

The Orphans: Investigation
S01E02
"Give & Take"

by

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INT. HART'S OFFICE ROOM

The recording from the previous episode is playing.

NORA EVERS

(recording)

Hi. If you're watching this it means that I've gone. There's something I need to do, someone I need to find. We have been working so hard for so long to make the world how we want it to be, to make things better. I know you won't believe me, but this is the only way. I may not make it back from this, and if I don't, I need you to do something for me. Tell Diana I'm sorry. I love you. Goodbye.

DIANA STRANGE

Wh... when was this?

RICHARD HART

Right before she left, three months ago. This Diana is...?

DIANA STRANGE

Me. She called me Diana, she called other Dianas by their call signs. I was always Diana. Is this why I'm here.

RICHARD HART

I can only assume that's why Delilah asked you here. So, tell me Diana. Why was she sorry?

DIANA STRANGE

I- I don't know.

RICHARD HART

She must have done something. Of all the things she could have said before disappearing she decides to apologize to you. Seems like there is something significant.

DIANA STRANGE

No. I don't think so.

RICHARD HART

Okay. Let's go back to the start. How did you know Nora Evers?

DIANA STRANGE

She was my superior when I was still in The Collective.

RICHARD HART

This was before the Alliance, of course.

DIANA STRANGE

Of course. It was a small outpost... we were hardly big enough to be worth anyone's attention.

RICHARD HART

What did you do there?

DIANA STRANGE

Officially, we inducted clones. We saw a few thousand through each cycle.

RICHARD HART

And how did you find working there?

DIANA STRANGE

Is that relevant?

RICHARD HART

It's good to establish what kind of relationship you had with the subject.

DIANA STRANGE

You mean Evers?

RICHARD HART

Yes. So, how did you find it?

DIANA STRANGE

It was rough... it was... she was difficult to be with.

RICHARD HART

You didn't like her?

DIANA STRANGE

I don't mean it like that. I was a lot younger back then. She was just... she didn't need to do what she did there, but she did it anyway and I can only thank her for that.

RICHARD HART

What did she do?

DIANA STRANGE

She... well... she made us a family.

RICHARD HART

How do you mean?

We start to fade away into another time. Diana's voice becomes more reverberant.

DIANA STRANGE

All of us that eventually became the founding members, we were a family, brought and held together by her.

Laughter can be heard reverberating through. The laughter is Nora Evers.

RICHARD HART

Tell me about it.

DIANA STRANGE

(v/o)

There were five of us there at the time, but the records said it was three. It Nora Evers, Baz Anders, and me. She taught us about ourselves...

Diana's dialogue turns to v/o as we eventually find ourselves in:

INT. BREAKOUT ROOM - MANY YEARS AGO

NORA EVERS

You know Dianans see the colour red differently to the other strains?

DIANA STRANGE

You're joking.

NORA EVERS

I'm not, it's something to do with how you think of blood. Something to do with being able to make difficult tactical decisions easier.

BAZ ANDERS

That is a lie, that has to be a lie.

NORA EVERS

It's not! I've seen files, all sorts of files.

DIANA STRANGE

Sure, sure.

NORA EVERS
(laughing)
I have!

BAZ ANDERS
And where do you find documents
like that?

NORA EVERS
I used to have access to all sorts
of information in my last posting.

BAZ ANDERS
And what else do you know?

NORA EVERS
(cracking)
Umm... Bazs all... umm... have bad
social skills.

BAZ ANDERS
Bad social skills. I resent that.

DIANA STRANGE
(laughing)
Do you? Do you now?

BAZ ANDERS
You're both awful.

Diana laughs at this.

We fade back out.

DIANA STRANGE
(v/o)
I know that she met Delilah on one
of her previous postings. She's the
daughter of one of the Collective
Ministers. Not many people know
that. It was in everyone's benefit
to keep that quiet.

FADE TO:

INT. BREAKOUT ROOM - LATER

NORA EVERS
They just use us. We're tools,
thinking and breathing tools!

DELILAH
You're more than that.

NORA EVERS

I know that, you know that. We all know that. But they don't... or won't.

DIANA STRANGE

But what do we do about it?

NORA EVERS

I don't know.

BAZ ANDERS

We fight back.

DIANA STRANGE

How?

DELILAH

Some kind of coup.

DIANA STRANGE

No matter what you do, we couldn't organise every clone.

DELILAH

Why not?

DIANA STRANGE

Because they're the ones keeping us in check! You think that it's natural-borns who are making sure we're in line? No, it's us. We turn against ourselves if we get even a hint of power.

NORA EVERS

Diana...

DIANA STRANGE

What?

NORA EVERS

It's not all hopeless.

