portal. It closes. Transition noises.

UNCLE GRAVELY

Things are really getting hairy now. I'm on the edge of my seat! Let's get right back to the action with more--

FX: DOORBELL

UNCLE GRAVELY

Oop, nevermind, more trick or treaters! Let's hope they like of brand Almond Joys.

FX: DOOR OPEN

KIDS

Trick or treat!

UNCLE GRAVELY

Whoa, look at you, what scary costumes! Are you a pirate?

KID 1

I'm Jack Sparrow!

UNCLE GRAVELY

(put off)

Ohh... great. And you! You're a weird zombie?

KID 2

I'm Willy Wonka!

UNCLE GRAVELY

Not the good one. Wait, there's two of you dressed as Wonka?

KID 3

No, I'm the Mad Hatter. See? I have different colored eye shadow.

UNCLE GRAVELY

Oh yes, how could I have possibly missed that? Next!

KID 4
I'm Tonto!

UNCLE GRAVELY
Next!

KID 5
I'm Mortdecai!

UNCLE GRAVELY
Next!

KID 6
I'm Frank Tupelo from The Tourist.

UNCLE GRAVELY
Great. Take your candy and go.
Everyone go!

KID 7
(meek)
Have you seen Chocolat?

UNCLE GRAVELY
Go! I have a scary story to finish
that does NOT involve a Johnny Depp
character. At least I hope not. You
never do know when he'll pop up.
He's creeeeepy! Just like the
ending to tonight's tale. Here's
the finale to... The Gramble!

Ken(vo)
End of the line. As I fly through the space between universes I try to
remember a time I've been more lost and buried on a case than this. I
try to remember a time when I had more to gain or lose. I try to
remember a time when I was relying more on gut and instinct than
cold hard facts. Mostly though, I'm still thinking about that dragon.

Lindy
This isn't right.

Hop

Should have taken a left at albuquerque.

She enters Chet's ship.

Ken(vo)

Another space ship. Hopefully this one won't try to be my friend or explode into a cornocopia of chaos. Once this case is over I'm never setting foot on a spaceship again. Hell I may even stop taking the train.

I'll pound the pavement, like in the good days, the old days. Back before any-

Chet

Hey! Which one of you let a nerd get on the ship? It's wearing weird gloves, so I'm looking at you, Xxlaxx. But it's a woman so Space Betty You get in here too!

Ken(vo)

I really hope this isn't Chet Cosmos, but my luck says those dice are gonna come up snake eyes.

Chet

She's just staring at me. I think she's broken.

A door hisses open and everyone comes in, chattering and grumbling.

X47

Why did we both installing the radio system if you're just gonna shout across the ship all the time?

Chet

Oh, I thought that was just for you. Cause it's robot stuff?

X47

That's racist. Just 'cause my name's X4700 you think I only do robot stuff.

Chet

Yeah. Seems fair to me.

X47

I took that italian cooking class. I don't even eat! I have layers,
Commander.

Xxylaxx
Aw you took a cooking class without me?

Chet
Xxylaxx, is this yours? Those gloves she has on scream 'supr villain'

Xxylaxx
Never seen her before.

Chet
Space Betty?

Betty
She's not with me. But I love her outfit. I like a woman who can pull off
a suit.

Ken
My name is Kennedy Roundhouse, I'm looking for Chet Cosmos.

Chet
Oh good, you can talk. Good news, good looking, you found him. I'm
Commander Chet Cosmos! This is my crew, but never mind them.
Which one of my many manly services can I provide you?

Betty
Don't be gross, Chet.

X47
He can't help it, you know that. He's got that brain thing.

Ken
A mutual acquaintance of our told me you might be able to help me
with a case I'm working on.

Xxylaxx
She's a cop! Cheese it, gang!

Chet

Chet Cosmos is no snitch, flat foot!

Betty

What? You snitch all the time! Just this morning you told me X4700 has a stack of porno magazines under his mattress.

