

"VISIONS OF THE WORLD UNSEEN"
The Sheridan Tapes - Season 04, Episode 81
Recording Script - July 17, 2023

by

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Based on story and characters from
"Homestead on the Corner"

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1. INT. UNDERGROUND SPACE - NIGHT - ???

Deep below the earth, where the branching strands of mycelia grow. Voices and sounds from the past echo in the depths: a gunshot.

EDGAR MORRISON (RECORDED)

For now, we must be content to
speak as through a mirror darkly,
as you linger amongst the leavings
of my handiwork.

The sound warps, looping around itself like an eerie, organic drum beat.

EDGAR MORRISON (RECORDED) (CONT'D)

I have simply removed them from the
troubles of this false and failing
world to a place where all may find
peace. Where death and the ravages
of time are no more. Where all
things are made and remade.

A door creaking open -- at first sounding like the heavy iron door of the bunker, then like a wooden door, then like reality tearing apart.

EDGAR MORRISON (RECORDED) (CONT'D)

For I am but the firstborn of many
brothers, and I build paradise
brick by brick, wall by wall, soul
by soul so that you may join me
here... That all the worlds may
join me here, when the time comes
for the old Heaven and the old
Earth to pass away. For behold... I
am coming soon.

The echoes slowly die out, and Amanita stands alone in the dark of the tunnels below Oslo, fearful and confused.

AMANITA

(softly)

What shall I do, Prophet?

CLICK.

MAIN THEME

2. EXT. JERRY'S HOUSE - EVENING - 2/2/20

Sam starts a tape as he stands in the quiet desert night outside Jerry's.

SAM BAILEY

Sam Bailey, personal investigation -
February 2nd, 2020 at 11:12pm,
Pacific Standard Time. Couldn't
sleep. It's been a long day, and I
just...

(beat, trying to collect
thoughts)

The stakes are as about as high as
they could possibly be. Oslow is
gone. Morrison is in the wind, with
the promise of a... return. And
Jerry... he's our best indicator of
what must be happening to people
outside the city who had memories
of Oslow at one point. Without
intervention, they just... forget.
I talked with Kate some more, and
we're going to play the recording
of Bill and Rob for him tomorrow.
We want him to be fully rested
before we try again. We're hoping
that a primary source will at least
jog his memory a little bit. Or
maybe it'll give him new memories.
Maybe he can at least trust us when
we say something bad is happening
here.

(beat)

As for Maria's hit about the
manuscript, it sounds like there's
a chance she's actually getting
somewhere with that. If anyone can
crack it, I think it's Maria, and
she's on the right track.

(longer pause,
contemplative)

I've been thinking, too, about
where this all started... listening
to Anna talk about the void of
space. That no matter where you are
at night...

(he looks up)

...you could look up at the night
sky and feel as though you could
fall right into it.

(He looks back down)

Now that Oslow has fallen away, I
have to wonder... will I fall after
it? Will--

Sam cuts off, hearing the gentle creak of the van door --
it's Ned, sneaking into Jerry's house.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
 (whispering, suspicious)
 That's... that's Ned. He's sneaking
 into Jerry's house. And from the
 way he's sneaking around, I doubt
 it's for any, uh... human needs.

Sam hides himself further behind a bush as Ned walks back out, tossing a set of keys up and down in his hand.

He walks to Jerry's truck, unlocks the cab, and slides in. He starts the truck, and begins driving off into the night.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
 (more exasperated than
 nervous)
 Goddammit Ned... what are you up to
 this time?

CLICK.

3. INT. KATE'S VAN - OFF US ROUTE 50 - NIGHT

The same long dirt road where Bill first tailed Ned to the bunker. Sam is driving carefully with his lights off.

