

ALAN WAKE'S AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

RADIO SHOWS

SHOW 1:

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, here you are, about to enjoy another cool Arizona night with me, Eddie Rodman, the host with the boast.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Hey, any of you guys remember Old Gods of Asgard? Man, I actually saw them twice back in the 70s. I was just a kid then, but my dad worked at this club and he'd sneak me in to see bands all the time, you know... talk about an education. Anyway! Great band, couple of great albums, solid fan base, and then they kinda dropped off the face of the Earth. Now, almost four decades later, they're making a comeback, and let me tell you, these boys have seen a lot of road, these are some serious rock and roll veterans. 'Cause they weren't too young even back in the day. Now, I've got Odin and Tor Anderson, two of the original Old Gods in the studio with me, along with their manager, Barry Wheeler. Nice to have you guys here.

BARRY

Oh, hey, great to be here, Eddie!

TOR

(gruffly)

Yeah, hey.

ODIN

(enthusiastic, too loud)

Hello!

EDDIE RODMAN

Now, boys, let me just come right out and say this, all right -- spring chickens you ain't. I mean, you guys, you make the Stones look young!

ODIN

(laughs, too loud)

Ha ha ha! You're only as old as you feel! Ha ha!

TOR
 (disgusted)
 Who you callin' old?

ODIN
 (laughs and starts
 coughing)
 Ha ha ha ha!

EDDIE RODMAN
 Now, your last album was 1978's "In
 the Valley of My Shadow," and then
 you stopped playing altogether
 after that. Why? And, and what made
 you do a comeback after all this
 time?

BARRY
 Well, heh. It was a sad thing. See,
 the original bass player for Old
 Gods, "Fat Bob" Balder passed away
 in--

ODIN
 (interrupts, too loud)
 Leukemia! Bob had leukemia. Poor
 bastard.

TOR
 Yeah, after that, we didn't feel
 like playing no more.

BARRY
 (steps back in)
 Long story short, I ran into these
 guys up in Washington, and it was
 obvious to me that they've still
 got it. So I figured, hey, let's
 make some music, right? And they
 went for it!

EDDIE RODMAN
 Now, Barry, you were a literary
 agent before this, right?

BARRY
 (uncomfortable)
 Uh-huh...

EDDIE RODMAN
 And you were very successful. You
 represented Alan Wake, I believe,
 who disappeared under mysterious--

BARRY

(interrupts)

Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's -- hey, I just wanna talk about Old Gods tonight. Is that cool? Can we do that?

EDDIE RODMAN

(a little surprised, but recovers right away)

Oh, yeah, sure, sure -- listen, why don't we take a little break, and then later on in the program, we'll hear the new Old Gods single. Stay tuned, folks.

SHOW 2:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Welcome back, listeners. As you know, I'm Eddie Rodman, and I'm still talking to Old Gods of Asgard, who're doing their big comeback tour. How's that been going for you? Odin?

ODIN

(happy, too loud)

Splendid! I'm having the time of my life. You know, I didn't realize how much I'd missed that!

EDDIE RODMAN

And what about you, Tor?

TOR

Aww, it's okay, you know.

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, this must bring back a lot of memories.

ODIN

(enthusiastic, too loud)

Oh, yeah, it's wonderful to be back on stage. If it wasn't for my knee, I'd feel like a young man again!

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, speaking of that, I hate to keep harping on this age thing, but I gotta tell you, I've heard your new songs, guys, and you sound really good.

ODIN

(pleased, too loud)

Thank you!

EDDIE RODMAN

(tries to pick his words
carefully)

And, um, this may be a touchy subject, but to be blunt, you really don't sound, well, old! I mean, the difference between your speaking voice and your singing voice, it's pretty striking.

TOR

What the hell are you talking about? You saying it's not us singing on that record?

ODIN

(confused, too loud)

What? What's he talking about?

EDDIE RODMAN

No, no, no, I'm not saying that, guys, but I, I can't help noticing the difference--

ODIN

(getting angry, too loud)

Son, you're on thin ice!

TOR

(getting angry)

You callin' me a liar?

