

WELCOME TO THE HORIZON

Part 5: Trinkett's Trip

By

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Welcome to the Horizon

Part 5: Trinkett's Trip

MORNING ONCE AGAIN AT THE SHEEP'S EYE.

JUNE

So, here's something...

FRANK

What?

JUNE

What are we going to do during skiing season?

FRANK

What do you mean, "what are we going to do?"

JUNE

I mean what are we going to do?

FRANK

Can you be a little more specific than that?

JUNE

"Welcome to the Horizon Motel, please let us know if you need more pillows or of your toilet sprouts tentacles and tries to eat you."

FRANK

Ah... Right.

JUNE

Right.

FRANK

Honestly, I'm usually a big fan of long term thinking but I don't think I can see all the way to tourist season right now.

JUNE

Because of the comet that's going to hit us and destroy the Earth?

FRANK

A comet is not going to hit the Earth, I wish you would stop saying that.

JUNE

I wish you'd stop saying *that*.

FRANK

You're not listening to what Trinkett told us.

JUNE

Are you?

FRANK

If anything, a comet is going to pass very close to Earth. It's not going to hit us.

JUNE

And when it passes?

FRANK

When it passes it will, quite possibly, shower the Earth with dangerous debris that could have cataclysmic consequences.

JUNE

Listen to what optimism sounds like these days.

FRANK

I know.

DEIDRE APPROACHES.

DEIDRE

Hey, you two.

FRANK

Hey Deidre.

DEIDRE

How are we doing?

JUNE

Frank's trying out optimism lately and it's like he's wearing a funny hat all the time.

DEIDRE

Okay. Well, in keeping with that, I have a few things.

FRANK

Here we go.

JUNE

Let the games begin.

DEIDRE

I am also going to try and stay positive while delivering some stressful news.

JUNE

Okay, good luck.

FRANK

What's happening?

DEIDRE

We are experiencing a bit of a dip in the population.

FRANK

What do you mean?

DEIDRE

People are moving away.

FRANK

They are?

DEIDRE

Well, a lot of rental properties are owned by T.J. and I handle a lot of the rent collection and deposits for him. A lot of vacancies are opening up so I started checking into it. Lots of people are leaving town.

JUNE

How many?

DEIDRE

Well, I don't know the exact number but, Eli the Electrician is gone, Locksmith Andy is gone.

FRANK

Shit.

DEIDRE

That's the only electrician and the only locksmith in town.

JUNE

Don't lose your keys, I guess.

DEIDRE

Basil is also gone.

FRANK

Basil.

JUNE

Y'know, Basil and their tea?

FRANK

The tea shop.

DEIDRE

Yes. Closed down and moved to Boring, apparently.

JUNE

A tea shop in Boring. Get it?

DEIDRE

I don't know what happened to Dr. Lattice, but there was a note on her door saying "Living with the raccoons now."

FRANK

Raccoons?

JUNE

I have to say, I saw that coming.

FRANK

What was she a doctor of?

JUNE

Nobody knows.

DEIDRE

Also Zivia's mom and Pepper's mom.

FRANK

Pepper's... who?

DEIDRE

Embarrassingly, for some people, I only know their dog's names.

JUNE

Aha.

FRANK

How many all together?

DEIDRE

Again, I don't know, but I'm guessing about a hundred.

FRANK

Okay.

JUNE

Can you blame them?

FRANK

I guess not.

DEIDRE

Look, I think about getting out too but, I don't know, I feel like I'd be abandoning people.

FRANK

I get it.

JUNE

Not everybody's going to feel that way, Deidre.

FRANK

Honestly, maybe they're better off. I'm certainly not going to beg anyone to stay. If someone needs basic electrical work done just tell them to call me.

JUNE

If they lose their keys tell them to go through the window.

FRANK

And if they need tea, tell them to drink coffee.

DEIDRE

Okay. Speaking of which, I'll come back with some coffee.

JUNE

Thanks, Deidre.

FRANK

Hey Deidre.

DEIDRE

Yeah?

FRANK

Thank you for staying.

DEIDRE

Sure.

DEIDRE WALKS INSIDE.

FRANK

Honestly if I were her age I would've left when Relentless Rick showed up.

JUNE

Oh, I think Deidre's got a few more reasons to stay than your average Hood's Pocket citizen.

FRANK

What? Because of T.J.?

JUNE

... I think Deidre's got a little thing for our local extra-terrestrial.

FRANK

Deidre's got a thing for Verge?

JUNE

I think so. The vibe is out there. Can you feel the vibes?

FRANK

I try not to feel vibes.

JUNE

They're out there.

FRANK

So Deidre, our nice local barkeep, has a thing for Verge, the apparently quite dangerous space alien living at our motel.

JUNE

Correct.

FRANK

Well... that's not a train wreck waiting to happen at all, is it?

JUNE

Not at all.

FRANK

Whatever.

JUNE

I had a prime opportunity to make an alien probe joke right there and I abstained, where is my Peabody Award?

FRANK

A grateful nation thanks you.

JUNE

Somebody should be getting laid, right? This is the end of the world, shouldn't people be sleeping with each other? Maybe I should call Tarvok.

FRANK

If you call Tarvok, I'm leaving town. Does he even have a phone? Don't you have to blow a mystic horn from a mountaintop for him to appear?

