

Static fades in and out.

HARLEY

Overwatch Command, there are 24 hours until our next Reset.

Or what we can hope will be our next Reset.

There is much to do in Site-107. Items to inventory, injuries to double-check, backup plans to be made. After all, very few of us feel entitled to a perfectly smooth Reset this time around. There's a lot at stake.

I remain in my office, where I have been for most of the last 30 days or so. I've healed enough that moving around the site via the various ropes and ladders isn't nearly as difficult as it used to be. The cut on my arm opens in places and bleeds occasionally, when I'm not thinking about it enough. A few times, I've watched the blood start to branch out in ways it shouldn't. But I always wipe it off before it gets too far. Maybe I cut it too close sometimes. But I never let it get all the way there.

Click.

Fluorescent lights buzz harshly.

LANCASTER

They doubled the number of people guarding my door. It's- it's easy enough to figure why; they don't know if I'm gonna- if I'm gonna try and breach when we- when we tick over. And I- I can't say I- can't say I haven't thought about it. It's not like it would be that hard. Disappearing out of your cell and reappearing someplace else onsite. I mean that's not something they had to deal with much for D-1, 'cause he just

reappears in D-class containment anyway.

It's- it's different for me. I'm not getting teleported back into a locked cell.

But- but I don't think they need to be all that worried, because I'm going to be buried inside my office.

Click.

Surveillance office door opens. Love walks in heavily and plops down in a chair. She sighs exaggeratedly.

RADDAGHER
How's it going?

LOVE
BAD.

RADDAGHER
Bad?

LOVE
He's being really uncooperative and I don't know why.

RADDAGHER
How?

LOVE
I dunno, he's being stubborn. He doesn't want to carry anything, I have to ask him like, five times.

RADDAGHER
What does he do?

LOVE
He just bumps into me and growls. And he won't go anywhere unless I'm right there watching him.

RADDAGHER
Hm.

LOVE
He's a big help with the heavier stuff, but it's taking so much longer than it should. He's starting to piss me off.

Dumptruck paps around in the background.

LOVE

Not you, Dumptruck. You're an angel.

RADDAGHER

He doesn't carry anything either.

LOVE

He has an excuse. He doesn't have anything to carry stuff with. He's just got nubs.

More footpaps from Dumptruck.

Click.

Back to Harley's broadcast.

HARLEY

It's time for everybody's favorite segment of our show: Things We Are Running Out Of, with Dr. Harley.

Food. We have very little of it left.

Surprisingly, many of our crops survived. But Botany hasn't been putting much effort into anything other than keeping them alive, so they haven't produced much. Should we stay sideways forever, they will try and rebuild the greenhouse. And figure out a more efficient method of dealing with our... waste buckets.

Water is also rather scarce, considering our pipes are not built for our current orientation. Should we stay like this, we will have to continue hauling potable water manually from the recycler in the... I guess it's not the lowest floor anymore, is it? It's the... "very far off to one side" floor. I'm not even going to pretend that I could tell you which way is North right now.

Agent Love's Dash 2, Hiway Robbery, has been assisting with

lifting things around in preparation, although he's been rather fidgety lately. I hypothesize that this is natural for Dash 2's; the cycle might affect them differently than it affects us. The only Dash 2 we've seen survive multiple Resets is Dumptruck. And it is very difficult to tell how Dumptruck is feeling at any given time.

Click.

Reverberating hallway ambience.

LOVE

Watch.

Single Dumptruck footstep.

LOVE

That means he loves you.

KLEIN

I will take your word for it.

Love zips Dumptruck back into a backpack.

LOVE

(calling across the room)
No, bud, take it up! Up there!
Pick it up and take it over there!

Hiway makes a surly growling noise.

LOVE

He's so grumpy today.

KLEIN

Huh. Do you know why?

LOVE

Dunno. Harley thinks that maybe they get temperamental close to the cycle resetting.

Come to think of it, Dumptruck has been extra sticky.

KLEIN

"Extra sticky?"

LOVE

Yeah. Like tape. He keeps sticking to me.

KLEIN

I guess that's a good sign, right?

LOVE

Sign of what?

KLEIN

That we might still have a Reset. If they're reacting cyclically.

LOVE

Yeah, I guess.

KLEIN

You don't think so?

LOVE

I guess I wasn't really worried in the first place.

KLEIN

HOW are you not worried?

LOVE

Dunno. I just feel like it'll probably be okay.

KLEIN

Of all the people I expected to be well-adjusted about this, you were not one of them, I will be honest.

