

THE LAIKIES OF THE MOON VOL. 2
INNERVALE



It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.
- Robert W. Chambers, "In The Court of the Dragon"

Part I: Katabasis

CHAPTER ONE

Denver, Colorado

Prologue

The HOST of "Breakfast Radio" has a cadence identical to the typical morning radio hosts you'd hear from your local stations. The inspiration for this prologue segment comes from Art Bell's Coast To Coast, a popular conspiracy / paranormal radio show that kept truck drivers awake during their midnight hauls and little kids like my younger self hiding under the blankets. It's all nonsense, but God was it fun.

Our radio host isn't a conspiracy theorist. He talks in that overly cheery, irritating tone going on about the weather or their cup of coffee and bagel from the local shop, something about the traffic on highway who-gives-a-fuck, and overall maintains your morning status quo. Our host probably has a decent, stable homelife, is only in his early-to-mid thirties, owns his own home, has a brand-new Ford Escort, and will retire with a beautiful pension three or four decades from now. He's got nothing to worry about.

This is 1998, after all. Things haven't entirely gone to shit yet. The Cold War has been over for eight years. The big bad Soviet empire came crumbling down like a dried-out cookie. Clinton is in the White House with Al Gore as his VP. Ol' Bill has had a nasty scandal but has weathered it out. Republicans call for his impeachment, but he will not capitulate. Across the pond, Tony Blair occupies 10 Downing Street, two years into his rollercoaster of a time in office. For now, his approval ratings are high.

Things are good.

Our radio host certainly knows things are good. He is not ready for the phone call he is about to receive. And to be honest, it'll probably be forgotten before lunch.

The time is 9:33am, EDT.

MUSIC: "WORLD BEATER" by Andy Clark.

SFX: RADIO CRACKLING - ANALOG SOUND.

RADIO HOST

Gooooood morning Denver it's WZ101 Breakfast Radio with Tom Sommers, a beautiful sunny Tuesday morning. Boy have we got a show for you--here in the studio is Susan Powter, self-

help guru and author, don't turn that dial you don't want to miss this! We're taking calls now from listeners, hello!

This is the call. Our listeners will only know this caller as a deranged, panicked woman, but you and I know her as LORI SHAW. That's all that will be said of her for now. In this scene, Lori is absolutely out of her mind, at least, she appears so. The panic is real. The terror is palpable. She's all over the place, sentences running into one another, gasping for air, tears. She's a mess. If you saw her you would be disturbed, probably assume she's on drugs or some such. No, Lori isn't on drugs. The scary thing is, she's not crazy.

SFX: STATIC PHONE VOICE ON LORI THROUGHOUT THE CALL.

MUSIC: CREEPY, EERIE, VARIOUS MOTIFS HEARD IN INFANCY HERE.

LORI

Tom?

RADIO HOST

Go ahead you're on the air.

LORI

Oh God I don't have a lot of time --

RADIO HOST

Okay well let's have it--

LORI

--I'm a former FBI agent --

RADIO HOST

-- Former uh, okay --

LORI

--listen to me just listen to me! I've been, ah, I've been running across the country -

RADIO HOST

I see--

LORI

(Shouting) I know what I'm talking about I know what I'm

talking!

RADIO HOST

Uh Ma'am is this--

LORI

What we're thinking of as aliens, Tom, they're, they're
extradimensional beings that an earlier precursor of the
space program made contact with--

RADIO HOST

Aliens --

LORI

They are not they are not they are not what they claim to
be--

RADIO HOST

Okay now wait a second--

LORI

The horrors things that are coming! Tom!

RADIO HOST

Ma'am I think you've--

LORI

The major population centers need to be moved NOW Tom! The
South Pole--

RADIO HOST

Ma'am if you'll explain--

LORI

Humanity will suffer we will be tortured!

RADIO HOST

Well--

LORI

We need to--the Moon- (*Uncontrollable sobbing*)

SFX: STATIC / OFF AIR SIGNAL / SILENCE 7 SECONDS.

