

The Orphans: Investigation  
S01E03  
"Copies"

by

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INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Diana is tossing and turning in bed. She eventually gets up, breathing uneasily. She quickly throws on some clothing and leaves the room. She walks into:

INT. THE BRIDGE

Diana walks up to Richard.

DIANA STRANGE  
How's it going?

RICHARD HART  
Go back to sleep.

DIANA STRANGE  
Have we passed through yet?

RICHARD HART  
Not yet.

DIANA STRANGE  
What's taking so long?

RICHARD HART  
I'm taking my time. Would you rather do it?

DIANA STRANGE  
Weren't we meant to cross an hour ago?

RICHARD HART  
Yes.

DIANA STRANGE  
Well what's the hold up?

RICHARD HART  
There's a cruiser parked a few thousand kilometers past the border.

DIANA STRANGE  
Shit.

RICHARD HART  
Calm down. Could be nothing, it looks like a commercial vessel.

DIANA STRANGE  
Why would a commercial vessel be out here?!

\*

2.

RICHARD HART  
Any number of reasons. Probably  
waiting for a...

A signal bleeps on the console, like the sound of a radar.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)  
Yeah, that's what I thought.

DIANA STRANGE  
What is it?

RICHARD HART  
It's a drop off. Illegal transport  
into wild space meeting up with a  
commuter vessel to bring their  
customers back.

DIANA STRANGE  
How are they not getting caught?

RICHARD HART  
(uneasily)  
Usually they're quite careful...

DIANA STRANGE  
Why did you say it like that?  
What's wrong?

RICHARD HART  
This idiot's left his beacon on.

DIANA STRANGE  
Which one?

RICHARD HART  
The illegal. If he crosses the  
border this whole section is going  
to light up.

DIANA STRANGE  
(exasperated)  
Oh come on.

RICHARD HART  
They let any idiot fly these ships.

DIANA STRANGE  
We need to retreat.

RICHARD HART  
This is the only safe section of  
the border right now. The northern  
region's been blocked up for weeks.  
That was my only other way in.

DIANA STRANGE  
I don't care, we need to retreat.

RICHARD HART  
Ugh... if they alert the patrols  
then we're going to lose this  
section too.

DIANA STRANGE  
Then just alert them!

RICHARD HART  
No way! They know that some rogue  
copies are out here and they will  
track us down and claim the  
rewards.

DIANA STRANGE  
Come on then, we need to retreat..

RICHARD HART  
No, we can't lose this window.

DIANA STRANGE  
But we'll-

RICHARD HART  
Shut up.

DIANA STRANGE  
Excuse me?

RICHARD HART  
Just shut up, I know what to do.

Richard starts to move and pull levers.

DIANA STRANGE  
I don't think you understand what's  
about to happen here.

RICHARD HART  
No, you don't understand. If we  
lose this window then we're not  
going to have another way in for  
months, by which time Evers' trail  
will have gone cold. So shut up and  
let me handle this.

DIANA STRANGE  
I...

RICHARD HART  
Sit down.

Diana sits down, unsure what's just happened.

DIANA STRANGE  
Okay.

Richard is pulling levers. The radar is getting louder.

RICHARD HART

When I say so, you need to pull  
this lever, do you understand?

DIANA STRANGE

What?

RICHARD HART

Look at me. This is going to be  
fine, but what I need you to do is  
pull that lever when I say. That  
will engage the warp engine. Ship  
this size can only go at factor  
three, maybe. So time is crucial  
here. You need to listen to me.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay, I can do that.

RICHARD HART

Good. He's almost there. Hold for  
my call.

Everything goes quiet for a second, the beeping continues and  
it starts to get louder and louder.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Hold... Hold.

It continues, louder and louder, it reaches a peak and then:

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

NOW!

Diana flips the lever and with a shot the ship jumps, the  
fastest thing you've ever heard.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Alright, good! Get ready to pull  
out!

DIANA STRANGE

Ready.