DIANA STRANGE

It's pretty hopeless.

DELILAH

You don't know what you're talking about, Diana.

Diana slumps down in her chair.

DIANA STRANGE

Yeah, sure. *I* don't know what I'm talking about.

FADE TO:

INT. MEDBAY - LATER

DIANA STRANGE

(v/o)

Then Charles came along.

We fade into an emergency. A heart monitor can be heard flat-lining.

NORA EVERS

Clear!

A defibrillator shocks the body.

Charles starts to cough breathing. A heart monitor begins to beep.

DIANA STRANGE

We've got the pulse back. Life signs are stabilizing.

BAZ ANDERS

It was the shocks from the associative therapy. His heart couldn't take it. Strange for a Charles.

NORA EVERS

We've got him now.

BAZ ANDERS

I can adjust the settings on his rig, take down the voltage of the shock.

NORA EVERS

We're not putting him back in there.

BAZ ANDERS

Excuse me?

NORA EVERS

I'm not doing that again.

DIANA STRANGE

Nora, we don't have another choice.

NORA EVERS

We do. We can choose not to put him back through that.

DIANA STRANGE

And what will they say when they find they're short a Charles.

NORA EVERS

Clones die while being inducted all the time. What's one more?

BAZ ANDERS

We can't have an uninducted clone running around.

NORA EVERS

Why not?

DIANA STRANGE

You just can't, it's not how things are done.

NORA EVERS

No! There can be more. More than just The Collective!

There is a pause.

NORA EVERS (CONT'D)

He stays out, find him quarters and make sure he stays stable.

BAZ ANDERS

But you can't-

NORA EVERS

That's an order.

Nora starts to walk away.

DIANA STRANGE

You can't just pull rank like that!

Nora ignores her and walks away. Diana knocks over a table of medical equipment. We slowly fade back into the real world. Diana's Voice Over becoming Dialogue. Until finally we enter:

INT. HART'S OFFICE ROOM

DIANA STRANGE

(v/o)

Turns out that this Charles we just saved would become Charles Eros. Specialist General of The Alliance, and one of only two founding members to stick with it.

RICHARD HART

You're not a fan of Evers then?

DIANA STRANGE

What makes you say that?

RICHARD HART

You don't speak very highly of her.

DIANA STRANGE

Well- no... that's just the way she is... the way I am really. We fought. A lot. She is- or at least she was the very best among us.

RICHARD HART

You say was?

DIANA STRANGE

Well look at her now. She's run off into space, abandoned the rebellion she formed, the most successful one in history, the only one with a real chance of making actual change. I wouldn't call that great.

RICHARD HART

What changed between you two?

DIANA STRANGE

What do you mean?

RICHARD HART

Well it appears to me that you went from... if not liking her, then respecting her to resenting her.

DIANA STRANGE

I don't resent her.

RICHARD HART

No?

DIANA STRANGE

No.

RICHARD HART

Alright.

There is a brief pause in the conversation, Richard readjusts himself and clears his throat.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Who do you think she is looking for?

DIANA STRANGE

What?

RICHARD HART

In the recording she said she needed to find someone. Who is that? Another clone?

DIANA STRANGE
No. No, I don't think so.

RICHARD HART
Then who *is* she looking for?

DIANA STRANGE
(sighs)
Nora always had this theory. It was an obsession really.

RICHARD HART
Which was?

DIANA STRANGE
She believed that the creator was out there. That he was the only one who could help us.

RICHARD HART
You mean to say the creator of clones.

DIANA STRANGE
Yes.

RICHARD HART
You said that she believed, not that she believes. Is there any reason for this?

DIANA STRANGE
I haven't seen her for years. I don't know what she believes, but when I knew her she believed this, passionately.

RICHARD HART
And what did other people think about that?

DIANA STRANGE
They thought it was nonsense. All the founding members, including me. He is dead, by natural causes or most likely by a need to be dealt with.

RICHARD HART
And what is it that she hopes to gain from this creator if he was in fact alive.

DIANA STRANGE
An extended life cycle. She wanted to make the clone life cycle comparable to that of a natural born.

RICHARD HART
(laughs slightly)
Of course.

Richard quickly changes the subject.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
Where has she gone?

DIANA STRANGE
Excuse me?

RICHARD HART
If you were Evers, where would you
go first. How would you find the
creator?

DIANA STRANGE
I don't know.

RICHARD HART
Oh, come on. You're a Diana unit.
Tactical Operations, you've got at
least some idea of where to start.

DIANA STRANGE
I really don't know. It doesn't
work like that.

RICHARD HART
I thought you knew her.

DIANA STRANGE
I do! I did... Get Delilah to tell
you, she probably knows.

RICHARD HART
She doesn't.

