

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

ALEXANDER People of Gandhara – hear me! I command you to go forth and inform your chieftains that I invite them to come before me, here, submit to my authority and *join* my empire, or be conquered, for I am Alexander the Great!

ONE Your name...

ALEXANDER ...what about it?

ONE “Alexander the Great.”

ALEXANDER Yes...

ONE Great, by whose standards?

ALEXANDER *What?*

ONE I certainly wouldn’t call you “great.”

ALEXANDER You barely know me!

TWO What about all those people you *claim* to have conquered?

ALEXANDER I did conquer them.

TWO Do you think any of them would call you “great”?

ALEXANDER They will if I tell them to!

THREE If it were up to me –

ALEXANDER It’s not.

THREE I might call you –

ONE Alexander the Average.

TWO Alexander the Aggravating.

THREE Alexander the... *Guy*.

BEATRIX POTTER MUST DIE!

MCGREGOR Say goodbye, Ms. Potter.

BEATRIX Don't shoot me! Please! I didn't know.

MCGREGOR Too late. I'm here, and you've done what you've done.

BEATRIX But I haven't, right? Not yet. What if I just don't write it?

MCGREGOR I think it's in you, and it's going to come out.

BEATRIX What if I change the story?

MCGREGOR Change it?

BEATRIX Isn't that why you're here, to change things? You don't want to shoot me.

MCGREGOR It ain't so much "want to" as "need to."

BEATRIX What if, instead of a hero, Peter is a scalawag?

MCGREGOR Oh. Well. That would be a change.

BEATRIX What if he isn't supposed to go into the garden? His mother warns him not to.

MCGREGOR Very sensible. Rabbits don't belong in gardens.

BEATRIX That's my message. Peter gets into terrible trouble.

MCGREGOR That's better.

BEATRIX And he will suffer for being naughty.

MCGREGOR Farmer Smith shoots him!

BEATRIX Let's take firearms out of the picture, shall we?

MCGREGOR How about a pitchfork through the eye?

BEATRIX How about he catches a very bad cold? And he has to go to bed without any support, while Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail have bread and milk and blackberries.

MCGREGOR Peter doesn't get any?

BEATRIX Not a crumb.

A CONVERSATION WITH SHADOWS

- GADGETEER I don't think you understand what you have really done. All those times with miraculous resurrections, improbable escapes and just general disregard for the possibility of consequence. You destroyed the meaning in our sacrifices. The things we lost to get to who we are and you just walk on through unscarred and without real injury. Never. I for one am slightly sick of it.
- PINNACLE Peter, I think you are exaggerating just a little bit. Admittedly I am powerful and I am faster than the speed of light, handsome-
- GADGETEER Did you have a point, George? I swear you don't actually have an alter ego. You have a super ego.
- PINNACLE So you built a gun to kill me?
- GADGETEER What?
- PINNACLE You created a shielded room with leaded furniture. Including the glasses and the window panes. Created sound baffles to mask noises you didn't want me to hear. Binary, the living android however tracked all of the things you purchased. At first, the thought it was Pentagram of Hate that was plotting this. We were all shocked to realize that you were the one designing this weapon. A weapon that could actually kill me.
- GADGETEER: I don't think.
- PINNACLE DON'T LIE TO ME, PETER. I can literally hear your blood pressure. I know when you are lying.
- GADGETEER I spent months building that gun.
- PINNACLE Peter, there was never any real hope of you carrying out the plan.
- GADGETEER George, you have no idea what my plan was. I want you to understand something; You have spent your entire life capable of feats most people dream of. You can see for miles. Through objects, you can hear things that no one else can, you can fly. Hell, you can fly in space and you have no concept of what it is like to be a background character in your world. I had to fight for my abilities-
- PINNACLE Trinkets.

GADGETEER Fine, Trinkets. I had to learn how to build these things, I had to work for it. It cost me family, friends and money. I had to struggle for this. What you just so casually destroyed cost me years of effort. George, you are an uncaring deity who obliterates the meaning of people's lives and you don't even do it out of malice. Gods help me, you genuinely have no notion of the theft you have committed. The Arcanist died stopping the invasion of Quivians. How did you respond? You punched reality. You literally hit the universe so hard it restructured to the form you wanted. You robbed him of his glory to prop up your own.

PINNACLE I won't apologize for saving a fellow hero. I couldn't just let him die. I had the power to save him and I did. I can't understand what's happened to you. When did you start to hate me?

GADGETEER I don't hate you. I hate what you have become. I hate the apathy. The Midgard Serpent sized ego you have. AND YES, I KNOW YOU ACTUALLY FOUGHT THE REAL MIDGARD SERPENT. (He starts to cough) You know what, George I am getting tired of this back and forth.

COW

[WENDY is trying to get QUINN's attention. QUINN is ignoring her and eating a banana.]

WENDY You kicked me in the face. I could go to the police, you know.

[QUINN snorts]

WENDY You don't think I'd call the police?

QUINN What would you tell them, exactly?

WENDY That you kicked me in the face.

[QUINN takes a bite of her banana.]

WENDY You aren't even going to try to deny it?

