

GHOST TOWN: Ep. 1: "Soul Train"

Dr. E. Worm

Scene: City Street, Near an Alley, Night

First shot is a close-up of a side view of Kevin's face. The camera zooms out and he is standing on the outside of an urban alleyway, pointing a pistol into the alley at something we can't see. It's dark outside and raining heavily. Small puddles are all around the concrete ground. All of a sudden, we hear sirens and see police car lights on Kevin's face, which now has an exasperated expression. Camera angle changes to show 4 or 5 cop cars stopping near Kevin's back. Policemen exit the cars and draw their pistols on him. One is holding up a megaphone.

Cop: Freeze! Kevin Scetz, you are under arrest! Place the weapon on the ground and put your hands behind your head!

Kevin looks down and shakes his head. He then quickly looks back at the cops nervously. He swiftly jerks around and attempts to run down the street.

Cop: Open Fire!

The action turns into slow motion. As gunfire is heard, Kevin collapses on the ground. The final shot on the street is a close-up of a puddle. We see Kevin's head (with his face towards the camera) collide against the ground with a splash, dead. One eye is still slightly open, and the camera zooms in on his open pupil until the entire screen is black.

Scene: Pitch Blackness

We see Kevin free-falling through total, silent blackness. He looks down and sees a large, glowing circular green light. It bursts, splitting in two, and then disappears. A similar light engulfs Kevin and he disappears.

Scene: Purgatory Train Station, Day

Kevin looks around, bewildered, and sees that he is at a train station platform that he looks around at. Everything in the environment is heavily tinted green, including the far background, a dusty wasteland. There are mobs of people

all along the platform, and natural chatting/rabble noises are heard. At the edge of the platform are a number of large trains (exact looks of trains irrelevant: just not too modern) with people in blue uniforms holding clipboards standing near each one. Near one train in the background we see Praedonus in front of a train with a clipboard. A woman's voice over a PA system is heard repeatedly.

PA Woman: Welcome to Purgatory. Please locate a blue-uniformed worker to find your train.

To Kevin's right is an information kiosk with a blue-uniformed woman inside. As Kevin runs toward it, we see Nathan stepping up to the kiosk to ask a question.

Nathan: Uh, excuse me, but how would I be able to...find somebody here? I'm looking for my dau-

Kevin anxiously shoves Nathan aside and faces the woman.

Kevin: What the hell's going on here? What is this place? How did I get here?

Nathan (*roughly nudging Kevin*): What the hell do you think you're doing?

Kevin rolls his eyes and turns to the kiosk again, addressing the woman.

Kevin: Well?...Are you gonna answer my question or not?

Nathan (*grabbing Kevin by the jacket*): Hey, I'm talkin' to you, pal!

Kevin pushes Nathan off of him and brushes dust off his jacket.

Kevin: First of all, nobody calls me 'pal'. Second, this is an expensive suit. Third... (*Under his breath*) duck.

Nathan begins to speak but Kevin swings a punch into his face. Nathan recuperates and tackles Kevin to the ground. The crowd around them starts to clear away from them, who are at each other's throats. From off towards the edge of the platform, Praedonus sees the fight and makes his way through the crowd. He pulls Kevin and Nathan apart and

pulls them to their feet. Kevin and Nathan are both breathing heavily and glaring at each other.

Praedonus: Names...

Kevin (*smirking obnoxiously and speaking sarcastically*): Why, so you can call our moms?

Praedonus (*annoyed*): Names, now.

Kevin: Kevin Scetz.

Nathan: Nathan Johnson.

Praedonus writes something down on his clipboard.

Praedonus: Good. Come with me, you're on my train.

Kevin and Nathan follow Praedonus to the train. Praedonus motions to an open door. Nathan walks into the train. Kevin begins to walk up, but stops and turns to Praedonus.

Kevin: Just what the hell is this place?

Praedonus: You don't listen very well, do you?... (*Thinly smiling*) Welcome to Purgatory.

TITLE SCREEN

Scene: Moving Train, Day

Opening shot is a bird's eye view of the train moving on train tracks across the barren, green wasteland. The shot moves to the train interior, where Smith and Chris are sitting next to each other. Chris is sitting in the window seat and looking out the window, trying to pay no attention to what Smith says.