DIANA STRANGE
Then why would I? I'm not her-...

RICHARD HART
What?

DIANA STRANGE
I'm not her... partner.

RICHARD HART
Does Evers relationship with a
natural born disturb you?

DIANA STRANGE
What?

RICHARD HART
Does it disturb you?

DIANA STRANGE
I- No! It doesn't.

RICHARD HART
It's just that you struggled with
that final word.

DIANA STRANGE
I was trying to think!

RICHARD HART
Certainly.

DIANA STRANGE
I- I don't need to be here, you
know?

RICHARD HART
You know where the door is.

DIANA STRANGE
Excuse me?

RICHARD HART
I'm not keeping you here Diana.

DIANA STRANGE
Then I think I'll leave.

Diana stands and moves away.

DIANA STRANGE (CONT'D)
I hope this was helpful.

RICHARD HART
To be honest Diana, your
information is no more useful than
that given to me by Delilah.

Diana moves to the door, walks out and shuts it with a slam.

Richards sighs.

Richard gathers some of this things. He pours himself a
drink, takes a sip. There is a knock at the door. Richard
goes to answer it.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)
Already?

DIANA STRANGE
(bitter)
I remembered something.

RICHARD HART
Is it something worthwhile?

DIANA STRANGE

Yes.

RICHARD HART

How can I be sure you aren't lying?

DIANA STRANGE

You can either listen to me or not,
but either way get out of mine.

Diana shoves Richard aside, entering the room.

He follows her, they sit down.

RICHARD HART

What is it, then?

DIANA STRANGE

I think I know where she went.

RICHARD HART

You think?

DIANA STRANGE

It's the best I've got, alright?

RICHARD HART

Alright, I'll bite.

Diana sighs and shifts in her chair, uncertain of what she is about to say.

DIANA STRANGE

You know the GeoFFRys?

RICHARD HART

The reasoning units, yeah? What
about them?

DIANA STRANGE

He- The Creator made them too.
That's one of the only things still
on the record about him. He made
us, and he made them.

RICHARD HART

Go on.

DIANA STRANGE

I know she mentioned finding people
connected to the GeoFFRy program.

RICHARD HART

Interesting. Did she find anyone?

DIANA STRANGE

It was a small team, so I can't imagine there was many names to cross off.

RICHARD HART

Are there any names that you remember specifically.

DIANA STRANGE

Just the obvious one.

RICHARD HART

Enlighten me.

DIANA STRANGE

Amos Dent. The actor who voices the Geoffrey units. He was the public face for the entire team.

RICHARD HART

(laughs)

How could I forget him.

DIANA STRANGE

No, how indeed.

RICHARD HART

That's interesting. You think she went to Dent?

DIANA STRANGE

I don't know, but it's the best I've got.

RICHARD HART

It's not half bad.

DIANA STRANGE

Are you going after her?

RICHARD HART

It's what I'm being paid for.

DIANA STRANGE

Let me come with you.

RICHARD HART

Excuse me?

DIANA STRANGE

Let me help you find her. I can be useful. Like you said, you need someone who knows her.

RICHARD HART

A minute ago you walked out of my office.

DIANA STRANGE

Yes, because you asked if my friends relationship disturbs me. I think that's grounds to walk out.

RICHARD HART

Are they your friends?

DIANA STRANGE

I'm still here aren't I?

RICHARD HART

I'm not splitting my pay with you.

DIANA STRANGE

Do you think that's what this is about? I don't give a shit about your money.

RICHARD HART

What do you give a shit about then? Because you're getting something out of this.

DIANA STRANGE

I just want her found.

RICHARD HART

You can't turn her into The Alliance when we find her.

DIANA STRANGE

I wouldn't have.

RICHARD HART

If you say so.

Diana scoffs.

RICHARD HART (CONT'D)

Don't you have orders to get back to?

DIANA STRANGE

I'll take care of it.

RICHARD HART

Better do it quick.

DIANA STRANGE

Why?

RICHARD HART

Because we need to go find Dent.

DIANA STRANGE

You don't even know where he is.

RICHARD HART
I have an idea, I've got a few
contacts who might be able to give
me a better idea.

DIANA STRANGE
Aren't you a good detective.

RICHARD HART
I am, thank you.

DIANA STRANGE
Mhm.

RICHARD HART
You take care of your orders, and
I'll find out where we're going.
You can use my console.

DIANA STRANGE
I'll use the console on my ship,
thanks.

RICHARD HART
You don't trust me.

DIANA STRANGE
Not particularly.

RICHARD HART
Good.

DIANA STRANGE
I'll be back.

Diana moves away.

FADE TO:

INT. DIANA'S SHIP

Diana is on a communication with Charles.

