

SCENE 1

SFX: Skateboarding down a ramp. The skateboarder ollies.

KATZ:

Nice job, Astra. Thought you were never gonna land that one.

SFX: Astra stops her skateboard.

ASTRA:

Oh hush, you've seen me do it a million times.

KATZ:

I have, but I've only seen you *land* it maybe... thirty times? You were coming on the rim at a different angle.

ASTRA:

It's the pool, I swear. I guess the side must have warped or something. Anyways, this is just the warm-up. I wanna skate *that* tonight.

HARLAN:

Oh, come on. The Plummet? We've agreed that water slide barely looks like it's holding it together. *That* is what I like to call a death wish.

And what, you're gonna skate it without us?

ASTRA:

Obviously not, Harlan. Come on.

SFX: Astra picks up her board and starts walking.

KATZ:

Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait. Hold up. Are we seriously trying to do the Plummet *now*? (HE LAUGHS) You're either gonna break several bones or just die outright.

HARLAN:

Correction, Katz, we are gonna break several bones.

ASTRA:

If not tonight, when?

KATZ:

Some other time when we're not about to play the most important show of our extremely short-lived careers?

ASTRA:

We may as well take the opportunity to do it. After all, this place is gonna be swarming once we're through with our performance tonight.

HARLAN:

Yeah. Total crime scene. We gotta make this all count and that includes the Plummet.

KATZ:

(HE SIGHS) Fine, fine. Let's at least put our gear at the bottom before we do this thing.

HARLAN:

Oh yeah, I'll take my synth many places, but not up all those stairs. Plus, I don't wanna take the cameras up there either.

SFX: The three pick up their items. Fade to footsteps climbing stairs.

KATZ:

How high is this thing again?

ASTRA:

It's not *that* high, it's just a lot of steps.

HARLAN:

Less than 100 feet, so you know, pretty safe in my opinion.
And I mean it seems pretty sound.

SFX: Metal creaking.

HARLAN:

Also, if we die, we'll still go down in history. "First
and Last Skaters to Ever Try the Plummet."

SFX: Astra stops walking.

ASTRA:

Harlan, you're freaking me out, man.

HARLAN:

Sorry. Haha.

KATZ:

Don't tell me you're thinking of turning back, Kilby.

ASTRA:

Psh. Hardly. (SHE LAUGHS) I'm just thinking.

SFX: Astra runs up the stairs.

HARLAN:

That's Astra for you. Never turns her back on anything.

KATZ:

Good thing, too.

HARLAN:

What about you? Having any second thoughts?

KATZ:

About this? Or about—!

HARLAN:

About everything. I don't think we can ever go back to the
Ultras after this performance, you know?

KATZ:

Yeah, probably not. But I've made my peace with it.

HARLAN:

Heh. Guess I have to.

KATZ:

Harlan, you are our newest member. You don't have to do
this.

HARLAN:

Hey, I joined the Holy Terrors 'cause I wanted to make
music and get famous. But I'm sticking with you two 'cause
this is the right thing to do.

ASTRA:

You guys good down there? I can wait, but you gotta let me
know!

KATZ:

Nah, we're coming, we're coming!

SFX: Harlan and Katz walk up. The wind blows.

MUSIC: "A Fight You Can't Win" by Purely Grey.

HARLAN:

Wow. It's beautiful up here.

ASTRA:

Take it all in, guys. This is it. Drink up everything you want to keep alive in your memory. The night sky, the yellow sodium lights, the busted sign...

KATZ:

The barbed wire fence we bent out of shape to get in, the palm trees...

HARLAN:

The moon just over the horizon. The graffiti everyone's painted all over the place here.

Which reminds me...

SFX: Harlan uncaps a paint pen.

HARLAN:

I thought it'd only be right for us to make our own mark here. Since this is where we officially became the H-O-L-Y T-E-R-R-O-R-S. There's my autograph! Sign on the dotted line, folks.

SFX: Katz and Astra sign.

HARLAN:

Nice. Now people will always know we were here.

SFX: Katz sets his board down.

KATZ:

You guys ready?

ASTRA:

Absolutely not, but let's do it anyways.

HARLAN:

Now or never.

SFX: Astra and Harlan set down their boards.

ASTRA:

Are we going down together?

HARLAN AND KATZ:

Always and forever!

SFX: They push off.

ASTRA, HARLAN, KATZ:

(WHOOPIING AS THEY SKATE DOWN)

SCENE 2

SFX: A can opener opening a can.

KATZ:

Morning, Astra. Breakfast?

ASTRA:

(GROANS) Beans again?

KATZ:

Perks of living in an abandoned diner.

SFX: Katz scoops out beans with a spoon and eats.

ASTRA:

Dude. At least heat it up. You heathen.

KATZ:

Big day today, don't wanna waste time.

SFX: Diner seats squeak.

ASTRA:

(WINCES) Gosh. Note to self, don't sleep on the diner seats. Not good for my back.

SFX: Astra opens a can.

KATZ:

Thought you didn't want beans?

ASTRA:

These are tomatoes.

SFX: Astra scoops out a spoonful and eats.

What are we doing today? What's the "big day" occasion?

KATZ:

...Getting our newest band member? We've been talking about this for like a month.

ASTRA:

Oh god, is it Wednesday already?

KATZ:

Sure is. Still feeling the show from Monday, huh?

ASTRA:

Playing with the Epochalypses does that to you. Almost missed the last run.

KATZ:

Speaking of, you hear anything from Archer?

ASTRA:

Nothing so far, but you know how he is. He'll probably call us up at the worst possible moment.

KATZ:

(HE LAUGHS) He does like to do that.

SFX: Astra finishes eating and puts the can down.

ASTRA:

We're auditioning people in...

KATZ:

`Bout an hour.

ASTRA:

Oh! Then we gotta go, like *now*.

KATZ:

That's what I was saying, don't wanna waste time. What song are we trying to audition them with?

ASTRA:

No current songs. Let's just jam. I'll go grab the bass and mic. Meet you out front?

KATZ:

Sounds good.

SFX: Astra walks off. Katz grabs the keys and walks outside to a crowd of people milling around.

ULTRA MEMBER:

Hey, Katz! Where are you off to in such a hurry?

KATZ:

Uh, warehouse on the east side. Doing some band stuff.

ULTRA MEMBER:

Dunno how you find the time between the Ultras and whatever you have going on.

KATZ:

Hey, it's all about time management. Key to success.

ULTRA MEMBER 1:

Pfft.

SFX: Katz loads the van. Astra gets in.

ASTRA:

Buckle in.

SFX: Seatbelt buckles. The engine starts. Katz opens his comms and scrolls through.

KATZ:

(SIGHS) Okay, I think we should have a couple people interested. We have a Killian Herbert who's a guitar player—!

ASTRA:

Three guitars onstage feels like overkill to me. Pass?

KATZ:

Haven't heard them yet, no reason to write them off.

ASTRA:

Just giving you my initial thoughts.

KATZ:

Riley Gibson, drummer and vocalist.

ASTRA:

We could make it work.

KATZ:

Jay Tiptree, synth and bass...

ASTRA:

Oh, I know Jay, they're not gonna have enough time to actually play with us. They're good though. Guest player?

KATZ:

And Harlan Turingson, synth player.

ASTRA:

Eh, probably pass.

KATZ:

Starting to get the impression that you don't really want any of them.

ASTRA:

(SIGHS) It's not that, necessarily. I think I'm feeling a little... directionless with the new band?

