

THE MAGNUS PROTOCOL

Episode 5

"Personal Screening"

Written by Alexander J Newall and Jamie Petronis
Edited by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall

Show-Notes are available at the end of the Transcript.

ANNOUNCER

This episode is dedicated to
Nikolas Rabayda - who thanks their
friends Dreach Noishe Mrm, Boot
boot, and Kobalt Jäger. May the
Ceaseless Watcher avert their gaze
on us.

[Intro Theme]

ANNOUNCER

Rusty Quill Presents: The Magnus
Protocol.
Episode Five - Personal Screening

[Music]

1. INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - NIGHT, CLEAR (LANDLINE).

It is the start of the shift. Lena is typing quietly. There
is a tentative knock at the door.

LENA

Come in.

SAM opens the door.

LENA CONT.

Good evening Sam. I don't believe
we had a meeting scheduled?

SAM

(from the doorway)

Well no, but I was wondering if
you could spare a few minutes
though? I think it might be
important.

Beat.

LENA

Very well.

[2]

V3.1
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SAM enters, closes the door, approaches the desk, and sits.
He places his backpack beside him.

LENA CONT.

Do take a seat.

SAM

Oh er sorry-

LENA

It's fine. What is it you wanted
to discuss?

SAM

Well it's a bit awkward... I'm not
really sure how to- um..

LENA

For the sake of efficiency let us
presume that since you said it is
important, I will not make any
assumptions.

SAM

Okay, yea. Well in that case, it's
Colin.

Beat.

LENA

Go on.

SAM

Er... I'm worried about him. That
is, um. Well, today I found him
crawling along the corridor,
yanking out wires and muttering to
himself.

LENA

Well Colin's role does include
technical maintenance.

SAM

Sure but, I mean, he's added all those locks to his office door and he refuses to even go near a camera now...

LENA

A desire for personal privacy is not a crime.

SAM

Yes, I understand that but-

Beat.

SAM

I think that the stress is getting to him and honestly? I think he might need some professional help.

Pause.

LENA

Anything else?

SAM

Um. No?

LENA

Right. Well firstly, thank you for raising this with me Sam. It's important we don't keep secrets here.

SAM

Oh, that's quite all right.

LENA

Good. Now, whilst I understand your concerns, you need to understand that Colin has held the IT Manager position for some time without incident, and although he is somewhat... frustrated with his current assignment he can request help from the central IT team at any time. I am certain that should he find his responsibilities unmanageable he will request

assistance. Or resign of course.
Either way, the problem will
resolve itself.

SAM

Right.

Beat.

LENA

Was there something else Sam?

SAM

I- er... no. I guess not.

LENA

Very good.

Beat. Sam stands and moves to exit. He opens the door.

LENA CONT.

And Sam?

SAM

(from door way)

Yeah?

LENA

Please schedule such meetings in
future.

SAM

...sure.

SAM exits.

2. INT. O.I.A.R. OFFICE - NIGHT, CLEAR (COMPUTER).

SAM approaches the desk obviously irritated and dumps his
bag before dropping heavily into his chair and turning on
his computer.

ALICE

Glad to see you've been learning
from my exceptional example.

SAM
(brusque)
What?

ALICE
You're late.

SAM
Okay.

He angrily unzips his bag, pulls his stuff out and roughly puts it on the desk.

ALICE
And thanks to my incredible perception skills and genius intellect I think I can detect the subtlest hints that you might be ever so slightly miffed. But I could be wrong.

SAM
Lena - doesn't take me seriously.

ALICE
Ah. Yeah, Lena isn't exactly known for her diplomacy.

Beat.

SAM CONT.
(picking up paper)
What's all this?

ALICE
(As if to a toddler)
That, now bear with me on this Sam because I know you're feeling emotional right now, is paper. It's made from trees and-

SAM
Alice, not today. Please?

ALICE
(Normal again)
I had a nosey while you were in Lena's office. Looks like it's for

your Response department one to one.

SAM
(Sheafing through reams
and reams of paper.)
What, all of it?

ALICE
As far as I can tell.

SAM
Good grief...

ALICE
Just chuck it. I told you, I'm
pretty sure the Response
Department doesn't even exist
anymore. It's just the system
spitting out dead paperwork.
Happens all the time.

SAM takes a moment then settles down and starts filling in the forms.

ALICE CONT.
Did you not hear me?

SAM
(writing)
I heard you.

