

The Children of Room 56 -
1.02: The Disappearance of Chip Romero (Part 2)

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Featuring:

Tam Silverman as Sam Moss.

Moirra-Juliet Scott as Calliope Morris.

Shawn Tumbokon-Flowers as Nicky Dixon.

Alex Abrahams as Evan Pearce.

Eden J. Storm as Freddie Shaw.

Michael M. as Chip Romero.

Scarlett Foster as The Orange-Eyed Man.

Wyn Grillo as the Answering Machine.

Grey Kilgour as Hyacinthe Pearce.

Chloe Peterson as Jamie Myrtle.

Ana Paula Ponce as Kathy Romero.

Livie Martin as Jessica Pearce.

Content warnings: depictions of grief and mourning, static (inc. sfx), blood, mentions of police, absent fathers, conflict and arguments, mentions of vampires, distorted voice (inc. sfx) and references to death.

ALEX

Hi everyone, it's Alex. Just popping in to mention that there's a trailer for Neighbourly at the end of the episode, so make sure you stay right until the end to listen to that, and check out the podcast after you've finished this episode! It's really good, and genuinely one of my favourite podcasts, but until then please enjoy Season 1 Episode 2: The Disappearance of Chip Romero (Part 2.)

[THEME MUSIC]

SCENE 1

[INT. SPIRITSFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL - ART CORRIDOR]

[CLICK]

CALLIOPE

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You're insufferable. Do you know that? You're my friend, but you're insufferable. And you're so stubborn. [Beat.] You're recording again, aren't you?

SAM

Maybe.

CALLIOPE

You know, I'm not even surprised you'd suggest this. It's just as weird as your usual theories.

SAM

It's not weird, Calliope.

CALLIOPE

It so is.

SAM

It's aliens.

CALLIOPE

Mhm.

SAM

And I'm not saying I'm right. I'm saying it's a possibility that we should be considering. [Beat.] I was doing some research in the library-

CALLIOPE

-Oh, wow.

SAM

-and I really think I might have a lead. I'm serious this time. I think it could've been aliens. Because I was reading this book on all the disappearances, and most of the people who have disappeared in Spiritsford had a gnome in their backyard and every day they would take that gnome and bury it in the sand, it was a really weird ritual, and honestly unexplainable because we aren't even that nearby to a beach and... Calli, what are you doing?

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CALLIOPE

I need to get started on Chip's memorial display, Sam. We'll
talk later.

SAM

But- But this is important!

CALLIOPE

I'm busy.

SAM

Oh, really?

CALLIOPE

Yep!

SAM

Because there seems to be a list, right here on the wall, of
everyone who signed up to help with the display. And it looks
like it says your shift doesn't start for another hour.

CALLIOPE

Oh, my, would you look at that? It appears that suddenly I seem
to have forgotten how to read.

SAM

Come on, we're going to the library.

CALLIOPE

Ugh, it is going to be a long day.

CHIP INTERLUDE 1

[INT. NICKY DIXON'S HOUSE]

[CLICK]

[SOMETHING IN THE SOUND DESIGN THAT TELLS US IT'S AN OLD TAPE]

[FABRIC RUSTLES - THE WHOLE GANG IS CUDDLING UNDER A BLANKET
BECAUSE THEY'RE CUTE]

SAM

[Whispering:] Is Evan asleep?

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CHIP

[Whispering:] I think so.

SAM

[Whispering:] Are you alright with him asleep on you like that?

CHIP

[Whispering:] Yeah, yeah I'll be fine.

SAM

[Whispering:] Alright.

CALLIOPE

Has anyone checked up on what's going on with the blood rain?

FREDDIE

[Whispering:] Shhh... Evan's sleeping.

CALLIOPE

[Whispering:] Sorry, sorry. *[Beat.]* But have we?

NICKY

No, not yet.

[RADIO TUNING NOISES]

NEWS REPORTER

Hello, Spiritsford! Welcome to yet another day that certainly
would be beautiful if it weren't for one *tiny detail!*

And we'll address that detail right now! In the weather!
The Local Wizards have admitted to being the root cause of the
blood that has been raining over our town for a number of hours
and has since begun flooding Spiritsford High Street. The
Wizards have once again entered one of their infamous "prank
wars", and would like to apologise to the citizens for any
inconveniences their spells may have caused. They have agreed to
issue a public warning before proceeding with any large-scale
spells or "pranks" in future.

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Well, listeners, I suppose all we can do is sit back and hope
that they stay true to their word.

