

[SFX Claxon]

Intro VO It has been... oh, you can count, right? All the apocalypses happened, society is in recovery mode, the library is still doing what the library does best, the staff is ... well you'll see.

Step inside ... the Atomic Library, Season 2.

(Theme music)

SCENE 1: Outside the Library, Dark.

[SFX: outside sounds]

MARJORIE Are you ready?

HAZEL **(nervously)** I think..so...

MARJORIE Good enough. I'm convinced **[SFX: starts walking toward the door]**

HAZEL It's just....

MARJORIE Here she goes...

HAZEL The last time we were here, the director was really angry.

MARJORIE The director is always angry?

HAZEL I've never seen them like this. I can still hear them shrieking "TAKE A VACATION, SECRETARY! TAKE THAT SLUMP WOMAN WITH YOU!" over, and over, and over, and ov...**(interrupted)**

MARJORIE Ok. Ok. And we took a vacation just like they said. It will be fine...

HAZEL But, what if...

MARJORIE Augh! What if, what if, what if? Did you ever stop and think "what if it isn't?" or "what if it's all ok?" **(through gritted teeth)** IT. WILL. BE. FINE, FRIEND.

HAZEL **(deep pause)** But... what if...

MARJORIE You're impossible! **[SFX: walks to the door and it swings open easily]**
Huh. **[SFX: whoosh of the door being moved back and forth on its hinges]** Looks like they greased the door.

HAZEL oh... I kind of liked that sound...

MARJORIE (sigh) Come on, Eeyore. It will be fine

[SFX - quiet door closing and locking]

SCENE 2 - Library Interior

MARJORIE Wow. It looks so... different.

HAZEL I'm honestly surprised that they finished the work so quickly. The glass flooring really shines! Look at those people whizzing by on their... on their

MARJORIE You can say it ... bikes.

HAZEL Yes. Those things.

[SFX: distant sound of wings]

Bernice (distant) Sorry! 'Scuse us! Pardon us! [SFX: Irritated patron sounds] YES I needed to bring him in! He's my SERVICE batcoon!

HAZEL wh...what is that (annoyed) it's Bernice, isn't it?

MARJORIE I would assume so.

[SFX: walking toward the atrium -- bad brass band practice music can be heard]

MARJORIE Did we get Musak?

HAZEL I really hope not...

[SFX: swooping of wings - swoosh...swoosh. Music louder)

CONST. Alright boys, that's enough! The secretary and her secretary (laughing to herself) are here now. That makes everyone!

MARJORIE HEY! I am not a bomb-damned secretary!

HAZEL Feels real nice, doesn't it?

BERNICE The music is kinda frightening Mr. Ringles here. Can we tone it down just a bit?

CONST. (shrieking) What in HEAVEN'S GATE is that?!

BERNICE Like I told the security kid at the door -- this is my Batcoon, Mr. Ringles. Doesn't he have the prettiest tail? And that wingspan! (baby talk) who's a

good boy? Are you a good boy? Oh yes, he's a good boy! **(baby voice off)**
He is my service Batcoon and today we are learning how to be leashed in public. Is there a problem? Am I violating some *existing* policy?

HAZEL No. **(through gritted teeth)** There is not a problem. Please just make sure he does not attack any patrons.

BERNICE It's a SERVICE Batcoon, not an ATTACK Batcoon... **(begins walking away)**

HAZEL **(aside to Marjorie)** it's going to be a very long day, isn't it?

MARJORIE mmm-hmmm.

BENJAMIN Yes. Yes it is.

(Marjorie and Hazel are startled)

MARJORIE Wait a minute. What is this? What is happening?

BENJAMIN I don't think you want to know.

HAZEL Oh, we want to know

Benjamin I'm telling you, you don't want to know

HAZEL (losing patience) Benja--

Benjamin Uh, that's Doc--

HAZEL BENJAMIN I KNOW WHAT I WANT AND WHAT I WANT IS TO KNOW WHY HALF A BRASS BAND, CONSTANCE, AND ... and ... some ribbon are in front of...of an...

