

# Episode 4

## EUDAIMONIA

### [Script Outline](#)

## 4.1 One Last Day

### Intro

*[Scene: Maddy lies on a featureless concrete surface with clouds behind her - the underside of the train station. But we don't reveal this until a little bit later.]*

*[Maddy slowly opens her eyes, staring at nothing in particular. After a couple of seconds, she breathes deeply, and closes them. Her expression isn't quite serene.]*

*[All of the text in this scene should appear randomly around the screen - perhaps in different sizes, too? It should stick around after the next line appears, too, perhaps fading by 20-25% for every new line]*

"This is on **you**."

*[Her brow furrows.]*

"You've **failed** him twice now."

"He wishes you could be **better**."

*[She frowns, and turns her head slightly.]*

"You weren't good enough **when it mattered**."

"Everyone was **depending** on you."

"You didn't listen to him and **he hates you now**. You could see it in his eyes."

*[Same as above, but turns the other way.]*

"You've let **everyone** down."

"The cafe's going to close and it's **all because of you**."

"Ashley **trusted** you and you treated her like garbage."

"You **exploited** Kishan's naivete."

"You never asked Chay what he wanted. You **betrayed** him."

"You **wasted his last moments** with a vain, **selfish** task."

*[She grits her teeth.]*

"There's no question: you are a **failure**."

"The Council's going to **take the cafe away** from you."

*[On top of everything, large text]* "**And you should have seen this all coming.**"

*[She hits her limit, opens her eyes, and sits up, gasping for air and clutching her chest. It's a fast, panicked motion. We zoom out a little, but not much.]*

*[She then slows her breathing, visibly calming herself. She takes one last deep breath, and lets go of herself. She stands up, and as she does so, we zoom out and rotate the camera to show that she's on the underside of the platform.]*

*[Then, cut to title.]*

NECROBARISTA  
EPISODE 4

## Sunrise

*[Back to the bar. Maddy & Chay both leaning, watching the sun come up. Give it just a moment.]*

Chay: "This never gets old."

Chay: "You know, I wondered for a long time how I would feel if I never got old."

Chay: "And then I tried it out, and I got old anyway."

Chay: "There's probably a moral in that story somewhere."

Maddy: "..."

*[sardonic]* Maddy: "But when did we ever have time for morals, anyway?"

*[Chay hangs his head, looks over at her, and grins.]*

Chay: "You're a hellion, you know that?"

Chay: "It's weird to think that you used to just be a mild-mannered student."

Maddy: "I was just better at biting my tongue."

Chay: "Ha."

Chay: "If anything, I just hope that I was able to make your life a little more interesting."

Chay: "We've, uh."

*[camera focus on Chay. He looks on edge.]*

Chay: "We've had a pretty good run, mate. I don't want you to feel like I wasted my time on you, or that having you in my life hasn't been an absolute bloody privilege—"

Maddy: "Can we do this later?"

Maddy: "I just—"

*[camera to her. She's holding her glasses in one hand, wiping her eyes with the back of her other hand, trying to keep herself together. Chay's face softens.]*

Chay: "Of course."

*[he peers back out at the sunrise]*

Chay: "I reckon I see someone walking over. Can you get the machine ready?"

Maddy: "I... yeah."

*[she sniffs, and visibly peps herself up.]*

Maddy: "Let's make some fucking coffee."

*[transition through cleaning the machine - lots of flicking switches, cleaning, pulling seasoning shots, etc. End on Maddy taking a long draught from a mug. It's visibly lighter inside.]*

Chay: "Here you go. Again, sorry for the wait."

???: "Thanks. If it were anywhere else, I'd just not come back, but... the beans..."

*[Maddy starts.]*

Chay: "And I promise it won't happen again. Thanks for your patience."

???: "Mmm."

*[Maddy turns to Chay, horrorstruck.]*

Maddy: "I, uh... how long was I staring at the wall?"

Chay: "Fifteen minutes, by my reckoning."

Maddy: "What the hell."

Chay: "I came inside from sweeping up the front and just saw you staring blankly into your mug while that customer was just... standing there."

Chay: "They were being very patient."

Maddy: "I have no idea how that happened."

Maddy: "I feel... terrible?"

Chay: "It's no biggie. Like you told me the other day, our roasts are iconic enough that we can afford to get away with stuff like that once in a while."

Maddy: "Well, yeah, but."

Maddy: "When I told you that it was because we'd had to fight off dozens of Ashlings that wouldn't listen to us when we told them we weren't stray pieces of cutlery."

Chay: "Yeeeeaaaahhhhhh..... we probably shouldn't let that happen again."

Maddy: "Trust me, it's not on the agenda."

Chay: "But, like I was saying, people love this place. Even if they sometimes have to wait fifteen minutes for the barista to stop hyperfocusing on her coffee."

Maddy: "Yeah, I just. I dunno. That isn't meant to happen."

Chay: "How long have you been awake?"

Maddy: "I."

*[She does some counting on her fingers, then pauses.]*

Maddy: "I think maybe three days?"

Chay: "Good lord."

Maddy: "That's bad, yeah?"

Chay: "I'm honestly amazed you're not seeing things."

Maddy: "Oh, I'm hallucinating hardcore. No worries there."

Maddy: "Also I keep seeing faces in coffees."

Chay: "They saying anything interesting?"

Maddy: "Nothing but echoes of my internal monologue."

*[in the background, behind her head:]* "MORE ESPRESSO = LESS DEPRESSO"

Chay: "I'm sure it's a fun time."

Maddy: "It's a blast. At least your hands don't need to be too steady to make coffee."

Chay: "See, I wouldn't necessarily agree with that."

Maddy: "Shh."

Chay: "Anyway, speaking of coffee, you should make some."

Maddy: "I'm already like fifteen shots deep, man, I think I'll die if I have any more."

Chay: "No, Maddy, I'm saying you have a job to do."

Maddy: "Sorry, I feel like you're trying to lead me into some sort of conclusion here, but--"

*[Chay sighs dramatically.]*

Chay: "Turn yourself around."

*[She does so. There's a very bored looking customer standing there.]*

Maddy: "Oh, shit!"

Maddy: "My bad. Haven't slept for-"

Chay: "What can we get you?"

???: "One latte, one soy flat white."

Chay: "Sure thing. Feel free to take a seat, we'll bring them over."

Maddy: "Man."

Chay: "Yep."

Chay: "Fifteen shots, though? Really?"

Maddy: "Uh..."

Chay: "Because, just saying, at some point you're gonna hit a lethal dose."

Maddy: "I have some insane tolerance happening here. I think. I hope."

Chay: "Right."

Chay: "Well, I respect your right to make a complete idiot out of yourself and die in the process."

Chay: "I'd be a hypocrite if I wasn't."

Maddy: "Ha."

Maddy: "I can't believe everyone's gonna know me as the person who killed her boss in a botched necromancy attempt."

*[Chay watches her cautiously.]*

Maddy: "Y'know? That's hella street rep right there."

Maddy: "Council's gonna be too afraid of me to screw with me."

*[He smiles.]*

Chay: "I don't think they're too intimidated by you, fortunately."

Maddy: "Damn it."

Chay: "Let's not worry about them for now, though."

Maddy: "What should I worry about instead?"

Chay: "Nothing?"

Maddy: "Buddy."

Chay: "I tried."

Maddy: "Hey, actually..."

Maddy: "Where's Ashley?"

Chay: "Sleeping upstairs. We're not gonna get much out of her for a few hours, at least."

Chay: "And Kishan's gone off somewhere in the Terminal with Ned. They're around."

Maddy: "Somewhere."

Maddy: "Good that Ashley's getting some sleep, though."

Chay: "Imagine if *you* did that."

Maddy: "I'll sleep when I'm dead!"

Chay: "Uh-huh."

Maddy: "But also, she's okay, right?"

Chay: "Yep. Just needs some rest and maybe a few days of tapering off caffeine."

Maddy: "Oh. She's gonna be cranky."

Chay: "As a mule."

*[A customer enters]*

Maddy: "Well, I have that to look forward to."

Chay: "I'm sure it'll be plenty of fun."

*[to customer]* Chay: "What can w-"

*[over him]* Maddy: "What can we get you?"

*[Chay pauses, almost affronted, then smiles.]*

*[The customer poses, hipsterishly.]* ???: "Hmm. What roasts do you have today?"

Maddy: "Ah, let me see."

*[She turns to a menu or something, and runs her finger down it.]*

Maddy: "We've got your standards - espresso, Italian, city..."

???: "No, I'm looking for something fancy."

Maddy: "Fancy, you say? What do you have in mind?"

