

# OSTIUM PODCAST - SEASON 6

## EPISODE 61 - Arrival

Created and written by Alex C. Telander

MONICA played by Georgia Mckenzie  
 JAKE played by Chris Fletcher  
 ZHANG played by Emily Wang  
 STEVE played by Alex C. Telander  
 THYRA played by Arden Rachel

### DIRECTION

DIALOG - (*DIRECTION*) - [*SCENE*] - *SOUND DESIGN*

[*SCENE ONE: INCEPTION CHAMBER*] [*JAKE/MONICA*]

*sfx - [OSTIUM DOOR OPENING]*

*sfx - [TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS ENTERING THE INCEPTION CHAMBER FROM OSTIUM]*

MONICA:  
And we're back.

*Softly* JAKE:  
We're back.

MONICA:  
What do you want to do first?

JAKE:  
I want to do what I never saw Jack Bauer do: eat a delicious meal.

MONICA:  
Jack Bauer?

JAKE:  
From the TV Show 24?

MONICA:  
Not ringing any bells.

JAKE:  
It ran for a bunch of seasons. Each season had 24 episodes . . .

MONICA:  
Why 24?

JAKE:  
You seriously don't know? It was an episode for each hour. Each season would be a day in the life of Jack Bauer when he had to save the president or protect the US from terrorists, or rescue his daughter who'd been kidnapped.

MONICA:  
So like each hour of the day? So all through the night too? He didn't get to sleep at all?

JAKE:  
No. Maybe he took a nap once or twice, but the point was it took him the whole day to find and catch the bad guys.

MONICA:  
That's pretty wild. Though 24 is a lame name. They should've called it "A Day in the Life of Jack" or "When Day Turns Into Night" or something witty like that.

**JAKE:**

What do you mean? 24 was the perfect name. It said exactly . . . wait a minute. Are you fucking with me? Did you get me again?

**MONICA:**

Yeah boy! That was more of a “long con fucking” but still got ya good. I love me some Jack Bauer. Though kinda wished he would’ve tortured people less to get what he wanted. It was his go to thing, since he was on a deadline like . . . all the time!

**JAKE:**

Yeah, that part was kind of messed up. But you never got to see him take a break and drink a cup of coffee or eat a sandwich, or even grab a fast food burger or something.

**MONICA:**

God, I’ve missed this Jake. And I’ve missed you.

**JAKE:**

Me too. Though more with missing you and not with missing myself . . . you know what I mean?

**MONICA:**

You know Jake, I totally do. I also want to sleep for like a million hours.

**JAKE:**

Me too. Do you think it’s night or day right now?

**MONICA:**

No fucking clue. We couldn’t tell in Ostium could we? With the whole untethered thing still in effect.

**JAKE:**

Yeah. Endless night and all that. I think it’s daytime here right now.

**MONICA:**

Well, I think it’s the dead of night, just to be opposite to you. Let’s go find out.

**JAKE:**

Right behind you.

*sfx - [WALKING AWAY FADING OUT]*

**[SCENE TWO: OSTIUM NETWORK] [JAKE/MONICA]**

*sfx - [WALKING, SOFT SURF IN THE DISTANCE]*

**JAKE:**

You called it.

**MONICA:**

Call it a woman's intuition.

**JAKE:**

Really?

**MONICA:**

Fuck no.

**JAKE:**

Do you want to check on Steve first?

**MONICA:**

*Sighing*

You know, this is going to make me sound like a bad mom, but I'm fucking wiped. I just want to sleep. I know Steve would love seeing us, and we'd love it too, but I'm just so ready to crash it's not even funny. We'll have our big old reunion in the morning over a big, hearty breakfast. Kay?

**JAKE:**

That sounds . . . just great.

*sfx - [MONICA STARTS RUNNING]*

**MONICA: [FROM AFAR]**

Last one in bed has to turn out the lights.

*sfx - [JAKE STARTS RUNNING]*

**JAKE:**

How do you have the energy to run?

**[SCENE THREE: BEDROOM] [JAKE/MONICA]**

*sfx - [BED, BLANKETS, ETC.]*

**JAKE:**

You know we could ask Zhang for an update? Just to make sure everything is okay here and we haven't missed anything?

**MONICA:**

Man, you're like Jiminy Cricket. Yes, we could do that. Actually, I'm going to sleep. You can do that. Night night.

**JAKE:**

I'm sure everything's fine. We'll get the update in the morning.

*sfx - [LIGHT SWITCH CLICK]*

*Said more to convince  
himself, in a quiet  
voice*

**[SCENE FOUR: BEDROOM/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM] [JAKE/MONICA]**

*sfx - [RUSTLING OF BLANKETS]*

**MONICA:**  
[Sounds of waking up]

*sfx - [COOKING, SIZZLING SOUNDS]*

**MONICA:**  
Oh man, that smells fucking amazing.

*Distantly* **JAKE:**  
Did you say something Monica?

*Yelling* **MONICA:**  
I said that smells fucking amazing!

*Distantly, Laughing* **JAKE:**  
Hahah, wait till you see it. And good morning by the way.

*Not so loud yell* **MONICA:**  
Good morning, hun.

