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The Magnus Protocol
Episode 23
“A New You”

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Edited by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall

10-10-23
Draft 3.0

ANNOUNCER
This episode is dedicated to Hamda
Alkhaja.

[Intro Theme]

ANNOUNCER
Rusty Quill Presents: The Magnus
Protocol.
Episode Twenty-Three – A New You

[Music]

1. INT. OIAR MAIN OFFICE - NIGHT, CLEAR (COMPUTER).

SAM sits doing some paperwork.

His pencil breaks.

SAM
Dammit.

He stops, sighs stands and walks over to an old, mounted crank sharpener.

He begins using it.

LENA enters.

LENA
Problems?

SAM
Just a broken pencil.

LENA

(Approaching)

I see. And what exactly is this you're working on anyway?

SAM

(returning)

Just some response department paperwork.

LENA

(leafing through)

You are aware that the response department hasn't existed for some years now?

SAM

Well yes but...

LENA

I am afraid it looks like our colleagues are entertaining themselves at your expense.

SAM

Sorry?

LENA

I've seen this with other new hires. Some ill-conceived initiation rite. Alice's doing, I suspect.

SAM

Ok, uh... Thanks for the heads up.

SAM sits and returns to the paperwork.

LENA

What I am trying to say, Sam, is that this paperwork is unnecessary. Meaningless.

SAM

I understand. But I think I might see how far down the rabbit hole goes. If it is Alice-

LENA

I am sure it is.

SAM

-I want to see how long she can keep it up for.

LENA

(nonplussed)

So long as it doesn't interfere with your work.

SAM

Oh, I'm doing it strictly off the clock.

SAM continues with the paperwork and **LENA** observes him for a moment.

SAM CONT.

It's actually sort of comforting in a way, you know?

LENA

I can assure you, I don't.

SAM

There's just something very zen about filling in pointless forms now and then.

LENA

I see.

(she doesn't)

Beat.

LENA CONT.

**Well as engrossing as this must be
for you, I believe your shift has
started.**

Beat.

LENA

Sam.

SAM

Mmm? Oh yeah, sorry.

SAM puts the papers aside then begins his computer work.

2. CYBERSPACE

CHESTER

**FORUM THREAD: Updates &
Live-posting**

**REGISTERED BY: Alnewman86 (20-
06-18, 19:27)**

**POST #1: Finding My Piece (20-06-
18, 19:31)**

**Hey all, A here. First off, thank you
so much for all the help over these
past few months. I can't express how
insightful, patient and open minded
this community has been. I never
thought I'd find others willing to help
me create a better me like this so...
sincerely thank you.**

**Anyway I'm going to be documenting
my journey here and wanted to start
by asking how you all went about
finding your piece. I've been thinking**

it over for a while now. I even caught myself saying it to myself into the bathroom mirror at work. Someone overheard me and thought I was talking about finding peace, like inner peace, and asked if I was meditating. Kind of ironic, really, but I don't think they'd get the joke. Anyway, I'd love to know how others found their piece. Or I guess my question is more, does it matter? Should it be important? Should it be meaningful? Should it be random? Am I overthinking it? Looking for thoughts and advice. I'm going to take this all the way so will take all the help I can get!

**43 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

POST #2: Found it! Alnewman86 (13-07-18, 18:52)

I think I've found it. My piece. Maybe I knew where it was all along. I'm a bit worried though because to get it I have to be a bit... Sneaky? Nothing too bad, but I'm nervous. . There's this restaurant I eat at all the time - or rather I used to eat at all the time - and I guess it's significant to me. It was where I said yes after Anthony proposed (those who have read some my previous posts know how THAT turned out) but it's also where I first realized that I had to do this.

They have this massive aquarium and I remember just suddenly

realizing how serene everything was inside. The water was crystal blue and at the bottom there it was... vibrant, electric almost and... so very alive. (God knows how they got it all through customs)

I remember the first night coming home after that. Anthony was snoring beside me, and I couldn't stop thinking about that aquarium. I didn't really know what I was searching for, I didn't know how to articulate it. It's a feeling I'm sure many of us here know very well and so as I tried to unfold my thoughts... I stumbled upon... well, you guys! :)

So yeah, that's going to be my piece. I've already spoken to a waiter who's agreed to let me in the back tomorrow night after closing while they're cleaning up in the kitchen. I have my container and I've read all the steps in the How-To Forum. I just wanted you all to be here with me, to experience it. So... Wish me luck!

