

The Apotheosis Saga

Episode Six:

Tangents

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Scene One:

1. **WWII:** Benny! How about some music?!
2. *SND: STEREO CRANKING UP*
3. **BENNY:** Mr. Wright, this is not a social call.
4. **WWII:** I'll keep it low.
5. *SND: STEREO DOWN TO A SIMMER*
6. **BENNY:** I am not here to discuss old friends or college classes. I am here to solve this murder. I will achieve this by destroying any false alibi you may lay claim to, and nailing your guilty butt to the wall. I will not be distracted from this purpose. Exactly how, and why, did you brutally murder Mr. Upuwat?
7. *SND: AFTER BENNY SPEAKS, THE SOUND OF A TENNIS HIT (RIGHT) AND BALL ACROSS NET TO LEFT. AFTER BILL SPEAKS THE SOUND OF THE TENNIS HIT IS RETURNED. FOR THIS NEXT SECTION, IT IS LIKE A TENNIS MATCH IS BEING PLAYED AS THEY SPEAK.*
8. **WWII:** I can't believe Upuwat's dead!
9. **BENNY:** Dead as Nietzsche. Why did you mur--
10. **WWII:** This is tragic! He was so young!
11. **BENNY:** He was forty-two-hundred years old, Mr. Wright. I'm getting impatient. Why did--

12. **WWII:** But, geologically speaking, a mountain that old couldn't even buy a beer.
13. **BENNY:** Upawat was an Egyptian god, Mr. Wright, and Egypt's got a shortage of mountains, but a surplus of beer -- cause even the camels won't drink it.
14. **WWII:** But they built pyramids, Benny. Their empire spread across continents.
15. **BENNY:** Their pyramids look like dunce caps compared to the Atlanteans, whose empire, I might add, would have spanned continents, but they hadn't drifted apart yet.
16. **WWII:** My brother and I drifted apart -- we always had the same stupid argument about who played the lead in Man From Atlantis.
17. **BENNY:** Patrick Duffey.
18. **WWII:** No. It Wasn't.
19. **BENNY:** Sure! A few years before he did Dallas
20. **WWII:** I've never done Dallas, but I did debate in college. I wish I'd done better.
21. **BENNY:** I never took debate, there was a conflict with gym class.
22. **WWII:** Too bad. I had a friend named Jim, but he had no class. Even his death was tacky. He was run over by a helicopter. I think he was high at the time.
23. **BENNY:** Me too. Drugs are bad. I used to do horse.

24. **WWII:** Mh. I wanted a pony as a boy. Instead I got a Chia donkey.
First time I got on, it collapsed.
25. **BENNY:** Just like my aunt who, after getting on in *years*, had a lung collapse.
26. **WWII:** Was it painful for you?
27. **BENNY:** Wasn't my lung. She was, however, using my Volvo.
28. **WWII:** But I thought those were supposed to be the safest cars on the market!
29. **BENNY:** Well, I got it on the black market, and you know their standard.
30. **WWII:** Yes I do. But, if you ran it and old glory up a flagpole, only the stars and stripes would get off at grand central station.
31. **BENNY:** Couldn't of said it better myself. You know, it's funny -- when you said, "station", I immediately thought of some work I have to do back at the police station. Isn't it curious how one word can inspire a whole new train of thought?
32. **WWII:** I'm not sure I follow you.
33. **BENNY:** Hey. Before I go, what was it that gave you the trouble in debate?
34. **WWII:** Too single-minded. Couldn't handle tangents.
35. **BENNY:** Mmh, I sympathize. Always a pleasure, Mr. Wright.
36. **WWII:** Yeah. Nice talking to you, Benny.
37. _____ *SND: DOOR OPENING*

38. **WWII:** Drop by any time.

39. **BENNY:** Good day.

40. **SND:** *DOOR CLOSING*

41. **WWII:** Sucker.

42. **SND:** *TENNIS MATCH ENDS*

THEN—KNOCKAKNOCKAKNOCKA, DOOR OPENING

43. **WWII:** Benny!