KATZ:

Hey, I half think that's the point of getting the new person. They'll probably kickstart some inspiration from you. And even if we don't choose anyone today, we'll still have narrowed down what it is exactly that we want out of our band. 'Cause hey, I get some say in this too.

ASTRA:

True, true.

SFX: A comms rings.

KATZ:

You want me to get that?

ASTRA:

Ah, leave it for right now. I wanna focus on the band. Maybe I've been splitting my attention too much, you know what I mean?

KATZ:

Right on. Oh, take the right turn up ahead.

SFX: The driving fades. A door to a mostly empty warehouse opens. We hear a few synth notes play out.

HARLAN:

Oh, nice. Hey there.

ASTRA:

Uh... where is everyone else?

KATZ:

Yeah, I definitely had like, other people say they were interested.

HARLAN:

Dunno! I've just been chilling here waiting for the two of you to show up. I'm Harlan Turingson, by the by. I've watched a couple of your shows—both of you—so, I thought this would be a cool opportunity to play with y'all!

KATZ:

Ey, much appreciated!

Did I mess up the scheduling for this, or...?

SFX: Comms rings again.

ASTRA:

Damn. It's Archer. That might actually be why so many people are gone—looks like there's a raid happening pretty nearby.

HARLAN:

Who's that?

ASTRA:

Buddy of mine.

KATZ:

(CLEARS HIS THROAT) Excuse you, buddy of ours.

ASTRA:

Yeah, sorry for just like... getting pulled away from all this, we just kind of owe him. Like, a lot.

KATZ:

Yeah, can't say I know too much about Astra and Archer's deal—she's known him way longer than I have—but he's sort of the whole reason we have a place to live?

HARLAN:

Right, you guys are always running off from one settlement to the other. Like being on permanent tour. Wicked.

KATZ:

So yeah, sorry to cut this audition short. We can, uh, reschedule or something?

HARLAN:

No way, man. I'll just hitch a ride with ya and see what's going on?

ASTRA:

Are you... sure?

HARLAN:

Why not? Is it dangerous or something?

ASTRA:

(AT THE SAME TIME)

Kind of?

KATZ:

(AT THE SAME TIME)

Yeah, it is.

ASTRA:

Hang on. Regroup.

HARLAN:

Take your time.

SFX: Astra and Katz walk off. Harlan plays their synth in the background.

KATZ:

I thought you were going to pass on them?

ASTRA:

I mean yes, I was, but like... isn't it a little more dangerous to let some poor kid sit in a warehouse a few miles from the action? Those Glassers might bust in here and kill them.

KATZ:

We can send them home?

ASTRA:

Archer says he needs the backup, which means they're probably blocking off the roads right now. No going home for them till it's all cleared out, and you *know* we're not supposed to bring people to the Ultras base unless we clear it with Archer.

KATZ:

True, but you want to bring this guy to the action.

ASTRA:

Eh, just in the van. If they lay low and we finish the job quick, it'll be fine, right?

KATZ:

Uh... right. Hey, Turingson?

HARLAN:

Yep?

KATZ:

You're coming with us, bud. Excited to see your first Ultras defense?

HARLAN:

I'm game for anything. Let's roll. Oh wait, should I bring my synth?

KATZ:

Uh...

ASTRA:

Yeah, why not? I don't want it to get stolen. Come on.

SCENE 3

SFX: An engine revs. Laser fire fades in.

ASTRA:

This is us!

HARLAN:

Oh, dear lord, that is a *lot* of Glassers.

KATZ:

You wanna just lay low here, Harlan?

HARLAN:

Probably for now, yeah?

KATZ:

Told you it was dangerous. Be back soon.

SFX: Katz opens the door and loads his raygun. He fires and hen slides in the dirt in an evasive maneuver.

KATZ:

Whew!

ARCHER:

Katz Delany, in the flesh! Was wondering when you would show up. Where's Astra?

SFX: Astra slides in behind them.

ASTRA:

Phew! Right here! What's the story with this situation? All you messaged in was "Glassers in large numbers, road blocked, get here quick."

ARCHER:

That about sums it up. What took you so long?

KATZ:

Auditioning people for the band. Only one person showed.

ARCHER:

That's rough. Where are they?

ASTRA:

In the van.

ARCHER:

We'll call that the perimeter on the east side, so make sure no one breaches it, otherwise your buddy's toast. Follow me, let's get a better visual.

Heard these guys coming via their radio. Easier to track these days, they're getting sloppy. Which is good for us, but still. The other Ultras are taking care of the technicians, but that leaves us with the police force.

ASTRA:

Any reason they wanted a waterpark of all places?

ARCHER:

Good lookout point, maybe? Elevation probably makes it easier for them to broadcast signals or send up flares. I dunno, what kind of logic do these guys follow anyways?

KATZ:

Yeah, if they had brains at all they'd stay *inside* their stupid dome instead of destroying places out here. (SCOFFS)

ARCHER:

Katz, you take the right flank. I'll take the left and do some more recon, Astra, you do what you do best.

ASTRA:

(LAUGHS) Charge headlong into danger?

ARCHER:

Exactly. On my count. One... two... three... now!

MUSIC: "Go!" by lemonmusicstudio.

OPERATIVE:

Watch your six!

KATZ:

Little late for that, don't you think?

SFX: Katz fires a laser.

ARCHER:

Katz, don't forget your—!

KATZ:

Yeah, yeah, I got it.

SFX: Katz fires twice.

KATZ:

You're all so lucky I only use stun on this thing. Luckier than I was.

ASTRA:

Hyah!

SFX: Astra punches an operative.

ASTRA:

Whew, ouch. That clears out those.

SFX: Astra walks to an operative.

ASTRA:

Look at this! New comms. I bet Archer was right, they must be trying to set up another tower for a signal.

SFX: The comms beeps.

KATZ:

What the...

Astra, watch out!

SFX: Laser fire,

ASTRA:

Whoa, geez! Where'd you come from?

OPERATIVE:

None of your concern. Hold still.

ASTRA:

Now where's the fun in that?

SFX: Astra runs, jumping to a lower level and avoiding more laser fire.

ASTRA:

Secure the rest of the perimeter, Katz!

KATZ:

Got it!

SFX: Astra fires his blaster, but gets hit by a bolt.

MUSIC: "Drone" by Zakhar Valaha.

ASTRA:

Argh!

OPERATIVE:

Not so easy to run on a stunned leg, is it?

ASTRA:

Yeah, see how you like it!

SFX: Astra fires and the laser rebounds.

ASTRA:

What the—!

OPERATIVE:

If you're shooting someone with a reflector vest,
stunning's not your best option. Neither is trying to kill
me. I see you messing with your ray gun settings.

SFX: The operative walks towards Astra.

ASTRA:

Aw, get away from me, you creep.

OPERATIVE:

Not a very nice way to talk to someone you should know—
argh!

SFX: A musical thunk.

MUSIC: "A Fight You Can't Win" by Purely Grey.

ASTRA:

Harlan?

HARLAN:

Hey, Astra! Thought you needed some help. Not much of a ray gun person myself, but I've got a pretty good swing.

SFX: Radio chatter from Correctors.

HARLAN:

Uh oh. We might need to get out of here quick.

ASTRA:

Don't bother about me. Get out of here!

HARLAN:

I'm not leaving you. You're hurt! Geez, man, you're *asking* to get murdered.

ASTRA:

So are you by staying!

HARLAN:

Aw, you know we all die eventually.

