

CONTENT NOTE

Just a quick note, this episode is a prequel, so it's set about 4 years before the events of season 1. It also contains strong language and material that may not be appropriate for all listeners. Please see the show notes for more information.

A chime sounds.

INT. LARA'S APARTMENT

LARA CAMPBELL takes a few deep breaths.

LARA

Okay, here we go...

She **types**.

LARA (cont'd)

Dear Rose Boone...

She stops, hits the delete button several times.

LARA (cont'd)

Miss Boone...

She smashes the delete key again.

LARA (cont'd)

Hi, Rose! This is Lara Campbell, from Lara Campbell's Paranormal Services. Elizabeth Fink from Southern Oregon University sent me your resume and said that you were interesting in helping --

Delete, delete.

LARA (cont'd)

Assisting --

Delete, delete, delete.

LARA (cont'd)

Joining me...the team for this project. Please let me know if --

Delete, delete, delete...

LARA (cont'd)
Please contact me at your earliest
convenience. Sincerely...

She hesitates. She continues.

LARA (cont'd)
Sincerely, Lara Campbell.

She pauses to read it back, **mumbling** indistinctly as she
does so.

LARA (cont'd)
Is that too many Lara Campbells?
No. Yeah. Okay.

Mouse click. A happy-sounding **send** sound.

A beat.

An **incoming message** sound. Lara clicks on it.

ROSE (V.O.)
Dear Lara, ye --

That's it.

LARA
Huh?

Another **incoming message**.

TROSE (V.O.)
Sorry, accidentally hit send. Yes,
sounds great. Please send info.

Lara considers this.

LARA
Okay...

Another **incoming message**.

ROSE
Sorry, forgot to include updated
contact info. Just learned to do
emails on my phone, LOL. See
below. -- Rose.

Lara drums her fingers on her desk.

LARA
Well, it's not like anyone else
applied.

TITLES

"Believer Theme" plays.

JULIE
Believer: Sun and Moon.

INT./EXT. ROSE'S CAR - DAY

Music plays over a car stereo, which drives down a country
road.

LARA (V.O.)
Dear Rose, I'm so glad you've
decided to assist with this case.
I've attached all the details,
along with a list of supplies that
you'll need. The college should
have everything available.

This case concerns the Corwin Lake
House, a small cottage built near
Crater Lake in 1919.

The car slows and then parks. Car door opens.

EXT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Outdoor sounds. Music continues from within the car.

LARA (V.O.)
It was built by Peter Corwin, who
died under mysterious circumstances
in 2004, which is when his grand-
nephew, Roger Corwin, inherited it.

Rose walks across the dirt. She whistles softly.

ROSE
(to herself)
Wow. This place is a disaster.
Makes sense why I had to bring all
the camping stuff.

LARA (V.O.)

The House is in considerable disrepair due to a fire a few years back. Since inheriting it, Roger Corwin has tried to renovate or demolish it a few times. Every time, the contractors he hires have to abandon the job before they can start. Once there was a full electrical outage and they couldn't operate any equipment. Another crew all contracted the same mystery illness. A third had so many freak accidents on the site that OSHA shut them down.

ROSE

This is going to be awesome.

She walks back toward the car. She pops the trunk.

Rose groans.

ROSE (cont'd)

This is so much stuff. There's no way I'll use all of this. Right?

LARA (V.O.)

Local legend is that the place is haunted. There have been a few attempts to investigate or exorcise the place, but they've all failed. I think I know why.

She sighs and begins lifting **heavy objects** out of the trunk.

ROSE

Guess I should've expected the long packing list when I saw how long her emails were.

LARA (V.O.)

Peter Corwin was involved with the Sun And Moon Club, a tiny occult group in southern Oregon that was loosely related to Aleister Crowley's Order of the Golden Dawn. Please see attached information for Aleister Crowley, occult magician, 1875 - 1947.

A **crash** as a heavy machine falls to the ground.

ROSE

Uh, let's just hope that wasn't important.

LARA (V.O.)

In the 1910s, Crowley attempted something called the Abramelin Operation in a small house near Loch Ness. The ritual is supposed to summon your guardian angel for ultimate knowledge, but he was interrupted. The house has been haunted ever since. I think something similar happened at the Corwin Lake House.

Rose pauses, UNLOCKS her phone.

ROSE

Wait, how many emails did this lady send me?

LARA

See, what the previous investigators missed is that the Sun And Moon Club was obsessed with duality -- the idea that everything in the world is composed of both itself and its opposite. Hence, sun and moon, representing night and day. Everything comes with an opposite.

ROSE

Oh my god, it just keeps going!

LARA (V.O.)

So if they did their own Abramelin-style ritual, they would've used two locations.

ROSE

Okay, screw it.

She locks the phone again.

Rose shoulders a big duffle bag and walks across the dirt.

LARA (V.O.)

I found a Ley Line that runs from Crater Lake, through the Oregon Vortex, out to the Oregon Caves. The lake is elevated, so its

(MORE)

LARA (V.O.) (cont'd)
opposite might be a source of water
that's underground, right? Well,
the Oregon Caves were made by an
underground river.

Rose pulls open a very creaky old door and coughs.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rose walks across creaky wooden floors. She drops the duffle heavily.

LARA (V.O.)
Therefore, we need investigators at
both locations. You'll go to Corwin
Lake House. I'll go to the Oregon
Caves. I think I've found a cave
that mirrors the layout of Corwin
Lake House. We'll each stay the
night at our investigation sites
and share the data. Together, I
think we can figure this out.

Rose unzips the duffle.

ROSE
So I guess I'll sleep on the least
charred part of the floor.

LARA (V.O.)
Since cell reception is an issue,
please see the attached schedule
for regular check-ins. At those
times, get to a place with cell and
internet so we can sync our data.

It's vital that we use the same
instruments in the same way so all
data matches up. Please see
attached layout for where to place
the following items.

Rose sifts through a pile of electronics.

LARA (V.O.) (cont'd)
EVP machine for capturing
electronic voice phenomena.
Continually scans radio waves for
unexplained sounds.

Rose clicks on the EVP machine, which plays static.

ROSE
Fancy radio.

LARA (V.O.)
Infrared thermometer. Please scan
regularly for cold spots.

Soft beep of the thermometer.

ROSE
44 degrees. Or should I do it in
Celsius? 7 degrees. This whole
place is a cold spot.

LARA (V.O.)
Most important is the EMF machine.
The one I use is slightly larger
than usual.

Rose **grunts** as she **slides** a heavy machine into place.

LARA (V.O.) (cont'd)
This is crucial for early detection
of paranormal phenomena, so please
treat it with care.

Rose presses several buttons on the machine. It beeps on,
then immediately dies.

