

DIRE MULTIVERSE EPISODE 3

Written by

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Dire Multiverse Episode 3: Bland and Mundane
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Kitty, Lime, and Ohmega are still outside the Crappy Seagull, having just escaped an encounter with a second armadillo.

QUICK CHARACTER OVERVIEW

Ohmega is having a strange physical reaction to something, and she's even more eager to learn what is going on. (Angel Leigh McCoy)

Kitty is freaked out by the second armadillo and thus on edge. (Danielle DeLisle)

Lime doesn't know what to think just yet. She's more cautious, practical, and cynical right now. (Faith Dincolo)

Medusa is getting online to see what's up with the Puzzler Guzzlers and is there to assist when the time comes. (Pamela Wang)

Sammitch has decided it's okay to come out of his hole. He's still freaked out about what happened at MetaGalactiCon, but he gets online to check in with the Puzzler Guzzlers. (Philip Pickard)

Deputy Mori is still freaked out about what happened, but she tries to hide it. She's doing her job the best she can and is very brave. (Cammie Middleton)

Deputy Sosa is a laid-back but skilled sheriff's deputy. He is Deputy Mori's partner. Mori tends to be the alpha dog in their relationship, though he would die for Mori if it came down to it. (John Carter)

IBI Agent Paine is from another dimension, here on a mission to investigate the armadillo. His organization, the Interdimensional Bureau of Investigations, helps protect "innocent" worlds from prematurely discovering the nature of the multiverse. (Paris Crenshaw)

Charlotte is the manager of the Mansion Restaurant. She's not terribly overworked this time of year and is very friendly to customers and tourists in general. (Jennifer Brozek)

OPENING NARRATIVE (OHMEGA)

I've spent my entire life chasing a dream that there's more to life and living than just school, family drama, work, and well... workouts, eating, drinking... You know. The shit we do every day. *Same ol', same ol'.*

In grade school, I was convinced I could fly, and I even have memories of almost lifting off when I ran as fast as I could across the playground. Almost.

In high school, I hit the occult scene pretty hard. While my classmates were getting lit, I was giving tarot readings and holding seances with a Ouja board.

In college, I took it to a whole new level, spending hours, days, and even weeks scouring the Internet for sasquatch sightings, ghost hunters, and urban legends.

I was so convinced there was magic in the world.

But now... Only more questions, more disappointment.

The older I get, the more I see, the more I learn... the more jaded I get. It's like dementia of the soul.

I'm grasping at straws here. Once the belief is dead, can you ever get it back? Without proof?

I'd almost decided to quit searching, quit hoping... when this hullabaloo happened at MetaGalacticon. The creature we saw is nothing like anything in nature, and best of all, it was real. We all saw it. Even the sheriff's deputy.

Now I'm excited again, sure! But... I'm also scared. Not because it could tear me open and rummage in my guts--though, yeah, that was a thing.

No. I'm scared because... it just might turn out to be perfectly normal. Perfectly bland and mundane.

And if it does, I'm afraid it'll be the last straw for me. I'll finally be forced to admit that life... my life... is also perfectly bland and mundane.

Admit that the whole world, the universe, the cosmos is perfectly bland and mundane--and nothing about that will ever change.

I admit it: that scares the shit out of me.

ACT 1:

Ext. Outside the Seagull, the characters are waiting for the police to show up.

MUSIC: Fade in background music.

SFX: Car door shutting.

1	DEPUTY MORI	1
1	What's going on?	1
	KITTY	
	(on edge)	
2	Deputy! There's another one! It's already killed someone.	2
	DEPUTY MORI	
3	Take it easy. Where is it?	3
	KITTY	
	(on edge)	
4	In there. Inside the gallery.	4
	DEPUTY MORI	
5	And the victim?	5
	LIME	
6	In the back room. Mostly.	6
	DEPUTY MORI	
7	Okay. Anyone else in there?	7
	OHMEGA	
8	We got the hell out. The owner took off too. I don't know if anyone else was in there.	8
	DEPUTY MORI	
9	Right. Listen to me. You all need to go home now. I'm call you tomorrow to get your statements. I'm sure you remember how dangerous these things are. Don't mess around.	9
	LIME	
10	Yeah, no shit.	10
	MORI'S PARTNER	
11	What's going on?	11

12 DEPUTY MORI 12
You're here. Good. Wild animal
attack in the gallery. It's still
inside. These women say it's the
same thing that attacked on the
mountain. If that's the case, this
could get rough. Keep your eyes
wide. I don't wanna have to explain
to the chief why I let my partner
get eviscerated by an armadillo.