ASTRA:

(GASPS) To your left!

HARLAN:

Whoa!

SFX: Harlan turns and swings, misses, and an operative grabs them.

ASTRA:

Harlan!

KATZ:

Alright, party's heating up, huh?

SFX: Katz spins his blaster and shoots.

MUSIC: A Fight You Can't Win by Purely Grey.

HARLAN:

Whew, thank you!

ASTRA:

Katz, five and seven! Harlan, cover him!

KATZ AND HARLAN:

Got it!

SFX: The two fight off the operatives.

ASTRA:

Three more coming, they've got reflector vests too!

SFX: The two continue to fight.

HARLAN:

Someone's still firing at us—where are they?

ASTRA:

Good question. Shots coming from... there! Higher ground, to your left, Harlan!

HARLAN:

Katz, think you can handle that guy with a boost?

KATZ:

I'd say so. Ready?

HARLAN:

Ready!

SFX: Katz jumps as Harlan launches him into the air.

KATZ:

Got him!

SFX: Katz fires.

HARLAN:

Alright! Not bad for my first time, don't you think? Think I should take a souvenir. Like one of these weird comms. Yoink!

SFX: Harlan swipes one of the comms.

ASTRA:

Nicely done, you two! Sorry I couldn't jump into the fray with y'all.

HARLAN:

Nah, that's okay. Need help getting up?

ASTRA:

Uh, I think this might be more of a two-person job.

KATZ:

Hey, you know I've always got you. Up and at 'em, Kilby.

SFX: Astra limps with the help of Harlan and Katz.

ARCHER:

Astra, Katz! Seems like I missed the fun part of the firefight. I'd better watch out or you whippersnappers will leave me behind.

ASTRA:

Yup, you're gonna be eating our dust for the rest of eternity.

ARCHER:

And yet I was still at the scene way before you two slackers decided to show.

KATZ:

You're a real hero.

ARCHER:

Oh goodness, where are my manners! Here I am blabbing to my right and left-hand Ultras, and I haven't even asked your name. You are...?

HARLAN:

Harlan Turingson. They/them. I bet you're Archer?

ARCHER:

The one and only! Thanks for looking out for Astra! She's pretty much family. And, uh, sorry for all the commotion out here, I hear it caused a bit of a stir for your auditions.

HARLAN:

Aw, don't sweat it, man. Not like it was your fault. But I think with Astra getting hurt, that means I'll have to put off auditioning for a while.

ASTRA:

No, I think I've made up my mind. Harlan? I want you for the band.

KATZ:

Wait, for real? You haven't heard them play.

ASTRA:

Don't think I need to. Dude, you were pretty in sync with me and Katz back there. More important than talent or whatever sound I had in my head for the band is chemistry. And I think we're gonna get along pretty well. Whaddya say?

HARLAN:

Whoa! Gosh, yeah, I'm totally flattered. To be honest, I wasn't really expecting all this, I haven't even figured out where I'm staying around here.

ARCHER:

You a wanderer too?

HARLAN:

Guess you could say that. I've just been moving around as long as I can remember.

ARCHER:

Harlan, you can kick it with the Ultras anytime. The diner Katz and Astra have been staying in is pretty much empty otherwise. And you get free food out of the deal.

KATZ:

You cool with eating beans for the next few meals?

HARLAN:

Yeah? Yes? I mean... I guess beans are good?

KATZ:

Well, that completely convinced me. (LAUGHS) Nah, but I agree with Archer there. But, but, I do wanna hear how you actually play once we get back, yeah?

HARLAN:

Of course!

ASTRA:

Nice! (HE WINCES) Ooh, ow, forgot about my leg.

KATZ:

Let's all get back home for now, shall we?

ARCHER:

Sounds great. I'll round up the rest of the Ultras as always, and you'll hear back from me if I notice anything important about whatever these Glassers are up to.

SCENE 4

CROWD:

Hey Archer, you're back! Always good to see you!

That raid was pretty wild, huh? Super tough, we're lucky to have you, Archer.

ARCHER:

Please, please. I do it for y'all, not for me.

CROWD:

Give it up for Archer everybody!

Archer! Archer!

ARCHER:

Uh, Katz, you can take Astra and Harlan to the diner on your own, yeah?

Ah, you guys are too nice.

SFX: The door shuts.

KATZ:

Whew. Set your stuff down wherever you want, Harlan. Astra usually sleeps here in the front, I sleep in the back, but choose wherever you want. And uh, ooh, Astra, you'd better sit down.

ASTRA:

Yeah, yeah, I'm doing it.

SFX: Astra sits heavily and stretches his leg.

ASTRA:

Oh yeah, this'll probably take a little bit to get the feeling back. Ah, what a pain...

KATZ:

It could have been much worse, you know.

SFX: The crowd continues to chant Archer's name.

KATZ:

Harlan. Psst, Harlan!

HARLAN:

Huh?!

KATZ:

You can quit staring out the window now.

HARLAN:

Sorry, man. I'm just... wow. This is so cool. I had no idea Archer was so... famous!

ASTRA:

Is that what stuck out to you?

HARLAN:

Did you see how everyone looked at him the second he walked in? That's incredible. Like, seriously awesome. I wish I could do that.

ASTRA:

Yep, that's the old man for you. Always commanding attention.

HARLAN:

I barely even know what the Ultras *do*, and I'm already impressed.

KATZ:

Do you want a run-down? I mean now that you're a part of us. Heh.

HARLAN:

Yeah, that'd probably be helpful!

KATZ:

Well, the Ultras is kind of just a fancy name Archer gave for the ragtag crew that we are. We're a bunch of wanderers.

ASTRA:

Either we didn't have a settlement to begin with...

KATZ:

Or a raid destroyed whatever home we had before.

ASTRA:

That's kind of why he started gathering all of us up! We fight back wherever we can, make it a little easier for other communities so they don't get attacked. Not every place can handle a Glasser invasion, so we spend a lot of time traveling around and handling any intruders out here so that other places can feel safe.

KATZ:

Mm-hm. That's part of the Ultras' mission. Protect people that need protecting. That's why I stuck around.

HARLAN:

Didn't know I was signing up for all that, but I believe in it! Pretty sweet.

Although, what am I saying, it's awesome that I'm getting to crash with you two! Like I said, I already liked what you guys made as artists and here I am about to just live in the same place as you?

ASTRA:

Life comes at you fast.

HARLAN:

Did you wanna hear something now, by the way? I mean, after all that excitement I can't promise you my synth's gonna sound great, I did just hit a guy over the head with it.

ASTRA:

It's okay! We have plenty of time to figure stuff out. And to be honest... I haven't really thought of a name for the band? Or any of the songs... Ugh, look at me, I'm coming off as a total amateur to the band scene. Katz, you can kill me now.

KATZ:

(LAUGHS) Maybe later. If you couldn't tell, Astra's in a bit of a creative rut.

HARLAN:

Oh, sure. Happens to the best of us.

ASTRA:

I think I'm just burning out. Like, I love the Epochalypses, but they're exhausting to perform with. And these raids keep happening closer and closer together, it's... it gives me kind of a bad feeling.

HARLAN:

No pressure, Astra. Art takes time. If we gotta just jam out stuff at some point, take a break, come back around to it... I'm sure something will come to any one of us and we'll go from there.

ASTRA:

Thanks, dude. Appreciate it.

HARLAN:

Of course.

