

Crossroads

Episode 5: Full Circle

By Avery Sharpe

Characters

Sol	20s-30s. She/her. Black butch lesbian. Bombastic and rough around the edges but has a heart of gold.
Jo	20s-30s. He/him. Black. Appears human. Curious with a smart mouth.
Zane (ZAH-nay)	20s-30s. He/him. Coyote humanoid bellboy. Has a lot to prove and a chip on his shoulder.
Cal	30s. They/Them. BIPOC. Appears human. Bear-like qualities. Deeply cynical.
Lucy	Teens. She/her. Appears human. Self-assured. Ruthless. Diabolical.

Notes

- Please feel free to fill in moments with ad libs as needed. Your inspired textures would be such a gift to the world of this script.
- A line with // denotes where the next line overlaps.

Episode 5:
Full Circle

Harsh wind. Heavy breathing. Heavy footsteps. We hear a hushed guitar humming a bluesy hymn. Suddenly...

SOL

Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah I can't take this fuckin cold no mo, Jo!

JO

We're close.

SOL

Are you sure?

JO

Yes I'm a hundred percent positive.

SOL

Cuz you said that shit before and I was already freezing to death before.

JO

Just trust me.

SOL

I'd known Aru for years and we were best friends and he betrayed me. I just met yo ass so excuse me if I'm running a little low on fuckin trust right now.

JO

Sol, if I was gonna harm you, I would've done it when you hit your head on the pole and passed out.

SOL

What I don't trust is the idea that you know where you're going right now. But you better trust this wind is gonna make my lips crack and bleed!

JO

You're being such a weenie right now. Besides, you're the one who insisted on finding Aru.

SOL

Hold on bitch, what? Did you just call me a weenie???

JO

Cal didn't like cursing so instead of calling someone a bitch or whatever he'd just call them a weenie. Isn't it a funny word?

SOL

Cal is a fuckin weenie! He's a human racist.

JO

I think you mean racist against humans.

SOL

Yo I said what I said.

JO

Everyone here is racist against humans though. That's why I have to go to Earth with you. I wanna see spring. I wanna feel that moment when all the cold melts away and life just blooms. There's no life here. Sure, it can be vibrant and flashy, but there's no life. Just one-upmanship and vengeance.

SOL

Like I said before, that sounds a lot like where I come from too. The grass ain't always greener.

JO

Well at least you have things like grass on Earth. There's not very much of that here.

SOL

True story. It wouldn't be able to survive this wind.

JO

And from what I could find, you also got amazing things like hope—and trust—oh and friendship and romance—

SOL

Okay damn I get it. Woe is poor ole Jo. Don't get it twisted, being a human on Earth—especially a black one—ain't exactly the cupid shuffle. That's all I'm saying.

JO

The cupid shuffle?

SOL

Nevermind. It's a stupid dance that I actually hate—just like this bitch. ass. WIND! It's relentless!

JO

You mean this weenie. ass. wind. Y'know, Cal don't cuss but he don't mind saying "ass" for some—

SOL

O-M-Jeeohdee, black people can't do cold like this!

JO

We have the same skin color, and I don't mind this cold too much.

SOL

Well, you're also like half...something else too. I feel like it's a little different. And I feel wrong even saying that cuz I'm not trying to rank your blackness but...

JO

Also, I've lived here longer so I would be used to this weather...just like you would be if you lived here.

SOL

I don't know how to even ask this without sounding like an asshole but I might as well commit if I'm already in hell or whatever this place is. So what you mixed with?

JO

Who's the racist now?

SOL

Is it racist though? I mean we both black, right? That's what you were saying, right?

JO

Apparently I'm not black enough—or even human enough—to have a valid weather opinion.

SOL

Alright damnit fine! Shut up!

JO

No, I think you should shut up.

SOL

Naaaaaaaah, I think YOU should // shut the fuck up!

JO

NO I think yooooooooouuuuu should // shuddup!

SOL

NOOOOOOOOOOO—

JO

(Urgent)
Hey shhhh shhhh shhhh!

SOL

(Whispered)
What?

Shhh.

