

SERIES 1

EPI SODE 7

"The Metaphysical Engine, or What Quill Did"

By

PATRI CK NESS

SHOOTI NG SCRI PT

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1 EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT 10

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<u>This is mostly the same opening sequence as Episode 6, but</u> <u>separate shots would be useful.</u>

An asteroid shower, huge STONES tumbling through space. We turn through them It's awe-inspiring.

Find a smaller ONE, tumbling faster than the others, follow it around-

The tell-tale SIZZLE as a rip in space/time opens in its path.

CHARLIE (O.S.) It was the smallest of infractions.

CUT TO.

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 10, 15:35

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Quill, coming down the hallway, angry. Charlie behind her, trying to keep up.

QUILL Sometimes I think you can't even hear the words you use.

CHARLIE It was three minutes, at

QUILL Late is , Prince.

CHARLIE With everything we've been through, I hardly think-

Quill stops suddenly, whips round to him

QUILL Everything been through? You mean the lies? The slavery?

CHARLIE Punish-You know what? I'm not going to do this anymore.

QUILL At any moment, you could destroy the species who wiped out our people, yet here we stand. (leans in) In a

CHARLIE You shoul dn't avenge genocide with genocide. That's what the Doctor said.

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QUILL And obviously no one else in all of time and space can think for themselves.

Takes off walking again.

CHARLI E

Charlie turns back to the door. Quill smiles through the glass.

CHARLIE (CONT'D) (through the door) You're sworn to protect me. QUILL That's why I'm locking you in. So you won't come to harm CHARLIE (through the door) Why? What are you going to do? She just smiles and turns away, walking down the corridor. CHARLIE (CONT'D) (through the door) Hey! (on door handle)

Quill disappears down the hallway as the SIZZLE of 0 1 2rip62.ey!

QUILL They're all such goody two-shoes, they'd probably stay there without a key a teacher. Now, are we leaving or aren't we?

DOROTHEA (surprised) Are you really so eager? The chances of you surviving this are-

QUILL I'll either end today dead or with this thing out of my skull.

Beat, as Dorothea considers this.

DOROTHEA Are you entirely sure about that? (off Quill's look) The Arn knows your thoughts, yes?

qui ll

...yes-

DOROTHEA

Then it knows you want it out. And surely the only reason it hasn't killed you already is that you yourself don't believe this will work.

QUILL What are you getting at?

DOROTHEA

At some point today, should everything go according to plan, there will come a moment when you'll start to believe.

QUI LL

... and when that happens-

DOROTHEA

When that happens, there will be only one survivor.

QUI LL

... Me or the Arn.

DOROTHEA

Once we leave, there's no going back. You really will either end this day dead or with your freedom

This sinks in more. But-

QUILL Then let's begin. I wish to be free.

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DOROTHEA (all-important) And who, I wonder, Quill when

DOROTHEA (perhaps slightly nervous)

QUILL Is that why they sent Expendable?

There's a from Ballon. Was it a laugh? Quill glances over but he covers it.

Dorothea places the reliquary on the ground between the three of them is she just a little unsure of herself? Hides it behind a smile, but there's nervousness when she says:

?

DOROTHEA

Three. Two. One.

Without further preface, The reliquary suddenly shoots THREE WHITE BEAMS from it, each passing RIGHT THROUGH our three characters and coming out of their backs.

Quill reacts as if she's been speared, which maybe she has. Ballon toughs it out, even Dorothea looks uncomfortable.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

And zero.

In a flash, they DEMATERIALISE.

CUT TO.

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CUT TO.

9 INT. RELIQUARY - DAY 10

The interior space is a VERY basic orb - old, no seats, seemingly ready to fall apart - as if they're inside the small white orb in the reliquary, which they are.

Quill is pressed against the floor by acceleration. The sense of speed is overwhelming-

She sees Ballon and Dorothea, both managing to keep upright, though Dorothea is also clearly struggling to keep up her "in charge" persona.

Quill sees Ballon sneering at her infirmity. Then she passes out... It's quick, her eyes just touch closed before-

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 OMITTED.
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 OMITTED. MERGED WITH SCENE 9.
 11

CUT TO:

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12 EXT. FOREST - DAY 10

Scuill, blsindøs hlen0seltfnrævkænk,e,bufroBkaniimygwa Sche'.s..hea/Wheerae ipsatshh,e,? unn^{*}atuin. B She sits up. It's leafy. It's a forest. She hears a sound.

Dorothea repacks the reliquary. Ballon stands, unnaturally * still, his eyes closed.

BALLON (without opening his eyes) She is awake.

Quill makes to stand, but is clearly very dizzy.

DOROTHEA I know. Me, too. There'll be a period of adjustmentDOROTHEA

(looking around in wonder) Oh, my, no.