SAM BAILEY
 Thank God there's all this
 moonlight, or I'd have to turn on
 my headlights and make myself way
 more obvious. That's one thing you
 can count on in the high Sierra...
 clear night skies and empty
 highways. Although I honestly don't
 know if Ned somehow didn't notice
 the only other car on the highway
 following him, or if he knows I'm
 here and is just choosing to ignore
 it. Honestly, I wouldn't be too
 surprised by the latter... there's
 only one thing that I know of down
 this road, and it's those damned
 tunnels.
 (quieter suspicion)
 What the hell is he up to?
 (notices the parked truck;
 quietly)
 Ah!

Sam turns his wheel, pulling in to park. After a moment he steps out, the recorder clicking off accidentally as he moves.

CLICK.

Footsteps up to the hatch and the squeak of metal.

CLICK.

Footsteps down the ladder, echoing in the tunnel.

CLICK.

Footsteps down the echoing hall to the creaking blast door of the now-destroyed psychic wheel room.

4. INT. MKCTS FACILITY - CENTRAL CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Sam steps inside, crunching some broken glass underfoot, and listens for Ned. Wind and distant creaking, but nothing else.

SAM BAILEY
(frustrated, whispered
shout)
Ned!
(beat)
Ned, I saw you take Jerry's car, I
know you're down here.

Sam begins walking forward through the room, avoiding sharp edges on broken equipment.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
You'd better not be up to anything
stupid, Leroux. My trust is wearing
about as thin/as it can go--

He hears a slight scuffling sound down one of the tunnels beyond, and he hesitates for a moment.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
Please, not down there...

The scuffling is heard again, once. SAM SIGHS, accepting his fate before switching on a flashlight.

He quietly follows the sound, entering a smaller but still echoey space with plenty of headroom. The space sounds damp, AND SAM CRIES OUT BRIEFLY as he slips, the floor pitching downward at an odd angle.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
(catching his breath,
confused)
Jesus...
(MORE)

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
why does the floor turn down so
sharply? Was there a collapse?

He runs his hand along the surface of the tunnel wall.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
The wall is smooth... no cracks I
can see. But there some kind of
structural damage here. The walls
are slick, and the floor is...
(he takes a careful step)
...just gritty enough to walk down.

As he gets used to the pitch and continues walking, the sound
of falling rubble increases. Odd footsteps can be heard
beyond. A quiet, deep noise, like a distorted laugh, echoes
up through the passage beyond.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Ned, if that's you, and you're
ignoring me, I swear to God...

5. CONTINUOUS

Sam trails off as he creeps further down the tunnel,
realizing he can hear Ned psyching himself up.

NED LEROUX
Come on Ned...
(LAUGHS NERVOUSLY, trying
to calm himself)
Just reach back into the void. Back
where you started. It's time to get
them. It's time to--

Sam walks faster, then places his hand on Ned's shoulder and
turns him around.

SAM BAILEY
(accusingly)
What the hell are you doing?

NED LEROUX
(jumps, scared)
Sam! What the -- Jesus.

SAM BAILEY
(slightly disgusted)
You're soaking wet. I didn't know
you could sweat.

NED BREATHES HEAVILY, catching his breath. He doesn't answer.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
(realizes what's
happening)
You were trying to get back into
the Source, weren't you?
(beat; Ned doesn't
respond)
Weren't you?!

NED LEROUX
(irritated)
Lay off, Bailey.

SAM BAILEY
No, Ned, I won't. Weren't you the
one telling me that if you had made
it across the veil, you'd be toast?

NED LEROUX
(beat, honest)
I'm getting desperate, Sam.

Beat; Ned and Sam both drop the fight.

SAM BAILEY
(softer tone)
Listen, I don't want to lecture
you, but... come on, Ned. You know
you can't go in there like this.
The moment you do, you'll fall into
a vortex you can't escape, and we
can't afford to lose you like that.
You need calm. Control. And I don't
think that's something you can find
down here.
(beat, realizing)
Why down here, anyway?

NED LEROUX
I, uh... I thought maybe it'd be
easier down here. It was always
a... thin place. Even before
Morrison...
(SIGHS, not wanting to
get into it)
And I was looking for any sign of
how Morrison did it. What really
happened.

SAM BAILEY
What part?

