

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS

EPISODE 401

V. 1/12/23

Written by Steve Conard

The Roleplayers

Bryce Bebop, Lexi the First, Meagan Karimi-Naser, Rennie Araucto

Based on CHALDEA by
Peter Adkison

9

OVER BLACK

SUPER: When last we saw the Nearly Departed: Cass, Saoirse, Bahati, and Archibald, they were on the run from Settites from whom they had recently stolen a magical talking bow. The bow being, (of course), Beatrice's lost boyfriend, Hugh Beaumont. The weary cat and mouse chase ended at Graver's Dig's infamous brothel, THE VIM & VIGOR and in front of a familiar face...

EXT. THE VIM & VIGOR - NIGHT

1	RADARNO Friends. Friends.	1
	The NEARLY DEPARTED, (Cass, Saoirse, Bahati and Archibald swarm Radarno with glad tidings and pleasantries, "Radarno" "Hey, buddy!", "What are you doing here?"	
2	RADARNO (CONT'D) Rough night?	2
3	BAHATI It's a rough and tumble town.	3
	An approaching MOB OF LOUD ANGRY VOICES echo over the cobblestones, spawning nervous glances amongst the friends	s.
4	SAOIRSE This meet and greet is fun and all, but we need off this street.	4
	A FAMILIAR VOICE RINGS OUT, "Saoirse".	
5	RADARNO You're welcome to disappear in the Vim & Vigor.	5
6	ARCHIBALD I've heard tale, this is a magnificent palace not to be missed.	6
7	BAHATI Ohhh, feet washing, remember?	7
8	CASS And a bath.	8

RADARNO

An oasis of Chaldean delights.

Radarno moves to the door.

9

10	RADARNO (CONT'D) Come. Come. Be safe here.	10
	Everyone makes a mad-dash through the doors.	
	INT. VIM & VIGOR - FOYER - CONTINUOUS	
	The grand foyer is hub of frenetic activity as staff and clientele duck and weave up and down stairs, branching off into side parlors and hallways.	:
11	CASS Which way to the spa?	11
12	RADARNO First, I have exciting news.	12
13	SAOIRSE Oh?	13
	He points down a wide inviting hallway busy with people.	
14	RADARNO You recognize that gate, yonder?	14
	The friends peer.	
15	RADARNO (CONT'D) My master recently purchased a stake in the Vim & Vigor and has relocated his residence here.	15
	Rardarno escorts them closer to the familiar WROUGHT IRON GATE. The extradimensional doorway leads to lovely garden and distant VRYKOLAKAS MANSION beyond	ıs
16	BAHATI That looks familiar.	16
17	SAOIRSE Is that the same gate as before?	17
18	RADARNO Nothing gets past you.	18
19	ARCHIBALD And your master is home, I presume?	19
20	RADARNO If you seek a safe harbor from the rough and tumble that hunts you, my master will oblige.	20

21	CASS I thought we were going to the spa?	21
22	RADARNO You're welcome to go to the spa. Until they that seek you, find you, and tear you to pieces. Hmmm?	22
23	BEATRICE (V.O.) Through the gate. Through the gate!	23
24	SAOIRSE But won't your master do the same thing?	24
25	RADARNO Why would he?	25
26	CASS Are you implying, we're in his good graces?	26
	Radarno grins manically.	
27	RADARNO Oh, sure. Bygones and all that.	27
28	SAOIRSE Is this a "your master is hungry" thing?	28
29	ARCHIBALD For dragon blood?	29
30	RADARNO I see. You think my master is some kind of monster. That he'll eat you. And drink you.	30
31	(licks his lips) And nurse on the marrow of your decadent bones.	31
	Heads bounce up and down affirmative.	
32	CASS Yeah, that	32
33	ARCHIBALD Ah-huh	33
34	BAHATI Exactly	34

35	SAOIRSE Hungry-man dinner. For the hearty appetite.	35
	Radarno waves off such a ridiculous notion.	
36	RADARNO My master is not want for food.	36
37	CASS But he does want for blood.	37
38	RADARNO Nah, he's fine. He's got plenty of donors.	38
39	SAOIRSE Uh-huh, we've heard the rumors.	39
40	RADARNO Have you?	40
41	BAHATI Which I have to admit, kinda makes me not want to go through the gate.	41
42	ARCHIBALD Do we have it on your honor that we'll be safe?	42
43	RADARNO Was it not obvious when I returned the skull of Bran? After you released us.	43
44	SAOIRSE Allegedly, released you.	44
45	CASS That's just a rumor.	45
	Bahati's hand shoots up	
46	BAHATI OOOH!!! OOH!!! OOOH!!! Follow up question. Say, we're hanging out in your home. We're all chill, good vibes, good conversation and then hypothetically, unrelated to your masterwe decide to leave. Will the gate still be open?	46

