

The Orphans  
Episode VI: Hostile Takeover

By

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THE ORPHANS  
EPISODE VI: HOSTILE TAKEOVER

Scene 1: Trouble at Home

SOUND: CRICKETS

SOUND: LEAVES RUSTLING

SOUND: WATER RUNNING

BAZ  
Hello! We're back!

RICHARD  
This place is quiet.

GEOFFREY  
Perhaps they are asleep?

BAZ  
It's not that late.

RICHARD  
Hello?!

WILLIAM  
(IN THE DISTANCE, APPROACHING)  
Hey!

BAZ  
Will, what's going on?

WILLIAM  
What do you mean?

BAZ  
Where is everyone?

WILLIAM  
Oh, they're in the tents. It's been a rough day.

BAZ  
What happened?

WILLIAM  
Nora woke up.

BAZ  
That's good.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

Not really.

RICHARD

Why not?

WILLIAM

Ah...well...she's just not the same. She tore into Liv a bit.

GEOFFREY

She attacked her?

WILLIAM

No, no. Just verbally.

BAZ

What did she say?

WILLIAM

Best talk to her yourself.

BAZ

Okay, thanks Will.

WILLIAM

No problem.

SOUND: WILL WALKS AWAY

BAZ

Alright, You guys go unpack. I'll go talk to her.

MUSIC: MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

"The Orphans" Episode Six: Hostile Takeover

Scene 2: Nora

SOUND: TENT OPENING

BAZ

Val, can I talk to Nora privately, please?

VALERIE

I don't think that's a good idea.

NORA

It's fine.

VALERIE

Okay.

SOUND: VALERIE LEAVING THE TENT

NORA

How's it treating you?

BAZ

What?

NORA

Leading that lot. Has it started to wear on you yet?

BAZ

Not yet.

NORA

It will. You'll start to put them before yourself.

BAZ

That's what a leader's meant to do.

NORA

Oh, don't get me wrong that is what a good leader should do. But here? With these people? No one can last. It's impossible.

BAZ

That's why we're getting off this planet.

NORA

(LAUGHS)  
We're never getting off this rock.

BAZ

You don't know that.

NORA

We're going to die here, and we're gonna suffer.

BAZ

You're wrong.

NORA

No, I'm not. This place is going to swallow us. We could live another twenty years here, but we are never getting off. It'll get us sooner or later. When you accept that, you can give up on that little hope you have.

BAZ

It's more than just a hope.

NORA

You don't have to pretend. I was where you are now. You think you can save them. You can't.

BAZ

Yes, we can Nora. We can survive this. If we don't believe that we can, then you can guarantee that we won't get off this place. If there's no hope then you might as well off yourself right now.

NORA

Whatever you say. You'll get there eventually.

BAZ

I'm gonna get us off this planet before that happens.

NORA

Good luck with that buddy.

BAZ

We went into the Dome today.

NORA

What?

BAZ

We can get in.

NORA

What was in there?

BAZ

Not much. We didn't find much apart from a dog that was on stand by.

NORA

It was empty?

BAZ

From what we saw.

NORA

See, even the locals died out. This place will consume us. I promise you.

BAZ

You don't know that. Richard found medical supplies. So here.

SOUND: BAZ RUMMAGING IN A BAG

(CONTINUED)

SOUND: THROWS NORA A BOTTLE OF PILLS

SOUND: SHE FAILS TO CATCH IT, THE BOTTLE HITS THE GROUND

BAZ

Oh sorry.

NORA

Really? You're throwing things at the girl who just lost an arm?

BAZ

Sorry.

NORA

What are they?

SOUND: NORA PICKS UP THE BOTTLE

BAZ

Some antibiotics. Those will help you fight off any infection.

NORA

Thank you.

BAZ

You need to eat with those, so come out and have a meal with us.

NORA

I think I'd rather stay in here, thanks.

BAZ

Fine, but if you want to hear more about the Dome then you're gonna have to come out and eat.

NORA

(SIGHS)  
Fine.

Scene 3: Mutiny

RICHARD

It was completely abandoned. I was walking around there for hours, and there was nothing.

WILLIAM

Really? And you found all the supplies just lying there?

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

I swear. Whoever was there, they must've cleared out quick.

VALERIE

Why would they want to do that?

