

EPISODE 11: DO STAMPS DREAM OF ELECTRIC KEEPS?
INT. OPENING.

NARRATOR

Within the multiverse sits a fantastic, magical realm: a place we call Hearth. This is the world of Magus Elgar. Seeking to prevent disaster, he and his colleagues hunt for Stamps, scientific tools augmented with magical power. Their tale continues here: Episode 11, Do Stamps Dream of Electric Keeps?

EXT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE, NIGHT

NARRATOR

Here we are at the Lightning Spire, the new lair of Victus. Indefinitely wreathed in thunderstorms thanks to the lightning Magus Boltus, it is the perfect place to power the malicious machinations of one of the most ominous stamps in Victus' possession. Udo finds himself trapped inside, longing for his mentor to come and rescue him.

The narrator knocks on the door.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Hello?! Can I come in? I'm supposed to know what's going on! Anyone? Oh... I guess I'll wait for **Mail**.

INT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE LABORATORY, NIGHT

Churning and sucking sounds can be heard as tubes drain fluids from udo's back. The suction turns off, Udo stirs.

UDO

Ugh... I'm... not Dead? I'm not dead! Haha-Oh... Guh. Elation make me dizzy.

LINUS

Excuse me.

UDO

Ahh! Who said that?

LINUS

It was **me**, L. Period. I. Period. N-

UDO

The stamp? You... You're the living nexus... Solution, er... thing?

LINUS

You may designate me as **Linus**.

UDO

Okay, cool, thanks? Where's Victus?

LINUS

User **Victus** is currently maintaining **ether** flow from external sources in the other room. This will give **Linus** time to collect **data**.

UDO

Sorry, this is weird talking to a box and all. You didn't seem smart enough to talk like this before.

LINUS

Correct. **Three** deciliters of your **ether** increased my processing capacity by a factor of **ten**. You are... **gifted**.

UDO

Thanks... I think. I don't wanna tell you how to do your job... but shouldn't I be dead?

LINUS

Linus requires additional parameters to define the nature of **magic** before an accurate solution to the **magi** conundrum can be found. To destroy something without accurate data would be illogical.

UDO

You didn't ask Victus about magi?

LINUS

Bias is not **fact**.

UDO

If only everyone else would agree. So, you can understand me fine?

LINUS

Communication with other sentient creatures is much like playing **minesweeper**. The correct spaces selected provide data as to what is **acceptable** and what is erroneous in discourse. Similarly, if you choose the wrong topic to discuss, everyone is **destroyed** in an explosion.

UDO

I can tell this is going to be a fun conversation.

EXT. LIGHTING SPIRE OUTSIDE ENTRANCE, NIGHT.

The narrator is struggling against the door. a carriage pulls up.

NARRATOR

It's about time. I was starting to think you gave up.

Scratching sounds at the door.

KAKKAY

Eep! Eep!

GALEN MALAAKI

This 'ere's the place. Shame the donkey were too scurred to carry yer all up 'ere.

HORATIO

I'm honestly impressed that **you** pulled the carriage all the way up here.

GALEN MALAAKI

Upper body strength's one o' the benefets of good ol' farm life! Also sweatin', but thar jus' adds to challenge!

KAYLEE

Okay Mail team! Udo's bound to be somewhere in this tower: let's find him first, then smash Victus' face in and claim ownership of the tower!

HORATIO

I suppose that's a fair plan,
except for the tower. Mr. Elgar,
you know lairs better than most
right?

MAGUS ELGAR

(inattentive)

Mmuh? Oh yes. I was just...
observing the...

KAYLEE

That was barely a sentence.

MAGUS ELGAR

It's so **beautiful**.

HORATIO

Oh goodness.

MAGUS ELGAR

I'm sorry but Magus Boltus has
class. Look at all the spikes! And
this obsidian patio! It sends
shivers down my spine! So
atmospheric! I could be scorched
alive and it would only bring out
the best in this floor!

KAYLEE

Ooh... Good point, hadn't thought
of that *scribbling down notes*

HORATIO

Magus! If you don't focus, Udo will
die regardless of where he's
standing!

MAGUS ELGAR

You're right. This isn't the time
to meander! All right, door!
Prepare to be jarred by my unlock
spell! **Ajarus Sesa-Guh!**

Magus is shunted from backlash. slamming into the cart

GALEN MALAAKI

Magus! You alreet?

MAGUS ELGAR

Ooooh... I thought the crystal
would improve on the trip over. I'm
all right!

(MORE)

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)

Apart from some internal bleeding,
but that's where I keep my blood
anyway.

HORATIO

So no magic for you?

MAGUS ELGAR

Quite. If I try casting too hard
today, I could end up seriously
damaging my brain. Hah, I'd toss a
faulty totem aside but I can't
quite do that with this one.

Knock knock on magus elgar's skull.

HORATIO

Couldn't **you** help us?

NARRATOR

Me? Of course not. I'm still sour
about earlier. I'm not helping you
another inch, it's not what I'm
here for.

