

"A TEMPLE IN RUIN STANDS"  
*The Sheridan Tapes - Season 04, Episode 79*  
*Recording Draft - June 30, 2023*

by

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Based on story and characters from  
"Homestead on the Corner"

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Homestead on the Corner

1. INT. KATE'S VAN - US ROUTE 50 - EARLY MORNING - 2/2/20

The engine slows as the tires turn over loose gravel on the side of the road, then revs back up as Kate accelerates back up the highway.

NED LEROUX

(annoyed)

Driving back the way we came for a third time is not going to make Oslow randomly appear.

KATE SHERIDAN

(irritated, tired)

I know where the Oslow exit is, Ned. We must have missed it last time.

NED LEROUX

What, all four of us?

SAM BAILEY

(reluctant to admit)

Kate, I... I think he has a point.

KATE SHERIDAN

(annoyed)

Not you too...

SAM BAILEY

I know this road, okay? And I didn't want to say anything before, but... I think it's moved.

NED LEROUX

(SCOFFS)

What, the whole highway?

SAM BAILEY

At least this section of it! It was right where it was supposed to be all the way to Agate Shore, but... something's off now.

(beat, realizing)

Have any of you seen any road signs since we passed the lake?

REN PARK

(tired)

We haven't seen anything since we passed the lake, Sam. There's nothing to see.

SAM BAILEY

Kate, I know there's something wrong here.

KATE SHERIDAN

Do you think it's Morrison?

NED LEROUX

(irritated)

How would Morrison taking Bill and Rob affect the roads? How would he even do that?

SAM BAILEY

Do you have a better idea?

NED LEROUX

Yeah -- keep looking.

Sam goes quiet, realizing Ned's right -- that's all they can do. After a moment...

REN PARK

Hey, Kate? Could you pull over? I need to stretch my legs.

NED LEROUX

Not the time to be getting high,  
/Park--

KATE SHERIDAN

(pointedly ignoring Ned)

--Sure thing, Ren... I think that would do us all some good.

Kate turns on her blinker, then pulls the van over into a small scenic overlook before killing the engine.

The team unbuckles and climbs out of the van, MAKING SMALL SOUNDS OF DISCOMFORT AND STIFFNESS FROM THE LONG DRIVE.

2. EXT. SCENIC OVERLOOK - US ROUTE 50 - CONTINUOUS

Moving away from the van, THE TEAM BEGINS DOING THEIR VARIOUS STRETCHES.

REN PARK

I'm going to check out that overlook -- it'll just take a second.

KATE SHERIDAN

Take all the time you need, Ren.  
We're in no rush.

NED LEROUX

I mean we are in a *bit* of a/rush,  
actually--

KATE SHERIDAN

We've still got at least ten hours  
of daylight, Ned. We can afford a  
breather.

NED LEROUX

(giving up, shrugs)  
If you say so.

Sam wanders to the overlook, staring out at the desert. HE  
STRETCHES HIS NECK, WINCING SLIGHTLY -- then freezes.

His eyes lock on something in the distance... something he  
can't make sense of. Then his eyes go wide as he realizes.

SAM BAILEY

(growing fear)  
Kate! Ren! Ned! Get over here!

KATE SHERIDAN

(already moving)  
What is it Sam? What's wrong?

SAM BAILEY

(pointing)  
Just... look.

NED LEROUX

(squinting into the sun)  
Where?

SAM BAILEY

Right... there.

They all go quiet as they look... then THEY BOTH GASP QUIETLY  
as they see it.

KATE SHERIDAN

(terrified whisper)  
Holy shit...

REN PARK

(approaching slowly,  
slightly disoriented)  
What's going on?

SAM BAILEY

(urgent)  
Ren, look.

REN PARK

(pause, squinting,  
confused)  
What is... What is that? Why is the  
ground so dark over there?

KATE SHERIDAN

It's... it's a burn scar. Like  
what's left behind after a forest  
fire?

REN PARK

(confused)  
I didn't think there were any  
forests around here?

SAM BAILEY

(dread)  
There aren't. Not until Santa  
Lucia, at least.

REN PARK

Then what is...

NED LEROUX

(blunt, simmering anger)  
That's where Oslow is supposed to  
be, Park. *Exactly* where it's  
supposed to be.

REN PARK

(slow-dawning realization  
and horror)  
So you're saying that... that...

SAM BAILEY

It's not just Bill and Rob who are  
missing. Morrison took the whole  
city.

CLICK.

MAIN THEME

3. EXT. OSLOW SITE - LATER

Sam starts his recorder as he walks the dry and dusty  
windswept earth where Oslow once stood.

