FIND US ALIVE 32: HIWAY ROBBERY

STATIC FADES IN AND OUT

SURVEILLANCE OFFICE EQUIPMENT HUMMING QUIETLY

LONG PAUSE

RADDAGHER

Should we tell Klein?

LOVE

Not yet.

RADDAGHER

What do we do now?

LOVE

We keep it a secret.

RADDAGHER

For how long?

LOVE

Until we know they won't kill us for it.

RADDAGHER

We broke the rules.

LOVE

Oh, we REALLY broke the rules.

QUIET, MONSTROUS GROWLING

CLICK

HARLEY

Overwatch Command, it is 1:29pm. I'm sure it is also a day of the week, although I may have lost track of which one it might be.

You'll be happy to know that the next Reset is only a couple days away. Soon, we may no longer have to deal with the cavernous hellscape our building has become. We hope. We are reasonably sure. We have roughly the same confidence as we did in the detonation.

The truth is, Overwatch Command, in your infinite silent spectatorship, I am nervous. The evidence we have observed so far has given me no reason to believe that the site WON'T return to normal. But the rules in this place fluctuate, as you well know. Maybe we did break the cycle. Just not in the way we wanted.

As always, I'm talking to myself. But I've grown comfortable with the empty airwaves. With the idea that something MIGHT be in here with me. Just listening. Coupled with the assurance that nothing is. A very improbable possibility.

And now, my captive non-existent audience, I have some news regarding the things I have done to waste my time while I'm stuck in here.

HARLEY CLEARS HIS THROAT

HARLEY

I continue to suck at drawing tigers, but now I am sucking at drawing tigers on top of the desk as well as underneath it-

LOUD MONSTROUS SCREECHING FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM

PAUSE

HARLEY

...What in the hell was that?

CLICK

MUSIC STARTS

DIALOGUE BOUNCES OFF EACH OTHER

KLEIN

The first person who saw it said it came crawling out of the-

LANCASTER

Containment cell, minding my own business, I'm bouncing my tennis ball. When all of a sudden I hear this-

HARLEY

Perfectly reasonable volume and pitch of a reaction, considering how big it was. And how close it was to my door.

SITE INTERCOM CLICKS ON

KLEIN

(over intercom)

We've got a big one, ladies and germs. Bring me its head.

LOVE AND RADDAGHER

Shit.

CLICK

WALKIE BEEPS

HARLEY

Can I help?!

KLEIN

NO. You're still injured!

HARLEY

I'm FINE! I made it to Kasey's
shrine TWICE! It barely even hurts
to breathe!

KLEIN

Stay in your office, Harley!

HARLEY

What if it comes BACK? What do I do?! I don't have any fire and it was ENORMOUS!

KLEIN

Barely anybody has fire, we've only got like, six cans of hair spray!

HARLEY

That does not make me feel better!

CLICK

LANCASTER

All the containment cells hadthey were immediately locked down, which meant I- HARLEY

-Need a drink. But guess what else we used up on the detonation?!

KLEIN

Most of the staff couldn't leave their rooms. We were fish in a barrel if that thing decided to-

HARLEY

-Maybe sneak out of my office. A little bit. Just until-

KLEIN

-We find out how it got created right under our noses.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BUZZING

SEVERAL SECOND PAUSE

D-1

What?! I didn't have nothin' to do with this!

CLICK

ECHOING HALLWAY CAVERN AMBIENCE

HARLEY

Klein? Do you have a description of it? What can it do? Can it go through walls?

WALKIE BEEPS

KLEIN

I'm kinda busy, Harley!

HARLEY'S SLOW FOOTSTEPS ECHO

HARLEY

(to himself)

Okay. Phasing through walls?
Possibly. Could it pull me out of
my office like a lobster out of a
tank at a fancy restaurant?
Remains to be seen. I need a
weapon-

SCUFFLING FARTHER AWAY

HARLEY

(nervous)

Hello? Is somebody up there?

(whisper shouting)

Get in your office!

HARLEY

Huh? Why? Is it coming?!

LOVE

WE are coming to you, get in your office!

MOVEMENT, EFFORT AND OBJECTS SHIFTING AS LOVE AND HARLEY CLIMB BACK INTO HARLEY'S OFFICE

LOVE

We need your help.

HARLEY

"We?"

LOVE

Me and Raddagher.