ALICE
and...

SAM
And I'm going to fill it in any
way. See what happens.

ALICE
Your wasting your time.

SAM
It's my time to waste.

ALICE

You say that but your caseload is pretty heavy tonight and I'm too busy to bail you out.

SAM

(working on paperwork)

Uh huh... They want my last seven addresses. I don't know if I've even had-

Sam's terminal pings.

ALICE

Sam? Seriously, you'd better do that later. We're swamped.

Sam's terminal pings again.

SAM

(putting paperwork aside)

Yeah, yeah, okay, all right...

He double clicks the first case:

3. CYBERSPACE - N/A, N/A (BLOG POSTS)

CHESTER

<https://www.tomsterrors.blogspot.com>

BLOG POST: GENERAL: WELCOME TO MY TWISTED MIND!!

Hey all you sick freaks out there, Tom here, your gruesome guide to the most twisted horror films of the world wide web!

We're gonna be talking about the darkest, splattiest stuff here - starting next week with Rob Zombie's Halloween 2!

Stay bloody!

BLOG POST: GENERAL: A BLAST FROM
THE PAST

Wow, this is all incredibly weird. I can't believe this blog's still up. Was looking for somewhere slightly less confrontational than social media to post my film thoughts, and I remembered starting this back in, what, 2009? That first post... Fourteen years old and convinced I was the edgiest writer on the web. Might keep it up for posterity, god knows the kid went through enough.

I remember I was pretty lonely in those days. Ever since I was a child, making friends has always been kind of a struggle. My interests have always been seen as a little strange... While other kids my age at the time were looking up to football players and other celebrities, I was looking up to Pinhead and Freddy Krueger... It wasn't in a psychopath kind of way or anything, I've just always been fascinated by horror. I can thank my dad for that, he showed me Puppet Master when I was six. 'oh don't worry, buddy! It's just like Toy Story"... He had kind of a dark sense of humour like that.

That's when my fixation started. We must have watched thousands of weird and obscure horror films over the years... Critters, Ghoulies, Wishmaster... I couldn't get enough. And that is what brings us here today. THIS is the first (new) post of the Horror Dumpster Dive! I am going to use this blog to talk about all things

HORROR. This could include film reviews, gaming news, and just basically my general thoughts on the genre!

The plan is to focus on unknown gems. There's a comment section as well, so if you like something or just have some general feedback, feel free to leave a comment! And remember... One man's TRASH is another man's TERROR!...

I'm really proud of that tagline... Bye!

BLOG POST: FILM REVIEW: FIRE IN THE SKY

[The contents of this post have been deleted.]

BLOG POST: GAME REVIEW: SWEET HOME

[The contents of this post have been deleted.]

BLOG POST: FILM REVIEW: PUPPET MASTER 4

[The contents of this post have been deleted.]

BLOG POST: GENERAL: SOME NEWS!!

Hello there, horror hounds! Hope you are all having a terrific day today! I sure am. I know that this blog is still fairly new, but I must say it feels SO good to have like minded people to talk to. And I want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone that has been leaving recommendations in the comments!

There have actually been a few that I have never even heard of.

I can't seem to find the original comment anymore, but, one of you mentioned a film called "Voyeur"? I looked it up and I can't seem to find anything about it. I mean, don't get me wrong, there's literally dozens of films with that title, but let's just say that most of them aren't horror and none released in 2009. The only thing I could find was another old blog with what must have been the shortest film review I have ever read. You can check the link, but I'll save you some time: all it says is "Voyeur needs to be seen to be believed. The Scariest movie I have ever seen".

I am sold. I need to track down this film! If any of you have any more info on Voyeur, please leave it down below in the comments. Oh! And remember, if you like what I'm doing here, you can contribute to my KoFi! Every little bit helps. Those old hidden gems can get expensive... Bye!

BLOG POST: GENERAL: HUGE UPDATE!!

Oh my God. I can't believe one of you found it! Thank you SO MUCH Cinephobial2220 for the link! I have no idea how you even found it. You're right that it seems to be the official website for the film. It's so strange though. You should all check the link out for yourselves. It looks like it hasn't been updated in years but they appear to be currently running some kind of contest...

The winner gets a private screening of the film and then they get to be part of a Q&A with the director and I figure why not, right? The form literally only asked me to enter my name... I never win these things, and the draw probably already happened years ago, but what the hell. I will let you all know if anything comes of it. I still haven't found a copy of the actual film online anywhere yet. Thank you everyone for the help and don't forget! If you have any recommendations for some other hidden gems you would like me to take a look at, please leave a comment down below. Thanks!

