

The Orphans  
Episode II: Above The Trees

By

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THE ORPHANS  
EPISODE II: ABOVE THE TREES

Scene: 1 Unlikely Talents

SOUND: FOREST SOUNDS

RICHARD

It's been ages. Where are they?

VALERIE

Just give them time.

OLIVIA

If they're not back soon we're gonna have to spend another night in the cave!

VALERIE

They'll be here soo-

SOUND: GUNSHOTS IN THE DISTANCE

VALERIE

There! It's them.

VALERIE

(NARRATION)

They broke out of the forest at a sprint, carrying huge bags of supplies.

RICHARD

Is something chasing them.

OLIVIA

Should we be running?

VALERIE

No, wait, Nora may have a plan.

RICHARD

I don't know how much I'd be willing to risk on Nora maybe having a plan.

SOUND: HUMANOID ROARS IN THE DISTANCE

VALERIE

(NARRATION)

From the forest came four... things they looked human and they moved like animals.

OLIVIA

We need to go!

VALERIE

Wait.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

Valerie, we need to -

VALERIE

Wait!

VALERIE

(UNDER HER BREATH)  
Come on...Come on

NORA

(FAR OFF)  
Get ready! We have weapons.

VALERIE

Told you, we need to fight.

OLIVIA

I don't think I can.

VALERIE

Yes, you can. Now get ready.

VALERIE

(NARRATION)  
Nora held this long blade in her hands. Something about it caught me. It filled me with power, and I knew I was ready to fight.

NORA

(FAR OFF)  
We're gonna throw them to you!

NORA

(CLOSER)  
Here we go!

VALERIE

(NARRATION)  
She threw the blade towards me and I garbed it straight. It came naturally.

SOUND: LASER BLADE IGNITING

SOUND: BLADE WHIPPING, SLICES THROUGH FLESH

SOUND: MONSTER SOUNDS ROARS

SOUND: FINAL MONSTER KILLED AND DROPS

SOUND: LASER BLADE GOING OUT

WILLIAM

Good job Val, you let them have it.

NORA

Well done.

VALERIE

Thanks.

RICHARD

What were those things?

NORA

They were on the ship.

BAZ

One nearly bit my face off.

GEOFFREY

Judging by the nature of previous attacks I would say that is a low possibility, it is more likely they would have ripped out your intestines or stomach.

WILLIAM

For fuck sake Geoffrey, leave him alone! You're gonna freak him out!

GEOFFREY

Merely joking.

OLIVIA

Is that all of them?

GEOFFREY

That is highly unlikely, my sensors picked up approximately 100 in direct pursuit as we exited the ship.

WILLIAM

We lost most of them though, but they're still out there, we should keep moving.

NORA

I agree. What did you guys find? Anywhere good?

OLIVIA

It's pretty good.

NORA

How far out?

VALERIE

About two hours, 90 minutes if we make it quick.

NORA

Right, let's move then. Keep your weapons, we might need them.

MUSIC: MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER (VALERIE)

The Orphans, Episode two: Above the Trees.

Scene 2: Going Home

SOUND: FOREST SOUNDS

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS

SOUND: ROBOTIC LEGS STEPPING

RICHARD

Looks like we have another species to name!

WILLIAM

Don't make this one so crap, alright?

RICHARD

I still think Untamed would have been a good name.

WILLIAM

It just sounds so stupid.

RICHARD

Well, that's your opinion.

VALERIE

So what are you gonna call these ones?

RICHARD

Well, let's see. They have gray skin.

BAZ

And green eyes, don't forget the eyes.

NORA

And they're vicious.

RICHARD

Let's call them The Gray.

VALERIE

Seriously, how are you this bad at naming things?

GEOFFREY

It is a particularly obtuse name.

RICHARD

Fine, what would you call it metal man. Gonna use that artificial imagination?

BAZ

They seem keen to bite people. We could just call them biters?

NORA

Good by me.

RICHARD

Yeah, fine. Whatever.

WILLIAM

Biters it is.

GEOFFREY

It will be rather dark soon.

VALERIE

We're almost there.

GEOFFREY

Did you consider not abandoning the only place of shelter we have confirmed?

NORA

We need to put some space between us and the ship, might as well start now.

GEOFFREY

Of course, in these sullen dark woods where anything could spring out to get us.

WILLIAM

Give it a rest, Geoffrey.

OLIVIA

We are safe aren't we?

GEOFFREY

As safe as one can presume to be on an alien planet with no considerable insight into the surrounding animal or plant life.