28 LIKES

0 COMMENTS

**POST #3, I think I'm just about ready
Alnewman86 (14-07-18, 20:48)**

I'm parked in across the street waiting for the last customers, thinking about what this place meant to me, back then, what would've happened if things had been

different. Not that I'd have it any other way.

His voice was so loud for so long it drowned me out of my own life. I wonder if any of you have felt it? The way other people try to convince us that we can better ourselves by being more like what they want. But we can become someone new. Someone better. Someone the pain can't touch... Anthony would never understand the difference. He couldn't.

I wonder how many people in that restaurant right now are still stuck like I was?

I'm just killing time so happy to chat it through, if anyone wants (at least until the waiter arrives!)

**13 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #4, I think I'm just about ready
-2 Alnewman86 (15-07-18, 20:37)**

I can't believe it! My heart is still racing! I've never done anything like this before. Never stolen, never cheated... I feel alive for the first time in my life.

I'm staring at my piece right now. It's on my desk, I want to keep it warm. I'm going to sleep holding it tonight like you all suggested, so it's properly bonded with me before tomorrow... It is safe, right? Of

course it is. I'm overthinking it. Will be back tomorrow, right before the full moon!

**34 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

POST #5, First Cut Alnewman86 (16-07-18, 19:22)

Took today off work. Sleeping beside the coral, my coral, my piece... I slept better than any night next to Anthony, better than any night ever. The best sleep of my life. I'm so ready to be whole.

I even had a dream last night. I was back at the restaurant, looking at the aquarium while Anthony prattled on. I was staring, aimlessly, at the lights; the colourful stones, the green of the moss on the stones that hugged the Coral... when all of a sudden, I was alone. And...

I was afraid. I span my head around, looking for Anthony, for the waiter - for anyone. Then I saw her. On the other side of the Aquarium. We locked eyes for just a moment.

Like I said, I want to share every part of this for anyone who wants to follow in my steps. I know some of you like the dream interpretation part of it and I wanted to share.

But I'm ready. I have my rubber gloves, I've sanitized the scalpel as LazerCat23 suggested, I have a clean working surface, bags, bandages

and my sewing kit for after and... and I am nervous.

**I know what I need to do, and I know it will all be worth it.
Will update right after. Here we go.**

**35 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #6, First Cut - Update
Alnewman86 (16-07-18, 21:17)**

I'm a bit out of it but I promised I would update: Feeling a bit woozy but it's done. My thigh bled a lot more than I expected, you were right burntumberJ. I have tomorrow off but I have to go back to work while she starts to grow. I can't wait... I can see her, under my rippled skin. Waiting to grow. She's perfect... She's everything I wish I could've been.

**15 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #7, My Secret Alnewman86
(26-07-18, 15:34)**

I've been at work for a week now and it's so different. It was difficult to go back to "normal" knowing she was inside me but here I am, actually sat at my desk with her pressing against my thigh skin. I keep catching myself running my fingers under my skirt just to feel her pressing up beneath

my skin; living, breathing polyps gently moving through my leg. A life that I hold within my body and nurture. Anthony would never have understood, it's not the same as some squealing baby. I'm so glad he's gone and like you've all said she and I, we're becoming one... and then two.

**45 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #8, My Secret - Update 1
Alnewman86 (18-08-18, 22:03)**

**Hey all. I know it's been a few weeks since I've updated. I'm in the early parts of stage 2 and I'm here to confirm it is terrifying. It started with my feet, I noticed in the shower one day that I couldn't feel the hot water on them... it was so strange at first but I knew what was happening thanks to your advice. It's up to my waist now... no feeling whatsoever. I'm on bereavement leave from work for the next bit then I have some vacation days saved up. I have the humidifiers set high, the curtains are taped shut and everything I need is within reach. I know any day now my second stage will properly begin. I'm terrified. I'm exhilarated. It's really happening!
Wish me luck!**

**54 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #9, My Secret - Update 2
Alnewman86 (27-08-18, 10:13)**

It's started. Last night, I heard it while laying in bed... It's exactly as described. I couldn't feel a thing, nothing, but then the skin broke with such a distinct sound. Like cutting a half-inflated football. Then I saw the red blossom out through the white sheets.

She's so beautiful, bright pink, and radiant! The coral polyps blooming and scattering from the broken flesh over my feet and legs with such an incredible smell, like sea water, sand and copper.

It's slow though, much slower than I would've thought....

Oh, and I managed to rent a paralysis computer. Great suggestion again burntumberJ. So I should be able to keep everyone updated as planned, even when my arms start to go.

I cannot express how great it is to finally see her... to finally meet her out in the world at last.