KATZ:

Hey, but I did actually want to hear you, so (HE LAUGHS) so, if you're feeling up to it, you can put it up on the diner counter. I think I might have some good songs brewing in here.

HARLAN:

(LAUGHS) Alright, one song, coming right up.

SFX: Harlan places their synth on the counter and begins to play.

SCENE 5

SFX: In a crowd, we hear Harlan's synth be joined by a guitar.
It's met with scattered applause.

ASTRA:

Thank you! That's Harlan Turingson, that's Katz Delany, and I'm Astra Kilby. If you've got a couple song requests, let us know, we'll make it happen one way or another!

SFX: Light applause.

KATZ:

Well, uh... that's that. I kind of doubt anyone's coming up for a request any time soon. Guess we're not that big yet.

SFX: Katz and Harlan begin to unplug their gear.

HARLAN:

Yeah. Nobody gets famous right at square one! Although, we have been playing together for about a month now... I thought Archer would at least give us some kind of boost.

SFX: Harlan cracks open a beer and sips from it.

ASTRA:

Eh, things are kind of all over the place with him right now. It's getting tricky to balance stuff when he's constantly off stopping Glassers.

HARLAN:

I heard he went and stopped a raid on his own yesterday. Dude's overloading himself! Wish he'd let up and let us handle stuff sometimes, so *he* could catch a break.

KATZ:

Yeah...

SFX: The door of the bar opens to cheering.

KATZ:

Speak of the devil.

ASTRA:

Archer!

SFX: Astra sprints over and hugs Archer.

ARCHER:

Hey, kiddo!

ASTRA:

Hey, man! What gives, I thought you were gonna show for this one?

ARCHER:

Getting pulled away by work, I'm afraid. Glassers don't sleep, apparently.

ASTRA:

No, they really don't. I didn't hear you come back to base until like, 3 a.m.

ARCHER:

And what were you doing up that late?

ASTRA:

Pfft, I'm not a kid anymore, Arch. You could've given me a bedtime maybe like... what, eight years ago?

ARCHER:

Just looking out for ya.

ASTRA:

Besides, shouldn't I be asking you about where you were?

ARCHER:

You want a drink, by the way?

ASTRA:

Uh, sure?

ARCHER:

Hey, two drinks for me and my buddy, yeah?

BARTENDER:

On the house for you, man.

ARCHER:

Ah, thank you, thank you.

SFX: The bartender opens two beers for them.

ASTRA:

Did you feel like answering my question anytime soon?

...Did something bad happen?

SFX: Archer takes a sip of his drink.

MUSIC: "Serious Dark Ambient Atmosphere" by Ashot Danielyan.

ARCHER:

Astra, you trust me, right?

ASTRA:

Duh.

ARCHER:

Well, good. 'Cause I'm gonna need you to trust me on this one.

Look, you and I both know that I've been running the Ultras since... kind of forever. And it's hard to be the leader, you know? I barely even wanted to be one, but someone's gotta step up and I figured that it would be me. If I had it my way, we would all be living without worrying about the Glasshouse freaks. And they keep sending here. But... but a lot of people have started to say stuff about me.

ASTRA:

What? Who?

ARCHER:

People who are... jealous, upset with me, I guess. I'm just trying to keep the people 'round here safe, but there are a lot of rumors going around and... I think people are losing faith in me.

ASTRA:

Aw, man. I'm sorry, dude. That's not right.

ARCHER:

(SIGHS) Well, I dunno. Maybe they are right, you know. Maybe I'm just—!

ASTRA:

Come on, don't say that sort of stuff. Out of all people, I personally would know whether you're looking out for people. And you've always been watching out for me.

ARCHER:

'Course, dude. Cheers.

SFX: Astra and Archer clink their bottles together and drink.

ARCHER:

But yeah, if you don't see a lot of me, I'm just trying to figure out how to handle what's going on.

ASTRA:

If you need me to beat anyone up...

ARCHER:

Heh. I can fight my own battles, but I appreciate the thought.

ASTRA:

Hey! Uh, me and the band wanted to check out that water park we saw a while back. That place where you let Harlan join the Ultras?

ARCHER:

I remember.

ASTRA:

You down to come with us? It looked like it'd be a pretty neat base. Y'know, next time we pick up and move.

ARCHER:

I couldn't agree more. How about you and yours go scout it out for me?

ASTRA:

Oh. No can do then? I thought it'd be cool. You know, old times, you and me skating together. All that.

ARCHER:

I promise I'll be there next time around.

ASTRA:

Okay...

ARCHER:

I'll stick around until you finish your synthanol though.

ASTRA:

You know we both finish a drink faster than is probably healthy.

ARCHER:

(LAUGHS) Yeah, you got that from me. I tell you what, I'll stick around and help you get your gear packed up for... what's your band's name again?

SFX: The two of them walk towards the stage.

ASTRA:

Still don't have one.

ARCHER:

Seriously? You, uh... planning on sticking with it?

ASTRA:

I am. I mean, I'm having a lot of fun playing with Harlan and Katz! I just haven't landed on a good name yet.

KATZ:

Hey, I liked "The Levitators." Still has a vote from me.

ARCHER:

What's up? How'd the show go?

KATZ:

Uh, I think it went okay. I mean, I screwed up a riff in "Out of Hell" but the rest of it was pretty solid.

HARLAN:

We kind of need to rework that one anyways. I don't think what I'm doing for the bridge there is great. You know, the part that's all "Out of time! Out of place! Out of hell! Fall from grace!" That's way too cool for me to be doing this.

SFX: Harlan plunks out a tune.

ARCHER:

That's pretty good. I dig the vibe.

HARLAN:

Appreciate it. I kind of think that's where the band name should come from, honestly.

ARCHER:

Not a bad idea.

KATZ:

Arch, do you mind taking some of the amps to the van?

ARCHER:

Oh yeah, no problem. Is it out back?

KATZ:

Yep. Take the keys.

SFX: The keys jingle. Archer walks out the back door.

MUSIC: "Serious Dark Ambient Atmosphere" by Ashot Danielyan.

KATZ:

Hey, guys? Uh, we don't have a whole lot of time, but... I... I kind of... I kind of wanna talk about... about... about Archer with you guys. Maybe later. Unless you invited him to the thing?

ASTRA:

He can't make it.

HARLAN:

Uh... everything okay, Katz?

KATZ:

(SIGHS)

HARLAN:

Alright, so everything is *not* okay.

ARCHER:

Hey, do you want the larger amp on its side?

KATZ:

Again, we'll talk about it later.

Hang on, I'll show you where it needs to go.

SFX: Fade out.

MUSIC: "A Fight You Can't Win" by Purely Grey.

SCENE 6

MUSIC: "Lazy Afternoon" by < e s c p >.

SFX: Skateboarding.

HARLAN:

Oh, dudes, this place looks *sick*. Check out that pool.

SFX: Harlan presses themselves up against the chain link fence.

HARLAN:

Good thing it's so hot, it's totally dried out. Oh, that'd be so cool to skate in.

KATZ:

Hm... what do you think, should we climb the fence?

ASTRA:

Uh, honestly, the rust alone makes me say no.

KATZ:

Surprisingly un-daredevil-ish of you.

ASTRA:

Hey, I have brains sometimes.

SFX: Skateboarding.

HARLAN:

Oh, guys, this part of the fence is sort of busted. I bet we could pull it up a little, crawl through?

ASTRA:

Sounds like a plan.

SFX: Footsteps.

KATZ:

I'll get this side, you two take the other?

ASTRA:

Watch that broken part there. Okay, here we go...