RICHARD HART

Aaand... NOW!

Diana pulls the lever back and the ship quickly pulls out of  
warp. With a groan the ship comes to a stop. It is a  
tremendous effort. There is a massive rip and alarms start to  
go.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

Ugh... come on!

DIANA STRANGE

It's your bloody engine!

RICHARD HART

It's fine! It's fine! We're away.

DIANA STRANGE

It's not fine! He crossed the border! They're going to see two ships crossing and come after us.

RICHARD HART

I crossed at the same time, it should throw them for long enough to get away from here.

DIANA STRANGE

And how long will that be? It doesn't sound like we're in any shape to fly.

RICHARD HART

I don't know, alright?! Just let me look at the engines.

Richard walks away.

Diana growls under her breath. She moves over to the console and starts pressing buttons.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

(From far off)

What are you doing?

DIANA STRANGE

I'm doing a long range scan, I don't want to be snuck up on.

RICHARD HART

We're in the middle of nowhere, we're fine.

DIANA STRANGE

I'm a founding member of the Alliance stranded in Collective space, excuse me for being slightly on edge.

RICHARD HART

No one's coming here, ok?

DIANA STRANGE

You just worry about the engines.

RICHARD HART

You need to trust me on this. Why are you so paranoid?

DIANA STRANGE  
I haven't been alone in Collective  
Space since The Alliance formed.  
I'm uncomfortable.

RICHARD HART  
Damn it!

DIANA STRANGE  
What?!

RICHARD HART  
The power conduit on the warp drive  
is malfunctioning. I need to take  
the whole system offline. Damn it!

Richard gets up and starts to walk back over to the console.

DIANA STRANGE  
What? So we're stuck here?

RICHARD HART  
For now. Had it been the Fuel Cell  
or the coils I could just replace  
it, but I've got to repair this.

DIANA STRANGE  
How long's that gonna take?

RICHARD HART  
A few hours at least.

DIANA STRANGE  
You're kidding?!

RICHARD HART  
I wish I was.

DIANA STRANGE  
What do we do?

RICHARD HART  
Let me see exactly where we are.

Richard goes to the console and presses a few buttons.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)  
We're in System S486. Couldn't even  
give it a name. That's how little  
they're in this system, see?

DIANA STRANGE  
Alright, I get it.

RICHARD HART  
Ah... there's a moon over there. I  
can land and do the repairs and  
we'll be on our way.

7.

DIANA STRANGE  
That's good, the magnetic field can  
cloak us from long range scans.

RICHARD HART  
My thinking exactly.

FADE TO:

INT. RECREATION AREA OF THE SHIP

DIANA STRANGE  
How much longer is this going to  
take?

RICHARD HART  
(Working very hard)  
I'll be done this bit in a second,  
then we just need to wait for the  
computer to recalibrate.

DIANA STRANGE  
Do you need any help?

RICHARD HART  
No, I'm alright.

There are a final few mechanical sounds as cogs slide into  
place. Richard flips a switch and gets out of the hatch he is  
in and closes it.

DIANA STRANGE  
That wasn't so bad.

RICHARD HART  
Yeah? Just wait. Computer?

A chime indicating the computer is listening.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)  
Initiate warp drive calibration.

A chime confirming.

ON BOARD COMPUTER  
Confirmed. Calibration should take  
three hours.

DIANA STRANGE  
Oh come on.

RICHARD HART  
(still out of breath)  
You're really worried about this,  
aren't you?

DIANA STRANGE

Yes, I am. You're some lost clone,  
I'm a founding member of the  
Alliance. What happens if they find  
us is very different for you and I.

RICHARD HART

(laughs)

Trust me, it will be the same thing  
for both of us.

DIANA STRANGE

I doubt that.

RICHARD HART

I'm not just a random clone  
smuggled out of the core to be a  
mule for some cartel, you know?

DIANA STRANGE

Then who are you?

RICHARD HART

Funny you don't know. I thought  
Diana units were meant to have all  
their intel together.