???: "I don't know! Something new, different, special,"

*[The customer poses dramatically, 🙄👉]*

???: "*artisanale*."

Chay: "Psst. Maddy."

Maddy: "What?"

Chay: "In English, that word translates to 'artisanal'."

Maddy: "Thanks."

*[He fingerguns.]*

Chay: "Any time, mate."

*[She turns back to the customer.]*

Maddy: "We've got a pretty nice house roast that you might like. The beans are sourced from a faraway land, enchanted with subtle magics-"

???: "What land? Tell me."

Maddy: "Uh, they're from Brisbane."

???: "What else?"

Maddy: "I'll give you our secret blend if you stop holding up the line."

*[Out of nowhere, there's now a line. The hipster notices it, and recoils.]*

???: "Ack!"

???: "I'll take it."

Maddy: "Go sit down, I'll bring it over to you."

*[Exeunt customer.]*

Chay: "What were you gonna give him...?"

Maddy: "I was just gonna take a blowtorch to some espresso beans."

Chay: "C'mon, Maddy."

Maddy: "What?"

Chay: "Don't be ridiculous."

Maddy: "I don't know what you mean."

Chay: "I mean that it's a waste of time for you to do that when you've got people to serve."

Maddy: "Ah..."

*[He pulls a small portable blowtorch out of his pocket, ignites it, and grins devilishly.]*

Chay: "Be right back."

## Break

*[They share a grin as he leaves. Maddy turns to customers, and we montage through her serving them. End at approximately 10 AM, with both of them sitting at a table taking a break.]*

*[Maddy takes a sip, and grimaces.]*

Maddy: "God, you weren't kidding. This *is* awful."

*[Chay nods, and takes a sip, very nonchalantly.]*

Maddy: "How are you able to drink that without your entire face crumbling into dust?"

Maddy: "It's so dry that it'd give Antarctica a run for its money."

*[He raises an eyebrow slightly.]*

Maddy: "Antarctica is a desert. Technically."

*[He raises it higher.]*

Maddy: "Shut up."

Chay: "Heh."

Chay: "I find it drinkable because it reminds me of good times."

Maddy: "What? It's thoroughly shithouse."

*[He takes another sip, almost blissfully.]*

Chay: "It reminds me of lost loves."

Maddy: "It's very worrying to me that this concentrated bin juice reminds you of a relationship."

Chay: "Oh, I've told you about her."

Maddy: "Wait."

Maddy: "You're not talking about..."

Chay: "Yep, the fugitive. The one who I took in for a few months."

Maddy: "I thought you liked her!"

Chay: "I did! The taste reminds me of her because it's smoky-"

Maddy: "Like licking a friggin' tailpipe-"

Chay: "-and has vague hints of iron."

Maddy: "I have concerns, Chay."

*[He waves her away, dreamily.]*

Chay: "Never thought I'd have a succubus drop by, to be honest."

Maddy: "Wait, you never told me she was a succubus."

Chay: "Didn't I? Well, I suppose it would have been inappropriate to mention that in front of Ashley."

Maddy: "Oh yeah, her head would definitely explode."

Chay: "But, yes, she was a succubus. I wouldn't have ever expected a cute demon to crash at my bar, but ended up having a wonderful, if short-lived, relationship. "

*[Maddy's giving-Chay-shit expression softens.]*

Maddy: "That's actually really sweet."

Chay: "Heh... yeah."

Maddy: "Still weird that the coffee reminds you of her, but I've heard weirder things."

Chay: "If I explained it to you, your head would explode too."

Maddy: "Uh."

Chay: "She had this one move-"

*[Maddy stands up abruptly.]*

Maddy: "Well that's my break time over, time to get back to work running a cafe doing barista things. I'm gonna go perform some barista-related activities and you are welcome to join me I guess."

*[She powerwalks away.]*

Chay: "Pfffft."

*[Calling after her]* Chay: "Don't forget to water the plants!"

*[tsuntsun]* Maddy: ~~"We don't have any plants, you old fart!"~~ "Water them yourself!"

Chay: "It's your job!"

Maddy: "Busy! Goodbye!"

*[In the distance, he waves her off, curmudgeonishly.]*

*[Maddy turns to a customer, who's been out of frame until right now.]*

Maddy: "I hate that he's right about that."

*[Does this scene need a better end?]*

## 4.2 That's All For Now

### Ghost

*[Midday. The cafe is absolutely empty, but Chay hasn't noticed. He's still at the table, and as he finishes his coffee, he hears a CRASH! from downstairs.]*

Chay: "Hmm?"

*[He stands up and realizes the cafe's empty (Maddy's gone too).]*

Chay: "Hello?"

*[No response.]*

*[From downstairs: CLANG!]*

*[Chay frowns, and heads over to the stairs.]*

*[From downstairs:] ???: "Bloody hell!"*

*[He opens his mouth, then decides against it, and then just heads down.]*

### Reminiscence: Ned

*[Chay emerges into the ritual basement and sits down on the steps. Ned's near the back, near a pile of scattered objects.]*

Ned: "These bloody things, I just..."

*[He sighs heavily.]*

Ned: "Agh."

Chay: "Now who's making a mess?"

*[No response.]*

Chay: "Ned."

*[He gets up and walks over to Ned.]*

Chay: "Oi."

Chay: "Metalhead."

Chay: "Tin man."

*[Chay closes his eyes, concentrates for a moment, then opens his eyes and shouts:]*

Chay: "Boo!"

Ned: "Shite!"

*[He starts, and wheels around. Shot can't show Chay.]*

Ned: "Don't scare me like that, you wanker! You'll-"

Ned: "Uh."

Ned: "Mate, you don't look so good."

Chay: "Hmm?"

*[Camera back to Chay. His left arm is beginning to lightly dissolve/melt. He gestures to it, nonchalantly.]*

Chay: "This thing?"

Ned: "Yes, Chay."

Chay: "It's fine."

Ned: "It very obviously is not."

Chay: "Oh, keep yourself together."

Ned: "You keep **yourself** together!"

Chay: "Fine."

*[Chay closes his eyes, and concentrates. His arm regains its form.]*

*[He inspects it, gives his fingers an experimental wiggle, then gives Ned a thumbs up.]*

Ned: "I've... only seen this once before."

Chay: "People don't tend to last as long as you or I."

Ned: "And even when they do..."

Chay: "It hurts like hell, yeah."

Ned: "Does Maddy know about this?"

Chay: "No. She's got enough guilt to deal with. I'm sure she just believes I'm uncomfortable, like Kishan is."

Ned: "Where's he at?"

Chay: "Headaches. Memory loss. We had a bit of a chat about it yesterday."

Ned: "Chay..."

Chay: "I know. I'm not staying much longer."

*[Chay smiles wryly.]*

Chay: "I'll stop disturbing the balance before long."

Ned: "Damn the balance. You're falling apart as I watch."

Chay: "Like I said. I'm not staying long."

Ned: "I cannot *believe* Maddy's presumptuousness—"

Chay: "Hey. Cut it out. She realizes that she's messed up, and she's doing her best to make amends."

Ned: "Surely it's too late for that."

Chay: "I don't think so."

Chay: "C'mon. Come sit down."

*[Ned heaves a big sigh, and sits.]*

Chay: "Things aren't that bad."

Ned: "No?"

Chay: "No. I might be dying, and I might be having to deal with a lot of pain and guilt, but..."

Ned: "Guilt?"

Chay: "I feel like I failed as a mentor for Maddy. She's not going to regain her confidence for a long time, I think."

Ned: "In... necromancy?"

Chay: "And just in general. It's easy to second-guess yourself over every little decision after something big like this happens."

Ned: "I'd appreciate if she second-guessed herself a little more often, to be honest."

Chay: "I'm sure you would."

Chay: "Anyway, aside from the pain and the guilt and the impending death, I feel quite good."

Ned: "Yeah, you sound like you're doing great."

Chay: "Ha."

Chay: "I'm just happy that she doesn't feel like she has to save me anymore."

Chay: "Even if that's just a result of her not managing to pull off the ritual."

Ned: "I don't feel like it was ever about the ritual, was it?"

Chay: "No. We tried it the first time just because we were feeling like doing something risky that could give us a little extra breathing room."

Ned: "Breathing room for...?"

Chay: "Getting the Council off our backs, actually. Getting some space to pursue our studies without outside interference."

Ned: "Oh."

Chay: "But even that was just... I don't know, maybe motivated by spite or something."

Ned: "You've got plenty of reasons to feel that way towards us."

Chay: "I don't feel that way towards you, mate. You know that, right?"

Ned: "I had some doubts."

