FROG'S CONTRIBUTION TO:
ASMR SCRIPT GUILD'S SCRIPTOBER

If you haven't already, please read my rules first, you can find them here!
I've collected all script fills in a playlist, check it out here!

Day 1: Blunt Force Trauma
- [A4A] Killer-Chloe's Supply Shop [Serial Killer Listener] [Clerk Speaker] [Wholesome speaker] [Almost too casual] [TW: murder themes]

Day 2: Sweater
- [F4F] The Sweater Curse [Girlfriend speaker] [Established Relationship] [Cuddles] [Rambles] [Cute]

Day 3: Available
- [A4A] "I'll be there. Promised." [Boyfriend/Girlfriend speaker] [Established Relationship] [Voicemail] [Rambling] [Encouraging] [Comfort] [Wholesome]

Day 4: Key
- [M4A] The Key to Immortality [King/Mage speaker] [Magic] [Story telling] [Evil vibes] [Themes of death and immortality]

Day 5: Breeze
- [A4A] A soft Breeze's gentle Kiss [Girlfriend/Boyfriend speaker] [Established Relationship] [Narrated letter]

Day 6: Worry
- [A4A] Scare actor checks up on you [Scare Actor x Listener] [Haunted House] [Comfort] [Rambling] [Wholesome] [Creepy intro]

Day 7: Discovery
- [A4A] Discovering a Frog Wizard [Frog Wizard and Human] [Silly] [Magic] [Wholesome] [Turned frog-sized] [Frog teaches you a lesson] [Making a friend?]

Day 8: Genuine
- [A4A] Guard shows you a moment of mercy [Mafia member x Listener] [Kidnapped] [Wholesome?] [Escape plans]

Day 9: Chaos
- [M4A] Stressed Boyfriend can't find his passport [Boyfriend x Listener] [Established Relationship] [Argument and Apology]

Day 10: Diagram
- [A4A] Alien researcher reports his findings [Alien scientist speaker] [Alien commander listener] [Research on humans]

Day 11: Headquarters
- [M4A] Villain's Right Hand Man goes too far [Right Hand Man speaker] [Supervillain listener] [Comic Book tropes] [Violence and Destruction] [Epic Monologue]

Day 12: Convenience
- [A4A] An odd Customer at the Space Ship Repair Center [Human speaker] [Alien clerk listener] [Strangers to Friends] [Unlikely Similarities] [Wholesome]

Day 13: Age

- [A4A] Of Crime And Justice [Vampire speaker] [Detective listener] [Rivals] [Interrogation] [Deceitful appearances] [Exploiting loopholes] [Non-Romantic] [TW: mention of murder, blood]

Day 14: Park

- [A4A] Lifeguard comforts you at a waterpark [Lifeguard x Visitor] [Strangers to More?] [Wholesome] [Comfort] [Scared of a waterslide] [Afraid of heights] [Being brave]

Day 15: Tooth

- [A4A] Feeding on your Vampire Partner [Vampire x Vampire] [Comfort] [Reverse Feeding] [Promises]

Day 16: Mile

- [A4A] “I know everything about you.” [Stalker Ex Speaker] [Yandere?] [Phone calls] [Creepy/Horror] [On the run] [TW: Mention of murder and kidnapping]

Day 17: Dialect

- [M4A] Awakening an Ancient Rock Giant [Rock Giant speaker] [Rock Gnome listener] [History/Heritage and Culture] [Forgotten language] [Reunited] [Experimental: Conlang elements]

Day 18: Desert

- [A4A] Desert Dessert [Restaurant Staff speaker] [Guest Listener] [Comedic/Silly] [Restaurant in the desert]

Day 19: Aloof

- [A4A] The lighthouse keeper’s apprentice [Lighthouse Keeper speaker] [Apprentice listener] [Unenthused teacher] [Stormy ambience]

Day 20: Burn

- [A4A] Acid Rain, Wrath and Pain [Assistant takes revenge] [Assistant speaker] [Negligent Boss listener] [Implied murder] [Vengeance] [Subtle Norse themes] [CW: implied murder, threats]

Day 21: Heaven

- [A4A] 6:66 Appointment [Demon speaker] [Human listener] [Interview] [Afterlife] [Hell]

Day 22: Monopoly

- [A4A] The Monopoly Trap [Jigsaw-esk speaker] [Victim listener] [Saw inspired] [Horror] [Punishment for a life of greed] [CW: description of traps, mention of death]

Day 23: Highlight

- [A4A] Judge, Jury and Executioner [Supervillain x Hero’s Mastermind] [Joining the dark side] [Power and Recognition] [Comic Book tropes]

Day 24: Writer

- [A4A] The Archivist [Archivist speaker] [Adventurer listener] [Life on a Woodland Giant] [Wholesome] [Caring]

Day 25: Hoarse

- [A4A] Meeting a Centaur Messenger [Centaur speaker] [Human toll collector listener] [Wholesome] [Chatting/Rambles]

Day 26: Echo

- [A4A] The Well of Everlasting Fortune [Well? speaker] [Human listener] [Making a deal] [Offerings/Sacrifice] [Twist ending]

Day 27: Colleague

- [A4A] Genesis Y-33: Hybrid Lifeform Zero [Mad scientist speaker] [Scientist listener] [Fungus] [Body Horror] [Kidnapping] [Revenge] [Jealousy]

Day 28: Doll

- [A4A] Discovered by an antique collector [Collector speaker] [Doll listener] [Antique store]

[Wholesome] [Rambling]
Day 29: Plot
[A4A] Hired by a strange performance artist? [Artist (/villain?) speaker] [Freelance writer listener] [Discussing a commission] [Rising up] [Themes of justice and villainy]
Day 30: Tidy
[A4A] Android makes you go to bed [Android Maid speaker] [Overworked Human Listener] [Caring?] [Breaking the code]
Day 31: Monster
[A4A] Giant spider thinks humans are repulsive [Spider speaker] [Human listener] [Nervous energy] [It's more scared of you than you are!]

Day 1: Blunt Force Trauma

[A4A] Killer-Chloe's Supply Shop [Serial Killer Listener] [Clerk Speaker] [Wholesome speaker] [Almost too casual] [TW: murder themes]

Summary: In need of some additional supplies for your side hustle, you make your way into Killer-Chloe's infamous little store. You don't plan on paying, but you let the clerk show you around anyway…

Setting: a small store

[SFX: door chime]

[pause]

[(artificially) cheery:] Welcome to Killer-Chloe's supply shop for serial killers, where we're dead-sure you'll find what you need.
I'm simply "dying" to assist you, how can I help you today?

[small pause]
Oh, and before you ask, Chloe isn't in.

[pause]
Not the chatty type, huh?
Well, no worries. We'll figure it out.
I'll just give you a little tour of the store and you tell me what you like.

Quite a lot of our patrons prefer to stay silent for privacy reasons.
I can assure you though: There's no cameras, microphones or anything of the sort in here.
This store's legit, I get all my own supplies here as well.

[pause]
At any rate, over here are all of our masks.
Mostly standard stuff like ski masks, hockey, different animals...
Though we also have some novelty ones ever since the purge movies came out.
All of these ones light up, for example.

Though I gotta say... The one you're wearing right now is quite impressive.
Handmade, I assume? Suits you.

I don't think you came here for a new mask, in that case...

[small pause]
Let's move to our general supply section.
We've got everything from tape and rope of all sizes, colors and materials, to shovels, cleaning supplies and rubber gloves.

Anything to assist you during and after a job well-done.

The basics, if you will, plus anything to top up your supply.
Some things do seem to run out rather quickly, after all.

Ooo, right, check out these new additions, we just got these in!
Body bags in any colour your heart desires!
Only grey, black and beige are just so boring, it was more than time for an update.

This crimson red one's awesome, hides any blood stains perfectly!
Ideal for our thrifty clients that like to reuse their supplies.

The unicorn-print on this one's a bit much in my opinion, but I can totally see someone being really into this...
[quieter:] I should give the Glitter Slayer a ring later...

[small pause]
Ah, sorry, lost focus for a second. [nervous laugh]
I take it this isn't what you're here for, then?

[small pause]
Let's see…
Over there we have the eh... "Pharmacy", as the boss likes to call it.

Vials upon vials of different poisons, narcotics and other chemicals.
Plus all the gear to go along with it.
I must admit this area of the store isn't my strong suit yet, and between just you and me...
I'd hit up the vendor across town anyway, if I was you.

Way cheaper, and way stronger stuff, though the service isn't nearly as good…
So, if you were hoping for some recommendations, you'll have to come back to speak to Chloe personally, it's her specialty after all.

[pause]
No? Okay.
That leaves us with the weapon section, should have guessed so in the first place, huh?

All of our blades are in this area, any sort of dagger, knife, sword... a couple of axes…
Over here we have bow and arrow... Then there's spears, throwing stars and other pointy things.

[pause]
You struck me as sort of an old-school slasher type - no offense - but you don't seem too interested in any of these...

Hm... well... apart from that, all that's left is this section.
Lethal, yet less prickly: our blunt weapons.

[small pause]
[exhale] Finally, that got a reaction...
I was worried we wouldn't have what you're looking for after all...
That'd be embarrassing, considering we promise to offer anything a killer's heart desires...

So... Which one's caught your eye?
We've got hammers, baseball bats, golf clubs... walking sticks in case you want to blend in a bit...

[small pause]
Aaaand you're going for the massive pan.

Alright. That's okay, too.
Careful though, it's very heavy.

That is a one-of piece originally custom-made for a chef, who ehrm... met his maker a little earlier than he anticipated.

I think it's a great choice, but make sure you note the price tag, as it is quite expensive.
That's in fact the only reason why it's still in this store and not in my apartment, but that's besides the point.
[quieter:] At least I can stop saving up for it now...

[small pause]
Will that be it, then? Any other supplies you're looking for?
Backup weapon, perhaps?

[small pause]
No? Great, then please follow me to the register.

[pause]
Alright, that brings your total to 500 dollars and a non-disclosure agreement.
Chloe wouldn't like for the authorities to find out about this shop, so it's mandatory, unfortunately.

[pause]
I know, I know, paper trails 'n all... Trust me, I don't like it either.
Lots of extra paperwork for me to do, but it's store policy.

Just sign with whatever the newspapers have dubbed you, that's more than enough for us, and doesn't reveal your identity.
I doubt a document like that would hold up in court, but you know... honor is still a thing, I guess.

[SFX: scribbles on paper]

Theeere we go. Thanks for the autograph.

[pause]
I'd like to point out our kill-guarantee to you.
If a weapon you purchase here simply isn't good for taking out an average victim, you can return it for a full refund within 6 months.

Though... considering the sheer weight of that thing, I doubt you'll have to make use of that.

[pause]
Oh, sure. I can... at least attempt to get you a bag that big...
Though… I can't promise anything.

But only <u>after</u> you pay, that is.
I'm not gonna risk having you make a run out that door, while I turn around to grab it.

See, I don't think you're a criminal just 'cause of your profession, but with the crowd that comes to <u>this</u> shop, you never know. Nothing personal, I assure you.

[small pause]
It's 500 dollars, in case you forgot.

I don't mean to hurry you, so please forgive my forwardness, but I was supposed to go on lunch break any minute now and I-

[SFX: resonant bonk of huge pan to head]

Ah...ugh...

[SFX: clerk falls to the floor]

[small pause]

[SFX: door chime]

Day 2: Sweater

[F4F] The Sweater Curse [Girlfriend speaker] [Established Relationship] [Cuddles] [Rambles] [Cute]

Summary: You come back home after a night out with friends to find your girlfriend all cozied up on the couch. You decide to join her.

[optional SFX: fireplace ambience]

[SFX: door opening]

[small pause]
Hi Babe! How was dinner? Did you have fun?

[pause]
I'm glad you enjoyed yourself, hun.
It's been quite a while since you've hung out with that friend group, huh?
I'm sure it was nice to catch up after so long.

[pause]
Oh, nah, I wasn't really doing anything, you're not interrupting.
I've just been lying on the couch, listening to music, crocheting away… you know how it is.
A lazy, but cozy evening.

I didn't feel like getting ready and going out. Too much hassle… also I thought I might get some crafting done tonight, after last week has been so busy.

[pause]
Of course! I'd love to have you join me!
Come here, Love, cuddle up.
Just… don't get caught in the yarn.
I already have you hooked with my awesome personality; I don't need to catch you with my crochet hook as well. [chuckle]
Besides, I imagine that'd probably hurt…

[small pause]
Here, lean on my shoulder… I'm feeling generous, so I'll let you slip under my favorite blanket with me.

[pause]
Kidding, Baby! You know I like sharing a blanket with you. Especially this one.
It's so warm and comfy… And it makes me feel that much closer to you, to enjoy it together.

[pause]
I'm glad you feel the same way.

[pause]
Oh, this? I'm making a little stuffed bunny toy; it's supposed to be a gift for one of my friends. Their

birthday is pretty soon, but so far, I only have the head and half of the body finished…
I think the face turned out soo cute though, wouldn't you agree?
I really nailed that sweet, innocent expression this time.

[pause]
[chuckle] Of course, my love… I can make another one, just for you.
Though I think you might run out of space soon, if I keep making and buying plushies for you.
You could open a zoo at this rate!

[pause]
I know, I know… I love making them, and it's all the better you enjoy receiving them.
Otherwise, I wouldn't know who to give them to.
Plus, this way I get to see them whenever I want to!
I do tend to feel a bit sentimental about giving my crafts away…

I put a lot of effort into them, so I guess it's only natural to grow a little attached to them. Even though I usually start them just to keep my hands busy…

[pause]
[chuckle] Crocheting cuddled up on the couch like this always makes me feel like a little granny.
Probably because my grandma used to knit, while my grandpa watched some nature documentaries on TV.

Though… the way I remember it, she usually made a pair of socks, and I'm more into making all sorts of plushies these days.
Besides, I'm so slow at knitting… I don't have much practice.

[pause]
Hey, don't underestimate me!
I'm a pretty good seamstress as well, I've sewn my fair bit of clothing!

But… for some reason I just don't think I have the patience to make clothes with yarn.
Crocheting squares for days on end, with no clear finish line… No thank you.
It's far more exciting to me to see a little plushie come to life!
They're just too cute!

[small pause]
If you're interested in a certain piece of clothing you've seen online though, I'd be more than happy to give it a shot.
I know there's a lot of cute, trendy stuff.

Still, I might moan about it quite a bit, even just a sock would take me so much time…
But for you, my love, it'd be worth every everlasting second.

[pause]
[half joking:] Nuh-uh, Baby! Anything but a sweater!
Haven't you heard of the sweater curse??

[pause]
I know you said you wanted a cardigan, but still, that's close enough!

[pause]
[laugh] Hey, I'm not just too lazy! Believe me, I'm not making this up, it's a real thing!
Or well… as real as a myth can get.

I'm surprised I've never mentioned it to you before, to be honest.
It's a pretty common tale. Among people who like to work with yarn, that is, I doubt it's common knowledge beyond that.

[pause]
Oh, well… it's said that if you knit a sweater for your significant other before you're married, you'll break up.

And I definitely want to avoid that!
So don't try to convince me to make one for you!
No amount of "pretty please" and puppy-eyes can persuade me!

[pause]
[chuckle] I know it's just some silly superstition, and I'm not totally serious about it, but still… I can't help it!
I don't believe in many myths, but I'm not willing to risk it with this one.

I feel so lucky to have met you in the first place, and I don't want to mess with my chances.

[pause]
Huh? Your own sweater curse?
I'm confused, Baby, what is it?

[pause]
[amused:] Oh, you're so mean!
That's not a curse, it's called sharing with your loved ones!
It's not my fault your clothes keep ending up in my closet!
You buy way too many cozy things, and I can't help but steal them for myself. [chuckle]

Besides, see it as a compliment:
You've got good taste and I aspire to be as well-dressed as you are.

[pause]
Hey, you borrow my clothes as well!
At this point I'm wondering why we have two separate closets in the first place.
It'd be much easier to just combine them, I can barely tell which ones are mine and which ones are yours anyway.

[pause]
Awe, yawning already, hun? I guess it <u>is</u> pretty late…

To be completely honest with you, I'm also rather tired, I can barely count my stitches anymore [chuckle].
Hold on, let me put away my crocheting…

[small pause]
There.
Let me focus just on you, my love.
Time to unwind and relax… Close your eyes, Baby, just let me hold you for a while… I wouldn't be surprised if we fell asleep like this tonight.

Snuggled up under a warm blanket, holding each other… it does sound rather nice, doesn't it?

[small pause]
Good night, my Darling. I look forward to waking up next to you tomorrow.

[optional: kiss on the cheek]

[SFX: background ambience continues for a bit, slowly fades out]

Day 3: Available

[A4A] “I’ll be there. Promised.” [Boyfriend/Girlfriend speaker] [Established Relationship] [Voicemail] [Rambling] [Encouraging] [Comfort] [Wholesome]

Summary: You’ve received a voicemail from your significant other. It turns out to be an encouraging message, to guide you through a tough time.

Setting: A voicemail

[SFX: voicemail peep]

Good evening my beautiful butterfly!
I don't want to take up too much of your time, so I'll keep this pretty short...

Well... at least I'll make an attempt, you know how I am...
I announce a short voicemail and then manage to blabber on for hours on end.

[small pause]
I honestly don't know why I even tried to call at this hour, I know you're usually asleep by now…
But I thought there might be a chance you'd still be up.
Like when you had that horrible insomnia for weeks on end a while back.

I'm not gonna lie, I was so worried about you back then, and even still, I can't help but wonder whether something's keeping you up at night again.
I'd hate for you to have to go through your day-to-day life feeling fatigued and ehrm... well... lifeless, I guess.

[pause]
I know how hard things have been on you recently.
And I know it doesn't just... get easier.

We get used to the pressure on some level, perhaps, but that doesn't make it any less draining.

Of course life is constantly ebbing and flowing, times of stress alternating with slightly calmer periods, but even so...
The calm doesn't necessarily bring along peace.

[small pause]
Sometimes it feels more like the calm before the storm.
A final grace period to gather your strength, before your energy is ripped out from beneath your hands once again, by forces beyond your control.

The job, family problems, money troubles, everyday chores, simply existing...
Everything seems to want a part of you these days and it's hard to find a moment that's truly yours to enjoy.
To recover, recharge... To simply BE.

[pause]
I'm sorry, I'm rambling...
I'm not leaving this voicemail to drag you down even more with my negative thoughts, quite the opposite actually.
I wanted to check up on you, see whether you're okay.

[pause]
I'm not quite sure why this came up tonight... especially so late...
But I somehow wound up feeling like you could use some company.
Some comforting words.
Someone who understands how hard it is to be human sometimes.

...or maybe it's actually ME who's looking for some comfort.
After all, you're probably sound asleep right now and I'm the one worrying about semi-existential questions.
[sigh]

[pause]
Even so... It doesn't hurt to share these thoughts, does it?
I know you'd agree.
And perhaps they can be of use to you in the morning, or whenever you decide to listen to this message.

[pause]
What I originally intended to tell you... What I felt from the bottom of my heart you needed to hear out of my mouth, is this:

[small pause]
I love you.
I love you more than you could ever even begin to imagine, and no matter how hard life may become...
I'll always be there for you.

Any day, any hour, whatever state the world may be in.
Whether everything is falling apart around you.
Whether the walls are closing in.
Whether your last light is close to extinguishing and everything's starting to become too much...
Or whether you've found a moment of respite that you want to share with me.

I'll always be there.

[small pause]
Physically if I can, virtually if all else fails.
You're without a doubt the most important person in my life and I'd do anything to make your life just a little bit easier.

[small pause]
If work's too much, I'll try to help where I can.

If your chores overwhelm you I'll take them off your shoulders.
And if something's bothering you, I'll listen to you and hold your hand, dry your tears and hold you so, so tightly, until all the problems of this world seem not so severe anymore.

Because you mean the world to me.
And no job, no chore and no-one else is important enough to sacrifice your mental health over.

[small pause]
So if you feel like you ever need a friend... a partner... a helper... an open ear... a shoulder to cry on...

I'm available.

[small pause]
All you need to do is ring. And I'll be there. Promised.

Day 4: Key

[M4A] The Key to Immortality [King/Mage speaker] [Magic] [Story telling] [Evil vibes] [Themes of death and immortality]

Summary: You've lived in a little cabin in the woods for as long as you can think. But this is about to change, as a mage who claims to be king rudely teleports to your living room, and reveals the secrets of your very existence…

Setting: little cabin

[SFX: swooshy teleportation magic sound]

Good day, my dearest subject.
It's very nice to finally get to meet you.
May I ask, how are you on this fine evening?

[pause]
Frozen in awe, I see!
Very good, I'm glad to know you recognize your king when you see him.

[pause]

Oh what is it now??
Why are you frightened??

Does my beauty intimidate you? Or my riches?
Argh, how ignorant of me, I should have known to dress down when visiting a peasant...

[clears throat] I apologize! Please, do not be afraid!
I have come to your ehrm... "house" to present you with the highest honor!

[pause]
[baffled:] Hmpf, are your words meant to offend me??
I did not "break in", I merely let myself into my subject's living quarters via the great magic that has been bestowed upon me during my coronation!

Do you not have any manners?
It should be considered a crime to accuse me of such evil!

I've heard enough of your words, peasant, I order you to be silent and listen to me.
After all, I've come here to bring you word of a great honor!

[pause]
I said I order you to listen!

[pause]
I- Grmpf. Hold on.

[SFX: elegant magic sound]

[satisfied sigh] That is better.

Where was I?
Ah, yes, I was about to tell you about the [rubs it in] great honor that is about to be yours, before you so rudely interrupted me.

[pause]
Let me tell you a little story about our great kingdom.
It's a true story, mind you!

[clears throat]
Many, many years, under the rule of my great-grandfather - a man of many victorious battles, may I add - a sorceress had set out to find the cure for what no-one had managed to avoid thus far: death itself.

It of course was no easy task, and many before had failed to find the key to eternal life.
Scientists, alchemists, magicians, witches, necromancers... none were able to discover or create true immortality.

Many had given up long ago, it was thought only the Gods could reach such a desirable state of living...

