

The Orphans: Investigation  
S01E08  
"Escapes"

by

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INT. THE CONTROL ROOM - FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS EPISODE

Diana crawls out from under Victor.

DIANA STRANGE

What the fuck was that?!

RICHARD HART

I have no clue.

There is a strange animal like call from far off.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Something tells me we shouldn't  
stay to find out.

DIANA STRANGE

We need to barricade that door.

RICHARD HART

That's our only exit.

DIANA STRANGE

That is whatever is out there's  
only entrance.

RICHARD HART

Damn it.

DIANA STRANGE

Come on.

They both move to the entrance, they shut the door, locking  
it.

RICHARD HART

Grab the cabinets.

Diana and Richard both move over and both topple two cabinets  
in front of the door.

DIANA STRANGE

There. That will buy us some  
time.

There starts to be growling and banging from the other side  
of the door. Both Richard and Diana start.

RICHARD HART

What is this?

DIANA STRANGE

I don't know...

RICHARD HART

What now?

DIANA STRANGE

Now, we get that data.

They both move back over to the console.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Victor said he had seen a Nora unit here a few weeks ago. That she was launched on a ship.

Richard types furiously.

RICHARD HART

Okay, they launched four ships in the last month.

DIANA STRANGE

Copy all of the data you have on them, quickly.

The door starts to break down as Richard types quickly, the transfer starting.

RICHARD HART

It's almost there.

DIANA STRANGE

Richard...

RICHARD HART

Just hold on! I'm on sixty percent.

DIANA STRANGE

Right, as soon as that finishes we make a break for the vents. We need to crawl back through, alright?

Richard groans.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Complain all you like, it's all we got.

The door breaks down and things are at the door. Richard exclaims and pulls her weapon shooting at the door.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)  
I can't hold them off forever!

RICHARD HART  
HOLD ON!

Diana continues shooting, the door breaks further.

DIANA STRANGE  
Richard!

A alert from the workstation.

RICHARD HART  
Done!

They both run, Diana shooting behind them as they go.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)  
(still running)  
The vent's shut!

Diana shoots ahead of the vent, bursting it open.

DIANA STRANGE  
(still running)  
Not anymore!

They stop at the entrance to the vent.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)  
Get in!

Richard climbs into the vent.

Diana shoots more as the door finally bursts open and many of the things burst into the room. Diana growls under her breath as she climbs into the vent.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)  
Go! They're through.

Diana crawls very quickly behind him. She's struggling through. We can hear the creatures behind her. She lets off a couple shots at them.

RICHARD HART  
Don't shoot that thing in here,  
you could kill both of us!

Diana growls under her breath.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Up here! It's the landing bay, we can jump out.

Diana crawls up to him quickly.

DIANA STRANGE

Are you mad?!

RICHARD HART

We're not gonna get anymore closer to the ship.

Diana groans.

DIANA STRANGE

I hate you, I hate you, I hate you.

They open the hatch.

RICHARD HART

I thought you'd be used to this by now.

DIANA STRANGE

Just do it.

Richard jumps down the shoot, he lands, he cries out in pain.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Richard?

RICHARD HART

(from far off)

I'm alright! You can make it!

Diana takes a deep breath and jump. She lands with a crunch and cries out in pain.

DIANA STRANGE

I hate you!

RICHARD HART

Come on, get up. We need to run, they'll be having the same thought we did.

Richard helps Diana to her feet. They start moving towards the ship. Richard presses a button on the communicator.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Axel, get the engines running!

AXEL

(over communicator)

I'm on it!

DIANA STRANGE

I hate heights.

RICHARD HART

(laughing)

What?! You go into space all the time!

DIANA STRANGE

That's different. I hate being high up. I never look out the cockpit window before we're in the stratosphere.

RICHARD HART

(laughing)

You- I- there are no words!

Diana punches Richard.

DIANA STRANGE

Hurry up.

They both shamble along. The engines are heating up.

Then- more of the creatures can be heard in the distance.

Diana groans.

RICHARD HART

Run!

They both sprint for the ship. The creatures are close of their heels. Diana and Richard both let off a couple of shots.

The hatch of the ship starts to open but Richard falls, tripping. Diana stops and goes back to help him.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

No! Go! Get in the ship.