13 MORI'S PARTNER 13
Damn. Let's go check it out.

14 DEPUTY MORI 14
Go on, ladies. I'm not joking.

15 KITTY 15
 (sincere)
Yes, ma'am.

[SFX: footsteps as three people move away, and door opens,
bell rings]

16 OHMEGA 16
Hey wait, guys. Where are you
going.

17 KITTY 17
Home? Like the deputy said?

18 OHMEGA 18
Aren't you even a little curious?

19 KITTY 19
I'm more scared than curious. Lime?

20 LIME 20
The puzzler guzzler in me is lovin'
this, but the parent in me is
freakin' the fuck out.

21 KITTY 21
Wait. You're a mom?

22 LIME 22
Yeah, I have a son. I didn't tell
you guys that? Well shit. I guess
it never came up in the PG group.
He just turned 18. It was a high
school pregnancy. Seemed awful at
the time, but ended up being the
best thing that ever happened to
me.

23 OHMEGA 23
24 I had no idea. 24

25 LIME 25
He's a good kid, and he's at that
age where he thinks nothing bad
will ever happen to him. He's been
hangin' out with this real sketchy
crowd, and my mom radar is-

An agent approaches and cuts Lime off. Overlap the dialogue.

26 IBI AGENT PAINE 26
(authoritative)
Excuse me. Did you see where the
deputies went?

27 OHMEGA 27
Who are you?

28 IBI AGENT PAINE 28
IBI Agent Paine. I heard there
were... shenanigans happening here.
Who are you?

29 OHMEGA 29
We're the ones who called it in.

30 KITTY 30
The deputies went inside to look
for it. There's a rabid armadillo
on the loose in there.

31 IBI AGENT PAINE 31
(takes a moment understand
what an armadillo is)
Uhh... Oh. I see. Okay. Did you see
this...

32 LIME 32
Armadillo.

33 IBI AGENT PAINE 33
Armadillo. Did you see it?

34 OHMEGA 34
Not this one. But we heard it. And
it killed some guy who worked here.

35 IBI AGENT PAINE 35
Okay. Don't leave. I'll want to
talk with you when this is all
over.

37 KITTY 37
36 You're going in there? 36

IBI AGENT PAINE
(determined)
37 I'm going in there. 37

SFX: Footsteps, door opens, bell.

38 OHMEGA 38
Guys, that was weird.

39 KITTY 39
What? That the FBI showed up?

40 OHMEGA 40
He didn't say FBI. He said I.B.I.

41 KITTY 41
You sure? He said it pretty fast.

42 OHMEGA 42
I.B.I. Definitely. Let me check the
web.

43 OHMEGA (CONT'D) 43
Hm. International Business
Intelligence. No. Innercity
Basketball Invitational. No.
There's nothing about it online. I
dunno.

44 KITTY 44
Why do you care?

45 OHMEGA 45
I got a really bad vibe off that
guy.

46 LIME 46
Bad how?

47 OHMEGA 47
Bad like... maggots in your belly
bad.

LIME/KITTY
(one each, said together-
ish)
48 Ew! Gross! 48

49 OHMEGA 49
Institute for Biomedical
Informatics. No.
(MORE)

OHMEGA (CONT'D)
 Intensive Behavior Intervention.
 No, but bookmarking. Intranasal...

ACT 2

SFX: Two gunshots from inside (muted).