SAM BAILEY

Sam Bailey, personal investigation -  
February 2nd, 2020 at 1:25pm  
Pacific Standard time.

(beat, still reeling)

Oslo is... Oslo is gone.  
Somehow... Whatever Morrison is  
now, he was able to pull the entire  
city into the Source, not just Bill  
and Rob. We have to assume that's  
what happened now. We've been  
looking for hours and we've found  
no evidence of any structural fires  
-- no ruins, no ash, nothing. At  
least we can be grateful he didn't  
burn the whole city down, but...  
however he pulled it through the  
veil, it left a scar.

NED LEROUX

(butting in, realizing)

I thought I heard fire.

SAM BAILEY

(confused, not used to  
being interrupted like  
this)

...Sorry?

NED LEROUX

When Morrison pushed Spengler into  
the Source. I thought I heard  
flames when he did it. The air got  
pretty hot down in the tunnels,  
too.

SAM BAILEY

(struggling to accept  
Ned's account was trues)

So you think it's... some kind of  
manifestation of Morrison's power?

NED LEROUX

Could be. Like your patron and the  
lake, or Amanita and her fungus.  
The powers like to link themselves  
to one physical aspect and stick to  
it.

SAM BAILEY

That's... troubling.

NED LEROUX

Why?

SAM BAILEY

(hesitant)

We've had a few... close calls,  
with supernatural fires. I had a...  
I guess you could call it a vision?  
When I was in hiding last year.  
Bill nearly got killed when  
Marvin's burned down... hell, even  
Anna had an encounter in Oregon.

KATE SHERIDAN

How could that be Morrison, though?  
That was five years ago -- he only  
changed in the last few months,  
right?

REN PARK

(clearly a little stoned)

Well... not really, if you think  
about it.

SAM BAILEY

What do you mean?

REN PARK

(infodumping slightly)

I mean... the Source is an  
extradimensional reality outside  
the normal bounds of spacetime,  
coterminous with all points along  
every world line in all possible  
universes. Right? So if that's the  
case, then it's fair to say that  
once Morrison has access to the  
Source, then he's always had access  
to it, from any outside frame of  
reference. He's always been there,  
and always will be... at least,  
until he chooses to leave.

The team goes quiet... nobody likes that idea all that much.

NED LEROUX

(shaking it off,  
frustrated)

We're wasting time here.

KATE SHERIDAN

Take it easy, Ned.

NED LEROUX

Morrison isn't here, and neither is  
Oslow.

(MORE)

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

If we're going to find them, then we know exactly where Sam needs to look.

SAM BAILEY

(surprised)

What happened to all those warnings about how dangerous the Source is without a guide?

NED LEROUX

The situation's changed.

SAM BAILEY

Yeah. Morrison's in the Source now. I'd hardly say that makes it safer.

NED LEROUX

Bill and Rob are in the Source too. Or have you forgotten about them?

REN PARK

He, uh... I think he has a point.

KATE SHERIDAN

(shutting this down)

Absolutely not.

NED LEROUX

Oh, come on/Kate, we need to--

KATE SHERIDAN

--Remind me which one of us found Sam after his last attempt to save someone from the Source? You almost got yourself killed, Sam -- and I don't care if you can't actually die, I'm not letting you take a risk like that again until we know more. Understood?

NED LEROUX

(trying to turn Sam  
against Kate)

That isn't up to you, Kate. Sam can make his own decisions, and if his friends are/in danger, then--

SAM BAILEY

--Stop trying to get me on your side now, Ned.



NED LEROUX  
 (off balance)  
 ...I'm just saying that/you can  
 make your own--

SAM BAILEY  
 --No, you're trying to get me to  
 throw myself into the Source  
 because you're too scared to do it  
 yourself.

Ned goes silent, unable to deny it. Kate, sensing the mounting tension, steps forward.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 Look, Ned... we're all worried  
 about Bill and Rob. Okay? But we  
 can't rush into something we  
 don't/know without more time to  
 prep--

NED LEROUX  
 --Oh, fuck this.

Ned turns and storms off across the bare earth.

REN PARK  
 (a little out of it)  
 I'm, uh... I'll go after him. Make  
 sure he doesn't do anything stupid?

KATE SHERIDAN  
 Just be careful, Ren.

REN PARK  
 (shrugs)  
 I'll do my best.

With that, Ren turns and follows Ned into the desert.

#### 4. CONTINUOUS

As soon as they're both out of earshot, KATE SIGHS, TIRED AND EXASPERATED.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (exhausted)  
 And I thought the old squad was a  
 handful.

SAM BAILEY

(trying to lighten the mood)

To be fair, Maria could be just as stubborn as Ned.

KATE SHERIDAN

At least Maria never stole anyone's face as a joke.

