

**AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. WHEN THREE FRIENDS UNITED TO SAVE THE EARTH, BEFORE GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. ON THAT DAY, E.G.G. ENDED. OR DID IT?**



**-EPISODE 107-**

**AND LO! HERE COMES MADAME WEB!**

Eileen led Josh and Acacia through the Helicarrier, both of whom were wearing S.H.I.E.L.D. visitor lanyards. They entered into a lab, where Whitney Frost was in a lab coat and goggles working intently on a strange golden object.

“Frost!” Eileen called. Whitney lifted her goggles and smiled.

“Eileen!” She rushed over and hugged her. “Who’ve you brought with you?”

“My two best friends, Josh Westbrook, and Acacia Blanco.” Eileen introduced.

“So you’re like, actually Whitney Frost?” Josh asked, shaking her hand.

“In the flesh honey.” She replied.

“I don’t get it, how are you an actress and secretly a S.H.I.E.L.D. scientist?”

“It’s called pure talent.” She confidently replied.

“Hi Whitney!” Acacia excitedly greeted. “You’re like, my favorite actress! I watch all of your movies!”

“Oh, good to have a fan.” She replied with a smile.

“I was, um, particularly fond of *that* scene in Beyond Exposure.”

“Oh, uh... thank you?” Whitney unsurely replied. Eileen smirked, leaned over and whispered in Whitney’s ear. “Oh!” Whitney blushed. “Well, um... Oh look, now you’ve got me all flustered!”

Acacia winked and walked off.

“Wait, what was the name of the movie?” Josh asked. “For... research purposes?”

“Anyways.” Eileen said, ignoring him. “I brought you guys here to see what me and Whitney have been working on since I rejoined S.H.I.E.L.D.”

“Um, that’s how long *you’ve* been working on it Eileen.” Whitney corrected. “This is my life’s work!” She picked up the object. It seemed to be a golden metal mask, similar to an opera mask, but completely blank, with no holes for the eyes or mouth.

“It’s a mask?” Josh asked.

“It’s so much more complex than that.” Whitney replied. “This mask is meant to integrate with any form of technology it comes across. Get down to the codes and circuits, manipulate tech at its core!”

“Eileen can do that with her Extremis powers.” Acacia noted.

“Exactly!” Whitney exclaimed. “I had hit a dead end until I met Eileen. Analyzing her abilities gave me the breakthrough I needed to finish the mask!”

“Hm.” Josh scoffed. “That sounds an awful lot like what Maya Hansen was doing!”

“That woman strapped me to a table and drained me dry!” Eileen cried. “Whitney properly studies and examines my abilities, and only takes small amounts of blood when absolutely necessary!”

“Psh, I’m just sayin’...” Josh said.

“So does it work?” Acacia asked.

“Not quite yet.” Whitney admitted. “Though, I’m getting close.” She placed the mask on her face, and it beeped.

“How can you see?” Josh asked, waving in front of her face.

“The mask maps out a VR overlay of the environment,” Whitney explained. “So I see the same things you do, though my HUD displays any manipulatable technology in the vicinity. Since it’s neurally linked, the process is almost... technopathic.” She held out her hand, and Josh’s phone began to buzz.

“What the...” He looked at it. The screen unlocked and the phone started scrolling through apps. “That’s incredible...” Josh said.

“It’s about the most I can do. I can also turn off the lights.” Whitney said, taking off the mask. “But once I’ve finished, this will change the world.”

“For the better I hope.” Acacia said.

“There are safeguards in the mask to prevent unauthorized use if you’re worried about supervillains getting a hold of it Acacia.” Whitney reassured.

“That does make me feel better.” Acacia replied.

“I can’t wait until it’s finished.” Eileen exclaimed. “My powers were able to lift Mother Egg back into sky, think of all the people we could help if first responders had this kind of tech.”

“It is impressive.” Josh admitted. “So what are you doing wasting your time here?”

“Excuse me?” Whitney asked.

“E.G.G. has so many more resources you can take advantage of! We’ll give you your own lab, Eileen will be there 24/7, we even have an unlimited supply of Pop Tarts! Come on Frost, you know want to!”

“Thank you for the offer.” She said. “But I think my talents are of best use here at S.H.I.E.L.D.”

“You’d rather be Fury’s errand boy than have the autonomy E.G.G. offers!” Josh shook his head.  
“Psh, I thought you said she was smart Eileen.” Suddenly Whitney seized Josh by the collar and slammed him against the wall.

“Do NOT demean my intelligence!” She growled.

