

HELLBOUND

1.09 "Celestial"

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Main Cast

Sam Witwer.....	James Bryson
Emily Rose.....	Alyson Faye
Milo Ventimiglia.....	Adam Murdock
Kate Beckinsale.....	Queen Ephemera

Guest Starring

Bruce Spence.....	Gray Beard
Tabrett Bethell.....	Talia Manning

FADE IN:

EXT. THE OLD WORLD - CAVE - NIGHT

A RAIN STORM ensues in the Old World. It's coming down hard.

We move through the forest and linger on a cave in the middle of a clearing. Pushing in, we see a figure standing just inside the cave entrance.

INT. THE OLD WORLD - CAVE (CONTINUOUS)

The figure is ADAM. Soaking wet, peering out at the storm. Frustration begins building on his face. He SWINGS around.

ADAM

We should move on. Staying in one place for too long is never the best idea.

GRAY BEARD and JAMES sit down on the other end of the small cave. Relaxing in front of a fire.

GRAY BEARD

You're right, but I've never been a fan of the rain. Cold, hard to see in... we'll have more luck finding the portal below a clear sky. Best we wait it out.

Adam sighs.

GRAY BEARD

Besides, I've put up a mystical barrier outside this cavern. Should do well in masking us from any prying eyes... or noses. Vampiric, or otherwise.

ADAM

Fine... have it your way.
(to James)
Not like anyone's ever willing to try mine.

James does not move. Just sits there. Gazing into the flames. Adam notices this, and walks over to him. Curious.

ADAM

James?

No response. He stares into the fire. Eyes tensing. Sweat, crawling down his spine. His lips begin to tremble.

We begin hearing faint cries, that quickly turn into violent screams that only James can hear.

ADAM (O.S.)

JAMES!

James gasps. Snaps out of it. He looks up at Adam and Gray Beard, who peer down at him with worry.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You alive in there?

JAMES

Yeah... I- I'm fine.

Adam accepts his answer, then sits down next to the fire. Gray Beard keeps his eyes on James.

GRAY BEARD

It's only going to get worse, you know.

Adam is confused. But James keeps his eyes straight. Knowing just what's he's talking about.

ADAM

What?

GRAY BEARD

Your friend here has been touched by dark magic, my boy. I don't need any sixth sense to feel the weight it's put on his shoulders.

JAMES

The Order... what exactly did they do to me?

GRAY BEARD

They've created a rift within your mind. Magic like that doesn't come with a price. I assume you've begun to see things that aren't there. Memories of things, people, you've lost long.

He nods.

GRAY BEARD

There's a number of spells that can cause these kinds of side effects.

(beat)

(MORE)

GRAY BEARD (CONT'D)

When it was still in power, the High Council made it their duty to control what techniques were considered acceptable amongst those who possessed the gift of magic.

The two of them sit, gathered around the fire. Listening to the man's history lesson.

GRAY BEARD

I'm afraid the spell used on you was not one of them. The ability to step into another's mind. Twist their thoughts, manipulate the very core of their beliefs in the attempt to bend them in favor of their own. One of the Seven Forbidden Feats of Magic.

ADAM

I'm assuming sorcerers who work, willing I might add, with the puries, don't exactly care too much about sticking their middle fingers up at the rules.

GRAY BEARD

And you'd be correct in the assumption.

(to James)

You've been touched by a dark sorcerer, highly skilled at the art of mind manipulation. It's left a scar, and like all physical and psychological wounds, it'll take time to heal.

JAMES

How much time?

GRAY BEARD

Eh, maybe a couple hundred years or so, if you're lucky.

James raises his eye brows. Sighs.

JAMES

Good to know.

SCREEEEETCHHHH!!!

The scream of a pure-blood vampire resonates near the cave. It's close. Too close for comfort, as Adam shakes in his boots.

JAMES (CONT'D)
(quietly)
The fire--

Gray Beard waves his hand over the flames, and they fade instantly.

ADAM
We're screwed!!

James smacks his hand over Adam's mouth.

JAMES
Ssshhhh...

James moves his hand and slowly walks over to the cave opening, though never stepping out of it.

Two purebloods come bursting out of the forest. Their noses to the sky. We hear more rustling, followed by another figure stepping out--

QUEEN EPHEMERA herself. She looks around the clearing in the forest, scanning the area for prints.

EPHEMERA
Split up! They couldn't have gotten too far.

The purebloods take fly in opposite directions. Ephemera remains.

CLOSE IN on her face. Her blue eyes suddenly turn a solid black color, as she catches a faint scent. She begins sniffing the air, taking in all the smells around her.

