

RADIO

Episode 10A

"Someone to Ride the River With"

Written by

JT Lachausse

NARRATORS

Jesse Rogers

Black, 19, a young but thoughtful cowboy on the search for his father's killers with a strict moral code. Keeps a written journal of each day.

Helix

Messenger God of Sound, 370 million-years-old, a party gal whose recent banishment has sent her 100 years back in time. Prays to her mother, the God of Mass Communication, each night.

Charles Osgood (An alias)

White, 20s, a master of disguise and conman contracted by the God of Time desperate to live despite a mysterious illness. Keeps notes on a tape recorder as part of his mission.

OTHER PLAYERS

Coda and the Sonny Machine

Helix's familiar and Charles's magical guide. Both are "voiced" by sound clips edited together for meaning.

- **Bill**
- **Marion, Bill's wife**
- **Salvandar**
- **Ern**
- **Emi**

Fernanda: Howdy Outcasts! Hope you've been enjoying the show. As season two creeps to a close, we are launching a fundraising campaign for our third and final season! For our trio to reach the end of their quest, we're hoping to raise \$5,000. Visit igg.me/at/radiooutcastseason3 to check out our goals, rewards, and a video detailing our vision for Season 3.

Jade: Your contributions help fund the show's production. This includes high quality sound design, excellent performances, and help behind the scenes. Backers will receive exclusive rewards such as phone wallpapers, custom merchandise, or even the first pages of season 3 before airing.

Griffin: We have several exciting stretch goals! If we reach that 5k goal, we will release a book containing extra story content and a peek behind the curtain for our top donors. If we raise 6k we will produce bonus episodes as voted on by fans.

Ivory: On the weekend of each remaining episode's release, we will be streaming on Twitch to promote this fundraiser. Follow us on social media for updates on the fundraiser and season 2 & 3.

Dan: Season 2 was only possible thanks to the contributions made on IndieGoGo and Patreon. Your support is the reason RADIO: Outcast continues to exist, a responsibility we do not take lightly. Visit igg.me/at/radiooutcastseason3 today. Get ready for an unforgettable ending and for even more strange fun in the West!

RADIO: Outcast is a surreal, gunslinging podcast for mature audiences. Content warning: this episode contains depictions of coughing that could trigger misophonia, terminal illness,

mentions of death throughout the episode and mentions of opioids near the end of the episode which may be upsetting for some listeners. We encourage our listeners to prioritize their safety before venturing ahead. Thank you.

A-Side

Scene One: En Route to Abilene, KS

1. HORSES TROTTING ON DIRT.

Helix (narration)

Every person I've ever known. Every God I've ever known. They've all walked out on me. Abandoned me, physically or symbolically. I guess I should be used to it, Mom. My sisters watched Spectra torment me for years. The Gods all watched as Emi cast me down to Earth, punishing me for - for *what exactly?* Not loving her enough? Not obeying her every-single command? And then there was Dre. He left too, but...in a different way. I-i-it wasn't Dre's fault. It was *me*. That's what happens to humans, when a God falls in love with them. Or at least, that's what Emi said.

(she sighs) So yeah maybe I overreacted. Jesse was back in Abilene for the first time in a long time. And home can have a weird effect on people. Home. *Home*. What is *home* to me? The Heavens are home, I guess. I mean, I never wanted to say it,

Mom. I didn't want to hurt your feelings. But Heaven on Earth?
That's New York City. That life is so, so far away. Just a
distant memory.

Jesse

Helix. ...I'm tryin' to apologize.

Helix

You wanted him dead! And now your wish has been granted!

Jesse (angry)

That ain't - you - now *that* ain't fair. You know that ain't -

Helix

You know what isn't *fair*, Jesse Rogers? You said you had my
back. You promised. Remember? "I ain't offerin' to suffer or to
save you." What happened to that guy, huh? What happened to,
" 'til this whole journey is over"?

Jesse

I screwed up. I know, I -

Helix

Not fair is *this*. You leaving, me knowing you meant it, Charles dying. The world is *Hell* but I thought I had you two at least. Just three jerks tied together and making the most of it until this whole journey ends. *Until then*, all I can do is put what little *fucking faith* I have into you and Charles who's currently dying on this horse he and I are sharing. You two are all I have. And you know what? We're all that he has, too.

2. CHARLES COUGHS, WHEEZING, VERY BAD.

3. CODA TWEETS IN WORRY.

4. HORSES TROTting ON DIRT.

Jesse

He's coughin' blood.

Helix

Yeah, I know. If you hadn't run off, you would've noticed.

Jesse

There was somethin'...*someone* I needed to see.