JUNE

Oh, he's got a horn alright.

FRANK

Desist. Immediately.

JUNE  
Hey here's something. It's ten AM and nothing weird  
has happened yet.

FRANK  
... Do you you know what you just did?

JUNE  
I just jinxed it.

FRANK  
You just jinxed it.

JUNE  
Somebody had to.

FRANK  
No they didn't... You know what I'm going to do?  
I'm going to go talk to Trinkett.

JUNE  
Why?

FRANK  
I don't know. I think she's still a little messed  
up from our mushroom festival the other day, I'm  
going to go check in, make sure she's alright.

JUNE  
Normally I'd object, but I think you're kind of  
right.

FRANK  
Order me some oatmeal when Deidre comes back.

JUNE  
What was that? Chocolate chip pancakes?

FRANK  
Oatmeal.

JUNE  
Whipped cream on top?

FRANK  
Whatever.

FRANK MAKES HIS WAY ACROSS THE STREET TO TINKETT'S SHOP.

FLAT DOUG  
Morning, Frank.

FRANK  
Hey Doug.



FLAT DOUG

Hey, I heard that Eli left.

FRANK

Yeah, if you need some basic electrical I can probably do it.

FLAT DOUG

Okay, he got all his supplies through the store so if you need wires and stuff I can get them.

FRANK

That's great.

FLAT DOUG

Also Locksmith Andy?

FRANK

Yeah.

FLAT DOUG

The guy who got me the change machine, he can also get me one of those automatic kiosks that makes keys for you.

FRANK

Really?

FLAT DOUG

Might take a couple of weeks.

FRANK

Let's do that.

FLAT DOUG

Okay. I'll let you know when it's here.

FRANK

Thank you.

DOUG KEEPS WALKING.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hey, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

Yeah.

FRANK

You seem more relaxed lately, are you doing yoga or something?

FLAT DOUG

Uh... honestly I think everyone in town is now at my usual anxiety level, so it just looks like I've calmed down.

FRANK

Yeah, that sounds right.

FLAT DOUG

See you.

FRANK

Bye.

FRANK STOPS AT THE DOOR.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Okay, we're going to be nice, we're going to be supportive, we're not going to make fun of anything... today. No promises tomorrow.

FRANK WALKS IN TO TRINKETT'S SHOP.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Hello.

FRANK

How are you doing?

TRINKETT

I'm alright, how are you?

FRANK

I'm good, I'm good. I was just talking to Deidre, apparently we're seeing some people leaving town.

TRINKETT

I think we expected that.

FRANK

Yeah, so I was thinking, maybe we should get a meeting together over at the Sheep's Eye? People may want to leave, but won't be able to, maybe we should try and assure people that they'll be alright if they stay?

TRINKETT

... I don't think I can do that today.

FRANK

Trinkett, look. I know the experience at Cameron's house was rough, but I think you might feel better if you engage with people a little bit, y'know? Get out of your head.

TRINKETT

I've just taken some Ayahuasca.

FRANK

...

TRINKETT

Do you know what that is?

FRANK

Of course I know what that is.

TRINKETT

So, I think a town meeting would be bad.

FRANK

Trinkett, what the hell are you doing?

TRINKETT

I've done this many times before, Frank.

FRANK

Oh, I'm sure, but you chose right now?

TRINKETT

I need some clarity.

FRANK

Some clarity.

TRINKETT

I'm losing focus and I'm losing vision. I need some guidance so I brewed some this morning and I just drank it. It's going to be fine.

FRANK

Trinkett, what's this going to do to you?

TRINKETT

I thought you knew what it was.

FRANK

I know it's what tech billionaires do at resorts. It's where they get their great ideas on how to fuck up society.

TRINKETT

That's a very pessimistic view and I can't help that it's being misused.

FRANK

What's it going to do to you?

TRINKETT

I'm going to experience some visions and probably a bit of euphoria. What I see will be dictated by what I'm seeking.

FRANK

Which is what?

TRINKETT

... I have a particular worldview. Things have begun to happen that are outside that worldview and I need to expand my vision. I need a better understanding of the world as it changes.

FRANK

Right now, you need to do this?

TRINKETT

Absolutely.

FRANK

So while I'm out there dealing with all of the basic services disappearing from town you're just going to be in here tripping your nuts off and communing with the spirits?

TRINKETT

Essentially, yes.

FRANK

... You told me we were in this together, that the town was going to need both of us.

TRINKETT

I was serious about that.

FRANK

You in here talking to the ghost of Timothy Leary while I'm out there dealing with things is not us "being in this together."

TRINKETT

Do you want some tea as well? It might help me if we did this together.

FRANK

Trinkett.

TRINKETT

... I'm feeling very lost, Frank... I need to do this... This is what I do when I feel lost. Everybody knows what it means when you disappear up the mountain for a few days. It's the same thing... please don't be upset with me.

FRANK

Jesus Christ... Well, okay. Enjoy. If you happen to find the key to your enlightenment, be sure not to lose it, because we don't have a fucking locksmith anymore.

TRINKETT

Frank.

FRANK WALKS OUT THE DOOR. DOUG COMES RUNNING DOWN THE STREET, FULL TILT.

FLAT DOUG

Oh shit. Oh shit. Excuse me, Frank. Oh shit!