RICHARD

No idea.

OLIVIA

And there were more supplies that you left there?

RICHARD

There was a whole med bay!

GEOFFREY

But we've yet to explain the presence of the dogs. They were wired into the system, and provided with power.

RICHARD

It could just be an automatic system.

GEOFFREY

This is true. But something makes me think that there is more to that facility than we've seen. I am not as convinced of its safety as you.

RICHARD

There was nothing in there to hurt us!

GEOFFREY

We hardly explored the entirety of the facility. We could have missed a very key piece of information.

RICHARD

You're over thinking it.

GEOFFREY

I really don't think I am, Richard.

RICHARD

What do you know.

GEOFFREY

Ah yes. You're right. Of course.

WILLIAM

Well, it sounds promising.

RICHARD

We need to move camp there, no question. There is so much potential in that place.

VALERIE

It would be nice to have a roof over our head.

RICHARD

You're not thinking big enough. We could use the tech in there to get off planet.

WILLIAM

You're right.

OLIVIA

I think we should get Baz's thoughts on it.

RICHARD

Yea, I'm sure he'll be so willing.

RICHARD

I don't know, he seemed pretty wary to even approach the place, I don't know how much he'd want to go back.

GEOFFREY

Perhaps it's not the dome itself, but the methods with which you chose to approach it that puts Baz on guard.

RICHARD

What are you saying?

GEOFFREY

To put this in terms you would understand, maybe don't just run up to things that could possibly kill you without properly examining them first? Do you understand?

RICHARD

You know Geoffrey, I take offense to that.

GEOFFREY

I'm sure you do. However, it does not make me incorrect.

VALERIE

I still think we should talk to Baz. This sounds too good to pass up.

SOUND: NORA & BAZ WALKING UP

BAZ

Hey, Liv. Do you have food going?

OLIVIA

Yeah, it'll be ready soon. Hi Nora.

NORA

Doctor.

OLIVIA

How are you feeling

NORA

Just peachy.

BAZ

Guys can I get all of your logs? I want to go through them, just take a closer look at things.

SOUND: SOUND OF AFFIRMATIVE FROM THE GROUP

BAZ

Thank you. So, Nora wants to hear more about the dome. What do we have?

RICHARD

Funny you should mention that, we were just talking about it.

BAZ

Yea?

WILLIAM

We were just saying, it sounds like it could make a good place to move camp to.

BAZ

What?!

VALERIE

Richard's said there were lots of supplies.

BAZ

Did he mention that there were dogs hooked up in there that could awaken at any point?

RICHARD

You said yourself that you disabled one. We could do that for all of them.

GEOFFREY

We still don't have enough knowledge about the facility to say that there are not more somewhere in the building. Or perhaps biters have infested parts of it? There is any multitude of things that could harm us.

RICHARD

And there's the reality that it's completely empty.

(CONTINUED)

VALERIE

It does seem like a really great option for us.

RICHARD

We could use the tech there to call for help from off planet. It could be the ticket out of here. We need to move ourselves in there as soon as possible.

BAZ

Or we could sign our death warrants by going into this too soon.

WILLIAM

I can't wait around much longer. We can't keep waiting around for something to kill us.

BAZ

I get that, and I'm not saying that we do. I'm just thinking that we take our time.

GEOFFREY

It is the most logical decision.

RICHARD

What and wait out here, exposed, for another biter to come and get someone else? We might not be as lucky next time. At least Nora is still alive.

NORA

Hey, Richard?

RICHARD

Yeah?

NORA

Fuck you.

RICHARD

Alright then.

VALERIE

All we're saying is that this place is just as dangerous as that place could be, and why not go there, where there's a better chance of living comfortably and getting off this planet.

RICHARD

Exactly.

BAZ

Guys, trust me when I say that I don't trust the place. Not yet. It just doesn't feel like we have all the information.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

That is absolutely unfounded. What evidence could you have for that?

BAZ

It's just a feeling.

RICHARD

A feeling, right. I say we put it to a vote. This is a democracy after all.

BAZ

(SIGHS)  
Fine.

OLIVIA

Well hang on, we elected Baz for a reason. It would be foolish not to listen to him.

NORA

It's funny that you fall back on the leader card now.