*sfx - [MONICA MAKES VOCAL SOUND AS SHE'S STRETCHING, SOUNDS OF GETTING OUT OF BED AND PUTTING ON CLOTHES, THEN WALKING INTO OTHER ROOM]*

*sfx - [SOUNDS OF PLATES BEING PUT ON TABLE, SILVERWARE, ETC.]*  
*sfx - [JAKE SITTING DOWN]*

**MONICA:**  
You're right. This look fucking amazing too. Maybe more so than how it smells.

**JAKE:**  
Told ya.

**MONICA:**  
Is that real bacon and eggs?

*sfx - [QUIET EATING SOUND AS JAKE SAYS LINE]*

**JAKE:**  
Er . . . with the Ostium Network's pantry . . . I can't be really sure either way. It looks right. How does it taste?

*Mumbled over food* **MONICA:**  
Fucking amazing!

**JAKE:**  
Did you say something?

*Clearer* **MONICA:**  
Fucking amazing.

**JAKE:**  
I wonder if we should get that update from Zhang . . .

*Cutting Jake off* **MONICA:**  
Uh uh, nope. Not yet. After breakfast. First: we eat. Is that . . . hash browns?

**JAKE:**  
You betcha.

**MONICA:**

Is there any ketchup?

*sfx - [STANDING UP AND OPENING FRIDGE, FRIDGE HUMMING SOUND]*

**JAKE:**

Well, there's an Ostium Network brand of red tomato sauce that appears to be the closest approximation of ketchup that's available to us.

**MONICA:**

And is that . . . oh my god, coffee.

*sfx - [JAKE SITTING BACK DOWN]*

**JAKE:**

It's what gets us going in the morning, right?

**MONICA:**

I love you, Jake.

**JAKE:**

Haha, I love you too, Monica.

*sfx - [QUIET EATING SOUNDS FADING TO SILENCE]*

*Overjoyed*

**[SCENE FIVE: KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM] [JAKE/MONICA/ZHANG]**

*sfx - [PUTTING SILVERWARE ON PLATE]*

*sfx - [POURING COFFEE AS MONICA SPEAKS]*

**MONICA:**

Okay, now I'm ready. Wait, is Zhang actually there?

**JAKE:**

I guess we'll find out. Zhang? Is there anybody out there?

**ZHANG:**

I am of course here for whatever the two of you might need.

**MONICA:**

Phew, got a little worried there.

**JAKE:**

Yeah, me too. Thanks Zhang. Did you miss us?

**ZHANG:**

I am an artificial intelligence. It is impossible for me to possess or manifest human emotions.

**JAKE:**

Oh, sorry. I just thought that . . . wait a minute. Are you . . . making a joke?

**ZHANG:**

Perhaps. I believe Monica has a way of eloquently putting it:

*In Monica's voice*

I'm just fucking with you, Jake.

**JAKE:**

Damn that's harsh.

**ZHANG:**

I apologize Jake. I'm sure you two have been through a lot to get back to the Ostium Network. It was unfair of me to make that joke.

**JAKE:**

No. I think it was warranted.

**MONICA:**

So what have we missed?

**ZHANG:**

Where would you like me to begin? I have a total of 9 days, 16 hours, 42 minutes, and 15 seconds to cover.

**MONICA:**

How about you let me know what Steve's been up to?

**ZHANG:**

Would you like me to begin from the moment the two of you were no longer in the Ostium Network?

**MONICA:**

How about you just cover the highlights? Actually, where the hell is my boy?

**JAKE:**

Right. He could just tell us what he's been up to.

	<p><b>ZHANG:</b> Steve is no longer in the Ostium Network.</p>
<i>Worried</i>	<p><b>MONICA:</b> What!</p>
	<p><b>JAKE:</b> Maybe they're not clear about what we mean. Zhang: where is Steve on the Island of Gibraltar right now?</p>
	<p><b>ZHANG:</b> As I said, he is no longer located on the Island of Gibraltar, nor within the borders of the Ostium Network.</p>
<i>Almost yelling</i>	<p><b>MONICA:</b> Well where the fuck is he then?</p>
	<p><b>ZHANG:</b> I do not know where Steve is currently located.</p>
<i>Calming</i>	<p><b>JAKE:</b> Hang on Monica, let's get all the details first before we jump to any dangerous conclusions.</p>
<i>Monica takes a breath as Jake talks</i>	<p><b>MONICA:</b> Okay, deep breaths Monica.</p>
	<p><b>JAKE:</b> What happened to Steve, Zhang? How did he . . . disappear from the Ostium Network?</p>
	<p><b>ZHANG:</b> While the two of you were absent, Steve embarked upon a thorough investigation of the island, from the highest point to circulating the entire island. He then began investigating the anomalies in some of the rooms on the island.</p>
<i>Confused</i>	<p><b>MONICA:</b> Anomalies?</p>
<i>Softly, knowing</i>	<p><b>JAKE:</b> Oh . . . shit.</p>
	<p><b>ZHANG:</b> When Jake and Steve first arrived at the Ostium Network and began their search of the buildings, they found three unexplainable anomalies. A shower room where there was dripping water that sounded as if it were making the sound of the notes to the song Clair de Lune by Claude Debussy. A second room where there was a pyramidal stack of chairs that had been fused into one whole conglomeration. And a third room . . .</p>
<i>Cutting off Zhang</i>	<p><b>JAKE:</b> . . . Where everything had been cleared and there was a giant pentagram in the center of the room.</p>
	<p><b>ZHANG:</b> Correct. Created with a type of white chalk.</p>
<i>To Jake</i>	<p><b>MONICA:</b> You never mentioned any of this weird shit.</p>
	<p><b>JAKE:</b> It was in the recordings. You probably listened to them but don't remember. We've all just had . . . so damn much going on.</p>



**MONICA:**

Zhang, do you know how each of these anomalies happened?

