<u>The 100 Handed</u> <u>Episode 11</u> Major Malfunction V. Previously on The 100 Handed.

LILY

The plan was to send Scout in first. Gather intel, then release the spell and give Michael all the details. Michael goes in shortly after, takes out the bad guys. Easy.

WEXLER But he wasn't ready.

LILY Neither of us were.

Swoosh.

MICHAEL This is bad. Lily, you have to get out of here.

Scout MEOWS, then YOWLS.

MAYA

(injured)
Oh no you don't, kitty. You're going
to WATCH your friend die.
 (beat)
You can't hold them off forever,
Imagomancer.

MICHAEL

Try me.

Washington lets out another yell as he cleaves through another undead. His Inkblade FLICKERS, then FAILS for good.

MICHAEL (cont'd) Come on, come on. Why isn't the tattoo working? Burn it!

The Inkblade tat FLARES, then FIZZLES.

MICHAEL (cont'd) No! (beat) Fuck this. As long as I draw breathe, I'm not going down with out a fight. Bring it! Swoosh.

LILY (V.O.) (emotional) I watched as the remaining undead took their forks...and their knives...and began stabbing him. Maya, she held Scout's head, forced me to watch every second of it. (beat) I'll kill her. I swear to God, Vasquez, Wexler this is just the beginning. I'll kill that bitch.

1102 TITLE SEQUENCE AND MUSIC INTRO

WEXLER (V.O.) Soul-stealing Magi.

V. (V.O.) Flesh-eating Creeps.

WEXLER (V.O.) Yeah, it's just another day at the office for the Madhouse. My werewolf partner and I attempt to keep the peace without being torn to pieces . Weep at the wonder.

V. (V.O.) Howl at the horror.

WEXLER (V.O.) ...and keep the light on, it's gonna get dark. This is the One-Hundred Handed.

1103 VAZQUES'S OFFICE - DAY

We hear the TOCK TOCK TOCK of a clock.

WEXLER (blankly) What...what happened then?

LILY

The gravecaller used some sort of healing salve on the injury, patched her right up. The psychemancer, she took Michael's mind. (MORE) 1102

LILY (cont'd) I watched her pull it out of Michael's body as he was restrained by the reanimated corpses.

WEXLER

So he's...he's not dead? (beat, slams fist on desk)

Dammit, if someone had just checked his body with Psychespeak, we'd have known his mind was still out there! We could have been on this months ago! I'm going to wring the Inkling's neck who failed to do that.

VASQUEZ

This changes everything. Are you sure?

LILY

I've no doubt in my mind. After Maya took Michael's psyche, she turned her attention to me. She began chanting, placed her fingers on Scout's head. I felt my mind being ripped away. I fought back, trying to withdraw.

(beat)

I suppose that's what put me out. It was like my mind was being torn in two. I don't know what happened after that.

VASQUEZ

A parking attendant found you in your vehicle in the parking garage that the two of you had been staked out in. They noticed you laying there, then when they came back a few hours later you hadn't moved. The attendant called EMS. We took measures to recover you.

WEXLER

You said Michael's Imagomancy failed, that it fizzled out somehow. I've been on countless missions with him. He's never faltered once. Others, sure, but not him. What happened? LILY

I don't know. It couldn't have been either of the Magi, I was watching them. They made no moves. It was like something had bit him, or stung him, but there wasn't anything there.

WEXLER

But he's alive.

VASQUEZ We don't know that. For all we know, this psychemancer has already dusted his mind.

WEXLER You don't know that, Vasquez.

VASQUEZ Of course I don't know that, which is why we're going to get him back.

Wexler STANDS.

WEXLER This is all too much. I...I need to think.

He HEADS to the door.

WEXLER (cont'd) Drafted Thomas...Lily, thank you for telling me.

LILY Sure thing, Wexler. Is there anything else, you need from me, Engraved?

VASQUEZ Yes, I'd like to inquire a bit more about this Calloway Keye and Maya, please Lily, sit...

1104 INT. MINDFORGE - ???

We hear the ECHOES of blank space.

MICHAEL I know you've come back, Magi. Show yourself.

ECHOING footsteps approach.

1104

MICHAEL (cont'd) Good to see you in fine health.

MAYA

You did quite a number on me back at Sundown; it's only been with the help of a friend that I've gotten the feeling back in my leg.

