

UPDATED: 11.30.19 V1

PAUSE FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT

SEASON.01 - NAPODPOMO

CHAPTER.14 - GROUNDHOG

BY

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## **CAST**

THOMAS BLACK (NARRATOR)  
DOUGLAS DIRE (VETERAN)  
ANCIENT GUARDIAN (LAMASSU)  
SAMANTHA JACOBY (SAM)

## **OVERVIEW**

*INKTOBER PROMPT: THREAD*

## **SCENE 1.**

### **INTRO**

[THEME MUSIC]

[NARRATOR] GREETINGS! I'M YOUR APPROVED STORYTELLER THOMAS BLACK. A THIS IS **PAUSE... FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT**. PRESENTED BY GAGGLEPOD STUDIOS.

[NARRATOR] WE CONTINUE WITH OUR ADVENTURE IN CHAPTER FOURTEEN (PAUSE) JACKKNIFE

### **INT. DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, FIRST FLOOR**

[NARRATOR] WITH THE WALL BETWEEN REALITY AND THE RECORD, DOUGLAS DIRE TURNED TO FACE ME. I LOOKED LONG AND HARD AT HIM, TRYING TO DISCOVER HOW MY PLOT HAD BEEN UNDONE SO EASILY.

[DIRE] SIMPLE, THOMAS. YOU GOT COCKY. YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW MORE THAN EVERYONE ELSE. ONLY YOU DIDN'T DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

[NARRATOR] DIRE BENT DOWN TO CHECK ON JACOBY. SHE WAS NOT DEAD, BUT HER OBVIOUS CONCUSSION HAD RENDERED HER UNCONSCIOUS.

[DIRE] WHAT WAS ZABABA TO YOU?

[NARRATOR] ZABABA HAD BEEN A USEFUL TOOL. WHEN YOU DESTROYED HIS HUMAN FORM, OTHER MEANS HAD TO BE EMPLOYED TO KEEP CAPTAIN SAVAGE OFF THE TRAIL.

[DIRE] THE AMBUSH? THE HELICOPTER CRASH? WHAT ABOUT DAKOTA?

[NARRATOR] DAKOTA'S DEATH HAD BEEN TRAGIC, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE IED WAS INTENDED FOR DIRE TOO. DAKOTA AND DIRE WERE BEST FRIENDS. NEITHER OF YOU WERE SUPPOSE TO SURVIVE THE BLAST.

[DIRE] YOU EVIL SON OF A B\*\*\*\*... MMMM... 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... (DEEP BREATH) .

[NARRATOR] I COULD TELL THAT DIRE WAS ON THE EDGE OF ANOTHER BREAKDOWN. MAYBE HE COULD BE PUSHED PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN? HE HAD ALLOWED ME TO KILL ALL OF HIS FRIENDS. SOON, WITHOUT HELP, JACOBY COULD BE DEAD TOO. AND FOR WHAT? HOW COULD HE EVER EXPLAIN THIS TO ANYONE WHO WOULD BELIEVE HIM?

[DIRE] YEAH. SHE SAID YOU WOULD SAY THAT. (PAUSE) TIME FOR SOME PAYBACK YOU SICK MURDERING VOYEUR!

**SOUND: ANGELIC SINGING FADES IN.**

[NARRATOR] I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANT, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. DIRE CLOSED THE GAP BETWEEN THEM AND PLACED THE RING ON MY FOREHEAD. (AAAAHHH) BEFORE I COULD OBJECT, I WAS SURROUNDED BY A BRIGHT, WHITE, LIGHT! THAT SAME BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT THAT HAD CAUSED DIRE TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE PARKING LOT!

[DIRE] TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN THE TRUTH!

**SOUND: ANGELIC SINGING FADES OUT, OUD  
PLAYING FADES IN.**

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) REMEMBER.

[DIRE] WHAT WAS THAT? ANOTHER VOICE ON THE WIND!

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) DOUGLAS... REMEMBER...

[NARRATOR] I WAS THERE AGAIN. THE DESERT RUINS WHERE I HAD BEEN PUSHED AWAY. I COULD HEAR THE VOICE CLEARLY NOW, LOW AND

FLOATING ON THE WIND. HE WAS NOT ALONE. LOOKING AROUND HIM HE COULD ONLY SEE SAND DUNES, MASSIVE SUN-BAKED SANDSTONE BRICKS, AND... NOTHING. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST PERSON TO STAND IN THESE RUINS IN A THOUSAND YEARS.

[DIRE] I MUST BE MAD. THAT'S IT. I'M A MADMAN NOW. I'VE CRACKED AND THIS IS MY REWARD.