As for sport-

[RADIO BEGONE! RADIO HAS BEEN SWITCHED OFF!]

NICKY

[Loud:] Called it!

[CALLIOPE, SAM, FREDDIE AND CHIP SHUSH HIM]

CALLIOPE

[Whispering:] Evan's asleep.

[EVAN WAKING UP NOISES]

CHIP

Not anymore.

{EVAN YAWNS}

EVAN

[Sleepy:] What time is it?

CHIP

7am.

[EVAN SITTING UP NOISES - BLANKETS MOVING???)

EVAN

[Panicked:] It's morning? I didn't tell my ren I was staying the
night. I-

CALLIOPE

It's fine, Evan. I texted your sister.

EVAN

Oh. Thank you.

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CALLIOPE

Of course.

EVAN

So, what's going on with the blood?

FREDDIE

It was the wizards.

EVAN

I knew it! I bloody knew it! It's always them when it's
blood-related!

[CHIP LAUGHS]

CHIP

Come on, mate, let's get you some breakfast.

[CLICK]

SCENE 2

[INT. SPIRITSFORD LIBRARY]

[CLICK]

*[SAM SLAMS A BOOK DOWN ONTO A TABLE AND FLICKS THROUGH IT UNTIL
SHE FINDS THE PAGE SHE'S LOOKING FOR]*

SAM

See, it's been going on since the town was founded. People would
act weird for a few days, then go missing. Except back then, it
was part of a ritual.

CALLIOPE

A ritual? *[Paper rustling.]* What am I looking at here?

SAM

The drawing.

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CALLIOPE

It looks like... a festival of some kind. Banners, balloons,
crowds. *[Beat.]* And... that man... is he handcuffed?

SAM

Yes.

CALLIOPE

Those people... they're dragging him towards... something. I can't
tell what it is.

SAM

An alien.

CALLIOPE

Now, let's not jump to conclusions.

SAM

Well, I've never seen anything like it in Spiritsford. And if
something's strange even by Spiritsford standards, it's probably
not of this world.

CALLIOPE

[Beat.] Okay, I'll give you that.

SAM

Look what it says. *[Reading the passage:]* 'After behaving in a
way that many of his peers described as "very different to his
usual nature," Matthew Mills was chosen as the subject for this
strange festival. Historical records differ, but this drawing is
the one constant through all of the surviving historical
records.' *[Beat.]* Weird, isn't it?

CALLIOPE

Little bit weird, yeah.

SAM

So will you help me investigate?

CALLIOPE

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Investigate what?

SAM

Chip.

CALLIOPE

No. *[Beat.]* No. Sam, he was our friend. This is different to the other cases we've taken before. We *knew* him.

SAM

I know you don't believe that he's dead.

CALLIOPE

There's a difference between wishing he was here and genuinely believing that he's still out there.

SAM

If we find him, it'll be proof that the police haven't been doing their job. *[Beat.]* You've been wanting to call them out on that for years. This is our chance.

CALLIOPE

Evan won't like it.

SAM

He doesn't have to know. No one except us has to know.

CALLIOPE

[She thinks for a moment.] Pay for my lunch for a month, you've got a deal.

SAM

Done.

[CLICK]

SCENE 3

[INT. EVAN PEARCE'S BEDROOM]

[CLICK]

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ANSWERING MACHINE VOICE

You have three new messages.

[BEEP]

SAM

[Over the phone. Concerned:] Hi Evan. I'm sorry if I upset you. I really am sorry. If you wanted to talk about... talk about Chip or... or talk about something completely unrelated, I'd be willing to listen. I'm *really* sorry. Uh... call me back. Or text me or something. Please.

[BEEP]

NICKY

[Over the phone:] Hey, Ev. I... I know we don't really talk much anymore but I just wanted to let you know that I *am* here for you if you ever need me. I know what it's like. Uh... take care of yourself. Yeah. Take care. Stay safe. Uhhh... I've got a list of movies I watch when I'm sad if you're interested. I sent you a bunch of dog pictures. I don't know if you saw them. Uhhh... yeah. You don't have to call me back or anything. Just... look after yourself, okay?