QUINN That doesn't sound like me.

WENDY You were wearing a mask.

QUINN Doesn't sound like me at all. *[turns to look at WENDY, gives her a once-over.]*
I don't even see a mark.

WENDY It sure feels like there's a mark.

QUINN There isn't. You're being a baby.

WENDY So it *was* you!

QUINN I didn't say that.

WENDY It hurt!

QUINN Maybe you got a concussion and you don't remember what happened.

WENDY I remember what happened, all right.

QUINN Were you wearing a mask?

WENDY You know I was.

QUINN Why were you wearing a mask?

WENDY You know why! Same reason you were.

QUINN Were we robbing the same bank? That would have been awkward.

WENDY It was a thing I was trying out. An experiment... that didn't work.

QUINN Uh-huh.

WENDY The whole costume was a bad idea.

QUINN Especially when you got tangled up in the cape.

WENDY You *did* kick me!

QUINN *[shrugs]* Maybe I saw it on YouTube.

WENDY It's on YouTube?!

QUINN Everything's on YouTube.

WENDY You're lying. That was *you!*

FUTURE GIRL VISITS BARBIE'S MOM

RUTH Normal is way overrated, kiddo.

FUTURE GIRL I'll never be normal.

RUTH Not if you go around telling people you're from the future.

FUTURE GIRL Do you want to know what's wrong with Ken?

RUTH My Kenny is a nice young man. So he happens to be interested in music and doesn't care for sports. He's got a loving wife and kids. He's perfectly fine.

FUTURE GIRL I can tell you what's wrong with Ken.

RUTH I'll bite. What's wrong with Ken?

FUTURE GIRL He has no penis.

RUTH The engineers refused. Bunch of prudes. They couldn't stand that thought of a doll being better hung than they are.

FUTURE GIRL The same guys who let Barbie have ginormous boobs?

RUTH The same guys who filed the nipples off her.

FUTURE GIRL She had nipples?

RUTH Have you ever seen a woman who doesn't?

FUTURE GIRL Couldn't you make them do what you wanted? She's your baby.

RUTH It's not like I gave birth to her.

FUTURE GIRL Of course not. You stole the idea from a sex toy.

RUTH Lilli was not a sex toy. She was a typical Viennese woman dressed in the clothing of her country.

FUTURE GIRL She was an anatomically correct plastic female sold to adults. What do you think they were doing with her... singing their national anthem?

RUTH You're a wise ass for a kid.

FUTURE GIRL Times have changed. A lot. You should like it. You put tits on little girls' toys.

RUTH That's not a nice thing to say to an old lady.

GYROS OF OLYMPUS

HERA Hey, Helen! Here with your mom?

HELEN Sort of, she's meeting me here. How are you?

HERA Ugh, don't get me started.

HELEN Fair enough--

HERA That dirtbag husband of mine! I swear, the number of times I've caught him sneaking through our front door after sneaking into someone else's backdoor. *(HELEN nearly chokes)* And the weird kinky nonsense he gets up to. Do you know one time, I caught him coming home in the form of a swan? A swan! *(pause)* Ugh, whatever. I'm sorry, I shouldn't be bothering you with my problems. Your usual?

HELEN Yeah. Thanks.

HERA exits, HERCULES enters with two heavy-looking crates

HELEN Whoa, you need a hand there?

HERCULES Huh? Oh, hey, Helen! Nope, I got it. *(beat)* Your, uh...your phone is blowing up.

HELEN Yeah.

HERCULES Spam caller?

HELEN I wish. Aphrodite gave Paris my number and now he won't stop texting me. I told him to leave me alone, but he just isn't getting the message.

HERCULES Jeez, I'm sorry.

HELEN Thanks.

HERCULES Want me to go rough him up a bit for you?

HELEN Gods, no! It hasn't escalated that far.

HERCULES You sure? One good kick, he's in Santorini. It'll take him weeks to swim back.

HELEN NO!...heh, really? Er...no! Thanks, but he'll just become background noise after a week or two. Just like all the other guys who wanna [disgustedly gestures to herself] "get with this."

HERA *(enters, glares at HERCULES.)* What, did you swing by the underworld, say hi to your uncle before coming back? Bring those to the kitchen, then get to work cleaning the bathrooms. It's like a stable in there.

HELEN ...I'm sure the bathrooms aren't all that bad.

HERCULES No, I'm pretty sure they are, Nessus and the rest of his polo team came here after last night's game. (sigh) Bunch of horse's asses.

HELEN Centaurs usually are

HEROIC DEEDS

HERO Are you even listening to me?

WITCH Sorry, who are you?

HERO (puffs out chest.) They call me Berengar the Mighty, Fearsome Warrior!

WITCH “They call me”? Who calls you that, exactly?

HERO Everyone!

WITCH Do they, though?

HERO Well... they will call me that. Once I have defeated you, you black-hearted hag.

WITCH Have we met before? Because all this name-calling is starting to get a bit personal.

HERO No...

WITCH So do you often break into strangers’ houses to insult and threaten them?

HERO I didn’t break in. I stormed your evil lair.