DIANA STRANGE

Oh shut up you big baby. Come on.

Diana shoots at the creatures approaching.

INT. THE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Together they get themselves into the ship. They both drop to the ground as the hatch to the ship closes. They both start to laugh, both exhilarated by what they've just done.

Axel comes running up to them.

AXEL

They're climbing on the ship.

Richard sighs and gets up.

RICHARD HART

Let's get out of here.

Richard and Axel walk off. Diana is left behind as she recovers from what's just happened she is laughing slightly to herself as we hear the engines engage and the ship take off.

FADE TO:

INT. AN OFFICE - DAY

Nora Vass skulks up around her office. Xavier Rabia sits in her office.

NORA VASS

You would of course, not be the first to take on this very special position.

XAVIER RABIA

Right.

NORA VASS

It is a position that requires a certain grace.

XAVIER RABIA

Sure.

NORA VASS

But it is one of tantamount importance to our unity, especially in this time of rebellion.

XAVIER RABIA

Look, you don't need to butter me up. I'll accept on one condition.

NORA VASS

Not that you have a choice in the matter, but I'll humour you.

XAVIER RABIA

I've brought someone with me.  
(calling out)  
Come on.

The door opens and Valeria Basari enters.

XAVIER RABIA (CONT'D)

This is Valerie Basari. She's served under me for years.

NORA VASS

And what pray tell is she doing in my office?

VALERIE BASARI

Admiral Vass, if you put my skills to the test, I think you will find I am just as lethal as any Xavier unit.

XAVIER RABIA

I can vouch for that.

NORA VASS

I am not prepared to-

There is an alert from the console. Nora Vass sighs.

NORA VASS (CONT'D)

One moment.

She moves to the console and answers the message.

NORA VASS (CONT'D)

Cordelia, I believe I asked you not to disturb me.

CORDELIA YOUNG

Pardon me, miss but-

NORA VASS

High-Admiral.

CORDELIA YOUNG

Yes, sorry! High Admiral! It's just that- well... you told me to keep you inform if-if-if

NORA VASS

Spit it out.

CORDELIA YOUNG

The station you've been monitoring, mi- High-Admiral!

NORA VASS

Which station?!

CORDELIA YOUNG

The private hauling station! You told me to update you immediately if anything came in from intelligence!

NORA VASS

Wait a moment Private Young.

Nora places the communication on mute.

NORA VASS (CONT'D)

Could I please ask you both to wait outside.

XAVIER RABIA

Yeah, alright.

NORA VASS

I will consider your proposal when you return.

VALERIE BASARI

Thank you Admiral Vass.

NORA VASS

Yes, yes.

They both exit the room. Nora opens the communication again.

NORA VASS (CONT'D)

You may proceed Cordelia.

CORDELIA YOUNG

It looks as though there's been some activity. The ship that we were searching for in relation to the security breach on Caracass has just been scanned leaving the station by one of our satellites. We looked into the records and it appears they took a copy of the recent ship manifests.

NORA VASS

What was their trajectory?

CORDELIA YOUNG

They appear to be following the trajectory of the ship we launched our attack on.

There is a pregnant pause.

CORDELIA YOUNG (CONT'D)

M-N-High-Admiral?

NORA VASS

(livid, but not with her)

Thank you for bringing this to my attention, Cordelia.

CORDELIA YOUNG

You're wel-

Nora shuts off the communication.

Nora presses a very quick series of buttons. Opening a communication. It is answered.

WILLIAM ALDRICH

High-Admiral Vass. What can we do or you?

NORA VASS

Captain Aldrich. I need you to scramble a squadron in the northern region immediately. We're going to follow contingency plan Gamma. There is a ship in bound. Destroy it, failing that, destroy everything on the planet. Is that understood?

WILLIAM ALDRICH

Perfectly.

NORA VASS

Good, contact intelligence for  
the vectors.

WILLIAM ALDRICH

Understood.

She closes the communication.

Nora is nervous, she presses the following succession of buttons with a lot more hesitation. She releases a massive sigh of stress as she presses the final button and opens a communication. The line opens.

MINISTER ORSHAM

Oh, hello High-Admiral. What a lovely surprise seeing you.

NORA VASS

Yes, it is a pleasure to be speaking with you Minister Orsham.

