

"MAGICK LIES OVER THE HILL"
The Sheridan Tapes - Season 04, Episode 78
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by

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

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1. EXT. DESERT CAMPGROUND - NIGHT - 1/31/20

Kate leans against the side of the van some distance from the campsite, cold desert wind occasionally blowing. Peter's voice is fainter and distorted over the phone.

KATE SHERIDAN
(wrapping up her summary
of what's happening)
...so, that's why we're headed back
to Oslow. We should get there early
tomorrow.

PETER SLATE
Wow. I...

KATE SHERIDAN
Yeah.

PETER SLATE
(taking a moment to
collect his thoughts)
First... I'm just relieved to know
that you're okay.

KATE SHERIDAN
Me, too.

PETER SLATE
And Sam and Ren too.

KATE SHERIDAN
(knows how close it was
for Sam)
Yeah.

PETER SLATE
And... Ned?

KATE SHERIDAN
Not really sure. I don't know how
much I can trust him after what
happened.

PETER SLATE
It's interesting though... he
sounds like he's genuinely scared.

KATE SHERIDAN
(doubting a little)
...maybe.

PETER SLATE

I mean, how did you put it... he said that "Bill and Rob might be in the Source, and they could be..." what word did you use?

KATE SHERIDAN

"Unmade."

PETER SLATE

Unmade.

(he shivers)

I mean, the way you described that made it sound like he had... feelings?

KATE SHERIDAN

I suppose anything is possible.

PETER SLATE

...well, just try to watch out for yourself.

KATE SHERIDAN

(tough, blasé)

Oh don't worry. I will be.

PETER SLATE

(beat, meaningful)

I miss you.

KATE SHERIDAN

(honest)

Fuck, I miss you too. And I miss our baby.

PETER SLATE

He's been talking about you a lot lately.

KATE SHERIDAN

(emotional)

Oh...

PETER SLATE

(trying to keep her from worrying)

But you don't need to worry about him. He's having a good time here. He started going to this preschool once their winter break ended, just a block away from the house. He loves it there.

(MORE)

PETER SLATE (CONT'D)
He's been inviting everyone in
class to his birthday party,
actually.

KATE SHERIDAN
(halfheartedly)
I hope I can see him on his
birthday.

PETER SLATE
("I'd like that")
I think he'd like that.

Silence.

PETER SLATE (CONT'D)
I'm sure you're enjoying the
southwest right now. It's cold as
balls in Toronto.

KATE SHERIDAN
(laughs; shivers)
The high desert in January isn't
exactly balmy... certainly not at
night.

PETER SLATE
Ah, good point.
(YAWNS; beat)
Well...

KATE SHERIDAN
Sleep tight, love.

PETER SLATE
(jumping in before she
hangs up)
To tell you the truth Katey, what
you've told me, it's... it's bigger
and scarier than I know how to
process. But if anyone can deal
with this, it's you. And wherever
you end up, whatever happens...
we'll find each other again at the
end of it. Promise.

KATE SHERIDAN
(coldly frightened)
And what if there's nothing left of
me to find?

PETER SLATE
No chance of that, love. You're
unerasable.

CLICK.

MAIN THEME

2. EXT. DESERT CAMPGROUND - LATER

Kate returns from her phone call to a small, crackling campfire, recorder running. We hear her adjust it.

Ned and Sam sit on opposite sides of the fire, backs to each other. SHE SIGHS.

KATE SHERIDAN
(sarcastic)
Glad you two are bonding.

NED LEROUX
Juuuuust keeping our backs warm.
And enjoying a bit of--

SAM BAILEY
(cutting in, annoyed)
--quiet.

KATE SHERIDAN
Fantastic.
(beat, looking around)
Uh... where did Ren go?

NED LEROUX
He's in his Jack Parsons era.

KATE SHERIDAN
(confused)
Sorry?

NED LEROUX
Wandering the desert, looking for
answers. He's fine, he'll be back
soon.

KATE SHERIDAN
(SIGHS, beat)
So is this just what it's going to
be like?

NED MAKES A NONCOMMITTAL NOISE, pretending to feign
ignorance. Sam stays quiet.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
...Sam? Penny for your thoughts?

SAM BAILEY
(processing)
Not right now. Sorry.

KATE SHERIDAN
(turning to Ned)
Alright. How about you, Ned?

NED LEROUX
(beat)
Thinking about... well, you know.

KATE SHERIDAN
Bill and Rob?

NED LEROUX
Them's the ones.
(beat)
I listened to that tape on the
drive. Amy said that she only
exists because Anna still
remembered her.

KATE SHERIDAN
(confused)
...Remembered who?

NED LEROUX
(annoyed)
Goddammit, I know you can't help
your poor little time-paradoxed
brain but could you just...
(he sighs and begins
again)
If Anna can do that for Amy, then I
must be able to do the same for
them. I have to.

Ned shifts a little, thinking.

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)
I guess this place is also... it
gets me thinking. Years ago, before
I finally landed on becoming a
cop... I considered coming out
here.

KATE SHERIDAN
Why here?