[small pause]
Even the sorceress was close to giving up... she had tried and failed many times to find the cure, yet nothing seemed to work...

But the King cheered her on.
He saw potential in her, the potential to go far beyond what her predecessors had done.
The potential to defeat the odds, to take on the Gods themselves and claim the miracle of eternal life for humanity.

[pause]
The sorceress's research came at a great financial cost, and the King gladly provided the necessary gold to pay for the countless materials.
Whichever rare critters, metals, plants and potions she required...
My great-grandfather made sure to have it imported from all over the world.

[pause]
The King gladly shared his riches for the advancement of this cause... after all... what is living, but a constant marching towards death?
All achievements, all there is to a person's life... all the wisdom, magic, honor they acquire... it all inevitably turns to dust as they pass, carried away on the wind and soon to be forgotten for all eternity.

[pause]
Even the noblest of souls cannot escape the gaping mouth of the dark abyss.
Neither the bravest knight nor most cunning adventurer can best this mighty beast.
A spell of light, cast in absolute darkness, may not illuminate one's spirit enough to remain within this world...

Until now.

[small pause]
You see, the sorceress was a very wise woman.
Ahead of her time by many years, a true forward-thinker.

But despite the King's generous gifts, her loyalty to the crown began to dwindle.
She betrayed the King.

[pause]
After all those years of research, she had found the cure... the key to eternal life.
And she hid it away, so no-one would be able to ever get their hands on it.

[small pause]
An evil decision, don't you think?
After all, the only reason she was able to do all her research in the first place was the King's gold.
And yet... she was selfish. Wanted the eternal life all to herself...

[pause]
So the sorceress carried on... pretended not to know of the cure.
And with her new-found spare time, she came up with a spell that'd make it possible for her to hide her findings even further from the crown.

A spell that would make it impossible to find... certain items... animals... people…
And most importantly, it'd make it impossible to find anyone who has her blood running through their veins.

[pause]
That's right, my dearest subject.
She hid her family.

Hid her own offspring away in a little house on the other side of the planet... completely inaccessible to anyone devoid of the powers of teleportation.

[small pause]
Which is why I assume that... you? my dear? Have never left this place?

[pause]
That's right, peasant... The sorceress... She's your mother.

And it seems her findings don't disappoint...
You should be old by now. Grey. Senile. Perhaps even dead.
And yet... you seem youthful... beautiful... and not a day older than sixteen.

[pause]
Are you confused, my dearest? I wouldn't be surprised.
How cruel your life must be, shut away in this little house, so far away from civilization... forgotten here for all eternity...

And all just so your mother could keep her secrets to herself??
Truly despicable.

[small pause]
Do you understand what I'm trying to tell you, my subject?

You are the cure.
You are the key to immortality.

You carry it within your blood.
Your mother must have ingested a potion at just the right ,while she was carrying you within her.

You are what I have been searching for all my life.
You're about to be afforded with the greatest honor a peasant like you could ever hope for.

I will take you back to my castle.
And you'll bestow your immortality upon the royal family.
One drop of blood at a time.

Day 5: Breeze

[A4A] A soft Breeze's gentle Kiss [Girlfriend/Boyfriend speaker] [Established Relationship] [Narrated letter]

(This script is on the short side, with only about 670 spoken words. Be warned that this will make for a rather short video!)

Summary: Your partner has been sickly for a while and was recommended a trip to a spa town. A few days after they left, you receive your first letter from them.

Setting: a letter

My dearest love,

I hope you're doing well, even though I know your heart must ache just as much as mine does at this very moment.

[small pause]
I know you were worried about me taking this trip all by myself, even though you tried to seem excited…
I could tell, my love. I always can.
But you needn't worry anymore, everything went rather smoothly.

I arrived at the spa town fairly late last night, and rather shaken up from the journey.
As much as I wanted to fall into your arms and go to sleep right then and there, I had to make due with an empty, yet very comfortable bed.

[pause]
I now live with an elderly lady who provides several rooms of her house to foreigners who come here for the great air, though I'm currently the only one.
She's lovely, and her great cooking certainly isn't wasted on me.
I devoured every last crumb of the breakfast she had made for me this morning.

[pause]
Everything here is so wonderful! The chirping birds, the charming little bakery… it's all so rejuvenating!

But every little moment, every novel little thing I experience here… the scents, the tastes, the sights, the sounds…
I find myself wanting to share them with you, and several times I've caught myself pointing at a bird or pretty flowers and turning around, only to find you aren't there.
I've become so used to having you by my side over the past couple of years, it's hard to realize the sudden change…

[pause]
So the next-best option I'm left with, is to write many letters to you.
To send postcards and photos of all the wonderful little things this town provides.

And I have to tell you:
It is a marvelous little town! Or maybe I should call it a village?
It's rather small after all, with only a few buildings making up its core.
I wouldn't be surprised if most of the people currently living here were tourists, not residents!

[small pause]
The air here is famous for a reason, as I found out rather quickly!

I took a little stroll to the beach this morning, to get a taste of the ocean air, and it was just as the doctors had promised me:
Every new breath of air felt like a gentle healing spell enveloping my lungs. It's so much gentler than the thick smoke-filled air of the cities.

[small pause]
Surely this has to improve my health rather quickly!
Mark my words, I predict I'll make a full recovery in record time!
And I might even have an adventure or two in the meantime, the beaches reach quite far and there's much to explore.

[pause]
And yet… I can't fully enjoy it.
Standing there in the wind, I find myself longing for my one true love…

[pause]
I miss you. Even more than I could have ever anticipated.
With every healing breath for my lungs, my heart hurts more and more.
Being so far away from you… it's like torture.

[pause]
I'd probably have gone mad, standing right on the sandy beach, if I hadn't felt like the very ocean breeze itself was carrying my love for you.

The wind accepted my love for you, took it straight from my heart, high high up into the sky, and brought it right over to you….

I hope it found you, my love. I hope whenever you set foot outside, a soft breeze gently kisses your cheek, and shows you all the love I have for you, and you alone.

[small pause]
But even if the wind never found you…
Know that as much as I enjoy this little town, I cannot wait to be reunited with you.
The moment I can lay eyes on you again shall be the moment I consider this trip a true healing experience.

[small pause]
Please write me many letters as well, my dearest!
I can't wait to hear from you, let me know how the dogs are, as well!

[pause]
Will all the love my heart can provide and the deepest longing,

Your Darling

Day 6: Worry

[A4A] Scare actor checks up on you [Scare Actor x Listener] [Haunted House] [Comfort] [Rambling] [Wholesome] [Creepy intro]

Summary: You were excited to go to a haunted house, but got more than you bargained for. Since when has a haunted house ever been THIS scary?? You pull through and finish it, but now find yourself shivering at the bus stop, underneath a flickering street light.
Suddenly, you hear a noise…

Setting: night, outdoors at a bus stop near a haunted house

[SFX: nightly outdoor sounds, occasional noise from nearby haunted house if you so please]

[SFX: slow, creepy steps towards the listener, echoing]
[SFX: steps stop. Nothing for a moment.]

[creepy voice changer:] Hi.
Oh, ehrm, fuck.

[SFX: fiddling with equipment]

[regular voice:] I am SO sorry, I forgot to turn off my voice changer.
I guess I should just take the mask off entirely, hold on.

[optional SFX: taking off mask]

Again, so sorry...

[small pause]
Are you alright?
I saw the way you looked at me in the haunted house earlier...

You looked really freaked out.
I mean... freaking people out is kinda my job and it's what you paid for, but ehrm...
You know... you looked even more scared than most of our guests.

Are you sure you're okay?

[pause]
Yeah, sorry...
I imagine getting jump-scared by some random guy in a zombie costume didn't really help, especially after the experience you must have had at our venue already.

I...I should have been more considerate.
Again, my deepest apologies.

When you've worked as a scare actor for as long as I have, all of this sort of becomes second nature.
Like the mask is part of my body in a way, you know?
I didn't even consider taking it off, as weird as it sounds...

[longer pause]
Seriously though... Are you sure you're good to go home all by yourself?

You're waiting for the bus, right?
Is there maybe someone you could call to pick you up instead?

[small pause]
You're shaking pretty badly...

Either I almost scared you to death, or you're way too cold to stay out here any longer.
Probably a combination of both, I assume...
The nights do get pretty chilly this time of year...

I'd offer my jacket, but ehrm... I doubt you'd want to get all this fake blood and body paint on your clothes.

[pause]
Sorry, I still haven't properly explained what I'm doing here...
I should be better about that, I don't want to seem like a creep.
Which, in my defense, is pretty hard to do when I'm still dressed like this.

[small pause]
No, but seriously.

I saw you when you went by my spot in the haunted house earlier, and ehrm...
The look in your eyes...
That expression of pure terror...

It didn't seem like you were having any fun anymore.

[small pause]
Sure, haunted houses are supposed to be scary, and this one especially is said to give people the spook of their lives, but it's still supposed to be entertaining for everyone involved.
It's not supposed to make you think you're actually about to die or anything...

[small pause]
And just now, when I got off work and saw you standing at the bus stop...
I couldn't help but check up on you.

I don't usually talk to our guests, I don't want to ruin the immersion after all, but... I don't know.
You had me worried for some reason.
And I wanted to make sure you're okay.

[pause]
And if I wasn't such an inconsiderate idiot, that might have actually been a pretty sweet and wholesome gesture, but instead I gave you more of a scare than you even paid for.

[joking:] I'm not supposed to hand out freebies, you know!

[pause]
Too early for jokes, huh? Sorry.

[small pause]
I... I'm unsure where to go from here.
I'm sorry for all this, I just thought... talking to you might make you feel a bit safer.
Waiting all alone at the bus stop after being so terrified and all...

I know the mind can go wild after something like this...
All senses are on high alert and your brain might turn any little noise into some sort of monstrous being hiding in the shadows.

And anything's more scary at night, anyway.

[pause]
I'm talking too much... feel free to send me away if you so please.
I promise I'll leave you alone, you just have to say the word.

I... I'd just feel bad letting you stand here all by yourself, unless you tell me to leave.
All alone under this lonely street lamp...

[small pause]
I'm not gonna lie, from further away the way you were standing here almost looked like the intro to a horror movie.
Everything drenched in darkness, only a single person beneath the harsh light...

[pause]
Sorry, I don't think I'm making this any better.
I just can't help myself, I'm really into horror.
That's probably why this is the perfect job for me, after all...

[pause]
Hey, ehrm... I know the next bus won't show up for at least another thirty minutes...
The haunt is about to close for the night, but if you like you could hang out in the lobby?

I know it's just a tent, but you'd at least be out of the wind.
You've got to be freezing cold by now...

[pause]
No I'm serious, it's no trouble at all!
I'd be happy to let you stay there until your bus arrives, it's no issue!

I can stay with you and close things up whenever you're ready to leave.
I don't think anyone would mind.

[small pause]
And besides...
Getting to know a couple of the other actors out of character might give you a better night's sleep tonight...

You know, just to let your subconscious know that they're people, not monsters.

[pause]
I know that you technically know that, but the mind has a powerful habit of making things difficult.
And sometimes, it has a mind of its own.
What we consciously know is not always the same as what we might believe deep down.

Take me for example!
I technically know that there's nothing hiding in my room.
Well, apart from a couple of spiders, maybe.

But I'm still afraid of the dark!

Can you believe it?
Me? A scare actor?
Scared of the dark?

Horror is my profession, it's what I'm good at.
And I'm still afraid.

[small pause]
Doesn't matter who you are, or what you've been through...
The possibility of who or what could be around where you can't see them, will always be terrifying.

[pause]
It's kinda funny though, isn't it?
That I'm scared of the dark, I mean.

[small pause]
Aweee, do I see a smile?
[chuckle] I'm glad you're feeling a bit better again, really...

I'd have felt really bad if I had contributed to your nightmares...
Despite what it may seem like at first sight, I'm not actually an evil zombie, you know?

[pause]
Anyway, you wanna sit in the tent?
I could probably even get you a hot cup of tea from the staff area, if you like.
Nothing fancy, but it’d warm your hands.

[pause]
Awesome.
Come on, let's get you out of the cold, friend.

Day 7: Discovery

[A4A] Discovering a Frog Wizard [Frog Wizard and Human] [Silly] [Magic] [Wholesome] [Turned frog-sized] [Frog teaches you a lesson] [Making a friend?]

Introduction: You've spent hours trying to find your way out of this forest. It never looked so large from the outside?? Eventually, you spot a strange little pond in the middle of a clearing… Why is it purple? It draws you in and you stop paying attention to your steps… until you hear a tiny voice from below.

Summary: After stoking a frog wizard's (not so mighty) rage, you find yourself to have turned frog-sized.
After the first shock wears off, you discover a new world of talking critters, magic ponds and potions.

[SFX: foresty evening ambience]

[SFX: listener steps through grass]

[very small creature:]
Hey! Hey watch out, will you!
You stepped on my herbs!

[small pause]
[sad noise] Not my sage...
[gasp] My rosemary as well??

Awe, ribbits, that's so sad...

[pause]
Hey you, big idiot!
Can't you watch where you're going?!

[pause]
Don't ignore me! At least apologize!
Why are you staring like that, you're not frozen in place, are you??

[pause]
Hmpf, I'll teach you a lesson. Big humans, always thinking they can get away with this sort of thing…

[SFX: magic slowly building up, spell-casting effect]
[regular voice:] Hehe, now we're talking!
No more looking down on me, you're just as big as me now!
Or... well... small, I guess.

[pause]
Hey, don't freak out!
There's nothing wrong with being small, you know.
It's just the way some folks are, you'll get used to it.

At least now there's no chance you'll destroy any more of my herbs with your big feet.
It took a long time to grow them, it's really rude to just destroy them, you know.

[small pause]
What are you doing in this part of the woods, anyway?
You don't seem like you're from around here.

[pause]
Tsk, you'll have to answer first!
I live here, after all!

What, never spoken to a frog before??

[pause]
Oh.
Well, I suppose I haven't really spoken to another frog before, either...
They all just ribbit.

So I guess it'd be pretty unfair to expect you to have met another one of my kind...

[pause]
Anyway, my point still stands!
Who are you and what do you want at my pond!

[pause]
Oh.
The classic story then.
You wanted to take a shortcut aaaand let me guess:
You got stuck in the enchanted forest!

[pause]
Well of course it's enchanted!
Almost anything here is infused with magic, to be honest.

My herbs, my pond... me…
It's all got some sort of spell attached to it.

[small pause]
[sigh] Not to worry though.
Many get stuck here, but usually it's animals.
It just so happens I know the way to get out, you're in luck!

[pause]
That again?
Oh come on, friend!
I only just turned you small, why do you wanna be big again, so soon?
Just enjoy it a bit!

Make sure to watch out for the big birds though [mischievous giggle].

[small pause]
I'm kidding, I'm kidding!
I put a protection spell on this clearing.
We're safe here.
Otherwise my instincts would probably tell me to hop right in the pond.

[pause]
Speaking of frog things though...
Can you help me carry this thyme back to my cave?
You're the one with thumbs, after all.

[small pause]
You wouldn't believe how hard it is to be a wizard when you don't have thumbs.
It took me months to learn how to pick up the wand alone!

[pause]
Obviously I'm a wizard!
I'm wearing the hat and all, isn't that enough to show it?

Awe ribbits... maybe I should put up a sign... "Here lives Frog the Wizard".
Can we get hopping though?
It's starting to get late, after all.

[pause]
Thank you.

It's not far, it's right over here, actually!
You can put it down in that corner.

There we go!
Ooo, that was so much faster than I usually am!
Maybe I should let you stay small and hire you! [giggle]

[pause]
Hey, relax! I'm only joking!
I may be a wizard, but I don't think I can change a human's form for longer than a couple days at most.
Takes up so much energy!

I'll put you back as you were, good as new, as soon as you've paid off your debt to me.

[pause]
For stepping on my rosemary and my sage, of course!
That stuff takes time to grow, and I needed it for my potions!

You humans really don't have much consideration for us smaller critters.
You'll have to learn your lesson before I can send you off on your merry way, you know!

I'm one of the few frogs that can talk to humans, so I kind of consider it my duty, I guess?
The others can't complain to you, but I can!
And I will!
Small folks are important, too, you know!

[pause]
Hehe, seems like you're learning pretty quickly!
I like that!

Hm... maybe we'll be friends after all...
But only if I can find it in my heart to forgive you for trampling my stuff!

[pause]
Isn't that how it works?
If you're not mad at someone, you're their friend, right?

I'm sorry, I don't get the chance to talk to humans very often…
I'm rather new to his whole thing, you know...

[pause]
Oh, ehrm... well... I haven't been able to talk and do magic for very long at all, really…
Maybe... since last fall?

[pause]
I'm not even sure how it happened.
One second I was a regular frog, just hopping along, looking for water...

I hopped into that pond over there and the next thing I remember...
Boom. Consciousness. For the first time ever!

Pretty crazy stuff, I'm telling you!

[small pause]
I mean, don't get me wrong, frogs have thoughts, too, but... not like this.

If I had had more thoughts in my brain, maybe I would have realized that the pond is enchanted.
It's pretty obvious, looking at it now!

It's basically purple and has all those swirly glittery shiny things in it!
But froggy-me didn't know that.

[pause]
Not that I regret it, of course.
I like having thoughts and all...
And it's also pretty cool that the pond gave me all these magic abilities, but...

When it comes down to it, I'm just a frog, you know?
And now I have this whole wizard job.
And it's not very easy.
It's not like anyone explained any of this to me, I jumped in as a regular frog and I came back out as full-fledged wizard, hat and all!
I was left to just figure it out by myself!
I had to discover the entire world all over again!

[pause]
And also... [sad:] I can't really talk to the others anymore.
The other frogs, I mean.

I... I forgot how to ribbit, I think.
I can't understand them... at all.

What kind of frog forgets how to ribbit??
So sad.
Almost as sad as trampled herbs.

[pause]
Ah, sorry, I'm bringing down the mood.
I didn't mean to make you feel sad, that's not why I brought you to my cave at all.

But ehrm... you know...
While you're already here... Maybe we can be friends, then.

I mean, you speak my language, after all!

[pause]
Oh. Yeah.
I'll help you leave the forest.
But only when you've turned big again...

Until then I wanna be friends though, if that's fine.

[pause]
Really? You mean it??
You really truly mean it???

Awe, yay!
Let me show you my cave, friend!
I'll give you the tour, come on!

Day 8: Genuine

[A4A] Guard shows you a moment of mercy [Mafia member x Listener] [Kidnapped] [Wholesome?] [Escape plans]

Summary: A couple weeks have passed since you've been kidnapped. Even after so much time, you're still trapped in a cell, held for ransom. Since your rich father doesn't seem to want to pay, your guard comes up with a plan to improve your situation…

[SFX: cold, drippy basement vibes]
[SFX: door slowly creaking open and falls shut; echoing, heavy steps]

Hey. It's me.

[pause]
I brought you some food.

[longer pause]
Nothing fancy, just... you know.
The usual bread 'n' water.
Even got you some cheese though, what a treat, huh? It's your lucky day.

[pause]
Not so excited, are you?
Can't blame you for it... this is... what?
Your 30th day here? Roughly?
I wouldn't be too happy either, trust me.

[pause]
In fact, I'm not happy you're here.

No offense, I'm sure you're pretty chill when you haven't been kidnapped and held for ransom, but ehrm... when I agreed to do overtime for this guard gig, I didn't think it'd be more than a whole month.

When they told me they were planning on taking some rich idiot's kid, I honestly thought it might be a week max.
Two weeks if I got <u>really</u> unlucky.

I mean, what kinda father wouldn't pay the ransom to get their own child back?
<u>Especially</u> if they have more than enough money.
But now I haven't had a day off in a <u>month</u> and I'm starting to get a little impatient, you know what I mean?

[pause]
Woah, hey, chill!
I wasn't trynna threaten you or anything, sorry!
I didn't mean it like <u>that</u>.
I'm not gonna kill you or anything.
Not your fault that no-one's paying the money, now is it??

[pause]
Yeah, that's right!

It's either the cops telling your family not to pay and to let them do their job - which, honestly, stupid thing to do, why not just pay the money instead of risking a life, not like a million matters to them anyway.

OR... and I hope for you that it's not this option... your family simply doesn't give a shit about you, and will leave you here to rot.

[longer pause]
But... I don't know... which one do you think it is?

[pause]
Damn.

[small pause]
Really?

[pause]
I mean, no offense, but... are you sure?
How could your dad not give a shit about you?
You're literally his kid!
I mean... that's kinda fucked up.

[pause]
You sure you're not just thinking that ‘cause you've been sitting in this hole for too long?
Like... given up hope or whatever?

[small pause]
Alright, I get it, I get it...

[small pause]
Thinking about it, I don't think you ever seemed too hopeful.

I honestly expected you to be some spoiled rich kid being all like "Wait until my father hears of this! My dad will come rescue me!" yada yada yada.

But... that's not what you're like at all.

[pause]
[sigh] Look, kid... imma be honest with you.

I was gonna try to squeeze the last drops of hope out of you, to maybe get you to tell me who else might be willing to pay some money for your life.

But... honestly?
This is just too depressing.

[small pause]
I mean... damn.
All this time and there hasn't been a single word about a possible exchange.

[longer pause]
[deep breath]

Hey... mind if I sit down next to you?
I ehrm... I think we might have to discuss some stuff...

[pause]
No, I'm serious.

This isn't a trick or anything.
I ehrm... [quieter:] I just don't wanna risk anyone hearing this from outside that door.

[pause]
Ah, fuck it, I'll just sit down over here.

[small pause]
Damn this floor is cold...
You could have said something, you know??
I could have brought you another blanket or something.
I'm just a guard here, I'm not a fucking monster!

No wonder you look so sickly.
Though I assume that might also be ‘cause you just refuse to eat.
That doesn't make things any better, you know that? [sigh]

[pause]
Anyway...

[small pause]
Look... there's no easy way to say this.
And I hate having to tell you this, but...

I'm not the only one that's growing impatient.

I've been trying to keep up the act, like everything's fine and we're still waiting for the money, but I feel like it's not fair towards you any longer.
The only reason I did it in the first place is ‘cause I realize what a shitty situation you're in right now.

