

Day 24

Present

by

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*An older man, a woman in her late 20's rush in together.
He wears a dark suit; she wears a skirt. They stop
suddenly.*

WOMAN

They followed us?

MAN

Yes.

WOMAN

How did they follow us?

MAN

They went where we were going. But behind us.

WOMAN

You said they wouldn't follow us.

MAN

I didn't say, well, I said they shouldn't be able to follow us.

WOMAN

Have we lost them?

MAN

That's not the question. The question is... Have we lost ourselves.

WOMAN

Rhetorically?

MAN

Literally. I'm not sure where we are.

WOMAN

You said to "run this way," I figured you knew where we were going.

MAN

I *did* know where we were going: away from them.

WOMAN

I thought you had a plan.

MAN

I always have a plan. More of an outline really. Point one, point two, something something something, success!

WOMAN

You probably shouldn't have told me that.

MAN

I thought you knew.

WOMAN

But I didn't want you to confirm it. I thought that you were going to take me to the present time.

MAN

It is the present time.

WOMAN

I mean for me.

MAN

You're in the present.

WOMAN

Or are you in the past?

MAN

Wherever you are, whenever you are, that's the "present time." If you start deconstructing whose future it is, whose past it is, who is how many years old or anything like that it'll get confusing. So, for the sake of understanding, now, right now, we are in the present time. Okay?

WOMAN

Fine.

A Lizard Woman enters.

LIZARD

You shouldn't have run.

The man and woman spin around. He stands in front of her to shield her.

MAN

Be that as it may--

LIZARD

We need your help.

WOMAN

You come after us and attack us and now you want our help?

LIZARD

I didn't attack you.

WOMAN

Your friend did.

LIZARD

You had crushed his brother with your box.

MAN

It's a ship. And he wasn't crushed, my ship doesn't crush, it displaces. He was displaced.

LIZARD

Displaced?

MAN

Gone.

LIZARD

Where?

MAN

That's not the question. The question is: why would one of you attack and the other ask for help?

LIZARD

But where did he go?

MAN

Poof.

LIZARD

Poof?

MAN

More like a zap. Or a whoosh. Yes, whoosh.

LIZARD

Will he whoosh back?

MAN

When we leave, I'm sure he will. Probably.

WOMAN

You said you need our help.

LIZARD

Our canyons have all collapsed. The power source has gone out. But when you arrived, there was a glimmer of power, a small stream that began at your box.

MAN

Ship.

LIZARD

Ship.

MAN

Ship box.

WOMAN

So you want the box?

A lizard man enters with a gun.

LIZARD 2

No, we want your head.

He fires the gun, hitting the man. The man stumbles back.

The lights begin to fade in and out.

WOMAN

What's happening?

Darkness and a strobe light. The lights return to normal. Now where the man used to be is a woman, wearing the same clothes the man was wearing.

NEW WOMAN

I feel different. Well, more different. Than usual. Or last time.

WOMAN

Last time?

NEW WOMAN
Last time was...

(Beat)
I sound different.

LIZARD
What's happened? Who is she?

NEW WOMAN
She?
(pointing at the woman.)

She's my companion.

WOMAN
Not *me* "she," *you* "she."

NEW WOMAN
She? I'm a she? I'm--

She feels around her body, stops at her breasts.

NEW WOMAN
I'm a she. I suppose it was bound to happen sooner or later. Surprised it took 3,000 years.
(to the Lizard man)
Please don't shoot me again, I'm trying to help.

LIZARD 2
Shoot you? Who are you?

NEW WOMAN
I'm me, who are you?

LIZARD 2
Harerketh, brother to Hererkath whom you killed.

NEW WOMAN
Displaced. How about this, we'll leave, your brother will become un-displaced and we can--

LIZARD
You can't go, what about our power source? Our canyons?

WOMAN
We can't just leave them.

NEW WOMAN

(to Lizard woman)

You said the canyons had collapsed. When?

LIZARD

About two days ago.

NEW WOMAN

(to lizard man)

And the power-- put the gun down.

He lowers the gun.

NEW WOMAN

The power went out?

LIZARD 2

Before the collapse.

NEW WOMAN

The power before the collapse. Where was the power source?

The lizard man lifts the gun, meaning to point, not to attack, but the gun goes off and shoots the new woman. She stumbles back. The lizard man drops the gun.

LIZARD 2

Sorry.

NEW WOMAN

Oh, I know.

The woman goes to her.

WOMAN

Are you okay?

NEW WOMAN

Here we go again.

The lights fade slowly in and out, then darkness and the strobe light. When the lights return, a new, young man, wearing the same suit as the new woman.

NEW MAN

So, where were we? Power source?

WOMAN
 What's happening?

NEW MAN
 What's happening?

LIZARD
 Who's he?

NEW MAN
 I'm a "he" again? I was just starting to enjoy being a "she."

WOMAN
 You've changed. Again.

NEW MAN
 Well, if trigger fingers would stop shooting me-- where's the gun?

The lizard woman picks it up.

NEW MAN
 Don't pick it up! Put it down!

She drops it, it goes off. The new man is shot. He stumbles back.

The lights fade, darkness, strobe light. When the lights return, there is a. new man in the same suit.

NEW NEW MAN
 Oh holy hell. Three times. I've lasted 3,000 years and I'm shot to death three times in one day. I'm finished.

He starts to exit, followed by the woman.

LIZARD
 But our canyons.

LIZARD 2
 Our power source.

NEW NEW MAN
 I can't take anymore chances here. I've only got so many lives. It's probably some kind of giant lava monster or a crab-like fluff-duffer. Who knows?
(to the woman)
 Let's go.

New new man and the woman exit. The Lizard man and woman are alone.

What was his name? LIZARD 2

Who? LIZARD

The man we met. LIZARD 2

Who. LIZARD

The man just now. LIZARD 2

Who. LIZARD

Did you see the man that was here? LIZARD 2

Yes. LIZARD

What's his name? LIZARD 2

Who. LIZARD

Oh forget it. LIZARD 2

They exit.