[BEEP]

JAMIE

[Over the phone:] Hey, kid. It's uhhh... well, it's me. Your dad. Jamie. Whatever you're calling me these days. *[Nervous laugh.]* It's been a while, hasn't it? I know I haven't kept in touch as much as I said I would, but I'm trying to change that. I... I heard what happened to your friend. Hyacinthe called me. Told me what happened. I'm... I'm in the country. Got back from France last night. I'm gonna try to get back into Spiritsford. Y'know, the town didn't let me in last time. But who knows! Maybe it will now. Family emergency and everything. I'm not sure how understanding sentient towns are when it comes to stuff like this but... Yeah. See you soon, hopefully.

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[BEEP]

[EVAN GROANS]

[A KNOCK ON THE DOOR]

EVAN

Come in.

HYACINTHE

How are you doing today?

EVAN

I thought you had work.

HYACINTHE

I got the day off. And I'm determined to get you out of this
room today.

EVAN

Good luck with that.

HYACINTHE

How did you sleep?

EVAN

Bad.

HYACINTHE

Alright, we're seeing a doctor about it.

EVAN

You're a doctor. I've already seen you. I see you every day.

HYACINTHE

We're seeing a doctor who isn't me. Then we can go out for
lunch. And I'll take you shopping. We'll have a nice day out.

EVAN

I think I'd rather just lie here all day. I need a day to
myself.

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HYACINTHE

You've been having a day to yourself for almost a week. I think some fresh air will do you good. What do you say? Come on, Ev. I don't know about you, but *I'd* quite like to spend some time with my son.

EVAN

Okay. But only because I love you.

[CLICK]

SCENE 4

[INT. SPIRITSFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL - ROOM 56]

[CLICK]

[FOOTSTEPS. SAM IS PACING THE FLOOR]

SAM

He should be here by now. He's never late. [Beat.] Well? Do you think he's coming or not?

NICKY

Well, you did kind of upset him.

SAM

But he's never been late before!

CALLIOPE

He's lost his best friend, Sam! Let him have some time off.

NICKY

Sam. I love you, but realistically, you're not gonna go to your best friend's funeral then be up for running around in the woods looking for monsters the week after, are you?

FREDDIE

Especially when there's *quite a high chance* that those monsters might have taken Chip. I mean, he just lost Chip. He's not going to-

SAM

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We all lost a friend! Everyone's been so focused on Evan, but what about us? We *all* lost him. He was our friend too. Y'know, t's not any better for us.

FREDDIE

I don't think he's in school today. I usually walk to school with him but he didn't turn up today.

NICKY

[Sarcastic:] Oh, thanks for that, Freddie. Thanks for that *very useful information* we could have used before Sam started pacing the floor and screaming.

SAM

What did you say?

NICKY

Oh, nothing.

[FOOTSTEPS AS NICKY MOVES OVER TO SIT WITH SAM]

Listen. He's obviously upset. It's best to give him some space for a while.

SAM

[Sigh.] I know. I just... Evan was one of my first friends at this school, after you of course.

NICKY

Of course.

SAM

I feel like we grew apart once he met Chip, and now he doesn't have Chip anymore, he needs as many friends as possible. *[Quiet voice.]* I just want to be there for him.

NICKY

He does have friends. He has us. Well... not me, exactly. I think he might still hate me.

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SAM

[Weakly.] The famous argument.

NICKY

[Sigh.] Yes. But I'm going to try harder. And he has you and Calliope and Freddie. Friends! He has them! God, I'm bad at this. *[Beat.]* Look, Evan wouldn't have joined our little group and investigated with us almost every day for the last four years if he didn't like us.

SAM

I always thought he only came here because of Chip.

NICKY

He started coming here before Chip. *[Beat.]* Look, I don't think the three of us, me, you and Evan, will ever be as close as we were back then. Because we were like twelve or thirteen. We've all changed a lot in the last four years and we might have grown apart, or had arguments, but that doesn't mean we can't be there for him. We'll help him get through this. And he's going to be okay. We're all going to be okay.

SAM

Yeah. I think I'm going to go on a walk.

[FOOTSTEPS. A DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING]

CALLIOPE

She left her jacket.

NICKY

Do you think she was recording?

CALLIOPE

Is that even a question? *[Beat.]* Maybe she still is. Look in the jacket.

[FABRIC RUSTLES AS NICKY RUMMAGES THROUGH SAM'S POCKETS]

NICKY

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[Laughs] Of course you're right.

FREDDIE

Do you really believe we'll all be okay?

NICKY

Not for one second.