“Hey!” Acacia cried.

“Whitney!” Eileen exclaimed, grabbing her arm. “Chill.”

“I’m sorry!” Josh apologized. “Truly, I-I didn’t mean any disrespect... it was just a bad joke...”  
Whitney let go of Josh.

“No, I’m sorry.” She replied. “It’s just... I worked very hard to earn my position. Coming up in the science world, as a woman, and an actress... No one took me seriously. ‘You’re lucky you’re pretty’ they’d say. ‘Stick to the movies sweetheart’ they’d say. I had to prove everyone wrong.”

“Well you did, and you should be proud.” Josh said. “You’ve invented something I don’t think any of us could have come up with.”

“Thank you.” Whitney said. “Now if you’ll all excuse, I’ve got to get back to work.”

“Of course.” Eileen said. The three exited the lab. “Josh, is it time to meet that girl yet?”

“You mean Madame Web!” Josh exclaimed.

“What the shell kind of name is Madame Web?” Acacia asked.

“Shut up Acacia. And she should be back at Egg Base now!”

“Joshua Daniel Westbrook.” Josh turned and saw Nick Fury. “A word.”

“Shock it all...” Josh swore. Eileen shrugged and took Acacia’s hand.

“Let’s let Josh get his chewing out in private.” She suggested.

“Don’t leave me!” Josh begged, as Eileen and Acacia rushed off. Josh gulped and turned back to Fury. “Yes, Director Fury?” Josh asked.

“Been a while.” He said.

“Yep.” Josh replied.

“What you been up to?”

“I, uh, I’m a phone salesman for Roxxon.”

“Phone salesman?”

“Yep. Roxberry 5.0. Want one?”

“My S.H.I.E.L.D. issued sat phone will do, thank you.”

“Right...” Fury stared at Josh for a few more awkward seconds. “So...”

“I know you’ve restarted E.G.G.” Fury stated. Josh froze.

“What? E.G.G? No way!” Josh poorly lied. “What would give you that idea?”

“You’re hanging out with Eileen and Acacia again.”

“We’re friends, it’s been a while, we hung out.”

“Agent Johnson reported that you broke into the Triskelion to steal Jocasta.”

“The kid missed her.”

“Fire in the Financial District.”

“Didn’t the fire department take care of that?”

“Agent Rice has gone missing.”

“Sounds like a you problem.”

“Your trip to the Savage Lands.”

“Roxxon Maps App. Told me to take a left on the 60, ended up in Antarctica.”

“Assault on Senator Kelly and the Purifiers.”

“He’s a racist a-hole, he deserved to go down!”

“Agent Brand reported a confrontation with you aboard a Skrull craft in Earth’s atmosphere.”

“Well you said it yourself Fury, Skrulls! Clearly one was posing as me.”

“You’re wearing an E.G.G. uniform.”

“I-” Josh looked down and noticed that he indeed was wearing an E.G.G. uniform. “Oh come on!”

“Where is it Westbrook?” Fury asked. “I want the location of your new HQ.”

“Why don’t you ask your S.H.I.E.L.D. issued sat phone!” Josh retorted. “I don’t answer to you anymore Fury! So unless you want to place an order for a commission, I think we’re done here!”

Fury scoffed.

“Yeah okay.” He said, turning. He looked back. “But I’ve got my eye on you.”

“Why is that so scary when he says it?” Josh mumbled to himself.

On the other side of the Helicarrier, Eileen knocked on Carrie’s bunk door. Carrie pressed the button and it slid open.

“Hey!” Eileen greeted.

“Hey Eileen.” Carrie replied in a raspy voice. Eileen noticed a scar across her neck.

“Oh my goodness! Carrie, what happened!?” She asked.

“Long story. I’m okay.” Carrie reassured, sitting on her bed. “Just a few weeks mandatory bedrest. And a lot of yogurt.”

“I’m sorry I wasn’t there.” Eileen sadly replied, sitting next to her.

“It’s fine, really, I’m an Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. I know the risks.” Eileen smiled.

“You’re a long way from Sparkle.” She noted.

“I like Glimmer now.” She replied. “Is that too extra?”

“I think it’s just enough.” Eileen warmly replied, hugging her.

“You should see my new super suit.” She said. “I mean, Hammer made it, but...”

“Wait, Justin Hammer?” Eileen asked.

“Yeah, he makes all kinds of stuff for S.H.I.E.L.D... you didn’t know that?” Eileen inhaled through her nose.

“I did not.” She replied. “I put Hammer away years ago, I thought he was still in prison.”

