

MARVEL STUDIOS

LOKI Episode Guide

Episodes 001-012

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Season One

Glorious Purpose

Season 1
Episode Number: 1
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday June 9, 2021
Writer: Michael Waldron
Director: Kate Herron
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Ravi Naidu (Analyst #3), Michelle Rose (Minuteman #3), Philip Fornah (Minuteman #1), Daniel Newman (Minuteman #18), Derek Russo (Hunter U-92), Josh Fadem (Martin), Dave MacDonald (Minuteman #2), Aaron Beelner (Scanner Clerk), Jon Levine (Paperwork Clerk), Erika Coleman (Flight Attendant), Hannah Aslesen (Minuteman #5), Eric Jepson (Minuteman #4), Munkhshur Bolbaatar (Gobi Villager), Raphael Luce (French Boy)
Summary: Loki, the God of Mischief, finds himself out of time and in an unusual place and forced — against his godly disposition — to cooperate with others.



The episode opens just where we left off: in a branching timeline version of the aftermath of the New York City battle in 2012's *Avengers*, as we saw in 2019's *Avengers: Endgame*.

After a quick scene that gives us the setup for Loki's Cap disguise cameo in 2013's *Thor: The Dark World*, we see the stage being set for the series: a captured Loki sees an opportunity to pick up the

momentarily unguarded Tesseract, and after grabbing it, vanishes.

After the Marvel Studios logo (green edition), we finally find out where Loki went: the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. Loki soon meets some of the locals, but before he can go full Randall Flagg, a door in space and time opens and three Timekeepers walk out. These armored soldiers are soon joined by a fourth: Hunter B-15.

After consulting a data pad and offering some technobabble (temporal flavor), B-15 arrests the Loki Variant for "crimes against the Sacred Timeline." While Loki initially resists, she hits him back with the first of many time-related weapons we'll see in this episode. The device causes him to move in 1/16th speed, while experiencing the pain of the extended blow in real-time. B-15 capitalizes on his compromised state to put a blink-y collar (the Time Twister) on him, and another soldier seizes the Tesseract. B-15 instructs them to "reset the timeline," which involves setting a weird little lantern-looking thing which — after what looks like a multicolored chemical reaction — begins to send a corrosive energy outwards...

But Loki doesn't get a chance to see what happens next, because B-15 shoves him through a door and into the Time Variance Authority. An enigmatic location with décor that looks like Aperture Science by way of the Overlook Hotel, we soon discover that the TVA staff includes a bureaucrat named Casey.

Loki tries to escape from B-15's clutches, but the collar around his neck prevents him. By activating a remote, B-15 can send Loki several seconds back in time, making his attempts to

run a futile infinite loop. As Loki tests his limits, an angry rich kid is brought in by one of the other guards. B-15 drops off the Tesseract with a flummoxed Casey before shoving Loki into a small room with a cute robot.

However, just because an interface appears user-friendly doesn't mean it is: the smiling robot disintegrates Loki's fine Asgardian leather clothes before dropping him through the floor. In the next shot, he's clad in a TVA jumpsuit as he faces a cat-obsessed man behind a desk. The man compels him to sign a transcript of everything he's ever said.

After signing off on everything he's ever said, Loki falls through the floor again, this time being instructed by a man with a clipboard who tells him to step through what appears to be a metal detector. The attendant asks Loki to confirm that he is not a robot.

"What if I'm a robot and I don't know it?" a reluctant Loki questions.

"The machine melts you from the inside out, please move along sir," the attendant replies.

However, the machine does not melt Loki, instead delivering a picture of his Temporal Aura — which is not explained to the God of Mischief as he is shuffled along to the next room, one filled with a mostly-empty queue, several propaganda posters, and television screens playing informational videos.

The rich kid from a few scenes earlier is also present, and refuses to take a ticket. Meanwhile, Loki is impelled to take a ticket before stepping into the empty queue. He pauses to watch the informational video, which not only serves to offer some expositional context for the organization that has been forcing Loki through intake, it also seems to drop some tantalizing hints at where the Marvel Cinematic Universe will be heading from here.

As the animated mascot Miss Minutes explains, the TVA enforces the Sacred Timeline. According to Miss Minutes, there was once a "vast multiversal war," in which multiple timelines battled one another for supremacy. Enter the Timekeepers, three entities that organized the timeline into a single timeline: the Sacred Timeline.

In order to stop the "madness" of "another multiversal war," the TVA enforces the Sacred Timeline by seeking out those who cause Nexus events by deviating from the narrative prescribed by the three Timekeepers. The TVA then eradicates these rogue actors, taking them back to their "zone outside of time" for trial.

Meanwhile, in the line, the rich kid lies about being given a ticket, and is subsequently disintegrated. Finally recognizing that he may not be able to talk his way out of this, Loki begins frantically patting down his jumpsuit's pockets before seizing upon the ticket and holding it above his head as we slide into the title card.

After the title card, we head to Aix-En-Provence in France, circa 1549. Mobius M. Mobius is surveying a murder scene in a cathedral. A surly guard notes that it's the sixth attack in the last week when a child enters.

Mobius approaches the kid and then charms them with a drawing on his data pad before asking about who did the stabbing. The kid points at a stained glass window of the devil, but specifically, an incarnation with horns wearing a green robe. Mobius soon uncovers a key detail: the kid is chewing anachronistic gum. The guard notes that they're approaching "red line," suggesting there's some kind of deadline on these visits.

Mobius collects the gum: Kablooiie brand. Then he sends the kid outside. However, before they return to the TVA, a door opens and another agent steps through to hand a file to Mobius: presumably, the one belonging to our Loki Variant.

Back at the TVA, Loki is being brought into Time Court by B-15. Loki is put on the stand in front of Judge Ravonna Renslayer. According to Renslayer, Loki (Variant L1130) is being charged with Sequence Violation 72089.

However, Loki declines to plead before suggesting that the Avengers are the ones who are guilty of violating the timeline. However, according to Renslayer, the Avengers have done nothing wrong, leading Loki to question the authority of the Timekeepers to dictate the "official" flow of time.

Next, Loki attempts to use his magic powers, which he is unable to do in the TVA, much to the amusement of B-15. Soon, Loki is sentenced to being reset. He angrily asserts that these bureaucrats will not be the ones to dictate the end of his story, but Renslayer casually replies that it was never his story to dictate.

However, that's when Mobius interjects. He approaches the bench, and while Renslayer is reluctant to agree to his plan, she does eventually concede — although Mobius takes a moment

to defer to her authority nevertheless.

Mobius and the Loki Variant take a moment to enjoy the scenery before heading to the elevator, where they begin to get to know each other, discussing Loki's propensity to lie. They head down another solid-filled hallway before entering a room with a projector (which Loki notes feels like a "killing me" kind of room, but it's labeled the "Time Theater").

As Loki and Mobius continue to swap barbs, Mobius sets up the projector. Loki uses this distraction to attempt to jump Mobius, but Mobius uses the remote to loop Loki back a few seconds, reminding us of the presence of the device. As Loki reluctantly sits down, Mobius opens a can of Josta and explains that he specializes in the art of tracking down dangerous variants.

Mobius asks Loki what he would do if he were returned to his own timeline. This scene is important because the audience must understand that this Loki Variant is distinct from the character we saw die in *Endgame*. This particular Loki Variant was plucked out of the chronology just after the events of the first *Avengers* movie, and so has no idea what happened in *The Dark World*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Infinity War*, or *Endgame*.

Loki tells Mobius that he wants to be king of Midgard (Earth), Asgard, and just space in general. Mobius seems bemused at this, and Loki warns Mobius not to mock him, but Mobius insists he's a fan: he just wants to understand Loki's motivation.

Prodding further, Loki begins to harp on his whole "choice is bad thing" line, which is familiar for a reason — a fact Mobius highlights by bringing up footage from the first *Avengers* on the hologram machine.

This brings the show into full-on meta territory, as the footage Mobius displays on the projector (which Loki watches) is the taken from the same footage we ourselves have watched on the big screen over the past decade... so Loki is being asked to watch the story of his life in the same way that audiences have already seen. This is also highly reminiscent of those Marvel Comics pages where years of continuity are quickly recapped, often by another character.

Interestingly, Mobius specifically brings up Phil Coulson, who was stabbed in the back by Loki in *Avengers*, serving as the catalyst to bring the group together. However, viewers also know that Coulson was resurrected and appeared in seven seasons of *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* — it's unclear whether or not this was part of the Scared Timeline, and Mobius doesn't elaborate.

Next, Mobius asks about Loki's escapes, and says this is one of his favorites. From here, it is revealed that Loki was the real-life historical figure D.B. Cooper. If you aren't aware, in 1971, Cooper infamously hijacked a passenger plane with a bomb in a suitcase, extorting a suitcase of money and then parachuting out of the plane as it flew toward Mexico under his direction. In spite of decades of searching, the FBI has still never identified this man — and Loki now reveals that this is because it was Loki, who lost a bet to Thor and thus conducted the heist as a prank.

So Mobius asks the Loki Variant exactly what it is he thinks he's running from, causing Loki to get upset. Mobius insists that he's simply searching for a deeper understanding of Loki. Loki replies that the TVA is an elaborate illusion conjured by the weak to control others through fear.

"My choices are my own," says Loki. But are they? It's an interesting philosophical question. If our choices are our own, it's because they flow from our character. But what forms our character? A combination of our hereditary and environmental upbringing — nature and nurture. However, since we have no control over our hereditary and environmental situation, how can we fairly be said to have responsibility for our characters? They were formed by the consequences of circumstances that reach back to long before we were born.

So who really possesses agency, anyway? Mobius knows that Loki wants to believe he does, and so he shows footage of Loki's relevant tirade in Germany from the first *Avengers*. Loki insists that he is in control of the situation again, and so Mobius shows Loki what happened in *The Dark World*: Loki incarcerated in Asgard, confronting his mother, and seeing her die. Mobius says that he knows Loki's whole past and his whole future (remember, for this Loki Variant, *The Dark World* is still in his future).

Naturally, Loki is deeply affected by seeing his mother's death, but Mobius insists that's the proper flow of time, using the Time Twister to knock Loki back in time a few seconds. Mobius states that Loki wasn't meant to be king, he was meant to cause suffering, pain, and death: that's just who he is. And why? So that others can achieve the best versions of themselves, a point Mobius illustrates using the apotheosis of the Avengers.

It seems like Mobius may be getting through to Loki... but that's when B-15 interrupts. Out in the hallway, B-15 argues with Mobius about the Loki Variant before informing him that they've

lost another team. But that's not all they lost: when Mobius re-enters the Time Theater, he finds that the Loki Variant is missing.

While B-15 is ready to use the escape as an excuse to execute the Loki Variant, Mobius insists that he can still be useful. Meanwhile, the Loki Variant arrives in Casey's office. After some overly complicated threats, Casey shows the Loki Variant a drawer that contains the confiscated Tesseract... plus some other priceless treasures, including a bunch of Infinity Stones.

"Some of the guys use them as paperweights," Casey cheerfully notes.

Loki begins to appreciate the power at play here in the TVA, and he's somewhat awed... but then B-15 shows up, so he Time Twisters away.

Re-appearing in the Time Theater with the Tesseract, the Loki Variant seizes upon the projector. He fast-forwards to Freya's death in *The Dark World* before heading on to Odin's death in *Ragnarok*, and cries as he watches. He witnesses himself heroically stand beside Thor and Valkyrie during *Ragnarok*'s climactic battle before seeing his death at the hands of Thanos in the opening moments of *Infinity War*. And then, the film runs out, sputtering as it finishes feeding through the projector.

Crucially, Loki does not see all the details that we, as audience members, witnessed. This means that he does not appreciate the weight of his death, or the fact that — after being a morally questionable character for much of his screentime — he dies a heroic death, standing against a tyrant and playing an integral role in the ultimate victory the Avengers score over Thanos in *Endgame*.

As such, he's laughing at the idea that he has a "glorious purpose" when B-15 locates him in the Time Theater. He and B-15 come to blows, and Loki seems to be on the ropes — at least until he succeeds in transferring the Time Twister to B-15's neck. After playing with the device, he sends her off and out of his way.

In the hallways, Casey is explaining the situation to a pair of superiors when B-15 appears... and although Casey initially begins to blame B-15, the look on her face quickly convinces him to back off.

Back in the Time Theater, a dejected Loki is confronted by an armed Mobius. Loki recognizes that he can't return to his timeline, and he tells Mobius that he doesn't enjoy hurting people, he does it because he feels that he's had to, since it's part of the illusion he must maintain... just like the TVA, Loki uses pain to assert his control over others.

Next, Loki confirms that even an Infinity Stone cannot be used in the TVA, finally convincing him of their power. Mobius explains that he has a dangerous Loki Variant killing his agents, and he needs this Loki Variant's expertise in order to track the dangerous Variant down.

In the final scene of the episode, we are transported to Salina, Oklahoma in 1858. As a barn and some surrounding fields burn, the Timekeepers find an anachronistic shovel. Apparently someone from the third millennium was using a future-tool to try and make some "easy" money off of oil.

But while it seems like a routine case, before the Timekeepers can set a reset charge, they spot a mysterious cloaked figure. The figure throws a lantern to the ground, igniting the field and burning all of the Timekeepers. The figure approaches the reset charge...

The Variant

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday June 16, 2021
Writer: Elissa Karasik
Director: Kate Herron
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Kate Berlant (Ren Faire Woman), Philip Fornah (Minuteman #1), David A MacDonald (Minuteman #2), Michelle Rose (Minuteman #3), Sarafina King (Minuteman #9), Alvin Chon (Minuteman #10), Ilan Muallem (Minuteman #11), Jesse Gavin (Analyst #1), Jordan Woods-Robinson (Analyst #2), Lucius Baston (Male Shopper), Austin Freeman (Randy), Ricky Muse (Warehouse Employee), Hawk Walts (Country Hoss), Zele Avradopoulos (Archives Shusher), Dayna Beilenson (Archivist), Lauren Revard (Miss Minutes On-Set-Reader), Isabelle Fretheim (Minuteman #6), John Santiago (Minuteman #8), Christopher Cocke (Storm Refugee)
Summary: Mobius puts Loki to work, but not everyone at TVA is thrilled about the God of Mischief's presence.



viously a trap.

The speakers activate and an announcer's voice that sounds an awful lot like Richard E. Grant's begins to spout the usual faire fare: "lords and ladies," "welcome to the castle," et cetera.

Then, "Holding Out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler begins to play, and a strange glint appears in Hunter C-20's eyes. She removes her helmet and begins battling the other Timekeepers. C-20 is joined by a cloaked figure, who closely resembles the one from the Kansas scene last week — but then again, it's hard to tell with cloaked figures, isn't it?

With only one of the other Timekeepers remaining, a green glint appears in C-20's eyes, and she collapses. Then the Timekeeper turns to face the hooded figure, who stabs the soldier with a sword before taking his reset charges off of him. The figure consults a TemPad in order to summon a Timedoor, and then drags C-20 with them and into parts unknown before we go into the title card...

Speaking of Variants, that's when return to our Loki in the offices of the Time Variance Authority. It seems like at least some time has passed since last we saw him, as he's now dressed more like the other people who fill the halls of the TVA.

The Loki Variant is sitting in a cubicle and paging through a Jet Ski magazine while a hologram of Miss Minutes quizzes him about what happens when a Nexus event branches past the redline (answer: the TVA can no longer reset the event). Loki asks the hologram whether she's

alive or not, and the hologram replies, "sorta both." It is not a reassuring answer (and raises questions about what would happen if she walked through that robot-melting device from last week). Loki rolls up the magazine and begins swatting at the hologram, who chides him as she retreats into computer console number 8.

That's when Mobius M. Mobius arrives and gives Loki a jacket which, in large orange letters on the back, announces VARIANT.

In a briefing room, Hunter B-15 goes over the events we saw transpire in the cold opening. She remarks that they know by the energy signatures that this is the Loki Variant which is their quarry, but they don't know "which kind" of Loki Variant it is.

Our Loki Variant attempts to regain some self-respect by joking that it's "the lesser kind" of Loki Variant, but B-15 makes it clear that she doesn't view him as any different from any other Variant by making him display his jacket.

Mobius notes that they should all be very familiar with Loki Variants because they've pruned so many branches that have been caused by them. He illustrates his point with a hologram that cycles through a number of different Variants. This is interrupted by our Loki Variant clarifying that illusion projection and duplication are two distinct powers.

Loki asks for a weapon, and he's denied, but Mobius does tell him that he'll have access to his magic powers once they're on the branch — apparently, leaving the No-Time Zone of the TVA will also negate some of the other powers.