QUILL (frustrated) Fine. I'll ask. Where are we, oh wise headteacher and mistress of nauseating space travel?

DOROTHEA

(grins) Some place

Quill makes to answer, but Ballon stops suddenly, alert.

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BALLON

They're near.

QUILL Who? I can't hear anything.

BALLON

(scornful) When you were asleep, she told me you were a

Before Quill can snap back, Dorothea turns to her, sighing, uncomfortable with not being entirely on top of the facts.

> DOROTHEA Now, we're flying a little blind here, but our best zoological theory is that you need to talk about your childhood.

> > QUI LL

qui ll

All right, ENOUGH! Where are we, who is Little Lord Growls-A-Lot and why are we all so worried that he killed a kitten?

Dorothea gives Quill a look, steps forward, takes out a PEN with which to pick up the "kitten". She holds it up. Pull focus to Quill's face. Who might recognise it...

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QUILL (CONT'D) That's not. No...

DOROTHEA

Oh, yes.

QUILL ...But that's...

DOROTHEA

I ndeed.

She looks up to the surrounding forest, still in some awe.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) We're in the Birthing Grounds of the Arn. We need the pheromones of a fresh specimen to calm the one in your head enough for the procedure.	* * *
QUILL (shocked) What procedure? And that's not The Arn are a life form Genetically modified. They do live in any -	*
DOROTHEA Yes, those are the facts that everyone knows to be true. But not, apparently, what the believe.	*
QUILL What the believe?	*
Dorothea drops the Arn into a thoroughly inappropriate clear plastic sandwich bag.	*
BALLON (surly) And was unharmed, thank you.	*
Denother improve this takes out the religious concerned	*

.

Dorothea ignores this, takes out the reliquary, concerned.

QUILL Metaphysics? But metaphysics aren't real, they're-

DOROTHEA Thought, yes. Everything in the

QUI LL

Your

BALLON

Your

DOROTHEA (defensive) I've been fully briefed. I know what I'm do-

The reliquary activates before she can finish. It shoots THREE WHITE BEAMS from it again, each passing RIGHT THROUGH our three characters.

In a flash, they DEMATERIALISE-

CUT TO.

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14 INT. RELIQUARY - DAY 10

More juddering on the inside, but Quill, watching Ballon, sees that by not fighting it, the ride is easier. She steadies herself. They're all quite startled to be there. It's loud, they have to talk over it.

> QUILL So we're in the hands of a learner driver?

DOROTHEA You're in the hands of the only one of us who's read the research on how to stay alive while using it.

QUILL Where do you get ? Where did you get ?

Gestures at the reliquary space. It's still loud. Dorothea WHACKS a panel. Everything quietens down a little.

> DOROTHEA (all right, fine) The Governors study the tears in space and time at Coal Hill. We study the... that falls through. It suggests... interesting things.

QUILL (suspicious) Interesting things like what?

DOROTHEA

(beat) There are those who think that the tears aren't accidental. That they were there. To provide. For those who will listen. (almost reverently) (MORE)

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CLASS Episode 7: "The Metaphysical Engine, or What Quill Did" by Patrick CLASS Episode 7. The not set of the Ness - SHOOTI NG SCRI PT, 08/07/16. DOROTHEA (CONT'D) Coal Hill provides. It always provides. QUI LL (concerned by this) It's just a school. Dorothea gives her a "really?" look. Quill turns to Ballon. QUILL (CONT'D) And what do get out of this? BALLON My freedom Dorothea repeats her question from earlier. DOROTHEA And who is a free , I wonder? QUI LL Some kind of hunter? DOROTHEA Ch, no, my dear, he's your surgeon. Quill looks at him, surprised, re-appraising, but-QUI LL You can't get an Arn out through surgery. DOROTHEA You can if the surgeon is a shapeshifter. (beat) That's the theory anyway. QUILL (Iooking at Ballon) Shape-shifter? I think I've heard of you on Earth. You're a Zygote. DOROTHEA Zy-. QUI LL Yeah, because doesn't sound made up. DOROTHEA And he's a Zygon-BALLON I am a Lorr. DOROTHEA Who was as a Zygon.

QUILL One shape-shifter posing as another? meta.

DOROTHEA Also a fine way to hide. Zygons are protected on Earth. A good place to disappear.

QUILL (to Ballon) What did you do?

BALLON (defiant) You are on this trip as well, Quill. What did do?

QUILL I am a victim of circumstance.

BALLON

As am I.

DOROTHEA Yes, I'm sure the families of the people you both murdered would be more than happy to consider themselves a circumstance.

Ballon is angry but she's hit a sore spot.

BALLON No one was supposed to die.

DOROTHEA I'll bet that's her excuse, too.

QUILL (eyes on Ballon) Not really. I knew what was doing.

