

RADIO: Outcast

Episode 7B

"Row, Row"

Written by

Maria Fernanda Vidaurrezaga

NARRATORS

Spectra

The Messenger Goddess of Visuals, 370-million-years-old, a fashionable and embittered socialite determined to bring her sister down several pegs to climb the social ladder.

Salvandar

The God of Medicine, 2631-years-old, a young hippie-type stoner and the friendly man behind medicine. He speaks in a slow, lazy, calming cadence.

Emi

A goddess, eternal, but looks and acts like a young woman. A cruel narcissist who bends people to her will to avoid her own insecurities.

Scene One: Somewhere in the Heavens

1. VOICEMAIL BEEP.

CHARLES (Tinny recording playback from 7A)

She threw a glare at the audience before nodding her head, standing on her toes, and pressing her lips to his.

2. TAPE REWIND.

CHARLES (Tinny recording playback from 7A)

She threw a glare at the audience before nodding her head, standing on her toes, and pressing her lips to his.

3. TAPE REWIND.

CHARLES (Tinny recording playback from 7A)

She threw a glare at the audience before nodding her head, standing on her toes, and pressing her lips to his.

4. TAPE REWIND.

CHARLES (Tinny recording playback from 7A slowly fades out)

She threw a glare at the audience before nodding her head, standing on her toes, and pressing [her lips to his.]

Scene Two: Spectra's House of Mirrors

5. BOOMING KNOCK.

6. WE HEAR MIRRORS CRACK AND SHATTER (SPECTRA EXITING HER MIRROR SPACE) AND THEN THE CLICKING OF HER FOOTSTEPS AS SHE GOES TO THE DOOR.

7. THE DOOR OPENS.

SPECTRA

Salvandar. What brings you to my House of Mirrors?

SALVANDAR (cool as a cucumber)

(he whistles in awe) Whoa... You're chromed out.

SPECTRA

Ugh. *(she takes a moment)* There.

SALVANDAR

Niiice. Travel by mirrors?

SPECTRA

Not that it's any of *your* business, but I had to make sure a deal I made reached an acceptable conclusion before everything sank.

SALVANDAR

Business on the mortal plane, huh? *(he laughs)* Did you dress up for the conclave?

SPECTRA

Ew. Gross. No, I'm not my disgraced and incompetent sister. I don't go around playing human. *(she makes a sound of disgust)* I was just keeping an eye on things. For Emi.

SALVANDAR

Ahhhh. That's what you call it. Speaking of the gal herself, man have I got news. Like it's all upside down.

SPECTRA

Speak better.

SALVANDAR

I'm saying Emi's hangout, right? Her apartment in the Heavens in the center of it all, one corkscrew to the north of the Goddess of Secrets' maze, just left of the Neon Grass Sea -- the Sundial.

SPECTRA

Yes, I know where she lives when she's not in the Void.

SALVANDAR

Alright, alright. So, like I'm strolling past, right? And I was weirded out 'cause the Neon Grass Sea was looking more like a still-life and it stopped glowin', right? So I'm lookin' and roamin' when I see the silky case hanging out on the tip of the Sun Dial. And I'm like, man that's heavy. And it only got heavier 'cause next thing I know I hear Time, I hear her, inside that big ol' sleeping bag talkin' nonsense and just losing it.

SPECTRA

Wait, you're saying Emi's -

SALVANDAR

Well, that's the thing who knows if she'll dig "Emi" anymore. Like she's just Time 'till she comes out again. But yeah, man, that's what I'm saying. It's a full-blown Chrysalis. So I talked to your mom and she thought you might be able to help figure this all out, since you two are pals.

SPECTRA

I - No. She's not - And, anyway, what's the big deal? People change all the time, Helix, you, everyone.

SALVANDAR

Nah, this is different. Time and her bros aren't old fashioned or anything but a **full transformation** with this timing gives me bad energy. Plus she's clearly off-balance.

SPECTRA

This is stupid. She's throwing a tantrum. I - she was mad but I didn't fail. I just didn't do things the way she wanted. She needs to get over it and then the plan will be back on track. Yes. She's too soft. Maybe this is a good thing. Maybe she realized it too and is hardening herself for what needs to come.

SALVANDAR

It feels like you want me to pretend to know what’s going on.
(he hums in thought) Yeah, totally. Sure. Wait. So you screwed
up and you think this is her fixing things?

SPECTRA

Shut up. We’re going to the Sundial. I need to take a look.

Scene Three: The Sundial

8. STILLNESS. THEN SLOWLY WE BEGIN TO HEAR EMI’S MUTTERINGS
(GOING BACK AND FORTH FROM THE TWO VOICE ACTORS’
PERFORMANCES WE HAVE)

EMI

False. (beat) False. (beat) False. (beat) False.

9. TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS, ONE WEARING HEELS.

SALVANDAR

There she is.

SPECTRA

Gods. (long beat) You're positive that's her cocoon?

SALVANDAR

(he laughs thinking it's a joke) Duh. That's so her voice, man. Mostly. Cause the Heavens' only mockingbird is gone, unless today isn't today then yeah pretty sure.

SPECTRA

Emi. Time? (beat) Salvandar, a moment of privacy please.

SALVANDRA

(Distracted) Huh? What was that?

SPECTRA

(She huffs) Never mind. *(To Emi)* Hello? Emi?

EMI

False. (beat) False.

SPECTRA

Is this about the play? *(beat)* Come now, darling, it wasn't that awful was it?

EMI

False. *(beat)* False.

SPECTRA

There was nothing false within it. It was necessary. You know this. I may have gotten a little ahead of myself, fine, but-- Emi, they needed to understand their place. Charles, that cowboy, and Helix. Helix -- She has already failed the Heavens, failed *you* so many times. *(beat)* I only wanted to show you the -- I **won't** apologize. I'm not the groveling type. I am not your human servant. You know what I want. You know this is all for the betterment of the Heavens. Her behavior cannot stand. She doesn't deserve to return. Let her stay with her human pets and allow the Heavens to thrive as they're meant to.

EMI

False. *(beat)* False.

SPECTRA

If Order and Chaos cared about any of this I wouldn't need to -- we wouldn't need to -- You must understand, I am trying to take the proper measures. You said I would be rewarded, but how can I be if she isn't properly punished?

10. WE START TO HEAR THE COCOON SLOWLY BREAK AND TEAR THROUGHOUT EMI'S MONOLOGUE.

EMI

(Losing her mind, speaking in an erratic tempo; transformation from the previous Emi voice to the new) False, false, false, false, false, false, false, false. False. False. False! (laughter that's almost like crying) Measure. They always want me to measure my tone, measure my volume, measure my approach. Measure time? Time doesn't bow to everyone else's understanding, it just is. It existed before mortals not because of them.

11. PUNCHING THROUGH THE COCOON, EMI IS FREE.

12. WE HEAR PIECES OF THE COCOON FALL TO THE GROUND AS SHE STEPS DOWN.

EMI

(To Spectra) I existed before all of them. Only Order and Chaos came before me. I am bigger than everything. I should not bow my head. But I did. I tried being nice. I did. I changed myself, my name, my voice, everything to make you all stop looking at me like I would break it all. *(she laughs bitterly)* The All-Mother of Communication told me it would bring great things to the Heavens if I... *(Coming to a realization, and then angry)* If I made myself smaller. For them, for mid-tier goddesses like you and him, and the rest of this pantheon made of ornaments.

SALVANDAR

Wha, hold on, me?

EMI

Your power is inconsequential, Spectra, and so are you. But I'm not. And I'm above pretending I am. It's time to stop asking for what I am owed. I am in love and it is the greatest love that has ever existed. Ever. I will fight for it and no one - not you and your pointless ambition, or Charles's spineless backtracking, or that human and his temptation, or this new cowboy with his -- *(she screams)* Not even Helix will stop me.

SPECTRA

I -- But, you promised.

EMI

That promise stands only when you're useful. You have lofty goals but no talent with which to achieve them yourself, Spectra. Not to mention you can't see past your own nose. Of course someone as insecure as you would think the best way to control the game is through something as petty and easy to backfire as humiliation. Though I guess someone as small-minded as you would go with something familiar.

SPECTRA

It was one play -

EMI

That I did not order. Now, be more like Charles in your stupid little script, be the tree obedient and keen, or stay out of my way. *(long beat)* I have better things to do.

13. STRANGE PORTAL WHOOSH SOUND.

14. WE HEAR WIND PASSING THROUGH THE NEON GREEN GRASS AND
WATER TRICKLING FROM AFAR. THE STILLNESS DISAPPEARS WITH
EMI.

SALVANDAR

Whooooo. Retro Emi. The old look is still good on her, huh?
'Cept for the *grrrr*, y'know? That was cold, a real bummer.

SPECTRA

(She sighs and huffs in frustration) Small-minded? I'll show her
who really can't see further than her own nose.

15. HEELED FOOTSTEPS RUSH OFF.

SALVANDAR

Hmmmm. Yeah. Mm-hmm. I should probably go update the All-Mother.
(he takes a deep relaxed breath in and out) Oh, no way! The
grass is glowing again. *Cool.*