FRANK

... That didn't last long.

FRANK STARTS WALKING BACK ACROSS THE STREET. A CAR DRIVES BY, AS IT PASSES HIM THE DRIVER YELLS OUT THE CAR WINDOW.

GUY IN CAR

Life is an illusion!

FRANK

What?

THE CAR CONTINUES DOWN THE STREET AND LIGHTLY CRASHES INTO A TELEPHONE POLE. THE HORN CONTINUOUSLY HONKS.

FRANK (CONT'D)

That's great. Really great. Wonder who's going to have to clean that up?

FRANK SITS BACK DOWN AT THEIR TABLE AT THE SHEEP'S EYE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Did you see that?

JUNE

What?

FRANK

Somebody just crashed into the telephone pole.

JUNE

They did?

FRANK  
They're still sitting there in their car.

JUNE  
They are?

FRANK  
... What is this?

JUNE  
What?

FRANK  
... Why do I have a turkey sandwich?

JUNE  
What do you mean?

FRANK  
Deidre brought me a turkey sandwich.

JUNE  
Ok.

FRANK  
... I see, this is a fun joke. This is another one of your oatmeal jokes.

JUNE  
Oatmeal jokes...

FRANK  
... Wait, why do you have a turkey sandwich?

JUNE  
What do you mean?

FRANK  
You have a turkey sandwich too.

JUNE  
I do?

FRANK  
... What the fuck is wrong with you?

JUNE  
I don't know what you mean.

DEIDRE  
Frank?

FRANK  
Deidre, what are you doing?

DEIDRE

I don't remember who ordered these. Do you remember who ordered these?

FRANK

... Two turkey sandwiches?

DEIDRE

I think so.

FRANK

Deidre, it's nine-thirty in the morning. Nobody in the history of the world has ordered a turkey sandwich at nine-thirty in the morning.

DEIDRE

... In the history of the world?

JUNE

Deidre, I think those are ours.

FRANK

No, they're not. What are you talking about?!

JUNE

Are they not ours?

FRANK

We already have two turkey sandwiches that we didn't order.

DEIDRE

I'm sorry, Frank. I must've... you know, I don't really know what happened, let me take your order again.

JUNE

Two turkey sandwiches.

DEIDRE

Got it.

FRANK

No.

DEIDRE

Coming right up.

FRANK

Deidre.

DEIDRE WANDERS AWAY.

JUNE

I don't know about you, but I'm really looking forward to that turkey sandwich.

FRANK

There's one right in front of you.

JUNE

There is?... That was fast.

FRANK

... Wait a minute.

JUNE

What?

FRANK

I know that face.

JUNE

What face?

FRANK

That's you're "I'm trying very hard to conceal the fact that I'm high" face.

JUNE

I don't have that face.

FRANK

I'm looking at it right now.

JUNE

Peshaw.

FRANK

I was gone for five minutes.

JUNE

Gone? Where did you go, where were you gone to?

FRANK

... Shit.

FRANK GETS UP AND WALKS TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR OF THE SHEEP'S EYE.

JUNE

Can you get me a turkey sandwich?

FRANK

No.



JUNE

C'mon...

FRANK WALKS INSIDE THE SHEEP'S EYE.

FRANK

Deidre.

DEIDRE

Hey Frank, here's your turkey sandwich.

FRANK

Stop with the... Deidre, the bar is covered in turkey sandwiches, how many have you made?

DEIDRE

... Was I supposed to count them?

FRANK

... Why are people laying on the floor right now?

DEIDRE

I don't know. But I get it, do you ever just want to lay down?

FRANK

... So this is what it's going to be today, huh?

DEIDRE

What?

FRANK

Deidre, why don't you go sit down and have a glass of water, okay?

DEIDRE

That sounds great.

FRANK

Don't drive anywhere and don't do anything in the kitchen, okay.

DEIDRE

Okay.

FRANK

I'll be back.

DEIDRE

Okay. Frank?

FRANK

Yes.

DEIDRE

Do you know who made all these turkey sandwiches?

FRANK

I'll be back. Big glass of water, Diedre.

DEIDRE

Okay!

FRANK WALKS BACK OUTSIDE AND BACK TO HIS TABLE.

FRANK

You.

JUNE

You.

FRANK

Don't go anywhere, don't do anything.

JUNE

You don't go anywhere don't do anything.

FRANK

Give me your keys.

JUNE

They're my favorite keys.

FRANK

Don't go anywhere.

JUNE

Have I ever told you that your shoes have little duck faces on them?

FRANK

Goddamn it.

FRANK WALKS AWAY.

JUNE

Where'd these turkey sandwiches come from?

FRANK MAKES HIS WAY BACK ACROSS THE STREET. THE CAR THAT HIT THE TELEPHONE POLE IS NOW BACKING UP. IT STOPS AND THEN TRAVELS FORWARD AGAIN.

GUY IN CAR

Life is an illusion!

HE HITS THE TELEPHONE POLE AGAIN. FRANK BURSTS INTO TRINKETT'S SHOP.

FRANK

Trinkett!

TRINKETT

(From the back.)

What?

FRANK

Come out here please.

TRINKETT

Okay, Frank, look. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have sprung this on you, I know we're in this together. I'm not good at coordinating so-

FRANK

The whole town is high.