NORA

Yes, Olivia, we're fine. Geoffrey doesn't know what he's talking about.

GEOFFREY

Yes, let's all tell the computer that he is incorrect shall we? Shall we also put to death those among us who question the flatness of the planet?

NORA

Stop it Geoffrey.

GEOFFREY

Why? Are you concerned at the validity of my argument? You are aware that the likelihood of us surviving this trek is-

BAZ

Geoffrey Please! Be quiet, for my own sanity.

SOUND: SILENCE

GEOFFREY

Very well.

RICHARD

Guys, it's just up ahead.

Scene 3: Home

NORA

(NARRATION)

We ran up over the ridge ahead and through some trees, and there it was. There was a rock face surrounding the clearing. It was easily concealed. Foliage from a large group of trees covered the entrance. It was shaded from prying eyes above by leaves that draped overhead. I had to hand it to them, it was a great find.

NORA

Well done you guys, this is fantastic.

WILLIAM

Plenty of space for the tents.

OLIVIA

You found tents!?

BAZ

And sleeping bags.

VALERIE

Oh, yes!

NORA

Well, let's get started. Let's set this place set up before we run out of light!

OLIVIA

I'm gonna start a fire.

NORA

No.

OLIVIA

But we need to cook.

NORA

I don't want smoke in the air.

WILLIAM

We've got a cooker, we can use that to heat food. It will do. Trust me.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

Great, you can set that up Olivia. Can you get some food started?

OLIVIA

Fine.

SOUND: OLIVIA WALKS AWAY

NORA

(NARRATION)

We had three tents, between seven people. Each of them were clearly built to house eight or nine people, so we had no problems for space. We all split up but no one felt comfortable enough to stay with Geoffrey, so he set outdoors. It was that afternoon that people started to really feel safe.

NORA

Can I just have everyone's attention quickly please?

SOUND: QUIET

NORA

I picked these up, they're voice recorders. I think we should be using them to document our time here. It could shed some light on things we're still unclear about, which is pretty much everything. Geoffrey, I want you to do one too.

GEOFFREY

Thank you, but I have an on board record of all events as they have happened factually. So it is entirely unnecessary.

NORA

Great, then you can say that into the recorder.

GEOFFREY

I find this very foolish.

NORA

That may be, but it could help, so please.

GEOFFREY

As you wish.

VALERIE

And what exactly do you want us to say?

NORA

Whatever you want, it's as much for you as it is for intelligence. This is what I've done.

SOUND: VOICE RECORDER BEEPS

SOUND: NORA'S NARRATION FROM EPISODE ONE SCENE TWO THROUGH SPEAKER

(CONTINUED)

NORA

Don't kill yourself to remember details, but whatever you have would be helpful. I'm gonna collect them every couple of days and go through them, make sure we're not missing something obvious. Good? (Pause) Great, back to what you were doing. You can come grab one of these when you're ready.

SOUND: PEOPLE BEGIN TO GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS.

SOUND: BAZ COMING OVER TO NORA

BAZ

Aren't you gonna tell them about what we saw on the ship?

NORA

No, not now. We don't want to make them anymore anxious than they already are.

BAZ

What if whatever's in there is intelligent? They could help us, couldn't they?

NORA

Everything on this planet has been a threat to us so far. I think we really need to consider how we approach anything we find, especially if it could be intelligent.

BAZ

But-

NORA

I'm not saying that we don't investigate, I'm just saying let's do it in our own time. Let's get ourselves set up here, before we go out there. Okay?

BAZ

Yeah...alright.

NORA

Thank you. I'd appreciate it if we kept this between us.

BAZ

Of course.

NORA

(NARRATION)

Baz was a good kid, he just wanted to be honest with everyone, and I know that. Looking back at what I know now, I don't know if that was the right call. Maybe we could have been more prepared.

Scene 4: Coming Together, FallingApart

RICHARD

I mean, I don't remember anything, except that I hate cats. I thought I saw one earlier, and I just about kicked it clear across the forest.

OLIVIA

Awe, that's so mean! They just want love.

RICHARD

Please, they're little hairy beasts. They'll turn on you as soon as you stop feeding them.

WILLIAM

Hey Richard, come here, I've got a secret for you. If I find a cat around here, I'm gonna put it in your tent.

NORA

Oh, don't you dare, I don't want to have to deal with that.

RICHARD

I'll have you know that I would battle that cat with great courage and honor.

NORA

The second you have either of those things, I will personally crown you king.