Once they've stepped through the Timedoor and into the Renaissance Faire, Loki continues asking questions, wondering why they don't simply return to a point in the timeline before the attack occurred. According to Mobius, Nexus events destabilize the branch, so you have to show up in real time.

Mobius asks our Loki Variant whether or not he's been watching the TVA training videos, and our Variant replies that he can only take so much propaganda at a time. One of the other Timekeepers decides to get in on the fun, and asks our Variant the function of the reset charges. Our Variant dutifully replies that they "prune the affected radius of the affected timeline," which he notes sounds like a euphemism for "disintegration."

Inside the jousting tent, the TVA crew surveys the helmets and bodies left behind by the malignant Loki Variant. B-15 notes that their quarry has never before taken a hostage, and must be upping their game. One of the Timekeepers posits that the malignant Variant might have pruned C-20, but B-15 insists the Variant could not have gotten the drop on her.

The Timekeepers are about to leave when our Loki Variant warns that if they leave the tent, they'll end up like the dead soldiers. Mobius asks him what he sees, and our Loki Variant replies that he sees a scheme, and in that scheme, he sees himself. He goes on to assert that the malignant Loki Variant is lurking just outside the jousting tent, waiting to pounce on the unsuspecting Timekeepers...

Our Loki Variant is clearly relishing the attention that the scary story has gained him, centering himself in the narrative. B-15 doesn't buy it... and neither does Mobius. It's just a play from the Vintage Loki playbook: gain control by telling a lie that strikes fear in the hearts of others.

"You had me for a second," Mobius tells our Loki Variant. "But my ears are sharp too."

The reset charge is activated in the center of the jousting tent, and the dead Timekeepers, abandoned helmets, and disarrayed lances alike are each disintegrated (in an effect that looks a lot like what happened to the rich kid who was eradicated in the cold open of last week's episode).

Back at the TVA, we see display screens that show the Sacred Timeline begin restored... although Hunter C-20 is listed as missing in action.

Elsewhere, in an office with no corners that's lorded over by statues of three lizard time lords and lined with bookshelves full of identical-looking law books, Mobius is speaking with Ravonna Renslayer. Mobius asks if her office just keeps getting better, alluding to the trinkets that decorate one section of the shelves.

He seems to be suggesting that some of these spoils might be due to him, considering they're the fruits of his labor... but Renslayer swiftly reminds him that she has other analysts working for him, and she's the one who approves the missions. Just like their interaction at the bench in Time Court last week, this conversation seems to suggest that there's some uneasy power dynamics at play in the TVA...

Renslayer remarks that Mobius's plan to use our Loki Variant to track the malignant Loki Variant isn't going well, but Mobius insists that what they've learned from our Loki Variant's

behavior helps them predict the behavior of the quarry.

Mobius wonders if Loki might not want to change, but Renslayer leans into the fatalism: the Time-Keepers have declared that the role Loki plays on the Sacred Timeline is villainous, and so villainous shall he remain... unless the three Time-Keepers decree otherwise. Mobius begins calling attention to the fact that he's never met the three lizards — maybe even suggesting a "man behind the curtain" scenario in play — but Renslayer puts an end to that speculation by saying that they are observing this case more closely than usual.

As Mobius signs off on the Event Report, he notes that the ballpoint pen says "Franklin D. Roosevelt High School" — and he makes sure Renslayer knows he saw it, wondering aloud if it's from one of her other analysts.

Outside Renslayer's office, our Loki Variant is waiting... and obviously afraid he's lost his upper hand. The pair bickers as a low-angle shot follows them through the halogen-illuminated halls. Mobius appears to have lost some patience, rubbing it in our Loki Variant's face that the other Variant seems to be smarter. A few lines later, Mobius admits that he's willing to tell our Loki Variant whatever he needs to tell him in order to catch their quarry.

Mobius tells our Loki Variant that this is his last chance, and that in order to redeem himself, he must work. They arrive in a large library — naturally also lorded over by statutes of the trio of Time-Keepers.

Loki begins shifting through the stacks of paperwork on the desk where Mobius parks him ("pretend your life depends on it"). Loki grumbles about the paperwork, causing another person in the library to shush him. He shushes back.

Next, he approaches what appears to be a reference desk employee, typing at her computer. At first, she seems to ignore him, but once he rings the bell (as protocol recommends), she responds. After stumbling through some jargon, Loki asks for the files about the creation of the TVA, the beginning of time, and the end of time, but finds them all to be classified. He asks what isn't classified, and the employee gives him the Loki file.

Loki sighs, but he does begin shifting through the file. Soon, he uncovers an event report for Ragnarok, a class-seven apocalypse (total planetary destruction), as seen in *Thor: Ragnarok*.

Cue the dramatic irony, because once again, our Loki Variant has a meta problem: as viewers of Taika Waititi's movie, we know that in many ways, Ragnarok can be counted as a victory for the God of Mischief: he stood alongside Valkyrie and Thor, arriving as a savior at a critical moment and personally being one of the reasons that the number of Asgardian causalities listed isn't higher. But without the context of the movie, he only sees a tragedy...

And a clue, because there was no Variance Energy detected at the event.

Loki bursts into the TVA canteen (which is filled with propaganda posters), hurrying over to the table where Mobius is eating alone.

"He's hiding in apocalypses," says our Loki Variant, and Mobius asks which one, since there's "like a million of them." The Loki Variant excitedly agrees: the appeal of the strategy is that it allows the malignant Loki Variant any number of possible hiding spots.

Our Loki Variant explains that since Nexus events happen when someone deviates from the timeline, the earth-shattering consequences of an apocalypse provide temporal cover, since the deviation from the timeline will mostly likely be overshadowed by said apocalyptic event. He then illustrates this point using Mobius's salad and a juice box snatched from an unsuspecting Casey's lunch.

In short, because an apocalypse effectively prunes any branching timeline itself, it can offer cover for any number of timeline-deviating actions.

Our Loki Variant insists that they test the theory, but Mobius is skeptical, insisting that he only wants to flee. But Loki eventually convinces Mobius by pointing out that if nothing else, Mobius can trust that Loki likes to be right.

Jump cut to Pompeii, Italy in 79 AD — in other words, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. While Mobius is hesitant and concerned about creating branching timelines, keeping his voice down and suggesting Loki make bird noises in order to test his hypothesis, Loki throws himself into the experiment, freeing some goats and shouting accurate predictions of their death to gain attention.

In spite of his actions, no Variance Energy is detected by Mobius's Tempad. Loki's theory is borne out!

Back at the TVA, both Mobius and Loki have renewed motivation as they search for clues about the malignant Loki Variant. Meanwhile, their friendship grows as well, with Mobius revealing that he views the Jet Ski as one of the crowning achievements of all time (specifically referencing the early 1990s... suspect). Mobius goes on to insist that we shouldn't think too hard about our own origin stories, which really, what are you hiding, Mobius?

Our Loki Variant asks if the implications of Mobius's beliefs are that no one has any free will, except those in the TVA — and while Mobius says that's an oversimplification, is it, though? Mobius goes on to say that his ultimate goal is total order, with no Nexus events, allowing for complete peace — a total resting situation.

Loki says that he knows Mobius views him as a scared little boy... which triggers an association for Mobius: the kid with the Kabloolie gum from the previous episode.

Back in the library, Mobius determines that that particular brand of gum was only sold in certain years, and cross-referencing this information against Earth apocalypses, they're able to determine where the malignant Loki Variant must be hiding: Haven Hills, Alabama in 2050.

The Roxxcart Disaster will be a Class Ten Apocalypse (planetary body intact) that will see a category eight hurricane kill 10,815 humans in 2050. The event will take place in Haven Hills, which will have been a "corporate town" owned by the notorious Roxxon Corporation (and this week's Jasper Fforde reference is the Goliath Corporation — For All You'll Ever Need).

The location is an ideal hiding place for the malignant Loki Variant, as the Roxxcart superstore is filled with any supplies they might need, allowing them to return time and time again to restock.

Mobius is so thrilled with our Loki Variant's work in the second act of this episode that he even gives him a pair of knives... but B-15 remains unconvinced, and snatches them out of his hands. B-15 notes that the malignant Loki Variant has been collecting reset charges... but to what end?

Jump cut to Haven Hills, Alabama in 2050. The score dramatically swells as we see a billboard showing an idyllic beachside suburban simulacra, anchored by the superstore on one side and with "Presented by Roxxcart" counter balancing the advert... but a windswept hunk of debris collides with the sign and knocks it aside, revealing the horrible reality of the situation as the Cat. 8 hurricane arrives, indifferent to both corporate messaging and the humans cowering inside the doomed Roxxcart superstore.

The Timekeepers arrive in a parking lot filled with Roxxcart Evacuation Shuttles, broken branches, and greeter holograms. Once inside, our Loki Variant uses magic to dry himself, invoking the ire of B-15. We can see a few Roxxcart employees, still taking inventory even though the literal apocalypse is at this point mere minutes hence.

The TVA crew splits up, with Mobius taking the opportunity to remind B-15 that Loki managed to put her in a Time Collar last week. Meanwhile, we see that the enigmatic hooded figure is watching the proceedings from the security monitors... and setting their TempPad for a 20-minute countdown.

Our Loki Variant and B-15 are patrolling the plant section when they find a civilian. He claims he's just shopping for plants, and says azaleas are half-off because of the hurricane sale (hard to say if this is a lie, it seems plausible in one of these superstores). But when B-15 approaches the civilian, he grabs her hand, and a green energy passes between them... it seems as though our Loki Variant has located the malignant Loki Variant.

Elsewhere in Roxxcart, the Timekeepers are searching for the malignant Loki Variant among the doomed humans. A Roxxcart employee asks if they're FEMA or National Guard, and begins seeking their help, but the soldiers are indifferent.

However, that's when one of them locates C-20. She's been tied up on the floor of the room with the security monitors, and seems to be mumbling in fear.

Meanwhile, the possessed B-15 and our Loki Variant are wandering another part of the store when they find a young Roxxcart employee... and the possession passes from B-15 to him.

Our Loki Variant begins taunting his doppelganger, trying to draw them out... and did someone say something about returning to old habits? Our Loki Variant tries to recruit the malignant Loki Variant, saying they could both overthrow the TVA together (exactly the same way Loki Prime tried to join forces with Thor and overthrow the Grandmaster in *Ragnarok*).

"Come on, Loki," our Loki Variant says, but the possessed Roxxcart employee says not to use that name, instead reading the name off of the scrolling Roxxcart nametag, "Randy."

Randy says they aren't interested in ruling the TVA and walks away, and while our Loki Variant follows, in the foreground, we see someone setting a reset charge.

Back in the security room, C-20 says that she gave away how to find the Time-Keepers. Meanwhile, B-15 is hailed on her TempPad, and she wakes up, realizing what's happened and becoming fearful.

Our Loki Variant is still following Randy, but he's soon replaced with a large, camouflage-wearing bearded man who has the physical upper hand in the ensuing fistfight.

Shortly after, the malignant variant is revealed: "This isn't about you," she says.

"Right," our Loki Variant replies, but that's when the reset charges begin to detonate, all over the Roxxcart store... but then, Timeddoors open under the charges, sending them... where?

Back at the TVA, a 000 alert occurs: countless branches begin forming, causing the Sacred Timeline to splinter. In Renslayer's office, she watches as Nexus events occur on Sakaar, in Finland, on Ego the Living Planet, and on Titan, among countless other time and space locations. She seizes what appears to be a weapon from her trinket shelf..

Back at the Haven Hills Roxxcart in 2050, the malignant variant opens a Timeddoor with her TempPad and steps through. Mobius and B-15 run towards our Loki Variant...

But he makes a decision: to step through the Timeddoor and follow the malignant variant to wherever she went. Where and when might that be?

Lamentis

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday June 23, 2021
Writer: Bisha K. Ali
Director: Kate Herron
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Susan Gallagher (Lamentian Homesteader), Alex Van (Patrice), Ben VanderMey (PVT Hudson), Jon Collin Barclay (Corporal Hicks), Jwaundace Candece (Lamentian Mother), Malerie Grady (Lamentian Bartender), Michael Rose (Wealthy Man), Anya Ruoss (Wealthy Woman)
Summary: Loki finds out The Variant's plan, but he has his own that will forever alter both their destinies.



The episode opens on Hunter C-20, dressed in "20th Century Earth casual" clothes. She's sitting at a restaurant table sipping a margarita out of what appears to be one of the souvenir glasses available at Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar at Disneyland.

Hunter C-20 puzzles over her order as we see that she's sitting across the table from the Loki Variant. The Variant sug-

gests eating somewhere else, and verbally spars with C-20 over the health department assessment of the establishment. Outside the window, we can see a scenic vista at sunset.

The Variant begins talking about memories and brain freezes. Soon, C-20 agrees to a game of answering questions, and the Variant asks how many guard the Time-Keepers. C-20 reacts with confusion...

And we abruptly jump cut to the same table, but at night. The Variant asks C-20 how long they've been best friends, and C-20 says, "Too long." The Variant again asks about those guarding the Time-Keepers... and seems to make it through some of C-20's defenses, although she still seems confused.

C-20 eventually concludes that she doesn't know the Variant, and the Variant assures her that she's just tired. But then we see that these scenes have been taking place within C-20's mind as she lies in the security office of the Roxxcart Superstore during the Category 8 hurricane that will have had destroyed Haven Hills, Alabama in 2050.

The Loki Variant asks C-20 how she finds the elevators, and C-20 says, "They're gold." The Variant smiles with satisfaction before looking over to the security monitors and seeing that our Loki and Mobius have arrived in 2050... and we cut to the Loki opening title.

Back at the Time Variance Authority, we see some Minutemen head through Timedoors as Nexus klaxons blare. After they vanish, another Timedoor opens, and Sylvie, the Variant played by di Martino, enters (she won't introduce herself until a few scenes hence, but with both Variants sharing scenes throughout the episode, we're naming her early for clarity's sake).

Sylvie heads down a hallway and attempts to use her possession magic on an unsuspecting Minuteman... but as we know (and apparently Sylvie doesn't), Loki's magic is ineffectual within the TVA.

But that doesn't mean Sylvie is defenseless. She seizes the Eradicator Wand from the Minuteman and disintegrates him, then dispatches two more foes in similar fashion (and with some very cool, literally off-the-wall fighting moves).

Elsewhere, we see our Loki arrive in the locker room. The Timedoor closes behind him and he seizes upon the locker in which Hunter B-15 stashed his double blades in the previous episode. Soon, Loki is stealthily approaching Sylvie in the TVA hallway, following the trail of non-disintegrated opponents.

Sylvie has arrived at a golden elevator, one decorated with an hourglass pattern. Loki asks Sylvie what her game is, and Sylvie asks if he has nothing better to do. Loki asks if she's sure she's a Loki, and she replies that he's in her way. "You are my way," Loki verbally spars, before the duo engages in some literal sparring.

The two battle as Loki attempts to convince Sylvie to join forces with him — essentially, the same elevator pitch Loki Prime gave Thor on Sakaar in *Ragnarok*, before the whole "Codename: REVENGERS" apocalypse went down.

But that's when Judge Ravonna Ravenslayer arrives, clutching the weapon she pulled from her trinket shelf in last week's episode and flanked by a pair of soldiers. Sylvie holds her sword to Loki's throat and threatens his life, Ravenslayer is unshaken.

But that's when Loki seizes the TemPad from Sylvie and opens a Timedoor directly underneath them, sending the pair tumbling through a shack on Lamentis-1.

The pair tussle some more and Sylvie emerges the victor. She takes the TemPad from Loki and attempts to open a Timedoor, but she only gets a notification delivered by Miss Minutes informing her that she's "out of juice." The TemPad is out of batteries and as a result, is not functional.

The duo continues to argue. Sylvie says that Loki can't recharge the TemPad, and Loki counters that she isn't the only tech-savvy Loki. But Sylvie again tells him not to use the name "Loki" for her...

But before she can explain the reasoning for Loki being a deadname, a meteorite bursts through the roof of the shack and embeds itself in the sand betwixt them, causing Sylvie to ask where Loki had sent them.

That's when we cut to outside. We see a purple-tinted mining pit that is being pockmarked by shrieking meteorites as the caption establishes that Loki and Sylvie are on Lamentis-1 in the year 2077. The camera pans up, and we see that we're witnessing another apocalyptic event: this time, a moon is dangling in the sky like it's auditioning for the adaptation of *The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask*.

Sylvie goes outside and immediately identifies their time-space location, saying it's the worst apocalypse saved on the TemPad and noting that no one will make it out of the event alive. What does this mean for our Variants? For one thing, the TVA isn't coming: because Variance Energy is shielded by an apocalypse, Sylvie and Loki's presence on Lamentis-1 will not be detectable to the TVA, just as Loki's meddling in 79 AD Pompeii in the previous episode was undetectable.