44. **BENNY:** In the depths of your arrogance you supposed you could conduct me on a turbid journey (as the will-o-the-wisp leads one to a boggy death), and there discard me high upon a palsied limb in the wood of confusion. Against a lesser cop, this would have worked. However, I shall now vindicate my nickname of “Bloodhound” undoing your wicked efforts, retracing our steps back up this perverted path. Observe: Clearly, you are unawares that I have the glory of the station in mind, and I was awarded the Single-Minded Cop of the Year Accomplishment Certificate by the boys at the precinct house.

45. **WWII:** Hey, no kidding? I was awar-

46. **BENNY:** Shut up. I will take you in. You can mark it in your book as the safest bet you’ll ever make. There, you will talk your lung out, or until you collapse, or until you’re horse. With the reports we

received from the drug dealer and the helicopter pilot, Jim, we can build a thorough schedule of your movements.

47. **WWII:** I got a ticket for a moving viol--
48. **BENNY:** Clam it. There's no room for debate, and verbal gymnastics can not avail you. Nothing can protect you from the pale fist of justice. Not all the money in Dallas, nor all the underworld connections of an Atlantean subway. Because we've compiled a pyramid, yes a very mountain of evidence placing you entering the Egyptian quarter, and it was not, if you get my drift, to buy a beer. You went to see old man Upuwat with what tragic result we know. Confess.
49. **WWII:** (DESPERATE) E-Everything can be explained, you see, I...(SHAKY INHALE)I...(SHAKY INHALE)I...(SHAKY INHALE, spew rest of line in one breath) I can't live like a fugitive any longer, always on the run, never knowing if every man's hand is turned against me, and at night, at night, the black weight of my heinous secrets slowly crushing my soul...(SOBBING BREATH) Yes! I confess! I had nothing to do with it! I... I'm...(BREAKING DOWN ENTIRELY) Totally innocent! (CATHARTIC SOBS)
50. **BENNY:** There, there, miste-- Bill. You did the right thing, a very brave thing, in trusting me.

51. **WWII:** (MUFFLED CRYING ON BENNY'S SHOULDER) Thanks, man.
(HANDS PATTING ON BACK)
52. **BENNY:** In view of your cooperation and total innocence, I think you can expect a reduced sentence.
53. **WWII:** I need to pay for what I've done.
54. **BENNY:** A commendable attitude. I must leave now. I have a murderer to collar.
55. **WWII:** Yeah, okay. Good luck cracking the case.
56. **SND:** *DOOR OPENING*
57. **WWII:** Come by anytime, Benny. (SNIFFLES)
58. **BENNY:** Try to get some rest, Mr. Wright.
59. **WWII:** Yeah, I will. Thanks again...
60. **SND:** *DOOR CLOSES*
61. **WWII:** Sucker.
62. **SND:** *KNOCKAKNOCKAKNOCKA, DOOR OPENING*
63. **WWII:** Benny! I mean...(SADLY) Benny...
64. **BENNY:** Do not speak, mister Wright. I have underestimated you. You are too confident with your home court advantage. So, we will trot down to the station, where the atmosphere of leather and pain should prove to be a suitable lubricant to your tongue and vocal cords.

65. **WWII:** Well, I concede your point, but leather clashes with my eyes.
How about we pick some neutral ground?
66. **BENNY:** That may be agreeable, murderer.
67. _____ *SND: DOOR CLOSING, FOOTSTEPS*
68. **WWII:** Frido! ON!
69. **SND:** Frido powerup
70. **BENNY:** What do you suggest?
71. _____ *SND: FOOTSTEPS, FADING FRIDO, OUTDOOR AMB.*
72. **WWII:** Hmm... I know! How about that amusement park over there!
73. **SND:** chintzy calliope, barkers, improved scene/amb
74. **BENNY:** What the hell?
75. **WWII:** Come on! It'll be fun. Look, let's go on the carousel.
76. **BENNY:** (FADING OUT) Well, okay, but I get to be on the pretty unicorn.

Scene two a

77. SND: FOOTSTEPS FADING, CAROUSEL STARTUP, BARKERS,

ACTORS FADE IN/OUT AS THEY GO 'ROUND' THE
CAROUSEL.

