

Lesser Gods Chapter 8

By

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SCENE 1

PERS (NAR.)

The light in this room is terribly unflattering. That's what I'm thinking as I stare at my reflection in the one way mirror. My unkempt hair, the small, stinging cut on my lip, my bloodshot eyes with their puffy bags beneath... all features I memorize to distract me from everything else going on inside my mind. I can't keep circling back to Dion dying. I have so many bad memories, all dulled by my constant replaying. They hardly affect me anymore. I can't keep thinking about Dion dying because I worry it will become like them, and I will grow calloused, unable to feel it anymore. The least I owe him is to hurt for as long as I can.

ORSINO

"We love you Persephone!" "I hope she's getting rest" "Pray for Persephone"

PERS (NAR.)

It would be possible to forget the detective was in the room with me if his presence wasn't so grating. He's reading off a tablet at the table in the room's center. He whistles.

ORSINO

You've developed quite the fan base in the last few days.

PERS

I've had less competition.

PERS (NAR.)

In the past few days, the praise of anonymous strangers just hasn't been doing it for me. I wonder why... I sigh, turn to him.

PERS

That was a joke.

ORSINO

I assumed.

PERS

Would you like me to record my responses to your questions? I'm sorry I'm just so tired of repeating myself. And my brain is still killing me.

PERS (NAR.)

I think Hera slapped me hard enough to rattle my brain. Funny, all this time I thought I'd seen her anger max out at a simmering passive aggression. Nice to know people can still surprise you.

ORSINO

She really got you good.

PERS

Well I guess, Hera does everything well.

ORSINO

Can you talk a little about your relationship with her?

PERS

Let me stop you right there. Hera didn't kill Iris.

PERS (NAR.)

He sits back, a little surprised.

ORSINO

What makes you think that's what I'm asking?

PERS

Because you're not nearly interested enough in where Rhea went. Or Clark.

ORSINO

Triton.

PERS

That's a god awful name.

ORSINO

In your post you said you think Eros did it.

PERS

No I didn't. I talked about how much Iris loved him. How much that seemed to bother him. How-

ORSINO

"Iris spends a lot of time performing.

On stage and for the public. She loves it. But the performance she engaged in with us... Watching her pretend Eros was just a friend. Seeing her eyes glint when she laughed at a joke he made to her, or watching her hold her breath every time they brushed up against each other...I watched every time as moments later, she would swallow those feelings... Kill them. For Rhea."

PERS (NAR.)

He reads from my latest post, or at least the most recent one with my name on it. I didn't have the energy to do it yesterday so, Black posted it as me. It's not bad... Little dramatic. He looks up from the tablet.

PERS

I didn't know you were a fan. I say.

ORSINO

Is this even true?

PERS

You're the detective.

PERS (NAR.)

It's funny, hearing it back, how true it actually is. Not so much the specifics. I don't think anyone actually finds Eros funny. But the idea of Iris putting on a show for all of us. I know she did because we all do. Impressing each other with how much bullshit we can take from the rest of the world. The petty jabs at Rhea. Just entertainment compared to what we get from them. And for the first time, I find myself wondering how she could have left me here without her. She said it herself in the tunnel, we had eachothers' backs... How stupid of me to allow myself to... what? Miss her. For even a moment. When Rhea speaks of loyalty or friendship, it's all outward facing. She has never once been able to understand that you have to give as you take. That's all she's ever been good at. Taking. From the rest of us. From Hera. From the air in the room, sucking it up and smothering the rest of us like flames. Like we all only exist to be playthings for her. The minute she turns her back, we all freeze, and anxiously wait to react to her.

ORSINO

I'm sorry Persephone.

PERS

What?

PERS (NAR.)

I hiss. My heart is beating in my throat. My brain finally embracing the years and years of earned rage.

ORSINO

I'm sorry for all of it, on behalf of everyone. You have always gotten the short end of the stick.

PERS (NAR.)

Does he really expect me to fall for this?

PERS

Shove your stick up your ass.

PERS (NAR.)

I will not give him the satisfaction of comforting me. Is he really going to tell me he's sorry I've been treated like a spare part my whole life?

PERS

You do realize you've taken nearly a week to talk to me? And I had actual information! If you are this blind to yourself, god help us all. You know, I used to worry about what would happen when everyone else died. What if I was the last person left?

PERS (NAR.)

He gets to his feet.

PERS

That's why I find it so fucking comforting to know that your unsolved case will outlive all of us.

ORSINO

Are you done?

