

## The Atomic Library - Inventory Day

### Season 1, Episode 1 Transcript

**SFX: Civil defense siren in the distance]**

**(V.O.)** It has been five years. A warming climate lashed the earth with storms. Melting permafrost awakened ancient disease and dormant terrors. Panicked nations unleashed their arsenals, which drew extraterrestrial attention and ... you get the picture. It was a really bad day, okay? Don't overthink it.

Where do you go when it all goes wrong? Where can you start to make sense of a world turned inside out? If you answered "the library" you are a cunning survivor indeed. **(in the background Hazel is walking and faintly humming a tune)** These are the stories of the small but determined staff of The Orson Welles Community Library of Haven Hollow, Texas. Opening its doors each morning is loyal secretary Hazel -- **(humming stops abruptly)**

HAZEL **(off)** I'M NOT A DAMNED SECRETARY!

V.O. **(sighs)**... **(sarcastic)** pardon me. Library Operations Specialist Hazel Adams.

V.O. **(Dramatic)** Step inside - The Atomic Library.

**[SFX: Atomic Library theme music - upbeat acoustic guitar]**

**[SFX: Music fades to hollow interior sound with faint drips.]**

MARJORIE Is it time yet? Is it time to open?

HAZEL Yes, Marjorie. It's the same time every day.

**[SFX: Keys jingle]**

HAZEL I just can't find the key.

MARJORIE Better hurry! We're much too important to the community to leave our patrons waiting one second longer than needed! We're the Haven Hollow haven!

**[SFX: Sounds of struggle with the lock and a resistant door. Rusty hinge sound.]**

HAZEL       **(exasperated)** Finally!

**[SFX: Crickets, rustling wind]**

HAZEL       **(sarcastic)** Don't get run over by the mob, Marjorie...

MARJORIE **(huffs)** Well... maybe our clocks are wrong! Or you opened too early!

HAZEL       **(sigh)** Oh, nevermind. It's just as well - I have lots to do today anyway. It's time to inventory our computers and printers for the IT department.

MARJORIE I've been meaning to ask - where do those reports GO exactly? I mean, what's left of IT kind of drifts around town, looking for meaning ...

HAZEL       I have no idea ... I fill out the forms, The Director approves them, I put them in an interoffice envelope and...they just "go away" at some point.

MARJORIE That's it?

HAZEL       Yep. And I have never gotten an envelope back. Anyway no sense standing in the doorway. I could use a second hand if you are free?

**[SFX: Door squeals to close. Sound of quickly walking feet & hooves in the distance]**

BERNICE     **(off)** Wait! Hold the door for us!

MARJORIE **(low)** Is that Batty Bernice? What does she mean "us"?! Close the door! Close the door!

HAZEL       **(mocking whisper)** What happened to being the *Haven of Haven Hollow*, hmm?

**[SFX: Door continues to squeal closed]**

MARJORIE **(petulant whisper)** it's Haven Hollow haven... **(reg voice, chipper)** Good morning Bernice, how are you to-OH MY GOD.

**[SFX: Hooves and the bellow of a Llama]**

HAZEL Is that a ... llama??

BERNICE Service llama.

HAZEL **(sputters)** Bernice... We've been over this... You know you can't bring that in here! **(hastily)** And, you know there's no such thing as a SERVICE LLAMA.

BERNICE This is the new world, Miss Hazel! Why can't there be such a thing as a service llama?

**[SFX: Llama bellows again]**

HAZEL Are you kidding me??

MARJORIE Bernice! Be reasonable!

**[Transition music - upbeat acoustic guitar]**

HAZEL **(muffled)** What's the number on the back of that monitor?

MARJORIE The one with the hole in the screen, or the one splattered with blood?

HAZEL **[SFX: thump]** Ow! Don't go under there... We will just mark those...off... of the list. I need the one splattered with blood -- I already got the number off of the one with the hole in the screen.

MARJORIE J-8-6-7-5- ew I can't read the rest through the ick. Maybe a 3? And two more numbers. Just make them up so we can be done here. Is the Youth Services department next?

HAZEL Is Karen in today?

MARJORIE Of course she is! You know she would never miss a Story Time.

HAZEL       **(muttering)** That's what I was afraid of. **(normal volume)** OK, Youth Services it is.

