



The More Things Change...

Story by Jim Caswell
Audioplay by Jim Caswell and Ken Hallaron

Episode Summary

While reading Heinrich's journals, Derrick learns of his grandfather's first encounter with the supernatural and meeting a mysterious Indian nationalist named Mitrajit.

Starring

Lindsey Capparelli
 Derrick Geist
 Mitrajit Singh

April Sadowski
 Ryan Gilbert
 Doug Zeitlin

and Featuring

Heinrich Geist
 Peregrine Caruthers
 Mary
 Minister Miles
 Minister Rogers
 Bulgarian Merchant
 Nazi Soldier
 Commandant Balthazar Von Hölle

Steve Cain
 Matt Hallaron
 Louise Francis
 Paul Mitchell
 Pete Nottit
 Lalwende Ireme
 Jim Caswell
 Ken Hallaron

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Florida Hotel Suite

SOUND: Hotel background noise.

LINDSEY

That's a pretty big box.

GEIST

If it's supposed to hold all of my father's *and* my grandfather's journals, I'd expect it to be a lot bigger. And heavier.

LINDSEY

Very true.

SOUND: Box tape is torn away and a lid is removed.

GEIST

That makes sense in a twisted sort of way.

LINDSEY

What's inside?

SOUND: A CD case is lifted.

GEIST

He had the journals converted to digital and saved on CDs.

LINDSEY

I'd be more surprised if it was anyone other than your grandfather. I'm only surprised that he didn't put them on flash drives.

GEIST

Probably because he didn't want a corrupted computer to be able to wipe the drive.

LINDSEY

I guess that would be a possibility. I'll get the laptop.

SOUND: Lindsey moves across the room and gets the computer. Geist fingers through discs.

GEIST

It looks like they're in chronological order; about three years per disc.

LINDSEY

They must have journaled pretty frequently for them to use up that much disc space.

GEIST

Where should we start?

LINDSEY

Why not start at the beginning?

GEIST

OK. Disc number one it is.

SOUND: CD case is opened. Disc drive is opened and CD is up in. Computer revs.

GEIST

It looks like grandpa started his journal well after he arrived in England and joined Military Intelligence. The first entry is from late April, 1944.

LINDSEY

Arrived? Where did he come from?

GEIST

He was a German nationalist until the rise of Hitler and his Nazi party. Grandpa saw what was going on and decided to leave.

LINDSEY

Is he Jewish?

GEIST

No, but in spite of the promises that were being made and the way the Nazi party was turning the country around after the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression, Grandpa knew that increase in armaments and talk of the German empire could only go in one direction.

LINDSEY

It's opening as a PDF file. Should be fairly easy to navigate. So he got when the getting was good.

GEIST

Yeah, though it wasn't that easy. Grandpa was an Olympic-level runner back then, and he was being watched as a contender for the Olympics. He used to joke that it was a good thing he left when he did, otherwise he might have given Jesse Owens a run for his money. Pun intended.

LINDSEY

He was really that good?

GEIST

I don't know, but given everything we know about him now, I wouldn't put it past him.

LINDSEY

So when the war was in full swing, he was drafted into M. I.?

GEIST

I think he volunteered. He was really opposed to the Nazis gobbling up Europe and everything else they were doing.

LINDSEY

I'd guess so.

GEIST

Again, from what I've been told, he had to spend a good deal of time convincing them that he wasn't a double agent and that he was loyal to the British government.

LINDSEY

He went through all of that, but none of it caused him to journal. What could have happened in '44 to get him started?

GEIST

If I had to guess, since he probably filed regular reports with the SIS, I'd say it had something to do with monster hunting. Fortunately, I don't have to guess. We can read and find out.

LINDSEY

Yeah. Listen to this: "While I have been sworn to secrecy as part of my work,

SOUND: Dialog segues from Lindsey's voice to Heinrich's.

LINDSEY and HEINRICH

I feel the need to ensure that a record is kept of the strange events that I have recently encountered.

HEINRICH

As I know that the Special Operations Executive. will not be acknowledging this information, it falls to me to ensure that these facts will be available to future generations.

SOUND: Cue Intro music.

ACT I

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: *Waiting Room – 64 Baker Street - London*

SOUND: Office door opens.

PEREGRINE

Where have you been, Rick?

HEINRICH

No worries, Perr. Miles didn't want to see us until 0900 hours.

SOUND: Door closes.

PEREGRINE

So you decide to walk in at 8:59.

HEINRICH

See, I'm early. How are you this morning, Mary? Have you missed me?

MARY

You need to be away for more than two hours before I can start missing you, Heinrich.

PEREGRINE

Two hours?

HEINRICH

A gentleman never tells.

MARY

And since when has anyone confused you for a gentleman, dear. And you may be early by your standards, but by the Chief's clock, you're late. He and his guest are ready for the two of you.

PEREGRINE

I told you so.

HEINRICH

Thank you, my sweet. Hopefully, one of these days, Perr will learn how to worry a little less and enjoy life a little more.

MARY

And maybe you should learn how to worry a little more. The minister has been asking for you for the past ten minutes. You two better head inside.

HEINRICH

Very well.