The reliquary starts to shudder around them Dorothea turns to Ballon. She's hesitant. She knows he won't like it.

DOROTHEA

(wary) Remember what we've promised you. Ask yourself, what is the reward worth?

BALLON

(resentful but trapped) It is everything. But why-

Beat. Then flashes of white light and:

CUT TO.

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15 EXT. LORR HELL - NI GHT 10

They stumble out into what appears to be a landscape of CLOSELY SET STATUES. Every statue is a LORR, frozen in expressions of horror.

BALLON (eyes widening) No. No! This isn't !

DOROTHEA

Does no one listen to the posh anymore? No, it is real, but yes, we are here.

qui ll

Where?

BALLON (grieved, terrified) It is Lorr ap Thriss.

DOROTHEA (concerned) His hands need to shift to get into your brain. For that, I need a key to unlock them, but it's impossible to reverse the freezing of a shapeshifter-

QUILL Except in an impossible place.

Another thud, even closer, dust falls from nearby statues.

QUILL (CONT'D) What's the key then?

Dorothea looks up, as a SHADOW covers them

BALLON The blood of our god.

They turn round to see-

A GIANT SHIMMERING MASS, made of translucent ripples but in a posture that looks plenty pissed of f.

Ballon lets out a cry and RUNS away. Dorothea, alarmed, runs after him

After a second, Quill runs, too.

CUT TO.

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16 EXT. LORR HELL, DEEPER IN THE MAZE - NIGHT 10

They run, Ballon full out, Quill catching up to Dorothea.

QUILL We're supposed to get the blood of a ?

DOROTHEA

That's the-

QUILL Say theory again. Go ahead.

Ballon suddenly veers off to the side. The others follow.

CUT TO.

17 EXT. LORR HELL, A HIDING PLACE - NIGHT 10

Ballon hides behind a few STATUES that have grown together. Dorothea and Quill join him

BALLON (furious, terrified) It's too much! I cannot be here!

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DOROTHEA * (to Quill) You'll have to do it alone. There is a special knife-She opens her pack and pulls out a LORR knife, holding it out to Quill, who's incredulous. QUI LL I can't knives, remember? (taps her head) Wholèpoint of this trip. DOROTHEA (realising) Ch. Ch, dear. That an oversight-A ROAR from the god as it approaches. QUI LL (to Ballon) What can I do? But he's terrified, doesn't answer. She turns on a military voice, commanding, like he did to her. QUILL (CONT'D) Soldier! Tell me what I need to do! BALLON (ast oni shed, i mpr essed) You need its blood. It will solidify. You can pick it up. Another THUD behind them, another roar. Quill sees his terror and his accompanying bravery. Surprisingly, she softens-QUI LL In Quill, we called this the First Fear. The one you can't face. Everyone has it. Even Quill. * * BALLON It is cowardice-

> QUILL A soldier without fear is useless, inefficient. They win battles but lose wars.

> > BALLON

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	QUILL (to him, re: knife) We'll need that.	*
	He takes the Knife from Dorothea, and Quill drags him off around the statue.	*
	CUT TO.	
18	EXT. LORR HELL, BATTLE AREA - NIGHT 10 18	*
	She drags Ballon out into an open area, the Lorr Devil hovering above her, still shimmering, formless, translucent against the darkness-	
	QUILL Isn't evil ever ? (beat) Hold the knife.	* * *
	Still terrified, he presents it.	*
	QUILL (CONT'D) Holdit .	
	She pulls his arm so he's holding the knife threateningly.	*
	The Devil is about to bear down on them Ballon is frozen, his arm still out-	
	Quill's arm is suddenly under his, supporting it, bracing it-	
	QUILL (CONT'D) I will be your arm, soldier.	
	POV of the Devil moving down to fight them Quill imitates Ballon's battle yell as the Devil lunges down-	*
	CUT TO.	
19	EXT. LORR HELL, A HIDING PLACE – NIGHT 10 19	*
	We hear more ROARS and THUDS, then a louder ROAR which makes Dorothea wince. But she returns to a DICTAPHONE, into which she's actually dictating. She flinches in fear at every thump, but forces herself to keep recording.	* * *
	DOROTHEA (shaken, worried) "Degradation seems at least 40% faster than originally theorised. We'll need to request more information from the Chairman-"	* *
	Stops at another ROAR, another THUMP, more yelling. She clicks off the Dictaphone.	

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DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

(worried)

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won't look good on the report.

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Then all sound stops suddenly. The thudding starts fading away, step, step, step, getting quieter.

Dorothea just waits-

QUILL comes from around the corner, blouse TORN, dirty, but alive and holding a gel-like handful of solidified BLOOD. Ballon, also tousled, follows behind her, astounded.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

QUILL It thinks we already statues. (to Ballon) Is that how you view the rest of

us? As pretty much already dead?

