

FIND US ALIVE EPISODE 21: Dumptruck

[Static fades out]

[Computer hums]

KLEIN

One of you is going to have to talk first.

RADDAGHER

I don't want to.

KLEIN

Love?

LOVE

What?

KLEIN

Wanna tell me what happened?

LOVE

...Yes. I do! I can tell you exactly what happened.

KLEIN

Mind elaborating on that?

LOVE

I can tell you all about the events that happened and how. And why. Easy peasy.

RADDAGHER

We know what happened.

LOVE

But not TOO MUCH. About what happened.

RADDAGHER

Right.

KLEIN

That's good. That you know. Because Upper Management wants an explanation as to why none of this was properly recorded, so...

LOVE

We know why that is too.

KLEIN

Whenever you're ready.

LOVE

Umm...

RADDAGHER

We were-

LOVE

NO ssssshhhh I'll tell it. It all started at 9 pm.

RADDAGHER

It was a lot later than 9-

LOVE

Shut up I'm telling it. It was 9 pm.

[Click]

[Fan runs softly]

LOVE

Okay. I have his bag. Most people will probably be asleep by now so we shouldn't have to worry about being heard. Or seen. Why's your room so much bigger than mine?

RADDAGHER

It's not, I just don't have stuff.

LOVE

It is... bare in here. Let's get started! Basics.

[Love shakes a bag]

[Dumptruck tumbles onto the floor]

LOVE

Sorry, buddy! I know you hate it in there.

RADDAGHER

What first?

[Dumptruck's feet stick on the floor]

LOVE

First, we need to make him a leash. So we can prove he's tame and means no one any harm.

RADDAGHER

I have rope.

LOVE

You have so much rope. Let's get to tying!

[Rope moves]

LOVE

So uh, how are things?

RADDAGHER

Things?

LOVE

I dunno, I'm just trying to make conversation.

RADDAGHER

Things are fine.

LOVE

Good. Oh, what if we do it like this? Under all his feet.

RADDAGHER

I hung up a flower pot like that once.

LOVE

I didn't know you liked plants.

RADDAGHER

I don't. I just wanted to use my ropes.

LOVE

Oh.

RADDAGHER

How's this?

[Dumptruck hoist]

LOVE

Oh- okay, put him back on the ground, we just need a leash, not a carrier.

[Dumptruck's feet land back on the ground]

[Rope shifts, Love stands up]

LOVE

Okay Dumptruck! Go! Walk!

[Long pause]

[A few short paps]

[Raddagher chuckles]

LOVE
(laughing)
Walk more!

[Click, tech equipment in Klein's office hums]

LOVE
We were in Raddagher's room.

KLEIN
What were you doing?

LOVE
Hanging out? I don't know, we're not barred from just BEING in each other's rooms now, are we?

KLEIN
You are not. Go on.

LOVE
So we were minding our own business. Researching Dumptruck, like you told me to.

KLEIN
What kind of research?

LOVE
I'm getting to that. Calm down.

[Click, fan noise]

LOVE
He's getting it!

[Dumptruck paps]

LOVE
Dumptruck, heel.

[Paps stop]

LOVE
Good boy!

RADDAGHER

I don't think it counts if you're
lifting him off the ground.

LOVE
But his feet stop moving! He
understands.
(dog voice)
He understands!

RADDAGHER
What else can he do?

LOVE
He can do lots. Watch.

[Paps]

LOVE
Sit.

[Squishy thump]

LOVE
Lay.

[Additional squishy thump]

RADDAGHER
Those looked like the same-

LOVE
Sssh! Speak!

[Silence]

LOVE
Good boy!

RADDAGHER
What does "speak" do?

LOVE
Since he doesn't have a mouth, I
trained him to not make any noise.

RADDAGHER
He already doesn't make noise.

LOVE
I know, and he's great at it.
He'll be awesome at stealth
missions.

RADDAGHER
He needs a motivator.

LOVE

Like treats? I already tried that.
I don't think he likes food.

RADDAGHER

Something else?

LOVE

Hmm... Oh! What about particles?

RADDAGHER

Particulate matter?

LOVE

Yeah.

RADDAGHER

Is that safe?

LOVE

Pssh, please. I know how to follow
procedure.