JO

They look and listen for a second. JO lets his breath go.

I'm sorry. We're good.

JO

Yo what was that about?

SOL

That Side of Nowhere is definitely safer than Other Side, but we're still in dangerous territory.

JO

Wait, what?

SOL

The Other Side of Nowhere—where you hit your head on the pole, where the portal to the Outer Layer is...

JO

Oooooooh "The Other Side of Nowhere"... and we're in "This Side of Nowhere" now?

SOL

No. We're in *That* Side of Nowhere. This Side is close by though.

JO

Wait, Cal's Diner is here too, right? Ain't that's what you said? "Finest Diner This Side of Nowhere!"

SOL

I did say that, but again, this isn't This Side of Nowhere. It's That Side of Nowhere. So no the Diner is not here too.

JO

Dang this place looks way smaller from the outside. It just looked like a single strip when we got here. I guess that was the Stratosphere?

SOL

Yeah, Lucy and headquarters are there. Dang I wish I could remember more about the Outer Layer and the Stratosphere though.

JO

Wait but I thought when you drew the map it was from—

SOL

JO

I remembered how the districts were laid out in relation to each other, but nothing yet about what's in them.

SOL

Well everywhere I been has been colder than a witch's tit.

JO

Are witch's tits known to be cold?

SOL

It's a saying! C'mon man, if you gonna be black, then you gotta get with the program. Don't be embarrassing us when we get to Earth.

JO

I am with the program. I'm gonna be the best black person ever when I get to Earth!

SOL

Oh yeah?

JO

Yeah, I think so. Like I'm really good at not ripping other creatures apart, and humans don't go around ripping each other apart for no apparent reason like they do here.

SOL

Well...I mean...

JO

Yes, you have your moments, but it's not expected there. Cruelty is very specifically incentivized here.

SOL

I mean I could make a case...

JO

Like if you had run into anybody else other than Cal or me that night, you'd be dead and drained by now.

SOL

What they wanna drain my blood for?

JO

No, not blood. They drain your soul.

SOL

You mean like “Yo Shondra, if shorty’s not committed to you then you should bounce because otherwise they’ll just drain your soul.” Like that type of drain your soul?

JO

No, I mean they can physically and systematically extract a soul from a human—that type of drain your soul.

SOL

Bitch, you telling me they can literally *drain* your *soul*?!?!

JO

It’s actually easier than you might think.

SOL

Why the hell would they do that?

JO

When soul extract crystalizes, it’s very versatile and very powerful. You can use it for longer life, weapons, healing, whatever. That’s how Lucy got all her power. She’s pretty much revolutionized the process.

SOL

And she’s doing that to Zane right now. Shit...is it painful?

JO

I’ve never seen it, but from what I’ve heard about it, yes.

SOL

Okay dope dope dope-ity fuckin...this is too deep for me. Everything was fuckin perfect before! We were just supposed to kick it, and take our asses home, but fuckin bitch ass Aru—

A cascading symphony of howling stops SOL and JO in their tracks. It’s distant, but chilling nonetheless. The howling fades.

JO

Oh no. Those were Bellboys...

SOL

Those damn coyote dudes at the hotel? Why are they all the way down here?

JO

They’re Lucy’s muscle. They only come down to Nowhere if they’re ordered to which means...

SOL

Wait what—what she lookin for me for?! I just wanna go home!

JO

Okay so I think we need to run. Now.

SOL

Yo wow okay man, we gotta do this real quick first. Black American Human Lesson #1—If a black person sees another black person run, said black person will also run without question or need for further communication—so we don't waste precious survival seconds with that bullshit you just said!

JO

Didn't we technically waste—

SOL takes off running.

JO

Yeah okay. Randomly running away is pretty efficient. I get it.

JO runs after her, and music propels their pace until finally...

JO

Hey this is it!

SOL

What...What the fuck is this supposed to be?

JO

It's how we're gonna find and transport Aru, like I explained before.

SOL

Naw bitch, you said you had a car that we could find and transport Aru with! This is a fucking junkyard!

JO

Right and there are plenty of vehicles here.