She steps toward the cave. James tenses up, but he stands his ground. Ephemera continues her approach slowly.

Now, James and Ephemera are standing face to face. Though only one can see the other. James tries hard to hold his breath.

We spot Adam in the background, eyes wide. Still shaking in fear.

Ephemera slowly raises her hand. She begins reaching into the cave, but before her hand can touch the barrier, rustling is heard from behind her.

She pulls her hand away, then turns around to one of her guards, rushing from deep in the forest.

PURE-BLOOD

(translated to English)

My Queen! One of ours, not far from here. Burned to ash from the inside out! The hybrids could not have done that.

EPHEMERA

No... but Solaris could.

(beat)

I had a feeling he found a way to escape death along with the others. If we're lucky. The three of them may have crossed paths.

PURE-BLOOD

What are your orders?

EPHEMERA

If the sorcerer is protecting them with magic, we won't be able to find them. At least, not without magic of our own.

PURE-BLOOD

Where are you going, my Queen?

EPHEMERA

To go get some, of course.

She smiles, then walks off into the forest. The pure blood scurries off after her.

BACK ON JAMES. Takes a deep breath. But still holds a disturbed expression. Adam now possessing the very same expression.

James turns around and faces Gray Beard, or... SOLARIS.

GRAY BEARD

Well, that was close.

He notices James' expression.

ADAM

Did she just say--

JAMES

-- Solaris.

SOLARIS

Ahh, yes. My name! I had completely forgotten. How embarrassing.

Adam steps away from the sorcerer, and stands next to James. His eyes light up in anger. On that, we ...

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNTOWN, CHICAGO - CELESTIAL EMPORIUM - DAY

FROM ABOVE, we see ALYSON sleeping on a wooden table. Slowly pushing in on her face, we hear the echoes of a woman, calling her name.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Alyson... Alyson... ALYSON!!

Her eyes DART open. She flies up from the table, taking in her surrounds.

A spacious occult shop. Jars upon jars of strange herbs, preserved organs, and other mystical substances. All lined up on the walls of the place.

Alyson holds her side, lifts up her shirt, revealing the bandage on her wound. She lifts the bandage, and is shocked to discover her wound is entirely healed.

ALYSON
Hello??

She starts pacing the place, nerves getting the best of her.

ALYSON
Is anyone here!?

FOOTSTEPS on the approach. Quickly. Moments later, a woman appears from the back room. Wide eyed with even wider glasses on and a long, red licorice candy in her mouth.

Long, messy brown hair. A cooky, eccentric look about her. She gives Alyson the widest grin she's ever seen.

This is TALIA MANNING.

Talia swoops over the front desk, and hugs Alyson where she stands. Confused, and thrown off guard, Alyson does not hug her back. She flails her arms a bit.

TALIA
I was starting to wonder if you'd ever awaken! But I'm glad you're back. There's so much to be done.

ALYSON
How long have I been out!?

TALIA

Six hours and twenty-two minutes, exactly. I made tea. An ancient recipe passed down through the generations. I'd describe it as rather... minty. Would you like some?

ALYSON

No, thanks... I'll tell ya' what I do want.

(beat)

To know how I was bleeding out a few hours ago and now, don't have as much as a scar!

TALIA

The secret lies in the tumeric roots, mixed with some other handy healing agents. Smells like poop, cause it kinda is, but... very effect, as you can see. You're welcome, by the way.

ALYSON

I don't mean to be frank or anything, but who exactly are you?

TALIA

God, how thoughtless of me! My name is Talia. Talia Manning. This shop is my home. Pretty cozy, right?

ALYSON

At the prison... I saw a woman. I'm guessing that was you?

Talia nods.

TALIA

I'd been looking for you for quite some time. Last night, I felt this sudden surge of energy. I knew I had to find the source. And it led me straight to you.

ALYSON

What are you talking about? What energy?

TALIA

You've been awakened, after all these years.

(MORE)

TALIA (CONT'D)

You can never put a timer on fate,
no matter how hard you try.

ALYSON

Okay, enough!! I've been wrongfully
accused of murdering a man I didn't
even know! I've got the image of
half a police squad with their
throats ripped out permanently
etched into my brain, and I'm a
little on edge due to the INSANITY
that is my life, so could you
PLEASE just tell me what the hell
is going on!?

TALIA

You're a witch, Alyson. And a
thumpin' good one, I'd wager.
(giggles)
I've always wanted to say that.

Talia takes a big bite of her licorice, while Alyson just stands
there, perplexed.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OLD WORLD - CAVE - NIGHT

James and Adam look disturbed, as Solaris just stands there.
A blank look on his face.