Smith: I meant what I said, Chris. I really am sorry. I know that's probably not good enough for you, but I am. I mean, that's what the afterlife's for, right? Making up for the bad things you did in the past...You're not going to listen to me, are you? Alright, I don't blame you, but...for what it's worth; I didn't mean to put you in the situation you were in. It was an accident. For God's sake, Chris, I'm your brother! Say something!

Chris turns to face Smith.

Chris (*in a hushed and hopeless tone*): Because of your 'accident', nine years of my life was a living hell, Smith...And now we're dead. I ain't never gonna get that time back.

Chris goes back to facing the window. Shot changes to show Nathan sitting with a depressed look on his face. Jean walks on screen and sits down across from him.

Jean: Not exactly what you would expect is it...

Nathan: What, death?

Jean: Yeah. Looks like no one ever got it quite right.

Nathan: Well, would you have guessed this?

Jean (*laughing slightly*): No, no I guess not. (*Extending hand*) Jean Sicya.

Nathan (*shakes her hand*): Nathan Johnson. (*Squints at her*) Do...do I know you from somewhere?

Jean (*averting her eyes*): No, I don't think so. I just have one of those faces, I suppose (*slightly laughs nervously*).

Nathan: Yeah...

Nathan looks out towards the window. FLASHBACK ZOOM-IN.

Scene: Inside Hospital, Day

Scene opens on a hospital room. There is a young, pretty woman (Haley's mother) lying in a hospital bed. She has just given birth and she is holding her newborn daughter. There are a few doctors and nurses working in the background. Nathan (*not in death-clothes*) runs into the room from the right-hand side and to the woman's bedside, panting heavily from sprinting. Haley's mother turns to him and smiles.

Haley's Mom: Nathan...I, I thought you wouldn't show up.

Nathan: Yeah, I know... I, I'm sorry for leaving you all alone like that. I guess I just didn't know how to handle everything, but...I still don't think I would really be too

great a father. Even if you never even want to let her know I exist, I want to help you out. I want to help her out, too, financially at least.

Haley's Mom: Oh, Nathan... I'm sorry, but it's a little too late for that.

Nathan (*confused*): ...What do you mean?

Camera angle changes to show the door, where two men in lab coats walk into the room. From this angle, the men walk to the opposite side of the bed from Nathan, and the camera moves with them until it is back at where it was at the scene's start. For a short time, we can see the TV hanging from the wall across from the hospital bed. The sound on the TV is muted, but if you look closely you can see Jean being interviewed by a news crew.

The two men are Dr. Linus and Dr. Logan. Linus is of medium height, with balding, dark-brown hair and glasses. Logan is taller, with black hair. Both are middle-aged.

Dr. Linus: It's time.

Nathan (*anxious, looking wildly from Haley's Mom to the doctors*): Time for what? What the hell's going on here?

Haley's Mom: I'm sorry, Nathan. I didn't think there was another way...

She hands the baby to Dr. Logan.

Dr. Logan (*thinly smiling*): Thank you. I can assure you you've made the right choice.

The doctors begin to leave the room. Nathan runs in front of them.

Nathan: I want to know right now what the hell you're doing with my daughter!

Dr. Linus (*snarling*): You are NOT her father, Mr. Johnson, nor were you ever, nor did you ever wish to be.

Dr. Logan: So everybody wins. Step aside, Mr. Johnson.

Nathan, at a loss for words, steps aside. The doctors, with the baby, leave the room. Nathan turns to Haley's Mom.

Haley's Mom: I think you should leave now, Nathan.

Nathan: ...what's her name?

Haley's Mom: ...Haley.

FLASHBACK END.

Scene: Interior Moving Train, cont.

Link is sitting in a train seat with a pensive expression on her face. Kevin walks up and points to the seat next to her.

Kevin: You mind?

Link looks at him and shakes her head. Kevin takes a seat.

Kevin: So, who are you, how'd you get here?

Link (*sighs*): I wish I knew.

Kevin: What, you got amnesia or something?

Link: I guess. Only word I can remember is 'link'.

Kevin (*eyes widen*): Well, that's not weird or anything. But uh, why don't we just call you that 'till you get your memory back?

Link: Link?

Kevin: Sure, why not?

Link (*shrugs*): Good enough. What about you? Who are you, how'd you get here?

Kevin: I'm Kevin Scetz, I was uh, a businessman, and let's just say I got in a bad fight.

Link: Well, if you keep pulling stunts like the one at the train station; some people here might wanna get into a 'bad fight' with you.