MICHAEL

If I'd have known you talk this much, I'd have cut out your tongue.

MAYA

My my, still living in the past? It's been, what, six months?

MICHAEL

I can't say that I've been checking my Outlook calender.

MAYA Funny. Do you know why I've come?

MICHAEL Something tells me it's not to install wi-fi.

MAYA 'fraid not. It's time for another round.

Maya SNAPS her fingers.

MICHAEL

The box, again?

MAYA

Bored of it? This box has broken countless minds in here. Well, not countless, otherwise we'd have what we need for the Atlas. Let's just say you aren't the first person to enjoy its...many sensations.

MICHAEL

The Atlas?

Maya RUMMAGES through the box.

MAYA

The Atlas Infinitus. A map that can aid the user in locating, well, just about anything. We're very close to it, but you don't have to worry about that. We have other uses for you. (idly) Let's see...

She PULLS OUT a scorpion.

MAYA (cont'd) How do you feel about scorpions today, Imagomancer?

MICHAEL

(faux-whining) We had scorpions on Tuesday.

MAYA

Very funny. I must say, I'll be quite thrilled to watch the last hint of humor drain from your eyes. Because you know what replaces it? Nothing. Even if you put it back together, reverse the process, something bad has been done to your mind. No putting the light back into that bulb that's for certain, ha!

More RUMMAGING.

MAYA (cont'd) Hot irons. Yes, let's do hot irons.

She pulls out a white hot iron that SIZZLES.

MAYA (cont'd) What's great about this is that there's really no limit to the damage I can inflict upon your mind. I can make the iron coil around you, if I so wish. Around ev-ery inch of you.

The SIZZLING grows close as it gets near Michael.

MICHAEL (defiant) Do your goddamn worst.

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MAYA
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I... (beat) Wait.

She tosses the IRON in the box.

MICHAEL What are you doing?

MAYA You just gave me an idea. (laughing) Why didn't I think of it before? (imitating) 'Do your worst' (normal) I <u>have</u> been! That's the thing, for the last half a year, I've been doing my worst to you. And yet you won't fucking budge!

MICHAEL What are you talking about?

MAYA I think I've been going about this all wrong.

MICHAEL I don't understand.

MAYA

Oh no, you don't. But you don't need to understand. (beat)

You know what the great thing about this Mindforge is? It allows me to impose on a subjective consciousness. I can do whatever I want. In the Mindforge, I am your god. But I've been thinking too much like an old god. You know, fire and brimstone, hellish torture chamber blah blah blah. BO-RING! (beat)

You know what people fear about going to Hell?

MICHAEL I don't see where this is going.

MAYA

They fear agony beyond belief for an unfathomably long time. Eternal conscious torment. Being on the receiving end with no means of stopping it. That's the little game we've been playing. Our own little imitation of God and the unrepentant sinner.

MICHAEL (dismissive) You get used to it.

MAYA

<u>Ex-actly</u>. You got used to it. But you getting used to it is utterly useless to me. So I've got something else in mind. Something else you can't get used to. I'll be back in a little bit, Michael Washington. Well, a little bit for me. For you? Not so much.

MICHAEL Wait, where are you--

Maya VANISHES

MICHAEL (cont'd) ...going. (beat)

She's insane.

The room SHIFTS. We hear the sounds of a DANK cell. DRIPPING water, RATTLING chains.

MICHAEL (cont'd) (bored) Here we go again. Another boring torture session. This looks like your standard fare dungeon.

He RATTLES his chains.

MICHAEL (cont'd) Chains. Torture tools. (yawns) Is Maya just going to the Open Source for sadistic Magi lairs?

There's a RUSTLING outside of Washington's cell.

MICHAEL (cont'd) (yelling) Who is it? Show yourself, hurry up and let's get this over with.

Footsteps as WEXLER approaches.

WEXLER This won't be over any time soon.

MICHAEL

W-wexler?

WEXLER

Oh yes.

MICHAEL

No, it isn't. This is a trick. I was just talking to Maya not even a minute ago.

WEXLER

(chuckles) Of course it's a trick. Part of you knows that. The rational part, the part that solves problems and separates this from that. (beat)

But that's not all we are. You know that. There's another part to us. The part that still shivers when it sees a flitting shadow at night. The part of our ancestral mind that fear and fantasy burrow into like worms into a corpse.

