

"STRANGE, SUBTLE CHORDS"  
*The Sheridan Tapes - Season 04, Episode 84*  
*Recording Script - August 14, 2023*

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*Dedicated to the Memory of Lesley-Anne Hoxie*

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

1. EXT. FUNERAL HOME - 6/19/09 - DAY

A lobby filled with piano music and low, gentle talking --  
somber, quiet, and suffocating.

After a moment, Kate opens the glass door and steps out. Lazy  
traffic occasionally drifts by on a slow town road as she  
turns her head and spots Anna standing outside.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(distracted, a little  
numb)  
Oh. Hi.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(COUGHING the word out)  
Hey...

Anna shuffles as she tries to hide the fact that she was  
smoking a blunt.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(dismissive)  
Don't bother, it's fine. If there  
was ever a day for smoking weed...

ANNA SHERIDAN  
Then it's at dad's funeral?

KATE SHERIDAN  
Something like that.

KATE slumps against the wall next to her and SIGHS. There's a  
moment of silence between them.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
Thanks for being cool about this.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Of course.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(changing subject, dryly)  
Did you see Tyler's new hair?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(more impressed than  
judgmental)  
I can't believe he dyed it *purple*,  
of all colors.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
At least I'm not the only weird one  
in the family anymore.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(honest opinion)  
It looks good.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(equally surprised)  
I know, right?

Another moment of silence between them.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Do you think that's his grief?

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(feeling a little woozy)  
Purple-colored grief.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Sometimes people grieve in weird  
ways. He keeps telling everyone  
that dad was his favorite uncle.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(CHUCKLES)  
Yeah, that sounds like him.

KATE SHERIDAN  
But... purple hair dye? Right  
before the funeral? I know it looks  
great on him, but...

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(shrugs)  
Maybe he's just being himself.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(beat, unsure)  
Yeah.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
I think grief, it... it makes it  
more important not to hide  
yourself. You don't have energy to  
keep who you really are hidden.  
It's like... a relief, kinda.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(long pause)  
I miss dad.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
...Yeah.

KATE SNIFFLES, ANNA SIGHS, trying not to break down again.

ANNA SHERIDAN (CONT'D)  
(suddenly a little  
worried)  
Did you see mom in there?

KATE SHERIDAN  
Yeah... she was talking with Pastor  
Marlon when I left. I don't think  
she's going anywhere.  
(long pause, hesitant)  
I'm worried about her. I don't know  
if... if she's as willing to be  
herself in her grief.  
(beat)  
I'm afraid she's just going to  
disappear inside herself.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(doesn't know how to  
respond)  
Yeah, I mean...

KATE SHERIDAN  
What do you think?

ANNA SHERIDAN  
(trying to word this  
delicately)  
Well... you know mom and me. When  
you say you're afraid she's gonna  
disappear, I guess it feels like...  
I don't even know who she is  
anyway? She's just been kind of...  
I don't know, angry my whole life.  
That's the only version of her  
she's let me see.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(impressed by her  
honesty)  
You know, I really don't get why  
mom always gives you a harder time  
than me. It's not fair.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
Thanks.

KATE SHERIDAN  
I could never imagine treating a  
daughter the way mom treated you. I  
really can't.

A moment of grateful silence.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)  
 (hesitant)  
 Could I... could I get a drag of  
 that?

ANNA SHERIDAN  
 (surprised)  
 Katherine Sheridan!?

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (shrugging)  
 It probably won't hurt. And I'm  
 not quite feeling up to going back  
 in there sober.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
 (a salute)  
 Bombs away, sis.

Anna hands the joint to Kate. KATE INHALES, HOLDS, AND  
 EXHALES.

ANNA SHERIDAN (CONT'D)  
 (disbelieving)  
 Incredible.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (COUGHS SLIGHTLY)  
 You're not doing so bad, yourself.

ANNA SHERIDAN  
 (not sure what to make of  
 that)  
 ...Thanks.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 Maybe I'll lean into a new version  
 of me, too.  
 (beat)  
 And I hope mom finally does what  
 she's always wanted... whatever  
 that is.

CLICK.

MAIN THEME.