Kevin: Oh... (*Laughs nervously*) You saw that..

Link: You know, I don't know about you, but death isn't something that's easy to just shrug off for most people. You only live once, and I bet there are things you wish you could've done in life. Maybe you shouldn't be so hard on everyone else for being a little on-edge.

Kevin (*looking at the ground*): Yeah, yeah I guess so..

Shot changes to show a small room in the front where Praedonus is conducting the train. Ford is sitting in a passenger's seat next to him, fidgeting.

Praedonus: Calm down, Ford. You said your name was Ford, right? Ford Lerner?

Ford nods his head and continues to fidget. Praedonus rolls his eyes and takes out a microphone. As he gives his speech, we see shots of the different sets of passengers we've seen so far as they are listening (Kevin and Link, Smith and Chris, Jean and Nathan, and Praedonus and Ford)

Praedonus: This is your conductor, Praedonus Deorum, speaking. We'll soon be arriving in Ghost Town 13-T, Tartarus. You'll be living there for a little while. I hope you'll take the time to reflect on what you've done in your life, perhaps find some answers to those lingering questions. As you've probably noticed already, it's not like you'll be able to just sit back and admire the scenery. Good luck, everyone.

Praedonus shuts the microphone off and puts it away.

Ford: I still don't get it.

Praedonus: What don't you get?

Ford: Is this it? I mean, do we just sit here forever?

Praedonus: Of course not.

Ford: Then what? Is there, I don't know, reincarnation or something?

Praedonus: Some rare cases do necessitate sending a soul back to Earth to live again.

Ford: Well, what about-

Praedonus (*interrupting him and smiling*): There's a Heaven, Ford, and trust me, I think you'll end up there.

Ford: What about you?

Praedonus (*expression immediately changes to slight sadness*): I'm under (*sighs*), unique circumstances.

Ford (*looking at the floor*): Oh... (*Looks up at the upcoming track*) What the hell is that?!

Praedonus *looks up at the track and sees a pile of large green rocks in the middle of the track. He pulls a lever as hard as he can. The sound of screeching brakes are heard and we see an exterior shot of the train colliding with the rocks. It travels a little ways up the rocks, and then topples over onto its side. The force of the blow knocks over all the other cars of the train. Sparks fly, glass shatters, and we see an interior shot of the characters being flung down. When the dust settles, sizzling noises are still heard as we see everyone climbing out of the windows of the train and stepping onto the wasteland. Out in front of them is a hill. Everybody is standing near the wreckage, scared and slightly hurt. We see a shot of Nathan staring off towards the hill.*

FLASHBACK ZOOM-IN.

Scene: Corridor, Day

Nathan *walks into an office-building looking corridor. There is a corridor with a closed office door at the opposite end of the room. On one side of the corridor is a one-way window with a locked door next to it that Dr. Linus and Dr. Logan are looking into. Near them is all manner of technological scientific monitors and equipment. On the opposite side of the window is a small nursery, with a crib, a mobile, and numerous toys. Nathan (not in death-clothes) walks up to the doctors. They turn towards him, mildly surprised to see him.*

Dr. Logan: Ah, Mr. Johnson. You've managed to find us.

Dr. Linus: What can we do for you?

Nathan: I wanna know what the hell you're doing with my daughter.

Dr. Logan: I can assure you she'll be fine, Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Linus: Unfortunately, the details are confidential, and quite frankly, your presence here is inhibiting our work.

Nathan: I want to see her.

Dr. Logan (*leading Nathan to the window*): You can see her, Mr. Johnson, but she can't see you.

Nathan *puts one of his hands up against the window and looks in at Haley, an infant, in her crib. He turns to the doctors with an angry expression on his face.*

Nathan (*half-whispering*): Why? What is all this?

Dr. Linus (*looking at Dr. Logan, who nods, then back to Nathan*): Fine, Mr. Johnson, if you absolutely must know, we are conducting an experiment over an extended period of time.

Nathan: What kind of experiment?

Dr. Logan: We are trying to solve one of life's greatest mysteries, something that causes people endless conflict, and we believe that Haley is instrumental in finding this solution.

Nathan: How? What are you trying to solve?

Dr. Linus: That's all we can tell you, Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Logan: Now please leave, and don't come back...

Dr. Logan *motions to the door Nathan came in through.*
Nathan *glares at the doctors, turns to look at the window again, and then leaves.*

FLASHBACK END.