[CLICK]

CHIP INTERLUDE 2

[INT. NICKY DIXON'S HOUSE]

[CLICK]

[SOMETHING IN THE SOUND DESIGN THAT TELLS US IT'S AN OLD TAPE]

[STOMP. STOMP. STOMP. SAM AND CALLIOPE ARE STOMPING THEIR STOMPY LESBIAN BOOTS]

CALLIOPE

No, Sam, look, mine are clearly stompier! Watch.

[STOMP]

SAM

Oh, really? What about... THIS?!

[SHE DOES A VERY LOUD STOMP]

CALLIOPE

Well, that's cheating.

SAM

Pfft, how is it cheating?

CALLIOPE

[Deadpan:] You literally jumped up and down like multiple times on the spot.

SAM

And?

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CALLIOPE

That's not a stomp, Sam. That's a jump.

SAM

It is *not*. Come on, guys. Back me up.

NICKY

Sorry Sam, that's a jump.

CHIP

Clearly a jump.

FREDDIE

Yeahhhh.

SAM

Evan?

EVAN

Yeah, it was a jump.

[DOORBELL RINGS]

CHIP

I'll get it!

[FOOTSTEPS AS CHIP LEAVES THE ROOM]

EVAN

Shouldn't you be getting that? Since it's your house and everything.

NICKY

Going to the door is scary, Evan. If Chip wants to do it, I'm gonna let him.

EVAN

Fair enough.

[FOOTSTEPS - CHIP IS BACK! YAY!]

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CHIP

So that was Todd.

SAM

Wizard Todd?

CHIP

Yeah, wizard Todd. *[Beat.]* They said sorry like... a hundred times. But the blood flood is sorted now! *[Beat.]* More or less.

They managed to think of a spell to clean it off the roads! Well, most of it. Some of it. A little bit of it. *[Beat.]* They tried. It's the thought that counts, y'know? *[Beat.]* Apparently

they're going round every house to apologise. Y'know Sarah Brassington, the vampire round the corner? She apparently hugged like all of them. Todd thinks she was just trying to get the blood off of their shoulder but, y'know. They still thought it was nice. *[Beat.]* Point is... it's safe to go outside without getting covered in blood! Yaaay! So I suggest we get going. As soon as possible. I think my mum wants me home. *[Beat.]* Evan?

You coming?

EVAN

Absolutely.

[CLICK]

SCENE 5

[INT. SPIRITSFORD SUPERMARKET]

[CLICK]

[FAINT CHATTER IN THE BACKGROUND]

EVAN

The doctor wasn't that helpful. He just gave me a list of things to try. Most of which I'd already tried. Exercise regularly.

Make sure I'm comfortable. Don't nap during the day. Relax before bed. Stuff like that.

And apparently going on a *family shopping trip* means me standing around in the supermarket while my ren shops. Not exactly what I thought they had in mind when they told me I needed some fresh

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air. Personally, I think a walk or a bike ride would do me more good than standing alone in a supermarket, but y'know. Ren needs to do the weekly shop.

HYACINTHE

Oh, you're still here. Good. Can you grab me some bread? I'm gonna find some eggs.

EVAN

Yeah. Sure.

And so I'm walking to the bread aisle. Past the fruit and the vegetables and the sweets and the chocolate and the cereal. And...

[THE ORANGE-EYED MAN LAUGHS]

I'm going to have to stop recording for a minute

[CLICK]

SCENE 6

[INT. EVAN PEARCE'S BEDROOM]

[CLICK]

EVAN

So I guess I should explain what happened there. I'm home now.

I'm safe. But I was really scared back there for a second.

I was just minding my own business, trying to buy some bread.

But then I saw him.

A man. Or maybe a boy. A masculine-presenting person, I'll say, to cover all bases, just to be safe. He was masculine-presenting, yes.

He was young. A young man. He was leaning against one of the shelves, dressed in black from head to toe. He had long, dark hair and he was wearing sunglasses. I thought it was a bit weird to wear sunglasses in January in England in a supermarket. We don't have much sun. It just doesn't happen. We don't have much sun here. But, yeah, it was weird.

Even though I couldn't see his eyes, I was sure he was staring at me.

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I looked away from him and reached for a loaf of bread. But something made me look back towards him. He smiled. It wasn't a nice smile. It made me feel all wrong. But I couldn't look away from him. I watched as he slowly pushed his sunglasses down his nose, away from his eyes. And suddenly I realised why he kept them covered. His eyes were orange. Bright orange. Glowing orange. He must've seen the shocked expression on my face because he laughed.

I didn't want to spend another second in there with him, so I grabbed my loaf of bread and walked very quickly in the opposite direction, away from the Orange-Eyed Man. And when I looked over my shoulder, he was gone.