X47

Beautiful living hell! Why are you snoopin' around my room?

Cosmos

Why do you even have a mattress? You don't sleep.

X47

I told you, I don't just do robot stuff! I like layin down on soft things.

Ken

I'm not a cop. I'm a private detective, from the moon.

Xxylaxx

Oh good. Which moon?

Ken

THE moon. Earths moon.

Xxylaxx

Right okay. Which Earth?

Betty

Is it the earth that's still covered in dinosaurs? That's my favorite.

Ken

No just...regular Earth. Listen, Dr Benjamin Brooks sent me here to ask-

Chet

Who?

Ken

Dr Benjamin Brooks.

Chet
Never heard of him.

Xxylaxx
Was he the farmer we saved on DorDor 7?

X47
No, That was Jammer Dunlax. And we didn't save him, we accidentally
blew him and his farm up.

Xxylaxx
We saved him from a collapsing beef market!

Betty
Wasn't he the one from that other dimension? He killed his friends or
something?

X47
Yeah that was him. We made a meat puppet that looked like him cause
those pirates wanted his hair or something.

Xxylaxx
Riiiiight! He was looking for that Michael guy.

Chet
Not ringing any bells.

Betty
Chet! You never pay attention to anything that isn't all about you!

Chet
That's not true! I pay attention all the time to anything that's all about
me.

X47
Ugh this boy is getting on my last nerves today. Sugar, we remember
Dr Hooks, what did he send you to us for?

Ken
Dr Brooks.

X47

It doesn't matter.

Ken

He said you might know something about space pirates.

Chet

Do we ever! They think they're the biggest, baddest, space hunks around. Until they cross swords with me, Chet Cosmos! I remember one time this nerd was being chased by some pirates, I think they wanted his hair. I tricked the pirates by blowing them up!

Betty

We JUST said that.

Xxylaxx

Plus that one time those pirates tied us up and only let us go when you snitched on those other pirates.

Chet

Not how I remember it.

Ken

These pirates, you think you can take me to them? They have something I need.

Xxylaxx

Space dublouns?

X47

A treasure chest guarded by a skeleton?

Betty

billowy pants and a head scarf? You could really rock that look you know. Bone structure like yours.

Chet

Booty? Pirate booty? I sit booty?

Betty
Okay we get it. Stop saying booty.

X47
Yeah, what are you 13?

Ken
Nothing like that. I don't even know what exactly it is...it's...

Ken(vo)
My gut twitches. You know when the air gets still all of a sudden, and you know something is about to happen. Something big. Something no amount of thick earthshine can make you forget. This is it. This is the end. Case closed, and me and Lin can get that hotel room together.

Ken
I'm looking for GRAMBLE.

Betty
What?

Chet
Why the hell would you come to ME for GRAMBLE?

X47
Girl, you coulda just gone to CVS for that.

Ken
You know what GRAMBLE is?

Chet
Of course we do! That's like asking if we know what band-aids are!

Ken
What is it?

Xxylaxx
It's a multipurpose cream.

Ken

No...no no that. This is potentially very powerful.

Betty

oh GRAMBLE is powerful. It can do anything! I use it as hair mousse.

X47

I grease my cooking pans with it.

XXylaxx

I've used more than a few times to torture lower lifeforms. It's very flammable.

Chet

I use it to grease myself up post work out. Really makes my muscles pop.

Betty

Yes, truly there's no better multipurpose cosmetic, mechanical, and all round the household cream on the market.

X47

And so affordable too!

Ken

No, stop. The highest heads of Lunar government are looking for this. It came to them with a message "Get GRAMBLE. Hurry-

ALL(singsongy tune)

Hurry up. Get GRAMBLE while you can"!

Chet

Yeah that's the jingle. I love that jingle.

Ken

It's a commercial jingle?

Xxylaxx

Pretty catchy, huh?