Scene: Wreckage, Day

We're at the wreckage scene again. Praedonus is standing in front of everyone, trying to calm them down.

Praedonus: Please, everyone, try to relax. I'll just call in some help and we'll be out of here in no time.

Praedonus pulls a walkie-talkie out of his coat. Just before he puts it to his mouth, a translucent, glowing green dagger strikes the walkie-talkie and it explodes in a shower of sparks and smoke. Praedonus staggers backwards in shock. Barbaric hisses and cries are heard everywhere, and Praedonus turns around to face the hill.

Coming down the hill and running is a band of about 10 Lost Souls, glowing green translucent ghostly humanoid monsters. Standing at the top of the hill, we see a shot of Thorne smiling sinisterly with Mick at her side. He looks to her and she nods. Mick runs off towards the others. The train passengers back up towards the wreckage, terrified.

Link is running towards the train when she trips and falls. 3 Lost Souls swarm around her. All of a sudden, a gunshot from a pistol is heard and one of the ghosts falls to the ground. The other two look at where the shot came from, hissing. We see Kevin pointing a pistol at them. As he runs towards Link, the ghosts run towards him and he fires off two more shots. Each shot connects and both ghosts fall. Kevin reaches Link and helps her up, then turns around and runs off towards the clamor of the remaining Lost Souls. He fires shots at ghosts chasing the passengers and kills 5-6 ghosts. He aims around, checking his surroundings. There are none left.

We see a shot of Chris hiding and breathing heavily behind the train. When he hears that the gunshots and yells have stopped, he begins to walk out from behind the train. Just as he takes a step, he is yanked backwards. Mick is holding Chris close to him with a glowing green translucent katana blade against Chris's throat.

Mick (whispering in Chris's ear): If you say a single word, I'll kill you. Understand?

Chris nods. Mick, still holding him hostage, begins to take him up the hill. Back at the wreckage, everyone is recuperating. Smith looks up and sees Mick and Chris. He points at them.

Smith (*screaming*): Hey! HEY! Over there! They're taking my brother!

Kevin *starts to run towards the hill, firing shots at Mick, who swiftly deflects the bullets with his sword. Mick and Chris go over the hill and out of sight.*

We see Mick and Chris, still a hostage, walking over to a spot on the ground where Thorne stands. She looks at Mick and smiles.

Mick: I got one, Thorne.

Thorne: And the rest of the scouts?

Mick: They're all dead.

Thorne (*laughs slightly*): Even in death, Kevin always clutches onto that gun of his... Hmmmm, well they won't have died in vain. (*Looks at Chris*) I think we just found our ticket into Tartarus.

Chris (*glaring at Thorne*): Who are you? *What* are you?

Thorne:...The people who run this place have no plan for us. We are not bound by fate, so we make our own. And you're going to help us do just that. Take him back to the camp, Mick.

Mick takes Chris off into the wasteland. Thorne looks around and then begins to walk off.

Back at the spot of the attack, the passengers are looking off towards the hill. Ford is pacing back and forth. Kevin stares at him.

Kevin: Would 'ya calm down? You're freakin' me out.

Ford: We're stranded in what could very well actually be the middle of nowhere; we're dead, we don't even know where we're supposed to be going, oh, and uh, did I forget to mention that WE WERE JUST ATTACKED BY FREAKIN' GREEN PEOPLE WITH NO FEET! NO! I am *not* going to calm down! (*He rubs his eyes with one hand, panting. He wearily motions towards the train.*) How the hell are we supposed to- (*he stares agape at the train, which is now miraculously upright and on the track. Everyone is amazed and staring at the train.*)

Praedonus (*confused*): A-Alright then. Everyone back on the train, I guess...

Everyone walks back towards the train. Kevin pats Ford on the back and gives him a sarcastic look before getting on the train. Everyone has boarded except for Nathan, Jean, and Smith, who is staring off towards the hill with a blank expression on his face. Jean walks over to him and puts her hand on his shoulder.

Jean: We'll get your brother back, I promise. But right now we have to get back on the train, okay?

Smith nods and they walk back to the train. Nathan is about to get in but he looks around the wasteland first.
FLASHBACK ZOOM-IN.