NED LEROUX
(with an air of "Fine,
you caught me")
The transformation. The...
disappearance. But, I suppose this
place wouldn't be here anymore if
this is where he pulled the city
under. Must've had a different
central location.

SAM BAILEY
(theorizing)
OCPD, maybe?

NED LEROUX
(thinking about it)
Could be... it's centrally located.

SAM BAILEY
(attempt at humor)
And a physical manifestation of his
ego, if there ever was one.

NED LEROUX
(SCOFFS)
You've got that right.
(beat)
You know what Bailey? For all our
differences, we sure do hate that
guy the same.

SAM BAILEY
Oh, you have no idea.
(beat)
Well now that we're here...

NED LEROUX
What?

SAM BAILEY
Seems a good a place as any to tell
a ghost story, doesn't it?

NED LEROUX
(growing a little
irritated again)
You wanna know what I saw. In
detail.

SAM BAILEY
Well, you don't have the tape of
what happened, so...

NED LEROUX

(after a moment)

Have it your way. But I swear to God, if any weird shit starts happening down here... let's just say, I'm not confident these walls are just concrete and steel anymore.

SAM BAILEY

(growing unease)

I... I was wondering about that myself.

NED LEROUX

I think we can handle ourselves, though. We already survived one underground trap, didn't we?

(beat, he gets himself back to the story)

I was reluctant to come back down here, before Spengler dragged me along. Didn't have a clear reason. I'd been in Oslow for months. At first, I kept expecting that any day I'd see that old asshole finally crawl out of his den, get some medical attention, and show up at OCPD like nothing ever happened. But when that didn't happen... well, a part of me thought, "Great, this is exactly what I was waiting for. I can take his place and ride out, say, 10-15 years before I get too bored."

(beat)

But... you know I don't sleep, not really. But I kept having these... flashes of waking nightmares. I'd remember the glimpse I got of Morrison after everything went to shit. It wasn't clear. He ran straight down these tunnels into the dark when I called after him, but there was a... more of an energetic presence. I kept staring, trying to see if I could spot him, and something froze me to my core. Nothing changed, at least not that I could see. But something... something made me think I'd just locked eyes with him. Guess I'll never know for sure if I did. And then of course I...

(MORE)

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

heard him run.

(beat, SCOFFS)

And for all my years of experience... I suppose I can be just as susceptible to the odd bit of wishful thinking. What I wanted to be true was that a crazy, evil, wounded old man was just going to find a dark place to die.

(beat)

I just didn't expect for him to rise.

SAM BAILEY

What did you see when you did come back down here?

NED LEROUX

(SWALLOWS, then continues)

Like I said, I didn't want to come back down here. I wanted things to be easy. But Morrison... he had his own masters. And one of them was very insistent that I lead him here.

(beat)

That same feeling of being watched got stronger the closer we came. That was my only warning, but it couldn't have been any clearer. I knew before I was ready to admit it that I'd made a mistake. A deadly one.

(beat)

Morrison looked starved, like if a starving man didn't need his body to live. He looked like a nightmare. Like something from beyond had taken up residence in him. But when he spoke... it was all Morrison. All of his worst moments, all of his power and ego and hatred. It was all him. And the way he told it... that is exactly what happened. He was asked a question.

SAM BAILEY

(with dread)

"What would you do to save yourself?"

NED LEROUX

...yeah. He said it was his own voice that asked him. A version of himself with power. And he made it whatever promises he needed to save his own hide.

SAM BAILEY

God. When you mentioned that Morrison was like you and me, I guess I just didn't want to believe...

NED LEROUX

Yeah.

SAM BAILEY

But how... how could he have taken in all of that power?

NED LEROUX

That's why I came down here.

SAM BAILEY

(beat, collecting thoughts)

What happened before he told you to run?

NED LEROUX

He opened a rift to the other side, easy as an old screen door. And he tossed his boss inside. And then he looked at me, and...

(beat)

I suppose that's the second scariest pair of eyes I've ever looked into. They shone with something I couldn't see or understand, but I knew what it meant. Morrison could've ended me there... but for some reason, he let me live.