MARJORIE **(with wide-eyed wonder)** ELEVATOR! Oh Hazel! Just look at it! A great glass ELEVATOR!

CONST **(on megaphone)** I am honored to be officially opening the Orson Welles Community Library elevator for its maiden voyage to the top floor as your candidate for Haven Hollow City Manager ... **(fades)**

HAZEL **(sputters)** As WHAT?

Benjamin You heard her. As "candidate for Haven Hollow City Manager."

MARJORIE But.. Leslie?

Benjamin Fired. The TC-BAPA decided to make an example of him for “behavior unbecoming a municipal manager.” Made him turn in his lanyard and everything!

HAZEL I... I didn't want to tell you Marjorie. I couldn't find a way to break it to you.

MARJORIE Hmph. Good riddance, I say. I wasted enough time mooning over that man. In fact, I have been corresponding with a new gentleman. Through CupidKaboom.

HAZEL CupidKaboom? Is that the dating service where you write anonymous letters? Aren't they, er, religious?

MARJORIE Ugh, no. That's Rapture. I am currently corresponding with a **(sigh)** loquacious lothario.

HAZEL Aren't you using CupidKaboom, Benjamin?

Benjamin **(sputters a bit)** Certainly not! I don't need help getting a date!

MARJORIE **(angry)** I don't need HELP! It's just to meet more people. Different people than I see EVERY DAY!

HAZEL Wouldn't it be funny if Leslie was your penpal?

MARJORIE **(gasp!)**

Karen It's so sad. You see him wandering around town, unshaven, looking lost, Begging for change with his #1 City Manager mug.

Benjamin **(as an aside)** He was supposed to turn that in too, but apparently they couldn't pry it out of his hands... anyway, so Constance decided she would run for City Manager.

MARJORIE Run. For City Manager.

Benjamin Yup.

HAZEL Run.

Karen Yes. For City Manager.

(moment of silence)

MARJORIE It's... not. Not...

Benjamin An elected position. I know. Karen knows. Starla knows. We have tried to explain it to her. We have shown her the relevant documents. But she insists. She is running for City Manager.

Karen The weirdest part is - she is getting donations. And endorsements!

Benjamin Survival Stu's. It's nice - we've gotten a few free lunches around here.
(whispers) don't eat the sauce.

MARJORIE I don't care! I am riding that elevator!

(Constance and the hubub around the elevator gets louder. The out of tune band, a small crowd, then Constance comes in still on her megaphone)

CONST Hang on Marjorie - I have to cut the ribbon! Where are those comically oversized scissors? Marjorie wait!

[SFX: The band plays some sour notes as MARJORIE pushes past them]

[SFX: Elevator dings and doors slide open]

(Faint Muzak)

MARJORIE Oh just LOOK at it!

CONST **(off megaphone - hisses)** This is MY moment! MY photo op! MY publicity stunt! You are ruining it!

HAZEL CONSTANCE - did the director approve this... circus?

CONST They didn't NOT approve it...

HAZEL **(frustrated sound)** Hang on Marjorie I'm going up with you!

Benjamin Me too - I need to get to my archives.

(Constance sputters - she says to the band "Play! Play!" and they start a very out of tune song)

CONST **(fake laugh)** Ok folks! Here it is! The maiden voyage!

MARJORIE Ooooh. Top floor button

[SFX: tone as button is pressed. Doors start to slide closed]

CONST Wait! I didn't get to christen it!

HAZEL Christen it?

Benjamin It's not a SHIP.

CONST Shhh! **(louder and fast)** I hereby christen this the OrsonWellesCommuityLibraryELEVATOR!

[SFX: There is a crash as Constance smashes a bottle on the closing doors]

(stunned silence in the elevator)

Benjamin Did you just smash a bottle on the new GLASS elevator doors?