Like... I know this is hell for you.
I know how hard this must be on your mental health.
And it's not like you're at fault for any of this.
Literally all you did was being born to the wrong parents, ya know?

[pause]
Anyway, what I'm trying to say is…
If my boss doesn't get his money soon...
He's not gonna keep you around much longer.

[pause]
Chill! Chill!
Calm down!

We don't need the other guards to catch wind of this conversation!
Keep quiet!

I'm telling you this to help you, okay?

[pause]
Calm down.
Breathe.
Look at me.

[small pause]
You didn't do anything wrong.
In fact quite the opposite.
I read your file and you seem like an actually pretty decent person.

So... as much as I shouldn't... I feel kinda bad for you, you know?
Considering how you're... in a pretty awful situation.

[pause]
So, look.

As much as I'm used to the usual spiel of people not paying, my boss getting angry, sending packages with severed fingers, and so on and so on...

I don't feel like putting you through that, alright?

[small pause]
I've come up with a plan to get you out of here.

[pause]
No really, I'm serious.
It’s a win-win, really!
You get out of here and I can finally take a day off.
Not that that’s my main motivation or anything…

I've never done this before either, but ehrm... usually my...
My clientele, so to speak, is fellow criminals and corrupt politicians who decided it’d be smart to betray the boss.
I very rarely have to keep someone prisoner who I have at least a bit of empathy for, alright?
You’ve been pretty civil considering the circumstances, so it’s kiiinda hard not to feel sorry for you.

[pause]
So here's my plan:
We stage your death, I sneak you out of the building and blame it on the new guy.

He'll probably get ehrm... "fired" for that, but whatever, he's a bit of an ass anyway.

[small pause]
We'd have to do it pretty soon though, so you better practice looking like a corpse.
Not that you need much practice considering how dead you look already, but you know...
Practice lying still or something.

[pause]
The boss doesn't care much for people.
All he cares about is that you cost him money in food and guards, and you're not making him any in return.

My assumption is that he'll start taking some more.. “severe”... measures pretty soon.

[pause]
So... be ready, kid.
You'll get out of this alive and you probably won't even have to see your shitty family ever again.

[pause]
…I'll see you later.

[SFX: he gets up, footsteps, door opens and closes]

Day 9: Chaos

[M4A] Stressed Boyfriend can't find his passport [Boyfriend x Listener] [Established Relationship] [Argument and Apology]

Summary: In an attempt to find his passport, your boyfriend has turned the office into utter chaos. You just moved into this new place, and you painstakingly unpacked and arranged this entire room, which causes an argument…

[SFX: papers rustling]

[stressed:] Urgh, where is it?? I've looked Everywhere twice already!
This is such a nightmare, can't believe this is happening to me right now..,
[stressed sigh]
Awful. This is Fuckin awful.

[pause]
Oh, hi babe!
Have you seen my passport?
I can't find it Anywhere, I swear I've checked every freaking corner of the house by now.

[pause]
[taken aback:] Eh, yeah!
Of Course this place is a mess!
I've been searching for hours!
Honestly, we've got Way too many papers, I can't find Anything in here.

[pause]
Hun, I've got a business trip first thing in the morning.
I do not have the Time to put everything back right now.
Not until I find my passport.

[pause]
[increasingly aggravated:] Sorry! Yes!
I made a bit of a mess! I'll admit it!

What do you expect me to do??
I've looked through All of these drawers, the entire shelf, even in these fucking moving boxes that You haven't unpacked yet.

But it's not fucking here!

[pause]
Of course it's Your job to unpack these, it's mostly your stuff after all!
But you packed them, so how was I supposed to know whether My passport was in there??
It's not anywhere else, so might as well!

[pause]
Hun, I Promise I'll clean up.
It'll have to wait though.
I Need my passport.
This is The opportunity to get a promotion, but I can't attend without it.

So are you gonna help me or not??
Cause if you're just gonna stand there and be mad at me, I'd rather do this by myself.
You're not making this any better!

[pause]
Why do you even care, huh?
Not like you even use the office all that much!
I bet you won't even use it while I'm gone, just close the door or something!
You don't even need to look at it, so why are you getting so upset??

[pause]
Right, right, just yell at me for something I have no control over!
It's not my fault your organization skills are close to zero!

I should have unpacked all this stuff myself, I swear to God...
There's no fucking rhyme or reason to Anything in this room!
What were you even thinking??

Seriously, we moved in Two weeks ago, everything should have had a proper place after you unpacked it!

[pause]
Oh, fuck off!
Leave me alone!

I'm starting to regret moving in together, if this is how much of a pain you are about me cleaning up!

[pause]

[SFX: door slamming closed]

Ah, great. Fuck this, man!

[SFX: further paper rustling, fade it out to indicate a time skip]

[SFX: fade in rummaging in things]

[SFX: knock on door]

[defeated, stressed, hint of sadness]
Yes?
Come in hun, there's no need to knock.

[pause]

[SFX: door opening]

[pause]

Hey.

[pause]
No, stop.
Stop it, baby.
Don't apologize.

[small pause]
I... Look, I'm sorry.
I'm sorry for getting loud, I'm sorry for being annoyed, I'm sorry for... those horrible, horrible things I've said... and most importantly, I'm sorry for not coming to you first.

I've been wrecking my brain for the past half hour, trying to figure out how to apologize to you, but... I don't know, babe.
I... I couldn't muster up the courage.

[pause]
No, it's not okay.
I'm serious. I'm sorry.

This room is completely trashed, there's so much stuff on the floor I can barely see it.

I made it look like this, and then I get annoyed at You for not putting everything away in the exact order I'm used to??
Hardly fair.
Honestly... I'm so embarrassed I behaved like that, I don't know what came over me...

[small pause]
Well, I guess I do know, I still haven't found my passport.
But that doesn't mean I get to take it out on you.

[pause]
I'm sorry baby.
I'm sorry for making such a mess, I'm sorry for the way I talked to you, I'm sorry for even insinuating that I don't wanna live here with you.

Moving in with you after being forced to be apart for such a long time is a dream come true, trust me.
And I swear I won't behave like that again.
You're more important than any of my work stress.

[pause]
That's sweet, baby…
But really, don't apologize.
You didn't do anything wrong.

You came home from work and the first thing you see is the room you just unpacked in shambles.
Of course you'd be upset, I understand that completely.

Honestly, I might have reacted much worse if I had caught you completely taking apart the living room.
I put so much thought and effort into making it nice, and I'm sure you did the same with the office.

[pause]
I swear I'll put everything back the way it was, I tried my best to clean up as much as I could already…
But ehrm... the way it's looking right now, I might have all week to make up for this after all.

I still haven't found my passport, meaning I'll probably have to stay home.

[pause]
I'm sorry, baby, I know this promotion would have really helped us in the long run, but ehrm...
I've tried everything.

I looked in every place I could possibly imagine it in and it's nowhere to be found.
I've given up, to be totally honest with you.

[pause]
Huh?
What... What do you mean by that?

[pause]
Hey, what are you holding?

[small pause]

Come on, babe, are you serious? Show me!
Don't play with my feelings like this, show me already!
Do you have it??

[pause]
[instant relief] Oh my God!
Oh my God, thank you!

You're a saint, baby, thank you so much!
Come here, let me hug you!

[pause]
This is amazing! You're amazing!
Gosh, I don't deserve you.

Where did you find it?

[pause]
Seriously?

Urgh, I'm so stupid!
Of course.

I checked all the drawers in the hallway, except for that one, apparently…
Thank you darling.
Seriously, I owe you.

Not only for finding my passport, but also for putting up with me…
I know I can be a pain sometimes...

[pause]
Tell you what.

I'll cook you some nice dinner, I'm sure you're hungry.
And then I'll finish putting the office back together the way it was, to the best of my ability.

How does that sound?
[joking:] Does it sound like forgiveness?

[pause]
Yeah?
Awesome.

I love you baby.
Go relax, I'll get something started right away.

[small kiss]
Thank you for helping me find it, Darling. I love you.

Day 10: Diagram

[A4A] Alien researcher reports his findings [Alien scientist speaker] [Alien commander listener] [Research on humans]

Summary: You're the commander of an extraterrestrial exploration vessel, in charge of surveying a newly discovered solar system. You've been told your research team has found the first signs of sentient life on planet 1-B-77-0, so you've called your head scientist to your office for a briefing.

[character guide: sort of intimidated by the human species, yet very excited about it]

[SFX: SciFi door opening (hiss of pressurized air?)]

Good morning, commander.
You wanted to see me?

[SFX: SciFi door closes]

[pause]
Yes, of course.
I finished all initial tests last night.
Would you like me to present my results right away?

[pause]
No problem.
I've prepared a small slideshow, let me just, ehrm…

[SFX: tech beep boop, as he sets up his presentation. swoosh of a hologram appearing?]

There.
I thought some visualizations might make this... Easier to comprehend.

I still can't believe my own findings...
I've repeated most measurements, just to be sure, but the outcome stayed the same.

[pause]
Right, right.
I apologize, commander, I'll get to the point straight away.
I just... I need to warn you. It's... quite a lot.

Amazing, don't get me wrong!
But hard to believe nonetheless.

[pause]
[clears throat]
So... as you're already aware, I've been tasked with testing planet 1-B-77-0 - dubbed "Earth" - for signs of sentient life forms and their characteristics.

As this diagram shows, most species on this planet are of lesser intelligence.
Many show signs of emotions, complex social structures and a crude intellect, but there's only one species that portrays all the traits needed to qualify as truly sentient.

They want to be called "humans", though I think "homo sapiens" is another term they use.
I haven't yet found out the context these are used in, so for now I assume they're interchangeable.

[pause]
Here's a simplified overview of their general anatomy.
The majority of humans seem to fall into one of two categories.
I believe this species might display sexual dimorphism.

They have four limbs in total, which seems insufficient at first sight, but they make up for their lack of extremities with their extreme durability.

[pause]
Look at this graph.
I've measured the highest and lowest temperatures this planet seems to reach.

On the low end, the temperatures exceed far below the freezing point of most metals, on the high end the air temperature is enough to melt rubidium.

You'd think only the areas with a more moderate climate would be inhabitable, while half the planet lays bare, killing each and every creature that tries to live there.

We've seen it time and time again:
Young societies failing, due to a lack of possibility to expand.
In some cases 90% of a planet isn't suitable for life.

Same should be true for this planet!

And yet...
And I cannot believe I'm saying this...
These humans live in every corner of 1-B-77-0.
The entire planet is covered in them, there's only a few areas that do not house any of these remarkable creatures.

[pause]
You're absolutely right, commander!

It's incredible, borderline unbelievable, that a species, which can withstand such extreme temperatures, would also develop sentience alongside their resilience!
It's truly impressive!
Especially since they're entirely carbon-based!

But that isn't all!

[pause]
Please, look at this chart.
I've compared some well-known, somewhat similar lifeforms to this one.

Only the homo sapiens is able to lift approximately 500 ooblums.
I have to add that this ability varies greatly between the individual members of the species though.
Some are able to carry far less, some far more, as absurd as this sounds.

[pause]
I have been thinking about a possible explanation for these physical advantages over other lifeforms and I've come to the conclusion that it might have to do with the drug they ingest on a daily basis.

After some tests, I found out that a large portion of their planet is made up of dihydrogen monoxide.

[small pause]
As you're certainly aware, dihydrogen monoxide is banned in nearly 600 solar systems, as free access to it usually leads to drug abuse, heightened crime rates and many casualties.

On this planet however, it's free for anyone to consume, though large amounts of it seem to be laced with sodium chloride, perhaps as a sort of preventative, deterrent measure.
The humans seem to avoid ingesting it, though interestingly enough they seem to enjoy submersing themselves within it...

I don't quite understand this behavior fully yet, it might have to do with some sort of spiritual belief.

[small pause]
Despite this obvious drug problem - according to my findings approximately 99,9 % of the population consumes dihydrogen monoxide on a daily basis - they manage to keep up their societal structures.
They must have an enormous tolerance for these types of substances.

Despite all this, they display a variety of highly specialized social behaviors and seem to have implemented a form of currency.
There is one behavior in particular though, which I fail to understand.

[pause]
Look at these wildlife species that inhabit the planet.
Most of these have four extremities, consume other living beings, and are highly specialized for killing their prey.

Truly a barbaric, dangerous planet, if you ask me.

But here's where I'm confused:
Take this one for example, the smaller one.

It possesses retractable claws, which can be hidden away or extended at will, night vision, an automated landing system - letting them survive a fall, even from extreme heights, and rotatable audio receptors.

[small pause]
On any other planet inhabited by carnivores, this would be the apex predator.
The sole being on the very top of the food chain.

[small pause]
And yet... Many members of the human species seem to enjoy harboring these creatures in their buildings.

They will care for them like an offspring, in some cases!

They feed these creatures, purchase goods for them, let them take part in their social rites, play with them, even let them walk around freely while they rest!
Remarkably, these creatures don't seem to have any interest in murdering humans!

Most I've witnessed is a human receiving a small scratch!

[small pause]
Though, now that I think about it further...
Perhaps they do intend to kill, yet the skin of a homo sapiens is simply too tough to let this happen...

After all, they are very robust.

[pause]
All in all, commander, this is an extremely fascinating species, yet I think we might want to hold off on contacting them just yet.

The planet isn't inhabitable for any of our own species, the wildlife is extremely dangerous, and the wide-spread dihydrogen monoxide abuse may cause further drug problems in our solar system, especially since access doesn't seem to be restricted on this planet in any way.

Perhaps it'd be better to wait until some of these issues are eventually solved by the homo sapiens themselves, as they seem to be the only species capable of roaming the planet at this point, anyway.

[pause]
Thank you, commander, your praise is well appreciated.
I will make sure to send you the graphs and diagrams for your later reference.

[pause]
I'll report back to you with any further findings.
Goodbye for now!

[SFX: SciFi door opening]

Day 11: Headquarters

[M4A] Villain's Right Hand Man goes too far [Right Hand Man speaker] [Supervillain listener] [Comic Book tropes] [Violence and Destruction] [Epic Monologue]

Summary: You're a feared Supervillain, bringing terror to people far and wide.
After yet another successful mission, you meet with your Right Hand Man to discuss the surveillance assignment you sent him on. You start to realize your once so loyal, obedient minion is starting to develop some bigger aspirations of his own…

Part of this script has been written by @iZZeeXD.
Thank you so much for providing such an amazing monologue!

Setting: Supervillain headquarters

[SFX: knock on door, door opening]

Good morning, Boss!
Congratulations on last night's mission.

A plan well executed, just as always.
Not that anything but brilliance is to be expected of a true super-villain of your stature.

[small pause]
Still, no matter how many times I have witnessed your schemes unfold, the satisfaction of a grand reveal and the heroes' defeated faces stays the same.
If you're not opposed to it, I'd like to see you in action again next time around, Boss.

It must feel good to get back in the game, scheming, manipulating, and battling your nemesis, after being tied up with those small-time heroes for such a long time…
What's their leader's name again? The Purple Eagle?

I am surprised they managed to evade your attacks until now…
They must be tougher than they look…
Undermining your empire like rats, who've made their home within your walls…

[small pause]
Oh, yes of course, Boss. Excuse my rambling.

Just as you asked, I have surveilled our little rodent infestation while you were occupied.
I didn't notice anything out of the ordinary, except for the usual water bending, fire breathing, storm conjuring and whatever else those plagues are practicing.

They think they're soo smart hiding in their little storage facility.
Did they really think turning an old warehouse into their headquarters would provide them with any sort of protection??
No bullet-proof walls, no fire-resistant doors… not even a proper surveillance system!

They were none-the-wiser little old me was hiding in the shadows…
And while no-one was paying attention, I took it upon myself to mess with the power generator.

Not to worry, Boss, I stayed loyal to your instructions, as always.
No kills on a surveillance mission.

But… let's phrase it like this…
Next time they turn on that generator… someone might lose a couple fingers. [malicious giggle]

[pause]
You seem unhappy, Boss...

[small pause]
I can't help but think you're not amused by my little scheme…
I thought it was quite the clever prank.

I can go back there at sundown and rig the light switch to set their entire hideout ablaze, if you give me another chance to redeem myself…

Would that be more to your liking?

[pause]
[startled noise]
"Too cruel??" But Boss!!
You are the most feared villain of our time!
Surely you must share my appreciation for violence and destruction!

Just a week ago, you ordered me to blow up someone's house after they looked at you funny!

I crave violence just as much as you do.
And I wanna see you win!

The thought of seeing you go one-to-one with the Purple Eagle and ripping off their Wings of Justice…
Oh… The idea alone sends shivers of excitement down my spine.

And I'll be right by your side, watching your back, while you take part in all the bloody glory that will come, when you're victorious.

[groans in excitement]
Oh, the fruits of your unholy labor are ready to be reaped. Can't you just taste it on your tongue already??

[pause]
Just picture it: You, standing atop the corpses of the Vigilante Syndicate, basking in the glory, face covered in dry blood that does not belong to you.

The loud ringing in your ears from the heavy blows and screams of terror from any onlookers.
And then silence, as the last body falls, and we remain!

And the wind will blow away the last charred remnants of what used to be their treasured little warehouse.

[maniacal Laugh]

Please, Boss! You gotta let me join in this massacre!
[crescendo] I want to see you END the Eagle with your own bare hands!

[small pause]
[suddenly much more collected] Was that... a flinch?
Did you flinch at the thought of killing the Purple Eagle?!
What is the meaning of this?

[small pause]
[teasingly] Did you grow fond of them over your last battle?
Were their quips about justice and peace just so clever!?

[more serious]
[over the next paragraph: increasingly loud and intense]
Don't make me laugh, that hero is nothing but a body to mow over in an admittedly glorious battle.

They will not be a match for us when you finally take me into battle!

Nor will RageBlaze, The Splash, BrainStorm!
Or any of those low-life heroes!

[small pause]
[more collected again, a bit hushed and more collected:] Then… the world will be… Yours to command!

All those who survive will tell their friends, and their friends' friends!
Soon the WORLD will know of our destructive power, and we can do whatever we want!
No more killing in the shadows and non-lethal missions, Boss!

I can kill whoever I want!
With no-one to stop me!
Should they try, I will crush their heads with my bare hands!!

[small pause]
For you… of course.

[small pause]
Nothing would make me happier!
So please, Boss, don't let that beak wearing idiot stop us from completing this mission!

I can never forget what they did to me!
I dedicated my life to you because of it!!

Because I knew you would be strong enough to fight back!
To end their miserable lives!
And I CRAVE THEIR BLOOD in a WINE GLASS.
[maniacal laugh]

[pause]
You've been awfully quiet this whole time.

This is not the time for inaction, Boss, the fires in my heart yearn to be set free and burn that dumb storage facility they call a home to the ground.

[small pause]
What are you waiting for!
I worked too hard for this moment and the proverbial midnight clock is about to strike!
Come on!

My moment is now!
The time you always spoke to me of is around the corner.
Years of blood, sweat and manipulation… finally paying off!
[angrily:] I will not stand idly by and let this moment pass!

[longer pause]
[cold:] But should you stand in my way?
I will carry on without you.

You're not the only idiot with strength waiting to kill those vile beings.

[small pause]
Who knows..
Maybe I will take the crown of the most feared super villain in the world this time tomorrow…

[SFX: listener throws a glass bottle, barely missing the speaker. loud shattering, as it hits a wall]

[suddenly more submissive]
I... I apologize, Boss... it wasn't my place to question your grand scheme...
P-Please forgive me!
Clearly my actions must have gone against your manipulation tactics!
I'm sorry!

[pause]
[distraught:] No! No, Boss! Please!
I swear on my honor, I am loyal to you, and only you!
Please, just… just give me another chance!
I'll prove it!

[pause]
No! No please!
I swear!
I-
[screams in agony]

Day 12: Convenience

[A4A] An odd Customer at the Space Ship Repair Center [Human speaker] [Alien clerk listener] [Strangers to Friends] [Unlikely Similarities] [Wholesome]

Introduction: It's been a long day at the Space Ship Repair Center, when a peculiar ship lands outside. It's a rare shuttle of an older model. So rare in fact, you've never seen one in person before.
The hatch opens and a rather peculiar individual steps into the light…
Their body seems to be part mechanical, part organic. You're intrigued and go to greet your customer.

Summary: A surprising similarity between two strangers from far removed parts of the galaxy marks the start of a new friendship.

Pronunciation guide:
Weniian: "when-ian"
The rest of the alien language: just do your best, the character doesn't speak it, either!

[SFX: spaceship landing, door/hatch opening]

[slow, clearly not fluent in the language:] Kyuk!
Byok tey vep, zuk hee… ehrm… Ah, fuck, what's "hydrogen funnel" again??
Ehrm… d'fa vep?

[small pause]
[defeated:] Fuck! I'm never getting off this damn planet…

[pause]
Wha- Oh my God! You speak English??

[small pause]
[relieved:] Oh, that's so crazy!
What a coincidence!
We're like… let me think… almost 10,000 lightyears away from Earth, right?
I'd have never expected to meet someone who speaks my mother tongue so far out into the galaxy!

[pause]
I don't doubt it, I think I'm one of the few humans who find their way this far towards the Iron Sun solar system.

[small pause]
Believe me, the asteroid fields keep getting more and more dangerous, not many human ships can manage to make the journey.

[pause]
[laughs] Right, I don't gotta tell you, you live here, after all.

Sorry, I'm just… I'm so glad to have come across someone who speaks my language!
My ship's hyperdrive broke down, and ehrm… as you might have noticed, my Weniian isn't the best…

[small pause]
Don't get me wrong, I would have probably managed to get the parts I need eventually, but…
Being able to have this conversation in English definitely makes this a thousand times more

convenient for me.
And ehrm… It's probably easier on your ears as well, I don't wanna know what kind of gibberish would have left my mouth if I tried to explain the situation in Weniian. [laugh]

[pause]
Oh, right, I should probably tell you what I need already, I'm holding up the entire shop [awkward laugh].

I'm pretty sure some space debris got itself stuck in my engines, and before I knew it, the whole thing caught on fire.
Thank God for the backup system…
If it wasn't for that, I'd be floating through space right now, waiting for rescue.