ROSE
Probably shouldn't have dropped it.

LARA (V.O.)
Finally, please leave a recorder
running at all times for record-
keeping purposes.

ROSE
Oh, right.

Rose digs through the duffle bag. A happy **beep-boop** sound
signals the voice recorder is on.

ROSE (cont'd)
Testing, testing, this is Rose
Boone, ready for a creepy weekend
at a burnt-out cabin. Over?

She clicks it off, hits rewind, hits play.

ROSE (RECORDER)
Ready for a creepy weekend at a --

She clicks it off and rewinds again.

ROSE
Great. Okay.

Beep-boop!

ROSE (cont'd)
Rose Boone, Corwin Lake House, day one. It's about 10 o'clock in the morning. Current temperature readings at forty -- I mean, seven degrees Celsius. Pretty standard for this time of year. This place is barely standing. Everything is covered in ash, there are big gaps in all the walls and ceiling, most of the furniture is gone.

She steps across the wooden floor.

ROSE (cont'd)
It is pretty, though. You can just see the lake from the window. Well, it's a gaping hole, really, but I think it used to be a window.

She takes a deep breath.

ROSE (cont'd)
The place feels...ready. It's quiet, but there's definitely some kind of energy here. It's like it's been waiting for me.

She pulls out a chair and sits.

ROSE (cont'd)
Well, I'm here. Come out, come out, whatever you are. I'm ready too.

EXT. OREGON CAVES - DAY

Lara walks through the woods with NICK, a park ranger. They've been friends a long time.

LARA
Thanks for setting this up, Ranger Nick.

NICK
Can we just stick with Nick?

LARA
In that uniform? Never.

NICK
You parked where I told you, right?

LARA
At a random turnout, like, two miles from here? Yes. Do you need me to go back and cover it with camo netting or something?

NICK
Lara, nobody can know you're here.

LARA
I'm aware.

NICK
Like, really.

LARA
Nick. This is huge for me, you know? If I'm right about this, it's a totally unexplored paranormal phenomenon. Accurate data is crucial.

Nick grunts his acknowledgment. They walk a little more.

NICK
I thought you were working with someone on this.

LARA
Yeah, a student from SOU. Rose something.

NICK
You like her? Like is she good at ghost stuff?

LARA
Oh. I think so. We've just had the one video chat. Interview. Thing.
(beat)
She's one of those girls who's, like, annoyingly pretty, you know?

NICK
(knowingly)
Ah.

LARA

Not like that. I just mean she's like...you know that type?

NICK

Really pretty but straight?

LARA

No! Though, probably. She wears a cross. No, just, you know when you meet people and it's like, you know they experience the world totally differently from you, just because they look like that?

NICK

Oh yeah. I know all about that. She's good, though? Knows about caving safety?

LARA

Oh, she's not going in the caves. I sent her to the lake house. I couldn't ask some psych student to crawl down a dark hole for me.

NICK

Should've figured; you have to be practically married before you let someone into your hole.

LARA

Hey!

NICK

(mocking)
"Oh, Nick, I really like this person but we've been on twenty-seven dates, is that moving too fast if I kiss their cheek?"

LARA

I hate you.

NICK

Then stop calling me.

LARA

No, I'm gonna call you more. It's the only way you'll learn.

He chuckles. They stop. Lara drops her backpack full of gear.

LARA (cont'd)
So that's it, huh?

NICK
That's the entrance.

LARA
It's...small.

NICK
Which is fine, right? Because
you're not claustrophobic.

LARA
No, of course not.

NICK
And you've got gear? Rope, lights,
coveralls?

LARA
Rope, lights, machines, sleeping
bag...

NICK
You're not seriously going to sleep
down there, are you?

LARA
Nick, I have to. Just trust me.

NICK
Because there's a reason we don't
include these caves in any of the
tours. Like, you can't even book a
private excursion here.

LARA
I know. I'll be fine.

Nick hesitates. He hits a button on his walkie-talkie.

NICK
Here. Take my radio. In case of an
emergency.

LARA
But won't you get in trouble if
they hear me on the radio?

NICK
Yes. So don't have an emergency.

LARA

Got it.

She clicks it on and off a few times.

NICK

Just -- leave it off unless you
need it, please.

She clicks it off.

LARA

I love it when I get to see your
gooey center.

NICK

Yeah. I'm leaving. Stay safe.

LARA

Roger roger, Ranger Nick!

He groans and walks off into the forest. In the trees, a
raven CAWS.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

A wide chamber in the underground cave system. Drips fall
from stalactites. There's a distant source of water
somewhere. Everything echoes.

Lara grunts with effort as she crawls through the entrance.
She scrambles onto the ground.

LARA

Whew. That was tight.

She drags a bag of gear in behind her and rummages through
it.

LARA (cont'd)

Okay, recorder, and...

Beep-boop! Same recorder sound from Rose's scenes.

LARA (cont'd)

Lara Campbell, official log, March
16, 2014, approximately 10:14 AM
Pacific Daylight Time.

She sets the recorder down and continues going through
equipment.

LARA (cont'd)
 I am inside the cave. The entrance is tight, a real squeeze. Possible support for a birth canal metaphor. Currently breaking glowsticks for more light.

She breaks a few glowsticks.

LARA (cont'd)
 Exact measurements recorded separately, but it looks similar in size to the main room in the Corwin Lake House plans.

A beat. Cave sounds.

LARA (cont'd)
 It's...dark. Like, really dark. I mean, you know it's going to be dark in an underground cave, but... wow.

(beat)
 Okay. Let me get some initial readings.

She sets up various gear -- repeat sounds from Rose's previous scene:

EVP machine (static)

LARA (cont'd)
 EVP has no signal, as expected.

EMF machine -- makes same start-up noise, then whirs to life.

LARA (cont'd)
 EMF also reading at near zero.

The infrared thermometer beeps.

LARA (cont'd)
 Seven degrees Celsius.
 (chuckles)
 A detailed temperature map will be included with the final packet, but this is standard year-round in the caves.

She takes a few steps and then calls out.

LARA (cont'd)
 Is there anyone here? Any entity,
 any spirit? If there is anyone
 here, I'd like to know more about
 you.

She sets up a small metal box.

LARA (cont'd)
 This is a highly-tuned, sensitive
 device you can use to communicate
 with me, if you choose. Just press
 this button for yes --

She clicks a button. A high tone sounds.

LARA (cont'd)
 And this button for no.

Another button. A low tone this time.

LARA (cont'd)
 If you want to talk, just hit
 either button three times.

She demonstrates, presses the high tone three times in
 rhythmic succession.

LARA (cont'd)
 Okay?

She waits. No response.