DUMPTRUCK MAKES A SQUISHY SQUEAK

LOVE

And Dumptruck.

HARLEY

Oh. What kind of help do you need?

LOVE

We fucked up.

CLICK

LOVE

So in my defense-

RADDAGHER

We didn't do much to keep it inside.

LOVE

I didn't know he would be able to move like that.

RADDAGHER

She didn't tell it to stay in the office.

LOVE

Don't look at me like that! I didn't know where he was going!

HARLEY'S OFFICE AMBIENCE. DUMPTRUCK STEPS AROUND IN THE BACKGROUND

HARLEY

Let me make sure I have this all correct.

LOVE

Okay.

HARLEY

Raddagher is still in the Surveillance office.

LOVE

Watching.

HARLEY

You and her made a giant Dash Two.

LOVE

Yes.

HARLEY

And it escaped.

LOVE

He didn't ESCAPE, he LEFT. I just don't know where he went.

HARLEY

HOW did it escape, Love? Did you leave the door open or something?

LOVE

NO, of course I didn't leave the fucking door open!

SITE INTERCOM CLICKS ON AND REVERBERATES

KLEIN

Dash Two spotted! Everybody keep your eyes peeled for a really long vine, Security reports that it's sticking to the walls!

PAUSE

HARLEY

Love?

HARLEY

How did it escape your office, Love?

LOVE

He unraveled like a sweater and went up the vent.

CLICK

LOVE

Obviously, we couldn't let everybody kill him!

HARLEY

I was conned into fighting on the side of another vine monster.

LOVE

HE WAS JUST BORN!

RADDAGHER

It moved faster than we could keep up with it.

KLEIN

All we've got are a few lighters and a few aerosol cans of-

LOVE

Badger? Or maybe a weird flat bear? Either way, he has six legs.

KLEIN

I don't have time for this. It's on sight.

LOVE

We had to find him before somebody else did and decided to-

KLEIN

-take my anger out on something. Just have to get close enough to it.

CLICK

SURVEILLANCE AMBIENCE

HARLEY

Okay. What do we do?

Ingrid?

RADDAGHER

(over office comm)

Hey.

LOVE

I made it to Harley's office.

RADDAGHER

Yes.

LOVE

We have an idea. But it won't work without you.

CLICK

HARLEY

And as quick as she came in, she was back out again. Climbing up to-

LANCASTER

-The inside of the vent in my cell. It's too small for a person to fit through, but- but probably not too small for a-

KLEIN

-Good look at this thing. It was big. Almost as big as the lemon plant-

LOVE

-Monster. He's just a baby! He doesn't know any better!

KLEIN

And as I'm on my way up, the site comm kicks on.

CLICK

ECHOING HALLWAY AMBIENCE

KLEIN STRUGGLING AS SHE CLIMBS

REVERBERATING AS THE SITE COMM CLICKS ON

HARLEY

(site comm)

Site-107, Surveillance has spotted the anomaly in BF-1, heading toward AE-3. Let's get on it, people!

KLEIN

Yes! Yes, Harley! Nice work!

WALKIE CLICKS

KLEIN

Fire Team A, go check that out! Over.

(to herself)
One success this cycle. One
success is all I want.

CLICK

HARLEY'S OFFICE, EQUIPMENT HUMMING

QUIET STATIC OF THE OPEN OFFICE COMM

HARLEY

Okay. That's the far side of the building to where you saw it. They're in multiple groups, though, they're not ALL going to chase it that way.

RADDAGHER

Buy us some time.

HARLEY

Yeah, but how much faster can Love move than a whole Security squad?

RADDAGHER

She's fast.

CLICK

ECHOING HALLWAY AMBIENCE

SMALL IMPACTS AND EXERTION NOISES AS LOVE CLIMBS RAPIDLY

LOVE

(a little winded)
I'll save you, my son. My boy. I'm
on my way. Don't move.
Pleesaaaase stop moving around so

Pleeeaaaaase stop moving around so much, Momma loves you-

BACK TO HARLEY'S OFFICE

HARLEY

So if the fake direction is AE-3, which way is it ACTUALLY going?

RADDAGHER

Toward BH-4.

HARLEY

BH-4?

RADDAGHER

Last time it appeared on the cameras.

HARLEY

Where's Lancaster being held right now?

