

Hell's Gate

Season One - Episode Seventeen

"Plan B"

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(Based on characters and situations created
by Joss Whedon and Mutant Enemy Productions)

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TEASER

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - NIGHT.

Alarms blare and lights flash. LON, dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, is at one of the terminals frantically flipping switches and turning knobs.

A series of SPARKS is emitted from one of the switches as it shorts out. Lon hits the terminal repeatedly, knocking the sparks away.

Over the intercom, the sounds of battle can be heard.

FRANK

(filtered; over intercom)

Lon! Not to rush you, but if you and loverboy could stop playing kissy-face for two seconds, we'd appreciate it if you closed this damn thing down!

Off Lon's annoyed look we:

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - CONTINUOUS.

A large PORTAL is open. In front of it are VI, TAMSIN, and FRANK. A group of DEMONS of various shapes, sizes, and races are busy attacking the gang.

Frank BLOCKS a punch from DEMON #1.

LON

(filtered; over earpiece)

We're doing our best! You know how stubborn these anomalous portals are!

Frank raises his sawed off shotgun with his other hand, and BLAST the demon in the face. Tamsin and Vi continue to fight in the background as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - ORB CAVE - CONTINUOUS.

MIKE is in the cave area of Command Central standing at the glowing sphere with a comm device in his ear. Lon can be seen in the background in the computer area flipping switches.

Mike's eyes are white and glowing in time with the sphere. He glances over to Lon.

MIKE
Ignore the loud, angry man, baby.
He's just jealous.

Lon throws a smirk in Mike's direction as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - CONTINUOUS.

As before, the gang battle the demons. Another demon, DEMON #2, jumps out of the portal and heads for Frank. It PUNCHES the man in the face.

MIKE
(filtered; over earpiece)
It's not our fault he's old and
unloved.

Hearing this, Frank frowns and PUNCHES the demon hard in the jaw. It goes down as Frank shakes his hand, wincing in pain.

FRANK
I heard that! And I'm not unloved!

Tamsin is now back to back with Frank as they continue to fight.

TAMSIN
(motherly; to Frank)
Of course you're not, dear. Plenty
of women would be lucky to have
such a big, strong man as you.

FRANK
(pouting; turning to
Tamsin)
Damn straight! You forgot "ruggedly
handsome".

Tamsin HACKS the demon in front of her and gives Frank a smile.

TAMSIN
(nodding agreeingly)
Ruggedly handsome.

Frank smile back. He SHOOTs an approaching demon.

Vi is also now fighting along side her fellow teammates.

VI
(glancing to Frank)
She's right!

Frank gives a cocky smile as he PUNCHES another demon.

VI (CONT'D)
 If Grandma Clark was single and had
 two good hips...
 (hacking at a demon)
 ...I'd fix her up with you in a
 heartbeat.

Frank frowns and turns his head quickly to Vi. Tamsin chuckles.

VI (CONT'D)
 What? My grandma's hot!

FRANK
 (into his earpiece;
 gruffly)
Today with the portal closing,
 please!

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - ORB CAVE - CONTINUOUS.

Mike chuckles lightly.

MIKE
 Yes, sir, mon Capitán. I think I've
 just about got it...
 (concentrating)
 ...right here.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - CONTINUOUS.

The team glance quickly to the portal just in time to see it close. They smile victoriously.

FRANK
 (into his earpiece)
 Great job! We'll just take care of
 the rest of these guys and--

Behind them, the portal suddenly REOPENS!

FRANK (CONT'D)
 What the Hell?!

Another wave of demons pours out of the portal and attacks the team.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - ORB CAVE - CONTINUOUS.

MIKE
What the Hell?!

Mike turns to Lon with a panicked look on his face only to find that Lon too is wearing the same expression.

Lon shrugs as he desperately turns dials and flips switches.

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - JON BATES' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

Sitting behind Jon's desk typing on the computer terminal is MITCH. A gleeful look adorns his face as he taps keys. JON stands nearby, clearly unhappy to be there.

MITCH
Ha! Not this time!

He continues to type as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - CONTINUOUS.

Frank, Vi, and Tamsin are overwhelmed by the demons. They continue to HACK, SHOOT, PUNCH, and KICK but are severely outnumbered.

FRANK
(into his earpiece)
Lon!? What's happening!?

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS.

Lon continues to flip switches.

LON
Unknown. The portal just...
reopened!

FRANK
(filtered, over intercom)
To use one of Mike's favorite
catchphrases, "duh!" Do something
about it!

The camera PANS over to Mike in the ORB CAVE side of the room. His face shows his strain.

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - JON BATES' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

Mitch continues to type.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - CONTINUOUS.

The horde of demons closes in on our fighters. CU on Tamsin's eyes widening.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - ORB CAVE - CONTINUOUS.

Beads of sweat break out on Mike's forehead as he doubles his efforts. The sphere begins to glow brighter.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - DAY.

Everything has a HAZY BLUE TINT as, in SLOW-MOTION, the camera PANS around the street. Mike is obviously having a vision.

THE POWERS THAT BE (V.O.)
One will hate you.

PORTALS open all around as DEMONS pour out.

THE POWERS THAT BE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
One will love you.

TOWNSPEOPLE run and scream as the demons attack the innocent people.

THE POWERS THAT BE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
One will die for you.

More demons pour fourth from the portals.

THE POWERS THAT BE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
One will kill you.

Still in SLOW-MOTION, the camera PULLS BACK to show more of the town. Hundreds of portals are open. The town is in ruins.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - ORB CAVE - PRESENT TIME.

Mike screams out in pain. A white streak of hair appears at his left temple. The bright glow of the orb increases, drowning out everything else.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATE STREET - CONTINUOUS.

The portal begins to fluctuate. It emits a low hum which grows louder and louder. The demons all stop what they are doing and look to it curiously.

The hum becomes unbearably loud. Tamsin, Frank, and Vi cover their ears with their hands.

The portal shrinks. Suddenly, all the demons are dragged toward it by some invisible force. They try to run, but the force of the portal is too great. They move faster toward it. One by one they are sucked back into it, both living and dead demons alike. After the last one has disappeared inside, the portal winks out of existence.

The gang looks to each other questioningly as we:

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - JON BATES' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

A confused look flashes across Mitch's face. He frantically hits several keys on the computer.