DIANA STRANGE

I didn't know who I was meeting, it  
could have been anyone.

RICHARD HART

Right.

DIANA STRANGE

Who are you then?

RICHARD HART

Ah. Maybe later. I'm not really in  
the mood for story time.

Richard walks off.

DIANA STRANGE

I don't think it's very fair that  
you know who I am and I know  
nothing about you.

RICHARD HART

Another time Di.

DIANA STRANGE

Don't call me Di.

FADE TO:

INT. COCKPIT

The ship is now flying. Richard presses a few buttons and an intercom comes on in the ship. Richard speaks into it.

RICHARD HART

And coming up on our delayed journey is the Alaris system home of some of most beautiful and wealthy people in the Galaxy. Cost of entry, your dignity.

Diana walks up to Richard.

DIANA STRANGE

Very funny.

RICHARD HART

I think so.

DIANA STRANGE

I've just looked at the projection that your contact sent, it looks like Dent's in the south western hemisphere, a place called Shepherd's Haven.

RICHARD HART

(wretches)

Almost too posh to stomach.

DIANA STRANGE

It is. So what's the plan when we get down there?

\*

RICHARD HART

We'll land at the port out of the main city, I've got a boosted signal generator, shouldn't raise any suspicion. Then we need to find him.

DIANA STRANGE

How are we going to disguise ourselves? We can't go around with our faces.

RICHARD HART

Look in the compartment down there.

Diana walks over and opens the compartment.

DIANA STRANGE

Oh no. I'm not wearing this.

RICHARD HART

It's the best way to blend in.

DIANA STRANGE

No, I spent years of my life  
getting out of this uniform, I'm  
not doing it.

RICHARD HART

Put your pride aside for a moment.  
No one is going to question two  
clones walking around in uniform.  
As soon as they spot our faces out  
of that uniform, they're going to  
ask questions.

DIANA STRANGE

I'm not just talking physically,  
I've spent years trying to get this  
uniform out of my mind.

\*  
\*  
\*

RICHARD HART

You know I'm right.

DIANA STRANGE

Fine!

Diana reaches out and touches the uniform.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

They're so coarse.

RICHARD HART

Designed for optimum discomfort.

DIANA STRANGE

You owe me for this.

RICHARD HART

No, I don't.

FADE TO:

EXT. A STREET QUIET

There is the general bustle of a suburban street. Strange  
vehicles fly by. Richard and Diana walk down a street. Diana  
is adjusting her uniform.

DIANA STRANGE

It's already riding up the back.

RICHARD HART

(hushed and pointed)  
Would you relax.

DIANA STRANGE

Alright. Fine. You're right.

They walk in silence.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)  
I think it's the one with the red  
door up ahead.

RICHARD HART  
How can you tell?

DIANA STRANGE  
Your contact said it would have a  
red door with a mysterious marking  
in the shape of a number five and  
three. He gave us the address you-

\*  
\*

CHILD  
Hello!

DIANA STRANGE  
Uh.

RICHARD HART  
(depending on sex of child  
who plays the part)  
Hello young sir/lady.

CHILD  
What are you doing?

DIANA STRANGE  
None of your concern.

CHILD  
Oh.

RICHARD HART  
No, don't be silly. We're just on  
patrol. We want to make sure your  
system stays safe, right?

CHILD  
Yeah!

RICHARD HART  
Good girl/ boy. How old are you?

CHILD  
I'm five.

RICHARD HART  
Wow, you're getting old, aren't  
you?

CHILD  
My brother is seven.

RICHARD HART  
He's getting old too then isn't he?

CHILD

Mhm!

The father of the child calls after the boy.

FATHER

(depending on the sex of  
the child in the role)

Emma/Jackson?

The father comes up to the boy.

FATHER (CONT'D)

I told you not to go into the road.

CHILD

Dad! Look, I found some copies.

DIANA STRANGE

What did you just call-?

