

Tropes

Escape

(Episode One)

8-10-18 Draft 1

WRITTEN FOR AUDIO BY RETTA BODHAINE

- Major
 - Williams – By the Book Manager Guard (male or female)
 - Johnson – Older set in ways Guard (male or female)
 - Martinez – Young Hot Shot Guard (male or female)
 - Li – Head Honcho Team Leader (male or female)
- Minor
 - Announcer – (male or female)
 - Vampire – Broody Teen Vampire (male)
 - Wizard – Older Powerful Wizard (male)
- Also Heards
 - Witch – Elderly Crone (female) – recorded SFX
 - Dragon – Giant Flying Lizard (female) – recorded SFX
 - King – Young In Prime King (male)
 - Computer – Automated Voice (male or female) – recorded SFX

1 *[SOUND: Theme Music up and under]*

2 **ANNOUNCER:** Welcome to the premiere episode of Tropes. Today's episode:
3 Escape! We start in another dimension, the source of all creative
4 ideas.

5 *[SOUND: Theme Music fades out]*

6 *[SOUND: buzz of prison door being unlocked, door opens and shuts]*

7 *[SOUND: Three footsteps down a cement corridor]*

8 **MARTINEZ:** Aw man, another broody teenage vampire? Come on now, people.
9 Where's the originality?

10 **JOHNSON:** Originality?! Shut your mouth, Martinez. You know I'm trying to pay
11 off two mortgages now.

12 **MARTINEZ:** I'm not saying to give up on the tropes all together, but this poor
13 guy's been used about 90 times more than any of our other characters.

14 **VAMPIRE:** (dazed) So much fan fiction. So much.

15 **WILLIAMS:** What the heck? It should be out cold! Johnson, you didn't complete
16 proper shutdown procedures?

17 **VAMPIRE:** (still dazed) We have to fight this. I'm no good for you, Jessica.

18 **JOHNSON:** I did Williams, I swear –

19 **VAMPIRE:** (still dazed) April, I ache for you.

20 **WILLIAMS:** Do it again. Get it right.

21 **VAMPIRE:** (winds down while talking) No matter what they do, they'll never tear
22 us apart, Billy.

23 **MARTINEZ:** Yo, this is what I'm talkin' about. Poor Vampy here has been
24 switched on and off so many times he don't even know how to go full
25 suspended animation no more.

26 **WILLIAMS:** Vampy?

27 **MARTINEZ:** Well he's been given so many names I figure I'll just call him by a
28 descriptor instead. Something to give him a sense of stability, you
29 know?

30 **WILLIAMS:** Sense of stability? It's a trope archetype! Its entire job is to be molded
31 into whatever character each author wants it to be. Do you even
32 understand what it is we do here?

33 **MARTINEZ:** Its "entire job" is to be a vampire, thus Vampy, and our job is to
34 transport the archetypes to and from the minds of the artists as Compy
35 tells us too.

36 **WILLIAMS:** You will call it, by its proper label. Johnson, status on V174M.

37 **JOHNSON:** Shut down complete. Did you just call the computer Compy,
38 Martinez? What is it with you and personifying inanimate objects?

39 **MARTINEZ:** These are the objects we spend our lives with, man. This is the cause
40 we've dedicated our –

41 **JOHNSON:** Dating apps not working out?

42 **MARTINEZ:** Not so much, no.

43 **WILLIAMS:** Computer, restocking location and key code for V174M.

44 **All but Will:** Restocking location: Floor eighteen, Corridor R, Cell fifty-six. Key
45 code nine five oh seven three pound.

46 **MARTINEZ:** How do you not have that memorized yet?

47 *[SOUND: buzz of prison door being unlocked, door opens]*

48 *[SOUND: Three footsteps walk through door, door shuts]*

49 **WILLIAMS:** It's protocol. You always follow protocol. It stops problems before
50 they start.

51 *[SOUND: buzz of prison door being unlocked, door opens]*

52 *[SOUND: Two footsteps walk through door, door shuts]*

53 **WILLIAMS:** Speaking of which sign here.

54 **MARTINEZ:** No.

55 **WILLIAMS:** Martinez, you have to sign showing that you take custody of the
56 trope.