78. **BENNY:** The case against you is airtight. You came to visit Upuwat, spent about five minutes with him and then left. Nobody else disturbed his security until his sons returned a half-hour later. They found him dead, mister Wright, and they say they heard the two of you having a clans-on argument.
79. **WWII:** What?! That's not true! We had a rapport! We were simpatico, buddies, pals, amigos! How can they claim--
80. **BENNY:** They heard shouting.
81. **WWII:** He shouted at them! They were too noisy!
82. **BENNY:** That's not how they tell it, mister Wright. Further, you didn't simply murder Upuwat, you elaborately, meticulously sacrificed him.
83. **WWII:** I what?
84. **BENNY:** Using a method detailed in "The Basis of Intent," a book recently stolen from the secure and restricted archive of Reality Library, and coincidentally, found in your house.
85. **WWII:** I didn't steal those books, I borrowed them!

86. **BENNY:** Oh? And who loaned you these stolen, forbidden, very illegal books?
87. **WWII:** Well, I, the library. I didn't sign for them, but I was going to return them.
88. **BENNY:** That, even if true, which it ain't, is irrelevant. Nobody can borrow or read books in the restricted archive.
89. **WWII:** Then why were they in the library? Why not just destroy them?
90. **BENNY:** Sometimes it's impossible. Other times...unwise. We also have character witnesses who paint a disturbing portrait of you. For instance, mister Thor:

Scene Two b:

91. **THOR:** (LAUGHING) That Runt is tricky and powerful. And he has a nice cruel streak. This one time he rolled a two-hundred foot long giant--
92. **BENNY:** Don't you mean, two-hundred foot tall giant?
93. **WWII:** No. Because Thor uses logic! The giant was lying down. Don't you know it's rude to interrupt, detective Beensy? As I was saying--
94. **BENNY:** That's detective Benny.
95. **WWII:** You did it again!
96. *SND: THUNDER*
97. **BENNY:** Sorry.
98. **WWII:** He rolled this two-hundred foot long giant on top of Thor, and left Thor under there all night! (LAUGHS)
99. **BENNY:** Hardly the act of an upstanding citizen.
100. **THOR:** You're right. He was lying down, too! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
Get it, Beensy? HA HA HA HA (FADES OUT)

Scene Two c:

101. WWII: Well, yeah, I did that, but it was for fun, it was a joke. I guess you had to be there.

102. BENNY: I think I'm lucky I was not. So, to you it was merely a light-hearted jest to trap mister Thor under tons of giant and neglect him for hours? Fine. You will not be so easily able to trivialize the words of mister Loki Jarlson: (FADES OUT)

Scene Two d:

103. LOKI: Dangerous? Bill Wright, Junior? Dangerous? You must be some brand-new kind of total, flaming idiot on a hot streak to ask such a witless question, no offense intended.

104. BENNY: None taken, please continue, mister Jarlson.

105. LOKI: Where was I?

106. BENNY: I was a new kind of idiot.

107. LOKI: Oh, right. I mean as idiots go, Thor's got talent, but -- you... YOU could be a PRO! Oh, I forgot, you already are a Reality Cop!

108. BENNY: That will be quite enough. I'll have no more joking out of you, mister Jarlson.

109. LOKI: Bummer! So, I guess that means you've already found the snake I put in your pants?

110. BENNY: The...wha--? AAH! AAAAH!

111. _____ SND: *BENNY THRASHING ABOUT, SCREAMING UNDER LOKI.*

112. LOKI: He's the most dangerous god in existence!

113. BENNY: Alright, constrict this!

114. _____ SND: *CHX-CHACK*

115. BENNY: You misbegotten--

116. _____ SND: *BLAAAM! THUMP.*

117. BENNY: Ow?

- 118. LOKI:** Ouchie! Better put some ice on that, eh? Yeah, he's dangerous and he doesn't give a rat's butt for the law...and he's full of malice, anger, unresolved issues, hatred, in fact -- pure evil. He's so evil, he scares ME!
- 119. BENNY:** (IN PAIN) Can you give me an example of his..evil behavior?
- 120. LOKI:** Example? Um. Example... Well, of course I can! Let's see, Eureka!
- 121. EUREKA:** Yes?
- 122. LOKI:** Get me the Bill file.
- 123. EUREKA:** (BEAT) All of it?
- 124. LOKI:** (laughs a bit nervously) No...No, no, no. The Bill Wright file.
- 125. SND:** file cabinet open, shuffling through records.
- 126. EUREKA:** You do not have a Bill Wright file.
- 127. LOKI:** Ooh, right, well...I filed it under "F" for "Blatant Falsehoods."
- 128. EUREKA:** Mmmh. I understand, sir. Here's that file.
129. _____ SND: FWAP.
- 130. LOKI:** Let's see, under "atrocities", I believe...
- 131. BENNY:** But those pages are blank!
- 132. LOKI:** (CONSPIRATORIALY) No. No, detective B. They're encoded.
- 133. BENNY:** (IMPRESSED) Ooh.
- 134. LOKI:** Here it is—he told me he was teaching a young worshipper of his how to murder high-school students.