Chay: "You might be a constant needle in my side, but you're also one of my oldest friends. And that means a lot more than any sort of affiliation with a bunch of snobbish prudes who wouldn't know innovation if it slapped them in the face."

Ned: "Oof."

Chay: "That doesn't mean I don't miss the good times we had."

Chay: "We were undermining governments *before* it was cool."

Ned: "You mean the prank letters we kept sending to the parliament in '77?"

Chay: "Subversive pushes for real democracy."

Ned: "Uh-huh."

Ned: "Y'know. Even when I met you, you seemed like you'd never die. I didn't know anything about you, but you had a weird energy around you."

Chay: "I didn't plan on it, really. The plan was to stick around for as long as I wanted to, and then move onwards when I felt like it."

Ned: "Do you feel like moving on?"

*[Chay looks uncomfortable.]*

Chay: "I'm getting more comfortable with the idea."

Chay: "Icarus didn't want to fall into the ocean, either."

Chay: "But everything's gotta fall out of the sky at some point."

Chay: "And Maddy was just trying to catch me."

*[pause. Ned shifts.]*

Ned: "You're... not actually okay with this."

*[pause. Chay bows his head.]*

Chay: "No, I'm not."

Chay: "Lying to myself is easier than admitting that."

*[Ned sighs.]*

Ned: "..."

Ned: "I'm gonna miss you, mate."

Chay: "I hope you won't forget me."

Ned: "Forget you? I'm going to stick a photo of you up on the wall in our office."

Ned: "Big one."

Chay: "Hah."

*[Ned uncharacteristically twists his hands.]*

Ned: "But, seriously, I want you to know that you've been a good friend. Even though we've taken different paths."

Ned: "When they caught me, and pressed me into service, seeing you again was the thing that really brought me back to life. Made me realize I could live like this. Stuck here."

Ned: "Because there was nobody else left for me. Nobody who could see me, at least. Y' know?"

Ned: "I won't forget that."

Chay: "That means a lot to hear."

Chay: "Thank you, friend."

*[Ned reaches out and places a hand on Chay's shoulder.]*

*[Cut.]*

## Rekindle the Fire: Kishan

*[Chay returns to the bar, which now has a few people in it.]*

*[Kishan is sitting on the ground just outside the front window, with his knees up to his chest, staring into space. Chay heads over and sticks his head out the door.]*

Chay: "Hey."

*[No response.]*

Chay: "You alright, mate?"

*[No response again. Kishan makes a slight movement.]*

Chay: "Hmm."

Chay: "I'm going to sit here for a bit, if that's okay."

Chay: "Right here on the ground."

Chay: "If you'd like me to leave, just let me know at any time and I'll let you be. Alright?"

*[Kishan shakes his head, almost imperceptibly.]*

*[Chay nods, and lowers himself down against the wall.]*

Chay: "It's a nice day out."

Chay: "The weather here can be a pain in the arse, but days like this... they make it worth it, y'know?"

Chay: "I love to just sit and let the sun warm me."

*[He tips his head back, closes his eyes, and smiles.]*

Chay: "It's been a couple of weeks since it happened, now. And I feel like the sun's warmth is the only thing that really helps me pull myself together."

Chay: "Yeah, what you're feeling? I'm feeling it too, pretty intensely. Don't worry. It's gonna be okay."

Chay: "A few times a day, I totally lose myself. As in, my sense of self. And also, my physical self."

*[He chuckles.]*

Chay: "But, if you plan on sticking around and taking up a position with the Council, that'll go away."

*[Kishan looks down.]*

Chay: "You definitely don't want to stick around as long as I have."

Chay: "Not to assume intent, or anything. I just had a hunch, seeing as you were talking to Ned."

Chay: "They're not evil. They're just impartial, which is its own kind of cruelty."

Chay: "I wouldn't judge you if you wanted to stay, either."

Chay: "There are plenty of delights hidden in Melbourne's dark corners."

Chay: "Ned can show you around, if you ask nice enough."

Chay: "I'm sorry, mate, I've gotta ask - is this helping at all? Because I'm honestly happy to sit here in silence. I thought you'd appreciate a yarn, though."

*[Kishan rubs his collarbone.]*

Kishan: "No... it's fine."

Chay: "Alright. So, fun things in Melbourne..."

Chay: "I suppose this story starts around the 1860s, when I first came over. Learned the language pretty quick, not that it helped with dealing with the colonials."

*[Kishan keeps his head down, but casts his eyes Chay's direction.]*

Kishan: "What did you come over for?"

Chay: "Gold. Same as everyone else."

Chay: "And so..."

*[Transition forward a little while.]*

Chay: "Then, he shows me these ridiculous drawings of himself wearing armour, like a medieval knight."

Chay: "Always had an odd noble streak in him."

Chay: "Maybe didn't aim it in the right direction all the time."

Chay: "But then he left, before I could help him use it a little more productively, and things changed pretty quickly after that."

Kishan: "I... see."

Chay: "It's never too late, though. Maybe you'll be able to help him rekindle it, eh?"

Kishan: "Me? Oh, uh, I don't think I could."

Chay: "It'd be easier than you'd think."

Kishan: "I'll have to take your word for it."

Chay: "Heh. Regardless of whether you decide to meddle..."

Chay: "Do take care of him for me, alright? That man has a lot of pain, and Maddy's not necessarily always the nicest about it."

Chay: "I know that I'm asking a lot. You don't have to coddle him or anything. Just watch out for him, when you can."

*[Kishan makes eye contact for the first time, and nods.]*

Kishan: "I think I can do that."

Chay: "Thank-"

*[CRASH! from inside, upstairs]*

Chay: "-you."

*[Kishan looks around, concernedly.]*

Kishan: "You heard that, right?"

Chay: "What, the noise inside?"

Kishan: "Yes! Is it something bad?"

Chay: "I have a rough idea of what it is. No need to worry."

*[He heaves himself up stiffly.]*

Chay: "I'll deal with it. And if I don't see you before I go--"

Kishan: "You will. I'll make sure I'm here."

*[Chay smiles gratefully.]*

Chay: "See you in a little bit, then."

*[He heads inside.]*

## Responsibility: Ashley

*[Upstairs, Ashley is wreaking havoc with two Ashlings. Both have kitchen knives bolted on.]*

*[Chay enters, and is utterly unsurprised.]*

Ashley: "Get 'im, Cooper! Make your creator proud!"

*[She addresses the other one.]*

Ashley: "Palmer, stop slacking! Lift that knife up! Do a big ol' stab!"

*[It seems indecisive.]*

Ashley: "That's an order!"

*[It perks up, and readies itself to pounce.]*

Chay: "Ashley!"

Ashley: "Wah!"

*[Ashley spins around, and the robots jump at each other. They collide out of frame.]*

Chay: "No knife this time?"

*[Ashley looks nonplussed.]*

Ashley: "I mean..."

*[She tugs at her collar.]*

Chay: "What?"

Ashley: "Turn around."

*[There's a knife stuck in an object, directly behind Chay.]*

Chay: "Now, how'd this get... oh."

Ashley: "Yeah, it went straight through you."

Chay: "Interesting."

Ashley: "I'll say."

Chay: "You should perhaps not do this in the future, though. Most people aren't as... insubstantial... as me."

Ashley: "I'm trying to wean myself off the habit."

Ashley: "You'll notice that this knife is slightly smaller than the previous one."

Chay: "I honestly can't tell the difference, but I'll take your word for it."

Ashley: "I'll be throwing butter knives at the back of Maddy's head before you know it, don't worry."

Chay: "Please don't murder each other after I go."

Ashley: "'Course not."

Chay: "No, really. It'd break my heart if you two stopped being friends over something silly."

*[Ashley is solemn for a moment.]*

Ashley: "I won't let it happen."

*[Chay smiles, satisfied.]*

Chay: "Good."

Chay: "Now, what's happening here?"

*[She turns back.]*

Ashley: "Just doing some prototyping for Robattle Royale."

Chay: "Ah."

Chay: "That name, though."

Ashley: "What about it?"

Chay: "I just feel like everything's a battle royale these days."

Ashley: "I have no idea what you're talking about, old man."

*[Chay shrugs.]*

Chay: "Never mind. What's the story with these poor things?"

Ashley: "Cooper and Palmer? I wanted to see if they still remembered Asimov's laws of robotics."

Chay: "And did they?"

Ashley: "No, Palmer gave me a light stabbing."

*[She gestures to a cut on her arm. Not huge. But not tiny, either.]*

Chay: "Oh, dear. Are you sure you're alright?"

Ashley: "Yeah, I like to give them a little taste of blood. Makes them fight better. Hungrier. Hungry for victory, and blood."

Chay: "And I'm assuming you'd rather they not follow Asimov's laws."