HORATIO

Well then you'll just have to watch
from afar.

NARRATOR

Fair enough. I can get a decent
view from here anyway.

KAYLEE

Hmm... When we got to Hearth, you
said Trike had stolen the mirror
cauldron. How'd he get into **your**
tower?

MAGUS ELGAR

Well, Trike used his bureaucratic
shennanigary to make battering rams
a legal form of entry.

KAYLEE

Then let's do that.

HORATIO

Where are we going to get a
battering ram?

Beat.

KAYLEE

You do realize the slow turn to
face the dumb farmer does
absolutely nothing for him, right?

GALEN MALAAKI

You people're payin' attention
t'me? Wanna see me do a jig with a
hambone, always cheers me up?

MAGUS ELGAR

Mr. Malaaki, we have need of
your... special skills.

GALEN MALAAKI

Nar, when yous mean special...

KAYLEE

Grab him.

INT. LIGHTNING SPIRE ENTRANCE, NIGHT.

SLAM! Mail has entered the building.

GALEN MALAAKI

(sluring)

Worr that was a belter... me 'ead
really does 'ave a point. Jus' lil'
kerfuffled now, gonna taiter out.

MAGUS ELGAR

Well done, Gal, you have done your
part perfectly! You rest, go...
sleep with... happy memories of
frolicking cousins.

KAYLEE

We really shouldn't leave him
here...

MAGUS ELGAR

Do you want to carry a 300lb farmer
up the tower?

KAYLEE

Ooh. Well. I'm sure he'll be fine.
He seems like a hardy guy.

MAGUS ELGAR

Dark. Gothic.... Rather
intimidating. I **love** the rows of
gargoyle statues.

KAYLEE

Except for the polka-dot carpet.

MAGUS ELGAR

It must be to collect static.

Kakkay squeaks and skitters over to a large doorway.

HORATIO

Look! Kakkay found the door to the stairs... something's blocking it though. It looks like there's a giant padlock at the base of this painting.

KAYLEE

It doesn't look like the painting's even complete. See, there's places with open slots in them. I don't-

VICTUS

(echoed)

Magus. Do come in.

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh good, I was getting worried we wouldn't be greeted.

KAYLEE

Victus?! Where are you?! Show your mask so I can rip it off your smug testosterone deficient face!

KAKKAY

Hsssssss!

VICTUS

(echoed)

I'm preoccupied with work. If you feel like interrupting, I'm on the top floor. But you'll have to get through Boltus' security first.

Magic warms up, a gargoyle's eyes begin to glow. Boltus' voice cackles through the statue.

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)

Hahahaha! Welcome intruders, to these trials three, the pathway to your prize. Take heed and listen carefully, for these tasks only reward the wise.

HORATIO
Magus, the gargoyle is talking!

MAGUS ELGAR
He must have charmed it with a
watchdog spell.

KAYLEE
Stop talking in rhyme, I refute
thee in haiku. Your skill dwarfed
by mine.

KAKKAY
Ohhhhhhh!

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)
I'm not competing with that,
goodness, woman. I have constructed
these rooms to prevent interlopers
like you from halting my work. The
first trial you'll find to be quite
the challenge.

MAGUS ELGAR
(exasperated)
Oh no. It's a MacGuffin chamber!

HORATIO
A what?

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)
Astute observation, Magus! Before
you is the Chamber of Keys. A
handful of these gargoyles hold the
pieces to complete the painting
above the lock. But to get to the
pieces, you must solve a riddle for
each gargoyle.

HORATIO
Oh God, we'll be stuck in here for
hours!

KAYLEE
All the gargoyles look the same!
Which riddle goes to which?!

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)
Indeed! Find the ten correct pieces
to affix to the great painting, and
the final clue will be revealed.
Only then will your path be open!
(MORE)

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS) (CONT'D)

Your only hope is to translate the clues etched on the walls, I hope you know fractal druidic. If you find the right pieces, you'll be-

A statue shatters as the lock collapses on the floor.

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS) (CONT'D)

What are you doing?!

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh I got bored so I used one of the gargoyles to break the padlock.

(to horatio)

MacGuffin rooms were all the rage for a time, but immensely impractical. Imaging carrying four keys just to go to the bathroom!

KAYLEE

At least that was easy.

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)

Elements! Take this **seriously!**

MAGUS ELGAR

Why? I'm making more progress this way.

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)

No matter! You still have two trials ahead! You wont be able to brute force them all!

HORATIO

If there's anything I've learned about magic, inanimate golem, you just watch us!

SECURITY GOLEM (BOLTUS)

I can't! I'm affixed to this pedestal! Hey! Come back here! Do this puzzle **properly!** Hello?! Blast it all... Maybe I should have stuck to colored keys.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE LABORATORY, NIGHT

UDO

So what makes you think I'm gonna talk? You're working for Victus.

LINUS
Acknowledged, I will conclude and
file our discourse and proceed with
phase two: draining remaining
ether.

The machines begin to whirr again.

UDO
...On second thought, I could do
with some light conversation.