135. BENNY: (PLEASED) That's abhorrent!

136. LOKI: Yeah, well, just a game to him.

Scene Two e:

- 137. BENNY:** How do you explain this, mister Wright?
- 138. WWII:** That's--that's LOKI, Benny! You can't tell me you'd take anything HE says seriously?!
- 139. BENNY:** What makes you think, just because he's a god of lies and trickery, that he would render false testimony?
- 140. WWII:** (CHOKING NOISE)
- 141. BENNY:** No glib response to that, hanh? Furthermore, there are the words of mister Ahriman:

Scene Two f:

- 142. AMAN:** William is a wonderful person, detective. And so...industrious. Why, the last time I saw him, he was busily studying *The Basis of Intent* and *The One True Whey*. He's so...diligent. An admirable quality for a god with such vast, unrestrained power.
- 143. BENNY:** But those books are restricted!
- 144. AMAN:** Really? Hmm. Must have been two others, I'm sure.

Scene Two g:

145. BENNY: That was when I took the liberty of investigating for myself, mister Wright, and found that the books were, indeed, the restricted materials Ahriman had mentioned.

146. WWII: Look, I didn't know these books were restricted. I just desired books that would help me get a handle on my powers, and those were what I wound up with. Anyhow, none of this gives you any sort of motive for me to kill Upuwat.

147. BENNY: Motive? Motives are for mortals.

Scene Three:

148. SND: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL, WIND

149. WWII: In the end, Benny, this is all moot. First, I didn't do it, so you can't prove I did. Second, Reality Law has no power to stop me, so I'm going to be hunting for the actual killer on my own. If you want to share informa--

150. BENNY: --while you muddy the trial of evidence? No, that is not acceptable. You are mistaken in several matters; let me make your errors clear. First, I don't have to prove anything. I need only convince the judge. Remember the judge? I see you do. Second, it is true that in our first encounters, we could not match your power head-on, but Reality Law is not without more subtle resources, and we realized that you are subject to a peculiar weakness--you care.

151. WWII: What are... you...

152. BENNY: Specifically, you care about Iris and Darin Wright.

153. WWII: My mom and brother? What, what sort of sick game is this?

154. BENNY: This is the very end to games, mister Wright.

Scene Four:

155. SND: MUSIC FOR SCENE CHANGE

156. AMAN: My dear Kali, how lovely you look today. Is that a new dagger?

157. KALI: Ahriman, you old smooth-talking devil, you didn't invite me here to complement my cutlery. What sort of trouble are you trying to get me into this time?

158. AMAN: Man trouble. You know the new Hazard Class that manifested recently?

159. KALI: He's about half of the betting action these days, it seems. I hear he's already had a run-in with the law, and that it was...flashy. So you have a hand in all this?

160. AMAN: We're acquainted. I felt you'd like the chance for an introduction, he's so delightfully...unspoiled. I know how you like them fresh.

161. KALI: Mm, sounds like a treat. What are you trying to get out of all this?

162. AMAN: Me? My only reward is to see my friends happy!

163. KALI: Ooh! I'm buying it! Quick, tell me another one before the mood passes!

164. AMAN: Well, if William were to be... distracted for some time, it would simplify certain matters. Additionally, I'd consider us even.

Scene Five:

165. SND: FOOTSTEPS FADE BACK IN

166. BENNY: You see, we have placed your family under threat of death to guarantee your compliance to our will. You cannot protect them from here. We have them imperiled at three points in history. Even if you discovered those times, you could only prevent one incident. In short, we now hold your leash. You are under house arrest, effective immediately. If you leave your domicile, you will be responsible for the death of your relatives. Is this perfectly clear?