RICHARD

I think the group can make up their own mind, Liv.

OLIVIA

Okay.

BAZ

Look, I'm just saying that we don't know enough about this place, and I don't trust it. If we go into this place, we could very well die.

OLIVIA

That makes sense!

NORA

God, stop talking Liv, please!

RICHARD

Alright, let's vote on this. Should we move to The Dome? I vote yes. Baz?

BAZ

No.

RICHARD

Nora?

NORA

No.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD  
Val

OLIVIA  
Yes.

RICHARD  
Will?

WILLIAM  
Yes.

RICHARD  
Geoffrey?

GEOFFREY  
No.

RICHARD  
And Liv?

OLIVIA  
I...I don't know. I mean, I see both of your points.  
But I do want to make sure we're safe.

RICHARD  
We could live comfortably Liv, come on!

BAZ  
Just think about this before you make up your mind.  
We're 50/50 on this, your vote decides. This is a major  
decision.

OLIVIA  
I... I think...umm...

NORA  
Oh, just hurry up and pick.

BAZ  
Stop Nora.

OLIVIA  
No, it's fine...I vote yes.

RICHARD  
Well there we go. Yes it is. We can move in the  
morning. Now Olivia, how is that food coming?

SOUND: THE GROUP DISBURSE

WILLIAM

I'm sorry Baz.

BAZ

It's fine.

SOUND: WILLIAM WALKING AWAY

NORA

(LAUGHING)

So how does it feel?

BAZ

What?

NORA

Losing control.

MUSIC: MUSICAL TRANSITIONScene 4: Remember, Remember

BAZ

(NARRATION)

I wanted to remember where we came from. I went back on our logs. I thought maybe it could make me feel better about moving to the dome.

SOUND: BAZ PICKS UP DEVICESOUND: BUTTONS BEING PRESSEDSOUND: PLAYBACK CONFIRMATION SOUND

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM SPEAKER BECOMING CLEAR/ FROM E01S01P01)

The first memory I have is of water. It was soft, peaceful. I felt no fear, no pain, no suffering. I still go back to that memory when I feel afraid. What came next none of us could quite grasp.

NORA

(NARRATION/FROM E01S02P02)

It was chaos when we first landed. Something came for us. They preyed on us.

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S02P02)

We kept running until we couldn't stand anymore.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S03P8)

We didn't know who we were. We had all been thrown into this fire together with no way out. It hit some of us harder than others.

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S03P9)

We were lost. Fresh and clean barely fighting to survive.

RICHARD

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S06P13)

We had been walking for a couple hours now. It was approaching midday and we didn't have a thing to show for it.

VALERIE

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S06P14)

We got high enough just in time for it to come crashing through the trees. It was huge. None of us could get a good look from it up in the trees. It was a mass of fur and legs, one of the dogs from the ship.

NORA

(NARRATION)

Something came from behind the door and attacked Baz, it was on top of him before I saw what was happening. It was a grotesque grey creature. It looked human, but it certainly didn't act like it. These are the things we called Bitters.

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S06P17/18)

It wasn't human. Its skin was grey and rotting. Parts of it had been ripped open, its guts were just as grey as the skin.

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E01S06P19)

Out the window, far out in the distance was some kind of structure.

VALERIE

(NARRATION/ FROM E02S01P02)

Nora had a long blade in her hand that instantly drew my eyes. Something about the blades glowing edge caught me. I was ready for the fight. She tossed the blade, it shone in the air and I plucked it out effortlessly. I went straight to work.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E02S03P06)

It was that afternoon that people started to feel safe. People started to relax.

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E02S03P09)

Baz was a good kid, he just wanted to be honest with everyone, and I know that.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E02S04P11)

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 and deep than ours.

NORA

(NARRATION/ FROM E02S05P14)

No one had started to ask the long term questions yet. I was hoping to keep it that way.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E02S06P18)

The majesty of the land stretched out in front of me. The forest carried on for what looked like miles to the north.

BAZ

(NARRATION)

The ship was gone, there were deep tears in the earth where the ship crashed, but there was nothing there. It was like it just disappeared.

OLIVIA

(NARRATION/ FROM E03S02P05)

I looked and saw all these people, waiting. They were ready to have their lives end, for some stupid mistake I made.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E03S03P07)

I turned my head and saw the creature. Headless, and lying still. I saw something. I had to look again.

