

HI NAY - Episode 10, Part II:

``SINAPIAN (Possessed)``

[00:00 - 00:37 "Ili-Ili Tulog Anay" instrumental plays]

Motzie: You're listening to Hi Nay, by Motzie Dapul. Episode 10: "Sinapian", part two.

-START-

[Recording clicks on]

DONNER: Check that stack over there.

LAURA: I'm looking through. It's gonna be hard to flip through these books if we don't know what we're looking for, but it looks like Evelyn left some helpful notes if you wanna take a look. Don't suppose you could feel what's important, Mari?

MARI: No. Unless Langford - or whoever he is - touched one of these books directly, I won't be able to feel for anything. We're just gonna have to dig through the old fashioned way.

LAURA: Murphy's gonna be pissed.

MARI: Like he isn't already.

LAURA: This isn't your fault, you know.

MARI: *[Sighs]* Then whose is it? I really thought the guy was like me. Trained, empowered. He felt... different. If I was wrong about that, then what else could I have been wrong about?

DONNER: Murphy blames himself, you're blaming yourself. You really think that's helping anyone, the two of you throwing a pity party? Besides... How are you so sure you were wrong?

MARI: Well... Anyone who's worked with this sort of stuff... spirit mediums, healers, seers, shamans and all that - they'd know to keep their amulets or sigils or spells of protection on them at all times. If he was really what I thought he was he would've had no problem fending off a possession.

LAURA: Well, maybe he forgot his at home. Whoa!

DONNER: What is it?

LAURA: Startled me for a sec. *[Sound of paper being slipped out of a book]* Look familiar?

MARI: Oh. I didn't realise Evelyn had found a photo of George Langford.

LAURA: An old one too. Wait, I think there's something written on the back... Can't make it out...

DONNER: Here, give it over.

[Laura hands Donner the photo]

"To My Friedrich, with all my love. G. M."

MARI: Friedrich... where did we hear that name?

LAURA: That's the other Langford guy. Evelyn mentioned it.

DONNER: Good memory.

LAURA: I live for this stuff nowadays. So we're looking at this guy, GM, who we're assuming is the guy in the photo - Not-George-Langford. And what looks like a love note, which could just be a friendly little correspondence between brothers, or...

MARI: Huh. Hey, Laura, have you ever heard of Olive Byrne?

LAURA: Sounds kinda familiar, but...

MARI: Okay, um... Her partner, Will Marston, was the creator of Wonder Woman.

LAURA: Interesting... but what does that have to do with anything?

MARI: Well, he's not really the point, I guess? He had a polyamorous relationship with two women - his wife, Elizabeth Holloway, co-developer of the polygraph precursor, and their partner, Olive Byrne. When Marston passed away, Olive and Elizabeth continued living together when Marston died, marking Olive as Elizabeth's "sister-in-law" in records.

DONNER: Huh. I see where your head's at.

LAURA: Share with the class?

DONNER: You're saying that Lang- this GM person wasn't a Langford before they started marking him as one in records. That he might have been Friedrich Langford's lover, taken into the family somehow. So if we assume George was actually his first name...

MARI: His last name would've been something else. Something with the letter M, based on the photo. I wonder why Evelyn didn't mention it yesterday...

[Sound of walking, shuffling papers]

DONNER: What the hell...

MARI: What is it?

[Paper crinkling]

DONNER: I'm having a hard time justifying why Evelyn wouldn't mention this.

LAURA: Holy-

MARI: Is that... all of them together?

DONNER: How should I know?

MARI: There's Not-Langford, right there, with the man from the painting Laura axed, Jean-Paul.

LAURA: They're looking pretty cozy, huh?

MARI: And look - it's the man from Anya Creek's home.

DONNER: There's something on the back, too. Messages. Names. Here, do you think-

MARI: Yeah. I do. Wait, give me a sec.

LAURA: Oh my god, what are you doing?

MARI: Calm down. It's just a little burn.

LAURA: Lighting a candle and burning yourself in the middle of a library isn't gonna help me calm down!

DONNER: Jesus, Mari!

MARI: Hay naku, would you just please hand the photo over?

DONNER: Careful not to burn it.

MARI: Christ. If you're gonna be like that, then hold it up for me.

DONNER: *[Paper crinkles]* There.

[Mari walks over as the flame grows]

DONNER: *[Whispering frantically]* Mari!

MARI: It won't hurt you. It just... helps me see. George... May... Is that who you are?

[Flame and wind crescendo before an eerie silence]

MARI: Got it.

[Recording clicks off]

SCENE 2

[Recording clicks on]

MURPHY: Finally. Any longer and I'd have done something we'd all regret. Did you find what you were looking for?