**ZHANG:**

I do not.

**MONICA:**

What does that mean? Do you have no record of them? How's that possible? You've got like a billion cameras around the island, seeing everything, like Big Brother.

**ZHANG:**

While it is a crude analogy, you are technically correct, Monica. However, when I search my data banks for more information on how these anomalies occurred, there is simply no data. No record. I have an instance of when the anomalies did not exist, and then an instance of when they do exist. And that is all.

**MONICA:**

Well that's fucking unsettling.

**JAKE:**

Zhang, can you give us a date for when you have the anomalies . . . er, showing up in your data banks?

**ZHANG:**

I could give you an exact date, but since the concept of a calendar has become rather superfluous to each of you since you arrived at the Ostium Network, I will give you a time before you, Jake, first arrived. One might even call it so much time "before Jake" or BJ for short.

**MONICA:**

Please don't call it that.

**JAKE:**

I don't know if they're joking.

*Whispering to Monica*

*sfx - [ZHANG'S NEXT LINE IS SPOKE AT THE SAME TIME AS JAKE'S PREVIOUS WHISPERED LINE, IN THE BACKGROUND]*

**ZHANG:**

Very well.

**JAKE:**

So how much time before my arrival did these anomalies occur?

**ZHANG:**

Three point two milliseconds.

**JAKE:**

Fuck.

*sfx - [SAID ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME AS JAKE'S LINE]*

**MONICA:**

Oh Jesus.

**MONICA:**

Well, what the hell does that mean?

**ZHANG:**

As I said before, since I do not possess any data on these anomalies, I cannot provide any further information as to their occurrence.

**MONICA:**

Jakey?

**JAKE:**

You're not going to like my answer.

**MONICA:**

Do I usually?

**JAKE:**

That's not what you said last night.

**MONICA:**

Not the right fucking time, Jake.

**JAKE:**

Sorry. I think it's got something to do with . . . [BREATH] . . . me, obviously, and my connection to Ostium.

**MONICA:**

Fucking figures. Any other kernels of info you'd like to offer?

**JAKE:**

Sorry. Not really. I still don't get what the deal is with me and Ostium.

**MONICA:**

Hah! Join the club. Okay, Zhang. So we've established that you, like us, know bupkis about these anomalies. What stupid thing did my lovely son do to get his ass lost somewhere and somewhen?

**ZHANG:**

Steve was actually impressively intelligent with what he did. He chose to conduct an experiment, by bringing the three anomalies together.

**JAKE:**

How did he manage to do that? Seems, like, impossible to me.

**ZHANG:**

It took some deep thought on Steve's part, and he chose to enlist my aid in coming up with ideas, and together we arrived at a satisfactory solution. First, I directed him to a vacuuming device. Then, under my supervision, he collected all the powder that was used to make the pentagram in the third room. At the same time he placed a large empty vessel in the shower room to collect the . . . shall we say sonorous water droplets. Once he had collected all the powder and filled the vessel with the unique water, he brought them to the second room. There he painstakingly and meticulously - again with my direction and help - recreated the pentagram on the floor of the room around the stack of fused chairs, but also crawling between the metal legs to join the lines of the pentagram and make it a complete shape. He then instructed me to record what he did next, even though he knew full well that I am constantly recording all the events and motions of the Ostium Network. He then climbed to the top of the stack of fused chairs with the water vessel and sat at the very pinnacle. He then, surprisingly - and I say this because I was not certain exactly what he was going to do - emptied the contents of the vessel over his head, completely saturating himself. He then proceeded to wait for something to happen.

**MONICA:**

Empirical to a T. That's my son.

**ZHANG:**

Nothing appeared to happen for some time. But as the water that had saturated him trickled and splashed down onto the chairs beneath him - as I mentioned it was a rather large vessel of the special water - the music began to emanate as it did in the shower room to the tune of Clair de Lune. Under the force of gravity, the water droplets made their way down the chairs and arms and legs until they reached the pentagram below. Once this occurred, some sort of charge began to build, a visible static electricity firing between the legs and metal

parts of the chairs, rising up until they reached Steve. Then he promptly disappeared.

**MONICA:**

Oh my god. What the fuck did he do? Where the fuck did he go?

**JAKE:**

I gotta say, I'm pretty damn impressed. It's quite brilliant.

**MONICA:**

Okay, Mr. Impressed, how the fuck do we get him back?

**JAKE:**

Oh, I think you know the answer to that. We have two obvious choices.

**ZHANG:**

You can both wait until he hopefully returns, much as he was doing for the two of you, until he decided to try this experiment.

**JAKE:**

Yes, that's one choice. Or option two . . .

**MONICA:**

We repeat the experiment and go in after him.

**JAKE:**

Yep. Hey Zhang, when exactly did Steve . . . disappear? I guess you can say from the time that Monica and I got back. So . . . BJM? BMJ time?