TRINKETT

... What?

FRANK

This ridiculous drug you just took, are you feeling the effects of it?

TRINKETT

... No.

FRANK

Is that strange?

TRINKETT

... Yes.

FRANK

You took a drug and it made everyone else high.

TRINKETT

How is that even-

FRANK

If you ask "How is that even possible?" I swear to God, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

... Hang on.

TRINKETT AND FRANK WALK OUTSIDE. THE CAR IS PULLING BACK AGAIN.

GUY IN CAR

Life is an illusion!

HE SMASHES INTO THE TELEPHONE POLE AGAIN.

TRINKETT  
Oh, shit.

FRANK  
Come on.

THEY START WALKING ACROSS THE STREET.

TRINKETT  
Frank there's no way I could've known this was going to happen.

FRANK  
Sure, whatever. We're going to go ahead and adopt a "you break it, you fix it" policy today. Hi, June.

JUNE  
Trinkett! Trinkett, check it out. Frank's shoes. Ducks, am I right?

TRINKETT  
Shit.

JUNE  
Language!

FRANK  
You need to figure out how to snap everyone out of this.

TRINKETT  
It's not a hypnotic trance, Frank, I can't just snap my fingers.

FRANK  
You've got to do something.

TRINKETT  
They're just going to have to go through it. It's not poison, it might be good for them.

FRANK  
On an individual level? Sure, whatever. But everyone in town going through it all at the same time.

TRINKETT  
We don't know that it's everyone in town.

FRANK  
I will bet you five thousand dollars that it's everyone in town.

JUNE

I'll take that action! Roll the dice!

DEIDRE

Trinkett?

TRINKETT

Hey, Diedre.

DEIDRE

Here's your turkey sandwich.

TRINKETT

Oh. Sweetie, I'm a vegan, remember?

DEIDRE

Oh, that's right!

TRINKETT

It's okay.

DEIDRE

I want to be vegan so bad, I think it would be so good for me.

TRINKETT

I know.

DEIDRE

But then it's barbecue day.

TRINKETT

That's okay, Deidre. How about we sit down?

DEIDRE

Okay.

TRINKETT

I think you should probably eat this sandwich.

DEIDRE

I can do that?

TRINKETT

Yes. I think it's a good idea. And just sit here, okay?

DEIDRE

Right here?

TRINKETT

Yes.

DEIDRE

... forever?

TRINKETT

No, Deidre. Just for a little while, okay?

DEIDRE

Okay, that sounds good.

TRINKETT

Great.

FRANK

Any ideas how to handle this?

TRINKETT

I think the majority of people in town are going to be fine, but there may be a few who are going to have a bad trip, so we need to check up on as many people as we can.

FRANK

And if they're having a bad trip, what then?

TRINKETT

I've got something I can make back at the shop, it can help keep them centered. It's going to take me a few minutes.

FRANK

Great. Okay, get to work, I'll start checking on people.

TRINKETT

Okay. Frank, I'm really sorry.

FRANK

It's fine, go.

TRINKETT WALKS ACROSS THE STREET.

JUNE

Trinkett, where are going? Can you get me some pork rinds?

FRANK

Hey. You. Listen to me.

JUNE

I'm listening.

FRANK

Stay here. All day. Right here.

JUNE  
Right here.

FRANK  
Okay?

JUNE  
Let's do it.

FRANK  
You promise?

JUNE  
I promise. I'm going to pinkie swear, let's pinkie swear... which one is my pinkie?

FRANK  
Never mind. See you tonight!

JUNE  
Pork rinds.

DEIDRE  
This sandwich is so good, who made it?

JUNE  
I'm going to the store.

FRANK KNOCKS ON VERGE'S DOOR.

FRANK  
Verge?

VERGE'S DOOR OPENS.

VERGE  
Hey there, Frank. Let me guess, something weird is going on.

FRANK  
Please tell me you're not hallucinating.

VERGE  
I don't know, are you really here talking to me?

FRANK  
Yes.

VERGE  
Then I guess I'm not. Eldin, am I hallucinating?

ELDIN  
How the fuck would I know?

VERGE

Let's say no.

FRANK

Are your, uh, people, effected by something called ayahuasca?

VERGE

Eldin?

ELDIN

There's no data available on that, but Vapians are generally not susceptible to hallucinogens.

FRANK

I'm liking your planet more and more, I should visit there.

VERGE

It's a black hole now.

FRANK

All the more reason.

VERGE

Anything else you need to know, are you just going door to door?

FRANK

I need your help.

VERGE

I'm sensing a pattern.

FRANK

I can explain more later, but everyone in town has been given a powerful hallucinogen.

VERGE

...

FRANK

I know.

VERGE

What the hell are we supposed to do about this, Frank?

FRANK

I need you to help me check on people.

VERGE

Check on people?



FRANK

Yeah, make sure they're okay.

VERGE

Have they been poisoned or something?

FRANK

No.

VERGE

Why are we checking on them?

FRANK

Because they could be going through a rough time.

VERGE

So?

FRANK

Verge. You have decided, at least for now, to make a home amongst people. That implies certain things. Things like helping them out in a jam and checking on them when they are mysteriously dosed by an Amazonian hallucinogen. Work with me here.

VERGE

Fine. What am I doing?

FRANK

People are just going to be wandering around so we have to track them down somehow.