167. WWII: This can't be legal.

168. BENNY: We are the law, mister Wright. If we do it, it is legal. When it's time for your trial, I'll escort you to the courtroom, but for now, return to your house and fume impotently. I must leave, or I'll be late for my golf game with my good friend, the judge. Good day, mister Wright.

Scene Six:

169. SND: COP EXIT SOUND, BILL STARTING TO GROWL, STOMPING ALONG, CARNIVAL AMBIANCE FADING, FRIDO RISING, BILL'S GROWL INCREASING, A FEW UNCERTAIN YAPS FROM FRIDO, BILL OPENING DOOR, GROWL TURNING TO SHOUT AS HE SLAMS THE DOOR (WITH EXTRA BOOM)
- 170. WWII:** This is bad. This is bad. You lost it there, Bill, it's just a death threat against your family, nothing to get too disturbed about I'm gonna break his neck! No, that's too quick. First, I'll slap him around some.
- 171. NARR:** I created a three-quarter scale Benny.
- 172. 3/4BEN:** Wow, you are so impressive, mister--
173. SND: SLAP!
- 174. WWII:** Shut up!
- 175. 3/4BEN:** Yessir.
- 176. WWII:** How do you justify threatening me through my family?
- 177. 3/4BEN:** The needs of the many outweigh--
178. SND: SLAP!
- 179. WWII:** Liar!
- 180. 3/4BEN:** I am such a liar. And a loathsome worm. I am so ashamed.

181. SND: GENERAL THRASH SESSION: SLAPS, 'OW!' 'OUCH!'

ETC.

182. WWII: Grovel!

183. 3/4BEN: I am sorry, I am sorry, what I did was so wrong, I am pathetic--

184. WWII: Beg for mercy!

185. 3/4BEN: Please, please, spare my worthless life! Please do not annihilate me utterly with the merest fraction of your might! Show how merciful, and compassionate, and noble, and forgiving, and gracious, and--

186. WWII: NO!

187. SND: Big, wet, icky sound, cry of agony.

188. WWII: Ah...

189. SND: RAP TAPITTY TAP TAP

190. WWII: Just a second...

191. NARR: I cleaned up the mess.

192. SND: DOOR OPENS

193. AMAN: William... I'd like to introduce you to Kali, a friend of mine.
She's heard of you

194. WWII: Uh-huh.

195. AMAN: and asked me if I could get her a meeting with you, and since I wanted to talk to you anyhow, I thought that fell out rather nicely.

- 196. WWII:** Well, good, come on in. I'd like to talk to you too, Ahriman.
Kali, how do you do?
- 197. KALI:** Thoroughly.
- 198. WWII:** I see. Come in, sit down, get comfortable. Ahriman, can I take your cape?
- 199. AMAN:** Thank you, yes.
- 200. WWII:** And Kali, can I take your, um, weaponry?
- 201. KALI:** I don't know. (SUGGESTIVELY) Maybe later you can try it and find out.
- 202. AMAN:** William, let's get straight to the matter.
- 203. KALI:** (PLEASED SOUND.)
- 204. AMAN:** Police are asking questions. I felt it was my duty to let you know, in case you needed to tend to some details, or prepare an alibi. Do you even know what this is about?
- 205. WWII:** Yes, they want me for the murder of Upawat.
- 206. KALI:** That's not my reason.
- 207. AMAN:** This is shocking!
- 208. WWII:** Isn't it!
- 209. AMAN:** He's a bit of a windbag, but harmless enough. What did he do to earn death?
- 210. WWII:** Ahriman!
- 211.** SND: WUNK WUNK WUNK

212. WWII: Oh... no.

213. *SND: THOR BUSTS DOWN DOOR. THOR AND LOKI*

COUGHING, APPROACHING.

214. THOR: There's Runt, safe and sound! Just like Thor said, Loki!

215. LOKI: Well, can you imagine that! Looks like you win again, bro, pay up.

216. THOR: HA ha ha! Here ya go!

217. *SND: THOR HANDING OVER GOLD.*

218. THOR: This'll teach you maybe not to bet against Thor!

219. LOKI: I may never learn. Billy-boy! You missed the party! Hey hey, this morning this cop was bugging me about you. I fed him some line about how depraved and dangerous you were. Are you in some kind of trouble?