MITCH

I don't understand. I can't reopen
the portal.

(hits more keys)

I can't open any portal!

He turns to Jon, an angry look on his face.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Find out what happened! I want to
know who's responsible!

Jon nods reluctantly, turns, and leaves.

CU on Mitch's face. His expression turns from anger to anxious as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - LATER.

Frank, Vi, and Tamsin race into the room.

FRANK

Lon! What happened back there--

He notices Lon standing in the orb cave side of the room next to Mike who is still at the sphere.

The gang crosses over into THE ORB CAVE, as Lon turns towards them, his face full of concern.

LON

I'm not sure. Somehow...

(shaking his head)

...he reversed the flow of the portal, pulling the demons back through it, and sealing it off.

FRANK

Good work, Mike--

Lon shakes his head.

LON

He can't hear you.

(worried)

He's been like this since it happened.

All look concerned as Tamsin places a supportive hand on Lon's shoulder. He gives her an appreciative smile.

At that moment, Mike blinks his eyes. The sphere's glow dims as he let's go of it. Looking slightly dazed, he turns his head to the expectant gang.

MIKE

Hey.

LON

Don't you "hey" me, I was worried sick--

FRANK

(to Lon)

You can bitch him out later, Lon.

(to Mike)

What happened?

MIKE

I closed them.

TAMSIN
(nodding)
Yes. You closed the portal.

Mike shakes his head.

MIKE
No. I closed them all.

Lon frowns. Vi looks confused. Tamsin and Frank ponder what this means.

CU on Mike's dazed face as we:

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - MIKE'S ROOM - MORNING.

Tyler is sitting on Mike's bed. Mike is standing at the dresser's mirror, wearing only a towel, examining the white streak in his hair.

TYLER

I think it's cool. Like Rogue in the X-Men movie.

(beat)

You keeping it?

Mike looks back at Tyler and scoffs.

MIKE

Hell no.

Mike grabs a small box off the dresser, holding it up for Tyler to see.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(holding up the box)

Me and Miss Clairol got a date in the bathroom right now.

(turning back to the mirror)

I'm going with my natural color, but do you think I should go darker? Maybe Lon'd like me as a brunette.

Mike turns back to Tyler to find his friend smirking at him.

TYLER

Dude. Don't ask me things like that. Straight here, remember? I thought stripes and plaid matched until you showed me the error of my, how did you put it, "evil heterosexual ways."

Mike laughs lightly.

TYLER (CONT'D)

And since when do you care what people think about you?

Mike's cheeks blush red. He looks away, embarrassed. Tyler is on to something.

TYLER (CONT'D)
 Not "people". Lon.
 (beat)
 How serious is this thing between
 you two?

Mike turns back to Tyler and walks over to the bed, sitting down beside his friend. He tries in vain to conceal his excitement. His face blushes more giving him the look of an innocent schoolboy.

TYLER (CONT'D)
 That serious, eh?

Mike looks to Tyler, a truly happy look on his face. He nods.

MIKE
 (sincerely)
 Yeah. I think he's the one.

A moment passes between the two. Then Mike screws up his face and puts his finger in his mouth, pretending to vomit.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 Eww! How gay did that sound?!

TYLER
 Well, considering the source...

The two break out laughing. Mike playfully punches Tyler. Tyler punches back, still playful but harder.

Mike jumps off the bed and rips the towel from his waist. Standing there naked, he holds the towel up as a weapon, preparing to snap it at Tyler. Tyler holds his hands up, guarding his face.

TYLER (CONT'D)
 Whoa, dude! Stop! I give!

Chuckling, Mike lowers the towel. His face turns serious.

MIKE
 Don't tell anyone what I said about
 Lon, okay.
 (beat)
 Just, it's new and all. I don't
 want to pressure him.

Tyler gives a supportive nod.

TYLER
 You got it, bud.
 (beat)
 (MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)

Now could you cover up "Dumbo"
there?

(nodding toward Mike's
crotch)

I don't wanna be thinking about
that while I'm making sweet love to
Callie tonight.

MIKE

(smirking)

Like you don't already.

He POPS his towel at Tyler. As Tyler jumps and shrieks like a
little girl we:

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER.

Tyler enters from upstairs. He is rubbing his chest gingerly,
presumably from Mike's towel attack. The camera PANS,
following Tyler as he walks to the bar.

Behind the counter stands Vi. Noticing Tyler's discomfort,
she eyes him questioningly. He shakes his head as he sits,
indicating that it is nothing.

The camera continues to PAN to the other end of the bar where
sit Tamsin and Lon. Frank is behind the bar leaning in to
talk to the pair.

FRANK

So we're out of a job then?

LON

(lightly laughing)

Not yet. From the way Mike
explained it, he's managed to stop
portal activity on a purely
temporary basis. He's not sure how
long it will last. Probably not
much more than a few more hours.

TAMSIN

That's cutting it close.
MacroWare's big release is
tomorrow.

Lon nods.

FRANK

Can Mike keep the portals closed
longer? Maybe we could make "Mr. X"
miss his deadline.

TAMSIN

Mr. X?

FRANK

Just something I'm trying out.

Tamsin frowns.

LON

(shaking his head)

The strain on Mike to close them for even a short time was phenomenal. I'm not sure he could do it again. Not without risking permanent injury.

FRANK

(nodding)

We'll keep that as "Plan B" then.

Tamsin is still frowning. She obviously has a thought she's not letting go.

LON

Speaking of your "Mr. X", has Corrine made any headway at finding out his identity?

Frank shakes his head.

FRANK

She's still looking, but keeps hitting dead-ends.

Tamsin finally speaks up.

TAMSIN

Why do you assume it's a "Mr." X? Why not a "Miss", or a "Mrs."? Women can be evil too.

FRANK

(smirking)

Tell me about it.

TAMSIN

I'm serious.

LON

It's merely a figure of speech. I'm sure Corrine is investigating women as well.

TAMSIN

Good. Because we can be right
bitches when we want to be.

Lon and Frank suppress laughs as the bell over the diner door
CHIMES.

The three look toward the door as DET. TANYA JAMISON enters.
Her expression reveals that she is not happy.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)

(catty)
Case in point.