47	RADARNO The gate is always open for business. The master's home is Gravers Dig newest hotspot.	47
48	CASS Huh. What's the worse that could happen, hmmm? We die again?	48
49	SAOIRSE All right. Let's go.	49
	They step	
	THROUGH THE GATE and on the other side	
	VRYKOLAKAS MANOR	
	Rich succulent gardens vibrant with trees, topiary, flower beds and water features surround a VICTORIAN MANSION.	
	A WALL OF IMPENETRABLE DARKNESS surrounding the mansion permeates unnatural silence.	
50	BAHATI I don't hear the mob theme song anymore, that's a good sign.	50
51	RADARNO Why are you being chased? Murder something? Steal someone's lunch money?	51
52	BAHATI We definitely didn't kidnap a bow.	52
53	BEATRICE (V.O.) Je vous remercie for rescuing my Hugh, my love, my paramour. Merci beaucoup.	53
54	CASS Hey you two. Shsshhh!! We need to keep that between us. Loose lips sink ships.	54
55	ARCHIBALD We're safe for now, sure, but we can't stay here forever. At some point we're gonna have to face 'em.	55
56	BEATRICE (V.O.) Hugh is always being chased by someone.	56

57	HUGH (V.O.) (snaps loudly) MOI? You have been on the run, all your life.	57
58	SAOIRSE Oh shit, that's right. You talk too.	58
59	BEATRICE (V.O.) I have <u>NOT</u> been on the run. I've been on excursions.	59
60	HUGH (V.O.) Ma cherie mademoiselle, you are on the lam.	60
61	SAOIRSE Beatrice, now that you and Hugh are together, what would you have us do?	61
62	BEATRICE (V.O.) We would like to be ourselves again. To hold and to hug and to	62
63	HUGH (V.O.) (scoffs) HA! Fat chance. We cursed!	63
64	BEATRICE (V.O.) That can change. We have friends. We have means.	64
65	HUGH (V.O.) We have nothing. Our lives are ruinous. You saw to that.	65
66	BEATRICE (V.O.) I know not of what you speak. To what are you referring?	66
67	HUGH (V.O.) Your infidelities are as numerous as the arrows in my quiver and thrice as deadly.	67
Beatrice	laughs to scorn.	
68	BEATRICE (V.O.) This hunter is simply a patient wolf, ready to pluck every new budding flower in the garden.	68

69	CASS Okay-okay. I'm sure we can remove the curse and get you sorted out.	69
70	HUGH ($V.O.$) Not if she has anything to do with it.	70
71	BEATRICE (V.O.) I suppose you enjoyed that wicked woman plucking your string, tête de noeud?	71
	NOTE: tête de noeud means knot head or dickhead.	
72	HUGH ($V.O.$) She makes me taunt.	72
73	BEATRICE (V.O.) You are hound dog.	73
74	HUGH (V.O.) Damn right I am.	74
75	ARCHIBALD Can we roll these two up in a blanket, get 'em to shut up.	75
76	RADARNO Agreed, we should take this inside.	76
	He TELEPORTS OUT.	
	INT. VRYKOLAKAS MANOR - FOYER - LATER	
	Saoirse, Bahati, Cass and Archibald slowly enter the fepeering about for their host.	oyer,
77	SAOIRSE Hello?	77
	Radarno magically appears, out of thin air and bows.	
78	RADARNO Dinner will be served at nine bells.	78
79	ARCHIBALD Any chance we can get a bottle of wine in the meantime?	79

80	BEATRICE (V.O.) Oui, wine please. And trays of cheese.	80
81	HUGH (V.O.) Non, she is a lush and will drink you out of house and home. And those things most precious will go missing.	81
	A deeply wounded and injured Beatrice scoffs loudly.	
82	HUGH (V.O.) She is a closet kelpto.	82
83	RADARNO We have apartments prepared for each of you in the visitors wing. (pointing)	83
84	Freshen up. Make yourself at home. I will let the master know you're here.	84
85	BAHATI Or you could forgo that last bit. Saoirse pulls Radarno to the side by the elbow.	85
86	SAOIRSE If a gang of gravers led by a barbarian snake lady should come looking for us. Perhaps inquiring about a bow. We'd appreciate it, if you'd tell 'em we left town and if that don't work, add them to your dinner menu.	86
87	RADARNO You wish me to kill them?	87
88	SAOIRSE Add 'em to your blood pool, I don't care.	88
89	RADARNO Ahh, vampire vitae. Okay.	89
	Radarno grins maliciously and TELEPORTS OUT!	
	OVER BLACK	

SUPER: For the next few hours the four friends relax in luxury, pampered and spoiled with hot bubble baths, massages, and much needed general idleness. Better than any Vim & Vigor spa they could imagine.