VERGE

Do they all have phones?

FRANK

Phones? Yes, for the most part.

VERGE

Eldin, locate everyone's phone and put them up on a map.

ELDIN

Sure.

VERGE

(Showing him the screen.)  
There you go.

FRANK

Holy shit. This is the whole town.

VERGE

Look Frank, there's you.

FRANK

This is disturbing.

VERGE

What, that I can instantly pinpoint your location on a map using a device that you assume is completely private? The shock.

FRANK

Okay... okay seeing the map like this makes me realize this is going to be impossible to check on everyone.

VERGE

Great. Then I guess we hang out here. Do you want a drink? I've got some Wasabi Loobs Mum from Festen, best champagne in the galaxy.

FRANK

We need to do some triage.

VERGE

I'm beginning to understand why June makes fun of you all the time.

FRANK

There are some people in town that keep the place running more than others, we need to check on them. Without them, the wheels come off the wagon.

VERGE

The wheels are ON the wagon right now?

FRANK

Trinkett's going to be fine, June's taken more trips in the woods than a nearsighted lumberjack so I'm not worried about her. Let's start with Doug and Deidre.

VERGE

The bartender?

FRANK

You wouldn't think it but this place would be a mess without Deidre. Shit.

VERGE

What?

FRANK

She went home. We told her to stay put and she went home. Okay, I'm going to go check on Doug, you check on Deidre.

VERGE

Okay... how do I do that?

FRANK

How do you do what?

VERGE

Check on someone.

FRANK

You just... You check on them, you make sure they're okay.

VERGE

But, what do I do?

FRANK

You don't have to do anything. Make sure she's not doing anything stupid.

VERGE

ANYTHING stupid?

FRANK

Verge. I get the whole High Plains Drifter thing but I'm not buying that you don't know how to care about people, alright? Call me if you need anything. Wait, how do I call you, can I call you on that thing?

VERGE

Eldin, grab his phone.

ELDIN

(In Frank's phone.)

Hello, Frank. I'm in your phone now. It's terrible in here.

VERGE

Talk into your phone and I'll hear it.

FRANK

Great.

WE MOVE TO THE CORNER STORE. WE HEAR THE DRONE OF THE REFRIGERATORS. JUNE ENTERS.

FLAT DOUG

Who's there?

JUNE

Who's there?

FLAT DOUG  
June?

JUNE  
Flat Doug?

FLAT DOUG  
What are you doing here?

JUNE  
I'm getting groceries for my Aunt Hilda, what are you doing?

FLAT DOUG  
I work here.

JUNE  
Right... Work... what do I do for work?

FLAT DOUG  
You work at the Horizon.

JUNE  
Yes. Yes, I do... So I'm going to do some shopping.

FLAT DOUG  
Okay.

JUNE  
You're going to stay hiding behind the counter?

FLAT DOUG  
Yes. It's safe here.

JUNE  
Okie dokie.

FRANK ENTERS.

FRANK  
I thought I told you to stay at the Sheep's Eye.

JUNE  
I'm shopping.

FRANK  
This couldn't wait until tomorrow?

JUNE  
I've decided, no.

FRANK  
What could possibly be so important?

JUNE  
I'm taking some groceries to Aunt Hilda's house.

FRANK  
Aunt Hilda?

JUNE  
Yes.

FRANK  
Great.

JUNE  
Doug I'm going to take these groceries.

FRANK  
Please don't drive.

JUNE  
It's right up the street.

FRANK  
Uh huh.

JUNE  
Frank. You're doing a great job.

FRANK  
I appreciate it, June. You know Aunt Hilda died  
five years ago.

JUNE  
Don't be ridiculous.

JUNE WALKS OUT.

FRANK  
... Doug?

FLAT DOUG  
... Frank?

FRANK  
Doug, where are you?

FLAT DOUG  
... Where are you?

FRANK  
I'm... I'm right here, I'm at the door.

FLAT DOUG  
... Were you followed?

FRANK

Followed? By who?

FLAT DOUG

.... You know who.

FRANK

No I don't.

FLAT DOUG

I can hear it out there.

FRANK

What?... Doug don't tell me.

FLAT DOUG

A snow plow makes a very distinct sound, Frank. Did you know that?

FRANK

Doug, you're the only one in town that doesn't know that.

FLAT DOUG

I've been hearing it all morning.

FRANK

Yes, I'm sure you have.

FLAT DOUG

It can't get me in here.

FRANK

Yeah, yeah I guess that's true... So, you're going to be fine, then?

FLAT DOUG

So what do I do? Spend my life in here?

FRANK

You're not going to feel this way forever, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

I feel like I have spent my whole life in here.

FRANK

You haven't spent your whole life in here, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

I haven't?

FRANK

Doug you go fly fishing twice a year and buck hunting every winter.

FLAT DOUG

Yes. Yes I do, but all that time I feel like, mentally, I have always been a resident of Peppercorn's Shop and Go.

FRANK

Jesus Christ.

FLAT DOUG

When will I be set free of this place, Frank?

FRANK

Doug. You're not a prisoner. You can walk outside any time.

FLAT DOUG

The snow plow is out there, Frank, I can feel it.

FRANK

Doug. The Shop and Go is not a prison and there's no snow plow outside.