PERS

Oh I'm done with you. Please have them send someone less useless if they want to talk to me.

PERS (NAR.)

And he opens the door, steps out. And in steps Apollo. Great. There's a spring in his step, he flashes his white teeth.

APOLLO

I'll take you home.

PERS

(CRUEL LAUGH)

I thought you'd never offer. Finally get around to me?

PERS (NAR.)

His face turns to ash. This is going to be too fun.

PERS

Oh lighten up, no one has any secrets anymore.

PERS (NAR.)

As I walk past him, I can smell the nervous, instant sweat.

PERS

Besides, I think your girlfriend's already taken you back.

PERS (NAR.)

He follows me down the hall.

PERS

So what do you think changed things for her? Dion died and you got just a little closer to being the last man on Earth? Hera said "Might as well!"

APOLLO

There's no need to talk about Hera.

PERS

Bet that sounded way sexier when you said it to Iris.

APOLLO

That's enough.

PERS (NAR.)

He growls and I make a quick 180 to face him, he stops just short of smacking into me. He towers over me. I stare up at him. He glares back. His face stricken and serious. I remember when we were 13, I had a big crush on him. So did Iris. And Char. He just had this glow... Took me years to figure out he wasn't special. Just happy. Not that there are many people like that anymore. Everyone would be dragging their feet, grim faced down dark halls and in sterile rooms... In he'd strut. All smiles. Occasionally whistling. He seemed like such a safe person to love. He never seemed to let anything around him effect him. Like every time he disappeared from view he went to some place where nothing was so scary. I wanted him to take me with him. He breaks eye contact, brushes past me. I follow him outside. It's raining.

When we were getting our chaperones assigned, I prayed I'd get him. It didn't make any sense to assign him to someone so... low profile. I don't know why they chose Eros over Char but so it went. "Eros and Rhea?... Oh how cute... Could you imagine?... A miniature Apollo and Hera... So sweet... Think of the photo opps..." What did I expect?

Iris was already the pretty one.

Even if she was boring. But that was fine. Rhea was the interesting one. And me? I was the little one. The make up. The heels. I was the oldest looking 13 year old anyone had seen at the assigning ceremony.

Apollo unlocks a squad vehicle. We both sit in the front. He stares uncomfortably out the window while the car drives itself.

APOLLO

How are you feeling?

PERS (NAR.)

I decide not to answer. He turns to look at me. It's funny, the older I got. The closer we became. Just in proximity. I learned where he went when he disappeared.

Just more depressing rooms with thin beds. Cold metal.

Lights that exposed everything. People running out of ideas.

There was no happy place. Just him, choosing to make those places fine because of his presence. None of that was a chore for him, he was there to save the world.

By the time I copped with him the magic had worn off and he was just a person too delusional to face reality. I was surprised when I found out about him and Iris. I wasn't when things fell apart. Only he could think everything would be okay if he had them both.

Hera for his heart. Iris for his ego. Idiot.

APOLLO

Why didn't you say you'd seen them?

PERS

Oh-

PERS (NAR.)

I mean, if he asks a good question I might as well answer.

PERS

I guess I didn't take it that seriously.

APOLLO

Iris had just died.

PERS
And Rhea is always doing stupid shit.

APOLLO
But she was gone days, she was-

PERS
I guess I was distracted by how well things were working out for me. You must understand that.

PERS (NAR.)
He looks flustered.

APOLLO
I have no idea what that's supposed to mean.

PERS
It must have crossed your mind, the girl was a walking, talking reminder of your failures.

APOLLO
Iris and I were fine. What happened in the past was over. I couldn't... As soon as I realized the mistake I made I ended it. I would really, really appreciate it if you stopped talking about this.

PERS
I will. Just stop being so fucking happy all the time.

SCENE 2

SOUND: GRUNT

RHEA (NAR.)
Well Rebekah has put us to work. I would be embarrassed by my lack of physical labor skills, but that's what I have Clark for. I turn, my face warm from sweat and the sun, to him. He's dropped an armful of fire wood. As I approach him I roll my eyes.

CLARK
My load was extremely cumbersome!

RHEA
That's one I haven't heard.

RHEA (NAR.)

I respond as I help him. Because of my arm I was given far less to carry.

RHEA

And I here I thought you were incapable of complaining.

CLARK

I haven't said anything.

RHEA

It's the look on your face.

CLARK

That why Rebekah keeps glaring at me?

RHEA (NAR.)

I shrug, because I don't want to give him a license to complain... Rebekah has not been easy on Clark.