**MONICA:**

No Jake. Just. No.

**ZHANG:**

I could tell you, but I have a feeling if you think about it for a moment, you will be able to answer your own question.

**JAKE:**

Er . . .

**MONICA:**

No. Fucking. Way.

**JAKE:**

Would it happen to be 3.2 milliseconds before Monica and I arrived back at the Inception Chamber?

**ZHANG:**

That is correct, Jake.

**JAKE:**

Wish I knew why Ostium gives a shit about me so much. Though to be fair, this was all on Steve. Maybe it's just a coincidence?

**MONICA:**

Do you really think that Jake?

*Resignedly*

**JAKE:**

No. Not for a second, Monica.

**MONICA:**

Well, at least we've got full stomachs. Let's go check out Steve's crazy scientist lab and see if we can recreate whatever crazy shit he did.

**JAKE:**

At least we got a bit of a break this time. Before things go to hell again.

**MONICA:**

I guess. Okay, one more cup of coffee for the road.

**[SCENE SIX: OSTIUM NETWORK] [JAKE/MONICA/ZHANG]**

*sfx - [RISING SOUND OF EV DRIVING ALONG]*

*sfx - [SLIGHT ECHO TO VOICES AS THEY ARE OUTSIDE IN A SLOWLY MOVING VEHICLE]*

**MONICA:**

So do you know where this building is?

**JAKE:**

Er . . . my memory is a little hazy on the specifics.

*sfx - [REACTIONS FROM JAKE AND MONICA WHEN THEY HEAR THE VOICE OF ZHANG]*

*sfx - [ZHANG'S VOICE COMING FROM A SPEAKER IN THE EV]*

**ZHANG:**

I'd be happy to guide you or you could enter Building 45 into one of your datapads.

**MONICA:**

Hey Zhang. Forgot you're like, always there.

**ZHANG:**

Happy to be of service.

**JAKE:**

I'll plug it in my datapad. Thanks.

**ZHANG:**

Happy to be of service.

**MONICA:**

Sure is creepy when they repeat themselves in exactly the same cadence.

**ZHANG:**

Happy to be of service.

**JAKE:**

Okay Zhang. Good joke. You're starting to sound like HAL or some other AI gone bad.

**ZHANG:**

Happy . . . apologies Jake and Monica. Just a little joke. I'll leave you two to your travels. Drive safe!

*sfx - [DATAPAD BEEPING AS JAKE PUTS IN THE DETAILS]*

**MONICA:**

I'll give them safe travels, right up the . . .

**JAKE:**

So the good news is we're going the right way.

**MONICA:**

At least that's something.

**JAKE:**

Should only take us three minutes and forty-two seconds, and counting, of course.

**MONICA:**

Of course.

**JAKE:**

Do you have a plan for how we're going to make this whole experiment happen just like Steve did?

**MONICA:**

I've got a few ideas. Of course, we do one have one big problem.

**JAKE:**

Just one? And what's that?

**MONICA:**

The way Zhang described it, there's only one place to sit at the apex of the creepy chair pyramid. Since you're one of the few people to actually see it, maybe you can corroborate this?

**JAKE:**

Er . . . yeah. We didn't see it for very long. It was . . . just . . . wrong. But to the best of my recollection, yeah, there was just one seat at the top.

**MONICA:**

So how's that going to work exactly? We share the seat? One ass cheek each?

**JAKE:**

[Snorting laugh]

**MONICA:**

I don't think Ostium likes to play nice, which means following the rules. The one cheek attempt ain't gonna cut it. What do you think?

**JAKE:**

No. You're totally right. So that means . . .

**MONICA:**

That means we have to go one at a time.

**JAKE:**

And we each have to do the experiment on our own, in the same way that Steve did it.

**MONICA:**

Correctamundo.

**JAKE:**

Well, that's not so bad. I'll . . . you can go first. You know, ladies first. And then I'll be ready to do it right after and we'll both find out where Steve went.

**MONICA:**

Me first? Oh how polite and thoughtful of you. You know, you really shouldn't. I'd be happy to let you go first.

**JAKE:**

No, no, I'm happy going last.

**MONICA:**

Big shocker there. So if I get atomized or turned to fucking goo or something, you can just stroll out of the room like nothing happened.

**JAKE:**

Well, I'd be pretty broken up about it. If that helps.

**MONICA:**

Oh sure, that makes me feel so much better.

*Sarcastic*

**JAKE:**

Look, I'll go first if you want.

**MONICA:**

No, no. I'll go. Like you said: you can follow quickly behind and Ostium might give you a little boost or at least make sure you get to me and Steve quickly.

**JAKE:**

Huh.

**MONICA:**

Huh? What does "huh" mean?

**JAKE:**

I just had a thought. What . . . what if . . .

**MONICA:**

We don't end up in the same place as Steve? What if we get separated from him, and from each other again.

**JAKE:**

Yeah . . . that.

**MONICA:**

Well. Like before: he's my son. I will do fucking anything for him, to help him. So this is what I'm going to do.

**JAKE:**

And where you go, I go.

**MONICA:**

Thanks Jakey, I appreciate you didn't hesitate or have second thoughts. Plus we've done this before with the whole separation thing, and we found each other again, right?

**JAKE:**

Yeah. Took a while. Eventually we did.

