Act II Scene 2

Translatinate

Author: *Eddie Kim*

★★☆☆☆

Despite your best efforts, you can't convince Lamar to stay near you for one minute longer, let alone help you in your pursuit of a city's worth of missing people. After dropping you on the shore of Easter Island, he takes off in the agile submersible and disappears beneath the waves.

You brush your well-worn coat out of nervous habit and start exploring. As you'd half-expected, all of the buildings you encounter are abandoned. The moai statues stare sullenly away from the ocean as you pass them.

After a few hours of making your way inland, you start to notice an annoying buzzing sound, like radio feedback. Turning out your pockets, you realise it's your mobile phone going berserk - the screen is flashing, and the speaker is blaring nonsensical fragments of what sound like international news broadcasts.

"Turn it off!"

The voice came from your phone.

"You got wax in your ears? Turn. It. Off!"

"H-Hello?" you stammer, most uncharacteristically, but you're not used to speaking to your own phone.

"So it was wax. Good to clean that out. Ha. Turn this thing off. Whatever it is. Phone. GPS. iPad. Then get off my island."

"You're Cosmo Snake, right?"

Silence.

"I thought so," you say. "I'll turn this thing off if you tell me where you are. I just want to talk."

Another moment of silence. Then - "I know you. Xyzzy. We can talk. See the blue moai? Meet you there. Not showing you my hidden base. Too dangerous here for idiots." The voice disappears, replaced once again by constant noise. You stuff it into your pocket, not willing to turn it off until the hacker appears - he's obviously got eyes on you, somehow.

You wander over to the blue moai nearby and wait for Cosmo Snake to show up. While you pass the time, some strange carvings in the statue catch your eye...

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אוׂדִיוׂטֶאף	πομπὴι	medalet
אֲנֶּנְשֹיֶת	θρήσῶ́λδ	vegetable
אִנְאֶפְבוׂל	ἀκρομήγαλυ	galaxies
אָמֶבְרֶלֶה	τήξ̌τβωωκ	volunteer
אַלְפֶבֶת	ἄγιωταγε	foreshadow
מֶמֶנְטוׂ	θέωρημ	catecholamine
כִּירְטֶכְר	πάταχε	tesseract
רֶנְדִיר	σάτηλλιτε	dovetail