**62 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #10, am I dreaming
Alnewman86 (30-08-18, 08:19)**

I had the dream again. I was in the restaurant. I was alone and I met her eyes. She was me. She was with me that first night. She was always with me... but now she's arrived. She's here. I'm awake. She has my eyes.

**61 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #11, She's almost here
Alnewman86 (01-09-18, 09:04)
Last night I watched my stomach unzip. The skin stretched then tore cleanly. There was only the blood. It was beautiful but it took forever. I keep thinking of this life I'm leaving behind. I'd love her to keep my name. But I don't know if she will. I know I shouldn't be, but I'm scared.**

**68 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #12, She's almost here-2
Alnewman86 (01-09-18, 18:33)**

I'm having difficulty swallowing fluids now. My skin is wet with sweat and mold.

Alesis Newman is leaving this world and whoever comes next, though she may look like me in some ways, though she may carry a part of me with her, she'll be better. Free of all my mistakes.

Perhaps people will like her more than me. I already like her more than me.

I want to see her walk off happy and strong. I hope she doesn't feel this now, just be the good parts of me. I hope it's like I dreamt, I hope she has my eyes...

**71 LIKES
0 COMMENTS**

**POST #13, Alesis Newman Final
Alnewman86 (03-09-18, 02:22)**

Writing with my eyes now. The last parts of me float away. She lays where I lay but she is not me. She is strong. She is graceful. She is bright in mind and color and I love her, more than I thought I could love anything.

I want you all to know... before my skull pulls apart... you were-

**515 LIKES
37 COMMENTS**

POST #14 untitled Alnewman86 (03-01-18, 02:27) [Deleted by moderators 03-01-18, 02:28]

This isn't right, there something wrong, something wrong with her. I don't- help me

0 LIKES

0 COMMENTS

**THREAD LOCKED BY
BETTERTHE NEW (03-01-18, 12:07)**

3. INT. OIAR BREAKROOM - NIGHT, CLEAR (CCTV)

SAM enters the room and prepares coffee with a yawn.

CELIA
(yawning)
Oh great, you've got me started.

SAM
(deliberately yawning)
Soooooorry.

CELIA
(yawning again)
Stop it!

Sam chuckles. He finishes preparing the cup and sits next to Celia.

SAM
Anything good tonight?

CELIA
Another evil toy. That's like 6 this week.

SAM
If I could give you my weirder ones I would.

CELIA
Aw thanks!
(she sips)
Oh speaking of, did you have any luck?

SAM

Hmmm?

CELIA

Those names I gave you. You find anything?

SAM

Nothing useful. Jonathan Sims is pretty generic as names go. And I didn't have much luck with Martin Blackwood either. There were two that were close to the right age...

CELIA

But?

SAM

But they died, separately, nearly twenty years ago. cycling accident and some kind of heart thing. No connection to the Magnus Institute. As far as I can tell they never even met. Where'd you say you had found them?

CELIA

Couple of old documents. I must have got the wrong end of the stick. I've had a bit of luck elsewhere though.

SAM

(perking up)

Oh yeah?

CELIA

I think I've found the right Basira Hussain and I have a lead on a Helen...

SAM
Richardson?

CELIA
That's the one.

SAM
Fantastic! When can we go talk to them?

CELIA
Okay hold your horses -

GWEN enters, clearly upset.

Beat.

She begins to make coffee, sees it is empty then begins making more.

SAM
(quietly to Celia)
Don't...

CELIA
Shhh.
(to GWEN)
Care to join?

GWEN
I'm fine.

SAM
(sipping)
Glad to hear it.

CELIA
Gwen... it's okay if you need a bit of help now you're back on cases-

GWEN
(slamming the coffee pot
down)
I said I'm fine.

Beat.

SAM
(quietly)
Told you...

CELIA
All right then.
(to Sam)
Shall we?

SAM
God yes.

They exit.

**4. Int. OIAR Breakroom night, raining (CCTV) – SCENE
CONTINUES**

GWEN recommences making coffee only to drop a mug.

Beat. It feels like she is about to explode.

Instead she cries, small and quiet.

Pause.

ALICE enters.

ALICE
So I hear you're back to your normal,
pleasant-
(noticing)
Oh. Ah.

GWEN
I'm fine. I dropped my mug.

ALICE
I can see that.

Pause.

ALICE takes over preparing coffee while GWEN steadies herself.

ALICE
I had a favorite mug. It said “love you bitch” and had a picture of drunk dog on it. Luke got it me with the cash from his first gig. Sam broke it by accident last month. I nearly fed him the pieces...