WITCH See, from where I’m standing, that looks a lot like breaking into my house.

HERO You live in a cave!

WITCH It’s still my home.

HERO Um. Sorry. You have a lovely... cave. Very cozy, actually. Nice stalactites.

WITCH Thank you. How kind of you to notice...

IF YOU COULD GO BACK

JENNY Freaky. I just shot myself.

STANLEY What?

JENNY Dude. You sent me back here to stop me going back there, but I missed me, so I had to go back five minutes before I got to 1923 and stop me. I shot me. Freakiest thing.

STANLEY Why did you stop yourself?

JENNY It was your idea! Go back and stop the idea that made Hitler a martyr.

MARK But –

JENNY Hey Mark.

MARK Have we met?

JENNY Yeah. No. Later. Tough to say.

STANLEY So Hitler's dead?

JENNY No, but it could be worse. Much worse.

STANLEY Worse than Hitler?

JENNY You have no idea.

STANLEY But we're cool now?

JENNY We're back where we started.

MARK Did the thing with the giraffes happen?

JENNY What giraffes?

MARK Okay – we gotta fix that.

JENNY You're not gonna shoot me again.

MARK When have I ever shot you?

JENNY Like eight times!

MARK Really?

JENNY In some of the alternate pasts, yeah. And it hurts!

THE INTERVIEW

- MINION What's the lowest salary you are willing to accept?
- APPLICANT 7 million, with the first million up front in cash.
- MINION It will be a stretch but...I think I can do that. Junior minion usually starts at 6, but your portfolio is impressive.
- APPLICANT I applied for senior minion
- MINION We might be able to do intermediate minion.
- APPLICANT I applied for senior minion.
- MINION We promote exclusively from within for that role.
- APPLICANT When do you anticipate an opening?
- MINION They really only come when current employees die. Let's talk about your CV. I see here you work with amalgamated enterprises incorporated. Can you describe your duties?
- APPLICANT My PHD is in geological engineering, so when we moved into our new headquarters I was put in charge of excavation.
- MINION I heard about that project. Inside of a volcano?
- APPLICANT I tried to convince the boss an underwater lair would be more appropriate, but she insisted. Any idea how hard it is to hollow out a volcano? What we finally had to do was pump the lava into the village nearby. Villagers didn't care for it of course, but what could they do?
- MINION It also says here you oversaw the real estate portfolio.
- APPLICANT Volcanic ash is some of the best fertilizer around. So, after we wiped out the village, I bought up the land and used it to grow cocaine. I did a lot of deals like that. Remember the tsunami in Baluchistan?
- MINION That was you?
- APPLICANT Whole thing was just a real estate scam. We placed some bets against the price of land, shorted some of the insurance companies, and blew up a big bomb

under the ocean. Once it was over, we used the money from our short contracts to buy up the land on the cheap and develop casinos and cabarets.

MINION Fantastic. Ruthless. You might be able to make it here after all.

APPLICANT At senior minion?

MINION (laughs condescendingly)

THE MALTESE WALTER

DR. EDDY If you don't think Noir-man is a problem, why does your "whole future" depend on my help?

WALTER It's my girlfriend, Vera. Oh, God.

DR. EDDY What is it?

WALTER She'll be here any minute. We're supposed to get married tomorrow.

DR. EDDY "Supposed to"?

WALTER But she says I have to give up my superpower and become plain old Walter or the wedding's off.

DR. EDDY I see.

WALTER She's kind of a rom-com girl. I mean, I love her. She's sweet and she's pretty and well-educated. And she smells good, too. From the moment I met her...
(takes out his flask and the room transforms. Saxophone plays.)
...I knew she was trouble. She was leaning against the doorway of an oily dive called The Turning Point.

We see VERA leaning in the office doorway in a broad brimmed hat, smoking a cigarette. She has a slight Eastern European accent.

WALTER She looked at me and slowly pulled the cigarette out from between her lips. Doc, if I was that cigarette, I would have cried. Then she said—

VERA You look lonely, Mister.

WALTER I told her my name wasn't "Mister." It was Walter. Walter Wiggles.

VERA Wiggles. That's a funny name for a guy who stands so... erect.

DR. EDDY Walter, please, can you... *(WALTER puts it away.)* That's better. You must be—

VERA I'm Vera, Doctor Eddy.

WALTER She thought she'd better come along.

DR. EDDY Well, Vera, I don't normally do couples therapy, but it's a day full of surprises. Have a seat. Now, Vera: Walter tells me you don't like his, uh, superpower.

VERA I don't, Dr. Eddy. I don't like it at all.

DR. EDDY Why is that?

VERA Tell him, Walter.

WALTER She says she doesn't like the way I think of her when I'm *Noir*-man.

VERA I don't, Walter. You look at me like I'm some kind of—I don't know—under-moraled, oversexed, pouty... sleazebucket. Pardon my vulgarity, Doctor Eddy.

DR. EDDY It's good to get these feelings out.

VERA And he keeps talking about my underbelly. I really don't like that.

DR. EDDY Of course not.

VERA I'm not that kind of girl. Am I, Walter?

WALTER No.