“Maybe he got out for good behavior?” Carrie suggested.

"Maybe." Eileen replied, deep in thought.

"So... I wanted to ask you something... about Darkstream?"

"What about her?" Eileen asked. Carrie opened her mouth, then shook her head.

"Never mind, it can wait."

"Okay, well I'm gonna jet, but we'll definitely do lunch later this week. Cool?"

"Totes cool" Carrie replied, hugging Eileen. Eileen headed for the door.

"Get some rest. And eat your yogurt!"

"Okay mom!" Carrie sarcastically replied. Eileen laughed and met Acacia in the hall.

"Can we go?" Acacia asked. "I think Quartermain caught wind that I'm here and he totally doesn't know I'm gay now, so..."

"Alright, alright, we'll go." Eileen laughed. She headed back to the corridor she'd left Josh in and found him talking into his phone.

"Okay." The robotic voice from his phone said. "Here's what I found for: Is Whitney Frost rude and mean."

"No!" Josh exclaimed. "Whitney Frost nude scene!"

"Ahem." Eileen said.

"Ah! Eileen!" Josh cried.

"Okay." His phone replied. "Searching for: Nude scene, Eileen."

“No! NO! Abort!” Josh shouted, throwing his phone against the wall and shattering it. “Haha, technology, am I right?”

“Well, at least I can take solace in knowing that search won’t yield any results.” Eileen replied.

“Actually...” Acacia chimed in. “Since you’ve gone public with your identity, there’s been a significant amount of fan art that-”

“Shut up Acacia.” Eileen groaned.

“I’m just sayin’.” Acacia said. “Leave the Safe Search on in Deviant Art.”

“Can we go meet Madame Web now?” Josh asked.

“Sure.” Eileen said. She fiddled with her watch, and in a blue flash of light, the three were gone.

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Kyle stood outside of his apartment door.

“Okay.” He said to himself. “It’s just Sabrina. She’s your wife. You know her. You haven’t seen her in a while, but that’s okay...” He lifted his hand to knock.

“Nope, bad idea.” He convinced himself, turning to leave. He stopped. “No! I’m being stupid, calm down and knock on the shelling door!” He turned around and lifted his hand to knock.

“But what if Venom comes out? And Reyha! After the June incident... what if she’s still afraid? Nope, I can’t do this, I can’t...” Suddenly the door opened, and Sabrina was staring at Kyle.

“Hey...” He said.

“Hey...” She replied. “What, um, what are you doing out here?”

“... Doubting myself.”

“Oh, okay. Well you come in when you’re done with all that.” Sabrina slowly closed the door.

Kyle smiled.

“Look at me, acting like an idiot.” He walked into the house.

“Oh, hey hon.” Sabrina greeted, drying dishes. “You sure you don’t need an extra few minutes of brooding time? I know a great gargoyle you can perch on down on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.”

“No, I’m done with that.” He replied. “Hi Sabrina.”

“Hi Kyle.” Sabrina said, walking over and kissing him.

“Da-eee!” A small baby girl waddled around the corner and hugged Kyle’s leg. Kyle gasped.

“She... she remembers me?” He asked.

“More like I made sure she didn’t forget you.” Sabrina corrected. “Videos, pictures, stories. She knows who her daddy is.” Kyle wiped a tear away and picked her up.

“Hey Reyha!” He greeted. “Wanna play?”

“Yay!” She exclaimed, clapping. He put her down and she waddled off.

“She’s got plenty of toys.” Sabrina said. “Her favorite is that sad stuffed tiger.”

“That’s my sad stuffed tiger!” Kyle defended.

“Well maybe that’s why she loves it so much.” Sabrina replied with a smile. The oven suddenly beeped in a high-pitched tone.

“Grah!” Kyle growled, his face becoming Venomized.

“Hey! NO!” Sabrina yelled.

“Hunger!” Venom hissed. Sabrina grabbed a wooden spoon and smacked him. “Grah!”

“I said no!” She asserted. “I haven’t seen my husband in months! Give him back! NOW!”

“Never! We will devour-” Sabrina smacked him with the spoon again. “Ah! Stop your menial  
atta-” She smacked him again. “Gah! Stop it!”

“It stops when you give me Kyle back!” She smacked him three more times, Venom cowering in  
fear.

“Okay! Okay!” The Symbiote retreated into Kyle, just as Reyha came back around the corner  
with a worn-down, grey, barely stuffed tiger.

“Tyer!” She exclaimed, holding it up to him. He looked at Sabrina, who nodded.