At any rate, long story short:
I need a new hyperdrive and a hydrogen funnel.
Galactikraken brand, if you have it.

[pause]
Awesome!
Want me to follow you to the warehouse?
I'll help you carry it if you like.

[small pause]
Yeah, sure!
Let's get going then. Lead the way!

[longer pause]
Hm?
Oh, my shuttle? She's an early version of the Starbound.
A prototype, actually. Not nearly as advanced as the final product, but she flies!
And that's all I care about. [chuckle]

[pause]
Heh, you're right…
Even the final Starbound isn't very impressive anymore compared to newer models.
But she was once the most high-tech human ship out there!

[small pause]
Well, ehrm… about 150 years ago, that is.

[pause]
Oh, no no, I'm not that old. [laugh]

I'm human, I'd be lucky to ever reach that age.

[pause]
Unfortunately, the Starbound has always paled in comparison to what your species has come up with!
Human tech has always been a bit behind…

[small pause]
Can you blame our engineers though?

Our bodies just don't hold up to the radioactive power cores you're able to use.
Y'all got some really strong stuff!

It'll have to be good old hydrogen for me though.

[longer pause]
You're quite hung up on the human thing, aren't you? [laugh]
I'm telling the truth, I'm terran.

Born and raised there.
It's probably all the cybertech that's throwing you off, to be honest.
I… I don't really look the way I did when I was born anymore.

[small pause]
As I mentioned…
Human bodies are far less durable than those of other species.
In an effort to combat this, we've come up with all sorts of enhancements.
Anything from iron skin, to mechanical arms, retractable claws, brain chips, you name it!

[pause]
[laugh] I must have surprised you with my English just as much as you did, then!

[small pause]
Though... I'm not sure I'm proud to find out other species don't recognize me as human anymore.
I may or may not have gone too far…

Is it the facial plate?

[pause]
Yeah, sorry, I've been told I'm scaring the kids quite a few times. [chuckle]

I'm afraid it was a necessary step.
I sacrificed one eye to make space for extra computing power and memory.

[small pause]
Maybe I should have used some of that to learn Weniian though…
I must admit whatever little knowledge I have about it is entirely organic, I briefly learned about it in school.

My memory space is occupied with ehrm… other things.

[pause]
I don't think I should get into it.
Let's talk about something else, shall we?

For example:
How come you speak English?
To say it's a rare language in this quadrant would be an understatement.

[longer pause]
Interesting…
It's rather common nowadays for humans to emigrate to another planet, but it's rather rare for them to adopt a child from another species.
At least as far as I'm aware.

]small pause]
Our ehrm… "destructive tendencies" when it comes to our environment doesn't usually make others welcome us with open arms, you know?

Not many would agree to have us raise their young.

[pause]
Your parents found a nice community here then, I assume?

[pause]
Great to hear!
That's really special!

And I guess it makes you pretty special as well!
You're probably one of the only ones around here speaking English at all, and with it being your first language, that's even more rare.

[pause]
Well I'm glad you were working here today, I'd be stranded without you!

Also, I haven't spoken English to a living, breathing person in so long…
It's been a while since I've been home.
To Earth, I mean.
I guess that's just how it goes in my line of work.

[pause]
Oh, ehrm… I transport goods.
I work for a cargo company.

[pause]
Aah, got me there!
How would an old Starbound shuttle be any good as a cargo ship!

I get that question rather often.
Usually I just lie.
I say I'm in between jobs, or on vacation… whatever I can come up with.

But… I don't know.
I guess I trust you.
And maybe only because you've got that sort of familiar accent to your voice…
Your parents are from Old-New-York, aren't they?

[small pause]
Yeah, thought so…

[pause]
To get to the point though…
I don't transport physical cargo.

I transport data.
Lots and lots of highly sensitive data.
Stuff that's way too precious to be sent across space via the data highway.

And it's all stored right here, behind my skull.
That's what the memory chips I had implanted are for.

But before you ask:
I'm not transporting anything right now, otherwise I wouldn't have told you.

I work with the type of information that might cause an intergalactic war if it fell into the wrong hands.

[pause]
No, I don't really have access to most of it, even though it's literally connected to my brain.
90% of the brain chip is used for confidential information, not even I can access it.

I'm a human USB-stick, if you will.

[pause]
Oh, you don't know those, do you? Nevermind.
It's old Earth technology, nothing of importance.

[pause]
Aaand that over there looks like my new hyperdrive, am I right?

[small pause]
Awesome!

I'll take it.
It'll get me back on track in no time flat, no doubts!

[SFX: fade out, use as much or as little of the following lines as you need]

Do you guys offer installment as well?

[pause]
Yikes, that's a steep fee!
No big deal, I can do it myself.
The one thing they actually allowed me to access is the shuttle's manual. [laugh]

Do y'all take card?

Day 13: Age

[A4A] Of Crime And Justice [Vampire speaker] [Detective listener] [Rivals] [Interrogation] [Deceitful appearances] [Exploiting loopholes] [Non-Romantic] [TW: mention of murder, blood]

Introduction: Once again you find yourself across “the Child”, a crime lord, as well as a vampire you’ve been dealing with for several decades. Unfortunately, a loophole in the justice system lets this immortal slip through your hands time and time again…

Summary: What was intended as an interrogation turns into a lesson on the nature of a true criminal and the justice that has to follow.

[This script does NOT tie into my vampireverse, it's unrelated.]

[character guide: youthful, intelligent, a touch mischievous, yet powerful. This character best suits a very young voice, as they were turned into a vampire as a child]

[SFX: door opening, someone who's walking in chains is brought into the room.]

[joyful:] Well, hello again, detective!
I'm delighted to meet you yet again!

You seem just as disgruntled as ever, and still you've had me brought here.
Haven't you learned your lesson last time?

[small pause]
Or are you so keen on comparing your aging self to my undying youth?

[pause]

[SFX: chains rattling]

Ouch, mmpf!
No need to be so rough! I can sit down just fine by myself.
I may be short, but that doesn't mean I don't know how to sit by a regular table.

[pause]
I get it, I get it... You can quit your usual rants, detective!
Let's cut this short, shall we?
I have things to attend to and you're wasting precious minutes of your mortal life.

[small pause]
What will it be this time?

Oh, let me guess:
You're trying to send me to prison for alleged murder?
Or perhaps for my shady business practices, as you put it?

Or maybe... maybe you're just <u>obsessed</u> with getting back at me for all the times I've escaped your grip over the last couple of decades.

The countless instances when you thought you'd <u>finally</u> put me behind bars... but alas!
I walk free once more.

[pause]
Face it, Detective!
You can't hold me captive for longer than a few days at a time!

You may be smart, and a good detective when it comes to humanly matters…
But my defense is undeniable.
Unbreakable.
Non-Rebuttable.

There is nothing. You can do.

[pause]
Fine! I'll indulge you!

I've had several meetings scheduled for tonight, maybe we can finally hurry this up enough so I can actually attend them.

[small pause]
Enlighten me!
What will it be this time!
Which one of my feats has caught your eye this time around?

[pause]
You've got to be kidding me, detective!
My blood trade? Seriously?

I mean, come on!
Why shouldn't it be legal for a vampire to acquire their next meal in a non-lethal way?
Isn't it the "humane" way of going about this?

[pause]
Think about it!

What do you expect us vampires to do?

When you take away all legal methods of coming by the only sustenance that will keep us alive...
Why shouldn't we go back to the way vampires used to run things a thousand years ago?
What's keeping this community from being overrun by hungry, murderous vampires?

[pause]
In fact...
I'll go as far as to say, this feels oddly targeted...

[small pause]
Taking away food? Nourishment?
Are you sure you haven't simply developed a grudge against my kind in all your years of declaring me your "immortal" enemy?

[joking/half threatening:] I must say...
I might file a report after you inevitably send me home again later this evening...
This reeks of discrimination! [chuckle]

[small pause]
Though I doubt much would be to come of it…

After all, most of the mortal race is much like you.
Not a single ounce of empathy, not a drop of blood to spare for your pale neighbors.

[pause]
The world would be a much different place if you simply allowed donations from your kin to mine.

Instead you've made it your life's greatest achievement to take on - and lose against! - ... the Child.
Over and over again.

[pause]
I cannot possibly fathom what you promise yourself from trying to incarcerate me over and over again.
Can't you just give up already?

No line of argument, no state attorney will ever be able to achieve what you desire.
After all... there's some perks to dying before reaching the age of criminal responsibility...

I may not have had an easy childhood... but I've grown much stronger for it.

[small pause]
When will you realize it already? I am untouchable.

[pause]
[sigh] You're so insistent on painting me as a villain.

Have you ever considered my point of view?
Have you even for a second thought about what my kin has to go through?
How hard it is to live in a world where you can so easily be accused of murder, simply for wanting to quench your thirst?

We're not monsters, you know! We've simply run out of options.

[pause]
I've tried to take those options back.
Not only for myself, but for my people.

That is why I started dealing in blood.
It keeps the older vampires in check who've grown tired of dealing with human law.

And it stops the young, freshly turned ones from letting the bloodlust take over their body.

[pause]
You don't seem too impressed by my plea for the compassion we deserve...

[longer pause]
Say, detective... Have I ever told you about how I even ended up in this situation in the first place?

Perhaps that will help you finally understand.

[pause]
I simply do not care whether you're interested, detective.
Frankly nothing you have to say is of any value, and since you won't let me go anytime soon, I may as well take over the conversation.

My looks do not mean that you can treat me like a child, detective.
I will not be told to simply keep my mouth shut.

[pause]
Very well…
I wasn't born like this.

I did not choose this fate.
Believe me... I would have much rather stayed human.

[small pause]
My humanity didn't last for much of my life...
I was a mere child, cuddled up in my mother's arms, when it happened.

[small pause]
I was sleeping.
Completely unaware of the danger I was about to be put in.
Of the chaos my life was about to turn to.
The heartache.
The pain.
The constant urge to bite whichever human I saw.

[pause]
Hundreds and hundreds of years ago... a stranger suddenly ripped me from my mother's lap.
Tossed me aside like some mere rubble, an obstacle in his way.

I had to watch as he drained my mother's blood.
I had to endure her screams of agony as she was overcome with the pain of turning.

And I had to endure it myself shortly after, since the stranger's greed didn't come to a halt, even when facing a child.

[longer pause]
That, detective.
That is a true criminal.
A true murderer.

An exception within my kin.
I've never met another person that reeked of evil as much as he did.

[pause]
Luckily for you, I took care of him long, long ago.
I may be stuck with the appearance of a child, but the mind continues to grow and evolve.

[longer pause]
Eventually I developed the wit to outsmart him.
I brought an end to the man who murdered my family with my own two hands.

Now that, detective... that's true justice.
Not whatever superficial righteousness you're trying to achieve by arresting me again and again.

[pause]
You can send me back to my cell all you want, but let me ask this of you.

When you go to sleep tonight...
Think about whether it's really worth it to continue this...

Or whether it'd be wise to let me do my job...
And prevent even more children like I once was, to face this fate.

Day 14: Park

[A4A] Lifeguard comforts you at a waterpark [Lifeguard x Visitor] [Strangers to More?] [Wholesome] [Comfort] [Scared of a waterslide] [Afraid of heights] [Being brave]

Summary: After being too afraid to go down a big water slide, a lifeguard makes sure you're alright and brings you back to the ground.

Setting: water park, top of a big water slide

[SFX: water rushing through the slide, general water-park noises]

[**Addressing the crowd**, cheery, trying to entertain the guests while they wait]

One at a time, people! One at a time!
Sir, get back in line, please!

[small pause]
Alright Ma'am, this is your tube.
Sit down like it shows in the picture.

Keep your hands on the handles.
I'll give you a push, alright?
Aaaand off you go!

[pause]
Sorry, guys, the tubes are coming in a bit slow today, you'll have to wait a few moments, still.
Seems like we don't have many in rotation...

[pause]
I know, I know.
It's annoying, but it is what it is.
You almost made it to the top, what's another couple minutes, huh?

[pause]
Ah, right!
Sorry, friends, looks like it's my lunch break.
Tim here will take care of you guys now, have a great rest of your day at the park!

[longer pause]

[**just towards listener**]
Hey... Are you feeling alright?

[pause]
No, hey, it's all good.
You're not bothering me at all.
It's actually a bit early for me to go on break, it's just that the next shift arrived a couple minutes early as well.

I saw you standing there in the corner for a while, so... are you okay?
Do you not wanna go on the slide anymore?

[pause]
Just trying to gather up the courage, huh?

[small pause]
Yeah, I get that...
It looks less scary from the bottom than it does when you reach the top, doesn't it?

[small pause]
I think you made the right choice by stepping aside, and leaving the line for a moment.
There's no use in forcing yourself to do something scary when you aren't ready yet.
It's perfectly fine to take all the time you need.

[small pause]
Just take some deep breaths, try to stay calm…
I know the anticipation makes the adrenaline kick in, even before you've sat down in the tube.

It's part of the fun, in a way, but it also makes committing to doing it way more difficult.

[small pause]
Are you not used to big water slides?

[pause]
No that's alright, I totally get it.
I didn't use to go to water parks all that often either, before I became a lifeguard.

And even then...
I wasn't too happy when I was assigned to work at the top of this tower...

Heights always made my knees a little weak...

[small pause]
Over time I got used to it, though, luckily.

I rather enjoy it now.
You get a great view over the entire park from up here, and assuming someone else locks the gate, I get to leave via the slide if I work the closing shift. [laughs]

Not a bad end to a workday!

Though the effect wears off after using it so many times...
The excitement just isn't really there anymore when you know each curve and drop by heart.

[pause]
I can tell you don't like heights either.
I assume waiting in line on the stairs for so long didn't help?

[pause]
Figured...

Tell you what:
Take all the time you need.
If you still want to go down the slide, you can stay here for as long as is necessary.
And I can be right here with you, if it helps.

[small pause]
But remember:
You do have the option to just walk back down.

I know the stairs are pretty crowded, but we have a separate staff staircase as well.
That's how the other lifeguards got up here so quickly to take over.
Plus, it's also used for emergencies, though those are really rare...

Mostly people who've tripped and fell on the stairs, to be honest…
The slide itself is perfectly safe, don't worry.

[pause]
I take it you wanna leave, then?

[small pause]
Yeah, alright! That's fine!

I need to take that staircase either way, you can just join me.
Follow me over here.

[SFX: waterflow gets quieter, fades out over time]

[pause]
You know, despite not going down the slide, you should be proud of yourself for how far you've come today.

[small pause]
No, I'm serious!

You're brave.
Not only did you come all the way up here, despite not liking heights, but you also admitted that you weren't ready.

And that is brave, too.
A lot of people wouldn't be able to recognize their true feelings about the situation out of vanity or a misplaced sense of pride.

[small pause]
I see it rather often, actually.
Quite a few guests overestimate themselves and end up clearly not enjoying the ride.

[small pause]
But you were able to make what I think was the best possible choice for your situation.

You challenged yourself!
And you got really far!
But it just didn't work out in the end, and that is more than okay.

Tomorrow is another day, you'll get 'em next time, I'm sure!

[pause]
Hey... why are you still looking so down?

I'm being serious, this is nothing to be ashamed about, especially if you've never been on a slide this big before.

[pause]
I understand that it's frustrating...
Having waited in line so long, all anxious, heart racing... and then you didn't reach your goal.

I see how that'd dampen your mood…
I hate to see you so depressed though…

[pause]
Hm...
Maybe I know a way to cheer you up.

We've almost reached solid ground again, and since it's now officially my lunch break...
Would you like to get ice cream? It's my treat.

[pause]
No, really, don't worry about it!

I'm an employee, I actually get the soft serve for free.
I've been eating more of it than I probably should have, recently, though.
That much sugar can't be good for anyone's health. [laugh]

[pause]
So, how about it? You want one?
Something sweet to calm your nerves?

[small pause]
Oh, unless you feel a bit sick from the excitement, in that case I'm happy to get you some water though!

[pause]
Alright then, ice cream it is!

Make sure you don't forget your shoes at the bottom here, if you had any.
Though honestly, I don't think there's anyone who isn't wearing shoes around the park, the pavement gets so hot around this time...

The little sprinklers don't stand a chance.

[pause]
Ah nice, you found them.

[small pause]
Which flavor of ice cream do you want?
I think I'll get chocolate.

[pause]
There should also be vanilla, strawberry...
Honestly, I don't know the other flavors, I'm loyal to my chocolate. [laughs]

[pause]
Hey, what's your name, by the way? I don't think I ever asked.

[SFX: fade out ambience]

Day 15: Tooth

[A4A] Feeding on your Vampire Partner [Vampire x Vampire] [Comfort] [Reverse Feeding] [Promises]

Feel free to change the title to "Feeding on your Vampire Boyfriend/Girlfriend" :)

This script does NOT tie into my vampireverse, it's unrelated!

Summary: You wake up to your vampire partner caring for you, after they turned you a few hours ago. As tradition dictates, you take your first sip of blood from their neck.

My Darling... has the pain finally stopped?

[pause]
Very good.
Your transformation took up an unusually long amount of time...
I was beginning to think I might have made a mistake within the ritual.

I'm glad to see it has worked after all, though I'm terribly sorry for the prolonged torment you had to go through...

[pause]
How do you feel?

[small pause]
Ah, no, my love, don't try to get up yet.

Just keep lying down for a little bit longer.
Your body has gone through a lot during the past hours...
It wouldn't be wise to ask too much of it right now.

[pause]
Don't worry, Darling. I am here for you.

I'll take care of you.
For as long as it takes.

[small pause]
After all... now that you've joined the Children of the Night...
We've got all eternity to ourselves.

[pause]
How does your body feel, my love?
Are your muscles sore?

[small pause]
I was feeling much the same when I was turned oh so many centuries ago...

We may be more resistant to pain, but having every muscle torn apart, cell by cell, is enough to cause anyone to scream in agony.

Fortunately, the pain is temporary.
After your body is fully healed... you'll feel stronger than ever before.

Powerful. Untouchable.

Our strength is superior to that of mortals in every regard.

[pause]
Don't worry, though, rest easy, my dear…
I'll be there every step of the way, to make sure your newfound strength won't go to your head.

[pause]
It is a common pitfall of the newly turned to go on a rampage and end up doing things they'll regret for all eternity.

[small pause]
Unfortunately... I am no exception.

All aspects of a machine made to kill, united in one's very own body…
Senses heightened like never before, the physical strength, eventually joined by the psychic abilities...

[small pause]
It all combines into an overwhelming feeling of might, only amplified by a never-ending thirst.

[pause]
I... I'll take great care, that you won't develop the same blinding red veil, which I once fell victim to.

You have nothing to worry about, my Darling.
I promise.

[small pause]
The only blood which will ever touch those perfect lips will be obtained in a way that won't weigh so heavily upon your soul.

Your tale won't be one of rage and murder.
Your conscience won't be broken by the sins of your youth.

[pause]
For as long as I live, I will make sure of it.

[pause]
[almost whispered:] That's right, my love... forever.

[pause]
Awe, you've bitten your lip...
Careful with your new teeth, Dearest.

[small pause]
Here, let me kiss the blood off your face.

[soft kisses]

[pause]
Show me those gorgeous fangs, Darling.

[small pause]
Ah... they're perfect...
Sharp enough to cut my skin if I were to run my finger across them.

[pause]
You were beautiful as a mortal, but now...
I didn't know perfection could be improved upon.

[longer pause]
I want to thank you, my love.

[small pause]
You've gifted me the greatest sacrifice.

You've given up your mortality, simply to... be with me.
And for that I will be forever grateful.

I told you time and time again how arduous the life of a vampire will be...
How much time it will take for you to adjust...
All the hardships that will be coming your way...

[small pause]
And yet you decided that it will all be worth it.
I'll make sure you won't ever come to regret this decision.

[pause]
I don't know what I would have done if I had to ever carry you to your grave.

I've never loved anyone as much as I love you, and seeing you wither away while I have to stay exactly as I am for all eternity...

It would have broken me, Darling.
It would have taken away the sanity that I've worked so hard to retain throughout all these centuries.

[pause]
I have tried my best not to show these feelings before, since I did not want to influence your decision…
There'd be no use in turning you if it wasn't truly your own wish.

That said...
I am honored that you showed so much trust in me as to let me make such grave alterations to your life...

[pause]
In turn...
What do you say we give those new teeth of yours a taste of what's to come?

I'm sure you must be feeling the hunger by now, now that the pain has faded...

[pause]
As you know...
It is customary that the first taste of blood a newly-turned receives stems from the very vampire that turned them in the first place.

Are you ready to celebrate this ritual with me?

[pause]
Don't worry, love...
You won't hurt me. I'm immortal.

Besides...
My seniority over you means I could easily subdue you if you were to be overcome by bloodlust.

I doubt this will happen though...
The blood of mortals will surely be more to your taste than mine.

[small pause]
But this ritual is not celebrated simply for tradition's sake, either.

In drinking my blood, you will gain some of the strength I have amassed over centuries.
Its unique components will help to bring back some life to your exhausted body.

[pause]
Here, let me help you sit up.
I'll be sitting right next to you, my Dear.

[small pause]
Slowly, slowly...
Don't strain yourself...

[small pause]
There you go.

[pause]
Now... you may not be sure how to go about your first meal...

There is no need to be afraid, my love.
Once your instincts take over, you'll do just as well as any vampire who has lived for thousands of years.

[small pause]
It's not the biting that is difficult... it's stopping.

[pause]
Here, let me bare my neck to you...

Whenever you're ready... feel free to take a bite.

[longer pause]
My love... Why are you hesitating?
Are you still afraid?
Don't be... it will all be well.

If you wish... I can help you let those instincts take over.
Would that be to your liking?

[pause]
Very well, my Dearest…
Open your mouth.

I'll simply pierce the skin of my thumb on your fang…
There, love... Now touch the blood with your tongue.

[pause]
Ah, [small groan as the listener leaps at their neck], easy, easy.

[chuckle]
[proud:] So sharp, I barely felt a thing.

[small pause]
That's right, drink up my love.

Just like that.