**[SFX: Sid the Llama bellows again and the slow sound of chewing can be heard]**

MARJORIE   **(loud)** Batt...Bernice! Please remember to control your - *Service Llama* - in the Library.

BERNICE     **(off)** Sid! Stop eating the periodicals!

**[Transition music]**

KAREN       **(sweet children's librarian voice)** And that, Children, is how Little Miss Muffet learned how to properly sharpen her machete. Who wants to help me by starting the song for today while I talk to Miss Hazel? Oh! Yes, Kevin, come up here! **[SFX: children growl in the background. Karen's robotic leg can be heard as she walks over to Hazel]** Try to not leave too much slime on the carpet!

KEVIN       **(in the background)** the itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout **(other children's voices join in)** down came the nukes and wiped the spider out...

HAZEL       Hey Karen. We are trying to finish inventory for the IT department. Where is your laptop? I just need to get the serial numbers off it...

MARJORIE   Oh. It seems she has... attached it to... her back. How resourceful of you, Karen!

KAREN       Yes! You know I have - or HAD - that missing leg problem? From ... well, you know... anyway, I got the Junior Technology club working on it and look! The clever little darlings -

HAZEL       **(low)** ha!

KAREN       **(insistent)** DARLINGS- made me this-

**[SFX: Sound of robotic leg swinging back and forth]**

KAREN - with Legos and a few circuit kits from the Makerspace! The computer keeps things running... though the charging cable is a bit short. **(low)** Honestly, my productivity is WAY up!

**[SFX: Children growling in background]**

HAZEL Karen. I thought I told you to stop using city property for personal stuff! And you can't use these - ugh - sewer moppets as free labor either!

KAREN/MARJORIE **(gasp!)**

**(beat)**

KAREN These SEWER MOPPETS are our future!

HAZEL **[SFX: scribbling, and mumbling]** 5-3-N-9-0... Okay okay - sorry! I think we are all done here. Second floor, Marjorie?

MARJORIE Is the elevator fixed?

HAZEL Has the elevator been fixed in any of the years since..?

MARJORIE **(deep sigh)** No. No I suppose not. Ok the stairs it is. But I'm taking a machete from the children's department! Thank YOU!

**[SFX: SHING as Marjorie takes a machete from the department.]**

**[Transition music]**

**[SFX: two people walking up stairs]**

HAZEL Come on here we go - up the stairs...that's right. One step, two steps - could you not walk so close please? I feel like any moment we'll be wearing the same shirt!

MARJORIE **(hissing whisper)** I'm sorry it's just scary along here - I swear whole societies are developing along these railings- where is our security guard?

HAZEL Oh toughen up, will you? You can't just stay on the first floor.

MARJORIE I can **[SFX: "whoosh" as she swings machete]** while **[SFX: whoosh]** we're open - stay back! I'm serious! Oh! **[SFX: Machete clangs to the floor.]**

**BACKGROUND VOICES, slightly seedy "hey pretty lady" and "psst wanna buy some x-ray specs? genuine St Germaine's"**

STAIRWAY

CITIZEN 1 **(youthful boy's voice)** Halt! For you have entered the territory of the First Landing Marauders - do you bring tribute or sacrifice?

MARJORIE **(terrified whisper)** Tribute! Tribute, tribute, tribute! Oh God Hazel - say tribute!

HAZEL **(low - to Marjorie)** Calm down! **(louder)** We bring you nothing - Billy? **(background voice goes from low and raspy to high kid voice "Oh no - it's Miss Hazel!")** Billy Plapp? Young man I know who your mother is and I will find her RIGHT NOW -

**[SFX: feet scrambling on the staircase and "let's get outta here! "]**

HAZEL That takes care of that. SO **[SFX: feet on stairs)** let's keep moving-

**[SFX: background voices chattering]**

STAIRWAY

CITIZEN 2 Halt! You have entered the territory of the 2nd landing Loot Urchins! Do you bring tribute or sacrifice?

MARJORIE **(terrified whisper)** Tribute! Tribute, tribute, tribute! Oh God Hazel, say tribute!

HAZEL **(groans)**

[Transition music]

[SFX: Second floor is much quieter than the first floor but for a low buzz that surges then cuts off]

(There is a frustrated scream in the distance)

HAZEL/MARJORIE (together) Benjamin...

[SFX: knocking on door and door squeaks slightly open]

HAZEL Knock knock... Dr.Brittle? Everything ok?

