

INT. ABANDONED CHURCH - NIGHT

PRIESTIUS is giving a sermon to their large cult following.
Priestius is wearing a traditional red robe with gold accents.

PRIESTIUS

Hello my minions.

AUDIENCE

Hello Priestius!!

PRIESTIUS

Unfortunately, despite the endless
commitment and money you all have
given, every one of my plans to end
world peace has been foiled.

Hushed murmurs fall over the AUDIENCE.

PRIESTIUS

Yes I know, you all have the right to
be upset. But it's not my fault, it's
that dang secret agent Rand who keeps
foiling my schemes.

CULT FOLLOWER

Boo! We hate Rand.

PRIESTIUS

And I'll reveal my new plot soon, but
if I've learned anything from being a
supervillain, it's that Rand should be
here right about-

RAND swings in overhead of the cult followers on a rope. They're
wearing an all black leather outfit with a fedora and
sunglasses.

RAND

Soon?

PRIESTIUS

No, you're supposed to say *now*. Oh
nevermind-

Priestius pinches the bridge of their nose, and waves their
other hand at Rand to shoot a bolt of magic that cuts the rope
Rand swung in on. Rand falls onto the edge of the stage and
pulls themselves up.

RAND

Now.

PRIESTIUS

It's too late.

Priestius waves their hands at the rope Rand swung in on, and magics it around Rand, tying them up around a chair.

RAND

Oh wow. Tying me up with magic, I've never seen that trick before.

PRIESTIUS

Oh because you're so original? I can't count how many times you've entered through the roof. We have a door you know.

PRIESTIUS sighs into their hands and brushes back their hood to reveal a head of golden hair.

RAND

At this point I'm just trying to get the job done. Wake up, take out the garbage, that's you, lie awake for a long time until I fall aslee-

PRIESTIUS

Alright alright I get it.

RAND

I wasn't finished.

PRIESTIUS

(groans)

Fine. What else did you have to say?

RAND

p, repeat.

PRIESTIUS

I didn't mind being your nemesis when you tried harder.

(to audience)

I'm sorry folks we'll be right back.

A large curtain closes over the church's stage.

PRIESTIUS

Look, I'm tired today, so instead of your regular monologue, here's a video.

Priestius waves their hand to press a button on their projector. Nothing happens.

RAND

Um, nothing is happening.

PRIESTIUS

I've noticed that.

RAND

Okay. Fix it?

PRIESTIUS

Oh crap. I forgot that I added a magical gadget nullifier spell. I forgot that it would affect my stuff too.

RAND

Magic gadget nullifier? That explains why my technological spell stopper hasn't been affecting you.

PRIESTIUS

Yes indeed.

RAND

I thought it was just malfunctioning, because you weren't as pizzazz-y with your spells as you usually are.

PRIESTIUS

What do you mean? I had plenty of pizzazz.

RAND

All I'm saying is there was a time where you added little stars to your spells.

PRIESTIUS

Okay. And there was a time you would've back-flipped off the rope instead of just falling onto the stage.

RAND

All I'm saying is you don't add the little effects that you used to.

PRIESTIUS

I just don't want to do them anymore. Is that okay?

(sigh)

Look. Let's just- pretend to be the nemeses we used to be. My cult followers need someone to hate or they'll stop believing.

RAND

Fine. We can stay together for the cult followers.

The large curtain opens to see the audience again.

RAND

(under their breath)

But I think I'm falling out of nemeship with you.

PRIESTIUS

What? Oh, uh-

(to the audience)

Hello minions! Thank you for waiting as me and Rand sorted that out. But now, time to unveil my scheme to end world peace!

The crowd cheers.

RAND

What is it this time?

PRIESTIUS

I assure you that it's something new.

RAND

Are you going to poison the air with your laser hands?

Priestius is growing impatient.

PRIESTIUS

No I-

RAND

Are you trying to hatch the moon like
an egg to free your god?

PRIESTIUS

I said no-

RAND

Are you going to shave off every
politician's mustache?

PRIESTIUS

Stop it! I said no I- wait, you got it
right.

RAND

Really? You're going to shave off every
politician's mustache? That was my joke
answer.

PRIESTIUS

No, the one before that.

RAND

The laser hands thing? Last time you
tried that, didn't you realize that it
made no sense.

PRIESTIUS

It makes sense you just don't get it.
And no, I'm going to hatch the moon
like an egg to free the god of hate.

RAND

Oh right, I remember the first time you
tried to free X'Kanthu. You used to try
so much harder back then, it was nice.

PRIESTIUS

(to the audience)

I'm sorry folks, we're going to have to
end early. Um... Hate be with you.

AUDIENCE

And also be with you also.

The crowd shuffles out the front of the church doors with
whispered murmurs.

RAND

Woah what happened, you haven't even explained your whole scheme.

PRIESTIUS

Because you've done nothing but criticize me. I don't try? No you don't try! You haven't even attempted to escape and you're literally just tied to a chair.

Rand stands up from their chair and the rope falls to the floor.

RAND

Who says I haven't escaped.

PRIESTIUS

Well if you- then why haven't you- shouldn't you be attacking me right now?

RAND

Priestius, I'm just not sure we should be nemeses anymore. There's no more passion.

PRIESTIUS

Fine. Go on and leave then.

Rand starts to leave the church, on their way they sidestep several of Priestius's booby traps. An arrow is shot at them but they catch it right before it hits their face, then they throw it off and it breaks a window.