Helix

I- I - I tried to heal him! With my new power. It wouldn't work.

Jesse

Shit.

Helix

It's just a salve. I - I'm not the God of Healing, or whatever, so it can only do a limited heal. It means he's *really* sick.

Jesse

What about your, uh - what about Coda?

5. CODA TWEET-TWEETS.

Helix

They're just a familiar. Is there a hospital nearby?

Jesse

Dunno. The Abilene I know is - well, it's gone. It's hard to - Should be twenty miles. Keep followin' this Keep followin' this here creek.

6. CREEK WATER.

Scene Two: En Route to ... Abilene, KS?

7. WRITING ON PAPER.

Jesse (narration)

Tell you the truth, don't give three shits 'bout Abilene, Kansas. What that town had was Jacob and Abigail Rogers, and both of them are gone now. Otherwise, ain't much romance to that cow town. Didn't spend my days like the other boys, the white boys playin' and chasin' the last of the bison. Me and Pa at work, doin' our own thing, walkin' across the whole West. Abilene was a depot, a rest stop, with Ma home keepin' the skiff afloat.

Then there's Bill. Bill and Marion, his wife. They were from the North, unlike my parents and folks like Ern who came from the South after the war. They'd been in Abilene awhile, before the wave of cowboys came rushing in. But *they* were part of the Rogers family, at this point. All the help they've been.

8. HORSES TROTTING ON DIRT.

Jesse

Got someone who uh can take a look at Osgood.

Helix

A doctor?

Jesse

Midwife. Friend of the family.

Helix

A midwife? No disrespect, Jesse, but this *thing* Charles has -

Jesse

My Ma has - My mom *had* somethin' of the lungs, too.

Helix

(*sensing his grief*) Your mom?

Jesse

She lived a good life, things considered. But I can tell you, seein' my Ma - Marion and Bill might know what this is. Charles and her, could be the same thing goin' on.

9. CHARLES WHEEZING.

Helix

Oh, um, I'm sorry. I didn't know. About your mom.

10. HORSES TROTting ON DIRT.

Jesse

(sniffles) Yeah, well. *(chuckles without humor)* Me neither.
(clears his throat) We ought to turn East, at the bend here.
Abilene should be a -

Helix

Wait. *Wait.* Is that? ... Oh. ... Oh my Gods.

Jesse (narration)

Earlier, when I was alone headed toward my house, after I
stormed off, thought I saw Abilene had grown taller. Thought the
buildings had stretched up. Became some sorta trade city. Then
wasn't nothin' but the same old Abilene. Cow-town, prairie town,
sleepy town. 'Til I rode out and again now, ten miles out in the
distance. The buildings grew taller than any buildings I'd ever
seen before. And the lights ...

Helix

Jesse. Jesse, that's not - that's - that's *Times Square*.

Scene Three: En Route to New Abilene, KS

11. MUSIC BEGINS PLAYING "THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD".

Helix (narration)

Of all the fucking places in New York City, of all the random shit this garbled human world decides to invite from the future *Times Square?* Not, like, *Pelham Bay Park?* *Coney Island?* Or *something?*

12. WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF A CITY.

Jesse

Yeah, that ain't Abilene. Not anymore, at least.

Helix

Yeah it's *Manhattan*. You've got to be kidding me.

Jesse

Manhattan? Naw, that's a town north-east, forty-somethin' miles.

Helix

That must be a different one. This is *my Manhattan*. Fucking *Emi*. C'mon, let's go. Maybe we can find something for Charles.

13. DISTANT HORNS, CHATTER.

Helix

If this is messed up for *me*, I can't imagine what you feel.

14. HORSES TROTTING ON HARD ROAD.

Jesse

(trying to be calm) It's *(clears throat)* It's fine. We need to find Bill and Marion.

Helix (narration)

Charles was leaned against my back, his chest rattling like marbles were inside him. It was weird, not hearing him ramble on and on. It didn't feel right. Like everything was collapsing. I couldn't help but feel responsible for this, this jumbled world.

Angry Driver

Get off the road, idiots!

15. BLARING HORN, PASSES BY.

Jesse

What on - !

Helix

A taxi. Uhm. A car. A vehicle. Transportation?

Jesse

I *know* what a *vehicle* is. What was that noise?

Helix

It was a horn. We were in their way. Just follow me, Jesse.

Helix (narration)

The unnamed dirt road had turned into 7th Avenue. One moment it was us three and our two horses, then there were taxis, suddenly sidewalks, people hustling in power suits, straight out of 1987. It was like the intersection of 7th Avenue, Broadway, and 42nd Street, had been plucked out and dropped down. And then the rest is Kansas. We rode down the middle of the road, weaving between the yellow taxis, onward into fucking *Times Square*.