BALLON (surprised, truthful)

Yes.

. . .

Quill hands the blood to Dorothea, who wraps it and puts it in her pack, taking out the reliquary. Quill goes to Ballon.

qui ll

That was... (thoughtful) It's been too long since I fought side by side with an actual soldier.

BALLON I am filled with shame at my inaction.

QUILL (not liking this response) Okay, fine, you're welc-

Calls out in surprise, grabbing her head again.

QUILL (CONT'D)

* Quill thinks, glances at Ballon, decides. * QUI LL * An unfree life isn't a life. Where do we go next? DOROTHEA (shaking her head) You wouldn't believe me. She presses the reliquary without warning and the lights hit them all again-CUT TO. * 20 INT. RELIQUARY - DAY 10 The lights are fading in the reliquary now, flashing in and out. A SPARK and one light goes out altogether. QUILL (to Dorothea) ? Would you DOROTHEA I'm not sure how long we're going to last-QUI LL How far is where we're going? Dorothea looks at her, almost refusing to answer, but then reaches into her PACK and takes out a NOTEBOOK-QUILL (CONT'D) (out r aged) * You have to check your ? How * did you even get picked for this? * DOROTHEA * (proud, defensive) I volunteered. I had to fight to * convince the Governors that we should proceed at all. (off Quill's astonishment) No one else is all that committed to saving you, Quill. Is that so much of a surprise? * * * * QUI LL * (qui et l y) * Not really. * DOROTHEA * But the research we could gain * proved too tempting in the end. (on her notebook) Now, if you'll just let me check my * * not es-

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Ballon finally answers Quill's question, though still smarting from his embarrassment.

BALLON

The Arn sits on your mid-brain. Apparently, your species occludes that with a separate inner skull that x-rays cannot cut through.

QUILL We evolved it. It prevents mind control.

BALLON Yet, I will still need to see the pathway there if I hope to take out the Arn without your death.

DOROTHEA (looking at her notes) And as all Quill brains were destroyed on Rhodia and you're yours at the moment..

QUILL ...Where are you going to find a Quill brain?

Dorothea doesn't answer, possibly even she doesn't want to enrage Quill that much.

QUILL (CONT'D) No, don't even say it. Our afterlife myth died out a thousand years ago-

DOROTHEA (worried, on her notebook) Let's hope not or this will be a very short trip.

Flash of light, then-

CUT TO.

21 EXT. QUILL HEAVEN - DAY 10

They stumble into the middle of a dense, DEAD THICKET. Dead branches intertwine into an impassable briar patch over their heads. There's also a denser, egg-shaped smaller THICKET in the centre. Sun filters through, but it's a dead place. They're the only ones there. They look around, baffled.

> BALLON Where this exactly?

Dorothea looks to Quill, but Quill refuses to answer.

DOROTHEA

Our information isn't omnipotent. If our theory-

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DOROTHEA

"Fury and venom" according to the text we have. Oh, how exciting!

QUILL (very concerned now) I'm beginning to think you don't know as much about my people as you pretend to-

The central smaller THICKET SUDDENLY ERUPTS, pushing them back. As the dirt falls, the GODDESS OF QUILL is suddenly among them

She's terrifying. Towering over them, eight feet tall, a primitive version of Quill's own native looks, but vicious FANGS AND TEETH. This isn't a deity you could even talk to.

She looks at them, obviously furious they're there. She ROARS. Both Quill and Ballon look at Dorothea, incredulous.

BALLON the head we're supposed to

t ake?

DOROTHEA

(nervous) Well. Get to it.

They look back up at the goddess-

In time for her to HURL A VICIOUS CLAW at Ballon, sending him flying. He bounces off the wall, groaning, falling to the floor and not getting up. The goddess turns to Dorothea.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

Ch, dear. (glance to Quill) If I die, you'll never get home.

QUILL Really? Nothing in your I can use?

The goddess rears up over Dorothea, who backs up. Quill gets an "oh for god's sake" look, moves into her action stance and aims a kick at the back of the goddess' HEAD.

Nothing happens except that she turns to Quill now, furious.

QUILL (CONT'D) I'm a Quill!

She regards Quill.

QUILL (CONT'D) I mean, I know I don't Quill, I had to have some plastic surgery-

The goddess throws a heavy BLOW at her, she ducks and runs under neath.

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The goddess PUNCHES into the thicket, breaking many branches. She throws another CLAWED arm at Quill. Quill ducks again, running around the goddess, past Dorothea-

DOROTHEA

Hey!

Dorothea holds up the notebook to protect herself. The Goddess GRABS IT and EATS IT!

QUILL Oh, that isn't good.