SOUND: Footsteps lead over to door. Door is opened.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: Minister's Office – 64 Baker Street - London

SOUND: Footsteps enter the office. Door closes.

MINISTER

Geist. So good of you to finally join us.

HEINRICH

My apologies, Minister, for the delay. I assumed that 9 AM meant 9 AM. My mistake.

MINISTER

Yes, it was. Mr. Rogers, allow me to introduce Heinrich Geist and Peregrine Caruthers. Gentlemen, this is Minister Rogers of the Rumanian branch of Special Operations Executive.

ROGERS

Gentlemen.

HEINRICH

Sir.

PEREGRINE

Sir.

ROGERS

How long have you gentlemen been paired together?

PEREGRINE

Six months, sir.

ROGERS

And your specialties?

PEREGRINE

I've been trained in twelve languages and code-breaking, sir.

ROGERS

And Geist.

PEREGRINE

He's the brawn, sir.

MINISTER

Mr. Geist comes to us as a defector from Germany. Therefore, he's considered an authority on the enemy's culture.

HEINRICH

But to be fair to my partner, I tend to be the one who pushes when pushing is needed.

ROGERS

Understood.

PEREGRINE

I assume that we are about to be loaned out to the Rumanian office, sir?

MINISTER

No. Minister Rogers has been invited as a courtesy as you're being sent next door to him.

ROGERS

If this operation were happening in Romania, I'd use my own operatives. No offense.

PEREGRINE

None taken.

HEINRICH

We're headed to Bulgaria then.

MINISTER

Correct.

ROGERS

I thought he was the brains of your operation?

HEINRICH

It was only logical. If the Nazis are involved, which they would be if I was hand-picked for the assignment, and it's next door to you, then it has to be Bulgaria. While they are allies of the German government, King Boris kept them out of the serious battles until he died last year.

MINISTER

We have received a report that an operative high in the Nazi command has just left India with a stolen artifact; some kind of heathen relic. The Hindu sect isn't co-operating with our government people there; they've refused to tell us precisely what was stolen. We do know that it has a great deal of importance to them. We believe that it may be a weapon of some sort, given the jerries' interest in it.

PEREGRINE

Do we know which operative or operatives are transporting it?

MINISTER

We don't have that information either, but we're assuming it must be someone trusted to transport an experimental weapon.

PEREGRINE

But that's only an assumption. It could be anyone.

MINISTER

Correct.

HEINRICH

But we think we can catch up with them in Bulgaria?

MINISTER

Yes. Station 'I' believes the courier made it to an airfield in New Delhi. Easier to avoid border guards in the air, after all.

PEREGRINE

It must be fifty-seven hundred kilometers, *<switch to American Southwest accent>* or thirty-five hundred miles, *<back to British>* and the Yanks would say, from New Delhi to Berlin.

MINISTER

Thirty-six, on a direct route. But landing anything with that kind of range in an Allied country? So a smaller plane, probably refueling at a sympathizer controlled airfield in Persia.

ROGERS

But when they get closer to Axis territory, they'll be getting to where the fighting's the heaviest. My office is having a devil of a time what with Hitler and Stalin fighting over Romania.

MINISTER

Right, and Tito's partisans are still giving Adolph fits in Yugoslavia. But Bulgaria is still Axis controlled. We believe the fighting will keep the courier from getting any further than Sophia, Bulgaria. He should be arriving there sometime in the next twenty-four hours. How long he'll be there before he finds a safe route to Berlin is unknown. You are to intercept the courier and bring the weapon back to England.

PEREGRINE

What of the courier himself?

MINISTER

If you can capture him, bring him back for questioning as well. Otherwise, eliminate him.

ROGERS

If anything goes wrong, contact my offices and we'll arrange an exit strategy.

PEREGRINE

Understood.

MINISTER

Good. Report to Hammond in documents for your papers and cover identities. You'll be flying out at twenty-one hundred hours. You'll be parachuting in under the cover of night.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO EXT.: *Streets of Sofia – Bulgaria*

SOUND: Crowd and traffic noise in background as footfalls approach.

PEREGRINE

I wish we had more time for proper surveillance. It's impossible to know if we beat them here, or if they're already hidden away somewhere.

HEINRICH

I probably could have gotten some information at the airport, but it's impossible to know who works for them and would give us reliable information.

PEREGRINE

And I sincerely doubt you could have gotten military personnel to talk about it, and the South wing isn't finished yet. The plan is that it will be the area for commercial traffic. But even then, I can't picture them making a public announcement for a secret government op. *<official voice>* Arriving at gate twelve, Espionage Air from India to the Nazis front door. Passengers may disembark at their own risk.

HEINRICH *<smirking>*

That would make our jobs a lot easier though, wouldn't it?

PEREGRINE

Our best hope is that they haven't taken refuge with the German troops and have instead gotten a hotel room somewhere.

HEINRICH

Given the nature of their mission, linking themselves directly to Germany outside of their borders could be dangerous. Word is Bulgaria's not too happy with Adolph lately. If even enemy agents catch them here, it could escalate things. So I think steering clear of the Axis army is a wise choice.

SOUND: Footfalls stop.

PEREGRINE

Plus, there is less chance of us getting shot on sight.

HEINRICH

That too.

