

The Orphans
Episode IV: Fallen

By

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THE ORPHANS
EPISODE IV: FALLEN

Scene 1: The Hunt

SOUND: TWIGS BREATHING

SOUND: BUGS CALLING

SOUND: BIRDS OVERHEARD

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS COMING THROUGH

SOUND: ANIMAL NOISES

SOUND: GUNSHOT

SOUND: SOMETHING LARGE HITTING THE GROUND

VALERIE

Great shot.

NORA

Thanks. Let's go get it then.

VALERIE

Something that big, Should keep us going for a bit.

NORA

Yea, but meat won't do on its own. We need some other source of vitamins.

VALERIE

Some of the plants have to be edible.

NORA

But how do we tell what we can eat, what we can't eat, and what will kill us. We're taking enough of a risk with the meat.

VALERIE

Okay.

NORA

I am working on something.

VALERIE

What is it?

NORA

I don't want to say just yet. Don't worry Val, we will survive. We haven't lost anyone yet, and I don't plan on starting now.

(CONTINUED)

VALERIE

Okay. So...How are we gonna get this thing back to camp?

NORA

It's a bit big, isn't it

SOUND: LAUGHTER FROM THE TWO GIRLS

NORA

We'll be fine, we'll just have to put our backs into it.

SOUND: BRANCHES BREAKING IN THE DISTANCE

SOUND: HUMANOID CREATURES SNIFFING, GROWLING

VALERIE

Get down.

SOUND: NORA AND VALERIE DROP TO THE GROUND

NORA

What? What is it?

VALERIE

Bitters, up ahead.

NORA

How many?

VALERIE

I didn't get a good look. At least three.

NORA

Close?

VALERIE

About 100 yards out. I don't think they saw us. We could make a run for it.

NORA

No, no, they could follow us back to camp. We have to get rid of them.

VALERIE

Okay.

NORA

We're gonna get up, I'll pick the off with my rifle. You take out any extra with the blade. Got it?

(CONTINUED)

VALERIE
Yup.

NORA
Ready? Go.

SOUND: RUSTLING

SOUND: CREATURES ROARING

SOUND: RUNNING

SOUND: LASER BLASTS

SOUND: BODIES DROPPING

NORA
(NARRATION)
There were even more than we thought. Eight strong, all sprinting towards us. I let off shots, and dropped the first three.

VALERIE
(NARRATION)
I matched the bitters speed, propelling myself towards the closest one. I sliced its arms off, severing its head before it could react. I heard Nora firing behind me, and two more hit the ground. I was halfway through taking the next one out when I heard the screams.

NORA
Valerie!

SOUND: GROWLS

SOUND: STRUGGLING

NORA
Valerie!

VALERIE
(NARRATION)
It had easily overpowered Nora, jumping on top of her before I could help. I saw its jaws part, sinking into Nora's arm. It tore a chunk out of Nora's arm.

SOUND: SCREAMS OF PAIN.

VALERIE
(NARRATION)
I jumped forward, removing its head. Nora's blood stained the earth as the head spiraled away.

SOUND: NORA'S SCREAMS; INDECIPHERABLE

MUSIC: MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

"The Orphans", Episode four: Fallen.

Scene 2: Severance

SOUND: METAL CLICKING

SOUND: SCREWDRIVER TURNING

WILLIAM

Will you stop fiddling with that thing, and talk to me.

BAZ

(LAUGHING)

Sorry. Umm...Your arm is looking a lot better. The swelling is going down, it looks a lot less inflamed.

WILLIAM

Thank you for your analysis Doctor.

BAZ

Shut up.

WILLIAM

(LAUGHS)

It does look a lot better. Liv says I can start moving around soon.

BAZ

Lucky you, you get to start pulling your weight around here.

WILLIAM

Hey, I didn't ask to be taken down. If I could be out there helping, trust me I would.

BAZ

I'm sure you would.

WILLIAM

Sorry, I'm just-. I'm being a dick. Thank you for sitting with me. The company really helps.

BAZ

You're welcome. Sorry I keep getting distracted.

WILLIAM

It's fine, what is it anyways?

(CONTINUED)

BAZ

Oh, it's umm...well... I'm not quite sure. It was in the Dog we took apart. Geoffrey and I have been working on a couple theories about what it is. It emits small amounts of radiation.

WILLIAM

What!?

BAZ

Relax, it's nothing dangerous. Geoffrey thinks that it is an identifier. Like a really sophisticated dog chip. So they can tell the robots apart, one would emit one random wavelength of radiation, whereas the others would emit any other one. so computers can tell them apart.

WILLIAM

What do you think it is?

BAZ

I think it's a key.

WILLIAM

How?