Ashley: "You assume correctly."

Chay: "Please don't let these mix in with the rest. It'll be impossible to tell them apart."

Ashley: "Why would that be a bad thing, though?"

Chay: "Because they'd be terrible at delivering coffee with those knives attached to them?"

Ashley: "I think they'd be extra enthusiastic."

Ashley: "Give you the wakeup jolt you're really looking for."

*[Chay grins.]*

Ashley: "I won't, though, don't worry. I wasn't going to do it in the first place."

*[approvingly]* Chay: "Look at you, turning into a responsible human being."

Ashley: "Hey, you take that back."

Chay: "No, I'm proud. With you and Maddy in charge, I feel like I'm leaving the cafe in good hands."

Ashley: "We'll do our best to make you proud, you old fart."

*[mock-wounded]* Chay: "What'd I do to deserve that?"

Ashley: "Getting all sappy on me."

Chay: "Ah. If you'd rather not talk about it..."

Ashley: "Nah, it's fine. I feel pretty good."

Chay: "Good?"

*[She looks away from him, and the camera cuts way back.]*

Ashley: "People always come and go from here, right?"

Chay: "Oh."

Chay: "I suppose you're used to it."

*[Camera back up close.]*

Ashley: "I think so. I sort of expected to be all sad and emotional, but this is just another goodbye."

*[He's visibly a little heartbroken by this, but she doesn't notice.]*

Chay: "Ah..."

Ashley: "And that's fine. I'm going to be sad, yeah. But I don't think this is new."

Ashley: "Plus, you're always gonna be around here, to some degree."

*[She knocks on the table.]*

Ashley: "Can't have the cafe without the Chay."

*[She looks back at him, and he forces a smile.]*

Chay: "You're a good egg, you know."

*[pause]*

Chay: "What?"

Ashley: "Oh, I was assuming there was gonna be some kind of pun following that."

*[horrified]* Chay: "I would never."

*[intense]* Ashley: "Would you not?"

*[thoughtful]* Chay: "I probably would."

*[triumphant]* Ashley: "The truth! It's finally revealed!"

*[They share a laugh.]*

Chay: "I'm gonna miss the hell outta you, regardless of whether you think my jokes are funny or not."

Ashley: "Good. 'Cause I'm great and you don't need any encouragement. 'Good egg?' Really?"

Chay: "I called you that because when you're around, it's always a shell of a good time."

*[pause]*

Chay: "I'm always cracking up."

*[pause]*

Chay: "You've got an egg-cellent poker face there."

*[pause]*

Chay: "Don't you like my yolks?"

*[cut to black]*

Chay: "I'm not scrambling the delivery, am I?"

*[Transition to next part.]*

## 4.3 One More Day

### Cleaning Up

*[Mid afternoon.]*

*[Maddy pushes a cardboard coffee tray (with six drinks) across the counter. She looks false-cheery.]*

Maddy: "Whew! Here ya go. Let me know if I can get you anything else."

?: "Thanks. Hopefully these'll be better than last time."

*[Customer leaves. As soon as he leaves, Maddy drops the fake smile and pouts.]*

*[small text]* Maddy: "Wanker."

*[grinning, out of nowhere]* Chay: "Can't leave you for a moment without you being mean to the customers, can I?"

*[dour]* Maddy: "You gotta stop doing that, man. Gonna give me heart palpitations."

Chay: "But you didn't even jump!"

Maddy: "I'm very startled. Internally."

Chay: "Well, enjoy it while you can."

*[She rolls her eyes.]*

Maddy: "You're gonna keep using that excuse for everything, aren't you?"

*[still cheery]* Chay: "Might as well, right?"

Maddy: "I guess I'll let you get away with it."

Chay: "How generous!"

*[Maddy suddenly cheery again.]*

Maddy: "But you gotta come downstairs and help me figure out some stuff."

*[His grin slips. Maddy doesn't notice.]*

Chay: "What sort of stuff?"

Maddy: "Science stuff!"

Chay: "You want to troubleshoot the ritual, don't you?"

Maddy: "Yep!"

*[He looks less than pleased about this.]*

Chay: "And you're sure you wanna do that instead of anything else."

Maddy: "Uh-huh."

*[He frowns.]*

## Regret

*[Transition downstairs.]*

*[The basement is similar to how we saw it before, but much messier.]*

Maddy: "What the shit."

Maddy: "I don't remember leaving it like this."

Maddy: "Unless you let a gorilla in after I left or something."

*[Chay's arms are crossed; he's not receptive to jokes.]*

Chay: "That didn't happen, as far as I'm aware."

*[Maddy inspects the mess.]*

Maddy: "Hmm..."

Maddy: "Oh, duh."

Chay: "A revelation?"

*[She talks over him.]*

Maddy: "I'll just tap into the building's subliminal memory."

*[Maddy slowly walks around the room, testing the air with her fingers. She stops next to a pile of scattered boxes.]*

Maddy: "Aaaaand... here."

*[She closes her eyes, and claps her hands together. As she does so, a ghostly apparition of Ned and a neatly stacked pile of boxes appears. He looks annoyed.]*

Ned: "That absolute ratbag."

Ned: "Magi-caps. Exotic chalks."

Ned: "And not a single thought for how they're used, or for obtaining the proper import licenses, or..."

Ned: "Argh."

Ned: "I'm gonna have to shut it down. No question."

*[He turns around, and knocks over the pile of boxes with his elbow. They fall perfectly into place with the boxes on the ground.]*

Ned: "Ah, shi-"

*[Maddy pulls her hands apart, and the apparitions disappear.]*

Maddy: "Well, that's not a good sign."

Chay: "Not surprising, though."

Maddy: "Sigh."

Maddy: "That's a problem for later."

*[Chay raises a skeptical eyebrow.]*

Chay: "Really."

Maddy: "Yep."

*[She squats down and starts looking through the mess.]*

Maddy: "God, just look at these magi-caps. They're totally fried."

*[She begins to ponder.]*

Maddy: "I wonder if we just needed some really big resistors in the circuit."

Chay: "Maddy, I-"

*[He sighs and pinches the bridge of his nose.]*

Chay: "What would they achieve? It'd just get hotter and we'd lose some of the energy."

Maddy: "No, no, I think we maybe had *too much* energy at that point. So, if we dissipated some of it during the second phase, when we were trying to transfer it anyway, it might have stopped the conduit from overloading."

Chay: "Would it not be smarter to just try and transfer less energy in the first place?"

*[Maddy's going deep on this. She looks passionate, thoughtful, engaged.]*

Maddy: "I think we'd have issues with opening the conduit, in that case. We should've drastically rethought our approach after the first time."

Chay: "I'm glad we're having this revelation now, instead of at any other time."

Maddy: "And given the multi-phase structure of the ritual, it's obvious now that we needed to *shift* the ways in which we were utilizing energy, instead of just boosting the amount we were trying to pump into it..."

Maddy: "Maybe I'm just talking in circles here. But I still believe this is viable, just maybe not with this equipment."

*[Chay massages his temples.]*

Maddy: "Have you got a pen on you? I have to write this down somewhere..."

*[She starts sweeping things aside, looking for paper & pen. Chay crosses his arms, doesn't look at her. Resistant.]*

Chay: "I don't believe it's worth it to keep on trying to make this work. I agree that it's probably possible, but..."

Maddy: "But what?"

*[Chay begins to rip the metaphorical band-aid off. He clenches his fists.]*

Chay: "I can't bear the thought of you getting yourself killed by trying this again. You've already gotten close to hurting yourself twice."

*[She looks up, confused.]*

Maddy: "But... I didn't end up hurting myself. So it's okay."

*[Chay is angry now. He wheels around to face her, and the stage darkens. Maybe we can do something visually interesting with this monologue/rant?]*

Chay: "Yes, because I took the hit! Both times!"

Chay: "And as long as you're trying this, you're going to keep hurting people, and eventually you'll get to the point where you can't bear to see anyone else get hurt through your recklessness, so you'll use yourself as a test subject,"

Chay: **"AND YOU WILL DIE."**

Chay: "Get it into your head, damn it. You want to know what it's like to be on the other side of this? Wishing for one more day? One more **good** day, where you can think straight and not have to worry about saying goodbye to your friends for the last time?"

Chay: "I keep telling everyone that I'm fine with this, that my time was up anyway."

Chay: "Guess what? It's a lie. I was lying to myself, and to everyone else. I am **terrified** of leaving. And I'm pissed off, too! Of course I'm pissed off! One life was never enough for me."

Chay: "I feel *incredibly* guilty, Maddy. Any failing of yours is mine because I didn't teach you well enough. I'm too far gone to fix things, but not too far gone to care."