[NARRATOR] HE TOOK A STEP FORWARD AND THEN WALKED OVER TO A SMASHED WALL MADE OF STONE. HE SAT DOWN ON ONE OF ITS BRICKS THAT EASILY WEIGHED 10-TONS.

[DIRE] (SHOUTING) WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME? IS THIS WHAT LOSING YOUR MIND IS LIKE?

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) REMEMBER... DOUGLAS... REMEMBER THIS PLACE...

[DIRE] (GASPING) WHO ARE YOU? SHOW YOURSELF!

[NARRATOR] THAT VOICE WAS VERY CLOSE, BUT IT WAS A SUDDEN SPARK OF MEMORY THAT STUNNED HIM.

[DIRE] I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. FIFTEEN-YEARS AGO... THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE THEY AMBUSHED CAPTAIN SAVAGE!

[NARRATOR] HE HAD BEEN HERE BEFORE, YEARS AGO. HE HAD COME HERE WITH CAPTAIN SAVAGE TO FOLLOW ZABABA'S TREASURE MAP. HE WAS IN IRAQ!

[DIRE] WHAT... HOW? HOW AM I IN THIS PLACE? IS THIS A PERSONAL TOUR OF ALL THE DARK PLACES IN MY MIND?

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) REMEMBER MY NAME... DOUGLAS... WHAT AM I CALLED?

[DIRE] WHO ARE YOU? WHO'S OUT THERE?

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) IT IS I... DOUGLAS... BUT WHAT AM I CALLED?

[DIRE] I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CALLED! I DON'T EVEN KNOW...

[NARRATOR] HE TRAILED OFF AS HIS BRAIN EXPLODED WITH SOMETHING HE HAD FORGOTTEN.

[DIRE] THINK, DIRE, THINK. OKAY. I AM... I AM... STANDING IN THE RUINS. RUINS OF WHAT? OPERATION PACK-RAT TOOK US TO... NIMRUD! THIS IS THE ASSYRIAN CITY OF NIMRUD!

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) YES... DOUGLAS.

[NARRATOR] HE TURNED LEFT, THEN RIGHT, THEN SPUN AROUND TO LOOK BEHIND HIM. THE VOICE WAS COMING FROM EVERYWHERE.

[DIRE] SHOW YOURSELF!

[LAMASSU] (WHISPER) ONLY IF YOU CALL ME BY MY NAME...

[DIRE] YOUR NAME? I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME!

[NARRATOR] WAS THAT TRUE? DID HE KNOW THE VOICES NAME? THE HAZE AND DUST CLEARED BEFORE HIM AS HE FOCUSED IN ON AN OBJECT IN THE SAND. IT LOOKED LIKE A CAT'S EYE MARBLE THE SIZE OF HIS FIST AT FIRST.

[NARRATOR] THEN IS BLINKED. IT BLINKED BECAUSE IF WAS NOT A GLASS MARBLE, IT WAS AN EYE, SLIT VERTICALLY IN THE MIDDLE LIKE A CATS. THE NARROW SLIGHT VANISHED AS SAND STARTED TO FALL OVER THE TAN EYELID.

[DIRE] WHAT THE... (TRAILING)

[NARRATOR] WITH THE RUSH AND HISS OF FALLING SAND, THE EYELID RAISED UP ALONG WITH THE GIANT HEAD IT WAS SET IN. AS THE SAND FELL AWAY, THE SCALED ARMOR AND SHARP CLAWS OF A GREAT BEAST EMERGED FROM THE DUNE BEFORE HIM NEARLY 10-FEET TALL. IT'S HEAD SHOOK TO KNOCK THE REMAINING SAND AWAY FROM ITS LONG BRAIDS OF

GOLDEN HAIR. IT'S FACE FLARED TO REVEALED HOT BREATH AND TEETH THE SIZE OF HIS FINGERS.

[DIRE] OH, MY GOD! (PAUSE) HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?

[NARRATOR] HE SAT DUMBFOUNDED ON THE OLD STONE AS THE DESERT TAN LION WITH THE HEAD OF WOMAN LOOKED HIM OVER. THEN SHE LEANED IN TOWARDS HIM AND SHOWED HER SHARP TEETH IN A SNEER.

[LAMASSU] YOU KNOW MY NAME... DOUGLAS... YOU WEAR MY TALISMAN ON YOUR FINGER. YOU HAVE KEPT MY HORN, MY HELM, AND MY SYMBOLS OF POWER SAFE FROM THE DARKNESS. TELL ME... DOUGLAS. WHAT IS MY NAME?

[DIRE] YOUR WHAT? YOUR NAME?