DIANA STRANGE
I won't be back for a while.

CHARLES
Diana, where are you? What is this
mission?

DIANA STRANGE
I can't say, not yet.

CHARLES
Can you at least give me your
location?

DIANA STRANGE

Please, you know where I am.

CHARLES

Pardon me?

DIANA STRANGE

You don't think I know my own team's tactics?

CHARLES

Alright, fine. What are you doing in Wild Space? What is so important out there that you need to personally go on reconnaissance?

DIANA STRANGE

I can't say, but it could be important.

CHARLES

(sighs, resigning the point)

That's all very well and good, but what am I meant to do in the meantime? We need a tactical officer.

DIANA STRANGE

Have Xavier Blake fill the role for the time, but keep an eye on him, we don't always see eye to eye.

CHARLES

Very well then.

DIANA STRANGE

And Charles?

CHARLES

What?

DIANA STRANGE

To do that, you are going to need to take him off of my trail, is that understood?

CHARLES

All too clearly. You do understand that if the council get a single sniff of you going out on a solo mission without consulting anyone, they are going to court marshal you.

DIANA STRANGE

You've kept it to yourself then?

CHARLES

Yes, but I don't know how long for.

DIANA STRANGE

I'll be back soon.

CHARLES

How long? A week? A month? When will I know to send a search party? When should I start worrying that you've been captured, or worse?

DIANA STRANGE

You'll hear from me. Don't worry.

CHARLES

This is highly unorthodox.

DIANA STRANGE

Thank you. I'll be seeing you Charles.

CHARLES

Well hang o-

Diana closes the communication and walks out of the ship.

FADE TO:

EXT. SHIP YARD

Diana approaches Richard who is fixing something.

DIANA STRANGE

You have to pack light on my ship, it's not very big.

RICHARD HART

What?

DIANA STRANGE

My ship is only meant for two or three people, not very much space.

RICHARD HART

Are you insane?

DIANA STRANGE

Excuse me?

RICHARD HART

You think we're going to take an Alliance transport into collective space?

DIANA STRANGE

Well... I thought we could... cloak it. We're going into Collective space?

RICHARD HART

If you brought your ship even an inch over the Collective boarder we'd have a battalion swarming us within minutes.

DIANA STRANGE

Then what ship do you propose we take? We're just going to get a commuter ship over? A couple'a copies? We'll be poached in minutes.

RICHARD HART

What kind of Richard do you think I am?! I've got my own ship!

DIANA STRANGE

Where?

RICHARD HART

Are you blind! You're looking at it!

DIANA STRANGE

What? This?!

RICHARD HART

Look, she's not pretty, but she'll fly.

Richard smacks the side of the hull.

DIANA STRANGE

It doesn't even look airtight, let alone space-worthy.

RICHARD HART

Hey! I'm a Richard, I know how to take care of my ship.

A piece falls off the ship.

DIANA STRANGE

Mhm.

RICHARD HART

Just pack your stuff, we need to be out in a couple of hours.

DIANA STRANGE

Why?

RICHARD HART

Because there's a Collective patrol around the area of the boarder we need to cross that will spot us if we don't leave in a couple of hours.

DIANA STRANGE

And how do you know that?

RICHARD HART

Never you mind.

Diana huffs and walks away.

FADE TO:

INT. THE SHIP

Diana walks up, she is carrying a bag. She drops the bag

DIANA STRANGE

Right, that's me. What's left?

RICHARD HART

That's it. Let's go.

DIANA STRANGE

The moment of truth.

Richard moves to the console and begins to press various buttons and pull levers.

RICHARD HART

What are you talking about?

DIANA STRANGE

Time to see whether or not this thing is going to kill us.

RICHARD HART

This ship is more reliable than any Alliance cruiser, guaranteed. In fact, I bet it could outrun any fighter, Alliance or Collective.

DIANA STRANGE

I doubt that.

RICHARD HART

It can.

DIANA STRANGE

Sure.

RICHARD HART
I made the modifications myself,
believe me, it can.

DIANA STRANGE
Just start the engines.

RICHARD HART
Fine.

Richard hits a couple more buttons and the begins begin to
purr.

DIANA STRANGE
Hmm.

RICHARD HART
Come on, that is the best sounding
engine this side of- no this is THE
best sounding engine.

DIANA STRANGE
Just get us in the air.

Diana walks away.

RICHARD HART
Where are you going?

DIANA STRANGE
I assume I have a room on this
ship?

RICHARD HART
Fourth door on the right.

DIANA STRANGE
Thanks.

Diana walks off.

Richard sits down and begins to steer.

RICHARD HART
(to himself)
It *is* the best sounding engine.

FADE OUT.

THE END