HARLAN, KATZ, ASTRA:

(GRUNTING AS THEY PULL ON THE FENCE)

SFX: The fence bends.

KATZ:

Nice! In we go.

SFX: Footsteps.

ASTRA:

Wow, this place is way bigger than I thought. Guess I've never been to an actual functioning water park anyways. I love the colors.

HARLAN:

Aw, yeah, looks like we weren't the first people here. Check out all these sweet tags. "Rival", "Primedread", "Unearthed"...

KATZ:

Yo, we should add our own tags up here.

HARLAN:

You have one?

KATZ:

Yep. I'm Straycat.

HARLAN:

I should have guessed! I think I saw you on the overpass out on Angel Point?

ASTRA:

You'd be right! I was still coming up with my tag up there, but if you saw Starflower, that was my old one. I'm just AZ-FREE now.

HARLAN:

That's cool. Now I gotta come up with one. Argh, that's two things we need names for.

ASTRA:

I'm feeling pretty inspired here. I bet we could find a good name somewhere on the walls. And you said you wanted to skate that pool, right?

HARLAN:

Oh, absolutely. Let's do it.

SFX: The three skate forward.

HARLAN:

Check it! You could use the lazy river section as a half-pipe. Wish I took my skateboard too, not just my longboard. Watch this.

SFX: Harlan skates up the side.

KATZ:

Okay, okay, I like it. Can you turn a 180?

SFX: Katz demonstrates.

HARLAN:

No, oh my god, how would I do that? You're just making that look easy.

ASTRA:

Katz, do a fakie flip!

HARLAN:

Do it, do it, do it!

KATZ:

(LAUGHING) Oh god, I'm definitely gonna fall. Fine, fine! Since you both asked so nicely.

SFX: Katz tries and falls, sending his board forward.

KATZ:

Whoops! Haha, aw, let me go grab my board.

ASTRA:

Okay, okay, let me try to land something. Pop-it 360, go!

SFX: Astra lands the trick.

HARLAN:

Nice, nice!

KATZ:

That was smooth.

ASTRA:

Hahaha, thanks!

SFX: Skateboarding.

ASTRA:

Gosh, we haven't skated in a while, huh?

KATZ:

Not all together at least. We've been too busy trying to put together songs.

ASTRA:

Yeah, kind of my fault, sorry guys.

HARLAN:

No need to apologize. Like I said before, stuff'll happen when it happens... creatively speaking. I do still think "Out of Hell" is our strongest contender.

KATZ:

(SIGHS) Yeah, I just haven't thought of any of the words beyond the chorus and bridge, of course.

HARLAN:

We might just need to let it percolate a little more. Seriously, sometimes something happens in your life and then the music just clicks. No rush.

SFX: Skateboarding.

KATZ:

Look at all the sodium streetlights they have up. They look like spotlights.

ASTRA:

Do you think we could do a show here?

HARLAN:

Uh, I think we kind of have to. This place is perfect. I bet the acoustics would be cool.

KATZ:

Yo, guys, look at this!

MUSIC: "A Fight You Can't Win" by Purely Grey.

ASTRA:

That mural's huge! This must have taken forever to do.

KATZ:

Whoa. This is...

HARLAN:

Wow.

KATZ:

This might be the one.

ASTRA:

"Divine Terror." That's pretty good, actually.

HARLAN:

Yeah. "Now introducing the Divine Terror!" Got a good ring to it. I can hear the crowd chanting our names already!

ASTRA:

Do we like divine? Maybe a different word.

SFX: Harlan skates in the background.

KATZ:

Heavenly?

ASTRA:

Kind of long.

KATZ:

How about celestial?

ASTRA:

Makes it sound kinda eldritch. I don't think that's totally the vibe.

SFX: Harlan slides off their board.

HARLAN:

Oh, holy—!

ASTRA:

That's good! Holy Terrors. That sounds perfect.

KATZ:

Wait, where's Harlan?

SFX: Harlan crashes.

HARLAN:

Oof! Ow. (LAUGHING) I'm down here.

KATZ:

(LAUGHING) You okay, dude?

HARLAN:

I didn't realize the slope into the pool was so steep.

KATZ:

Need a hand up?

ASTRA:

Yeah, we'll come to you.

SFX: Footsteps.

ASTRA:

At least we came up with the name of the band. We all cool with Holy Terrors?

KATZ:

"Holy Terrors." I love it.

HARLAN:

Same. Glad my fall was worth something.

ASTRA:

(LAUGHS) You're not too badly hurt or anything?

HARLAN:

I'm good. I just landed hard.

ASTRA:

Whew. That's good.

Honestly, I was kind of feeling down about coming out here since Archer said he couldn't swing by, but I'm having fun.

KATZ:

Right. About that...

HARLAN:

Did you wanna talk about the thing you brought up at the bar?

KATZ:

Yeah, I... I... I may as well come out with it.

Did you guys hear Archer coming back in last night?

ASTRA:

(AT THE SAME TIME)

Oh, I did.

HARLAN:

(AT THE SAME TIME)

Nope, I was asleep.

KATZ:

Uh, *Astra*, did you hear what he was talking about?

ASTRA:

Oh, I'm as good as Harlan in that case. I just knew he came back 'cause I heard his car. Surprised that didn't wake you up, dude, that thing is loud as hell.

HARLAN:

Eh, I used to sleep near the overpass, cars don't really faze me anymore.

KATZ:

Well, he was talking on comms to someone. And do you know what sound those comms made? This sound.

SFX: Comms beep.

HARLAN:

Hey, that's the comms I swiped.

KATZ:

Yeah.

ASTRA:

Why is that suspicious? Maybe Archer took one too.

KATZ:

Well, apparently these comms are hot. They're all on the same radio frequency, so as soon as he was close enough to this one, you could hear him and... whoever was on the other side.

HARLAN:

What did he say?

KATZ:

I... I couldn't make it all out, but... he was talking to someone from Glasshouse, definitely. It kind of sounded like he was planning something?

ASTRA:

Do you have proof of that?

KATZ:

Well... well, not exactly.

ASTRA:

Then what's supposed to make me believe you?

HARLAN:

Whoa, Astra.

ASTRA:

Do you hear yourself, Katz? This is Archer we're talking about. I know people are talking a lot about him right now, but that's not his fault! Don't you remember what Harlan said? Arch has been taking care of all this stuff on his own while we... I don't know, mess around in an abandoned water park! He's not a bad person.

KATZ:

Astra.

MUSIC: "Serious Dark Ambient Atmosphere" by Ashot Danielyan.

ASTRA:

I can't believe you're one of the people spreading rumors about him.

KATZ:

I'm not, I...! Look, the reason I wanted to talk about it with you two is because you're the only people I'd trust to bring this stuff up with.

I don't wanna badmouth Archer, for real. Y'all know that he... well, he kind of saved me after shit went down in my hometown. I wouldn't have survived that raid without him. But something is going on and I need to talk about it with *somebody*. You guys have had my back on stage. Even if I mess up a couple parts. You always make sure I get back on the beat.

HARLAN:

You know... before I came to live with y'all, I didn't really have a place, per se. I kind of wandered around the settlements, except instead of rolling with the Ultras or anything similar, I just did it all on my own. Lived out of my car, went to see shows, picked up odd jobs here and there. It was pretty lonely and in some ways, I'm pretty grateful that Archer decided to let me stick with the Ultras. But I'm not that close to him or any of the other

Ultras, really. You're both the ones that made me feel like I fit in here. So, yeah, I got you.