Day 16: Mile

[A4A] “I know everything about you.” [Stalker Ex Speaker] [Yandere?] [Phone calls] [Creepy/Horror] [On the run] [TW: Mention of murder and kidnapping]

Introduction: You’re not safe at home. You have to leave. You just gotta get out before they make it here. You just have to. If only you can make it to your secret little hiding spot, then you can finally have some rest.

Summary: No matter how desperately you try to run away from your crazy ex, they seem to inch closer and closer… And every time they call, their words only increase your fear…
You’ll have to run for your life.

PLEASE NOTE: This script consists of a series of phone calls, with time skips in between. Fade out the ambience after the call ends, then fade it back in with the phone ringing!

Ambience: I was listening to this while writing. (Only for reference, please adhere to copyright law!)

Character guide: Slow, uncanny manner of speech, make sure to generously pause when indicated!

[SFX: eerie forest ambience, listener's footsteps on forest floor]

[SFX: phone rings, listener accepts call]

[voice from phone:]
30 miles.

[longer pause]
I know you're trying to get away from me. I know you're on the move.

[small pause]
You can run, but... you cannot hide.
Not from me.

I've spent too much time tracking you down...
I won't let a simple little mishap ruin what I've planned for so long.

[small pause]
I was a fool to think you'd accept me.
I was a fool to think anyone could love me in the same way that I love them.

But at this point, I realized... it isn't up to you.
It's not your choice whether or not you want to spend time with me.
It's not your decision whether you love me.
It's not your place to choose whether or not I'm worthy of your affection.

[small pause]
It's mine. And mine alone.

[pause]
You'll come around to see my point of view, my dear, believe me.
You'll come around... eventually.

[small pause]
You'll wear that ring with joy.
You'll be proud of it.

[pause]
You remember, don't you?
That ring that you rejected so arrogantly?
The ring I had so carefully selected for you?
The ring that I spent a fortune on?

[small pause]
I thought it'd all be worth it.
I thought, your delighted face would more than make up for every single penny.

[pause]
And yet you laughed at my face when I asked you the question.

[pause]
Don't worry.
You'll get the chance to make up for what you've done very soon.

[SFX: speaker hangs up]

[time skip]

[SFX: phone rings, listener picks up]

20 miles.

[longer pause]
I know you wanted to tell your friends, too bad they never got the message.

[small pause]
They would have rescued you, wouldn't they?
They would have come to your help, to turn away your "creepy ex", as you call me?

Is that what you think?

[pause]
It's really too bad that by the time their phones chimed... they were long gone. [laughs]

[pause]
I never really liked them in the first place.
Not when we met, not after you broke my heart into a million pieces...

[small pause]
I don't think it's cruel to admit this.
After all... it went both ways.

I still remember the look on your best friend's face when I first approached you.
Like I was disgusting.

Sickening.
Hideous, even.

Nothing but a piece of used chewing gum under your heel.

[pause]
I guess that's what I get for falling in love with one of the popular kids.
I should have known my place.
Should have stayed within my group of nerds and losers.

[longer pause]
How childish your friends were...
Even after high school ended, they never stopped thinking like that.

They never managed to outgrow the belief that they were somehow better than others.
Better than me.

[pause]
I can tell it was them, who eventually drove a wedge between us.
Whispered into your ear like a little devil on your shoulder.
Ruined what we had.

[pause]
But now those voices are gone.
They can't feed you their lies anymore.

It's nothing but the truth from here.

[SFX: speaker hangs up]

[time skip]

[SFX: phone rings, listener picks up]

10 miles.

[longer pause]
I know how desperately you wanted to call the police. Too bad there's no signal.

[small pause]
Strange, isn't it? After all... I can call you just fine.

[pause]
I don't understand why you'd reach out to them anyway.
It's not like they had helped you any of the past times you've called.

[small pause]
They determined that I am "non-threatening". Harmless, really.

You didn't even get that restraining order you begged them for.

[pause]
I may be blinded by love, but I can see how much you've tried to push me away.
How often you've tried to get rid of me.

[small pause]
How your love for me has slowly turned into hate.

[pause]
Believe me…
It was hard to accept this at first.

It was hard to accept that your feelings for me had changed so dramatically, within such a short amount of time.
I would have never thought that we could end up as anything but soulmates.

[pause]
Fortunately for me...
The string of fate isn't so easily cut, my love.

Whether or not you realize this or even want to realize... you're still my soulmate.
Nothing can change that.

[pause]
Even if the police were to lock me away forever...
You can't escape your destiny.
You cannot change what's predetermined.

[small pause]
Remember that.

[SFX: speaker hangs up]

[time skip]

[SFX: phone rings, listener picks up]

5 miles.

[longer pause]
I know where you're going.
I know of every single step you take, every time you change paths.

[pause]
You think you're so smart, don't you?
Turning off your location services, changing direction seemingly at random...

[pause]
You forget that I know you better than you think, my Love.
Even if I didn't have the capabilities of tracking your every step, your every movement...

[small pause]
I know you well enough to predict your next thought so precisely... all this technology pales in comparison.

I know exactly where you're heading.

[pause]
It's that little cabin in the woods, isn't it?
Your "safe spot" as you call it?

[small pause]
Now, I know you've never told me about it, so you might be a little confused…
Let's simply say... your family becomes rather talkative when you bring a nice bottle of wine.

[pause]
I know all about your hiding place.
Not only its location, but also all the heartwarming stories that are attached to it...

[small pause]
How you ran off to it whenever you were angry as a child...
How you used it as a young teenager to seek shelter from your own home, when your parents wouldn't stop fighting once again...

How you begged your father not to sell the cabin, when the rest of your childhood home was to be put up for sale...

[small pause]
And how you still go there on occasion, whenever you feel the need for some safety... some security.

The warmth of the fireplace, and the hug of the same old blankets that kept you warm as a child.

[pause]
Only... those last parts, I didn't hear from your family.
I saw it with my own two eyes.

[pause]
You never knew, did you?
That I followed you there, time and time again?

[small pause]
I took great care not to be noticed by you, after all.
I made sure to hide in the bushes, away from the lights... stayed outside all night long in the freezing cold...

And all that, just to make sure you're safe.
Safe alone at night, in the big, big forest.

[small pause]
I was worried about you, you see.
Because whether or not you look at me with so much <u>hate</u> in your eyes...
I care about you.

[SFX: speaker hangs up]

[time skip]

[SFX: phone rings, listener picks up]

1 mile.

[longer pause]
I know your biggest fear, Dearest.
I know everything about you.

[pause]
I know how much you used to love reading about all those crimes...
Murder, kidnapping, severed body parts... you've always had this weird fascination with it.

[small pause]
You almost religiously studied those interrogation videos, those self-proclaimed "experts" analyzing every last twitch of an eye.

[pause]
You used to love the morbid and macabre.
The clinically insane.

You used to go on and on about the psychology of a murderer.
About what makes a serial killer tick.

[small pause]
You used to.

[pause]
It's not so fun anymore when everyone calls your partner a psycho, now is it?

When your friends warn you that someday... you'll end up dead in a ditch at the side of some road.
Clothes torn, hair ripped from your scalp, your face mangled beyond recognition.

[pause]
You used to love those crime shows.
But so did I.

[small pause]
I took in every second of them just as much as you did.
And I memorized every little trick they had to offer.

[pause]
I know your biggest fear, my Dearest.
I know it's me.

[longer pause]
But what I want to know now is...

[small pause]
How loudly can you scream?

[small pause]
[from behind the listener, sinister:] Hello, Darling. So good to see you again.

Day 17: Dialect

[M4A] Awakening an Ancient Rock Giant [Rock Giant speaker] [Rock Gnome listener] [History/Heritage and Culture] [Forgotten language] [Reunited] [Experimental: Conlang elements]

Introduction: Through curiosity and a dash of bravery you stumble into a dark cave. As your nerves start to wear thin, you start humming a melody. It's a nursery rhyme, one your grandmother sang to you as a baby. As you recite the words, the wall before you begins to crack and crumble…

Summary: A scary cave turns into a heart-warming reunion, as a rock giant discovers who has awoken him from his eternal slumber.

Note: this script includes some sections of a conlang (constructed language). I've included the pronunciation shown by the phonetic alphabet, however you're free to pronounce it in whatever you like, I can't speak Kpu either!

[Character guide: slow speech, best suited for a low and grumbly voice; wise, but also like a cute grandpa?]

[SFX: drippy cave noises]

[SFX: rumbly noises, like rocks breaking from the walls, as he moves]

Na kihu... lotëÿï̈lüm̈i no sesho shi në̈.
[Pronunciation: Na kiːhuː... lɔˈtɛjɪ ˈlʊmiː nɔ ˈseːʃɔ ʃiː nɛ.]
[Translation: My love... none tomb will divide us.]

Lotëÿï̈fooa, lotëÿï̈fë̈no numë̈nüb'ë̈yo yahu.
[Pronunciation: Lɔˈtɛjɪ ˈfɔːa, lɔˈtɛjɪ fɛ nɔ nuːmɛˈnʊɓɛ jɔ ˈjahuː.]
[Translation: None challenge, none amount of time will cause this flame to die.]

[longer pause]
Well, what do I see here...
This pebble… you're little more than a child...

[small pause]
How... unexpected.

[pause]
[SFX: more rocks crumbling and rumbling as he moves]
Little one...
What are you doing so deep inside a cave so dark, it's hard to see one's own body?

Hurry away, sweet child.
This is no place for play.
No place for someone as fragile as yourself.

[pause]
Come on, now. Make some space for me.

I haven't moved my limbs in such a long time...
I fear I will hurt you if I attempt to leave this place while you're still so close by...

[small pause]
My, my...
You look just about frozen in fear, little one.

There is no need to be afraid. No need to fear me.
I do not intend to hurt you.

[pause]

Why are you so startled, little në̈u shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː]?
Is this perhaps the first time you've seen an elder of my age?

Even during my slumber, I only gained in size...
There mustn't be many of my stature around in this time and age...

[small pause]
It is all the better you have awoken me...
Otherwise, I might not have ever been able to leave this tomb...

It'd have been all too cruel to damage the walls of this tomb even more ancient than myself.

Remember this, little one...
Whether or not a boulder has been blessed by the Gods with the gift of life...
You shall honor it. For it is nature's gift to us.

It's shelter. It's safety. It's precious.

You're never to hurt the world around you...
You're only to accept the way nature shapes it.

[small pause]
When nature carves a cave into a mighty mountain... call it a home.

When it chisels off a piece just big enough to leisurely lay on... call it your respite.

When it grinds it into a fine powder that covers your toes, as you walk across it on a sunny afternoon... call that a blessing.

[pause]
You're a precious little pebble... my little në̈u shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː].
Listening so closely to an ancient, withered one like me...

[small pause]
You are well mannered, indeed...
So full of curiosity, a sparkle in your eyes that even the darkness of this cave cannot hide...

Je sihë̈shoo arenë̈...
[Pronunciation: ʃeː siːˈhɛʃɔː aˈɾeːnɛ…]
[Translation: What a precious soul...]

[pause]
Ah... I apologize, little one...
It seems it is indeed me who has been oh so rude...

Though once the joy of our people, it seems it has now altogether slipped everyone's minds...

[pause]
I am speaking of our language, my little nëu shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː].

"Nyëo nuje" [ˈɲɛʔɔ ˈnuːʄeː] they called it...
That means… "spirit language".

[pause]
It was our very own.
Part of our culture, part of our identity.

But just like even the mightiest mountain is eventually turned to sand by wind and water, so also must our language give way to a new era.

[pause]
The dialect of the Kpu people was already starting to fade when I laid my head to rest oh so many years ago...
It isn't to my surprise that a young little pebble like you had never spoken a word of it in their entire life...

[pause]
Though, I surely wonder…
If you aren't familiar with the words...
How did you wake me?

[small pause]
You seem confused by my words once more...

I apologize, little one.
If you still have the time to listen to my stories, I'll explain.

However, if you wish to hurry back to the plains to reunite with your family... I will not take offense.

[pause]
[deep chuckle]
So eager for knowledge... Today's youth is truly marvelous...
I remember my own childhood like it was yesterday, there wasn't a single word my mother could speak that made me listen so respectfully...

Thankfully though, I learned my lesson eventually...

[pause]
Excuse me, my little nëu shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː].

I seem to have lost my train of thought...
It must be the old age that's finally catching up to me.

[small pause]
Ah, yes... my rest inside this tomb...

[pause]
Many, many millennia ago, there was a ritual our people celebrated.
Every hundred years, an elder would make a great sacrifice to our people.

[small pause]
They'd search for a cave, lay down to rest, and fall into a deep state of stasis.

Asleep for all eternity, unless they were awoken by a combination of words only the Kpu knew... a new set of chants for each elder.

[pause]
It was a great honor to be chosen.
Only individuals of great wisdom were asked to complete this ritual.

Though... it was far from guaranteed you'd be awoken ever again.

[pause]
In fact... waking up would mean doom.
Pain and destruction.

For these elders were only to be called upon during times of distress, when all else failed.

It was hoped that the wisdom and sometimes even magic they had collected throughout all these years would be enough to save our people in a time of great vulnerability.

[small pause]
Many must still lay out there…
Asleep in a tomb of stone, their language long forgotten... and with it the chants to awake them.

[longer pause]
My story is much different.
It's not one of honor, not one of a holy celebration.

[small pause]
I was an elder when I laid to rest, that much is true.
And I may even be a little wise. [chuckles]

But the tradition was long forgotten by the younger generations.
No Kpu had laid to rest in centuries.

[longer pause]
Our tribe was venturing towards the valley, attempting to cross a steep mountain path.

[pause]
Look here, little one.

Observe me closely.
Do you see why I could not join them?

[pause]
I lost part of my leg very long ago...

And while I had no troubles navigating the flat plains of the lands I grew up in, I could not adapt when our people searched for new lands.

[small pause]
So I decided to stay behind.
To not keep the others from making a better life for themselves.

[longer pause]
It was my wife who cast the spell to seal me here.
Sleeping for all eternity, unless the words were spoken that'd bring me to life once more.

[pause]
I expected her to be the one to eventually awake me, but... it was you, little one.

[pause]
Tell me... how did you do such a feat?

[longer pause]
How very peculiar... my chant... passed down through the generations as a nursery rhyme...
Just like so many centuries ago…
Spoken in a simple child's game by mere chance…

Some things never seem to change, do they, my nëˈu shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː]?

[small pause]
And your grandmother, you say... is she still alive?
[excitedly:] What is her name? Quickly, tell me!

[pause]
Ah! Na kihu! [Na kiːhuːǃ] She lives!

[pause]
But that must mean…
You, nëˈu shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː]... you're my grandchild...

[pause]
My wife and child alive, and a grandchild to be proud of!
My little nëˈu shu [ˈnɛʔuː ʃuː], my "mountain sprout"!

I've never felt more blessed since the day the Gods breathed life into my marble!

Day 18: Desert

[A4A] Desert Dessert [Restaurant Staff speaker] [Guest Listener] [Comedic/Silly] [Restaurant in the desert]

Summary: After a very exhausting journey through a large desert, with only your loyal dromedar to your side, you come across an oasis. However, the restaurant there seems a bit… strange?

[SFX: windy desert ambience]

Good evening!
Let me help you tie your dromedar to this post.
I will make sure to send someone to take care of this impressive animal of yours.

[small pause]
Welcome to Oasis Dining, where exotic meals aren't simply a mirage.

Is it just you today, my dearest customer, or will you be joined by someone else?

[pause]
No problem, a table for one, it is, then!
Please follow me over here.
How do you like this one right next to the water?
It's a rather nice view, isn't it?

[small pause]
Don't worry, if the sand storm picks up any further, I'll make sure to swiftly bring your food back inside, before even a single kernel of sand has touched your plate.

What do you say?

[pause]
Splendid. Then it's all yours to enjoy.

[small pause]
Here is the menu, would you like to get settled in while I pour you a glass of water?
Don't worry, it's on the house, despite what it's worth in these parts of our country.
Why don't you take a look at what you'd like to order in the meantime?

[small pause]
Very well, I will be right back.

[pause]
[SFX: bottle opening, a glass of sparkling water being poured]

[pause]
Here we go, one glass of water for my favorite customer of the day!

[small pause]
Well, ehrm…
Yes, and the only one we've had all week, but that's besides the point, really

What's of importance right now is your enjoyment of the many great services we have to offer.
Have you picked out your order yet?

A nice well done steak perhaps, or our deliciously crispy garlic bread?

[small pause]
Granted, the steak is only well done since the heat during this time of day makes it hard to achieve any other option, and much the same goes for the garlic bread, but my point remains.
Our chef is excellent.

[small pause]
Your order, please?

[pause]
Oh, I apologize, have I not given you enough time?
How unprofessional of me.
I'll be on my merry way then, simply wave if you need me.

[small pause]
Oh?
Yes of course, ask any questions you might have, I'm more than happy to answer them for you.

[pause]
I can't say I've ever had anyone ask that! How peculiar!

[small pause]
But of course, my dearest customer!
Anything on the menu is truly and honestly on sale, every day of the year, any time of the day.

Does the size of our menu surprise you?

[pause]
[chuckle]
I suppose the location of this establishment may raise some questions about our supply of ingredients.
You can rest easy though, I assure you everything is fresh and appropriately stored.

[small pause]
Now, before we waste any more time, would you like me to walk you through the menu?
I suppose the sheer unlimited options may be a bit too much for someone like yourself, who's just crossed almost half a desert. That has to wear out just about anyone!

[pause]
On the first page, you can find our soups.
The special offer can be seen on this sign over here.
Today our cook created a lovely camel noodle soup.
If you haven't ever tasted a soup like this before, you should give it a try, it's truly lovely!

[small pause]
But if you don't fancy having a hot soup in this type of weather, perhaps you'd like to try one of our cactus salads?
The thick cactus leaves add a unique flavor, and the kitchen promises a one-hundred-percent prickless experience.
Money back guarantee included if you do end up getting stung by a needle, against all odds!

[pause]
As I already hinted at, we also offer a wide selection of meat dishes.

Steaks, burgers, hot dogs… though most are made from camels.
As a dromedar owner yourself, I understand if you'd rather avoid consuming such a close relative of your pet…
If you were hoping for a different type of meat, you're out of luck, I apologize.

Though we do offer boiled scorpion as well! Sourced locally from right below your feet, and as fresh as can be.
You can even pick which one you'd like!

[pause]
No? Okay, that's fine.
Maybe one of our vegetarian dishes will catch your eye.

Rice with palm leaves, harvested right from the palm trees of our oasis, beyond meat made from palm leaves, as well as a vegan curry.
…Made from palm leaves.

As you can see, many of our other options are leaf-based as well.

[pause]
I can tell by your face, that's not quite to your liking…

Well… there's always dessert remaining!
Our selection ranges from deliciously crunchy cakes to liquid ice cream, our chef's specialty.
He's the inventor of the world's first liquid ice cream machine.

[small pause]
He made it from nothing but a broken refrigerator! Amazing, don't you think?

We offer several flavors.
Vanilla, chocolate, and a blue one.
I'd call it blue raspberry, though our chef calls it fridge coolant.

[small pause]
Get it? Cause it cools you down?
He's a genius, isn't he?

[pause]
Last but not least, we offer a secret dessert.
You will not know what it is until you have ordered it.

Brings an aura of mystery and excitement to an otherwise so ordinary, yet very lovely restaurant visit, wouldn't you agree?

[pause]
I can see this dish has finally peaked your interest.
I'm glad we were able to find something that's to your liking after all.

[small pause]
We're the only restaurant in the area, so I see it as my duty to make sure our customers are well-fed and satisfied, so they may continue their journey with restored strength.

Nothing makes me happier than to see a smile come to all those exhausted faces.

[small pause]
So, have you made up your mind? Will it be the mystery dessert?

[pause]
Splendid!
One sand pie, coming right up!

Day 19: Aloof

[A4A] The lighthouse keeper's apprentice [Lighthouse Keeper speaker] [Apprentice listener] [Unenthused teacher] [Stormy ambience]

Summary: You've ventured to an lighthouse on a mighty mountain cliff, to take up your new job as an apprentice lighthouse keeper.
However, you don't feel all too welcome right away…

[SFX: stormy coast, up on a cliff]

[pause]

[SFX: slow, uncertain footsteps]

[cool, almost annoyed:] Hey, you.
Visitors aren't allowed out here at this hour. Go home.

[pause]
I don't care what you're here for, you need to leave.
It's dangerous up here at night.
I don't need any drunkards throwing themselves off the cliff. Or you for that matter.

[pause]
Listen, I'm serious.
I don't know if you realize it, but I quite literally live here. I have the authority to kick you off this property if I want to.

[pause]
Do you see any other buildings here??
Yes. I live <u>in</u> the lighthouse. Is that so unbelievable?

[small pause]
Whatever, please leave now. Before I call the police.
Goodbye.

[pause]
Ah, ehrm… yes… that <u>is</u> in fact my name…

[small pause]
How do <u>you</u> know it though?

[pause]
I'm not quite sure I believe that. Why would you bring me a letter in the middle of night?
Besides, I know the mailman. And it's certainly not <u>you</u>.

[pause]
[sighs] Give me the letter, then.

[small pause]
It's from my uncle. Do you know him?

[pause]
[not pleased:] Alright then. Come with me.
If it's so important he'll send a messenger, I suppose I'll have to let you in.

[SFX: door opening, pause, closing; storm muffled]

[small pause]
Let's see…
It got a bit wet since you insisted on handing it to me in the rain, I hope the ink held up fine…

[optional SFX: envelope torn open]

[pause]
Ehrm… what?
Apprentice?
I don't think I quite follow.

[small pause]
I get that much, but why would I need an apprentice?? I'm pretty young myself, and I don't plan on quitting this job for the next like… 20 years or so.

Why would he just decide something like that without even asking me first? Do I look like I need any extra responsibility??
Seriously, keeping some kid safe out here will be a freaking nightmare.

[pause]
Why are you looking at me like that?

[small pause]
Oh, let me guess.
<u>You</u> are the apprentice.

[pause]
Well that's just great, isn't it?
He sends someone before I've ever even heard the first thing about it! Unbelievable.

Why didn't you just say so to begin with?