[Click, tech equipment in Klein's office]

LOVE

So we were following procedure.

KLEIN

Uh huh.

LOVE

Just teaching him normal tricks
like you'd teach to any dog. Dogs
have teeth, by the way. Dogs can
bite. Dumptruck can't. So that's
one way he's less dangerous.

KLEIN

Yeah, I hear you.

RADDAGHER

He has no mouth.

KLEIN

I know, I've seen him.

LOVE

He was sitting just fine. Sitting,
staying, the whole thing. I'm
great at training dogs.

(pause)

But then we needed to go get
something.

[Click, Raddagher's fan runs]

[Block sander scrapes briefly]

LOVE

Do we have enough dust?

RADDAGHER

We don't need very much.

LOVE

Does it still do a Dash One if you're not looking at it?

RADDAGHER

What?

LOVE

Is it- is it like one of those things that only moves when you're not looking?

RADDAGHER

No, it can move while you're looking.

LOVE

Look! It's moving!

[Sand shifting noise. Pause for a few seconds]

LOVE

Oh, that's so weird.

RADDAGHER

Yeah.

LOVE

I've never seen one going so fast in person before.

RADDAGHER

What about the spider blood in Harley's office?

LOVE

Oh. I guess I was there for that. But I wasn't really... "there," you know?

RADDAGHER

Right.

LOVE

It's so fast!

RADDAGHER

The little ones move fast. It'll be done in three minutes or so.

LOVE

That's it?!

RADDAGHER

Three minutes, thirty two seconds, usually.

LOVE

Wow. Okay, then. Come here, Dumptruck- where'd he go?

RADDAGHER

Under the chair.

LOVE

Come here, Dumptruck! Look at it!

[Squishy Dumptruck noises]

[Pause]

RADDAGHER

He's not doing anyth-

LOVE

Hush. He's thinking.

[Several more seconds]

RADDAGHER

It's getting close to-

LOVE

Look! Look!

[Dumptruck paps across the floor, squishes]

RADDAGHER

Is he... on it?

LOVE

No, he's just next to it.

RADDAGHER

What's he doing?

LOVE

I dunno. Let me try something else.

[Love grunts as she lifts up Dumptruck]

[Dumptruck's feet papp onto the ground]

[Brief pause]

[Rapid papping, followed by squish]

LOVE

Wow!

RADDAGHER

That's the fastest he's ever gone.

LOVE

He's just sitting by it again.

RADDAGHER

Try somewhere else.

LOVE

Okay!

[Click, Klein's equipment hums]

LOVE

It was going GREAT.

RADDAGHER

(obviously lying)

Dumptruck can do more than one trick.

KLEIN

Uh huh.

LOVE

Yeah! He can. We wrote it all down, see? Just like you asked.

KLEIN

And you don't know how the tremor happened?

[Click, Raddagher's fan runs]

LOVE

Look at him go! He even goes right to it after I spin him around!

[Sci fi whoosh as the Dash One completes]

LOVE

Whoops.

[Short tremor]

[Click, Klein's equipment hums]

LOVE

Sure don't!

[Raddagher makes a nervous noise]

LOVE

We just hunkered down and waited
for WHOEVER IT WAS to clean up, ya
know?

[Click]

[Deep hallway ambience]

[Raddagher's footsteps echo]

[Love speaks over walkie]

LOVE

We don't have a flare in there, do
we?

RADDAGHER

No.

LOVE

Then what are we going to use?

RADDAGHER

I don't know.

LOVE

Hurry.

RADDAGHER

I'm hurrying.

[Footsteps stop as a door opens]

LANCASTER

(surprised)

Oh, hey, Raddagher!

RADDAGHER

...It's late.

LANCASTER

Yeah, it sure is.

RADDAGHER
I'm up past 1 all the time.

LANCASTER
I know.

RADDAGHER
What are YOU doing up this late?

LANCASTER
(amused, suspicious)
I was just working- Why are you acting so weird?

RADDAGHER
I'm autistic.

LANCASTER
You know that's not what I mean, you- why- you are acting so shady!

RADDAGHER
(shadily)
No I'm not.

[Pause]

LANCASTER
(chuckling)
Okay!

RADDAGHER
What ARE you doing up so late?

LANCASTER
Seriously, I'm just working.
Burning the- the midnight oil.