The pair continues to bicker as they navigate the meteorites and attempt to escape the pit, and manage to make it to another shelter, one that seems comparatively well-shielded. As they attempt to catch their breath, Sylvie approaches Loki and tries to use the same green-hand magic we saw in the previous episode to enchant him. Loki says it won't work because his mind is too strong, and the pair again draw their blades... but Loki asks if they're really going to battle again.

He proposes a truce, and while Sylvie doesn't readily concede, Loki's possession of the TemPad forces her hand. Sylvie vows to recharge the TemPad so she can escape the apocalypse and return to the TVA, where she plans to dispatch the Time-Keepers.

Loki trails after Sylvie, asking where they're going. Sylvie says there's a town nearby, and Loki calls her "Variant," to which she reacts with disdain. She says not to call her Loki again, and then says that's not who she is anymore: she's Sylvie now... however, she does identify Sylvie as an "alias" a few lines later.

Loki says that her alias isn't very Loki-like, and Sylvie asks what makes a Loki a Loki. It's a central question to the series (and echoes one of the central themes of *Loki: Agent of Asgard*).

"Independence, authority, style," Loki answers.

"So naturally you went to work for the boring, oppressive time police," Sylvie counters.

The pair continues to assess each other's motivations as they approach the town.

Loki and Sylvie arrive in the settlement and find it abandoned. Loki notes that everyone has fled and Sylvie replies that it was in vain. Just like the Roxxcart disaster, we have another apocalypse that sees the working-class rendered helpless before natural cataclysm as their corporate authority figures watch, indifferent to their suffering. Sylvie notes that about twelve hours remain, with increased gravitational effects and further societal collapse in the offing for the next half-day.

As they pass a neon sign, Loki suggests using it to charge the TemPad. Sylvie feigns compliance, but she's just trying to get the TemPad back from Loki... which he recognizes. The two verbally abuse each other, but just like Vision fighting The Vision in the series finale of *WandaVision*, they are essentially evenly matched, and unable to gain the upper hand over one another.

Sylvie asserts that the TemPad will require a serious power source before they move on.

In the next scene, we see the duo navigating another breathtaking, *Majora's Mask*-evoking plain. They approach a solitary shack on the outskirts of town. Loki suggests they employ diplomacy and guile but Sylvie lacks subtlety... causing the resident inside the shack to blow her away with an energy weapon.

Loki scoffs at the momentarily incapacitated Sylvie before addressing the resident. He sees a photograph in which she appears beside a man, and adopts the appearance of the man. Using the disguise of Patrice, he attempts to gain the trust of the resident...

But she blows him away in the same fashion as Sylvie, explaining that in the 30 years she knew the man, Patrice never had a kind word to say for her. The woman accuses them of being devils, and it's Sylvie's turn to mock Loki.

But in spite of her surly nature, they gain valuable information from the resident: people are evacuating to an arc — an evacuation vessel — and it's accessible by train. The catch? Tickets are only available to the wealthy.

At the train platform, a line of working class miners has been waiting in line for hours. They shout angrily as they are held in place by armed guards while the well dressed wealthy residents of the planet are permitted to board the train. On the horizon, meteorites continue to collide with the surface of Lamentis-1.

Sylvie suggests enchanting a guard, but Loki says they're doing it his way and adopts the guise of one of the guards. Sylvie criticizes his play but he insists she go along.

As they reach the guard at the door of the train, Loki's off-the-cuff plan starts to go sideways. Fortunately, Sylvie saves the day by reaching out and enchanting the guard before he can raise the alarm... a success that is something of a surprise to everyone involved.

The *Snowpiercer* of it all amps up to eleven as Loki and Sylvie enter the train's bar. A stark contrast to the shrieking, unwashed masses in the queue of the train platform, these ticketed riders maintain a relaxed demeanor as they sip their exotically glowing beverages, utterly convinced their wealth will shield them from the consequences of the apocalyptic events unfolding outside the windows.

Loki and Sylvie sit down in a booth and immediately begin bickering with one another again. We're being set up for another one of those one-on-one conversations between characters that have defined so much of *Loki* so far.

The topic of the conversation quickly turns to Loki's mother. He clearly maintains his tender feelings towards his mother. As the conversation continues, though, it is interesting to see how different the experience of the two Variants seems to be. Sylvie tells Loki that she barely remembers her mother at this point, although it's unclear whether that's because of the point at which their respective timelines split or if it's just because Sylvie has experienced decades during her time on the lam from the TVA.

The pair seems to be bonding as Loki shows off a fireworks-in-the-hand trick Frigga taught him. Sylvie tells Loki that she taught herself how to do the enchantment trick we've seen her using in the past couple episodes. Loki accepts a flute of champagne from a waiter before taking the second, which was refused by Sylvie.

Next, the conversation turns to romance, and while few specifics are revealed, both Loki and Sylvie admit to one another that they're bisexual.

"Love is mischief, then," Sylvie muses.

Sylvie suggests they rest, given that they're about to attempt to hijack a power source that is a civilization's only hope for survival, and Loki tells her to relax in her way while he relaxes in his.

After a few establishing shots that show the train traveling between the meteorites falling on Lamentis-1, we see that in spite of Sylvie's talk of staying awake, she's fallen asleep at the table. In the meantime, Loki has continued drinking, and has made himself the center of attention as he sings Asgardian songs to music played on a strange alien instrument.

One of the rich folk scowls at Loki and leaves the bar. Loki finishes his drink and throws the glass on the ground before demanding another, the exact behavior exhibited by an overly arrogant Thor in *Thor*.

Sylvie asks where Loki's disguise has gone and points out to him that the other passengers seem overly aware of his antics, but he only drunkenly insists she sample some of the nibbles. Loki asks when Sylvie got so paranoid and she says she guesses it was when she spent her entire life running from "the omniscient fascists" for whom Loki works.

But Loki is uninterested, instead returning to the "what is love" metaphor game they'd been playing earlier and declaring, "Love is a dagger." While he makes a compelling argument, that's when the train guards arrive and demand their tickets. The wealthy patrons flee the bar as the Variants begin battling the guards.

Loki manages to kick one guard out of one of the train's windows, but two more guards seize him and throw him out afterwards. Recognizing that he's got the TemPad, Sylvie dives through the window after him.

As the train leaves the pair of Variants behind, Sylvie demands Loki surrender the TemPad... but he reveals that it was broken in the battle. Sylvie curses him as it falls to pieces, calling him a clown and saying that while she's more hedonistic than he is, it's never at the expense of her mission.

She screams in frustration and takes a seat on a nearby pile of sand. Loki takes a seat beside her and asks if the scream helped (it did).

Sylvie recaps the apocalyptic situation for Loki: the moon will collide with the planet, and the arc will never leave because it is destroyed. But Loki suggests that they create a Nexus event, using their combined abilities to seize control of the arc and deviate from the Sacred Timeline by actually using it to escape.

Sylvie agrees, and the two Variants set off on the train tracks together. As they stroll, Loki feigns casual conversation about Sylvie's enchantments in an effort to learn more about her abilities, but Sylvie demurs. Loki argues he's told her about his abilities and she thanks him for the tactical advantage. Loki says he wants to know if he can trust her, and Sylvie concedes.

She tells him that enchantment works through physical touch. Once this is accomplished, she can "grab control" of their mind. Most are easy to overtake, but when their mind is stronger, it's a more complicated procedure: she's in control, but they're there too — in order to preserve the connection, she must create a false world out of their memories... In other words, the situation we saw in the cold open between Sylvie and Hunter C-20.

Soon, we learn that before "joining" the TVA, C-20 was just a regular person on Earth. Presumably, this means that B-15, Casey Who's Never Seen a Fish, and the rest of the TVA employees are all actually Variants (and B-15 was so proud of holding that over Loki's head). The notion that the Time-Keepers created the employees of the TVA is a lie... so what else is the TVA lying about?

But that's when they arrive at the location from which the Lamentis arc will launch.

The sound of screams fills the air as Loki and Sylvie arrive at the launchpad for the arc. It looms over the angrily chanting crowds in the neon-lit marketplace as the situation worsens. Guards use force to knock working class people back... and that's when the looming moon splits in half, showering even more meteorites on the proceedings.

Loki and Sylvie begin battling the guards as they attempt to approach the arc. The surrounding buildings begin to collapse as the gravity effects of the falling moon worsen. The population screams in terror.

Loki and Sylvie are nearly crushed by a falling tower, but Loki uses his magic to deflect it. They're finally working in tandem, like a team, getting each other's backs!

"We can still make it," Loki shouts hopefully.

The arc's engines begin to power up as they battle more guards. Their opponents knocked aside, they run towards their salvation...

Only to witness the arc being split in two by a particularly large meteorite, causing the spacecraft to explode. Loki, Sylvie, and the helpless humans watch as their last hope for survival is

destroyed on the launchpad in front of their eyes...

The Nexus Event

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday June 30, 2021
Writer: Eric Martin
Director: Kate Herron
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Richard E. Grant (Classic Loki), Jack Veal (Kid Loki), Deobia Oparei (Boastful Loki), Cailey Fleming (Young Sylvie), Jon Levine (Paperwork Clerk), Aaron Beelner (Scanner Clerk), Philip Fornah (Minuteman #1), David A MacDonald (Minuteman #2), Michelle Rose (Minuteman #3), Sarafina King (Minuteman #9), Alvin Chon (Minuteman #10), Ilan Muallem (Minuteman #11), Isabelle Pierre (Analyst #4), Lauren Halperin (Analyst #5), Nicholas Anthony Zarrillo (Screaming Man), Matthew J. Gannon (Judge), Lauren Revard (Time Keeper On-set Reader), Robert Pralgo (Time Keeper On-set Reader), Jaimie Alexander (Sif)
Summary: Frayed nerves and paranoia infiltrate the TVA as Mobius and Hunter B-15 search for Loki and Sylvie.



The episode opens on Asgard. Or an Asgard, anyway: we soon see a young Sylvie playing with her toys. But soon, a Time-door opens behind her and a Hunter version of Ravonna Renslayer steps through.

Renslayer identifies Sylvie as "their Variant" and arrests her for crimes against the Scared Timeline before resetting her timeline, disintegrating every-

thing in it (including little Sylvie's adorable Fenrir toy... this is as bad as those Imperials messing up Lumpy's stuffed Bantha during Life Day).

Soon, Sylvie has been brought into the Time Variance Authority and is subjected to the same intake procedures we saw our Loki Variant undergo in the first episode. Like our Loki Variant, she sees another Variant being brutalized by a guard, and shrieks for someone to help him... but this institution isn't in the business of helping individuals.

After being subjected to the Cat man and the robot-melting device (apparently Sylvie is not a robot, either — better luck next time, Arcade), we see Sylvie in Time Court. However, as she is about to take the stand, she stomps on Renslayer's foot and absconds through a Timedoor with the Hunter's TemPad.

Years later, in the present day (if that's how time works in the TVA), we see an anxious Renslayer standing within the golden elevator. The doors open and she steps into a mist-filled room. The three Time-Keepers sit upon glowing thrones... And we cut to the opening title.

After the opening title, we seem to have had a time skip (again, is that how time works in the TVA): Renslayer comes back out of the elevator and meets Mobius M. Mobius, who immediately begins demanding information.

Renslayer tells him that the Time-Keepers blame Renslayer for Sylvie's machinations, and she emphasizes that they are the only things standing between the Sacred Timeline and multiversal

chaos. Still, Mobius insists that he needs access to Hunter C-20: he wants to know what her verbal repetition of "it's real" meant... but Renslayer tells Mobius that C-20 is dead.

Renslayer explains that C-20 had been enchanted, giving her the brain scrambles. Mobius insisted that she seemed fine, but Renslayer tells him that her condition declined after she returned to the TVA, and explains that it was kept a secret to avoid general panic. In other words, Renslayer is acting extremely suspect.

Meanwhile, back on Lamentis, our Loki Variant and Sylvie are sitting together on a few rocks as more meteorites rain down from the purple skies. The pair reflect on their situation, and Sylvie says that it was simply the fact that she was born as the Goddess of Mischief that she created a Nexus Event: her gender was sufficient to create a branch off the Sacred Timeline, that eventually attracted the attention of the TVA.

Sylvie confirms that she has spent her life on the lam from the TVA, hiding out in various apocalypses, and laments that she will now apparently be dying on Lamentis-1.

In the TVA control room, Mobius and Hunter B-15 anxiously watch the monitor in the Sacred Timeline control room. As more debris falls towards the surface of Lamentis-1, Sylvie wonders if Lokis are meant to lose, and our Loki Variant insists that they are not losers, they're survivors — even in the most bleak of circumstances.

That's when the TVA begins to detect Variance Energy on Lamentis-1 in 2077. As the collision goes full *Majora's Mask*, our Loki Variant and Sylvie hold each other's hand. Our Loki Variant and Sylvie gaze into each other eyes, and the branch off the Sacred Timeline grows even more pronounced, attracting the attention of Mobius. B-15 confirms she's never seen anything like it, either.

On Lamentis-1, just before our Loki Variant and Sylvie are crushed by the debris of the oncoming shockwave, two Timeddoors open for the Tricksters...

Sylvie and our Loki Variant are subsequently apprehended, placed in Time Twister collars, and brought back to the TVA. The pair are separated, with more Minutemen guarding Sylvie than Loki (leading the latter to complain to Mobius, who accompanied him).

Mobius and Loki arrive at Time Theater 5, where Loki wonders which "folksy, dopey" insult Mobius will hurl at him next. Mobius calls him an asshole and a bad friend and opens a sinister red Timeddoor. Before Loki is forced through, he tells Mobius that the TVA is lying to him... which as far as we know, is accurate! Nevertheless, Mobius sends him through the door.

Inside, Loki finds himself in an Asgardian-looking courtyard. Soon, Lady Sif appears. She's livid with Loki, apparently for cutting her hair, and she verbally eviscerates him before punching him in the gut and moving on.

This might be bad enough, but then it happens again... and soon it becomes clear that it's going to keep happening. On the one hand, this is another weird form of temporal punishment. On the other hand, this is a great way to symbolize the central crisis of Loki's character: just when it seems like he'll finally grow beyond his shortcomings, he makes the bad decision again, stealing the Cosmic Cube, stabbing an ally in the back... or even just violating the trust of a friend by cutting her hair when she was asleep.

But thanks to the bad-memory time loop, Loki is subjected to the consequences of his bad decision over, and over, and over again... a pretty awful punitive measure, if you think about it. And Loki will apparently have a lot of time to think about it...

Mobius visits Renslayer's office as Loki softens in the Time Cell. Mobius wants to interrogate Sylvie as well as Loki, but Renslayer denies his request, saying she's too dangerous. Clearly, Renslayer is hiding something, but Mobius won't let it alone, but Renslayer just tells him to "work your Loki."

Instead, Mobius visits B-15 in front of Time Theater 47. Mobius remarks to B-15 that they've brought in Kree, Titan, and vampires, but no Variant has posed the same challenge as this pair of "orphan demigods." B-15 and Mobius compare notes, and both have become suspicious that the TVA is lying to them.

In the Time Cell, Loki attempts to reason with the Sif duplicate. He admits that he craves attention because he's a narcissist and is scared of being alone. In response, Sif helps him to stand... but it's only so she can deliver a savage verbal blow. The TVA sure does like their psychological abuse, don't they?

Mobius arrives and releases Loki from the Time Cell, bringing him back to Time Theater 5. Loki accuses Mobius of being in a metaphorical loop of his own, with the pair using threats and

abuse to try and coerce one another.

Mobius attempts to better understand the nature of the relationship between Loki and Sylvie. Mobius threatens to put Loki back in the Time Cell, and Loki capitulates... claiming that he was pulling the strings all along. Mobius claims that Sylvie's been pruned by B-15, and Loki is plainly heartbroken, even though he tries to pretend otherwise.

Soon enough, it becomes clear that they are attracted to each other (like, they "like-like" each other... I'm paraphrasing Mobius here, but pretty closely). Mobius admits that Sylvie hasn't actually been pruned while mocking Loki for being so narcissistic he fell for himself.

Loki insists that both he and Sylvie simply have a common goal of overthrowing the Time-Keepers, which he suggests may be necessary. Mobius is taken aback but Loki insists he's telling the truth... before finally shouting that they're all Variants, not created by the Time-Keepers but kidnapped by them.

As the dawning realization overtakes Mobius, he attempts to deny that Loki is speaking the truth... but he doesn't look like he can keep believing the lie of the TVA, does he? Loki calls him out for lying to himself as he is shoved back in the Time Cell.

Outside Time Theater 27, Hunter B-15 is going through it herself. She anxiously stares at one of the TVA propaganda posters before drawing her weapon and entering. Sylvie attempts to start with some banter but B-15 simply opens a Timedoor to Haven Hills, Alabama in 2050, beckoning Sylvie to follow.