LARA (cont'd)
 Okay. Well, I'm here if you want to
 talk. I'm going to set up camp over
 here.

(to herself)
 And then, I guess I'll just...wait.

She begins setting up gear.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - DAY

Rose tosses rocks across the floor, bored. After a moment,
 she picks up the recorder.

ROSE
 It has been...two hours. No ghosts.
 It's nice up here, though.
 (deep breath)
 Nature. I think I hear a blue jay.

She drums her fingers on the wood floor.

ROSE (cont'd)
 I know. Let's try a tarot read.
 (to the mic)
 Oh, uh, I left my cross in the car.
 Just, you know, in case? But you
 didn't say anything about personal
 items, and I just started learning
 to do this so I thought...well,
 it's all getting recorded.

She shuffles cards.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Okay, Lake House. Tell me about
 yourself.

She flips over three cards.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Ooh. The Empress, The Moon, and the
 Hanged Man. So we have mother
 earth, the element of illusion and
 intuition, and a man who waits to
 change his point of view. So that
 could mean, let me look it up...

Rose's phone rings. She grabs it.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Hello? Oh, Mom. No, I can't talk
 now, I'm working. It's a job, Mom,
 what do you think?
 (beat)
 I know what Dad said. But, you
 know, what if the Youth Ministry
 does it without me this year?
 (rolls eyes)
 They'll be fine, Mom. Those kids
 don't care what I think.
 (beat)
 Come on, it's one church trip. It's
 not like I'm trying conjure the...
 well.

She looks at the tarot cards and trails off.

Unintelligible sounds come through - the person on the other
 end sounds angry. Rose sighs, having heard this lecture many
 times.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Oh my god, I can spend one spring
 break away from home. Besides, they
 need me here, you know the girl
 running this thing is...she's
 actually pretty cool. A little
 uptight, but...

(beat)
 No, I broke up with Sandra over a
 month ago.

(beat)
 Well, that's going to be pretty
 hard, Mom, because as I have told
 you, I only date women.

Angry sounds again. Rose talks over them.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Okay, well I've gotta -- the
 reception here is -- ughhh!

She hangs up.

ROSE (cont'd)
 (sarcastic)
 Oh no, the call dropped.

She notices the microphone.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Wait, was this thing on that
 whole...shit.

She shuts it off.

INT. VIDEO CALL - DAY

A remote VIDEO CALL app rings, then connects with a little
 bloopy sound.

LARA
 Hello? Rose?

ROSE
 Hey! Um, is your camera off?

LARA
 Sorry, let me just...

ROSE
 Oh, there you -- no, now the
 screen's frozen.

LARA
The reception...
(crackle)
...tty bad.

ROSE
Yeah, it's not great here either.

LARA
Everything okay at the lake house?

ROSE
Yeah, yeah, I drove right up. Are
you at the cave? You look...

LARA
What?

ROSE
Um, nothing.

LARA
Oh, yeah, you have to crawl through
the mud to get in and out of the
cave.

ROSE
I see. Well, the cabin is barely
standing. I don't know why anyone's
worried about a construction crew
when it's literally about to fall
over.

LARA
Well, you know, there's debris
and...

ROSE
Okay, yes, I know they need to have
professionals do it. I was making a
joke.

LARA
Oh. Yeah.

ROSE
Listen, um, it's actually really
cool up here. There's an energy to
it, you know? It just feels so
alive. There's definitely a
presence here.

LARA

Have you seen anything?

ROSE

No, it's just...a feeling. So what is this thing, anyway? You said something about binding demons?

LARA

That's what the original ritual calls for. You have to bind the 12 Dukes and Kings of Hell before your guardian angel will appear.

ROSE

Okay, but it's not really like a -- like a demon - demon, is it?

LARA

Oh, I don't know.

ROSE

What?

LARA

I mean, I think the Sun and Moon Club -- that's the one Peter Corwin was a part of -- I think they were trying to do something different. I only found a couple snippets of things, but they seem to talk about it in terms of a birth.

ROSE

So it's a baby demon.

LARA

Well, demon is kind of a loaded term.

ROSE

Right.

LARA

But you should be fine. You put up the seals and signs I gave you, right?

ROSE

(definitely not)
Oh, uh...yeah. Yeah, of course.

LARA

It's in the binder. You went through the whole binder, right? And the PowerPoint presentation?

ROSE

(no, she didn't)
Yeah, of course I have the binder. It's very comprehensive.

LARA

Well, this is kind of my first big case. I just want to make sure I covered everything.

ROSE

Sure, but, um, what do you want to actually, like, do?

LARA

What?

ROSE

Like are we trying to exorcise this thing, or is it just research? If I make contact with this thing, what should I say?

LARA

You haven't tried to contact it, have you?

ROSE

I thought that's why I was here.

LARA

Well, first I want to make sure I have good data.

ROSE

Can't demons look like any kind of data they want?

LARA

So like I said, demon is kind of a loaded term...

ROSE

So it seems like the best way is to just talk to it.

Lara hesitates.

LARA
Can you...do that?

ROSE
Lara. If you want me to be your partner on this, you're going to have to trust me.

LARA
Yeah...

ROSE
Because that's what you wanted, right? A partner?

LARA
Um.

ROSE
Because that's what you said in the email. And the interview.

LARA
Yeah. Yeah, I do. But, um, you know how to use the machines and everything, right?

ROSE
God. Yes, okay? I know what I'm doing. Everything is fine.

LARA
Okay, well, take a look at the EMF reader, because some of the readings you sent over is a little strange.

ROSE
(that's because she made it up)
Huh. Weird.

LARA
Connection is probably --
(glitchy static)
So I should head back...what?

ROSE
(stifling laughter)
Nothing! There's just so much mud on your face.

LARA
Okay, well, like I said --

ROSE
Is it up your nose?

LARA
I'll clean up before the next call.

ROSE
That would help.

LARA
(annoyed)
It's not really the point, but...

ROSE
Lara. I'm joking. It's cute!

LARA
Oh. Um. Thank you.

ROSE
I'm sorry.

LARA
It's -- it's fine.
(static)
-- just gotta go. Wait, you're
still recording everything, ri--

The connection breaks off.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rose grabs the recorder.

ROSE
Oh, shit, the recorder.

She clicks it back on. Beep-boop!

ROSE (cont'd)
Sorry for the break in the
recording, it, uh, malfunctioned.
All good now.

She sets the recorder down.

ROSE (cont'd)
I mean, if you knew my mom,
you'd...forget it. All systems
(MORE)

ROSE (cont'd)
reading normal. Nothing to do but
wait.

INT. CAVE - LATER

Drips and echoes. All is quiet.