One of those rope-pulley systems used for catching animals in the forest goes off right as Rand moves their foot off of it. There's a small explosion somewhere, but it doesn't hurt anyone.

Right when Rand gets to the edge of the stage, they stop moving.

RAND

Just because we're not nemeses, that doesn't mean we have to stop talking.

PRIESTIUS

What? You've spent the last several years of your life foiling my plots, and you want to be friends?

RAND

Not friends, not really. I guess, what I'm trying to say is, maybe next time you tie me up, it might be after dinner or something.

PRIESTIUS

Agent Rand, are you flirting with me?

RAND

Flirting? I'm just bantering, the same way we always used to do, back when we both still tried. Oh those were the good days.

PRIESTIUS

I have to say I'm flattered but, I lead a cult based on hate, I can't just be all lovey-dovey with our number one enemy.

RAND

Then let's put on a show for your followers, we can pretend we hate each other for them. It won't matter, we'll know the truth.

Priestius sits at the edge of the stage, adjacent to where Rand is standing.

PRIESTIUS

Didn't you just say that you hated having to do this same thing every day?

RAND

It won't be exactly the same. I won't be going home to the same empty bed every night. Depending on how you want things of course.

PRIESTIUS

I'd be honored. And, it's nice just talking with you I guess.

RAND

(giggle)

I'm glad to hear that. Maybe I'll even let you win a couple of times.

PRIESTIUS

You know what'd be fun, stargazing.

RAND

Yeah that sounds great.

PRIESTIUS

Here, let me open the roof of the church.

The roof of the church opens up so Priestius and Rand can watch the stars. Both of them lie in the middle of the church next to each other.

RAND

We probably could've just looked through the hole I busted in the roof.

PRIESTIUS

That's a lot less fun.. But you should really start using the door.

RAND

(brr)

It's kind of cold.

PRIESTIUS

Here, have my robe.

Rand takes Priestius' robe. Underneath the robe, Priestius is only wearing briefs with snake patterns on them, and shoes with really fat tongues.

RAND

Hehe, thank you.

Rand and Priestius begin to hold hands, but they are interrupted by CULT FOLLOWER, who rushes into the building.

CULT FOLLOWER

We did it Priestius! Woah are y'all holding hands? I'm sorry it is no business of mine.

PRIESTIUS

What did you come here to say, loyal cult follower?

CULT FOLLOWER

Me and the rest of the group decided to take your scheme and enact it. In other words, X'Kanthu is free!

PRIESTIUS

That's wonderful!

(to Rand)

In your face Rand, see I don't need you to let me win. I'm sorry that was rude, I really do want to spend more time with you.

CULT FOLLOWER

Are you two-?

PRIESTIUS

Get out!

CULT FOLLOWER

Sorry, my liege.

Cult Follower exits.

RAND

Now that the minions are gone, I can show you my kind of magic.

Rand grabs Priestius' hands.

PRIESTIUS

I'd love that, Rand, but X'Kanthu is free.

RAND

Oh Priestius, it's nothing. We'll be fine.

PRIESTIUS

We won't be fine. X'kanthu, the god of hatred, sealed away inside the moon, who I've spent my life trying to free, is free.

RAND

You've been trying to free her for so long, don't you have a plan?

PRIESTIUS

My plan was always to go out with the Earth. I never had anyone else to live for, until now.

Priestius grips Rand's hands tighter.

RAND

Maybe she'll be grateful to you for freeing her.

PRIESTIUS

I strongly doubt the god of hate will be grateful. We don't have long left to live, she'll be crashing down from the moon soon.

Priestius and Rand look up through the roof to see a shooting star that they think is X'Kanthu. At that very same moment, the door is kicked down by X'Kanthu.

PRIESTIUS

Oh come on. The one time someone uses the door.

X'KANTHU

Priestius, do you dare perform unhateful actions in my presence?

Priestius gets on the floor and bows down to X'Kanthu.

PRIESTIUS

Of course not, your hatefulness, I was just uh- Rand why aren't you bowing down?

Rand gets on the ground next to Priestius and also bows down.

RAND

(whispers to Priestius)
You should ask her if she's grateful.

X'KANTHU

I'm waiting for your excuse, mortal.

PRIESTIUS

You wouldn't happen to be grateful for being freed, you're meaniness?

X'KANTHU

Do you honestly think I'd be grateful?
I've been stuffed inside the moon since
it hit the Earth. My back hurts like
hell, and I made hell.

PRIESTIUS

No sire, it was Rand's idea. Pathetic
mortal.

RAND

Just because I'm a mortal that doesn't
mean I'm pathetic-

X'KANTHU

Silence! Priestius, I'm waiting for
your excuse, why are you being all
gross and lovey with this weirdo?

PRIESTIUS

I'm thinking, but you're much harder to
deceive than my lowlife followers.

CULT FOLLOWER

(from outside)

I heard that!

X'Kanthu heaves towards Priestius and Rand.

X'KANTHU

If you don't have an excuse soon then
I'll be forced to send you both to
double hell! It's way worse than normal
hell and hell squared combined.

Rand jumps up and throws their hat in the air, they stand in a
way that would suggest they are about to catch a gun.

RAND

Hat gun activate!

The hat did not turn into a gun, and Rand did not catch it on
its way down.

PRIESTIUS

You idiot! You forgot about the magical
gadget nullifier. I really wish I
didn't release X'Kanthu now.

Priestius gets up to kiss Rand, but is too late, because the world gets vaporized.