RADDAGHER
Why?

LANCASTER
I- yeah, I dont' know. I guess I don't have any- any deadlines or anything, do I?

RADDAGHER
No.

LANCASTER
Hey, did you feel the quake a few minutes ago?

[Pause]

RADDAGHER
(obviously lying)
...No.

LANCASTER
...Okay. Uh, maybe it was just me.

RADDAGHER
It was just you.

LANCASTER
Okay, uh, well, good seeing you-

RADDAGHER
I have to go get my lighter.

LANCASTER
Why?

RADDAGHER
Y- uhh... candles.

LANCASTER
You like candles all of a sudden?
I thought you HATED smelly stuff.

RADDAGHER
It's... for Love.

LANCASTER
Oh, okay. I'll leave you to it,
then.

RADDAGHER
No, not like-

[footsteps receding]

RADDAGHER
Not like that!

LANCASTER
Okay, I do have to get back to
work, I'll see you around!

RADDAGHER
It's not- It's not for that.

[Raddagher growls under her breath]

[Click, Raddagher's fan runs]

[Door opens]

RADDAGHER

I got the lighter- oh. What-

[faint sand shifting]

LOVE

I've figured it out!

RADDAGHER

You need to stop all those before they get completed-

LOVE

No, look! He detects them! He knows where the Dash Ones are forming, and he goes and sits next to the closest one. Watch!

[Squishy Dumptruck sounds, footsteps papping, squish as he sits down]

RADDAGHER

...Oh!

LOVE

He's not a guard dog, he's a bomb sniffer! We could use him to find Dash Ones that might be too small for people to notice right away!

RADDAGHER

Want to go test him out?

LOVE

I should clean all this up first..

RADDAGHER

Right. What are we going to do about the one that's already done?

LOVE

We have to find something to blow it up.

[Sweeping noises]

RADDAGHER

Alcohol?

LOVE

That could work!

RADDAGHER

I know where to get some.

LOVE

Hey, uhh, on the way, do you want to test out some other ideas I have?

RADDAGHER

...yes.

[Click, hallway ambience]

[Pause]

RADDAGHER

Is he-

LOVE

Ssh. He's about to pounce.

[single pap, tiny crunch]

LOVE

(whisper-shouting)

A cold-blooded killer! Good boy, Dumptruck!

RADDAGHER

I think it was already dead. Or maybe just an exoskeleton.

LOVE

Well, it's definitely dead now. What's he doing with his foot?

RADDAGHER

I think it's stuck to him.

LOVE

Oh. Yeah.

[Squishy noises]

LOVE

Uh oh. It's really stuck on there.

RADDAGHER

Can you break pieces of it off?

LOVE

I think he's... absorbing it?

RADDAGHER

Is that bad?

LOVE

I don't think so, it's- OH IT'S
ALIVE IT'S ALIVE-

[Bug chirps

[Sticky thump as Dumptruck squishes the bug]

RADDAGHER
Now it's dead for sure.

LOVE
Good boy, Dumptruck!

[Click]

LOVE
Anything?

RADDAGHER
He's heavier than he looks.

LOVE
Is he improving or unimproving
your balance?

RADDAGHER
I can't tell.

LOVE
Don't let him fall!

[Click]

[Bottle clinks, liquid shakes]

RADDAGHER
...I don't think this will be
enough.

LOVE
Have we checked Harley's office?

RADDAGHER
No.

LOVE
Come on. My card gets me in there.

RADDAGHER
Why?

LOVE
I outrank him, I dunno.

[Muffled voices]

[Love gasps]

LOVE
People! Hide!

[Door creaks open, shuffling as Love and Raddagher and Dumptruck cram inside]

LOVE
Dumptruck, ssshhh!

RADDAGHER
They're coming-

[People talking casually pass by the door]

[Their voices grow more distant]

LOVE
(quietly)
Hey.

RADDAGHER
...hey.

[Bottles and cans moving]

LOVE
...Is spray paint flammable?

[Click]

RADDAGHER
(voice farther away)
Here!

LOVE
Yeah, pour some out!

[particles pouring]

[Rapid paps as Dumptruck Goes]

LOVE
Haha, nice! Look at him go!

RADDAGHER
Good boy, Dumptruck.

LOVE
He's growing on you, I can tell!