BAZ

(NARRATION)

The dog was nothing but fancy tech designed to kill. Now the question is, why?

WILLIAM

(NARRATION/ FROM E03S05P11)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM (cont'd)

I was banged up pretty badly. Val and Geoffrey carried me on a stretcher. I wouldn't be going anywhere anytime soon.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E03S06P14)

NEW WRITING ON FINDING STREAM: It was a four foot wide stream with clear clean water.

VALERIE

(NARRATION/ FROM E04S01P03)

I matched the bitters speed, propelling myself towards the closest one. I sliced its arms off, severing its head before it could react. I was halfway through taking the next one out when I heard the screams. 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.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E04S02P06)

As I got closer I could see Nora. 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

(NARRATION)

We made the only choice we could. If Nora was going survive, we had to take the arm. I hate hurting someone, but we can't let her die. We wouldn't survive without her.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E04S04P11)

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.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E05S01P01)

We were going to survey that building and see how hard it would really be to get in.

RICHARD

(NARRATION/ FROM E05S02P02)

That's Baz's problem. He won't take any risks.

NORA

(NARRATION)

It was gone. My arm. What was I going to do? I can't shoot, I can't fight. How can I survive like this? This

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NORA (cont'd)

place is going to kill me. It is going to kill all of us.

OLIVIA

(NARRATION)

She hates me, and wants to die. It was all for nothing. I just wanted to make it up to everyone. To all the ones who died trying to survive. But what is it worth when it just makes you want to die.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E05S04P06)

Richard had grabbed the device we pulled out of the dog and sprinted towards the door.

RICHARD

(NARRATION/ FROM E05S04P06)

I reached the other side out of breath, but feeling vindicated. There was no attack of any kind. No response of any kind.

GEOFFREY

(NARRATION/ FROM E05S04P07)

I was not prepared to allow Baz to enter this facility on his own. Despite it going directly against all that my programming told me was necessary for my data's survival, I followed him into the darkness.

BAZ

(NARRATION/ FROM E05S06P11)

A huge dog loomed over us, it took me a second to realise that it wasn't moving. It was being supported by a giant metal frame. There were tubes and wires coming in and out of it all over the body.

BAZ

(NARRATION)

I believe that the dogs are being biologically upgraded. This one was bigger, badder. Whatever is in that facility is upgrading their tech.

RICHARD

(NARRATION/ RETURNING TO SPEAKER/FROM E05S06P12)

I hit the jackpot, I was in a huge med-bay. The walls were stacked with drugs, bandaging. Everything we needed. I didn't find much after that, I just wandered around a bit more and ran into Geoffrey and Baz.

SOUND: BAZ STOPPING THE PLAYBACK

SOUND: BAZ SIGHS

(CONTINUED)

BAZ

(NARRATION)

It was a web, it's like I could see everything laid out in front of me, I could almost see the whole picture. Something was missing. I couldn't help the feeling that going back into that facility would be a mistake.

MUSIC: MUSICAL TRANSITIONScene 5: Do Not Abandon

RICHARD

Okay guys, has everyone got everything? Liv, you got the med supplies?

OLIVIA

Yup.

RICHARD

Val, you got the weapons?

VALERIE

I do.

RICHARD

Good. Will, food all good?

WILLIAM

What we have is here.

RICHARD

Good. Baz, Nora. It's your last chance to join us. You coming?

BAZ

I'm good, thank you Richard. Please, guys, don't do this. I really believe that this is a mistake. Something is happening that we don't understand yet. Please, just wait.

RICHARD

Thanks for that, Baz, but they've made up their minds. They've made the right choice. Nora, you coming? You're still welcome.

NORA

No. I'm good, thanks.

RICHARD

Suit yourself then. Let's head out guys.

SOUND: THE GROUP WALKING OFF

(CONTINUED)

BAZ

We need to follow them.

NORA

Do we?

BAZ

Yes, they may have made a mistake, but they think they're doing the right thing

GEOFFREY

But what reason do we have to care for these people?

BAZ

They are our friends. We can't just let them walk into danger.

GEOFFREY

Friendship is redundant.

NORA

I don't owe them anything.