SOL

Right and are you a mechanic?

JO

No, I'm not re—

SOL

Then why the hell would you make us // walk all the way here in the—!!!

JO

No, but—hey hey hey hey hey but you're gonna fix it. You're gonna fix it!

SOL

How am I supposed do that?!

JO

Bye!

JO takes off running.

SOL

Ey! Wait up!

SOL runs after him. JO arrives at a car with SOL behind him.

JO

This is the car!

SOL

Okay first, touché, asshole. Second, next time don't say nothing cuz it alerts the danger that we've caught on. And third, uh...this janky ass hoopty is the car?

JO

This car is gonna be our best bet.

SOL

Um okay. And so how am I supposed to fix this thing now?

JO

It's not broken. It just needs fuel.

SOL

Ooooh okay...and so how am I supposed to fix this thing now?

JO

Before 1995, the technology throughout all of Morning Star was run on either blood, liquified bone marrow, or pure crystalized soul extract. But then Lucy overhauled everything to draw energy from Earth's internet usage.

SOL

What the—wait so what— all the lights here are kept on by Twitter?

JO

Not this car though. It's a vintage 1990 Soul Cruiser.

SOL

Wait, nuh-unh! You ain't about to drain my soul // for this fuckin car!

JO

No no no no no we couldn't drain your soul here anyway.

SOL

You ain't getting no blood or no liquid—

The same cacophony of howls pierce through the wind again. It's distant enough still, but unmistakably closer.

JO

Sol, we don't have time for this. The Bellboys are coming!

SOL

Why can't you use your blood?!

JO

I'm not fully human yet, and only humans have souls. Mine is incubating, but won't fully germinate until I'm on Earth.

SOL

But you still have blood though so—

JO

It would take all the blood in my body to only get a quarter of the fuel we would need. Your blood is gonna be a thousand times more powerful than mine.

SOL

What, why??

JO

You still have a soul so your blood has traces of your soul in it. The closer the fuel can be to pure crystalized soul extract the better fuel it is.

SOL

How you know all this shit?! I thought you had never been anywhere other than Nowhere!

JO

Look, we don't have time for me to answer every question you're gonna have, okay?! You're just gonna have to trust me!

SOL

The last time I trusted somebody I didn't ask questions at all. Now, I'm in a fuckin junkyard on Satan island trying to kill my former best friend so I can go home to a laundry list of PTSD!

JO

That's all well and good, but if those Bellboys catch up to us right now, I guarantee they'll be happy to let you ask any question you want as they're draining you.

A beat.

SOL

Fuck me....okay fine.

JO

C'mon get in!

SOL walks over and gets inside with JO. They shut their doors, and JO begins to look for anything useful inside the car.

Shit shit shit shit shit—how blood much you need?

JO

I'm not sure, but this gauge will tell us. Where is the—oh yes here it is! With this, I can attach you straight to the car.

JO pulls out a needle attached to a coiled wire that is connected to the console. To SOL's credit, the needle is pretty long.

SOL

YO THAT NEEDLE IS WAAAAY TOO MOTHERFUCKIN BIG!

JO

Shh shhhh c'mon! Don't be a weenie!

SOL

Yo it's too phallic anyway, man!!! That's not gonna work for me on so many levels, bruh!!!

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps and really intense sniffing. They go dead silent. The sniffing continues as ZANE appears around the corner. He's now a coyote bellboy. His former warmth is gone and is replaced with a cold, callous swagger.

ZANE

Well lookie what we have here! And they said my nose was still adjusting after the transition. But fuck them cuz look who's gonna get Bellboy of the Month now! Good ole' Zane baby BAY-bay!

SOL

Zane?

JO

(Whispered)

You should start fueling, and I'll try to buy us some time.

SOL

(Whispered)

No, that's Zane! That's my boy, he's not—

JO

(Whispered)

Lucy has the capability to do these transitions in mere hours now, which means his transition is fully complete. He won't remember you.

ZANE

Hey stop talkin and get out of the vehicle! Slowly!

JO

Sol, we only need half the gauge to get—

ZANE

Yo yo yo yo I said shut the fuck up, you shit mongrels! Last warning, step out of the car now!

