

SILON, season 1: The Baltimore Plot, Episode VI - To Live Inside Time

[Radio Static. An old-timey radio being tuned up and down the dial.]

ANNOUNCER:

The Gunpowder Falls Casket Company is proud to sponsor this audio performance of The Secret and Impossible League of the NoöSphere presented by Live Girls! Theater and Pendant Productions.

[applause and organ music]

ADVERTISER:

When tragedy strikes, remember that Gunpowder Falls Casket Company is here for you! Our warehouse keeps coffins of all kinds, from cheap pine to elegant rosewood, always on hand and made to order in any style. In a Gunpowder Falls casket, there's no need for a hasty burial. Your deceased's remains may be kept as long as necessary without the least offensive odor. Coffin trimmings, nameplates, shrouds, cravats, and everything required for the laying out and interment of a corpse are always on hand at Gunpowder Falls Casket Company. Our prices are reasonable, and our service is discrete. Death is always a sad affair, but you can rely on Gunpowder Falls Casket Company to treat your dead with respect. We also sell firearms!

ANNOUNCER: You also sell firearms?

[organ music]

ADVERTISER: What do you want? I don't write the ads. Enjoy the irony.

ANNOUNCER: I guess I will. Welcome back, dear Listeners, to the NoöSphere, where reality is formed and destroyed through the power of Ideas. As our former narrator, the sentient ghost ship, Mary-Celeste would say, if you can hear this message, then it's meant for you. Last time... um.

ADVERTISER: Last time, Kate Warne, Allan Pinkerton, and Lady Lovelace had uncovered the secessionist plot to kill President-elect Abraham Lincoln. Lord Byron and Nikola Tesla discovered the sabotage of Mary Celeste and fear her loss means they will be forever severed from the BioSphere, leaving Ada trapped out of time. Ada confronted Charles Babbage and disabled his resonator, but was only able to escape by jumping headfirst into the NoöSphere, where her fate is anything but certain.

ANNOUNCER: Yes, thank you.

ADVERTISER: My pleasure.

ANNOUNCER: *[ahem]* Tonight's episode, "To live inside time," concludes the six-part adventure of "The Baltimore Plot." We meet up with the story again as Ada is falling end over end through the endlessness of the NoöSphere.

[Noosphere Theme music, but backwards. Ada's echoey goodbye reverberates through the space.]

ADA: Ahhhhh!

[Noösphere music and noises ripple and collide.]

ADA: Stop!

[The Noösphere music and sounds stop - all voices remain echoey while she floats in the Noösphere. Gentle and beautiful music starts to play. When Ada grabs an Idea, the whooshing sound pauses and a tone sounds, when Ada lets go of the Idea, the whooshing sound continues like an exhale.]

ADA: Oh. Thank God in heaven, I've stopped falling. Where am I now?

[MUSIC: Noosphere Tear music]

ADA: Oh! What is that? No, wait! Don't come any closer!

[A whooshing sound.]

ADA: Was that... an idea?

[Another whooshing sound.]

ADA: Wait! What if I... *[she lunges to grab it]* Gotcha. Oh!

EDDINGTON: Something unknown is doing we don't know what.

ADA: Yes, I know, but--

EDDINGTON: Not only is the universe stranger than we can imagine, it is stranger than we **can** imagine.

ADA: But what am I to do?

BABBAGE: The Noösphere is vast.

ADA: Charles?

BABBAGE: It would be like finding one person in a million oceans. She's lost to me. She's lost to the world.

ADA: It's gone.

[A whooshing sound.]

BYRON: If by any sort of process, I could convert two and two into five, that would give me much greater pleasure.

ADA: Father! No, wait. Don't go. *[A whooshing sound.]* ... Mr. Tesla!

TESLA: The more attuned we become with the Noösphere, the more possibilities are before us.

ADA: The more attuned I become... *[gasp]* The Ideas. They're everywhere... If I could find the right one...