LAURA: You missed a magic show.

MURPHY: Got enough of a magic show out here. Come on. Let's not waste any more time.

MARI: Before we go, I'm gonna need something from you guys.

LAURA: Are you gonna set our hands on fire too?

MURPHY: She what?

MARI: No, no! But... I will need a drop of blood from each one of you.

LAURA: You're kidding.

MURPHY: Is that a joke?

DONNER: ...Fine.

MURPHY: Donner, what the hell?

MARI: I need to protect you guys, and what we're about to step into is gonna require about as much protection as you had when we faced Langford at my place. But I don't have time to put

together any talismans, so this is the next best thing. Plus, once we're in there... well. I might have a plan.

LAURA: We're all ears.

[Recording clicks off]

SCENE 3

[Recording clicks on]

[Strange sounds of magic and atmosphere]

[A shop door opens as a chime rings]

LANGFORD: Welcome. I'd say I'm surprised you found a way through my defences but... I'd be lying. I don't suppose you'll tell me your name? It may seem silly to you, but I consider you perhaps the only friend I have in this time.

MARI: I don't know that that's true. Considering what you were part of, and what they were able to achieve.

LANGFORD: Friends is a strong word for what we were. Not like yours, two of whom I can feel slinking around the back, trying to catch me off guard. I don't know why you thought that would work.

MARI: Maybe I underestimated just how far you've gotten with your spell.

[Slow sound of footsteps]

LANGFORD: Ah ah ah. Careful now. Who knows what will happen if you touch her where she lies. Don't think I didn't see where your eyes strayed the moment you walked through the door.

MARI: Just... worried. You did take one of my friends.

LANGFORD: My apologies...?

MARI: Mari. And you're George. George May.

[Sound of the atmosphere responding to the name]

LANGFORD: Oh. I almost forgot that name. And... others like it.

MARI: Like Friedrich Langford?

[Sudden rumbling]

LANGFORD: Ah. How odd. I'd forgotten what that felt like. Heartache. One that's my own, for once.

MARI: You took the man's name. It made it a lot harder to find yours, but we managed it.

LANGFORD: Took it? As though dear Friedrich didn't give it to me freely, fool that he was. He loved me so dearly. Though, I was not true to him and I did exploit that. If I regret anything at all, it was what I did to dear Friedrich.

[Rumbling continues]

Mari, was it? Terribly clever, aren't you? So that's how you got through. True name spells are powerful indeed, but you must know that you've put yourself in a difficult position, entering my place of power. Or, well. This man's place of power.

MARI: This man... why did you take him over? He's a charlatan, a fake.

LANGFORD: Oh you know as well as I do that that's not true. Although from what I gather he certainly believed it. At least until I opened his eyes. He's particularly gifted, if I may say so to a fellow practitioner. A natural talent that he's wasted.

MARI: So you just decided to take his power for yourself. Like you tried with me.

LANGFORD: Very rude, I know. But desperate times.

MARI: We could've helped each other, you know? We have the same enemy. I don't know why you decided this would be better.

LANGFORD: All you did was paint a target on your back, and tell my enemy I was a threat again.

MARI: You got scared and you ran. You could've helped us, and you ran. You don't get to feign benevolence when this is all you've achieved.

[Magic crackling in the atmosphere]

LANGFORD: Regardless. It's too late now.

MARI: No. No it isn't.

[Chimes and whispering-- Mari's magic activating]

LANGFORD: You're powerful, my dear, but I've had time to prepare. You really think you can face me now?

MARI: This isn't me facing you. Yet. This is me distracting you.

LANGFORD: Where did - oh! Well now. I am suitably impressed. What was it? Two protection spells for your friends, and a concealment spell for the third?

MARI: I just needed to give her time to get in and get Ev-our friend to safety, yes.

LANGFORD: And now what?

MARI: And now? I face you.

[Sound of Langford's magic being overtaken by Mari's]

SCENE 4

[Recording clicks on]

[Sound of Laura running on the street]

[Evelyn gasps awake]

EVELYN: Oh my god!

LAURA: Hey, hey. Calm down. I got you. How do you feel?

EVELYN: Like I'm dying. Last I remember... wait. Is that... is it growing?

LAURA: Come on!

[Sound of both of them running, though Evelyn stumbles somewhat]

EVELYN: *[Breathless]* The people!

LAURA: Don't stop running!

[Pulsing sound of magic, then the sound receding slightly]

[Sound of Laura and Evelyn slowing down, stopping, catching their breath]

EVELYN: The - those - we have to go back! Those people, they-

LAURA: Whoa, whoa, whoa! After everything we did to get you out, you're not running back into... that. Mari and the others have it under control.