LARA
Okay, EMF readings holding steady
at...almost zero. EVP also picking
up zero. Temperature change, none.
Just a big, creepy, dark, damp
cave. Which is good. This is
baseline. If I'm right, things will
change soon. Which will be good.
Good good.

A beat.

LARA (cont'd)
I wish I'd brought a chair.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - DAY

Rose paces around the burnt-out house.

ROSE
Hello? Helloooo? Anybody here?

A beat.

ROSE (cont'd)
Yeah. Oh -- Tarot cards. Now where
were we...

She shuffles the cards. A slight breeze moves through the
room.

ROSE (cont'd)
Okay, spirit. Baby demon. Tell me
what you are.

The breeze becomes a gust, and the cards fall on the floor.

ROSE (cont'd)
Hey! Ugh, damn it. Let me just...
wait.

She picks up the recorder.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Rose Boone, Corwin Lake House,
 2:13PM. I just dropped my deck of
 Rider-Waite tarot cards. They all
 landed face-down except for one.

She takes a few steps on the creaky wooden floor.

ROSE (cont'd)
 The Devil.

INT. CAVE

Lara sings to herself, obviously bored.

LARA
 I'm in a cave. Iiiii'm in a cave.
 I'm in a cave trying to meditate.
 Doot de doo...

Suddenly, the high tone from the yes/no box plays.

LARA (cont'd)
 Was that...?

It beeps again.

LARA (cont'd)
 The yes/no box.
 (to the cave)
 Beep three times to...

It beeps again.

LARA (cont'd)
 Oh my god.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

Rose paces around.

ROSE
 Okay. Okay. The Devil card doesn't
 really mean the Devil. I mean, it
 does but it doesn't. It's not like,
 um...here.

She picks up a book, leafs through the pages.

ROSE (cont'd)
 There. Okay. Number fifteen. The Devil. Addiction, attachment, the shadow self. Can also indicate duality, as it depicts a man and a woman chained to the Devil's pedestal.

(beat)
 Well, that doesn't really help.

(reads on)
 "While the man and woman are chained, a close examination reveals the chains are loose around their necks. They can escape anytime they choose. However, the longer they stay, the more like the Devil they become."

The wind picks up. The windows rattle.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Spirit of the House? Is that you?

The wind suddenly dies. Silence.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Hello...?

INT. CAVE

Lara dusts herself off.

LARA
 Alright. Okay. Press that button, the high tone, for yes, and the low tone for no. Okay?

High tone. Lara squeals.

LARA (cont'd)
 Yes! Oh my god. Um, recording's on...let's talk.

High tone again.

LARA (cont'd)
 Are you one who is dead?

A beat. The low tone sounds.

LARA (cont'd)
 Low tone. No. Are you alive?

Low tone again.

LARA (cont'd)
Do you know that the low tone means
no?

Silence.

LARA (cont'd)
Sorry, was that rude?

Silence.

LARA (cont'd)
Wait, don't -- are you neither
alive nor dead?

A beat. High tone. Lara sighs, relieved.

LARA (cont'd)
Do you want to be alive?

High tone.

LARA (cont'd)
Do you need my help?

High tone. Lara laughs, almost giddy.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay. Wait. I forgot a question,
um... Do you mean me harm?

A beat. The low tone sounds. Then the high tone. Then both,
alternating fast, over and over.

There's a low rumble through the cave. Lara steps back.

LARA (cont'd)
Listen, if I offended you somehow,
um...

Suddenly, BATS fill the cave. They swoop through, dozens of
them, squeaking and flapping their wings. Lara screams. They
fly up, out the chutes at the top of the cave, and are gone.

And then...silence. Lara breathing hard.

LARA (cont'd)
Are you...still there?

Silence.

Lara sinks down onto the sleeping bag.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay. Good data.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

Rose walks toward the rattling windows.

The EVP machine suddenly flips to a new channel. It bursts to life, playing old, creaky HYMNS on the radio. Rose gasps.

ROSE
It is you! Spirit, please. You can talk to me. What if we -- what if we try the cards again? Here. Tell me what you want.

She shuffles the cards. The hymn continues to play.

ROSE (cont'd)
The Fool...The Sun...The Moon. The Sun and Moon Club?

A high tone rings out from the yes/no box, long and clear.

ROSE (cont'd)
Okay. Okay!

The wind picks up again. Rose shouts over the wind, the music, and the ringing high tone.

ROSE (cont'd)
I'll help you! I'm here to help you! Spirit?

And it all stops.

ROSE (cont'd)
I'll help you. It'll be okay.

Soft static from the EVP machine.

INT. VIDEO CALL - EVENING

An app rings, then connects.

LARA
Hi.

ROSE
I think I...talked to it.

LARA
Me too!

ROSE
Really?

LARA
Simultaneous phenomena! Oh, this could be huge.

ROSE
Yeah, I was doing this tarot read --

LARA
Wait, what? We didn't talk about tarot.

ROSE
And this wind picked up, right? Just -- whoosh! Running through the whole place. Because of the gaps in the walls. Right? And it just scattered my tarot deck.

LARA
See, but that's adding divination techniques to just one half of the experiment --

ROSE
Except this one card. The Devil.

A pause.

ROSE (cont'd)
Did you hear me? Is this thing breaking up?

LARA
Yeah. Just, this is a major variable I didn't account for.

ROSE
Oh my god, Lara. I'm telling you I talked to a ghost.

LARA
That claimed to be the Devil.

ROSE

No, no, it's the Devil card. Do you not know Tarot? The actual meaning is much more complex.

LARA

Just...put it in the report, please.

ROSE

I just thought I'd try something. I mean, there's nothing to do, and after the EMF reader broke, I figured --

LARA

Wait, what?!

ROSE

Oh, uh --

LARA

The EMF Reader is broken?

ROSE

I -- it -- something happened in transit.

LARA

Wait, so it's been broken all day? So you have no readings from the lake house at all.

ROSE

I did all the other things.

LARA

EMF is the most reliable measurement tool in the industry. I can't believe -- ugh!

ROSE

(annoyed)

Look, it was an accident, okay? And we both communicated with spirits anyway today, right? I mean, what happened to you in the cave?

LARA

(still sulking)

Listen, it's getting dark soon, and this thing will likely be most active at night.

ROSE

Lara...

LARA

It's fine. We'll just record everything and figure it out later. Make sure you have the wards up that I gave you. From the binder.

ROSE

Shouldn't I know what happened on your end?

LARA

We won't have any check-ins overnight because it's too disruptive to get a signal, so we have to make sure we're on the same page now.

ROSE

I have the binder.

LARA

Okay. Just...we don't know what this thing is, or what it wants. It could be dangerous.