JO opens the door, gets out. and shuts it.

JO

I'm sorry, was there a problem on this beautiful day, sir?

ZANE

(sniffing)

So it obviously ain't you with the soul that smells so good. I can tell that even from over here.

JO

(not a good actor)

Wait—what—you can literally *smell* my *soul*?! How can you do that?

ZANE

Don't try to hustle me, bitch. I'm not that new. You're not a fucking human.

JO

(still not good)

Wait—what—what do you mean?

ZANE

I said don't fuckin try me! I can smell you don't have a soul, but I can practically taste hers through that car right now.

JO

Okay fine. Listen—maybe—uh—maybe we can work out a deal. Okay?

ZANE

The deal's already been set. Lucy's done outsourcing the decisions to you fucking creatures. Aru had time to make a decision between his soul and yours. He wasted his time murdering our head of security Robbie. You humans can't be trusted.

SOL

We had nothing to do with that! We don't even know a Robbie!

ZANE

You had to have met him coming in. Geez, show some respect for the fallen, bitch.

JO

The falcon, Sol.

SOL

Oh Robbie is the...falcon. Oh sh—

JO

Well Zane we haven't even seen Aru, and he not with us.

ZANE

Aru's down here in Nowhere, but don't worry, we'll sniff him out. I thought it was his soul smelling like that at first.

JO

Well, if we see Aru, believe me, we will definitely—

ZANE

Tell me something, can you smell their souls still?

JO

Um—I don't—

ZANE

C'mon, Jo! What—you don't think I heard stories about you, you traitorous motherfucker?

JO

I'm not a traitor.

ZANE

It took me a second, but I was just thinking like “who would be running around with a soul this pure—this delicious—and not drain it on the spot?”

JO

How do you know that's not my plan?

ZANE

The part that gets me though— you wanna leave the Stratosphere and break your Bellboy vows...to be one of them??? I mean c'mon on—why???

SOL locks the doors of the car.

SOL

You're a fucking Bellboy?!

JO

Hey why'd you lock the doors? And why the hell is your window cracked?! Your soul scent's leaking through!

SOL

Stop asking me questions like you're my fuckin grandma! Are you mixed with one of those coyote bitches?!

JO

No Sol, listen it's not what—

ZANE

That's right, he's one of us! But y'know, you do have a point though, Jo. I never thought maybe the long con was your plan after all. Myself, I don't have the patience or skill for it, but maybe I underestimated you. There's big props if you can pull that off.

JO

Sol, it's not true! Please you have to trust me. // I'm not playing no—

SOL

No, fuck you, Jo! Why didn't you tell me before you were one of them, huh?!

JO

I didn't—I don't know—I didn't think it would—

ZANE

It's cuz he can still smell your soul, bitch! He's not fully transformed yet, and with a soul as rich as yours...I'd stretch out every fucking moment until I drained you too.

JO

Sol, don't believe him—I just wanted you to see me for who I really am!

SOL

And that's a fucking Bellboy!

ZANE

Technically, that's a fucking traitor.

JO

No, I'm not either of—!

ZANE

Either way you look at it you're a fucking moron, Jo! I mean look at her. Weak, stupid, scared, powerless. She deserved everything that's happened to her.

SOL

Zane!!! I know you're in there! Listen to me—you can fight this! No weapon formed against you shall prosper!

ZANE

See what I mean? Her stupid, tiny human brain still convinces her she has some sort of control right now. It just doesn't make any fucking sense. Why would you even want to pretend to be one of these insufferable fucking pathetic skin sacks?

SOL

Hey, fuck you too, buddy!

JO

You'd know better than anyone. You used to be one of these insufferable fucking pathetic skin sacks yourself.

ZANE

And now I'm finally *free*, you stupid pussy ass sheep hemorrhoid! I have power now, I'm fearless now, I live in the fucking stratosphere with Lucy now, bitch! And after I drain her, all those old crusty Bellboy bastards—

JO

Wait wait wait Lucy's gonna mad if you touch Sol before she gets to. She'll take it out on you... but we'll go with you. Peacefully. Deal?