ASTRA:

I can't really remember my life without Archer in it. I've been with him since I was a kid. He taught me like, almost everything I know. He's always made sure I had a place to stay and in return, I guess I've always thought I should try to look out for him a little too? But the more I think about this, the more I feel this pit just growing in my stomach. Since the last raid, I keep thinking about how that one Glasser said... something weird. He said I should know him. Or something like that. And if that's connected to what's going on...

I'm sorry for being touchy about this. I guess it's just been weighing on me more than I thought it was.

KATZ:

It's okay. I know you're closer with him than either of us are. And I don't mean to like, guilt you or anything. If... if this is too close, I understand.

ASTRA:

Hey, if there's one thing I've learned from being a punk band, first rule of punk is "question authority."

HARLAN:

What's the second rule?

ASTRA:

Look cool while doing it.

ASTRA, KATZ, HARLAN:

(LAUGH)

ASTRA:

Well, what's the game plan then? If we need to figure out what's going on, I guess it'd be hard to directly ask him. He already feels like people are being suspicious, I can't imagine that just confronting him about it wouldn't just make him go hush.

HARLAN:

Honestly? I think we need to come with him whenever he's stopping a Glasser attack.

KATZ:

Makes sense. We can do some recon, see what's up. See if some Glasser is holding something over him.

ASTRA:

With how often he's been out, we're gonna have to try hard to get a hold of him. And convince him to take us.

...Maybe we don't have to actually convince him. We *could* just follow him.

HARLAN:

Yeah, but how are we gonna do that? After a while it's hard to tail someone without them noticing.

ASTRA:

Remember how Katz said the comms that you swiped is hot? And if it caught the signal when it was nearby Archer's, then that means that they're probably connected on the same frequency. If we can find where the initial signals are coming... well, follow Glasser chatter, find Glassers, right? We'll follow Archer, but if we get lost, we can try to tune into the signal and get closer that way.

HARLAN:

Mmm... not a bad idea. I guess that means we'll be surprising him!

SCENE 7

SFX: An engine starts and pulls out.

HARLAN:

Oh god, that *is* a loud engine.

Looks like he's heading out by himself this time.

KATZ:

That's our cue to follow. (INHALES) Everyone ready?

ASTRA:

Yep. Let's go.

SFX: The van's engine starts.

KATZ:

Wow, he's going *real* fast! We're gonna lose him any second.

ASTRA:

Better power up the comms then.

HARLAN:

Okay, I scraped up a directional scanner for it, let's see if it works...

SFX: A digital beep that scans back and forth.

HARLAN:

It does! Phew. Stay due northeast.

SFX: Radio chatter.

KATZ:

Hang on. This road looks familiar. What community is this heading towards?

ASTRA:

Not totally sure. Could be 5T0-CKT?

HARLAN:

I think it's closer than that. MD3-5T0.

SFX: The signal grows stronger.

COMMS:

-here in MD3-5T0. Targeting residents downtown before moving up north to quadrant C to meet with-

ASTRA:

Uh oh. Targeting?

HARLAN:

What should we do? We shouldn't lose Archer, right?

KATZ:

No, come on. I know a shortcut to downtown here.

Remember, one of the tenants of being an Ultra: protect those who need protecting. Whatever is going on with Archer can wait.

HARLAN:

Right. Right! We'll figure that out later, but people need our help now.

ASTRA:

Okay, what exit should I take?

KATZ:

Exit 71B. And you might wanna hurry—we do have some company!

SFX: Laser fire.

MUSIC: "Hard Prey" by Evgeny Bardyuzha.

HARLAN:

We probably should've swiped a few reflector jackets, huh?

ASTRA:

No need. This van's old, but she can take a hit pretty well.

SFX: The van revs.

ASTRA:

Almost there, girl. Come on! Hold it steady..

SFX: They open the van to laser fire and yelling.

KATZ:

Harlan, which side you want? Left or right?

HARLAN:

I'll take right. What's our safe point for civilians?

ASTRA:

Down there looks good. Fairly shielded, cover on three sides so we'll only need to cover one side.

HARLAN:

Got it. And you're going...

ASTRA:

Straight ahead like always. No turning back now!

KATZ:

All clear. Let's go!

SFX: Laser fire and footsteps.

KATZ:

Gotcha! Come on, kid, run with me this way—I'll watch your back.

CORRECTORS:

Three insurrectionists spotted at Quadrant B! Engaging now!

SFX: Harlan punches a Corrector.

HARLAN:

That's two down! Astra, I spotted two more, plus a vehicle on the left.

ASTRA:

Thanks! Here, take these two and meet with Katz at the safe point.

SFX: Footsteps.

CORRECTOR:

Fall back! Prioritize quadrant C, Team 8 stay here and try to execute the plan!

CIVILIAN:

Yeah, you better run!

I'm sorry, and who are you three?

ASTRA:

Uh, we're just passing through.

CIVILIAN:

Look, we appreciated the extra firepower, but you really didn't need to do that. Where are you from?

KATZ:

We're with the Ultras.

CIVILIAN:

Oh god, that group led by Archer? Or whatever his name is?

HARLAN:

You sound none too happy about him.

CIVILIAN:

Yeah, he's a real piece of work. We've been seeing him all over the place here, always "fighting off" Glasshouse agents and nearly getting himself... and other citizens here killed. As if he doesn't think we can protect ourselves.

HARLAN:

That... doesn't really sound like the Archer we know.

CIVILIAN:

Never seen him with a crew like y'all. Other people, sure.

KATZ:

What kinds of other people?

CIVILIAN:

Fancy looking people? I dunno.

KATZ:

Right. Well, I'm sorry if we've been intruding. We're just trying to help.

CIVILIAN:

If you want to help out, you should... you know, talk to us instead of barging in here all the time.

KATZ:

Fair. Well, sounds like they've still got a team here. Y'all gonna be okay?

CIVILIAN:

I think we've got it covered from here.

ASTRA:

Yeah, if Katz and I are on the same page, I think we've got somewhere to be.

HARLAN:

Do you know where Quadrant C is? I keep hearing them talk about it.

CIVILIAN:

That'd be southwest from here. Just go towards exit 68.

HARLAN:

Thank you.

SFX: Astra, Harlan, and Katz run to the van and start it.

HARLAN:

(SIGHS) Do you think that...

ASTRA:

That Archer's at quadrant C? Yeah, probably.

KATZ:

I think it's time we get to the bottom of whatever this is.

SFX: Astra drives and the

KATZ:

What the—

ASTRA:

That Glasshouse car just rammed us! Ugh, that was *low*.
Harlan, drive for me for a second!

HARLAN:

On it!

SFX: Astra fires out the window, but the car rams them anyways.

ASTRA:

Oh, crap!

KATZ:

We gotta pull over or they'll run us off the road!

SFX: Harlan swerves off the road and brakes.

KATZ:

I think we're gonna need to run.

CORRECTOR:

Hey, you three are under arrest! If you do not comply, you will be charged with resisting!

SFX: The three run.

MUSIC: Tense Cinematic 1 by Musictown.

ASTRA:

God, this is *not* the time for my leg to be acting up again!
Come on, come on...

SFX: Astra falls.

ASTRA:

Dammit!

CORRECTOR:

Got you.

ASTRA:

This *can't* be happening.

KATZ AND HARLAN:

Astra!

SFX: Footsteps running.

HARLAN:

Ow, let go of me!