“Okay, let’s play tiger!” Kyle said, taking it. “Rawr! I’m a ferocious tiger!”

“Ah!” Reyha playfully shrieked, running away while Kyle chased her. Sabrina smiled and pulled a  
fresh baked apple pie out of the oven.

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Josh walked into the lobby of Egg Base to find Cassandra sitting there.

“Hey, sorry to keep you waiting!” Josh greeted.

“It’s fine.” She reassured.

“Did you see? I got brail magazines for the waiting room!”

“No, Josh, I didn’t see the brail magazines.” She chuckled. Josh face palmed.

“Sorry.” He turned angrily to Jake. “And why didn’t Jake the loser lobby guy tell you that there were brail magazines!”

“Hm?” Jake said, looking up from his phone. “Oh, hey, there’s brail magazines over there.”

“You’re so fired.” Josh groaned.

“I’ll read them next time.” She replied. “So where are your friends?”

“Jake, can you handle letting us into the base?” Josh sarcastically asked.

“Haha, you’re hilarious.” Jake put 344 into the keypad and the door to Egg Base opened.

“Welcome to Egg Base!” Josh announced. “Just imagine, like, the coolest thing you’ve ever seen.”

“Got it.” Cassandra said with a thumbs up.

“Guys! She’s here!” Josh exclaimed. Eileen and Acacia approached.

“Hey, I’m Eileen.” Eileen greeted, shaking her hand.

“Imagine a dwarf with different colored eyes.” Josh whispered.

“Hey!” Eileen cried.

“I’m Acacia!” Acacia said, shaking hands. “Imagine the sexiest woman on the planet, then multiply that by 10.”

“You’re funny.” Cassandra laughed.

“She’s really not.” Josh disagreed. “Oh! Do the future thing with them!”

“What future thing?” Eileen asked.

“She can touch you and see your futures!” Josh exclaimed. “Show them!”

“Okay.” Casandra said, holding out her hands. “Who wants to go first?”

“I guess...” Eileen said, taking Cassandra’s hands. Cassandra’s eyes began to glow white. “Whoa, that’s cool.”

“Right?” Josh said. After a few seconds they went back to normal.

“Wow...” Cassandra said. She looked up at Eileen.

“What’d you see?” Eileen asked.

“You’re... very special.” Cassandra said.

“Ooh! Me! Do me!” Acacia exclaimed, grabbing her hands.

“Alright.” Cassandra’s eyes lit up once more. She went back to normal, then looked at Acacia with uncertainty.

“Well?” Acacia asked.

“Um... you’re special too...” She said.

“Come on! I wanna show you my Friendly Neighborhood App!” Josh led her away.

“Hey, you say Acacia’s your friend?” Cassandra asked.

“Yeah, she’s been my friend for years, why?” Josh replied. Cassandra looked back.

“What I saw... it wasn’t good.”

“Is she in trouble?” Josh asked.

“No, more like she is the trouble... you two were fighting.”

“I fight Acacia all the time, it’s usually over a taco.”

“Do you usually fight her in a suit of battle armor?” She asked. Josh paused.

“There’s probably a good explanation. Maybe we were training, or one of us was being mind controlled...”

“You were trying to kill each other. The animosity I sensed...”

“Listen Cassandra, I trust you, and I believe you, but I know Acacia. It’s probably not as bad as you think. I promise.”

“Okay, if you say so.”

“Well what about Eileen?” Josh asked. Cassandra just smiled.

“I’ll let you all see that one for yourselves.”

“Oh come on! I want spoilers!”

“She’s very special. That’s all I’m saying.”

“Boo.” Josh whined. Cassandra laughed as he opened the door to the Friendly Neighborhood Watch room. “Here’s my pride and joy!” He led her over to the chair, which now had a helmet attached to some wires coming from the ceiling.

“So Eileen called in some favors from the X-Men, and we got blueprints for their Cerebro tech! I’ve integrated it into my Friendly Neighborhood Watch app, and combined with your psychic abilities...”

“Blind superhero, you weren’t kidding.” Cassandra said.

“I told you we could use you! Now, Jocasta runs the Friendly Neighborhood app, but she cycles through the events in 1’s and 0’s, she’ll prioritize an Avengers level threat as opposed to say, someone nearby getting mugged in an ally. And that guy, the little guy, they need help too.”

“So you want me to run it with... heart?”

“Essentially. And you can see everything with this, help us in the field, alert us to dangers nearby, the ultimate Guy in the Chair! What do you say Cassandra? Are you ready to become Madame Web!”

Cassandra chuckled.

