EPISODE 2

EXT. GÖBEKLI TEPE - DAWN

ATMO: WIND whips through an otherwise-quiet ancient archaeological site. Sounds of EARLY MORNING BIRDS.

SFX: Ethan's FOOTSTEPS crunch toward us (and Milo).

ETHAN

(approaching, in heaven)
Unreal! Did you see the carvings
on those megaliths?

MILO

You mean the big rocks?

ETHAN

Do you feel that?!

MILO

I feel nauseous...

ETHAN

The air is heavy. Like it's weighted with history. It's electric--

MILO

Well, this is a new Ethan.

Ethan ignores him.

ETHAN

We're in one of the oldest settlements in the world! Of course Dad would put a lab somewhere like this and not tell me...

MILO

Totally. He made the most incredible discovery in modern science, but his real goal was to spite you, Ethan-for-whom-the-sun-rises-and-sets. Can we stay on task? Dad's alive! We have to find him.

ETHAN

Minutes ago you dragged me into a mysterious portal against my will. Now we're a "we?"

MILO

And you got to see rocks. You clearly love rocks. So you're welcome.

ETHAN

That's the most reckless, disrespectful, smuq--

A distant, affected voice calls from within the lab:

ABIGAIL (O.S.)

(distorted)

Guys!

The brothers pause. Ethan calls back into the lab:

ETHAN

Abigail? You can hear us through that thing?

ABIGAIL (O.S.)

Yep. Very middle school vibes. Clock's ticking on that battery. You should jump back ASAP.

SFX: Milo's FOOTSTEPS in the dirt. The LAB DOOR opens and closes. Ethan grumbles irritably.

ETHAN

Milo, wait up!

SFX: we travel with Ethan's FOOTSTEPS as he enters the lab.

INT. ABANDONED STORAGE ROOM - DAWN

SFX: Milo rifles through DRAWERS and CABINETS, papers etc.

ETHAN

What are you doing?

MILO

Looking for a clue. Dad said we have to "find her."

ABIGAIL (V.O.)

There's no time.

ETHAN

(to Abigail)

Wow, this is crazy, Abs. I can see you sort of. Can you see me?

ABIGAIL (V.O.)

Yeah, you're blurry and sparkly, almost like--

IN A SEAMLESS TRANSITION, the distortion drops from Abigail's voice, signaling that we are with her in:

INT. STEINERT HALL - NIGHT

ATMO: Water drips in the abandoned, cavernous concert hall.

ABIGAIL

-- I'm on acid.

MILO (V.O.)

(through the Leyline)

A little help, Ethan?

SFX: Echoey FOOTSTEPS running down stairs, getting closer.

NOAH (O.S.)

Abby! Are you okay?

ABIGAIL

Oh, hey, yeah. False alarm.

NOAH

Oh. Where's Milo and Ethan?

ABIGAIL

Turkey. But they'll be back soon.

NOAH

Turkey? Like the country?

ABIGAIL

Yeah. They went through a Leyline. It's hard to explain. But everything's fine now. I think.

NOAH

So you don't need my help.

ABIGAIL

Um... not really. Oh wait! Did you drive here? I could use a jump. Milo drained my battery.

MILO (V.O.)

Ethan, come here! I think I--

BACK TO:

INT. ABANDONED STORAGE ROOM - DAWN

ATMO: Established lab sounds.

MILO

--found it! Look at this!

SFX: A PAPER exchanges hands.

ETHAN

A list of names. Compelling.

MILO

You don't recognize them? They're the people from MIT.

ETHAN

The ones Dad killed?

MILO

An explosion killed them, not Dad.

ETHAN

Right. Nothing's ever his fault. Anyway, they're dead, so what's to find?

MILO

Dad said "find her." Maybe the list has a clue.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)

Time's up. Set the frequency to 35.2846 megahertz and get jumping.

SFX: PUSH PACK POWERS UP. Frequency is dialed in and the Leyline opens.

MILO

Bring it in, big bro.

ETHAN

I get a choice this time?

They jump.

SFX: Traveling through a Leyline.

INT. STEINERT HALL - NIGHT

SFX: Ethan and Milo stumble out of the Leyline and into the wall with a thud. They hit the ground. Pained groans.