Seeing Frank, Tanya lingers in the doorway. Frank sighs,
obviously dreading the conversation to come.

FRANK

(to Lon and Tamsin)
Be right back.

Frank comes from behind the bar. And motions toward a booth
on the other end of the diner. Taking his cue, Tanya walks to
it. She and Frank sit. There is an awkward pause.

TANYA

(annoyed)
Alright. What's so important,
Frank?

FRANK

First, I want to explain about our
date.

TANYA

(loudly)
It wasn't a date!

All in the diner look at the couple. Tanya tucks her head
down, embarrassed.

TANYA (CONT'D)

(more quietly)
It was supposed to be a dinner to
thank you for saving my son's life.
Not... "grope-fest 2009."

FRANK

(firmly)
You were giving me signals, sugar.
Don't deny it.

TANYA

Can we not talk about this now?
I've got work to do. Now what did
you call the station about?

Frank realizes that he's hit a brick wall. He clenches his
jaw.

FRANK

I called to warn you.

The anger fades from Tanya's face, replaced with anxiousness.

FRANK (CONT'D)

We think that something big is
going down tomorrow.

Tanya gives a questioning look.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Tyler got possessed and Mike had
this whole vision and... I just
thought you should know.

Tanya ponders over what Frank is saying.

TANYA

When you say "big"...

FRANK

On a scale from one to ten?

Tanya nods.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Apocalypse.

A fearful look crosses Tanya's face.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I thought maybe you and Chris
should get out of town until this
thing blows over.

Tanya's scared look turns to anger. She shakes her head.

TANYA

(annoyed)

I don't believe you.

(standing)

Just when I think you're a total
asshole, you go and do something
nice. Damn you, Frank McGann!

She leans in and gives him a quick peck on the cheek.

TANYA (CONT'D)
(softly)
If you make it through this
"apocalypse", call me.

Tanya turns and quickly exits the diner leaving a stunned looking Frank still sitting in the booth. After a beat he smirks and stands. Turning back to the bar, he sees that everyone is watching him.

FRANK
(shrugging)
Women.

Everyone chuckles lightly as the CHIME over the door again rings. In walks BILLIE JACKSON. Frank's face lights up.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Billie! You're back!

Billie smiles as she and Frank both make their way to the bar.

BILLIE
Well, I finished up my business at
Groom Lake and thought you guys
might need a hand. I assume you're
still working on that MacroWare
business?

The two sit at the counter between Tamsin and Tyler.

FRANK
(nodding)
D-Day's tomorrow and we still don't
know who's behind it or what
they're planning. We've got Corrine
doing research.

Billie rolls her eyes in an annoyed fashion.

BILLIE
You've got a civilian working on
this while you're all here sitting
on your asses!?

Everyone, Frank included, looks a little embarrassed. Frank clenches his jaw.

FRANK
Corrine's a Slayer. She knows
what's at stake here.

VI
No pun intended!

Frank cuts his eyes at her, indicating that this is not the time. Vi ducks her head sheepishly.

VI (CONT'D)
(quietly pouting)
You would have laughed if Mike said it.

Frank ignores Vi and continues his conversation with Billie.

FRANK
We run a tight ship here. It's not like we just let any John off the street in on our plans.

As if on cue, Jon Bates enters.

Seeing the gang at the bar he walks toward them.

JON
Hey, guys. Any luck with the MacroWare thing yet?

Frank cringes as Jon stops at the bar near Frank. Billie cocks her eyebrow and gives Frank an expectant look.

FRANK
Billie Jackson meet...
(hesitantly)
..Jon Bates.

Billie gives Frank an amused look.

BILLIE
Jon?

Frank nods sheepishly as amused expressions flicker across the other team members faces.

JON
(extending his hand to Billie; charmingly)
Jon Bates. Founder and CEO of MacroWare.

Cautiously, Billie accepts his hand and shakes it.

Mike enters from upstairs. He is now clothed. His hair is still damp, but is now all the same color. He gives Billie and Jon a nod as he walks past them and over to Lon.

Mike leans in and gives the man a peck on the cheek. Billie cocks her eyebrow and nods toward the couple.

BILLIE
(to Frank)
Guess I did miss something.

FRANK
(smirking)
Yeah. That's something we do now.

Mike and Lon smile at each other as Mike slides his arm around his seated partner.

JON
(to Frank)
Is Corrine around? I need to talk to her.

Frank shakes his head as Tyler turns toward his boss.

TYLER
She's doing some research.

JON
Damn. We're having some last minute problems with the OS firewall.

FRANK
(stunned)
You're still going ahead with the launch?

JON
I tried to delay it, but it's not up to just me.

Obviously not happy, Frank narrows his eyes and leans in closer.

JON (CONT'D)
It's the board of directors. They feel that a last minute delay would undermine confidence, hurt sales.

Frank looks annoyed.

JON (CONT'D)
Look. The company has a lot of money tied up in this thing. They just want to make sure they get a return on their investment.

FRANK

(sarcastically)

Who cares if it destroys the world
so long as stock prices go up.

(firmly)

You should have tried harder.

JON

What was I supposed to tell them?
That some mysterious thing is using
the new OS to open gateways to
other dimensions? They'd have me
out of office and into a loony bin
before you can say "rubber room".

Frank clenches his jaw and squints his eyes. He rises off his stool. Tyler recognizes the signs and moves to diffuse the tension.

TYLER

(to Jon)

So! Firewall problems, eh?

Frank sits back down and broods quietly. Jon turns to address Tyler.

VI

What's a firewall?

JON

In this case, it's the software
program that protects our network
from attacks by hackers. It's
supposed to let through legitimate
data and keep out the bad stuff.

VI

That's good. Right?

JON

Yeah, but ours currently isn't
letting any traffic through at all,
good or bad. Everything's just...
stopped.

Vi nods, understanding. She looks to Mike with a smile.

VI

Did you hear that, Mike. Just like
you with the sphere.

(jokingly)

You're our firewall, man!

Mike grins. Jon's face betrays his grasp of what this could mean. He furrows his brow and frowns as we:

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. FRANK'S DINER - MORNING.

As before, the gang, plus Jon Bates and Billie Jackson, are gathered around the bar.

JON
So Mike's managed to stop the portals?