ROSE

It didn't feel dangerous to me. More like...desperate.

LARA

Desperate things can be dangerous.

ROSE

I think it just wants our help.

LARA

Well, I think we should be careful and not mess up the data with a bunch of unplanned experiments.

(beat)

Okay?

ROSE

Okay.

LARA

Talk to you in the morning.

Lara disconnects.

ROSE
(sarcastic)
Looking forward to it.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Cave dripping sounds. Machines still going.

Lara shuffles in her sleep bag. She picks up the recorder.

LARA
(whispers)
It's after 11:15 PM. No activity so far.

(beat)
I don't know why I'm whispering. It's just...so quiet. And dark. So dark. Oppressive dark. I keep reminding myself that I can breathe.

(Beat)
There's no difference between day and night down here. It's just...I didn't know it could be too dark to sleep, you know? Glad I brought extra lights.

Lara rummages in her bag, pulls out a glowstick. She breaks it, then jumps.

LARA (cont'd)
Oh my god...!
(beat)
Oh. Never mind. I thought I saw... nothing. Never mind. I should try to sleep.

She settles back into the sleeping bag.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

Crickets. Owls. It's a clear night, with all the night animals out and about.

Rose stirs fitfully on a little cot.

She wakes up with a gasp. She takes a moment to get her bearings, realize where she is and that she's safe.

She grabs the recorder.

ROSE

I just had this...dream. God, it was so real. Um. I was walking in this long, flat desert. No trees, no plants, no life. Just silver sand as far as I could see. But there were stars. Not like stars we have here. These were huge, all different colors, bright and... dancing. They were so...I felt like I could see forever. Like if I looked up into those stars I'd see...everything. And as I looked at them I thought I could hear this...song. I could hear the stars sing.

(beat)

But then there was something there. In the desert. It was there but also not there, like an...anti-presence. It had arms that twisted in all directions, and at the center just this infinite... darkness. But it wasn't scary. It was...joyful. Comforting. I was so happy to see it.

(she smiles)

It told me to open my mouth. And then it reached out, and -- and I sang it too. I sang with the stars.

She takes a moment, chuckles softly, reliving the memory.

ROSE (cont'd)

And then it...it said something. Shit, I can't remember. It was important. It said something and then it said..."Look behind you."

Rose turns. She gasps.

She drops the microphone.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Lara sleeps fitfully, snores, then jolts awake.

LARA

What...what happened to the lights?

She breathes hard, frightened. She scrambles around in the dark, knocks something over, finally finds an electric lantern and clicks it on.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay...whew.

Something scuffs the ground, a few rocks fall.

LARA (cont'd)
What was that?

Water drips. Somewhere far down the cave system, a rock falls and echoes, echoes, echoes up the various tunnels.

LARA (cont'd)
(calls out)
Is someone there?
(to herself)
I'm going crazy. I had some kind of really weird dream, I...I think. I can't remember.

Suddenly, the HIGH TONE from the yes/no box sounds.

LARA (cont'd)
Hello? Is -- is that you?

No response.

LARA (cont'd)
God. I gotta get all the lights back on. Maybe the duration on them wasn't...

HIGH TONE again.

A beat.

LARA (cont'd)
I need to calibrate that thing.

LOW TONE.

LARA (cont'd)
Oh. Uh, sorry, I --

LOW TONE.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay. Okay! I'm sorry I doubted you. Let's talk.

LOW TONE. LOW TONE. LOW TONE.

FADE TO:

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

Rose breathes, frightened.

ROSE
You're here.

The entity speaks in a soft, strange whisper...

ENTITY
Yes...

ROSE
You can speak.

Silence -- a soft wind blows.

ROSE (cont'd)
Was that you? In my dream?

ENTITY
Rose...no time...

ROSE
How do you know my name?

ENTITY
I want...to be...

ROSE
To be what? What are you?

ENTITY
Not alive. Not dead. It is...
excruciating...I want...to be...

ROSE
What do you need?

ENTITY
A vessel...

ROSE
A body?

ENTITY
A vessel...to carry us...to each
other...

ROSE
Like a jug?

ENTITY
We are in pieces...two halves...
different but the same...

ROSE
Your other half...is it in the
cave?

ENTITY
No time, Rose...No time...

ROSE
Wait! Tell me what to do.

ENTITY
I must go...rest...no time...

ROSE
No, don't go!

The wind GUSTS, and night sounds return to normal.

ROSE (cont'd)
Hello? Come back!

No response.

ROSE (cont'd)
Hello?

Silence.

ROSE (cont'd)
The recorder!

Rose picks up the microphone. She shuts it off, then REWINDS quickly. She clicks play. The recorder plays through tinny speakers.

ROSE (RECORDER)
Was that you? In my dream?

The entity's voice is replaced by STATIC.

ROSE
What? No.

ROSE (RECORDER)
How do you know my name?

Static.

ROSE
No. No no no...

ROSE (RECORDER)
To be what? What are --

She clicks stop, then fast-forwards briefly and hits play again.

ROSE (RECORDER) (cont'd)
...do you need?

Static.

ROSE (RECORDER) (cont'd)
A body?

Static.

ROSE
(overlapping
recording)
Shit!

ROSE (RECORDER)
Like a jug?

Static.

ROSE
Shit, shit, shit! Why don't any of
these stupid machines work?

She clicks stop. She throws the recorder.

She groans in frustration.

ROSE (cont'd)
Lara's gonna kill me.

FADE TO:

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The repeating LOW TONE fades back in.

LARA
Are you...are you trying to play?
Is this a game?

One long, droning LOW TONE.

Lara groans, covers her ears.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay! That's enough!

The drone morphs into a kind of otherworldly HOWL.

Lara screams.

It crescendos and then --

SILENCE.

Lara jolts awake.

LARA (cont'd)
Wait...what?

She scrambles up off the dirt.

LARA (cont'd)
Was that a...dream?

She shivers, suddenly feeling the cold.

LARA (cont'd)
Jesus, it's cold. How did I even
get out of the sleeping bag?

She reaches for the sleeping bag, then jolts back. Bugs
SKITTER out of it across the floor.

LARA (cont'd)
Gah! Cave crickets. Gross.

She rubs her arms.

LARA (cont'd)
Guess I'm awake now.

She grabs a jacket, shakes it out, then zips it up.

LARA (cont'd)
Maybe the machines got something.

INT. VIDEO CALL - MORNING

The call connects. Both women are exhausted, subdued.

ROSE
Morning.

LARA
Looks like you had an interesting
night too.

ROSE
I spoke to it. Again. But for real
this time.

LARA
What?

ROSE
It...appeared. Kind of. It knew my
name.

LARA
It spoke? Words?

