

[SFX background library sounds]

V.O. At the base of the Orson Welles Community Library staircase, two unlikely heroes stand, prepared for battle...

KAREN Sheldon...

SHELDON **(makes an audible gulping sound)** Miss Karen...

KAREN Sheldon.... You can't stay on the first floor forever... You were hired to patrol the entire library...

SHELDON But..but..but..but..what about the **(whispers)** staircase people.

KAREN Well, it's part of your job to make sure we don't have staircase people

SHELDON Maybe... I'm not cut out for this..this sorta thing... Also, these are a lot of teens and tweens - what if you did some young adult programs to keep them, uh, engaged? Then they won't seem so ... scary to you?

KAREN **(laughs nervously)** Scary? Don't be silly. I'm the Youth Services Librarian! I just uh, well, now, Sheldon... **(composes herself and puts the sweet voice back on)** You can do anything if you just believe in yourself. **[SFX: magical sound]** So, now... **(struggling to pull Sheldon)** up...we go... **[SFX walking up stairs]** That's a good man!

[SFX a group of teens is laughing in the background]

MARAUDER **(slightly bored tone)** Halt. You have entered the territory of the First Landing Marauders. Do you bring tribute or sacrifice?

[SFX: pause...and then Sheldon attempts to run back down the stairs before Karen grabs him]

KAREN **(whispers to Sheldon)** Oh no you don't! **(to marauder)** We bring...Tribute!

MARAUD **(laughs heartily)** Sacrifice it is! Wait... You actually brought tribute?

KAREN Yes. I have brought you a cookie from the staff break room.

SHELDON **(whispering)** I didn't know we had cookies...

KAREN **(whispering back)** WE don't.

MARAUD Fair enough... this... **(said strangely)** cooo-kee...is acceptable tribute.
You may pass.

[SFX Heavy, clumsy footsteps up the stairs. More taunting laughter. Dice are shaken and thrown]

URCHIN Halt! You have entered the territory of the Second Landing Loot
Urchins! Do you bring tribute or sacrifice?

KAREN We bring tribute!

URCHIN **(a hearty laugh)** Tribute!? What kind of tribute could the likes of you -
government workers - possibly have that would interest us?

KAREN **(losing confidence)** I have brought cookies.

URCHIN Coo-kees? What, you treat us like a bunch of babies? Like First
Landing Marauders?

(SFX: The Loot Urchin slaps the pack of cookies from Karen's hand, there is a faint "heyyyy" from the First Landing Marauders]

KAREN Hey! My cookies! **(pause)** Hey, Sheldon -- I just realized that I have a
storytime. Now. Right now. I'm the only one qualified to read to the
children...

[SFX mocking laughter continues]

SHELDON But.. Miss Karen -- they are just teenagers!

[SFX running down the stairs]

KAREN I Knowwww! **(she gives a little shriek as she runs away)**

(pause)

SHELDON so... **(cough)** what kinda stuff do you accept as tribute?

URCHIN Oh, we really like comic books, solar panel parts, the blood of the innocent. You know -- typical teenage stuff.

SHELDON Oh! Well! I can help you with the comic books! I have LOADS of them back at my place! I will bring you some tomorrow when I come in to work!

URCHIN **(speaking amongst the crowd)** This is acceptable.

A teenage girl comes down the stairs with her older sister, Mandy Wolfe.

MANDY What's going on here?

URCHIN Oh! Ms. Wolfe! We didn't know you were here today! We were just bartering with...

SHELDON **(voice squeaks)** security... I'm the security guard... my name is sheldon.

MARY **(giggles)** Hi! My name is Mary -- I'm Mandy's sister!

MANDY Oh my Bombs, Mare -- how many times do I have to tell you not to talk to ... *his* kind. C'mon. We gotta go.

MARY Bye, Sheldon! Can't wait to see what comic books you bring tomorrow!

SHELDON **(coughing fit, cannot speak until they are way too far to hear him)**
Bye Mary.... It... was nice to...

URCHIN She's long gone, brother. Now those comic books...?

SHELDON Does... does she come here often?

URCHIN **(laughing)** Whatever you're thinking right now just forget it - that is MANDY WOLFE'S little sister. **(laughs to self)** Now, comic books? Tomorrow? I have your word?

SHELDON (dreamily) yeah... tomorrow. Yeah.

Sheldon runs up the next landing

RETIREE **(shaky, elderly voice)** Halt! you have entered the territory of the **(coughing)** Third Landing Retired Librarians **(she is interrupted by a whisper)** what? what's that? oh, oh yeah! **(clears throat)** *Hell's* Third Landing Retired Librarians! Do you bring overdue books or fines?!

SHELDON **(sheepishly)** I have... Half a sleeve of cookies?

RETIREES **(excited but whispering)** Ooooh! That will do!

(Closing Music)

You have been listening to The Atomic Library, written and produced by Chriss Chaney and Lara Tabri. You can chat with Library Staff at TheAtomicLibrary@gmail.com, Follow us on Instagram @TheAtomicLibrary, or on Twitter @AtomicLib (I think they missed something there?) or visit us at theatomiclibrary.com.

Erin O'Quinn voiced Karen and Mandy, Chriss voiced Sheldon. Lara, and Aleya Stone were extra voices. Figure it out, man. Music composed and performed by Jarren Sha-nay. I'm kidding man, I know it's Chaney.

And for goodness sakes - USE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY! But don't get coo-kee crumbs all over it.

(Promo for 5 Week Countdown)

(Episode bloopers)