Fuck you, Jo! Fuck that, I'm not—

SOL

Sol, this is the only way!!! Please!!!

JO

ZANE chuckles. He loves the dissension.

He's right, y'know. You're not leaving Morning Star with that sugary soul one way or another.

ZANE

Jo...don't do this...please.

SOL

(To Zane)
No harm to us and we'll go with you peacefully. Do we have a deal or not?

JO

Fuck no! I already told you the deal. Lucy wants an audience with Aru. That's it.

ZANE

But you just said you pretty much have Aru already! Why can't I just leave?!

SOL

You didn't even have enough decency and respect to show your face to the Most High. Leave? You never arrived in the first place.

ZANE

I never meant to come here in the first place! But...but I mean we can change that right? I mean like what about me?! Surely, she'll still deal since I have a bomb ass soul right?

SOL

Ah. I see your question and I'll raise you a better one. When's the last time the Boys got to do some good, old-fashioned, open-air soul hunting? Answer: last week. That was a long time ago, bitch. Like before-I-was-born long.

ZANE

Wait...are you saying Lucy doesn't want an audience with Sol too?

JO

Wait, Lucy doesn't want an audience with me too?!

SOL

Aru's the only one she has official business with since you didn't show up! He's the only one that has to be brought in alive. But I'm betting there's major soul crystal gravy on top if I can

ZANE

bring you in alive though. So don't be selfish and get out of the car, cunt. But y'know on second thought...it actually might be more fun to do this the hard way.

ZANE growls and giggles with gleeful anticipation.

JO

Sol, blow a dandelion in the air for me. I always wanted to do that.

SOL

What?

JO

When it's seventy and sunny in April.

SOL

Jo, what—

JO

“I hereby revoke my deal for safe pass to Earth,
And I accept the deal that was given at birth.
This is in accord with contract 35-W-C,
signed by the Most High in the land, Lucy.”

JO yells as his coyote fur and claws rip through his human form. JO is now a coyote bellboy again. ZANE laughs maniacally.

ZANE

I gotta say I'm disappointed, Jo. We coulda did this the easy way—and y'know, if you asked for a some of her soul crystal, I probably woulda gave you some too. But that's how the crystal crumbles ain't it, Traitor Jo. Ha! Traitor Jo! That's good!

SOL

Jo! But you can't transition back now—!

JO

Go, Sol! Now!

ZANE

Don't you fucking dare—

JO

Go, Sol! Go!

ZANE

Lucy was never gonna let you leave in the first place, Traitor Joe!

JO

Fuck you, WEENIE!

As SOL cranks the car and speeds off, ZANE gives a war howl and begins to fight JO. The sounds of their fighting fade into the distance as SOL hyperventilates. She begins crying. Screaming. Cursing. Pounding the steering wheel. She's at the end of her rope. There is a faint beeping noise in the background that she doesn't notice. Finally...

SOL

Jeehodee...this is...fuck I'm sorry—I guess you know who this is...man...I honestly don't know if I dreamt you, but I'm just...so tired. So fuckin tired. I know you said follow the playbook. Full circle. 360. Like your waves. But I don't know how to read your fuckin playbook! I don't know who to trust, and I feel like I'm back where I started, but even worse now cuz now I don't even have a plan! And the one you gave me... Where are you, huh? You said you'd never leave me nor forsake me so where the FUCK are you, huh?! Or where the fuck is Aru for that matter???

Where the fuck is this on-time God I'm always hearing about?! Cuz...I'm scared, Jeehodee. I need you. Come through...please. Cuz I don't know how much more I can take... What the FUCK IS BEEPING?!

SOL hits a few buttons on the console and the console beeps correspondingly.

Like what even is...? Oh shit—oh shit this is a GPS!!! Oh my—yo Jeehodee! Thank you, thank you, thank you! And sorry about all the fucks and whatnot. Amen and a woman.

She hits a few more buttons and the GPS starts talking. It has Lucy's voice.

GPS

Soul Cruiser Navigation brought to you Lucy! Where would you like to go today? You can say or enter your resp—

SOL

Stratosphere.