Chay: "But, please, give me this. Don't throw everything away. Nothing is more important than this."

Chay: "Just... don't."

Chay: "If you want to respect my memory, all you need to do is remember me. My life's work is the cafe, **not** this ritual."

Chay: "And I'll be damned if I let you throw that away, or throw yourself away, just to stroke your own ego."

Chay: "My one regret - my *only* regret - is chasing that power myself. Stretching myself thin to find extra time and... for what? Some overblown sense of achievement?"

Chay: "I regret it."

Chay: "And as I stand on the cusp of oblivion, I realize that I am afraid for the first time."

Chay: "It's new, Maddy, and it burns."

Chay: "I don't want to go. I want one more day..."

Chay: "...just one more day." *[Slow text, word by word?]*

*[The monologue/rant slowly cools down around here.]*

Chay: "After all this. After you kept me here against my will, without asking me, without taking a *second* to check whether I was okay with it, at the end, I can't bring myself to take that last step without being pushed."

Chay: "Isn't that ridiculous?"

Maddy: "It's not."

Chay: "I really am losing it, huh? Everything about me is drifting away."

Maddy: "Chay, it's not."

*[Stage lightens again. Maddy's face shows that, finally, she understands.]*

Maddy: "I'm... sorry."

## Apology

*[Chay opens his mouth to object, but she raises a finger.]*

Maddy: "Let me finish."

Maddy: "I shouldn't have forced you to stay. You're right."

Maddy: "And everything you've said is fair, and valid, and understandable."

Maddy: "Except for one thing."

Maddy: "You might not feel like it, but you're still the Chay I know and love."

Maddy: "Doing your best to take care of everyone. Keeping them safe from anything that'd get in their way. And giving them the space to work things out themselves, when they need to."

Maddy: "I tried to follow your example, but I guess I didn't stick the landing on that last bit."

*[She sighs, tiredly.]*

Maddy: "Wish I could give this another shot. Right from the start."

Chay: "..."

Maddy: "You said, earlier, that having me in your life was a privilege."

Maddy: "Chay, the privilege is all mine."

Maddy: "You feel guilty for this, and that's fair, but you've changed my life for the better in a thousand different ways..."

Maddy: "And I think a lot of other people could say the same."

Maddy: "I don't blame you. Maybe one day soon I'll be able to stop blaming myself, too."

Chay: "I..."

Chay: "I'm sorry for yelling. You didn't deserve that."

Maddy: "It's okay."

Maddy: "And, you know it's okay to be scared."

Maddy: "You can't practice dying. There's no test run for that."

Maddy: "Even if we'd pulled off the ritual, it would've only given you a month or two before things started getting bad again."

Maddy: "But, desperate times..."

Chay: "Call for desperate measures, yeah."

Chay: "..."

Chay: "Heh."

Chay: "Look at us."

Maddy: "Pair of saps, aren't we?"

Chay: "I feel like it's healthy. Like eating your emotional vegetables."

Maddy: "Nah, this conversation is more like spinach."

Chay: "As in, good in a quiche, or..."

Maddy: "I'd kick your ass if I didn't know my foot would fly right through it, you know."

Chay: "Very fair."

*[They lapse into silence for a moment, then:]*

Maddy: "I don't know if I can do this without you."

Chay: "Do what?"

*[She gestures to everything.]*

Maddy: "All... this."

Chay: "I know things feel overwhelming right now."

Chay: "But believe me when I say that you're the most qualified person in the world to run this cafe."

*[He pauses, and thinks.]*

Chay: "The most qualified *living* person."

*[She snorts.]*

Maddy: "You fucker."

Chay: "And I'm the most qualified person to make that judgement, so there."

Maddy: "I guess I can't argue with that."

Chay: "You sure can't."

Chay: "I fully believe that you're gonna do some great things with this place, if you can stop Ned from shutting it down."

Chay: "Don't fall into the mindset of preserving broken things just 'cause they remind you of the past, okay?"

Maddy: "...I won't."

*[satisfied]* Chay: "Atta girl."

*[She closes her eyes, and takes a deep breath.]*

Maddy: "There's something I need to go do."

Maddy: "Come find me when you're ready. I won't be too far away."

Chay: "I..."

*[He understands.]*

Chay: "Alright. I will."

# Remembrance

*[Late afternoon.]*

*[There's a small line of people at the counter. Ashley and Kishan are serving coffee. He's standing in front of the espresso machine, looking a little panicked. She's standing next to him, barking instructions, her head barely visible above the counter.]*

Ashley: "No! Not like that! Like this!"

*[She grabs the portafilter and tips it upside down, refills it with espresso, and tamps it somewhat roughly. Whack!]*

Kishan: "But you said not to tamp it too hard!"

Ashley: "Look at it! The coffee just fell out. You gotta tamp it hard enough that it doesn't fall out."

Kishan: "You could have told me that before!"

Ashley: "I didn't expect you to just lightly tap it!"

Kishan: "Wah!"

???: "Hey, is this gonna take much longer? I got somewhere to be."

*[Ashley spins around and looks syrupy-sweet.]*

Ashley: "It'll be just a moment!"

*[She spins back around to Kishan.]*

*[in small text]* Ashley: "IT'S JUST A SHORT BLACK, HOW ARE YOU FINDING THIS HARD."

*[Kishan sweats profusely.]*

Kishan: "I... I got this..."

*[He produces a short black, and hands it down to Ashley, trembling.]*

*[She downs it, eyes narrowed.]*

Ashley: "Acceptable."

???: "H-hey! That was meant to be mine, right?"

*[She turns back to the customer.]*

Ashley: "We're just exploring synergies and working on disrupting the coffee industry. Please bear with us for just a moment longer!"

???: "I... uh... whatever."

*[Back to Kishan. Steely gaze.]*

Ashley: "Again."

*[shaky text]* Kishan: "Noooooo..."

*[Chay claps a hand on Kishan's shoulder out of nowhere.]*

Chay: "Don't worry, mate, you're doing fine."

???: "Are you gonna make my coffee?"

Chay: "Actually, we're gonna close up for tonight."

???: "What? But it's not even getting dark yet! What sort of crappy coffee joint closes at five in the afternoon?"

Chay: "Basically every place in Adelaide, I think."

Chay: "But we're not there. We're in Melbourne. So just go find coffee somewhere else."

???: "Unbelievable."

*[Behind the customer, the small line of people grumbles.]*

"Ugh." "These hipster places." "Think they can do anything."

*[They leave.]*

## Closing Shop

Kishan: "Wuh..."

Ashley: "What gives, old man?"

Chay: "I'm closing 'cause I want to spend time with you lot."

*[He looks over into the corner of the cafe.]*

Chay: "Yourself included, Ned."

*[emerging from shadows]* Ned: "I was beginning to think you'd forgotten about me."

Chay: "Of course not."

Ned: "How long are you planning on sticking around?"

Chay: "Not much longer, you old curmudgeon."

Ned: "I... didn't mean it like that."

*[Chay smiles gently.]*

Chay: "I know."

Chay: "You should all sit down. I'll make us drinks."

*[They oblige.]*

*[from the bar]* Chay: "So I've decided that this is it. I'm gonna head off in a little while."

*[looking elsewhere]* Kishan: "You sound pretty calm about it."

*[eyes in shadow]* Chay: "I am calm."

Ned: "So, I suppose... this is..."

*[Chay holds up a hand.]*

Chay: "Not yet."

Ned: "Alright."

*[Chay slides three drinks over. Ned's has a curly straw. Kishan eyes it, somewhat enviously. Chay notices, and laughs to himself.]*

Chay: "You want one too?"

Kishan: "!"

Kishan: "Uh, yeah... if that's okay."

Chay: "It's not like we have a shortage of curly straws."

Ashley: "Well, in THAT case..."

*[Chay pulls out two extra curly straws.]*

Chay: "Never say I'm not prepared."

Ashley: "Amazing."

Ned: "The man knows what his people need. A rare virtue."

Kishan: "Well, it's very much appreciated."

Chay: "I'm just glad to see you all smiling."

Chay: "This shouldn't be a depressing memory. For any of us."

*[Everyone appears happy and relaxed. Even Ned.]*

Kishan: "Honestly, it's refreshing to see people's attitudes towards all this."

Kishan: "I walked in here and felt pretty comprehensively awful, but being here for this..."

*[He looks down at his drink.]*

Kishan: "It's helped."

*[Ashley pats his arm.]*

Chay: "I'm glad to hear that."

Chay: "When you see it so often, it's hard to not develop a more relaxed outlook, you know?"

Chay: "Every month, we get dozens of people like you-"

Chay: "-heh-"

Chay: "-like us, I suppose."