KITTY, OHMEGA, LIME
 (gasp)

DEPUTY MORI
 (distant)
 50 It crawled under there! 50

IBI AGENT PAINE
 (distant)
 51 Don't corner it! 51

MORI'S PARTNER
 (distant)
 52 What the fuck was that? 52

KITTY
 53 Oh my god! They found it. 53

OHMEGA
 (annoyed)
 54 We can't see anything from here. 54

LIME
 (to herself, mostly)
 55 Hope we don't end up with dead 55
 deputies on our hands.

KITTY
 56 Ohmega, where are you going? 56

OHMEGA
 57 I want to see what's going on. This 57
 place has to have windows
 somewhere. Maybe around the side?

58 LIME 58
Now you're talkin'!

KITTY
(scolding, afraid)
59 Lime, don't encourage her. The 59
deputy said to stay here. What if
we get shot?

OHMEGA
60 You can wait here. I'll be right 60
back. I just want to get a peek.
I'll be careful.

LIME
61 I'm comin' with you. 61

SFX: Footsteps - extended

OHMEGA
62 All these windows are covered over. 62

SFX: Running footsteps

LIME
63 Hey, scaredy Kitty. You decided to 63
join us?

KITTY
64 I'm not so good at being alone. 64

OHMEGA
65 Let's see if the back door is 65
locked.

KITTY
66 Ohm! I know you are not thinking 66
about going in there!

OHMEGA
67 No. I just want to peek in. See 67
what's going on.

KITTY
68 Is there anything I can say to stop 68
you?

OHMEGA
69 Ummmm... Nope. 69

SFX: Door open, squeak

70 LIME See anything? Hunker down so we can see too. 70

71 OHMEGA All right, all right. Stop shoving, Lime. 71

72 KITTY It's that back room. There's James. 72

73 LIME Still dead. 73

74 OHMEGA Looks like the cops are all out in the gallery. 74

75 DEPUTY MORI (distant) Sosa, cover the front door. I'm gonna circle back this way. Agent Paine, where are you? 75

76 IBI AGENT PAINE (distant) Over here, behind the statue of the whale in lacy drawers. Herd it toward me. I've dealt with this kind of thing before. 76

77 MORI'S PARTNER (distant) Front door covered, Mori. You've seen these before, Agent Paine? 77

78 IBI AGENT PAINE (distant) Oh, yes, deputy. I sure have. 78

SFX: Sound of skittering (quiet)

79 KITTY You hear that? 79

80 OHMEGA Hear what, Kitty? 80

81 LIME (singsong) Deja vu. 81

OHMEGA
 (urgent)
 103 C'mon, Lime! C'mon! 103
 SFX: Climbing in efforts by Lime.

LIME
 104 Help me close the lid! 104
 SFX: Scrambling, landing on bags, banging on bin, lid closes.

OHMEGA
 105 Shhhh. Shhhhhh. 105
 SFX: Sudden silence other than the sound of their breathing.
 SFX: Breathing efforts from Kitty, Ohm, and Lime.
 SFX: Skittering.

KITTY
 (terrified)
 106 Oh my god... 106

OHMEGA
 (terrified)
 107 Shhh... 107
 SFX: Pinging on side of bin.

ALL (KITTY, LIME, OHMEGA)
 (cry out in fear, not too
 loud, not too long)
 SFX: Pinging gets louder.

KITTY
 108 It knows we're in here! 108

OHMEGA
 109 It does now! Hold the lid down! 109

LIME
 110 I'm trying! There's nothing to grab 110
 onto.

KITTY
 111 It's going to get in! 111
 SFX: Gun shots. Skittering on bin, then on concrete, fading.
 One final shot.

EDIT NOTE: Overlap the next two lines "You missed" falls
 between "Mother" and "Fungus".