The clawed arm swings again and catches Dorothea in the back , of the head, knocking her down, unconscious-

Quill tries to dive for the pack, but the goddess steps in the way. Quill looks up at her, nearly defeated.

QUILL (CONT'D) You don't my belief.

The goddess regards her again, maybe listening?

QUILL (CONT'D) Do you know how the Quill have been oppressed? For ?

The goddess leans down, threat eningly-

QUILL (CONT'D) We died. And died . I should rip your head off just for daring to !

The goddess reaches out a claw. Quill is surely doomed-

QUILL (CONT'D) Do it. I was a . You weren't there to stop them from taking that from me! And what am I now? (accepting death, defiant) I will spit in your eye as my last act.

The goddess splays open her claws, ready to kill-

But she merely strokes Quill's cheek, as if in recognition.

Quill gives a confused look. The goddess' mouth opens, as if to speak-

Then suddenly she arches up and CRIES CUT!

Ballon has stabbed her in the back with the LORR DAGGER. As she's calling out in pain, he cuts through the back of the goddess' neck and <u>decapitates her</u>.

Her head falls to the ground. Ballon stands, breathing heavily.

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BALLON a coward.

l am

QUILL (frustrated) No one said you . I think she was about to speak to me. I could have been the first Quill ever to-

BALLON want to hear what Would you your god would say?

QUI LL As a matter of fact-

BALLON

If it meant you would then have to believe in her?

This stops Quill.

BALLON (CONT'D) If it meant you would have to worship her? That you would have to change how you thought of yourself and the universe?

> QUI LL (beat) bel i eve.

> > BALLON

But I always have. It is part of who I am Your self is already for med.

QUI LL Yeah, but we didn't behead god. We just... took a blood šample.

Ballon picks up the goddess' head, wraps it in a cloth.

BALLON

If she is right, this is a metaphysical place. Your goddess will rise again. She will always be born. All gods are.

He sets the wrapped head down.

BALLON (CONT'D) I thought perhaps she was your First Fear. I thought perhaps you needed the arm of a fellow soldier.

Quill lets this moment sink in, a surprising connection. She doesn't know what to do with it, looks away.

QUI LL

Don't suppose you know how to work the thingybob?

Beat. He doesn't.

CUT TO.

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22 INT. QUILL HEAVEN - DAY 10, LATER

Ballon sits, going through Dorothea's pack, puling out amusingly useless things: a compass, an iPhone charger, a Coal Hill badge...

Dorothea is still out cold. Quill finishes putting TWFGS over the body of her goddess.

QUILL Why don't you use the rest of the blood to unfreeze yourself?

BALLON

There isn't enough. It is extraordinarily painful when only part of you can shift. (off her burying actions) I don't see why you-

QUILL You start in the nest. You end in the nest. (adds final twig) It's our way.

BALLON But this isn't the goddess-

QUILL And yours wasn't your devil, but you were still terrified of it.

BALLON Because it could still freeze me forever in one shape. A fate worse than your death.

Quill sits near him, both looking at Dorothea.

QUILL A fate you're in now.

This hurts. He gestures to the reptilian skin on his neck.

BALLON (angry) I was caught as I shifted. I am neither one thing nor the other. Their punishment is doubly unjust.

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You killed people.

BALLON Are humans "people"?

(shrugs) I've grown to tolerate them They smell a bit, but...

Long beat.

BALLON

My planet was attacked. By an enemy we couldn't hope to fight. I lost my family. The Lorr I loved. I came to Earth seeking sanctuary. But I did not find it. Only certain aliens are good enough, apparently.

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QUILL Like the Zygotes.

BALLON

But if you are someone else from some else, no matter what world you are trying to leave...

qui ll

They have a poet on Earth. She says, "No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark."

BALLON

I did not mean for anyone to die. I had just arrived. I was hiding as a Zygon, but you have to prove your genetic nature to get asylum I was starving. (beat)

It was the home of a family. When they caught me, I changed into one of those differently shaped small humans they always have with them?

QUILL

(thinks)

...a`dog?

BALLON

(nods) But this terrified them "Monster!" they said. "Freak" they said. They beat me. They would have beat me to death...

QUILL Odsterrifiedth5em "Monster!" BALLON I did not mean to. I did not understand their biology. But... "Ignorance of the law is no excuse".

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QUILL That sounds like her.

BALLON

It her. I had heard of UNIT, all arriving refugees do. I expected to be arrested but the family's child attended her school. The Governors found me first. And ruined me.

QUILL But now they're setting you free?

BALLON (very pessimistic) If I can get the thing out of your head without your death.

QUILL That sounded cheering.

They look at Dorothea passed out, still. Quill is thoughtful.