MINISTER ORSHAM

To what do I owe your presence?

NORA VASS

Ah, yes, well... I just wanted to check in with you about a small situation that is developing.

MINISTER ORSHAM

Oh yes?

NORA VASS

Yes, involving the private hauling station that we infiltrated recently.

MINISTER ORSHAM

(going ever so slightly colder)

Oh yes?

NORA VASS

It appears that a ship that we have been pursuing on what appeared to be an unrelated matter has just left it and uh... well they're now pursuing the trajectory of our target ship.

There is a very long pause, Nora swallows nervously.

MINISTER ORSHAM

High-Admiral.

NORA VASS

Yes, Minister?

MINISTER ORSHAM

Correct me if I'm wrong. You are the highest ranking clone in our army, yes?

NORA VASS

That is correct, yes

MINISTER ORSHAM

That is a very high honour.

NORA VASS

I know.

MINISTER ORSHAM

Then tell me how it is possible that the clone that we have chosen as the most worthy of power has failed on such a colossal scale.

NORA VASS

Minister, I apologize profusely, I have already scrambled a squadron to intercept the ship.

MINISTER ORSHAM

And what about the next search party? What happens when The Alliance become wise to your little blunder, High-Admiral?

NORA VASS

I have given Captain William Aldrich strict orders that should the destruction of the unknown ship fail that everything on the planet will be destroyed. We are safe, Admiral.

MINISTER ORSHAM

You are most certainly not safe Nora Vass. I am well aware that this is not your first error in judgement. You remain alive because you have proven yourself useful. That position may soon come under review if you cannot fix this. Now.

The minister closes the communication. Nora sighs.

FADE TO:

INT. THE SHIP

Richard is at the helm as the ship pulls out of speed, Axel is monitoring things beside him.

RICHARD HART

Okay, here we are... this is the last reported location of the ship.

AXEL

Are you sure this is the right one?

RICHARD HART

It's the only one that's unaccounted for on the roster. We might find it's not, but we think it's the most likely candidate.

AXEL

Okay.

(a pause)

Um... Richard?

RICHARD HART

Yeah?

AXEL

I wanted to ask you something.

RICHARD HART

What?

AXEL

If we find Nora, and she goes back to her home so do you and Diana, right?

RICHARD HART

Yeah. She'll go back to the Alliance, I'll go back to my little world.

AXEL

Right. Then... um... what happens to me?

RICHARD HART

Oh. Well... ah... I guess we'll have to...

There is a beep coming from the console.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

What's that?

AXEL

There are two ships coming out of warp ahead.

RICHARD HART

Great.

Richard flips a button and grabs a communicator as the computer signals the ships have come out of warp, it can be heard ahead.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

(into communicator)

Diana, get out here!

AXEL

They're arming their weapons systems.

RICHARD HART

Strap in.

Diana comes running down.

DIANA STRANGE

What is it?

RICHARD HART

Two enemy ships ahead?

DIANA STRANGE

Have they made any demands?

RICHARD HART

Not yet. I'm expecting they're  
waiting for us to make the first-

There is a shot fired at the ship and it rumbles.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Or not! Strap in!

Diana sits down and straps in as the ship manoeuvres.

DIANA STRANGE

How did they find us?

RICHARD HART

I don't know.

DIANA STRANGE

Safe to say we're on the right  
track!

Another shot lands, the ship rocks.

RICHARD HART

Get on the Turret.

Diana moves over to the turret.

AXEL

Hull integrity at 80 percent.

RICHARD HART

Okay, okay. What do we do?

DIANA STRANGE

Can we use the EMP again?

AXEL

We don't have the materials

DIANA STRANGE

We can't lose this trail. If we let this go, they'll get there ahead of us.

The ship is hit again.

RICHARD HART

If we stay here, we're going to get killed, I can out manoeuvre them.

And alert rings.

DIANA STRANGE

There has to be something we can do.

Another alert rings.

RICHARD HART

I'm not a miracle worker!

AXEL

Guy! There's a transmission!

DIANA STRANGE

Not now!

AXEL

No, it's important!

RICHARD & DIANA

What?!

AXEL

It's uhhh.... there's a transmission from a planet close by! It says there's survivors of a ship crash.

DIANA STRANGE

What?!