GPS

(Error beep)

Apologies from the bottom of my soul. This vehicle is not authorized to travel to that district. Try saying or entering another—

Headquarters. SOL

GPS
(Error beep)
Apologies from the bottom of my soul. This vehicle is not authorized to travel to that district.
Try saying or entering another—

Outer Layer. SOL

GPS
(Error beep)
Apologies from the bottom of my soul. This vehicle is not authorized to travel to that district.
Try saying or entering another—

Shit shit shit! SOL

GPS
Apologies from the bottom of my soul. I don't recognize the location—shit shit shit—Try saying
or entering another—

*SOL presses a button and the GPS goes
silent. A beat as thunder rumbles and
howling reverberates. SOL's stomach
growls ferociously.*

SOL
Thanks for nothing, and yeah I already know—entitlement. Whatever. I just need...never mind
man. I don't even know what I need right now. Amen and a woman.

The GPS beeps.

I thought I turned you off.

SOL presses a button.

Wow...okay so I don't know if it was you or Lucy's fucked up soul car, but I'll take anything as
a sign at this point.

*SOL presses a button or two and starts
driving as the thunder intensifies and gives
way to rain and howling. Music plays as we*

hear eggs sizzle and some frustrated grunts from CAL. He is messing with the radio. The music weaves in and out with the static, the sizzling, and the grunts. Something that sounds like an emergency broadcast tone goes off and a voice soon follows.

LUCY

Hello, my lovelies! It's your bottom bitch Lucy here with some good news after a few tough days for all of us. I wanted you to hear it straight from me that the armed and dangerous fugitive Aru has been captured and soon to be officially apprehended! This is all thanks to a joint effort of The Boys of the Stratosphere Squad and our very own citizens of Morning Star. In related news, the armed and dangerous fugitive Sol, who is wanted for the murder of our former head of security, has been reported to be hiding out in Nowhere. The Boys have reported that they are closing in, but could use any tip to help keep you and your loved ones safe. If you come into contact with any humans or any powerful aromas of soul, please get in touch with your local BSS office and together we will help keep Morning Star thriving from everlasting to everlasting. And now back to your regularly scheduled programming.

Static floods the air again with music trying to fight through but failing. CAL tries to slap the radio a few times before he ultimately turns it off.

CAL

I don't even know why I try with that thing. All it gets is her annoying ass voice anyway.

CAL cooks for a second, and then the thunder, rain, and wind all make themselves heard for a bit and blows open the door. The bell on the door rings. Howling is heard. CAL goes to the door shuts and locks it.

Oof. Sure is nasty out there tonight. Let's see...I already sorted the shelves, did the dishes, deep cleaned the vents, washed underneath the tables, dusted the doors, swept the walk-in, mopped the everything...Huh. Wait but I didn't—no I did that yesterday. And that too...hm. I guess...I guess I did everything...

A few beats as CAL stands in silence listening to the storm and the sizzle. CAL starts tapping their spatula on the grill. They start to hum. Just as they are about to really find a groove, there is a distant knocking. CAL stops.

CAL

Who's this banging on my door that hard at—wait what? Where's that coming from?

Nobody is at the front door. CAL listens as the distant knocking continues. It sounds frantic.

The back door? Uh-uh see I knew this boomstick would be a good purchase.

CAL grabs a shotgun, (verbalize) adds a few shells, and cocks it. CAL walks to the back and the pounding gets louder.

Who that and why you pounding at my back door? I won't be giving you any warning shots. Only double-barrelled killshots round here.

SOL

Yo yo yo! Cal don't shoot! It's me!

CAL

The human girl?

SOL

Yo look, I know you don't want me here, but I ain't know where else to go.

CAL

Are you alone?

SOL

Yeah! So fuckin alone!

CAL opens the door and aims the gun. CAL cocks a round.

SOL

Okay it's loaded! I fuckin get it! Point it somewhere else please!

CAL

Watch your mouth, I point things where I want at my diner, and where's Jo?

SOL

I don't know!

CAL

You hadn't seen him? I presume he left following you!