220. WWII: Yes I am.

221. LOKI: Oh. Did... I... get you in trouble?

222. WWII: I think you did.

223. LOKI: Yes! I am so cool! Time for some excessive celebration, I think. Where's your booze?

224. WWII: SERIOUS... trouble.

225. LOKI: (INTERVIEWER) What our listeners would all love to know, Loki, is how CAN you do it? (STAR) Well, Ted, it helps to be a genius, and a god of mischief in a major pantheon, but in the

end, it comes down to century after patient century of practice, and longboat loads of raw talent. (Loki) Hey, what's the big deal? They mess with you for a while, you slap'em around some more, they look stupid-ER, and your rep grows. Pretty soon, you'll have all of Glorious Glorious Apex eating out of your hand.

- 226. WWII:** lck.
- 227. LOKI:** So what've they got their panties in a bunch about this time?
- 228. AMAN:** Well, Bill murdered Upuwat, and they're going to convict him for first-degree destruction of a second-string heterotheous deity.
- 229. WWII:** No, it's not like that!
- 230. AMAN:** Trust me, William, they're creatures of habit. That's exactly what they'll do.
- 231. WWII:** I. Did not. Kill. Upuwat!
- 232. AMAN:** Really.
- 233. WWII:** Yes!
- 234. THOR:** (FADING OFF) Thor is confused.

Scene Seven b:

- 235. LOKI:** (FADING ON) Ooooooh! Kali, baby, my sweet blue dumpling, what an impressive pair of breastplates you've got there! If your hands are cold, I'll bet you remember my six hot-spots, eh, my little love-spider? How could I have been so stupid as to leave you?
- 236. KALI:** I should have destroyed you eons ago when I had the chance, you filthy little cockroach.
- 237. LOKI:** Oh, yeah. Now I remember. Say, are you still mad at me?
- 238. KALI:** Step inside dagger range for the exciting answer.
- 239. LOKI:** So I suppose it's out of the question to have a quick little--
- 240. KALI:** It was always too quick and to little for my taste.
- 241. LOKI:** That's a slander! I'm half-giant!
- 242. KALI:** Obviously not on your father's side.
- 243. LOKI:** Y'know, babe, I think you're having a hard time expressing how you really feel about me, (FADING OFF) because what I hear you saying...

Scene Seven c:

- 244. THOR:** (FADING ON) Thor still doesn't understand. Runt isn't Egyptian, so how could he kill Upuwat?
- 245. WWII:** I didn't!
- 246. THOR:** Right! It's not possible! So why do they think you did?
- 247. AMAN:** Actually, Odinson, it is possible, but it is also truly rare. Normally, there must be significant personal involvement between the two deities, and it's always accompanied by a matching clash and destruction of believers down below. This makes it, shall we say, rather obvious who did the deed. In this case, however, I doubt such evidence exists.
- 248. WWII:** So why couldn't it just be a family fight?
- 249. AMAN:** Several reasons: First, nobody has claimed Upuwat's dominion, and that's required in such cases. Second, Upuwat was tenured, and his only duty was to guide the dead for Northern Egypt. Waziznam had that duty for Southern Egypt, but it was one of the least of his jobs, and he'd have been glad to pass it off on some other deity. He wouldn't try to get Upuwat's share of it too, though he may wind up with it, now.
- 250. LOKI:** (FADING ON) (CALLING BACK) I know why your skin is so blue! You're frigid!

251. _____ SND: FWITFWITFWITTHUNK.

- 252. LOKI:** Ow! Lucky shot! I'd like to see you try that again!
- 253.** *SND: FWITFWITFWITTHUNK.*
- 254. LOKI:** Ow! Lucky shot!
- 255. WWII:** Having trouble with Kali?
- 256. LOKI:** Eh, she asked me out, I turned her down, she's having a hard time.
- 257. THOR:** You need to scour the nine worlds for Wimpawat's killer to clear your name. But you can't be out there when you're in here. That's not logical.
- 258. WWII:** That's the problem. Reality law has pulled a slimy stunt on me. They're holding my family hostage, and if I step outside the house, they're going to kill them.
- 259. THOR:** They can't do that!
- 260. WWII:** They can't?
- 261. AMAN:** Actually, they can.
- 262. W&T:** They can?
- 263. LOKI:** It will surprise you all to learn that, in fact, they CAN'T!
- 264. W&T&A:** They can't?
- 265. LOKI:** Well, I just kind of... threw that in. I didn't want to be left out.
- 266. KALI:** (FADING ON) That's typical.
- 267. LOKI:** Kali, my beautiful little blueberry pie, why don't we nip over to your place for some hot dessert?