BAZ

Well, then do it for moral reasons. It is not ethical to just let them lead themselves to death.

NORA

They have control over their actions.

GEOFFREY

I agree, we tried to persuade the group, but they refused to see reason, why are we responsible for their actions?

BAZ

Because it's the right thing to do. I don't care what you two do, I'm going to follow them, and make sure they are safe.

GEOFFREY

You're being unreasonable.

BAZ

Maybe, but I need to do this. So either come with me, or go away.

SOUND: BAZ WALKING OFF

NORA

We'd better follow him.

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY

Yes, I suppose.

SOUND: GEOFFREY AND NORA WALKING OFF

Scene 6: You Don't Have the Key

SOUND: FOREST SOUND

SOUND: WALKING

GEOFFREY

They're still up ahead. No sign of trouble.

NORA

How much further do they have to go?

BAZ

It's not far now. Probably another 10 minutes.

GEOFFREY

The forest seems abnormally quiet.

BAZ

I don't like it. Are you armed Nora?

NORA

I have my pistol, but not a lot I can do with it with only one arm.

BAZ

Sorry.

NORA

It's fine, it will have to do I suppose.

GEOFFREY

They have the majority of the weapons. I'm afraid that if we come up against any resistance, we shall be horribly outgunned.

BAZ

We'll be fine. Just keep an eye on Richard.

NORA

Do you really think Richard is up to something?

BAZ

I don't know. I can't decide.

NORA

Between what, and what?

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY

Whether he is really plotting against us, or if he's just a moron.

BAZ

Exactly.

NORA

Right.

BAZ

I want to know how he plans on getting into the dome. We have the key.

NORA

How?

GEOFFREY

We took it from him when we returned from the dome on our previous excursion.

NORA

He knows he doesn't have it?

BAZ

And he never asked for it back.

GEOFFREY

It shall be particularly illuminating to see how he plans to enter.

BAZ

Okay, here we go. They're approaching the tree line.

NORA

(NARRATION)

Richard and the group started to cross the boundary between the forest and the field to the dome. It felt like a lifetime between the two. I thought that they could have been taken out from any angle.

GEOFFREY

(NARRATION)

They crossed the field at a pace likened to a invertebrate shell dwelling creature. When they arrived at the entrance, they halted.

NORA

(NARRATION)

They stood there, waiting for something to happen. Then, as if from nowhere, the door slid open. And they entered.

(CONTINUED)

BAZ

What? How can he do that?

GEOFFREY

I do not know.

NORA

Was there a control panel next to the door?

BAZ

No, there was nothing!

GEOFFREY

What he has done should not be possible.

BAZ

We have to go in after him. Something isn't right.

Scene 7: Geoffrey

SOUND: DEEP PULSING SOUND

OLIVIA

Are there any lights in here?

RICHARD

Yea, but I don't know how to get them working. Follow me, there's somewhere up here that has working lights.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR

WILLIAM

It's so cold.

VALERIE

Ah, it's fine. This is exciting. We can do so much with this place.

OLIVIA

We can actually take proper care of you guys, if you need it.

WILLIAM

This is great; it's going to open a whole new chapter on our time here.

SOUND: SOUNDS CHANGING TO A WIDE OPEN LARGE REVERBERATING ROOM

VALERIE

Woah.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

(NARRATION)

We walked into a huge room, it looked like the top of the dome was the ceiling. It had a massive control panel coming out ahead of us.

SOUND: ROBOT FLOATING IN

STELLA

Oh hello Richard! You've brought your people!

RICHARD

I have. He asked me to.

STELLA

Oh, he'll be so pleased.

WILLIAM

What is this, Richard?

STELLA

Well, I am Stella! I'm a cleanliness bot.

VALERIE

I thought you said this place was abandoned.

STELLA

Of course it isn't. We're the ones that brought you here silly.

RICHARD

I'm sorry to tell you this way. I haven't exactly been honest with you. There's someone I want you to meet. Sir?

SOUND: COMPUTERS ENGAGING

SOUND: DEEP PULSING SOUND GROWING LARGER, FASTER

SOUND: SPEAKERS FUZZING

GEOFFREY (FACILITY)

Hello. I am Geometrically Fabricated and Functional Reasoning Unit, but you can call me, Geoffrey.

(END)