CLICK

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BUZZES HARSHLY, LANCASTER'S VOICE REVERBERATES

LANCASTER

Hello? You guys are gonna come check on us down here eventually, right?

CLICK

HARLEY'S OFFICE AMBIENCE

RADDAGHER

Oh.

HARLEY

You said it's not dangerous, right?

PAUSE

RADDAGHER

It is not dangerous. As far as we know.

HARLEY

Cool. Awesome. Great great great. Oh, good.

CLICK

OVERLAPPING AGAIN

(interview)

So we executed the plan.

HARLEY

(site comm)

We have eyes on the Dash Two! Spotted moving toward AB!

RADDAGHER

(interview)

It was working.

KLEIN

Fuckin' hell, how'd it get all the way over there?

LOVE

(interview)

Nobody suspected a thing. We were so smooth.

HARLEY

(site comm)

Uhh, looks like it can move really fast! That's why it's getting around the building so quick! No other reason!

KLEIN GROANS IN FRUSTRATION

WALKIE CLICK

KLEIN

Alright, Fire Team C, go check out that location. Over.

WALKIE BEEPS

KLEIN

I'm going to go see about some contained people.

LANCASTER

(shouting into the void)
No, it's okay! I'll be- I'll be
fine in here! Don't- don't worry
about it!

HARLEY

(site comm)

We have sighted the monster again in AD-1!

KLEIN GROANS EVEN LOUDER

KLEIN

God dammit!

WALKIE CLICKS

LOVE

(out of breath)

Where is he?

RADDAGHER

In BH somewhere.

LOVE

I'm almost there!

RADDAGHER SPEAKS UNCLEARLY THROUGH STATIC AND CUTTING OUT

LOVE

What? I can't hear you!

MORE STATIC AS RADDAGHER TRIES TO REACH HER

CLICK

SURVEILLANCE OFFICE AMBIENCE

HARLEY

(site comm, muffled)
I'm getting word that we are
experiencing some interference
with walkies in the farther
reaches of the building. Site-107,
try to stay off the channels
except when absolutely necessary!
 (into office comm)

Try her now.

WALKIE CLICKS

RADDAGHER

Nari, Klein is coming down. Klein is coming-

CLICK

RADDAGHER'S VOICE IS STATICKY AND INAUDIBLE

LOVE

I still can't understand you!

Okay, focus. Focus.

LOVE STRUGGLES OVER THE ROPES AS SHE CLIMBS AND JUMPS BETWEEN THEM

CLICK

LANCASTER

Klein? Alves? Is anybody? Damn.
Okay. Um-

FABRIC RUSTLING.

LANCASTER

Hey, Dash Two. You better not come in here, I have I have a blanket-

WEIRD LEAFY SLITHERING, ECHOING IN THE VENT

LANCASTER

...Oh, son of a-

CLICK

LOVE STRUGGLES TO PUSH A DOOR OPEN. IT CREAKS NOISILY

LOVE

(winded, whispering)
Hey? Hiway? Are you in here?

CLICK

KLEIN BREATHES HEAVILY AS SHE CLIMBS

KLEIN

Lancaster- That- that bastard better- better not be- responsible for this-

HARLEY

(site comm)

Wow, look! It's over in AG-1, now! Looks like we really need some leadership over there, could really benefit from somebody in charge!

ROPES CREAK, KLEIN EXERTION NOISES

KLEIN

There we are.

SHE STRUGGLES WITH THE DOOR BEFORE PUSHING IT OPEN

IT SLAMS OPEN HARD.

KLEIN

Lancaster! Are you-

LANCASTER

SSSSSHHHHHHH-

KLEIN

What-

QUIET MONSTROUS GROWLING AND HISSING

KLEIN

Ohh.

SLOW LADDER FOOTSTEPS AS KLEIN MAKES HER WAY DOWN

LANCASTER

(soothing wild animal
calmness voice)

Slowly-

KLEIN

Yuuuuup-

THE CREATURE GROWLS, LANCASTER AND KLEIN SPEAK SLOWLY AND QUIETLY

LANCASTER

Okay. Let's all be very calm and not startle it.

AEROSOL CAN SHAKES ONCE

MONSTER GROWLS LOUDER

LANCASTER

Klein-

KLEIN

I've got this, I just have to get a little bit closer.

LANCASTER

I think it's too big for that little can-

KLEIN

It'll be enough!