SAM BAILEY

And by "ended you," you mean... throw you into the Source unprepared? Like you almost did yourself?

NED LEROUX

(beat, annoyed acceptance)

You're right.

(MORE)

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

I'm honestly not all that confident
I could survive in the Source
without being unmade. I made it out
once, but...

(he sucks his teeth)

Anyway, if I had someone with me...
someone to help me stabilize...

SAM BAILEY

This again?

NED LEROUX

Help me save Bill and Rob, Bailey.

SAM BAILEY

(frustrated)

Ned, you just said it yourself, we
have bigger problems right now.
There's more problems than we have
time to fix them. If saving Bill
and Rob is a priority for you, you
need to get them yourself.

NED LEROUX

And why isn't it a priority for
you?

SAM BAILEY

(a little tongue-tied,
long beat)

I've already told you. We can't
risk the world for them. We'll just
lose them twice.

NED LEROUX

(snapping)

And what use is the world without
them?

SAM BAILEY

(momentarily stunned)

I...

6. CONTINUOUS

Sam suddenly looks around. The tunnel looks and sounds
different: the direction and shape of the echo, the droplets,
and the subtle noises have changed.

SAM BAILEY

Where are we?

NED LEROUX
(realizing)
Oh, shit.

SAM BAILEY
The tunnel shifted.

NED LEROUX
It sure as shit did.

On "shit," Ned kicks his boot into the rubble of the tunnel.
The tunnel groans back.

SAM BAILEY
(mounting panic)
The way back is... where is it?

NED LEROUX
See the shape of the walls?

SAM BAILEY
Flatter. Smaller. How...?

NED LEROUX
We don't have time for questions,
Bailey. Goddammit, which way is
out?

Ned begins to blindly stumble one way, and Sam hesitates
before calling out to him.

SAM BAILEY
Ned, no, wait, I have a bad
feeling... come back this way.

He begins to walk to him. Then a voice appears behind them
both.

AMANITA
(nearly whispering)
Hello, boys.

Sam and Ned freeze in their steps.

SAM BAILEY
(stunned, horrified)
Amanita...

AMANITA
Now now... no need to worry Sam. I
did promise that no harm would come
to you.

SAM BAILEY
 (not trusting that as far
 as he can throw her)
 I remember.

AMANITA
 That's not why I'm here.
 (GIGGLES DRYLY)
 Y'all got yourselves caught in a
 pickle, didn't you? Not to worry.
 I'll help you get out of here.
 You're lucky I found you when I
 did, these tunnels have started to
 become... hungrier, of late.

NED LEROUX
 (stepping forward
 awkwardly)
 Helloo...

AMANITA
 (coolly)
 Howdy, Ned.

NED LEROUX
 Listen Amanita, about, uh--

AMANITA
 Helping Morrison torture me? Think
 nothing of it. But you do owe me
 some respect. After everything you
 put me through, I still showed up
 down here, looking to save your
 ass.
 (she looks at Sam)
 Although you are lucky you're with
 him.

NED LEROUX
 (bristling)
 I'm not sure I owe you anything in
 particular -- not unless The
 Prophet can grow in tar.

AMANITA
 (FRUSTRATED NOISE, beat)
 He cannot.

NED LEROUX
 Well, then.

AMANITA
 But I suppose I can thank you for
 one very important thing.

NED LEROUX

And what's that?

AMANITA

Without you and Morrison, I never would've ascended the way I have. The things I am capable of now are... pretty remarkable.

NED LEROUX

So I've heard.

SAM BAILEY

Guys, can we...

(beat, realizing)

Amanita, how did you find us? And why are you in Oslow in the first place?

AMANITA

Oh Sam Bailey... You'll owe me double, if I'm both coming to your rescue and telling you my secrets.

(beat)

But... I suppose we are both colleagues against the dark. So a small payment between friends shouldn't be a problem, should it?

SAM BAILEY

Against the dark? You mean...

AMANITA

(rolling eyes)

Yes, I mean Morrison, honey. Who else?