MIKE
(smirking)
It's what I do.

Lon laughs and leans in closer.

LON
(lasciviously; quietly)
Among other things.

Mike's cheeks turn red. Tamsin's mouth drops open.

TAMSIN
Oh, my God! Is he blushing?! He's actually blushing! How absolutely adorable!

Frank ignores Tamsin and turns to Jon.

FRANK
(to Jon)
It's not permanent. We still need to find out who's behind this.

The bell over the door CHIMES once again CORRINE enters.

TAMSIN
(to herself)
Grand Central Station today.

Jon's face lights up.

JON
Corrine!

Corrine pauses and smiles at Jon. Remembering why she's there, she marches purposefully across the diner, a folder in hand.

CORRINE
I've got our man.

JON
(nervously)
You do?

FRANK
(to Tamsin)
Man. Did you hear that?

Tamsin sneers at him. Corrine hands the folder to Frank.
Everyone crowds in as Frank opens it.

CORRINE
His name's Jerry Fogle. Head of R &
D.

Jon holds in a sigh of relief and plays it cool.

JON
I know him. We worked together on a
project all last week. Doesn't he
only have level four clearance?

CORRINE
Yes. But for a man with his
expertise, faking level five would
be no problem.

(beat)
I went back and checked. Someone
with level five access has been
logging in on his terminal
regularly.

TYLER
(thoughtfully)
He was Chad's boss.

VI
You think Chad figured out what was
going on and this Fogle guy offed
him?

BILLIE
It would make sense.

Lon looks skeptical.

FRANK
Let's go get the sucker.

He stands.

FRANK (CONT'D)

We don't want to attract attention,
so Billie, Corrine, Jon, you're
with me.

(to Lon)

Get a holding cell ready. And
better lay down some anti-magic
mojo. We don't know we're dealing
with here.

Led by Frank, Billie, Corrine, and Jon head out the door.

Tamsin, Lon and Tyler stand. They all move to the kitchen.
Lon lingers back a little, his face showing his apprehension.

As the others enter the kitchen, Mike see the look on Lon's
face and pauses.

MIKE

What's up, babe?

LON

(shaking his head)

Nothing. Just feels a bit
"convenient".

He moves toward the kitchen. Lon throws in arm over Mike's
shoulder. As the two exit into the kitchen we:

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. MACROWARE - LATER.

Frank's SUV pulls up in front of the building.

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER.

Led by Jon, the group walks quickly through the hallway. They
turn a corner and enter a room. CU on the door plaque which
reads, "Jerry Fogle - Research and Development".

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - JERRY FOGLE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER.

The gang are ransacking the empty office.

FRANK

No sign of anything.

BILLIE
 (to Corrine)
 Well, sista. Can't win 'em all.

CORRINE
 (annoyed)
 It's him. And what did I tell you
 about calling me that?

Billie bristles up. Jon and Frank move to intercede, when they are interrupted as a short, nerdy-looking man in his mid 30's walks into the room. This is Jerry Fogle.

JERRY
 (confused)
 Uh. What's going on?

The four freeze and turn to face Jerry.

JON
 Jerry. These people need to ask you
 some questions.

In unison, Frank and Billie reach into their coats and out guns.

CU on Jerry's face as his eyes bug out in terror. He turns tail and bolts from the room.

Frank and Billie look to each other, annoyed looks on their faces.

FRANK
 I hate it when they run.

The four run out of the room in hot pursuit as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE BRIG - CONTINUOUS.

Lon is finishing drawing a circle with a pentagram in it on the floor of the cell.

Tamsin enters carrying a handful of candles. Behind him, enters Vi with a paper bag full of supplies.

LON
 Where's Mike with the salt?

VI
 He had to go buy some. We're out.

Lon gives Vi a confused look.

LON
 There's a bloody diner upstairs,
 how can we be--

TAMSIN
 (shaking her head)
 Remember Frank's failed attempt at
 making pretzels?

The three all make a sour expression.

LON
 Oh. Yes.
 (beat)
 I hope he gets back soon. If this
 Jerry Fogle is indeed our man,
 there's no telling what despicable,
 evil powers he may have.

Off his face we:

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS.

Jerry runs down the hallway screaming like a woman. Surprised PEOPLE jump back against the hallway walls to get out of his way. After he runs out of frame, Frank, Billie, Corrine and Jon run though.

FRANK
 Move it, people! Move! Move!

They also exit frame as we:

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS.

The stairwell door is thrown open. A big "2" adorns the wall indicating they are on the second floor. The still-screaming Jerry turns right and runs up the stairs, a panicked look on his face.

Seconds later, the door flies open again as our team enters. They pause for a beat listening for Jerry's footfalls. Frank points right. He and the gang resume their chase.

ANGLE ON: the stairwell looking down. Jerry is still running up the stairs followed closely by the team.

ANGLE ON: Jerry, still screaming, as he runs past a large "5" painted on the wall.

ANGLE ON: Frank huffing.

FRANK
Screw this crap!

Frank pushes open the nearest exit. Pointing for the others to continue, he exits back into the building.

ANGLE ON: Jerry still running frantically.

ANGLE ON: Billie, Corrine, and Jon pursuing.

ANGLE ON: Jerry. Having reached the 10th floor, top of the stairs, he has no option but to run back into the main building.

INT. MACROWARE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS.

Jerry pushes open the door and enters from the stairwell, looking over his shoulder for his pursuers. He runs down the hallway as he sees Corrine, Jon, and Billie exit from the stairwell.

As he runs past the elevator, it DINGS and the door opens. A fist flies out and COLD-COCKS Jerry across the face. The little man falls to the ground in an unconscious heap.

Frank steps out of the elevator, a satisfied grin on his face.

Corrine's expression remains neutral, while Jon looks on concerned. Billie smirks at Frank as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE BRIG - MOMENTS LATER.

Lon has finished the holding circle which now has a chair sitting in the middle of it, presumably to hold their prisoner.

He impatiently looks at his watch. Tamsin stands beside him.

LON
Where is he?

Tamsin smiles at her brother.

TAMSIN
Relax. Frank's done this sort of thing a thousand times.

LON
 (shaking his head)
 No. Mike.

Tamsin smiles wider.

TAMSIN
 You and he are getting pretty
 serious.