**MONICA:**

None the worse for wear. And remember: absence makes the heart grow fonder.

**JAKE:**

I disagree when it involves Ostium. Oh jeez . . .

*sfx - [SOFT SOUND OF BRAKES AND TIRES AS EV COMES TO A SUDDEN HALT]*

**MONICA:**

Who the hell is that?

**JAKE:**

Er . . . is that?

**ZHANG:**

Yes. Thyra. From the distant planet of Albion. You have yet to be formally introduced. Let me do the honors.

*Shocked*

**[SCENE SEVEN: OSTIUM NETWORK] [JAKE/MONICA/ZHANG/THYRA]***sfx - [FIRST TWO LINES ARE SAID SIMULTANEOUSLY]***JAKE:**

You're alive.

**MONICA:**

You look so different, so well and healthy.

*sfx - [FOOTSTEPS AS ALL THREE MEET UP]***ZHANG:**

While I am certain you all know each other by name, I will still happily introduce you all, as it is something that I almost never get to do. Thyra, meet Jake and Monica. Jake and Monica, meet Thyra.

**THYRA:***In somewhat awe,  
names said slowly*

Monica. It is good to see you again. Under much better circumstances. And Jake. Good to finally meet you. I have heard so much about you.

**MONICA:**

How are you . . . coping with everything?

**THYRA:**

Very well, thank you. Steve was very helpful in getting me back on my feet again. I was . . . in a bad place when you first brought me back. But now, after doing my own recordings, telling my story and history. I am not only regaining my powers once more. Slowly but surely. But also my health and sanity. I feel a different woman. Thanks in part to Steve, but more importantly, thanks to you two. You . . . saved my life. When you could have chosen to attack me, even kill me for all the havoc and terror I had wrought on all of you. I will be forever thankful to you for that. Forever in your debt.

**JAKE:**

I'm so happy to hear that. I knew when we found you, you seemed so confused and out of it, like you weren't even sure where you were. And that you'd been brought to Ostium against your will.

**THYRA:**

That is accurate. I'm not ready to share that part of my life yet. In time yes, but not now.

**MONICA:**

When you're ready, and only if you want to.

**JAKE:**

Maybe one day you'll be ready to return to your home?

**THYRA:**

To Albion. Yes. That would be lovely. I know it is very far away, but with the magics of Ostium, as well as my own abilities, I believe it is possible. One day. When I have fully regained my powers.

**MONICA:**

Oh shit. I completely forgot. Thyra. I found her.

**THYRA:***Getting excited*

Who do you mean?

**MONICA:**

One of the doors I went through, when I was trying to find Jake, it took me to Albion. And I found Pragma, Thyra. I really did. I swear I'm telling you the truth.



Extreme excitement

**THYRA:**

My mind tells me not to believe. That it cannot be possible. But my heart . . . my heart says perhaps?

**MONICA:**

She says she misses you. Every day. Every moment. Her heart is broken, like yours. But she also has hope; believes that one day you will come back to her.

**THYRA:**

Those are words she would use. My dear Pragma.

**MONICA:**

She also gave me a ring, because I needed something to take back to Ostium, to get both Jake and I back here. She said it was a ring from your first anniversary. A very special anniversary.

**THYRA:**

Please describe it to me? This is something you could not know unless you have truly seen it for yourself.

**MONICA:**

It was beautiful. A sparkling silver color, really bright, that glittered in the sunlight. And there was a blue jewel, maybe sapphire, I'm not sure. With tiny lines of silver wrapping around the gem, as if it were . . .

**THYRA:**

Keeping it safe. Protected.

Yes! That is it. You truly were in Albion. And you were with my love for a short while. But you speak like you no longer possess the ring?

**MONICA:**

No, I'm sorry.

**JAKE:**

We needed all the objects we brought back from the places we visited. We put them on the map table, and I guess with their magic, they brought us back to the Ostium Network.

**THYRA:**

I see. It is a sad loss, but a worthy one to be sure.

**MONICA:**

It might not be gone. At least not forever. We've never actually tried to find out what happens to the objects once they're absorbed into the map table.

**JAKE:**

That's true. Maybe it's like in LOST where there's a pneumatic tube that takes them and spits them out.

**MONICA:**

Really?

**JAKE:**

Just a theory I have. One of many.

**MONICA:**

I guess it's possible. Fucking anything seems to be here.

**THYRA:**

So there is a chance?

**MONICA:**

I believe so, Thyra. Regardless, she is waiting for you. She has hope. You have hope. You two will be reunited one day. I promise it.

**JAKE:**

And we will do everything we can to make that happen.

**MONICA:**

Yes. That's a fucking promise.

**THYRA:**

This all sounds wonderful. I was seeking some sustenance to break my fast. Would you two be willing to join me in feasting?

**JAKE:**

Sorry, we've got another job to do.

**MONICA:**

Yes. We need to find out what happened to Steve.

**THYRA:**

He is truly gone then?

**JAKE:**

Yes.

**MONICA:**

Did you know he would be leaving? Did he say something to you?

**THYRA:**

Only that he had a great big idea he wished to try and was unsure of its outcome and that if I did not hear from him for some time, I should just be patient. That he would return. Eventually. Just like you did.

**MONICA:**

Sounds like my Steve.

**JAKE:**

I bet he'd tell us the same thing: to wait for him to come back.