Chay: "If I have the power to help people be at peace before they move on, why wouldn't I exercise it?"

Ned: "You were always too nice."

Chay: "Better too nice than too harsh. Generally speaking."

Ned: "\*sigh\*"

Ned: "Not sure about that."

Ashley: "I'm sad!"

*[They all look at her.]*

Chay: "Hmm?"

Ashley: "I'm sad about this."

Ashley: "Just wanted to, uh, make that clear."

Ashley: "But I'm gonna be okay."

Ashley: "Promise."

*[Chay smiles, sadly.]*

Chay: "Thank you, little pea."

Chay: "Hey, I need to ask you a favour."

Ashley: "Me?"

Chay: "All of you, actually."

Chay: "I need you to look out for Maddy for me. She's gonna need some extra love for a while."

Ashley: "Course!"

Kishan: "Yeah."

Ned: "..."

Ned: "Alright."

Chay: "I know you two've had your disagreements-"

Ned: "No, it's fine. I'll play nice."

Chay: "You have my appreciation."

Ned: "Heh. Can't really say no, can I."

Chay: "Oh, you better bet I'm milking this."

Ned: "I'll allow it."

Chay: "Any chance you'll come along with me?"

Ned: "Absolutely not. I've got things to get done here."

Ned: "Can't be gallivanting off to higher planes when I'm drowning in obligations."

*[Chay grins, and scratches his neck.]*

Chay: "Well, can't blame ya for that."

*[Kishan leans in slightly.]*

Kishan: "Speaking of Maddy... where is she?"

Chay: "I think she's upstairs somewhere."

*[Ashley meets Chay's eyes, questioningly. He smiles, and nods. She nods back, and concentrates on her drink again. Chay looks back at Kishan.]*

Chay: "I'll go up and join her shortly."

Kishan: "Will you be coming back down?"

Chay: "I don't believe so, no."

Kishan: "I... see."

Chay: "Is there anything you three would like me to do for you before we go? Any special requests?"

Kishan: "Oh, um, nothing for me. I'd ask for a special drink or something but I'm sure Maddy knows all your recipes."

Chay: "You'd be correct there. Ashley?"

Ashley: "All I require from you is..."

*[Ashley steeps her fingers, and makes a sinister face.]*

Ashley: "Your soul."

Chay: "No, you goofball, I need that."

Ashley: "Well, in that case, can I have your stuff?"

Chay: "You can fight Maddy over it. I say 'fight', but she'll give up pretty easily."

Ashley: "Nice."

Chay: "Ned?"

Ned: "Hmm?"

Chay: "Anything you want before I go?"

*[They look at each other for a moment, then Ned bows his head.]*

Ned: "..."

*[smallest possible readable text]* Ned: "Don't leave me."

Chay: "Sorry, I didn't catch that."

Ned: "I... "

*[He heaves a big sigh.]*

Ned: "Don't worry about it. I ought to be doing things for you, anyway. Running errands. Grabbing milk from the servo. Y'know."

Chay: "Ha."

*[Chay looks out the window.]*

Chay: "Man, the sun's getting low."

Chay: "I gotta go in a moment, I'm afraid."

*[Beat.]*

Ashley: "Are you scared?"

*[He blinks.]*

Chay: "Nah."

Ashley: "Cool."

*[Chay stands up and stretches.]*

Chay: "Oof."

Chay: "Feelin' old."

Ned: "Not half as old as you deserve to be feeling, I reckon."

Chay: "Trust me, I'm feeling it."

Chay: "Now..."

*[He looks off in (a convenient direction), as if to say "well, time to go!"]*

*[Ashley, from out of shot, hug-tackles his midriff.]*

Chay: "Oof!"

*[He hugs her back.]*

Chay: "I'm gonna miss ya."

Ashley: "I'm gonna miss you too..."

Ashley: "I wish you didn't have to go."

Chay: "..."

Chay: "Me too."

*[Beat, in which he closes his eyes, a pained expression briefly crossing his face.]*

Chay: "Alright. I gotta say bye to these two wretches."

*[Ashley moves off, and Kishan awkwardly approaches.]*

Kishan: "It's been cool."

*[Chay [shakes his hand.](#)]*

Chay: "Definitely. I'm glad you came in."

Kishan: "Yeah... me too. Maybe I'll see you someday in the future."

*[Chay smiles, sadly.]*

Chay: "I'd like that. Not too soon, though."

Kishan: "Heh. 'Course."

*[Kishan moves out of shot.]*

Chay: "Ned..."

*[Camera to Ned. He's still sitting.]*

Chay: "I've got to go."

*[Ned is still for a moment, then stands up.]*

Ned: "Still can't believe you were the first one out of us to go."

Chay: "Life is full of surprises."

*[Ned holds out a hand, and Chay pulls him into a kinda-macho hug with a shoulder slap or two.]*

Chay: "Wherever I end up, I promise there'll be a place for you there."

Ned: "..."

Ned: "Thank you."

Chay: "I'll always be proud of you, no matter what."

*[Ned bows his head.]*

Ned: "Alright. Enough of that."

Chay: "Fair enough. See ya round, mate."

Ned: "And you."

*[Chay leaves.]*

## Heaven Adjacent

*[from black: cut to Maddy, back to the camera & hands clasped behind her, in profile against the late afternoon sun.]*

*[narration, maybe super stylized in-world text:]* "Maddy maintained her calm."

"His body had laid here for weeks now, gently mouldering."

"He'd refused to visit again, after the first time."

"She didn't blame him. Can you really expect anyone to be cheery about the prospect of sweeping leaves off of their own grave?"

"But she didn't mind doing that job anyway; she'd always liked gardening. Bringing things to life."

*[Maddy grabs a broom and begins sweeping.]*

[do we need something here?]

*[Micronarratives.]*

*[Select Maddy, fade through black to her finishing sweeping up. Chay stands behind her, unannounced.]*

Maddy: "Hey, old man."

Chay: "Hey, you."

*[pause]*

Maddy: "..."

Maddy: "How you doing?"

Chay: "Fine, I guess."

Maddy: "That's good. I think."

Chay: "Yeah, I think so."

Maddy: "Why is this so awkward?"

Chay: "I've... never had to do this before."

Maddy: "Not even as the one who's gotta sweep up the mess afterwards?"

Chay: "Not like this, no."

Maddy: "Gotta say, I'm a little surprised."

Chay: "Life has a way of taking you for a loop like that."

Maddy: "Mmm..."

Maddy: "So, are we gonna...?"

Chay: "No, not yet."

Chay: "Let's sit for a few moments. It won't hurt."

Maddy: "Sure."

*[They sit.]*

Chay: "I'm sorry if this is kind of weird, but-"

Chay: "I can't get over this one thing."

Chay: "I'm here... sitting right here... but I'm also over there."

*[He gestures vaguely behind him.]*

Chay: "Y'know?"

Maddy: "Feeling a little conflicted about it?"

Chay: "Definitely."

*[Maddy smirks, somewhat humourlessly.]*

Maddy: "So you could say you're of two minds about it."

Chay: "I'm not gonna dignify that with a laugh."

Maddy: "Can't say I didn't try."

Chay: "But, seriously. That's my *grave*. My body's right there! How weird is that?"

Maddy: "It is pretty weird., yeah."

Maddy: "I don't feel quite as weird as I did when I was helping you bury it, though."

Chay: "Fair."

Maddy: "Grave-digging: all the manual labour of gardening with none of the rewards."

Chay: "You don't reckon I'm gonna grow into a beautiful tree?"

Maddy: "Buddy, you're already a wise old oak."

Chay: "Dead wise old oak."

Maddy: "Struck by lightning, yeah."

Chay: "So you don't think anything's gonna grow out of me?"

Maddy: "Not unless you swallowed a *bunch* of seeds without me noticing."

Chay: "'Fraid not..."

Chay: "Sigh."

Chay: "I don't really know what you're meant to do when you're about to pass on."

Chay: "I'm not prepared at all. Am I meant to be doing extra self-care or something? You're better at all that stuff than I am."

Maddy: "Yeah, man. Get yourself a bath bomb. Light some candles. Charcoal face mask. The whole shebang."

Chay: "Is that supposed to sound appealing?"

Maddy: "Yup."

Chay: "God, I'm out of touch."

Chay: "I made a bath bomb once, but."

Maddy: "But...?"

Chay: "It flattened a city block."

Chay: "And then some."

Maddy: "Goodness, you were such a hellion."

Chay: "That's why I took you in. 'Cause I saw that attitude in you, too."

Maddy: "Bomb-making revolutionary?"