Lon smiles thinly, trying to restraint a larger smile.

LON
 (shaking his head)
 This is all so new for me. I
 shouldn't allow myself to get so...

Tamsin smiles warmly and slides her arm around her brother,
 pulling him closer.

TAMSIN
 Take some advice from someone who
 knows. Follow your heart. It will
 never steer you wrong.

They are interrupted by Vi and Tyler entering the room. Tyler
 is carrying a large container of salt. Lon looks for Mike.

LON
 Where's Mike?

TYLER
 And hello to you too. Here's your
 damn salt.

Amused, Tamsin and Vi laugh as Tyler tosses the salt to Lon
 who catches it. Lon looks expectantly at Tyler.

TYLER (CONT'D)
 He'll be down in a second. God,
 you're as bad as he is.

Lon looks away for a beat, his cheeks flushing red with
 embarrassment.

VI
 I think it's sweet.

TYLER
 That's only because you and Rick
 are as love-sick as they are. I'm
 the one who has to hear about it
 every second of the day.
 (imitating Mike;
 (MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)
 overly dramatic)
 "Oh, Tyler! Lon's so dreamy and
 sexy. And so smart. I think he's
 the one."

Realizing he's said too much, Tyler closes his mouth, a
 guilty look on his face.

MIKE (O.S.)
 Thanks a lot, man.

Tyler turns to see Mike standing in the doorway wearing an
 cold expression. Mike turns quickly and exits the room.

Tyler and Lon move to follow when Lon's cell phone rings. He
 pulls it out and places it to his ear.

LON
 (into phone)
 Yes?
 (beat)
 We're ready.

He clicks the phone off and slips it back into his pocket.

LON (CONT'D)
 They've got him.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE BRIG - LATER.

Frank drops the tied-up and unconscious Jerry Fogle roughly
 into the chair in the middle of the pentagram.

Standing just within the circle are the entire gang including
 Corrine, Jon, and Billie.

Mike is also back in the room. Leaning against the wall with
 his arms crossed, glaring at Tyler, he is obviously not
 happy.

Vi looks at the man skeptically.

VI
This is our man?

FRANK
 (nodding)
 We'll see.

Frank motions at Billie. She pulls out a small vile of
 smelling salts and waves it under Jerry's nose. He bolts
 awake, sputtering and coughing.

A confused look crosses his face for a beat until he realizes what is happening. His eyes go wide with terror. He tries to leap up from the chair but Frank pushes him back down.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Stay down!

JERRY
(pleading)
Please let me go!

His frantic face turns to see Corrine and Jon.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Jon! Corrine! What's going on?!

CORRINE
(calmly)
This will go a lot easier if you cooperate, Jerry.

Jerry's lip quivers. A guilty look crosses Jon's face.

FRANK
What are you doing at MacroWare?

JERRY
I'm...
(sniff)
...in charge of the R & D department.

Billie steps up and SLAPS Jerry hard across the face. Everyone except Frank jumps, startled by the unexpected blow.

BILLIE
Why are you opening the portals?!

Jerry cowers as tears begin to flow down his face.

JERRY
I don't know what you're talking about! Please! Let me go!

Except for Billie, uncertain looks cross the teams' faces as Jerry continues to sob. Tamsin leans in to Frank.

TAMSIN
(quietly)
Are we certain we've got the right man.

Even Frank looks unsure. Jerry sobs harder. Frank frowns.

FRANK
Cut him free.

Billie gives Frank a hard look.

BILLIE
Just give me ten minutes alone with
him and he'll be--

FRANK
(firmly)
I said cut him free!

Billie nods coolly. She pulls a knife from her belt. As everyone looks on, she slowly moves behind the quivering man.

She raises the knife and pauses for a beat.

Bringing the knife down quickly, she cuts his bonds.

Jerry stands, rubbing his wrists. The look of relief and gratitude clear in his face.

JERRY
Thank you! Thank you!

As Jerry takes a step forward, Lon cocks his head and squints his eyes. Suddenly, he grabs Frank's gun and SHOTS Jerry in the chest!

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE BRIG - CONTINUOUS.

As before, Lon has just shot Jerry in the chest. Jerry falls lifelessly to the ground as every one jumps back, shocked by Lon's actions. Jon is horrified by what has happened.

TAMSIN

What the Hell are you doing?!

LON

(coolly)
He's lying.

TAMSIN

Yes. In a pool of his own blood,
thanks to you!

Billie smiles approvingly at Lon.

BILLIE

Brit's got a pair after all.

FRANK

(to Lon; gruffly)
Care to explain yourself, Lon?

LON

He doesn't sweat.

All look at him questioningly.

LON (CONT'D)

You chased this man up eight flights of stairs and he's presumably in the mist of the most stressful event of his life, yet look at his forehead, his arm pits. Bone dry.

JON

(angry)
You're basing your whole argument on sweat?! You just killed an innocent man!

Lon remains cool.

LON

I'd move away from the body if I were you.

Jon looks down at the lifeless form of Jerry. Jerry's eye snap open. They are now solid black.

Jon jumps back, startled. Everyone else takes a step back. In one fluid movement, Jerry rises from the floor. He looks at Frank and smiles coolly.

JERRY

So. You found me. Good work to you and your friends. Too bad, you're not going to be around long to enjoy it.

FRANK

You're out numbered nine to one.

JERRY

(frowning)

Damn. And I was hoping for a real fight.

Jerry emits a low growl. His skin cracks. Two jellyfish-like tentacles begin to grow out of the side of his neck. Suddenly, his skin and cloths rip away, breaking his bonds as his true form breaks through. He is now green and slimy, waving around his tentacles menacingly.

Jon is stunned, frozen in place, but this is old hat to the rest of the crew. They assume attack stances. Tyler grabs Jon and pulls him out of the way as Mike moves between them and the creature.

Jerry attacks! He PUNCHES Lon in the face. Lon rocks back with the blow, stumbling backwards.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(raspy voiced)

That's for shooting me!

Jerry swings at Lon again, by Frank steps between them and BLOCKS the blow. Jerry's tentacles waive angrily.

LON

Watch out for those tentacles!

Lon's warning comes just in time as a tentacles shoots toward Frank's face. Frank, raises his sleeved arm BLOCKING the attack.