BARRY

(quickly)

Whoa, hey, let me just step in here for a moment, boys -- yeah, Eddie, they do sound different, but believe me, we're not talking Milli Vanilli here, these guys are the real deal. Why don't you come to the gig tomorrow night and see for yourself? Once they get on that stage... BOOM! Things get real.

EDDIE RODMAN

Really?

BARRY

Believe me, they play like they're possessed! It's almost like magic. You see my boys play, you see the Old Gods for real. These guys project a lot of power. They're not lightweights, you know what I'm saying?

EDDIE RODMAN

All right, Barry, I'll, I'll see if I can make it. Now, let's take another quick break here, and after that, we'll play the new Old Gods of Asgard single. Don't you go away!

SHOW 3:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

And we're back with Old Gods of Asgard and their manager, Barry Wheeler. Guys, you're on your comeback tour, and you're playing a lot of your classic material, but you've also got a new single out, right? How'd that come about? Was it hard to go back into the studio after such a long time?

BARRY

(says too much, tries to backtrack)

Are you kidding me? They were chomping at the bit. They were just itching to stretch those creative muscles. It'd been a while, because -- uh, you know, they'd spent a lot of time in, uh...

TOR

(steps in)

Retirement. We were retired.

ODIN

(puzzled, too loud)

We were?

TOR

Yeah.

ODIN

(dismissive, too loud)

No, no, we were at the Lodge, and, uh... we escaped--

TOR

(interrupts, but can't think of what to say)

We were at the retirement, uh--

BARRY

Thing. Retirement thing.

TOR

(with finality)

Yeah! Yeah.

BARRY

(tries to get back on track)

So, uh, you know, really, once we got in the studio, things started happening. Now, the music has changed a little bit, and the boys were a little rusty, so it took us a while find the right gear, but hey, once we got going, hoo boy, they kicked ass! And it's an awesome song, it's called "Balance Slays the Demon," and seriously, I think it's their finest work. And hey, I should know, I produced it!

EDDIE RODMAN

Oh, really? I didn't know you were a producer.

BARRY

Well, this was my first time. I mean, they needed a little bit of guidance, you know what I mean? I mean, don't get me wrong, these guys are the best. But it's the 21st century, man, things just sound a little different these days. So, you know, I kinda stepped in there, helped them make it sound all cool, kinda jazzed it up.

EDDIE RODMAN

That sounds like a challenge.

BARRY

(excited, boasting)

Oh, no, it was really easy, man. I was just, you know, like "hey, give it a little zing," you know? "Let's take it to another level so it really rips!" Uh... You know, "let's throw some really sweet synths in!" Like that, just kicked it up a notch. But it's totally old Gods.

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, listeners, you can judge for yourselves -- here's Old Gods of Asgard and "Balance Slays the Demon."

BARRY

Oh yeah.

Old Gods of Asgard: Balance Slays the Demon plays.

SHOW 4:

EDDIE RODMAN

Okay, people, it's Eddie Rodman here with a few hours to kill... and there's nobody I'd rather spend them with. Nobody else in the whole world.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

(chuckles)

Heh heh heh! Ohh, boy, that'll land me in hot water once I get back home, won't it? Well, just in case my wife is listening... And you always are, aren't you, baby? Let me tell you, you're the exception, honey. And the prettiest lady I ever saw, to boot.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

But I'd really like to spend some quality time with you listeners, 'cause... well, tonight's one of those nights. You're sitting in the studio and you kinda forget how long it's been, or what day it is -- you just sit here and go through the motions, and you might as well have been here forever. You keep talking, but you don't even know what you're saying. It's like you're on automatic, and you can't stop the ride and get off.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

It's times like that I really wish that someone would just call in and relieve my boredom. How about it, anybody? C'mon, now, help a fella out. Our lines are open.

SHOW 5:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, praise be, you guys are coming through for me! A pretty little light just started blinking on my board here, and that means there's a caller out there.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)
 You know, when the hours stretch
 into eternity like this, when it
 feels like I'm stuck in a rut and
 just reliving the same, endless
 night over and over again, I feel
 genuinely touched by someone
 actually reaching out to me,
 breaking the monotony.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)
 I just want you to know that it
 really matters to me. Caller,
 you're on the air.