INT. INNER PARLOUR - NIGHT

The Inner Parlour is well-dressed for casual business and necessary conversations.

Archibald relaxes on a sofa casually enjoying a glass of wine when Cass joins him, carrying Hugh "the Bow" Beaumont.

90	CASS I want to know more about this curse?	90
91	ARCHIBALD Oh, please don't get him started.	91
92	CASS If we're to get it lifted, we need to know what we're dealing with.	92
	Cass plops down on the sofa.	
93	HUGH (V.O.) In Aimilleuse, there is a famous Opal belonging to the House of Cyprien.	93
94	CASS You mean, like the King of Aimill? That Cyprien?	94
95	HUGH (V.O.) Oui. The very same. Beatrice stole from him.	95
96	ARCHIBALD She stole from the king of Aimill?	96
97	BEATRICE (O.S.) I just borrowed, for a time.	97
	Bahati and Saoirse enter from an adjoining suite,	arm-in-arm.
98	HUGH $(V.O.)$ She stole it!! And did this to us.	98
99	SAOIRSE How? And why were you in the? Were you in the palace?	99

100	BEATRICE (V.O.) Oui. I am a trusted ally and confidant	100
101	HUGH (V.O.) Ahh Pfft! She is a handmaid! Miss Mop and nothing more.	101
102	BAHATI Let me get this straight. Beatrice stole a cursed opal, but somehow both of you are cursed?	102
103	HUGH (V.O.) I warned her it was cursed. But did she listen, non?!	103
104	BEATRICE (V.O.) You are not innocent in all this. You slept with that stable boy.	104
105	HUGH (V.O.) So did you.	105
106	BEATRICE (V.O.) At the same time and it was your idea.	106
107	BAHATI You slept with a stable boy?	107
108	HUGH (V.O.) Sabastian is not a boy, he is grown man. The king's jockey.	108
109	ARCHIBALD Can we focus on the curse.	109
110	BAHATI I've studied curses, maybe if I knew more about this particular one I could lift it.	110
111	HUGH (V.O.) Sorry, mademoiselle, it is not so simple as that. It will take much more.	111
112	SAOIRSE We're about to have dinner with an elder vampire, we can ask him.	112

	CASS	
113	He did survive a fight with Orddu Fab.	113
114	SAOIRSE Alright, you two. Tonight at dinner, try to be less obnoxious and maybe, Vrykolakas will think your love story is cute and want to help.	114
115	HUGH (V.O.) I will if she will.	115
116	CASS Not talking at all would be better.	116
117	BEATRICE (V.O.) If we cannot talk, we cannot tell our story.	117
118	CASS I'll tell your story.	118
119	BEATRICE (V.O.) You will not do it justice.	119
120	BAHATI He's a bard.	120
121	CASS I graduated from Dorsang. I got this, I can sell your story.	121
122	HUGH (V.O.) Then you should also know, Beatrice seduced the House Chamberlain, Thomas du Caritat, the Marquis de laurent, and the entire Fox Brigade.	122
123	BEATRICE (V.O.) You're insufferable! What about the princess and her cherry lips?	123
124	HUGH (V.O.) And a baker's apprentice. She loved to squeeze his buns.	124

NINE BELLS CHIME

Radarno APPEARS!

125	RADARNO Dinner is served.	125
126	ARCHIBALD Thank the gods! Let's eat.	126
	EXT. THE LESSER HALL - LATER	
	Radarno leads the four companions into a small, quaint charming dinning room, the table laden with goose, por and fancy pastries enough to choke a dragon.	
127	VRYKOLAKAS Please, join me my friends. Tonight is a casual affair. Relax and make your soul happy.	127
	The four fan out and make themselves comfortable.	
	RADARNO TELEPORTS quickly about the room delivering dr	cinks.
128	CASS How are you, Vrykolakas? You look fabulous.	128
129	VRYKOLAKAS I feel fabulous, thank you.	129
130	ARCHIBALD Looks like you pulled up roots and put down new ones.	130
131	VRYKOLAKAS Ah, indeed. When you've been down for as long as I was down and out for as long as I was out. It's good to be back in the game. And I have you to thank for that.	131
132	ARCHIBALD Your reunion with Orddu Fab went well, then?	132
133	VRYKOLAKAS I think we will not see much of that witch for a long time.	133
134	SAOIRSE Are we pretending we're gonna miss her?	134

Bahati barely avoids a spittake.