Scene: Corridor, Night

The scene opens on the same corridor from the last flashback, but all the lights are off and everything is dark. Nathan (not in death-clothes) is sneaking across the corridor towards the door to Haley's room. There is a man looking into the window but he is completely in shadow and we cannot see him. Nathan sneaks up behind the man and, struggling, strangles him. Nathan drops the man's body and runs to the door. He opens the door and runs to the bed of Haley, sleeping, who is now about 3-4 years of age. He gently nudges her awake and she sits up. She begins to speak but he motions to her to be quiet.

Haley (*whispering*): Who are you?

Nathan (*whispering, with a happy expression on his face*): I'm your dad, Haley.

Haley (*shaking her head*): They told me about you. You can't be here. You have to get out of here.

Nathan: Not without you. I'm getting you outta here.

Haley: They said not to trust you. But-

A security guard bursts into the room and hits Nathan in the back with the butt of his pistol. Two more guards rush in and all three point their guns at Nathan, who is on the

ground and trying to get back up. Dr. Linus and Dr. Logan walk through the doorway.

Dr. Linus: Good try, Mr. Johnson.

He motions to the guards to take Nathan out of the room. They drag him to his feet and take him out the door. He is struggling against them, shouting Haley's name.

Dr. Logan (*closing the door to the room*): Get back to sleep, Haley.

The doctors and Nathan, still being restrained by the guards, are standing in the dark corridor. The doctors are talking to each other.

Dr. Linus: It's going to take over a year to fix this damage.

Dr. Logan: Still, the show must go on.

They turn and face Nathan, who is breathing heavily and glaring at them.

Dr. Linus: We're beginning to get very irritated with you, Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Logan: Get him out of here (*motions to the door*).

The guards begin to take Nathan to the door.

Dr. Linus: Oh, and Mr. Johnson? (*The guards and Nathan stop and turn around.*) If we see you here again, we won't hesitate to kill you.

The guards take Nathan out of the door.

FLASHBACK END.

Scene: Interior Moving Train, Night

Moonlight is shining on the wasteland, making everything a dark blue color. The inside of the train is still green as before. We see Nathan sitting in a window seat by himself. Kevin walks up to him and sits next to him. They do not look at each other.

Kevin: Uh, about what happened at the station...

Nathan: Don't worry about it man, it was just as much my fault as yours. Anyway, we're gonna have to live here for a while, so we might as well try to get along. And since we both know that neither one of us is gonna apologize, let's just start over. *(Turns to Kevin and extends his hand to shake it)* I'm Nathan.

Kevin *(shaking Nathan's hand)*: Kevin. So uh, what was it you were asking earlier about...finding other people?

Nathan: My daughter, Haley.

Kevin: Your daughter?

Nathan: She died a little while before I did.

Kevin *(looking out the window)*: Oh...

Kevin continues to look out the window and we see the town surrounded by high metal walls. The train begins to come to a halt. We see Praedonus in his room. He pulls out the microphone and turns it on.

Praedonus: Ladies and gentleman, we've just arrived at Ghost Town 13-T, Tartarus. When the doors open, please enter the gates. *(He shuts off the microphone and puts it away.) (Muttering to himself and sighing)* Home, sweet home.

Scene: Ghost Town, Night

Orpheus is walking from the town to the gates towards the stopped train. He is holding Haley by the hand.

Haley: Are the new people here, Orpheus?

Orpheus: They are, and I think one of them is going to surprise you.

They stop at the train. The gates open and the passengers and Praedonus get off and walk through the gates. Nathan is the last one to get off. He stops when he sees Haley and we see a smile on his face.

Haley: Dad!

She runs up to him and they hug.

Haley: Are you going to live here with me?

Nathan: Yeah. Yeah, Haley, I am. *(He looks up at Orpheus, who is waiting for them. Nathan stands up).* Who's this?

Orpheus *(extending his hand)*: General Orpheus Domes. I run things around here. *(Shaking Nathan's hand)* You must be Nathan Johnson. I've heard a lot about you. You should probably be heading in now.

Nathan and Haley begin to walk through the gates.

Orpheus: Haley, would you wait up one second?

Nathan waits at the gate and Haley walks back to Orpheus. He leans down and whispers in her ear.

Orpheus: I want things to turn out okay for you and your dad. Can you help me out?

Haley: What do you want me to do?

Orpheus: There's one of the new people that I just want you to be extra careful around, okay?

Haley: Why?

Orpheus: There's going to come a time when it would be...bad for you and your dad to be around him. Don't worry, I'll tell you when.

Haley: Who?

Orpheus: ...Kevin Scetz.

ENDING SCREEN + CREDITS.