2. EXT. PARKING LOT - DES MOINES, IA - 2/8/20 - DAY

Sam starts the tape as he leans on the side of their travel  
 van. The surrounding streets are almost completely silent.

## SAM BAILEY

Sam Bailey, Personal Investigation -  
February 8th, 2020 at 4:05pm,  
Central Standard Time. It's been a  
long travel day, but we're finally  
in Iowa, just outside Des Moines  
proper. Ned and Ren are helping me  
search for the well, and we figured  
that the elementary school Anna and  
Kate attended is the best place to  
start. Kate is still, uh...  
currently only half-remembering  
everything to do with Amy and the  
well. Between that and the fresh  
leg wound, we decided it would  
probably be best if she didn't come  
along. Besides, she said she had  
some family matter to attend to  
while she's here. Makes sense...  
who knows when she'll be back here  
with everything going on.

(beat)

So -- based on Anna's original  
account of Amy's disappearance,  
we're looking for a boarded-up,  
disused well somewhere on the edge  
of school property. According to  
her tape, one day after school in  
1993, Anna and Amy decided to go  
check it out while waiting for  
their parents to arrive. I would  
also like to mention that after a  
bit of digging, I've confirmed that  
there were an Arthur and Sandra  
Sterling living in Des Moines  
during the period in question, but  
according to official records they  
never had any children, and the  
couple divorced in 1994 before  
leaving the area.

(beat)

After that point, the facts of the  
story become a little muddled, but  
based on Anna's memories and our  
encounter with Amy, it's clear that  
she wasn't just a false memory --  
she was somehow erased from her own  
timeline. By gazing into the well,  
Amy found herself in the Source,  
and from that point Anna was able  
to observe and remember two  
distinct, parallel timelines -- one  
where Amy was never born, and one  
where Amy still existed.

(MORE)

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

But despite Anna's memories,  
eventually the timeline without Amy  
won out.

(beat)

I've also asked Ren to keep an eye  
out for anything... unusual. They  
may have seen a vision of this  
exact same well in the desert last  
week. Granted they it's possible  
they were hallucinating at the  
time, but seeing as Kate forgot  
about it almost immediately after  
he mentioned it, Ren may be our  
best spotter. And despite  
everything we've learned, this is  
still our only real clue about how  
to save Anna.

(beat, notices something)

Oh... I think we're ready to move.

Movement, then -- CLICK.

### 3. INT. NURSING HOME - SIMULTANEOUS

Kate's switches on her tape recorder. Gentle chatter rolls  
down the hall as wheelchairs glide past, with the sound of  
daytime TV beneath it all.

KATE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, opens the door, and steps through.  
The sound dampens to near silence as she closes the door.

KATE SHERIDAN

(hesitant)

Hi, mom.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN

(CONFUSED NOISE, beat)

Who are you?

KATE SHERIDAN

(wincing in pain,  
whispered)

Shit.

(beat)

I'm a friend of the family. Wanted  
to come say hi.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN

Oh, okay...

DEBORAH TRIES A LIGHT, FRIENDLY LAUGH. She sounds confused.  
Kate seems like someone she should know. Kate approaches her  
bed and sits by her side.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN (CONT'D)  
Do you know my sister, Nancy?

KATE SHERIDAN  
I do.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(nodding, satisfied)  
Well. I don't know where everyone  
went, but... they should be back  
soon.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(smiling softly)  
That's wonderful.  
(beat, feeling tense)  
Could I hold your hand?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(unsure)  
Oh...  
(accepting)  
Well, you seem very sweet. So  
that's okay.

KATE grabs her hand and SNIFFLES.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Thank you, Deborah.

CLICK.

4. EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FIELD - SIMULTANEOUS

Sam's tape turns on. Long, unkempt grass rustles as Sam, Ned,  
and Ren push through it, searching.

SAM BAILEY  
(worried)  
This can't be the entire field, can  
it?

NED LEROUX  
(shrugs)  
Sure as hell looks like it. Unless  
Kate gave us the wrong address.

SAM BAILEY  
God, why did we have to get here on  
a Sunday? We could have at least  
checked the admission records if  
the office was open.



NED LEROUX

Ah yes, I'm sure they'd be happy to open those records for a couple of former police officers from a department in Nevada that no longer exists.