112 DEPUTY MORI
Shit! Mother... 112

113 DEPUTY MORI (CONT'D)
Fungus! 113

114 IBI AGENT PAINE
(accusatory, dry)
You missed? 114

115 DEPUTY MORI
(mad at herself)
Yeah, I missed. 115

116 MORI'S PARTNER
(casual)
Guess we better call Animal
Control, huh, Mori. 116

117 DEPUTY MORI
And the coroner. 117

118 IBI AGENT PAINE
I want to have a long talk with
your witnesses. 118

119 KITTY
(whispered)
Is it safe to get out, Ohmega? 119

120 OHMEGA
(whispered)
Shhhhh... Wait. 120

SFX: Sound of receding footsteps.

121 OHMEGA (CONT'D)
All right, they're gone. I don't
feel like spending the rest of the
night being interrogated by sketchy
Agent Paine. Do you? 121

SFX: Sounds of people moving in bin, lid opens, climbing out.

SFX: Efforts from Ohmega, Lime, & Kitty

122 LIME
(disgusted)
I just hope this is mayonnaise on
my jeans. 122

134 LIME How do you spell Dire? 134

135 OHMEGA Try D.Y.E.R. Or maybe D.U.I.R.E. 135

136 KITTY Or D.I.R.E. 136

137 LIME (thinking aloud) Vanessa or Grady Dire... Dire... Dire... 137

138 LIME (CONT'D) Here's an article on Vanessa Dire and her sculptures. Scanning... Hmm... Says she lived in a--and I quote 'remote mansion on the southern edge of Orcas Island.' 138

139 KITTY That's something. 139

140 OHMEGA Great! Keep looking. I'll head south. 140

141 LIME Looks like some of the Puzzler Guzzlers are online. I'll fill 'em in and see if they can help us search. 141

SFX: Music & car noise fades to silence, then fades back in.

SFX: Sound of turn signal.

142 OHMEGA We're almost to the island's southern coastline. Start watching for a mansion. 142

143 KITTY (surprised by Lime's strength) Lime, I've been thinking. You're really strong. You practically threw me into that dumpster. 143

144 LIME (defensive) You helped. 144

158 OHMEGA 158
So you guys found something?

159 MEDUSA 159
Maybe. I found an old article on
Grady Dire that somebody
transcribed onto their blog. He
talks about Doe Bay.

160 OHMEGA 160
We're close to that. So, we know
it's a mansion, that it's near Doe
Bay, and that it's on the coast.
What else do we know?

161 SAMMITCH 161
We know Vanessa Dire lived here in
the 1950s, right?

162 LIME 162
I'd bet on it, since she died here
in 1960.

163 KITTY 163
So the mansion's been around for at
least that long.

164 MEDUSA 164
Here's something. A restaurant
called The Mansion. Might be worth
a try? Texting the address.

SFX: Music & car noise fades to silence, then fades back in.

SFX: Car comes to a halt and shuts off. Car door opens.

165 OHMEGA 165
Looks like the place is open. Wait
here. I'll go see if anyone knows
Grady Dire.

SFX: Car door shuts.

166 SAMMITCH 166
There's not much online about
Vanessa Dire. I checked the library
site though, and she does have a
few books written about her. I'll
go check those out tomorrow.

167 MEDUSA 167
I've got an account at
Ancesters.com.
(MORE)

MEDUSA (CONT'D)

I'll see if I can find any census data for the island.

LIME

168 Way to kill it, guys! 168

SAMMITCH

(pleased)

169 It's what we do. Besides, I think 169
I'd much rather investigate this
from afar.

LIME

170 You are wise beyond your years, 170
Sammitch. I thought we were gonna
get our asses handed to us tonight.
You're safer at home.

MEDUSA

171 Schrezlein! 171

SAMMITCH

172 Gezhundheit. 172

MEDUSA

(laughing)

173 No, schrezlein are a type of fairy. 173
They're the reason you're safe at
home. But, you have to take good
care of them.