SOL

Well, yeah he found me but—

CAL

Then where is he and why isn't he with you?!

SOL

Look, we went to the junkyard cuz we needed a car—

CAL

Why would you go to the junkyard for a car?

SOL

That's what I said too, man! Listen, I just came here cuz I'm starving, and I know this is a risk but you didn't snitch on me before so I figured maybe you wouldn't again?

CAL

Humans are so. Stupid.

SOL

Yo I can just eat and leave if you want me to...I...I just didn't know where else to go.

*A beat as the rain and thunder and howling
compete.*

CAL

I'm cooking thirty-three eggs for myself cuz I wanted a snack, and I'm about half done so I'll let you have *a little bit* off the tail end. And then I'm gonna never see you again, you understand?

SOL

Yes, thank you! You'll never see my fuckin face—

CAL

And the next time you cuss in front me in my diner, I'll drain your soul the old-fashioned way myself.

SOL

Okay. Deal.

CAL

I don't make deals. That's a promise.

SOL

Okay bet.

CAL

I don't bet neither.

SOL

Affirmative...

*SOL walks in and CAL bolts the door shut.
SOL responds to the warmth of the building.*

CAL

You have to stay back here in this storage room though. Too many windows up front.

SOL

Yeah okay. Thank you.

CAL

Try not to get your soul on everything.

SOL

I will try my best...

*CAL leaves her and SOL lets out a few deep
sighs. Maybe she even dares to let out a
chuckle or two.*

Okay, Jeehodee, okay. I see what you did there. 360. Full circle, right? You wanted me to come back to the only place that showed me any decency...right? I don't know. I mean I hope so, but honestly whatever it is I'll take it. It feels so fuuu-reaking—I'ma try to work on my cussing—but yeah, it's just nice to have a freakin break. To not be outside in the wind and rain. I guess I'm sayin...thank you. Yeah. Trying to work on this entitlement shi—stuff too...and well um...acutally I do have a favor to ask you. I really really need to find Aru so I can get back home and give my Auntie the biggest hug ever. I miss her so much right now...she's always been the only person I could really trust and I'm realizing how big of a deal that is right now as I'm stuck in storage room literally in the middle of Nowhere. And actually...I wanna say a prayer for Jo too. Keep him safe cuz...I guess he would be the second...thing...human I could really trust. Okay um I guess that's it for now. Amen and a woman.

*A beat. Sizzling can be heard in the distance
as SOL walks over to the storage room door
and whispers down the hall to CAL.*

Psst. Psst. Hey, Cal?

CAL

Why are you whispering?

SOL

I don't...I don't know. I just thought that seemed right with me being a fugitive and all...

CAL

What do you want?

SOL

I just really wanted to look you in the eye and say thank you.

A beat.

CAL

Okay. Is that it?

SOL

Um, yeah. I guess.

CAL

These eggs are ready.

CAL starts to plate them.

SOL

Um okay. I guess that really wasn't it actually.

CAL

What?

SOL

Um...do your people—species...do they pee?

CAL

...yes...

SOL

Like...in a toilet?

CAL

You can't use the toilet. It's out of order.

SOL

It's out of order?

CAL

Yes. Now here are your eggs. Go back to the storage room and eat.

SOL

Okay thanks. But um...do you think maybe I can borrow a cup or bowl or something? I really gotta go.

CAL

Remove yourself from my presence.

SOL

Okay dope. Thanks for the eggs.

SOL walks back to the storage room and takes a seat.

Before I forget, thanks Jeehodee. Let this food be nourishing to my body and bless the hands that made it. Amen and a woman.

SOL tears into the eggs like a full-on beast with grunts, moans, commentary, everything. Suddenly, there's a booming sound of unified howls. This is the most present they've been yet. SOL stops eating. There are the sounds of CAL walking over to the door and unlocking it and the bell dinging as the door swings open. Before the door closes shut, we hear that the storm has not let up. We hear footsteps and then...

CAL

SOL!

SOL gasps and drops her plate. She hyperventilates.

Don't make me come drag you from back there!

SOL slowly makes her way into the main room.