MUSIC: "WORLD BEATER" by Andy Clark.

RADIO HOST

(A little rattled, not because he believes her, but because it was unnerving) Well you never know what's going to happen on a Tuesday morning! My goodness. In some way, something knocked us off the air and we're on a backup system now. Looks like our satellite, uh, I'm told our satellite has fallen out of orbit *(laughs, perhaps a nervous laughter)*, which is why we're on a backup. Wow. Well I'll tell you one thing, you never know what or who you're gonna get around here on Breakfast Radio but we will be back!--I think--after the news...

Our POV switches from the inside of a radio to somewhere on a lonely stretch of highway. We get the sense that the caller, Lori, is somewhere remote, far from people. Maybe the Nevada desert. Maybe the backroads of Ohio. We're not sure where she is. She's crying.

SFX: OPEN ROAD AMBIENCE - PASSING CARS - WIND - EMPTY.

SFX: PHONE SLAMMED DOWN.

SFX: PAYPHONE DOOR CLOSES SHUT.

LORI

(Manic, screaming/crying; undignified; panicked; feeling hopeless) Shit! Shit! Shit!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING TO CAR.

SFX: CAR DOOR OPENS - LORI GETS IN DRIVER'S SEAT.

In the backseat is her seven year old daughter, Elise.

ELISE

Mommy...

LORI

(Drying tears, trying to be strong) Yeah baby. We're going to be okay, okay?

SFX: CAR DRIVING DOWN LONELY ROAD.

SFX: CAR RADIO IS ON.

SFX: RADIO DIAL TURNING - FLIPPING THROUGH CHANNELS .

NEWS BULLETIN

Special alert. Lori Shaw from Denver Colorado is wanted for the kidnapping of her daughter, Elise Shaw, aged seven. Shaw is five-foot-six, dark haired, wears glasses, is armed and presumed dangerous. Do not approach. Call the FBI at--

SFX: RADIO TURNED OFF.

ELISE

(Scared) Mommy?

LORI

What, sweetie?

ELISE

Why is the man on the radio saying those things?

LORI

Honey, baby, don't believe what the man on the radio says. (Stifling tears) We're going to be okay, Bacon. We're going to be okay...

SFX: CUT TO SILENCE.

SFX: QUIET ROOM AMBIANCE.

CHARLIE is our narrator. Narrator-Charlie exists in the present day. She's giving an interview to someone, it isn't clear who. Whenever CHARLIE narrates, she should have a smoker's voice, a prominently "older" sounding voice. She should speak like someone who has been through alcoholism, drug addiction, and pain. She sounds remarkably different from her past self.

CHARLIE

Everyone who knows this case knows about that 1998 call.

INTERVIEWER

And you're sure you're ready to talk about this?

CHARLIE

(Exhaling to calm self) Yeah, yeah I think so.

INTERVIEWER

Okay. Go ahead say your name and your role in this case.

CHARLIE

My name is--where do I look?

INTERVIEWER

Right at me.

CHARLIE

Camera will get me either way huh.

INTERVIEWER

Right at me.

CHARLIE

Okay I'm sorry.

INTERVIEWER

All good, you're good.

CHARLIE

Okay. My name, uh, okay. My name is Charlie Locklear.

INTERVIEWER

And your role.

CHARLIE

I'm a former agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I worked on the Innervale case.

INTERVIEWER

Great thank you Charlie. Now, who was Lori Shaw? What kind of person was she?

CHARLIE

She was one of the finest FBI agents in Denver. And she was my friend.

INTERVIEWER

Take us back to Innervale.

CHARLIE

Well, it's been so long.

INTERVIEWER

Whatever you can remember.

CHARLIE

It's an unbelievable story.

INTERVIEWER

That's why we're here.

