

Script Outline (New And Shiny)

Story outline for 2019 reference.

Space for greek chorus after each episode except ep9.

Prologue (Intro) main01

Cold open. Ritual from Ep6.

Episode 1 (Welcome-Battlebot) main01

- Preliminary script revisions: complete ✓
- TODO: Final script pass

Kishan enters and grapples with his situation. **Maddy** introduces him to setting, and then is mean to him.

Ashley appears, and is properly introduced. Kidnaps **Kishan**.

Chay sneaks up on **Maddy**. They banter, and chat about feelings. She gets angry. Debt + Council are mentioned.

Chay heads upstairs, where **Kishan** and **Ashley** are interacting.

End episode on **Chay** & **Kishan** shaking hands - "My name is Kishan... and I'm dead."

Greek chorus:

- Introduce the new battlebot (the one Ashley was working on)
- Discuss Kishan's death
- Debt
- Chay

Episode 2 (Downstairs-Ned) main01

Time passes. Chay and Kishan banter about the disappearing hallway. We reveal that the cafe serves alcohol as well as coffee. Kishan makes a bad order.

Fast forward to the gang sitting at the window. Info on death discussed:

- You can stay for 24 hours
- Hours can be bought, sold, exchanged
- Time debt is a thing
- Staying too long makes you feel bad
- You usually have your clothes on when you arrive at the Terminal

Maddy doesn't like Ned.

Ends with OP.

Greek chorus:

- Wow, that was intense!
- Who's Ned? (context for non-Australian players)

Episode 3 (RiseShine-PostFight) main02a/main02b

Episode 4 (EndLine-Intro) main02c

Greek chorus: Katabasis Monologue

Episode 5: A Sip of ??? (Intro3-SupNerds) main03aRemake

Greek chorus:

Episode 6 (Calm1-Defeat) main03b/main03c

Episode 7 (Intro4-Responsibility) main04a/main04aPart2

Episode 8: A Life Well Lived (CleaningUp-ClosingShop) main04b

Episode 9 (HeavenAdjacent-Farewell) main04c

Epilogue (Epilogue-TheEnd) main04d

Credits

Act 1 - A Liminal Space

Episode 1

1.1 Intro

Cold open. Excerpt of ritual from Episode 3. Maddy performs an act of necromancy (forcing more hours on Chay), as everyone else looks on. It's deliberately cut so that we don't really see what it is, or who she's doing it to - just the preparation and perhaps the very beginning of the act. Montage?

Beats:

- Maddy sets out paraphernalia around the tree. Ashley helps.
- Chay begins an internal monologue. Twist: it's not, we're just cutting Kishan's lines. Half the conversation is gone! Unreliable narration!
- Maddy begins to draw with chalk or light candles. Something to finalize preparation, basically.
- Chay ends his monologue. "Some would even call it... necromancy."

1.2 Welcome to the Terminal

Length: 15-20 minutes.

A collection of fluff scenes, exposing the player to the internally consistent while dropping some light exposition and character development. Objectives: introduce players to the cafe, the main cast, and the mechanics of the world (spirits, hours, the Terminal, etc). To achieve this, we use Kishan as a foil for the audience. At some point, we need to show that Maddy's suffering under some sort of burden. Phones don't work in the Terminal.

Moments, all a couple minutes each:

1. Coffee. Edgar Wright style? Focus on the craft. Faceless customers. Conversation with Chay in between steps.
2. Chay and Maddy serve some customers, talk about minutiae - ordering coffee beans, etc. He's setting things in order, just... subtly. Topics include:
 - a. Debt, briefly
 - b. Ordering essentials - beans, napkins, etc
 - c. Dishwasher's broken :(
 - d. We should buy some more plants
 - e. There's a hallway that only exists half the time and it's problematic
 - f.
3. Chay pulls Maddy aside. Brief conversation about how she's doing. Show the bond, but, near the end, there's an awkward moment that hints at some cracks.
4. A complex order. Wow, this guy's an asshole. Internal monologue. This customer has a face - his name is Kishan, and he's just died. "Why am I here?" Light exposition.
5. Go upstairs. Short scene with Ashley and Kishan. Exposition.
6. A chill moment. Cafe's briefly empty, so the group takes a collective break.

1.3 Should've Sent An Accountant

Ned, an enforcer for the Council of Death, shows up to chase up a debt that seems to be growing by the minute. This establishes an external conflict. Cool.