Yeah. He was just gone.

SCENE 7

[INT. NICKY DIXON'S BEDROOM]

[CLICK]

NICKY

I didn't think I'd try recording anything, but I'm worried about Evan. Part of me wants to go to his house. See if he's okay. Let him know that I care. I'm probably the last person he wants to see, but, in a strange way, I miss him.

We used to be really good friends. Maybe we could be friends again. Maybe. If we tried.

I was thirteen when I met Evan. He was twelve. I remember I was hiding behind the bins at school, obsessively overusing my inhaler because I'd been running from this guy who used to bully me. And then Evan appeared. I still remember the disappointed look he gave me. *[Laugh.]* You know, the first thing he ever said to me was "You're only meant to use that inhaler twice a day." And then he started yelling about how his ren was a doctor so he was definitely right and salbutamol inhalers were only for emergencies and I shouldn't use it so much. I think I told him to begone foul fiend, leave me and my unhealthy inhaler practices be!

We had a little argument about my health and then I asked him if he wanted to see a ghost.

[Sigh.] It was so much easier to make friends back then. All you had to do was show them a ghost.

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And of course Evan wanted to see a ghost. What twelve-year-old doesn't? So I led him to the woods and... actually, I think I have Sam's recording from, god, must've been four years ago. Gimme a sec.

[CLICK]

SCENE 8

[EXT. THE WOODS]

[CLICK]

[SOMETHING IN THE SOUND DESIGN TELLS US THIS IS AN OLD TAPE]

[IN THIS SCENE, SAM IS FOURTEEN, NICKY IS THIRTEEN AND EVAN IS TWELVE, AS OPPOSED TO THEIR USUAL EIGHTEEN, SEVENTEEN AND SIXTEEN.]

[STATIC THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE SCENE]

SAM

You're late.

NICKY

I know. I was... hiding.

SAM

Again? Who were you hiding from this time? What did they do? I want names, Nicky. *[Nicky is silent.]* Right. You don't have to tell me. But you *do* have to tell me who this kid is and why you've brought him with you.

EVAN

I'm Evan.

NICKY

It's okay. He wants to see a ghost!

EVAN

I never said I wanted to see a ghost.

SAM

Nicky.

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NICKY

Are you *sure* you don't want to see a ghost?

EVAN

Well, I never said *that*.

NICKY

See! He wants to see a ghost!

SAM

Fine. He'd better not mess things up.

NICKY

Get behind the tree. Stay hidden. And don't you dare get in the way.

EVAN

In the way of what? I don't understand. I don't know what-

[CLICK]

SCENE 9

[INT. NICKY DIXON'S BEDROOM]

NICKY

And then they arrived. The ghosts of Spiritsford. The month's recently deceased, slowly emerging from a large, black coffin in the centre of the clearing. The Spiritsford necromancers, three men, one woman, and a kid around our age, stood near the coffin.

Two of the men, my old singing teacher, Mr. Ross, and his husband, held the large purple portal open. The ghosts formed an orderly line while the other three necromancers checked the ghosts' documentation, checking that their deaths lined up with what their papers said.

We watched as the ghosts drifted through the portal and disappeared. I remember having to cover my mouth to stop myself from laughing at Evan's ever-changing facial expression. From horror to shock to sadness to awe.

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After that, the three of us went every month to watch the
ghosts' passage into the spirit world. We became inseperable.
Man, I wish we could be like that again.

[CLICK]

SCENE 10

[EXT. OUTSIDE CHIP ROMERO'S HOUSE]

[CLICK]

CALLIOPE

Why are we here?

SAM

Research.

CALLIOPE

I think there's a point where this stops being research and
starts being a disruption of a woman's grieving process.

SAM

It'll be fine. I'm sure she'll appreciate the company.

[SAM KNOCKS ON THE DOOR]

CALLIOPE

I hate you.

SAM

Sure you do.

[THE DOOR OPENS]

KATHY

Oh, hello girls. I wasn't expecting you two today, Come on in.

SAM

Hola, Ms. Romero.

KATHY

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Hola, Sam. *[Beat.]* Calliope, it's been a while. How are you?

CALLIOPE

Oh, I'm fine. You see, we were actually wondering how you were doing.

SAM

How are you, Ms. Romero?

KATHY

...I'm doing alright, dear. Better, anyway. I'm actually leaving in two weeks. Going back to Spain.

