

Manifestations S01 E14: Change

Intro Music - Breathe, by Chill Carrier <https://chillcarrier.bandcamp.com/>

Voiceover: Manifestations is a podcast of the Ostium Network

Voiceover: Time is not linear, but our story is.
Please join us ... on our journey.
We, are Manifestations.

Music becomes dramatic then fades out

*Episode background music is a fast and percussive electric piano - Burst, by Chill Carrier
<https://chillcarrier.bandcamp.com/> <https://www.chillcarrier.de/>*

Alan - I took some time to get a shower and have a fresh change of clothes. *[two beat alarm sound begins]* I'm just tying my boots when I'm startled by a strange noise. It's not loud, but it's shrill and repeating. If this is their idea of an alarm, it certainly has my attention.

Alan - I check the phone for any notices. The only thing I see is a glyph marked "QILA." I touch it and a message opens, it tells me there's an incident in the medical section. *[alarm sound ends]* The anomalies are awake. Security measures have been taken. There's also a map and instructions on how I can get there.

Alan - I grab Thomas' shoulder bag and head for the door. There's no one in the hall. I make it to the elevator, down to the main floor and across to a set of stairs. I'm 3 floors down before I see anyone else. They look at me strange, but keep going about their business. I'm a fellow employee after all.

*Episode background music is tense, synth, somewhat muted - Nova, by Chill Carrier
<https://chillcarrier.bandcamp.com/> <https://www.chillcarrier.de/>*

Alan - One more level down and I take a door out into a long hallway. It's dimly lit, but I can still see. I don't think this area is being used. At the end is a door with a palm access panel. I feel the phone vibrate, there's a new notice. It tells me "hold the phone to the panel." I do and the panel wakes up, cycles, and the door opens. *[beeps and clicks as door awakens and opens]*

Alan - I know I need to turn left and the room with the anomalies will be the 1st door on the right. Adrenaline has taken over. For a second I contemplate how my consciousness is in another body, controlling its fight or flight response.

Alan - I reach the door and hear voices behind me, shouting. Director Greely and at least 8 others are moving quickly this way. She's shouting asking how I got in this section and instructing me to leave immediately. But, I'm at the door. I go into the room before they can make it here.

[PAUSE]

[sounds of air moving, with a slight electrical crackle in the background]

Alan - Inside I see rows of beds, pushed to the sides of the room, there's a wind moving around but there are no open windows. I count 5 security guards. Each are holding what a short metal baton, which by the humming sound have some electrical properties. Beyond them, I see the young girl. Her hair is moving with the wind. She's in a defensive pose and then I notice there's a blurring effect around her arms and chest.

[winds gust and continue to get stronger]

Alan - In a corner, I see the older woman. At first, I thought she was frightened, then she turns and makes a gesture and the wind gusts through the room making it hard to stand. It also makes it hard for Director Greely to open the door. *[door slams]* She and one other person make it inside before the door is slammed shut by the wind. We make eye contact. I've seen that look before. It's the look of fear. It's a dangerous look. Someone with that look is unpredictable.

Alan - The Director is shouting something to the guards. The wind makes it hard for me to hear. The guards aren't moving. *[music pauses, then becomes more tense as it resumes]* I look back at the young girl and her blurred arms. I think she is creating the electrical hum in their batons. It's somehow frozen them in place. The Director and the guard with her are making their way, pushing against the wind. They reach the others and the guard touches one of them. They both fall to the floor, shaking, and then they stop moving.

[wind slows, and then stops, along with the electrical crackle]

Alan - The wind slows, and stops. The electrical hum gets faint and then fades away completely. The other guards are okay, but in no hurry to do anything. I see the guard, with Director Greely, that fell is still not moving, so I rush over. They aren't breathing. It's been a long time since I had CPR training, but I instinctively start chest compressions and shout for someone to get help.

Alan - The guard gasps and chokes back to consciousness as I hear a door on the other side of the room open. Two, I'm assuming doctors by how they're dressed, are running over. One of them helps the guard sit up.

Alan - Someone else is slowly coming through the door now. It's the 3rd anomaly. It's me. It's not like seeing yourself in a mirror. It's more like watching a video of yourself, but not remembering what comes next.

[music slows, and becomes muted again]

Alan - The other me; the real me(?) isn't saying anything. The three anomalies are calm, but far from sedate. They are watching everything going on.

Alan - Director Greely, in contrast, is anything but calm. She stands to full height, and begins shouting, accusing them of attacking her guards. There's also something very incoherent about "how we've been caring for you, how could you turn against us." The other me makes a forceful sweeping motion with his arm and the entire room flashes and everything is white.

[music fades and is replaced with a darker/more tense music]
Into The Depths, by Myuu <https://myuu.bandcamp.com/music>

Alan - Just as fast it flashes again and now we're outside. It's a grassy area and there are people setting up large tents nearby. This is the park where they're holding The Reset festival.

[PAUSE]

Alan - Some of the onlookers begin screaming and running; having just seen a large group of people and some furniture appear in a nearby field. This is the image they saw in the Outlook window! It wasn't the day of the celebration, it was the day before! By the look on her face, the Director is realizing this too.