In Renslayer's office, Mobius is distracted by the knowledge Loki has imparted to him. Renslayer says the Loki/Sylvie case is closed and tosses the file aside as she raises a toast. She asks Mobius where and when he would go if he could anywhere, and he replies by inquiring why he wasn't allowed to interrogate Sylvie.

Renslayer has plenty of perfectly valid reasons that Mobius shouldn't interrogate her, but Mobius is unconvinced. Renslayer says that the Time-Keepers want to oversee the Loki Variant's pruning personally, and that they want Mobius in attendance. This information does not quite placate Mobius, who asks another question about C-20's deterioration.

Renslayer insists that it's "mission accomplished," and tells him to relax, but Mobius says something seems off. Renslayer tells him that she's trying to protect him from the Variant, especially after what happened to C-20... Mobius wonders if it's the truth and Renslayer tells him he's spent too much time with Lokis. She uses TVA mantras and fellowship to insist that the two of them are friends and allies... but it all rings so hollow, doesn't it? Mobius acts like he's buying it, but is he really?

Renslayer adds Sylvie's sword to her trinket collection and Mobius leaves, in spite of the fact that Renslayer suspects that he suspects something.

In the Roxxcart parking lot in 2050, B-15 and Sylvie stand in the parking lot as the Category Eight hurricane approaches. B-15 says that she saw something when Sylvie was in her head, and Sylvie says that she showed her the life she had before conscription into the TVA.

Sylvie tells B-15 that the Time-Keepers didn't create B-15, they took her previous life away from her — everyone working for the TVA are Variants, the same as Sylvie or Loki are. B-15 asks to be shown, and Sylvie touches her head, giving her a vision.

The music is melancholy as B-15's breath catches. We don't see what she sees, but she sobs, "I look happy... What now?"

In the library, Mobius sneaks between the stacks and pulls out Renslayer's fancy TemPad. He searches for information on C-20, and finds she is classified as "Deceased." He accesses the file with her mission debrief for the Roxxcart Disaster and finds a video of her insisting that the memory Sylvie showed her was real, and stating that she (and everyone else at the TVA) was a Variant and declaring that she's leaving... before Renslayer leans into the shot.

In the Time Cell, Loki is resigning himself to being abused by the Sif duplicate when Mobius enters. Mobius asks Loki if he believes he deserves to be alone, but Loki says he doesn't know. Mobius tells him to figure it out, because he believes the Nexus Event causes by Loki and Sylvie falling for one another could be enough to bring the TVA down... and he uses "we," indicating that he's finally be won over to Loki's TVA-subverting side.

Mobius says that Loki was right about the TVA and that if Loki trusts Mobius, they can rescue Sylvie. Mobius tells Loki that he can choose who he wants to be, and that self-determination lies with him: he doesn't have to be a lackey or a prop to raise the Avengers to their apotheosis.

But they leave the Time Cell and are confronted by Renslayer and a cadre of Minutemen. Renslayer accuses Mobius of taking her TempPad and he surrenders it, although Mobius tries to pay dumb. Mobius tells Renslayer that if he could go anywhere, he'd go wherever it was he's really from (maybe there's a jet ski), revealing to her that he knows he is a Variant.

But with great knowledge comes great disintegration, and Renslayer orders one of the Minutemen to prune him... and Mobius is unceremoniously eradicated.

Loki is lead away by Minutemen, but when Renslayer arrives at Time Theater 47, she finds Sylvie alone. Renslayer states that B-15 has been compromised by the Variant and puts out an alert for her.

Renslayer brings both Loki and Sylvie to the golden elevator and then dismisses the Minutemen. As the trio rides upstairs, Sylvie asks if Renslayer remembers her. After confirmation, Sylvie asks Renslayer why she was brought in — what was her Nexus Event? Renslayer says it doesn't matter, and Sylvie insists that it must have been important to take her life from her. Renslayer says she doesn't remember.

It's a perfect demonstration of how institutions allows certain "privileged" individuals (like Renslayer) to exert systemic control on other individuals (like Sylvie), even though there is no actual reason this should be so (Renslayer doesn't even remember Sylvie's Nexus Event, the stated justification for her abuse)... especially since it seems most likely that like B-15 and Sylvie, Renslayer is actually another Variant — another equal.

The elevator doors open and all three characters enter the mist-filled room from the cold open (hey, another narrative loop... who saw that coming). Renslayer addresses the Time-Keepers, and the three Time-Keepers begin to flaunt their authority over Loki and Sylvie.

Loki says he doesn't fear death, and the rasping Time-Keepers continue to scoff at them before stating they should be deleted...

But then the golden elevator doors open and B-15 enters the misty room. She deactivates the Time Twister collars around Loki and Sylvie's necks, and then tosses the TVA slogan at Renslayer and Sylvie's sword to its owner. B-15 is incapacitated by the Minutemen before Loki and Sylvie begin sparring with the guards.

Sylvie and Loki manage to prevail over the guards and Renslayer. They turn on the Time-Keepers and decapitate the one at the apex of the trio... only to discover that they are "mindless androids." We've been Oz'd, people!

As Loki and Sylvie contemplate the implications, Loki declares that "it never stops," but before he can elaborate further... Renslayer pops up and prunes him!

Sylvie looks crushed (but not too surprised) before she seizes the weapon from Renslayer and turns it on the TVA boss. Renslayer tells her to go ahead, but Sylvie demands some answers... and the credits roll.

But then we get an after-credits sequence that suggests that those weapons used by the TVA may not be as fatal as they at first appear! Our Loki Variant awakes to find he's in a ruined version of New York City (including a burned-out Avengers Tower), and being menaced by four Loki Variants: an older, onsie-wearing Loki, Kid Loki, what may be a combination of Loki and Thor, and... alligator Loki?

Journey Into Mystery

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday July 07, 2021
Writer: Tom Kauffman
Director: Kate Herron
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Richard E. Grant (Classic Loki), Jack Veal (Kid Loki), Deobia Oparei (Boastful Loki), Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Sarafina King (Minuteman #9), Alvin Chon (Minuteman #10), Ilan Muallem (Minuteman #11), Lauren Revard (Miss Minutes On-Set Reader), Alec Zais (USS Eldridge Sailor)
Summary: Loki tries to escape The Void, a desolate purgatory where he meets variant versions of himself.



The episode opens on an overhead shot of the TVA offices, which then pans downwards and upside down before twisting itself right again and zooming in on the hourglass pattern on the golden elevator's doors. Next, we see the abandoned Time-Keeper's chamber, where the abandoned, decapitated android head lies, slack jawed. And finally, we move to the post apocalyptic wasteland where we last

saw our Loki Variant. Filled with decaying skyscrapers and a giant cloud filled with purple lighting, the camera pulls through the ruins until we find our Loki Variant, still facing off against Classic Loki, Kid Loki, Boastful Loki, and Alligator Loki.

Classic Loki tells our Variant that they're in The Void, the giant smoke monster entity is Alioth, and that they need to leave if they aren't going to be eaten... and all five Lokis scurry away before we see the title card.

Meanwhile, back at the TVA, Sylvie interrogates Judge Renslayer in the Time Court. Sylvie notes the cyclical serendipity of confronting Renslayer in the same room that Renslayer took Sylvie's life away. Renslayer tries to stop Sylvie by telling her that our Loki Variant is still alive, and claims that she wants to stop the TVA as well — to find out whose at the top and find out why they lied to her.

Renslayer goes on to explain that it's impossible to destroy the matter in a branch reality, so they aren't actually disintegrated: branch realities are transferred to a void at the end of time, where they collide and "stop." According to Renslayer, dogma states that the Time-Keepers are still working on the Void, and that the end of time will eventually be written into utopia.

Even Renslayer doesn't seem to believe this is true, but she tells Sylvie that the salient detail is that nothing ever returns from the Void...

From there, we cut to the Void. We see a decaying pirate ship and what appears to be a flying saucer. In the distance, more portals open in the sky.

As the five Lokis traverse the apocalyptic landscape, our Loki Variant attempts to get some information from his rescuers. Our Loki Variant insists that if his traveling partners are indeed Lokis, they must have a plan. As a bunch of weird birds that have hovering spheres instead of heads run by, our Loki demands some answers.

Our Loki Variant quickly runs down the events leading to him being stranded in the Void, noting that he didn't even find the Alligator Variant all that strange (same, Loki)... However, Kid Loki silences him by drawing his sword and warning him that Alioth will locate them if he doesn't get himself under control.

But Kid Loki does have some important exposition, explaining to our Loki Variant that the Void is the depository for everything that the TVA has pruned, with Alioth, a living tempest, ensuring that nothing ever returns.

"We're in a shark tank, and Alioth is the shark," notes Classic Loki, before confirming that the Alligator is indeed a Loki Variant. Classic Loki explains that there's so many Lokis because what Lokis do best is survive. While our Loki Variant insists that there must be some method of escape, the other Lokis laugh at his naivety.

As they begin to walk again, they pause beside a pile of books as our Loki Variant questions the authority of Kid Loki, who seems to be their commander. Classic Loki suggests our Loki Variant show some respect, and Kid Loki reveals that his Nexus Event was killing Thor.

After an establishing shot (which may include a decrepit giant Wasp helmet... check it out), we pull in on a busted-up missile and a crashed version of the titular Thanos-copter, first seen in *Spidey Super Stories* #39 (1979), "The Cat and the Cosmic Cube".

But the allusions haven't concluded, because as the Lokis enter a hatch, we pan down through the ground and see Frog Thor, imprisoned in a jar and attempting to reach Mjolnir, which is buried nearby. The jar is labeled "T365," alluding to *Thor* #365 (1985), "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, or, It's Not Easy Being Green", the issue that introduced Frog Thor.

Inside the Loki's hideout, which appears to be a sunken bowling alley, Boastful Loki and Classic Loki ask our Loki Variant why he wants to return to the TVA.

In the Time Court, Renslayer consults the Miss Minutes hologram as Sylvie looks on. They determine that past the Void, there would be no Nexus Energy, since there would no longer be a Sacred Timeline to contradict. Sylvie resolves to travel to that point at the timeline, but Renslayer insists its impossible, causing Sylvie to say she's outlived her usefulness...

But Miss Minutes chimes in with a line about the "Void Spacecraft," and Renslayer begins searching the files for what appears to be a perfect solution to Sylvie's problem. But perhaps... too perfect?

Renslayer and Sylvie seem to agree to work together in order to find Loki and determine who the man behind the curtain is... but when they go to shake hands, Sylvie seizes Renslayer's hand and asks why the files are taking so long. Miss Minutes continues to stall, but that's when several Minutemen burst in, causing Sylvie to flee.

Renslayer seems to have gained the upper hand, but her facial expression does not match someone who feels in control of the situation. Sylvie asks what happened to overthrowing the Time-Keepers, but Renslayer only responds by saying she'll put Sylvie in a happy memory time loop... So Sylvie responds by pruning herself.

Back at the Loki Hideout, the Variants are sharing a box of Roxxiwine (well, Kid Loki is drinking a juice box of Hi-C Ecto-Cooler Punch). In the background is a *Polyibus* arcade cabinet, referencing an urban legend about a government-created psychology experiment in Portland, Oregon.

Boastful Loki is explaining that after he defeated Captain America and Iron Man, he claimed all six Infinity Stones (which may or may not have later become TVA paperweights). When Alligator Loki expresses doubt in the veracity of this claim, Boastful Loki says that at least his Nexus Event wasn't eating the wrong neighbor's cat, causing Alligator Loki to attack him.

After diffusing the situation, Kid Loki commands Classic Loki to tell his tale. Classic Loki explains that in his timeline, the Nexus Event occurred when Thanos attacked the ship in the opening scenes of *Avengers: Infinity War*. As Classic Loki explains, he cast a projection of himself so effective that even the Mad Titan was convinced, and hid as inanimate debris before simply floating alone through space for a while.

Classic Loki concludes that no matter where he goes, only pain follows, and as a result, exiles himself to a lifeless planet, where he spends a "long, long time." Eventually, he got lonely — he missed his brother. But when he began to take steps towards leaving the planet, the TVA arrived and apprehended him. Classic Loki concludes that Lokis have a single role to play: the God of Outcasts.

Our Loki Variant decides that he's going to leave, and Kid Loki asks why he thinks he's different than the rest of them. Our Loki Variant says that he's no different from them, but says Sylvie is different, noting that she's trying to take down the TVA and needs his assistance.

Our Loki Variant resolves to kill Alioth, and the other four Variants laugh at him.

However, when our Loki Variant opens the hatch, he is confronted by a cadre of Loki Variants, lead by President Loki, a Variant who bears a striking resemblance to the protagonist of *Vote Loki* (2016), right down to the political button.

"This is a nightmare," concludes our Loki Variant.

Elsewhere, Sylvie awakens in a molding school bus (we've seen a lot of busted-up buses in this show). She quickly evacuates the vehicle as Alioth, now fully channeling the smoke monster from *LOST*, attacks. As Sylvie flees, she is briefly touched by Alioth, affording her a vision of a castle, with a powerful energy emanating from its fortified tower...

She continues to flee Alioth, and is met by a pizza delivery car (it even has a bouncy slice on top). She gets in the Skinny's Pizza car without checking who might be driving...

But we soon learn that the driver is Mobius M. Mobius, who is apparently the only non-Loki Variant to survive the Void... Or, could he be a Loki Variant?

Well, no time for that now, as they've got to escape Alioth. As Sylvie and Mobius speed past the Sphinx and a couple of pyramids, tendrils of smoke reach towards the pizza deliver car...

At the Loki Hideout, President Loki has apparently seized control of the situation. Kid Loki blames our Loki Variant for leading the wolves to their door. But that's when Boastful Loki turns on Kid Loki.

It seems like Boastful Loki was in league with Vote Loki... but then President Loki turns on Boastful Loki! President Loki declares that he is now the rightful ruler of the realm... but that's when his entire cadre turns on him...

President Loki demands to know why there's an alligator in the Loki Hideout, to which Classic Loki and Kid Loki respond, "He's a Loki!" Then, Alligator Loki leaps forward and bites Vote Loki's right hand clean off. Naturally, this leads to utter chaos, with all of the Loki Variants turning on one another in inglorious (and messy) battle.

Classic Loki casts a projection and opens a shimmery portal, providing escape for himself, our Loki Variant, Kid Loki, and Alligator Loki.

On the other side of the portal, Classic Loki laments that, as Lokis, they are always willing to betray anyone around them in order to gain more power, and that they're too broken to change. Kid Loki notes that even if they try to fix themselves, they are simply sent to the Void to die. Our Loki Variant insists that's why they must join forces with Sylvie and overthrow the TVA.

The other Loki Variants concede, and say they will help him... to a point. Facing Alioth is a death sentence, and they won't participate in that!

Speaking of Alioth, its now fading in the rearview mirror of the Skinny's Pizza car. Mobius expresses his incredulity at the actual function of the TVA, and Sylvie lambasts him for erasing realities. Mobius says that when you think the ends justify the means, you can do it anyway, calling to mind the justification offered by countless authority figures that can't admit they bear responsible for the actions they've undertaken in the name of an institution.

Mobius then notes that Sylvie did some annihilating herself, and Sylvie says she did what she had to... Mobius replies that he was doing the same. However, Mobius does apologize for hunting Sylvie "like a dog."

Sylvie says that the only way out of this is to go back to Alioth, and Mobius reluctantly agrees. As the Skinny's Pizza car makes a U-turn, more debris falls through a portal in the distance...

Meanwhile, the Loki Variants are trying to figure out Alioth for themselves. They see a portal open and the *U.S.S. Eldridge* falls through, the United States Naval vessel that was the subject of the *Philadelphia Experiment* in 1943. Alioth quickly descends on the Eldridge, indifferent to its cannons, and seemingly killing everyone on-board.

Our Loki Variant realizes that defeating Alioth may be more difficult than expected... but that's when Mobius and Sylvie arrive in the Skinny's Pizza car. Our Loki Variant introduces the other Variants and Mobius notes that if you throw a rock, you'll hit a Loki.

Sylvie says that she thinks whoever they're after is at the end of time, and that means that Alioth is essentially said person's guard dog. In order to get through, Sylvie says that they simply need to enchant the giant, angry could entity. As Mobius notes, "She seems pretty confident."

Back at the TVA, Renslayer enters Time Theater 38. After dismissing the Minutemen guarding the room, she opens a door to a room with red walls (similar in appearance to the Time Loop door that Mobius shoved our Loki Variant through in the previous episode). Inside is the Variant currently known as Hunter B-15.