BENJAMIN (sniffles) Ok? OK?? No everything is NOT ok! I was halfway - HALF WAY - through entering the county death records AGAIN and another - augh! - power surge! And ALL MY WORK is gone! Gone! I had never gotten this far before! Do you know how many death records there are waiting to be archived since -

MARJORIE Yes, yes. We know. Look Benjamin -

BENJAMIN DOCTOR Brittle

MARJORIE (ahem) DOCTOR BRITTLE. Maybe digital archives aren't really compatible with this new reality...?

BENJAMIN (flustered) wha wha wha ... not compat ... what are... huh!

MARJORIE Are you remembering to save frequently while you work? I find that...

BENJAMIN (flustered) wha... save frequently? You are telling ME to... now listen here you antiquated paper pusher!

MARJORIE Paper pusher?!? Well, at least my life's work doesn't disappear the second the lights go out!

HAZEL Knock it off!!

MARJORIE (huffs) fine.

**[SFX: Sound of munching in the background]**

BENJAMIN **(shrieks)** My microfilm! A... Llama?! **[SFX: Llama bellows and canters]**  
Is eating my microfilm!?

HAZ/MARJ **(together)** BERNICE!!!

BERNICE How dare you, Sir! Get **[SFX: sound of purse hitting Benjamin]** off **[SFX: hit]** my **[SFX: hit]** service **[SFX: hit]** Llama!

HAZEL **(straining as if holding back Bernice)** Look, your Llama still has to abide by the code of conduct. **[SFX: Llama bellows, sound of papers being knocked over]** And I'm pretty sure eating ... Volume 12 of the Haven Hollow Register **[SFX: Llama bellows]** is not permitted!

BERNICE Spaghetti is Sid's favorite. Maybe don't leave spools of Could-Be-Spaghetti lying around.

BENJAMIN **(sobbing)** Oh what's the use?

HAZEL If this so-called Service Llama eats one more thing Bernice...

**[SFX: Hooves walking off into the distance]**

BERNICE **(off)** What's that Miss Hazel? I can't hear you...

MARJORIE **(lets out long breath)** There, there Dr. Brittle. Here is something to distract you. Why don't you go through our archives and see if we have any policies on Llamas, or service llamas, or eating the materials...?

BENJAMIN **(sniffle)** ok.

HAZEL Meanwhile we need the inventory numbers off all the computers and equipment for IT...

BENJAMIN IT? When is the last time you saw a member of the IT department? Or any department for that matter, other than us?

HAZEL Look, this is the time of year we do the inventory so I will DO THE INVENTORY. Because I have professional standards to uphold. Because I am the Orson Welles Community Library -

MARJORIE/BENJAMIN **(together)** Secretary!

HAZEL **(screech)** I am not a damn secretary!

**[SFX: three tones play over the public address system]**

DIRECTOR **(over intercom)** Hazel please report to my office. I need you to take a letter.

HAZEL **(sigh)**

BENJAMIN Ooh! The Director! Can I come with you? I have so many ideas! Also I need more funding for my department. And faster internet -

MARJORIE **(snickers)** internet...

BENJAMIN Quit it Marjorie. And I want to show The Director some of my latest blog posts -

HAZEL **(snickers)** blog...

BENJAMIN Shut up Hazel. And I really think the Library should be providing coffee pods to its staff. It's bad enough we have to gather the water from all the building leaks for the coffee maker but I have been using the same five pods since -

HAZEL Let me stop you there Benji.

BENJAMIN DOCTOR Brittle.

HAZEL You know no one sees the director but me. It's just better that way. You know this new Director is... look - why don't you write down your concerns and I'll take them with me.

BENJAMIN Write? How quaint. I have it all here on - ta da! - a thumb drive! But it reeeeeeally would be better if I presented my ideas in person.

HAZEL Benjamin. No one. Sees. The Director. But. Me.

BENJAMIN **(petulant)** Fine. Do you need to get the inventory numbers first?

HAZEL Marjorie will do them. **(to Marjorie)** And can you handle the public computer lab yourself next?

MARJORIE Mmm-hmm.

HAZEL You just get working on that policy research.

BENJAMIN **(mutters)** Yes... and maybe some Llama pie recipes...

BERNICE **(off)** We heard that!

**[Transition music]**

**[SFX: Background sounds of the public computer lab -- furious typing followed by power surge sounds]**

PATRON #1 No! My manifesto!