REN PARK

(distant)

Wait, there's more of it behind the gym, over here!

Ned and Sam walk through a field of cold, dead grass to round the corner of a big building.

NED LEROUX

This better be good... it's too damn cold for this.

SAM BAILEY

Yeah, yeah...

NED LEROUX

I'm serious, If I'm out here for too much longer, I'm gonna lock up. And then your sorry ass is gonna have to carry me back to the van like a cardboard cutout.

SAM BAILEY

(rounding the corner, to Ren, ignoring Ned)

See anything yet?

Ren jogs back to them, PANTING SLIGHTLY.

REN PARK

Nothing. See where that fence starts? That's it.

NED GROANS, SAM SIGHS.

NED LEROUX

Are you shitting me? We came all the way out here for nothing?

REN PARK

(rolling eyes)

You would have been more than welcome to stay at the hotel.

NED LEROUX  
(annoyed)  
I didn't mean out to the school,  
Park.

In the distance, the sound of someone throwing the contents  
of a large trash can into a dumpster.

SAM BAILEY  
Ah, there's a janitor over there!  
He might know something.

NED LEROUX  
(muttering)  
Or he might call the cops on us for  
trespassing.

SAM BAILEY  
(he begins walking)  
Come on everyone, day isn't over  
yet.

CLICK. Tape stops.

5 - INT. NURSING HOME - SIMULTANEOUS

Deborah's care facility room. KATE SNIFFLES AGAIN.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(distressed)  
Oh, honey, what's wrong?

KATE SHERIDAN  
Nothing... Don't worry, it's  
just... allergies.

Deborah cocks her head, thinks for a moment, and smiles.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(sounding more lucid)  
I remember you, I think.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(surprised, flicker of  
hope)  
You do?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
You're my daughter Anna, aren't  
you?

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (heart sinking)  
 Oh... I...

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
 It has been a long time.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (living in her mom's  
 world)  
 Yes, I'm Anna.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
 My Anna! Tell me... do you have  
 anyone new in your life?

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (knowing she means "a  
 boy?")  
 ...No, she... I don't.

DEBORAH looks upset and MUMBLES ANGRILY. Then she looks  
 pained, and LAUGHS, happy in a bittersweet way.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
 (tearful)  
 Good. You had the courage to do  
 what I never could.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (surprised)  
 What do you mean?

CLICK.

# 6. EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FIELD - SIMULTANEOUS

Sam's tape starts with a flurry of movement. They're on the  
 edge of the school property now, with the sound of a cold  
 breeze through branches.

REN PARK  
 (growing distant)  
 Hold on!

NED LEROUX  
 You're not gonna find it.

SAM BAILEY  
 (disheartened)  
 Ren, come back! It's... it isn't  
 here.

NED LEROUX  
Can't believe I let you talk me  
into leaving Oslow.

SAM BAILEY  
(annoyed)  
For the recording -- the janitor we  
spoke to had no idea what we were  
talking about. He's been working at  
this school for close to thirty  
years, and according to him,  
there's never been a well here.

NED LEROUX  
(muttered)  
Wild fucking goose chase.

SAM BAILEY  
(insistent)  
We know that Anna's accounts are  
true. We know that Amy existed at  
some point, and for her to  
disappear the well also has to be  
real. We just need to keep looking.

During Sam's last line, Ren has walked back, defeated.

REN PARK  
I think that we need to consider  
the possibility that... it's only a  
theory, but I think we may be in  
the wrong timeline to find the  
well.

NED LEROUX  
(rolling his eyes)  
Ugh, come on.

REN PARK  
I'm serious. We already know that  
parallel timelines are a factor  
here, so it's something we need to  
consider. So. How do we know we're  
in the right one? Anna initially  
found the well while she was still  
in the timeline where Amy existed.  
Who's to say it exists in the  
timeline without her?

SAM BAILEY  
(head spinning slightly)  
Christ.

NED LEROUX

Are you sure we haven't just been  
wasting our time at the wrong  
school?

SAM BAILEY

Not a chance. You saw how the  
janitor's eyes lit up when you  
accidentally mentioned Anna?

NED LEROUX

Shit. You're right.