B-15 wants to know why she's been incarcerated, and asks to whom she was disloyal — the Time-Keepers are puppets. Renslayer states that this changes nothing, but B-15 insists that people should know the truth.

Renslayer tells B-15 that she needs to know what motivates Sylvie, and B-15 says revenge. Now that the Time-Keepers have been Scooby Doo'd, B-15 says Sylvie will be searching for whoever was responsible for creating them. B-15 concludes by stating that Renslayer only wants to find the man behind the curtain... Sylvie needs to find them.

In the next scene, Renslayer is leaving Time Theater 38 alone. She consults Miss Minutes and says that she needs all the files on the history of the TVA. Renslayer says that whoever created the TVA is in danger, so she needs to find them, and Miss Minutes acquiesces.

In the Void, the Loki Variants are now holed up in the ruins of Dom's Cuts, a barber shop. Mobius says that he doesn't remember pruning an Alligator Loki. Classic Loki and Mobius discuss whether or not he's really a Loki Variant, but Mobius points out that if he's lying — playing the long con — that just makes him more likely to be a Loki, doesn't it?

Kid Loki asks Mobius what will happen if he returns to the TVA, and Mobius says he wants to spread the truth.

Outside the barber shop, our Loki Variant and Sylvie reflect on their adventures. Our Loki Variant conjures a blanket for himself and offers one to Sylvie, but she just says she could use a new outfit. The pair reflects on their Lamentis-1 kiss before Sylvie admits that she isn't used to having friends. Our Loki Variant casts a spell that expands the blanket, wrapping it around both of them.

Sylvie thanks him, which seems to take a lot of effort, before she asks how she knows our Loki Variant won't betray her. Our Loki Variant admits that he's betrayed everyone who ever loved him, but he understands now why he did those things, and he resolves not to do them again.

The pair dares to dream about what they might do if the TVA is toppled, and even wonder if they might have a life together.

In the next scene, our six-member team looks across a field at Alioth (a field that includes debris like a crashed version of The Dark Aster, Ronan the Accuser's ship, seen in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 1*).

Sylvie and Loki both agree to stay and do battle against Alioth, with Sylvie attempting to enchant the entity. Mobius plans to return to the TVA, while Classic Loki, Kid Loki, and Alligator Loki will remain in The Void, which is their home. Kid Loki gives his golden sword to our Loki Variant before the trio heads away.

Mobius thanks Loki for the spark he needs to burn the TVA to the ground before the pair embraces one another. "Thank you my friend," our Loki Variant says to Mobius, who is preoccupied telling Sylvie that she's his favorite. Mobius steps through the Timedoor and our Loki Variant and Sylvie head towards Alioth. We see that Classic Loki has some misgivings...

Our Loki Variant and Sylvie approach Alioth as the wreck of S.H.I.E.L.D. helicarrier #42 looms in the background.

Our Loki Variant wonders what they do if no branch reality appears to distract Alioth, and Sylvie says they'll have to cause a distraction. Our Loki Variant touches her on the shoulder before running in another direction. Alioth's attention follows our Loki Variant, who ignites the sword given to him by Kid Loki.

However, Alioth is torn between our Loki Variant's flaming blade and Sylvie's glowing spell...

Until, that is, Natalie Holt's continually incredible score alerts us that a new contender has entered the arena. Soon, we see Classic Loki, adopting the pose of Loki on the cover of *Journey of Mystery #85* (1962).

Classic Loki summons an incredible vision of the Kingdom of Asgard — the home to which he longed to return, a home kept from him by the machinations of the TVA. Alioth is powerless to resist the incredible illusion.

"How is he doing that?" Sylvie asks.

"I think we're stronger than we realize," our Loki Variant replies.

A sweeping shot takes us over the ersatz Asgard and we see Sylvie and our Loki Variant take each others' hands and resolve to enchant Alioth.

With Alioth distracted by the Asgard illusion, the enchantment begins. But Classic Loki has exhausted his power, and the Asgard illusion vanishes. Classic Loki turns to face Alioth and shouts "glorious purpose" as the entity consumes him, leaving behind nothing but his rusted helm...

But there is an important difference between this defeat and other defeats we have seen Loki suffer. In the first episode of *Loki*, Mobius told Our Loki Variant his purpose was to help others, like the Avengers, achieve their apotheosis. The climax of this episode allows Classic Loki's defeat to give Our Loki Variant and Sylvie the opportunity they need to rise to their own personal apotheosis.

Alioth turns on Sylvie and our Loki Variant, but Classic Loki's illusion was successful: he bought his fellow variants enough time to enchant the immense entity. The red and purple turns to green before the smoke parts, revealing a castle in a psychedelic landscape.

For All Time. Always.

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Wednesday July 14, 2021
Writer: Michael Waldron, Eric Martin
Director: Kate Herron
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Jonathan Majors (He Who Remains), Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Sarafina King (Minuteman #9), Ilan Muallem (Minuteman #11), Lauren Revard (Miss Minutes On-Set Reader), Reese Giles (T.V.A. Office Employee)
Summary: Loki and Sylvie travel it to the Citadel at the End of Time, and the man behind the curtain tells them how it all started, what it's all been about and what the future holds if they kill him. Meanwhile, Mobius returns to the TVA and confronts Ravonna.



The episode opens on the green version of the Marvel Studios logo again, but this time, the soundtrack is a series of quotations, both from the Marvel Cinematic Universe timeline and our timeline alike: sound clips of T'Challa, Thor, Carol Danvers, and other MCU heroes are integrated with recordings of Neil Armstrong, Greta Thunberg, Maya Angelou, and others. Meanwhile, we hear snippets of music,

including a bit of the theme for *Swan Lake*, as well as other music.

Meanwhile, the camera pans in and out of the universe, flying through space (and the timeline)... until we settle on the weird donut-shaped planet where the Citadel at the End of Time is located. We see Our Loki Variant and Sylvie standing before the Citadel before we head into the title card.

After the opening titles, which are quieter than usual, we return to Our Loki Variant and Sylvie climbing through the surreal landscape towards the Citadel (watch your step, Lokis... you don't want to end up like *Howard the Duck*).

The pair arrives at the door of the Citadel and pauses. Sylvie asks if Our Loki Variant isn't going to tell her not to kick the door in, and Our Loki Variant remarks that it wouldn't make a difference. Sylvie steels herself for the kick, but before she can follow through, the doors open simply on their own.

The two enter the foyer. The Citadel seems to be entirely comprised of marble that has broken and been repaired with gold, in the style of kintsugi pottery, possibly suggesting that the timeline has been fragmented and repaired repeatedly — and as you can probably guess, kintsugi technique takes a lot of practice and expertise. There are several towering statues of cloaked figures with clock faces — just like... Miss Minutes! The orange hologram appears, seeming more incongruous than ever within the sepulchral Citadel. Miss Minutes remarks that He Who Remains has been expecting them. When asked to elaborate, Miss Minutes says, "he created all and controls all, and at the end, it is only He Who Remains."

According to Miss Minutes, He Who Remains has been making a few "creative adjustments," and goes on to offer Our Loki Variant and Sylvie a Faustian bargain: stop trying to destroy

the Time Variance Authority and the pair can be re-inserted into the timeline, along with their desired narratives: Our Loki Variant can conquer the self-righteous Avengers; killing Thanos; laying claim to the Infinity Gauntlet. Meanwhile, Sylvie is given the chance to eradicate her lifetime of bad memories, replacing them with contentment.

It's a textbook example of an institution attempting to dissuade an individual from destroying it by offering them the fruits of its own corruption... thus allowing the institution to continue its machinations unabated. You can tell that Our Loki Variant and Sylvie are tempted... but Sylvie denounces it as fiction.

"We write our own destiny now," says Our Loki Variant.

"Good luck with that," Miss Minutes replies, and vanishes.

Meanwhile, back at the TVA, Judge Renslayer is still working on downloading the files that reveal the history of the TVA onto her TemPad. She glances at the stain left by Mobius on her furniture before Miss Minutes appears on her desk, replying that "some things had to get worked out" when Renslayer asks where she's been.

Renslayer says that the files downloaded to her TemPad aren't the ones she asked for, and Miss Minutes replies that she knows, explaining "he thinks this'll be more useful." But who is he... and more useful to what end... ?

At the Citadel, Our Loki Variant and Sylvie advance down a hallway as the camera rotates in a clockwise direction. In the distance, we hear a ticking clock. The pair arrives in another room, this one decorated with statues of the three Time-Keepers... although one has been toppled and shattered. Our Loki Variant runs his fingers through the dust on one of the statues and wonders if He Who Remains is even still alive...

Which is when an elevator door dings, opens, and reveals Jonathan Majors, wrapped in a purple cape and eating a green apple: He Who Remains. He Who Remains has a relaxed demeanor as he invites the pair into his elevator, and by extension, his office.

As the trio stands in the elevator, they note that he's just a man... which Sylvie says makes him easier to kill. She swings her sword at him but he moves out of the way faster than the eye can see, reappearing behind them. He repeats the trick a couple more times before vanishing entirely... but when the elevator doors open at the top of the Citadel, he's already waiting for them in the office (which has the fireplace, bookshelves, and windows you'd expect from the apex of the Citadel at the End of Time... plus a blackboard with some mathematical equations on it).

He Who Remains distributes drinks to both Lokis before taking a seat behind his desk... it's a far cry from the boxed Roxxiwine Our Loki Variant enjoyed in the court of Kid Loki last week.

At the TVA, Mobius enters Renslayer's office, armed with one of the wands that sends the victim to The Void. Mobius questions Renslayer's motives in sending him to The Void, and she says it was in service to the Timeline — the same reasoning we saw Mobius renounce in the previous episode. Renslayer threatens to call Hunter D-90 to her office, but Mobius says that won't work as well as she thinks, holding up the ballpoint pen from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School that he remarked on in episode two...

From there, we cut to a shot of lockers. Hunter B-15 is in Fremont, Ohio in 2018, dodging other Minutemen in the hallways of Roosevelt High School (judging by the framed picture of FDR on the wall). B-15 enters an office that has a glass full of those ballpoint pens sitting on it. There's a diploma on the wall from Ohio State University bearing the name, "Rebecca Tourminet."

B-15 tells the other Minutemen that they're living a lie... and that's when Judge Renslayer enters. But she's not our Renslayer, she's a Variant... and the apparent leader of the TVA is a high school principal.

In the office of He Who Remains, Our Loki Variant and Sylvie continue their conversation with him. He Who Remains goes through a lot of that gleeful, knowing dialogue, working overtime to convince the pair that he holds all the cards and knows all the secrets. Sylvie tries to attack him again and he again time warps out of the way.

He Who Remains claims that they can't kill him because he has impossibly complete knowledge: he already knows everything that will happen — so there's no way to get ahead of him, because he already sees the whole dang path. To prove this, he shows the pair of Lokis another script, like the one we saw the Cat Man offer Our Loki Variant during his intake at the TVA back in episode one, that shows the dialogue they're having already typed out.

Our Loki Variant claims it's a parlor trick, but He Who Remains keeps up the game, insisting that he must know what they're going to do, which is how he could load his TemPad with every-

thing he needs to thwart them. He Who Remains goes on about how he knows every moment of their lives, throwing out some examples to prove the point.

Sylvie says that they broke out of his game and that's how they got to the Citadel, but He Who Remains says that's inaccurate — they're merely proceeding according to what he has foreseen.

"I paved the road," says He Who Remains. "You? You just walked down it."

He Who Remains says he has the whole script already, and there's only one way it can go. However, because the journey is necessary in order to achieve fulfillment of the quest, they must proceed along the path even if it is predetermined.

"So it's all a manipulation," says Our Loki Variant, and He Who Remains says it's interesting that his mind would go to that. He Who Remains asks Sylvie if she can trust Our Loki Variant — or if she can trust anyone, period.

Back in Renslayer's TVA office, Mobius says he thinks people are ready to hear the truth, but Renslayer asks, "What if... it's a necessary [lie]?" Maybe the only way to maintain order is through the fiction of the Time-Keepers. However, Mobius says that after witnessing what happens to those who are pruned, there can be no justification for the actions undertaken by the TVA. Renslayer insists that only one person gets free will — the one in charge. Mobius tries to appeal to their friendship, and Renslayer says that she isn't the one who changed, he is — he betrayed the TVA.

Renslayer has finished packing her bag, and she opens a TimeDoor. Mobius pulls out his weapon and approaches her, but Renslayer handily disarms him and takes the stick from him. But rather than send him to The Void again (where he might have reunited with Alligator Loki), Renslayer stands down.

Mobius asks where she's going, and Renslayer replies, "In search of free will," before stepping through the TimeDoor.

At the Citadel, He Who Remains admits that his actions have been deceitful, but that his purpose is true: without the TVA, the timelines will descend into chaos. Our Loki Variant asks what he's afraid of, and He Who Remains says he's afraid of himself.

He Who Remains says he has been called by many names, but the name isn't what's important. He drops a little animated blob of material that matches the Citadel on his desk, and it reforms into a tiny version of himself — the visual component for the expository tale he is about to recount.

He Who Remains explains that, before the TVA, a Variant of himself lived on Earth in the 31st Century. This Variant was a scientist who discovered parallel universes and subsequently made contact with themselves, and for a while they used their shared technological advances to create utopias.

However, not every version of He Who Remains was noble. Certain Variants were ruthless conquerors, and the peace between realities was soon shattered, with universes turning against one another.

"And then the Time-Keepers came along and saved us all," finishes Sylvie.

"Amen," He Who Remains mockingly sings.

But then He Who Remains admits that this is where we diverge from the dogma. He Who Remains explains that a version of him found Alioth, "created from the tears in reality and capable of consuming time and space itself." He Who Remains harvested the power of Alioth and experimented on it, weaponizing it and using it to end the Multiversal War.

With the timeline brought to bear under the leash created by He Who Remains, he established the TVA to ensure his preferred timeline was maintained via one of the most malignant forces in this (or any other) universe: bureaucracy!

"You're welcome," says He Who Remains.

He Who Remains says he knows they think they came to kill the devil, but he keeps everyone safe, and if they think that he is evil, then they should meet his Variants.

"Stifling order or uncontrollable chaos," He Who Remains says, presenting the binary as the only two options. He warns that while they may be able to depose him, someone worse will take his place: he's the only way that works.

But Sylvie is skeptical, suggesting he could be a liar. But He Who Remains says they have two options: kill him and replace one devil with an infinite amount, or, the two of them can run the whole circus.

Our Loki Variant asks why he would surrender control, and He Who Remains says he's old and tired, and this game is for the young and hungry. He says he's gone through many scenarios trying to figure out who the right person for the job would be... and it's definitely the two Lokis, who can then return to the TVA as its benevolent, honest rulers.

Sylvie says that he's playing games with people's lives, and He Who Remains tells her to grow up, calling her a murderer and a hypocrite. He says they're all villains here (but I sort of feel like this is ignoring the scale of the actions of He Who Remains when compared with the scale of the actions of the Lokis — and they're even supervillains).

He Who Remains concludes that they've all done horrible things... but he can give them an avenue in which they can be done for a good reason. But then he pauses, and says they just crossed the threshold. He drops another glob on the desk and it just lands, lifeless.

He Who Remains admits that he only knew everything that was going to happen up to a point — the point of the threshold. Outside the window, the timeline begins to branch as He Who Remains candidly admits his ignorance.

The Lokis must decide if they are going to accept He Who Remains's offer, or if they're going to kill him (leading to another Multiversal War, and possibly concluding with the Sacred Timeline being reinstated just as it was). Sylvie accuses him of lying but He Who Remains insists that he is in earnest.

He places his TempPad on the desk between the trio.

Sylvie reaches for the TempPad and she and Our Loki Variant enter into a confrontation. Our Loki Variant has been convinced by He Who Remains, but Sylvie insists that he's lying. Sylvie accuses Our Loki Variant of wanting the throne, but he says that isn't the case.

Sylvie can't trust Our Loki Variant, but he insists that it's bigger than their experience. The two cannot reconcile their perspectives, and they're soon battling one another.

Our Loki Variant insists that the risk is too great, and Sylvie says he'll have to kill her and take his throne... but Our Loki Variant can't do that. The pair continues to clash until coming to an impasse in front of the desk of He Who Remains. Our Loki Variant says he only wants Sylvie to be okay, and the pair shares a kiss as the music swells...

"But I'm not you," says Sylvie. She's used the kiss to distract Loki and pick up the TempPad, which she uses to open a TimeDoor and send Loki back to the TVA, where he arrives in a Time Theater, distraught.

Back in the Citadel, Sylvie draws her sword and throws the desk aside. She stabs He Who Remains, and in a shot that highlights the yellow circle on his chest, He Who Remains says, "See you soon."

Sylvie falls to the ground (and we see He Who Remains was sitting at the apex of a triangle on the floor). Outside the Citadel, the timelines begin to grow, spreading further outwards...