BLOG POST: GAME REVIEW: FAITH; THE UNHOLY TRILOGY

[The contents of this post have been deleted.]

BLOG POST: GENERAL: NO WAY

I WON THE CONTEST! I can't believe it! The invitation was waiting when I got home today, in a small black envelope. I don't even remember giving them my address. The website must have logged my IP and looked it up or something... I'm really not sure how any of that works.

The letter also had all the details about the screening itself. It's very short notice, but the screening is THIS Saturday! I'm supposed to have work that night, but I'm going to figure it out. There is not a chance in hell that I am going to miss this. And I've actually been

to this cinema before... I used to go all the time with my dad... they would play classic horror films midday every Saturday.

That's where I saw *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and *The Thing* for the first time. I haven't been there in years though... I actually didn't even know that it was still open. It is a bit of a trek to get there, so, if you would like to contribute to the expenses, you can head over to my KoFi page. I'll leave a link in the comments. I'm not sure if I'll have time for any other posts before this weekend, but I will try my best. Talk to you all soon!

BLOG POST: GENERAL: GETTING READY

Sorry I've been m.i.a these past few days... I've actually been pretty nervous about this whole event. This film could never live up to my expectations... this happens to me when it comes to horror films. In fact it comes up SO often that I even came up with a term for it. I call it "Getting Babadooked". Everything that I read about *The Babadook* before seeing it was how phenomenal it was. I was SO hyped for that film that I even ended up dressing for the occasion... and then... blerg. It was so embarrassing... I struggle to think of a more disappointing film.

But I'm sure it won't be another Babadook. I can't believe that tonight is finally the night! I know that I only found out about this film like a week ago, but I feel like I've been waiting to see

something that would truly scare me for... years now. I feel like I've just been kind of... numb to the whole genre. Obviously, I still really enjoy everything horror related, but it takes a lot to get any sort of reaction out of me these days... I even started seeking out the borderline "should be illegal" stuff... *Faces of Death*, the *August Underground* series... even those barely get a shudder out of me... I'm hoping this might finally scratch that itch.

Sorry, I'm just rambling now. I really need to log off and start getting ready! And oh yeah! I forgot to mention, I'm sure you all are wondering when you will be able to hear all of my thoughts on the experience. Well, I have good news. You won't have to wait at all! The invitation to the screening actually explicitly mentioned that liveblogging the event is okay! I've been testing out some of these speech-to-text apps and have found one that should work, so prepare for my impressions... live!

I'm so excited and I hope you all are too! Okay. I am going to order the Lyft now... If you would like to help pay for that, my KoFi and PayPal are in the pinned comment down below... Next time you hear from me, I will be at the cinema! Talk to you later, Horror Hounds in real time!

BLOG POST: LIVE BLOG: "VOYEUR EVENT"

I made it! Finally! The price of the Lyft was absolutely insane, but it is definitely going to be worth it. Wow. This place looks just how I remember it although it's old obviously and... dirtier. Yeah, time has not been kind to this place. There's ripped trash bags on the front steps and there is some... er, pretty graphic graffiti all over the walls. You'd think they would want to clean things up a bit before hosting an event? Huh. There's just the one car in the car park... "Voyeur Fan Screening - SOLD OUT" is on the marquee, so this is definitely the right place.

Is it a private screening just for me? The contest didn't mention that. Might help the atmosphere, though. That's [UNINTELLIGIBLE] cool actually. I'm going to head on in... Hang on a sec.

Oh my God. Never judge a book by it's cover, I guess. It is GLORIOUS in here! The carpet and walls are absolutely pristine and the smell of freshly buttered popcorn! Mmmm. I'm not sure where exactly I'm supposed to be right now, so I'm going to head over to the ticket counter and see if the employee there can point me in the right direction.

The guy was very helpful. Apparently, Voyeur is the only film playing tonight so I guess I have the place to myself! I also get a large popcorn and a drink. I told him I didn't really want them, but he was kind of touchy about it. I asked about the mess outside, trying not to be rude

about it, but he just said "It's what on the inside that matters".

That's kind of deep when you think about it. I'm going to go grab my snacks and then try and find my seat.