SAM BAILEY

So the only remaining possibilities  
are... perhaps the well has a mind  
of its own. Or...

REN PARK

Or... the limitations of spacetime  
will prevent us from finding it.

SAM BAILEY

(bitter)  
Perfect.

CLICK. Tape ends.

7. INT. NURSING HOME - SIMULTANEOUS

Kate sits at Deborah's bedside, stunned.

KATE SHERIDAN

(surprised)  
What do you mean?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN

Men can be a lot of trouble, you  
know that?

KATE SHERIDAN

(awkward laugh)  
Uh... Mom-- Deborah... are you  
saying you... you're jealous of  
Anna? I mean, of me?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN

I... oh...  
(CONFUSED NOISE)  
Will Nancy be coming back soon?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(reeling from the subject  
change)  
I'm... sure she just stepped out  
for a minute. Don't worry.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(relieved)  
Oh. Thank you.  
(beat) )  
You know, Nancy was just in here.  
She was telling me about the...  
the... the selling.  
(not the word she meant)  
Oh.. no, I mean... goodness.

Deborah is squinting, trying to remember what she meant.  
DEBORAH SIGHS.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN (CONT'D)  
(apologetic)  
I'm so sorry dear, I'm getting so  
tired. And you only just got here,  
didn't you?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(squeezing her hand)  
It's been nice to catch up.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(lucid; sincere)  
I can't remember you, but I know  
you're important. You must be.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(touched)  
Thank you.  
(stands up to go)  
I'll send a nurse to check on you.

Kate walks to the door and places her hand on the knob.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(mumbling, but clearly  
heard)  
Kate...

KATE GASPS and rushes back to her mother's side.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(slightly desperate)  
Mom? Mom, what did you say?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
Do you know my daughter? Kate?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(crushed, keeping it  
together)  
I... yes, I do.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
How is she doing?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(careful)  
She's very busy with work. But,  
uh... she's happy. Or, she's...  
she's pretty sure she's gonna be  
happy.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
I would hope so. She spent so long  
trying to make others happy.

DEBORAH SOUNDS PLEASED, and closes her eyes. KATE CHOKES A  
SOB BACK, EXHALING CAREFULLY.

DEBORAH SHERIDAN (CONT'D)  
(mumbling)  
The well... the well... the circled  
stones, and the waters beneath...

The hair on Kate's arms raise, but she doesn't yet understand  
why. She leans closer.

KATE SHERIDAN  
What did you say?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
(suddenly lucid again)  
Kate. I remember.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Mom?

DEBORAH SHERIDAN  
It's time, Kate. It's time for you  
to remember, too. Anna said you  
need to remember the well.

CLICK. Tape ends.

## 8. INT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The assembled team sits in the quiet, cozy living room of Kate and Peter's home. A fire crackles in the hearth.

SAM BAILEY

Addendum: February 9th, 2020,  
12:05am, Central Standard Time.  
We're all staying at Kate's  
house... which we know is a  
potential risk if anyone's still  
looking for us.

NED LEROUX

(muttered, bitter)

But we are rather far from Oslow,  
so...

Ned sips from a mug.

KATE SHERIDAN

(slightly stunned)

I... I remember Amy. I remember the  
well. I remember Anna telling me  
about all of this so many times.  
How could I forget? How do I  
remember it now?

(LAUGHS SLIGHTLY)

Anna really must've needed me to  
remember, if she was willing to  
talk to mom to make it happen.

SAM BAILEY

(SCOFFS)

It's certainly easier to talk about  
this now that you remember.

KATE SHERIDAN

Not now, Sam, there's... There's a  
lot to process from that visit,  
even without that.

Ned sips from his mug again. Kate sits back, pinching the  
bridge of her nose.

NED LEROUX

Anyways... this well y'all were  
looking for, it's not here. So what  
do we do?

REN PARK

Maybe it can actually move. I'm  
pretty sure now that I must've seen  
it in the desert.



SAM BAILEY

That might be the case... but if so, then the question is what was it doing out in the desert in the first place? Was it... summoned there by someone? Did it choose to be there itself?

NED LEROUX

Well... speaking of my own experience with things in the Source, they tend to just show up in places that call to them the most. Like... intention, I guess.