Everything she says to him is a little dig. So I tried to distract her with questions. I've found out everything from The Void's turbulent beginnings to her own peanut allergy, but I haven't gotten anywhere near who might have been her mole. She has only assured me it wasn't Hera. Which is a relief... I had to spend the whole morning being comforted by Clark. If you're wondering what THAT looks like, it's me yelling at him while he nods or tells me "That's impossible..."

It felt strange to be so happy someone ELSE had died. I've convinced myself it must have been someone fairly useless. Nobody THAT close to Black would have dared help The Void... Right?

There's a grunt behind me and I see Clark stumbling, but catching himself.

RHEA

God Clark, maybe I should just carry you.

CLARK

I promise I'm lighter than I look.

RHEA (NAR.)

He smiles, a cheeky grin. I roll my eyes... Swallow a lump in my throat, I've been meaning to tell him something all day. But what I have to say isn't easy.

RHEA
Clark?

RHEA (NAR.)
Here we go.

RHEA
Thank you. For uhm... the other day. For trying to help me
with my arm. And this morning.

RHEA (NAR.)
He stares at me blankly.

CLARK
What?

RHEA
You heard me.

CLARK
Huh?

RHEA
Stop it.

CLARK
Drop it? Did you say? All this?

RHEA
I don't even know if you could do that on purpose.

RHEA (NAR.)
He rolls his eyes. Guess I am rubbing off on him. Maybe it's
because the only other person I know here might have killed
one of my friends, but Clark is seeming less terrible
today... I mean, if we were home, I'm sure we'd have way more
to bicker over.
We arrive back at camp and drop the wood by a large stack. I
sit onto a long, sideways log.

CLARK
Shouldn't we stack these with the others?

RHEA
I mean, we COULD. But, look how good that stack is.

We'd never be able to add ours without messing the whole thing up. Besides, that's probably some lady's WHOLE job. And she's an artist.

CLARK
You're an artist at avoiding work.

RHEA (NAR.)
He drops onto the makeshift bench.

RHEA
I don't think I've ever done any manual labor that wasn't punishment. I kinda liked it.

CLARK
I didn't.

RHEA (NAR.)
I take off my boots. Start massaging my feet through thick socks.

RHEA
I can't-... Never mind. I don't want to ruin your good mood.

CLARK
I'm not in a good mood.

RHEA (NAR.)
He removes his shoes too.

RHEA
Switch?

RHEA (NAR.)
I suggest.
He stares at me, now genuinely confused. I clarify by swinging one leg up onto the log and then gesturing to his. He shifts to awkwardly straddle the bench.

RHEA
Clark, it isn't that complicated.

RHEA (NAR.)
I grab his foot.

RHEA
I'm glad you're kinda short. Hope you're not as ticklish as you are weird.

CLARK
I'm not. I hope.

RHEA (NAR.)
He grabs my foot and handles it like an egg that could crack.
I dig my fingers into his sole to give him the idea.

CLARK
OW.

RHEA
I can't stop thinking about Char. And Pers.

CLARK
Wasn't expecting you to miss Pers.

RHEA
Yeah. She's... she's the worst. Most of the time. But we're still... there was a time we were all friends. I mean, it'd be one thing to know about Eros and Iris.
But to be so public? I would never do anything like this to her or her new chap.

CLARK
They haven't been paired for that long.

RHEA
Only paired a few months ago but... she seems to really like him. I give her shit, but I'm glad she's... okay.
I mean before then she had this awful older woman who couldn't keep up with her and she only got her because her chap before killed herself.

CLARK
Right. I read that. Athena.

RHEA
Right.

RHEA (NAR.)
Suicide has become fairly common amongst people who are no longer viable. You lose what little sense of purpose you ever had.

RHEA

It fucking sucked. Totally out of no where. She was paired with Pers after... her original chap... Hermes. He was... bad.

CLARK

The file just said he was relocated when she was 16.

RHEA

He did a real number on her head. Isolated her. Played her against the rest of us. He was... obsessed with her... Once the situation became impossible to ignore. Black shipped him off. Brought in Athena... Those were pretty great years for all of us actually.

CLARK

Yeah I could tell. From the reports in your files and I uhm, I remember the newsblogs and stuff. Were, uhm, were you and Hera always close?

RHEA

No, no. We didn't get chaperones until we were 13.

CLARK

Oh wait, yes. I remember that. Some big ceremony. The news was basically nonstop coverage of the Sacred Sisters.

RHEA

Switch feet.