Beats:

- To soft-cut from the previous scene, we show a weather change. Kishan comments on it, Chay stays silent. Halfway through Maddy saying something, Ned steps through the door.

- Ned talks shit with Chay for a little bit. Very vaguely alludes to the fact that he's dead. (joke about how he smells bad?)
- Ned begins talking with him about debt, but Chay reminds him that Maddy's the boss now.
- Ned bothers Maddy about the debt (you've shown no sign that you're taking any steps to mitigate it, missy), issues an ultimatum ("I'm gonna stick around until you find a way to fix it,"), then takes up residence in the corner with a newspaper.
- End with Maddy basically being like "ah shit, what do we do now?" then run OP.

Episode 2

2.1 Knife Fight

Maddy swindles Kishan out of a few precious hours. Chay makes her return them, immediately. Reworked OG knife fight scene.

Beats:

- Kishan wakes up, yawns, looks around. Nobody's in the main area except ~~Ashley~~ Chay. Brief convo, sends him downstairs.
 - He sees what's going on, and has a "hell yes" reaction.
- Knife fight. He borrows one of Maddy's. Ned sits in the background, doesn't interact.
- She wins, and with a snap of her fingers, takes four hours.
- Chay appears from out of a corner, turns her hand over. She's bleeding. He's obviously disappointed in her, and makes her give them back. She's crushed at his reaction, but quickly hides it behind her brittle facade. Ned tuts.

2.2 Fracture (Slice of life)

More fluff scenes. Emphasize Maddy's emotional burden (lampshade it, even). Someone tells Maddy that gambling for spirits' hours is super uncool. She brushes it off. The last bit of this has some sort of conclusive element that begins to wrap up Act 1.

Beats:

- Next day:
- Let's chill a lil. Serve coffee. Show the cracks. Kishan helps out; he's already beginning to feel like a part of the family.
- Ashley points out, bluntly, that Maddy was kinda shitty to Kishan, and she resolves to make things better. It's specifically Ashley's honesty that gets through to her.
- Maddy acknowledges that Ashley's right, but has a little breakdown in the corner after the conversation ends.

2.3 His Concern (2-3k)

Ned has a brief conversation with Kishan about his deep concern over Maddy's activities. Apparently she did something really risky (the ritual, but it's nonspecific in this conversation) a few weeks back, and he's not sure how it turned out.

Beats:

- Kishan finds Ned drinking alone in the corner, and decides to join him.
- Ned talks about these things:
 - Tips and tricks for dealing with being dead
 - His concern that Maddy is hiding something big from him
 - His concern that she did something risky that she can't take back
 - Kishan mentions bottled soul offhand, and Ned is a little horrified - that's beyond the pale. Not illegal, but definitely a "whoa, that's too much, man" moment. Chay is hardcore.
 - "You wanna have some?" "Absolutely."
- Kishan talks about joining the Council, but is hesitant

Act 2 - The Desperate Climb

Episode 3

3.1 Slice of life Maddy

- 3-4k
- Teens conversation
 - Maddy verbally skewers them about being shitty overconfident teenagers
- Samantha appearance at Teens segues into exposition about Maddy/alchemy
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- Calm with tense moments
 - Lighthearted bits though
- Chay is oddly cranky

3.2 Ritual Prep

- 2.5k
- Anxiety!!!
- Subtly imply that whatever's happening is for Kishan's benefit - but he's just a standin for Chay in the conversations Maddy and Chay have about it
- Ashley clearly feels conflicted about trying A Thing again

3.3 Calm before the storm

- 1.5-2k
- Teens conversation
- Samantha appearance

OR:

- Chay and Ned?

3.4 Ritual

- ***“This isn’t going to bring me back, Maddy.”***

Episode 4

Story threads to wrap up, ranked roughly by importance:

- Maddy’s guilt
- Chay passing
- Kishan’s passing
- Cafe debt/Ned problems
- Maddy being unkind to Ashley

Character progression:

- Maddy
 - Avoidance -> Acceptance
- Chay
 - Dead -> Much deader
- Kishan
 - Uncertain about his place -> Has a place, helped Maddy
- Ashley
 - Acceptance -> Hope, growth mindset
- Ned
 - Anger, frustration -> Understanding

4.1 One Last Day

Maddy's fled to the train platform. Open on her lying on the underside, processing. We don't reveal she's on the underside until she sits up, and we zoom out/rotate the camera at the same time. She heaves a big sigh, and as she goes to stand up, we cut to episode title.