(beat) That part of you believes that this is me. That's all that matters. Not what you think you believe.

MICHAEL

How? Why now?

Wexler pulls out a SET OF KEYS, rings through them then picks the right one and UNLOCKS the cell.

WEXLER Despite your noble efforts at resistance, Maya's prolonged, ah, interrogation of your mind has been chipping away at your will. Bit by bit.

(MORE)

WEXLER (cont'd) You've proven remarkable, Michael. Everyone else would have broken ten times over by now. (beat) But not you.

MICHAEL

Whatever Ramsay Bolton game you think will get me to crack, it won't work.

WEXLER

Perhaps.

Wexler opens the cell, walks up to Michael.

MICHAEL What are you doing?

WEXLER Letting you go.

Beat.

MICHAEL I don't believe you.

Wexler UNLOCKS Washington's manacles.

WEXLER See? Free to go.

MICHAEL

Move.

Washington leaves his cell, his bare feet slapping on the stones.

MICHAEL (cont'd) Something's not right about this. You've got all these implements of brutality laying around. (beat) Let's see. (beat) There's no door out.

WEXLER

That's right.

Wexler PICKS UP a knife.

MICHAEL What are you going to do with that?

T100H11 - "Major Malfunction" - Page 11

WEXLER

My work.

Wexler SLASHES at Washington.

MICHAEL Easy, goddammit!

WEXLER You're still quick.

MICHAEL You've still got a long way to go. (beat, to himself) Dammit, Michael, that's not Wexler. Don't be fooled.

Another SLASH.

WEXLER

Hold still.

MICHAEL This would be a lot easier for you if you hadn't let me go.

Another SLASH, this one CONNECTS.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Agh!

WEXLER Now you're getting it.

MICHAEL

Cut it out!

WEXLER

(taunting)

Make me.

Wexler SLASHES again, Michael catches his arm.

MICHAEL

Got you, bastard.

Sounds of a struggle/rustling. Michael throws Wexler into the BARS and Wexler crumples.

MICHAEL (cont'd) (breathing heavily) Stay down. Wexler pats at the ground, REACHING for the knife. He gets a GRIP on it, scrapes the knife against the floor bringing it up.

WEXLER

I won't stop.

Wexler YELLS as he CHARGES Michael, stabbing Michael in the side.

MICHAEL (pained)

Aaaaaagh!

Michael HITS Wexler.

MICHAEL (cont'd) Back, damn you!

Michael stumbles, collides into a TABLE.

MICHAEL (cont'd) The implement table.

Michael picks the MALLET up.

MICHAEL (cont'd) Stay back, Evan.

WEXLER I'm not Evan Wexler, remember? (mad laughter) Beat me with that mallet, Michael. Beat my fucking brains out.

MICHAEL I...right. Bring it!

WEXLER

Sure thing.

Wexler CHARGES Michael again. Michael SWINGS the mallet, connects with Wexler's skull. Wexler drops.

WEXLER (cont'd) (groaning) Ugh-guh...

MICHAEL Die, damn you! Michael SWINGS the mallet, again and again. Wexler lets out a cry of pain until he succumbs to the blows.

MICHAEL (cont'd) (breathing heavily) Wexler...Evan.

He drops the MALLET. Clunk!

MICHAEL (cont'd) Oh god, I can't believe I killed him. I feel sick.

Michael VOMITS.

MICHAEL (cont'd) (breathing heavily) It wasn't him. It wasn't him. It was just a trick. Wexler isn't like that. Evan, Evan isn't like that. (composing himself) I don't understand. What was that all about?

There's a faint SHIFTING noise.

WEXLER You'll understand. In time.

MICHAEL Impossible, I just...

WEXLER Nothing's impossible in here, Imagomancer. This is my playground. We're just getting started.

Wexler PICKS the knife up.

MICHAEL I won't do that again.

WEXLER

Then you'll suffer until you decide
you no longer want to. That's the
beauty of our new little program. The
pain stops when you want it to.
 (beat)
For a little while, at least. All you
have to do is kill me. Again. And
again. And <u>again.</u> Dust yourself off,
Imagomancer. We'll be here for a
while.

1105 INT. MADHOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Vague walla; footsteps from the other Imagomancers. Whispers from behind closed doors.