LANCASTER

Are you sure? Are we looking at the same giant plant bear thing? KLEIN

Alright fine, it works or we die! Happy?

DASH TWO SNARLS LOUDER, LEAVES RUSTLE AND TWIGS CREAK FOR A MOMENT

KLEIN

Oh, that was weird. Why can't it just walk like a regular animal?

LANCASTER

Because it's not a regular animal, Klein, do something.

KLEIN

Alright. Alright. Let's go.

AEROSOL CAN SHAKES

KLEIN

Hey, big guy. Wanna tussle? Do ya?

DASH TWO SNARLS LOUDER

LIGHTER CLICKS

KLEIN

DO YA? Try some of this!

BRIEF BLAST OF FLAME. THE MONSTER ROARS.

LOVE

STOP!

LOVE BARRELS DOWN THE LADDER, GRUNTING AS SHE JUMPS TO THE BOTTOM

RAPID FOOTSTEPS AS SHE RUNS ACROSS THE CELL

LOVE

Stop! Don't hurt him!

KLEIN

Now's really not the time, Love! Move!

LOVE

No! He's MINE!

DASH TWO SCREECHES AGAIN, LEAVES RUSTLE

LOVE

No! Bad boy! Bad! Lay down!

MONSTER'S SCREECHES DIE DOWN TO LOW GROWLS. LEAVES RUSTLE SOME MORE

LANCASTER

What the hell.

KLEIN

Love, what did you do?

LOVE

His name is Hiway Robbery and he loves me.

HIWAY GROWLS.

KLEIN

You are in so much trouble.

LOVE

You can't kill him! He's not dangerous!

KLEIN

He has teeth the size of my fucking thumb!

LOVE

He listens to me! Look! Sit!

LEAVES RUSTLE SOME MORE.

LOVE

Roll over.

LOUDER RUSTLING, BRANCHES MOVING

KLEIN

That didn't look like rolling over.

LANCASTER

I don't- I don't even know how to describe what that looked like.

LOVE

So, he moves weird! Whatever! Klein, PLEASE don't tell Upper Management.

KLEIN

I don't know how you plan on keeping that thing a secret, Love.

LANCASTER

It's huge.

I can keep him a secret! I promise!

KLEIN

Okay. Prove it. Get it back to your room without anyone seeing.

PAUSE

LOVE

Done.

KLEIN

How are you going to get it out of here?

LOVE

I'm going to ride him.

CLICK

HARLEY'S OFFICE AMBIENCE

RADDAGHER

(anxious)

She's not responding.

HARLEY

She's okay. Channels are just full right now.

RADDAGHER

Something happened.

HARLEY

Just wait a few more minutes. Stay in your office, you'll see her when she shows back up on the cameras-

RADDAGHER

Oh my god.

HARLEY

What? Do you see her?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

HARLEY

And? Is she alright? What's going on?

HARLEY

... Is THAT the Two?!

RADDAGHER

That's them.

HARLEY

What's it DOING?

RADDAGHER

He's good at climbing.

HARLEY

Yeah, I can see that! Is she okay?

RADDAGHER

Yeah. She's riding him.

HARLEY

Agent Love is riding a Dash Two like a horse. Down a wall. Got it.

WALKIE BEEP

HARLEY

Love, are you in range now?

LOVE

(over walkie)

Yeah, I can hear you!

RADDAGHER

Are you okay?

LOVE

Yeah, I'm fine, but we have to get him back to my room without anybody seeing!

HARLEY

The Surveillance office or your room?

LOVE

MY ROOM.

RADDAGHER

That's all the way across the site.

LOVE

We can make it!

RADDAGHER

Send him through the vents.

LOVE

But what if he goes rogue, like last time?

RADDAGHER

Be specific!

LOVE

I don't want him to get lost! What if he gets confused and goes to the wrong room? They'll KILL-

PAUSE

HARLEY

Love?

NO RESPONSE

HARLEY

Where is she? Where'd she go?

CLICK

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BUZZING HARSHLY

LANCASTER

Are- Are we really gonna let her keep that thing?

KLEIN

We could USE that thing, Lanc. Did you see how it went straight up that wall?

LANCASTER

It's a- it's a giant monster.

KLEIN

It's a giant monster that can CLIMB. And it seems like it listens to her. I need to get to an intercom.

LANCASTER

Okay, well- then I want the lighter.