ABIGAIL

Welcome back.

NOAH

What the--

MILO

(put-on casual-ness)
Hey, Noah. Been a minute.

NOAH

(spooked)

Yeah...

ABIGAIL

So, what was it like? How do you feel? Where did you go? Tell me everything!

MILO

Uh, it was kind of like traveling through plasma, I feel like I have the bends, and it was an old, dirt room near these ruins in the middle of nowhere--

ETHAN

(weakly)

Göbekli Tepe.

ABIGAIL

Oooh, you don't look so hot, Ethan--

Ethan BARFS.

MILO

He used to get carsick too.

He turns to Noah, antagonizing:

MILO (CONT'D)

You're quiet, Noah. Nothing to say about my dumb hair or skinny legs?

ABIGAIL

High school's over, Milo. Let it go.

ETHAN

How 'bout we focus on the list?

MILO

So now you do want to find Dad?

ETHAN

If he was right, we should clear his name. Academia has been mocking him for years--

MILO

I see, and it's a hassle sharing a name with a quack pseudoscientist, right? Always about you...

ABIGAIL

Will you two stop? This is huge! Your dad might be alive, and you're bickering like children. Anyway... since we all want the same thing, why don't we head back to Casa Harbor and dig into the list together?

ETHAN MILO

Fine.

Fine.

ABIGAIL Babe? You're pale as a ghost.

NOAH

(snapping out of it)
I'm good.

They start to exit.

Oh.

MILO

I knew Dad wasn't dead.

ETHAN

Sure you did.

INT. HARBOR HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

SFX: Door opens.

HOME SECURITY SYSTEM VOICE (V.O.)

Welcome home, Dr. Harbor.

NOAH

Does that go off every time the door opens?

MILO

(underlined, at Ethan)
I've been the only one here for so long, so yeah. But Dad'll be home soon, so might as well leave it.

SFX: ROLLING of a standing white board. UNCAPPING of a marker and the SQUEAK of the marker writing words.

ABIGAIL

Okay. We can track attendee names on the white board— where they were from, what they had in common, family members... start with women, but don't rule out men. Maybe "her" was a wife or a sister. Get googling, folks.

MILO

(reading from his phone)
Samuela Garcia was a hairdresser
from Newton, Mass. Survived by her
husband, but no kids.

ETHAN

Alicia Maxwell, corporate lawyer from Stockton, California. Survived by her parents and a sister. Studied physics in undergrad— maybe that's something?

ABIGAIL

Could be. Tom Phelps, high school math teacher from Boston. He had a wife... oh, but she died last fall. Found anything, babe?

NOAH

My phone's dead. I'm gonna grab my charger from the truck.

ETHAN

You can use mine--

SFX: Noah exits abruptly, door shuts behind him.

MILO

What's up with him?

ABIGAIL

Be right back.

We stay with Abigail as she exits to:

EXT. HARBOR HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

ATMO: Sounds of woods, birds, etc.

SFX: Abigail's footsteps on gravel driveway toward Noah's truck. He rifles through the glove box and shuts the door.

ABIGAIL

You okay?

NOAH

Oh, yeah. Just taking it all in.

ABIGAIL

Right? We might literally be standing at a crossroads for humanity.

NOAH

So you think there's more of these portals, or whatever? All over the world?

ABIGAIL

They're called nodes apparently. And it seems like there may be hundreds, or more! The message boards claim Leylines crisscross the Earth. Nodes form wherever there's an energetic concentration, like a civilization.

NOAH

What if they're dangerous?

ABIGAIL

Why would you think that?

Awkward silence. Noah searches for a logical explanation.

NOAH

No reason -- just... being cautious.

ABIGAIL

Milo and Ethan are fine. But we'll do thorough testing. Gonna have to if we want that Nobel Prize! Ha, look at me getting ahead of myself.

She checks her watch.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

It's almost nine. Don't you have to be at the base soon?

NOAH

Oh. They're doing maintenance so... I'm off for awhile.

ABIGAIL

Your meeting went well though?

NOAH

Yep, fine. Just a normal debrief.

Sudden shift:

NOAH (CONT'D)

(immediate)

Eyes on me. Don't turn around.