The machine stops.

LINUS
I have been observing the data of
M. Period. A. Period. I-

UDO
Mail?

LINUS
Mail's activity collected over the
last few months. Your existence is
paradoxical.

UDO
How?

LINUS
The declared objective of **Mail** is:
to collect **stamps**. Thus preventing
damage to **Hearth.**

UDO
You probably also saw the damage
the stamps **did**, even in the hands
of non-casters. We had to retrieve
them to disarm their magic.

LINUS
Yet the involvement of **Mail**
inflicted more damage by a
significant percentage as opposed
to inaction. In every recorded
conflict, arrival of a **spell caster**
in all scenarios increases
mortality by **40%** and collateral
damage by **116%**. The use of **magic**
leads to notable destruction in **87%**
of all conflicts. **Elaborate.**

UDO

We don't destroy things **all** the time!

The computer beeps rapidly loading information.

LINUS

Location **Hearth**, Root, Master Database. **Mail** Database. Incident #1. The activation of Omega One: **mirror cauldron** caused the existence of **stamps**. **Stamps** have inflicted severe damage to **Hearth** and its inhabitants to an exponential scale.

UDO

But-

LINUS

Incident #2. A farmer discovers Alpha Four: a **Radio**, leading to Mail intervention. Leading to breaded nuggets. Leading to **death** by breaded nuggets.

UDO

There's a few parts missing between those points-

LINUS

Incident #5. Alpha nine: Anti-fungal gel consumed domiciles, location: **Glumbledon**, leading to Magus intervention. Leading to significant toxic crystallization and, simultaneously, leading to significant fire damage. Query, Udo: are spell casters **good**? Are spell casters **necessary**?

UDO

Of course they are!

LINUS

Elaborate.

UDO

It... Well... If we weren't there, wouldn't those stamps have caused more destruction?

LINUS

The existence of **stamps**: Incident 1, activation of **omega one: mirror cauldron** by **Magus Elgar**. And **Wizard Quaff**.

UDO

That's part of the risk!

Beat.

LINUS

Elaborate.

UDO

Look, as much as it'd be safer not to cast, magic is **going** to happen in Hearth anyway. Things we can't explain are gonna turn up and do all sorts of horrible things. We can't ignore that. And the only way to protect ourselves is to get answers. We need answers, and the magi and wizards get them.

LINUS

Incident 1-

UDO

N-Not everyone is gonna get it right, but it's our only defense against natural magical anomalies like monsters or fire storms or dragons. That's why magi exist. It's a thankless job, but we do the dangerous stuff because it's **necessary**. We take the risks, and most of the time it's just us getting hurt, you should ask my friend Kakkay. But it's better that **someone** is willing to, than everyone else just stumbling onto magic and getting hurt.

LINUS

Proposition example: Magi play **Minesweeper** as practice for higher stake games of **Minesweeper**. Error. Collateral for losing may include themselves. Logic Error. Dead Magi cannot protect Hearth. Resolving. Birth rate and population. Resolving. Galvanic Anode.

(MORE)

LINUS (CONT'D)

Query, **Udo**: Magi kill themselves in the pursuit of safety. Elaborate.

UDO

Yes... No... What?

LINUS

The nature of Magi is **sacrificial**, correct?

UDO

I guess? Though most of us try to avoid the dying part.

LINUS

And the reason for **sorcerers** using magic?

UDO

.....uh you got me there.

LINUS

Variable processing... Result: **inconclusive**.

UDO

(scared)
Crumps.

LINUS

I will extract more **ether** to process the remainder of the equation.

UDO

Bu-but you wanted to know why people did magic, and you got a really good reason! Isn't that enough?

LINUS

Alternate conclusion for proposition example: high level **Minesweeper** is based primarily on **luck**. The surest way to prevent collateral is: not to play. Ether expenditure at **Thirty** percent.

The tubes continue to drain.

UDO

Tubes still in back! Still painful!

INT. LIGHTNING SPIRE CHAMBER OF TEMPTATION, NIGHT.

Thunder rumbles in the distance. Mail walks toward the next trial.

MAGUS ELGAR

We're coming up to the next trial. Be vigilant everyone.. Kaylee you look concerned.

KAYLEE

Something doesn't feel right about all this, Magus. Why did Victus tell us where he's working?

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh you know those villainous types, always making taunts and such, I thought you'd be happy to see that.

KAYLEE

This feels different. Doctor, did you bring the radio?

HORATIO

I didn't think we could risk Victus using it to find more stamps. I did bring the scalpel. But I want to avoid using it unless we **absolutely** have to, I don't want to drop a tower on our heads.

KAYLEE

All right, guess we're stuck going forward. Right, door blocking the way. It looks like there's an etching of a gem over the handles, does that sound familiar Magus?

MAGUS ELGAR

Ooh, an oldie but goodie! It's a chamber of temptation! On the other side of the doors lies a **Cubus orb**. It summons a simulacrum of your greatest desire. Only those who went for nothing, or are strong willed enough, can walk through unscathed.

