

Of That Colossal Wreck - Episode 3

written by

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1. INT. ANOTHER BROKEN AWAKENING ROOM

There is the ever-present hum of the station, but it's quieter here, a little bit more broken and stuttering. Then there is a low, long whistle, and we hear the awful sounds of a WHISTLER moving through the room. It is going slowly, deliberately. It is on the hunt for something.

LUNA and LEVI are hiding behind a busted stasis pod. They are doing their best not to breathe, but we can hear them start to panic slightly as the thing gets closer. Closer.

LUNA
(Whispered)
Levi...

Levi shushes her. There is a long, tense moment. Then from somewhere outside the room another whistle comes, then another. The creature hunting them raises itself up, lets out an answering whistle, then begins to move, the sounds of its cracking chitinous joints getting softer as it leaves the room and disappears.

Luna and Levi exhale.

LEVI
You alright?

LUNA
Yeah, I think so. Once my heart stops racing. You?

LEVI
Few cuts, but I'll live. Someone oughta sweep up all this broken glass.

It's almost a joke, but he can't bring himself to laugh.

LUNA
What was that thing?

LEVI
Things. And I've no idea. Don't suppose you saw where the others ended up?

LUNA
I think we got separated in that big generator room.

LEVI
Shit. There were a bunch of them in there.

LUNA
We should go back, the others...

LEVI

Yeah... Yeah, just, let's take a moment first. Catch our breath.

They pause, waiting for the adrenaline to fade slightly.

LUNA

Why do you think it attacked us?

LEVI

Because it's a huge bug thing! And that's what huge bug things do!

LUNA

Not a bug. It only had four legs.

LEVI

No, it's not a bug. It's not an anything! It doesn't even have a head! And those weren't "legs". Too long, too many joints.

He pauses, trying to collect himself.

LEVI

If you want an actual answer, I think it probably wants to eat us.

LUNA

Or it was defending its territory.

LEVI

What does it matter?

LUNA

Nothing acts without a reason.

LEVI

And understanding that reason isn't going to stop it eating you.

In the distance, another chorus of whistles.

LUNA

Do you think they've found the others?

Beat.

LEVI

Let's see if we can get these doors to work without Mira. We can figure out our next move once we've got some steel between us and those things.

2. INT - A LARGE, PARTIALLY BROKEN GENERATOR ROOM.

ZACK and RILEY are hiding behind one of the inactive generators. Riley is trying not to panic, but is on the verge of hyperventilating.

RILEY
(under their breath)
shit, shit, shit, shit, shit, shit

ZACK
Riley. Hey, Riley, look at me. That's it,
just look at me. Try to match my
breathing, ok?

He breaths in and out deliberately for few seconds. Riley shudderingly tries to match it.

MIRA moves quietly around to join them.

MIRA
I think we're good for now. How are they?

ZACK
I think we're good too, aren't we Riley?

RILEY
Yeah... Yeah. Sorry.

ZACK
No need to apologise. It's a perfectly
natural reaction.

RILEY
Are they... near us?

MIRA
There's a bunch of them all over the
generator room. I think they're covering
the exits out.

ZACK
Well, if you're looking for proof of
intelligence...

MIRA
I wasn't.

RILEY
Shouldn't we be staying quiet, if they're
still around?

MIRA
Maybe. I don't know. Haven't been able to
figure out what senses they hunt with
yet.

ZACK

With the whistling, I'd rather assumed some form of echolocation.

MIRA

Yeah, but the whole station's humming and vibrating the whole time. If that's how they see, then we'd be pretty much clear as day. Plus they didn't really seem to react when Riley...

RILEY

When I screamed?

Zack cuts in before Riley can fall too heavily into guilt.

ZACK

To be honest their whole physiology is fascinating. I mean, there's no head, and nothing I could see that looked like eyes or ears or any other "standard" sensory organ.

MIRA

Sure, but none of us got a particularly good look.

ZACK

No. I suppose that's one of the downsides of fleeing.

MIRA

The upside is you stay alive.

RILEY

Grasshoppers have their ears on their knees, right? Or at least, they did. I guess they're all gone now as well.

ZACK

It's certainly a possibility.

MIRA

Well, however they sense their prey, the generators here seem to confuse them a bit. Might be why they junked so many of them up.