[A whooshing sound.]

LEAH: Right and wrong don't even enter into it.

ADA: No.

[A whooshing sound.]

KATE: This thing that's inside of me – What if you could have it, too? What if we all could?

ADA: No.

[A whooshing sound.]

PINKERTON: What I do have is the freedom to choose what I fight for.

ADA: No.

[A whooshing sound.]

TESLA: We are, in effect, inside Thoughts – inside Ideas.

ADA: Can I control them? Do they control me?

[A whooshing sound.]

BOOTH: I love the name of honor more than I fear death.

ADA: No no.

[A whooshing sound.]

BYRON: To live in the NoöSphere is to live inside time.

[Another whooshing sound. Echoes increase.]

ADA: Father! How can I find you?

[More whooshing sounds.]

TESLA: Navigating the NoöSphere could be as simple as thinking. We need only have an Idea, and it would be our reality.

[Whoosh whoosh whoosh.]

ADA: I'm thinking. I'm thinking!

BYRON: There is no instinct like that of the heart.

[MUSIC Crescendos. Ada's voice crescendos with the music.]

ADA:

Father. Father! FATHER.

[The NoöSphere ripples. A deep mechanical breathing and then all music stops]

BYRON:

Ada. You're here? How have you—

ADA:

Father!

[They embrace]

TESLA: I've never seen both of you embrace before.

BYRON: There there, dearest.

TESLA: How did you find your way here, Lady Lovelace? We've been cut off from the BioSphere.

ADA: *[laughing]* Oh my dear Mr. Tesla, you won't believe it. I'll tell you later but first. I think Mary-Celeste may be missing this.

[The metal resonator is placed on a table.]

TESLA: The resonator!

BYRON: I'm delighted to see you, Ada.

ADA: I'm sorry I worried you. I'm sorry for many things.

BYRON: You've nothing to apologize for, my love.

ADA: Father, you were right.

BYRON: Well. Naturally.

ADA: About Mr. Babbage. He sabotaged the Engine and Mary Celeste. He is causing the Deviations. He built a device and used it to rupture the barrier between the BioSphere and the NoöSphere. That's how I got here.

BYRON: He pushed you?

ADA: I jumped.

BYRON: You--

[Sound of crushing hug]

ADA: Can't... breathe...

BYRON: Apologies, Duck. I just-- Dear Ada.

ADA: If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes... I wouldn't have believed it of him. I didn't believe it. You did. I didn't listen.

BYRON: He should have been the man you thought him to be.

ADA: I couldn't get through to him.

TESLA: It isn't your fault. When an inventor is inventing, communication becomes... secondary.

[A sweet little bong-bong sound.]

ANNOUNCER: Footnote. In 'A Talk with Tesla', in the Atlanta Constitution, 1896, Nikola said:

TESLA: I do not think there is any thrill that can go through the human heart like that felt by the inventor as he sees some creation of the brain unfolding to success... Such emotions make a man forget food, sleep, friends, love, everything.

ANNOUNCER:
End footnote.

[A sweet little bong-bong sound.]

ADA: Well, I haven't forgotten. There's a rupture in the NoöSphere, and it's destroying Ideas. For once, time is not a luxury we have. We need to stop it, and quickly.

TESLA: It will take me some time to repair the damage that's been done.

[A ripple through the NoöSphere. The Noosphere theme plays backwards.]

ADA: Oh no.

BYRON: What's wrong?

ADA: It's not... It's not the same as before.

TESLA: Explain.

ADA: I felt a... a shift in the NoöSphere. It is as though I was reading a line of numbers in sequence one, two, three, four, five, and so on, and when I reached thirty-six, I suddenly found myself back at one.

TESLA: You mean you felt the kind of change that the Engine detects, a Deviation?

ADA: Somehow, despite our precautions... Lincoln is still assassinated before he takes office.

TESLA: How?