CHARLIE

(Pause) Elise was so, so precious to her. She loved her little girl more than anything else in the world. (Pause) I wish I... (Stifling tears) Sorry, I'm sorry. (Exhale)

SFX: TISSUES.

INTERVIEWER

Do you need a minute?

CHARLIE

No.

INTERVIEWER

Whenever you're ready.

CHARLIE

If you're going to tell this story, you need to start in March of 1998...

MUSIC: INNERVALE THEME.

Scene One

MUSIC: INNERVALE THEME [CONT'D].

It is mid March 1998, somewhere in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado, one year earlier from the time of Lori's call to Breakfast Radio.

Lori Shaw is 45, in good health, and is a damn fine agent. She's well respected by her peers, but that didn't come easy. When she first started out into the FBI she had to overcome a lot of sexism, misogyny, the whole bit (she entered the agency in the 70s, after all). She is by no means a man-hater, but god help you if you think you're going to put this "little lady" in her place.

The most precious thing in the universe to Lori is her daughter, Elise. It's the same old story. Their marriage was on the rocks, so they figured what the hell? Maybe another kid would do them good. It didn't. Norm continued fucking the woman down the hall from accounting and Lori continued chasing bad guys. Her salary paid double his, so she and Elise would be fine. Her mother could come live with them, look after Elise while Lori slaved away keeping America safe. And that's where we are right now. At the Shaw residence. Lori and Elise are having a bonding moment.

SFX: BREAKFAST RADIO JINGLE / ANALOG ON RADIO HOST.

RADIO HOST

Another beautiful morning in Denver! NASA has announced that their probe - Clementine - orbiting our Moon has, apparently, found enough water to support human colonies, should they ever build up there. Something straight out of Ray Bradbury, isn't it? President Clinton continues to deny having any "sexual relations" with Monika Lewinsky BUT--we will have in studio a close confidant of Lewinsky who has a TELL ALL! You don't want to miss it right here on Breakfast Radio!

SFX: LORI APPLYING MAKEUP TO ELISE (BRUSHING SOUND?)

SFX: (BACKGROUND) NEWS COVERAGE DURING LORI'S LINES.

LORI

All right...now, just a little more blush...perfect. Now don't cry, Tammy Faye, but there's a spider on your face.

ELISE

(Giggling) Mommy! There's no spider on my face!

LORI

Look in the mirror!

SFX: LORI HANDING ELISE THE MIRROR.

ELISE

I'm so pretty!

LORI

Yes you are so pretty!

ELISE

Can I wear it to school?

LORI

No, we only wear makeup at home.

ELISE

(Whiny) Nooo but I wanna Mommy please please please c'mon--

LORI

No only at home--

ELISE

No fair you get to wear it I wanna wear it to school!

LORI

Elise--

ELISE

(Screaming) I! WANNA! WEAR! MAKEUP! TO! SCHOOOOOOOOL!

LORI

Elise that's enough!

ELISE continues screaming at the top of her lungs.

Stop it right now do you hear me STOP IT! ELISE!

SFX: 1990S CELL PHONE RINGING.

ELISE

You make everything worse!! *(Incoherent screaming)*

LORI

Be quiet!

ELISE

I hate makeup I hate it I hate it!

LORI

(Roaring) ELISE! That's. Enough!

SFX: OPENS CELL PHONE - BEEP.

(Deep breath, still angry but trying to be calm) Agent Shaw.

Scene Two

We're at a café patio somewhere in downtown Denver. There are two ladies sitting across from one another. One of them is CHARLENE "CHARLIE" LOCKLEAR. The other is her lover (soon to be ex-lover) Mindy.

Charlie is 36 years old, blonde (some would call it "dirty blonde") about an inch than Lori. She's been an agent with the FBI going into her twelfth year.

She was born into a household of men. Her three older brothers always kept her on her toes. She doted on her two younger brothers, and when they grew they too towered over her before they reached eighteen. She's always been the shrimp of the family, but tall "for a woman."