RICHARD HART

You thinking what I'm thinking?

DIANA STRANGE

Who else could it be?!

RICHARD HART

We need to get them off our tail  
before we can do anything.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay... let me think...

RICHARD HART

Make it quick, I can't hold them  
off much longer.

Another shot is fired.

DIANA STRANGE

Stop the ship!

RICHARD HART

What?!

DIANA STRANGE

Make it look like you've lost  
control.

RICHARD HART

I'm not going to-

DIANA STRANGE

Just listen to me.

Richard growls at her under his breath.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Face us in the direction of the  
planet. Axel, load up the trash  
ejectors.

AXEL

Okay.

RICHARD HART

You can't be serious!

DIANA STRANGE

Do you have another plan?

Silence from Richard.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

I didn't think so. Axel, you're  
going to read them scanning us in  
a couple seconds.

AXEL

What do you want me to do?

DIANA STRANGE

Nothing just keep priming the ejectors. I'm going to make it look like we've just had a critical hit.

Diana types at the keys.

RICHARD HART

They're not going to buy this.

DIANA STRANGE

What are they going to do, not fire? Prep the jump.

RICHARD HART

Fine.

Richard starts pressing buttons.

An alert goes.

AXEL

They're scanning us.

DIANA STRANGE

Perfect. In a couple seconds they're going to send a torpedo to hit our warp drive- finish us off. Luckily those are right next to our trash ejectors. On my say so you're going to release and we're going to make the jump.

RICHARD HART

The jump's ready.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay, wait for my mark.

There is deadly silence.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Wait.

AXEL

They've armed the missile.

DIANA STRANGE

Wait...

A high-pitched alarm rings.

AXEL

They've fired.

DIANA STRANGE

Now!

All at the same time buttons are pressed, trash can be heard being ejected, the warp drive powers, and there is an explosion. The ship jumps. Richard sighs with relief.

RICHARD HART

They won't buy it you know.

DIANA STRANGE

They will for a few minutes, and now we have a head start.

RICHARD HART

Not much of one.

DIANA STRANGE

Just admit I'm brilliant, already.

RICHARD HART

I'll wait to hold the medal ceremony.

AXEL

How long until we get there?

RICHARD HART

It's not very far, should just be another minute.

AXEL

Do you think she's there?

RICHARD HART

I don't know.

AXEL

I hope so.

DIANA STRANGE

Me too.

RICHARD HART

You alright?

DIANA STRANGE

Yeah. Everything's fine.

RICHARD HART

You going to be alright seeing her?

DIANA STRANGE

Absolutely. I think she and I need to talk.

RICHARD HART

Yes, I think you're right.

AXEL

I- Richard you never answered my question.

RICHARD HART

Oh right.

DIANA STRANGE

What question?

AXEL

When you and Richard go back to where you came from, and Nora is home, what happens to me?

DIANA STRANGE

Oh. Well... what do you think Richard?

RICHARD HART

I think that. You know, you'll be alright.

DIANA STRANGE

We're not going to leave you on your own again.

AXEL

Okay.

DIANA STRANGE

Don't worry.

RICHARD HART

We wouldn't do that to you.

AXEL

Um... it's only that... Nora said that too, and... well...

RICHARD HART

Listen to me, I will make a promise right now, and I think I speak for both of us right now. You will not leave our side until we make sure that you are home. Wherever that ends up being, alright?

AXEL

Thank you.

DIANA STRANGE

We keep our promises.

AXEL

Okay.

DIANA STRANGE

Let's get through this and one piece and get you home, yeah?

Axel smiles.

AXEL

Yeah.

RICHARD HART

We're almost there, I'm gonna pull us out a little early, just incase someone's waiting for us.

AXEL

Oh, the transmission, it gave me the name of the ship.

DIANA STRANGE

What is it?

AXEL

The Venture.

DIANA STRANGE

Let's hope it's our ship.

RICHARD HART

Hold on.

The ship pulls out of the jump.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)  
Can you do a quick scan.

DIANA STRANGE  
Yup.

Diana starts to type looking at things.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)  
...hang on...

RICHARD HART  
What?

DIANA STRANGE  
Nothing, the area's clear... it's  
just... I've... I've been here.

RICHARD HART  
When?