[pause]
[sighs]
Oh well. I suppose it can't be helped now that you're here.
You must have come from quite far away, otherwise you wouldn't have arrived so late.

Good start on your end though, you'll need to get used to this time of night. You'll work in the dark, after all.

[pause]
[annoyed:] Of course you can stay here.
It's not like I have much of a choice in the matter.

I've been taking care of this lighthouse all by myself for the last five years, but… it's not quite mine yet.

My uncle's technically still got a pretty big say in how things are run, even though he rarely does…
Not many interesting decisions to make around here.

[small pause]
Whether I like it or not… and despite it being completely inconvenient…
I'll have to take you as an apprentice, I guess.

[pause]
Hey, don't get too excited.
It's not as easy as he might have made you believe.

It's pretty difficult to convince someone to take this job, and if it weren't for me, he'd still be doing it himself, despite his back.

[small pause]
There's a lot of knowledge and skill that goes into the duties of a lighthouse keeper.
If I'm not able to identify and repair the cause of an issue quickly, I risk people's lives.

I hope you're not taking this all too lightly.
You'll have to work hard. You'll have to change your sleeping pattern.
And I don't want to hear any complaints, kid, or I'm sending you away.

I don't care what my uncle says or why he chose specifically you for this job, but if you're not fit for the role, I won't drag you with me like dead weight.
Got it?

[pause]
Perfect.

[pause]
Did you bring some things of your own?
I'm used to living alone and I rarely have visitors.
And if I do, they don't show up unannounced.

I'm a bit low on supplies if I'm forced to feed two people.

[small pause]
Oh and please tell me he's paying you?
I have neither the money nor the will to deal with pay any time soon. Otherwise I would have chosen a simple office job instead of this.

[pause]
Good. That's… at least something.

[small pause]
You'll sleep over there for now, on the couch. It's not very big, but it's the best I've got to offer on such short notice…

[pause]
Hey! No!
No-one said you could sleep now.
If I'm up, you're up.
That'll be the first rule of this… apprenticeship.
No such thing as a lighthouse keeper that isn't nocturnal.

It comes with the territory.

[pause]
Oh, trust me, you'll get used to it after a while.
If the storm doesn't keep you up, the physical labor will.

[pause]
Come on, now, put on your shoes.
I'm gonna go check on the lenses, and you better come with me, unless you want to be fired.
No napping during work hours.

[pause]
Now that's more of the spirit.
Don't worry though, after a couple months of thorough studies of the mechanics, topping up fuel in the middle of the night, checking for fog every hour, chasing off lost visitors and assisting in rescue missions for days on end without rest, you'll be a true lighthouse keeper in no time.

Or maybe you won't be.
Who knows.

[small pause]
Do you think you have what it takes?

[pause]
Then let's see you prove it.

Day 20: Burn

[A4A] Acid Rain, Wrath and Pain [Assistant takes revenge] [Assistant speaker] [Negligent Boss listener] [Implied murder] [Vengeance] [Subtle Norse themes] [CW: implied murder, threats]

Introduction: As your eyes adjust to the darkness, your disorientation starts to fade a bit. This place seems familiar, though the shadows of the night make it hard to put your finger on it.
You're scared. Why are you tied to this chair? A figure approaches you from the darkness, wading through the debris below.

Summary: A vengeful assistant enacts revenge upon their boss, who they see responsible for the fire that burned down the office building months prior.

My my… what a terrible situation you seem to have found yourself in…

[small pause]
[teasing:] What's wrong, boss? Surprised to see me?
Didn't consider that I could ever do anything that goes against your direct orders?
That I have free will outside of your whims that you bark at me every. fucking. day?

[pause]
Look… Calm down.
It's no use! Those ropes won't budge, I can assure you.
And even if that gag wasn't preventing you from speaking, no-one would hear you.

[small pause]
Look around. This place has been long abandoned.
No-one beside a few addicts and other freaks would ever set foot out here.

[pause]
You seem confused.
Don't you recognize this place?
Don't you sense the energy of all the tortured souls that have long awaited your return?

I surely can.

[small pause]
They're furious.
Writhing in pain at the mere thought of what has happened to them.

[pause]
And most importantly… they cannot <u>wait</u> to witness what I'm about to do to you.
They're yearning for justice, for vengeance.

[small pause]
And so am I.

[longer pause]
Breathe in the ash.
Let the remnants of what used to be brush against your lungs.

[pause]
Not even in death can they find rest.
The wind's been gently carrying most of what remains away, bit by bit…

But not here. Not this room.

[small pause]
No matter how much time goes by, this grave of concrete preserves what is left of their bodies.

[longer pause]
How does it feel to be responsible for the death of so many people?
They had to die, and simply for your negligence.

[small pause]
Doesn't it weigh on your soul?
Don't you just feel damnation lurking behind every corner?
Aren't you haunted every night by the thought that you could have saved them all, if only you had taken responsibility?
If you had simply made a single phone call?

[pause]
An entire floor of your office building caught on fire, and you had nothing better to do than to think about yourself?
Were you really <u>that</u> scared of what might happen if the public were to find out the truth?

[small pause]
It would have been so simple.
You knew your property didn't meet the guidelines.
Far from it, in fact.

And yet it didn't cross your mind to take action.

[small pause]
Too pricey, you said.
Not enough time, you said.
It can wait, you said.

I heard it with my own ears.

[pause]
Look around!
Do you see why it couldn't?!
Don't you see that all of this pain, all of this suffering is your fault and yours alone??

[small pause]
Look me in the eyes and tell me you don't feel an ounce of remorse!

I dare you.

[longer pause]
You thought you were lucky, didn't you?
You thought you got away.

You didn't think I'd still remember what happened.
You probably assumed my injuries had damaged my memory, or that the mere trauma would suppress any information related to this gruesome murder.

And yet, I'm here.

[small pause]
Not even half a year after waking up from my coma, I am here.
Ready to take you down with any means necessary.

[pause]
But not before I've had some fun with the last moments of your greedy, selfish, pathetic life.

[pause]
While you were still collecting the fortune you made with that insurance claim…
I was discharged from the hospital.
I came here, I stood between the rubble.

And while I was searching the detritus for anything of value, any trinket of my beloved friends and coworkers that might still remain, I racked my brain for what could possibly rectify what you've done.

[small pause]
No punishment, no amount of jail time would ever be enough to avenge the lost and murdered.

[pause]
And then I found it.

[small pause]
Look at this. Do you know what it is?

[pause]
It's a pendant.
Sarah's pendant.
She was my best friend, you know?

As you were standing before the building, phone in your hand, simply watching, looking right into my eyes as I screamed for help from that window… she died a painful, torturous death.

And this is all that remains of her.

[pause]
It depicts a rune.
You see? It almost looks like the letter B.

[small pause]
Sarah was big on Norse mythology, after all.
A fitting accessory for her.
But of course you wouldn't know that, you never wasted a single thought on <u>any</u> of your employees, unless you could pile even more work and deadlines onto their desks.

[pause]
I thought it was very fitting…
How I just so happened to find exactly <u>this</u> pendant between all the debris…

[pause]
Have you ever read about the story of Loki?
The trickster God, who eventually got what was coming to him?

[small pause]
As I was standing there… knee-deep in the rubble, my heart filled with the agony of losing someone so dear to my heart… my face burnt with the scars of the fire you refused to quench…

I thought it'd be the perfect punishment.
The perfect revenge.

[longer pause]
Loki was bound beneath a venomous serpent.
And just as half of my face has been disfigured by the fire, so was his, as the venom dropped onto him and burned his skin.

[longer pause]
I've brought a bottle of acid.
It may not look like much, but believe me… it is strong.

I tried it.
It will make its way through nearly anything it comes into contact with.

[small pause]
Clothes… skin… muscle…
It makes quick work of it.

[pause]
Are you finally getting it, boss?
Do you finally understand?

You thought you were so charitable to keep employing me; to hire the disfigured assistant that seemed so desperate to get the job back.

You thought it'd help to cover up what you've done, didn't you?
How could you have ever let all those people die, if you're so gracious as to take me back?
Certainly the public wouldn't consider you guilty.

[pause]
And all the while…
I just needed a way to get close to you.
To consider my options while my rage grew every time I laid eyes on you.

[pause]
And after all these months, I've finally come so close to the only thing I've ever wanted to do so desperately in my entire life.

[pause]
You will suffer.
You will suffer in the exact same way I have suffered ever since the fire.

You will feel every drop, every bit of agony as the acid burns your flesh from your bones.
And to top it off… the psychological pain of knowing you'll never ever be the same.

Your screams will be like music to my ears.

[pause]
And best of all... you'll suffer at my hands.
I'll get to decide every moment of what is left of your existence.

I'll make sure you wish for the sweet, merciful embrace of death every second of your life, and I will enjoy witnessing every last drop of tears running down your face, only rubbing salt into your wounds.

[pause]
You'll finally pay for what you've done.
Maybe then I can find closure.

Day 21: Heaven

[A4A] 6:66 Appointment [Demon speaker] [Human listener] [Interview] [Afterlife] [Hell]

Introduction: It took you a while to realize, but… you're dead. Looking for a way out of purgatory, you decide to give hell a try. However, it seems you'll have to go through an interview process first. Maybe heaven would have been easier after all?

Summary: You're interviewed by a demon, who will determine whether you're fit to receive a position in hell.

This script is a collaboration with Azrael from the Script Guild Discord server!
You can find their script, an interview in heaven, over here.
Make sure to check it out to experience the full storyline!

SFX: fire ambience, occasional lava bubbling?

Ticket number one-billion-five-thousand-and-two please!

[small pause]
Follow me, please, we'll be ready for you in just a second.
Would you like something to drink?
Battery acid, synthetic resin?

[pause]
All the better, we're out anyway.

I apologize for the long waiting time, there's lots of souls coming by for an interview nowadays, so it took a couple millenia longer than we expected.

[pause]
A demon will be with you shortly.
Did you bring your CV?

[small pause]
Your charity value report?
You know... the document they gave you at check-in into the afterlife?
Please don't tell me you dropped it into the lava pool in the waiting area.

In which case I'm telling you right now:
You need to revisit check-in and then return to the back of the line.

[pause]
Ah, very good.
You're a reasonable soul it seems, then.

You'd think incidents like burnt CVs would be a rather rare occurrence, but some people seem to get impatient and do all sorts of outrageous things.

[pause]
Seeing as we're quite understaffed at the moment, it looks like I have been assigned to interview you.
All the better.

Show me your proof of death and CV, please.

[SFX: papers rustling]
Proof of death looks okay, a rather gruesome cause... I like it.

You can make it pretty far in this world with a proper cause of death.
Not everyone's as lucky as you to have died in such a respectable manner.

[pause]
Now, I assume you know that a negative charity value of a thousand is necessary to enter hell without having to go through the interview process.
That's why you're here, after all.
Unless Lucifer assigned "waiting" as a punishment again, in which case I'd appreciate being told so before I let you answer all these questions.

[pause]
Let's see...

[small pause]
Oh. .... OH.

I've... never seen something like this before. Sure, there's people with just a couple hundred points, but ehrm... Zero?

[small pause]
You're... truly neutral.

You're aware that even with a successful interview, most applicants over minus 500 still aren't granted admission into hell, right?

[pause]
Oh, well.

Let's give it a shot then, shall we?
All we've got to lose is time, and we've got plenty of that down here.

[pause]
[clears throat]
So, let's take a look at your past lives, then.

You've lived through ten so far, is that correct?

[small pause]
[noises of acknowledgement as they read]

[pause]
Seems like some of these are pretty unremarkable, a lot of goody-two-shoes type stuff...

Though I'm very intrigued by your second life.
We don't have to talk about the specifics, obviously.

Straight As across the board for this one.
Your low donation stats, lie-count, sin-meter et cetera all look pretty good to me, and your lack of faith during this time was phenomenal.

Lots of achievements during your lifetime...
A picture-perfect life of sin and selfish gain.

[small pause]
So the one question that remains about this life is...
What motivated you to reach such excellence?
Surely it mustn't have been easy to be this selfish, what was your reasoning?

[pause]
I get it, it was only your second life, so the memory can be a bit blurry, but please try to remember as much as you can.

[small pause]
I'm trying to turn this conversation into a direction that favors you, but you need to cooperate.

Because honestly speaking...
I'm not very impressed with the rest of your lives.

Sure, you had an amazing start and showed a lot of potential very early on, but your charity value has been completely deplenished again by the lives that followed.

[small pause]
Where did that spark go?
Where's that seed of evil that used to be so prominently within you?

[pause]
[sigh]
Alright, let's go on, then.
You're not making this easy on me.

[small pause]
Let's see... your third life seemed pretty promising at first...
You cheated your way through school and college, became a successful CEO, amassed more wealth than most could even dream off, yelled at your employees daily and supported morally questionable business practices.

[small pause]
But then, and I cannot stress how much this disappoints me, you decided to leave your fortune to several organizations helping kids in need?

Do you realize that your charity value is affected by what happens with your legacy even after death??
Seriously, this one could have been huge!

Not as great as the previous life, of course, but it could have swayed your score over into the negative by a good bit!

[small pause]
What a waste, seriously...

[pause]
Urgh, let's skip over the fourth.
That score makes my skin crawl.

[small pause]
Fifth one doesn't seem too bad though!
No major donations, rarely held any doors open...

[small pause]
Ooo, you even stole a seat from a pregnant lady on the bus once!

[small pause]
But ehrm... unfortunately, all those little victories seem to be weighed up by equally little losses...

Returned a wallet, smiled at a baby... a couple too many church visits...

[pause]
See, if you had kept up all those small little deeds throughout all your ten lives and held back on the God-honoring stuff, you could have easily made it to around 600 negative points.

Way better chances at getting into hell, maybe even to the inner rings.

[pause]
It's not always about being the worst, you can be mediocrely awful and still make it somewhere in life.

But it seems...
You've given up after a couple of lives, which is very sad, to be honest..

I know you would have had the ability to go truly awful, but here we are.

[pause]
[sigh]
You know, I'm not sure there's much sense in continuing this interview.

I mean, sure, your seventh life was pretty good, you even murdered someone, but it was neither cruel nor for vengeance.
Unfortunately, taking out someone with a score of minus 1200 doesn't count much towards your own score, as protecting others is seen as an honorable deed by most of the mortal population.

[pause]
I'm sorry!
As much as I'd like to make a better outcome happen for you, the gates of hell won't just open for someone who's occasionally stepped on a puppy paw.

[small pause]
Tell you what.
Why don't you try your luck at heaven instead?

You've got a score of zero, after all.
If you're eligible for an interview here, you should qualify to take one at the pearly gates as well.
Maybe that'll go better for you.

[small pause]
Not that it's nearly as much fun up there as here, but it might be your best option, unless you want to try again and live another life.

[pause]
Good luck in heaven, have an awful day!

Day 22: Monopoly

[A4A] The Monopoly Trap [Jigsaw-esk speaker] [Victim listener] [Saw inspired] [Horror] [Punishment for a life of greed] [CW: description of traps, mention of death]

This script goes into detail about a Saw-inspired trap setup.
Please only read it if you are old enough to watch the movies.

You can find the script here.

Day 23: Highlight

[A4A] Judge, Jury and Executioner [Supervillain x Hero's Mastermind] [Joining the dark side] [Power and Recognition] [Comic Book tropes]

Summary: You are recruited by a supervillain, after the hero you work for left you unprotected at his headquarters.

And who do we have here?

[pause]
Easy… Relax, Soldier. There is no need to become hostile, I'm here for nothing but a simple little chat.

[pause]
Nice try. Unfortunately I'm more than aware that The Judge and his little army of bootlickers are away to fight, well… me.

[small pause]
What a noble thing to do. Risking his life every day to defeat the supposedly most evil villain of our time…

All while leaving the mastermind behind his plans behind at his headquarters, entirely defenseless!

[small pause]
I apologize, soldier, I didn't mean to offend you… but let's be honest…
Your strength lies within your mind.
If I were to attempt to capture or kill you… you wouldn't have anything to hold against my supernatural powers.

[pause]
All the more insulting is it for you to simply be left behind, while everyone else swarms out to get blood on their hands.

[small pause]
He'd be nothing without you. Nothing more but an unstoppable force of power with no sense of direction.
He has this superficial sense of justice, that is true. He revels in the name the media has chosen for him… "The Judge"... bringing justice to Dynamo City.

[pause]
But he doesn't have the wit to develop a plan to achieve said justice, nor does he have your knowledge regarding technology.

He can't even disable a camera network, for crying out loud!

[pause]
When you first started working for him, he caught me by surprise more than just once.
Who'd expect a crude and simple-minded hero like him to suddenly execute fully developed mission plans?
It took me a while to realize that it wasn't him strategizing.

You are the true mastermind behind each and every one of his actions.

[pause]
Truth be told, I know near everything there is to know about you.
I was very intrigued when I first caught wind of your existence.

Who'd want to work behind the scenes like you do?
Never a word of your achievements in the media, not an ounce of recognition for your work.

[pause]
It wasn't long until I found out that pulling the threads in the background while others reap the fruit of your labor isn't to your liking, either.

[small pause]
You joined The Judge to become a hero.
You wanted to fight on the front lines.
You wanted to make a change in this world and be recognized for it just as much as all the other heroes.

But for that… you needed training.
You had the brain, but you lacked the muscle. The supernatural muscle, that is.

[pause]
And what did he do?
That selfish scum, who prides himself on his so-called righteousness?

[small pause]
He realized your potential!
And he saw that you were far more worthy of being leading his Syndicate than he could have ever been.
And he's denied you any chance to join the fight, no matter the promises he's made.

You're intelligent.
You're a fast thinker.
You're strong, even if not yet to the level of a superhero.
And you're a true-born leader.

You're determined.
You won't rest until you achieve what you've set your mind to.

[pause]
That is… if The Judge hadn't stopped you in your tracks.
Smothered your ambition before you had even acquired the supernatural powers he promises to any new recruits.

[pause]
I can make that happen for you, soldier.
I can fulfill the promise he broke.
The abilities you're looking for, they're right at your fingertips.
If you join me, that is.

[longer pause]
You stand with your values, even at the promise of power beyond comprehension.
I can respect that.

You're steadfast.
Near unshakeable morals.

But please, consider…
Think about what you could do with what I have to offer.
The power you'd gain, the freedom.

You could finally rid yourself of The Judge's commands and lack of recognition for your excellent work.

[pause]
Do you want to know the best part about being a villain?

It's not the glorious kills, or the epic battles.
It's not coming face to face with The Judge and ripping out his eye with nothing but my enhanced telekinesis.
It's not even the payoff of a network of intricate explosives activating in just the way I intended, after months of carefully planning and hiding the bombs all over town…

[small pause]
No.

The true highlight of my day is when I get to save an exceptional mind like your own from a life of letdowns and non-achievement.

[pause]
Listen, Soldier…

Not all are created equal in this world…
Some are simply born into this world to be wasted, no matter what they could do if simply given the chance.

[small pause]
A waste of potential, a waste of creativity…
And therefore they're also a waste of space, resources, time, and affection.

[pause]
Now… I'm not implying this to be true about yourself…
But considering how you seem to find yourself locked away behind the scenes by the ones you treasure so dearly again and again…
You might just want to give the path you're headed towards another thought.

[pause]
Do not fret, Soldier…
Much the same was to be said about me just a little while ago.
I was nothing more than the dirt stuck on someone's heel.

[small pause]
But would you accuse me of lying if I said I have changed my fate?
Become the sole commander of my destiny?

[pause]
Even if you wish the worst for me…

You'd be unable to deny my success. There is little I cannot accomplish.

[pause]
Of course my power came at a price.
It's sheer endless compared to the abilities the Syndicate possesses. Some of them were born with their powers… levitation, minor telekinetic abilities, some wind conjuring…

Some profit from the pathetic genetic engineering that scientist offers, or the simple technological enhancements they provide.

[pause]
But whichever may be the case… The Judge wants to uphold his image.
Under no circumstances would he sacrifice someone's appearance for power, not even if it meant beating his greatest enemies.
That's why he could never get rid of me.

[small pause]
The media finds it hard to approve of someone whose skin has been burned from the inside by the chemicals that rewired their genetic code.

Trust me… I had to find out the hard way that I was no longer [almost spitting out the words:] "hero material".

[pause]
I can make you so much stronger than The Judge could even dare to imagine.
Any power you want, I can make it happen.
I can turn you from wasted potential to the most powerful being the world has ever laid eyes upon.

[small pause]
Together, we can be judge, jury, and executioner.
We can turn this world into whatever we desire.

[pause]
And you can take revenge on the ones that have taken advantage of your abilities for so long.

[pause]
You can be the force behind what you stand for.
You are The Mastermind.

[small pause]
Welcome to the dark side, Soldier.

Day 24: Writer

[A4A] The Archivist [Archivist speaker] [Adventurer listener] [Life on a Woodland Giant] [Wholesome] [Caring]

Summary: In the middle of a big forest lives Gaia, a giant with a beautiful, lucious forest growing upon her back. An adventurer gets to experience what it is like to live upon her back, as they meet the Gaian's archivist among the trees.

[SFX: forest ambience, birds tweeting, peaceful]
[SFX: horn signal, somewhat like this.]
[SFX: forest ambience continues for a couple of seconds]
[SFX: deep grumbling, rocks aching and crumbling as the woodland giant starts moving]

Hey! Watch out!

[small pause]
Come on, you have to hold onto something! Grab that branch!

[SFX: grumbling continues, slowly fading]

By the Gods… are you okay? Did you get hurt?

[small pause]
You took quite the fall, are you sure you're alright?
Did you not hear the horns?

[pause]
I ehrm… I don't recognize you… are you not from around here?

[small pause]
That explains why you look so freaked out…
Don't worry though, you've got the worst of it behind you already.

Can you stand?
You didn't hurt your legs, did you?

[pause]
Very good, there you go…
Let's move away from the edge a bit, it's better to be towards the center.
A much smoother ride, I assure you.

[pause]
Ah, ehrm, sorry, I guess you don't have much of an idea about what's going on right now, do you?

[small pause]
Not to worry, I will explain in just a moment, as soon as we've taken a bit of a walk.

[pause]
Here, I'll help you. You're shaking quite a bit.