RHEA (NAR.)

He complies.

RHEA

It all felt so embarrassing. Hera and I had barely been friends. I mean, when I was a kid we would spend an hour a night together. But we had nothing to talk about. She was... important and smart and oh so glamorous... I just wanted to watch movies and read. Suddenly we had to be together all the time. Being 13 I was a total brat... Well, some things never change... But I knew getting her also meant getting Apollo who even then was... unbearable.

CLARK

Yes, I only met him once and he seemed... Well they seemed... complicated.

RHEA (NAR.)

If he thinks they're complicated now imagine what he'd think if he knew about Iris and Apollo? But that's a story for another time.

RHEA

So at this big press event where they hand us over. I had been told I would be getting a very special gift. Which I was excited about. But then Apollo struts across the stage. I'm mortified. He gets to me, stoops over and recites this tacky ass speech about how he thinks of me as family and he cannot wait until our relationship blossoms. And THEN he hands me a flower.

CLARK

(LAUGHS)

That's awful.

RHEA

All I said was "What am I supposed to do with this?"

RHEA (NAR.)

I start to laugh before I can even finish.

RHEA

And everyone went dead quiet. Apollo turned a shade of red I didn't know was possible. Until this crazy hysterical laughter breaks out. From Hera.

RHEA (NAR.)

Clark grins.

CLARK

The beginning of her making the best of a Rhea situation.

RHEA (NAR.)

She squeezes my foot extra hard.

CLARK

Ow!

RHEA (NAR.)

Then there's a lump in my throat, and I speak before I think.

RHEA

I don't know if I'll ever see her again.

CLARK

Rhea, we have to go back.

RHEA

When? When they STOP suspecting me in Iris' murder?

CLARK

You don't even know if that's still the case.

RHEA

They're all looking for me!

CLARK

Because you ran away! Not because you killed Iris. I mean, what're you going to do? Stay here? Join The Void?

RHEA (NAR.)

He abruptly pulls his feet away from me and drops mine.

RHEA

I have more in common with her than with Black.

CLARK

Except for the killing people. Besides, the world isn't made up of JUST Black.

RHEA

But it is run by her. And whoever takes over next could be even worse.

CLARK

Or better!

RHEA

Oh my god Clark. Stop being so fucking optimistic for one second-

CLARK

Instead of me being optimistic let me... what? talk about my childhood? You wanna hear any of my funny stories, Rhea? Any of my rosy memories? It's a real short fucking list. So, I apologize if my need to look forwards seems stupid to you. Let's talk about loneliness. Isolation. Coldness.

RHEA (NAR.)

He's breathing hard. His face is red.

RHEA

You aren't alone anymore. I'm here with you. We're a team...

Let's... Okay... Let's do something you have always wanted to do.

CLARK
... What?

RHEA
In all the time you spent doing NOTHING, what was something you wanted to do?

CLARK
This is stupid.

RHEA
Oh come on.

CLARK
Fine.

RHEA (NAR.)
But he doesn't continue.

RHEA
Well?

RHEA (NAR.)
And he smiles slightly before speaking.

SCENE 3

SOUND: A DOORBELL RINGS

HERA (NAR.)
I take my time getting to my feet. I didn't think it would happen so fast. But I mean... I didn't think anything about the past 20 years would happen so fast.
I think back to all the speeches, parades, parties... Then, they all felt like a way to pass the time. I never stopped to think what running out of it could feel like.

SOUND: DOORBELL RINGS AGAIN

HERA (NAR.)
He won't come inside without me letting him. But he will keep ringing. I take a deep breath and open the door. He smiles when he sees me, one hand in his hair.
He removes it, wipes it on his pants.

APOLLO
It's raining.

HERA (NAR.)
Apollo says.

HERA
Well you better come inside then.

HERA (NAR.)
My voice comes out less certain than I hoped. I turn quickly and go back inside. He follows, shutting the door behind him.

HERA
I'll have to send coffee or tea to the guys outside.

APOLLO
I'm sure they'd rather be guarding you under an umbrella than-

HERA
They aren't guarding me. They're making sure I don't leave.

HERA (NAR.)
He doesn't correct me because we both know I'm right.

APOLLO
Well, whatever they're doing here beats searching the woods.

HERA
They've moved out of the city?

HERA (NAR.)
He hesitates. Realizing he's said something he shouldn't. I don't stop staring at him until he speaks again.

APOLLO
After they spoke to Persephone, they narrowed down what tunnel she took out. From there they checked for missing vehicles. They found one missing that hadn't been reported before. They couldn't find it anywhere in the city so... They've got drones but they wanted people on the ground too.