PEREGRINE

So let's start with the inns and work our way out from there. The closest one is a couple of blocks away.

HEINRICH

It's as good a place to start as any, though I wish we had thought about the inns when we landed. I could have used a good mattress instead of the hard ground outside of the city to catch some sleep.

PEREGRINE

Except showing up at that hour would have drawn attention to us.

HEINRICH

Lead the way.

SOUND: Footfalls start moving down the street.

PEREGRINE

Are we agreed that we are looking for German operatives?

HEINRICH

It's a fair assumption, though I think we should also be on the lookout for anyone who seems out of place. Besides ourselves, of course. After all, for all we know, the courier could be a double agent from India.

PEREGRINE

That would have made it easier to get the weapon out.

HEINRICH

I think it's also safe to assume that the courier probably will use the stop over here to get support personnel for the rest of the trip.

PEREGRINE

That could be bad news if there are more than one or two people to have to deal with.

HEINRICH

Exactly right.

SOUND: Silent dialog for three count.

PEREGRINE

So how long have you and Mary been involved?

HEINRICH

I don't know if I would consider us 'involved.' More like two people who enjoy each other's company and have some fun where we can find it in all this mess.

PEREGRINE

That discussion sounded like more than just tea and crumpets.

HEINRICH

What are you asking, Perr?

PEREGRINE

I just want to know how serious this is.

HEINRICH

No. You want to know if we slept with one another.

PEREGRINE

I'd never ask you such a thing.

HEINRICH

You want to know if you can still respect her, and to a lesser degree, me.

SOUND: Silence – two count.

PEREGRINE

I shouldn't have asked.

HEINRICH

I'll answer your question, but you need to answer one of mine first.

PEREGRINE

Just let it go, mate.

HEINRICH

How long have you been in love with her?

PEREGRINE (nervous laughter)
Well, that's a mighty long leap.

HEINRICH
Not at all. You wouldn't have asked if you didn't have a personal investment on some level. And you wouldn't have tried to change the subject rather than face an answer you didn't want if those feelings didn't run deep.

PEREGRINE
That's nonsense. <beat> And even if there was something, if the two of you are involved...

HEINRICH
Nothing has happened.

PEREGRINE
I don't believe you.

HEINRICH
It's true. We were out until seven walking and talking. We had gone to dinner and drinks when she started telling me about her brother, who is currently serving on the front lines. She told me how they fought constantly as children, and she's was afraid he might be killed without knowing how much she loved him.

PEREGRINE
So you two...

HEINRICH (teasing)
Didn't do anything but talk. And not to worry, my friend, I'll never let on that you thought her morals are that loose.

PEREGRINE
Now that's not fair. I mean, after all, the two of you were all but bragging the fact back in the office.

HEINRICH
Guilty as charged. I get the feeling, though, that a good deal of that performance was for your benefit. That's not to say that if I honestly pursued a relationship with her that I couldn't, but I just don't have the feeling that she is the one for me.

PEREGRINE (teasing)

So now, I suppose, she's not good enough for you.

HEINRICH (also teasing)

Not really, but I think she's just right for you. <beat – return to serious> So how do you want to handle this?

PEREGRINE

I'll probably ask her out to dinner when we get back.

HEINRICH

Not that. The search for the courier. If we start going into inns looking for Germans, I think word will get back to them pretty quickly.

BULGARIAN MERCHANT (in the distance)

(translation: Fruit. Fresh fruit for sale.)

PEREGRINE

We'll ask that merchant if she's seen anyone.

SOUND: Footfalls stop in front of merchant cart.

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: Good day.)

PEREGRINE (switching to German)

(translation: Do you speak German?)

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: Very little. <switching to Greek> Greek?)

PEREGRINE

(translation: Little. <switching to Polish> Polish?)

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: Yes.)

PEREGRINE

(translation: Have you seen a group of men come by? Official looking? Militaristic?)

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: German soldiers?)

PEREGRINE

(translation: Yes.)

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: Every day.)

PEREGRINE

(translation: These soldiers would be in plain clothes. Trying to blend in.)

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: No. None that do not show off their superiority.)

PEREGRINE

(translation: Thank you for your help.)

BULGARIAN MERCHANT

(translation: You are welcome.)

SOUND: One set of footfalls moves back to join the other.

HEINRICH

Well?

PEREGRINE

She hasn't seen them.

HEINRICH

Of course.

PEREGRINE

The inn idea is starting to sound a bit better, but we shouldn't go in together.

HEINRICH

I'll check the inns if you want to continue talking to the locals.

PEREGRINE

Probably for the best. The hotels will probably speak German.

HEINRICH

Right up my alley.

PEREGRINE

We'll meet back at the pub we passed in, say, one hour?

HEINRICH

Make it a half. I should be able to check the two closest ones in that amount of time. We don't know what kind of a timeframe we're looking at.

PEREGRINE

Sounds good. We can always go back out after the meet.

HEINRICH

Exactly.

PEREGRINE

See you soon.

SOUND: Two sets of footfalls go in opposite directions. Transition music.

SCENE 4 – CUT TO EXT.: Streets of Sofia – Bulgaria

SOUND: HEINRICH walks along street for several beats before stopping.

HEINRICH

What's this?