Scene Four: Times Square, New Abilene, KS

16. CROWD CHATTER.

17. HORSES TROTTING ON HARD ROAD.

Helix

Okay, so that's the Paramount Building. It - it used to have this badass theater but then *television* came along and - nevermind, that's too much to - oh *Gods*, a Beastie Boys billboard. How do I explain *those* guys? It's like three white dudes - oh my gods, a *Sony* sign! Charles, look, it's like the TPS you had! And the -

Jesse

Ern's hardware store.

Helix

The what? (beat) Oh. Is that - Is that from, uh, *your* Abilene?

Jesse

Yeah.

Helix (laughing)

Well, it sticks out in the middle of fucking New York City!

Jesse (narration)

Seemed the town popped up in the city, here and there. Between a big gray building and another, Ern's squat lil' wooden hardware store. Same easy chairs out front, rooster painted on the sign. Yeah, I know that bastard's store from a mile away. What's more, said bastard would be the first familiar face in *New Abilene*. Just needed to stomach him for some directions, was all.

Jesse (cold)

Stay with Osgood.

Helix

Wait, where are you going?

Jesse

Gettin' pointers for this *shit-hole* we're in. I'll be back.

18. BOOTS ON PAVEMENT.

Jesse (narration)

Things were gettin' sharp with me and barefoot. Could feel it. Me walkin' away that mornin'. Osgood dyin' on us. And now her city swallowin' up Abilene. I needed to rise. Take a step to fixin' the broken things atween us. She was angry. Me too, just

different now. Figured steppin' away a minute could give us both some air.

19. DOOR BELL CHIMES.

Ern

(grumbling) Fuckin' stupid a - *(shocked laughter)* Well, well, well!

Jesse (narration)

Turns out, an old face didn't make things any less sharp.

Jesse

Ernest.

Ern

If it ain't Jesse Gone-West Rogers. Mr. Big Man himself! Tell me, Jesse, did'ya find *gold*? Did'ya find the Ark of the Covenant?
(cracks up, snorting while laughing) I crack me up sometime!

20. ERN LAUGHS BIG, LOUD, OBNOXIOUS.

Jesse

Oh Christ. Are you finished?

Ern

Y'know what they say about 'chu, boy? They say, *Jesse Rogers?*
Shit, ain't that the son of Jacob? They say, he *was*, 'til he
went off and became a yankee. (*laughs*) A yankee, Jesse! Forgot
all 'bout us in Abilene. Naw, went off and left his own *Mama* to
-

21. JESSE GRABS ERN BY THE SHIRT.

Jesse (dead serious)

You say another fucking word, I'll cut that fucking tongue out.

22. JESSE GRABS ERN BY THE SHIRT.

Jesse

Don't you fucking test me.

Ern

Ahhhh, now that's what I wanted to see. A little Abilene still
in you, boy. Now what'chu you here for, Rogers? You still on
about that debt?

Jesse

Need *you* to tell *me* what the hell's goin' on here. *New Abilene?*

Ern

(laughs) Like I said, boy, you've been gone. Things change.

Shit, one day Abilene turned on its head. Can't recall when.

Shit, must've been some months ago. Now, here we are. *(laughs)*

Jesse

Here we are. And Bill?

Ern

Bill? Oh, you mean Bill Willard? *(laughs)* *Shit!* I dunno 'bout

Bill. *(chuckles)*

Jesse

Ain't no way. Bill died?

Ern

Naw. But you're gonna wish he did.

Jesse

Oh don'tchu dare.

Ern

Go on. Be my guest, Rogers. Just don't say I didn't warn ya!

(laughs)

Scene Five: Times Square, New Abilene, KS

23. STATIC. SUBWAY SOUNDS. THE SOUNDS OF A CROWDED STREET.

STATIC.

Helix (narration)

Charles was starting to go white. Well, whiter than usual. Like powder white. And his eyelids had a sort of purplish tint. While waiting for Jesse, some passerby stopped to stare at the horse, kids waving at me like I was a street performer.

24. JESSE'S BOOTS APPROACH.

Helix

Hey! Well?

Jesse

Mary Odd.

Helix

Huh?

Jesse

Uh, Mary Odd hotel? That's where we'll find Bill.

Helix (narration)

At first, I thought it was some Abilene thing. But the way Jesse stared at me, waiting for me to say something, I thought on it a little bit.

Helix

Mary-ott? The Marriott? The Marriot! *Marriott* Marquis? Is that where your friend is?