At the TVA, Mobius and B-15 watch the splintering timelines on the screen, committing to the course of action they've undertaken. In the Time Theater, Our Loki Variant is sitting on the holoprojector before he seems to come to some conclusion...

Our Loki Variant proceeds through the TVA hallways, ignoring the Minutemen running past. He checks the canteen but there's no sign of either Mobius or Casey. Our Loki Variant finally finds B-15 and Mobius in the library.

"That's, what, 63 new branches in this unit alone," Mobius remarks.

"Does he just want us to let them all branch?" B-15 wonders.

"Well, at this point, how are we even going to stop it," replies Mobius, possibly explaining the context for the upcoming *Marvel's What If...?* animated series.

Our Loki Variant approaches Mobius and says they've made a terrible mistake... but as he tries to explain, it becomes clear that neither Mobius nor B-15 recognizes him.

"You're an analyst, right?" asks Mobius. It appears as though Our Loki Variant has been eradicated: his existence has been scrubbed from the timeline and those closest to him have no recollection of his existence.

As Our Loki Variant attempts to take this in, he looks over at the location that formerly held the three statues of the Time-Keepers... and sees only a statue of Kang the Conqueror.

It's getting all *Quantumania* up in here! All this hardly seems like a conclusion, and there's a reason for that: it's a cliffhanger. A mid-credits scene informs us that Loki will return in a second season, which leaves only one major, looming question: WHEN?

Season Two

Ouroboros

Season 2
Episode Number: 7
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday October 05, 2023
Writer: Eric Martin
Director: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Ke Huy Quan (OB), Rafael Casal (Hunter X-5), Kate Dickie (General Dox), Liz Carr (Judge Gamble), Charlie Cameron (Mail Cart Driver), Nick Owenford (TVA Judge)
Summary: Loki finds himself lost to time and torn, quite literally, between past, present and future.



The episode opens with Loki running through the TVA while Mobius chases him. Hunter B-15 traps our titular god of mischief from the other side. That's when he leaps off the ledge, landing in the bed of a flying vehicle. Naturally, he scares the driver, who inadvertently cracks the face of a giant statue of He Who Remains.

Then, the pair crashes through a window while Casey cleans the floor. Loki emerges from the vehicle somewhat unscathed. He whirled around as the driver and said vehicle teeter over the edge, crashing on an unseen ground below.

Next, Loki approaches Casey and asks if he knows him. Casey doesn't since this isn't Loki's timeline. Suddenly, Loki vanishes. He looks as if he's being pulled in multiple directions. Finally, he returns. He notices the crack in the floor (courtesy of him in the other timeline). Casey tells him that crack has always been there. That's when Loki realizes he's traveling between the past and present. But, you know, he disappears again before he can do anything about it.

Meanwhile, the Mobius and B-15 of our timeline examine the alarming rate at which branches from the Sacred Timeline form. Should they prune these new branches? B-15 argues that innocent people in those timelines deserve to live their lives. Casey approaches them, revealing that Loki is looking for them. Then, Hunter X-5 lures Mobius in with talk of jet skis.

After being a jerk, X-5 tells Mobius and B-15 that the judges' council wants to meet with them in the War Room. With Renslayer MIA, someone needs to take her place. Once they depart for the War Room, Loki reappears. He attempts to follow them, but he vanishes once more. In the other timeline's War Room, we see giant stone faces of He Who Remains erected on the wall. However, in our timeline, it's a mosaic of the Time-Keepers.

We see X-5 join the judges as Mobius and B-15 file in. They're listening to a recording of Loki explaining that they're all variants and that He Who Remains created the TVA. Meanwhile, our fave variant listens to He Who Remains chat with Ravonna Renslayer.

Next, B-15 emphatically tells the council they can't prune any more branches. It wouldn't be right. And it's important to remember that they're all variants, the Time-Keepers aren't real

and a legitimate threat is on the horizon. Suddenly, Loki reappears in the War Room, but in the present, this time. He grabs X-5's Time Stick and prunes the Time-Keeper's mosaic to reveal the He Who Remains display Loki saw in the past. X-5 chats with one of the judges, and they determine that Sylvie, who's MIA, is the genuine threat. They must neutralize her.

Then, Mobius pulls Loki aside. Loki breathlessly explains what's happening. He's unsure why he keeps bouncing between timelines. However, He Who Remains and his variants are coming now that the Sacred Timeline is branching. War is looming. Mobius has a solution — they can visit the Repairs & Advancements Department for answers regarding why Loki's making unwanted trips to the past.

While on the elevator, Loki continues to vanish and reappear, much to Mobius' horror. He tells his pal how horrifying it truly looks. It is as if Loki's being born and dying simultaneously. Hey, you said it didn't look that bad, Mobi. Our god has self-esteem issues.

Later, they arrive at Repairs & Advancements, where Ouroboros greets them. He's tickled to see Mobius again. Mobius is the only person who's visited him in 400 years, give or take. Unfortunately, Mobius doesn't remember him. Ouroboros mentions that Mobius had a nickname for him: O.B. How cute. While they're all chatting, Loki vanishes again. O.B. states that Loki is "time slipping," which is impossible in the TVA.

Meanwhile, in the past, Loki asks past O.B. about time slipping and if there's a solution. After trying to reconcile with the fact that, yes, there is time slipping occurring in the TVA, O.B. reveals that Mobius would need a Temporal Aura Extractor to place Loki in the appropriate timeline. Thankfully, past O.B. constructs one for present O.B. to find.

Present O.B. explains to Mobius how it all works. He'll need to utilize the Temporal Aura Extractor in the Temporal Loom, the heart of the TVA. There, he'll pull Loki directly from the time stream. Should Mobius fail to execute this in time, Loki will be lost forever and Mobius will lose his skin. Fun! Oh, and at some point, Loki must prune himself before reappearing in the correct timeline. It's all, you might say, "wibbly-wobbly, timey-wimey."

Finally, Loki returns to his time. O.B. learns about the power surges in the TVA, which also isn't normal. He believes they're a result of the new timeline branches. However, there might be a solution to that. He leads Loki, Mobius and B-15 to the Temporal Loom. Inside, they see the Loom is overloading because there are countless timelines. Miss Minutes would typically take care of the Temporal Loom, but she's in the Citadel at the End of Time. O.B. suggests they prune a few branches to cease the overloading; however, B-15 puts her foot down in that regard.

O.B. urges Loki and Mobius to remedy the time-slipping problem now. Then, he can close the blast doors to protect the TVA. Then, we get to my favorite moment in the whole episode — Mobius standing there and writing "Skin?" in the dust on a computer. Earlier, Mobius and Loki were debating which would be worse: Mobi's skin peeling off or Loki pruning himself.

O.B. explains that Mobi will have to launch the Extractor in the Temporal Loom. Then, Loki can only prune himself when the light on a certain device turns green. Mobius will have mere minutes to return to the safety of the TVA before the Temporal Loom ages him so severely that his skin falls off. That's why he must wear a bulky suit to execute this task. Unfortunately, they only have five minutes to do this. Double-unfortunately, Loki disappears again.

This time, he winds up in the future in that same room. Realizing he left the Time Stick in the present (well, past), he sets about locating another one. Thankfully, he still has the circular device that O.B. gave him, telling him when Mobi successfully launches the Temporal Aura Extractor. Loki runs down the corridors, noticing they're empty. They also look as if a tornado barreled through them.

Meanwhile, Mobius launches the Extractor and waits for Loki to return. O.B. reminds him that they don't have much time. With seconds to go, O.B. presses a button to close the blast doors. This would also trap Mobius outside with the Temporal Loom. In the future, Loki sees the device light turn green. Uh-oh. He spots a ringing telephone next to an elevator. Suddenly, Sylvie pries open said elevator with her hands. She pokes her head through, exclaiming that she was expecting him.

Next, Loki prunes himself. We see him soar out of the time stream and onto Mobius as the pair fly through the still-closing blast doors. Just in time! Loki tells Mobius they have to find Sylvie. B-15 notices the judges' council, X-5 and the other agents gearing up for a mission. They're all running through a time door. Why? To find Sylvie, who's now Public Enemy #1.

Speaking of Sylvie, she exits a time door in Broxton, Oklahoma, in 1982. It's a branched timeline. She wanders into a McDonald's and approaches the order counter. She lists her requirements for food, and the order taker rattles off his recommendations. Sylvie smiles as she watches the customers socialize in the restaurant. She states she wants everything.

Breaking Brad

Season 2
Episode Number: 8
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday October 12, 2023
Writer: Eric Martin
Director: Dan DeLeeuw
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Rafael Casal (Brad Wolfe), Jack Cunningham-Nuttall (Jack / The McDonald's Manager), Kate Dickie (General Dox), Ke Huy Quan (Ouroboros)
Summary: With the TVA on the verge of a temporal meltdown, Loki and Mobius will stop at nothing to find Sylvie.



The episode opens with Loki and Mobius landing in London in 1977. They spot Hunter X-5 stepping out of a plush black car in front of a dazzling theater. We see his face on the marquee. He's the star of Zaniac! However, here, he goes by Brad Wolfe, an actor whose meteoric rise to stardom seemingly transpired overnight. He spots Loki and Mobius.

After a brief chat, X-5 runs, leaving Loki and Mobius in the dust. They chase him. Our titular god of mischief even utilizes his magic on X-5 to get him to stop.

At one point, he throws up a mirage of punks who try to lay the smackdown on X-5.

Finally, Loki corners X-5 — well, three Lokis do, at least. They send up two giant Loki shadows, complete with his signature horns, to hold X-5 in place. Mobius thinks it's over the top, but I believe it's just right. I'm giggling and kicking my feet like a schoolgirl. At the TVA, Hunter B-15 escorts X-5, now boasting the trademark tan jumpsuit and metal collar, to his cell for a spell. Perhaps sitting in time out will jog his memory regarding Sylvie's whereabouts.

Next, Loki and Mobius take X-5's TemPad to O.B. for examination. However, O.B. is busy ensuring a potential temporal meltdown doesn't screw them all over. They decide to tamper with the TemPad themselves. Hey, O.B. is only one person. He can only do so much. O.B. gives them the TVA Guidebook he wrote to assist them. Meanwhile, B-15 asks Casey about Renslayer's TemPad. He reveals she erased everything from it. However, he was able to find the last message on it. Hmm.

Then, we see Loki and Mobius, our favorite silly billies, attempting (and failing) to take apart X-5's TemPad. Apparently, the TVA Guidebook is too advanced for ole Moby. B-15 brings Casey to them to impart what he learned. Miss Minutes is working with Renslayer. Loki realizes he overheard part of a conversation between Renslayer and He Who Remains. Why are they working together, though? Casey promises to keep searching for Renslayer and Miss Minutes. See, this is why you can't trust AI.

Casey examines X-5's TemPad, revealing that X-5 lied about having a blocker on it. He'll look into it further. Speaking of X-5, Loki, Mobius and B-15 visit our little movie star criminal in his cell. They try to get X-5 to divulge Sylvie's location. Naturally, X-5 keeps mum, instead resuming

the role of the a-hole. Loki attempts to intimidate him by tapping into his villainous side. When that doesn't work, Mobius steps in. However, X-5 quickly gets under Mobius' skin. Mobius slaps him.

After that failed interrogation, Mobius and Loki cool off with some key lime pie. Yum. They chat about anger and suppressed feelings. Loki reminds Mobius that he seized control of NYC with the aid of an alien race and threw Tony Stark off a building because he was pissed at his brother and father. Anger is weird. Mobius encourages Loki to channel his innate mischievousness to craft a creative way of getting X-5 to spill the beans.

Meanwhile, O.B. wanders into the Temporal Loom to take care of business. Unfortunately, he's denied access. The computer states there's an "invalid temporal aura." Suddenly, the electricity flickers off and on. Uh-oh. Then, Loki adopts a new approach. After bringing in a fancy device, he locks Mobius out of X-5's cell. Next, he entraps X-5 in a box. That box shrinks every time X-5 lies about Sylvie. Hey, desperate times, man. When it looks like Loki might squeeze X-5 in that box until he explodes, the latter finally talks. He knows where Sylvie is.

Later, B-15 and Casey enter the Temporal Loom to find O.B. exclaiming they will all die. Casey geeks out over meeting O.B. He's committed the Guidebook to memory. Aw, I'd love for these two to become BFFs. Anyway, O.B. reveals the blast doors won't open. Only the person who designed them can open them with a live scan of their temporal aura. That would be He Who Remains. However, he's dead.

Next, Loki, Mobius and X-5 wind up in Broxton, Oklahoma 1982. They enter a McDonald's to find Sylvie behind the counter. She works there now. Loki chats with Sylvie during her break while Mobius and X-5 get some apple pie. I wish all McDonald's still looked like this. Loki realizes he's the last person Sylvie wants to see. He warns her about the TVA collapsing and the arrival of He Who Remains' variants. They'll be hellbent on starting a war. Right now, TVA is the last line of defense.

Loki tells Sylvie that he saw her in the future at the TVA as it was folding. He needs to know why. They also must prevent the TVA's destruction. He encourages Sylvie to enchant him to determine if he's telling the truth. She wants nothing to do with the TVA. Sylvie's built a life here in 1982 Oklahoma and is happy.

Inside, Mobius and X-5 watch Loki and Sylvie talk. Mobius admits that it must be challenging to be in love with yourself. Normally, opposites attract, but Loki and Sylvie are two peas in a pod. Mobius changes the subject to X-5's movie. He wants to see it. However, X-5's strange behavior turns him on to something else. Mobius asks X-5 if this is a setup. After all, weren't General Dox and her crew on the hunt for Sylvie?

Mobius and X-5 head outside to warn Loki and Sylvie. They're all going to die. Dox plans to prune all the branches so only the Sacred Timeline remains. Our trio pushes X-5 through a time door, so he returns to the TVA while they pursue Dox. Sure enough, they see Dox and her crew in action as they erase the branches in tandem. B-15 watches in horror at the TVA as the branches vanish before her eyes.

Suddenly, our heroes step in and kick some butt. Loki and Sylvie even combine their powers to attack, as they did in Season 1. I loved it. After arresting Dox and the others and escorting them back to the TVA, our trio joins B-15. Joined by Casey and O.B., they all watch in shock as every branch disappears, even after Dox is stopped. B-15 mourns the lives lost. Sylvie's eyes well with tears. Loki approaches her, but she's too angry. She doesn't believe the TVA is capable of doing any good. It's not the last line of defense — it's rotten. She storms out through a time door.

Next, Casey gets a ping on Renslayer's TemPad. They now have her location. Sylvie returns to 1982 Oklahoma. We see her lounging on the hood of her truck as she listens to music in the McDonald's parking lot. She tells her manager goodnight before pulling out a piece from He Who Remains' TemPad. Does this mean she can travel anywhere she wants? One would think.

1893

Season 2

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday October 19, 2023
Teleplay: Eric Martin, Kasra Farahani, Jason O'Leary
Story: Eric Martin
Director: Kasra Farahani
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Jonathan Majors (Victor Timely / He Who Remains), Richard Dixon (Robber Baron), Ross Hatt (Guy Pennymen III), Mark Fairclough (Councilman), Ryan O'Doherty (Ticket Taker), Alex Forman (Behemoth), Gus Turner (Newsie), Nasri Thompson (Young Victor Timely), Alasdair Baker (Heckler), Natasha Arancini (On-Set Miss Minutes), Chris Hallaways (Robber Baron Goon #1), Elmo Walker (Robber Baron Goon #2), Pierre Bergman (Worlds Fairgoer), Charlie Draper (World's Fair Band), Natalie Holt (World's Fair Band)
Summary: Loki and Mobius go on the hunt for everyone's favorite cartoon clock as they try to save the TVA.



The episode opens with Ravonna Renslayer arriving in Chicago, Illinois, in 1868 — the Sacred Timeline. She meets Miss Minutes in a barn. Miss Minutes reveals they must place a package in a window of a home across the way. This was a plan implemented by He Who Remains before Sylvie killed him. After Ravonna carries this out as instructed, we see a young Black boy scoop up said package. He discovers it's a copy of O.B.'s TVA Guidebook.

At the TVA, O.B., Loki, Mobius, Hunter B-15 and Casey are attempting to remedy the Temporal Loom crisis. O.B. informs the group that Dox's pruned branches have resprouted, and the Temporal Loom wasn't designed to contain so many timelines. They need the temporal aura of someone who created the TVA. Besides He Who Remains, Miss Minutes has access to everything in the organization. She could fix this.