SOUND: More footfalls forward.

HEINRICH (loudly)

Excuse me, sir! Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

SOUND: Footfalls in the distance start to move away. HEINRICH chases and pulls a revolver.

HEINRICH

Stop, or I will fire!

SOUND: Distant footfalls stop, followed quickly by HEINRICH stopping.

HEINRICH (*switching back to English accent*)

Turn around slowly and show me what's in the big bag.

SOUND: A sword is pulled from a carrying bag.

HEINRICH

That's far enough with that... that... what kind of sword is that?

AJIT (Hindu accent)

It is called talwar, now you will be dropping your pistol and be returning to me the bow being in your possession.

HEINRICH

Bow? What bow?

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT II

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: Streets of Sofia – Bulgaria

SOUND: Crowd and traffic noise in background.

AJIT

You will be returning the bow to my people, or I will be taking it from you with force.

HEINRICH

I don't know what you are talking about. What bow? And you may not realize this, but I'm holding a gun. You are holding a sword.

AJIT

A talwar.

HEINRICH

A talwar is still no match for a pistol.

SOUND: Sword whooshes through air as it's spun at great speed.

HEINRICH

That... was fast.

AJIT

In the hands of a trained master, at this range, the talwar is more than a match for a pistol.

HEINRICH

So you are saying that we are at a stalemate.

AJIT

If it will be making you feel more better to believe, then yes.

HEINRICH

And what is this about a bow?

AJIT

Your people stole the ancient relic from mine. You will be returning it or you will be suffering the consequences of your poor decision.

HEINRICH

My people?

AJIT

You are German, are you not? You hold a pistol on me, do you not?

HEINRICH

I am of German descent, yes, but I am not a Nazi. I am here on behalf of the British government to recover the missing item, though we didn't know it was an ancient bow. We were under the impression it was a powerful weapon.

AJIT

And again, you assume that a weapon that is not modern cannot be powerful.

SOUND: Beat – 2 count.

HEINRICH

It appears we have gotten off on the wrong foot. My name is Heinrich Geist.

AJIT

Mitrajit Singh, Indian Intelligence.

HEINRICH

Good to meet you, Mr. Singh. Seeing as we're on the same side, do you think we could both put away our weapons now?

AJIT

It may be prudent.

SOUND: Weapons put away.

HEINRICH

As I said, we're working on very limited information.

AJIT

We?

HEINRICH

I have a partner, Peregrine Caruthers.

AJIT

Peregrine?

HEINRICH

Different cultures.

AJIT (British accent)

I am familiar with the British culture, and Peregrine is not a normal name.

HEINRICH

OK, you have a point. Nice trick, by the way.

AJIT

Something I picked up while studying abroad at Oxford.

HEINRICH

I'm sure it helps in the espionage business as well.

AJIT

It does, as I am sure you are aware. You are very good at covering your natural German accent, but it isn't flawless.

HEINRICH

As Perry often points out. But yours is flawless. If you don't mind, could you...

AJIT

Continue using it? Of course, if it will be easier for you.

HEINRICH

No offense, but as accents go, it's easier to understand.

AJIT

Another matter of perspective, but for convenience sake, I am willing to concede to the need.

HEINRICH

You know that it was the Germans who stole your weapon... the bow. What kind of bow is worth all this trouble?

AJIT

The Shiva Dhanush, or Bow of Shiva if you prefer, is an ancient relic of my people and a key artifact of our beliefs. It was the divine bow of Shiva, given to King Janaka by Sage Parashurama for safekeeping. It was said that only a few could even move the bow, let alone use it. When Janaka announced that only the man who was able to lift and string the bow would be allowed to marry his goddess daughter Sita. Lord Rama not only lifted the bow, but broke it in half.

HEINRICH

Sounds like the legend of Excalibur.

AJIT

There are some similarities, yes.

HEINRICH

So the Nazis are going through all of this for a broken bow? And you said mythology. This bow actually exists?

AJIT

Obviously it exists. It was stolen. And while it may be broken, it is still considered to be a divine bow and therefore potentially still contains mystical energy.

HEINRICH (disbelievingly)

Mystical energy?

AJIT

There are many things in this world that man has yet to explain and many beliefs that have yet to be disproven.

HEINRICH

So you believe that the artifact is mystical.

AJIT

I believe that others believe, including the Nazis; at least enough to steal it.

HEINRICH

Apparently so. Another piece of the puzzle that we're missing is the who. Do you have any leads on who the Nazis sent to steal the weapon?

AJIT

We have only gotten a name: Commandant Von Hölle.

HEINRICH

I don't recognize the name, but Perry may. We are supposed to be meeting up again to compare notes in a few minutes. Would you like to continue pooling our resources and come along?

AJIT

Three heads will be better than one, especially when facing an entire squad of soldiers.

HEINRICH

What, you can't defeat an entire squad on your own with your talwar?

AJIT

One of them could make a lucky shot.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: *A Sofia bar – Bulgaria*

SOUND: Low din of patrons at a bar.

AJIT

When was your friend supposed to be here?

HEINRICH

Three minutes ago.

AJIT

Do you think he's all right?

HEINRICH

Perry doesn't take chances. That's my job. His watch probably just needs a good winding.