25. CHARLES COUGHS.

Jesse

So, you know it or...?

26. CHARLES COUGHS. PAINFUL.

Helix

We need to hurry. I'll lead.

27. HORSES TROTTING ON HARD ROAD.

Helix (narration)

We crossed between the taxis and crowds. At a stop light, I had to stop Jesse before he rode straight into New York traffic. Seemed he had no idea how modern traffic works. Or, uh, *future* traffic, I guess. But he wouldn't even meet my eyes. Not angry like before, but not there. Or, barely there should I say.

Helix

It's right up here. The one that looks like the letter H.

Helix (narration)

Jesse didn't respond. He just stared up the hotel building like it was the castle of his enemy. His jaw clenched. We walked beneath the hotel canopy, climbed off our horses, and each took Charles by one of his arms. Still, Jesse was silent. And Charles only seemed conscious enough to flutter his eyes half-opened, like a drunk, with his head and shoulders hung low.

Helix (struggling to carry)

Is this - how heavy - I was - to carry?

Jesse

Mm. You're taller. But *he's* denser.

Helix (narration)

Jesse looked like he'd put on the wrong shoes. Or like his hat was too tight.

28. DOOR ELECTRONIC DING.

Helix (narration)

For a moment it looked like he was going to say something about the hotel's automatic sliders, but instead he adjusted his grip and kneeled to pick Charles up on his back.

29. MUSIC BEGINS TO PLAY, "TO THE SUNDIAL".

Jesse

Won't drop him downstairs or anythin'. Don't worry.

Helix

Do you know what floor he's on? Bill, or whoever?

Jesse

No clue.

Helix

Okay. I'll go ask the front desk. What's his last name?

Jesse

Willard.

30. FRONT DESK BELL, DING-DING.

Helix (narration)

The front desk guy seemed to know this Bill Willard without even looking at his logs. He just said, *are you an associate?* No. *Are you expected?* Well, no. *Would Mr. Willard be surprised by you -* yeah well, whatever. I told the guy his son was coming to visit him. I mean, Jesse said Bill was like a father figure, right?

Scene Six: Marriott Marquis, New Abilene, KS

31. ELEVATOR DING. DING. DING.

Jesse (narration)

Didn't make no sense. Yeah, well, ain't *shit* made sense since Helix showed up. There I was, another elevator. Last time we were in Salt Lake, descendin' to some cave where Charles near got stabbed by some lunatic. Now in Abilene, *New Abilene*, another invasion from Helix's future. Now there I was, all that

time, blamin' Charles for this and that. But in that elevator, with that man dyin' against my shoulder, well, it came clear. We were both in it. Helix's mess. *Her* and her Gods.

Helix

This is it. Forty-ninth floor. (beat) Jesse?

Jesse

Let me do the talkin', okay? These are my people. Whole town might be upside-down, but these are *my* people. So *I'll* do the talkin'.

Helix (taken aback)

Alright.

Jesse

Look, I didn't mean it like - (*he sighs*) Let's go.

Jesse (narration)

Walked down the hall towin' Charles. Was only a few doors, each with gold plates above the peepholes. Got to one with *The Willards*, etched all fancy with the curls.

Helix

I guess this is it?

32. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK ON DOOR.

33. METAL SLIDING OF PEEPHOLE COVER.

Marion (muffled, behind door)

Who's that?

Jesse

It's me, Marion!

Marion (muffled, behind door)

Sorry, were you scheduled? Bill meets in the conference room -

Jesse

Jesse Rogers. Jacob's kid.

34. THE DOOR UNLOCKS.

Marion

Jesse? It's been - *my*, it's been *many* years!

Jesse (narration)

She was talkin' funny. Matter of fact, she was talkin' like Osgood, that sort of air of better-than. Not the Marion I knew. Not the Marion who could shoot, gut, and cook a hog all in an afternoon. Then spit seeds with me and Bill and Pa. *No*, not her too.

35. CHARLES COUGHS, WHEEZING.

Jesse

My (*hesitates*) friend here. He needs some help.

Marion (startled)

Well, does it *spread*?

Jesse

Naw. Don't think so.

Bill (distant)

Is that the towel boy, Marion?

Marion

Sweetheart! Come here.

Jesse (narration)

Sweetheart. Marion and Bill weren't the sort for lil' nicknames. Not back in the day. Seemed all sorts of things changed.

Bill

Yes? Can I - well, well, if that isn't one familiar face!

Jesse (narration)

It's the sight of Bill that did it. His big beard, shaved down to a thin mustache. Dressed up like a - like a dandy! Black suit and tie. No boots on. Just a pair of shiny black pointed shoes. Hair kept short. The man looked *expensive*. But it wasn't the Bill I'd known.