ASTRA:

Katz, get out of here!

CORRECTOR 2:

Did they say Astra and Katz?

CORRECTOR:

Shit.

CORRECTOR 2:

Let them go. We're not supposed to mess with them.

ASTRA:

What?

HARLAN:

Hands off, now, I'm warning you.

CORRECTOR 3:

They just bit me!

HARLAN:

I warned you.

SFX: Punch.

HARLAN:

Ow! Ugh...

KATZ:

Why are you letting us go and not Harlan?

ASTRA:

If you hurt them again, I'm going to kill you!

ARCHER:

Astra, Astra. It's okay.

KATZ:

Archer? What the hell are you doing here?

ARCHER:

I should be asking *you* that. All of you.

ASTRA:

Aren't we your "right and left-hand Ultras"? If anything, you should have taken us out here to begin with.

ARCHER:

Let Harlan go too. This operation's a bust.

KATZ:

Harlan, you okay?

HARLAN:

Been better, but I'm fine.

SFX: The Correctors drive off.

ASTRA:

What is going on?

ARCHER:

(SIGHS) It's... it's a really long story, Astra. You have to understand...

ASTRA:

I'll try to understand once you actually explain yourself. Because what it looks like to me right now is that you're

working with Glassers who have been attacking innocent civilians out here since before I was even born!

ARCHER:

They have been! You're not wrong. And it wasn't always like this. I wasn't always working with them. Just... recently.

KATZ:

How long?

...I just asked you a question. How. Long?

ARCHER:

...Five years ago. Look, Katz, I know what that sounds like—!

KATZ:

Are you telling me that this entire time, after you "rescued" me, after Glassers destroyed and gutted my home, you were working with them? That everything the Ultras have stood for is just... just a lie?

ARCHER:

That was different. They didn't know me well back then. I couldn't have stopped that even if I wanted to. But the people out here, they expect to be kept safe by people like me. Should I deny them that? If a couple attacks being fended off is enough to make people feel safe, I'm doing them a favor.

HARLAN:

But it's not a couple. You're gone like, all the time. And you always come back with "gifts" from the people you've defended, but we just heard someone say that they don't even like that you're here.

ARCHER:

Well, they... they're just ungrateful! I'm—I'm a hero! People look up to me, alright?

SFX: "Sad Ambient Piano" by Ashot-Danielyan-Composer.

HARLAN:

Look, I want to be famous too, but just saying you're something doesn't make it true. I didn't even really mean to join the Ultras at first. I mean, what Katz and Astra told me was great, but looking at what's been happening with you, isn't this all just... pretend?

ARCHER:

I...

ASTRA:

They're right. And I... I'm done.

ARCHER:

What?

ASTRA:

I'm done with this, Archer! You've been lying to us! To all of the Ultras! And worst of all, you've been lying to me! We used to do something that mattered. Don't you get that?

KATZ:

Do you know how it feels like to believe in something more than the person who taught it to you? I'll tell you right now: it sucks.

HARLAN:

Yeah. Throwing out your ideals for status? It's just not it, man.

ARCHER:

Wait! Wait, wait, wait. I can change. I... I know I've been screwing up, but I... I can make it different. The Ultras can go back to what it used to be.

ASTRA:

It can't go back to how it was before. It needs to be better.

ARCHER:

Fine. You just... you can't tell the other Ultras about this. Not yet, at least.

ASTRA:

They're not my fellow Ultras anymore. Guys?

HARLAN:

Mm.

KATZ:

Not for me either. We're all leaving.

ASTRA:

As my last promise to you, since we're family, I'll give you three months. If I don't see something change, we're telling everyone about what you've done. If you do change... *maybe* we'll come back. Come on, guys. Let's go.

Goodbye, Archer.

SFX: The Holy Terrors walk away.

ARCHER:

Goodbye, Astra.

SFX: Archer raises his blaster and charges it. A beat. Then he holsters it.

ARCHER:

(SIGHS) No. I can't do that. Not to her. Or any of them.

SCENE 8

CIVILIAN:

So, you're not with the Ultras anymore?

KATZ:

Nope! Haven't been for a couple weeks now. We thought we'd come back and try to offer some help if you still need it. I'm sure y'all have your hands full with minor medical issues after the last firefights. Harlan here is a pretty good scrapper.

HARLAN:

Noticed your blast shields on some of your vehicles were getting on in age. I could fix some stuff up.

ASTRA:

And I wanted to offer some of my savings from the shows we've played to help repair stuff that Archer and the Glassers damaged while they were here.

CIVILIAN:

That sounds great, actually. Thanks for paying attention to what we actually need.

KATZ:

Of course.

CIVILIAN:

Oh, uh, by the way, what should I call you three? We never properly introduced ourselves.

ASTRA:

I'm Astra.

KATZ:

Katz.

HARLAN:

And I'm Harlan. But you can just call us the Holy Terrors.

SFX: Whoosh. At a show, people cheer for the Holy Terrors.

ASTRA:

Thank you, thank you everyone! Oh, I hope you like the venue, the water park's been where we've been hanging for the last month. And anyways, if you're loving the show, toss a couple cryptos our way! Half the proceeds from tonight are going towards the food bank for district 5T0-CKT! We appreciate the love for the Holy Terrors, keep an eye on us, 'cause we'll be releasing new songs soon!

SFX: Whoosh. A blip as Harlan reads the paper on their comms.

HARLAN:

Did you guys see this? They quoted us. I guess that interview was worth something after all!

KATZ:

Toss it here.

SFX: Harlan tosses their comms over. Katz scrolls.

KATZ:

Not bad! They say we're what's *right* with punk. I'm inclined to agree.

ASTRA:

You guys know what this means, right? We're officially public figures. Celebrities, even. We're *known*. Oh gosh, that means we *really* have to start thinking about what our next big move is.

KATZ:

I... I think we know what the next big move is. End of the three months is up tonight.

HARLAN:

I have the comms scanner hooked up, whenever we're ready to hear it.

ASTRA:

I... I will be. Uh, in a second. It's just hard, still, to think that Archer did all that. No matter what happens next, I'll always have to live with that.

KATZ:

Hey, man. We all trusted him in one way or another. And at least the stuff he talked about... in some way, the kind of idealism he had helped us start helping people better than we used to. Yeah, we have to live with how Archer used us. But we get to move forward and make what he taught us our own thing.

HARLAN:

And at least we don't have to do this all alone.

ASTRA:

Thanks.

I think we'd better just get it over with.

SFX: Harlan starts the scanner.

ARCHER:

...targeting M4R-1P05. After that, fall back and re-group at point D for briefing. Aim for about 20% destruction before we arrive...

SFX: Harlan shuts off the scanner.

HARLAN:

Woof. That was... sorry. That wasn't what I was hoping we'd hear.

KATZ:

Guess he didn't change. Astra, you good?

ASTRA:

I am. I think... well, I know we have to come forward with this all. I'm just thinking about the best way to do it.

KATZ:

Well, I'm open to suggestions.

HARLAN:

I'm pretty sure I have one. But we're gonna need to make some fliers and start hyping it up.

ASTRA:

What exactly are you thinking?

HARLAN:

Well, we've got a broadcasting system. We've got a band. And we've got a message. Astra, you're almost done with the full version of "Out of Hell." So... y'all wanna get the Holy Terrors on TV?

SFX: Whoosh. Astra, Katz, and Harlan skate down the slide.