Charlie is married to her husband, Darren. Though, it isn't a conventional marriage. We'll get to that in just a little bit. She and her husband took something that could have been detrimental and made it work for them. They've got one son just about to enter high school. She's a good mom, even if she isn't always present.

Now, she's having a difficult conversation with someone she's been seeing off and on.

SFX: PATIO AMBIENCE - PEOPLE TALKING.

SFX: CUP ON HARD SURFACE.

CHARLIE

I know this isn't what you wanted to hear.

MINDY

No it fucking is not.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry.

MINDY

What gives you the right, Charlie, huh?

CHARLIE

I need to do what's best for my family--

MINDY

Fuck off Darren gave you an ultimatum didn't he?

CHARLIE

That's not how we do things--

MINDY

Then what is it? Because I know sure as shit it isn't me.

CHARLIE

Did you ever stop to think that maybe it is you?

MINDY

Because you enjoyed yourself so much you got scared of leaving him?

CHARLIE

No.

MINDY

I told you this would happen.

CHARLIE

Mindy...

MINDY

This is why I don't go with married women.

SFX: PAGER BEEPING.

CHARLIE

Fuck. Give me a minute.

MINDY

No. I'm done.

SFX: CHAIR PULLING OUT.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS (SUSAN WALKING AWAY) .

CHARLIE

Mindy wait!

SFX: PAGER BEEPING.

Fuck! Alright! Dammit, Lori.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS (CHARLIE WALKING TO PAYPHONE) .

SFX: PAYPHONE DOOR OPENING.

SFX: PHONE TAKEN OFF HOOK.

SFX: BEEPING (NUMBER BEING DIALED ON KEYPAD) .

SFX: PHONE VOICE ON LORI THRU CALL.

LORI

Why is your cell phone off?

CHARLIE

You've got the worst fucking timing, you know that?

LORI

Sinclair wants us in his office.

CHARLIE

Okay well I'm just getting my heart broken over here.

LORI

Again?

CHARLIE

Hey fuck you Lori!

LORI

I didn't mean it like that.

CHARLIE

I know. (*Sniffles, drying tears*) What is it?

LORI

Have you heard of a place called 'inner' 'vale'?

MUSIC.

Scene Three

SFX: FBI HQ AMBIANCE.

SFX: BACKGROUND CHATTER.

CHARLIE

What's going on?

LORI

I have no idea. No one's saying anything.

CHARLIE

Think this might have something to do with the Montauk
breach? I heard some of them showed up in Boulder--

SFX: DOOR OPENS.

SINCLAIR

Agent Shaw, Agent Locklear, if you please.

SFX: DOOR CLOSSES.

SFX: QUIET OFFICE AMBIANCE.

Have a seat, please.

LORI

What's the story, sir?

SFX: SITTING DOWN IN CHAIRS.

SINCLAIR

At 7:33 this morning our office received a call from the
Idyl County sheriff's department. A young man found three
teenaged boys mutilated in an abandoned apple orchard just
outside the town of Innervale.

LORI

Sounds like a ritual killing.

SINCLAIR

It's a godsend.

CHARLIE

How so?

SINCLAIR

Operation Spider has had great success infiltrating and dismantling homegrown terrorist cells. The militias have been crippled. Except for one.

LORI

The Citizens Militia of the Covenant and Sword.

SINCLAIR

Bingo. The largest, most advanced Christian Identity group in the country. *(To Lori)* Not unlike the Aryan Nations out of Idaho.

LORI

(Hesitant, quiet) ...yes, sir.

SINCLAIR

We have every reason to believe they're colluding with foreign powers to achieve their one and only goal: the theocratic takeover of the United States, by any means necessary.

CHARLIE

Who are these foreign powers?

SINCLAIR

That we don't know, at least not yet. The bureau is working in tandem with the CIA. Their intel suggests the Militia is planning an imminent major terrorist event. We don't know when or where. But we have a name. Steven Gurwell, founder and leader of the Covenant and Sword.