QUILL (CONT'D) My planet was destroyed. All my people killed. (beat, her real loss) He was my lieutenant, which is was - unusual for a male of my species. He was strong. And ambitious. And his quills were... (smiles, moves hand as if she's feeling her quills on her head) More than adequate. (then more vulnerable) There isn't a great deal of tenderness to my people. We're rough to begin with and we've fashioned ourselves into an army. Be He could... Make that not feel like weakness. Then they took my will. And do you know what they did next? The thing they did? (really vulnerable now, this is hard) They made me to it.

He watches her, wary.

QUILL (CONT'D) I shout my power. I shout my toughness and my danger... But I am shouting it to ... It's like they just... amputated the central part of who I was. Who I am

Ballon shows his hand.

BALLON

DOROTHEA

(groaning) Ch. What happened?

QUILL (in pain now) My goddess planted an egg in your stomach. You'll spit up a litter of Quill by the end of the week.

DOROTHEA Well, that will be bracing. (stands) Did you get its head?

> BALLON (concerned for Quill) head. And yes.

Dorothea takes out the reliquary.

DOROTHEA (on Quill) What's wrong?

BALLON The Arn is fighting her.

DOROTHEA (quickly) Then we're out of time-

Touches the reliquary immediately, the blasts of light shine-

CUT TO.

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23 INT. RELIQUARY - DAY 10

Quill screams, holding her head in the reliquary, which is clearly in dire straits now. Lights are going off all over the place; it groans and judders badly.

> QUILL Tell me there isn't much left to do.

DOROTHEA We need an operating theatre. (looks around) But I don't think we're going to make the one we had planned...

Quill calls out again.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
(concerned)
Can you find a way to convince
yourself the chances are very slim?

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qui ll

BALLON Of course I haven't. It's impossible, remember? There are preparations I make, but... I will hurry. (beat) Fight this. You've fought it all this way. Fight more. I will be your arm

She likes this, very much. Nods. He rushes to Dorothea's pack.

CUT TO.

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25

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, SCHOOL HALL - DAY 10, SECONDS LATER 25

Quill is on the floor, we pan across all the materials that have been gathered. The ARN has been dissected. The blood pack has a chunk cut from it. And we come upon Ballon, his hands deep in the head of the goddess.

With a squish, he pulls them out, holding what looks to be an ARN-

But it is just his hands in the shape of the Arn.

BALLON It works. (looks up to her, wryly, telling a little joke) "In theory".

Quill, still in pain, groans. He SHIFTS his hands back and moves to her.

BALLON (CONT'D) I will shift my hands to avoid nerves. Make it as painless as possible when I go through your eye-

qui ll

My ?

BALLON There be some pain as the Arn comes , though.

QUILL How much?

BALLON (genuinely curious) Would you really turn back if you knew?

> QUI LL (beat)

No.

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Ballon holds up his hands, takes a deep breath, then they START TO MORPH into a long SPIKE, very narrow, like an awl.

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BALLON This will be horrible.

Before she can reply, he stabs the SPIKE into the corner of

Ballon looks around, worried. They've got nothing for this.

QUILL (in agony) This is what she wanted. It's what she knew would happen-

BALLON

No. No, we must...

He looks around frantically now. Spies the Lorr God Blood Gel. Gets an idea. Beat.

> BALLON (CONT'D) I am about to try a sacred thing.

CLASS Episode 7: "The Metaphysical Engine, or What Quill Did" by Patrick Ness - SHOOTING SCRIPT, 08/07/16. QUILL

There are certain Headteachers who have things coming to them

BALLON Not until I amfree, too.

qui ll

...No. No. (beat, hard for her) Thank you. I will see that you get your freedom

BALLON

(amused) I'm sure you could. I've seen you fight. But I shall see to it myself.

QUILL Yes, I've seen fight.

There's a definite spark between them now. More than lust. This is the kinship of war.

> QUILL (CONT'D) Quill celebrate victory in battle in a particular way-

BALLON (smiling) All species say that. All are lying.

Quill likes this. Then they're on each other, kissing passionately.

BALLON (CONT'D) in a school.

QUILL Do you really think she's going to let anyone in here?

They kiss again. Then more serious, vulnerable:

BALLON It has been... too long since I was close to someone.

QUILL The last person I kissed was a robot.

BALLON It has made me... coarse. Unshifting, like this form I wear.

QUILL (this hits home) Yes. Yes, we do wear forms, don't we?

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We

BALLON I only wish to be free.

QUILL That's all I wish for, too.

They carry on kissing, it grows more and more passionate. We pull away as it's clearly going to move into love-making.

DOROTHEA (makes an apologetic face) You were never there, I'm afraid. The simplest possible hologram, but needs must. We had to come to , but the chances of you reacting badly to it were... rather high.

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QUILL (shaking her head) I don't-

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CLASS Episode 7: "The Metaphysical Engine, or What Quill Did" by Patrick Ness - SHOOTI NG SCRI PT, 08/07/16.