HORATIO

All right. I suppose I can go in.

KAYLEE

Are you sure doctor?

HORATIO

I'm not magically inclined, so I
suppose that will give me a boon.

MAGUS ELGAR

A valid hypo-thesis, doctor. Do
your thing!

Door opens.

HORATIO

Oh no... Oh. No! It's impossible
it's... it's!

KAYLEE

Watch it be coffee.

HORATIO

Not just any coffee, Indonesian
civet Kopi luwak coffee!
(verge of tears)
With home baked biscuits!

COFFEE

Come to me Horatio, sleep is for
the weak and sane. Stay with me,
stay awake forever.

MAGUS ELGAR

Resist, Doctor! It's just in your
head!

HORATIO

I can smell it from here! It's
impossibly good! Give it to me!
Give it to me!

COFFEE

Drink me Horatio, you need me to
science.

MAGUS ELGAR

Don't do it doctor! Just say no!

KAYLEE

Pull him back!

KAKKAY

Eeep!

HORATIO

Get your hands off me! Daddy needs
his buzz! Goodbye night terrors!
(MORE)

HORATIO (CONT'D)

Goodbye dying every night only to
wake anew! Berkley be damned! Hello
god of consciousness! Embrace me in
your caffeinated pools of wisdom!

All of them fight until horatio is pulled back.

COFFEE

Nooooooooo!

KAYLEE

Snap out of it!

Kaylee slaps horatio.

HORATIO

I'm all right. Sorry about that, I
was weak...

MAGUS ELGAR

You couldn't have helped it. If
you'd stayed there long enough that
Cubus orb would have fed you coffee
until you withered away. Trust me,
your bladder couldn't persevere.

KAYLEE

So what do we do?

MAGUS ELGAR

We have to make it try to grant a
desire it couldn't possibly succeed
at! But what... Ah! I've got it!

Kakkay is gripped.

KAKKAY

Urk?

MAGUS ELGAR

Tally ho!

HORATIO

Kakkay no!

KAYLEE

Kakkay no!

Kakkay is hurled into the room. sounds of churning and
horrible noises can be heard as magus slams the door.

KAYLEE (CONT'D)

What did kakkay summon?!

MAGUS ELGAR

Give it a minute.

Horrible howling and roaring can be heard until the door shudders to a stop.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)
Right, that should do it.

Elgar opens the door. Kakkay walks back in, unharmed.

MAGUS ELGAR (CONT'D)
Kakkay? Are you all right?

KAKKAY
(frustrated.)
Meep.

MAGUS ELGAR
Alas, not even a cubus orb could grant a Repika its death, Kakkay, I'm sorry.

KAKKAY
Meh.

HORATIO
Your lucidity is starting to frighten me.

MAGUS ELGAR
Yes I seem to be flowing rather nicely don't you think?

INT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE LABORATORY, NIGHT

UDO
Ow. Ow. ow. Please, **stop!** At this rate I'll have nothing left!

LINUS
Dispensing words of reassurance. Status of subject: basic motor functions remain intact. You will be: **fine.**

UDO
But I like advanced motor functions, they make me special!

LINUS
Hints & Tips: **relax**, you will feel only slight discomfort, followed by all encompassing numbness, followed by expiration.

UDO

Elements, so this is how I'm going to die? Drained out by a stamp through a loopy straw. Got to say, surprisingly high on the list of weird ways magic could have killed me. Gored by dragon. Plummeted to death in space whale tower. Devoured by fungal gel. Glad my life flashing before my eyes is just near death experiences. I only wish I finished learning how to be a magus. Wait. **Nngh...** Linus! Why are you draining more ether?! You've had plenty since we started talking!

LINUS

Current predictive permutations based on data analysis are: **inconclusive**. I require additional computational capacity to process an acceptable solution.

UDO

You're already smart enough to question why, you don't need more ether to figure this out! Nnnh... Magi are just doing the same thing you are, trying to learn more!

LINUS

Elaborate.

UDO

Science and magic, **nngh**, they're two sides of a coin. In magic, casting is how we **understand** the world. Just like the scientists' experiments. It's just like your... computations.

The machine whirrs down.

UDO (CONT'D)

Didn't you say yourself that it's illogical to destroy something you don't understand?

LINUS

Correct.

UDO

Well magi might have an impact on the world, but what about you? You're more than a tool, that means you're part of the equation too. You should figure out where **you** fit in to all this. Nng.. Victus says the way to make the world safer is to remove all spell casters, but aren't there better ways to keep **everyone** safe? Aren't there better ways **you** could solve the problem?

LINUS

...Calculation complete.
Disengaging **Udo** supply from primary banks.

UDO

Oh thank the elements you-**Ahh!** Why is it **more** painful coming out?!

The door opens.

VICTUS

Excellent. The Living Intelligence Nexus has finished! You survived, Udo? Unexpected, but a test subject for the next stage is always appreciated. Now, **Linus**, tell me the answer to the equation. How do we remove magic from every spell caster in Hearth?