LIME

174 And how, exactly, do you take care 174
of fairies, Medusa?

MEDUSA

175 You appreciate them. You feed them 175
sweets and milk. And you believe.

SAMMITCH

(slightly mocking/amused)

176 Like Tinkerbell. 176

LIME

(clapping softly)

177 I believe! I believe! 177

MEDUSA

178 Seriously. There's truth in all 178
those old stories. So many cultures
have fairies in their mythologies.

SAMMITCH

179 Corroborating evidence, huh? 179

180 MEDUSA Exactly! 180

181 LIME That reminds me. I need to get milk on the way home. 181

182 KITTY That reminds me. I need to pee. I'm gonna go see if they have a public restroom. I'll be right back. 182

183 183

SFX: Car door opens. Kitty gets out. Car door closes. Another car door opens. Ohmega leans in.

184 OHMEGA Guys, this is Charlotte. She's the manager here. Can you describe Grady Dire to her? 184

185 CHARLOTTE I don't think I know the man. 185

186 LIME He's old, like in his fifties. Scruffy, but not in a homeless sort of way, more in an R.E.I. mountaineer sort of way. 186

187 SAMMITCH He's got gray hair and a beard. 187

188 CHARLOTTE Wait. Mad dad eyes, right? Like he knows what you did and you are so busted? 188

189 LIME Yeah! You know him? 189

190 CHARLOTTE He comes in occasionally. Not often. I never got his name. Always pays in cash, you know? Good tipper, but not much of a talker. 190

191 OHMEGA You know where he lives? 191

192 CHARLOTTE No. Why would I know that? Look, I gotta get back inside. Drive safe. 192

193 OHMEGA
Yeah, thanks. 193

SFX: Footsteps of Charlotte recede.

194 LIME
Cash? Who the hell carries cash? 194

195 SAMMITCH
(answering Lime's
question)
An old guy who doesn't want anyone
to know who he is or where he
lives. 195

196 MEDUSA
Hey, guys? I need to jump off. As
much fun as this is, I have to get
to bed. I was up all night last
night working on this furry-love
commission I got. 196

197 LIME
(surprise)
Medusa! I thought you said you
didn't want to take any more
portrait commissions. 197

198 MEDUSA
(sigh) Money is a seductive
mistress. Good night. And good
luck. 198

199 SAMMITCH
I'm gonna sign off too. Night,
guys. 199

200 LIME
Good night, you two. We'll let you
know what we find. 200

SFX: Car starts and idles. Car door opens and closes. Kitty
gets back in.

201 201

202 KITTY
So what now? 202

203 OHMEGA
Looks like our only hope is to
drive around and try to spot it.
There aren't too many roads that go
to the shore. 203

215 OHMEGA 215
Those are both good careers, but
you have to be self-taught and work
really hard.

216 LIME 216
Yeah. I love the kid, but he's kind
of allergic to studying and hard
work. He was held back a year. His
teachers say "he doesn't apply
himself." He's finally graduating
this Spring. Thank God.

217 KITTY 217
What's he gonna do after that?

218 LIME 218
Who knows? If my ex convinces him
selling drugs is an easy road to
big money... Well, I don't know he
won't just... take the exit, and
end up in prison. Or worse.

219 OHMEGA 219
If there's anything we can do to
help, say so. I have...
acquaintances... who can give your
ex a good talkin' to. If you know
what I mean.

220 LIME 220
(laugh)
Thanks, but I can't let you beat up
my ex. It'd probably start a gang
war.

KITTY
(laugh)

SFX: Music & car noise fades to silence, then fades back in.

221 LIME 221
I think Kitty fell asleep.

222 KITTY 222
I'm awake. Just resting my eyes.
How much longer we gonna do this,
Ohm? We've been driving around for
hours.

223 LIME 223
You better keep an eye on your
tank.
(MORE)

LIME (CONT'D)

The only gas stations are back in Pleasance. I really don't wanna run out of gas out here.

KITTY

224 I'm getting hungry. 224

OHMEGA

225 Just a little more, guys. I promise. Then we'll stop. There's one more road out here I want to try. 225

KITTY

226 (only agreeing to one)
One more. 226

LIME

227 Food sounds really good. 227

OHMEGA

228 Just one more. If we don't find it, we'll go eat. My treat. 228

SFX: Music & car noise fades to silence, then fades back in.

SFX: Music shuts off.