ADA: I told her we'd foiled her plans! I need to get to Lincoln. This is all my fault. We need to tether to Mrs. Warne's location.

TESLA: The Engine is offline. Mary-Celeste is malfunctioning.

ADA: We can't give up. Maybe if I try to—

[Ada synesthesia viola note.]

BYRON: How long until you'll have the Engine and Mary-Celeste repaired?

TESLA: I don't know. I—

[The x-point sound happens. It sounds different, less mechanical - infused with Ada synesthesia viola sounds.]

ADA: I did it!

BYRON: Did you just open an X-Point with your mind?

TESLA: Explain.

ADA: Later, I promise, Mr. Tesla.

BYRON: Well, you fashioned a Tether— we may as well use the thing.

ADA: Father, when the X-point is defined, what do you see?

BYRON: I see a bright white light, and when I walk into it, I find myself in a new location. What do you see?

ADA: The world reveals itself to be made of numbers that rearrange themselves into a neatly ordered path set down before me.

BYRON: Babbage was right. You are the Enchantress of Numbers. Shall we?

The x-point closes.

BIOSPHERE. EXT. A TRAIN STATION IN BALTIMORE.

[Train station noises, crowds moving and a whistle blows.]

PINKERTON: There you are... Father Abraham.

LINCOLN: *[using an old-man voice]* Don't push it, sonny boy. I'm tired after this long journey. *[dropping the voice.]* And quite ready to get out of this damned silly hat.

[A sweet little bong-bong sound.]

ANNOUNCER: Footnote. Lincoln traveled with Kate Warne from Philadelphia to Baltimore disguised as her invalid brother wearing an old shawl and an unbecoming soft beaver hat. Quite unlike his famous top hat, the floppy beaver made him quite unknowable.

LINCOLN: I put on the soft hat and joined my friends without being recognized by strangers, for I was not the same man.

ANNOUNCER: End footnote.

[A sweet little bong-bong sound.]

PINKERTON: I'm relieved to see you both arrived safely.

KATE: I wouldn't let you down. The train was late. It's already half-past seven. We need

to hurry. I've leased a horse and carriage to take us across Baltimore. [To LINCOLN] Let's be on our way, brother dear.

[Ada's x-point opens and closes.]

ADA: Mrs. Warne! Wait a moment.

KATE: Lady Lovelace, Byron! Mr. Lincoln, these are my colleagues--

BYRON: No time for introductions. The plan doesn't work. The Engine's been sabotaged, and we don't know the details, but something unknown is going to happen to foul our plans. We need to change them.

KATE: Change them? How do you know it's not changing them that fouls the plans?

ADA: We don't know that. But we do know that it doesn't work, it never will work, but if we pay attention, we will get to the future where it will have worked.

PINKERTON: You'll have to run that by me again.

ADA: Mrs. Warne. Kate. You must trust us.

KATE: What do you think I've been doing?

PINKERTON: We don't have time to argue about this. Use what you have. What do you see? Or smell, or whatever it is?

ADA: Our syesthesia. Yes.

[Ada's, Kate's and Byron's synesthesia plays together as a chord].

ADA: *[synthy sniff]* The Knights aren't yet near enough to detect.

KATE: *[feeling the NoöSphere]* Everyone here means what they say.

BYRON: *[listening to the NoöSphere]* The Ides of March have come.

LINCOLN: What is happening?

BYRON: There is no time. He's almost here.

[Guns are drawn and cocked. Western duel music plays.]

KATE: Stay behind me, Mr. Lincoln. I will do everything in my power to keep you alive tonight.

BYRON: So will we all.

LINCOLN: I don't know whether I should be honored or terrified. So now what?

KATE: Now we wait.

*[Pause.
Waiting.]*

LINCOLN: I hate waiting.

[Footsteps.]

KATE: Allan!

PINKERTON: Get down!

BYRON: Stop him.

BOOTH: Sic Semper Tyrannis.

[Two guns fire at the same time.]

ADA: Stop!