JAMES

I called myself a philosopher once.
I made it my business to study the
history of the Old World and its
secrets. Solaris, was the name of
one of the original Gatekeepers of
this dimension. You're the ones who
created the portals in the first
place!

ADAM

I'm sorry, I didn't pay attention
in Old World History 101. Care to
elaborate for the academically
challenged?

JAMES

You're looking at a living,
breathing portal to the New World.
He's been wasting our time,
searching for a portal when he's
got the key to opening one buried
in his own blood!

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

(beat)

Why?

SOLARIS

I told you... it gets lonely out here. You two are the first people I've come across in years that didn't want to tear me limb from limb.

James closes his eyes. Knowing what it's like to be alone.

SOLARIS

You know who I am now. You know I can make a portal, but it's not that simple. Gatekeepers can't just create a vortex and send people on their merry way. There needs to be an anchor on the other side, making sure you get through.

(beat)

Another Gatekeeper. One of our totems; a spelled talisman... something! And even then, they'd have to be channeled by a very powerful sorcerer. Without that, one may find himself trapped in an endless rift between both dimensions.

Gray Beard turns his head.

SOLARIS

It's not particularly pleasant. Especially for non-magical folk like yourselves. Believe me.

JAMES

At this point, we'd rather be trapped between worlds than waiting for the Queen to unleash all hell on us in this one.

ADAM

Woah, speak for yourself, bro.

SOLARIS

You heard what Ephemera said. You're not the only targets anymore. If I open a portal of that magnitude, there's no spell, no barrier that'll keep her from finding me.

JAMES

They know you're alive now. They'll find you anyway. Just a matter of time. But if you do this for us, I swear, I'll find a way to help you on the other side.

(beat)

I'm not like the others. I'm not a mindless, killing machine. The human part of me gives me the capacity to feel... to care. Do this for us... and you have my word, I'll get you out of this place.

SOLARIS

And if I don't?

JAMES

Then we'll go on without you. Find another portal on our own. And we won't look back once we've made it through.

Solaris considers his options for a moment. He raises his fist, and a silver dagger manifest from then air. Adam's eyes widen. Puts his hands up in defense.

ADAM

Hey hey, no need for sharp, pointy objects...

Solaris takes the dagger and slices into his own hand. The blood comes rushes out, and he closes it. Rubs it in a bit.

His hand begins to glow white. He motions his open palm to the ground.

The glowing blood shifts into a huge, blue vortex. The Portal to the New World. James and Adam look on with amazement.

SOLARIS

I can't promise it'll stay open long enough for you two to find an anchor, if one even comes. But I'll do my best.

James nods, then looks to Adam.

JAMES

So, this is it.

ADAM

You know, I would have liked to be consulted before you pulled this crazy plan out of your ass! Caught between two worlds? Doesn't sound like the most comfy of uncomfortable situations.

JAMES

Then stay behind... but I'm going through. With or without you.

Long pause. Then Adam caves. He puts his arm around James shoulder.

ADAM

You know I can't let you do this alone.

James smiles at Adam, then turns back to Solaris.

JAMES

Thank you.
(beat)
We won't forget about you.

SOLARIS

Quick now! I'm sure they've sensed it already.

James puts his own arm around Adam's shoulders, and the two of them walk straight into the vortex.

As they disappear into it, we fall back to Solaris. A sense of depression falling over him.

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNTOWN, CHICAGO - CELESTIAL EMPORIUM - DAY

Alyson has the same look on her face. The same confused expression, as Talia flurries about the shop in search for something.

ALYSON

What do you mean, I'm a witch??

TALIA

Well, the original term is sorceress, but that just sounds so old age-y, don't you think?

(beat)

I like witch more.

(MORE)

TALIA (CONT'D)

Even though its associated with old hags sporting disgusting warts and flying around on broomsticks. Well, one of those things is actually true.

Alyson looks curious, questioning the woman's sanity.

TALIA (CONT'D)

You're a part of an ancient coven of witches, destined to stop the spread of evil between the New and Old Worlds. Sadly, our numbers have dwindled in the past hundred years, give or take.

ALYSON

Alright... I can't listen to this anymore.

Alyson heads for the door.

TALIA

I knew Melanie!

She stops in her tracks, then slowly turns around. Confused.

TALIA (CONT'D)

That's right. I knew your mother. She was a friend... and quite the powerful witch herself. A member of our coven. And sadly, she was killed for it.

ALYSON

Do you know who killed my mother? Was it Raj?

TALIA

He was just a foot soldier for the Order -- a legion of powerful, pureblood vampires, but even they have their masters. A council of six, who lead the entire species. They are responsible for wiping out our coven.