ZACK

You've jumped to the idea of "prey" pretty quickly.

MIRA

You saw those smashed pods. The way I see it, these things have been making their way through a massive larder full of frozen meals.

RILEY
(shivering slightly)
I feel a bit like a frozen dinner myself.

ZACK
That'll be your body's stress responses.
(to Mira)
We need to get Riley somewhere warmer.

MIRA
Easier said than done.

RILEY
(shivering more)
Don't worry. I'll be fine.

ZACK
I'll be the judge of that.

MIRA
Come on, on your feet. Zack, you still
got any of those blankets?

ZACK
Dropped them with most of the food, I'm
afraid.

MIRA
Ok, well, let's see what we can find.

They get to their feet. From somewhere quite nearby, a single whistle
is answered by a chorus.

MIRA
Quietly.

3. INT. THE BROKEN AWAKENING ROOM

There's the sound of dragging, as Levi tries to pull a heavy piece of
wreckage.

LEVI
Can you give me a hand with this?

LUNA
What are you doing?

LEVI
See those ventilation shafts? We need to
cover them up so these things can't get
in.

LUNA
Are you sure? I mean, the shafts are
pretty small.

LEVI

You ever seen how small a hole a mouse
can squeeze through?

LUNA

No. And technically neither have you.

Levi stops dragging.

LEVI

Look, are you going to help me or not?

LUNA

We need to go and find the others.

LEVI

We need to get this room secured, so if
they come this way we can protect them.
If we go looking we might end up missing
each other. It's better if we stay here.

Beat.

LUNA

Levi, it's OK to be scared. Those things
out there are-

LEVI

I'm not scared of them. I mean, I am,
but... Mira and the others. If they're
dead. If those things got them, I- I
can't see that. I can't lose anyone else.

His words hang in the air for a few seconds.

LUNA

I understand. I really do. But I can't
just wait here. I've got to try and find
them.

LEVI

What if they get you as well? I can't be
the only one left. I won't.

LUNA

I'll be back, Levi. I promise.

LEVI

You can't make that promise.

LUNA

Maybe not. But unless you physically stop
me, I'm going to look for them.

She waits a moment, but Levi doesn't move.

LUNA

Besides, they've got a better chance of finding this place with someone to guide them. You get this place properly secured, OK? Maybe see if you can get a small fire going.

LEVI

You want me to set a fire in a wake-up room? You do remember last time, right?

LUNA

A *small* fire. I'd rather not be worrying about frostbite as well as those things.

LEVI

I'll see what I can do.

Luna opens the door. There is a far off whistling.

LUNA

Wish me luck!

LEVI

Yeah.

4. INT. A SMALL STORAGE AREA NEXT TO THE GENERATOR ROOM

MIRA is tinkering with the pipework next to a liquid hydrogen tank, while Zack and Riley watch. Riley is still shivery.

RILEY

You sure this is going to work?

MIRA

Nope.

ZACK

I mean, they do seem to actually like the cold.

MIRA

Heh. There's cold, Zack, and then there's liquid hydrogen.

ZACK

And the generators don't need it?

MIRA

These tanks look like they connect to the broken ones, so fingers crossed we're not breaking anything new.

ZACK

Fingers crossed?

MIRA

Look, I'm open to any other ideas that aren't "just keep hiding".

ZACK

Point taken.

MIRA

We need to get out of here and find somewhere Riley can get warm and recover. That means dealing with at least one of those things.

RILEY

(shivering worryingly)

Hey now, don't worry about me.

ZACK

So, when you bust that pipe open, the doors to this little storage area will seal.

MIRA

Keeping the creature in here while the liquid hydrogen sprays out.

ZACK

So I, as bait, will have to be pretty quick getting through the door myself.

MIRA

Who said you were the bait?

ZACK

You're going to need to be working on the pressure.

RILEY

C-can I help at all?

ZACK

Just try and save your strength, for now.

RILEY

Ok.

Beat.

MIRA

Zack, how the hell are you dealing with this so well?

ZACK

What do you mean?

MIRA

You sound happier than I've heard you since you woke up.

RILEY
You do sound kind of... chipper.

MIRA
You like being chased by twisted aliens?

ZACK
No. But you're right, I think I do prefer it to living with the worry that we're the last living things in the universe.

MIRA
What?