57 **MARTINEZ:** There is a recording showing that I have taken custody V174M. You
58 don't need a signature, it's a redundancy, you know, those things we
59 have way too much of here.

60 **WILLIAMS:** The system has checks and balances to make sure –

61 **MARTINEZ:** I bet you that I can do my job without signing that form. If I win I can
62 call the tropes by any name I'd like; if you win I will use the proper
63 names at all times with no argument from here on forward.

64 **WILLIAMS:** No, that's idiotic. It's a lose-lose for me. Either there's a problem that
65 I can be held partially responsible for at my place of employment, or I
66 get to hear you call inanimate objects by juvenile names for the rest of
67 –

68 **MARTINEZ:** Well, technically, protocol said that I should have signed that form
69 before you stepped back through the locked door, so you already
70 messed it up, and I've got at least a two-minute head start. I say the
71 bet is on.

72 *[SOUND: Two retreating footsteps down a cement corridor]*

73 **WILLIAMS:** Martinez, come back here. I did not agree to this. This bet is invalid!
74 I'll have you written up! Martinez. Martinez!

75 **JOHNSON:** (sigh) Computer, override access to the archetype archive.
76 Authorization code jay five two vee six... (fade out)

77 *[SOUND: (fade in) two footsteps down a cement corridor]*

78 **MARTINEZ:** Fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-five B, fifty-six

79 *[SOUND: Footsteps stop]*

80 **MARTINEZ:** Here you go Vampy. Nap time. Maybe they'll actually let you get
81 some rest this time.

82 *[SOUND: Key code entered on key pad, airlock release, hydraulic door opens, man
83 placed inside cushioned chamber, straps and tubes being set,]*

84 *[SOUND: two sets approaching powerwalking footsteps]*

85 **WILLIAMS:** (off mike) Step away from the trope, Martinez.

86 *[SOUND: Key code entered on key pad, airlock release, hydraulic door opens, man
87 placed inside cushioned chamber, straps and tubes being set,]*

88 **MARTINEZ:** And let you win the bet, no way!

89 **WILLIAMS:** (off mike) There is no bet you fool!

90 *[SOUND: hydraulic door closes, airlock pressurizes, lock engages]*

91 **MARTINEZ:** You can't back out now that I've won.

92 **WILLIAMS:** I can't back out of what I never entered!

93 **MARTINEZ:** Look, Vampy is put back –

94 **WILLIAMS:** V174M!

95 **MARTINEZ:** I did my job, no errors. Everything is right with the world. The
96 archive didn't implode.

97 **JOHNSON:** Martinez, what exactly do you think you're proving here? Cause all
98 your accomplishing is upsetting Williams, and inconveniencing me.

99 **MARTINEZ:** I'm trying to prove that the system is unnecessarily over regulated.
100 We need to think logically rather than just following orders. There are
101 so many places where we could reduce our workload without taxing
102 the system! Williams, you're going to stroke out someday if you
103 don't find a way to ease up. We could start small, like signatur—

104 **WILLIAMS:** The only reason I'll stroke out is from having to work with lazy
105 incompetents like you!

106 **MARTINEZ:** Now hold on there. Lazy? Maybe. I think it's working smarter, not
107 harder, but you can have your opinion. Incompetent? No way! As you
108 can see, my tasks are all skillfully accomplished.

109 **JOHNSON:** That doesn't matter. I know Williams can be a bit much sometimes,
110 but (s)he's not wrong. We work with powerful fictional characters.
111 None of us could over power a fully conscious and empowered trope.
112 Protocol is the only thing that keeps us all safe and effective.

113 **WILLIAMS:** Your complacency and flippant attitude is going to get someone
114 killed someday, and I swear by the gods it won't be on my watch!
115 You're done here!

116 **MARTINEZ:** Nothing happened!

117 **WILLIAMS:** This time!

118 **JOHNSON:** Being lucky isn't the same as being right, Martinez! What if –

119 *[SOUND: nearby hydraulic door explodes off its hinges]*

120 **WIZARD:** WHO DARED TO ENTOMB ME?

121 *[SOUND: Wizard magic sound effects. Pinging spells off of metal and glass.]*

122 **JOHNSON:** (same time as Martinez) W01M has broken perimeter!

123 **MARTINEZ:** (same time as Johnson) The Wizard escaped!