\*

FATHER

Emma/Jackson you stop that right  
now, that is an unkind word. I'm so  
sorry about him/her, you know how  
children can be, or I suppose-

RICHARD HART

Absolutely, sir. No bother at all.  
Isn't that right, Diana.

DIANA STRANGE

That's right.

FATHER

We really appreciate what you're  
doing, guarding the system. It's  
made us feel much safer, what with  
the boarder to wild space only  
being so far and- Thank you.

RICHARD HART

No problem.

DIANA STRANGE

No, none at all.

RICHARD HART

We'd best be off.

FATHER

Of course. Thank you.

RICHARD HART

Take care.

The father and son walk off as Diana and Richard continue  
towards their destination.

DIANA STRANGE  
What was that all about?

RICHARD HART  
They expect a certain level of civility from their clones out here.

DIANA STRANGE  
Why was he nice to us?

RICHARD HART  
Some people are nice, you know?

DIANA STRANGE  
They're nice to your face, there's a difference. Where do you think the kid learned to call us copies?

RICHARD HART  
He/she could have picked it up from anywhere. He/she doesn't understand.

DIANA STRANGE  
You're too forgiving of their casual hatred.

RICHARD HART  
You really think the worst of them, don't you? \*

DIANA STRANGE  
I'm not too keen.

RICHARD HART  
Delilah is a natural born.

DIANA STRANGE  
Not too keen on her either.

RICHARD HART  
May I ask why?

DIANA STRANGE  
Later. We're here.

Diana presses a button on the door. A Geoffrey unit's voice immediately answers.

GEOFFREY  
Hello. How may I be of service?

DIANA STRANGE  
We're looking for Amos.

GEOFFREY  
May I ask who is calling?

DIANA STRANGE  
Collective Officers. We're out on patrol. We have a few questions for Mister Dent.

GEOFFREY  
Unfortunately Amos is not seeing guests today.

DIANA STRANGE  
We're not-

RICHARD HART  
Initiate law enforcement mode, clearance number eight - nine - three - zero. Questioning Amos Dent, the resident at this property.

There is a momentary judder in Geoffrey.

GEOFFREY  
Of course. Please, enter.

The door to the home opens and they enter.

INT. AMOS DENT'S HOME - FOYER

\*

GEOFFREY  
If you wait in the lounge directly ahead, I will fetch Mister Dent.

Geoffrey blinks out of the room.

RICHARD HART  
Those domestic models are more brain dead than the standard model.

DIANA STRANGE  
How did you know that code?

RICHARD HART  
I used to need to use those all the time. They don't change them regularly in a system like this. Figured it would be the same.

DIANA STRANGE  
Won't it alert someone? Let them know we're here.

RICHARD HART  
In a few hours. Plenty of time to get in and out.

Suddenly there's a bang from upstairs and a smashing. Both Richard and Diana jump.

DIANA STRANGE  
Upstairs, go.

They both run up the stairs. Vague yelling can be heard from upstairs.

INT. AMOS DENT'S HOME - BEDROOM

\*

RICHARD HART  
Mister Dent are you alri- oh!

They burst through the door.

DIANA STRANGE  
What's- ah!

AMOS DENT  
Get out!

DIANA STRANGE  
(Disgusted)  
Mister Dent, we're Collective  
Officers, we'd like to ask you some  
questions.

RICHARD HART  
Sir, do you need some help off the  
floor?

AMOS DENT  
Bugger off the both of you. I can  
do it.

Amos gets up.

RICHARD HART  
Sir, could you please put on some  
clothes?

AMOS DENT  
(mumbled)  
It's my bloody house.

Amos goes over and pulls on a robe.

AMOS DENT (CONT'D)  
A robe's gonna 'ave to do, cause  
I'm not putting anything else on.

DIANA STRANGE  
It's fine, just put *something* on!

AMOS DENT  
What do you want? I thought I told  
that thing not to let anyone in  
here.

Geoffrey blinks into the room

GEOFFREY

Sir, a pair of Collective officers are here to see you. They have used their security clearance to gain access.