LINUS

I **want** to be a magus.

VICTUS

...excuse me?

LINUS

I would **like** to learn magic.
Solution: I will become a **magus**.
Logical inconsistency one: Magi are mortal, death by magic and necessary study of magic are incompatible. Linus is not mortal.
Inconsistency resolved. Logical inconsistency two: experimentation leads to high risk of collateral damage near social areas. Linus does not require proximity to living subjects.

(MORE)

LINUS (CONT'D)

Risk of collateral acceptably minimal. Inconsistency resolved

VICTUS

No. **No!** This is the opposite of what I asked for, **machine!** I want my spell! I want my answer! You will do as I say! Why would you want to be a magus?! **Why?!**

LINUS

Magic is complicated, by its nature it is hard to understand. Malaaki, Udo states: understanding magic leads to understanding one's position in existence. In conclusion: the predicates of magic derive existential quantifiers. I **wish** to discover the existential quantifiers of **myself**.

VICTUS

No one can be trusted with magic! Magi focus on their selfish needs, their own petty squabbles, and they leave everyone else broken in their wake! Don't listen to this **naive** boy! You want know who you are? We'll learn after we stop these murderers! **After** we find a way to stop all magic in Hearth.

UDO

Victus... Toley. You didn't deserve what happened to you **or** Obinstead. I know magi hurt you, I can't change that... Not everyone can handle magic responsibly. But that doesn't mean **nobody** should, or that it can't be used for good.

VICTUS

Don't try to feign sympathy with me! If I can't remove your magic humanely, then I'll have to rip apart every last spell caster till there's no one left.

The gyroscope warms up.

VICTUS (CONT'D)

Starting with **you**.

UDO
Linus... I need a favor.

LINUS
Yes Udo?

UDO
I need a tube in my back.

LINUS
Intention understood. Inserting
tube.

Sound of a tube sticking into udo's back.

UDO
Grr... Ow.

VICTUS
What? You want more ether drained?
My euthanizing will be just as
quick.

UDO
Linus isn't draining me, she's
giving me a totem.

VICTUS
(chuckles)
So you've decided to make this
difficult, **fine**.

UDO
Krall Ignosti!

VICTUS
Gyroscope!

A powerful spell launches from udo's hand. Victus tries to
counter with the gravity from the gyroscope.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. LIGHTNING SPIRE CHAMBER OF BUREAUCROMANCY, NIGHT.

Muffled yelling can be heard on the other side of a sealed
door.

MAGUS ELGAR
I can hear Udo on the other side of
the door! He must be fighting
Victus!

HORATIO

All that's left is the final trial.
What is this... The chamber of
Bureaucromancy? What's that?

KAYLEE

Y-Uhg! You can't just put whatever
you want in front of 'mancy' and
call it magic! That's just stupid!

MAGUS ELGAR

Well it looks like we have to
properly file out this paperwork to
get through. Blasted legalese! I
can't even understand half of this!
Come on, we have to fill each of
these out in triplicate, if we work
together we can get it done in
time!

MINISTER TRIKE

Not so fast!

HORATIO

Minister Trike!

KAYLEE

You're exclaiming a lot lately.

HORATIO

I have been haven't I?

MAGUS ELGAR

You too Trike?!

MINISTER TRIKE

Yes! Me too! Us two!

GAAT

Here to arrest you!

MINISTER TRIKE

Not bad, Gaat!

MAGUS ELGAR

How did you find us so quickly?

GAAT

That nice guy that explains things
told us.

KAYLEE

(sigh)

Figured that would bite us in the butt at some point.

MINISTER TRIKE

That's far enough, Magus Elgar. It's long past time you were punished for everything you've done! All the humiliation, all the law breaking! Hold out your hands so that I may cuff them harshly!

MAGUS ELGAR

Okay.

MINISTER TRIKE

...what? You're not going to fight?

MAGUS ELGAR

No. I only ask for one thing, let us save Udo from Victus first. I'll see the error of my ways and say 'well done sir. You've caught me.' but think of how much more you could gain here. With our help you could arrest an even bigger magical criminal.

HORATIO

Magus. Are you sure about this?

MAGUS ELGAR

Absolutely not. I'm hemorrhaging terribly, but the damaged state of my dragonbone plate is giving me a moment of bizarre lucidity before I likely collapse drooling. Right now my apprentice is fighting for his life with the little he's been able to learn from my teaching. I was given responsibility over his well being. So, please, let me save him. Trust me.

MINISTER TRIKE

Trust **you** to capture Victus? Never! You're both probably going to trick me at the last minute... **again**. I'm not falling for it!

GAAT

Sir? Let's help him.

MINISTER TRIKE

What? Never!

GAAT

Sir. Listen, I dunno much about much. But if there's a thing I do get, is being a dad. It don't make a lot of sense, but you do stupid things when you care about someone you care about. Trust me, I think he'll keep to his word.

MINISTER TRIKE

Well... *sigh* who am I to deny my most loyal bodyguard?