RADDAGHER
Yeah.

[Click]

[Raddagher's fan runs]

LOVE

Okay. How do we do this?

RADDAGHER

Shoot the paint through the lighter.

LOVE

How do we do this safely?

RADDAGHER

Stand back.

LOVE

This isn't going to set off the fire alarm or anything, is it?

RADDAGHER

I don't know. I've never set a fire in my dorm before.

LOVE

Okay. Be careful. It should only take a little bit.

[Paint can rattles]

[Raddagher takes a breath]

[Lighter clicks]

[Paint sprays, fire ignites]

[Sci-fi cracking pop]

LOVE

It worked!

[Flames ignite louder]

RADDAGHER

Oh, shit-

LOVE

Fuck!

[Raddagher stomps, fabric slaps against the ground]

LOVE

Okay. I think we got it. I think
we're good.

[Click]

[Harley snores]

[Fire alarm goes off. Harley starts awake]

HARLEY

Hngk- wha- huh? What's going on-

[Love yells distantly]

LOVE

(muffled)

GOD DAMMIT!

[Sprinklers go off. Harley groans]

LOVE

(muffled)

FUUUUUUUUUUU-

[Click, fluorescent]

KLEIN

And to reiterate. You don't know
how it happened.

LOVE

Nope!

[Pause]

KLEIN

And you don't know what caused the
tremor.

LOVE

Nope.

KLEIN

I have confirmation that both of
you were out last night. You might
have avoided the hall cameras, but
you didn't avoid Lancaster.

So what were you two doing out so
late, if I'm to believe you had
nothing to do with this?

LOVE

We were... um...

RADDAGHER

We-

LOVE

We were making out.

[Pause]

KLEIN

You were making out.

LOVE

Yup. Just making out all over each other.

[Pause]

KLEIN

Alright. So if I checked both your rooms, I wouldn't see any burn marks?

LOVE

No 'cause we put a rug over it.

KLEIN

There it is.

RADDAGHER

Nari...

LOVE

Shit.

KLEIN

Uh huh. Look, I'm just gonna tell Containment that a Dash One formed in your room before you could catch it, and you tried to deal with it by yourself. But you two NEED to be more careful about what you do with that Dash Two.

LOVE

Everybody's gonna find out eventually.

KLEIN

It's not about that. It's about our lack of complete understanding. We still don't know enough to just let him run around. If you're going to test things on him, you need to start smaller. Keep things reined in.

LOVE

...fine.

KLEIN

You're not in trouble. Well, you are. But I'm not taking him away or anything.

LOVE

...thanks.

KLEIN

And I knew it was you. Neither of you are good liars.

LOVE

Hey, I'm-

RADDAGHER

You're not.

KLEIN

Go clean up the burn. I'll talk to the others about putting a report in.

LOVE

Thanks, Klein.

[Click]

[Surveillance office ambience]

LOVE

...I think it went well! Do you think the other surveillance people are gonna narc on us?

RADDAGHER

We avoided having him out in front of most of the cameras.

LOVE

But are they?

RADDAGHER

Probably not. They're cool.

LOVE

Good.

[Pause]

RADDAGHER

Why'd you say that?

LOVE

Say what?

RADDAGHER

That thing you said to Klein.

LOVE

About...? Yeah. Um, I dunno. I was on the spot. I couldn't think of anything else.

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

And like, it wouldn't be that hard to believe.

RADDAGHER

Hm?

LOVE

Like, if we had to be undercover or something. Together. I could see us... together.

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

If I was somebody else. Looking at us. You know? I'd look at us and be like "yeah, I can see it." Does that make sense?

RADDAGHER

Yeah.

LOVE

Are you smiling?

RADDAGHER

What?

LOVE

I can hear it.

RADDAGHER

No. I'm normal. I'm making a normal face.

LOVE

God, Klein is right. You're an awful liar.

RADDAGHER
Did you see that?

LOVE
...see what?

RADDAGHER
BC-1-16 just went dark.

LOVE
Which one is that?

RADDAGHER
One of the Psychology offices.

LOVE
Want me to run it new batteries?

RADDAGHER
...Yeah.

LOVE
Alright. Be right back.

[Door opens, footsteps recede]

RADDAGHER
...Hm.

END EPISODE