**MONICA:**

And do you think I'm going to do that?

**JAKE:**

Not for a fucking second. We better get going.

**THYRA:**

I have confidence in you both. You are much experienced in the ways and traveling of Ostium. A fruitful journey to you two.

**MONICA:**

Thanks, Thyra. We'll be back soon, I'm sure. Keep the Ostium Network safe and ready for our return?

**THYRA:**

I will do my best.

*sfx - [SOUND OF EVS ACCELERATING, SOUNDS FADING AWAY]*

**[SCENE EIGHT: ROOM WITH FUSED STACK OF CHAIRS] [JAKE/MONICA]**

*sfx - [SOFT WATER SLOSHING IN A CONTAINER]*

**MONICA:**

Man, that was fucking creepy. I don't know how you two made it through the first time.

**JAKE:**

It wasn't easy. Probably part of the reason I didn't want to talk about it that much either. Plus we were seeing so much weird shit, it just got filed away and we tried our best to forget about it. Well, at least I did. Apparently Steve was having some thoughts.

**MONICA:**

No kidding. I'm sure glad the music stopped once we got enough water in these vessels and got the fuck out of there. I was worried the music was gonna keep on going, since we're taking some of the water with us.

**JAKE:**

Yeah, I'm pretty confused by that. I'm trying not to let my brain dwell too much on the requirements and ramifications for how the water and the music work. You know, what the science is behind it all.

**MONICA:**

You're kidding, right, Jakey? This is the fucking Ostium Network. The rules of science tend not apply here sometimes, or maybe that's most of the time.

**JAKE:**

I guess you're right. But I need science as my bedrock, my foundation to work out my theories, my hypotheses.

**MONICA:**

Any other science terms you wanna throw in there, buster? You haven't used "empirical" yet. That's a good one.

**JAKE:**

You're still going first right?

**MONICA:**

Does someone want to change the subject?

*sfx - [SHORT PAUSE]*

**MONICA:**

Yes, I'm still going first. You can relax.

**JAKE:**

Do you need help climbing up the chairs?

**MONICA:**

What do you think?

**JAKE:**

Er . . . I choose not to answer.

**MONICA:**

Oh really? I seem to remember someone trying to climb like some big stone statue, and having some problems, and then plunging to what he thought was his death, and then a certain someone saving his ass.

**JAKE:**

Heh. I'd kind of forgotten about that. The Moai on Easter Island.

**MONICA:**

I bet you didn't forget what happened after?

**JAKE:**

No. I certainly remember that. In detail.

**MONICA:**

I'm sure you do. Here. You hold my canister while I start climbing, and then I'll have you hand it to me.

**JAKE:**

Sounds good.

*sfx - [SOUNDS OF CLIMBING, CANISTER SOUND LIKE THAT OF A PAINT CAN. SOME GRUNTS AND EFFORT SOUNDS FROM MONICA]*

**JAKE:**

Here you go.

*sfx - [HANDING OVER CAN OF SLOSHING WATER]*

**MONICA:**

Okay, I'm at the top.

**JAKE:**

*Somewhat distant* Looks good, Monica. Don't lose your balance. I don't know if I could catch you.

**MONICA:**

*Slightly raised volume* And I wouldn't want to find out. We'd probably have to test Thyra's first aid skills.

**JAKE:**

*Somewhat distant* Yeah, I don't think her healing spells are ready to go yet.

**MONICA:**

*Slightly raised volume* Okay. You ready? You want to step back a bit in case . . . well, I don't know what might happen, but I wouldn't want you caught in any crossfire.

**JAKE:**

*Somewhat distant* Will do.

*sfx - [STEPPING AWAY FOOTSTEPS]*

**MONICA:**

*Slightly raised volume* Okay here goes. This water's gonna be cold, isn't it?

**JAKE:**

*Somewhat distant* Probably. Just think of Steve, if that helps at all.

**MONICA:**

*Slightly raised volume* Right. It does. Thanks.

*sfx - [POURING WATER SOUND, THINK ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE]*

**MONICA:**

*Slightly raised volume* GASP! Damn, that's fucking cold!

**JAKE:**

*Somewhat distant* I bet. I'm not looking forward to it.

**MONICA:**

*Slightly raised volume* So what do I do now? Do I have to say any special words? A fucking incantation or something?

*Somewhat distant***JAKE:**

I don't think so. Just wait for the water to trickle down and the music to start and then be ready for something to happen.

*Slightly raised volume***MONICA:**

Okay Doctor Mad Scientist.

*Somewhat distant***JAKE:**

Hey, wasn't this your idea?

*Slightly raised volume***MONICA:**

Yeah, well I . . . wait, I can hear something.

*sfx - [QUIET BUT RISING VOLUME OF CLAIR DE LUNE THROUGH WATERY FILTER WITH A METALLIC FEEL]*

*sfx - [AS VOLUME RISES, HAVE SIZZLING, CRACKLING ELECTRICAL SOUND]*

*Slightly raised volume***MONICA:**

Oh, shi—

*sfx - [WORD IS CUT OFF WITH A LOUD ZAP AND THEN MUSIC FADES OUT WITHIN SIX SECONDS]*

**JAKE:** Wow. I guess it worked. She's gone. And now I'm standing here, talking to myself. Great. Guess she's right: I am a mad scientist. Well, now it's my turn.