[Loud gust of wind, faint sound of Langford's magic coming from afar]

EVELYN: You really think they can handle this?

LAURA: God I hope so.

SCENE 5

[Recording clicks on]

[Whispering in the background]

LANGFORD: Did you really think that would work?

MARI: *[Laughs]* Can't blame a girl for trying.

LANGFORD: I thought you were smart enough to notice that any sort of magic you try and throw at me now is only going to feed my spell. Apart from your protections, of course, though even that's not going to last much longer.

[Mari grunts in pain]

LANGFORD: I can already touch you. How much longer do you think you can last like this? Charging a spell you know won't have an effect on me.

MARI: *[Labored]* You're not really the end goal here. Like you said. I can't throw any more magic at you, so all I can do is keep my protections up and keep your spell contained. Keep it from spreading, sapping the life force of those unprotected.

LANGFORD: At least while you still live.

[Slow steps]

I would have sought you out, you know. After I amassed enough power to reform myself, face him prepared. Allied with you, perhaps, like you wished. But look at you. You're not even powerful enough to face me here. What chance would you have had to face The Benefactor?

MARI: *[Weakly]* You're no different than him. Stop pretending you are.

LANGFORD: Oh, but I am different. Unlike him... I feel remorse for having to kill you.

[Mari gasps, bracing herself for impact]

[Explosive sound of a powerful spell firing off]

[Silence]

DONNER: *[Pained noise as he stumbles]*

MARI: *[Gasps]* ... Donner?

[Sound of a body slumping heavily]

MARI: No...

LANGFORD: Hm. What a waste.

[Someone running from behind]

MURPHY: *[Yells as he grapples with Langford from the back]*

[Langford hisses in pain, then laughs]

MURPHY: Get out of him you murderous piece of- *[Grunts in pain]*

LANGFORD: An admirable trick. But I'm afraid I have no more time to waste on fodder.

[Another explosion of magic, and the sound of Murphy being thrown off]

[Sound of Murphy crashing against a wall and falling to the ground]

ASHVIN: Rick, No!

LANGFORD: Stop it.

MARI: Ashvin-

LANGFORD: That's. Enough.

MARI: Ashvin. Please, I know you know how. Exorcism. Drive away evil. You have the knowledge, you just need to believe - to know - that you have the power to do it. Please.

LANGFORD: Do you really think...

[Sounds of Ashvin struggling]

ASHVIN: *[Chanting a warding spell]*

LANGFORD: *[Voice distorting]* You can't do this. My magic-

MARI: It's his magic. Not yours. He can do whatever he wants with it. I am sorry, George May.

LANGFORD: *[Voice distorting]* Not as much as you will be, Mari.

[Sound of magic ebbing away]

[Recording cuts off]

SCENE 6

[Recording clicks on]

DONNER: *[Coughing]* Jesus. God. Christ. What the hell.

MARI: Hey, hey hey. You okay?

DONNER: Not if I look worse than you do. God, your wrist-

MARI: Ah ah ow. It stings.

DONNER: Sorry.

MARI: Sorry, he says. Taking a killing blow meant for me, and he's sorry?

DONNER: I mean- I mean for before.

MARI: Don't. Even. Start. You were right. But you gotta understand... I don't like seeing people I... anyone putting themselves in front of me, and that's what tends to happen when I'm the only one who can fix it.

DONNER: Well unless you find someone else who can fix it, same as you, you're gonna have to live with it.

MARI: I think... I already have.

[Background noise, shuffling, someone getting up]

MURPHY: *[Groaning]* Oh I'm gonna be feeling that in the morning.

ASHVIN: Let me see.

MURPHY: *[Small, bitten back sound of pain]* What's the verdict, doc?

ASHVIN: *[Heavy, shuddering sigh]* I thought he - I ... *[In Mauritian Creole]* Oh my god, oh my god. *[In English]* I'm-

MURPHY: Wait wait wait. Me first. I'm sorry.

ASHVIN: *[Angrily]* Why are you apologising!? I almost killed you.

MURPHY: One, you saved me and that wasn't you. Two... I shouldn't have - we shouldn't have left you alone. If we'd caught wind sooner, this would never have happened. We shouldn't even have put you in this situation. So yeah. Excuse me for feeling like I abandoned someone I liked for once.

ASHVIN: I don't blame you. Even if you should've known something was up when I didn't call you back within a day. It's like you don't even know me.

MURPHY: I didn't wanna be... pushy. Yeah, it sounds stupid now, but I really didn't think the crazy I got into would bleed into my personal life.

ASHVIN: Crazy is definitely one way to put it. Do you really deal with this all the time?