ZACK
These creatures. There's a bunch of them, they seem to have some semblance of intelligence and, unless the station's person-growing process has gone really really wrong, they came from somewhere else.

MIRA
I guess.

ZACK
Which means we're not alone! There are other things living out there. The universe is still alive!

RILEY
And currently trying to eat us.

ZACK
Sure. And I'd rather it wasn't, but still.

Mira exhales in disbelief.

ZACK
Hey, you asked. What, you take no comfort at all in the knowledge we're not the last five living beings at the end of the universe?

MIRA
I haven't really had time to think about it.

RILEY
I just don't want to be eaten. Or cold anymore.

MIRA
Well, then, you'll be happy to hear that
I think we're just about ready.

5. INT. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GENERATOR ROOM.

Luna is slowly making her way through one of the entrances. She's nervous, and trying to keep quiet, but is clumsier than she wants to be.

LUNA
(whispering to herself)
Come on. You promised Levi. You promised.

She moves forward slightly further, and catches her breath as one of the whistlers beings to move, coming closer.

LUNA
Oh no.

It approaches, clicking and popping and letting out a low, mocking whistle as it gets closer. Just before it reaches her, there is the sound of door slamming from the other side of the room, and another whistle, this one high, loud and drawn out. It's a new tone, one of panic and alarm.

The whistler turns immediately and starts to move quickly to the source of the sound.

LUNA
What? Where's it going?

As she says this Mira, Riley and Zack emerge from behind a broken generator, hurrying.

MIRA
Come on, Riley. It's alright, it-

ZACK
Luna!

LUNA
Oh thank god! We thought you might be-

MIRA
We're ok, but come on, we've got to go!

LUNA
What's happened? Where did it go?

ZACK
We managed to get one of them trapped.

RILEY
Froze the bastard!

MIRA

Not sure if we actually managed to hurt it, but all the others came running.

LUNA

(to herself)

They're worried about it. They want to help.

MIRA

I don't know. Maybe. All I know is we have to go, we might not get another chance to get out of here.

LUNA

Right.

ZACK

Where's Levi?

LUNA

He's trying to make one of the wake-up rooms safe. I'll show you.

ZACK

Great. Can you help with Riley?

RILEY

I'm fine, it's just shock.

ZACK

We need to get him warmed up.

LUNA

Sure, I'll take you to Levi and we'll go from there.

In the distance, there is a chorus of whistles. Luna listens, lost in thought.

MIRA

Luna? Luna!

LUNA

Hm? Yeah. Yeah, this way.

They head off into the corridors.

6. INT. THE NOW-FORTIFIED AWAKENING ROOM

Mira is once again messing with the door controls. There is a satisfying *Clunk* as a lock engages.

MIRA

There, that should do it.

LEVI

Thanks. Couldn't quite figure out the mechanism.

MIRA

You've done a pretty good job with this place otherwise. And the door should be secure now, unless they're a lot smarter than we give them credit for.

LUNA

They might be.

ZACK

I've seen nothing to indicate that they're not mostly animalistic in their behaviour.

LUNA

The way they went to help their trapped friend...

MIRA

'Friend'? Let's try not to give too much credit to the things that want to eat us.

ZACK

Animals can display all sorts of pack tactics or social dynamics, Luna. That doesn't mean they're people.

A little ways off, there's a buzzing sound as an electric heating element springs to life.

RILEY

(Distant)

Ah-ha!

LEVI

(Calling)

You get it working?

They walk over to where Riley has pulled out and turned on a glowing heating element. There is a buzzing sound that evokes a fireplace.

LUNA

I thought the heating in here was broken?

RILEY

It was, but I got one of the heating elements out and with a bit of jury-rigged wiring, well...

MIRA

Should stop us freezing, at least.

ZACK

And no fire this time.

LEVI

Thought it maybe wasn't the safest idea.

They sit down around the heat source. Zack pulls out some food bars and tosses them to the others.

ZACK

Here. Eat up. Had to drop the bag, but I kept a few on me just in case. Enough for a day or two, hopefully.

LEVI

So what do we do? Just hunker down here for awhile?

RILEY

It's a pretty decent spot for it.

MIRA

No. We rest and keep moving. It's a defensible position, but we're still in enemy territory.

LUNA

Enemy territory? Now who's treating them like people.