Chay: "No, uh... you're a born pioneer. When you put your mind to something, you'll never stop pursuing it until you get it done or kill yourself in the process."

Maddy: "Ha. I'll try to avoid getting into the habit of assembling bombs, then."

Chay: "Phew."

Chay: "Don't get me wrong, though, I was also building a fragrant bath enhancer. For real."

Chay: "It was just a little bit too fragrant in the end."

*[Maddy leans back and grins.]*

Maddy: "Amazing."

Chay: "That aside, I think it's hard to mess up lighting some candles... probably."

Chay: "You got any on you?"

Maddy: "You think I just carry scented candles with me wherever I go?"

Chay: "..."

Maddy: "..."

Chay: "Yes?"

Maddy: "I... dunno what to tell you, man! I don't have any!"

Chay: "Damn it."

Chay: "Tell me you've got some downstairs, at least."

Maddy: "Yeah, but I'm not going back to get them."

Chay: "No, that's fine."

Chay: "After I'm gone..."

*[He scratches the back of his head, somewhat awkwardly.]*

Chay: "Put a few around, maybe, to remember me?"

Maddy: "I'll light 'em all up for you, don't worry."

Maddy: "Cafe's gonna stink of chamomile for weeks."

Chay: "That's perfect."

## Farewell

*[He takes a deep breath and stands up.]*

Chay: "Now..."

Chay: "I think it's about time."

Chay: "What do you think?"

Maddy: "This one's your call. As it should've been, the whole time."

*[He smiles.]*

Chay: "C'mon. Let's go have a look at your work, eh?"

*[Maddy stands. Her back is to the camera. Maybe mirroring that earlier shot.]*

Maddy: "It was always about time..."

///

*[They stand side-by-side, looking at the grave marker. Chay kneels down, with some difficulty, and inspects it. It's very simple, and totally blank.]*

Chay: "It's very... minimalist."

Chay: "I like it?"

Maddy: "Hush, you."

*[She reaches forward and rests a finger on top. Words shimmer into being.]*

Chay: "Ah. The dramatic reveal. Very swish."

Maddy: "Can't write history 'till it's happened."

*[The smile disappears from his face.]*

Chay: "No, I suppose not."

Chay: "What's this written down here?"

Chay: "Maddy, did you put *poetry* on my headstone?"

Chay: "How gauche."

Maddy: "Pfft. Give it a read."

*[He leans down, scans it, and smiles again.]*

Chay: "We see but dimly through the mists and vapors;  
Amid these earthly damps  
What seem to us but sad, funereal tapers  
May be heaven's distant lamps."

Chay: "That's... comforting."

*[She places a hand on his shoulder.]*

Maddy: "Chin up, old friend."

Maddy: "It's just another step."

Maddy: "We just gotta keep on putting one foot in front of the other."

Maddy: "No matter where we're going."

Chay: "I just..."

Maddy: "You told me that, back when I was a depressed mess who wandered in here looking to hide from everything."

Chay: "Throwing my own advice back at me. You monster."

Maddy: "Heh."

Chay: "I guess I should stop dawdling, anyhow."

Maddy: "You do you."

Chay: "I feel guilty for swinging back and forth on you."

Chay: "Being anxious, then eager, then scared, then brave..."

Maddy: "It's cool. I'm not gonna have a go at you for it."

Maddy: "And you have every right to feel complex feelings about this specific very scary thing."

*[He nods, not meeting her eyes.]*

Chay: "Thank you."

Chay: "But... I can't do this."

*[He clenches his fists, an anguished expression on his face.]*

Chay: "I can't stand here, making you wonder if I'm gonna do it or not."

Chay: "I need to do it now. Or I'll never leave."

*[She just watches him.]*

Chay: "Maddy I..."

Chay: "I..."

*[Chay grits his teeth, and sheds a few tears.]*

,  
*[She takes his hand, and pats it.]*

Maddy: "It's okay, mate."

Maddy: "Take a deep breath. Take it in, let it all out."

*[He wipes his eyes with the back of his hand, and exhales.]*

Chay: "Okay."

Chay: "Alright."

*[Their eyes meet.]*

Chay: "Maddy..."

*[She nods, and smiles.]*

Maddy: "Yeah."

Maddy: "You got this."

*[Chay goes to move past her, but pauses. He claps a hand on Maddy's shoulder, and stops for a moment to steel himself.]*

*[He takes a breath, then nods.]*

Chay: "We'll see each other again."

*[He moves forward, slightly, then we cut to a wider shot. And he's gone.]*

*[The sun dips under the horizon. Maddy is alone.]*

NECROBARISTA

a ROUTE 59 GAMES production

## 4.4 Denouement/Epilogue

### Epilogue

*[Establishing shot, outside. It's a warm day, maybe 12:30-1:00ish. Quiet. Lazy. Cafe is empty.]*

*[Maddy lounges on a chair outside, sunglasses on, reading a book. Ashley's on the ground near her, cross-legged, tinkering on an Ashling with parts strewn around her.]*

*[Ashley finishes tightening a screw, examines her work, and looks satisfied.]*

Ashley: "All done."

*[Maddy looks down and nods approvingly.]*

Maddy: "Looks pretty good."

Maddy: "It's got the right number of legs and everything."

Ashley: "And 50% less homicidal impulses!"

Ashley: "I think."

Maddy: "We're still aiming for 100% less, right?"

Ashley: "Sure, I guess."

*[Maddy laughs.]*

Maddy: "Well, it's progress, I suppose."

*[They lapse into a comfortable silence, and then:]*

Ashley: "Uh."

Ashley: "Maddy?"

Maddy: "Yeah?"

Ashley: "Why's the ground outside on fire?"

# Inquisition

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## **Ned/Kishan enter scene - expensive car version**

*[Cut outside. Two parallel lines of fire sear themselves into the pavement. After a moment, a portal opens, spitting ash and cinders, and we hear engine sounds as an [extremely cool 70s Datsun](#) inches through it. We don't see the faces of the people inside.]*

*[Ground-level shot. The car comes towards the camera, stops. Camera rotates around behind the car, facing the cafe. We can just see the front door underneath the car. Two car doors open, a person steps out of each side. Doors slam.]*

## **Ned/Kishan enter scene - cheaper portal version**

*[Cut outside. A line sears itself into the pavement, parallel to the cafe's front door. It spits cinders for a moment, then begins to draw itself into their air, taking the form of a shadowy portal or door.]*

*[Two dark figures step through. After the second one steps forward, the door dissolves, leaving a scorch mark on the ground.]*

---

*[Inside, looking out. The figures are obscured.]*

Maddy: "Oh, brother."

Ashley: "Hey, is that...?"

*[Outside, we cut quickly to each of the people adjusting the collars of their extremely cool leather jackets. Hard to tell who they are. Maybe Kishan is wearing a hat?]*

??? 1: "You ready?"

??? 2: "Yeah."

*[They walk forward, and enter the cafe.]*

??? 1: "Tch."

??? 2: "Wretched, isn't it?"

??? 1: "You know what this place needs, pal?"

*[One of them - Kishan - throws down a cigarette and grinds it into the ground with his heel.]*

??? 2: "Tell 'em."

??? 1: "Uh."

??? 1: "Uhhhhh..."

??? 2: "What?"

??? 1: "I don't actually know what this place needs. I was hoping I'd have thought of something by now."

??? 2: "Sigh."

Maddy: "You guys done?"

??? 2: "..."

??? 1: "...I guess."

Maddy: "Great. You'd better pick up that cigarette, Kishan."

*[The shadowy figure now known as 'Kishan' startles.]*

Kishan: "Wah! I will! I didn't mean to be disrespectful!"

Ashley: "That was a cute tough-guy act you two had going there."

Kishan: "Y-yeah?"

Ashley: "Very convincing."

*[Maddy looks skeptical. She holds her hand flat in a "I dunno about that" gesture.]*

Maddy: "Eh..."

Ned: "An Enforcer is required to be imposing. It's in the job description."

Kishan: "Oh no! Don't fire me!!"

Maddy: "He's not gonna fire you, he's too much of a big softy for that."

Ned: "I am **not** a softy."

Ashley: "Sure you aren't."

Maddy: "You're basically a giant teddy bear with a metal hat."

Maddy: "Hey, hold on."

Maddy: "You joined the Council, Kishan?"

Kishan: "Heh. Yeah. Actually..."

*[He coughs, coyly, as if he's trying to conceal a secret.]*

Ned: "You're not gonna tell her *now*, are you?"

Kishan: "Huh?"

Ned: "I thought we were gonna do a little buildup."

*[Maddy narrows her eyes.]*

Maddy: "Tell me what?"

Kishan: "Oh, I, uh..."