CALLER #1
 (drunk, shouting and
 laughing)
 YOU SUCK, EDDIE!

The call gets cut off. There's a pregnant pause.

EDDIE RODMAN
 (clears his throat)
 Ahem.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)
 (conversational)
 Uh, did you know that this is my
 dream job? True fact.

SHOW 6:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)
 I was about to do the weather, but
 I see we have a caller. Hey, you're
 on the air with Eddie, what's up?

CALLER #2
 Hey, Eddie, it's Ricky. You talked
 about fate before? You think about
 that a lot?

EDDIE RODMAN
 Not a lot, to be honest, but I take
 it you do?

CALLER #2
 Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

EDDIE RODMAN
 Any conclusions you'd care to
 share, Ricky?

CALLER #2
 Well, we've got free will, right?
 That's in the Bible and everything.

EDDIE RODMAN

Yeah, right, sure.

CALLER #2

So, free will, right? Am I right? I mean, if we can do what we want, how can there be fate? I mean, you don't know what's gonna happen next. So there's no fate. There's just people doing stuff.

EDDIE RODMAN

(starts to morph into the Night Springs narrator as he speaks)

Well, I don't know, Ricky. I don't suppose you have considered the possibility that we're all here in the service of a greater purpose, incomprehensible to us, and that what we take to be freedom is nothing more than the move of a pawn on some cosmic chessboard -- limited in scope, subject to the whims of unseen players, existing only for their entertainment? Or perhaps we're just a twisted reflection of actual events that can happen elsewhere. Could it be that such is life... in Night Springs?

CALLER #2

(spooked)

Um. Dude, what?

EDDIE RODMAN

(normal voice)

Food for thought, Ricky. Food for thought.

SHOW 7:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Well, art lovers, are you feeling neglected? You shouldn't. You know Eddie Rodman's got love for you, which is why I actually hauled myself out of bed before noon just so I could record an interview for your pleasure. Enjoy!

The quality of the sound changes a little; this interview hasn't been recorded at a studio, but rather in a cafe somewhere.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Well, as I'm sure you all know, the annual Night Springs Visual Arts Show is coming around again, and that's a big deal for all of us that are in the culture business -- if you can call it a business, that's a little controversial, I know!

SERENA

(laughing)

Oh, that's okay! Money makes the world go around, no doubt about it.

EDDIE RODMAN

And that's one of my guests here at the studio, Serena Valdivia; she's a curator at the Night Springs Gallery of Visual Arts, and she's in charge of the NSVA Film Festival, held this year at the old Night Springs Drive-In Theatre.

SERENA

Hello, Eddie, it's great to be here. And let me just say that it's a wonderful venue.

EDDIE RODMAN

Absolutely. And with her is one of the filmmakers, somebody who's actually primarily known as a renowned photographer... Alice Wake.

ALICE

Hello!

EDDIE RODMAN

Now, Alice, I've seen a lot of your work over the years. It's very impressive. My wife's a big fan, actually.

ALICE

Oh, thank you.

EDDIE RODMAN

You've, uh -- you've gained quite a bit of fame as a photographer, but that's not why you're here; you actually have a film. That's a little surprising.

ALICE

For me, too! I really wouldn't be here at all if it weren't for Serena.

EDDIE RODMAN

You two are friends, I take it?

SERENA

Yeah, we move in the same circles. So, about a year ago I heard about all this footage she'd shot, and I got to see some of it, and then I started pestering her about actually putting it out there, because it was really good!

ALICE

I didn't really want to show it. It felt too personal.

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, yes, I can understand that. It features your husband, and he's, um, well...

ALICE

(hesitantly)

He's -- he's dead.

EDDIE RODMAN

(a little surprised)

Uh, I thought he was missing?

ALICE

It's been two years. I -- this sounds awful, but yes, I believe he's dead. Otherwise he would've... well, you know.