ABIGAIL

What?

NOAH

There's a blacked out SUV across the street, watching us.

ABIGAIL

Are you sure?

NOAH

Go inside. Slow and easy, no sudden movements.

ABIGAIL

What are you gonna--

NOAH

Abigail. Please. Inside.

SFX: Abigail's footsteps on gravel fade toward the house. Front door opens and shuts with a "Welcome home, Dr. Harbor."

SFX: Noah SNAPS A PHOTO of the car on his phone. It speeds off. More pics of the plates.

INT. HARBOR HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SFX: Noah closes the door behind him.

HOME SECURITY SYSTEM VOICE (V.O.)

Welcome home, Dr. Harbor.

ETHAN

That's so annoying, Milo.

MILO

Fine. I'll sync it to my watch so it only triggers for me. Happy?

ABIGAIL

Brotherly compromise! So good, y'all.

SFX: Noah lowers the blinds.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

What are you doing, babe?

NOAH

We should keep the blinds down from now on. I couldn't get a clean photo of the plate, but if that car was government, they'll be back.

ABIGAIL

You sure you're not being... maybe it was someone's Uber XL.

NOAH

I'm not paranoid.

Awkward silence from Noah's sharp tone.

ETHAN

(recovering)

So, this list is about as disparate as it gets. Everyone from a janitor to a research oncologist, and from all over the country.

SFX: INTERSTITIAL PODCAST FROM PILOT PLAYS FROM MILO'S PHONE.

MILO

Jax Jenkins? Why are you listening to that garbage?

ETHAN

It came up when I searched Alicia Maxwell. You know him?

MILO

He trashed Dad nonstop after the blast. Shut it off.

(trying to refocus)

Maybe we build family trees for everyone? Or hack cell records? Or search criminal histories? There's gotta be some clue who "her" is.

SFX: Replay JAX's line from the pilot about eleven people being killed.

MILO (CONT'D)

Seriously. Can you shut that off?

Ethan does.

NOAH

He said eleven people.

MILO

Right.

NOAH

There are twelve names on the list.

A pregnant pause as the three "smart people" all count.

ABIGAIL

Oh. Look at that.

ETHAN

And the extra one is--

MILO

Dakota Murray.

SFX: A CAR PULLS INTO THE DRIVEWAY.

NOAH

Everyone in the kitchen.

SFX: Feet shuffle. Noah walks to the window.

ABIGAIL

Is it the SUV?

NOAH

No... a woman in a Tesla. With lime green rims.

ABIGAIL

Redhead?

NOAH

Yep.

ABIGAIL

That's Cameron McCall!

ETHAN

Who?

ABIGAIL

Are you kidding, Ethan?

MILO

Cameron McCall Jr.'s daughter? The billionaire who used to fund Dad's research? Oh, and her company hired Abigail as an engineer last year. Coincidentally.

ABIGAIL

And Milo assumes I got the job because I'm friends with him, not because of my big beautiful brain. Which isn't insulting at all.

MILO

Yet here she is. The same day we made Dad's research work.

ABIGAIL

You think I told her?

MILO

Did you?

ABIGAIL

I've never even met her!

SFX: AN AUTHORITATIVE KNOCK.

NOAH

We should sweep the house for bugs.

ABIGAIL

She's a philanthropist.

MILO

So writing checks makes her harmless?

Cameron clears her throat on the other side of the door.

ETHAN

She can probably hear you--

CAMERON

(through the door)

I can.

Ethan opens the door.

ETHAN

Hi. Sorry about that. Ethan Harbor.

CAMERON

Cameron Mc--

MILO

(sourly)

We know who you are.

CAMERON

Milo Harbor. Your father spoke highly of you.

MILO

Now I know you're full of shit.

ABIGAIL

Whoa! I'm so sorry, Ms. McCall--

CAMERON

Skepticism is a sign of intelligence. I appreciate intelligence. Oh, I recognize you. You're an engineer on our compost-powered battery project.

ABIGAIL

And you stand for everything I believe in. America's only Democratic Socialist billionaire.

MILO

A benevolent billionaire. How not suspicious.