BAZ

I think that they approach an entrance to the dome, and the computer reads the wavelength emitted by it, and the doors open. Think about it, why have an identity tag embedded when you can just plug them into a computer and read the identity through that. It makes so much more sense for it to be read for access to something.

WILLIAM

That's really smart.

BAZ

Thanks. It just makes sense.

SOUND: SCREAMING IN THE DISTANCE

WILLIAM

What was that?

BAZ

I don't know.

SOUND: SCREAMING COMING CLOSER

(CONTINUED)

VALERIE
(IN THE DISTANCE)
Help! Help!

BAZ
Val!

SOUND: TENT UNZIPPING

SOUND: RUNNING

BAZ
Richard! What's happening?

SOUND: RUNNING

RICHARD
Nora's been hurt, Liv just went to help.

BAZ
Where are you going?

RICHARD
(RUNNING)
Clearing out the rest of medical!

BAZ
Shit.

SOUND: BAZ RUNNING

SOUND: YELLING GROWING CLOSER

VALERIE
It took a chunk out of her arm.

OLIVIA
Okay, give me her legs.

BAZ
(NARRATION)
As I got closer I could see Nora. Valerie was carrying her. She looked pale. Her skin was covered in a layer of sweat. Her right arm was lost in a green and black gash, running along her right forearm. You could see black veins twisting up and down her arms, touching just above her elbow.

OLIVIA
Baz!

BAZ

What!?

OLIVIA

Go help Richard prep! This is gonna be messy!

MUSIC: MUSICAL TRANSITION

SOUND: NORA SCREAMING

OLIVIA

Richard, hold her down!

RICHARD

It's kinda hard, she's fighting back.

OLIVIA

Baz, help him!

VALERIE

What do we do?

OLIVIA

We have to stop the spread of the infection, it's already got her arm.

GEOFFREY

Her heart rate is approaching a rather alarming speed. Might I suggest action is taken before it fails all together. Her arm must be amputated to cease the spread of infection, or unfortunately she will die.

RICHARD

What?! You can't do that!

OLIVIA

What choice do we have?

RICHARD

Maybe she should be the one to make that choice!

OLIVIA

Does she look like she's in any condition for that?! Let's do it.

SOUND: NORA CONTINUES SCREAMING

RICHARD

Wait. How do we know that will even work?

OLIVIA

We don't, but it doesn't look like there are many other options here. Pass me your blade.

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY

Intelligent thinking, the laser tip will cauterize the wound as it slices.

OLIVIA

Can it. I need to focus. Boys, I'm sorry if you don't want to see this, but I need you to hold down her left side. Geoffrey, I need you on the right shoulder, Valerie on the right legs. She is going to feel this. I am gonna make this as quick as I can, okay, Nora? Right, everyone ready? I'll slice on three. One, Two, Three.

SOUND: LASER BLADE SLICING LIMB

SOUND: NORA SCREAMING

SOUND: FADING AWAY

Scene 3: Aftermath

SOUND: GENERAL CHATTER

SOUND: BAZ WALKS OVER TO JOIN THE GROUP

BAZ

Liv is still working.

VALERIE

How did she look?

BAZ

Not great if I'm honest.

WILLIAM

What are we gonna do now then?

RICHARD

I think we need to elect a leader.

VALERIE

What are you talking about?

RICHARD

Nora's incapacitated, and we're here without a leader.

VALERIE

Who said Nora was our leader?

RICHARD

It was pretty obvious, she was organizing us, she made decisions about what we would do, where we would move. She was leading us. I think it's time for a new leader.

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY

Let me guess; you believe you would be a suitable replacement?

RICHARD

I do actually.

GEOFFREY

(LAUGHS MANICALLY)

Thank you Richard, I didn't even know I could do that.

RICHARD

I am very serious about this.

WILLIAM

What makes you think that you could lead us?

RICHARD

I have been holding up the moral resolve of this group since the very start.

BAZ

Since when have you done that?! The last thing you did was start a fire that nearly got us all killed. Why would I want you to lead me?

RICHARD

You know that was a really low blow Baz, and I honestly thought better of you.

GEOFFREY

You possess none of the necessary leadership skills that Nora possessed. You would kill us all.

RICHARD

What and you would do better, robot?

GEOFFREY

Absolutely not, none of you would trust me and, moreover, I do not possess the necessary human instinct or empathy to lead. I would nominate Baz.

RICHARD

(LAUGHING)

You must be joking. Him?

WILLIAM

I actually second that, Baz has a good head on his shoulders. He knows when to listen to those around him, and what the right decisions would be. I think he'd be great.

(CONTINUED)

BAZ

But what about you? You're more strategic than me. Or Val? You guys are fighters, I'm not.

VALERIE

That's true, but combat skill does not a leader make. Besides, Will's injured, and I've got shit people skills.