AJIT

Are you sure?

HEINRICH

We'll give him a couple more... (minutes.)

SOUND: Bell over door tinkles as the door opens and closes. Footfalls approach the table.

AJIT

Is this him?

HEINRICH

This is him.

SOUND: Chair slides out and PERRY sits.

PEREGRINE

You've made a friend, I see.

HEINRICH

Perry, this is Mitrajit. He's with Indian Intelligence. He's here working the same case as we are, so we decided to work together.

PEREGRINE

Does he know what we're after?

HEINRICH (mild sarcasm)

A broken bow that the Nazis think have mystical powers.

PEREGRINE

Really?

AJIT

The Shiva Dhanush is an important artifact to my people.

PEREGRINE

Well, I guess that fits with other rumors that are circulating.

HEINRICH

Rumors?

PEREGRINE

There have been unsubstantiated reports that Hitler has been trying to collect mystical artifacts to consolidate his power. He not only appears to believe in such things, but wants to gather them together, believing that if he is able to add their power to the might of his army, that the Nazi party will be unstoppable. Some also say that his efforts doubled when the Americans entered the war.

HEINRICH

I know that he's insane, but believing in magic items? What kind of proof is out there?

PEREGRINE

Most of it is hearsay. An Army Intelligence Officer I know claims that he was after the Ark of the Covenant eight years ago, but failed to recover it. Others say that it was found by the Americans and hidden away somewhere.

HEINRICH

I find that very hard to believe.

PEREGRINE

Like I said: rumors. But like most fiction, it is probably based on a sliver of fact beneath all of the layers. And this occurrence seems to support the claims that he is looking.

AJIT

It was stolen by a Nazi officer by the name of Commandant Von Hölle. Have you heard any rumors about him?

PEREGRINE

No rumors on him. Plenty of facts, though. Commandant Balthazar Von Hölle is one of Hitler's top advisors, purportedly in charge of weapon development. Reports say that he's a strange one, actively involved in the management of a select number of their concentration camps. According to some of our sources behind enemy lines, he's particularly bloodthirsty and often tours some of the more intense battle scenes just to see the war first hand.

HEINRICH

Von Hölle. That's got to be an affectation. He sounds like the type of psychopath that would be supportive of a hunt for magic.

AJIT

Why?

HEINRICH

Those that love war that much are always looking for a faster, easier and cleaner way to kill.

AJIT

That is a profound observation, Mister Geist.

HEINRICH

Thank you.

PEREGRINE

So now we know the who, why and what. We are still in need of where. Did you have any luck with the hotels?

HEINRICH

I was only able to visit one before Mitrajit and I met.

AJIT

I was returning from the last of the hotels when I encountered you. There has been no sign of them.

PEREGRINE

And there haven't been any sightings on the street locally. I can expand my search area, but that may be a waste of our valued time.

AJIT

Their delay here will not last long.

HEINRICH

I suppose it's possible that they flew into here and left via train or auto, but plane is still the most likely and timely option. The airbase will be our best bet.

PEREGRINE

The base is very secure; for all intents and purposes, it's an Axis military base. Very difficult to get in without drawing attention to ourselves.

HEINRICH

I take it the documents we got from Hammond won't take us that far.

PEREGRINE

Not by a long shot. But there are two soldiers across the room who appear to be about our size...

HEINRICH

Do you need help?

PEREGRINE

As drunk as they appear, I should let them get three of their mates to even it up some.

HEINRICH

I thought I was the one that was here for the pushing.

PEREGRINE

I can't let you have all the fun, dear chap.

HEINRICH

What about Mitrajit?

AJIT

Humble Mitrajit will not be disguised by a change of clothes. I will be fine.

PEREGRINE

All right. I'll meet the two of you there.

SOUND: Chair pushes out and footfalls move away.

AJIT

It is crucial that I recover the bow for my people.

HEINRICH

We'll do our best, Mitrajit.

AJIT

My best will end only with the return of the Shiva Dhanush, no matter where I must go, what I must do or who stands in my way.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT III

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Hangar 7 – Bulgaria Airport

SOUND: Mild movement in distance inside an otherwise empty hangar.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

You were right, Mitrajit. This seems to be the place.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

With the subdued lighting in here, it looked empty from the outside.
How did you know they were here?

AJIT (stage whispers)

I have received extensive training in enhancing my normal senses.
While their words seem like whispers to you, I can hear them quite
clearly.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

That's a handy talent to have.

AJIT (stage whispers)

It has taken years to perfect, and I am far from a master, but with
time, who knows what I might be able to accomplish.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

Is that something that all Indian agents learn?

AJIT (stage whispers)

There are but a few that have the patience to try, and even fewer
who succeed.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

I'm equally impressed with your talent for the evasive answer.

AJIT (stage whispers)

I will take that as a compliment from a fellow espionage agent such
as yourself.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

How about you use those talents to look down there and see if you
can pick out which one of those ratzis is Von Hölle?

AJIT (stage whispers)

It is difficult to tell, with them out of uniform as they are, though it sounds as though there may be three more inside the plane.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

Those crates look too big for the artifact. It looks like the stop over was for more than just a rest stop.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

Weapons?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

It looks like crates of machine guns, though it seems like they should be coming into, not going out of, Germany.