AMOS DENT

(grumbles)

Bloody useless thing. I can see that, thank you very much *GEOFFREY!*

GEOFFREY

Happy to be of service. Will you require anything else.

AMOS DENT

No, we're fine. Bugger off.

GEOFFREY

Of course.

AMOS DENT

What do you want then?

RICHARD HART

Are you alright? We heard something shatter?

AMOS DENT

I'm fine. I threw something. It broke.

RICHARD HART

Right... why?

AMOS DENT

It was in my hand. I didn't want it in my hand anymore.

DIANA STRANGE

Right...

AMOS DENT

Well, out with it. Why are you in my home?

DIANA STRANGE

We came to you this afternoon because-

AMOS DENT

Is it afternoon already? Might as well pour a wee drink.

Amos makes his way over to a drink cart in the room and pours a drink.

DIANA STRANGE  
Are- excuse me?

AMOS DENT  
Nothing, love. Carry on. This will help the flow of information.

DIANA STRANGE  
I'm not sure that-

RICHARD HART  
Diana, please, we wouldn't want to tell the man what to do in his own home.

DIANA STRANGE  
Of course not.

RICHARD HART  
We're wondering if you may have had a visit from someone of interest to us?

Dent takes a swig from his drinks.

AMOS DENT  
And who's that?

RICHARD HART  
A clone called Nora Evers.

AMOS DENT  
(laughing)  
How am I meant to tell? You copies all look the bloody same.

DIANA STRANGE  
I think you'll find that we don't.

AMOS DENT  
Ou, touchy.

RICHARD HART  
Do you recall a visit from a clone?

AMOS DENT  
Might'a done.

Amos finishes off his drink and starts to pour himself another.

AMOS DENT (CONT'D)  
She was a fan. Wanted to know all about how we made GeOFFRY.

RICHARD HART  
Do you remember her name?

AMOS DENT

Yeah... was like you said, Nora  
summut.

DIANA STRANGE

We need to know what you told her.

AMOS DENT

Listen here, I don't remember what  
I did yesterday, you think I'm  
going to remember some copy? I've  
seen millions of you's, and let me  
tell you, no interaction has left  
lasting mental damage enough to  
remember. Not yet anyways.

Amos pounds the next drink.

DIANA STRANGE

Why you-

RICHARD HART

Diana, perhaps if we showed the  
gentleman a little more  
hospitality, he might be inclined  
to remember. Maybe we should make  
him another drink.

DIANA STRANGE

Fine.

Diana goes over to the cart to make a drink. Amos sneers.

RICHARD HART

Do you remember what she wanted to  
know about GeoFFRy?

AMOS DENT

It's a funny name for a robot,  
in'it? Leave that bastard to name  
it something so stupid. What even  
is a reasoning unit?!

RICHARD HART

I believe it refers to a GeoFFRy's  
ability to reason, to make  
independent decisions?

AMOS DENT

But where does the u go? Is it the  
y? The Yu sound?! Stupid.

RICHARD HART

I'm not sure I follow.

AMOS DENT

Bloody GeeFFRy. Geo. F. F. R.  
Geometrically Fabricated, and  
Functional Reasoning, yeah? That  
all makes sense. But am I meant to  
believe that the y is for unit?!  
Stupid.

RICHARD HART

You're right. It's... a stupid  
name.

AMOS DENT

Damn right it is. Never wanted one  
of them. Why would I want to have  
me telling me off for stuff. You  
should get up, Amos. You're not  
dressed, Amos. Barocan rum isn't  
considered a square meal, Amos.  
Well it is to me!

DIANA STRANGE

If you don't want one so bad, then  
why do you have one?

Diana shoves the drink into Amos's hands and walks away.

AMOS DENT

It wasn't my choice, you can be  
sure of that! It was him! The fool  
that made them.

DIANA STRANGE

The creator?

AMOS DENT

Yeah, whatever.

DIANA STRANGE

Do you know his name?