DIANA STRANGE  
Years ago. I was sent on a rescue  
mission here. It didn't end well.

RICHARD HART  
Is that a problem?

DIANA STRANGE  
I don't know.

RICHARD HART  
We've not got much time to play  
with.

DIANA STRANGE  
No it's fine. Go in.

RICHARD HART  
You got it.

The engines push forward.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)  
Axel, can you pin point the  
source of the distress call.

AXEL  
On it now.

DIANA STRANGE

No need, I can tell you. You're looking for a Facility in the northern hemisphere. It's the only thing on the planet.

FADE TO:

EXT. A HILL BY THE FACILITY - EVENING

The four of them are sat on the hillside where we last left them. They are somber. William, Nora, Olivia and GeoFFRY discuss their fate.

GEOFFRY

In all likelihood whatever ship does come to this planet will wipe any record of us being here.

OLIVIA

You really think so?

GEOFFRY

It is quite possible. Your records will be taken from you.

WILLIAM

We will protect it.

NORA

We have to.

WILLIAM

Look the sun's setting.

GEOFFRY

It is beautiful.

WILLIAM

What's gonna happen next?

OLIVIA

We're gonna fight, and we're gonna keep fighting until we're safe.

NORA

You heard what that bot said, they don't want us. They sent us here to be killed. They're just going to finish the job.

OLIVIA

We can't let that be it, for them. Otherwise it's all for nothing.

GEOFFRY

We can survive what is to come.

NORA

I hope you're right.

The ship can be heard entering the atmosphere.

WILLIAM

Look, you can see the ship breaking into the atmosphere.

GEOFFRY

That's an old Nebula series. I didn't know those were still in use.

WILLIAM

It's smaller than I expected.

OLIVIA

This is it then.

NORA

Before whatever comes next, I want you to know that I love you guys, and even though I've had a short life, I count myself very lucky to have spent it with you.

WILLIAM

Someone's gone sappy.

OLIVIA

I love you guys.

GEOFFRY

As do I.

NORA

We can get through this. Together.

They all take a moment to reflect.

NORA (CONT'D)

I need you to get a weapon. We don't know what these people will do. I'd rather not make the wrong impression if they want to help us.

WILLIAM

Right. Let's hop to it.

OLIVIA

GeoFFRy, can you pass me the ammo. I need to reload.

GeoFFRy passes it to her.

Olivia reloads her gun.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Okay.

The ship can be heard approaching.

WILLIAM

They're coming in fast.

NORA

Don't shoot unless they shoot first, alright?

WILLIAM

You got it.

NORA

Will, can you take point.

WILLIAM

Sure, you alright?

NORA

I just. Yeah, I just don't want to miss. Better safe than sorry.

WILLIAM

You did just fine back there.

NORA

Yeah... but... I just trust your aim more.

WILLIAM

Okay.

The ship lands.

The hatch opens. Diana walks out.

DIANA STRANGE

Nora! Hurry, there isn't much time there are ships on the way and we need to leave.

WILLIAM

Hold it right there.

DIANA STRANGE

No, no there's no need for the weapons. I'm not with The Alliance, or at least not right now. Delilah sent us. Nora, please!

NORA

I- I don't know you.

DIANA STRANGE

What are you talking about? It's me. It's Diana Strange.

Diana steps forward.

NORA

I don't know who you are, but you need to tell us what you want with us.

DIANA STRANGE

You're not her are you?

NORA

I'm not who?!

Diana keeps moving forward.

GEOFFRY

You must not move any closer. We are armed.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay! Do you know a Nora Evers?

NORA

I think... I've heard that.

OLIVIA

(under her breath)

Are you alright?

NORA

(under her breath)

Yeah.

(To Diana)

She was on the ship, wasn't she?  
The Venture?

DIANA STRANGE

I think so, yes.

NORA

If she was on that ship, she's  
dead. We're all that's left.

DIANA STRANGE

What- what are you talking about?

NORA

The ship crashed, everyone died.

DIANA STRANGE

She's... she can't be dead.

NORA

I promise you, she is.

DIANA STRANGE

You're telling the truth, aren't  
you?

OLIVIA

What are you doing here?

DIANA STRANGE

I'm- you're... who are-

NORA

Enough, tell us who you are. What  
do you want with us?

The End