



THE DEVICE

Ye Shall Be as Gods

The ancient texts warn us about doing certain things, to make us aware of the dangers. But for some people, it's the dangers that make it attractive.

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“You know Elenore,” her assistant Cyrus mumbled as he tightened the screws on the device, “The gods of old, tended to be rather destructive. Floods, plagues, and the like.”

The crisp tang of molten lead filled the air as Elenore put down the hot soldering iron. Elenore removed her goggles. “What’s your point?”

“I’m just saying. You tend to be the creative type,” Cyrus pointed out, “You like to build things. Heck you even build things when you sleepwalk. You never struck me to be the type who goes in for planet leveling destruction.”

Lightning flashed outside the castle and the lights in a laboratory dimmed briefly. Elenore crossed her arms over her chest. “A little destruction may just be what’s called for in this situation. How else are we to stop Dr. Moray’s plan to release the old gods?”

An electric spark jumped between two of the device’s antenna-like receptors. “Becoming an all-powerful god to stop a bunch of all-powerful gods... it sounds risky. You know, the whole absolute power corrupts absolutely gig.”

Elenore’s tongue clicked. “You ever been a god, Cyrus?”

“No madam, I barely graduated from the academy.”

She wiped the sweat from her forehead. “Well, then you don’t have any frame of reference to make a judgment, am I correct?”

He glanced down at her and raised one eyebrow as she put on the wired skullcap. “No, it just the risk... Perhaps it’s best to let sleeping gods with unpronounceable names lie. There must be another way. It’s too great a risk.”

Her face was filled with a rather disturbing smile. “But risk is what mad scientists do, Cyrus. If we didn’t take unnecessary risks, they wouldn’t call us mad scientists in the first place, would they? Throw the switch.”

Cyrus put his hand on the high-voltage power switch. He couldn’t stop his hand from trembling. “Here goes nothing.” He pulled the switch. There was a click, and everything stopped.