Alan - While some people are running away, I can see others are standing stock still, staring at us. No, not us, at the anomalies. They "look" different. Like someone adjusted the contrast on a photo, making it oversaturated. The watchers begin walking toward the anomalies. As they near, the same oversaturated effect forms around the group of them.

Alan - At least a dozen or so are now standing around the anomalies. I see the other "me" look directly at me. Was that a wink?

Alan - All of them; The three anomalies and the new group of people, all begin to rise into the air. The air around them is shimmering like heat rising up from a road. They stop about 15 to 20 yards above the ground. I hear a noise and turn to see a mix of Tractus security, police motorcycles, and random people in those golf cart-like vehicles approaching the area. There's even one of those drones holding position nearby. It's larger than I expected. Some people are using their phones to record what is happening. Though most are still running away.

Alan - I can't make sense of what is happening. From the face of Director Greely and the other Tractus security people, they have no idea either. *[music ends]* I'm watching the group in the air for any change. And then I can hear one of them start to speak. Then another. And another.

We are the blowing wind
We are the driving rain
We are a roaring fire
We are the Earth made flesh

We are the comet's tail
We are the dust of stars
We are cosmic noise
We are the universe; manifest

Alan - At the end, they move toward each other, like they're being stretched and pulled into a single point. *[sound like a balloon stretching, accompanied by a ringing]* As the last of them reaches the center, there is a loud crack *[crack, then rumble]* and I see a shock wave radiate in all directions. It hits me and I'm knocked to the ground.

[PAUSE]

Episode background music is slow piano and synth, but building - Counter, by Chill Carrier
<https://chillcarrier.bandcamp.com/> <https://www.chillcarrier.de/>

Alan - I'm lying here, unhurt. It's quiet except for a ringing in my ears. I'm looking up at a blue sky with thin cirrus clouds. The drone is recovering from the shockwave. From each direction I notice it's getting dark, like a black ring rising up to make a dome around me. The blue of the sky is almost gone. Now, just a small circle. It reminds me of the image the Apollo program took from the moon looking back at the Earth. And then, it's gone too. I can't feel the ground at my back. And there's no sense of which direction is "up."

[PAUSE]

Alan - Looking around, I see my body again. Thomas must have remained back there. That's good. I hope he's okay. I hope they're all okay.

[music begins to build to a driving beat]

Alan - *[sigh]* Maybe out of exhaustion, maybe frustration, I say aloud, "Alone again."

QILA - Never alone Alan. I'm here with you.

[music ends in a dramatic cymbal crash]

[End]

Outro music - Sunshine, by CobyCracker <https://cobycracker.bandcamp.com/>

Voiceover:

Before we get into the end credits, I want to take a moment to let everyone know we're going to at PodTales in Cambridge MA, on Oct-20th. Take a look at their website <https://podtales.org/> It's free admission. And there's going to be a room full of people with an Audio Drama they'd love for you to hear.

Look for the table with The Ostium Network banner. You can stop by and listen to the first episode of Circe. The new spin off of the Ostium podcast. Or just stop by to say hi. We're going to have stickers, pins and other things at the table. Maybe even a surprise or two.

Manifestations Season 1, The Reset, was written, acted, and produced by Dwayne Farver. With input and help from Alex C. Telander.

Also with Penelope Dyer, as the voice of QILA. <https://www.penelopevo.com/>

We had a few guest voices in this episode as well. Thanks go out to:

TJ

Brad

Kenneth Eckle of *Podcast Reviews Reviews Podcast* <https://twitter.com/reviewspod>

Alex C. Telander (The Ostium Podcast) <https://twitter.com/ostiumpodcast>

Matt Kline

and - Amy Kline

Our intro music is Breathe, by Chill Carrier <https://chillcarrier.bandcamp.com/>

The music heard here is Sunshine, by Cobycracker <https://cobycracker.bandcamp.com/>

Also heard in the episode was Burst, Nova, and Counter,

All by Chill Carrier <https://chillcarrier.bandcamp.com/>

And, Into The Depths, by Myuu <https://myuu.bandcamp.com/music> <http://thedarkpiano.com/>

You can find them at bandcamp.com

Sound effects are from freesound.org

Door_Unlocking.wav	CC0 1.0	https://freesound.org/people/IPaddeh/sounds/422852/
Explosion (Pas).wav	CC0 1.0	https://freesound.org/people/studiomandragore/sounds/401628/
Explosion Shockwave	CC0 1.0	https://freesound.org/people/benjaminharvevdesign/sounds/366091/
Pool balls.wav	CC0 1.0	https://freesound.org/people/bsumusicitech/sounds/62331/
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Links to all of the music and transcripts can be found in the show notes

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Change is inevitable. Change and adaptation are required for us to evolve. Alan has almost come to the end of this chapter. Will past be prologue? Just how much control does anyone really have over their destiny?

As long as we have access to the temporal feed, we will transmit more of our story each Wednesday and Saturday. We hope you join us.

Music fades