CAMERON

I get it, and I agree with you. I didn't choose who I was born to, but I can choose to use my family's money for the greater good. Which is why I'm here. I took your father's course on Dark Matter at MIT. He was one of my heroes and a wonderful person.

Ethan bursts out laughing.

MILO

Shut it, Ethan. (to Cameron)
Please continue...

CAMERON

I care a lot about his work and his legacy.

MILO

Then why did you smear him after the incident last year?

CAMERON

Perception is important to what I do, unfortunately. I need the public, the media, the politicians to listen to me if I want to progress some of our more cutting edge projects. So I can't be seen as a risk myself.

ETHAN

Basically, if you had defended him, no one would have taken you seriously. Sounds familiar.

CAMERON

The world wasn't ready for the work he was doing. But now a year has passed, and sensitivities have waned. I'd like to help advance what he began. McCall Energy has credibility and the financing to back it up. I can put five hundred million dollars behind his research tomorrow.

MILO

No thanks.

ETHAN

We're listening.

CAMERON

I'd like to partner with you on the device your father invented.

Abigail jumps in, overeager to contribute again:

ABIGAIL

He called it a push pack.

MILO

Abigail--

CAMERON

I believe in collaboration so that everyone benefits. I'm willing to provide funding and keep you involved.

A pause.

MILO

We don't have them. The push pack or his notes. He must have destroyed it all before he died. CAMERON

(dubious)

Right. I'm sorry to hear that. This could have been a world-changing partnership.

SFX: an AirDrop lands on all their phones simultaneously.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

I just shared my contact with all of you, in case anything turns up. I don't care about money; I value progress and the greater good. So anyone in my camp can have all the money they want. People will come for this tech— whether it's the military, foreign governments, or any number of Koch-brothers-like outfits who would happily steamroll you, the planet, and your dad. I have the assets to advance and protect his work from all of them. If it turns up, of course. Think about it.

SFX: Cameron lets herself out. Car pulls out and drives off.

MILO

What a snake.

ETHAN

She seemed pretty genuine to me.

ABIGAIL

She's like the only person standing between Earth and climate disaster.

MILO

I don't trust rich people.

ETHAN

Spoken like a true poor person.

MILO

She could do anything-- sell out to the military, charge people millions to travel Leylines--

ABIGAIL

-- ship things around the world
with zero carbon footprint--

NOAH

-- kill someone in London and have an alibi in New York.

ETHAN

Dark. But also true.

MILO

Well, clearly Dad didn't trust her.

ETHAN

Dad was a paranoid narcissist.

MILO

Keep shit-talking him, Ethan. You took off right out of high school. You barely knew who he was.

(correcting himself)
Is. I'm not selling out his
legacy.

ABIGAIL

To be fair, he sat on a colossal discovery. So right now, that's his legacy.

MILO

You heard her, he never gave her the plans. He was obviously protecting it from her.

ETHAN

Wouldn't it be nice to say our name and not get laughed at?

MILO

I don't give a shit what people think! If Dad's out there alive, I have to find him. And if he's not--

Milo's voice falters.

MILO (CONT'D)

Maybe then we go to Cameron.

ETHAN

(softening)

All right. Let's find Dakota Murray.

MUSIC: Time passes.

INT. HARBOR HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SFX: Clicking of computer keys.

MILO

Still nothing?

ABIGAIL

Dakota Murray seems to have disappeared overnight. She's got no digital footprint whatsoever.

ETHAN

It's getting late. Does the diner still deliver?

MTTIC

The diner closed like seven years ago. I'll get the takeout menus in the kitchen.

SFX: Milo gets up. We follow him into:

INT. HARBOR HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

SFX: Milo's footsteps enter the kitchen.

ETHAN (O.S.)

(from the living room) What about that Chinese place?

MILO

That's been gone since I was in--Jesus.

Milo stops short.

SFX: Heavy breathing distorted through a vocoder.

Note: Masked Guys 1 (Sawyer Shepherd) and 2 both speak through vocoders. Sawyer masks his typical Southern drawl.

MASKED GUY 1

Hands up.

MILO

I've only got like forty bucks, man. Take whatever you want--

MASKED GUY 2

Walk. Now.

INT. HARBOR HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SFX: Keyboard clacking. Footsteps enter. Keyboard stops.