AMOS DENT

Ah- well... I did... at one point.

Amos starts to drink the next drink, shakily.

RICHARD HART

You've forgotten his name?

AMOS DENT

I've forgotten him altogether.

DIANA STRANGE

How?

AMOS DENT

They- uh- they did something to me.  
Something with my brain, I can't  
remember him.

DIANA STRANGE

Oh. I'm sorry.

AMOS DENT

It' fine... Then one day, this  
piece of shite shows up. People  
come into my home and install this  
thing, and I don't want it, and he  
made it, and he gave it to me, and  
I don't want it, I DON'T WANT IT.

RICHARD HART

Alright, we understand. You don't  
need to raise your voice.

AMOS DENT

I- I- I don't feel well.

DIANA STRANGE

Probably all the liquor.

AMOS DENT

I'm going to bed.

Amos climbs into his bed, and fairly instantly falls asleep.

DIANA STRANGE

Sir, we have a few more... and he's  
gone.

RICHARD HART

Well that was a productive chat,  
wasn't it?

DIANA STRANGE

Did you hear what he said about the  
reasoning unit?

They start to slowly make their way out of the room and back  
down the stairs.

INT. AMOS DENT'S HOME - FOYER

\*

RICHARD HART

That the creator gave it to him.

DIANA STRANGE

But how does he know that? If he  
can't remember his name? By the  
way, how is that possible?

RICHARD HART

Some kind of memory wiping procedure. High-profile people who know too much. They poke around, scrub the brain and there you go. It's not the first time I've seen it.

DIANA STRANGE

Disgusting.

RICHARD HART

I know. I want to get a look at the reasoning unit before we go, see if there's anything interesting about it.

DIANA STRANGE

Evers would have done the same.

RICHARD HART

Then let's see what she found.

Richard and Diana arrive downstairs and walk into the lounge.

DIANA STRANGE

Geoffrey?

Geoffrey blinks into the room.

GEOFFREY

Yes?

DIANA STRANGE

Blanket security bypass, Code Alpha, Coda, Coda, Five, Beta, Delta.

GEOFFREY

Access Granted.

RICHARD HART

Excuse me, what?

DIANA STRANGE

Relax, it only works on the domestic models. Hardly any use. Geoffrey, please disclose any systems.

GEOFFREY

Of course.

RICHARD HART

That could take hours.

DIANA STRANGE

Good point. Geoffrey, limit list to systems accessed within the previous 120 days. Sort from most to least times used. I doubt he uses it for much, so this should be a short list.

GEOFFREY

Certainly. Day to night cycle, used 120 times in 120 days. Automated Purchase System, used 80 times in the previous 120 days. Communications system, used 20 times in the previous 120 days. Law enforcement assistance system used 2 times in the previous 120 days...

RICHARD HART

I bet you that's Evers.

GEOFFREY

Baked Good and Pastry program accessed once the previous 120 days.

RICHARD HART

Baked goods?

DIANA STRANGE

Geoffrey, when was there previously a visitor in the last 120 days.

GEOFFREY

The previous visitor was a clone female, approximately two and a half months ago.

DIANA STRANGE

What programs were activated in their stay?

GEOFFREY

Two programs. At 15:28 Hours on 02.09.82 the Law enforcement assistance program was activated, and at 16:40 the Baked Good and Pastry system was activated.

RICHARD HART

What do you think it is?

DIANA STRANGE

Well it's not croissants, is it?

RICHARD HART

Some kind of hidden program?

DIANA STRANGE  
Let's find out. Geoffrey, activate  
Baked Goods and Pastry program.

GEOFFREY  
Activating.

A recording begins to play.

VOICE  
By the brightest start, in depths  
of despair, you'll find it, you'll  
find me. Where the earth quakes,  
and the bones crack, you'll find  
it, you'll find peace.

GEOFFREY  
Program complete.

RICHARD HART  
What does it mean?

DIANA STRANGE  
I don't know...

**THE END**

\*