

The Orphans: Investigation
S01E07
"Discoveries"

by

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INT. THE SHIP - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS EPISODE

The ship breaks out of warp.

RICHARD HART
Wooo! Ah well done!

DIANA STRANGE
I can't believe we did it.

RICHARD HART
Well done Axel!

AXEL
Thank you.

RICHARD HART
They won't be able to track us
until long after we're gone.

DIANA STRANGE
We did it. WE DID IT!

They all call out cheering!

AXEL
What do we do now?

DIANA STRANGE
Well... we need to look at all that
data from the server, don't we.

RICHARD HART
And I need to plot us a discreet
course somewhere else. Find
somewhere for us to lie low.

DIANA STRANGE
Well, let's get to it.

FADE TO:

INT. THE SHIP - MAIN ROOM

Diana and Axel are sat at a workstation, looking through the data.

DIANA STRANGE
Do you remember anything about what
she was working on?

AXEL
Yeah, she was looking a lot at star
charts, archives and things. I
think she was looking for
something.

DIANA STRANGE
Did she say what?

AXEL
No. She said it would be safer for me if I didn't.

DIANA STRANGE
Why?

AXEL
She said something about how she would be... umm... killed with the information she has.

DIANA
Killed by whom?

AXEL
I don't know.

DIANA STRANGE
Okay. Can you show me her most accessed file?

AXEL
Yeah!

Axel types quickly on the keyboard bringing up files.

DIANA STRANGE
What's this?

AXEL
I think it's something to do with um... DNA... with your DNA...

DIANA STRANGE
Strand integrity... chromosomal fraying... RG-48... what is this? What is RG-48?

AXEL
I'm not sure... I... she talked about it a lot. But she never told me what it was.

DIANA STRANGE
What did she say about it? Can you remember anything in particular?

AXEL
I think it's something to do with The Collective. She was researching this clone, I think she knows something about it?

3.

DIANA STRANGE
Which clone?

Axel types on the keyboard.

AXEL
This one.

DIANA STRANGE
Nora Vass... Why am I not surprised?

AXEL
Do you know her?

DIANA STRANGE
Not personally. Can you do a search for RG-48 in all of these documents? Maybe she describes it somewhere in here?

AXEL
I've already looked for that when she wouldn't tell me what it was. She's kept it off the server, whatever it is.

DIANA STRANGE
Right.

AXEL
She kept logs, there might be something in there?

DIANA STRANGE
Okay, load those up.

Axel types on a keyboard and loads up the files. They start to play.

NORA EVERS
(over the communicators)
I arrived on the Caracass system a few days ago. This is where the clue inside the GeoFFRy lead me. Now I need to figure out what it means. I'm hoping some of the old records here will help point me in the right direction. I don't want to say too much on this log. So that's all for now.

The recording cuts and we pick up again from later.

NORA EVERS (CONT'D)

Uh... it's been another few days. They did a good job wiping this system, I've been having to reconstruct half the files I need manually. It's rough... but ah... I found this boy... he says his name is Axel. It looks like he's been living in the outpost for a while, living off the rations that were left over. He's taught himself how to work a lot of the equipment here. He's said he'll help me. He doesn't seem to have anyone else. Okay... well... yeah.

The recording cuts and we pick up at a later time.

NORA EVERS (CONT'D)

Nothing all that much happened today, but there might be something coming over the horizon, I've been able to reconstruct some of my old conversation with -

The recording fuzzes out.

AXEL

I think a lot of these corrupted when we severed the connection early.

DIANA STRANGE

Alright, can you show me some of the later ones?

AXEL

Yeah.

Axel presses some buttons. Nora starts to speak, but something about her tone is different, she seems more fervent.

NORA EVERS

Nothing, again. The tests are working, and I'm starting to think I've been doing this all wrong. Why would-

The recording fuzzes and pick up.

NORA EVERS (CONT'D)

This is impossible. I've been at this for weeks, and nothing is happening!

The recording fuzzes and we come up again.