OHMEGA (CONT'D)

229 Look. Is that what I think it is? 229

KITTY

230 A gate, like to a... 230

ALL (LIME, KITTY, OHMEGA)

231 (excited)
Mansion! 231

232 232

SFX: Car engine turns off. Three doors open and close. Begin outdoor night sounds.

LIME

233 Shine your light up there, at the top of the gate. 233

KITTY

234 Dire Mansion! Oh my god! This is so it! 234

OHMEGA

235 I'll be damned. And look, the lights are on. Somebody's home. 235

SFX: Footsteps in gravel.

236 LIME Jesus, that's the creepiest mansion 236
I've ever seen. All the way out
here in the boonies.

237 OHMEGA It looks Victorian, sorta. 237

238 KITTY If Victorian architects were 238
insane. Wow.

239 LIME Don't forget, Jessica Dire liked to 239
make statues of killer armadillos.
Seems to me like maybe the whole
family has some...issues.

KITTY
(laugh)

OHMEGA
(laugh)

SFX: Footsteps in gravel. Sound of heavy iron gate clanking.

240 OHMEGA (CONT'D) Gate's unlocked. 240

SFX: More footsteps in gravel. Then footsteps on concrete.
Then footsteps on wood.

241 KITTY I'd give anything to live in a 241
place like this.

242 LIME It's got a lot of personality. I'll 242
give it that.

SFX: Sound of the mansion's doorbell, distant. Then only
night sounds. After a pause, doorbell rings again.

[Pause]

243 KITTY Maybe nobody's home? 243

244 LIME All the lights are on. How rich do 244
you have to be to leave all the
lights on when you go out?

245 OHMEGA
There's got to be somebody here. 245
I'm gonna look in the window.

SFX: Footsteps on wood.

246 LIME
(whispered, teasing)
Peeper! 246

247 OHMEGA
(gasp)
What the... 247

248 LIME
(whispered)
Is that who I think it is? 248

249 OHMEGA
(whispered)
Yeah. Professor Widdershins. And 249
Grady Dire.

250 KITTY
(whispered)
Who's the girl? Pretty hair. 250

251 OHMEGA
(whispered)
I don't know her. 251

252 LIME
(whispered)
Um. Your professor is waving at us. 252

253 KITTY
(sweet)
Hi, Professor Widdershins. Good to 253
see you again.

254 OHMEGA
(speaking through the
glass)
Um, hi? Can we talk? 254

SFX: Sound of a door unlocking, unbolting, etc. Door opens.
Heavy footsteps on wood.

255 GRADY
(angry, threatening)
You're trespassing. 255

256 OHMEGA 256
We need to talk to you, Mr. Dire,
about that armadillo you killed.

257 GRADY 257
(irritated)
How did you find me?

258 LIME 258
The hard way, believe me.

259 OHMEGA 259
There's another one, loose in
Pleasance.

260 GRADY 260
Did you call the police?

261 OHMEGA 261
Yeah, but...

262 GRADY 262
(wants to get rid of them)
Listen closely, ladies. There is no
mystery here. I'm sure the
authorities can handle this.

263 OHMEGA 263
But...

264 GRADY 264
Go back to your cozy mysteries and
supernatural TV shows. There's
nothing to see here.

265 OHMEGA 265
But, Mr. Dire. We almost died
tonight.

266 GRADY 266
(firm)
It was probably your own fault. Go
home. Watch a movie. Make twits on
the Face Thing. Do anything, but
don't do it here.

SFX: Heavy footsteps, then a door slams shut. Multiple locks
engage. Then knocking on glass.

267 OHMEGA 267
Professor! You know me! I need to
talk to you. I just...

SFX: Sound of curtains being drawn (distant)

268 LIME
(annoyed) 268
Do I look like the kind of person
who twits on a face thing? God!

269 KITTY
(quiet) 269
Maybe we should do what he says.
This doesn't feel safe.

270 OHMEGA
(determined) 270
Are you kidding me? Now I'm even
more determined.

SFX: Couple seconds of night noise, then the closing music.

END OF EPISODE 3