Loki and Mobius decide to hunt down that damn cartoon clock. They follow the ping on Ravonna's TemPad, which revealed the latter's location in last week's episode. They wind up in 1893 Chicago, but neither Ravonna nor Miss Minutes are anywhere to be found. Then, our fave besties arrive in a branched timeline of 1893 Chicago. They're at a fair. Mobius grabs a newspaper, which boasts Miss Minutes on the front page. She's called the "Ghost Clock." Our MM has kept busy terrorizing Chicago's residents.

After taking a breather to enjoy everything the fair offers (including but not limited to Cracker Jack popcorn), our fellas spot signage for "Victor Timely's Astounding Temporal Marvels." Surely Ravonna will be there? They pop into a theater where, right on cue, Ravonna makes her entrance. Loki and Mobius watch Victor Timely take to the stage for his show. We see it's none other than a variant of Kang the Conqueror/He Who Remains. Victor introduces his prototype for the TVA's

Temporal Loom, revealing he plans to build a device that powers and lights the planet. Majors is a commanding presence in this outing. He's compelling as all get-out.

Later, once the show concludes, Loki and Mobius try to get Victor's attention. They need him to accompany them to the TVA so he can fix the Temporal Loom. Otherwise, the TVA will collapse, and everyone there will die. Unfortunately, Ravonna gets to him first. Loki gets into a disagreement with one cantankerous fellow. Instead of waiting for the spat to turn physical, Loki utilizes magic to transport the man to a cage outside. Voilà.

Next, Loki, Mobius and Ravonna bicker over who gets to hang with ole Victor. Loki and Mobius temporarily triumph, whisking Victor away. At the TVA, B-15 confirms they can use Victor's temporal aura to solve the Temporal Loom problem. Suddenly, Sylvie appears. She's hellbent on exacting revenge. Loki pushes Victor into a Ferris wheel, but Sylvie tags along. As the ride spins, Loki keeps Sylvie at bat while protecting Victor, who's terrified.

Sylvie wants to kill Victor because Ravonna and Miss Minutes gave him the TVA Guidebook, meaning he'll become He Who Remains, who creates the TVA. She hopes to prevent that from occurring. Loki asserts they need Victor to save the TVA. If he doesn't, the whole of time will be in more peril than it already is. At one point, Sylvie and Loki shoot green beams of energy at each other simultaneously, knocking them back in opposite directions. This gives Ravonna enough time to swoop in on Victor.

Then, Victor takes Ravonna to his home. He formally meets Miss Minutes. Victor tries to woo Ravonna, and there's some light flirtation occurring on her end, too. The ladies proceed to give Victor a crash course on all things TVA/He Who Remains. Victor takes it in stride. Side note: I love that he refers to Mobius as Loki's "butler."

Later, Victor urges Ravonna and Miss Minutes to accompany him to his lab, as the room they're in isn't his real home. Loki and Mobius spot him fleeing but don't catch him in time. Our trio catches a boat that will transport them to Victor's lab. Victor and Ravonna chat. Victor reveals a few inventions he's been working on and how O.B.'s manual has been critical in that regard. For starters, he already knew the words "Time Variance Authority" before Loki and the others arrived. He's in the process of perfecting a throughput multiplier.

Ravonna mentions how she has high hopes for their "partnership." During this conversation, Miss Minutes looks increasingly annoyed with Ravonna. She's one salty cartoon clock. While Ravonna sleeps in a lifeboat, Miss Minutes persuades Victor to cut the ropes, sending Ravonna into the waters below. As she rows away, Miss Minutes tells Victor he had to cut her loose, so to speak, because she called their bond a "partnership."

When Victor and Miss Minutes arrive at the former's lab, our devious cartoon clock reminds him of what they'll do in the future. Miss Minutes knows He Who Remains better than anyone. She marvels at his inventions while asking why he never gave her a real body. She hovers over a cluster of mannequins before throwing herself into one. Her face appears plastered over one mannequin's blank visage. It's creepy. Flustered, Victor hits a button on a device that makes Miss Minutes vanish as she's about to say those three words. You know the ones.

Suddenly, Ravonna emerges from the shadows, armed with Victor's prototype for the TVA time stick. She brandishes it, threatening to use it. In reality, she works for He Who Remains, not him. She's here on a mission for HWR. Loki and Mobius arrive in time. Mobius tries to talk Ravonna out of pruning Victor. Ravonna reminds Mobius of everything she did for the TVA and him. She represents "order." Not to be outdone, Sylvie barges into the shop, blasting Ravonna and Victor across the room.

She storms toward Victor with her magical machete. Victor pleads with her, claiming she's not the man she wants to kill. He isn't He Who Remains. He can make his own decisions. Majors gives a beautifully understated, tender performance here. Sylvie, who looks like she might burst into tears, lowers her machete. She warns Loki not to make her regret sparing him. Loki and Mobius leave Ravonna to Sylvie while they usher Victor through a time door.

Sylvie confronts Ravonna. Ravonna encourages Sylvie to kill her and get it over with. However, Sylvie claims she's slaughtered Ravonna hundreds of times in her imagination, each killing more brutal than the last. Instead, she materializes a time door and shoves Ravonna through it. We see Ravonna arrive in the Citadel at the End of Time. She spots He Who Remains' corpse, right where Sylvie killed him. He's decaying. The Sacred Timeline splinters above him.

Miss Minutes reappears alongside Ravonna. She doesn't like that Ravonna tried to seize the reins in Chicago. After all, Miss Minutes was the one who ordered Ravonna to leave the

TVA Guidebook for Victor to find. Miss Minutes claims she knows everyone's secrets, including Ravonna's. She knows a significant, life-altering secret belonging to Ravonna.

Heart of the TVA

Season 2

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday October 26, 2023
Writer: Eric Martin, Katharyn Blair
Director: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Jonathan Majors (Victor Timely / He Who Remains), Ke Huy Quan (OB), Rafael Casal (Brad Wolfe), Kate Dickie (General Dox), Liz Carr (Judge Gamble), Natasha Arancini (On-Set Miss Minutes)
Summary: The TVA's Loom nears catastrophic failure, but Loki, Mobius and Sylvie have a He Who Remains variant.



The episode opens with a shot of the crumbling Citadel at the End of Time as the branching Sacred Timeline rages around it. Miss Minutes shows Ravonna footage from the latter interacting with He Who Remains. She insists that HWR wasn't alone all the time. In the flashback, we discover that Ravonna contributed significantly to the Multiversal War. HWR thanks her, calling her "quite the marvel." Additionally, we learn HWR created the Citadel at the End of Time so they could reside there together.

Next, Ravonna claims they should return to the TVA to dole out instructions. HWR urges her to go ahead, and he'll catch up. However, after she departs, HWR asks Miss Minutes to erase Ravonna's and all TVA employee's memories. Ravonna looks betrayed. Miss Minutes reveals they don't need He Who Remains anymore. They can get sh*t done on their own. Feminism!

Then, Victor Timely arrives at the TVA. While marveling at the organization's ornate design, Loki and Mobius attempt to pacify Victor. Mobius reassures Victor that he and Loki are the good guys despite what Ravonna and Miss Minutes have said. Sylvie joins the group. They all usher Victor toward The Temporal Loom, where Casey and O.B. work tirelessly.

Meanwhile, Hunter B-15 chats with Judge Gamble about what to do with General Dox and the others in holding. Gamble persuades B-15 to talk Dox into helping them save the TVA. Sure, Dox is misguided, but her intentions are pure. She wants to protect the TVA at all costs. Plus, B-15's words changed Gamble's mind.

Next, Victor meets O.B. and Casey as they work on fixing The Temporal Loom. While O.B.'s TVA Guidebook inspired Victor, O.B. admits he drew inspiration from Victor's work. It's a real "snaking biting its tail" situation. You might call it an ... ouroboros. Anyway, Sylvie urges this burgeoning bromance to put a lid on it for now — they have the TVA to save.

So, O.B. shows the group his model of The Temporal Loom. Someone will have to attach their Throughput Multiplier to the launcher. Then, they'll hit the green button, which launches the Multiplier toward the Loom, where it will dock. It'll scale the Loom's capacity to withstand the backlog of branches. This will make the rings on the Loom larger so all the branches can

run through them. Unfortunately, there's a ton more Temporal Radiation on the gangway since Mobius was on it.

Mobius volunteers Loki to "hoof it" since he did it first. It's only fair, right? Plus, Loki's a god. Casey and O.B. reveal one issue: their Throughput Multiplier doesn't work. Victor pulls out a prototype he made from his bag, claiming he created it when his Loom faced the same problems. Mobius, Loki and Sylvie leave our three intrepid smarty-pants to change lives.

Ole Moby suggests they get some pie while they wait. However, Sylvie chews him out for suggesting such a thing, asserting that everything's going to sh*t. Aw, don't rain on Moby's parade. Meanwhile, Hunter X-5 sits in holding with Dox and her squad. We learn that X-5 supposedly sold out Dox's plan. X-5 believes they can escape and return to their lives on the branched timelines.

Next, B-15 pops in to bring Dox over to their side. B-15 trusts Dox genuinely has the TVA's best interests at heart. She allows Dox time to think over her proposal. Later, Sylvie reunites with Loki in the pie area. They argue over whether what they're doing is the right thing. Sylvie doesn't understand why Loki wants the TVA to watch over these timelines. Why not let them live their lives? Why not allow them to exercise free will? Loki feels if they have the power to protect them, they should. They're gods, after all.

While discussing their options, Dox admits she's open to B-15's idea. Suddenly, Ravonna and Miss Minutes appear. She offers those in holding the opportunity to be free. If they help her seize control of the TVA, she'll allow them to return to their lives. It's precisely what X-5 wants.

However, only X-5 joins Ravonna. Miss Minutes kickstarts the machine Loki used on X-5, which encases the prisoner in a box that shrinks, crushing said prisoner within. The box appears around Dox and her group. X-5 closes his eyes as his fellow TVA agents scream in agony. Thankfully, we don't see their deaths. Meanwhile, Mobius tells Victor all about their hot cocoa machine. He asks to see it. Hunter D-90 escorts Victor to the hot cocoa machine. Victor offers a cup to D-90, who hesitantly tastes it. He's shocked by how good it is.

Unfortunately, he doesn't enjoy it for much longer. X-5 prunes him in front of Victor. Then, he takes Victor hostage. Ravonna and Miss Minutes reunite with him. They ask him about the device O.B. and the others are working on. Victor claims ignorance. Ravonna reveals she can have X-5 torture and kill him as slowly as possible.

While traveling to The Temporal Loom, Sylvie and Loki hear an announcement about personnel reporting to their "nearest time door evacuation point." Loki and Sylvie get separated by the elevator, which entraps Sylvie. Loki runs through the TVA, noticing the employees fleeing. It looks like that scene from the season premiere when Loki was time-slipping. Meanwhile, Sylvie tries to hack the elevator so she can free herself. Loki glances at the device O.B. gave him in the premiere ... yep, this is that scene.

Loki hears a phone ring. As he approaches the phone, which sits next to an elevator, another Loki sneaks up behind him. As Sylvie pries the elevator doors open, the second Loki prunes the first one. He promises she'll understand it eventually. So, they answer the phone. O.B. is on the other end. They tell him Miss Minutes is sabotaging everything, blocking them out of the system. O.B. offers to reboot the system, which would bring her offline.

Next, Miss Minutes starts malfunctioning in front of Victor, Ravonna and X-5. Sure enough, she vanishes, thanks to O.B.'s quick thinking. Bye-bye! Ravonna orders X-5 to march back into the fray. Now that the system has been rebooted, everyone with magical abilities can utilize their magic in the TVA. So, Sylvie enchants X-5. He returns to Ravonna and prunes her before she can ask questions.

Loki and Sylvie escort Victor back to The Temporal Loom, where things are out of control. Victor puts his head in their scanner so they can scan his Temporal Aura. After the blast doors open, Loki volunteers to walk the gangway to attach the Throughput Multiplier to the launcher. However, Victor claims he should do it. After all, he knows how to fix the Throughput Multiplier. O.B. urges him to put on the suit and move quickly. There's a lot of Temporal Radiation.

Unfortunately, Victor doesn't get far outside of the blast doors. He disintegrates into thin air, looking like spaghetti evaporating before our eyes. So, Temporal Radiation turns you into spaghetti. RIP, Victor Timely. So, what's Plan B? The gang stands in shock as The Temporal Loom groans and grows significantly brighter. Suddenly, the light is so bright that, coupled with a blast, our heroes cannot be seen. The screen cuts to black.

Science/Fiction

Season 2

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday November 02, 2023
Writer: Eric Martin
Director: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Ke Huy Quan (A.D. Doug Ph.D), Aaron Moorhead (Clarence Anglin), Justin Benson (John Anglin), Jason Pennycooke (Lyle), Isaac Bauman (Dirt Bike Enthusiast), Alan Pearson (Dale), Caleb Johnston-Miller (Don's Child #1), Blake Johnston-Miller (Don's Child #2), Olivia Bart Plange (Girl with Broken Arm), Eric Colvin (Bartender), Georgia Goodman (Book Store Manager), Maria Teresa Creasey (Book Store Worker)
Summary: Loki traverses dying timelines in an attempt to find his friends, but Reality is not what it seems.



The episode opens with Loki standing before the Temporal Loom in the TVA. It just had a massive meltdown. Our titular god of mischief looks around, noticing his friends are nowhere to be found. He wanders through the corridors of the TVA. He doesn't encounter a soul. Unfortunately, he starts time slipping again. At one point, he spots himself standing near the screen that reveals the various branched timelines. The room begins to vanish, falling apart in literal shreds. It looks like spaghetti.

Meanwhile, Casey tries to escape Alcatraz with some buddies in 1962. In this

branched timeline, he goes by Frank. Loki's time slipping brings him to Casey's location. However, Casey has no idea who he is. He's merely trying to flee prison. Then, Loki disappears, his time-slipping out of control. He lands in the spot where Mobius showed him footage from his life in Season 1. He even briefly arrives in front of a watersport vehicle store. Hmm. Could Mobius work there? Is he selling jet skis? That's my wish for him.

Next, we see Hunter B-15 in another branched timeline: NYC in 2012 after the Battle of New York. Here, she's Dr. Willis, treating a little girl's broken arm. Aw, B-15 has an excellent bedside manner. After treating said girl, B-15 walks into the hallway to see Loki appear and vanish in seconds. This could've been Loki's timeline if it wasn't branched.

Later, Mobius sits on a jet ski in 2022 in Cleveland, Ohio. He's Don in this branched timeline, and he's a single dad of two young boys. Mobius is super passionate about selling jet skis. When Loki lands here, he briefly looks like the tall, inflatable dudes outside car dealerships. He tries to chat with Mobius but doesn't get much time before the time slipping kicks in again.

Meanwhile, O.B. is in Pasadena, California, in 1994. This branched timeline finds him as A.D. Doug, a writer who tries to surreptitiously plant copies of his latest sci-fi book, *The Zartan Contingent*, into his local library. Unfortunately, the librarians catch him, so he must head

home with a boatload of books. Loki arrives in O.B.'s studio/lab. He explains why he's there. Fortunately, O.B. believes him. After all, he writes science fiction and teaches theoretical physics at Caltech.

Loki wants to return to the moment before the Temporal Loom melts down. However, O.B. thinks this is impossible. How can you go back to a place that no longer exists? O.B. believes Loki's time slipping isn't a curse but a blessing. What if Loki can control it? It's specifically bringing him to his friends at different points in time. Our god of mischief attempts to force himself to time slip. Unfortunately, he just looks like he's constipated. Well, it was worth a shot.

Next, O.B. surmises that if Loki can get everyone together in one place, perhaps a read of their collective Temporal Aura will allow them to return to the moment before everything went pear-shaped. He uses a cluster of pens, a rubber band and a mug to demonstrate this. Aw, you can take the O.B. out of the TVA, but you can't take the TVA out of the O.B. Loki hands O.B. a copy of his TVA Guidebook so the latter can construct a TempPad. They must travel across the branched (and dying) timelines to collect their friends.

While O.B. is hard at work, Loki returns to Cleveland in 2022 to visit Mobius. Mobius is busy disciplining his sons. Well, trying to, at least. Loki introduces himself as the guy from Mobius' business keen on purchasing an ATV. Mobius shows Loki his two jet skis. He's willing to part with one of them. Wow, that's quite the sacrifice. Loki explains why he's there and who Mobius really is. Naturally, Mobi is incredulous. Loki tells him his sons will be in danger if they don't protect the TVA. Saving the TVA means having protection from whatever comes next.

Then, O.B. reunites with Loki and Mobius via a time door. He created a TempPad in no time flat. Loki persuades a reluctant Mobius to join him and O.B. The trio also collects B-15 and Casey. Everyone hangs out at O.B.'s studio/lab in 1994. Loki informs the group that there's one more person he needs to grab.

