

THE COFFEE SHOP
EPISODE: S1-001

An Emergent Anomalies - Mystery Audio Drama

by **Alisha Awen**

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PRODUCTION SCRIPT
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Back Story

I got the idea to write this audio drama adaptation after reading a post on Plaster.tymoon.eu by Shinmera himself titled: "Unfinished Short Story" It looks juicy and I am adapting what he has written so far as a radio drama script here...

CAST

POLICE DETECTIVE

Tall, extremely calculating, small town police investigator who makes it a point of noticing everything before jumping to any conclusions...

FI THE BARISTA

Coffee shop barista, Slender figure, dark complexion, rough appearance. You could swear that she reeked of cigarettes, if it weren't for the overpowering smell of coffee. Her outfit has seen better days... She is bored with her routine job and reads magazines to pass idle time when no customers are needing attention... When no customers are around she spends time in the back room hacking computers...

CODGER

An old man with eyebrows so thick, you could hardly make out whether he was actually awake or not...

DRIFTER

Medium height, very skinny. Thick glasses and dressed like a dork. Carries a big backpack full of stuff... (DEVELOPMENT TO BE CONTINUED)

HARRY - BURLY HUSBAND

A burly retired railway worker with a wide set of shoulders sitting opposite his wife at one of the tables in the coffee shop... He is mostly invested in an outdated copy of the town's irregularly published newspaper while his wife complains about everything.

CINDY - BURLY MAN'S WIFE
Suspicious woman, hiding behind her knitting, arguing with her husband, ready to cut down anyone who rubs her the wrong way... That could all be a front however.. Cindy could actually be a secret agent spying on Harry, under suspicion of him being a local contact for the underground mafia... (TO BE CONTINUED)

ALPHA - THE COFFEE SHOP
Yes! The Coffee Shop itself is a character in this crazy story! Her name might be Alpha but she's definitely the last word when it comes to personalities around here!!! You can think of Alpha as a kind of Santa Clause in the architectural sense. First of all, she considers herself to be mother to everyone who crosses her threshold... She cares deeply about her patrons and keeps all the chairs and benches warm and cozy at all times! Although Alpha cannot communicate directly with her patrons, she can make quite a noise with all her machines and cookers going constantly. When she is happy, you can kind of feel that in the humming of things... Alpha is aware of everything that happens and knows all! But she won't tell you directly, preferring to leave little clues here and there. Like I said, Alpha cannot speak but she can shake the walls and make strange humming sounds sometimes... Most of the time Alpha buzzes along with the mood of her patrons, whirring away to keep them happy. You can think of it as Alpha's purr (if she were a cat that is)

BEGIN EPISODE

MUSIC: [MUS-01] THE COFFEE SHOP STORY THEME (ESTABLISH)
CONTINUE UNDER

ANNOUNCER:
Welcome to today's mystery story...
(HOLD BREATH FOR 5 SECONDS
WHILE STING PLAYS)

MUSIC: [MUS-02] THE COFFEE SHOP TITLE CLIP (STING) (STEAM PUNK FANFARE - SOUNDS SOMETHING LIKE A GROTESQUE MIX OF DRAGNET AND GET SMART THEME STYLE - VOICE OVER WITH STYLISTIC VOICE OVER ANNOUNCING TITLE OF WORK)

ANNOUNCER:

Yes folks, it's time for another exiting mystery radio play adopted from a short written by Nicolas Hafner, and adapted for radio by Alisha Awen. Produced by Harmonic Alchemy Productions on Orcas Island, in the middle of the enchanted Salish Sea!

ANNOUNCER:

Our story takes place in a small almost empty town located somewhere in the Arizona desert...

1 EXT. - MAIN STREET, OUTSIDE ALPHA COFFEE SHOP - DAY 1 1
(police detective)

MUSIC: [MUS-03] THE COFFEE SHOP INTRO THEME (CROSSFADE AND DUCK UNDER)

SOUND: [SFX-01] (CROSSFADE IN) TYPICAL CONVINCING SOUNDS OF
SANDSTORM BLOWING (CONTINUE SOFTLY AS BACKGROUND ENVIRONMENT
AMBIENCE LOOP)

POLICE DETECTIVE
(MUTTERING TO HIMSELF
WHILE CLICKING ON
RECORDING DEVICE, TESTING
MICROPHONE)

Testing one-two-three... Is this recorder on now?

SOUND: [SFX-02] TAPPING SOUNDS ON CHEST MOUNTED MICROPHONE

POLICE DETECTIVE
(SPEAKING QUIETLY INTO
CHEST MOUNTED POLICE
MICROPHONE)

OK... It's working... I'm just outside the Alpha coffee shop now. The neon sign is on and they are open... I'm going in...

SOUND: [SFX-02] DOOR LATCH SOUND AND DOOR CHIME RING AS DOOR
IS OPENED, FOOTSTEPS ACROSS THRESHOLD, OUTSIDE SAND STORM
AMBIENCE STILL AUDIBLE. [SFX-09] COFFEE SHOP BACKGROUND
AMBIENCE (FADE IN FROM NOW OPEN SHOP DOOR) [SFX-08] OUTSIDE
SOUNDS SOON FADE QUICKLY TO QUIET DRONE FROM INSIDE
PERSPECTIVE AT DOOR CLOSING CUE

SOUND: [SFX-03] (INSIDE) SHARP CLICK OF SHOP DOOR CLOSING -
[SFX-04] DOOR CHIMES RINGING AND SHAKING (CONTINUE) [SFX-09]
COFFEE SHOP BACKGROUND AMBIENCE, QUIET COMPARED TO STORM
OUTSIDE (CONTINUE UNDER)

2 INT. - ALPHA COFFEE SHOP - DAY 1**2**

(police detective, Fi The Barista, The Codger, Husband Harry, Wife Cindy)

POLICE DETECTIVE
(STILL SPEAKING QUIETLY
INTO CHEST MOUNTED POLICE
MICROPHONE)

I'm inside now... There's no mistaking that smell of strong coffee! The place is mostly empty... Only a few lonely customers minding their own business on the side. The barista just checked me out for a second but she is mostly pre-occupied with a magazine and looks quite bored... It's extraordinarily quiet in here!

SOUND: [SFX-04] (INSIDE) DOOR CHIMES FADE TO SILENCE.
[SFX-05] LOW GRUMBLE OF THE WATER COOKERS BELOW THE BAR,
QUIET COMPARED TO STORM OUTSIDE (CONTINUE UNDER)

POLICE DETECTIVE
(STILL SPEAKING QUIETLY
INTO CHEST MOUNTED POLICE
MICROPHONE)

All I can hear over that roar outside is the door chimes slowly ringing out, and those water cookers grumbling away under the bar.

(PAUSE)

There's a million specks of dust sparkling in the beam of light passing through the door window making me believe I see the smell of coffee swirling about in the air.

TO BE CONTINUED