LUCY

Wow, Cal. I gotta hand it to ya, this really is the finest diner This Side of Nowhere—hell, this is the finest diner in Nowhere period! And that's the motherfuckin truth right there!

CAL

Thank you, Most High. That truly means a lot.

LUCY

I'm sorry where are my manners—hello my dearest Sol! I've been waiting so long to finally get to meet you! Seems you like to play hard to get, but I'm sure you have to with a soul like that.

SOL

You're...Lucy?

LUCY

Wow and smart too. Be a doll and do a big exhale for me.

SOL exhales. LUCY smells the air. A few times actually. With every whiff, she becomes more and more enthused.

LUCY

Fuck me upside down on a ferris wheel! Giiiiiiiiiiiiir! Wow! Now, I know what Jesse McCartney was singing about! That's fuckin...woo! I'm sure you fuckin appreciate this, Cal, being a cook and all. Not that you do much cooking here, but still!

CAL

Yes, Most High. I do...appreciate the quality.

LUCY

Like the— those—what do you call them— undertones of anxiety! Oooh mixed with that robust entitlement and that rugged aftertaste of honesty. Wow! All you humans think you're special, but you, Sol, really are special. You should be proud.

CAL

Do you want me to fetch the other? He's tranquilized and tied up in the bathroom.

LUCY

Yes if you wouldn't mind going ahead and loading Aru in my Cruiser for me. We need to have a little girl talk.

CAL

Yes, Most High.

LUCY

Hey Cal, dear, would you mind propping the door open as you're taking him?

CAL

Um...it's storming still—

LUCY

(the politest threat of all time)
But only if you don't mind, dear.

CAL

Yes, Most High.

LUCY

Oh and don't forget your crystals. Here ya go.

LUCY pours a few soul crystals into CAL's hands.

CAL

Thank you, Most High. You're gracious as you are beautiful.

LUCY

(Receiving the flattery)

Oh stop it, ya big lug, I already paid ya! Now run along!

CAL

Yes, Most High.

CAL leaves the room. We hear him walk, open a door, and struggle lifting an unconscious ARU.

CAL

Up ya go, Aru. Thanks for choosin Cal's.

SOL

I'm sorry, Lucy—

LUCY

Nuh-uh-uh. Not yet. Just oooooonnnne second. This'll be fun, and I guarantee you won't wanna miss it. Wait for it.

They continue listening as CAL walks to the front door, opens, and props it. As the bell dings, the storm outside floods in. There are a few indistinguishable voices and then the shutting of a door or trunk. Suddenly, there's an overwhelming wave of growls, howls, barks, roars, etc and we hear CAL begging and fighting for his life. Soon, his cries are overtaken by the storm and the multitude of howls. A pregnant beat or three.

SOL

Cal...they just...you just...

LUCY

Wow oh wow are they rowdy or what? But I don't have to tell you, The Boys will be The Boys, am I right?

A beat.

LUCY

Say: yes, Lucy.

SOL

(Barely a croak)

Yes, Lucy.

LUCY

Now poor sweet Cal lived here long enough to know that I'm a kind, benevolent boss bitch, and he betrayed my gentle nature when he didn't immediately report you the first time you came here. But you're new here to Morning Star so I know you didn't mean to be rude when you just stood outside and refused to deal with me. And I just wanna let you know that I didn't take it personally. So what do you say?

SOL

Thank you, Lucy.

LUCY

You're welcome, baby doll. Hey y'know what Nowhere is so dreary, right? Why don't we make like a marriage and split, go back to the hotel, do our nails and talk about boys! I mean I know boys aren't your thing, but I know at least one you'll wanna talk about. He's even gonna ride with us, but you just keep your hands to yourself on the way over there, you naughty girl you. Sound fun?

SOL

Yeah...fun...

LUCY

Ooooo girl...And we'll have to get you a change of clothes, you seemed to have pissed yourself. Classic human, am I right? Come along!

*LUCY and SOL leave the diner, and the cars speed off. As the cars fade away, the music and storm swell and the bell dings indicating the diner door has closed.
End of episode.*