> DOROTHEA (CONT'D) Go ahead. Open it.

Quill and Ballon still wary. She sends him a questioning look, "Should we?". He shrugs "Why not?". She approaches.

The box is covered with a black silk cloth. Quill cautiously pinches it with her fingers, pulls it back-

It's a clear box. Inside, is her gun. WHOLE, REPAIRED.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) (quoting Quill) "A Quill needs her gun."

QUI LL

How. . . ?

DOROTHEA As I said, Coal Hill provides.

Quill reaches for it, but-

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) (naughty, naughty) Ah, ah, ah. You have a mighty dilemma facing you. Both of you. (slightly sheepish) Ever UpwardReach calculated an 85% chance that only one of you would survive this trip. You've already beaten some quite long odds. (frowns) But unfortunately, that ends now. Despite my arguing, quite strenuously, the Governors have voted. There's only enough energy left in the reliquary for of you to return. I'm sorry, but there it is. If it's any comfort, the decision, at least, is yours.

!

Shocked beat.

QUI LL You're leaving one of us here to

BALLON

You are breaking your

He angrily takes out his knife and THROWS it at Dorothea-Whom it passes through, harmlessly.

> DOROTHEA You can keep trying. My meeting with the music department isn'ť until four. (grins) l'm cutting their budget.

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BALLON So we're supposed to... what? Agree to die so the other lives?

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DOROTHEA

BALLON

(furious) What's so precious about this school? That it must be protected at all costs?

DOROTHEA

It's being prepared.

? QUI LL

For

DOROTHEA

(pat r oni si ngl y) You wouldn't understand. You have no faith.

qui ll

(beat) You're a true believer... But in what?

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DOROTHEA

Another time perhaps. There are more pressing matters at hand.

BALLON

We will not fight each other.

DOROTHEA

You'll never be free unless you do. You'll never return from this living death. Never see your family agai n.

CLASS Episode 7: "The Metaphysical Engine, or What Quill Did" by Patrick Ness - SHOOTING SCRIPT, 08/07/16.

The realisations happen in silence, with changes of body language. Quill looks at her gun, then back at Ballon-

To find that he's looking at it, too. He glances up at her.

They wait, standing off. Can they trust each other? How far did their encounter go?

She opens her stance more defensively, turning slightly so she has an advantage if he goes for the gun. He sees this and turns, too.

Beat, as they breathe, regarding each other.

Then Ballon, sadly, shakes his head. It's ambiguous. Is he saying no? Is he saying he's sorry?

Quill tenses, worried, her face showing her conflict. Then she settles: fatalistic, furious, disappointed, into how she sees this is going to go.

qui ll

Don't.

BALLON I have been imprisoned too long.

QUILL So have I.

BALLON And my family-

QUILL If that's even true-

BALLON Is that not a risk you would take yourself? If there were another Quill?

Quill doesn't answer. It true.

BALLON (CONT'D) (beat, beat) I am sorry.

QUILL That's a sorrow I share.

Beat, Ballon DIVES for the gun.

QUILL (CONT'D)

No!

She dives for it, too. The fight is on-

They land on each other and ROLL across the sand, she's stopping him from getting to the gun and rolling him away.

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QUILL (CONT'D)

QUILL (CONT'D) (furious, emotional) I won't beg you. BALLON We are slaves. We are none of us free. QUILL is the thinking that And enslaves us. Do you really think she'll set you free? BALLON I have to take the Beat. Then Quill, proud, prepares herself, standing tall, hard, ready. Noble. BALLON (CONT'D) Look away. QUI LL l will Ballon struggles, wanting to shoot. QUILL (CONT'D) Do it. He hesitates. QUILL (CONT'D)

> BALLON (whispers) Forgive me.

QUILL (breath, beat, surprised) I do.

He PULLS THE TRI GGER-

THE GUN FIRES BACKWARDS INTO HIM

No!

QUILL (CONT'D)

He has the briefest moment to realise what's happened before, looking in her eyes, he's BLASTED AWAY-

The Gun falling harmlessly to the sand.

Quill falls to her knees over where he died, OVERCOME with emotion, grief, fury-

DOROTHEA (O.S.)

Did you know?

Quill doesn't even look up as Dorothea reappears. She raises her head, grief-stricken, defiant.

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QUILL set the gun. did.

DOROTHEA But surely you must have thought, even on a subconscious level.

Quill looks at her with purest hat red.

QUILL I... will kill you. Slow.

DOROTHEA (smiles) You might .

QUILL (exasperated) Who you?

DOROTHEA Were you not listening? (leans in close) l'matrue believer.

Quill looks at her, still not knowing what this means.