Vi KICKS Jerry Demon in the side. A tentacle shoots out and SLAPS her across her bare forearm which immediately beings to turn red and swell. She yelps out in pain and hugs the injured limb to her chest.

JERRY
 (raspy voiced)
 No one can stop my ascension to
 power! I've come too far.

Jerry kicks out, KICKING Billie in the stomach and launching her across the room.

JERRY (CONT'D)
 Today, I kill you.

Jerry PUNCHES Corrine hard across the face. Her lip splits and she falls to the floor.

JERRY (CONT'D)
 Tomorrow, I rule the world!

Mike raises his hands, his fingers CRACKLING WITH ENERGY. Jerry BACKHANDS Mike knocking him to the ground.

FRANK
 Fall back, he can't leave the
 circle!

But Frank doesn't take his own advice quick enough. Jerry grabs Frank's gun. The demon and Frank struggle for control of the weapon and it discharges into the floor, cracking the pentagram on the floor.

Jerry smiles at Frank. He quickly grabs the man, tosses him aside and exits the circle. Jerry glances back at the disheveled team and runs out of the room.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Computer! Hostile containment
 protocol six!

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS.

The door leading up to the diner slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - LAB - CONTINUOUS.

The door slams shut.

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - TRAINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS.

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE BRIG - CONTINUOUS.

The door slams shut. Frank pulls himself off the floor as the other fallen team members also right themselves.

FRANK
He's trapped.

The gang huddles together.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Priority one is to locate this
bastard. We'll break up into three
teams.
(beat)
Vi, Tyler, Mike. Corrine, Jon, and
Billie.

Corrine's brow furrows, unhappy to be paired with Billie.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Tamsin and Lon, you're with me.

Everyone nods and finds their assigned team. They approach the door. He presses a button on the door panel.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Computer. Unlock door.

The door opens. Frank hold up his hand indicating that all should pause.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS.

Frank enters the hallway, is gun in front of him ready for action. After a quit look, he motions to the team. Everyone files into the hallway.

Breaking up into their groups, they all go in different directions as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - MEDICAL BAY - MOMENTS LATER.

FRANK (V.O.)
Computer. Unlock door.

The door opens and Frank, Lon, and Tamsin file into the room. They look quickly around the Medical Bay. They quietly spread out into the room.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - LAB - MOMENTS LATER.

BILLIE (O.S.)
Computer. Unlock door.

The door opens. Billie, Corrine, and Jon carefully enter. They begin to search the room for any sign of Jerry.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Jon. See anything?

Jon shakes his head.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Cor?

CORRINE
(annoyed)
Corrine.

Billie smirks having yet again succeeded in irritating Corrine.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - TRAINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

VI (V.O.)
Computer. Unlock door.

The door opens. Vi, Tyler, and Mike enter. Mike is still sending annoyed glances in Tyler's direction while Vi is still holding her injured arm gingerly.

They spread out in the room, looking behind the various exercise equipment. After they look around a little, Mike can't hold it in any longer.

MIKE
I can't believe you told him!

Tyler rolls his eyes.

MIKE (CONT'D)
After I specifically asked you not
to!

ANGLE ON: Mike and Tyler arguing from above as if being
watched.

Tyler moves closer.

TYLER
I'm sorry! Okay? I was just joking
around. I didn't mean say it!

MIKE
(sarcastically)
Well, that makes it better.

Vi crosses over to the bickering duo.

VI
Guys! Were trying to sneak up on a
demon here. And the whole yelling
thing, not so much helping!

They hear a low GROWLING from above. Their faces freeze.

ANGLE ON: the three as they look up.

Jerry drops from the ceiling. Mike, Tyler, and Vi all roll in
different direction to get out of the way of the falling
demon.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - MEDICAL BAY - MOMENTS LATER.

Frank, Lon, and Tamsin are still looking around.

FRANK
That was pretty good work back
there, Lon. I was about to let that
demon walk.

LON
(Smiling lightly)
Cheers.

They look around the room for another moment.

FRANK

Hey, Lon.

Lon looks to Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I know I've been giving you and
Mike a hard time about... you know.
I'm happy for you. It's just with
this job... be careful.

Taken aback by Frank's words, Lon simply nods.

BILLIE

(filtered; over intercom)
Frank! Training room!

Frank, Tamsin, and Lon bolt out of the room as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - TRAINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Frank, Lon, and Tamsin run into the room. Billie, Corrine,
and Jon have already joined in though Jon is keeping his
distance for the most part.

Vi KICKS Jerry in the stomach, knocking the demon back.

Corrine PUNCHES him in the face, knocking him back another
step backing Jerry into a corner.

Lon and Tamsin each grab a sparring staff from the equipment
rack and join the rest of the gang.

FRANK

Computer! Lock door!

The training room door locks shut.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Give it up, Jer. It's over.

But Jerry doesn't give up. He GROWLS loudly at the team and
goes on the offence, flailing his tentacles at the team.

One snakes out and GRABS Tyler by the leg. Tyler falls to the
ground and is dragged closer to the beast.

Seeing his friend's distress, Mike shoots an ENERGY BLAST at
the tentacle. Jerry shrieks in pain and releases Tyler.

Jerry ROARS in anger and LUNGES out with a tentacle. It hits Frank, Billie, Lon, and Tamsin mid-waist knocking them across the room.

Corrine steps up. She LEAPS into the air and KICKS the demon in the face. Jerry falls to the ground. Corrine kicks the creature again in the face. Vi joins in, also kicking Jerry repeatedly in the face.

Tamsin and Lon stand, staffs in hand, and run at the demon, beating the creature with all their might.

Jerry begins to panic as Frank and Billie also join in on the assault. He thrashes around, tentacle slapping wildly.

One HITS Tyler across the face. The young man's face SWELLS up like a balloon. He falls to the ground grabbing at his throat as his wind pipe closes and breathing begins to become an issue.

Mike runs to his fallen friend. He grabs Tyler and drags him out of the way. As the team continues to battle the demon, Tyler grabs Mike's arm, pulling him closer.

TYLER
 (weakly)
 I'm...
 (gasp)
 ...sorry.

Mike is on the verge of tears.

MIKE
 It's okay, dude.