V. (V.O.)

We left Solomon's parlor, cutting through the winding passages of the Madhouse. Solomon led the way, followed by myself and the recently tattooed Lily Thomas. Excitement coursed through my veins. Even though most of the Madhouse clearly didn't care for me, I began combing through its mysteries with an obsessiveness. Perhaps it was a coping mechanism, but I didn't mind. I'd been thrust into the world of the extramundane by my mother, then pulled directly into the Madhouse's orbit by Wexler. Solomon still hadn't figured out a way to repair the damage to my appearance that had resulted from the disaster at Howard House; my werewolf nature was impossible to hide. I decided, fuck it, I'm going full bore into the weirdness that my life had become. Some of that entailed exploring every part of Madhouse that I could get my mutated little paws on.

LILY

Maybe it was too soon to do a Draft. My connection to the Center is... unstable, to say the least.

v.

You pulled through. Gotta get back on the bike sometime.

SOLOMON Here we are. The Elevator.

V.

Why can I practically hear the capital 'E' when you say that?

SOLOMON Because it is no ordinary elevator. (MORE) SOLOMON (cont'd) This is THE Elevator. If you've been wandering the Madhouse halls for long, you may have noticed that it's not exactly in accordance with, ah, geometry.

v.

You're talking about because it's larger on the inside than the outside?

SOLOMON One of the less bizarre features of the building. The halls can wind 'round themselves in ways that... don't exactly make sense. (beat, hasty) Even to me.

V. Bizarre. I thought that you knew everything about...

SOLOMON

About?

V. I don't know. The magical and supernatural.

SOLOMON There are mysteries even beyond my ken, Veronica.

Solomon PRESSES the button. We hear the elevator rumble.

v.

Now that you mention it, I <u>have</u> wondered about the logistics of some of this stuff.

SOLOMON

How do you mean?

v.

Well, take, like, any of those YA fantasy novels. Harry Potter or Narnia or whatever. You have magic that co-exists with the quote unquote real world, and yet most of the normals or civilians or muggles or whatever you want to call them, have no idea that it's there. (MORE)

V. (cont'd)

How does it all stay operational and unnoticed? Wexler mentioned something about the mind of the average Flock member being unwilling to comprehend the workings of the Gloom, but that doesn't seem like the whole story.

LILY

I remember Engraved Washington mentioning that certain Engraved are tasked with Flock-Madhouse relations. He said that we've got at least a few senators in the Southwest in our pockets. There are other organizations dedicated to investigating the extraordinary, and they have their own means of keeping things under wraps.

Another elevator DING. Solomon pulls the folding carriage door open. They STEP INSIDE.

v.

Which floor?

LILY

First floor.

V. PRESSES the button. The doors CLOSE. It HUMS as it descends.

SOLOMON

The war between the Glimmer and the Gloom was hard to conceal in ages past. The human mind was quite amenable to the collision of the forces of Light and Dark.

LILY

So what happened?

SOLOMON

Hard to say. History is divided into discrete categories in textbooks only, the actual drama of events is far messier. But, from what I saw, I'd say it was around the mid 1500s.

LILY That's...oddly specific. v.

That's the beginning of the Scientific Revolution.

SOLOMON

Yes. In many ways, I am grateful for the Revolution and subsequent Age of Reason. Life was much more hectic when everyone was attempting to call upon forces beyond their ken so that they could curse an enemy or charm a woman into bed. After the Age of Reason set in, mankind began to look to the laws of Nature for solutions. Slowly they boxed in their imagination, not because they meant to, but what's a vision of magic compared to a bullet or a steam engine?

(beat) Not everyone was taken by these solutions.

v.

Well, obviously the Creeps didn't care much because they still had to satiate their appetites. And the Magi probably didn't care because who gives a shit about how many widgets you can collect when there's an entire dimension to explore that isn't tied to technology. That we know of, at least.

SOLOMON

Indeed. Though I fear the easy ride given to us by the Enlightenment is coming to a close.