Beat.

Alice helps pick up the pieces.

ALICE CONT.
Is it really that bad being back in the muck with the rest of us?

GWEN
It's not that.

ALICE
Oh yeah?

GWEN
You wouldn't understand.

ALICE
Probably not, but I'm as good as you're going to get here. Especially when you keep biting everyone's heads off.

Beat.

GWEN
(deep breath)
Lena... She's been sending me out
to deal with people... things.

Beat.

ALICE
Okay.

GWEN
And well... they're... weird.

ALICE
Weird like a... lobster in a hat weird
or...

Beat.

GWEN
I think I have an idea where our
cases are coming from.

ALICE
(suspicious)
What are you saying, Gwen?

GWEN
(cracking)
I thought maybe we were meant to
be documenting them, keeping them
monitored or under control, but- but
then the Externals started turning up
in the caseload after I gave them
instructions and-

Beat.

GWEN CONT.

Last time it was this tattooist. I was meant to be recruiting them only... things didn't go well Alice. They went bad. Very bad.

ALICE

(serious)

Go on.

GWEN

They- It- well it turned on me. And I mean really turned on me. It was going to kill me Alice. It killed someone right in front of me and I was... it was ready for me next. But-but then another showed up.

ALICE

Another what?

GWEN

Another thing. Another 'External'. At least I think it was. They faced off and... I ran.

ALICE

God. What did the police say?

GWEN

What are you talking about? The police? Alice this wasn't some random mugging! These... things. They're awful, horrific. They aren't human.

ALICE

And Lena knows this?

GWEN

(bitterly)

Oh she knows. She just doesn't care enough to warn us.

Beat.

GWEN CONT.

You don't believe me.

ALICE

After what I've seen here over the years? No, I am totally ready to believe Lena would rather hire literal monsters than pay a decent wage.

Beat.

ALICE CONT.

Sorry. No wonder you've been so arsey.

GWEN

I've not been "arsey"-

ALICE

So this "other" external. Why did it intervene?

GWEN

I don't know.

ALICE

But like how did you know it was an External?

GWEN

Because I know how many eyes a regular human is supposed to have! It just stood there holding this old tape recorder and-

(noticing Alice)
What? What is it?

ALICE
A tape recorder?

GWEN
Yes.

ALICE
You're sure?

GWEN
Of course I'm sure! Are you not listening to me! I just told you Lena has been hiring supernatural monsters and you're asking about a cassette player of all things-

ALICE
Shut up.

GWEN
Don't you dare-

ALICE
Gwen. I think we're in danger.

GWEN
That's what I've been trying to-

ALICE
No listen, that tape... thing. This isn't the first time I've...

GWEN
What?

ALICE
I think they might be after us. All of us.

Beat.

GWEN

Alice, what are we going to do?

ALICE

I don't know.

[Music]

ANNOUNCER

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The series is created by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall, and directed by Alexander J Newall.

This episode was written by Harlan Guthrie and edited with additional materials by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall, with vocal edits by Nico Vettese, soundscaping by Meg McKellar, and mastering by Catherine Rinella with music by Sam Jones.

It featured Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer, Shahan Hamza as Samama Khalid, Anusia Battersby as Gwen Bouchard, Lowri Ann Davies as Celia Ripley, Sarah Lambie as Lena Kelley with additional voices from Jonathan Sims.

The Magnus Protocol is produced by April Sumner, with executive producers Alexander J Newall, Dani McDonough, Linn Ci, and Samantha F.G. Hamilton, and Associate Producers Jordan L. Hawk, Taylor Michaels, Nicole Perlman, Cetius d'Raven, and Megan Nice.

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Thanks for listening.**

The Magnus Protocol 23 – A New You

CAT13RBC3536-20062018-18042024

Transformation (dysmorphic) -/-doppleganger (infection)

Incident Elements:

- **Dysmorphia**
- **Infection**
- **Trypophobia**
- **Body Horror/Modification**
- **Environmental Horror**

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Associate Producers Jordan L. Hawk, Tayl

Produced by April Sumner

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Sarah Lambie as Lena Kelley

Shahan Hamza as Samama Khalid

Lowri Ann Davies as Celia Ripley

Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer

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**Anusia Battersby as Gwendolyn Bouchard
Jonathan Sims as Chester**

**Dialogue Editor – Nico Vettese
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Mastering Editor - Catherine Rinella**

**Music by Sam Jones (orchestral mix by Jake Jackson)
Art by April Sumner**

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