TYLER
 (shaking his head)
 I'm... sorry.

Tyler gasps and stops breathing. Losing consciousness, he goes limp. Mike's lips quivers for a beat. His face goes hard. He quickly moves from Tyler's side to the team as they fight Jerry.

MIKE
 Move.

Everyone continue to battle the demon.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 (loudly)
 Move!

All step back as Mike inhales sharply. He shoots a blast of GREEN ENERGY from both hands. Demon Jerry SCREAMS.

CU on Mike's eyes. They TURN BLACK! The camera pulls back to reveal that his hair is now also BLACK! Spidery veins break out on his face! A cruel sneer crosses his lips as continues his onslaught.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

The team step away from Mike, fearful looks on their faces as Mike continues blasting Demon Jerry. Billie's face, however, shows a keen interest. Lon moves to stand beside him.

LON
(firmly)
Mike. Stop.

But Mike doesn't stop. He keeps up his dark magic assault on Jerry whose body is wracked with pain. The demon's tentacles begin to shrivel up as Mike's sneer grows larger.

LON (CONT'D)
Mike! STOP!

Jerry's body melts into the floor, as Mike continues to blast him.

CU on Vi's arm. The red mark fades and her swelling dissipates.

Over on the floor, Tyler's face returns to normal. His eyes open and he bolts upright, sucking in a huge breath of air as he does so.

LON (CONT'D)
Mike!

But Mike won't stop, lost in the need for vengeance. Lon jumps in front of Mike. Mike stops his assault on the floor goo that was once Jerry.

MIKE
(angrily)
Move, Lon!

Lon holds his ground as the others watch tense situation unfold.

LON
No! I'll not allow you to lose
yourself in dark magic.

Tears come to Mike's eyes as they return to normal.

MIKE
(pointing to the floor
goo; sobbing)
He killed Tyler!

Behind him, Tyler stands rubbing at his throat. Lon smiles warmly at him.

LON
No, he didn't.

Lon nods over Mike's shoulder. Mike turns. Seeing Tyler, a look of sorrow and regret crosses his face. His black hair returns to blond, the veins on his face fade away.

Mike begins to cry as he moves quickly his friend. Grabbing him, he embraces him tightly. Tyler returns his hug for a beat and then pats Mike on the back.

TYLER
Okay, bud. Having trouble breathing again.

Mike continues to hug his friend tightly.

FRANK
Computer. Cancel containment protocol.

With the crisis seemingly over, everyone proceeds to give a sigh of relief. Jon is in shock over the preceding events. Corrine leads him out of the room.

Tyler likewise leads Mike, who is still clinging tight to him, out the door. As they exit, Mike looks up and catches Lon's eye. Mike looks ashamed, Lon disappointed.

VI
So it's over?! The whole MacroWare thing.

LON
What? Oh...
(hesitantly)
It would seem so.

FRANK
You have doubts?

Billie cocks her eyebrow and Lon.

BILLIE
(annoyed)
He so much as admitted it was him.

TAMSIN
And the tentacles. Like what killed Chad.

LON
Yes. Of course. I... I'm not myself at the moment.

Frank nods understandingly. Tamsin gives her brother a supportive pat on the back.

Frank looks down at the scorched floor with bits of Jerry welded into it.

FRANK

Well. Since we've cleared
apocalypse off our schedule for
tomorrow, who's gonna help me put
in a new floor?

Everyone contemplates the floor as we:

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - LATER.

The gang has reassembled around the bar except for Tyler and Mike who are absent. Lon has a large, dusty book in front of him. He looks more calm and collected than he did earlier. He scans through the books contents, stopping on a page.

LON

Mmmm. As I suspected. He was a Flox demon. They're able to assume human form by hollowing out their victim and crawling inside. Known for their lust for power and ability to travel between dimensions.

CORRINE

I wonder what he was trying to do with MacroWare.

FRANK

What they're always trying to do.
Take over the world.

(beat)

Destroy the world.

(beat)

Take over the world so that they
can destroy it.

LON

No matter. Without the Flox demon to control it, the operating system becomes just another piece of software.

TAMSIN

Just once, I'd like to see a demon
to try to take over the world to
end hunger.

(MORE)

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
Or spay and neuter pets. Now
there's a conqueror I could get
behind.

All give Tamsin an amused smile. All except for Jon who is
still shell shocked.

FRANK
(glancing back at book)
Oh, this is interesting. Says here
that due to their interdimensional
nature, prolonged exposure to Flox
demons can cause vivid
hallucinations in sensitive
individuals.

This catches Jon's attention.

JON
What's that?

CORRINE
Being around Flox demons can make
you hallucinate.

Corrine squints her eyes at Jon.

CORRINE (CONT'D)
You said you worked with Jerry all
last week. Have you seen anything
weird since then?

Everyone's attention is now on Jon. Jon plays it cool.

JON
Um... Not that I can think of.
Well, other than my head of R & D
turning into a demon.

Everyone gives an amused smile.

JON (CONT'D)
But suppose I had. What would
happen now that Jerry... the Flox
demon is dead.

LON
The hallucinations would stop, I
should imagine.

Jon smiles a genuine smile. He stands.

JON

Well. This has been fun, but I better get out of here. I've got an operating system release party tomorrow to get ready for.

Corrine smile and stands.

CORRINE

I think that's my cue.

Everyone nods their good-byes as Corrine and Jon head out the door. Lon stands.

LON

I've got some unfinished business also.

All eye him understandingly. Tamsin gently touches him on the arm as he walks past on his way up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - MIKE'S ROOM - SHORTLY LATER.

Mike is sitting on his bed with Tyler.

TYLER

So we're good then?

Mike gives Tyler a small smile.

MIKE

There's nothing like seeing your best friend almost killed by demonic tentacles to put things in perspective.

(beat; nodding)

Yeah, dude. We're good.

Lon approaches the open door. Not wanting to interrupt, he stops in the doorway.

Mike and Tyler look up. Tyler gives Lon a smile and stands.

TYLER

Tag. You're it.

Lon smiles lightly at Tyler as Tyler passes him, exiting the room. Lon and Mike look at each other for a beat. Lon takes Tyler's place sitting next to Mike on the bed. Mike opens his mouth to speak, but Lon cuts him off.