CONST Champagne. It's tradition DOCTOR Brittle.

[SFX: circuits sizzling, elevator moving up]

HAZEL What is that sound? **[SFX: tuba makes a questioning sound]** What? No, not you! Augh - it's so crowded in here! **[SFX: cymbals crash and a drum is jostled]**

[SFX: Elevator grinds to a halt]

(silence except for Muzak)

MARJORIE **(does a Marjorie laugh)**

HAZEL Did you short out the elevator with your champagne?

CONST **(small voice)** no....

HAZEL DID YOU SHORT OUT THE ELEVATOR WITH YOUR CHAMPAGNE??

BENJAMIN Just press the Door Open button

MARJORIE Not working

BENJAMIN Well pull the doors open

MARJORIE What do I look like to you? YOU pull the doors open!

Benjamin Fine. Stand back everyone.

(more instrument clamor and jostling)

(Benjamin makes heroic pulling sounds. Stops. Takes a breath. Pulls again. Nothing)

B/H We're trapped! **(hyperventilating)** trapped! I'm going to die in a glass box with Constance! And the world's worst brass band! **(band hits angry notes)**

MARJORIE Pull it together! Look! Down in the atrium! There's Karen, and Starla! We can get their attention!

[Transition music]

Scene 3 - Atrium

KAREN They only went to the second floor? Why aren't they getting off?

STARLA Who knows? Maybe Constance has a speech prepared for every floor. All I know is she isn't working down here.

PATRON 1 Excuse me? Excuse me! I need to talk to someone about this fine? I absolutely NEVER checked out a book called "The Girl in the Dog Skin Yoga Pants"

STARLA Yes ma'am this way. Does anyone else have access to your library card?

(shift perspective to inside elevator - pounding on glass and screaming "Karen! Karen! Up here! We're stuck! Send help! Karen!")

(scene shifts back to Atrium. The sounds from the elevator are very very muffled)

KAREN What? What IS that? Oh look! Hi everyone! HI! **(to self)** ok, off to story time. **(muffled sounds like "no no no! Karen! Come back!")**

[Transition music]

[Muzak]

MARJORIE **(lets out very labored sigh)** Way to go Constance. You've undone all my vacation calm. And Hazel is doing that ... fetal position rocking thing again.

HAZEL stuck... we're stuck... going to be stuck forever... with Constance...

MARJORIE Is this soundproof?? Here, hold on, Hazel - give me your purse.

HAZEL Wha... huh?

MARJORIE Your purse? **[SFX: rummaging through purse]** Ah-ha! Lipstick!

CONST Oh that is NOT going to help you

MARJORIE Hush! I'm going to write a note to Starla on the glass

HAZEL That's my last scavenged MAC lipstick!

CONST Oh, honey that color didn't suit you anyway.

Scene 4 - Reference Desk/Atrium

STARLA Yes ma'am, I have removed your fine. Though, you might want to read it. The sequel - "The Girl in the Radiated Romper" was a turning point to the series. It was reasonably well written, despite being written in blood and all.

(Muffled thudding can be heard from the elevator, causing starla to look up.)

STARLA **(reading the lipstick writing on the elevator door)** STARLA - WE R STUCK. PLZ READ SAFETY TIP ON INTERCOM... Oh! Stuck? Oh goodness. Ok. **(yells)** WHERE IS THE SAFETY TIP? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING TO READ? What's that? What is she saying? She's pointing at the lipstick... ok! Ok! I see!

[SFX: three tones of the public address system]

STARLA **(over PA)** Good morning Orson Welles Community Library! Today's safety tip is... is ... uh don't sma...smash bot, um no, BOTTLES of champ, no champa, no champag, no ... augh! Look, just wash your hands, ok?