	BAHATI	
135	Nuh-uh!	135
	ARCHIBALD	
136	I gave up my hand for that woman.	136
137	VRYKOLAKAS The church of Arawn had a strangle hold on this part of the world, and because of your actions, at least in part, are gone. And subsequently, created a power vacuum, which I am more than happy to fill.	137
	CO IIII.	
138	ARCHIBALD We were hoping that would happen. You're such a swell, mighty fine fella.	138
139	(raises goblet in toast) To Vyrkolakas.	139
	EVERYONE	
140	To Vrykolakas.	140
Everyone o	drinks.	
	VRYKOLAKAS	
141	I appreciate the sentiment and sarcasm.	141
	CASS	
142	This new position of yours the reason why so many corpses litter the street of Graves Dig?	142
	VRYKOLAKAS	
143	No.	143
144	SAOIRSE If you find yourself hungry one day and looking for a meal, I know some Setites no one would miss.	144
	VRYKOLAKAS	
145	What is this about?	145
	RADARNO	
146	They stole a magical talking bow and the previous owner wants it back.	146

147	CASS We didn't steal it. It didn't belong to them in the first place.	147
148	VRYKOLAKAS Nevertheless, you want this problem to go away.	148
149	SAOIRSE We wouldn't be against the problem going away.	149
150	VRYKOLAKAS Sorry, but your problems are your problems.	150
151	ARCHIBALD True. But our problems could be your next meal.	151
152	VRYKOLAKAS I tire of such talk. I wish to know more about the talking weapons. Two rare items can't be a coincidence. Tell me about yourselves.	152
153	SAOIRSE No, please, don't.	153
154	BEATRICE (V.O.) One day a Fire Frog was sleeping on the edge of a lava river when along came an Ice Scorpion	154
155	HUGH (V.O.) Oh, here we go again.	155
156	BEATRICE (V.O.) The Ice Scorpion asks the frog to carry him over the river. But the frog is afraid of being stung, but the scorpion argues that if it did so, both would sink and the scorpion would melt. The frog then agrees, but midway across the river the scorpion does indeed sting the frog dooming both.	156
157	SAOIRSE I did not see that coming.	157

158	BEATRICE (V.O.) When asked why, the scorpion says, "revenge is a dish best served cold."	158
159	ARCHIBALD I think you're mixing your metaphors.	159
160	BAHATI Who is the scorpion and who is the frog?	160
161	HUGH (V.O.) That's not how the story goes?	161
	Vrykolakas applauds.	
162	VRYKOLAKAS I see. It is the story of fire and ice and star-crossed lovers, I should think, hmmm?	162
163	BEATRICE (V.O.) Seigneur vampire we are but simple folk, victims ourselves, to endure infinite curse of love.	163
164	HUGH (V.O.) Ignore her. She will prattle unduly, plant thoughts in your mind, like the bad seed she is.	164
165	VRYKOLAKAS Radarno, what have you learned?	165
	Radarno TELEPORTS IN, holding papers.	
166	RADARNO These two, Beatrice Bon de Plae Gerise and Fleche Enzo Valois Hugh Beamont are serious criminals. Sought by Aimilleuse authorities. I have the charging documents.	166
167	VRYKOLAKAS Entertain us.	167
	PADARNO READS.	

RADARNO READS:

168	RADARNO They're both wanted for bribery, grand theft, aggravated assault, forgery, embezzlement, conspiracy, disturbing the peace, extortion, fraud, impersonating a noble, tax evasion, lewd and lascivious conduct, stalking	168
169	BEATRICE (V.O.) (coughs and gags) Why, I never	169
170	RADARNO And, plagiarism.	170
171	VRYKOLAKAS Color me impressed.	171
172	BEATRICE (V.O.) They're lies! We were set up, I tell you. We are guilty of love only. Tell them, Hugh.	172
173	HUGH (V.O.) Beatrice, we are culpable. I cannot lie. I shoot straight.	173
174	SAOIRSE Are you two happy in your current state, or would you rather be people, again?	174
175	HUGH (V.O.) We are not happy being cursed?	175
176	SAOIRSE Okay, then. I don't give a shit about your felony past or if you're, Happy Ever After. I detest the idea of you being owned.	176
177	CASS If they are wanted and they are with us, are we too not wanted? Or at the very least, aiding and abetting?	177
178	ARCHIBALD We can ditch them and walk away, we wouldn't be wanted.	178
179	BAHATI You willing to do that?	179