*[Maddy and Ned both lean in, menacingly. We lower the lights, shine a spotlight on Kishan. He cowers.]*

Kishan: "Too much pressure!"

Ned: "Hmph."

*[Maddy leans in even closer, and hisses:]*

Maddy: "Tell me, you weasel."

Ned: "Don't be rude."

Maddy: "Necromancer baristas are required to be mean to Council staff. It's in the job description."

Ned: "He's done a good thing for you, you ought to know."

Maddy: "Oh. Well, in that case."

*[They both lean back, and everything returns to normal. Maddy looks cheery.]*

Maddy: "What's up, bud?"

Ashley: "C'mon! I can't handle the suspense!"

Kishan: "Well..."

Ned: "Last night, we ended up in the archives."

Kishan: "The Council archives."

Ned: "Kishan went in with a particular goal, and dragged me along."

Kishan: "Hey, you didn't protest that much."

Ned: "Anyway..."

*[Kishan grins. Ned sighs.]*

Kishan: "You might wanna sit down for this."

Maddy: "I... okay."

*[She sits.]*

Kishan: "I managed to wipe your debt."

*[Maddy looks confused, and slightly affronted.]*

Maddy: "Is this a bad practical joke?"

Maddy: "If you're fucking with me, I will destroy you."

Ned: "No, he's telling the truth."

Kishan: "Turns out that there's some old by-laws that have loopholes, and..."

Kishan: "Well, you're not gonna believe this, but the Council allows payment of debt in a bunch of weird ways."

Ned: "Yes, we really ought to fix that."

Kishan: "And one of those ways is through the voluntary sacrifice of a soul."

Maddy: "Wait, what?"

*[Kishan's excited.]*

Kishan: "So I was able to sacrifice myself by joining the Council, and wiped your outstanding debts at the same time!"

Maddy: "Well, that's silly."

Kishan: "Huh?"

*[Ned does the body-language equivalent of raising an eyebrow.]*

Maddy: "So, you guys get to do as much human sacrifice as you like, but as soon as I'm doing it I'm a 'menace' and 'upsetting the natural order'?"

Ned: "Maddy."

Maddy: "Yes, Neddy dearest?"

Ned: "Pull your head in."

*[She looks majorly affronted, then realizes she's being a dickhead.]*

Maddy: "Ahem. You're right, I apologize."

## The End

*[She's suddenly majorly concerned.]*

Maddy: "Kishan, you didn't do this just for me, did you? Are you sure you're okay with this?"

Maddy: "Please tell me you didn't feel like you had to do this. I don't want this if it means you've been coerced into helping."

*[Kishan waves her off.]*

Kishan: "No, no, I promise this is fine. I wanted to stay."

Kishan: "I was way too afraid to pass on. And I thought the Council was interesting, and I wanted to learn more about it."

Kishan: "Ned might've talked me into it a little bit, but I absolutely promise that I didn't feel pressured into it. I made this decision on my own."

Maddy: "I... I don't know what to say."

Kishan: "Just consider it as me repaying the kindness I was shown when I walked in."

Kishan: "I was really, really freaked out, and you all helped a lot with that."

Maddy: "..."

*[She tackle-hugs him.]*

Kishan: "Ah-"

Maddy: "Thank you."

Maddy: "Thank you so, so much."

*[She lets go.]*

Ashley: "So... we're gonna be okay?"

Ned: "As long as you stay on the straight and narrow from now on, yes."

Ashley: "Cool!"

Ned: "Reckon you'll be able to do that, Maddy?"

Maddy: "I... yeah. I'll do my best."

Ned: "No more illegal rituals."

Maddy: "No more illegal rituals. Promise."

Maddy: "I'll stick to the legal stuff for as long as I can."

Ned: "I suppose that'll have to do."

Ned: "I understand that you're somewhat of a stuck record in this regard, and I'm trying to make my peace with that."

Kishan: "Aww, look at you two. Makin' friends. Wholesome."

*[They ignore him.]*

Ned: "Please, just try and keep your head down."

Maddy: "I will, yeah. Gonna be hard to cause too much trouble if you keep raiding my suppliers, anyway."

Ned: "Sorry. Just doing my job."

Maddy: "Yeah, can't fault you for that."

Ned: "Anyhow..."

Ned: "I'm afraid we've places to be."

Kishan *[dismayed]*: "So soon? We only just got here."

Ned: "I told you we were only popping in for five minutes. We've got paperwork to do."

Kishan: "Ugh. Responsibilities."

*[He winks at Maddy and Ashley.]*

Kishan: "Catch you two later."

*[Maddy nods.]*

Maddy: "Thanks, again. I appreciate it a lot."

Ned: "You're welcome."

Kishan: "Any time."

---

## **Car departure**

*[They hop into the car. Ned starts it, the engine revs.]*

*[Kishan waves from the passenger seat. Ashley fingerguns, Maddy raises a hand and does a chill wave 'cause she's chill.]*

*[The space around where the wheels contact the ground begins to glow and spit cinders.]*

*[Ned revs the engine again. Then, just to subvert expectations, the car sinks into the ground and disappears, leaving a pile of scattered ashes on the pavement.]*

*[A moment's silence, then:]*

Maddy: "Ugh. I'm gonna have to sweep that up."

### **Not-car departure**

*[They stroll out. Ned extends a hand. His fingertips begin to sizzle, and at the same time, a line of cinders appears on the pavement. He lazily flicks his hand up, and a flame-rimmed portal springs up from the ground. They enter, are immediately shrouded by smoke, and the portal dissolves, leaving another scorch mark on the pavement.]*

*[A moment's silence, then:]*

Maddy: "Ugh. I'm gonna have to scrub those off."

---

Ashley: "Are we gonna do it now?"

Maddy: "Nah, I'll do it later."

Maddy: "Right now, though, everything's pretty calm, so I was thinking we might close up early-"

### **C R A S H !**

Maddy: "Dammit, what is it now?"

*[They head upstairs, where an Ashling has knocked a plate off of a table.]*

Maddy: "Oi!"

Maddy: "You'd better clean that up, you little monster."

*[The Ashling seems chastened (cowers a little), but doesn't move.]*

Ashley: "Hmm... is it trying to tell us something?"

*[It looks up, and Maddy and Ashley do the same.]*

*[Another Ashling swings down from the rafters like a spider, carrying something. (That something is a gift-wrapped [hanging plant pot](#) containing hanging thyme/Thymus citriodorus.) It nearly hits them, and they duck.]*

Maddy: "Hey! Watch it!"

Ashley: "What's it holding?"

*[It comes to a stop at eye level, and Maddy snatches the plant pot and places it on the table.]*

Ashley: "It's a... plant?"

Ashley: "Why's it got wrapping paper on it?"

*[Maddy grabs the card, as Ashley leans in to smell it.]*

Ashley: "Mmm. Smells nice. What's the card say?"

Maddy: "It... it's from Chay."

*[Ashley stops, the smile on her face fading. Maddy looks somewhat stricken.]*

"The time for regrets and apologies is long past.  
All we can do is look forward to the future with a smile on our faces.  
Don't obsess over what could've been. Please.  
I know you're gonna do great things, and you don't need my help for that.  
This is my last gift to you, my apprentice.  
You kept saying that you needed this, so I went out and got it.  
I think that even though some people claim to be ready for what lies next,  
everyone wants a little more thyme.

- Chay"

*[Maddy looks like she's dealing with some strong emotions. She holds a fist to her mouth.]*

Ashley: "Hey, um... are you okay?"

Maddy: "I..."

Maddy: "That bastard couldn't resist playing one last joke on us, could he?"

*[She takes a deep breath, centering herself.]*

Maddy: "I'm okay."

*[Ashley hugs her.]*

Maddy: "Seriously. A pun, and I can't even give him a withering look in response."

Ashley: "I mean, you said it yourself. We *do* need more plants."

*[Maddy facepalms.]*

Maddy: "Yes. We do."

Maddy: "Let's go hang this up."

*[Cut to Maddy hanging it up above the bar. She's standing on a chair behind the bar; Ashley is standing **on** the bar, with a watering can ready.]*

Ashley: "I know it's just us two now, but... I think he'll always be here in some form, right?"

Maddy: "I think so, yeah."

Maddy: "We can't get rid of him *that* easily."

*[She smiles, and closes her eyes. Ashley quietly waters the thyme.]*

*[Maddy perks up.]*

Maddy: "Alright. Let's close up."

Ashley: "What are we gonna do?"

Maddy: "I was thinking of heading to the hardware store."

Maddy: "Everyone keeps saying we need more plants in here."

Maddy: "Why stop at one?"

*[Long shot of cafe exterior.]*

*[End.]*