Ken

Does GRAMBLE cream come in a lightweight, red cylinder?

X47

Does a long tailed pole-cat give sideways looks to a rockingchair?

Ken

I don't know what that means.

X47

It means yes, you soggy banana peel.

Betty

I just picked up a 4 pack the other day. Do you want a can? It's great.

Chet

You can use it polish your gloves.

Xxylaxx

You seem really focused on her gloves, Chet.

Chet

Who wears gloves? What is she, mickey mouse?

Ken

Sure. What the hell?

a drawer opens and Betty rustles around.

Betty

Here ya go, hun.

Ken

Thanks, uh..."Space" Betty?

Betty

No problem.

Ken(vo)

Space Betty knows how to fill in a space suit. I wonder if she would want to spend a few days in a nice hotel on the moon. But buisness

before pleasure, Roundhouse. For once in your damn life, follow your own advice. You don't even know what dimension your in.

Chet
She's doing it again!

Xxylaxx
Maybe it's brain parasites. Hellooo? *snapping fingers*

Ken
Stop that.

Xxylaxx
Sowwy.

Ken
Dr Brooks said you could return me to my own dimension?

Chet
I know how to shoot bad guys and kiss bad girls, mama. That's what Chet Cosmos can do for you.

Betty
Gross.

Xxylaxx
I can. I'm something of a super-scientist.

X47
Really? I thought you were just our butler or something?

Xxylaxx
Tomayto-tomahto. Step right over here to this panel, Cranberry.

Ken
Kennedy.

Xxylaxx
Sure, sure. This is where I keep my garbage dimension.

Bloop beep. He programs this portal device. A portal opens and we can hear the space inbetween.

Xxyylaxx

And now I'll just program it for your lame universe-

Ken

How do you know which one is mine.

X47

Cause it sounds like yours is the only one without GRAMBLE cream. Tsk. Shame.

Xxylaxx

And you said you live on the moon, right? Like a weirdo?

Ken

Well-

Xxylaxx

Got it.

Beeo boop.

Chet

Living on the moon IS pretty weird.

Betty

Yeah there's not even an atmosphere. Is it a domed city or was there some kind of environmental conversion?

Ken

We don't really address it.

Betty

Fair enough. Well it was nice meeting you!

Ken (husky)

Yeah, you too, Big Eyes.

Betty(giddy)
Oh! Oh my, well! You, you take care now!

X47
Bye, y'all.

Xxylaxx
Byyyeee

Chet
And when that can of cream blows your little universes mind, you tell
'em Chet sent ya!

Ken
Right.

She enters the portal and it closes.

(Beat)

Xxylaxx
But really Xxylaxx sent her.

We're in the space between! Kennedy is hurtling towards her own universe. As she gets closer we can hear her sax music getting louder.

Ken(vo)
I should be taking in the beauty of the shimmering space between Chet's universe and my own. This is the last time I'll ever get to see it. I should be thinking of all the ways I'm gonna waste my money on booze and women and night clubs. Hell, I should be trying to piece together the strange details of my case. Most of it didn't even make sense. Part of me is thinking of Lin. Is she still in my apartment? Is her slow smile waiting for me? Mostly though, I'm thinking about the look on DeWhitt and Kingsley's faces when they find out they spent 10 grand on a dimestore tin of cream from outer space.

FWOOOOSH! SHE goes through the portal into her own universe, laughing to herself! The last note of the sax music echoes away.

UNCLE GRAVELY (CONT'D)

Wow! What a shocking ending, right?! What a marvelous scary story for my Halloween Special! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. But now the ghouls must return to their crypts and all the little demons back to their hell portals. Halloween is at an end, but fear not, it will be back to scare the pee out of wherever your pee happens to come out of! Thanks for listening to another haunting yarn courtesy of your dear Uncle Gravelly. Until next All Hallows Eve, stop egging my apartment! My landlord refuses to clean it up anymore! Goodnight!