Snacks acquired! They're obviously short staffed since it was the same guy working the concession stand. I feel bad. He looks super old and they're really putting him to work. He seems in good spirits though. Okay... [UNINTELLIGIBLE] find my seat!

That poor guy, They have him ushering too! They really need to hire more staff... oh wow... There's really nobody else in this whole cinema... I'm, so lucky! There's absolutely nothing like sitting alone in a cold room and watching a scary film that you know nothing about.

So I'm almost done with my popcorn and the film hasn't even started yet. No previews or anything... Do I go talk to the old guy? I really hate [UNINTELLIGIBLE] bother him. I'm just going to wait for now.

This has to be the best popcorn I have ever had. I've eaten the entire bucket before the film even started, I haven't done that since..... Oh! Something is happening! The projector is officially on! Here we go...

So it's been a minute and the screen is still black... I can hear what sounds like... beeping. It sounds so familiar but I can't quite place it. Medical equipment

maybe? There's something
[UNINTELLIGIBLE] the screen...
Looks like it might be a flashback
or something, handheld... looks like
it was filmed on an old
camcorder... Wait. Is that...? I
know that room... How... How did
they get [UNINTELLIGIBLE] This was
after the accident. Mum wanted to
to film it for my brothers...
Dad... I... [UNINTELLIGIBLE] Wait.
Who is that? In the corner of the
screen, there's... WHO THE HELL IS
THAT?

BLOG POST: FILM REVIEW: VOYEUR

Voyeur needs to be seen to be
believed. The scariest movie I
have ever seen.

4. INT. O.I.A.R. BREAKROOM - NIGHT, CLEAR (CCTV).

ALICE is on her phone at her desk not working. She is
clearly tired.

ALICE

-glad to hear it. You did say this
new band was pretty solid.

No it's fine, if you can hold on
till payday I'll be able to cover
it no worries. Besides, it sounds
like I'll be getting it back
pretty soon the way things are
going.

I know, I know, just make sure
next time, yeah? I won't always be
there to wipe my sweet little
brother's bum bum for him.

Oh you always say the sweetest
things.

Look after yourself.

ALICE puts the phone down and takes a moment.

GWEN
(A bit intense)
Are you finished?

ALICE
(jumping)
Jesus! How long were you lurking
there?

GWEN
I wasn't lurking. I need to ask
you something.

ALICE
Right fine.

GWEN
Do you remember the IT manager
before Colin?

ALICE
Who? Amelia? What about her?

GWEN
No, before Amelia, before I
joined. German guy. Lots of
tattoos.

ALICE
I mean, I think Amelia mentioned
him once or twice maybe? Mostly I
remember her complaining about his
work, but he'd have been here well
before my time. What's this about?

GWEN
Nothing. None of your business.

ALICE
What? Seriously?

GWEN
(walking off).
Yes.

Pause.

ALICE
(to herself)
What the hell is wrong with
everyone today?

Her computer pings.

ALICE CONT.
Oh don't you start.

[Music]

ANNOUNCER
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Thanks for listening.

The Magnus Protocol 5 – Personal Screening

CAT2RB2377-10012023-05022024

Disappearance (undetermined) -/- Invitation [internet blog]

Incident Elements:

- Negligent work environment
- Isolation
- Surveillance
- Mentions of - workplace counselling

Transcripts: <https://shorturl.at/gzF15>

This Episode is dedicated to Nikolas Rabayda, thank you for your generous support!

You can a complete list of our Kickstarter backers <https://rustyquill.com/the-magnus-protocol-supporter-wall/>

Created by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall

Directed by Alexander J Newall

Written by Alexander J Newall and Jamie Petronis (for more of his work visit

<https://www.thecellarletters.com/>)

Script Editing with Additional Materials by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall

Executive Producers April Sumner, Alexander J Newall, Jonathan Sims, Dani McDonough, Linn Ci, and Samantha F.G. Hamilton

Associate Producers Jordan L. Hawk, Taylor Michaels, Nicole Perlman, Cetius d’Raven, and Megan Nice

Produced by April Sumner

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Sarah Lambie as Lena Kelley

Shahan Hamza as Samama Khalid

Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer

Anusia Battersby as Gwendolyn Bouchard

Jonathan Sims as Chester

Dialogue Editor – Nico Vettese

Sound Designer – Meg McKellar

Mastering Editor - Catherine Rinella

Music by Sam Jones (orchestral mix by Jake Jackson)

Art by April Sumner

SFX from previously credited artists.

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