FLAT DOUG

Not all prisons have bars, Frank.

FRANK

Doug. Get up.

FLAT DOUG

What if it sees me?

FRANK

Get up.

FLAT DOUG

Fine. Can you hear anything?

FRANK

Nope. C'mon, let's go.

FLAT DOUG

Where are we going?

FRANK

We're going outside.

FLAT DOUG

I can't go outside.

FRANK

Do you want to spend your life in here?

FLAT DOUG

No.

FRANK

Well, occasionally if we want to leave the house we have to face the imaginary snow plows in our heads. Let's go.

FLAT DOUG

They're very crafty, they can sneak up on you.

FRANK

Okay. Come on.

FRANK AND DOUG WALK OUTSIDE. ALL'S QUIET.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Okay. Here we are. See? No problem.

FLAT DOUG

My god...

FRANK

What?

FLAT DOUG

There it is.

FRANK

Doug?

FLAT DOUG

It's been hunting me all morning and there it is.

FRANK

No, Doug, that's just a car. Someone crashed it into a telephone pole a few times and walked away I guess.

FLAT DOUG

Shh. Don't let it know we're here.

FRANK

It's just a car.

FLAT DOUG

You know what, Frank? You know what... at a certain point you have to say enough is enough. All my life I've felt like there was something waiting for me right outside but I could never see it. But look... thar she blows.

FRANK

It's just a car.

FLAT DOUG

Enough is enough Frank!



FRANK

Doug-

DOUG WALKS BACK INSIDE.

ELDIN

Pardon me, Frank. I hate to interrupt because of how hilarious this is, but I thought I should alert you that someone you refer to as Edgy Steve has left the town limits and is wandering into the woods north of town.

FRANK

Wonderful. Can you call Trinkett?

ELDIN

Calling Trinkett.

FRANK

... Trinkett, how's your magic potion coming along?... Uh huh, great. Listen, I'm a little busy with Flat Doug right now and apparently Steve is wandering into the woods north of town, you're going to have to handle that one... Trinkett, Steve is going to wander right off a cliff or something, can you put your cauldron on "simmer" and go check on him please? I told you, I'm busy with Doug.

DOUG RE-EMERGES FROM THE STORE WITH A BASEBALL BAT.

FRANK (CONT'D)

... Who now has a baseball bat and is convinced that a car is a snowplow.

FLAT DOUG

Towards thee I roll!

DOUG STARTS HITTING THE CAR WITH THE BASEBALL BAT.

FRANK

He's hitting the car with the bat now.

FLAT DOUG

Thou all-destroying but unconquering whale; to the last I grapple with thee!

FRANK

Yeah, he's quoting Moby Dick.

FLAT DOUG

From hell's heart I stab at thee; for hate's sake I spit my last breath at thee!

FRANK

So, like I was saying, I'm a little busy right now.  
You're going to have to handle Edgy Steve.

FRANK WATCHES WHILE DOUG HITS THE CAR OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You know, Doug, I hate to say it, but this seems to  
be working for you. Go ahead and lean into it.

FLAT DOUG

I'll chase him round Good Hope, and round the Horn,  
and round the Norway Maelstrom, and round  
perdition's flames before I give him up!

VERGE CLIMBS THE STEPS OF DEIDRE'S PORCH AND KNOCKS ON THE  
FRONT DOOR.

VERGE

... Deidre? Deidre It's Verge, I'm here to check on  
you... which is what people do when they live near  
other people... or something. Are you there?

DEIDRE THROWS THE DOOR OPEN.

DEIDRE

It's you.

VERGE

Hi-

DEIDRE SUDDENLY HUGS VERGE.

VERGE (CONT'D)

OH-kay... hugging is fine... hello.

DEIDRE

Your body's so cool.

VERGE

Thanks?

DEIDRE

I'm so glad you're here.

VERGE

Sure. Me too... Deidre do you maybe want to put  
some pants on?

DEIDRE

What?

VERGE

You're half naked.

DEIDRE

Oh... right... yeah... I'm just so hot, do I feel hot? I'm burning up, feel my head, give me your hand... feel... I'm burning up right?

VERGE

You're very warm.

DEIDRE

I don't know what's going on, I think I'm going to lay on the floor again.

VERGE

Okay.

DEIDRE LAYS ON THE FLOOR.

DEIDRE

That's better.

VERGE

... Okay, well, you seem to be doing fine-

DEIDRE

Come in, please, come in. It's so great that you're here.

VERGE

Why is that?

DEIDRE

I mean it's also terrifying because, yaaaaaaa! It's you! You know?

VERGE

I don't.

DEIDRE

Now I feel like I'm going to fall into the ceiling. Can you help me up?

VERGE

Sure.

DEIDRE

...What are you doing here?

VERGE

I'm checking on you.

DEIDRE

Oh... well that's very nice of you.

VERGE

It's no problem.

DEIDRE

You're a very nice person. You seem nice.

VERGE

Thank you.

DEIDRE

Also, I mean, what the hell are you doing here?

VERGE

I just said.

DEIDRE

No, like, what are you doing heeeeere. In town... You just kind of showed up. And I'm sitting here thinking "whaaaat is happening?" Who is this person? They're *here* in *this* place? Because you just... you seem so... I don't know, I don't know what the word is like you should live in Germany or something? And I can't concentrate... I mean ever. I have a hard time concentrating ever and then the other day I realized I had been sitting there for five minutes with the water running in the sink just wondering what your deal was.