PATRON #2 This is it! This is the end!

PATRON #3 **(morosely)** Chapter one...

MARJORIE Sir, I just need to get... under... here... to get a number. **[ SFX: rapid keyboarding]** It will only take a minute you can get right back on the computer I prom- ow! **[SFX: two kicks under a table]** Stop kicking!

HAZEL I'm ... I'm back. **(cough)** Are you done? I have to post this letter and **(cough cough)** get the inventory sheets to ... The Director...

MARJORIE **(muffled)** mmm hmm if Bill would stop kicking me for five seconds - ah! Done! How was your meeting - Whoa. What the hell happened to you??

HAZEL It's fine. It went fine. Everything's fine.

MARJORIE Meaning....

HAZEL The Director is in a feud with the Ember Valley Public Library's Director again.

MARJORIE Glitter bomb war?

HAZEL *Radioactive* glitter bomb war.

MARJORIE Should you be handling that envelope?

HAZEL Probably not, but they insisted.

MARJORIE It's kinda glowing...

HAZEL I know, but the Director...

MARJORIE Do you hear a crackling sound?

**[SFX: crackling]**

HAZEL **(angry)** I KNOW, OK? IT'S NOT IDEAL! YOU TRY SAYING NO TO THE DIRECTOR!

MARJORIE When? When can any of us say anything to the Director!? You're the only one they'll talk to! At least the last director mixed with staff once in a blue moon.

HAZEL Right. Blue moon. I think you are conveniently forgetting some important things about the last director's personality...

MARJORIE She was ok... most of the time...just a few... incidents... ANYWAY I think that's the last number we need.

BENJAMIN **(approaching hurriedly and out of breath)** I found it!! I found the policy!

HAZEL Well quit waving it around and let me read it.

BENJAMIN I'm celebrating! Oooh I am going to stick it to that voracious llama!

HAZEL Benjamin...

BENJAMIN **(Quickly and low)** Dr Brittle. **(back to regular voice)** I had to dig and dig through old - blechhh - papers and I was sneezing and coughing but I found it! **[SFX: paper being shaken]** I hold in my hand the official **[SFX: shake]** policy **[SFX: shake]** that states, and I quote, Farm Animals are not recognized as service annnAAAHHHH!

**[SFX: Llama eats policy -- casual paper crunching]**

HAZEL/MARJORIE BERNICE!

BERNICE Do you have a copy? I'd love to read that policy!

BENJAMIN **(defeated)** No. No I do not have a copy.

BERNICE Oh, that's a shame.

**[SFX: Hooves and voices fading down hallway]**

HAZEL Bernice! I swear to ... don't you DARE walk away from me!

BERNICE **(rushing)** Well I think we'll be going now! See you tomorrow Miss Hazel!

**[SFX: three tones play over the public address system]**

DIRECTOR **(over intercom)** Hazel! I need you to take another letter!

**(Hazel sighs deeply)**

**[SFX: sound of heels rapidly walking up stairs]**

DIRECTOR **(clears throat)** Dear Friends of The Orson Welles Community Library (this does not include YOU stupid Ember Valley Public Library Director),

You have been listening to The Atomic Library, an original audio drama podcast created, written, and produced by Chriss Chaney and Lara Tabri.

Follow us on Instagram at TheAtomicLibrary, communicate with staff by email at TheAtomicLibrary@gmail.com or @AtomicLib on Twitter. That is, if the internet is working that day and you are between power surges and solar flares.

Marjorie Slump was voiced by Lara, Hazel Adams was voiced by Chriss, Bernice was voiced by Alia “Q” Pappas, Karen Lovemore was voiced by Erin O’Quinn, and Dr. Benjamin Brittle was voiced by Aleya Stone.

The opening narration was voiced by Veronica Escamilla-Brady. Need more Veronica in your life? Check out her podcast Cthulhu and Friends or go to [cafpodcast.com](http://cafpodcast.com), that’s [c-a-f podcast.com](http://c-a-f-podcast.com).

**[Atomic Library Closing Theme begins - same upbeat acoustic guitar as opening]**

Music was composed and performed by Jarren Chaney.

The Atomic Library was recorded and mixed at The Innovation Pipeline.

The staff of the OWCL thanks you and reminds you to USE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY. Unless you live in Ember Valley.