[The Biosphere stops - the gunshots arrest mid firing. The sound suspends... Ada's synesthesia plays continuously under her attempt to stop time.]

BYRON: Ada, are you doing this? Stopping time?

ADA: *[stressed]* I'm slowing it down as much as I can.

LINCOLN: What's wrong with Pinkerton? Why isn't he moving? And that other man, with the gun?

[An Ada-style x-point opens.]

TESLA: Šta dođavola? *[Translation: "What the hell?"]*

KATE: Mr. Tesla? How did you get into the BioSphere?

TESLA: Lady Lovelace pulled me here from the Noösphere.

ADA: *[stressed]* No time. Move Mr. Lincoln out of the path of the bullet.

LINCOLN: Will someone please explain anything that is going on here?

KATE: Mr. Lincoln's not frozen, like Mr. Pinkerton and the assassin. Does that mean he's one of us?

TESLA: Mr. Lincoln, have you heard of synesthesia?

ADA: *[stressed]* This isn't as easy as it looks!

LINCOLN: Fine. I've "moved to safety."

ADA: *[stressed]* Alright, I'll let it--

BYRON: Wait, my dear. I'm sorry, but if we leave this would-be young assassin standing here, Mr. Pinkerton's bullet will surely kill him.

LINCOLN: Not to be too crass, but is that really cause for concern?

TESLA: This man must live. It's of great import.

LINCOLN: The man just tried to kill me. Why the hell is he so important?

KATE: Mr. Booth has... something else he is destined to do.

ADA: [*stressed*] Then move him, too. But do it quickly. I can't hold this much longer.

BYRON: It won't undo the Deviation. Pinkerton has seen him.

KATE: That's true. Mr. Pinkerton will shoot again. Or he'll capture and imprison Booth. He will never stop searching for the assassin.

TESLA: Booth **MUST** live and be free to act according to his nature.

ADA: [*stressed*] Just do something. Quickly.

BYRON: I'll take his place.

KATE: What?

ADA: No! [*stressed*]

TESLA: George.

KATE: That won't work either. Mr. Pinkerton has seen you, Byron. He'll know you're the wrong man.

TESLA: Not if you have an anchor.

BYRON: I'll take his gun. There. Pinkerton will see what he expects to see, a treasonous villain who happens to look like a moderately famous actor.

ADA: [*stressed*] No. There's another way. We just haven't thought of it yet.

BYRON: Dearest Duck, this is what I'm meant to do. I tried to do it all those years ago in Greece and died of damned diphtheria instead. I'm not made for endlessness, my love. It... chafes. Let me go in a blaze of glory.

TESLA: He doesn't deserve your sacrifice.

BYRON: I'm not doing it for him. Take him far from here.

KATE: You can shove him on the train back to Philadelphia.

BYRON: Good plan. Farewell, my friend.

TESLA: You're a braver man than I, George.

BYRON: Not a chance, old salt. Take care, Nikola. Fix Mary-Celeste, if you can.

TESLA: Goodbye.

[*Footsteps*]

BYRON: Mr. Lincoln, it was an honor, sir.

LINCOLN: I don't know why you feel you must do this thing but thank you all the same.

BYRON: Goodbye to you, Mrs. Warne.

KATE: Thank you for everything, Lord Byron.

BYRON: Keep your American gruff, darling. If you join the League, you'll need it. Ada.
[beat]

ADA: No.

BYRON: My dear.

ADA: I won't let you do this, Father.

BYRON: The last time I died, you came back into my life. Now I go on to a new adventure. Who knows, perhaps I'll meet with one of your sisters, Allegra or Medora, in the next.

ADA: We will find another way.

BYRON: I'm sorry to leave you, my fair child, Ada, sole daughter of my house and heart. Remember, the busy have no time for tears.

[Scuffle.]

BYRON: Catch her, Mrs. Warne!

[Noosphere noises stop. The gunshots continue as if they never stopped. A body falls to the ground.]