*sfx - [CLIMBING SOUND FOR JAKE GOING UP CHAIR STACK WITH METAL CANISTER OF WATER, GRUNING AND MAKES STRENUOUS SOUNDS AS HE CLIMBS]*

*Out of breath from climbing***JAKE:**

Wow. I made it. I claim this peak in the name of Ostium. Now if only I had something to cool me down after that intense workout. Oh, what's this? A whole vessel of cold water. Sounds perfect.

*sfx - [WATER DUMPING SOUND]*

*Teeth chattering***JAKE:**

Damn that's cold. But it's definitely making me feel better. Okay Jake. Enough talking to yours truly, let's be quiet and wait for the Ostium magic to happen.

*sfx - [WATER DRIPPING SOUNDS FOR EIGHT SECONDS, THEN HAVE MUSIC BEING ONCE AGAIN THROUGH WATERY/METALLIC FILTER, WHICH RISES IN VOLUME. LIKE BEFORE THERE IS A SIZZLING, CRACKLINGLY ELECTRIC SOUND FOR FIVE SECONDS THEN A LOUD ZAP, TEHN MUSICALLY FADES OUT]*

*sfx - [HAVE THREE POINT TWO-TWO SECONDS OF SILENCE]*

**[SCENE NINE: ROOM WITH FUSED STACK OF CHAIRS] [JAKE/MONICA/STEVE/ZHANG]**

*sfx - [MUSIC COMES BACK WITH SLOWLY RISING VOLUME, SOUND JUST LIKE BEFORE]*

*sfx - [THEN THERE ARE THREE LOUD ZAPES AT TWO SECOND INTERVALS]*

*sfx - [MUSIC SLOWLY FADES INTO SILENCE]*

*sfx - [FIVE SECOND OF SILENCE]*

*Moaning*

**JAKE:**

Oh, I think my ass is broken.

**MONICA:**

I think it's more than my ass.

**STEVE:**

My arse feels quite fine, actually. Thanks for asking.

**JAKE:**

Steve! You're back man.

**STEVE:**

As are you two.

**MONICA:**

We're all back. Safe and sound.

**STEVE:**

I'm not so sure about that. Jake, what happened to your clothes. Are those burn marks? Have a run in with an anthropomorphic version of fire did we?

**JAKE:**

Yeah, something like that. Why do you smell . . . briny?

**STEVE:**

Yeah. It's a long story mate. And mum, you look . . .

**MONICA:**

Perfect as always.

**STEVE:**

That was exactly what I was going to say.

**JAKE:**

I was going to say "ravishing as always."

**STEVE:**

That's fine Jake, but she's my mum. Let's not make it weird, okay?

**MONICA:**

How about a group hug?

**JAKE:**

Yeah, it's been a while.

*sfx - [GROUP HUG]*

**STEVE:**

So, much like Doc Brown in Back to the Future Three expressly told Marty McFly not to do, you guys repeated the experiment and followed me, didn't you?

**MONICA:** Guilty.

**JAKE:**

Yeah, we had to. Your mom insisted and we really wanted to get you back, man.

**STEVE:**

It's good to be wanted and cared for. So since I didn't run into either of you where I was, I'm guessing you each ended up in your own unique places too then?

**JAKE:**

Well, I wasn't in the old west, if that's what you're asking, wondering if Buford "Mad Dog" Tannen was going to shoot me over a matter of eighty dollars.

**STEVE:**

So you consider yourself to be Doc Brown then? Interesting.

**JAKE:**

Well, your mom had just called me a mad scientist before she disappeared. Where did you end up Monica?

**MONICA:**

Oh, I actually was Marty McFly. I had to sing Billie Jean and do the whole moonwalk thing.

**JAKE:**

Really?

**MONICA:**

Fuck no, Jake. But I do kinda want to watch Back to the Future Three now.

**JAKE:**

Ditto.

**STEVE:**

Me too. Over a nice, filling meal.

**JAKE:**

That sounds perfect. I'm offering to cook.

**STEVE:**

Fantastic. Is the limousine ready to take us to the Michelin starred restaurant?

**MONICA:**

It certainly is. Your chauffeur awaits.

**STEVE:**

Wonderful. Oh wait a tick. Zhang, are you there?

**ZHANG:**

Of course Steve. It is very good to have you back.

**STEVE:**

That's all I wanted to know. It's very good to be back, Zhang. And good to have you nearby. I missed hearing your calming voice.

**ZHANG:**

And I yours, Steve.

**STEVE:**

Good. Let's get going then.

**[SCENE TEN: JAKE & MONICA'S APARTMENT] [JAKE/MONICA/STEVE/ZHANG]***sfx - [ONGOING DISCUSSION FADES IN]***JAKE:**

I'm still not sure about the ramifications and potentiality of a steam-powered time machine. I just don't know if it's got enough juice.

**STEVE:**

But I'm sure the Doc built it on the same premise as the DeLorean. He just needs to get it up to eighty-eight miles an hour and he can go to whenever he wants.

*sfx - [SOUND OF DISHES AND UTENSILS BEING COLLECTED AND PUT INTO SINK IN THE BACKGROUND]***JAKE:**

Yeah, but he still needs that one point twenty-one gigawatts of electricity to get generated. He used plutonium for that before. What's he using now?