180	ARCHIBALD She's a career criminal.	180
181	BEATRICE (V.O.) Ahh!!! I am not a criminal. I am merely misunderstood.	181
182	CASS We're not abandoning them. Vrykolakas, can you remove the curse?	182
183	VRYKOLAKAS No, I think not. Curses are like the plague, it spreads easily and death follows. No, no. I do not wish to get involved.	183
184	CASS Any other ideas?	184
185	VRYKOLAKAS To counter the curse, you must find what caused it.	185
186	HUGH (V.O.) The cursed opal of Cyprien.	186
187	VRYKOLAKAS Oh shit, really?	187
188	CASS (to the lovers) How did you two come to be in Gravers Dig and where is the opal?	188
189	BEATRICE (V.O.) We were in prison waiting execution.	189
	Hugh quickly corrects her.	
190	HUGH (V.O.) Extradition.	190
191	BAHATI You were in prison?	191
192	BEATRICE (V.O.) Oui, thrice.	192
193	HUGH (V.O.) Four times.	193

194	BEATRICE $(V.O.)$ Including debtor's prison and the armory.	194
195	HUGH (V.O.) After the curse, we were locked away in the armory and forgotten.	195
196	BEATRICE (V.O.) We were not given so much as a drop of water or a morsel to eat. It was dreadful.	196
197	HUGH (V.O.) Non Cheri, listening to your constant whining is dreadful. Thankfully Sabastian found us and we made good our escape.	197
198	SAOIRSE And that's how you landed in Gravers Dig?	198
199	HUGH/BEATRICE (V.O.) Oui. Ah-huh.	199
200	BAHATI Is Sabastian still here?	200
201	HUGH (V.O.) I don't know. I think he might be dead.	201
202	BEATRICE (V.O.) You murdered him! You were jealous.	202
203	HUGH (V.O.) I did not murder him. He was our friend.	203
204	BEATRICE (V.O.) You slew him! You wanted the opal for yourself.	204
Vrykolak	as stands abruptly	
205	VRYKOLAKAS I can't take any more of this. Please, leave. You are welcome to return, but without irritating frogs.	205

Everyone finishes their drinks and rise.

206	SAOIRSE We know what to do anyway. We need to find this, Sabastian.	206
207	ARCHIBALD Maybe he knows where the opal is.	207
208	VRYKOLAKAS Please, be quick about it. If the opal is what I think it is, House Cyprien will leave no rock unturned. And will come here.	208
209	SAOIRSE The faster we remove that curse, the faster this isn't our problem.	209
210	ARCHIBALD Pfft. I don't know why we even care. They are insufferable.	210
	VRYKOLAKAS (to Archibald)	
211	I agree.	211
212	<pre>(eyes blood medallion) I apologize for my bad manners before. But if you should ever wish to sell</pre>	212
213	ARCHIBALD No, I'm good.	213
214	VRYKOLAKAS Right. Okay. Good night.	214
	EXT. VRYKOLAKAS MANOR - GARDENS - LATER	
	Radarno and the Nearly Departed stand before the open gat	te.
215	RADARNO See? Still open.	215
216	BAHATI Thank you, for the hospitality.	216
217	ARCHIBALD The wine was fabulous, as always.	217
	Cass does a happy dance.	
218	CASS My feet haven't felt this spry in ages, since before I was dead.	218

Radarno shakes hands with each in turn.

219	RADARNO If you can't find Sabastian in Gravers Dig, you should consider looking in, Sheol. Be careful though, they hate gravers.	219
220	SAOIRSE Too bad we didn't have a crystal ball.	220
221	RADARNO Go see Cosmo.	221
222	CASS Who is Cosmo?	222
223	RADARNO He calls himself, Cosmo the Magnificent. He's the local wizard liaison to the graver community. You can find his tower in the market district. He might know something about the opal.	223
224	BEATRICE (V.O.) Hugh hid it.	224
225	HUGH (V.O.) I did not.	225
226	BEATRICE (V.O.) You stole it.	226
227	HUGH (V.O.) I did not.	227
ROLL CREDI	ITS	
228	BEATRICE (V.O.) You want it for yourself.	228
229	HUGH (V.O.) I do not.	229
230	BEATRICE (V.O.) Do so. I heard what you said to Sabastian. You thought I was asleep.	230
231	HUGH (V.O.) You were asleep.	231

22.

233	HUGH (V.O.) I suppose you think it went down with the frog. Stupid frog story.	233
234	BEATRICE (V.O.) You are the frog.	234
	Hugh SCOFFS.	
235	BEATRICE (V.O.) La grenouille.	235

BEATRICE (V.O.)
Ha! See. Always plotting.