124 *[SOUND: 1 set running feet, fire alarm device being pulled, alarm going off]*

125 **WILLIAMS:** THIS! This is why you follow protocol! Now contain the corridor!

126 *[SOUND: 2 sets retreating running footsteps.]*

127 **MARTINEZ:** (Off mike. Retreating) This has nothing to do with protocol! I didn't
128 go anywhere near the wizard!

129 **WIZARD:** (casts spell) Eum dimittere!

130 *[SOUND: Glass breaks. Pressured air escapes.]*

131 **WIZARD:** What's this? The white knight? Blast you fiends! Fear not Arthur, I
132 shall find thee! (muttering magically) Aeris et terra, sentire mihi
133 regem...

134 *[SOUND: Sword cuts through restraints. Metal Armor moving]*

135 *[SOUND: More glass breaking and air escaping]*

136 **MARTINEZ:** (Off Mike) He's stuck in Merlin mode!

137 *[SOUND: More glass breaking and air escaping. Large jail cell door slamming.]*

138 **JOHNSON:** (off mike) Corridor secure!

139 *[SOUND: More glass breaking and air escaping. Large jail cell door slamming.]*

140 **MARTINEZ:** (off mike) Corridor secure!

141 *[SOUND: More glass breaking and air escaping.]*

142 **WITCH:** (Cackles)

143 **MARTINEZ:** (Off mike) There's getting to be way too many! We have to start
144 tranqing them now!

145 **WILLIAMS:** Protocol dictates –

146 **JOHNSON:** (Off Mike) Override requested! We need to stop the bleeding. Target
147 the wizard first!

148 *[SOUND: More glass breaking and air escaping.]*

149 **WILLIAMS:** Tactical should be here in –

150 *[SOUND: More glass breaking and air escaping.]*

151 **DRAGON:** (Roars)

152 **WILLIAMS:** Protocol override granted! TARGET THE DRAGON!

153 **JOHNSON:** (Off mike) Ya think?!

154 *[SOUND: Tranquilizer darts fired. Wings flap, Tail sweeps. Intermittent roaring. A lot*
155 *more glass breaking and air escaping.]*

156 **MARTINEZ:** (Off mike) It's too good at protecting the underbelly! I can't get a
157 shot on target!

158 **JOHNSON:** (off mike) I'm running low on Ammo!

159 **WILLIAMS:** Where is tactical? We need back up now!

160 **WIZARD:** My King! I have found you.

161 **KING:** What? Where am I?

162 **WIZARD:** In time my liege all shall be revealed, and our foes vanquished, but
163 now we must make haste with our escape! (casts spell) Aperi modo!

164 *[SOUND: Portal opens, tropes jump through until portal closes]*

165 **MARTINEZ:** They're escaping! Quick we have to follow.

166 **LI:** Do not jump into that portal, guard! Acknowledge.

167 **MARTINEZ:** Acknowledged, Supervisor Li!

168 **LI:** Computer, override containment of Corridor R. Authorization code:
169 Tactical Delta Priority One.

170 **COMPUTER:** Override code accepted. Confirmation code needed.

171 *[SOUND: Portal sound starts to fade]*

172 **MARTINEZ:** The portal's closing!

173 **WILLIAMS:** Confirmation code jay one zero one vee six two

174 **COMPUTER:** Override confirmation complete.

175 *[SOUND: large cell door opens]*

176 **LI:** Team 1 get trackers in that portal before it closes

177 *[SOUND: efficient footsteps]*

178 **LI:** Team 2 get an accounting of all AWOL Tropes.

179 *[SOUND: efficient footsteps]*

180 **LI:** Team 3 compile a damage and needed repairs report.

181 *[SOUND: efficient footsteps]*

182 **LI:** You three, come with me.

183 *[SOUND: dragging footsteps]*

184 *[SOUND: time changing]*

185 **MARTINEZ:** (confused) You want us to give our incident report to a fox,
186 Supervisor Li?

187 *[SOUND: face palm]*

188 **WILLIAMS:** (low toned) Show some respect, Martinez!

189 **JOHNSON:** Did you even read the welcome packet when you started working
190 here?