AJIT (stage whispers)

They did not want to enter India fully armed, but want an arsenal to defend themselves with for the rest of the journey.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

Where the fighting is the heaviest these days.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

How should we handle this?

AJIT (stage whispers)

I can sneak down and do reconnaissance. If I can find the bow and remove it from their property without their knowledge, we can avoid a confrontation completely.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

I'm not sure that is the best of ideas.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

I know you think highly of yourself, Mitrajit, but you weren't stealthy enough to avoid me seeing you this afternoon.

SOUND: No dialog – two beats.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

Mitrajit?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
Where did he go?

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
That was eerie. <beat> You haven't told him, have you?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
What, that we are under orders to bring the bow back to England, presumably to try and use it as a weapon ourselves against the Nazi threat?

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
Yes.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
No.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
No, you haven't told him, or no, you don't intend to follow orders.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
No, I haven't told him, though you may have. Have you forgotten already that he has incredibly sharp hearing?

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
I'm sure he's concentrating more on the soldiers down there than on us.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
I wish I could be. It doesn't matter though, because the artifact is broken. There is no sense in us instigating an international incident over something that is broken in half.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
It's broken?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
According to legend.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
Then why...?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

Why did the Nazis go through all this trouble? That's what I'm waiting to find out.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

We're risking being discovered by a squad of trained soldiers and a potential homicidal psychopath out of curiosity?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

To us, it's a broken bow. To the Nazis, it's a potential mystical weapon. To the people of India and Mitrajit, it's an important artifact of their religion. Whether it's powerful or not, isn't it better to take something away that the Nazis want and give it back to the people who need it?

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

So the weapon is broken. But if it wasn't...

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

It is, so we don't need to dwell on what isn't.

SOUND: No dialog – two beats.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

What if he's lying about it being broken?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

After all the information he's shared so far, why would he lie about that, especially on the off chance that we weren't as ill-informed as we were and knew the mythology of his people. It's not like he's claiming that it was broken last year; it being broken is actually a key component of the tale and ensures the right of Rama to rule. No, out of all the information he's shared with us, that is a fact that I am very sure of.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

So you believe that it's magical?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)

I believe that it's important to them to believe it was once magical.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)

That's very nice of you.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
Thank you.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
Remember, though, that nice and the spy business are rarely
copasetic.

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
Which means we should embrace it when the opportunity arises.

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
If you say so. Have you seen any sign of him?

HEINRICH (stage whispers)
No. You?

PEREGRINE (stage whispers)
Nothing. Let's hope that they're having the same level of difficulty.

SOUND: Movement is increased in distance as a struggle is discovered.

NAZI SOLDIER (in distance)
Intruder!

HEINRICH
You just had to jinx him, didn't you?

PEREGRINE
Let's go!

SCENE 2 –

SOUND: Footfalls run forward toward the fight that is building. Pistol fire is exchanged by both sides.

PEREGRINE
We'll be in a lot of trouble if they get those crates open.

HEINRICH
Then don't let them finish!

SOUND: Three shots fire from P & H, followed by three bodies falling in the distance.

PEREGRINE

Any sign of Mitrajit?

SOUND: Sword clangs with gun barrel in distance. A second later, a man groans in pain.

HEINRICH

My guess is that he's over there.

SOUND: Three more gunshots. Two bodies fall.

PEREGRINE

Provide him with cover fire while he heads for the plane.

HEINRICH

He may not have to. Whoever was inside is coming out.

SOUND: Gunshots with bullets pinging off the hull of the plane.

VON HOLLE

Jeder im Flugzeug! Schnell! Schnell!

PEREGRINE

The guy giving orders...?

HEINRICH

Probably Von Hölle.

SOUND: More gunshots bouncing off the hull. Nazis return fire.

HEINRICH

Mitrajit! Von Hölle just ducked back inside the plane. Go get him!

SOUND: More gunfire exchanged. Sword can be heard deflecting bullets and slashing.

HEINRICH

I don't believe it. He's actually deflecting the bullets with his blade.
I thought he was kidding.

PEREGRINE

He said he could deflect bullets?

HEINRICH

That would have been bragging. More like he insinuated that he could do this on his own.

PEREGRINE

Fortunately for him, he won't have to find out.

VON HOLLE (coming out from the interior of the plane)

Halten sie ihren feuer. Hold your fire.

PEREGRINE

He has the bow.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

The Shiva Dhanush. You have no right to wield it.

VON HOLLE

Have no right? I have more right than anyone. *<Wrath voice>*
Would someone with no right be able to do this?

SOUND: Magical energies mend the bow.

VON HOLLE (Wrath voice)

Would someone with no right be able to mend that which was broken by Rama? Would someone with no right be able to fix that which Shiva himself could not mend?!

AJIT (mumbled)

What in the name of Vishnu?

PEREGRINE

Well, it isn't broken anymore.

SOUND: The bow is strung.

HEINRICH

That's supposed to be impossible.

VON HOLLE (Wrath voice)

Nothing is impossible for me!

SOUND: An arrow is notched and pulled back.

HEINRICH

Perry, watch out! He's got arrows for that thing.