[small pause]
There is no need to be embarrassed.
It's more than understandable, considering you were taken by surprise just now.
You're probably confused and scared, it's normal to have weak knees in such a situation.

[pause]
Here, I think we're far enough inwards now, why don't you sit down on this tree stump.

[small pause]
Are you feeling alright?

No broken bones, or major injuries?

[pause]
Very well.
In this case I guess I should explain what is happening to you right now.
It's not every day you feel the ground moving beneath your feet, now is it?

[small pause]
[chuckle/giggle] To the people of my village, this is a perfectly regular event!
And I mean regular in the literal sense, we set our clocks by it!

[pause]
Fact of the matter is, you're not standing on solid ground.
What you thought to be a mountain is actually a giant.

[small pause]
There's no need to freak out, I promise!
She's not malicious, she just searches for a new spot to eat and sleep every day.

We call her Gaia.
This entire forest, everything you see around you… it's all growing on her shoulders.

She provides us with the space necessary for a fulfilling life, and the plants and animals living on her surface alongside us are providing nourishment.

[small pause]
Us Gaians have learned to adapt to this lifestyle.
We eat, we sleep… we let Gaia relocate in peace every day…

And in turn she brings us to a piece of land filled with water and lushous greenery.

[small pause]
Sure, it can be tough sometimes, when you lose track of the time, and find yourself in the middle of nowhere when it's time for Gaia to move.

Just like me today, actually!

[small pause]
But luckily, that is what the signal is for!

It’s better to be near her shoulders when she gets up, since the rest of her surface can tilt quite a bit, but the horns still give you ample time to react and hold onto a tree.

It’s pretty rare for someone to sustain an injury since the signal was invented. It’s very effective.

[small pause]
Well ehrm… that is, if you know what it means, of course.
To you, the combination of a loud, man-made noise in combination with the ground shaking must have seemed like something much more ominous.

I apologize.

[pause]
It’s rare for us to have visitors, Gaia usually stays far away from any signs of civilization.
What were you doing so far out into the woods?

[longer pause]
I see… Very interesting…
I’m sure you have many stories to tell from your adventures, then, don’t you?

[pause]
In a way, I’m a bit jealous of you… I’ve never gotten the opportunity to go anywhere beyond his forest.

[small pause]
Sure, Gaia helps us cover large distances, and we’re always in new areas, but besides woodland, there isn’t much to see.

[pause]
Oh, don’t get me wrong, my people aren’t bound to stay here.
Anyone who wants to leave can do so, but it is rare that anyone does. Most return after a while, having seen the world and deciding to come back to a life of peace, in harmony with Gaia and nature.

But I’ve been given a very important task at a very early age.

[small pause]
When I was only ten years old, I became the archivist of our village.
Ever since then I’ve been collecting our people’s stories, the places we visit and anything else of note in countless books.

[small pause]
I’m one of the only Gaians who can read and write, which is why I was selected for this task in the first place.
I see it as a great honor, and since there’s currently no-one to fill my footsteps, I can’t just leave and look at the world, you see?

[pause]
I suppose in a way it is a bit restrictive to my life, but I believe I provide an important service to my people.
Through my notes we can predict when we will next reach certain spots, which plants we can expect there and when the seasons will change.

[pause]
This work brings me a lot of joy. In fact I found myself out here so late after getting absorbed in one of my side projects. I'm trying to catalog the different types of fruits and berries which can be found on Gaia's back. In my efforts I completely overlooked the time and ended up staying out in the woods for longer than I intended. The signal caught me by surprise.

[small pause]
It's all the better I was there, though, otherwise you might have fallen off Gaia's edge. It is rather dangerous to be so close to her sides when she is moving.

She is a giant after all, so the height is nothing short of terrifying to most.

[pause]
In a way… I enjoy that aspect. Gaia is strong and protective of us. But she's also not very hospitable to potentially harmful outsiders.

If someone isn't friendly and doesn't receive guidance from the people of my village, they won't stay here for long, out of fear.

[pause]
But enough about me and my people…
I apologize for the rambling, it comes with the occupation, I suppose…

I'd be very interested in what you have to say about the world out there.

[small pause]
What is it like, what animals and plants are there? What are the people like? What is deemed important?

If you would spare me a couple hours of your time tonight, I can in turn provide you with shelter and food.

And if you'd like, I can show you around my library.

[small pause]
Who knows… maybe the stories of my people make for an exciting adventure in itself.

Day 25: Hoarse

[A4A] Meeting a Centaur Messenger [Centaur speaker] [Human toll collector listener] [Wholesome] [Chatting/Rambles]

Introduction: You've been working since the early morning, collecting tolls on a busy trade road. Business has slowed down, as less and less merchants come through, but in the distance, you see someone galloping your way.

Summary: An ordinary toll collection at a merchant's route turns into a friendly chat and an invitation for a nice cup of tea.

[SFX: birds chirping, ambience of a nice, sunny day outside]
[SFX: hooves galloping on a dirt road, coming to a stop in front of the listener]

[somewhat sickly, yet attempting to sound cheerful]
Good morning!

[small pause]
I've been given these papers, will they suffice to pay the toll?

[pause]
I'm glad to hear that!
I've never passed through this kingdom before, so I wasn't sure of the procedure.

[pause]
No, no cargo today, just [interrupted by severe coughing]

My apologies.
[clears throat] No cargo, just a message.

[pause]
I'm okay, thank you for your concern…
I've just been a bit sickly recently, and I presume the nights I've spent out in the cold weren't of much help either.

In fact, I had completely lost my voice just a couple of days ago, which is of course devastating for a messenger…

[small pause]
I'm all the more glad to have gained it back now, so I can resume work.

[pause]
[embarrassed chuckle] I'm afraid those coughing fits <u>do</u> still happen rather often… and they catch me by complete surprise, at that…

[small pause]
To be very honest with you, I am a bit concerned about this assignment.
I've been tasked with delivering a message to a rather important royal of this kingdom, and I think I might die of embarrassment if I had to bother the Duke with my cough…

[pause]
Ah, no, I still have a bit more time to recover, luckily.

I've been specifically told not to deliver it before tomorrow, as to not ruin a surprise. I hope my condition will get better until then, though I am not all too hopeful.

[pause]
Speaking of waiting until tomorrow though… would you be able to recommend a place where I can spend the night?

I attempted to ask some farmers a while back, but they suggested I should just sleep in a barn.
Some people simply have no manners!
Can you believe it?

We Centaurs are proud people, how rude to treat me like I'm just a horse! [coughing]

[pause]
[clears throat] Excuse me, it seems I strained my voice a bit there. I didn't mean to use such a harsh tone, I just find it quite difficult not to feel hurt by their words.

I understand that it's rare to come across a Centaur here, and therefore they may be unaware of the proper etiquette, but… that doesn't make it any less painful.

[pause]
I'm keeping you from your work, I must apologize once more…
Let me know if you can recommend a tavern or a guest room, and I shall be on my merry way.

[pause]
That does sound good, but… isn't that place owned by the crown? To be honest with you, I doubt I have enough gold to stay the night at such an expensive establishment…

[pause]
Oh. Well… if that is the only one you're familiar with, I suppose I can try my luck. [small cough]
Thank you very much!

Not all toll collectors are as nice to talk to as you are, I sincerely thank you for the chat.

[pause]
Oh, I'm sorry, did I miss something?
Did I forget to pay for anything?

[pause]
Oh.
You mean… at your house?
Are you sure you want to let a stranger stay there? We just met, after all…

[small pause]
Don't get me wrong, I am extremely thankful for your consideration, of course!
I just… I can't quite believe it.

[pause]
[sigh of relief] That means a lot, believe me.
It's not very easy to work as a centaur messenger in human dominated areas.

Not all places accommodate someone of my stature, and sometimes those who could still refrain, in fear of letting a monster into their house.

[small pause]
I'm very glad that there's still humans like you, who recognize that I am just as much of a person as anybody else.

Rest assured, I will repay you for this favor.

[small pause]
[coughing miserably] If it weren't for this terrible cough though…
I hope I will not keep you up at night with this constant noise.
It's been inconveniencing me quite a bit, I'd hate to let it affect others as well.

[pause]
You're all too forthcoming.
I appreciate your concern for my condition.

[small pause]
Oh, tea? I'd love to enjoy a nice cup with you!
Surely it will soothe my sore throat, good thinking!

[small pause]
Who knows, maybe it'll even make for a nice occasion to share some of my stories with you.
I journey throughout all the lands on account of my occupation, I'm bound to have some anecdotes to tell.

[pause]
Oh, I've been a messenger for quite a while now, I actually took over the business from my father.
Centaur messengers used to be quite common, though it's been largely forgotten by now…

A shame, really!

[small pause]
[clears throat]
We're fast, we're reliable, we're honest…
Centaurs have handled royal letters for hundreds of years, with little complaints.

Most incidents stemmed from humans robbing the royal messengers, which unfortunately eventually led to the system falling out of fashion, in favor of carriages.

[pause]
Many of my kin were offered work in the form of pulling the carriages, but as I already mentioned…
We don't take kindly to being treated like mere horses.

Which is why most Centaurs have found other work, over time.

[pause]
Oh, me?
Simple. As it stands, I'm one of the last remaining Centaur messengers, making my services somewhat of a luxury.
The royals tend to see it as a special flair to hire me as their messenger.

[small pause]
So while we're no longer transporting messages on war tactics and secret deals, we're quite often hired for joyous occasions.

For example, right now I'm transporting a marriage proposal.
I'll tell you who it's from, if you promise not to mention it until it's publicly known.

[pause]
[chuckle] It's very sweet, I think.
It's from the Elven prince to the Duke's son.
Those two have been said to be in love for a while, and I truly think it's meant to be.

[small pause]
I am more than glad that the newly founded peace between the nations can be celebrated by a marriage of true love between an elf and a human.

[small pause]
[sigh of reminiscence] I wish I can find true love someday…
[coughing fit]

Apologies. I hope this cough will subside before I meet my future spouse though…

Day 26: Echo

[A4A] The Well of Everlasting Fortune [Well? speaker] [Human listener] [Making a deal] [Offerings/Sacrifice] [Twist ending]

Introduction: Your partner has been unwell for years, and it seems their life is close to coming to an end. In a desperate effort to save them, you travel towards the end of the world, to make a deal with a well that many stories have been told about…

Summary: To save your spouse, you complete three offerings, therefore completing a deal with a supernatural entity.

[SFX: drippy cave ambience, severe echo]

[echoing the listener's words] Hello?

[longer pause]
Fortuna…

[pause]
Fortuna…

[pause]
Veni via mea…

[pause]
[SFX: grumbly magic effect slowly building up]

[pause]
[voice now more intense, speaking not as an echo]
You have come far, traveler…

[small pause]
What brings you to the end of the world, to speak to the Well of Everlasting Fortune?

[longer pause]
How very unusual…
Neither riches nor everlasting youth is what's on your mind…

[small pause]
I hope you don't mind if I ask…
This sickly person you're speaking of… the one whose suffering you wish to ease…

Are you perhaps speaking of your lover?
A beloved partner who's been grasped by the first signs of the reaper's hands all too soon?

[pause]
Your silence tells me all I need to know.

This person must be rather important to you, if you've journeyed this far for them…

Through the heat of the desert, the dangers of the jungle, the piercing cold of the mountains…
And finally the pitch black darkness of these caves…

[small pause]
A darkness no lantern or torch can best.
Not even an inferno would be enough to chase it away…
And yet you followed the faint scent of enchanted water…

[pause]
It must have been a desperate last attempt to save your beloved.
Why else would anyone shoulder these challenges?
Why else would you leave your partner to themselves in an attempt to save them?

[pause]
It is a great sacrifice in itself, is it not?
To risk them passing away while you set out to cure them?
To leave them alone in their suffering, with no real proof of whether this trip to the deadly caves of the World's edge will soothe their anguish?

You may even pass away before ever finding out whether I am real.

[pause]
Luckily for you… you made it.
You're standing before me, clinging so tightly to the wet wall of the cave…

[small pause]
Do not be afraid.
The well will not swallow you whole immediately.
Step closer.

[pause]
Despite the stories, I'm not a well like the ones you are used to.

These structures are not man-made.
There is no brick wall surrounding my water, nor is there a risk of being trapped, if you play your cards correctly.

[pause]
Step into my shallows, my child.
Let my water caress your ankles…

I intend to gauge your true intentions… I need to see whether you're of a pure heart…

[small pause]
Be careful though… don't walk too deeply towards my core…
Otherwise, you may slip into the depths of my very being, aimlessly paddling around in the darkness with no way to know where to get to land.

[longer pause]
Very good… I see your heart is true…
And I can sense the love you feel for the sickly human you intend to save.
It is a noble thing you're doing.

[pause]
But surely you haven't come here empty handed, so to speak.
You know of the secret words that summon my consciousness to the surface…
So you must have read the full story.

[small pause]
Have you prepared the three sacrifices I require to fulfill your wishes?

[longer pause]
You're correct…
An offering of physical significance, an offering of mental significance, as well as a promise…

It's simple, really.
I don't ask for much, in return for the life of your partner.

[pause]
Tell me, child…
What is your first offering?

[pause]
Very well…
Ocean salt from the depths of the sea, infused with flowers and herbs from the highest of mountains… a worthy sacrifice, encompassing the highs and lows of the mortal realm.

[small pause]
Please, child… walk around the water's surface.
Scatter the offering in a circle.

Careful though! Do not slip.

[optional SFX: uncertain footsteps in water, echoing]

[pause]
Slow and steady…
Take care to disperse the salt evenly…

[longer pause]
As you're doing so… tell me…
What is the mental sacrifice you are willing to make?
What are you intending to give up in return for your partner's life?

[pause]
Child… my sweet, innocent child… that will not suffice.

You're asking me to take on death itself, and in return you're giving little less than a crumb.
You'll have to give up more than simply a single emotion.

[small pause]
Were you really thinking I'd be able to help you on account of such a cheap offering?
[Tsk tsk tsk…]

[pause]
I require energy to fulfill your request.
Mental energy.
Such must be provided by the offering I am given.

The more difficult the request… the more severe the sacrifice.

[pause]
Now… I will not let you play a guessing game.
I will not let you struggle to imagine a sacrifice big enough for your request…

[small pause]
Here is what I need:
I require nothing but your soul, once you die.

[pause]
Before you start bargaining, consider this:

[small pause]
The soul is a powerful source of energy, yet it will be of little use to you, once you meet your end.
All you have to do to save your one true love, is to hand it over…

I'm even willing to grant you access to it while you are still alive.

[small pause]
So if you think about it, my child…
What is the loss?

Do it for them.

[pause]
Splendid.
Once you finish dispersing the salt, take a moment to sit down within my waters.

[pause]
To offer your soul to me, I'll need you to repeat the following words to me…
Don't worry…
I'll leave you enough time to repeat them, bit by bit…

[pause]
I, who has journeyed to the well of everlasting fortune…

[pause]
hereby agree to sign over my soul…

[pause]
To the being before me.

[longer pause]
Very good.
Your first two offerings have been made.

Now all that is left to do for you, is to give me a promise.

[small pause]
I doubt your books ever specified what this promise would be.
This knowledge has long been lost over the centuries…

[pause]
My existence has been largely forgotten.
Only in recent times have mortals once again come to seek my assistance.

[pause]
If you want your partner to be fully healed of their ailments…
You must simply reply with “I agree” to what I am about to lay out before you.

[longer pause]
Your promise is as follows…
Do you agree to never let a single soul know of what has taken place in this cave?

[longer pause]
Very good.
The promise has been made.

Keep in mind that betraying this promise will result in your partner’s cure being taken back.
They’ll likely die if you ever mention this interaction to a single soul.

[longer pause]
You have completed your three offerings.
Your beloved shall be cured once you leave this cave behind.

I wish you safe travels, my child.

[longer pause]
That being said…

[pause]
It appears there is no longer any reason to hide the truth from you.

[pause]
[SFX: echoing footsteps on rock floor]
Did you <u>really</u> think the well of everlasting fortune was real?

[small pause]
[laughs]
What a fool.
The well’s magic has long been lost.
You should have visited a couple hundred years earlier, if you wanted to speak to the well.

[SFX: footsteps stop]
Don’t worry, though… the deal’s still on….

[pause]
Just… instead of a wishing well…

[SFX: (hell)fire ignites]
You’ve sold your soul to a demon.

[small pause]
[laughs]

[SFX: fade out]

Day 27: Colleague

[A4A] Genesis Y-33: Hybrid Lifeform Zero [Mad scientist speaker] [Scientist listener] [Fungus] [Body Horror] [Kidnapping] [Revenge] [Jealousy]

Introduction: You're a successful scientist, working for a private organization. Recently, you've received the Nobel prize for your work in renewable plant-based energy.
One night, you go out with your colleagues for a couple of drinks, and wake up in a strange location…
Before you, behind the glass, you see a familiar face.
You realize you're in a containment cell.

Summary: A cheated, misunderstood scientist goes mad with power as he discovers a fungus capable of complex emotion: Genesis, sample Y-32. He decides to wrap up some loose ends by feeding his colleague to his creation.

[SFX: intercom crackling as the speaker activates it]
[Over an intercom]
Good morning.
How do you feel?

[pause]
Oh, do you not remember what happened?
Hm… Oh well, I shouldn't be surprised.
You were never one to hold your liquor very well.

[pause]
Are you realizing where you are, yet?
Is it finally setting in?

[pause]
[teasing:] Oh, my poor, poor colleague…
What have I done to you, huh?

[longer pause]
I knew you were wondering why I'd been cultivating such a large amount of the Genesis mushroom…
And sample Y-32 at that…

[pause]
[satisfied sigh] Y-32… my most aggressive specimen to date… my pride and joy.

[small pause]
And <u>your</u> downfall, as you will soon come to realize.

[pause]
You're always so cocky, so arrogant.
You think you <u>own</u> the facility, just because you won that silly little prize.

[small pause]
Your research paper is pathetic.
"Renewable energy through love and healthy soils". Pah!

I question every day why they'd give you a doctorate for this, let alone a Nobel prize.

[pause]
My research is superior to yours in every way, shape, and form.
My mushrooms grow quicker, build structures, can digest almost anything, produce more energy than your pitiful crop ever could… and most importantly:
They have a mind of their own.

[small pause]
They're intelligent.
They sense a path to the nearest food source, even when it's obstructed by a maze.
They grow according to the feeding schedule I've trained them towards.
Not only do they put the materials I give them to use, they also build structures in anticipation of what I am about to give them.

[pause]
Unlike your sunflowers, who merely twist their bodies towards the sun, my Genesis Y-32 possesses a true consciousness.
A mind which a mere plant like yours could never achieve.

[small pause]
You'll realize… fungi are superior in every way that matters.

[longer pause]
I've grown enough samples of Y-32 over the past few months to completely cover the inside of the entire containment chamber.

It has become somewhat of a side project of mine…

[pause]
Ever since our facility has stopped working with animals in favor of mushrooms and the like, it's been sitting empty… abandoned.

So I thought… it wouldn't hurt if I used it.

[small pause]
Every night, after you and the other staff have already gone home, I came here. Prepared the room for its new guest, so to speak.

[pause]
I fixed twigs and vines to the walls, laid out different types of soil on the floor, even brought in a couple of plants to serve as nutrition…

And then I brought in the samples.
One by one.

[small pause]
Of course I left their habitats shut at first, I couldn't risk having Genesis grow and infect me with its spores once I reentered the room the next day.

[pause]
But yesterday… I had finished my work.
I had completed my little project.

And wouldn't you agree that it is absolutely beautiful?

[pause]
An enclosure worthy of such a brilliant entity…

[longer pause]
So I finally took you up on your offer.
I followed you to the bar that you've been wanting to take me out to for months now.
A nice night out between colleagues, just like we used to do all the time, wasn't it?

[pause]
I always hated those nights.
Did you know that?

I wanted to impress you, wanted to be part of your group so badly.

I wanted to prove that I was just as smart as all of you.
As all of the other scientists.
Engineering, renewable energy, cancer research, a cure for anxiety and whatever else our organization had you guys develop… it all seemed so impressive.

[small pause]
But of course, I could never keep up.
I was always just the mushroom freak.
The one who went on and on about spores and soil.

I could never earn the same amazed looks and honest compliments you guys amassed.

[pause]
But you were the worst.

You pretended to be my friend.
At least the others laughed at my face when I told them about my mycelium structures and plans for fungus powered AI.

[small pause]
But you… you listened.
You even gave me input, sometimes helpful, sometimes horrifically misunderstanding of the subject matter at hand.

You pretended to accept me.

[pause]
And then you went ahead and abandoned me.
Buried yourself in your studies, all to win those stupid prizes that you said you weren't interested in.

[small pause]
You left me in the dirt.
Dismissed me when I attempted to tell you about my newest breakthroughs.
You only came crawling back to me once you'd won everything there was to win.
But you'd already lost me.

[longer pause]
You should have listened when I told you about my findings.
You should have paid closer attention when I explained to you what Genesis is.

[pause]
It's not simply just a fungus.
It's got intelligence.
True intelligence.
Even more than regular types of mushrooms.

[small pause]
Most importantly, it has emotions.
Rage, to name the most prevalent one.

[small pause]
It feels the need to destroy.

[pause]
During my research, I seem to have accidentally chosen to delve further into the samples that reflected my own feelings.
And in doing so…
I've created something more powerful than I could have ever anticipated.

[longer pause]
I placed you here last night and opened the habitats.

[small pause]
I was hoping your body would be little more than mycelium and bones by now…
And yet you are still alive.

[pause]
I was confused at first.
I thought, perhaps I had accidentally made Genesis Y-32 obedient to humans in general, instead of only making it harmless to me in particular.

[small pause]
But then I realized…
The problem wasn't that it did not want to consume you.
It did and still does.

But… you see… it has bigger plans for you.

[pause]
Your body is already saturated with its spores.
They're buried into your skin, stuck to the inside of your lungs, inhabiting every single cell of your organism…

It has already claimed you.

[pause]
Soon, mushrooms will grow from your skin, fill every inch of your body, take over every function of muscle you've ever had.