SFX: PROJECTOR CLICK.

This is his mugshot, dated 1973, Homewood Illinois.

CHARLIE

(Disgusted) Looks like someone tried to sculpt a human being from memory and got it very, very wrong.

LORI

There's nothing behind those eyes. Monsters...

SINCLAIR

(To both) We know Gurwell operates out of Idyl County. The Covenant and Sword HQ is almost assuredly there. But, there's a caveat that comes with that. We're not 100% sure, and even if we were, with our limited resources, a full-scale investigation is impossible without setting off their alarm bells.

LORI

So three dead boys is our ticket in.

SINCLAIR

(Somber) Now...it does not please me to say this next part. There are moles in the FBI. Nationwide. They're feeding the Covenant and Sword our strategies. And...

CHARLIE

What is it, sir?

SINCLAIR

(Troubled sigh) The highest echelons of the bureau are compromised. They're backing the Militia.

CHARLIE

(Stunned) Jesus...

LORI

(Equally stunned) That's treason...

SINCLAIR

You understand, then, why this case and this operation is absolutely top secret. As far as this department is aware, neither of you are going to Innervale. As far as this department is aware, we never received a phone call from Idyl County. You are going completely under the radar.

CHARLIE

Ghosts chasing ghosts.

SINCLAIR

You've both been vetted and re-vetted thoroughly by trusted members of this department. You're solid agents, *(to Lori)* both of you.

CHARLIE

Appreciate it, sir.

LORI

...thank you.

SINCLAIR

Any questions?

CHARLIE

None from me.

SINCLAIR

Agent Shaw?

LORI

No sir...

SINCLAIR

See Rosemary for your briefs. You leave immediately.
Dismissed.

SFX: DOOR OPENS / CLOSES.

SFX: BACKGROUND CHATTER / FBI HQ AMBIANCE.

CHARLIE

One hell of a day this--

LORI

(Quickly) Meet you in an hour.

CHARLIE

Where're you going? Lori!

Scene Four

SFX: QUIET ROOM AMBIANCE.

CHARLIE

That's how it began, in the dark. We didn't even know where Idyl County was on the map, let alone Innervale. Now, well.

INTERVIEWER

Did you have any idea what you were walking into?

-POV-

SFX: THERAPIST OFFICE AMBIANCE.

THERAPIST (TIM)

Breathe. Deep breath in, deep breath out.

LORI follows THERAPIST's instructions. After LORI exhales...

There?

LORI

(Tearfully) Yeah. (She inhales / exhales again)

CHARLIE (NARRATING)

Lori kept meticulous notes on everything, including her therapy sessions. She brought her own tape recorder every time she saw Tim.

INTERVIEWER (NARRATING)

Do you have those tapes?

CHARLIE (NARRATING)

Yes. They were in the 'For Charlie' box.

INTERVIEWER (NARRATING)

And you listened to them?

CHARLIE (NARRATING)

I have.

THERAPIST

What are you thinking?

LORI

I'm...I'm thinking I can't do this...

THERAPIST

Okay. I am present in this moment. I am safe.

LORI

I am present in this moment. I am safe...

THERAPIST

I am strong. I am moving forward.

LORI

I'm strong...I'm moving...I'm not healing. I'm not.

THERAPIST

You haven't forgiven yourself.

LORI

At service last Sunday, there was a reading from John's gospel. The woman caught in adultery.

THERAPIST

I'm not familiar.

LORI

A woman, not sure who, her name isn't given, typical of the bible right? She's caught cheating on her husband, apparently, so the religious leaders bring her to Jesus, says the law of Moses demands they stone her to death, literally throw stones at her until she's dead. Jesus says whichever of you is without sin--

THERAPIST

--cast the first stone, got it.

LORI

Then everyone leaves. They just disappear. It's only Jesus and the woman. He asks her, 'Where are your accusers? Does no one condemn you?' She says no one, they've all gone. So he says, 'Neither do I condemn you.'