NORA EVERS (CONT'D)

Who am I even recording these for?
He's a ghost. There's nothing in
the research, nothing in the data,
nothing in this fucking outpost
pointing me in any helpful
direction. I don't know what to do.
Am I missing something?

Diana sniffs slightly, as if she's becoming emotional.

AXEL

Are you alright?

DIANA STRANGE

Yeah. Keep going.

Axel presses a button.

NORA EVERS

Everything that I've been doing, my
whole life. Everything I've built?
Is it all worthless? I- I think it
might be...

Diana sniffs some more, as if she is holding back tears.

NORA EVERS (CONT'D)

I lied to them all, to Diana, Baz,
Charles, Delilah... this... we
can't exist. Clones will die out...
or be slaves... we don't have an in
between, and I don't... I don't
think there's anything we can do
about it.

Diana starts to cry. Axel stops the recording.

AXEL

Hey! What's wrong?

DIANA STRANGE

I'm- I'm.. I can't ah... I...
just... ummm.... I can't.

*
*

Diana gets up and walks out of the room.

The scene around us begins to break down as we swirl into the
past.

INT. DIANA'S ROOM - MANY YEARS AGO

A door opens and Diana enters, Nora follows quickly on her
heels.

NORA EVERS

What do you think you're doing?

DIANA STRANGE
I've had enough of this!

NORA EVERS
Enough of what?

DIANA STRANGE
Enough of her! I can't stand it.
She comes in here, pretending to be
some savior because she deigns to
spend some of her precious time
with us. You think she's so noble,
important! She's not! She's just
using you to make herself feel
better!

*
*
*
*
*

NORA EVERS
Are you serious?

DIANA STRANGE
Yes!

NORA EVERS
Do you know how much she sacrifices
to help us? You don't realise that.
You don't see it. She is working
every day, trying to use her
connections to help us make
meaningful change. Do you know how
many ministers she has the ear of?

Diana laughs a cold spiteful laugh, throwing it all in her
face.

DIANA STRANGE
What? You want to pass laws do you?
You really think that some minister
is all of a sudden going to propose
a law saying, hey you know that
workforce we made? The one that
eliminated a need for us to work? I
reckon we should start treating
them like people!

*
*

NORA EVERS
This isn't you, Diana. Where has
this come from?

DIANA STRANGE
Maybe you just never knew me.

NORA EVERS
(getting very angry)
You think I don't know you? I've
known you almost your entire life,
you would be stuck in some labour
camp, or dead if I hadn't bailed
you out!

*
*

DIANA STRANGE
 (starting to choke up)
 Don't you think I know that?

NORA EVERS
 Then act like it! Is my trust in
 Delilah not enough to prove her
 worth? *

DIANA STRANGE
 (starting to cry)
 You think she's so important. *

NORA EVERS
 If she's not then who is! *

DIANA STRANGE
 Us! Charles, Baz!... Me... we're
 important and you don't see that. *

NORA EVERS
 How dare you, all I do is think you
 you all. *

DIANA STRANGE
 Ugh, you don't get it. *

NORA EVERS
 Enlighten me. *

DIANA STRANGE
 She doesn't love you! *

NORA EVERS
 And you know that, how? *

DIANA STRANGE
 Because we love you!... I love
 you... *

There is a massive halt in the conversation. Diana breathes
 through her sobs. *

NORA EVERS
 You...? *

DIANA STRANGE
 I always have. *

NORA EVERS
 Sorry. *

Nora walks out of the room. Diana sobs.

We fade back away into the present.

INT. THE SHIP - DIANA'S ROOM

The recording of Nora's apology is playing. Diana is crying. There is a knock at the door. She stops herself, pausing the recording. She takes a moment to collect herself.

*
*
*

DIANA STRANGE

Yeah?

The door opens and Richard walks in.

RICHARD HART

Hey.

DIANA STRANGE

Hi.

RICHARD HART

I spoke to Axel.

DIANA STRANGE

Is he alright?

RICHARD HART

Yeah, he's fine. Bit worried about you though.

DIANA STRANGE

(sighs)

I know. I shouldn't have done that.

*
*

RICHARD HART

What happened?