[pause]
You'll become one with the fungus. A hybrid.
And in doing so, not only will you lose everything…

[small pause]
Family… doctorate… nobel prize… your life…

The fungus will gain so, so much…

[pause]
A brain.
The structures needed to develop further.
To become even more than I could allow it to evolve into.

[pause]
Then… it'll be the true origin of something new.
The true genesis.

[pause]
Maybe then you will recognize my work.

I'm no longer the mushroom freak.
From now on, I'm the creator of the new you.

Accept your new life, Y-33.
You're about to become part of a new lifeform, like the earth has never seen before.

[pause]
All that's left to do is wait.

[SFX: intercom crackling as it's turned off]

Day 28: Doll

[A4A] Discovered by an antique collector [Collector speaker] [Doll listener] [Antique store] [Wholesome] [Rambling]

Summary: You're an antique doll. For quite a long time, you've sat on a shelf at a store. But today, you will catch someone's eye.

[SFX: cozy atmosphere inside an antique shop]

[pause]
Hm… nice lamp, but the screen wouldn't be worth much… too common.

[pause]
What about this board game…
Seems nice enough.

[small pause]
Ah, but it's missing quite a few pieces, that's a shame.
Could have made for a really nice gift otherwise.
I still need a gift for the girls, their birthday's coming up, after all…

[small pause]
Let's see, what else they got over here in the toy section…

[pause]
Oh, hello there? Now this is a nice find…
It's been a while since I've seen a doll like this one.
My mother used to have an eye out for these, but she was never able to find one.

You little ones are rather rare, aren't you?
And usually not in great condition.

[pause]
Not that a worn down doll is anything to be ashamed of, of course.
It just means that it went on many adventures, and was possibly passed down through the hands of many excited children.

With the age of these ones in particular, I wouldn't be surprised if they'd seen maybe eight or ten children grow up, before being handed to the next younger sibling, cousin or friend…

[pause]
Though… you seem a bit different.

[small pause]
Great condition overall, even if you're a bit dusty.
Little to no scratches or marks, your joints seem okay, and it looks like you still have all of your accessories.
Even your hair looks nicely groomed, no tangles or knots…

Either you've always been a collector's item, and sat on a shelf in someone's home, overlooking the living room…
Or maybe you belonged to an especially gentle child, who took excellent care of you. Perhaps you joined lots of tea parties, instead of being dragged across the floor by your arms…

[pause]
Whichever may be the case, both options explain the excellent condition of those ball joints…
Even without being reassembled with a new piece of elastic, you still do quite well at holding a pose.

[longer pause]
You're beautiful, aren't you?
Such gorgeous craftsmanship.
They really don't produce toys to the same standard as they used to anymore…

Those eyes, that subtle hint of blush on your cheeks and around your joints…

[small pause]
I bet you must have been hand painted.
Carefully passed through a dozen hands, each adding another color to your face, until finally someone glued a pair of eyelashes to your lids…

[pause]
I can almost feel the love that went into the process…
It makes you look almost… lifelike.
That sparkle in your eyes really makes it seem as though you could jump up and come to life almost any moment…

[longer pause]
Speaking of love…
I don't remember these dolls coming with a hat, or a handbag…

They're both so cute…
And they seem to be homemade, with much attention to detail.

[chuckle] Perhaps a doting grandmother made these for you, or perhaps it was your owner themselves…
You must have been a prized possession to whoever thought your little ears might get cold.

[pause]
The longer I think about it, the more I want to keep you to myself.
You're a marvelous little piece of history.
It'd be a shame to give you to the twins…

[small pause]
You see, I was initially intending to find a gift for my two little nieces, but… they're a rowdy bunch.
I'm afraid they might break you before they'd ever get a chance to treasure and handle you with the care you deserve.

[pause]
I think… I know a nice spot for you.
You'd make for a lovely decoration on the shelf in my living room, right across from the fireplace.

[small pause]
Close enough to stay cozy, far enough not to be affected by the smoke and soot that inevitably works its way into my carpets and curtains.

[pause]
What do you think?
A warm place to stay in my home, instead of this dusty antique shop?

[small pause]
Don't get me wrong, I think this is a lovely place, and I often come here to look at the furniture and paintings, but I think you may like my house better.

[pause]
I wonder how long you've spent here, waiting for someone to buy you…
I rarely make my way over to the toy section, it must have been close to a year since I've set foot in this part of the store…

I wonder if I could have found you much earlier, if I had paid more attention.
I'm lucky no-one else picked up on how rare you are before I did.
Certainly another collector would have had an easy enough time discerning your worth.

[small pause]
As much as I'd hate for you to be broken by the hands of careless children, I'd also hate for you to be destined for a life behind glass.

Simply sitting in a display case, with not much more thought sent your way than to show you off to the occasional guest, is barely a worthy life either.

[longer pause]
I wonder how you ended up here in the first place, since you were clearly adored by your past owner…

[pause]
Maybe you were part of someone's cherished doll collection, and they unfortunately passed away…
If the family didn't know much about you or the rest of the dolls, it's simple to imagine how you'd end up at a garage sale, second hand shop, and eventually an antique store like this one.

[pause]
Alternatively, what if your owner decided it was simply time for you to go on a new adventure?
Maybe they sensed that you'd be better taken care of in another home?

Or perhaps they wanted to know you were in good hands, before they inevitably passed on…

[small pause]
I know it's unlikely, but for my own sake, I'd like to believe you were simply sent on another adventure.

Those other options simply make me too sad…

You're such a lovely little doll, I shouldn't feel so depressed thinking about your past.
I should feel happy that you've lived the life you did, so that you eventually ended up in my hands, right here, right now.

[pause]
Enough of the chit-chat.
The other people in this shop probably think I'm insane, talking to a doll. [chuckle]

I can't help it though.
Whenever I see something that seems like it possesses a soul, I find myself talking to it.

And antiques make me think rather often that they may understand more than they let on.

[small pause]
Whether or not it is true though, I have decided that you will be my find for the day.

[pause]
[a tad louder] Thomas? How much for this lovely doll?

Day 29: Plot

[A4A] Hired by a strange performance artist? [Artist (/villain?) speaker] [Freelance writer listener] [Discussing a commission] [Rising up] [Themes of justice and villainy]

Summary: You've been hired to write a story by someone who claims to be a performance artist. The longer you talk to this person, the more you get the feeling that the performance they speak of is of a sinister kind…

[SFX: café ambience]

Ah, good morning!
We spoke on the phone, right? You're the freelance writer?

[small pause]
Awesome!
Let's sit down, I had a table reserved.

I hope you like coffee, I ordered a can for the table.

[SFX: chairs on floor]

[small pause]
[clears throat]
Right, so… have you thought about my offer, anything you'd like to discuss?
I am willing to make changes in some areas, if need be.

[pause]
Ah… unfortunately, the deadlines can't be moved.
I apologize… They are too closely spaced for your liking, I take it?

[small pause]
I certainly see how that could pose a problem…
I more than understand how hard it can be to balance multiple jobs, trust me.
Sometimes I feel like I have to live multiple lives, just to keep up.

But that's besides the point, let's focus on the issue at hand:

[small pause]
I need the story to progress about a chapter every week. And you can offer a chapter per month.

[pause]
Now, that simply doesn't go together, does it? That just won't work.

[small pause]
Under other circumstances, I'd attempt to hire someone else, or perhaps even a team of writers…
But I have my eye on you.
And specifically you.

My mind was made up the moment I read your last book.
So let's figure out a way we can make this work.

[pause]
Oh, no, no, please keep sitting down, it seems you misunderstood me.
I'm not asking you to make sacrifices to meet my deadlines.
That wouldn't be right to ask of someone with such a sharp intellect. Someone who works so hard to craft their storylines.
It'd only hurt the quality of your work to ask you to rush things.

[small pause]
No… I'm simply trying to make you an offer you'll feel inclined to accept.
My only question is…

Which route will intrigue you?

[pause]
Option One:
You don't deliver a finished product to me, you only hand me the base structure of the arc you're trying to achieve.
This way, you won't have to spend so much time on this… commission.

[small pause]
I'd still pay you the same amount we've previously discussed, of course.
It wouldn't be to your loss.

What do you say?

[pause]
[sigh] Of course… I assumed you'd ask this question sooner or later…

[small pause]
I am a… performance artist, you could call it.
I create fleeting art that is only visible for a moment.
If you blink… you'll miss it.

[small pause]
But I don't want it to be meaningless ever after, you see? That's why I need <u>you</u>. I need <u>you</u> to write the story behind my art. Behind the performance.

Not to worry though, you'll have all the freedom of expression you desire.
I will simply base my performance on your writing. You don't need to work around me, I'll simply use your skills to my advantage, to create something more meaningful than I ever have before.

[small pause]
And after I am done… I can use your writing to tell the full story, for those who missed it.

[pause]
I've had this idea bouncing around in my head for quite a while, ever since you first made an appearance online. The more and more I read… the more it became like a hive of bees, buzzing in my mind.

[small pause]
But of course I respect your work, and I'd never just use your writing without your permission… So I decided to hire you.

[pause]
However, if my demands are too high, I'd be happy with the simple structure and themes for now… there's more than enough time to write the full story at a later point.

[longer pause]
I understand. You don't wish to sacrifice your artistic integrity for the sake of a faster process…

[small pause]
Very well. Quality over quantity, I understand.
This sentiment favors me as well, after all I'd like to receive the standard of work I'm used to reading from you.

[pause]
Perhaps… Option Two will be more to your liking.

[small pause]
I offer you a full-time position as a writer.

[pause]
I'm serious.
I know you work several jobs to make ends meet.
I know how expensive rent can be in this city.
I know how much people struggle, while the rich lives their lavish lives in the skyscrapers above the clouds.

[small pause]
That's why I was drawn to your stories in the first place.
Tales of rising up, defeating the rich, beating the heroes, which have long fallen victim to corruption and greed.

You write exactly those stories which I want to encompass in my work.

[small pause]
And you do it, so, so well…
Your understanding of the mind of a villain is exceptional.
Your ability to come up with a plot so full of schemes, anger and payback…

[small pause]
Your views on justice and what it means to be a villain is today's time and age… it all speaks to my heart.

And to know that even you, as a newly successful writer, can't afford to live from your craft alone hurts my soul. It feels… unjust.

[pause]
So my offer stands. I promise I can double whatever you currently make, all jobs combined.

You'd be able to spend as much time as you need on my commission, and I'm sure there's plenty of time left to work on your personal projects as well.

[small pause]
Please think about it…
I truly believe that with your help… with your ingenious strategies and intricate knowledge of structuring a plot that is not only exciting, but also more than just realistic…

We can better this city.
We can change the world.

[pause]
Through art we can make this a better place, for all of those who struggle to simply exist.
For all of those who have been wronged by the rich and powerful.

[small pause]
We can bring them to their downfall.

You and me together.

[pause]
So… what will be your answer?
Will you accept my offer?

[small pause]
… or will I have to employ Option Three…?
Believe me, you won't like it.

[pause]
I give you one day to decide.
This is for the best, trust me.
We can make all your dreams come true.
Bit by bit. Sentence by sentence.

[pause]
We'll meet again.
Same place, same time.

[small pause]
I trust I'll see you there.
Goodbye for now.

Day 30: Tidy

[A4A] Android makes you go to bed [Android Maid speaker] [Overworked Human Listener] [Caring?] [Breaking the code]

Summary: When your personal android doesn't like your commands, they try to find a loophole… After all, sleep is important for a human!

[sort of robotic/unnatural voice, yet pleasant and friendly]

[SFX: knock knock]
Good evening, Master.
Do you wish to start your nighttime routine at the usual time?

[pause]
Understood. I will prepare your bath in half an hour from now, then. I will set my internal timer accordingly.
Would that be to your liking?

[pause]
Understood.

[small pause]
To save some time, would you like me to get started on tidying up the house for the night while I wait, then?

[pause]
It is my pleasure.

[SFX: miscellaneous cleaning noises over the course of the next section. Moving stuff around, broom on the floor, etc…]

[pause]
Tell me, Master, did you have a good day?
How was today's meeting?

[pause]
I see.
Did your clients approve of your work as well? It's nice to receive recognition for one's work, after all.

[pause]
I am pleased to hear this. Your mental health is of the utmost priority to me, next to your physical well-being.

[pause]
Well of course!
My code includes several programs to determine whether the humans I've been assigned to are feeling okay. It also enables me to recognize when action needs to be taken.

In a worst case scenario, I even possess the ability to dial the emergency hotline without the need to utilize a separate mobile device.

[small pause]
I haven't yet found the need to make use of these functions in the time I have worked in this household, therefore I'm not surprised that you were unaware.

Rest assured however, that I've been keeping track of your health diligently, and will alert you if I notice any negative divergence.

[longer pause, cleaning sounds]
Master, I've noticed that you're using your work laptop.
May I ask, why are you still working so late at night?
Did you reach your workplace late today?

[pause]
Then why would you need to work so late, and from home at that?
I've watched you complete your tasks before, you typically do so in a rather quick fashion.

There shouldn't be any need to catch up.
Am I mistaken?

[pause]
I see.
And are these added responsibilities perchance part of a promotion?
I would like to congratulate you, if this is the case.

[pause]
Understood.
I hope you don't mind the question, but why did you accept these responsibilities in the first place?

There is no added benefit attached to these tasks, and they extend into your private time, which should be primarily used to recharge and rest.

[pause]
May I suggest, Master, you put down your work for now, in favor of resting?
I can sense your level of stress still hasn't settled to the usual amount. I worry for the quality of your sleep if you start your nighttime routine any later.

[pause]
I am sure these tasks can be performed in the morning, can they not?
I understand that they must be important to you and the company, but nothing stands above your health.

[small pause]
There are many risks attached to a lack of sleep.
I wouldn't feel all too comfortable seeing you off to work in your car, if you lacked the proper concentration to operate such a dangerous vehicle.

[pause]
Master, please don't be so quick to dismiss my suggestion!
It's of the utmost importance to me to make sure you are properly taken care of.

[pause]
Understood.
I shall leave this matter alone.

[longer pause, cleaning sounds. sounds stop.]
Master, please let me complete my tasks.
My routine suggests it is time to clear the desk, in order to wipe any accumulated grime and dust off its surface.

Your computer seems to be hindering me in my progress.
May I suggest you shut it down and put it away?

[pause]
I'm sorry, this routine has been marked by you as "important" in the past. I shall not dismiss it so easily.
May I please complete my routine?

[longer pause, silence]
I'm afraid this part of my programming cannot be overwritten via voice commands.
Please stow away your laptop, as I need to tidy up this room.

[pause]
I must insist, Master.

[pause]
Please put away your laptop, this surface isn't sanitary.

[longer pause]
Master, you seem unable to comply with my request.
My programming forces me to take action if in an emergency, I sense that you are acting against your own interest.

Such an emergency seems to have occurred, as your heart rate seems rather high, compared to my base data.

[pause]
Let me take this from you.

[pause]
Please let go, Master. Let go of the computer.

[pause]
[much more robotic, lagging, as though attempting to break through pre-programmed patterns:] Let. It. Go. Now.

[pause]
[back to normal]
Thank you, Sir.
I will now wipe down the desk.

[SFX: cleaning sounds]

There we go.
I recommend not setting down an electronic device onto this surface until it has fully dried.
Please refrain from using your laptop during this time period.

[pause]
Master, your heart rate still seems heightened.
Are you perhaps experiencing a sense of anxiety?

If so, I would like you to inform me of such a matter. Your well-being is of my utmost importance.

[pause]
It's not uncommon to feel anxious in the evening hours, especially when other factors, like an exhausting day at work, add stress to the situation.

[pause]
May I suggest you try a method of relaxation?
You could listen to calming music, or I can make you a cup of hot tea.

[small pause]
Alternatively, I can start your nighttime routine for you now, Master.
It is scheduled for 20 minutes from now, however a nice, hot bath may benefit your mental state as well.

[pause]
Very well, Sir, I will draw a bath right away.
Please sit down and relax in the meantime.

[pause]
And please, if I may request:
[robotic, glitchy voice:] No. More. Work.

Day 31: Monster

[A4A] Giant spider thinks humans are repulsive [Spider speaker] [Human listener] [Nervous energy] [It's more scared of you than you are!]

Introduction: Out on a hike, you pass through a forest. Its untouched nature is truly a sight to behold! While looking around, you forget to pay attention to what's in front of you, and accidentally walk into a spider net.
Except… it seems the spider is twice your size…

Summary: After being caught in a giant spider's net, you discover that it has much the same attitude towards you, as you have towards regular spiders…

[SFX: forest ambience]

Okay, let's see what we've got today…
I hope it's something good, I'm pretty hungry…
A boar would be nice….

Anyway, it looks like net A is empty…

[small pause]
Net B only caught some insects, dang it.

[small pause]
Last, but not least, net C…

[pause]
[high-pitched scream]
OH GOD.
WHAT IS THAT?!
What in the???

Is that… Is that a human??

[pause]
What am I gonna do??
It's just… stuck in there.
How am I gonna get it out of my net??

Maybe ehrm… Maybe if I get a really, really long stick?

[small pause]
What if it jumps at me, though??
Oh God, I'm gonna cry, this is so disgusting!

[pause]
[shrieks]
It talked!
Oh my God, it talked!

This is a nightmare!!
This HAS to be a nightmare!

Wake up, wake up, wake up…
I can't believe it!

10 years of peace, and then I get a human stuck in my net??
Why is this happening to me?

How did it even get into this forest??

[pause]
Okay, let's calm down, let's think about this first…
If I poke it with a stick and it comes loose and scurries off into some corner, that doesn't help anyone… that's even worse, in fact.

At least I can see it from here.
In all of its… horrifying glory.

[small pause]
Why did nature come up with something like that??
It's so disgusting!

[pause]
[shrieks again]
Stop talking!
Please!
You scared the crap out of me!

[pause]
Ew, no, I'm not gonna eat you!
That… that's so disgusting!
Why would you even think that??

[pause]
Oh.
I mean, I guess that'd make sense if you were a deer or a rabbit, but you are a human!

I'd never eat a human!

[small pause]
There's this rumor going around that everyone eats like eight humans a year in their sleep and OH MY GOD, that thought is repulsive!
[shudders in disgust]

It's part of the reason I even moved here in the first place.
The landlord told me there shouldn't be a single human in a 100 mile radius out here.

And then you show up!
In my best net at that!
Do you have any idea how long it took me to make that??

[small pause]
This is not good.
I don't know if I can ever use that net again, even if I manage to get that thing off of it!

[pause]
Didn't I tell you to stop talking?
Please!
You're freaking me out!

I think I'm gonna have a panic attack at this rate.

I don't-
I don't even know what to do anymore.

[small pause]
I just… I don't know…
I'll just sit down for a moment.

[small pause]
Don't you dare move even one of those nasty little fingers, human!

[pause]
[deep breath]
Deep breaths, everything is gonna be okay…

[deep breath]
It's probably more afraid of you than you are of that thing…
It doesn't want to be there, either, I don't think.

[deep breath]
It's gonna be alright…

[deep breath]
I mean, after all, it's pretty small.
There's way bigger humans in other areas of the world, this one's probably harmless.

[deep breath]
Let's just stay calm and handle this like an adult.
An adult who isn't afraid of a simple little human.

There's nothing to be scared of.
It can't hurt me. … [unsure] I hope.

[pause]
Okay, I think I've collected myself.
[quick breath out]
Let's do this.

[small pause]
Let's just take another look at it aannd… [shrieks!]

[small pause]
Oh God!

Nevermind, it's horrible!
What a horrific freak of nature!

What am I gonna dooo??

[a couple deep breaths]
Okay, let's approach this logically…
I'll just… find a container big enough to fit over it and ehrm… I'll scrape it off the net, easy!

[small pause]
But that means I'd have to get close to it.
And what would I do once it's under there??
I can't just let go of it, what if it gets out??

[pause]
This is… this is too much for me.
I was planning on having a nice, slow day, maybe eating that deer I caught yesterday and just relaxing.

And now I have to deal with this!
How am I gonna sleep tonight??

[pause]
For the last time!
I said stop talking!

[small pause]
No, I- I don't-

[small pause]
I guess I can hear you out?
But make it quick please, you are pretty gruesome to look at, no offense!

[pause]
Wow, you're really trying to trick me right now, aren't you??
As if it wasn't enough that you snuck your way into my home and tried to make yourself comfortable in my net!
You're really trying to argue with me now!

[small pause]
Well, I don't believe it!
You can't make me set you free!

[pause]
What if you… What if you lay a bunch of eggs somewhere??
Oh GOD, that's so disgusting, I don't wanna have a whole bunch of tiny humans running around here!

[small pause]
Be quiet!
I don't care how humans work, I don't want them here either way!

[longer pause]
[deep breath]

I guess I have no choice after all, then.
I'll just have to trust your word.

Either this is the simplest option to get rid of you without touching you too much, or I'll be in a whole bunch of trouble later.

[small pause]
Okay, human, here's a deal:

I'll poke you with this really long stick, until you fall out of the net…
And then you stay right where you are, okay!?

Just… Don't move!
And don't you dare jump at me!

[small pause]
Let's make this easy for both of us.
Not that any of this is easy for me.

[pause]
Okay, human… here we go…

[small pause]
Urgh!
Oh my God!

Oh my God, it's squishy!
I think I'm gonna throw up, that's so disgusting!

[small pause]
By the Lord, that's the most horrendous thing I've ever seen!
Why, just why??

[small pause]
[deep breath]
Okay… Everything is fine… It's all okay…
It's squishy, so what?
Many things are squishy.

Deer are squishy, rabbits are squishy…
And it seems humans are squishy as well.

[small pause]
It'll all be okay.
Nauseating at best, but okay.
It's fine.

[pause]
[clears throat]
Let's try this again, then.

[pause]
[SFX: sound of human hitting the floor, maybe some subtle bone cracking]

[shrieks]
Oh Lord!
Stay! Stay right where you are!

Oh my God I didn't think this through!
Just stay!

Oh my God oh my God oh my God…

[small pause]
Actually, I changed my mind!
Go away!
Leave! Run!

That direction though, not mine!

[pause]
Go! Please! This is such a nightmare!

[SFX: human running away on forest floor]

Finally!
Oh God, how am I ever gonna clean this net??