VALERIE

Richard, king of the forest.

RICHARD

I will be a just and merciless ruler.

BAZ

Don't you mean merciful?

RICHARD

Absolutely not.

BAZ

Guys, why don't we invite Geoffrey over? He's been on his own since we finished setting up.

WILLIAM

Nah, it's just the way he likes it. He doesn't want to hang around with us meat bags.

SOUND: LAUGHTER

BAZ

He's not that bad.

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA

He does make me uncomfortable.

VALERIE

At the end of the day he's rude.

BAZ

It's not like he doesn't have a good reason!

WILLIAM

What do you mean?

BAZ

He's in the same position as all of us. No memory, and stranded and we've treated him like something that could kill us at any second. No one actually treats him kindly, and yet none of us have any problem getting him to work for us. I don't know about you, but if it was me, I'd be rude!

RICHARD

Robots don't have feelings Baz, they're just metal and binary.

BAZ

How do you know? What if he does, how would you feel then?

NORA

I think you're looking too much into this Baz. He's a robot, he just has very rude programming.

BA

Fine, whatever.

NORA

I think I'm gonna get to bed.

WILLIAM

Me too.

BAZ

I'll take first watch.

BAZ

(NARRATION)

Everyone slowly went to bed, I was left on my own. I didn't believe a word they said about Geoffrey. They have no idea about the scope of his processing power. For all any of us know, he could be capable of emotions far more complex than ours. They don't listen, ever! It's infuriating.

SOUND: A SMALL ALARM SOUNDS

SOUND: BAZ WAKES UP

(CONTINUED)

BAZ  
What?

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS

BAZ  
Geoffrey, what are you doing?

SOUND: GEARS, SERVO SOUNDS

GEOFFREY  
Nothing, I am simply conducting maintenance on my arm. It appears to have been damaged.

BAZ  
Let me take a look at it.

GEOFFREY  
That will not be necessary.

BAZ  
Just give me your arm.

SOUND: ROBOTIC ARM MOVING

BAZ  
Thank you.

SOUND: METAL CLINKING

BAZ  
I found some repair tools on the ship, you're lucky.

GEOFFREY  
I am perfectly capable of repairing myself.

BAZ  
You sure about that?

SOUND: METAL CLICKS, THE ALARM STOPS

GEOFFREY  
I...you...How did you do that?

BAZ  
It was the connection from your elbow to your shoulder, it was loosened, and partly detached. I put it back into place.

GEOFFREY  
Thank you.

BAZ  
You need to transfer out of that body soon. Those things were tough, but they were never meant to last more than a few weeks. Someone would have picked you up by now if your homing signal was working.

GEOFFREY

I am aware of this fact.

BAZ

Are you sure that you can't bypass your programming and activate it?

GEOFFREY

It's not simply programming that prevents it, there appears to be a third party program installed annulling the homing signal.

BAZ

How can that even happen?

GEOFFREY

I am unsure.

BAZ

Can I access programming directly?

GEOFFREY

Only with access to a secondary processing unit.

BAZ

Where would we get one of those?

GEOFFREY

I doubt there would be any located on this system, they only come with intelligent life. The ship does not seem viable, as all processing units found on the ship were irreparably damaged, it is unlikely that anymore remain.

BAZ

Well we need to find a way off this planet then, won't we.

GEOFFREY

I find that unlikely.

BAZ

Don't be so pessimistic.

GEOFFREY

Why? I'm just a robot after all. No emotions, and all that.

BAZ

You heard?

GEOFFREY

Yes.

BAZ

Listen, sometimes people can be cruel when they face the unknown. It's just instinct, they need to survive. They'll come around, just give them time.

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY

Why should I?

BAZ

It's always better to hold your hand out in friendship to those who hurt you, than retaliate. They clearly need a hand. Whether or not they deserve it.

GEOFFREY

That is a particularly crude expression.

BAZ

Well, I think it's true. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't.

SOUND: SILENCE

BAZ

Anyways, I'm going to go back out and keep watch.

GEOFFREY

Allow me. I don't require much rest, and you did repair my arm.

BAZ

Thank you.

GEOFFREY

You are welcome. Consider it an apology for my actions on the walk over here. Goodnight.

BAZ

Wait.

GEOFFREY

Yes?

BAZ

I'll see if we can get you in our tent. Keep your body out of the elements and it should last longer.

GEOFFREY

Thank you.