Quill suddenly reaches for the gun, FLICKS A SETTING, and FIRES IT REPEATEDLY INTO DOROTHEA'S HOLOGRAM, having no effect, but at least getting some frustrations out.

Quill finally lowers the gun.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) Are you quite finished? Because I'm D afraid I have a confession to make. (makes a "my bad" face) Sending back the gun and this hologram device drained the reliquary quite dry. You won't be able to leave here by it.

QUILL So you want me to die after all-

DOROTHEA Ch, my dear, how did someone so very stupid ever become a general of her people?

Quill looks at her, questioningly. Because

Quill looks confused, looks around her.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) You just need to find them You'll end up right at home. (looks at her watch) And with how time passes here versus how it passes there, I don't even think detention will be over.

QUILL (more outrage) So... So we could have left? He didn't have to ?

DOROTHEA Literally? Yes, you both could have left. But no, we wouldn't have allowed that.

She turns to go, stops.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) I am, however, glad it was you.

Quill looks at her with hatred again.

QUILL I will stand on your corpse. You mark my words.

DOROTHEA

Duly marked.

She vanishes. Quill is alone. We pull back across the great expanse of desert to see just how alone she is.

CUT TO.

29 EXT. ALI EN DESERT LANDSCAPE - DUSK 10, LATER

29 *

30 EXT. ALIEN DESERT LANDSCAPE - DUSK 10, LATER

She walks through dunes, under the orange sky. She heads towards the POINTS OF LIGHT that are the souls. She watches them, her face ambiguous.

CUT TO.

31 EXT. ALIEN DESERT LANDSCAPE - DUSK 10, LATER

Quill walks in the vast empty landscape, ever closer to the points of light.

CUT TO.

32 EXT. ALI EN DESERT LANDSCAPE - DUSK 10, LATER

Quill climbs a dune. There are the DOORS, closed, hanging in mid-air. She's under the points of light now. They sail through the sky, interacting, moving, beautiful.

She FLICKS her hand up to TOUCH ONE. The STARS suddenly RACE * ACROSS THE SKY, far too fast, like time has sped up-

Quill lets go, blinking in surprise. Her HAIR is suddenly LONGER. She notices.

QUILL "Time passes differently here." (looks up) How much of my life am I losing?

Quill is drained and bitter underneath the souls.

QUILL (CONT'D) (furious) You taking! Is that all you can do? Is that all you ever were? (harder) Well, I you! And I will fight you. Because do you know what? I am free. I am ! And you are the last. There is one of you still living. And the question... (remembers Ballon) The question a asks... Is "How will I make them pay?"

She cocks her gun ready for firing.

QUILL (CONT'D) I suffered on your home world. I have suffered in your heaven. (resolved) I will suffer no more. (now, again, but this time there is no doubt) I am war itself. 30

31

32

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She turns to the doors, purposeful, striking them with her hands. They open-

CUT TO.

33 OMITTED. MERGED WITH SCENE 32.

34 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 10, 16:00 34 *

Quill climbs CUT of the Cabinet, tumbling to the floor of Charlie's bedroom. She remains there for a moment, wounded and tired, then hardening into anger. And vengeance.

She holds out the gun. And gets to her feet. Looking weary, staggering, but like an utter badass.

CUT TO.

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33

qui ll (angry, grieving) mood to talk. l n Ram moves swiftly for the door. RAM I'm gone. April watches him go. Tanya watches her not go. TANYA Aren't you going after him? APRI L No. I'm not. TANYA But if that thing was making us angry-APRI L When you get a boyfriend, you'll understand. TANYA (beat, stung) And there it is. Tanya leaves. April watches her go, angry, too. APRI L Why do we even bother with other people? She leaves, too. Angle on Charlie and Matteusz, staring in horror at Quill. CHARLI E How can you fire a gun? QUI LL You do

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She stares back at him, at the blood drying on his face.

QUILL I saved you, didn't l? Isn't that my ?

CHARLIE I... But you-

-

QUILL Consider it my last favour.

MATTEUSZ

" Last " ?

Eyes on Charlie, she reaches into her pocket, pulls out the SQUISHY CLEAR PLASTIC BAG and throws it at him

He catches it. Through the plastic, he can see-

QUILL It's the Arn.

Charlie looks up, astonished, worried.

QUILL (CONT'D) (truly grieved) I am no longer your slave, Prince. I have my free will and I have my gun.

She holds it up, cocks it, looks very dangerous.

QUILL (CONT'D) And things are going to change around here.

Dolly to Quill. Dramatic beat-

Then her EYES ROLL UP IN HER HEAD and she collapses. They watch as she falls unconscious. Then rolls on her back-

MATTEUSZ (shocked) No. No, that can't be.

CHARLIE How? How did she...?

We pull back from them, panning down to Quill.

To Quill's stomach. Quill is very, very pregnant.

END CREDITS.

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