Then:

Maddy and Chay.

- Serving coffee together, the dynamic duo. Lots of customers. Mirror episode 1 as much as possible.
- They get reminisce about funny/interesting things that happened in the cafe.
 - Revolt of the Ashlings (that was *last week!*)
 - You know, we really do need more plants in here.
 - Chay sheltering a succubus (mentioned in episode 2)
 - She was really nice!
 - I think Ashley's head would explode if you said you'd sheltered a sex demon, though. ("A cute demon crashed at my bar.")
 - I think that term's very reductive! They're people too. They like videogames and stuff just like everyone else.
 - Ahahahaha.
- Chay tries to bring up sad feelings but Maddy doesn't wanna. "Later."

4.2

Chay wraps things up with everyone, and Maddy is the last.

- Chay/Ned: They have some laughs about their history together. Ned's surprised that Chay would ever die; Chay responds that Icarus didn't expect to either or something.
 - Ned is a little annoyed about him passing, still, but he realizes he's gotta let it go
 - Ned: You need more plants in here.
- Chay/Ashley: They talk about death, and believe me, it'll break your heart once more.
- Chay/Kishan: Kishan apologizes for not being able to help more. He wishes he hadn't been a drain on resources, and says he might be able to help. Chay replies that that's Maddy's problem now, and that it was a pleasure to meet him.
- Chay/Maddy: Okay, it's time to talk now. I don't know if I can do this without you.

4.3 One More Day

Maddy accompanies Chay to his grave, as he gets ready to go for the last time. They sit there for a bit, wasting time, before Chay's like "welp, better get this over with"

- "It's still weird looking at my own grave. That's my body, right there. You'd think, after spending much of my life messing with necromancy, that I'd be less attached to the idea that my sense of self begins and ends with my physical form. Y' know?"
- "Mmm. It's hard to let go of that stuff, I think. Don't feel too bad about it."

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4.4 What Now?

Just a normal day, but without Chay.

Chay left a giftwrapped plant. Signs around the cafe of impending plant takeover (bags of potting mix, plant pots, etc)

Wrap up Kishan/Ned. Ned sees how distressed/defeated Maddy is over the debt, offers to “take Kishan as collateral” (Kishan’s actually just joining the council because he’s interested in their work and doesn’t want to leave) and set up a payment plan (this is a side note, rather than a main plot point).

- The next day. A normal day. But there’s something missing. Also, Kishan has disappeared.
 - Maddy finds a giftwrapped plant. “Everyone wants a little more thyme.”
 - “You seen Kishan?”
 - “Nope.”
 - “Just us two now, huh.”
 - “Yeah.”
 - An Ashling appears out of nowhere. Does something vaguely Chay-ish.
 - “Ashley, you didn’t...?”
 - “What?”
 - “Put some of Chay’s spirit in an Ashling?”
 - “GOD no. Promise. That’d be messed up.. this particular one has the spirit of a cat in it.”
 - The Ashling knocks a coffee cup off the counter.
 - “Phew.”
 - [...] “What now?”
 - “Spring cleaning, I think.”
- Kishan/Ned wrapup:
 - They make a DRAMATIC entrance.
 - Warp in driving an old Datsun, like a Back to the Future/Mad Max combo.
 - Walk in through some sort of portal
 - They’re wearing leather jackets and looking extremely badass and serious.
 - *sunglasses* “Council business.”
 - Kishan breaks the illusion pretty quickly by being his usual awkward self.
 - They both seem to be in decently good spirits, and end up telling Maddy about how they’ve saved the cafe:

- [Flashback?:] Ned and Kishan pored through Council by-laws, and found that debt could be forgiven through the sacrifice of a soul into bondage with the Council
- Maddy points out how it's a bit hypocritical that *they're* allowed to do human sacrifice, and pouts
- Then she pulls her head in, and interrogates Kishan on whether he's okay with this (he is, he wanted to stay anyway, and he thinks it's worth the price)
- She thanks him, solemnly.
- They go off to
- End with Maddy taking Ashley to buy some plants. "I'm closing early. Let's go plant shopping."
- Close-up on the still-wrapped plant pot, with Chay's signature on the card.
- End.