ASTRA, KATZ, AND HARLAN:

(LAUGHING)

KATZ:

Oh my god, what a rush! That was crazy.

HARLAN:

That was great. You think we have time to do it again?

ASTRA:

Pfft, no. Once in a lifetime experience, man. And we need to set up the cameras. It's almost showtime.

SFX: They set up their gear. A microphone whines. Guitar tuning.

ASTRA:

Check one two, check check...

HARLAN:

Mic's good. Cameras are done.

KATZ:

I'm finished tuning up.

HARLAN:

We ready to go live?

ASTRA:

Yeah.

KATZ:

Hang on, guys. I... I just wanted to say... hey. Thank you guys. I know this is all really weird and... and this is a strange time to be saying it, but I'm glad you trusted me when I brought the situation up to you back then. And... this is kind of a "point of no return" so... so I figured I'd say this now. I love y'all. The work we've been doing *matters* and I wouldn't be doing it, wouldn't be playing in a band, without your help.

HARLAN:

All love all the time. I'm glad I get to do all this with you guys. Wouldn't wanna do it with anyone else.

ASTRA:

Same here.

SFX: Astra hugs them.

ASTRA:

Love y'all too. Now, let's get this show on the road.

SFX: Harlan flips on the cameras.

ASTRA:

What's up, everyone! We're the Holy Terrors, coming at you live from our very own water park! If you're tuning in now, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

KATZ:

Tonight's gonna be a short performance, but an important one. We're playing one of the first songs we ever wrote together. It's really, really special to our band and we hope you like it.

ASTRA:

It took me a while to finish it up, which is why we're only performing it tonight. But... yeah. I think I finally found the words.

SFX: Harlan clicks a button.

HARLAN:

The man you see on your screens is Archer, the leader of the Ultras. We split from them three months back because of what he's done. And we think you deserve to know.

ASTRA:

Three months ago, we found out that Archer had been lying, tricking us and the rest of the Ultras into consorting with Correctors. He worked with them to terrorize communities and then pretend to fight them off in order to gain your favor.

KATZ:

Any injuries or damages, any deaths or disappearances that have happened from Corrector officers who Archer fought... Archer was responsible for those, even when he made it seem like he was defending us. We didn't come forward publically with this because we hoped he could change. We've built up a network of people to help us defend our own communities. We don't need one "heroic" group to keep us safe—we keep each other safe.

ASTRA:

I really believe that we can all fight back on our own terms. Build up our own communities, grow stronger together, work with people who've been doing the work. Thank you for letting us reach out to you in the ways that you need. We couldn't be more grateful.

But enough of us preaching to you. Let's do what you tuned in for—let's rock!

MUSIC: Out of Hell.

ASTRA:

(SINGING)

She said your fall from grace has left me here
Angels are weeping now covering rapture's stare
She called us heaven-sent, well I don't care
I'll never be what you want of me 'cause I'm your worst
nightmare

Out of hell
For what you've done to me, I'm dragging you down as well
'Cause I'm out of hell
Release the bats, release the hounds, 'cause this is your
death knell

(Yeah!) You tell a pretty story, don't you?
Spit your white lies
Hang a halo overhead
Pretend you're purified
She called it hero worship, I call it quits
Make me your demon, for all I care, I don't give a—!

Out of hell
For what you've done to me, I'm dragging you down as well
'Cause I'm out of hell
Release the bats, release the hounds, 'cause this is your
death knell

I won't kiss the ring
Rather sell my soul
You used to be a god
But now your bell has tolled

Yeah you lied your way (Out of time)
To the top (Out of place)
I'm coming back from the dead (Out of hell)
To make it stop!

(This is your fall from grace!)

Out of hell
For what you've done to me, I'm dragging you down as well

'Cause I'm out of hell
Release the bats, release the hounds, 'cause this is your
death knell

'Cause I'm out of hell
For what you've done to me, I'm dragging you down as well
'Cause I'm out of hell
Release the bats, release the hounds, 'cause this is your
death knell

KATZ:

Screw anyone who'd let you die so he looks better!

HARLAN:

Fight back against corporate shills who tell you they're
"just helping you!"

ASTRA:

And for every liar, every sellout, and every Corrector that
tries to break you, just know—we'll fight for you till the
end! We'll go down together—!

ASTRA, HARLAN, KATZ:

Always and forever!

ASTRA:

Thank you everyone! And good night!

SFX: The cameras shut off.

HARLAN:

That's it. That's really it for us here. We did it, y'all.

SFX: Cars rev in the distance.

KATZ:

Think it's time to leave.

ASTRA:

Agreed.

SFX: The three get in the van.

MUSIC: "A Fight You Can't Win" by Purely Grey.

HARLAN:

Promise we'll come play shows out here again?

KATZ:

When the heat's died down a little, of course we will. We still need to help people out here. But we do need to get out of here. Got the directions, Astra?

ASTRA:

Yep. The comms scanner was really helpful for pinpointing their location.

SFX: The van revs.

ASTRA:

So, Cair Mallplex, here come the Holy Terrors.

END EPISODE.

OUTRO:

Hi, Eli Ramos here, creator and editor of Under the Electric Stars, an Aster Podcasting Network production. Before I say the rest of my credit spiel, I just wanna say, hi! Thanks for your patience with our usual summer break and especially thank you for your patience while I was healing up from my wrist injury. This episode is not necessarily what I would consider my standard quality because I was working through a wrist injury, but I do appreciate you listening to it. And I think that even if my end of things, like the editing isn't perfect, the performances in here are really wonderful. So, if you liked this episode, please share it with your friends and rate and review it wherever you're listening to us. You can find us on our website at undertheelectricstars.com or on social media: we're @utes_podcast on Twitter and [undertheelectricstarspodcast](https://www.tumblr.com/undertheelectricstarspodcast) on Tumblr. You can also find us on Patreon at [patreon.com/mxeliramos](https://www.patreon.com/mxeliramos). That's M-X-E-L-I-R-A-M-O-S. You can support Aster Podcasting Network at different tiers and get rewards like early access to episodes, annotated scripts, commentaries, behind the scenes posts, art, and even merch! That's not just for Under the Electric Stars, but all the shows on the network. The money you give directly goes to supporting our editor, showrunners, and actors who make these shows possible. Please support us if you have the means. Any amount helps. Our current merch offerings are a design for Under the Electric Stars done by Kai Ramos. If you pledge at the \$5/month or higher, you'll get the sticker version, and if you pledge at \$10/month or higher, you'll get the poster. Keep in mind though, you'll have to be pledged for at least three months to get these rewards, so if you want to have a really neat end of the year gift to yourself or some Under the Electric Stars merch to kick off 2023, pledging now is the way to go. Back to the credits. Our voice talents are as follows: Maganda Marie as Astra Kilby, Clinton Vance as Katz Delany, Brandon P. Jenkins as Harlan Turingson, and August Carroway as Archer. Additional voices were provided by yours truly, Inigo Sherwani, Josh Hazeghazam, Heather, Maddy Harlow, Kai Ramos, Alex Kingsley, and Sorrel Pepple. Attributions for

music and sound effects can be found in the show notes. The song "Out of Hell" was composed by Eli Ramos and performed by Maganda Marie, Clinton Vance, Brandon P. Jenkins, with Eli Ramos on the guitar and synth, and Kai Ramos on the bass. Thanks to Ezra Lee Buck and Audrey Pham, our \$20 patrons on Patreon. And to everyone, thanks for listening, and see in you Cair Mallplex for the latter half of Season 2.