VERGE

I had no idea I was so distracting.

DEIDRE

... Yeah, you did.

VERGE

... Okay maybe a little.

DEIDRE

... You've got all these colors around you right now. They're pink and yellow and blue, it's really beautiful.

VERGE

...

DEIDRE

...

VERGE

Deidre-

DEIDRE

I think I need to lay on the floor again.

VERGE

Good idea.

DEIDRE LAYS BACK DOWN.

DEIDRE

... Apparently everyone in town is high right now.

VERGE

No.

DEIDRE

Something in the water, I guess. You're not though.

VERGE

I'm fine.

DEIDRE

Why is that?

VERGE

I usually don't trust the tap water in a new place.

DEIDRE

Okay. Where are you from?

VERGE

Nowhere, really.

DEIDRE

Oh please don't do the mysterious stranger thing,  
I'm already so confused.

VERGE

I... my family was always moving around... and then  
after that so was I... hard to say I'm from  
somewhere.

DEIDRE

Wait. Are you Romani? Is that what I've been  
picking up on?

VERGE

I don't know what that is.

DEIDRE

I need to find my phone.

DEIDRE GETS UP AGAIN.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

... Am I hallucinating or is my house a wreck?

VERGE  
You're not hallucinating.

DEIDRE  
Okay. If I were my phone I would be where? Is it by the door?

VERGE  
(To Eldin.)  
Where's her phone?

ELDIN  
(Whispering.)  
The windowsill.

VERGE  
Here it is.

DEIDRE  
Great. Great great great I want to show you something... okay everything is spinning I need to show you something on the couch.

VERGE  
Okay.

THEY SIT ON THE COUCH.

DEIDRE  
I've got it saved, hang on, wow my phone looks so crazy right now... here it is.

WE HEAR SOME DRUMMING COMING FROM DEIDRE'S PHONE.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)  
I was in Greece with my family... and there were these street musicians from Africa in this public square, see them?... I started recording them and after a while... There, see them? These three women come up and start dancing to the music... and then more join in... I thought it was so cool... They're Romani, they're nomadic, they roam all over Europe and the Middle East... You're like them?

VERGE  
A little. Sure.

DEIDRE  
... I showed this to my grandfather who is old and a little racist, and he said "Don't ever go near those people. They can't be trusted." I don't know why he's like that.

VERGE  
... You can trust me.

DEIDRE  
... I know that I can.

VERGE  
...

DEIDRE  
... I really need to put my head in your lap.

VERGE  
Okay.

SHE DOES.

DEIDRE  
This is better. Can you stoke my hair?

VERGE  
... Like this.

DEIDRE  
Yes... that's great... I feel like I'm going to  
fall asleep but I'm scared.

VERGE  
Just pretend you already are.

DEIDRE  
... Is this a dream?... I don't want it to be...

VERGE  
... I don't either...

WE MOVE TO AN EMPTY GLADE OF TREES. TRINKETT MAKES HER WAY  
THROUGH THE TREES.

TRINKETT  
Steve?... Steve are you out here?

EDGY STEVE  
... Hey...

TRINKETT  
There you are. Steve, how are you feeling?

EDGY STEVE  
... Fine...

TRINKETT  
Something got into the drinking water... I think  
that's what were going with...  
(MORE)

TRINKETT (CONT'D)

so everyone's going through a pretty strange time right now. How are you doing?

EDGY STEVE

I've been high since I was thirteen years old, Trinkett, it's kind of just a Tuesday for me.

TRINKETT

Oh... okay...

EDGY STEVE

... You have a name for this place right?

TRINKETT

For this glade? Um, yes, I did. It's a glade of wishes... I would come here and express things I wanted.

EDGY STEVE

Express them to who?

TRINKETT

To... you really want to talk about this right now, Steve?

EDGY STEVE

Yes.

TRINKETT

... The Triple Goddess and the Great Horned God.

EDGY STEVE

Who are they?

TRINKETT

They are embodiments of the duality of life. That's the best way to put it, I guess.

EDGY STEVE

Are they real?

TRINKETT

... Steve, I don't know what's real anymore.

EDGY STEVE

... Is there really a comet heading for Earth?

TRINKETT

... I don't know, Steve. Maybe.

EDGY STEVE

... I think, maybe I shouldn't have spent so much of my life making sure skiers had enough weed and meth, Trinkett.



TRINKETT

... Maybe?

EDGY STEVE

It just kind of happened to me.

TRINKETT

I know the feeling.

EDGY STEVE

Do you ever feel that way? Like your life just kind of happened to you?

TRINKETT

I had to make a lot of conscious decisions to be who I am, Steve. A lot went into the making of Trinkett Coralee, I wasn't born like this... Then again, my parents travelled with a Renaissance Faire nine months out of the year, so I guess it's not much of a surprise that their daughter wound up being a witch at the top of a mountain.

EDGY STEVE

... I heard you were a goth in middle school.

TRINKETT

Yeah. Yeah I was.

EDGY STEVE

I bet you were pretty cool.

TRINKETT

Honestly, I was. Cheerleaders were scared of me, it was pretty fun... What were you in middle school?