DIANA STRANGE

I just saw her. I finally saw *her*. Not just the front she out up. She was scared. I'd never seen her scared.

*
*
*

RICHARD HART

Can I come sit?

*

DIANA STRANGE

Yeah.

Richard comes over and joins her.

*

RICHARD HART

Do you mind if I ask you something.

*
*

DIANA STRANGE

Sure.

*
*

RICHARD HART

You loved her, didn't you? That's why you wanted to help me find her?

*
*

DIANA STRANGE
...Yeah. *

Diana breaks. *

RICHARD HART
Come here. *

Richard embraces her. *

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
It's okay.

DIANA STRANGE
I've never told anyone. *

RICHARD HART
I can tell. *

DIANA STRANGE
I'm sorry.

RICHARD HART
You know that's the first time I've
ever heard you say sorry. *

Diana laughs a bit through the tears.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
It'll be alright, you just need to
give her a good kicking, for me. *

Diana laughs harder. *

FADE TO:

INT. THE SHIP - MAIN ROOM

Diana and Richard walk back into the main room where Axel is.

AXEL
Are you alright? I'm sorry if I
upset you.

DIANA STRANGE
No, you didn't upset me. I'm sorry.
Thank you for putting up with me. *

AXEL
You're not that bad. *

DIANA STRANGE
Not *that* bad. *

Axel laughs. *

RICHARD HART

Right, shall we pick up where you left off?

DIANA STRANGE

Yes. If we could.

AXEL

You sure?

*

DIANA STRANGE

Yes, of course.

*

Axel presses a button.

*

NORA EVERS

I lied to them all, to Diana, Baz, Charles, Delilah... this... we can't exist.

DIANA STRANGE

Hang on.

Axel presses a button.

RICHARD HART

What?

DIANA STRANGE

Can we... um... can we go back a bit. I want to see the section where she talks about not being able to find anything?

AXEL

Sure.

Axel presses a button rewinding to the section and plays.

NORA EVERS

(reuse from earlier)

Who am I even recording these for? He's a ghost. There's nothing in the research, nothing in the data, nothing in this fucking outpost pointing me any helpful direction. I don't know what to do. Am I missing something?

DIANA STRANGE

So... right... what does this tell us?

RICHARD HART

She was looking for someone.

DIANA STRANGE

The creator, we theorized that earlier.

*

AXEL

Yes, I've heard her say those words before, the creator.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay, let's assume that's correct. She was looking for the creator.

RICHARD HART

She was taking a three pronged approach to finding him. She was looking in the research.

DIANA STRANGE

Maybe something to do with this RG-48?

AXEL

That is what she was researching.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay, good.

RICHARD HART

She was looking to see if there was something in the outpost? Maybe a similar clue to the one we found in the GeoFFRy with Amos.

DIANA STRANGE

Yes, something hidden and left behind. Had she been through the outpost's computers? Was there ever a reasoning unit installed?

*

*

AXEL

She did, she wasn't happy with anything she found... I think there was a reasoning unit uninstalled once...years and years before the outpost was shut down...?

*

*

DIANA STRANGE

Did Nora know about that?

AXEL

I think so?

DIANA STRANGE

Do you know why it was uninstalled?

AXEL

No.

DIANA STRANGE

Can you pull up the serial number?

AXEL

Sure. But Nora's already done a search for it on the database, there was no record of it ever being installed somewhere else.

DIANA STRANGE

Right... always one step ahead of us.

*
*

RICHARD HART

What about this data she was looking through? What data is she talking about?

AXEL

Umm... all sorts really... every piece of data involved in the outpost. I think she was mainly interested in the communications surrounding the time around which the outpost was abandoned.

RICHARD HART

Specific, isn't it?

AXEL

We're talking about years worth of communication records.

DIANA STRANGE

I think we're all missing something here. Something prompted her to leave.

RICHARD HART

Right. What was the last file she was looking at?

Axel presses a couple of buttons and pulls up a file.

AXEL

This. It's just an invoice from a shipping company.

RICHARD HART

What's it for?