SAM BAILEY

But it takes a lot of focus.

NED LEROUX

Yup.

SAM BAILEY

I suppose it makes sense that it could work the same way on this side.

NED LEROUX

Well if we can find this well anywhere, *apparently*... then maybe that's what we need to focus on in order to enter the Source at the right point. You know, to find Bill and Rob.

SAM BAILEY

But you and I have never seen this well. How do you expect us to conjure it up if we don't even know what it looks like?

REN PARK

Maybe looking for it at all is pointless. Maybe we're supposed to just... wait for it to show up. If it'll ever show up.

KATE SHERIDAN

The thing is... Anna's book specifically mentioned Amy and the well. It's important. And she made sure I remembered, today.

(beat)

But it's not here.

(MORE)

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)

And we have unfinished business in Oslo, anyway. That's where this all started, right? Maybe we can use that physical proximity to all of that...

(she gestures, MAKING AN UNCERTAIN NOISE)

SAM BAILEY

Supernatural activity?

KATE SHERIDAN

Yes. We can use that to our advantage. And hey, I *do* remember the well now, however vaguely...

SAM BAILEY

(glimmer of hope, not fully believing)

So there's a chance it could manifest there, around all that power.

KATE SHERIDAN

I think we're on to something.

NED LEROUX

(numb, mumbling slightly)

Good for you.

Ned sips from his mug. Beat.

SAM BAILEY

(confused)

Did you make coffee?

NED LEROUX

(elusive)

Nope.

Sam leans over and sniffs, REACTING IN DISGUST.

SAM BAILEY

Oh my God, Ned.

NED LEROUX

A little siphon never hurt nobody.

KATE SHERIDAN

Please tell me you're not drinking gasoline on my couch.

NED LEROUX

Not with that attitude.

Ned stands and exits, closing the door to the guest bedroom down the hall. KATE SIGHS.

REN PARK  
When do y'all want to head out?

KATE SHERIDAN  
It's after midnight now. We'll  
leave as soon as we're all up in  
the morning.

REN PARK  
I suppose that's fine. Can I smoke  
in the backyard?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(shrugs)  
Sure. Neighbors should be asleep by  
now.

Kate gestures to the back door. Ren stands and exits.

REN PARK  
(calling over their  
shoulder)  
Thank you!

#### 9. CONTINUOUS

A beat. Sam and Kate listen to the crackle of fire in her hearth.

SAM BAILEY  
(gentle invitation)  
Hey.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Hey, yourself.

SAM BAILEY  
(after a beat)  
Do you want to talk about it?  
Seeing your mom?

KATE SHERIDAN  
(after a beat)  
What do I even have to say... It  
was good to see her. I think.

SAM BAILEY  
I'm glad you got to do that. Who  
knows when...  
(MORE)

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

(CLEARS THROAT)

Well.

KATE SHERIDAN

No, you're right.

(beat)

How did you handle your parents' deaths? I mean I know you were young, but...

SAM BAILEY

I was. And the answer is... at the time, I didn't handle it. I just... grew up and I got angry. I only really dealt with it after my grandma died too. Took a lot of work and a lot of time, but eventually it just... didn't hurt as much. But it never went away.

(beat)

I don't have any advice for you, Kate. Grief is a... it's a custom-fit nightmare for everyone.

KATE SHERIDAN

Yeah... yeah.

(beat)

I guess we're having the opposite experiences though, aren't we? I'm nearly 40. I've seen my mom's death coming for years. But I still don't know when.

SAM BAILEY

That must be awful... Watching someone you love fade like that.

KATE SHERIDAN

It is. I feel helpless. And... and I can't even be there for her right now. I just hope I don't... don't miss it when it happens, you know? I hope there's a chance to say goodbye.

SAM BAILEY

I hope you get that, too.

KATE SHERIDAN

(long beat, SCOFFS)

God, it's hard being human.

SAM BAILEY

It is.

KATE SHERIDAN

There's not much time left. There  
never was, not as much as I want. I  
don't know how much more she's got  
left, or if she'll still be here  
when this is done.

(beat, soft and grateful)

But... it was beautiful to remember  
with her. If only for a moment.

CLACK. The recording ends.

ROLL END THEME &  
CREDITS