

## "IF ONLY I WERE NEVER HOME"

Written by Eli Barraza

Ester:

Welcome to The Goblet Wire, a surreal micro fiction podcast.

Transcripts are available on our website, [TheGobletWire.carrd.co](https://TheGobletWire.carrd.co)

This is Episode 5, If Only I Were Never Home. Written by Eli Barraza

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SFX: [CRY OF THE GOBLET]

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INT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

A housewife sits on her overstuffed couch, smoking a cigarette. She's the type of woman who thought she'd have a husband, kids, and a dog. She got 1/3. And that one is a piece of shit. But still, at least she's got this.

SFX: Her phone's got a cord, the tactile buttons sounding as she goes through the numbers. A few rings and the call picks up.

Operator:

Greetings and salutations, caller.

Judith:

I was hoping it'd be you.

Operator:

(smiling) Callsign?

Judith:

Pearl Forest.

Operator:

Passcode?

Judith:

A drop of blood from above.

Operator:

The bones crack in the wind.

Judith:

Curses caught before spoken.

Operator:

And all was home again.

Judith:

How are you?

Operator:

You're not supposed to ask me that.

Judith:

No? I suppose you'd rather me tell you about my die I took from the Yahtzee game my husband insists on playing.

Operator:

Plastic?

Judith:

Yes. Will that do? The bone one got stuck in the vacuum.

Operator:

I'm sorry but it won't.

Judith:

Alright, I'll see if I can crack it open to find it. Will you stay on the line?

Operator:

Of course, Pearl Forest.

SFX: Judith sets the phone down on the side table, and walks to another room. A few moments pass and she wheels the vacuum next to couch. She takes it apart while they talk.

Judith:

I'm back.

Operator:

Was it fun?

Judith:

Getting my vacuum?

Operator:

Did you have fun playing Yahtzee with your husband?

Judith:

Oh, neither of us did. The neighbors didn't notice at least. More concerned with the new curtains I put up.

SFX: The operator clears their throat, trying to focus on their job and not the woman on the other end of the phone.

Operator:

While you get the die, what coin will you be using today?

Judith:

Kennedy half dollar. Dev-- (Devin), my husband liked the man. Cried even when we heard the news.

Operator:

Anything you'd like to do before I connect you to the Dictator?

Judith:

Yes. I'd like to make a trade.

Operator:

Oh?

Judith:

You told me last time you can't accept gifts so I thought instead I'd offer a trade.

Operator:

I didn't say that.

Judith:

Yes you did, you said 'I can't accept gifts from you.'

Operator:

From you. I can't accept gifts from you.

Judith:

And why's that?

Operator:

Because a gift from you is more than a gift and no matter how much I might--(want that) nevermind.

What do you want to trade?

Judith:

I got the die!

Operator:

You want to trade your die?

Judith:

No, I just got the die out of the vacuum.

Operator:

Well done.

Judith:

And now I have this whole mess. Anyway, my last session, I obtained a crystal.

Operator:

Color?

Judith:

A kaleidoscope of colors or something. The Dictator mentioned a prism? I left my notes in the other room.

Operator:

I see.

Judith:

So can we trade?

Operator:

I don't have anything worth trading for an item like that.

Judith:

It wouldn't have to be something in the game.

Operator:

What else is there?

Judith pauses, almost afraid to ask.

Judith:

Your name.

The operator stays silent for a while.

Judith: (CONT'D)

Hello?

Operator:

I'm still here.

Judith:

So.

Operator:

I can't tell you that, Pearl Forest.

Judith:

You're impossible.

Operator:

I have protocols.

Judith:

You're not the Dictator! You're like me, you can bend the rules, even break them if you wanted to.

Operator:

I'm not sure I want to.

Judith:

Not for me?

Operator:

Not for you.

Judith:

Alright then. But can you... can you at least tell me... I'm not imagining all this, am I? I know you're happy when you pick up my call, I can hear it in your voice.

Operator:

I am. But that's all we can be. A voice on the other end of the wire.

Judith:

Of course.

Operator:

Are you ready for me to patch you through, Pearl Forest?

Judith:

Yes. Wait. Did you ever have a call sign?

Operator:

I did.

A beat.

Judith:

What was it?

Operator:

Night Thistle.

Judith:

Thank you. Alright, patch me through, Night Thistle.

Operator:

Starting session 93. Patching you through to the Dictator.

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SFX: [CRY OF THE GOBLET]

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Ester:

This episode was written by Eli Barazza

It starred Brigitte Paulus as Pearl Forest

And Elissa Park as The Operator

Art by Chandler Candela

Credits music by Oliver Morris

Editing and sound design by Ester Ellis and Justin Hellstrom. Synth-cape by Justin Hellstrom.



If you haven't listened to Eli's podcast, "The Far Meridian", you are in for one of the most magical experiences available in audio. An agoraphobic young woman lives in a Light House with her brother. But when her brother disappears, and the Light House starts moving to a new location every day, she has to learn how to leave home. It's eerie, beautiful, and elegant. The first two seasons are out now, you should download them immediately.

On another happy note, the Apollo Podcast application just launched a Goblet Wire carousel where you can find all of the other shows we work on with a single click! Apollo is a Podcatcher that specifically features Fiction Podcasts like this one, it is killer for discoverability and the team behind it is doing great things for the indie audio drama world.

Next week is Episode 6, "With All The Love The Sea Could Ever Bleed", by Justin Hellstrom I hope we'll see you there.