V. Why's that?

SOLOMON

Ezra and I keep tabs on the movements of culture. The New Agers, the occultists, neopagans. Archaic Revivalists seeking the lost days of plant medicines. The solutions offered to us by various materialoriented ideologies such as liberalism, socialism, and nationalism are failing to satisfy. (MORE) SOLOMON (cont'd) Science has become utterly baffling to the lay-person. Have you <u>tried</u> understanding quantum mechanics? You can't even properly convey its meaning in analogy. The math and physics are too complex. Philosophy in the post-war era has become little more than an intricate linguistic chess-game if you're an American or utter word salad if you're from the Continent.

(beat)

No, no, we have so many more people now. You humans are running on archaic hardware, and the universe grows increasingly complicated with each new discovery. The Imagia is being tapped into even more, now, and its only a matter of time before more and more uncover the secrets of the Gloom.

v.

Holy shit.

SOLOMON

Holy shit, indeed. We will have our work cut out for us in the coming decades.

The elevator DINGS.

SOLOMON (cont'd)

That's enough conjecture, for now. Let us see how those tattoos fare on you, Drafted Lily.

LILY

Sounds good to me.

1106 INT. MATTER AND MIND GROUNDS - DAY

V. (V.O.)

Matter and Mind Proving Grounds took up the eastern wing of the first floor of the Madhouse. Despite the organization taking their namesake after an abandoned asylum, the Imagomancers had long since retrofitted this particular wing so that it resembled a quasi-military compound. 1106

T100H11 - "Major Malfunction" - Page 19

Lily BANGS on a metal door.

LILY It's Lily and Solomon and...the new girl.

GUARD (intercom) Why do we gaze deep into the abyss?

LILY To poke out its eyes and hear it hiss.

A loud BUZZER, the RETRACTING of bolts. Lily SLIDES the door open. The trio continues to walk down the hall. During this, we hear distant GUNSHOTS, the DUELING of swords.

> V. What was that all about? LILY Precaution. Just to make sure I am who I say I am.

V. It's...sort of obvious.

LILY

It's obvious and taken for granted until a Facesnatcher disguises themselves as an Imagomancer and slaughters five Inklings. After something like that happens, you step up security protocols, even if they're silly call-and-response rhymes that change every day. (beat) Sorry, I thought Vasquez might have told you that story. She tells anyone after a few shots. I've seen her tell

some unlucky souls after just *one* beer.

V. What if the Creep just guesses?

LILY

One strike rule. Fuck up the protocol even once and you're subdued and thrown into Isolation until Solomon or an Engraved can verify your identity. We hear the sounds of two individuals sparring. As the trio draws near, the sounds stop.

INKLING #1 (whispering) Is that her...?

INKLING #2 Idiot, show respect. Madame Drafted!

LILY (respectfully) Young Inkling.

INKLING #2

And...and...

SOLOMON Carry on, carry on. Don't mind us, we're just passing through.

V and company head away.

INKLING #1 Holy shit that was <u>the</u> Tattooist!

V and the others STOP WALKING.

LILY Here's an empty practice room.

Lily PUNCHES in a keycode. The door OPENS.

V. For a bunch of magicians, the lot of you sure do have quite the reliance on technology.

They STEP through, the door SHUTS behind them.

SOLOMON

If you can solve problems using more mundane means, why not? Channeling the Gloom and the Glimmer takes quite the effort. No need to warm a house with a forest fire when a heater will do just fine.

LILY Where's the lights?

She FLICKS a switch.

T100H11 - "Major Malfunction" - Page 21

LILY (cont'd) There. (beat) You haven't been here before, have you, V? v. Nope. LILY Get a load of this. She KEYS a control panel. Metal shutters RETRACT. v. No fucking way! Look at all those weapons! LILY This is one of our training rooms. Tons of melee weapons. Lily TAKES a practice sword off the rack. LILY (cont'd) All non-lethal, of course. Can't have the Inklings decapitating one another. Well, anymore. Here, catch. Lily tosses the sword to V. v. A wooden katana. V SWINGS IT once, twice. V. (cont'd) Very Kurosawa. En Guarde, Solomon! V SWINGS at Solomon. SOLOMON V, desist these crass mannerisms at once! V SWINGS again. v. Defend your honor. SOLOMON This is uncouth!

v. (laughing) I'm just messing with you, Solo. (beat) Lily, you alright? LILY Yes...sorry, I was just reminiscing. (beat) I spent a lot of time in these training rooms as an Inkling. Always wanted to hone my martial skills. I had to make sure I was tough enough. (beat) I... v. We'll find the bastards that took Michael. LILY Right. Thanks. (beat) Anyway, I should probably give this a shot, huh? Six months without using Imagomancy, I'm bound to be a little rusty. v. What tattoo are you using? LILY Mattermove. Pretty straightforward spoon-bending telekinesis. Can be burned to manipulate objects with a will. v. So...people. LILY Right. When a will is involved, matters get way more complicated. v. Someone used an Imagomantic tattoo to dominate the minds of some cops when

Wexler was in trouble in Redsboro.