SAM BAILEY

Touché.

KATE SHERIDAN

(pause, reluctantly voicing worries)

He still seems really worried about Bill and Rob.

SAM BAILEY

(a little confused)

He is. We all are.

KATE SHERIDAN

I know, I know. It's just... do you think he might be planning something?

SAM BAILEY

(confused)

What, like this is all a ruse and he's just waiting to turn on us?

KATE SHERIDAN

(clearly worried)

Something like that.

SAM BAILEY

(hesitant)

I really don't think so. If he was going to try something, he could have done it already. Plus... well, don't tell him I said this, but he's not masking his emotions nearly as well as he usually does.

KATE SHERIDAN

(not quite convinced)

...so you think he's being genuine?

SAM BAILEY

As genuine as he can be. If he was trying to trick us, I think he'd be much more charming.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(beat, then changing  
subject)  
Can you sense anything else? Not  
about Ned, but... out here.

SAM BAILEY  
(confused)  
We're the only ones out here, Kate.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(struggling to find the  
right terms)  
I know, but... is there anything  
leftover from what Morrison did?  
Any... I don't know, presence or  
imprint or something?

Sam pauses, then takes a deep breath, connecting to his  
power. Low static rises on the tape.

SAM BAILEY  
(voice slightly distorted)  
Huh.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Do you have something?

SAM BAILEY  
(voice slightly distorted,  
confused)  
Yeah... I think so. It's...  
strange, though.

Sam starts walking, and Kate follows.

KATE SHERIDAN  
(checking for danger)  
Strange, *how*?

SAM BAILEY  
(voice slightly distorted)  
It's not a presence, but... it's  
strong. Almost like... like a  
beacon, I think.

KATE SHERIDAN  
How far?

SAM BAILEY  
(voice slightly distorted)  
Just... here.

Sam stops, the static and distortion fading from the tape.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (confused)  
 Here?

SAM BAILEY  
 (looking around, equally  
 confused)  
 This is where it's coming from.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 ...there's nothing here, Sam.

SAM BAILEY  
 (realization)  
 Nothing on this side.

Static rises on the tape, stronger than before -- and a moment later, SAM CRIES OUT, HIS SCREAM DISTORTED.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (panicked)  
 Sam! Sam, what's happening?

SAM BAILEY  
 (voice heavily distorted,  
 pained)  
*Pain! So much **pain!!***

The static spikes, and SAM GASPS AS THE PAIN SUDDENLY VANISHES, collapsing to the dirt.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 Sam? Sam, are/you--

SAM BAILEY  
 (catching his breath)  
 --I'm okay, I'm okay, it's... it's gone.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 What was that?

SAM BAILEY  
 (growing headache)  
 I... I don't know. It was like... it felt like when Amanita had me make that stone tape of Allen, but... the feelings weren't mine this time. It's almost like...

Sam cuts off, realizing something. STANDING BACK UP, he begins searching the ground nearby.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (lost, worried)  
 Like what?

SAM BAILEY  
 Well if I'm right, then... ah!  
 (reaches down, grabbing  
 something)  
 Looks like I was.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 (confused)  
 ...a rock?

SAM BAILEY  
 A stone, Kate... one that wasn't  
 here before.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 Shit, is that...

SAM BAILEY  
 ...a stone tape. From the other  
 side of the veil.

#### 5. CONTINUOUS

As Sam and Kate speak, two sets of rushed footsteps are heard approaching.

NED LEROUX  
 (worried)  
 What's going on? I felt that all  
 the way down the...  
 (sees what's in Sam's  
 hands, eyes widen)  
 Oh shit.

SAM BAILEY  
 (sarcastic)  
 Nice of you to join us again, Ned.

NED LEROUX  
 (growing fear)  
 We need to go. We need to leave,  
 now.

KATE SHERIDAN  
 Why? What's wrong?

NED LEROUX  
 Sam, listen to me: Do you know  
 where you're standing?

SAM BAILEY

What are you...  
(beat, horrified  
realization)  
Oh, shit.

REN PARK

(confused and freaking out  
a bit)  
What? What's going on?

NED LEROUX

(terrified)  
OCPD Headquarters, Park. This is  
where it used to be.

EDGAR MORRISON (O.S.)

(distorted, projecting  
into reality)  
Hello Sam. Ned.

Everyone freezes, suddenly terrified to move.

EDGAR MORRISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I pray you forgive me for leaving  
before you arrived -- I had  
important work to do, and could not  
tarry on this mortal plain any  
longer than I already had. I also  
hope you'll forgive me leaving this  
message rather than speaking to you  
directly, but I know neither of you  
would let me say my piece if we  
were face to face. For now, we must  
be content to speak as through a  
mirror darkly, as you linger  
amongst the leavings of my  
handiwork.