(beat)

Or, so they thought. I was under the impression that I was the only to survive... until last night.

ALYSON

He told me-- he said I should have died with my mother that night.

TALIA

Yes. How did you manage to escape,
anyway?

ALYSON

I don't remember.

TALIA

Maybe you have a guardian angel.

ALYSON

I don't believe in angels.

Alyson notices Talia rustling through the cupboards. Curious.

ALYSON (CONT'D)

What are you looking for?

TALIA

Ah! There you are.

She picks up an old medallion. Medium size. Gold. The pentagram in a circle engraved in it.

Talia hands it to Alyson. She studies it closely, touching the engraving.

ALYSON

I've been seeing this symbol a lot lately. What does it mean?

TALIA

The pentagram is a symbol for magic itself. Each of the five points representing a different element. Fire, earth, water, air and spirit. All working together to create the very essence of magic.

A darkness grows in Talia's eyes. She folds her arms.

TALIA (CONT'D)

But like all things, magic is split between the light and the dark. Two sides of the same coin. How we might use the symbol for acts of peace and selflessness, those who practice the dark arts may use it to corrupt. To destroy.

ALYSON

Like whatever burned my house to
the ground fifteen years ago. And
then again at the art gallery--

Allison gasps, suddenly. Putting her hand to her chest.

TALIA

What is it??

ALYSON

I don't know... I just felt this
rush come over me.

TALIA

Must be your intuition kicking in.
Every witch acquires senses they
didn't notice before coming into
their powers.

ALYSON

I just... I thought about someone.
Someone I thought might have been
dead but... it's like I can feel
him.

TALIA

You must go to him. It's a sign.

ALYSON

I wouldn't even know where to start
looking.

TALIA

Just look deep inside yourself.
Listen to your instincts. You'll
find your way. Trust me.

ALYSON

I don't know why. But I do trust
you...

TALIA

I told you, we're of the same
coven. We're connected in a way
like no other. We're sisters now,
you and I.

(chuckles)

I've always wanted a sister.

Talia smiles. Pushes her glasses back up to her face. Alyson
nods, then hands her back to medallion. Talia closes Alyson's
hands.

TALIA (CONT'D)
No, keep it. Your mother would have
wanted you to have it.

Short pause, then Alyson puts the medallion around her neck.
Alyson nods, then starts for the door. We hold on Talia.

TALIA (CONT'D)
Blessings to you!

We see Alyson leaving the shop. The door closes behind her.

TALIA (CONT'D)
You'll need them.

Off her worried expression, we ...

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN, CHICAGO - STREETS - LATER

Alyson walks down the busy streets. Her hood is up, in an
attempt to look the least suspicious as possible.

As she continues to walk blend in the crowd, she spots a
police vehicle, driving down the street. Her eyes widen, and
she stops in her tracks, turning her head in the other
direction.

She pretends to window shop, looking at some priceless jewels
behind a glass window. She eyes the patrol car, as they make
their way down the street.

She exhales. Then moves down the next alley. Half-way down
the alleyway, she feels a burning sensation on her chest.

She stops. Grabs her chest, and it gets worse. She screams in
pain.

Noticing the medallion around her neck is glowing a bright,
white. She grabs it by the base, and yanks it off her neck.
Tosses it to the ground.

She presses against her chest, then moves her hand, revealing
the pentagram symbol, burned through her clothes and into her
skin.

She looks down at the glowing medallion, confused. Seconds
later -- BOOOOM!!! It explodes with light, throwing Alyson
back to the ground. Knocking her lights out.

The light shifts into a blue vortex, and spits out two
figures. Stark nude, one landing on top of the other.

We reveal the pair to be JAMES and ADAM.

James raises his head, peering down at Adam below him. Adam, notices the loss of their clothes.

ADAM

Listen mate, I know one of us might be getting a kick out of this, but the other one is getting a little uncomfortable...

JAMES

Don't flatter yourself, 'mate.'

James moves from on top of Adam. He stands to his feet, then reaches his hand out to Adam, who accepts the help standing up. We see the two above the waist, as Adam looks around the alley.

ADAM

Back in the New World. But, where's the anchor?

James looks to the ground and see's Alyson.

JAMES

Right there.

Adam follows James' line of sight.

ADAM

Wait... isn't that--

JAMES

Alyson.

ADAM

But-- but she's only human.

James turns to Adam.

JAMES

Right... about that.

(beat)

She's not.

We CLOSE IN on an unconscious Alyson. And off that image, we...

BLACKOUT:

END OF EPISODE