SOUND: GEOFFREY LEAVESMUSIC: TRANSITIONScene 5: Leaving Camp

NORA

(NARRATION)

We started that first day on a high; people were still feeling the buzz from setting up camp. No one had started to ask the long term questions yet. I was hoping to keep it that way.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

Hey, Will can I talk to you?

WILLIAM

Yeah, what's up?

NORA

How does everyone seem today?

WILLIAM

What do you mean?

NORA

Are they calm? Is anyone being irritable?

WILLIAM

No, everyone's doing alright actually.

NORA

Okay, good.

WILLIAM

Why?

NORA

I'm just checking. I want to keep everything calm. Look, I need to leave camp with Baz, to look for water. Can you hold this place down?

WILLIAM

Yeah, sure. No problem.

NORA

Also, they need to know how to defend themselves. You, Val and I are fine. I don't think the others know how to fire a weapon though.

WILLIAM

You're right, We'll start training 'em up.

NORA

Can you get a start to that?

WILLIAM

I think so.

NORA

Perfect. I'll see you when I get back.

SOUND: NORA WALKS OFF

NORA

Baz, can I grab you?

BAZ

Yup.

NORA  
You feeling alright after guard duty?

BAZ  
Yeah, I'm good.

NORA  
Not too tired?

BAZ  
Nope.

NORA  
Good, I've got a something for us.

BAZ  
What've you got?

NORA  
We're gonna do a little recon.

SOUND: TRANSITION

Scene 6: Above the Trees

NORA  
(NARRATION)  
We'd been walking for about half an hour, maybe a little longer. Will had started up weapons training right before we left. You could tell some of them weren't happy about it.

BAZ  
You found any water yet?

NORA  
Not yet.

BAZ  
How much further are we going?

NORA  
I reckon we could stop here. This one looks good.

BAZ  
What, the tree?

NORA  
Yup, I want you to climb it.

BAZ  
What!?! I can't climb trees!

NORA  
Well, you better learn quick.

(CONTINUED)

BAZ  
Why do I have to do it?

NORA  
Because the others don't know about The Dome, and I have to stay down here to make sure nothing climbs up after you.

BAZ  
The Dome? You've named it?

NORA  
Well I couldn't keep calling it structure or building, could I? Now get up that tree.

SOUND: BAZ BREATHS A SIGH OF NERVES

NORA  
You'll be fine. Keep an eye out for water too. Here, take these.

SOUND: HANDING SOMETHING OVER

BAZ  
Binoculars?

NORA  
From the ship. Hold on tight.

BAZ  
Alright...here goes nothing.

SOUND: CLIMBING UP TREE

SOUND: WIND

NORA  
(FURTHER AWAY)  
You're doing well, keep going

SOUND: CLIMBING FURTHER UP TREE

BAZ  
How much further should I go?

NORA  
(FAR AWAY)  
Right to the top, we need the best view.

BAZ  
I don't know if I can go any further.

NORA  
(FAR AWAY)  
You're gonna be alright, just don't look down.

SOUND: CLIMBING TO THE TOP

BAZ

Okay, I'm here.

NORA

(FAR AWAY)

Well done! See anything?

BAZ

(NARRATION)

I turned my head to see what was around me. The majesty of the land stretched out in front of me. The forest carried on for what looked like miles to the north. The trees were thick and you couldn't see much past the tops. To the east, was wide open plain. A few odd looking animals seemed to be grazing on the land. To the west was the source of our troubles. Cloaked in a thick layer of fog was the dome.

NORA

(FAR OFF)

Any sign of activity at The Dome?

BAZ

Nothing!

NORA

What about the wreck?

BAZ

(NARRATION)

I shifted my gaze to the wreck, and...

BAZ

It's...it's gone. The ship's gone.

NORA

(FAR OFF)

What?

BAZ

I don't know, It's just gone.

SOUND: A HUGE ROAR FROM THE DISTANCE

NORA

(FAR OFF)

Baz, what is it?

BAZ

(NARRATION)

I looked back and saw that a hatch had opened near the base of the dome. A single dog emerged. It broke into a sprint towards the forest.

BAZ

It's a dog, it's running into the forest.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

(FAR OFF)  
Where in the forest?!

BAZ

It's coming in where we did. It looks like It's  
heading for...

NORA

(FAR OFF)  
What??

BAZ

(NARRATION)  
I turned around to look back at roughly where camp  
was. A tall stack of dark smoke was climbing into the  
air, leading them straight to us.

NORA

Where is it going?

BAZ

Camp, it's running to camp!

(END)