AXEL

...a chartered vessel.

RICHARD HART

It can't be that simple, can it?

DIANA STRANGE
When was it chartered.

AXEL
It doesn't say when, but the
invoice is dated only about a month
ago.

DIANA STRANGE
We should reach out to them. See
where it was headed.

RICHARD HART
No harm, I suppose.

DIANA STRANGE
Do we have the vessels name or
identifier codes? We could cut the
search time in half if we can hack
into a relay and do a wider search
for it?

AXEL
Nothing like that... sorry.

DIANA STRANGE
That's alright. It's a start.

RICHARD HART
I'll plot a jump to their
headquarters.

*
*

FADE TO:

INT. THE SHIP - THE BRIDGE - LATER

The ship winds out of warp. Richard presses a few buttons.

RICHARD HART
Right, you're up. We should be
within their communications range.

DIANA STRANGE
Let's hope they buy it.

Diana presses several buttons and a communication line is
opened.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
Private Hauling Station, this is
Captain Diana Rand, we request
permission to dock at your station.

Diana mutes her end. There is a pause and static.

RICHARD HART
Try again.

14.

Diana presses a button un-muting.

DIANA STRANGE
I repeat. This is Captain Diana
Rand, of the Collective. We have
some questions for your superiors,
we request permission to dock.

Diana re-mutes the signal. There is nothing but static.

Richard turns and starts pressing buttons.

RICHARD HART
They're receiving you... they've
got power... I don't know why
they're not answering.

DIANA STRANGE
Right one more.

Diana presses a button activating the signal.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
I repeat for the third time. I am
Captain Diana Rand, I represent the
Collective Command for this sector
myself and my colleagues have-

There is a piercing and horrific sound that emits from the
connection, the connection then fizzles and shuts off.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
Well... that sounds promising.

RICHARD HART
What was that?

DIANA STRANGE
Haven't a clue.

RICHARD HART
You seem very relaxed in what I
feel is a decidedly unrelaxed
situation.

DIANA STRANGE
Well, what's going to happen is
that you're going to say that we
need to go in there and check it
out. I'm going to say that's a
horrible idea, we have no clue
what's in there. You'll say
something about how this is your
investigation and we're going to
waste a lot of time squabbling.

(MORE)

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
Except now I've resigned myself to
the fact that we're going to be
going in there. It's quite
relaxing, actually.

*

RICHARD HART
Ah- I don't think that's fair.

DIANA STRANGE
Are we going in or what?

RICHARD HART
I- yes.

DIANA STRANGE
Get on with it then.

Richard grumbles and presses some buttons and starts to take
the ship in.

FADE TO:

INT. THE SHIP - HATCH

The hatch of the ship starts to open.

DIANA STRANGE
We're going to go in there and
check it out, see who we can find.
You can keep in touch with us on
the short wave radio, alright?

AXEL
Alright.

RICHARD HART
We shouldn't be too long.

DIANA STRANGE
We'll try not to be.

RICHARD HART
If you get hungry there's food in
the cold storage, and you know
where the water is.

AXEL
I know. I'll be fine.

RICHARD HART
Of course, sorry.

DIANA STRANGE
Shall we?

RICHARD HART
Yes. Let's.

DIANA STRANGE
Try not to sound so nervous.

Diana walks away. Axel laughs.

RICHARD HART
I don't like this new attitude.

Richard walks after her. The hatch of the ship closes, they find themselves in:

INT. HANGAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

*

The place is dark and cold- devoid of life.

RICHARD HART
You think he'll be alright?

DIANA STRANGE
He'll be fine, he's spent longer on his own.

RICHARD HART
I know, but a kid like that... what are we going to do with him?

DIANA STRANGE
What are you talking about?

RICHARD HART
Well... we can't look after him forever.

DIANA STRANGE
No...

RICHARD HART
He's had enough happen to him. I just don't want him to wind up like...

DIANA STRANGE
Like you?

RICHARD HART
Yeah.

DIANA STRANGE
He won't.

Diana takes a pause, considering what she's about to say.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
I promise.