CALLIOPE

It'll be nice to get a change of scenery.

KATHY

Yes, I hope it will.

SAM

I'm glad we caught you before you left.

KATHY

What was it that you two wanted to talk about?

CALLIOPE

We were wondering... and we understand that you probably don't want to talk about it but-

SAM

We were wondering if you know where Chip was, you know, before he disappeared. Calli's on the Memorial Committee at school. We wanted to put up a display wherever he was last seen. To commemorate his life.

KATHY

That's a lovely idea, girls. I'm glad he meant so much to you both. *[Beat.]* He was on a walk. In the big meadow.

SAM

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The *big* big one?

KATHY

Yes, that's the one. He spent a lot of time up there. *[Beat.]*
But, if you're going to go there, please be careful. We have no
idea what happened to him there.

CALLIOPE

Thank you so much, Ms. Romero.

SAM

Gracias.

[CLICK]

CHIP INTERLUDE 3

[EXT. THE STREET]

[CLICK]

[SOMETHING IN THE SOUND DESIGN THAT TELLS US IT'S AN OLD TAPE]

[CHIP AND EVAN ARE WALKING THROUGH THE BLOOD-SOAKED STREETS]

EVAN

So when you said a little bit of the blood was gone, you meant...

CHIP

Yeah, I meant that basically none of it was gone, yeah.

EVAN

[Laugh.] Are we sure they're wizards? Like, I know they say they
are but are we... are we sure?

CHIP

They made the sky rain blood, Evan. I'm pretty sure they're
wizards.

EVAN

How do we know the blood's real?

[CHIP JUMPS INTO A PUDDLE OF BLOOD. SPLASH]

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CHIP

Pretty sure it's real.

[HE KICKS SOME BLOOD AT EVAN]

How's that for real?

EVAN

Hey! These are Nicky's clothes! I have to give these back to him tomorrow! Don't... don't ruin them!

CHIP

Eh, pretty sure he won't mind. He'll probably think it adds character, let's be honest.

EVAN

Probably.

[CHIP KICKS MORE BLOOD AT EVAN]

But that doesn't mean you can keep kicking blood at me!

[CHIP LAUGHS]

CHIP

[He clears his throat and puts on an overly dramatic old-timey gentleman voice:] Dance with me, my dear?

EVAN

What? *[Beat.]* I'm not... I'm not dancing with you in the middle of the blood-covered street.

CHIP

[Normal voice:] Aw, just a little one? *[Beat.]* Just a little tiny one? For me?

EVAN

[Sigh.] Fine.

[AWKWARD GAY DANCING NOISES]

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[THEY START SWAYING TO A DUMB OFF-KEY TUNE THAT CHIP IS HUMMING]
[EVAN LAUGHS]

What are you doing?

CHIP

I'm giving us MUSIC!

EVAN

Oh, is that what it was meant to be? It didn't sound like it.

CHIP

Don't you be mean, Evan Pearce. I can and will spin you.

EVAN

[Gasp.] You wouldn't.

CHIP

Oh, I would.

[HE SPINS EVAN. EVAN LETS OUT A LITTLE YELP NOISE]

EVAN

I still think it didn't sound like music. Sounded more like a-

[CHIP SPINS HIM AGAIN]

Oh, come on, not again. I get dizzy so easily. Chip, I'm anaemic. And I'm dyspraxic. I have dyspraxia! I can barely even walk in a straight line when you *haven't* spun me around five times in a row!

CHIP

I'm kidding, okay. *Fine*. No more spinning. Don't want you to walk into a lamppost or something.

EVAN

Wouldn't be the first time. *[Beat.]* Remember when I apologised to a tree I walked into?

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CHIP

[Through laughter:] And which time is this? Which time am I remembering?

[CHIP KEEPS LAUGHING THROUGH EVAN'S NEXT LINE]

EVAN

Hey! Not fair! Not fair at all! I know I'm a disaster, but y'know what? I do it in an endearing way! I'm a *loveable disaster!* People love me! I am a loveable disaster, Chip!

[TAPE CUTS OFF AND WOW! WE'RE IN SCENE 11!]

SCENE 11

[INT. EVAN PEARCE'S BEDROOM]

[DOOR OPENS]

HYACINTHE

You'd better not be listening to old tapes again.

EVAN

I'm not.

HYACINTHE

Evan.

EVAN

I promise.

HYACINTHE

Fine. I believe you.

EVAN

Thank you. *[Beat.]* Is that all you wanted?