EDDIE RODMAN

Yeah, I -- I understand. Well, hold that thought, we'll be right back.

SHOW 8:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Thanks for tuning in for the second part of our interview with Serena Valdivia and award-winning photographer Alice Wake.

The quality of the sound changes a little; this interview hasn't been recorded at a studio, but rather in a cafe somewhere.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

(steps in to take the
spotlight off Alice for a
moment)

Now, Alice, we were talking about
your husband, Alan Wake. Is that a
sore subject for you?

ALICE

Well, a little bit. Of course it
is. The way I see it, we had our
good times and our bad times, and
on the whole, we had a lot of good
times. He really made me happy. I
don't mind being reminded of him.

EDDIE RODMAN

So you're, uh... you're over him?

ALICE

(laughs, sadder than she's
willing to let on)

I don't know if I'll ever be that,
entirely. I still think about him
every day, literally. I still find
myself hoping for -- well,
sometimes I think I see him just
standing somewhere, watching me. I
think most people who lose someone
they love experience things like
that. But on the whole, I'm doing
all right. Two years is a long time
to adjust, and I'm not really the
type to wallow in the negative.

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, I know there are a lot of
stories about Alan. He seemed to
have something of a wild streak...

SERENA

(attempts to change the
subject)

Um, that's not really what our show
is about, though...

ALICE

(polite, but annoyed)

Look, all that stuff really gets
blown out of proportion. He had his
problems, but... it's really
frustrating for me, because people
like to talk, they love to tell
these crazy stories, and they never
really knew him at all.

EDDIE RODMAN

Well, the character he created, Alex Casey, is a household name, the books still continue to sell... there's been talk of a TV series, a movie, a video game... It must be nice to know that his work is still being appreciated by so many readers.

ALICE

(uninterested)

Yes, of course, but I don't really deal with the business side. I leave that to Alan's agent.

EDDIE RODMAN

That would be Barry Wheeler? Actually, I just interviewed him. He's currently in the music business...

ALICE

(cool)

Mm-hmm.

EDDIE RODMAN

And he's also Alan's best friend. Do you two keep in touch?

ALICE

We talk regularly. Like I said, he handles the business side.

SERENA

(blatant attempt to change the subject)

I think we should talk about her film.

EDDIE RODMAN

(switches tracks)

Yes. Yes, of course, you're right. I'm Eddie Rodman, talking to Alice Wake and Serena Valdivia, and we'll be right back.

SHOW 9:

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

Hello folks, and welcome to the third part of our prerecorded interview with Serena Valdivia and renowned photographer Alice Wake.

The quality of the sound changes a little; this interview hasn't been recorded at a studio, but rather in a cafe somewhere.

EDDIE RODMAN (CONT'D)

So, tell me about the film.

ALICE

It's called "Sunrise," and it really wasn't something I ever thought of as an actual film -- it was just footage, things I saw and happened to shoot. It's not a medium I'm very much at home with.

SERENA

You shouldn't put yourself down. You've got a great eye.

ALICE

(amused)

Maybe, but experience is another thing.

EDDIE RODMAN

Because you're primarily a still photographer.

ALICE

Yes, exactly. So I'm really used to thinking of the world in terms of snapshots -- I frame something and try to pick the right moment, and then reveal that moment to people. Moving images are a different story. I'm still learning a lot about it, to be honest.

EDDIE RODMAN

So this is a new thing for you?

ALICE

(laughs)

Or maybe I'm just a slow learner! But showing it like this is definitely a new step for me -- it's a little weird taking something this intimate and showing it to everybody. Not that the material itself is somehow shocking, it's just that those were private moments.

SERENA

But that's why it works, because it feels genuine. It's not so much a story as it is a sort of an echo, showing us how you saw your husband at the time. It's not really about the sunrise itself, or Alan watching it, it's about you two, together.

ALICE

I suppose. It's funny, looking at it now, especially now that it's been edited like that -- it takes on a life of its own, almost. It's a kind of a fantasy.

SERENA

Well, there's nothing wrong with that.

ALICE

No, you're right. I'm glad you talked me into it!