NED LEROUX
There was this... fundamentalist
Mormon cult. Name isn't important,
there's hundreds of them.
(MORE)

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

But they'd begun to exercise some influence over the region. They moved their followers here, started a construction business, undercut all the other bidders to get more and more expensive contracts and before anyone knew it... they'd been overrun.

(beat)

And the cult was very, very wealthy. At least, those at the top were. And well... I'd always been a fan of the desert, and I was wanting to slow things down a bit after Petrograd. So I thought, "Hey, it's an easy get. I'll worm my way into the sect with piety and consistency, then eke out a comfortable little existence for myself. I'll be influential but... not highly-dependent on. Easy money."

(beat)

But there was more going on here than I bargained for. I found some, uh... darkness going on behind the curtains that even I couldn't abide.

KATE SHERIDAN

What do you mean?

NED LEROUX

(fidgeting a little)

At the time, I didn't mind the religious restriction, or the keeping up of appearances... hell, not even the blatant abuses and manipulation in service of the ones at the top. You'll find that one way or another in any religious sect. Even a bit of secrets, a bit of indulgence behind the scenes. That much is to be expected of anyone who gets power for nothing.

(beat)

I was ignorant of these fundamentalist cults. Up until that point I'd pretty much stayed out of modern religion. I mean, it's much more fun on the other side of things.

(LAUGHS)

(MORE)

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

And I spent plenty of years giving myself anything, everything... anyone that I wanted. But...

(beat)

I couldn't abide these wolves in sheep's clothing. I couldn't abide by their feasts.

(beat)

Anyway, they got found out pretty quick.

KATE SHERIDAN

How?

NED LEROUX

Anonymous tip. Police raided the compound and arrested most of the leaders. The rest just scattered.

(he shifts again)

They're still around, sorta, but... not nearly as powerfully. Most of them up and left for middle-a-nowhere, Texas.

KATE SHERIDAN

That wasn't what Bill's family was involved in, was it?

NED LEROUX

No. He's from around Salt Lake.

KATE SHERIDAN

Thought so. Still.

NED LEROUX

Still.

Ned looks over at Sam and interrupts his mind palace.

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

Hey Bailey -- give me some memories of Bill and Rob. Between the two of us, I figure we can provide some solid protection for our friends in the beyond.

SAM BAILEY

(annoyed, but willing)

Sure. Uh... let me think...

(LAUGHS, a little dark)

I remember when Bill talked Ramos into covering Rob's whole dispatch desk in wrapping paper with him.

(MORE)

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

They had to go in at like, 5am to get it done before Rob's shift. He thought Bill was away on a night call, so he didn't suspect a thing.

(beat)

When he got in later that morning, his supervisor was so mad at him, like he'd done it himself. It took Rob nearly twenty minutes to get the desk and everything on it unwrapped.

KATE SHERIDAN

(amused)

What, they wrapped the little...

SAM BAILEY

(smiling)

All the little desk things, yeah. The keyboard, the mouse, the mouse CORD -- honestly that's what took the most time, it was taped to hell.

NED LEROUX

You were there?

SAM BAILEY

(suddenly a little sheepish)

I watched the security cam footage. We all did. It's one of the, uh... one of the few times I actually bonded with people at the station.

(beat)

Anyway. There you go, Ned. I can remember them with you, at least. Hopefully that'll help when you go to find them.

NED LEROUX

(incredulity/fear)

When I... hold on.

SAM BAILEY

(suddenly open to arguing)

And, you know, I'm having some doubts about what happened... Morrison in the tunnels? Weak, emaciated... god-like? How could Morrison transform into something that powerful, after everything he's railed against?

(MORE)

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

After that long without food or water? He shouldn't even be alive.

NED LEROUX

Bailey, listen to me---

SAM BAILEY

(detached, diplomatic)

--I'm not calling you a liar, just... it was dark down there. Maybe Morrison had enough power to pull Bill and Rob over out of pure spite, but who's to say he's still holding onto that power?

(Sam shifts, considering)

And anyway, I'm still not falling for that kind of trap. No matter who he took.

NED LEROUX

You slimy fuck--

KATE SHERIDAN

Come on boys, let's just talk this out.

NED LEROUX

(standing)

Listen, Bailey -- I'm pulling rank. I've been doing this shit way longer than any of you. I've got shapeshifting and more than a thousand years of experience under my belt. I should be in charge of what we decide. Not you.

SAM BAILEY

(rolls eyes)

Oh, please.

KATE SHERIDAN

(curious)

How is shapeshifting relevant right now?

"NETER" LEROUX

(shifting into "Peter")

I don't know Katey, don't you think this could be useful?

KATE SHERIDAN

(disgust/amusement)

Um... wow, alright. Is that really what you think Peter looks like?

"KED" LEROUX
 (shifting into "Kate")
 Alright, fine. If one Kate is
 effective, imagine what we could do
 with two.

Despite himself, SAM LAUGHS, if still very irritated.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (glaring)
 Stop that right now.

"KED" LEROUX
 (fake commercial)
 Welcome to Two Kate's Accounting!
 Where we offer tax advice so good,
 you'll be seeing double!