THERAPIST

He forgives her.

LORI

I have this clear image in my head, that...Jesus wouldn't say that to me. He'd pick up the first stone.

THERAPIST

Lori, you don't need Jesus to be forgiven.

LORI

And then Elise with her behavioural issues, god, I get so angry with her sometimes I know I shouldn't - this morning I let her wear some of my makeup, she's been just fascinated by makeup lately, so I let her wear some and then it, it just devolved into this heated power struggle over whether she can wear makeup to school and I lost my shit, I was so close to slapping her...

THERAPIST

You're responding to little Lori, little 6 year old Lori, who your daughter reminds you of.

LORI

My dad would've beat me into next week if I talked to him half as bad as she talked to me.

THERAPIST

But you won't do that to Elise.

LORI

I'm trying, I...I feel so guilty. I never wanted children. I never would've had her if Cyrus didn't insist and now...I love my daughter, I love her, but oh god, I wish she were never born...(*Self loathing*) Fuck me...

SFX: LEANING FORWARD.

THERAPIST

Lori is a better person than her father. Lori is kinder than her father. You need to be for Elise what you wish your parents were to you.

SFX: COLD WATER / NIGHT AMBIANCE.

MUSIC: EERIE.

LORI

I keep having this dream...I was uh...(deep breath) uh I was, in the water, cold, ice cold water, nothing around. I'm naked, treading water, it's so cold, I look down...

SFX: BIG EERIE UNDERWATER SOUND.

(Panicky) something is down there, it's coming towards me--

MUSIC ABRUPTLY ENDS AS TIMER BEEPS.

SFX: TIMER BEEPER / CLICK TO TURN TIMER OFF.

THERAPIST

(Pause, thinking) The thing I want you to take away from this session...is that you are good.

LORI

(Visceral) No...

THERAPIST

We live in a dark, often cruel, unfeeling world. We live in an unfeeling universe. There are no answers. We make choices based off our extremely limited knowledge, contexts and circumstances. Sometimes we make bad choices, sometimes we make good choices. But, what ultimately determines whether a person is good or not is their compassion, their empathy, their intention and yes, their actions. (Gently, assuring) Lori, I've seen you pull yourself out of the mire. Lori, I've seen you express remorse, I've watched you trying to do what is right. I've seen your love for Elise. I've seen you do all you can to give her a good life, help her grow into a healthy person, who she's meant to be. If that isn't good, then Lori I don't know whether good even exists. (Pause) You're going to be okay.

LORI

Okay...

MUSIC.

Scene Five

SFX: QUIET ROOM AMBIANCE.

INTERVIEWER

The story of Innervale, and by extension Lori Shaw, has been told and retold as a domestic terrorist investigation gone wrong. Conspiracy nuts, like myself (*chuckle*) say No, there's more to it than that.

CHARLIE

Much, much more.

INTERVIEWER

Reddit forums, 4Chan, MSN chat rooms before that, people have been talking about this for 30 years.

CHARLIE

Right.

INTERVIEWER

And we're still no closer to knowing the truth.

CHARLIE

That's why you're here.

INTERVIEWER

And you're going to tell us...?

CHARLIE

Everything.

MUSIC: INNERVALE CLOSING THEME (begins here).

INTERVIEWER

Okay.

CHARLIE

(*Slight tremble*) There's...there's a lot that's been covered up. I know for a fact, Alex, we're not alone. We're not.

INTERVIEWER

You mean the aliens?

CHARLIE

(Crying) And that scares the shit out of me. They're real.
The implications are so horrible...Sorry, I'm sorry...

INTERVIEWER

It's okay.

CHARLIE

You have no idea what you're asking me to remember. But I'm
ready now, yeah...I'll tell you the whole sordid thing.

MUSIC: INNERVALE CLOSING THEME.

End Chapter One.