HERA
She must be driving.

APOLLO
As if the situation wasn't scary enough.

HERA (NAR.)
He watches my face to see how I take that joke.

APOLLO
I'm kidding. She drives better than anyone else. Eros, at least.

HERA
Thanks for telling me all that.

APOLLO
Of course. How are you?

HERA
I'm totally-

HERA (NAR.)
But why lie anymore? A few hours ago I was in a drug-induced mini coma.

HERA
I'm bad. Why haven't they found her yet?

APOLLO
Because they were totally unequipped for this kind of thing. On top of Iris. And Eros. And then Dion. It's a lot to happen at once.

HERA
Yeah... Almost too much to happen at once.

APOLLO
Oh come on.

HERA
It just seems like a lot of things to go wrong at once for it to be a coincidence.

APOLLO
Ah, you've spoken to Eros.

HERA
He's saying some things that might make sense-

APOLLO

And even more that doesn't. He's freaked out. He isn't eating or sleeping- I mean you KNOW the kind of insane things you start to think.

HERA (NAR.)

Ouch. He jumps on his last words before I can speak.

APOLLO

I didn't mean it like that. I really- I just mean you and I need to keep ourselves together. You can't start talking like that. Not now.

HERA

They're worried.

APOLLO

Only as your friends. But they're freaked out. Everyone is losing it. And you... you kind of scared them.

HERA

What about you?

HERA (NAR.)

He hesitates.

APOLLO

I know how bad things got last time.

HERA

This is different. Then... there was nothing I could do to fix things. We still have time. That's why when I found out Persephone knew something... I know I shouldn't have hit her.

APOLLO

Well, I think you have to do a lot more than slap her to shake that girl.

HERA

I feel like an idiot.

APOLLO

She was hiding something pretty major from all of us, but especially you. She could have saved us two days.

HERA

I need you to do me a favor.

HERA (NAR.)

He raises his eyebrows. Not going to lie, I was hoping for an "anything, Hera".

HERA

I need you to convince them I'm okay. When they find her, I need to be there to talk to her. Maybe they can even send me out there? No one knows her as well as I do. What if they find the car and they're not there? I can predict her better. And I've met Clark! He likes me.

APOLLO

Hera slow down.

HERA

I need to get out of this house.

APOLLO

I don't know if that's a good idea.

HERA

Apollo.

APOLLO

You have no idea how much arguing it took from Black and I to keep them from locking you up. Or...

HERA

Or what?

APOLLO

Or sending you to the hospital again.

HERA (NAR.)

Now it's his turn to stare me down. I've never spoken about what happened in there with anyone except for him. My arms cross over my stomach involuntarily. They call it a hospital but... it's not what you're thinking. It's worse. After I miscarried I felt... terrible. I couldn't feel anything except this clawing sense of dread. That this was the beginning of the end for me. If I couldn't do this one thing, what was I supposed to do with the rest of my life?

I isolated myself in my house. Stopped attending any events or classes. In the beginning I was productive, reading. Exercising. Whatever to keep moving. But by the third day without sleep I was just lying in bed staring at the ceiling. On day four they came to check on me and I could barely form sentences. Mental health issues are extremely common... but they were worried if people knew something was wrong with me, it would end up all over the news. Bad press. They put me in a room alone.

Little more than a bed, no windows. So now I didn't even know what time it was. I became paranoid. Started thinking they'd locked me away to cut me up. Figure out why I didn't work. And then I uhm... I beat them to the punch I guess you could say...

My mind was so fragmented I thought- I can't even explain what I thought. I stabbed myself with the jagged edge of a broken ceramic mug. I came to a few days later. At home. No one told me what had happened while I was out. No one wanted to talk about it. So no one did.

APOLLO

Where did you go?

HERA

Sorry. I can't go back there.

APOLLO

I won't let that happen.

HERA

They didn't deserve everything we gave them.

HERA (NAR.)

He half smiles, shakes his head.

APOLLO

They shouldn't have put you through any of that.

HERA

I have spent so much of my life wanting things for other people. Now-

HERA (NAR.)

The same height, I stare straight into his eyes. If I don't do this now...

HERA

I want you. Again.

HERA (NAR.)

I say suddenly, surprising even myself. He takes a step towards me. But I hold up a hand to stop him.

HERA

You said that everything has changed. That includes us. Things can't be like before because we aren't those people.

HERA (NAR.)

His face falls.