36. SILENCE.

Helix (under her breath)

Say something.

Jesse

Bill.

Bill

Regarding Abigail, my condolences, Jesse. She was one of the -

Jesse

I - *god!* This was a mistake.

Jesse (narration)

Thought about runnin'. Wasn't about to hash out what had happened right now. 'Specially not when Bill didn't look - when he wasn't - Thought about leavin'. Looked over at Helix waitin' though and knew leavin' again wasn't in the cards. Wasn't what I *wanted*.

Helix

Hi! Bill, Marion. I'm sorry, but our friend here needs *serious* help. He - he has something wrong with his lungs.

Jesse (narration)

Wouldn't leave. Even if that weren't the same Bill from my boyhood, I wouldn't do him the disrespect. 'Cause maybe he won't honor *himself*, least I could do is honor his shadow.

Scene Seven: Penthouse, Marriott Marquis, New Abilene

37. DOOR SHUTS.

Marion

Please, take a seat on the Chesterfield. I'll fetch something.

Jesse (under his breath)

Chesterfield. It's a damn sofa.

Helix

(to Jesse) Stop. (to Bill) Bill, uhm, it's very nice to meet you.

Bill

Likewise. I do hope you've found our hotel sufficient, thus far?

Jesse

Our hotel?

Helix

Our hotel?

38. TEA CUP TAPPING.

Bill

Well, yes. It's been some time, Jesse. It must be some surprise, me and Marion entering the property game. *(chuckles)* Well, you know us Willards. Once we set our mind on something, we fully -

Jesse

What about Junior?

Bill (suddenly serious)

What about him?

Jesse

Where *is* he? I know he wouldn't put up with all this -

Helix

Jesse.

39. CHARLES COUGHING, PAINFUL.

Marion (entering room)

Back in my *midwifery* days, this served a very useful tool for women in pain. Had to be careful with it! It's quite addictive.

Helix

What is that?

Jesse

So y'all got rich and became opium-eaters?

Bill

I *beg* your -

Jesse

Oh, *beg*.

Helix

Stop it.

Marion

If it's a problem I can simply take -

Jesse

Did you give that shit to my Ma?

40. LONG SILENCE.

Bill

She was in pain, Jesse. Extreme pain.

41. ANOTHER BEAT OF SILENCE.

Marion

It won't heal him. But the opium can last him until you can get some proper help. I wouldn't offer it if I thought it was dangerous.

Helix

You saw Jesse's mom? ...If I can ask, what was it?

Bill

It's a swelling in the lungs. Must be for him too. It can come from all sorts of things. The doctors at Mount Sinai said Abigail had -

Helix

Wait, *Mount Sinai*? Like, the hospital in New York?

Marion (laughing)

(laughs) Well, I don't know about New York. That's a-ways! But in *New Abilene*, if you go up to 42nd you can take the one train to -

Helix

I - I know how to get there.

Jesse

If it'll help, give him the drug. Not too much, though!

Marion

Of course, Jesse.

Bill

Oh, and if you catch sight of Junior, tell him to come home. His mother and father miss him so dearly. Would you do that, Jesse?

Jesse (sarcastic)

Can't imagine why he'd run.

END OF EPISODE.

CREDITS

RADIO: Outcast was

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Starring:

- Jade Duong as Helix
- Ivory Amor D'Francisca as Jesse Rogers
- Daniel A. Stevens as Charles Osgood and Ern
- Griffin Otto Deniger as Bill Sr.
- And Brandi Robinson as Marion

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1. **Alan L** a fan of the contrasts and art of New Abilene.
2. **Miss Thalia W** that fabulous dancer who enjoyed dance halls and now the clubs in New Abilene.
3. **Patricia D** who first heard of the changes in her friend's city while trading illicit goods
4. It is said that Marion has commissioned **Lisbeth S** for her spectacular treats for a party.
5. Turned away by the liveliness of New Abilene, **Val V** said the gambling was better west.
6. Currently planning a trip to New Abilene, **Susan S**
7. **Fearless Lila** who has not returned to Kansas since touring the state defeating multitudes at arm wrestling.
8. **Chelsea S** who has compared the death bird's cry to a train's whistle.

9. **Bunny Hop** who has visited new Abilene and enjoyed the brand new social circle at the Mudd Club.
10. **Paul R** was spotted in Ern's hardware store picking up canned beans on his journey south.
11. And **Crystal S** who is new to town but loving the otherworldly nature of the city.

To all of our patrons, thanks again. Your support means the world! And to everyone listening, safe travels.