RICHARD

You guys are seriously going to elect Baz, over me!?

WILLIAM

Seems that way to me.

BAZ

I- I don't know guys.

GEOFFREY

What objective and logical reason could you have to turn this down?

BAZ

I don't want to make the wrong decision.

RICHARD

See, he doesn't have the nerve.

BAZ

You're right, I don't have the nerve. I don't want to make a decision that could put my friends at risk, and that is what I have to do! Have you seen the shape we're in?! Our two best are injured, one of them could die. We have no more medical supplies, and barely enough food to make it for a week. We have no choice at this point; we have to try and infiltrate that facility, and everything that has come out of that thing has tried to kill us. If I decide to send someone in there and they die, I will be responsible. Maybe I don't want that over my head. Maybe I care too much about all of you to send you into harm's way. I'm not strong like you Will, I'm not as smart as you Geoffrey, and I can't fight like you Val. I am not Nora. She could make decisions that I couldn't. How can I ask you to trust me?

GEOFFREY

Baz, you showed me kindness. The first I had ever experienced. You have shown me your ability to reason. I know your intelligence is great, if not a little human for my liking. All the same I consider you to be my friend. Despite my programing telling me the futility of it, I trust you.

WILLIAM

So do I.

VALERIE

Me too.

RICHARD

You have to be kidding.

SOUND: OLIVIA WALKING IN

BAZ

Liv, how is she?

OLIVIA

She's not well. She seems stable, but I don't know how long that will last.

BAZ

Is she conscious?

OLIVIA

No.

BAZ

I'm going to go sit with her.

OLIVIA

Wait, before you go...

BAZ

What?

OLIVIA

She needs antibiotics to help fight off whatever was in that bite. We used the last for Will. If she doesn't get it soon, she probably won't survive this.

BAZ

(SIGHING)
Okay.

SOUND: BAZ WALKING AWAY

Scene 4: Reflection

BAZ

(NARRATION)
Did I want this responsibility? Could I do it?. I really thought that I could make the right decisions. I knew I could help my friends, I could make the right choices, but all the same I didn't know. I wanted Nora to wake up, to tell me what to do. Looking at Nora was

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BAZ (cont'd)

haunting. Despite all her trauma, she had melted into a state of rest, a look of unease on her face. I wanted to melt into it with her, but I couldn't. I had a responsibility to my friends. Something needed to happen soon or we could lose any chance of Nora making it through this.

SOUND: TENT UNZIPPING AND REZIPPING

OLIVIA

You need to get some rest Baz, it's late.

BAZ

I know. (pause) They want me to lead them Liv.

OLIVIA

I know, they told me.

BAZ

What do you think?

OLIVIA

I think you'd do well.

BAZ

How? How can I accept that someone could die because of my decisions?

OLIVIA

You never accept it. I don't want a leader to see our deaths as necessary loss. That's horrible.

BAZ

But how do I know what the right decision is?

OLIVIA

Just trust your gut, you know what the right thing is.

BAZ

Someone could die though Liv.

OLIVIA

We will take precautions and keep them safe. And if someone does get injured I will be right here to help them.

BAZ

And what if you get hurt?

OLIVIA

I better not, or else I'll come after you

(CONTINUED)

BAZ
(LAUGHING)

OLIVIA
You can do this Baz.

BAZ
Okay.

MUSIC: MUSICAL TRANSITION

Scene 5: Forward

SOUND: CHATTER FROM WILL, VAL, RICHARD, GEOFFREY

SOUND: TWO SETS OF FEET COMING TOWARDS THE GROUP

BAZ
I would like to say something.

SOUND: THE GROUP QUIETENS

BAZ
I've decided that if you'll have me, and only until
Nora is better, I will lead you.

GEOFFREY
Incredibly rational decision.

VALERIE
I would love to have you as our temporary leader.

BAZ
There's one more thing.

VALERIE
Yea?

BAZ
I need to say up front that if we do what we need to do
to survive, some of us may not make it back.

WILLIAM
That is a risk that we take. It's a necessary risk that
I want to make.

BAZ
You're right. It is necessary. But I refuse to treat it
like that. If we lose someone, it is a tragedy. I will
do everything in my power to keep everyone safe. I
recognize that it may be difficult. But any loss of
life is a failure of the highest caliber, and I won't
stand for anything less. If you can't accept that, then
I can't be your leader. Do you accept that?

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY
I do.

VALERIE
Yes.

WILLIAM
Of course.

OLIVIA
I do.

BAZ
Richard?

RICHARD
(PAUSE)
Yes. I do.

BAZ
Good. Everyone get some rest. Because tomorrow we need
to get to work.

WILLIAM
What's the first order of business?

BAZ
We are going to break into the dome. And I know how
we're going to do it.

(END)