HYACINTHE

Well, no. Your friend is here.

EVAN

If it's Sam, I don't want to see her.

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FREDDIE

It's me.

EVAN

[Surprised.] Freddie... What are you doing here? Uh... come in.
Sorry, it's a mess.

FREDDIE

I've never seen your room messy before.

EVAN

I've sort of let myself go, haven't I? *[He laughs.]*

FREDDIE

I can help you tidy it up a bit if you want.

EVAN

That'd be great, actually.

FREDDIE

We've missed you at school.

EVAN

I've missed you too.

FREDDIE

Why don't you come back, then? We'd look after you. And I'm sure
the teachers would go easy on you.

EVAN

I can't. Not yet, at least. I'm not ready.

FREDDIE

Maybe you could come in for lunch one day? We could just sit in
the classroom and talk about aliens or something?

EVAN

I think lunch would be the hardest for me, Fred. *[Beat.]* Room 56
is where I met Chip. I've spent the last three years sitting

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next to him in that room. Every time I look at the door of that classroom, I expect him to walk through it. And when he doesn't...
[He sighs.] I'm just not ready to go back yet, Fred.

FREDDIE

Okay. I'm sorry.

EVAN

No, it's okay. I'll just take a few more days off, I think. Can you send me the notes from the English lessons I've missed?

FREDDIE

Yeah, of course. [Beat.] But, Evan?

EVAN

Yeah?

FREDDIE

Stop listening to the old tapes. They'll only make you feel worse.

[CLICK]

SCENE 12

[EXT. THE BIG MEADOW]

[CLICK]

CALLIOPE

I don't know how you're expecting to find any evidence of an alien abduction here.

SAM

It's where he was last seen, Calliope. If there's going to be evidence anywhere, it'll be here.

CALLIOPE

If you say so. [Beat.] What are we even looking for?

SAM

I'm not quite sure, to be honest.

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CALLIOPE

You brought me here, when I could be spending my time studying so I'll actually have a chance of passing my exams, and you don't even know what we're looking for. *[Sarcastic:]* That's great, Sam. Great work. Thank you.

SAM

If you leave, I'm not paying for your lunch.

CALLIOPE

[Sigh.] Fine. *[Beat.]* What's that book?

SAM

I'm reading up on the sites of the disappearances. I'm trying to see if there's anything they have in common, if there was anything different about the sites after the disappearances, you know. Seeing if there's anything we could look for.

CALLIOPE

And you didn't think to do that before we got here?

SAM

Maybe I'm not as smart as you think I am, Calliope.

CALLIOPE

Yeah, I gathered that. You're top of your class in almost every subject and yet you use your precious free time to drag me to a field to look for bloody aliens.

SAM

We're not looking for aliens, we're looking for evidence of aliens.

CALLIOPE

We're not even doing that, though, are we? Am I just meant to stand here while you read that whole book?

SAM

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No. You can make a memorial display for Chip. I brought you some supplies.

CALLIOPE

Oh, so we're actually doing that?

SAM

Yeah. I wouldn't lie to Kathy. She's too sweet.

[SAM TIPS OUT THE CONTENTS OF HER BAG ONTO THE GRASS]

CALLIOPE

Okay, that's a *lot* of art supplies. How did all of that fit in your bag? Are these-

SAM

Screenshots of texts from Chip? Yeah.

CALLIOPE

[Light laugh] These are from the group chat!

SAM

Yeah. There's also some photos of him in there. And some, oh, handwritten messages by the whole gang. Well, except you. You need to write one. So we can have the whole set.

CALLIOPE

Read yours to me.

SAM

No, read it yourself, weirdo.

CALLIOPE

Please. *[Beat.]* I read my poem to you. You have to read your little message to me. You owe me.

SAM

Do I?

CALLIOPE

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Yes, you do.

SAM

Ugh, fine. *[She clears her throat.]* "Chip once told me that I had every right to be angry about my past. Angry at my father for leaving, angry at my old friends for humiliating me, angry at my past self for making so many mistakes. But now, all of that seems stupid, silly, trivial. I'm not going to use that energy to be angry about my past. I'm going to use it to be angry about Chip's future. The promising future he had ahead of him, and the future that was stolen from him. Chip was strong.

He was brave. And he was kind. He was funny, ambitious and sweet. He was an excellent musician, a fantastic photographer and just... a great person. He wasn't the kind of person whose life should've been cut short. If there ever was a person who deserved to live past one-hundred years old, it was Chip Romero. And I think I will miss him every day for the rest of my life."