VON HOLLE (Wrath voice)

What good would a bow be without arrows to fire from it?

SOUND: An arrow fires and impacts with a body. The body is knocked backward and slams into a wall.

HEINRICH

Perry!

AJIT

It cannot be. This is not what Shiva desires.

VON HOLLE (Wrath voice)

Haven't you learned yet, my foolish Indian friend? It does not matter what Shiva desires, only what I desire.

SOUND: An arrow is notched and pulled back.

VON HOLLE (Wrath voice)

And what I desire is for all of mankind to know my fury, starting with the three of you!

HEINRICH

Mitrajit, look out!

SOUND: Footfalls start running. An arrow fires. Two bodies collide and the arrow whizzes by, impacting with a concrete wall.

HEINRICH

Are you alright?

AJIT

Mister Geist saved humble Mitrajit's life.

HEINRICH

Not yet I haven't. Not until we get that bow out of his hands.

AJIT

It is impossible. No one should be able to draw the bow, let alone mend it like that.

HEINRICH

Whether he should be able to or not doesn't matter at this point, he did it. And it obviously has something to it; he knocked Perry back thirty feet and buried the shaft half way up in the concrete.

SOUND: Gunfire. Another arrow flies and embeds itself in metal.

HEINRICH

Is there anything that will break that thing?

AJIT

The strength of Rama?

HEINRICH

Anything short of that.

AJIT

It should not be unbroken in the first place.

HEINRICH

We've got to move past that, Singh. If the bow won't break, then maybe we can damage the other half of the equation.

AJIT

The string?

HEINRICH

I'm a good shot, but not that good.

SOUND: Three gunshots ring out toward VON HOLLE, who screams in pain. The bow clanks to the ground.

VON HOLLE

My hands. He shot my hands!

HEINRICH

Let's take them down.

SOUND: More gunshots ring out as AJIT charges forward. Sword clashes with guns and bodies fall. Fight continues for several beats before everything goes silent.

AJIT

Where is Von Hölle?

HEINRICH

I think he ran out the side door during the fight.

AJIT

I will hunt for him. You check on your friend.

HEINRICH

Go. I've got things covered here.

SOUND: Footfalls run away. Second set of footfalls walk toward wall.

HEINRICH

Oh, Perry. I'm sorry my friend. It should have been me, not you.

PEREGRINE (whispered moan)

I couldn't wish this on my best friend, even with as much as it hurts.

HEINRICH

Perry! You're alive?

PEREGRINE

Yes. Hurt like hell, but yes.

HEINRICH

How?

PEREGRINE

He caught me in the shoulder. The knock backward also broke a couple of ribs at least and I probably have a concussion. But I'll live.

HEINRICH

You're bleeding pretty heavily.

PEREGRINE

OK. I'll live as long as you get me off this wall and stop the bleeding soon.

HEINRICH

Agreed. I have to break the arrow.

PEREGRINE

Understood.

SOUND: The arrow shaft is snapped off and PERAGRINE moans in pain, falling to his feet.

HEINRICH

Lean against the wall while I tie this off.

PEREGRINE

My handkerchief is in my side pocket. You can use it to elevate the arm.

HEINRICH

I hate the idea of patching you together with handkerchiefs.

PEREGRINE

We use what we *<moan>* have. Where is the bow?

HEINRICH

Over on the floor.

PEREGRINE

Go get it. I'll be fine.

HEINRICH

Are you sure?

PEREGRINE

I'll be *<light moan>* fine.

HEINRICH

I'll be right back.

SOUND: Footfalls cross the room again. HEINRICH grunts, trying to pick up the bow.

AJIT

Is everything alright, Mister Geist?

HEINRICH

Fine. Where's Von Hölle?

AJIT

He got away.

HEINRICH

How did that happen?

AJIT

I don't know. He was there one minute and gone the next.

HEINRICH

So you now know how it feels.

AJIT

Something like that. Are you having a problem?

HEINRICH

I'm not able to pick up the bow. It's like its glued to the floor.

AJIT

It has been healed. Only one deemed worthy may lift it.

HEINRICH

Give it a try. Something tells me that you won't have any problem.

AJIT

Many humble thanks for the vote of confidence, Mister Geist.

SOUND: Bow is lifted off the ground.

HEINRICH

I thought so.

AJIT

Now that the bow is whole once again, I assume your government would be interested in studying the divine Shiva Dhanush.

HEINRICH

I'm sure they would.

AJIT

Are we going to have a problem here?

HEINRICH

Let's see. You've shown to be deadly with that sword of yours. Added to that, you now have the most powerful bow on earth at your disposal. To try to take it from you would be a grave mistake on my part.

AJIT

You will let me leave without confrontation?

HEINRICH

Take what is yours and go with my thanks for your help.

AJIT

And mine, my friend.

SOUND: Footfalls cross the room.

HEINRICH

I suppose you heard all of that.

PEREGRINE

Hear? I didn't hear anything. I'm in far too much pain to know that you let him take the weapon. I'll just have to assume that someone as stealthy as Matrajit snuck in and stole it while you were seeing to my injuries.

HEINRICH

Sounds like as good a story as any.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO EXT.: Airstrip – Romania, across the border

SOUND: Plane engine and people mulling in background. Footsteps walking close, with second set in the distance. First set of footsteps stop.