PINKERTON: Abe! We must get you to safety. With me, Mrs. Warne.

[Three pairs of footsteps run away.]

[Silence.]

[Ada slowly approaches Byron's body.]

ADA: Oh, Father.

[Sad music.]

ADA: He's gone.

[She cries]

BIOSPHERE. INT. PINKERTON'S OFFICE. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. 1861.

PINKERTON: Well, Abraham Lincoln's safely in the White House. The Baltimore Plot is foiled, and the would-be assassin stopped in time. We did what we set out to do.

KATE: We did at that. *[Sighs]* And this, too, shall pass away.

PINKERTON: Kate?

KATE: It was a good thing we did, saving Mr. Lincoln. And that new Intelligence Service

he wants you to start, that'll be good for business.

PINKERTON: Or it will be if I can keep it secret.

[A sweet little bong-bong sound.]

ANNOUNCER: Footnote. "And this too shall pass away," was a favored phrase of Abraham Lincoln's. Though the phrase seems to have originated in the writings of the medieval Persian Sufi poets, Lincoln uses it when addressing the Wisconsin State Fair in 1859.

LINCOLN: It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence, to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: "And this, too, shall pass away." How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction!

ANNOUNCER: Perhaps Lincoln saw Kate's sadness at Byron's passing and whispered it to her before they parted ways. End footnote.

[A sweet little bong-bong sound.]

PINKERTON: You're going to leave me now.

KATE: When I was seventeen, my father promised my hand in marriage to a friend of his. This friend was... let's just say that I could read his intentions, and they weren't honorable. I tried to talk to my father about it but... he didn't believe me. So I left. I never saw or spoke to him again. For a while, life was... hard. And then I walked into your office.

PINKERTON: From what I've seen of these people... they do good work. But if it ever gets too hard, know that you've got a home to come back to.

KATE: Thank you, Allan.

PINKERTON: Between your apologies and your gratitude, I don't know what to do with myself. I'll miss you, Kate.

[Sound of Ada's x-point opening.]

ADA: Mrs. Warne.

PINKERTON: *[sniffs]* Just get going now, would you? I've got work to do.

KATE: Goodbye, Allan.

[Ada's x-point opening and closing sounds in a big, echoey warehouse.]

[Footsteps.]

ADA: *[her voice echoes in the space]* Charles?

LEAH: He's gone.

KATE: Leah.

ADA: And the Deviation Device?

LEAH: He took every damned thing with him, even my spectacles. I worked with him for seven years, and he just left me behind. Did you kill Booth?

ADA: We did not.

LEAH: Well, aren't you noble? You'll be joining your secret League now, then?

KATE: Oh, Leah.

LEAH: Stay with me, Kitty. It could be like old times.

KATE: I don't know what to say.

LEAH: Then listen. I've seen the Noösphere. I've glimpsed the mystery that chose you. I almost got myself there, but I've no way to see it now.

KATE: I'm sorry.

LEAH: Don't pity me. I will find a way in.

KATE: Then I'm sure we'll meet again.

[Sound of Ada's x-point opening and closing.]

[Footsteps echo away.]

[The Noösphere ripples]

TESLA: Well, here we are.

ADA: Three. Again.

TESLA: Four.

MARY-CELESTE: [V.O.] *[sullen]* I'm here.

ADA: Welcome back, Mary-Celeste!

MARY-CELESTE: [V.O.] *[emotional]* I never went anywhere. It's you who left. Everybody always leaves me.

ADA: I apologize.

TESLA: She's been through a lot.

ADA: She's not the only one.

TESLA: Welcome, Mrs. Warne.

KATE: You should all call me Kate. Byron said we could be who we wanted to be here, and it's the only name I've ever worn that was well and truly mine.

TESLA: Kate, it is. Well then, are we ready to un-tether from Baltimore, 1861?

KATE: I think so.

TESLA: Mary-Celeste, cast off, please.