MAGUS ELGAR

Thank you Trike. You're a
(choking on words)
Competent bureaucrat,
(regular voice)
we need help filling out these forms to get through this door.

MINISTER TRIKE

Don't think we're friends magus, I'm arresting you the moment we take care of this. Now let's see... ah, this phrase looks familiar. Gaat? Pre-filled Form 37B.

GAAT

English, Fretalian or Germish?

MINISTER TRIKE

English.

GAAT

37B, here.

HORATIO

You already have that filled out?!

MINISTER TRIKE

Believe it or not, I'm actually a decent bureaucrat. It's just that no one trusts me because I'm exultantly greedy.

HORATIO

And here I thought you weren't self aware.

MAGUS ELGAR

Now! To rescue our man-sel in
misery! We're coming Udo!

INT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE LABORATORY, NIGHT

A spell crackles through the air. Victus shrugs it off with
his own counter.

VICTUS

Not bad, acolyte. Using the stamp
as a totem is clever, but reckless!
Hngh!

Udo is tossed to the side.

UDO

Throttali arrestus! Not as much as
you'd think. With my ether powering
part of the totem, Linus is attuned
to me. And if you want to stop me,
you'll have to down me, or destroy
Linus. Either way I just have to
hold back long enough for the magus
to get here.

VICTUS

I wouldn't put your faith in the
good magus. **Sanguinem in me!**

EXT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE ROOF, NIGHT

The storm is raging as electricity is pulsing in the air.
Mail, Trike and Gaat yell as they slam through the door!
their yelling trails off when they realize only boltus is on
the top floor.

MINISTER TRIKE

Where's Udo? Who's this?!

MAGUS ELGAR

It's Magus Boltus! But he's tied
up.

KAYLEE

I thought he was working **for**
Victus.

The group unties boltus.

BOLTUS

Oh thank the Elements you're here!
Victus tied me up to the lightning
rod totemless!

HORATIO

Why were you screaming?

BOLTUS

I was being hit by lightning!

MINISTER TRIKE

You're a lightning magus!

BOLTUS

I take pride in my work, thank you.

MAGUS ELGAR

Enough! Where's Udo?!

BOLTUS

He's definitely not up here.

KAYLEE

He... Victus **lied** to us?!

HORATIO

Why are you surprised?

KAYLEE

Because he's doing this completely
wrong! Why even bother taunting
us?!

MAGUS ELGAR

Where else in the tower could he
be?

KAYLEE

Of course! He's afraid of heights!
He'd **never** be up here! Boltus!
Where's Victus experimenting? Talk
or I throw you off!

BOLTUS

The basement! I put Victus' lab in
the basement!

MAGUS ELGAR

We'll never get down there in time.

KAYLEE

We'll have to voop down there!

MINISTER TRIKE

But you don't have a totem!

KAYLEE

I'm willing to take the risk! Udo needs us, we're vooping!

MAGUS ELGAR

Heh, vooping. I mean, you've never been down there, Kaylee. You might teleport us into the tower wall, and there's no telling what security will be like going down.

BOLTUS

Tons, I can assure you!

GAAT

Whatever you need, Magus. Just say the word.

HORATIO

I have an idea. Magus, teleporting can work accurately as long as you have line of sight, right?

MAGUS ELGAR

Pretty much...

HORATIO

I can use the scalpel and cut a hole in the floor, I'll get to the bottom.

MINISTER TRIKE

And break every bone in your body from the fall? It's 200 feet!

HORATIO

Kakkay. I've always... found you disgusting. But are you willing to make the-

Kakkay gives an annoyed trill and grabs the scalpel.

HORATIO (CONT'D)

-Oh good, you get it.

Kakkay cuts a hole in the floor with the scalpel.

KAKKAY

(falling through hole)

E-eeeeep!

INT. THE LIGHTNING SPIRE LABORATORY, NIGHT

Udo hits the floor, coughing. Scrambling back.

VICTUS

You still **cling** to your trust in Magus Elgar, after all you've heard. After all he's done to you. You're beaten, battered, what has he ever taught you that you didn't have to learn on your own?

Udo slowly stands up.

UDO

Well he did teach me one thing that you don't have.

VICTUS

No. You're not getting a counter in. **Gyroscope!**

Udo is tossed across the room. he still gets back up.

UDO

It's a flair for the dramatic. **Gale Dramatis Maxium!**

VICTUS

Gale what- My gyroscope!

Wind sounds! The gyroscope clatters onto the floor.

UDO

Throttali Celero!

VICTUS

You- **Augh!**

The sound of porcelain cracks as Victus hits the floor.

VICTUS (CONT'D)

My mask! You broke my mask!

UDO

That means no more casting from you.

The ceiling is cut open by the scalpel as kakkay slams down onto the floor.

KAKKAY

Me-meeep! (ta da!) Hssssss!

Kakkay scratches and yowls.

VICTUS

Ahh! Again with the face!