NED LEROUX

(under his breath;
regret)

Of course.

SAM BAILEY

Fine.

(beat)

Ned? Tell her.

NED LEROUX

(hesitant)

I... I saw Morrison's transformation into... whatever he is now. Maybe a day or so before Oslow disappeared.

(MORE)

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

So I came back here to see if the tunnels would reveal anything. But so far this chatterbox...

(he gestures at Sam)

...hasn't given me a chance.

SAM BAILEY

(after a beat; turning to Amanita)

So... why are you down here?

AMANITA

(darkly)

Follow me. I'll tell you on the way up.

7. CONTINUOUS

They begin walking through rubble, their footsteps echoing strangely, damply, and deeply in the unnatural tunnels.

AMANITA

Stay close. These paths can shift, if you don't pay attention. They only stay one particular way if you keep your focus.

(she looks back at Sam)

Good thing you brought that flashlight, Bailey. Though I've got my own light, should I need it.

The organic sound of growing, and a slight glint as her bioluminescence reflects off the slick walls.

NED LEROUX

(under his breath)

Bioluminescence. That's a neat trick.

AMANITA

(ignoring him)

The paths up are never the same way every time. But my kind? We always know which way is up.

SAM BAILEY

So...

AMANITA

An event happened here.

(before anyone can interrupt her)

Not Morrison's transformation.

(MORE)

AMANITA (CONT'D)

Something earlier. Some time before, an imbalance formed here. Something deep. It is a mystery that's beyond me, yet...

(she looks at Sam, then back)

...it's something that's yet to be solved.

SAM BAILEY

Anna Sheridan disappeared from these tunnels a year and a half ago. Is that what you're talking about?

AMANITA

(stops, smelling the air, then resuming)

That's almost right. But not quite... I don't believe a person named Anna Sheridan really disappeared. Don't you have to be lost to disappear?

SAM BAILEY

What do you mean by that?

Amanita doesn't answer, and keeps walking. She gets faster. Sam and Ned jog to catch up to her.

AMANITA

(sounding more nervous)

Whatever it is that unbalanced things... it was here. But it wasn't now.

SAM BAILEY

Why do you suddenly care about whatever happened down here? Don't you have a kingdom to run?

AMANITA

(coldly, breaking down as she answers)

My kingdom... my kingdom... If time is broken, my kingdom cannot grow. If time is unraveled, we are lost. We can survive on scraps, in cold, in heat, travel distances mortals never could and withstand forces unfathomable to our old human minds. But if we don't have the time to do it in...

AMANITA STOPS, BREATHING HARD, and attempts to get her heart rate back under control. She is having a panic attack. Sam and Ned stop in shock.

SAM BAILEY
(holding down his own
panic)
Amanita... Amanita, how close are
we?

A groaning, hissing noise as the tunnel walls shift. Distant whispers and deep rumbles begin to fill the narrowing space.

NED LEROUX
Goddammit, we've gotta keep our
focus on the tunnels, Bailey!

SAM BAILEY
Amanita, how close are we? How do
we get out?

AMANITA
(crumpling)
You're... you're on your own. I'm
sorry. I can't... the rhythm of
time is broken and I can't... I
can't...

NED LEROUX
Come on, help us!

AMANITA
You're close. Hurry.

SAM BAILEY
(feeling a hesitancy
about leaving her behind)
Where...

AMANITA
(roaring)
HURRY!

Her roar causes something in the tunnels to shift, and Sam and Ned book it for what feels like a sharp upward pitch, GRUNTING AND PANTINGS as they scramble and climb. The tunnels groan, threatening to close around them.

SAM BAILEY
Come on, Ned!

NED LEROUX
We're going the same damn speed!

They round one final corner and suddenly find themselves back in the room with the psychic wheel, everything sounding normal and solid once again.

They stand there PANTING, regaining a sense of peace. After a moment...

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)
 (understatement)
 Well. She seemed off.

CLACK. The recording ends.

END THEME &
 CREDITS