“You’re committed to that name, aren’t you?”

“I very much am.”

“Okay, I guess there’s no harm in trying.”

“Great!” He led her to the chair and sat her down, placing the helmet onto her head. “Comfy?”

“As I’ll ever be.”

“Okay then...” He flipped some switches and pulled some levers. “Friendly Neighborhood Watch app, online.” All of the screens around the room lit up with superhero events and crimes happening all over the world. “Alright, now...” He flipped a switch on Cassandra’s helmet, activating it. “Ready?”

“Hit it.” She said.

“Initiate Scan.” Josh ordered. The helmet surged, and Cassandra jolted upright, grasping the chair as her eyes began to glow a radiant white. “Cassandra? Are you okay?”

“I... see... everything...” She struggled to speak, as if she were under immense strain.

“Okay, I don’t like this, I’m pulling the pl-”

“AAAAHHHHHHH!!!!” Cassandra screamed. The helmet started sparking and screens began to blow out.

“Cassandra!” Josh cried. He grabbed and yanked the wires out of the back of the helmet, and Cassandra collapsed to the floor. Josh hurried to her side and pulled the helmet off, lifting her onto his lap.

“Hey! Cassandra! Talk to me!” He begged. She slowly opened her eyes, a small bit of blood trickling from her nose.

“Where... what happened?”

“Stupid!” Josh shouted. “I never should have put you in without testing it first! Maybe on a smaller scale... The search parameters were probably too wide, maybe a root overload? I am so, so sorry, if I hadn’t been so caught up in that stupid Madame Web thing I...”

“Josh.” Cassandra reached up and touched his cheek. “I’m okay.” Josh clutched her hand.

“You promise?”

“It was just a bit... much. But it worked. With practice, and a little fine tuning, I can use it to tap into the Web of Life and Destiny at will. I *can* be your Guy in the Chair. I can be Madame Web.”

Josh smiled.

“Okay. Good. That’s good. I just don’t want you to get hurt.”

“You could never hurt me. You’re my hero, remember?” She said with a smile. Josh laughed.

“Of course I do.” He said. He wiped the blood drop from her nose and sat her up against the wall, leaning against it himself. “I’m glad you agreed to join E.G.G.”

“Me too.” She said. They sat for a while. Josh looked at her.

“Why are you looking at me?” She asked.

“I’m not.”

“You are, I can feel it.”

“No way! How?”

“Everybody can feel when someone’s looking at them! And I feel you staring right at me. What is it?”

“Well.” Josh scooped closer to her. “I was just remembering how when you saw me in your vision you said I was cute.”

“Oh God.” She groaned, burying her face in her hands and flushing red. “I was hoping you’d forgotten that. It was so embarrassing.”

“Well, I mean, I was hoping for the opposite. That maybe we could... expand upon that.”

“Josh, you know that dating me would come with a lot of extra baggage than a normal girl, right?”

“Why settle for ‘normal’ when I can be with someone extraordinary!”

“I’m serious.”

“Me too.” Josh took her hand. “I don’t care if you’re blind. Honestly, two of my three girlfriends turned out to be evil and died, and my third one lived in Japan... and then she died. So compared to that, this’ll probably be easy.”

“I don’t know, I haven’t dated anyone in a long time...”

“Neither have I, not since I lost Chika. But, well... maybe it’s time for both of us to move forward, and try something new.”

Cassandra smiled, then laid her head on his shoulder.

“Okay then. Something new.”

“... You know, you could peek into the future. See how this turns out.”

“Nah.” She said. “I wanna discover the future together. With you.”

“Together it is then.”

## Epilogue

Kyle walked into Egg Base, as Josh and Cassandra were walking by, laughing with each other.

“Kyle!” Josh greeted. “How’s the wife and kid?”

“They’re good.” He replied. “I really needed that.”

“I’m glad it went well. So hey, I want you to meet Cassandra Webb!” Josh introduced.

“Hi there.” She said, holding out her hand.

“Pleasure to meet you.” Kyle shook her hand, and suddenly her eyes flashed white.

“Whoa, what’s happening?” Kyle asked.

“Oh, she’s psychic! Just watch, she’s gonna tell you your future! Although she usually asks permission first, so I’m not sure why...”

“Gyah!” She screamed, as she fell to the ground, breathing rapidly in a panicked sweat.

“Cassandra!” Josh cried, kneeling next to her.

“What’s wrong?” Kyle asked. “What did you see?” Cassandra looked up at him, an expression of fear across her face. Tears began to fall, as she uttered one word:

“Carnage.”