LILY

Sure, but I'd bet it required a tattoo dedicated solely to suggestion and I'd double-down and go so far to guess it had to be Burned. With this? Moving medium-sized objects is hard enough without trying to move a human body. You'd need Limblock or something specific. (beat) Okay. Here goes. I'm going to try to

lift those nun-chucks over there.

V. (giggling) Can't believe y'all train with nunchucks.

LILY

(chant) Matter, mind my mind. Move!

The nun-chucks begin to FLOAT.

v.

Very cool. Solomon, are you sure I can't get tattoos? I'd rather have that Jedi-force power thingy than, well, this horrific werewolf hybrid freak I've become.

SOLOMON

I could, if you want the Gloom in your body and mind to violently tear you into so many pieces that Humpty Dumpty will seem well put together by comparison.

V. Was...was that a pop culture reference you just made?

SOLOMON

I...no!

V. Score one for the shit-talking werewolf. I'm rubbing off on you, Solo.

We hear a WARBLING sound.

V. (cont'd) Wha--what's up with this sword? It's vibrating. (beat) Lily, is this you? LILY No, I'm not...I don't think... The katana ZIPS from V's hands. v. Woah! (beat) Easy, Lily. Just drop the flying katana. We hear a CRACKLING sound as Lily's Mattermove malfunctions. LILY I'm not doing this! SOLOMON Her Mattermove tattoo is malfunctioning! More weapons FLY off the racks. LILY Look out! V DODGES. v. That was close. At least they aren't, well, sharp. We begin to hear the SPLINTERING of the weapons. V. (cont'd) ...aaaand I spoke too soon. Those jagged edges could tear somebody's throat out. SOLOMON Calm down, Lily! Regain your focus! LILY (desperate) It's not working! Oh no, oh no... We hear the WOOSH of the weapons.

V. Shit, Solomon!

V TACKLES Solomon to the ground. She is STRUCK by several pieces.

V. (cont'd)

Argh! (beat) Solo, you alright?

SOLOMON Yes, yes! Something's gone terribly wrong with the tattoo, we have to figure out how to stop her.

v.

Any ideas?

SOLOMON I'm thinking, I'm thinking...

The Mattermove tat TEARS a chunk of concrete out of a pillar and joins the orbiting debris. WhooooOOM WHHOooooMMM!

LILY

I didn't mean to do that!

v.

Think faster, Solo, or she's gonna bring the roof down on us.

SOLOMON One of the quickest ways to short out an Imagomantic tattoo is to diminish the link between the tattoo and the Imagomancer's conscious mind!

V. Did you just seriously use a paragraph to tell me 'knock her out?'

SOLOMON

Just do it!

A CHUNK FLIES at them, whoom!

V. Stay down, I'll get this. Raaagh!

V PUNCHES the stone, SHATTERING it.

V. (cont'd) Oooooh fuck my life, that looks way easier in movies. I think I just broke my hand. Ow, ow, ow. (beat) I'm really sorry about this, Lily.

LILY (under immense pressure) I can get it under control, just give me a moment.

v.

No can do.

V CHARGES at Lily, dodging piece after piece of debris. After closing the distance, she KNOCKS Lily out.

LILY

OOOOMPH.

The debris begins to rain down around them.

v.

(breathing heavily)

You know, I have some serious qualms about knocking out a woman who's just spent six months in a coma.

SOLOMON

I don't understand. Did the length of her stay in the Center-of-Soul cause this reaction? Or was the the psyches we used to draw her out?

V. I'll leave that to you, Jimmy Neutron. For now, I think we should get her back to your parlor. (beat, groaning in pain.) And now the adrenaline's wearing out and I can feel every broken bone in my arm. You better have something to fix this or next time I'm letting her bury your King Tut-looking ass.

FADE OUT