[SFX: three tones of the public address system]

(Music: Ghost's theme)

GHOST Hey, it's me! Yep, I'm still here haunting the bathroom! How was I not exposed after I revealed myself last season... uh... I mean a couple months ago? Well there was so much hubub that I was able to just sneak back up to my Home Sweet Bathroom and plot my revenge. I mean get some more sponsors!

Also, no one believes anything Constance says,

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[Transition Music]

MARJORIE Did she say "just wash your hands?"

BENJAMIN You were writing a little slow

MARJORIE Backwards! I think you mean BACKWARDS!

HAZEL Okay. People. What's the next step? How do we get out of here? There has to be a button or a phone or (starts talking more rapidly) SOMETHING HAS TO BE PUT IN PLACE FOR THINGS LIKE THIS.

CONST **(makes a nuh-uh kind of sound)** Nope. Who would we call? The fire department? The police brigade?

HAZEL Maybe we could call the bomb-damned front desk?

CONST What would they do about it?! I suppose someone could hoist themselves up here like some kind of radioactive spider...person... but...

HAZEL Do you have to be so condescending? I'm just trying to figure out a way...

(both start arguing about anything and everything)

MARJORIE **(laughing to herself)**

BENJAMIN Can you two SHUT UP? It's starting to feel rather stuffy in here.

(trombone -wah-wuh)

BENJAMIN YOU TOO.

(tuba wahhh)

MARJORIE HAZEL is right though (**talking calmly and quietly -- in the background, soft whistling is heard from the band**) there has to be a way out of...
OKAY CAN YOU STOP WITH THE MUSIC?!

CONST Don't yell at them! I thought they would make a perfect addition to our maiden voyage.... I thought it would look better in the papers. (**hesitates slightly and then whispers mostly to herself**) This IS going to make a great blog post, though.

BENJAMIN We are in a CRISIS and all you can think about is your BLOG? I swear, TEMP, if there wasn't a drum in between us right now I would have my hands on your throat... no police to call after all is there!?

HAZEL BENJAMIN. Please! We have all had these thoughts

CONST **hey!!!!!!!!!!!!**

HAZEL But! Now is not the time to act on them. Now is the time to use that big brain of yours to figure out how we are going to get out OF THIS MESS.

(below, a scene unfolds -- through the door walks Clyde McBride, obviously very tired, worn, thirsty, and frail- he is asking anyone he can to help.)

MARJORIE EVERYONE STOP! LOOK! It's Clyde!

CONST Clyde McBride!? That son of a gun!

BENJAMIN Oh, I was sure he was dead.

HAZEL (**banging on the glass doors**) CLYDE! CLYYYYYYDE! (**to the band**) SHUT UP! (**MUSIC ABRUPTLY STOPS ALL BUT ONE PERSON**)

(from below)

STARLA Sir! Sir! Are you okay?!

Clyde I... have been... (**starts to sob**) stuck on the bike trails for so, so long. I can't believe I'm finally here... I could just... kiss... this beautiful - glass? - floor! I don't remember that from before, but ***mwah!***

[SFX: Bicycle bells]

STARLA Clyde? Clyde McBride?

CLYDE Ye...yes..

STARLA I've heard the stories. And that little jingle that the kids like to sing...it's kind of spooky.

CLYDE Wh..what?

STARLA You must be exhausted! Please come and take a seat behind the desk!

CLYDE I don't think I will be sitting much any time soon.

STARLA oh...yeah. I didn't think ab.... **(interrupted by a swarm of patrons)**

PATRON 2 Hello Miss! I was looking for a book about home brewing Kombucha.

STARLA Oh, yes, absolutely! This way --- Clyde, could you help this gentleman real quick while I look for books about Kombucha.

CLYDE Su...sure. I'm sure I haven't forgotten everything....

PATRON 3 Yes. I was wondering if my son and I could check out two bicycles, please.

CLYDE We...we... we...

STARLA **(from a distance)** Oh goodness! Yes, Clyde -- we check out Bicycles now.