Richard as well takes a moment to respond.

RICHARD HART

Okay.

There is a sudden sound from far off ahead of them- movement. Both of them draw their weapons.

DIANA STRANGE

Is someone there?

There is no response.

RICHARD HART

Something's happened here. Someone should have seen us coming in, met us.

DIANA STRANGE

Let's find their systems, see what we can find and get out. I don't like this.

RICHARD HART

Agreed.

Diana and Richard move ahead.

FADE TO:

INT. A CORRIDOR - LATER

Richard and Diana are walking down a corridor, Richard presses a button on a communicator.

RICHARD HART

Axel?

Axel comes in on the communicator.

AXEL

Yeah?

RICHARD HART

Have you been doing scans of the station?

AXEL

Maybe.

RICHARD HART

Well done. What can you tell us?

*

AXEL

It generates its own gravity and atmosphere. It's not very big, the whole place is only about 100,000 cubic meters.

*

*

*

DIANA STRANGE
You don't think that's big?

AXEL
Not really. My old outpost was
triple that size.

DIANA STRANGE
Alright, can you tell us where we
can find a workstations? *

AXEL
The next door on your... left.
There should be one in there.

RICHARD HART
Great. Do you know what it is?

AXEL
Scans make it look like some kind
of medical facility.

RICHARD HART
Perfect.

Richard puts away the communicator. They stop walking.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
Ready?

DIANA STRANGE
Yup.

Richard bursts open the door.

RICHARD HART
It's clear.

They walk into the room.

DIANA STRANGE
Here we go. *

Diana walks up to the workstation and starts typing.

RICHARD HART
Anything?

DIANA STRANGE
I've got a full schematic of the
station... and some of the
records... but... no... nothing
about the ships. This is just
medical data.

RICHARD HART
Anything on her?

DIANA STRANGE

Nothing.

There is scuffle behind them, they both turn quickly, raising their weapons.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

What was that?

RICHARD HART

I think it was the cabinet.

DIANA STRANGE

Is there someone in there? We're armed and we're prepared to shoot unless you show yourself.

VICTOR

(in the cabinet)

No! No please don't shoot!

RICHARD HART

You come out slowly or we will.

VICTOR

Okay, okay.

The cabinet door slowly opens and Victor steps out.

DIANA STRANGE

Slowly...

RICHARD HART

Who are you?

VICTOR

I'm... I'm Victor, I work here.

RICHARD HART

Where is everyone?

VICTOR

I don't know. Something happened. I was just doing maintenance, minding my own business and then these... things... they... they were everywhere.

*
*

DIANA STRANGE

You hurt?

VICTOR

A bit, yeah. That's why I was in here.

DIANA STRANGE

What's wrong with you?

VICTOR
One of the things bit me...

Victor pulls up his sleeve.

Richard breathes in a sharp gasp. *

DIANA STRANGE
Wow...

RICHARD HART
That bite looks human. *

VICTOR
I think the things are... were...
human. *

DIANA STRANGE
What are you talking about? *

VICTOR
I don't know, Man! I just work here
and now I've got this bite. *

DIANA STRANGE
Alright, just stay calm. *

VICTOR
I don't know what to do.

RICHARD HART
You need to show us where your main
systems are, we need to retrieve
some information, then we can treat
you on our ship, alright?

VICTOR
Those things are still out there... *

DIANA STRANGE
You'll be safe with us.

VICTOR
Are you sure.

RICHARD HART
Absolutely.

VICTOR
Okay, it's out this way.

They all exit the room.

FADE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Victor is guiding Richard and Diana through the corridor.

VICTOR
(whispering)
It's just up here, you need to stay
quiet.

RICHARD HART
Okay.

There is a small clattering a ways away.

Richard and Victory carry on ahead but Diana stops.

Diana breathes heavily, yet under her breath, trying to stay quiet. She is listening hard. There is a sound down the hallway, a low growling. Suddenly there is a scuttle and the thing making the noise runs away.

Diana quickly scurries away to join the others.

FADE TO:

INT. THE CONTROL ROOM - SLIGHTLY LATER

Diana, Richard and Victor all enter into a slightly larger room.