ROSE
Yeah. It says it wants be reunited
with its other half.

LARA
Rose, that's incredible. Can you
send me the recording?

ROSE
Well, the recorder didn't pick it
up.

LARA
What?

ROSE
It's just my voice for some reason.

LARA
And I'm guessing the EMF is still
broken.

ROSE
Well...

LARA
So there's no proof.

ROSE
I'm telling you it happened. Isn't
that enough?

Lara sighs.

LARA
What did it say?

ROSE
It said...there's no time. And it
needs a "vessel" to carry it to its
other half.

LARA
A vessel? What, like a jug?

ROSE
I'm not sure. It said that it's
half-born, not alive and not dead.
It...hates it. Being halfway.

LARA
So I was right. About the Sun and
Moon Club. They were trying to
birth a new entity. Rose, this is
amazing.

ROSE
(preoccupied)
Yeah.

LARA
What is it?

ROSE
I was just thinking...do you know
The Origin of Love?

LARA
Oh. That's a deep question.

ROSE
No, it's a story. From Plato,
writing about Aristophanes. It says
that originally, all humans were
made up of two parts, two people
fused together. Four hands, four
feet, two heads. And they were
different genders, like, some of
them were two male halves, and some
two female halves, some one of
each. Every combination.

LARA

Right.

ROSE

Anyway, the gods got mad at them for some reason, I can't remember, and they split them all in half. And that's what humans are now. We're incomplete, walking around looking for the other halves of ourselves. And when two pieces find each other, they know real happiness. Completion.

LARA

Huh.

ROSE

I don't know, this just reminded me of it.

LARA

Two halves that make up one whole.

ROSE

What do you think this thing is, once it's put back together?

LARA

I don't know. I don't know if we should find out.

(beat)

Listen, um, I'm sorry about before. Yesterday. The yelling. I should've been more of a partner.

ROSE

Yeah.

LARA

It's just that you're so...and I'm so...so it's just like...you know?

ROSE

Um...no?

LARA

Sorry, nothing, I'm -- I'm tired. I had this dream.

ROSE

Me too.

LARA
It was terrifying.

ROSE
Oh. Mine was beautiful.

LARA
I think this thing...I don't think
its intentions are good.

ROSE
Why? What did it say to you?

LARA
It didn't use words. It was more of
a...feeling. I'm thinking we should
prepare a banishing ritual. Just in
case.

ROSE
What? No!

LARA
Just in case!

ROSE
That's not what it wants.

LARA
I don't think we should do what it
wants.

ROSE
It wants to be born. It lives in
agony. "Excruciating," it said.

LARA
Rose, if it can speak, then it can
lie. This is really dangerous.

ROSE
Well, I think we have to take a
chance here.

Lara hesitates.

LARA
How about this. We'll gather
materials for a ritual. See what
other information you can get. We
can regroup around noon and decide
what to do then.

ROSE

What do we have to do?

LARA

We each need to find four objects that represent each of the four classical elements. Earth, fire, water, air. And some kind of vessel to hold each one.

ROSE

That's what the spirit wanted. A vessel.

LARA

So we're on the right track, then. After that you need some kind of oil to anoint yourself with. They would've used something called Abramelin oil, but pretty much any kind of water or oil should work.

ROSE

I might actually have something for that. My parents do this kind of faith healing thing.

LARA

Oh. Your parents are, like, preachers?

Thunder rumbles.

ROSE

Yeah, I'm a lesbian psychic with a preacher dad. Can we move along?

It starts to rain.

LARA

Oh, you're a...I didn't...

ROSE

Can we hurry this along? I think there's a storm coming in and the reception's about to get even worse.

LARA

Right. Okay. Next you draw a pentagram on the floor.

ROSE
A pentagram? Aren't those Satanic?

LARA
As much as Tarot is Satanic.

ROSE
Makes sense, I guess.

More thunder.

LARA
Storm's on my end, too.

ROSE
Interesting. Okay, what next?

LARA
You set a strong intention and ask
the spirit to leave.

ROSE
Like is there an incantation? Or do
we just say, like, "Please leave?"

LARA
(audio glitching)
Listen, the storm is getting...can
we...later?

ROSE
What?

LARA
Just get what you can.
(static)
Noon, okay?

ROSE
What? You're breaking up.

LARA
We'll talk at noon.

ROSE
Okay --
(glitching, static)
If we can -- I'm sure it -- okay?

LARA
I'm not --

Static. The line drops.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE - DAY

Rose walks around the uneven floor.

ROSE
Okay, so, vessels. I wonder if
there are any old vases or
something in here.

She opens a few cabinets.

ROSE (cont'd)
Empty...empty...oh!

She opens a cabinet door and a BUNCH OF OLD GLASS JARS AND
WINE GLASSES FALL OUT.

ROSE (cont'd)
Jars and wine glasses. That'll
work. As long as it's not too...ow!
Shit, now I'm bleeding.

She hurries across the floor.

As she does, the EVP MACHINE suddenly clicks on. It searches
radio stations and lands on a religious channel:

PREACHER (RADIO)
This is he that came by water and
blood --
(static)
-- water only, but by water and
blood. And it is the Spirit that --

It returns to static.

ROSE
Um...

Stations flip again.

ROSE (cont'd)
I mean, that thing just scans
channels randomly, right? That's
not...

It flips channels again. A snippet of music. Then, the
religious station again:

PREACHER (RADIO)
That which is born of the flesh is
flesh; and that which is born of
the Spirit is --

Static.

ROSE
Is it you? Spirit? Is this how you
speak during the day?

Scanning channels again. Thunder rumbles. The machine CLICKS
OFF.

ROSE (cont'd)
Flesh...and blood.

She considers. Rain falls.

EXT. OREGON CAVES - DAY

Lara walks through the woods.

LARA
Okay...for the record.

She turns on the recorder with a **blip-bloop!**

LARA (cont'd)
Gathering elements for a potential
banishing ritual. I set out a tray
to catch some rain, for water. I'm
gonna grab some earth from right
outside the opening to help lure
the spirit out there. I don't want
to light a fire in there, but
hopefully an orange glow stick will
work. Air is a little tricky, but I
was thinking...

A STELLER'S JAY call rings out.

LARA (cont'd)
Bird feathers. Now let me just see
if...

She grabs at some twigs.

LARA (cont'd)
I gotta set this down.

Bloop-blip! Recorder is off.

Lara fumbles in the branches of a tree for a few moments.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay, um...jackpot!

An odd, distorted version of the HOWLING SCREAM from last night rings out.

Lara cries out, stumbles backward, and falls into the grass.

LARA (cont'd)
What was that?

She's quiet for a moment. It doesn't repeat. Just the STELLER'S JAY again.