Clyde **(begins to sob)** Just one moment, sir....

(from above)

BENJAMIN Hazel. Calm down.

HAZEL **(still banging on the door)** CLYYYYYYYYYYYYYDE!

BENJAMIN What on earth could Clyde do? At best he could find a book about elevators.

MARJORIE Or, you know, he could check the GEARS in the elevator shaft. He probably has some experience with GEARS.

BENJAMIN **(long pause)** I suppose. How do you suggest we get his attention?

HAZEL I don't know...this elevator must have been made from reinforced, bulletproof, plexi...something or other. It's sound proof!

CONST **(yelling, but not much louder than her usual tone)** CLYDE MCBRIDE! UP HERE. CLYDE!!! LOOK -- UP -- HERE!

(Atrium)

Clyde **(lets out a shudder)** I just heard the most terrifying sound.

STARLA Oh?

(in the background -- you can hear Constance yelling)

Clyde **(frightened)** Consta...consta..constance! She's still here?!

STARLA Oh my bombs! I totally forgot they were stuck in the elevator!

Clyde Stuck in the elevator? **(waves at the group above, hastily writes on a sign)**

(Elevator)

HAZEL He's seen us! Oh... what is he doing?

MARJORIE It looks like he is writing something... if constance will shut up, I will help you.

CONST HEY! **(banging on the wall and yelling)** I thought we were friends!!!!

BENJAMIN He is quite vigorously shaking his head no, Constance.

CONST DOCTOR BRITTLE MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

H/M/B SHUT UP!!!!!!

[SFX: a drum -- ba-dum-tiss]

(Atrium)

CLYDE Let me grab my tools, and I'll be back in a moment.

STARLA But... I really need help here at the desk!

CLYDE **(runs away)**

(Mechanical Room)

[SFX: sound of elevator jamming against something. Steam sounds, just general noisy work room]

CLYDE If I were a betting man I would bet this has something to do with Constance.

[SFX Tinkering, including a hammer and other tools]

(Atrium)

[SFX the elevator shudders. Everyone screams]

HAZEL We're going up! Clyde actually did it!

BENJAMIN I knew he could. He's always been a real stand up guy, that McBride

MARJORIE Oh whatever -- you were just telling us he could just "get us a book about elevators"

CONST This is going to make such an incredible story for the news! I cannot wait to call Good Evening Haven Hollow!

HAZEL Can we please just get out of this mess before you start thinking about your 15 seconds of fame?

[SFX: The elevator shudders again and begins to completely descend]

HAZEL Okay. When the doors open, everyone get out in an orderly fashion and I will close this death trap down..

[SFX: the doors slide open. Everyone piles out. Instruments and people falling, general chaos.]

BERNICE Be careful! You don't wanna irritate Mr. RIngles!

[SFX: hissing and flapping is heard as Mr RIngles flies into Benjamin's hair]

BENJAMIN **(screams as he tries to pry the animal from his head)** Get it off get it off get it off! Don't let it poop on my jacket!

BERNICE DON'T HURT HIM! HE'S A WILD ANIMAL! OH! MR RINGLES DON'T DO THAT!

[SFX: huge crash as the elevator falls into the shaft and shatters into a million pieces)

[SFX: somewhere in the background you can hear the front door squealing like it used to.)

MARJORIE Well, it looks like the door is back to normal.

HAZEL Lovely. Just... Lovely.

OUTRO 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, on Twitter @AtomicLib or visit us at theatomiclibrary.com.

Chriss voiced Hazel, Lara voiced Marjorie, Aleya Stone voiced Dr. Benjamin Brittle, Erin O'Quinn voiced Karen Lovemore, Alisha Skelton-Donley voiced the ghost. Starla and Bernice were voiced by special guest Shirlee McKay. You can hear more Shirlee on the podcast Paranoria, Texas.

And remember - use your local library! And never EVER waste good champagne on an elevator christening.