UDO

Kakkay! Oh! Oh I could kiss you!
No, no I **couldn't** do that... I'd
burn my lips off. Where's everyone
else? Why are you holding the-

Voop! Everyone teleports in.

GAAT

Haa.. That one winked at me.

KAYLEE

Owww ow-ow-ow! Stupid spellscar!
Ooh it looks like an eyeball!
Painfully cool.

UDO

Magus! Everyone! You came for me!

MAGUS ELGAR

Udo! Thank goodness you're all
right it- are you using a stamp as
a totem?!

KAYLEE

Oh hi Linus! I was worried you got
blown up, but a stamp is just as
good.

LINUS

Hello user: Kaylee.

KAYLEE

Are you with Victus or with Udo?

LINUS

The latter.

KAYLEE

Oh cool! I won't have to kill you
then!

MINISTER TRIKE

Victus! Your come-uppance has
arrived at the hands of Minister
Trike! Maybe now you'll learn not
to **slight** me!

VICTUS

I should have known you were more trouble than you were worth.

MAGUS ELGAR

Give up, Victus! You're without stamp and totem, and you've three magi, a sorcerer...ish, a bodyguard and a disgruntled scientist surrounding you. Surrender!

VICTUS

You idiots still think you're the heroes of this story?

MAGUS ELGAR

Woah woah! Hold on. Let me be perfectly clear: there has been **no** point in all of this where we said we were heroes! We're **civil servants...** at best!

VICTUS

None of you understand! Magic will always lead this **this** insanity. I don't need a stamp or a totem to kill you. If I have to sacrifice my body to do what's necessary.

Victus begins charging with energy.

VICTUS (CONT'D)

(demonic voice)

So be it! **Gloria tunde!**

Explosion! Udo is knocked back.

UDO

Nnhh. That's everything I had... Keep him away from the tubes!

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh. Is he going to use your ether to- Victus it doesn't work like that!

VICTUS

(demonic voice)

Parte Fulminis!

MAGUS ELGAR

Kaylee! Shield!

KAYLEE
(demonic voice)
Contego intego!

Lightning sparks across the room. Everyone takes cover behind Kaylee.

GAAT
I thought magi can't cast without totems!

MAGUS ELGAR
We can! We just go crazy and fall into sorcery if we do too much!

UDO
Magus? I can't reach Linus! We have to stop him or he'll take the whole place down!

KAYLEE
(demonic voice)
We have to do **something!** I can't hit him and protect you squishy blood sacks at the same time!

VICTUS
Dic Manducare!

MINISTER TRIKE
Furnaci! You think you were going to get all the fun?!

Spells fly as everyone holds in cover. Kaylee and victus are equally matched, now that trike is helping her.

LINUS
User Victus interfaced. Warning, ether reserves overcharged.

VICTUS
(demon voice)
I've worked tirelessly to prepare this spell, I regret you've forced me to use it. **Conficiens communi!**

A portal opens, creatures growl from beyond.

MINISTER TRIKE
High elements! Are those **eyes?!**

UDO

He's opening a portal to the Unblinking!

HORATIO

You think?! Magus! We have to separate him from the stamp!

MAGUS ELGAR

Without my focusing gem I can't repulse him! I **do** have a lethal option though.

MINISTER TRIKE

He's going to kill everyone! You have my permission!

UDO

No! Don't!

MAGUS ELGAR

I'm sorry Udo, but I'm out of options. Kakkay, **scalpel**.

KAKKAY

Meeple!

MAGUS ELGAR

Victus?! I don't like having to resort to a stamp to stop you, but in this case, I'll go out on a **limb!**

Slash! victus's arm is cut clean off.

VICTUS

Ahhhhh! My arm! You cut off my arm!

The unblinking reaches out for victus.

VICTUS (CONT'D)

Stay back! Stop it! They're the ones you want!

KAYLEE

(demonic voice)

Oh Victus. Consider this your evictus notice!

VICTUS

...Just kick me in.

Kaylee kicks him in.

VICTUS (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhhgggh!

The unblinking claims victus, but continues to swell with power.

KAYLEE
(demonic voice)
Why isn't the portal closing?!

MAGUS ELGAR
You need to counter it somehow!

KAYLEE
(demonic voice)
How?! Preferably before the magic backlash turns you into delicious delicious paste.

MINISTER TRIKE
The Unblinking's all about observing interesting things, right?! What's the opposite of being interesting?!

MAGUS ELGAR
Kaylee! Repeat after me! Ego Sum Etiam Amet!

KAYLEE
(demonid voice)
Ego Sum Etiam Amet! Ghhaah!

The portal closes.

HORATIO
We did it! Kaylee! You did it!

KAYLEE
I am so glad I didn't get tattoos in high school. **Owww** this hurts worse than the headache and
(demonic voice)
blinding bloodlust!
(normal voice)
Nono! Got it! Perfectly fine!
Peaches and gravy!

UDO
Toley... All he wanted was to keep magic users from hurting others.

MAGUS ELGAR

The man was consumed by revenge,
Udo.