So, he arrives in Broxton, Oklahoma, in 1982. Before his arrival, Sylvie notices her food vanish before he unlocks her pickup truck. It's already starting here. When our titular hero arrives, Sylvie states she remembers him. It makes sense that these two didn't lose their memories with the Temporal Loom malfunction. After all, they're variants and gods. Sylvie drives Loki to a bar for a drink. Fun fact: one of the arcade games in the pub is for Zaniac, based on Hunter X-5/Brad Wolfe's film.

Anyway, Sylvie feels that Loki should leave everyone in their respective timelines. They're finally living the lives they're meant to without TVA or He Who Remains' interference. They tackle the subject of free will. Loki counters that Mobius was perfectly content with his life at the TVA because it gave him a purpose. Is it a glorious purpose, though? Sylvie stands by her opinion. She asks Loki to dig deep — why does this really matter to him? Loki gets to the root of it all. He doesn't want to be alone. His visible emotion and distress are heartbreaking here.

Sylvie departs, leaving Loki with his thoughts. Meanwhile, at O.B.'s place, Casey ponders popping out for a spell via the TempPad. He can travel anywhere he wants to, right? Although, he's more concerned about the bank he's supposed to rob with his buddies. Finally, Loki reappears. He calls the whole thing off, claiming they should all return to their lives. Mobius is bewildered. He thought his kids were in danger.

At the same time, Sylvie visits a local record store. The shop owner recommends an album from The Velvet Underground. She listens to it with headphones while her timeline starts falling apart at the seams. The spaghetti shreds hath returned. Admittedly, this scene looks pretty damn cool. The shop owner calls out her name as the world turns into pasta. She whirls around and grabs his hand, but it's too late — he vanishes. Heartbroken that her home is gone, Sylvie summons a time door and departs.

Later, Mobius attempts to understand why Loki has suddenly pivoted from his mission. Is the world actually ending? O.B. can't find the TempPad he created. He assumes Casey stole it. Sylvie barges into the room and confirms that everything's going to sh*t. Her timeline is now gone. They must put their heads together to fix this. Loki excitedly reminds O.B. that everyone's together. They can do the pens in the cup thing! Unfortunately, O.B., Mobius, Casey, B-15 and Sylvie turn into time spaghetti. Loki is alone.

Suddenly, Loki summons all his might to control his time slipping, as O.B. suggested earlier. He returns to the moment when Sylvie arrives. Then, he tries to go back further. This time, he winds up in the TVA with his buddies minutes before the Temporal Loom explodes. I'd wager it's also before Victor Timely attempts to attach the Throughput Multiplier to the launcher and

tragically vanishes.

Glorious Purpose

Season 2
Episode Number: 12
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday November 09, 2023
Writer: Eric Martin
Director: Aaron Moorhead, Justin Benson
Show Stars: Tom Hiddleston (Loki), Owen Wilson (Mobius M. Mobius), Sophia Di Martino (Sylvie), Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Ravonna Renslayer), Wunmi Mosaku (Hunter B-15), Sasha Lane (Hunter C-20), Tara Strong (Miss Minutes), Eugene Cordero (Casey)
Guest Stars: Neil Ellice (Hunter D-90), Jonathan Majors (Victor Timely / He Who Remains), Ke Huy Quan (OB), Rafael Casal (Brad Wolfe), Liz Carr (Judge Gamble), Nasri Thompson (Young Victor Timely), Caleb Johnston-Miller (Don's Child #1), Blake Johnston-Miller (Don's Child #2), Natasha Arancini (On-Set Miss Minutes), Bern Collaço (Chicagoan)
Summary: Loki learns the true nature of 'glorious purpose' as he rectifies the past.



The episode opens with Loki returning to the moment before Victor Timely ventures onto the gangway to attach the Throughput Multiplier to the launcher and remedy the Temporal Loom issue. O.B. stands next to them, while Mobius, Sylvie, Hunter B-15 and Casey stand behind them. Unfortunately, the initial result comes to fruition — Victor turns into spaghetti the minute he steps onto the gangway.

Since Loki can control his time-slipping now, he repeats the same moment. Our titular god decides to speed things up when that falls flat on its face.

With every attempt, he urges Victor to move as quickly as possible. Of course, he knows precisely what O.B. and the others will say, so he states it all for them. Then, he goes back further, back to the moment Renslayer, Hunter X-5 and Miss Minutes held Victor captive. He attempts to get Miss Minutes to help them adjust the Loom.

And when all that goes sideways, Loki travels back to when Victor and O.B. meet. He hurries everyone through the process of introductions, brainstorming and devising a game plan.

Then, Loki wonders how long it would take someone to learn physics, engineering, etc. He is a god, after all. He could probably study up in record time. As it turns out, he returns centuries later (which made me chuckle) with enormous knowledge. It surpasses even O.B. He gets a handle on the situation, properly equipping Victor for his gangway walk. But first — time to scan his Temporal Aura.

Thankfully, we see progress in this go-round. With Loki's encyclopedic knowledge of the Temporal Loom, Victor makes it onto the gangway without morphing into time radiation spaghetti. Victor manages to install the Throughput Multiplier, hit that green button for the launch and return to the TVA in one piece. All seems well. It appears the Loom rings are expanding to accommodate the overabundance of branches. That is until O.B. and Casey notice that the readings are "off."

Victor realizes those branches are duplicates, and the Temporal Loom wasn't created to handle the multiverse. He equates it to attempting to divide by zero. Loki realizes where he needs to return ... the Citadel at the End of Time.

Sure enough, our fave Asgardian shows up right before Sylvie tries to kill He Who Remains. He fights tooth and nail to prevent her from gutting HWR like a fish. However, it doesn't work. Each time results in He Who Remains dying anyway, even when Loki travels back further, back to when he and Sylvie first met HWR. At one point, HWR freezes Sylvie in place and makes her vanish temporarily so he and Loki can chat.

HWR wonders how many times our god has repeated this moment. Loki mentions the Temporal Loom overloading and how it could destroy the TVA. HWR reveals that the Loom is merely a failsafe. It's only meant to handle the Sacred Timeline — nothing else. The TVA's destruction is no biggie. He can build a new one! Loki isn't satisfied with this answer. He Who Remains offers our hero a choice: either break the Temporal Loom, which will cause the Multiversal War and end everything, or kill Sylvie, and they can protect what they can.

Next, Loki winds up sitting across from Mobius shortly after B-15 arrested him. Loki knows where this is going. Mobius will show him a montage of clips from his life. He asks Mobius for help. His catchphrase, "I am burdened with glorious purpose," resurfaces. What does it mean to be burdened with purpose? Mobius tells Loki a story about how he hesitated to do the "right thing" because it involved pruning kids. Renslayer, however, did it, and she became a judge. She's also the reason Loki wasn't pruned right off the bat.

Then, Mobius offers advice, which Loki takes to heart. He winds up in O.B.'s studio/lab from 1994 as everyone turns into spaghetti. Loki freezes everything, placing him and Sylvie outside of time so they can chat. Loki explains that he's tried everything to remedy the Temporal Loom problem and fix time. He wonders if he can save the Sacred Timeline at least. Sylvie realizes Loki is thinking about killing her. Well, it's more like He Who Remains brought up the idea. Obviously, she won't let him.

Sylvie states that sometimes, a thing must die for other things to live. In this case, she's referring to the TVA. That's been her stance all season. The lightbulb flicks on in Loki's head. He returns to the moment before Victor plods onto the gangway. Instead, he decides to go himself, sans suit. He locks the door, so Mobius and Sylvie can't follow. Our god takes the plunge.

Thankfully, Loki doesn't morph into Asgardian spaghetti. But Marvel executes the most incredible superhero costume transformation I've seen thus far. We see his signature horns sprout up as his dark green cape flows behind him. He trudges along the gangway. Finally, he lifts his hands, blasting green energy from them. He destroys the Temporal Loom. O.B. notes that the branches are dying. Loki grabs as many as he can to salvage them.

Suddenly, the dying branches part, revealing a staircase and throne on the other side. With He Who Remains gone, there's nobody to watch over all of time. At the beginning of the series, Loki insisted to Mobius that he would get his throne. He will ... just not the one on Asgard.

Sylvie watches with the others, tears in her eyes. She realizes what he's about to do. Loki ascends the staircase while pulling several branches in each hand. He sits on the throne, pulling the branches toward him as if he's holding all of time together. He's become the God of Stories now. As the camera pulls back, we see Loki is part of a tree of timelines.

After Loki's sacrifice, we see the TVA is running smoothly again. B-15 checks on O.B., who's ensuring that Miss Minutes doesn't come back evil. We see they're hunting down He Who Remains' variants. B-15 chats with Mobius, who looks sad as hell. His buddy is now a time tree. B-15 asks Mobius if he's heading to the war room for the meeting. While standing in front of the old Time-Keeper murals, Mobius reveals he's leaving the TVA. He wants to see what he's been protecting. It's an emotional moment between him and B-15.

Meanwhile, O.B. opens a box of TVA Guidebooks. We see a young Victor Timely sitting in his home, tinkering away at his invention. He glances at his window. However, he never gets his copy of the Guidebook. Renslayer wakes up in The Void. We see the brush below her blow away to reveal part of the TVA motto: "For All Time. Always." Then, she sees Alioth looming before her.

Elsewhere, Mobius watches himself play with his kids in 2022 Cleveland. Sylvie sidles up beside him. She reveals she plans to travel for a spell to explore the various timelines. Mobius decides to stay put. He wants to let time pass for a while. His words, "Let time pass," echo through the time tree, reaching Loki's ears. He has tears in his eyes, but he smiles.

Actor Appearances

A

Jaimie Alexander.....	1
0104 (Sif)	
Natasha Arancini.....	3
0203 (On-Set Miss Minutes); 0204 (On-Set Miss Minutes); 0206 (On-Set Miss Minutes)	
Hannah Aslesen.....	1
0101 (Minuteman #5)	
Zele Avradopoulos.....	1
0102 (Archives Shusher)	

B

Alasdair Baker.....	1
0203 (Heckler)	
Jon Collin Barclay.....	1
0103 (Corporal Hicks)	
Lucius Baston.....	1
0102 (Male Shopper)	
Isaac Bauman.....	1
0205 (Dirt Bike Enthusiast)	
Aaron Beelner.....	2
0101 (Scanner Clerk); 0104 (Scanner Clerk)	
Dayna Beilenson.....	1
0102 (Archivist)	
Justin Benson.....	1
0205 (John Anglin)	
Pierre Bergman.....	1
0203 (Worlds Fairgoer)	
Kate Berlant.....	1
0102 (Ren Faire Woman)	
Munkhshur Bolbaatar.....	1
0101 (Gobi Villager)	

C

Charlie Cameron.....	1
0201 (Mail Cart Driver)	
Jwaundace Candece.....	1
0103 (Lamentian Mother)	
Liz Carr.....	3
0201 (Judge Gamble); 0204 (Judge Gamble); 0206 (Judge Gamble)	
Rafael Casal.....	4
0201 (Hunter X-5); 0202 (Brad Wolfe); 0204 (Brad Wolfe); 0206 (Brad Wolfe)	
Alvin Chon.....	3
0102 (Minuteman #10); 0104 (Minuteman #10); 0105 (Minuteman #10)	
Christopher Cocke.....	1
0102 (Storm Refugee)	
Erika Coleman.....	1
0101 (Flight Attendant)	
Bern Collaço.....	1
0206 (Chicagoan)	
Eric Colvin.....	1

0205 (Bartender)

Maria Teresa Creasey.....	1
0205 (Book Store Worker)	
Jack Cunningham-Nuttall.....	1
0202 (Jack / The McDonald's Manager)	

D

Kate Dickie.....	3
0201 (General Dox); 0202 (General Dox); 0204 (General Dox)	
Richard Dixon.....	1
0203 (Robber Baron)	
Charlie Draper.....	1
0203 (World's Fair Band)	

E

Neil Ellice.....	7
0102 (Hunter D-90); 0104 (Hunter D-90); 0105 (Hunter D-90); 0106 (Hunter D-90); 0201 (Hunter D-90); 0204 (Hunter D-90); 0206 (Hunter D-90)	

F

Josh Fadem.....	1
0101 (Martin)	
Mark Fairclough.....	1
0203 (Councilman)	
Cailey Fleming.....	1
0104 (Young Sylvie)	
Alex Forman.....	1
0203 (Behemoth)	
Philip Fornah.....	3
0101 (Minuteman #1); 0102 (Minuteman #1); 0104 (Minuteman #1)	
Austin Freeman.....	1
0102 (Randy)	
Isabelle Fretheim.....	1
0102 (Minuteman #6)	

G

Susan Gallagher.....	1
0103 (Lamentian Homesteader)	
Matthew J. Gannon.....	1
0104 (Judge)	
Jesse Gavin.....	1
0102 (Analyst #1)	
Reese Giles.....	1
0106 (T.V.A. Office Employee)	
Georgia Goodman.....	1
0205 (Book Store Manager)	
Malerie Grady.....	1
0103 (Lamentian Bartender)	
Richard E. Grant.....	2

0104 (Classic Loki); 0105 (Classic Loki)

H

Chris Hallaways 1
 0203 (Robber Baron Goon #1)
 Lauren Halperin 1
 0104 (Analyst #5)
 Ross Hatt 1
 0203 (Guy Pennyman III)
 Natalie Holt 1
 0203 (World's Fair Band)

J

Eric Jepson 1
 0101 (Minuteman #4)
 Blake Johnston-Miller 2
 0205 (Don's Child #2); 0206 (Don's Child #2)
 Caleb Johnston-Miller 2
 0205 (Don's Child #1); 0206 (Don's Child #1)

K

Sarafina King 4
 0102 (Minuteman #9); 0104 (Minuteman #9); 0105 (Minuteman #9); 0106 (Minuteman #9)

L

Jon Levine 2
 0101 (Paperwork Clerk); 0104 (Paperwork Clerk)
 Raphael Luce 1
 0101 (French Boy)

M

Dave MacDonald 1
 0101 (Minuteman #2)
 David A MacDonald 2
 0102 (Minuteman #2); 0104 (Minuteman #2)
 Jonathan Majors 4
 0106 (He Who Remains); 0203 (Victor Timely / He Who Remains); 0204 (Victor Timely / He Who Remains); 0206 (Victor Timely / He Who Remains)
 Aaron Moorhead 1
 0205 (Clarence Anglin)
 Ilan Muallem 4
 0102 (Minuteman #11); 0104 (Minuteman #11); 0105 (Minuteman #11); 0106 (Minuteman #11)
 Ricky Muse 1
 0102 (Warehouse Employee)

N

Ravi Naidu 1
 0101 (Analyst #3)
 Daniel Newman 1
 0101 (Minuteman #18)

O

Ryan O'Doherty 1
 0203 (Ticket Taker)
 Deobia Oparei 2
 0104 (Boastful Loki); 0105 (Boastful Loki)
 Nick Owenford 1

0201 (TVA Judge)

P

Alan Pearson 1
 0205 (Dale)
 Jason Pennycooke 1
 0205 (Lyle)
 Isabelle Pierre 1
 0104 (Analyst #4)
 Olivia Bart Plange 1
 0205 (Girl with Broken Arm)
 Robert Pralgo 1
 0104 (Time Keeper On-set Reader)

Q

Ke Huy Quan 5
 0201 (OB); 0202 (Ouroboros); 0204 (OB); 0205 (A.D. Doug Ph.D); 0206 (OB)

R

Lauren Revard 4
 0102 (Miss Minutes On-Set-Reader); 0104 (Time Keeper On-set Reader); 0105 (Miss Minutes On-Set Reader); 0106 (Miss Minutes On-Set Reader)
 Michael Rose 1
 0103 (Wealthy Man)
 Michelle Rose 3
 0101 (Minuteman #3); 0102 (Minuteman #3); 0104 (Minuteman #3)
 Anya Ruoss 1
 0103 (Wealthy Woman)
 Derek Russo 1
 0101 (Hunter U-92)

S

John Santiago 1
 0102 (Minuteman #8)

T

Nasri Thompson 2
 0203 (Young Victor Timely); 0206 (Young Victor Timely)
 Gus Turner 1
 0203 (Newsie)

V

Alex Van 1
 0103 (Patrice)
 Ben VanderMey 1
 0103 (PVT Hudson)
 Jack Veal 2
 0104 (Kid Loki); 0105 (Kid Loki)

W

Elmo Walker 1
 0203 (Robber Baron Goon #2)
 Hawk Walts 1
 0102 (Country Hoss)
 Jordan Woods-Robinson 1
 0102 (Analyst #2)

————— Z —————

Alec Zais 1
 0105 (USS Eldridge Sailor)
Nicholas Anthony Zarrillo 1
 0104 (Screaming Man)