(beat)

I'm sure you have little patience  
for my ramblings when the fate of  
your friends is uncertain, so let  
me make it known to you first --  
Bill and Rob are alive. They are  
safe in my care within the waters  
of what you call the Source, as are  
the city of Oslow and all her  
denizens... my children. I hope  
that brings you some comfort, at  
least.

(MORE)

## EDGAR MORRISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I know that you were driven to rash and violent action when last I took poor Bill into my care, but I hope you can see that I have changed -- that we all have changed -- and that my goals are nothing if not pure. I only wish what's best for Bill, and for Rob, and for all within my domain. I have simply removed them from the troubles of this false and failing world to a place where all may find peace. Where death and the ravages of time are no more. Where all things are made and remade.

(beat)

You know of what I speak, Sam -- better than anyone else, I think. For you asked for salvation from the beyond when you were but a child, facing death and pain no child should ever have to endure. Like your namesake, you heard a voice calling from the dark, a voice you did not know or fully understand -- and like the prophet Samuel, you answered. You obeyed your lord and god. You served, even when that voice promised ruin and desolation unlike anything this world has ever seen.

(beat)

But I... I bring no such devastation. I make no such demands upon my children. I simply give of my own power all that I have, and grant salvation freely to all within my domain. And while that domain is limited now to the city I called home, soon... very soon... it will stretch over all the Earth. Beyond the Earth, into the far reaches of the twinkling stars and into other universes beyond this one. I shall make Oslow a holy bastion, a city on a hill from which my great crusade shall begin... and in time, all the worlds shall be a temple to my glory, forever and ever.

(beat)

So do not fear.

(MORE)

EDGAR MORRISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I will not abandon you to your troubles, for I go to prepare a place for you -- a place where all may be refined and perfected through fire and light, where all may share the bounty of eternity that I have found. For I am but the firstborn of many brothers, and I build paradise brick by brick, wall by wall, soul by soul so that you may join me here... That all the worlds may join me here, when the time comes for the old Heaven and the old Earth to pass away. For behold... *I am coming soon.*

As he speaks, the stone in Sam's hands suddenly grows hot. SAM CRIES OUT and drops it to the earth, where it shatters, smoking and hissing as it burns out to nothing but ash.

6. CONTINUOUS

The team stands in silence for a long moment, their minds reeling. Finally...

NED LEROUX

Well... that settles things, doesn't it?

SAM BAILEY

What things?

NED LEROUX

We know where Bill and Rob are. We know what Morrison's doing to them. We can't leave them there.

KATE SHERIDAN

We're not going to, Ned. I promise.

NED LEROUX

...why do I feel like there's a "but" coming?

KATE SHERIDAN

(pause, admitting her thoughts)

I think Sam was right. This feels like a trap.

NED LEROUX

Oh come on, Kate--



KATE SHERIDAN

--He's taunting you, Ned. Trying to make you rush in after them without being prepared. Who knows what he could do to either of you if he catches you over there?

NED LEROUX

And what if he's counting on us being too scared to go after him? Hmmm? He's always used fear to manipulate people... this could be exactly what he wants.

REN PARK

(a little distracted)  
Maybe both.

SAM BAILEY

(beat, confused)  
What was that, Ren?

REN PARK

(suddenly realizing there are other people, trying to make sense)  
It's just... maybe there's no point in trying to predict what Morrison's planning anymore. I mean... if he's in the Source, he can see all of time, right? All timelines, all possible pasts and futures? If that's the case... he could predict any course of action we choose. He could make plans for each and every one of them, be ready for anything we try. Whatever we do... He'll be one step ahead of us.

Everyone goes silent at that. After a long moment, Sam suddenly stirs, looking up at something in the distance.

KATE SHERIDAN

(concerned)  
Sam? What is it?

SAM BAILEY

Nothing, it's just... I thought I saw something up in the hills.

KATE SHERIDAN

(growing worry)  
What kind of something?

SAM BAILEY  
Just... the sun reflecting off  
something up there, I think.

Everyone turns, staring up in the direction Sam's looking.  
After a tense moment... KATE LAUGHS, RELIEVED.

KATE SHERIDAN  
Oh thank god.

NED LEROUX  
What? What is it?

KATE SHERIDAN  
It's the solar panels on Jerry's  
roof.

SAM BAILEY  
(hope stirring)  
Jerry's? You mean...

KATE SHERIDAN  
(nodding)  
He's okay, Sam... Jerry's okay.

NED LEROUX  
(beat, confused)  
...Who's Jerry?

CLACK. The recording ends.

ROLL END THEME  
AND CREDITS