**STEVE:**

Obviously the steam gets him up to that speed, and he has some sort of special element, some unobtainium perhaps, to get the flux capacitor going and all that.

*sfx - [SOUNDS OF COFFEE BEANS BEING GROUND IN THE BACKGROUND]***JAKE:**

Well, as far as I know, they never made a Back to the Future Four, so we'll never know. I even checked the Ostium Network movie library. No luck.

**STEVE:**

Ah, but there was plenty of fanfiction you see. And the theories that were explored in those stories go into an impressive amount of detail.

*sfx - [SOUNDS OF BREWING COFFEE]***JAKE:**

Were you the author of any of these fanfics?

**STEVE:**

Possibly. Quite possibly Jake.

**JAKE:**

Any new romances that weren't explored by the three movies?

**STEVE:**

You know, I was going to tell you I wrote Doc Brown-Marty McFly slash, just to see the look on your face . . . oh, and there it is. Completely worth it. No. I did not write any slash fic, though I did try my hand at Marty having a little tumble with his mum back in the fifties, if you catch my drift.

**JAKE:**

But what about the space-time continuum? Marty's mom has to be with Marty's dad otherwise Marty never exists.

*sfx - [BREWING COFFEE QUIETS DOWN, POURING COFFEE]***STEVE:**

This is fanfic mate. Anything can happen. That's the beauty of it. You don't have to worry about the bloody space-time continuum.

**JAKE:**

Well, I'm not sure it's . . . my cup of tea then.

*Jiggawatt pronounced  
like "jig"*



**MONICA:**

Perfect segue. Guys: drop it. The movie's over. You can continue this in-depth and oh so beneficial discussion another time. Who wants coffee?

**JAKE:**

I'd love a cup.

**STEVE:**

Me too mum.

**MONICA:**

And I made plenty because we're going to need it.

**JAKE:**

For what?

**STEVE:**

I'm guessing mum wants to hear what adventures I've been up to while she's been gone.

**MONICA:**

That's right. And I want to know where the hell you went when you did your experiment. And I want to know where you went too, Jake.

**JAKE:**

I'll tell you mine, if you tell me yours.

**STEVE:**

I really hope that's not code for something.

*sfx - [NEXT TWO LINES SAD AT THE SAME TIME]*

**JAKE:**

Definitely not.

**MONICA:**

Maybe.

*sfx - [AWKWARD PAUSE]*

**STEVE:**

Who's going to go first then?

**MONICA:**

Not me. I'm going after Jake.

**JAKE:**

I guess that makes sense . . .

**STEVE:**

Oh fine, I'll go first. I need to catch you up on what I've been up to anyway. Here at the Ostium Network, and why I did the experiment and all that. And then I'll tell you about where I ended up.

**JAKE:**

Sounds good, Steve. And then I'll tell my story and Monica can go last.

**MONICA:**

Works for me. This is going to take a while, isn't it?

**JAKE:**

Oh for sure.

**STEVE:**

Zhang, what time is it?

*Not understanding*

**ZHANG:**

While time is relative and its passage and importance seems barely significant within the current confines of the Ostium Network, I can tell you that it is fifteen-zero-five.

**JAKE:**

Fifteen?

**MONICA:**

Three-oh-five.

**JAKE:**

I know, I was just messing with ya.

**MONICA:**

Well played, Jakey.

**STEVE:**

So we've still got lots of time then, depending on our energy levels. How about we go till six, then have dinner, then resume after till I either finish my story or feel like I can't say another word without collapsing, and resume things tomorrow morning?

**MONICA:**

All sounds good to me. And I can keep the coffee going as needed.

**JAKE:**

*Being silly* Wait a second, let me just get comfortable.

*sfx - [MOVING AROUND ON THE COUCH]*

**JAKE:**

Okay, there we go. You can start now, Steve.

**MONICA:**

Fuck you, Jake.

**JAKE:**

Love you too, Monica.

**STEVE:**

*Joyful* Gosh, I've really missed you guys. Okay, so let me begin with when you had Thyra make that door for you mum, and then you went chasing after Jake. She seemed barely alive after that.

**MONICA:**

I'm sure. I still feel really bad about it. But I just didn't know what else to do. I had to go after Jake.

**STEVE:**

I know mum. All's forgiven. Thyra's doing much better now, with her health back. So that's settled. Anyway, once I got her all sorted making her recordings and telling her history . . . which you can listen to by the way. Thyra's been uploading them and I've given them a listen. Fantastic stuff. Really moving. All about how they thought Albion was created and how she became one of the Circe. But that's not the story I'm telling here. So there I was, basically on my own. Thyra off doing her thing. You guys going through various doors presumably and . . .

**JAKE:**

We have our recordings too, by the way, Steve. Right Monica?

**MONICA:**

Yep. Kept mine going the whole time. Every place I went to I wanted to have a record of.

**STEVE:**

Zhang, do you have all those recordings that Jake and Monica got?

**ZHANG:**

That is correct, Steve.

**STEVE:**

Fantastic. I'll give those a listen once we're all done here. So there was me and Zhang, chatting back and forth, and I started thinking I needed to have a check on the Ostium Network. Know what the extent of the island was, whether there was anything to see at the water's edge, but also at the highest peak. So I worked out a plan . . .

**[END CREDITS]**