MURPHY: Believe it or not, it's less stressful to deal with than the usual homicide. But only just.

[Pause]

MURPHY: So... what now?

ASHVIN: Yikes. Sounds like the prelude to a breakup.

MURPHY: In your dreams. But seriously. This is... a lot. All of this. But you just beat a murderous dead magician that not even our resident supernatural expert could deal with - at least not while shielding me and my partner. Can you really just go back to herbs and cons after everything?

ASHVIN: The cleanup alone is going to be killer, I know. I'm going to need time to process having a creeper like George live in my head for weeks, and... there are things he did that I remember clearly in my mind. Spells, materials. Real magic that I know I can do myself. I don't really know what that means for me.

[Pause]

But when I say time I don't mean cut off communication with me again, because god help me I missed hearing your voice.

MURPHY: *[Chuckles]* Softie. Well. Whatever you decide, you've got my number.

[Sound of footsteps, Mari approaching]

MARI: Sorry to interrupt... but, um, I do have a question for you, Ashvin.

ASHVIN: Well good, because I've got about ten thousand for you. But... shoot.

MURPHY: I'll leave you two be. Gotta touch base with my partner.

ASHVIN: Oh uh - I guess so. Sure.

[Murphy gets up and walks away]

ASHVIN: Alright then. What's up?

MARI: I don't... get you. How do you know all you know and still end up getting possessed because you didn't have basic protection? Not-Langford said you had such raw power and talent, but the way you reacted last time we spoke, it was like you had no idea what was going on.

ASHVIN: *[Sighs]* Well. Not to bore you with my entire life story or anything, but... All this folk magic mumbo jumbo, I grew up around it. My parents were healers. Mystics, fairly well known for the work they did. I learned everything from them. I always thought they were smarter than all that, to be honest. Superstitious, but not stupid. But then one day... One day they left to do... their job, and they never came back. Got sent over to Canada after the funeral to live with my uncle and aunt. Got nothing out of the nonsense my parents dedicated themselves to except a good business plan scamming people out of their hard earned money with healing herbs and magic spells. One hundred percent authentic Mauritian folk magic from a fake guru from whatever part of India my customers knew existed.

MARI: Except none of it's fake and anyone with even a lick of magical knowledge could tell. Except for maybe whatever talisman you wore that didn't protect you from getting possessed in the first place.

ASHVIN: Yes, well. I do have one, I think. A real one. That my... parents gave me. Now's as good a time as any to dig it up.

MARI: Well, if it makes you feel better... You can hold onto this for me until then.

ASHVIN: Ah. Thank you. Oh. It feels warm. But... not just... I mean...

MARI: You can feel it, huh?

ASHVIN: I can feel a lot more things that shouldn't even be possible right now, honestly.

MARI: I can help you with that. If... that's okay.

ASHVIN: Okay isn't the word I'd use but...

[Sound of footsteps]

MURPHY: Hey you two. We're heading out to make sure Laura and Evelyn are okay. You coming?

ASHVIN: *[Huffs, amused]* Why not, right?

MARI: Coming!

[Recording clicks off]

SCENE 7

[Recording clicks on]

LAURA: Oh thank god!

[Hurried footsteps on pavement]

[Sound of Mari getting the breath punched out of her from Laura hugging her]

MARI: Oof. Nice to see you too, Laura.

MURPHY: We're okay too, by the way.

LAURA: Oh don't worry, you're next.

MURPHY: Whookay, I think I'm good. Thanks.

ASHVIN: I'll take his then --oof! Thank you strong lady.

LAURA: Glad to see you un-posessed! And whatever you guys did worked out here, too. It was getting pretty wild but it seems like everyone's alright now.

EVELYN: I'm so glad everyone's safe!

DONNER: Couldn't have done it without what you found on Langford. Well, not-Langford. The photos helped more than you know.

EVELYN: The- sorry, what?

DONNER: The photos. The ones of George May, and part of their little magic rotary club.

LAURA: Oh, yeah, here. I got some pics on my phone.

EVELYN: I don't... I've never seen those photos before.

LAURA: Uh, but they were in your pile. They were definitely...

MARI: Oh.

DONNER: Damn it.

[Recording clicks off]

SCENE 8

[Phone ringing]

[Phone answered, silence on the line]

[Faint whispers sounding like Mari's voice]

MARI: *[Sighing]* Hi Nay. You'll never guess what went down today.

[Call cut off]

[Prolonged silence]

[Sound of footsteps on pavement in the evening]

[The Benefactor chuckles, then begins to whistle]

[The sound of bugs begins to crescendo]

[Recorder clicks]

[26:44 -27:00 "Ili-Ili Tulog Anay" outro plays]

-END-