CALLIOPE

Sam, that- that was beautiful. No, it's perfect. *[Beat.]* I wasn't sure if you really cared that much.

SAM

[Offended:] Wh- Of course I care. Who do you think I'm here for? Why do you think I'm trying to find him when everyone has already moved on? You think I'm doing this for the fun of it? I'm doing it all for *him*, Calliope. He *deserves* to still be here with us, and I'm going to make *sure* that he's back with us *before summer*. He *will* be with us again, Calliope. *[Beat.]* He has to be.

SCENE 13

[INT. EVAN PEARCE'S LIVING ROOM]

[CLICK]

[THE DOOR OPENS]

EVAN

Oh, hi Jess.

JESS

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Hey. Trouble sleeping?

EVAN

Eh, I got three hours. That's probably enough.

JESS

Come on. Sit with me.

[FOOTSTEPS]

EVAN

Oh, I'm recording. I was... I was recording a thing before. Didn't realise it was still on. I should... I should probably turn this off.

JESS

[Very loudly:] No! I wanna say hi!

EVAN

No one's gonna listen to it.

JESS

I don't care! *[Beat. To the tape recorder:]* Hi, everyone. I'm the prettier Pearce sibling.

EVAN

They'll never know. It's all audio.

JESS

I'm the *funnier* Pearce sibling.

EVAN

Just wait until I've stopped being sad. I'll out-funny you in no time.

JESS

Sorry. Do you want a hug?

EVAN

I would kill for a hug.

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[FABRIC RUSTLES]

[CLICK]

SCENE 14

[INT. NICKY DIXON'S BEDROOM]

[CLICK]

NICKY

I couldn't sleep. So I started going through my calendar on my phone to see what I had to look forward to. Apparently there isn't much. Just a few birthdays here and there. None of them mine, which isn't too fun.

SAM

[Over the phone:] Did you call me just to tell me that it *isn't* your birthday soon?

NICKY

I'm getting to the point.

SAM

Hurry up with it, then.

NICKY

Well, it's the 31st in two weeks

SAM

Yes.

NICKY

Last day of January.

SAM

God, just get to the point. Do you know how late it is? What do you want?

NICKY

I know you don't sleep.

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SAM

I don't sleep, but I do other things. I'm very busy these days.
[Beat.] What did you want?

NICKY

It's Ghost Collection Day soon, isn't it?

[CLICK]

SCENE 15

[INT. ????]

[CLICK]

[WEIRD SOUNDSCAPE]

CHIP

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. No, *please*. Not today. *Please* not today. I just want to go home. I want to go home! I want to see my friends and I want to go home! Take me home, *please*!

THE ORANGE-EYED MAN

Oh, I don't think you're going anywhere, Chip.

[THE ORANGE-EYED MAN LAUGHS.]

[CLICK]

ALEX

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This episode was written by Alex Abrahams and Grey Kilgour, and directed by Alex Abrahams. It was edited by Stoker Leopold and Alin P, with theme music composed by Jordan Hendrickson. The podcast cover art is by Samantha Cooke and this episode's cover art is by Matias Higuera.

The script editors for this episode were Jordan Hendrickson, Wyn Grillo, Megan Cason, Chloe Peterson and Noelle Day.

In this episode you heard the voices of...

The Children of Room 56 -
1.02: The Disappearance of Chip Romero (Part 2)

TAM

Tam Silverman as Sam Moss.

MOIRA-JULIET

Moira-Juliet Scott as Calliope Morris.

SHAWN

The illustrious Shawn Tumbokon-Flowers as Nicky Dixon.

WYN

Wyn Grillo as the Answering Machine.

CHLOE

Chloe Peterson as Jamie Myrtle.

GREY

Grey Kilgour as Hyacinthe Pearce

MICHAEL

Michael M. as Chip Romero.

ALEX

Alex Abrahams as Evan Pearce.

EDEN

Eden J. Storm as Freddie Shaw.

EQUINOX

Equinox Carnwath as the News Reporter.

SCARLETT

Scarlett Foster as The Orange-Eyed Man.

ANA

Ana Paula Ponce as Kathy Romero.

LIVIE

Livie Martin as Jessica Pearce.

**The Children of Room 56 -
1.02: The Disappearance of Chip Romero (Part 2)**

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Thank you so much for listening. We really appreciate it.

NEIGHBOURLY TRAILER

NARRATOR

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