191 **MARTINEZ:** Yes, I did. Of course. Along with the training manual. The HR
192 manual, the compliance manual, the –

193 **JOHNSON:** Then you are aware that the 9 tailed fox –

194 **WILLIAMS:** Kitsune

195 **JOHNSON:** – that Kitsune, is the preferred physical form of the nine muses.

196 **WILLIAMS:** The founders of the Architype Archive.

197 **LI:** The goddesses we've pledged life, limb, and eternal fealty to.

198 **MARTINEZ:** Yeah, but this fox only has one tail...

199 *[SOUND: peacock feathers spread]*

200 **MARTINEZ:** Oh wow. I didn't know tails could spread like that.

201 *[SOUND: drops to knees]*

202 **MARTINEZ:** Forgive me, you goddesslinesses. I did not know –

203 **LI:** (prompting) Martinez, your report.

204 **JOHNSON:** and holiness will do.

205 **MARTINEZ:** Right, right. Well, your holiness...es...eses, We had just finished
206 securing V174M when we heard W01M break out of it's cell. We
207 responded to the code orange by securing Corridor R's perimeter and
208 waiting for Tactical Backup.

209 **JOHNSON:** W01M was breaking other archetypal characters out of their
210 chambers. When W01M released D296F we requested a protocol
211 override due to the increased immediate physical threat. Protocol
212 override was granted, and we began to target D296F with non-lethal
213 force.

214 **WILLIAMS:** The non-lethals were ineffective and we were considering a change of
215 strategy when W01M opened a time space continuum rift. Many of
216 the released archetypes were leaving the archives through the rift, and
217 Martinez suggested we follow them.

218 **MARTINEZ:** At that point, Tactical Team Delta arrived, and Supervisor Li ordered
219 that I not follow the escapees. I acknowledged the order and we
220 maintained position while Tactical Team Delta performed their
221 duties. End of Incident Report.

222 *[SOUND: awkward silence]*

223 **MARTINEZ:** (whispered aside) How was that?

224 **LI:** (clears throat) After reviewing the tapes, we needed to know if your
225 lack of professional decorum was out of ignorance or immaturity.
226 Clearly, it was immaturity.

227 **MARTINEZ:** (deflated) Oh

228 **JOHNSON:** At least that means your report was good.

229 **WILLIAMS:** (Scoffs)

230 *[SOUND: fox footsteps on tile, beat of silence]*

231 **MARTINEZ:** What's she, they, um the Kitsune doing?

232 **JOHNSON:** They're communicating Their thoughts directly into Supervisor Li's
233 head.

234 *[SOUND: retreating fox footsteps on tile]*

235 **LI:** We have our orders. I need to contact Tactical Team Delta 1. Wait
236 here.

237 *[SOUND: retreating footsteps on tile]*

238 **MARTINEZ:** (panicked) Guys, what's going to happen?

239 **WILLIAMS:** (impatient) We will patiently wait for orders, and then we will follow
240 those orders precisely!

241 **JOHNSON:** Williams, ease up. You see that (s)he's freaking out.

242 **WILLIAMS:** It isn't anything (s)he hasn't brought on (his/her) self!

243 **JOHNSON:** Maybe, but justice will be carried out now, let it go. It no longer
244 concerns you.

245 *[SOUND: approaching footsteps on tile]*

246 **LI:** Alright. You three are being deployed to Earth to recover the assets.
247 They've landed along the time space continuum like buck shot; so
248 they will be scattered. Team 1 will be directing you where and when
249 to go from here. The good news is that they're disempowered, and in
250 mortal form. Capture or terminate them and they'll be returned to the
251 archive in their true forms. See if you can untangle this cluster, and
252 you might just have jobs when you return. You leave in 30 minutes.
253 See you on the departure pad.

254 *[SOUND: retreating footsteps on tile]*

255 **WILLIAMS:** This! This is why you ALWAYS FOLLOW PROTOCOL!

256 **MARTINEZ:** Well... look on the bright side.

257 **JOHNSON:** What bright side?!

258 **MARTINEZ:** At least we're in this together.

259 *[SOUND: Theme Music up and under]*

260 **ANNOUNCER:** That's all for today's episode. Be sure to tune in next week, when our
261 Guards find their first escaped trope: The Princess.

262 *[SOUND: Theme Music fades out]*

263 **-END-**