KLEIN

What?

LANCASTER

In case it decides to come back!

KLEIN

No.

CLICK

SOUNDS OF THE HALLWAY MUFFLED BEHIND A DOOR. LOVE BREATHES HEAVILY.

LOVE

(whispering)

It's okay. They'll be gone in a second.

HIWAY GROWLS QUIETLY. LOVE STARTS TO HYPERVENTILLATE

LOVE

(beginning to panic)
Fuck. It's okay. It's okay.
They'll be gone soon-

HIWAY RUMBLES

LOVE TAKES A DEEP BREATH

LOVE

You're right. Deep breaths. Okay. I think they're gone.

WALKIE CLICKS

LOVE

I don't know which wing I'm in, but I'm getting closer!

RADDAGHER

Stay hidden. People everywhere.

LOVE

Got it. Come on, Hiway Robbery.

KLEIN

(site comm)

Everybody, it's in BH! I had it cornered for a second, but it got away. I need backup down here!

LOVE

Nice.

DUMPTRUCK MAKES VARIOUS DUMPTRUCK NOISES

RADDAGHER

She's alright.

HARLEY

Looks like she's about halfway there, right?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

HARLEY

Not long left to go!

RADDAGHER GASPS SUDDENLY

HARLEY

What? What's going on, what do you see?!

BUTTONS CLICKING

HARLEY

OH. Oh shit, oh my god. On it.

CLICK

Hiway SLITHERS. BRANCHES CREAK AND RUSTLE.

LOVE

Almost there, boy. Good job.

SITE COMM CLICKS ON.

HARLEY

Anybody who can make it to BF-1, we have two injured people who fell down a gap and need IMMEDIATE assistance. We have no extra rope to pull them up, we need all hands on deck! And BE CAREFUL ON THE ROPE BRIDGES.

LOVE

BF-1. That's the other side of the building from us.

HIWAY GROWLS

LOVE

If everybody's going that way, we could make it back no problem.

PAUSE. HIWAY RUSTLES FAINTLY

God dammit. Let's go. BF-1, hyah!

LOUDER LEAVES AND TWIGS RUSTLING AS Hiway TAKES OFF

CLICK

BACK TO OVERLAPPING INTERVIEWS

KLEIN

And as I'm climbing back through BH-4, Love and this mass of vines and leaves just HAUL ASS past me-

RADDAGHER

He's fast.

LOVE

It's a little bit like boogie boarding on a tree.

HARLEY

Raddagher sends me the camera feed of where the two Guards fell, and suddenly there's this-

LANCASTER

-Emergency happening, apparently, but nobody is gonna tell me what-

LOVE

-Hiway Robbery can do. Climb stuff. Climb anything. He can even-

KLEIN

Climbs down to the bottom. People are yelling and trying to get a shot in at it, but Agent Love-

HARLEY

-Starts carrying one of them up.

RADDAGHER

It worked.

LOVE

He carried both of them up safely. and they only sprayed fire at him twice.

KLEIN

So I guess what we're really getting at here-

LANCASTER

-and I guess it didn't ACTUALLY hurt me.

RADDAGHER

He saved them.

HARLEY

If it were me,

LANCASTER

I guess it might actually be worth-

KLEIN

Letting her-

LOVE

(squealing)

KEEP HIM?!

BACK TO SCENE. SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT HUMS

KLEIN

Yep. But there are rules.

LOVE

Okay! We can follow rules! We'll be the best at the rules!

KLEIN

First rule is that it cannot go ANYWHERE without one of you two watching it.

LOVE

(one breath)

DEAL! You're not gonna regret this, Klein, I'm gonna be the best trainer you've ever seen and we're going to help people get all over so Security can take a break and it's going to be SO COOL and he's gonna be the BEST service anomaly in the WHOLE FOUNDATION and... and...

LOVE TRAILS OFF

KLEIN

Whoa, there. Don't pass out or anything. Here. Drink some water.

My head hurts.

RADDAGHER

Are you okay?

LOVE

Gimme that water. I've been running around for days and I've barely even had any because everybody else has been bogarting it.

KLEIN

Yeah. Sorry, Love. We'll fix that when the site Resets.

LOVE

It'll be easier to get supplies around now!

KLEIN

I guess you're right.

HIWAY GROWLS

KLEIN

(to the monster)

YOU better not make me regret this.

END EPISODE