LOVE

Maybe you don't know me as well as you thought.

KLEIN

Or maybe you're different than you used to be.

Click.

The fluorescent lights of Lancaster's containment cell hum. Harley climbs down the ladder.

LANCASTER

You're SO early. Why are you so early?

HARLEY

They don't need me for anything else. I was getting bored and antsy up there.

LANCASTER

Well. Welcome to my humble abode.

HARLEY

You still haven't taken Klein up on that offer for a less terrible mattress, I see.

LANCASTER

She's got enough to worry about. It would- it would be a pain to get a mattress all the way down here. I'll ask her about it later. Maybe after the Reset.

HARLEY

Made any new Dash Ones lately?

LANCASTER

No? I told you, I haven't even had the urge to for like, the whole month.

HARLEY

(joking)

Doubtful.

LANCASTER

Whatever, Harley.

HARLEY

You worried about Resetting?

LANCASTER

Um, a little bit, yeah.

HARLEY

Do you think you'll reappear in a new place now that you're a Dash Three?

LANCASTER

Why would I?

HARLEY

Dumptruck did. When he went from potato to... creature.

LANCASTER

Yeah, and I- and I have a lot of other similarities to Dumptruck, too, yeah.

HARLEY
You're sticky,

LANCASTER
I'm mad sticky.

HARLEY
Anomalous,

LANCASTER
Debatably.

HARLEY
But seriously, are we going to be able to- trust you? Are you going to do anything crazy?

LANCASTER
I don't think so. I don't feel like I'm going to. If I- if I did, it would be just as much a surprise to me as- as it would be to you.

HARLEY
Hm.

Pause.

LANCASTER
You thinking about- about what'll happen if it doesn't work?

HARLEY
I'm tossing around the possibility that we'll all die, yeah.

LANCASTER
How do you feel about it?

HARLEY
I'm not sure. I don't know if I feel anything about it.

Click.

Klein taps the recorder a couple times.

KLEIN
I think I'm getting desensitized to the end of the world.

I mean, the world has ended, what, five times in here now? Something like that.

Everybody talks a big game about how numb to the atrocities you'll get at the Foundation. But a lot of the people I've met who are all jaded and "numb to the atrocities" were just assholes to begin with.

Audio begins switching between Klein's audio log and Harley and Lancaster's conversation in containment.

HARLEY

It's not like I WANT to die. I don't.

KLEIN

Because let's be honest, as horrible as it can be, as often as the big bad stuff happens, how many of us actually live through more than one of those events?

HARLEY

I'd like to live, if given the option.

KLEIN

Everybody in what's left of Site-107 has probably seen more of the big bad stuff than... most Foundation employees.

HARLEY

But on the other hand, I've had a lot of time to think about death. About MY death.

KLEIN

The Shift, all the Resets, the building flipping over; this is the kind of stuff you only experience once.

HARLEY

Everybody thinks "I'm going to die here, I'm going to get killed by an anomaly." But there's still the thought in the back of your mind that you won't, actually.

KLEIN

Maybe this is a fucked up thing to say, but at least this one's out of my hands.

HARLEY

But now I've reached the point where death by anomaly is the most likely scenario.

KLEIN

If anything goes wrong with this, if we don't Reset and everything is still terrible, at least it won't be my fault.

Fully back to Lancaster's containment.

HARLEY

And I suppose I'm not as afraid of it as I used to be.

LANCASTER

You're not afraid of dying anymore?

HARLEY

Well, on a primal level, yeah, I guess I am. But I've accepted it more. I just hope that when it does happen, it's fast.

LANCASTER

Sounds like you've- sounds like you've been thinking about it a lot.

HARLEY

I suppose. I'm tired of being scared, that's all. What's that ever gotten me?

Click.

Surveillance equipment hums quietly.

Raddagher's sleeping bag shifts. Love sighs contentedly.

RADDAGHER

How's your head?

LOVE

It's eeehhhhhh.

RADDAGHER

More water?

LOVE

No, we're out and I don't wanna go all the way back to get more. It'll go away soon. You excited to sleep in your room again?

RADDAGHER

Here is fine.

LOVE

I wish I loved the "sleeping bag on the floor" thing as much as you do.

RADDAGHER

Mm.

LOVE

You'd probably be good at sleeping in a hammock, wouldn't you?

RADDAGHER

Hm?

LOVE

Don't they sleep in hammocks on boats and stuff?

RADDAGHER

They don't do that very much anymore. They used to do that a lot, but most big ships have bunk beds now. Some of them have half walls so you don't roll out when the ship tilts. Smaller ships, like for regular people, usually just have normal beds though. Because you're not getting tossed around by bigger waves as much as in big commercial ships.

LOVE

You're so smart.

Pause.

LOVE

You'll be right in here when we Reset, won't you?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

LOVE

I'll be way upstairs in AB.

RADDAGHER

Mm.

LOVE

Usually takes them a couple hours to clean everything up enough to be back to normal. Getting all the injured people to Medical and cleaning BC-2 out, and all that junk.

RADDAGHER

Okay?

LOVE

I'm just saying.

RADDAGHER

I don't understand.

LOVE

Like, we'd have a good couple hours to ourselves during that? Before anybody needs us to do anything.

RADDAGHER

You usually help Lancaster.

LOVE

He doesn't need my help this time, he's gonna have like, a billion security guards digging him out. 'Cause he's dangerous and all that.

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

Wanna maybeeee... meet up? Your room? It's the closest. Little bit of priiiiiivacyyyyyy?

RADDAGHER

Okay.

LOVE

I'll race you down there. As soon as we reset, I'm gonna start booking it.

RADDAGHER
Booking it?

LOVE
Like a race. First one to get there wins!

RADDAGHER
What do we get if we win?

LOVE
I dunno, what do you WANT if you win?

Raddagher laughs awkwardly.

RADDAGHER
I don't know...

LOVE
What if I surprise you? I'm really good at surprises.

RADDAGHER
Nari!

LOVE
Whatever. I guess I'll just have to get there first. I know what I want, after all.

RADDAGHER
(flustered)
Oh my god.

Love laughs.

A few seconds of comfortable silence.

RADDAGHER
Should we go to BH-4?

LOVE
Not yet. Gimme a few more minutes. They can wait for us.

RADDAGHER
Okay.

Click.

Fluorescents of Lancaster's containment cell buzz.

HARLEY

It really is pretty rough in here.

LANCASTER

I think it's nice.

HARLEY

You're lying.

LANCASTER

A little bit. But I can sing as loud as I want and nobody can hear me.

HARLEY

They can definitely hear you.

LANCASTER

What? No, they can't.

HARLEY

The security guards right outside the door? Yeah, they can.

LANCASTER

It's soundproof!

HARLEY

It's NOT soundproof, BH-9 is soundproof.

LANCASTER

Oh. Well, oops.

Harley and Lancaster laugh.

HARLEY

If you DO end up going insane the second you're out of here, I'm going to be very disappointed.

LANCASTER

Okay, well, so am- so am I. I'll ALSO be disappointed if we- if we all die. I don't think I'm at peace with that as you.

HARLEY

I don't think we're all gonna die. I just don't lie awake at night dreading it anymore.

LANCASTER

I dunno. Starving- starving's a pretty terrible way to go.

HARLEY

Better than getting eaten by a Dash Two.

LANCASTER

Is it?

HARLEY

Probably?

LANCASTER

Don't they NOT eat people, though?

HARLEY

A lot of them have teeth, one can surmise they'd be capable of eating people.

LANCASTER

None of them did during- during any of the tests.

HARLEY

Oh, that's right.

LANCASTER

Do you think Hiway Robbery could eat people?

HARLEY

They didn't test for that. Maybe, if Love'd asked it to. Do Dash Threes eat people?

LANCASTER

We already went over this.

HARLEY

And?

LANCASTER

Yeah, they do.

Door opens, Klein calls down from the doorway.

KLEIN

What's up, bastards?

HARLEY

Welcome.

LANCASTER
Ready to die? 'Cause Harley is.

KLEIN
What?

HARLEY
You know what I'm ready for? A
drink.

KLEIN
ME TOO.

LANCASTER
Honestly? Even Botany moonshine
sounds good right now.

HARLEY
(offended gasp)
JUDAS.

LANCASTER
Will you relax? What do you have
against them, anyway?

HARLEY
They're evil.

KLEIN
Huh. I always thought you'd get
along with Featherman.

HARLEY
I do not know their names on
principal, so I don't know who
that is.

KLEIN
You know, the one who talks a lot.
Kinda fancy? Alcoholic but in
denial about it?

HARLEY
Sounds like a freak I have nothing
in common with.

LANCASTER
What did they ever do to you?

HARLEY
Well, I had this desk plant once-

LANCASTER

Are you serious? Are you serious-
you're STILL mad about the plant?!

HARLEY
IT IS THE PRINCIPAL OF THE PLANT.

*The door opens and Love and Raddagher climb
down the ladder.*

LOVE
Not gonna miss this stupid fucking
ladder-

HARLEY
Hey, you two.

RADDAGHER
Hi.

KLEIN
I see you brought your son.

LOVE
Yeah, he won't stop sticking to
me.

LANCASTER
Is he sick?

LOVE
I don't know. He doesn't stick to
anybody else, though, watch.

Sticky Dumptruck noise.

KLEIN
AaaaaAAaAAH, don't stick him on
ME!

LOVE
He doesn't stick, though, see? He
doesn't stick on Ingrid either.

HARLEY
Ingrid?

RADDAGHER
Yes.

HARLEY
(chuckling)
I didn't know your name was
Ingrid, that's adorable!

LANCASTER

Bold words coming from a man named
Wilbur.

HARLEY

Hey-

LOVE

Wait, stop, I thought your name
was like, Edward or something!

HARLEY

Edmund is my middle name,
technically.

LOVE

And your first name is fucking
WILBUR?!

HARLEY

Yes...

LOVE

What, were you named after the pig
from *Charlotte's Web*?

HARLEY

It was a very important book to my
moms, okay?

LOVE

You WERE?!

Love laughs loudly.

HARLEY

Listen, don't make fun of me! I
never bullied you for the cosmic
irony that is "Agent Love,"

*Love stops laughing with a sudden, pained
noise.*

LOVE

Ow, fuck-

HARLEY

Whoa-

RADDAGHER

Are you alright?

LOVE

Yeah, I'm fine, the fuck-

KLEIN

Need to sit down or something,
Love?

LOVE
I said I'm FINE!

*Love sits down. Dumptruck makes a squishy
wheeze. Awkward silence for a moment.*

LANCASTER
Come to think of it, you do look
kinda pale.

LOVE
Whatever, you always look sickly.
Go touch grass, nerd.

HARLEY
Perhaps someone should remind you
of the harsh reality of our
current environment and the
presence of grass-

LOVE
KLEIN. You have to plant grass
next cycle so Lancaster can touch
it.

RADDAGHER
There are no seeds.

KLEIN
Yeah, and I'm not in charge next
cycle.

Pause.

LOVE
What?

KLEIN
Oh. Kinda forgot you didn't know
that.

LOVE
What the hell, Klein? You're
quitting?

KLEIN
I think it's time for someone else
to get a shot. Maybe they can do
it better than me.

LOVE
Who?

KLEIN

Alves.

LOVE

ALVES?! Are you out of your mind?!
She's such a hardass!

KLEIN

Love, we haven't gotten any closer
to escaping the whole time I've
been leading. Maybe it's time for
a hardass.

Pause.

KLEIN

Besides, she's a lot like you in a
lot of ways.

LOVE

(grumbling)
Whatever.

KLEIN

Aww.

LOVE

What?

KLEIN

Do you CAAAARE about me?

LOVE

NO! Fuck off!

HARLEY

Love has friends.

LANCASTER

Ha ha.

LOVE

Fine. Yeah. Whatever. Dorks.

HARLEY

Glad you can finally admit that
moments before our doom.

KLEIN

You have to stop saying everything
is our doom.

HARLEY

I'm just anticipating the worst.

LANCASTER

Okay, well, the worst is having more- more time stuck in here with all of you guys.

KLEIN

Oh, as IF I would leave you all alone on the outside. You're never getting rid of me.

RADDAGHER

What if we die?

KLEIN

Then I'll see you all in Hell.

HARLEY

We're Foundation employees! None of us are getting into Heaven!

KLEIN

No skippers in Heaven!

LANCASTER

Ayyyyy!

All five of them cheer.

Loud, bassy Reset noise.

Silence.

Raddagher gasps back to life. Alarms blaring, earth shaking. Her equipment buzzes.

RADDAGHER

Are we- ?

She laughs victoriously.

Walkie clicks.

RADDAGHER

Nari, I'm coming up!

Her chair squeaks as she stands up and runs to the door.

Click.

Raddagher's dorm door opens and closes.

RADDAGHER

Nari?

She pauses for a moment, catching her breath.

Walkie beeps.

RADDAGHER

I won.

Pause. No response. Her fan runs.

RADDAGHER

Nari?

No response.

RADDAGHER

Nari, come in.

The site comm clicks on.

KLEIN

Medical to AB, I repeat, any
available Medical staff to AB
IMMEDIATELY.

END EPISODE