[NARRATOR] HORN? HELM? HOW COULD HE KNOW HER NAME WITHOUT EVER MEETING HER BEFORE THIS VERY DAY? THE ONLY NAME HE REMEMBERED BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PLACE HAD TO DO WITH THAT GOLD STATUE THAT SAVAGE HAD TAKEN FROM ZABABA'S THUGS.

[DIRE] I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME!

[LAMASSU] (GROWLING) REMEMBER...

[NARRATOR] HE WAS SILENT FOR A LONG MOMENT. HE LOOKED DOWN AT HIS HAND TO NOTICE THE RING STILL ON HIS LEFT INDEX FINGER. THEN HE LOOKED CLOSER TO SEE THAT THE OPAL HAD A DESIGN CARVED INTO IT. IT WAS FAINT WITH AGE BUT THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE SHAPE: IT WAS OUTLINE OF A LION WITH A WOMAN'S HEAD. IT WAS THE SAME DESIGN AS THE STATUE SAVAGE HAD GIVEN HIM BEFORE HE DIED. WHAT DID HE CALL IT? HE SAID IT WAS THE STATUE OF...

[DIRE] LAMASSU!

[LAMASSU] (PROUD) YES!

[NARRATOR] NOOO! THAT COULD NOT BE!

[DIRE] YES, THOMAS! YOU GET TO SEE HOW I DEFEATED YOU!

[NARRATOR] (FIGHTING IT) AAAHHHHH... WITH UNTERANCE OF THE BEAST'S NAME, IT SPREAD OUT IT'S INCREDIBLE WINGS THAT SPANNED OF OVER 50-FEET TIP-TO-TIP. THE TAN AND WHITE FEATHERS REACHED OUT AND BLOCK THE SUN, COVERING HIM IN A COOL, REFRESHING BREEZE.

[DIRE] HOW AM I HERE? HOW ARE YOU... HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?"

[NARRATOR] LAMASSU LEANED HER HEAD DOWN TO LOOK HIM DIRECTLY IN HIS EYES. (PAUSE) NO! I KILLED HER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

[DIRE] WELL, THOMAS! WE ALL KNOW HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT KILLING PEOPLE, DON'T WE! NOW SHUT UP AND ENJOY YOUR FLASHBACK AS MUCH AS YOU MADE ME ENJOY MINE!

[NARRATOR] (FIGHTING IT) AAAHHHHH... LAMASSU LEANED HER HEAD DOWN TO LOOK HIM DIRECTLY IN HIS EYES.

[LAMASSU] I AM THE LAMASSU -- THE LAST OF THE WINGED GENIES. I AM FROM THE DREAMTIME. FROM THE TIME BEFORE THE FLOOD.

[DIRE] DREAMTIME? FLOOD? THIS MAKES NO SENSE! WHY AM I HERE?

[LAMASSU] BECAUSE... DOUGLAS. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP ZABABA FROM ENDING THE GUILD OF WATCHERS AND SENDING THE WORLD INTO ENDLESS WAR.

**SOUND: OUD PLAYING FADES IN.**

[NARRATOR] (FIGHTING IT) AAAHHHHH... AND IN THAT DARK MOMENT, HE KNEW SHE WAS RIGHT. (PAUSE) WAIT A MINUTE? DID SHE JUST SAY 'END THE GUILD OF WATCHERS?'

[LAMASSU] I DID, THOMAS.

[NARRATOR] SHE HEARD ME.

[DIRE] YES, THOMAS, SHE DID.

[NARRATOR] I DON'T UNDERSTAND? (PAUSE) YOU'RE NOT A WATCHER! I LIED TO THE INQUISITOR'S TO MAKE THEM THINK YOU WERE. BUT I MADE THAT PART UP! YOU'RE NOTHING! YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN.

[DIRE] NO. I'M MORE THAN HUMAN -- I'M A UNITED STATES MARINE!

**SOUND: OUD PLAYING FADES OUT.**

**END SCENE 1.**

#### **OUTRO**

[THEME MUSIC]

[NARRATOR] HOW DID DOUGLAS DIRE GET THE UPPER HAND? HOW DID LAMASSU GIVE DIRE POWER OVER ZABABA? AND WHEN DID EVERYTHING GO WRONG FOR THOMAS BLACK? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT SEASON OF **PAUSE (PAUSE) FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT.**

[NARRATOR] PAUSE (PAUSE) FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT, IS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KYLE M. BONDO, FEATURING THE VOICES OF STEPHANIE Y. COLE AS LAMASSU, AND PRODUCED BY GAGGLEPOD.

[NARRATOR] FOR MORE TALES OF WOE, PLEASE VISIT [PAUSEFORDRAMATICEFFECT.COM](http://PAUSEFORDRAMATICEFFECT.COM).

**END**