Suddenly, Lara's WALKIE-TALKIE sputters to life.

NICK (RADIO)
Steller's Jays are excellent mimics.

Lara jumps again.

LARA
What -- oh god, the walkie.

She rummages through some things and unclips it.

NICK (RADIO)
Oh yeah, they copy other birds, construction noises...pretty much anything they hear often enough.

LARA
I thought this was off.

NICK (RADIO)
Yeah.

He laughs, apparently talking to someone else. The transmission ends.

LARA
Oh...it is off.
(beat)
Okay, so that was weird.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

Thunder and rain. The storm is beginning in earnest.

Rose sets out a JAR FULL OF PEBBLES.

ROSE
 Okay. Jar of rocks for earth.
 Electronics moved away from the
 leaky spots in the roof.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Microphone still on. This thing
 has, like, forever batteries.

Water drips. She sets a bucket underneath it.

ROSE (cont'd)
 Water. That works.

She sighs, hesitates.

ROSE (cont'd)
 For the record, I bandaged my hand.
 Although I wonder if...no. Using my
 blood to summon an unknown
 spiritual entity seems...unwise.

Thunder. Loud. Close. The house shakes.

The EVP machine clicks on. In the static:

ENTITY (RADIO)
 I need...to live...

It reverts to static.

ROSE
 Um...

On the laptop, a BEEP and then the recorded clip from the
 previous night plays.

ROSE (RECORDING)
What do you need?

Static in response.

A quick FAST-FORWARD noise, then:

ROSE (RECORDING) (cont'd)
Wait! Tell me what to do.

This repeats, like a skipping record.

ROSE (RECORDING) (cont'd)
*Wait! Tell me what to do. Tell me
 what to do. Tell me what to do.*

ROSE
Spirit? This is scaring me...

The thunder hits again, hard, rattling everything. The static and repeating recording continue.

FADE TO:

INT. CAVE - SAME

It's quiet. Just dripping and other cave noises.

Lara drags a piece of CHALK along the ground.

LARA
And there's the pentagram. Okay -- dirt for earth, rain for water, light for fire, feather for air. Prepped some oil earlier, so that's on standby. Walkie-talkie still... off.

She takes a breath. Looks around for a beat.

LARA (cont'd)
So that's...everything. Oh!

She picks up the mic.

LARA (cont'd)
Recorder still running. Everything is set up for the ritual. I'm just waiting for my next check-in call with Rose in a few minutes. Hopefully we can pull this off.

She fidgets. Considers.

LARA (cont'd)
You know, she could be right. About the spirit. It might be benign. I could always try to...connect with it somehow. I guess. See what I can find out. I'm not psychic, but sometimes I get...feelings.

She sets the mic down on the floor, sits.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay, spirit. Half-spirit. I'm open. Tell me what you are.

She takes a deep breath.

BACK TO:

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

Chaos and noise, as before. Rose suddenly CRIES OUT in pain.

ROSE
Aghh! My hand!

She struggles, fights. She FALLS hard onto the ground.

ROSE (cont'd)
No!

Thunder rumbles again.

Rose slides sideways. She IMPACTS some jars and glass bottles.

ROSE (cont'd)
I'm trying to help you!

The EVP machine flips channels.

PREACHER (RADIO)
Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born again, he
cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.

It flips channels again.

Rose struggles to her feet. She falls again.

ROSE
How are you doing this?

Thunder. Static. Rattling glass.

The laptop plays again, awkwardly jumping into the middle of a recording.

ROSE (RECORDING)
*Number fifteen. The Devil.
Addiction, attachment, the shadow
self. Can also indicate duality, as
it depicts --*

Rose struggles to her feet.

ROSE
The laptop. I've got to call Lara.

ROSE (RECORDING)
*this infinite...darkness. But it
wasn't scary. It was...joyful.
Comforting. I was so --*

Rose fights her way across the floor, GRUNTING as she goes.

ROSE (RECORDING) (cont'd)
Wait! Tell me --

Rose clicks it off.

ROSE
Okay, okay, video call. Lara.

She clicks. The video call sound rings out. It rings and rings. Then disconnects.

ROSE (cont'd)
No! No!

She clicks again. The ringing begins again.

Thunder. Rattling. A glass jar BURSTS.

ROSE (cont'd)
Come on, come on, come on...

The app rings again.

FADE TO:

EXT. OREGON CAVES - DAY

It's raining, hard. Lara crawls out of the entrance hole, stands, and dusts herself off.

LARA
Well, that was a waste of time. Or
it was peaceful. I guess it depends
on interpretation.

Soft rumble of thunder.

Lara unlocks her phone, goes to tap something, and -- it instantly connects.

LARA (cont'd)
Rose?

Noise, chaos comes through the phone's speakers.

ROSE (PHONE)
Lara? It's not what we thought.
Lara! You need to run.

She screams. The call drops.

LARA
Rose? Rose!

Lara calls back. The phone rings once, then drops.

LARA (cont'd)
Oh my god. Um. Maybe if I go back
in and do the ritual --

v A loud RUMBLE. Lara SHOUTS as everything shakes. Rocks fall. She scrambles out of the way.

Lara rights herself, breathing hard.

LARA (cont'd)
The entrance. It's...

She GRUNTS as she tries to pull a few rocks aside.

LARA (cont'd)
It's totally collapsed.

Lara hesitates. She grabs her phone. **Blip-bloop!** Recording app is on.

LARA (cont'd)
For the record. The entrance tunnel
has collapsed. Rose is...
something's happening at the lake
house. If it needs both of us to
end this, then I need to get back
inside.

She takes a few steps in the mud.

LARA (cont'd)
I think I have an alternate way in.
Those bats get out somehow, right?

She hesitates again. Thunder.

LARA
Yeah. Okay. I'm going in.

Blip-bloop. Recording off. Lara climbs the rocks.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

The call ends. Rose clicks frantically.

ROSE
Lara? Lara!

A recording plays from the laptop again.

ROSE (RECORDING)
*it reached out, and -- and I sang
it too. I sang --*

Rose THROWS the laptop with a grunt. It slams into a wall and breaks.

The EVP machine clicks on.

PREACHER (RADIO)
That which is flesh is --

Rose hits it hard. It statics to silence.

ROSE
No! You can't talk to me. You don't
get to do this.

Quiet for a moment. Just rain.

ROSE (cont'd)
Lara said it's about intention.
Okay, well, I intend for you to
leave.

Thunder again, even louder. The whole house shakes, the glass rattles.

INT. CAVE TUNNEL

Lara CRAWLS through the tunnel, grunting and scrambling.

LARA
(With effort)
Okay, it's a little bit tight,
but -- ugh -- I can do it. I just
need to --

Her headlamp thunks into something. It shatters.