KATE SHERIDAN
 (irritated, done)
 I'm out of here. I'm going to find
 Ren.

Footsteps as she walks away, Ned and Sam's conversation fades
 into the background.

NED LEROUX
 (shifting back to himself)
 Phew, that took it out of me.

SAM BAILEY
 And *this* is why you're not in
 charge. You're an insufferable
 clown.

NED LEROUX
 And you're an insufferable know-it-
 all.

3. CONTINUOUS

Voices fade out. Kate spots Ren sitting crisscross on a
 nearby rock and approaches him. He doesn't turn to look at
 her, but knows it's her.

REN PARK
 (muttering, dreamlike)
 The light... as it's fading...

KATE SHERIDAN
 It's a beautiful sunset.

REN PARK
(hesitant)
Yeah.

KATE SHERIDAN
You okay?

REN PARK
I think so. I'm just trying to believe that this sunset can endure in my memory, if nothing else.

KATE SHERIDAN
(concerned)
I... I see.

REN PARK
I've just been wondering if this sunset... this exact sunset... even exists in alternate versions of this moment? Probably not. The probability of this exact sunset showing up in this exact way in a completely different timeline... you'd have better luck getting those monkeys on typewriters to compose Shakespeare.

(beat)
So it only exists here, and it only exists now. But "now" is...

(LAUGHS)
"Now" is an interesting concept. Because apparently, moments can disappear. They can just evaporate like... like mist. Like they never happened. Like there was no me or you, or Arizona, or desert, or sunsets. Like there was always just emptiness.

(beat)
If this is a... fragile sunset... If I forgot about it, would anyone else remember?

KATE SHERIDAN
(taken aback slightly)
Gosh.
(sniffing)
Is that weed?

REN PARK
(shrugs)
I smoked some of my stash a while ago to try and calm my nerves.
(MORE)

REN PARK (CONT'D)
It's at least halfway working.
Well, that, or the mushrooms.

KATE SHERIDAN
You...
(she stops herself,
accepting his choice)
Okay.

REN PARK
I'll be fine. Not my first rodeo.
Although I am getting some
interesting visual patterns.

KATE SHERIDAN
I bet.

REN PARK
A weird one showed up earlier,
though. It sort of looked like some
kind of well, right over there in
the gully.

KATE SHERIDAN
A well? Why would...
(she tries to remember
something, but nothing
comes up)
That's strange.

REN PARK
Strange, indeed.

Kate hesitates. She feels unsettled and is not sure why.

REN PARK (CONT'D)
That doesn't mean something to you,
does it?

KATE SHERIDAN
I... hmm. I feel like it should,
but I just... don't know why.

REN PARK
Must be a deleted timeline.

Pause.

KATE SHERIDAN
Well, I should... I think I should
head back. Just wanted to check in
on you.

REN PARK
Thanks for the consideration, Kate.

KATE SHERIDAN
Anytime.

Kate turns and starts walking back towards the camp -- then pauses, glancing back.

REN PARK
Something else on your mind?

KATE SHERIDAN
(hesitant)
Do you think... do you think we'll actually be able to work together long enough to get this done? Find Bill and Rob, I mean.

REN PARK
Can we trust Ned, you mean?

KATE SHERIDAN
(admitting her doubts)
...yeah.

REN PARK
(beat, SIGHS)
I'm really not sure. You know him better than I do. And honestly... I think I'm the last person you should be asking about trust right now.

Kate goes quiet, then turns and continues back towards camp.

4. CONTINUOUS

She walks back towards the fire, and hears Sam and Ned's arguing growing distantly.

KATE SHERIDAN
(mumbling to herself;
already forgetting)
A well... no, that's... that's nothing. It sounds like nothing. Right?

Angry footsteps march away from the fire as Sam walks off into the night, and Kate finally reaches Ned's spot again.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
Where's Sam going?

NED LEROUX
Oh, that raincloud? He's all
relaxed and ready for bed,
apparently.

KATE SHERIDAN
(hearing the missing info)
And...?

NED LEROUX
And we nearly got physical.
(SCOFFS)

KATE SHERIDAN
Ned!

NED LEROUX
(shrugs)
What can I say, must be my country
charms...
(noticing the look on
Kate's face)
Something happen over there?

KATE SHERIDAN
What do you mean?

NED LEROUX
You look... are you okay?

KATE SHERIDAN
(considering)
I... can't remember why I came over
here.
(beat; unsettled)
Do you think... do you think you
and Sam will be able to get along?
At least long enough to find Bill
and Rob?

NED LEROUX
(slight vulnerability)
Kate... I think you might be the
only one all of us can really
trust. I don't know Ren, and I
don't think Sam has what it takes
to get this done. I think we're all
counting on you to make this work.

Beat. Then...

KATE SHERIDAN
You were the one who made that
anonymous tip, weren't you? About
the cult?

NED LEROUX
How...
(he clears his throat;
sheepishly)
Yeah.

KATE SHERIDAN
Hmm.

NED LEROUX
What?

KATE SHERIDAN
You're just full of surprises.

CLACK. The recording ends.

ROLL END THEME
AND CREDITS