EDGY STEVE

I never showed up for middle school. So I guess I was that kid that parents told their kids not to hang out with, I guess that was me. Cautionary tale... Trinkett, what if the world comes to an end and that's all I ever did? I thought I'd have more time than this.

TRINKETT

Steve, I think if you'd spent your whole life being an ideal citizen, then right now you'd be saying "Damn, why didn't I do more drugs?"

EDGY STEVE

(Laughing.)  
Yeah... Yeah, I guess.

TRINKETT

That's the duality of life I was talking about. Always wishing for the other thing. People who kept it simple worry they were too lazy, people who achieve a lot worry they never took the time to slow down. Kind of a no-win situation.

EDGY STEVE

Are you happy with what you've done with your life?

TRINKETT

See... that's the trap, Steve. "Am I happy with what I've done? With who I've become?" Implying you made mistakes along the path, that there was some right way or some wrong way... Those things are impossible to know. There's a whole host of spirits out there. They can haunt your dreams and keep you awake at night, rattle the dishes in your cupboard... none of them are as terrifying as the ghost of the life we didn't lead.

EDGY STEVE

... If those gods of yours were real, is that what they would say to be right now?

TRINKETT

I don't know what they would say. But I know they put me in this glade with you right now. And I'm thankful for that... Have you eaten anything today?

EDGY STEVE

No, I forgot.

TRINKETT

Well, there's about nineteen turkey sandwiches back at the Sheep's Eye. How about we go and get you one?

EDGY STEVE

Okay.

STEVE GETS UP.

EDGY STEVE (CONT'D)

We're in The Wishing Glade. Do you want to make a wish?

TRINKETT

No more wishes. I've got everything I need.

WE MOVE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN. JUNE FINALLY REACHES THE TOP OF A HILL.

JUNE

Aunt Hilda!... Aunt Hilda, come on out, I got you some groceries... Hilda, c'mon I climbed to the top of this godforsaken hill, let's go... Fuck, you're dead... Shit... Well, at least I don't have to go grocery shopping.

JUNE MAKES HER WAY BACK DOWN THE HILL. WE MOVE BACK TO THE SHEEP'S EYE AT SUNSET. IN THE DISTANCE WE CAN STILL HEAR DOUG WAILING AWAY ON THE CAR.

DEIDRE

Thanks for checking in on me.

VERGE

It was an experience.

DEIDRE

I've embarrassed myself quite a few times in my life. I'm sure that's not a surprise. This is the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to me so it would be great if you could say something that makes it less so.

VERGE

... You have nice legs.

DEIDRE

... That's... Literally the opposite of what I just asked you to do.

VERGE

Sorry.

DEIDRE

Verge.

VERGE

It's no problem at all that you threw up for an hour.

DEIDRE

Worse!

VERGE

I'm sorry... this is new for me.

DEIDRE

What is?

VERGE

... Any of this.

DEIDRE

You'll get the hang of it.

PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO FILE INTO THE SHEEP'S EYE.

FRANK

Welcome back everyone. Hope you enjoyed your trip. Come on inside there's turkey sandwiches for everyone.

JUNE

Hello.

FRANK

Oh, hello. How's Aunt Hilda?

JUNE

Still dead. But I'm sure she's flattered that I still think of her. Why is Doug beating a car to death with a baseball bat?

FRANK

I think the drugs have worn off and now he's just getting it all out.

JUNE

Good for him. Give 'em hell, Doug!... You know what's crazy, I really want a turkey sandwich right now.

FRANK

Then you've come to the right place.

JUNE

Make way, you drug fiends!

FRANK

Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Hello.

FRANK

Looks like we all made it through unscathed.

TRINKETT

I'm glad. I found this one wandering in the woods.

EDGY STEVE

Frank. I'm a drug dealer.

FRANK

I know.

EDGY STEVE  
And that's okay.

FRANK  
It's not.

EDGY STEVE  
I'll see you inside.

FRANK  
Okay.

EVERYONE HEADS INSIDE. VERGE HANGS BACK AND LIGHTS A CIGARETTE.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Coming?

VERGE  
You didn't hallucinate.

FRANK  
I know.

VERGE  
Why not?

FRANK  
Neither did Trinkett.

VERGE  
She took the drug though, right?

FRANK  
Yes.

VERGE  
And everyone got high except for the alien from outer space and you.

FRANK  
I'm sure there were other people that weren't effected.

VERGE  
... Okay.

FRANK  
Coming in?

VERGE  
In a minute.

FRANK

Alright.

FRANK HEADS INSIDE.

VERGE

... I smell something funny with that one.

ELDIN

I've been smelling it much longer than you have.

VERGE

Really? Eldin, have you been holding out on me?

ELDIN

I had to do a deep search of several archives in two galaxies, it's been taking me a while.

VERGE

What were you searching for?

ELDIN

Precedent.

VERGE

And?

ELDIN

Do you remember at the house full of mushrooms when I scanned his lungs for spores?

VERGE

Yes.

ELDIN

There weren't any.

VERGE

Spores?

ELDIN

Verge. There weren't any lungs.

VERGE

... My goodness.

ELDIN

I was searching for an explanation. I didn't find one.

VERGE

... Let's keep this between us for now.

ELDIN  
    Excellent idea.

VERGE  
    ... I like it here.

**THE END.**