MARY-CELESTE: [V.O.] Work. Work. Work.

KATE: And so, what now, do you think?

ADA: I don't know anything anymore.

TESLA: You know, the more we know, the more ignorant we become, in the absolute sense.

ADA: Next, you'll say that only through enlightenment do we become conscious of our limitations. But I don't feel enlightened, Mr. Tesla. I feel... untethered.

TESLA: One of the most gratifying results of intellectual evolution is the continuous opening up of new and greater prospects. Sometimes that means un-tethering.

KATE: [*touching the Finial*] What's this?

TESLA: Stop! Please!

ADA: Don't touch that!

[*Copper finial noises. The Noösphere ripples. Hologram time!*]

BABBAGE: [*HOLOGRAM*]: Tesla? Ada!

ADA: Charles, what—

BABBAGE: [*HOLOGRAM*] I need your help.

TESLA: After what you did to Mary-Celeste? To Ada?

BABBAGE: [*HOLOGRAM*] I know you've no reason to trust me, but things have changed. I'm trapped. I can't get out. They want me to... It's... it's too much. If things go on as they are, I—they are going to destroy the Noösphere entirely.

KATE: Where are you?

BABBAGE: [*HOLOGRAM*] I don't know. Please try to find me; I can help you restore—

[*A door opens in the hologram.*]

BABBAGE: [*HOLOGRAM*] [*strained*] Nothing. Tell Mr. Edison, I'm just testing the Extractor—

[*The transmission cuts off abruptly. A ripple through the Noösphere.*]

ADA: Something has shifted.

KATE: I think we can guess the source.

ADA: It feels different than before.

MARY-CELESTE: [V.O.] Batten down the hatches. There's a storm approaching.

TESLA: New and greater prospects

KATE: Already?

ADA: Welcome to the Secret and Impossible League of the NoöSphere.

[NoöSphere music swells, and Ada's X-point noises crescendo.]

MUSIC CODA.

MARY-CELESTE: *[Simultaneously]* Thank you for joining us--

ANNOUNCER: *[Simultaneously]* Thank you for joining us -- My apologies. You go ahead. Welcome back.

MARY-CELESTE: Thank you for joining us for this extraordinary presentation of The Secret and Impossible League of the NoöSphere in The Baltimore Plot. Stay tuned. Our adventures will continue...

[Music]

ANNOUNCER: Pendant Productions would like to express our thanks to our stars:

Alyssa Kay as Lady Ada Lovelace,
Marena Kleinpeter as Kate Warne,
Daniel Christensen as Lord Byron,
Sherif Amin as Nikola Tesla,
Caitlin Frances as Leah Fox,
Troy Lund as Allan Pinkerton,
Imogen Love as Mary-Celeste and Abraham Lincoln,
Matthew Middleton as Charles Babbage,
and Mark Fox as John Wilkes Booth and other voices.
Advertisements and footnotes were read by Shawnmarie Stanton and I am Roy Stanton.

SILON was conceived and written by Darian Lindle. The Baltimore Plot was originally produced as a stage play directed by Meghan Shalom Arnette for Live Girls! Theater.

This episode was directed by V. C. Morrison and assistant directed by Paul Brueggemann. Songs "Dead and Buried," "Catch This", "This Can't Be Happening", "Pulling Together", "The Soon Coming Sleep," "Insanity Calling", and "The Stranger" by Josh Mullen at thetunepeddler.com. Other original music and the SILON theme were composed by Michael Owcharuk. Some sound cues created by Stefanie Senior. Produced by Pendant Productions. This production is Copyright 2022 Pendant Productions and Live Girls! Theater. Stay safe and good luck.

For more full cast audio dramas, please visit our friends at Jim French's Imagination

Theater at harrynile.com or search for Pendant Productions wherever you find your podcasts. Thanks for listening.

For more information, visit PendantAudio.com. Thanks for listening.

END OF EPISODE 6