LARA (cont'd)
 Shit. That was my light. Oh, shit.
 Okay, I just need to reach into my
 bag for...I don't have my bag.

She takes a few breaths.

LARA (cont'd)
 Okay. I can do this. I can climb in
 the dark. Right? It's the same as
 the light except you...don't know
 what things are. Which is fine.
 Ohhhh god, why is everything wet?

She keeps crawling, a slow journey through the earth.

LARA (cont'd)
 (Sings)
 Ohh, Old MacDonald had a cave, E-I-
 E-I...ow! And on this cave she had
 a --

She grunts, shifts, pulls through a tight spot.

LARA (cont'd)
 Squeeze -- ugh -- E-I-E-I-O. With
 a -- ouch! Okay -- here and a
 twist-twist there -- ugh -- here a
 rock, there a rock, everywhere a --
 whoa!

She slips on slick rocks. Scrambling, chaos, rocks moving
 around.

LARA (cont'd)
 Okay, let me just --

She slides to a sudden stop.

LARA (cont'd)
 Okay.

She twists, grunts. She can't move.

LARA (cont'd)
 Oh. Oh god.

She pushes harder, grunts. No dice.

LARA (cont'd)
 Oh god oh god oh god. Okay, no.
 It's fine. I'm not stuck. I just
 (MORE)

LARA (cont'd)
need to twist my hips that way and
put my shoulders through -- ahhhhh!

She stops, takes a moment to catch her breath.

LARA (cont'd)
It's fine. I'll just crawl back. Oh
god, it's so dark...

She struggles, scrambles, rocks scatter. She does not move.

LARA (cont'd)
(desperate)
Okay, so...so that doesn't work
either.

A beat. A small static CRACKLE.

LARA (cont'd)
The walkie. Oh my god. For
emergencies.

She shifts and struggles.

LARA (cont'd)
If I can just get my hand back
to...ahhhhhhh okay.

BEEP of a walkie-talkie button.

LARA (cont'd)
Hello? Can anyone hear me? Over?

Silence.

LARA (cont'd)
Hello? Anyone?

Silence.

LARA (cont'd)
Help.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

Thunder. Noise. Rose sits on the floor, whispering to herself.

ROSE
Please go away, please go away,
please go away...

The room shakes again.

ROSE (cont'd)
You keep this up and I'll stop
saying please!

No response.

ROSE (cont'd)
Come on, Lara. I need you.

INT. CAVE TUNNEL

Lara struggles again, but half-hearted now. She might be giving up.

STATIC and unintelligible noise over the walkie-talkie.

LARA
Hello? Hello! Is someone there?

The static wavers. Rose's voice breaks through.

ROSE (RADIO)
Come on, Lara. I need you.

It statics, then sputters back to silence.

LARA
Rose? Hello? I...

Silence.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay. Okay. I can do this. I...i
have to do this, so...Just listen.
Don't force it. Deep breath...

She breathes in, then exhales all the way...and suddenly SLIIIIIDES down through the rocks at an alarming rate.

LARA (cont'd)
I made -- ahhhh!

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Rocks slip and fall to the ground. Lara tumbles in after them, screaming as she goes. She lands heavily on the ground.

LARA

Owww...
 (beat)
 Rose. Spirit. Okay.

She crawls into place.

LARA (cont'd)

Okay, spirit. You want me to connect? Let's connect. And then you need to go.

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

As before.

ROSE

Go away, go away, go away...

A ZAP and RUMBLE as LIGHTNING strikes the house. Rose screams.

ROSE (cont'd)

You want to burn the house down?
 Fine! Just get the fuck out!

INT. CAVE

Lara wheezes. The machines suddenly spring to life, all beeping and alarming at once.

LARA

Okay. I get it. You're half-here. It hurts. I hurt. So just go, be with your other half, whatever, just get out of here!

BATS fly through the cave again.

LARA (cont'd)

Oh for fucks' sake, just go!

The bats fly out.

We hear both women's voices at once.

LARA

Go away!

ROSE

Get out!

Silence. A beat.

LARA
...Spirit? You there?

INT. CORWIN LAKE HOUSE

Sound of fire. Rose coughs.

ROSE
Do you hear me? Just go!

A beat. All is silent, except for the fire and a gentle rain.

ROSE (cont'd)
Oh my god. It worked.

A wood beam CRACKS and tumbles in the fire.

ROSE (cont'd)
And now I should go.

She coughs and hurries out.

INT. VIDEO CALL - LATER

Video call ring. It connects.

ROSE
Lara? Lara! Oh my god!

LARA
Are you okay?

ROSE
Yeah -- yeah.

LARA
Wait...is that the Corwin House?

ROSE
Oh...yeah. The firefighters are on it, but I don't think Mr. Corwin has to worry about demolition anymore.

LARA
And all the equipment's inside?

ROSE
Um...

ROSE
Unless you're vegan. Though,
there's a great vegan place in
Ashland.

LARA
That would be...yes. We should do
that.

NICK (O.S.)
Seriously? You're doing this right
now?

LARA
(whispers)
Shush!

A CRASH on Rose's end.

ROSE
Okay, I think I need to give
someone a statement or something.

LARA
Yeah, I should go too.

ROSE
Okay.

LARA
I'll call you?

ROSE
Yeah. Yeah, I would like that.

NICK (O.S.)
Oh my god!!

LARA
See you later.

ROSE
(laughs)
Yeah.

The call ends.

EXT. OREGON CAVES

The rain has stopped. Birds sing in the trees. Lara lays
back, sighs happily.

NICK
What happened in there?

LARA
It was amazing.

NICK
Great. Now get out of my damn park.

LARA
Roger roger, Ranger Nick.

Nick groans. Lara laughs, then groans.

LARA (cont'd)
Okay, I might've cracked some ribs.

Nick laughs.

FADE OUT

OUTRO

Thank you for listening to our special Halloween episode. This one was a real adventure to make, and I really appreciate you tuning in to listen. I also continue to appreciate your reviews, tweets, comments, and other support and engagement for this show. It really means a lot.

This show is currently self-funded, and it's been a tough year, for me as well as, I'm sure, for many of you, so if you're in a position to do so, your financial support goes a long way. Subscribe monthly on Patreon for access to rewards, perks, and inside information about the show. Go to patreon.com/believerpodcast for more information. You can also purchase tee shirts, stickers, or other merchandise at our TeePublic site.

New episodes are coming soon. Until then...if you're working in your lab late one night, and your eyes behold a terrible sight? Don't worry. It's just the mash. I mean, the Monster Mash. After all, it is a graveyard smash.

Happy Halloween. Bye now.