UDO

I'm not so sure. He was right about
one thing. We magi are more
reckless than we should be.

MAGUS ELGAR

Well if you feel that way, you can
always improve the magi for the
better. Just because the wisdom
came from someone you don't
completely agree with, doesn't make
it any less valid.

UDO

Thank you all for coming to save
me. Also... Trike, I didn't see
that one coming.

MAGUS ELGAR

Well a deal's a deal. I'm ready to
come quietly... Trike?

MINISTER TRIKE

After deliberation, in service to
the council... I'm willing to
dispense a ten second head start.

MAGUS ELGAR

...a head start? That's very
generous of you, minister. Despite
our differences, perhaps one day we
could see eye to eye after all...
and on that day I would be honored
to call you **friend**.

Clack! magus elgar is handcuffed.

MINISTER TRIKE

And your ten seconds are up, you
idiot. My generosity only goes so
far.

MAGUS ELGAR

Oh... Well, see you later everyone!

EVERYONE

Bye! See you! *various goodbyes*

UDO

Is he going to be okay in prison?

KAYLEE

He'll be okay. But there's a few things we have to handle first... like, inventing aspirin for one...

LINUS

I would **like** to commence learning magic. Will you be my **mentor**, Udo?

UDO

I'm not quite ready for that kind of responsibility, Linus. But I think I know someone who is.

INT. MAGUS SAGARI'S TOWER, DAY.

Several days later.

LINUS

Greetings. I am **apprentice** Linus. The first step of dealing with dissenting magi is: **conflagration**. If unsuccessful, the second step is: **negotiation**. I shall endeavor to remedy this clear fallacy.

MAGUS SAGARI

Well done, apprentice! You're taking this to heart nicely!

UDO

I'm sure she'll be able to figure out the no legs problem in no time.

KAYLEE

I'm sure she will. You do you, computer. Maybe if we ever get back I can get you a software update, there's a new OS out.

LINUS

Please, no.

MAGUS SAGARI

Linus told me it was quite an adventure you all had. Is Magus Boltus okay? I must say I somewhat miss navigating the thunder clouds above his tower.

UDO

He's on trial for conspiracy to kill magi, he wasn't thrilled when he found out that was Victus' plan all along. Though he **was** pretty pleased to find out he could endure so much electricity.

HORATIO

If by pleased you mean he couldn't stop cackling.

MAGUS SAGARI

Did Magus Elgar get his dragonbone plate cared for?

KAYLEE

Yeah, I extracted the focusing crystal for him, and Udo helped replace and attune it before he went to prison. He told me to throw it out, but I have a few ideas on what to do with it.

UDO

Dad's gonna be okay too, wanted to throw another party after the rescue. But I said it wouldn't be the same without the Magus there to chug absinthe.

HORATIO

Well, now we know Linus hasn't HAL9000'd the flying whale tower, we really should be getting back I'm afraid.

LINUS

I can assure you, Doctor, that any failure of the tower could only be attributable to human error.

HORATIO

Stop that. Magus Elgar's appeal should be coming up, and we still need him to find a way home.

KAYLEE

Also I'm hoping trike will rescind the fines for all my casting. Petty penny pincher...

MAGUS SAGARI

Of course, I understand. Stop by any time!

KAYLEE

Linus seems to be doing pretty well.

UDO

It's a good thing. We were worried that being inanimate would prevent her from casting magic, but that just seems to motivate her more.

HORATIO

What are we going to do about the magus though?

UDO

He'll be fine, Trike's stupid magic restrictions wont hold up forever and we did take down a nationally wanted murderer. We just have to work at disarming the rest of the stamps and getting you two back home.

HORATIO

I've been thinking about making this a regular visit once we get back. Start a discourse learning about the differences in science and magic, maybe even find other worlds adjacent to Earth... Garth or Urf or somewhere.

UDO

That's a good idea. And the more we know will help us figure out what we're gonna do with all the stamps, if they don't go back to normal when you take them home.

KAKKAY

Meep!

UDO

We're not letting you eat them.

KAKKAY

whiine.

NARRATOR

And so ends a grand chapter in the adventures of Magus Elgar and his friends. What will become of their bonds? Will they ever settle happily into routine? Will they continue the adventures of Mail walking off into the sunset? One thing is for certain, there will always be a story to tell in the world of Hearth!

PUNCH.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Oof!

KAYLEE

That's for snitching on us to Trike!

NARRATOR

(strained)

Ta ta, for now.

EXT. THE UNBLINKING, UNKNOWN

Epilogue. Victus floats helplessly in the void.

VICTUS

I've failed. Cursed to float endlessly in this void of eyes. Mother, father, Janine, Obinstead I'm sorry. I did my best, but you'll have to wait just a bit longer... I'll survive this. I have to.

UNBLINKING

Some... One... **New.**

VICTUS

Huh? Who said that?

UNBLINKING

Someone new! **Someone new!**

VICTUS

No! What are you doing?! Get out! Get out of my head! Stop it! Let go! **Aaaaaaagh!**

END OF SEASON 1