- 268. KALI:** Loki, eternity is too short to waste on... tasteless leftovers.
- 269. AMAN:** You see, Odinson, William's parents are mortal.
- 270. KALI:** How kinky!
- 271. THOR:** That's strange! Why did you do that, Runt?
- 272. WWII:** It wasn't up to me. I think you're getting cause and effect mixed up, Thor.
- 273. THOR:** Thor doesn't think so.
- 274. KALI:** If they're mortal, they're vulnerable, and if you need to protect them, the law has you by the curlies. Before you jump on this, you'll need to know where you're landing.
- 275. LOKI:** So what's their case? My testimony, a marvel of incrimination though it was, isn't enough to base a murder rap on.
- 276. WWII:** Sorry to bust your bubble, Loki, but the really damaging info was given up by Ahriman.
- 277. AMAN:** Me?
- 278. WWII:** The books.
- 279. THOR:** The books?
- 280. WWII:** I was studying a couple of books and Ahriman stopped by. Apparently one or more of them contained a description of the method used to murder Upawat. You didn't bother to tell me these books were restricted, Ahriman.

- 281. AMAN:** I assumed you had acquired them on your own efforts, and would have then, of course, known they were restricted. So who gave you such perilous reading materials?
- 282. WWII:** I think that secret is better kept
- 283. KALI:** Someone smuggling you nasty books, Bill?
- 284. AMAN:** While I appreciate your desire to conceal the identity of your source, I should point out that this person may be in trouble and should be warned. Reality Law is bound to investigate how you came to be in possession of those books. Should your source be discovered, the penalty for possessing restricted resources, as you shall soon discover, is death. While you are bound to your home, you may not inform this poor soul of the oncoming investigation. You will send a messenger you can trust to inform your source, with all discretion in mind, that the hounds are loose and they should clean house before discovery is upon them.
- 285. WWII:** That's true. I need to think about it.
- 286. AMAN:** William, risking rudeness, I will remind you that this situation is not one of luxury and calm. It is one of urgency and consequence. While you leisure here, on your remarkable rug I can assure you that Detective Benny is not.
- 287. THOR:** Hm! Thor thinks Ahriman has a good point, Runt!

- 288. WWII:** You're right. Would you carry the message for me?
- 289. AMAN:** I would consider it my pleasure. Whom shall I seek?
- 290. WWII:** I'll tell you, but not here come back to my rooms.
291. _____ SND: (WALKING AWAY, ISOLATION)
- 292. WWII:** Do you know of Katya and Rudolfo?
- 293. AMAN:** Yes, they run a successful brokerage firm over in...*them*?
- 294. WWII:** Yes. I discovered them accidentally. She...lent me the books.
- 295. AMAN:** How delightful! I would not have guessed. Put your mind at ease on this point, William, they're as good as informed.
296. _____ SND: (FADING BACK INTO OTHERS.. AMAN LEAVING)
- 297. AMAN:** Your trust is well placed, good day, William.
298. _____ SND: (AHRIMAN GOES.)
- 299. LOKI:** Gee! Nobody trusts me!
- 300. KALI:** Gee! Nobody likes you, cockroach.
- 301. LOKI:** Would you stop it with the cockroach! You know how that gets under my skin!
- 302. KALI:** Carapace.
- 303. LOKI:** Bitch.
- 304. KALI:** Bug.
- 305. LOKI:** (SCREAMS IN FRUSTRATION)
- 306. KALI:** (LAUGHS AS SCENE FADES OUT...)

Scene Eight:

307. FINISH KATIA / AHRIMAN (RUDOLFO?) SCENE AND WALLA!

Closer:

308. SND: DRUM SLAM THEME

309. ANNC: You have just lost an irreplaceable half-hour of your life, and in its place, you have part six of the Apotheosis Saga. Next time, do something that challenges your imagination. Watch... TV.

310. SND: THEME OFF, STATIC, "(BELCH, PFFT OF BEER CAN)
HONEY, WHERE'S THE REMOTE?", STATIC, THEME ON

311. ANNC: The Apotheosis Saga features the