APOLLO

I can't be any more sorry for Iris.

HERA

That's not what I mean, we just can't pretend it didn't happen. And we can't pretend the past few years of fighting haven't happened. I'm not the same anymore either. I'm not... the star. Or the new hope. Or any of that. I'm just... a person with a job to do. And that means you have to share me with Rhea. I want to be with you now, as who we are now.

APOLLO

I just want you to be happy.

HERA

Then let's fucking work on this.

HERA (NAR.)

He smiles, saunters over to me.

APOLLO

I can do that.

HERA (NAR.)

I run my fingers through his gold, wet hair. I pull him closer to me, kiss him... He wraps his arms around me... Slowly I pull myself away.

APOLLO

You know, the last thing I want right now is for you to go anywhere.

HERA (NAR.)

I rest my forehead on his.

HERA

I need to know Rhea is okay. And then we can really work on this.

APOLLO
Is that a promise?

HERA (NAR.)
I kiss him again in response.
His smell, the feel of his lips... The familiarity is intoxicating. My whole body breathes a sigh of relief. A tension that's been there for years; evaporated with the inevitability of this moment.

SCENE 4

PERS (NAR.)
After Apollo dropped me back at my Brick. I was looking forward to crawling into bed. Not having company.

CHAR
I don't think I've been in here in ages.

PERS (NAR.)
Char says, a cup of tea growing cold between his hands.

PERS
Yeah.

PERS (NAR.)
There's a reason for that, I think. I swallow my daily supply of pills. God, Rhea is going to be so far behind. Will they make her take them in jail? I guess a murderers' offspring would be better than no offspring at all.
Char is sitting on the footstool of an ottoman in my room. He's staring at the wall. I've never seen him so still. He's usually bouncing or lifting something.

PERS
What's wrong with you?

PERS (NAR.)
I ask.
He turns to me quickly, plasters on a fake, nervous smile.

CHAR
Nothing.

PERS
Are you scared?

CHAR
Why?

PERS (NAR.)
He says too quickly.

PERS
Take your pick of anything that's happened this week.

CHAR
I just uhm... I'm not happy with all the decisions I've made.

PERS (NAR.)
And without warning, I burst out laughing. He stares at me, confused.

PERS
What a wonderful time for an existential crisis.

CHAR
I know we aren't close or anything, but I've always felt like we had something in common.

PERS
What's that?

CHAR
Well they don't have much use for me either. They actually pitched me publicly... courting? Iris. When we were like 16.

PERS
That's hilarious.

CHAR
I know. I think it was because- well-

PERS (NAR.)
He points to his flawless face, matter of factly. I roll my eyes.

CHAR
But yeah, I mean... I said no at the time.

And they'd bring it up periodically but, once the cat was out of the bag and I was just... out. Even if it was just to them and us, they realized it would be too hard to keep a secret.

PERS (NAR.)

He's right, Char's preferring men was met with little controversy- as long as he kept copping with women when they told him too.

CHAR

I guess that's why they made such a big deal out of Eros and Rhea. Kind of created their own monster there...

PERS

Why are we having this conversation?

CHAR

Oh, I was trying to say... I understand why you're doing the posts.

PERS

Oh.

CHAR

But... I also think you need to stop.

PERS

Why?

CHAR

Because this is how it starts. You do a little thing at first. But the things get less little, before you know it, you're doing big fucking things and you can't stop them.

PERS

Char, what the fuck are you talking about?

CHAR

You should leave Rhea- the whole thing alone. Don't help them.

PERS

Rhea killed Iris.

CHAR

You can't really believe that.

PERS

Oh really? She's got the strongest motive, she's completely irrational. She's done nothing but lie and run away since this happened. Who else could it have been?

CHAR

I don't know! But you don't either. Everything you're going off is shit they've told you. They could have made it all up to convince you to turn everyone against her.

PERS

Why would they do that?

CHAR

Who knows! They've controlled us our whole lives, maybe this is the last step. Cut each other off and make us paranoid of each other.

PERS (NAR.)

Char doesn't talk like this. He gets to his feet. His speech picks up the pace, feverish.

CHAR

We have to stick together. Better than we ever have before. Fuck, if we'd done that in the first place than maybe Iris wouldn't be...

PERS (NAR.)

He looms over me, grabs me by the shoulders.

CHAR

It isn't worth it. Because you think you have power, but it's never for you. Think of something you want. You can't. There's nothing for us. It's all for them. It's all-

PERS

Char... what did you do?

END OF EPISODE