HEINRICH

Whoever you are, I can hear you. Come out and identify yourself.

SOUND: Second footsteps stop.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

Namaste, Mister Geist.

HEINRICH

Mitrajit! It's good to see you. Where is the bow?

SOUND: Distant footsteps approach.

AJIT

Safely on the way back to its rightful home in India, thanks being to you. How is Mister Caruthers?

HEINRICH

Safely on his way to an Allied field hospital here in Romania. They will nurse him back to health before returning him to England.

AJIT

And what of you?

HEINRICH

Back to London to await my next assignment.

AJIT

Very good. With your permissions, I am wishing to accompany with you.

HEINRICH

You want to come back to England? What about your commitments to the Indian government?

AJIT

I have been retiring my commission upon the return of the Shiva Dhanush. It is my most humble desire to repay the favor you have done for me and for my peoples by swearing my fidelity and friendship, if you will be having me.

HEINRICH

That's very nice of you, Mitrajit, but it's far from necessary.

AJIT

I am afraid I must be proving you wrong again, Mister Geist. You saved my life, and therefore it is yours. My honor dictates that I repay the debt owed to you.

HEINRICH

Well, I don't believe in indentured servitude, but if you want to join me in my travels, I'll be more than happy to continue our partnership. I could do a lot worse in choosing someone to watch my back.

AJIT

And where will these travels be taking us?

HEINRICH

This case has opened my eyes, Mitrajit. If the Shiva Dhanush was real and held mystical properties, how many other stories that most take as myth and legend are real?

AJIT

And how many others like Von Hölle and Hitler are wishing to get their hands on these to be bringing about the chaos and destruction?

HEINRICH

I believe that we will need to see what we can do about making sure that they don't. What do you say, Mitrajit?

AJIT

It is sounding like a very honorable mission. And please, Mister Geist, call me by my abbreviated name: Ajit.

HEINRICH

That is a little less of a mouthful. Ajit it is. And you must call me Heinrich.

AJIT

As Mister Heinrich wishes.

HEINRICH

No, just.... Ok, we'll work on it. And while we're talking about working on things, your British accent is fantastic, and I prefer it, but there may be times where being able to slip back and forth may prove useful.

AJIT (British accent)

The way a person speaks can often make him invisible or underwhelming, allowing others to say and do things that they would not normally do in the presence of a peer. <switching back to Hindu accent> Many people make big assumptions when in the presence of a humble servant like Ajit.

HEINRICH

My thinking exactly.

SOUND: Transition music.

EPILOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Florida Hotel Suite

SOUND: Hotel background noise.

LINDSEY

That's amazing.

GEIST

That the Shiva Dhanush actually exists?

LINDSEY

Well, that too, but that Mitrajit's son and grandson still upheld the vow he made that day. I mean, you don't see multigenerational dedication... ever.

GEIST (humored)

You can't find people these days that honor their own promises, let alone those made by their grandparents.

LINDSEY

I guess our Ajit is the third, then.

GEIST

All things considered, I'd say that's a good guess, 'cause his dad was my Dad's age when we were kids.

LINDSEY

And what about that Von A- Hole?

GEIST

That's Von A- Hölle.

LINDSEY

If he was able to mend the bow, what other kind of power did he wield?

GEIST

Good question. I wonder if grandpa ran across him again during the war. We're going to have to check that out, and see if he's still alive or has descendants. That sounds like the dark magic Ajit was talking about in Chicago.

LINDSEY

If he's still alive, he's got to be Heinrich's age.

GEIST

Yeah, what's your point? Grandpa isn't exactly decrepit.

LINDSEY

Your grandfather is far from your ordinary example of a ninety-year old.

GEIST

Agreed, but if he and grandpa crossed paths again, I'll bet it wasn't a happy reunion.

LINDSEY

I'll bet. I'll tell you what; you scan through the journals and I'll do a lineage search on him, see if anyone else is holding to a multigenerational vow.

GEIST

Sounds like a plan.

LINDSEY

Feels good to work together rather than against each other, doesn't it.

GEIST (laughing)

Yeah. We might just make a good team yet.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

© Copyright 2010, 2012 – TimeWell Productions

A TimeWell Electronic Recording Production (TWERP) Online presentation.

Ending Credits

You have been listening to the Adventures of Derrick Geist – Episode 7: The More Things Change, starring (in order of appearance) April Sadowski as Lindsey Capparelli, Ryan Gilbert as Derrick Geist and Doug Zeitlin as Mitrajit Singh.

This presentation also featured Steve Cain as Heinrich Geist, Matt Hallaron as Peregrine Caruthers, Louise Francis as Mary, Paul Mitchell as Minister Miles, Pete Nottit as Minister Rogers, Lalwende Irime as the Bulgarian Merchant, Jim Caswell as the Nazi Soldier and Ken Hallaron as Commandant Balthazar Von Holle.

Derrick Geist is a production and property of TimeWell Electronic Recording Productions; copyright 2012. The More Things Change was written and mixed by Jim Caswell and edited by Ken Hallaron. Music was composed and produced by Jason Feder. This has been a TWERPs Online Presentation.