ABIGAIL

Holy sh--

NOAH

Okay, we're all gonna stay calm. How 'bout lowering the guns so we can talk?

MASKED GUY 1

One of you -- get the device.

MILO

What device?

SFX: GUN SHOT. GLASS SHATTERS. Gasps.

MASKED GUY 2

Play dumb again and I shoot her.

MILO

We're telling the truth!

MASKED GUY 2

What did I say?

ETHAN

Here, just take it!

SFX: Jangling metal as Ethan uncovers the push pack.

MILO

What the hell, Ethan?

ETHAN

You're gonna get Abigail killed!

SFX: Masked Guy 2 smacks Milo in the face with his gun.

Milo yelps.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Don't hurt him!

MASKED GUY 1

Everybody outside.

NOAH

We can't ID you, just take it. No one will stop you.

MASKED GUY 2

Get in the van or I shoot your girlfriend.

Abigail gasps.

NOAH

Okay, we're going.

SFX: Footsteps out the door.

EXT. STEINERT HALL - NIGHT

ATMO: Downtown Boston at night.

SFX: Van parks, and doors open/close.

MILO

Where are we?

MASKED GUY 1

Cut the act. We saw you come out of this building last night.

MASKED GUY 2

(menacing)

You really don't learn--

MASKED GUY 1

Not in public. (to the quad) Walk.

Our four and their captors walk down the street.

MILO

(under his breath)

Seemed like you almost cared about me back there, big brother.

ETHAN

Don't be facetious.

ABIGAIL

At least one of the Harbors values life over a hunk of metal. You almost got me killed, Milo.

NOAH

Everyone, let me handle this. These guys are military.

MILO

How do you know that?

NOAH

The way they move, the way they hold a weapon, and I can just... tell the type.

SFX: Steinert Hall door opens.

MASKED GUY 1

Inside.

INT. STEINERT HALL - NIGHT

ATMO: the familiar echoey chamber of the abandoned hall.

SFX: Our heroes/villains approaching the Leyline and stop.

MASKED GUY 1

Start it up. And show us what you're doing.

SFX: Jangling metal push pack.

ABIGAIL

(hesitantly)

You set the frequency here. The setting changes depending where you push from. It's not like a map with fixed coordinates. The higher the value, the farther you travel. Positive numbers are magnetic north from your current location and negatives are south. We think natural Leylines form between the Earth's poles. Kind of like a magnetic subway system. Probably. Well, we were planning to test that theory at least. Oh, and value limits are plus or minus forty megahertz. Got all that?

MASKED GUY 1

Yeah...

SFX: The push pack powers up and the Leyline opens.

ABIGAIL

The battery's ancient, so you should go fast. It drains quickly.

MASKED GUY 1

What happens if it dies while you're in there?

ABIGAIL

Oh. I don't know. Probably nothing good.

MASKED GUY 1

Okay... he's going. Now what?

MILO

(to Masked Guy 2)

Wow, your buddy volunteered you. That's weird.

ETHAN

Milo.

MILO

Just saying. You have a lot to live for, I imagine.

MASKED GUY 2

Maybe I should take one of them with me, for insurance.

MASKED GUY 1

Enough. You're fine.

(to Abigail)

Now what?

ABIGAIL

He straps the push pack around his waist and hits the ignition button.

MASKED GUY 2

Okay...

ETHAN

Don't, Milo!

SFX: Milo charges and tackles Masked Guy 2. They hit the ground and SCUFFLE.

MILO

Give it back!

ETHAN

Milo, stop it!

MILO

We need it to find Dad!

MASKED GUY 1

Get off him or I'll shoot you!

A gut punch as Noah lodges one deep into Masked Guy 1's ribs.

NOAH

Drop the gun!

ABIGAIL

What are you doing, Noah?!

MILO

Let go!

ABIGAIL

Milo! Get away from the node!

And then:

A GUN SHOT.

Abigail screams. Immediately followed by:

SHARP EXCRUCIATING SHREDDING SOUNDS and a VISCERAL WAIL, which is immediately sucked into the node like a Venus fly trap slurping its prey.

CLIFFHANGER MUSIC.

CREDITS ROLL.

END OF EPISODE.