LON
(seriously)
First. What you did back there was very foolish. Tapping into black magic for any reason at all is inexcusable no matter how noble the intention.

Mike hangs his head.

LON (CONT'D)
It will lead you down a path of pain and suffering that very few ever return from.
(beat)
Given the nature of our work, there is every possibility that one of us will die. You must be ever vigilant that a replay of today does not happen should that occur. Promise me.

Mike nods.

LON (CONT'D)
(firmly)
Promise me.

Mike looks up, tears in his eyes.

MIKE
I promise.

Lon nods, his face softening.

LON
Now. About what Tyler said.

Mike gives an embarrassed look and turns away.

LON (CONT'D)
This is all new to me. I'm not sure what it is I'm feeling.

Even though he is now looking away from Lon, it's quite obvious that Mike's face falls. Lon gently takes Mike's chin and turn him back to face him. Lon's face is warm and full of love.

LON (CONT'D)
But I plan to spend the next half century or so with you trying to figure it out.

A joyous smile flickers across Mike's face for an instant. His face then turns serious.

MIKE

Half century? That's a long time.
I'll have to check my schedule.

Lon cocks an eyebrow at Mike. Mike breaks out in a huge grin. Lon smile back in return.

LON

Cheeky.

The two grab each other, kissing passionately as we:

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - JON BATES' OFFICE - OUTER OFFICE - LATER.

Jon and Corrine enter. They both appear to be quite happy.

JON

(warmly)
I'll see you later, Corrine.

He hesitates for a beat and then leans in and kisses her. She happily kisses him back. After they part, they look at into each other's eyes for a beat.

CORRINE

(turning toward the door;
warmly)
You can count on it.

She exits the room. Jon smiles to himself and turns for his office. As he is about to enter, he nearly runs into Mitch who is exiting the room with a stack of folders. Jon jumps in surprise.

MITCH

(jovial)
Oh, hey, boss-man. Where ya been?

Jon eyes Mitch suspiciously for a beat.

JON

(cautiously)
I had some... business to attend
to.

Mitch merely nods normally.

MITCH

Well, I finished the quarterly reports and finalized the seating arrangements for the post-launch dinner. I take it you and Corrine well want to sit together?

Mitch waggles his eyebrows. Jon is still not sure what to think about Mitch. Mitch notices Jon's mood.

MITCH (CONT'D)

If you'd rather not, I can fix it, I just assumed...

Jon comes out of his fog.

JON

No. No. That's fine.

MITCH

Are you alright? You've been acting strange all week.

Jon smiles to himself.

JON

All week. Yes, I'm fine, Mitchy-boy. Never better.

Mitch gives the man a bemused smile.

MITCH

Good. There's a few things on your desk we need to go over for tomorrow's launch.

Jon still smiling at Mitch, gestures toward the door.

JON

Lead the way, my good man.

Still amused, Mitch enters the room, followed by Jon.

CUT TO:

INT. MACROWARE - JON BATES' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

Once inside the office. Jon's door snaps shut. Jon jumps in surprise, looking to the door. Turning back around he is faced with Mitch who now has glowing red eyes. Jon is stunned with surprise.

MITCH

Thought it was all a dream, huh?

JON
But... Jerry?!

Mitch smiles coolly and takes a step closer to Jon.

MITCH
You're looking at the once great
ruler of an entire dimension,
kiddo. You expect me not to have a
"Plan B"?

The color drains out of Jon's face.

MITCH (CONT'D)
He was an effective decoy, I take
it. A little something I whipped up
He actually thought he was
responsible for the portals.

Jon's lip quivers.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Speaking of which, did you find out
who closed my beautiful portals?

Jon frowns.

JON
(shaking his head)
It's only temporary.

Mitch leans in menacingly.

MITCH
That's not what I asked, Jonny.

JON
They're good people. I can't--

MITCH
Would you rather I kill them all?
Starting with your pretty little
vice-president.

Jon looks away sadly as we:

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - MIKE'S ROOM - NIGHT.

Lon and Mike are lying in bed, spooning, Lon behind Mike with his arm draped around the younger man. Mike is holding his hand.

MIKE
You're serious?

LON
Entirely. There's even an apartment
right across the street that's
vacant.

Mike ponders this for a beat.

MIKE
Moving in together is a big step.

LON
I've got big shoes.

Mike turns to Lon and gives him a mischievous grin.

MIKE.
Among other things.

The pair laugh lightly. Lon leans in to kiss Mike. Mike hold
his and up, blocking Lon's advances.

MIKE
Wait. Hold up there, hot stuff. I'm
riding on empty.

Mike throws back the covers and crawls out of bed.

MIKE (CONT'D)
I need some chow first.

Lon smirks at Mike as Mike pulls on a pair of jeans.

LON
Best hurry or I'll start without
you.

MIKE
Now there's a trick.

The two chuckle as Mike exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - LATER.

The diner lights are dim. Mike exits the kitchen. Backing
out, pushing the door with his back, he turns to reveal that
he is carrying a tray of food. He walks around the bar and
begins heading for the stairs.

He makes an annoyed face and turns back to the bar as if he's forgotten something. Setting the tray on the bar, his back to the door, he lifts the glass lid covering a plate of donuts, pulling one out and placing it on his tray. Mike picks the tray back up as the bell over the door CHIMES and the lights flick on.

Turning to face door, he is greeted by Jon and Mitch.

MIKE
 (surprised)
 Oh! Jon. Mitch.
 (confused)
 Uh... What's up? Tyler's poker game
 is next week.

JON
 (sorrowful)
 I'm sorry, Mike.

MIKE
 It's okay, he'll just be thrilled
 that you're...

The friendly smile fades from his face as he realizes that is not what Jon is talking about.

Mitch begins to unbutton his shirt.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 What's going...

Mike's eyes go wide as Mitch opens his shirt. Latched to his chest is something that looks very much like a jellyfish!

Before Mike can react, the creature shoots out a tentacle slapping him in the face. Mike drops his tray and begins to grab at his throat as a huge red welt rises on his face.

Jon drops his head sadly. He and Mitch turn toward the door as Mike falls to the floor gasping. Mike thrashes on the floor for another second.

CU on his foot twitching as the diner lights go out. The door bell again CHIMES as we:

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW