

RWBY Volume 9 Episode One: Fallen Feather

by

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EXT. VACUO DUSK

**SHOT: Long shot of the sun with distant ravens flying past. Far closer, flying grimm fly in and out of frame. During the action, camera pan down to see everyone else**

Everyone is screaming, people are attempting to flee, but are cut off by the sandstorm. Grimm are everywhere. Winter, Ren, Nora, Oscar, Marrow, May, Fiona, Joanna, and Emerald are attempting to break the line of Grimm, who are slowly surrounding the refugees. The atlas military that is there attempt to help, but they're side spread, disoriented, and unorganized. The heroes are failing, as many refugees are being grabbed and carried away, screaming. Some get torn to pieces in front of them before they're able to get to them. The group is getting overwhelmed, with Fiona being grabbed by a Grimm, Joanna tries to grab her to protect her, but is also taken. May screams, but Ren pulls her to safety as Nora repels several grimm. It's a losing battle. It's at this point that a massive number of people in costumes similar to Raven descend from above, taking out the Grimm and saving the exhausted group of heroes. The group is wearing large face masks that protect them from the sandstorm. The large group of people easily rout the grimm, driving them away. Oscar looks up, and sees a very large man in a Grimm fur coat and large Grimm mask with shining red eyes just visible, wielding a massive pure black energy sword. A Nevermore type Grimm blitzes the man, who jumps and beheads it with ease.

OZPIN (V.o)  
Impossible

INT. ATLAS AIRSHIP

The four huntsmen of Qrow, Robyn, Harriet, and Elm are still watching the carnage below. Waves crashing over buildings, the once flying city cracked, parts falling into the flowing waters below.

HARRIATE  
We have to check for survivors!

ROBYN

Now you care for the lives of the people in Mantle?

HARRIATE

I always did!

ROBYN

You had a funny way of showing it!

The two of them appear to be about to fight when Qrow steps between them. He looks grave as he watches the water beneath them.

QROW

Shut up

(Harriet starts to speak, but he interrupts)

I agree with you, let's at least check

ROBYN

No one could have survived

QROW

I need to check

Flashback  
transition

EXT. FOREST IN VALE PAST

Qrow is sprinting through the forest, he's ducking in and out of trees. It's hard to make him out, but it's clearly him as he comes across a small horde of Grimm. They turn to attack him, and he effortlessly cuts them down without even taking a break in his forward momentum. At long last he comes crashing through the trees into a small clearing with a house in it. Raven and Tai Yang are waiting for him. Both are much younger. We finally get a close up of Qrow. He's much younger. And much happier.

QROW

Is it...

TAI

Yep!

RAVEN

Come on, Port is inside helping the doctor

QROW  
(Laughs)  
Poor doctor

They all head into the house smiling, but in a hurry.

EXT. VACUO DUSK

People are walking about. The dark suited people are sitting some of them down, but they are putting out very little medical aid. Kids are the only exception. The main group is all standing and watching this, until Winter shakes her head, snapping herself too.

WINTER  
(Pointing at each person she names)  
Ren, Nora, and May start looking for anyone who's been separated. Marrow, Emerald, and Oscar help the wounded.  
(She glances over. The massive man, the leader approaches)  
Whitley with me.

WHITLEY  
I think the wounded need as much help as they can-  
WINTER  
With. Me.

The large man arrives and sizes them up as the group disperses to follow Winter's orders. The man, EAGLE, watches in silence until it's just the three of them.

EAGLE  
Vacuo doesn't accept refugees.  
WINTER  
I am the ranking Atlas official and-  
EAGLE  
I have spoken  
(He turns to leave)  
WINTER  
Who are you  
EAGLE  
My name is Eagle, and you are in my territory.

WINTER

Isn't this public space?

EAGLE

No.

(He continued to leave and then stops)

Where is Yang Xai Long?

WINTER

(Furrows her brow)

She's... she's dead. Along with her team.

EAGLE

Interesting. You said you were the highest ranking official from Atlas. Where is Ironwood?

WINTER

(With great pain, even more so though than her last statement)

He's also dead

EAGLE

So huntsmen are as effective as ever.

WINTER

They died heroes!

Eagle simply shakes his head, and walks away. Winter is left panting, and then she starts crying. Whitley lays a hand on her shoulder. He simply looks terrified.

WHITLEY

Let's find mom, see if she's okay.

Winter nods, and Whitley guides her away from there, and they begin looking around.

INT. ATLAS IRONWOODS OFFICE

Ironwood is standing looking at his monitors. This is clearly before the worst of it had begun. Before the bomb was dropped and before Winter had defected. Winter walks in. And Ironwood turns, frowning at her. And then smiles for barely a moment.

IRONWOOD

I need your help Schnee

WINTER

Yes sir

IRONWOOD

(Sighing and looking back at the monitors)

No, I need your *help*. This bomb. I don't want to, but if Atlas is to survive it's the only way.

WINTER

Yes sir.

IRONWOOD

Right?

WINTER

(Confused)

Sir?

IRONWOOD

You know me. You know what I've had to do, what I'm **trying** to do. This is the right thing to do, right?

WINTER

Sir I... no sir I don't believe so.

IRONWOOD

What can I do then? Schnee- Winter, what can I do? If Atlas falls, if the people of Atlas die, the world will be defenseless.

WINTER

Team RWBY is out there, trying to save Mantle. Perhaps if we reach out, we can do both plans.

IRONWOOD

No no, it's too late for that. Far too late. I should've... no  
this **is** the only way!

WINTER

Sir I just feel that we could save more people right now if we-

IRONWOOD

(Newly firm in his ideals)

I'm thinking long term Operative Schnee. This will save the  
world. The needs of Atlas and the world. Thank you, I knew I  
could count on you.

WINTER

I have a question, sir, permission to speak freely.

IRONWOOD

(A moment's consideration)

Granted.

WINTER

Isn't the purpose of saving Atlas to save people? What's the  
purpose of sacrificing people in order to save it?

IRONWOOD

(He sighs heavily, and sits down, looking out the window.  
Outside, the world is ending, and yet it still continues.)

**SHOT: Foggy images appear above ironwoods head, they loosely  
depict what he says, but as he speaks the images become less and  
less clear until at the end, it's just color**

Fifteen years ago I asked my General the same question. There  
was a precursor to the White Fang attacking a series of  
villages. He sent me to protect the next village we were  
expecting him to attack. I arrived, and found out from the

village that there was another, a newer village, trying to start between the village I was at and the one he was currently at.

WINTER

What did you do

IRONWOOD

Asked to head him. I was denied, ordered to stay behind and protect the village I was at. However,

(He sighs)

**The colors intensify in the images depicting his story above them**

I didn't listen. I decided that I knew what was best. I was young, strong, and idealistic. All good things, until they're mixed. I tried to split my forces. I reasoned as you did, what is the worth of sacrificing a few to save a few, when you could save them all. And that's when I learned you can't save them all.

Because the people I sent to save the other village died, the people of the village died, and then they came for us. By trying to save them all, I doomed us all. I survived, mostly.

(He rubs his metal side)

Does that answer your question?

WINTER

Yes, I think it does.

IRONWOOD

Then you are dismissed.

WINTER

I... yes of course sir!

She turns, another tear, matching the one from before as she leaves. She stops once outside of the office and sighs heavily.



WINTER

I'm so sorry

And she sets off at a brisk walk.

EXT. VACUO DUSK

A camp had now been pitched and more of it was in the process of being set up. Oscar is working with Emerald, who's watching the dark suited individuals setting up the camp. Emerald moves closer to him as she is wrapping someone's leg.

EMERALD

Who are they?

OSCAR

I have no idea.

EMERALD

What about your

(Taps her own head)

Friend

OSCAR

(Shakes his head)

Silent since he saw that big guy. Whoever they are, they scare him. Or at least, that guy does.

EMERALD

What's the plan then? How are we getting away?

OSCAR

We're not! These people need help!

EMERALD

Not if those guys are going to kill us!

OSCAR

It's Vacuo, it's survival of the fittest. I somehow doubt we're better off anywhere else

EMERALD

Oh, oh no

OSCAR

What?

EMERALD

We need to get everyone together. I just remembered something. Something deadly important.

INT. VACUO TENT

The entire remaining group has arrived, and is sitting. Willow is next to Whitley, holding his shoulder. She looks beyond terrified. Winter and Emerald are standing to present new information. The tent is surprisingly sturdy looking for having been just set up. It looks and feels almost permanent. There's a lot of necessity of life things within the tent. However, no frivolous decorations take up space.

WINTER

First and foremost, I have the remaining Atlas military working on the wounded. So you all can take a break. And second, Emerald has news.

EMERALD

Uh hi!

She waves but is met with stony silence from the group. All but Whitley at least. Who kindly waves at her until he notices everyone else glaring at her, he looks at Willow who is glaring. Sighing, he lowers his hand and joins the group in the glaring.

EMERALD

Right, anyway. I just remembered Salem sent Tyrion and Mercury here to Vacuo. I don't know why, but the two of them **are** in the kingdom.

MARROW

Vacuo is pretty big, are we sure we're even going to run into them?

EMERALD

I'm worried that maybe they teamed up with these guys. They seem like the type that'd help Salem.

MAY

They just seem like survivors, not Salem worshippers.

NORA

Can we take that chance?

REN

What do you suggest Emerald?

EMERALD

(Turns to Oscar)

Can Ozpin help?

OSCAR

I told you, he's been silent since we got back.

WINTER

This is important Oscar, please.

Oscar hesitates, but closes his eyes.

OSCAR

Ozpin?

INT. OSCAR'S MIND

An abstract space, colored brightly takes focus, as two glowing shapes with no definable form develop. One is emerald, another more of a forest green.

OSCAR

(the forest green pulses, and undulates)

We need help.

OZPIN

These people, Oscar, they're dangerous!

OSCAR

So?

OZPIN

He doesn't like me, or the maidens.

OSCAR

Then that's all the more reason we need you!

OZPIN

Fine! I'll help!

INT. VACUO TENT

Oscar shakes his head and opens his eyes. He looks blearily around at the group. All of them are staring at him, seemingly holding their breaths in anticipation for what he's about to say.

OSCAR

Ozpin, well

(He steps forward, and goes through the mind switch animation)

Ozpin

I can't help with anything more than information. It's time that you all learn about the real Branwen tribe.

EXT. ATLAS

Qrow, Robyn, Elm, and Harriate are on the ground, looking through water and the fallen buildings and all of the places hurt people would be. They're finding nothing.

HARRIATE

I don't get it, it's like there's no one here!

ROBYN

They couldn't have just disappeared!

ELM

Harriet, can you check as fast as you can?

HARRIATE

(She tries but stumbles)

Not yet. I'm still- I just wanted to save as many people as I could.

ROBYN

Then what was the bomb for?

HARRIATE

The General, he'd never let me down before. None of us! He had a plan, I know it would've worked.

ROBYN

He was wrong

HARRIATE

(She looks at her hard)

Does this look RIGHT?

ELM

Harriate, stand down. Let's look for survivors.

(Sees Qrow, who'd stopped moving)

What is it?

QROW

There aren't any

They walk to where he is. One at a time, from underground. Those that didn't make it into the portals before the disappeared or ran back as they disappeared are floating up one at a time.

Clearly deceased, having drowned horribly. Qrow watches the body of someone who is clearly a mother holding her baby close to her chest.

HARRIATE

God no!

Qrow watches in silence, but falls to his knees. Everyone else looks equally disturbed. Qrow begins shaking silently.

QROW

N-not again

INT. TAI'S HOUSE

There's the clear sound of childbirth in the next room. Raven are standing holding each other. Port exits and sits down huffing and puffing. The two of them look at each other and smile as though they told each other a silent joke. The sounds of birth peak and there's some joyas sounds from Qrow and a female. Then they stop.

QROW (V.O)

What's wrong?

DOCTOR (V.O)

Just need him to cry

SUMMER (V.O)

Does he have my eyes-

QROW (V.O)

Is he all right?!

DOCTOR (V.O)

Give me a moment sir!

The rushed sounds and now intermixed raised voices start rising and become almost incomprehensible. Raven and Tai are no longer smiling, and neither is Port, who's on his feet again looking alarmed.

DOCTOR (V.O)

Sir I need you to LEAVE

There's a bang and a completely disheveled Qrow stumbles out. He looks widely at the group, tears in his eyes, panic on his face. Behind him Summer can just be seen, crying and reaching for

something that isn't moving near the doctor. He's attempting to get it to breathe. It doesn't. It doesn't make a sound.

QROW

He's... he's not- he's

TAI

(Immediately moved to Qrow and hugs him as Qrow goes limp in his arms.)

I got you man, I got you.

Tai looks alarmed over to Raven, who looks utterly devastated. Port is standing in shock for a moment before going over to Raven who immediately grabs Ports shoulder.

QROW

It's my fault!

Summer is crying loudly now. Almost screaming. The doctor seems to have given up.

QROW

It's MY FAULT

A FADE TO BLACK AS THE SHOUTING  
CONTINUES

EXT. BEACH SOMEWHERE

A boy with black hair is lying on the beach, asleep. The beach is covered in hordes of extremely weird shells. Water that isn't water crests and breaks just to the bottoms of his shoes. A massive tree looms very high above him. Waking up. For a moment his eyes are silver, before changing to the red of the Branwen family. He sits up and looks around the beach. There's a giant tree behind him, and sticking from the ground next to him is Crescent Rose.

CHRIS

Oh Ruby, why did you do it?