VICTOR
This- this- this is it... this is
where we did all the computer work.

DIANA STRANGE
Richard go look, I'm going to check
out his wound.

RICHARD HART
Okay.

Richard goes to the console and types into it.

Diana stays with Victor, she rolls up his sleeve.

DIANA STRANGE
How does it feel?

VICTOR
It feels fine now.

DIANA STRANGE
Did it hurt before?

VICTOR

Yeah. It hurt like nothing else,
man. I thought I was going to die.
I wanted to die.

DIANA STRANGE

Okay... Right... I'm going to use
some of your shirt. We need to tie
this off.

Diana starts to rip his shirt. She starts to tie pieces to
his arm. *

VICTOR

How come you're so good at this? I
thought those were the other kinds.

DIANA STRANGE

(laughs halfheartedly)

We all have to know basic first aid
for if we're in combat. *

VICTOR

When was the last time you saw
combat? *

DIANA STRANGE

Too recently.

VICTOR

Right. Wouldn't have to fight if it
weren't for your lot, that Alliance
or whatever.

DIANA STRANGE

Pardon?

VICTOR

You know..
(grunts in pain)
them clones that wanna overthrow
us.

DIANA STRANGE

Right.

Victor grunts in even more pain.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

What is it?

VICTOR

My head hurts.

DIANA STRANGE

Right. We'll have a closer look on
the ship.

RICHARD HART
How's it coming Rich?

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
Nothing yet.

DIANA STRANGE
Victor, I need you to tell me if
there have been any clones around
here recently?

VICTOR
Umm... I... I don't know... maybe.

DIANA STRANGE
What do you mean maybe?

VICTOR
I heard someone talking about a
copy hanging around. I didn't see
one though.

DIANA STRANGE
Do you remember what kind of clone
it was Victor?

VICTOR
No...

DIANA STRANGE
Okay, okay... are there normally
clones on the station?

VICTOR
No, never. We're all human here.

DIANA STRANGE
Alright, that's good. When was
this? Do you remember when they told
you?

VICTOR
Like? A couple weeks ago? Maybe a
month. I don't feel so good.

DIANA STRANGE
Okay Victor, thank you. We'll sort
you out in a minute. Richard, did
you get that? We're looking for a
ship launched in the last couple
weeks, maybe a month.

RICHARD HART
Got it.

VICTOR
Hang on.

Victor starts to stumble around, he calls out in pain and falls to the ground.

DIANA STRANGE
Woah, what's going on?

VICTOR
(in between gasps of pain)
My head! I... can't... my eyes...

Victor screams in pain.

DIANA STRANGE
Let me see... Victor... let me see!

Diana wrestles Victor to be still between his yelps of pain.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
Open your eyes!

Diana suddenly screams and jumps away, Victor starts writhing on the floor.

RICHARD HART
What?! What is it?

DIANA STRANGE
His eyes! They were... they weren't eyes.

Victor lets out a final huge belt of pain and falls limp.

Richard walks over to the body.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

RICHARD HART
Seeing if he's still alive.

Richard checks the body.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
He's gone.

Diana lets out a long exasperated sound.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
What was that?

DIANA STRANGE
I have no idea.

RICHARD HART
We need to get out of here.

DIANA STRANGE

Get the records first. We need something. Have you searched by the dates?

RICHARD HART

I'm just doing that now. None of the launch records have a manifest listing a Nora unit.

DIANA STRANGE

She wouldn't list that would she. *

RICHARD HART

Let me look.

Richard starts typing on the console. Suddenly there is a groan from Victor's body.

DIANA STRANGE

I think he's still alive!

Diana rushes over. Victor continues to groan.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Victor, can you hear me?

Diana knells down next to Victor. Suddenly there is a massive growl and snarl from Victor and he is on top of Diana who is screaming. He is biting at her furiously. Diana is screaming.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Get off me!!

Suddenly there is a massive shot from Richard and Victor falls to the ground, limp.

Diana crawls out from under Victor.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D) *

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.

End