MIRA

The plan is unchanged. We reach the bridge, find the Commander.

LEVI

And wake up all the others.

Beat.

RILEY

Seriously?

MIRA

You see a problem with that plan?

RILEY

Uh, yeah. Look, I know I'm struggling with all this, and you don't take me seriously-

MIRA

You have had a difficult time handling things, Riley.

RILEY

Because I seem to be the only one who's not living in some sort of fantasy world! Look, I want to find the Commander as much as you do. Obviously, I've been made so I can't not want to. But look around. If the Commander ever actually woke up, they're either long gone or long dead or both. And as for reviving the others, that system clearly isn't operating properly any more! Face it, the five of us woke up by accident. And I kind of wish we hadn't.

They consider what Riley has said.

RILEY

If this station ever did what it was designed to, then we missed it.

LEVI

I can't accept that we're the only ones.

ZACK

You may have to, Levi. I think... I agree with Riley.

LUNA

Mm.

There is silence.

MIRA

That doesn't actually change anything.

LEVI

What do you mean?

MIRA

Practically speaking. Commander or no Commander, even if we're the only ones, it still makes most sense to try and make our way to the bridge.

ZACK

And if the bridge is full of those creatures?

MIRA

Then we'll know. Right now our biggest obstacle is ignorance. Everything we've been saying, right now it's just guesswork. We can't make a proper plan without any actual information, and if we can find that anywhere, it'll be on the bridge. Plus, we need to get out of enemy terr- The hunting grounds of these

things, and towards the command deck is as good a direction as any.

ZACK

We don't even know we're going the right direction.

MIRA

We're going up. That feels like the right direction, at least until we find a map.

LUNA

Are we sure these creatures are attacking us as a food source? Is there some other reason they might be hostile?

LEVI

Well, I'm not all that keen on finding out either way.

RILEY

You think they're the reason the station is broken? Did they damage it while we were asleep?

LUNA

Maybe. Maybe the builders just stopped maintaining it at some point. It's all very well having a millennia-long project, but...

ZACK

It only takes one generation to forget.

LEVI

You think there are still people out there? In the universe, beyond the station?

MIRA

I think we need to get some rest. Someone needs to watch the door, in case they try to get in. We should take shifts. Any volunteers for first?

LUNA

I'll take it. Don't really feel tired anyway.

MIRA

Ok. Wake us if there's any trouble.

LUNA

Of course.

7. THE FORTIFIED AWAKENING ROOM

There is the sound of the other four sleeping quietly (Levi is gently snoring) as Luna makes her way to the door and opens it. She pauses, as a distant whistling is heard. Luna sighs, steels herself and steps through. The door closes behind her with a hiss and a thud that disturbs Riley, who begins to rouse themselves from sleep.

RILEY
(groggy)
Hm? Wha- Everything alright?

There is no response.

RILEY
Luna?

They get up, looking around.

RILEY
Luna?

ZACK
(awakening)
Riley? What's wrong?

RILEY
It's Luna, she's gone.

ZACK
What? What do you mean, she's gone?

RILEY
I mean she's not here. She left the room.
Mira! Levi!

The other two start to wake up.

ZACK
Or she was taken.

LEVI
What's happening? Who's been taken?

RILEY
Luna's gone.

MIRA
Shit! What happened?

ZACK
We don't know. She's gone.

MIRA
(panicked)

Did any of you hear anything? Any whistling?

LEVI
Doesn't look like they broke in.

MIRA
We've got to go after her.

RILEY
She wouldn't have left willingly, would she?

Beat.

MIRA
Come on.

8. INT. A CORRIDOR, DEEP IN WHISTLER TERRITORY

Like everywhere else, the corridor here thrums with the same distant sound of machinery, but it sounds more obviously broken here, clogged with assorted alien goops. Luna makes her way slowly, nervously.

LUNA
This is a bad idea.

She keeps going, stepping on a patch of alien resin. She makes a noise of disgust.

LUNA
I can still go back. I should go back.

She pauses.

LUNA
No. They're not just animals. I know they're not.

There is an ominous whistling from further down the corridor.

LUNA
(Quietly)
H-Hello?

There is no sound in response.

LUNA
We can't go on like this. We just can't.

She steels herself.

LUNA
(louder)
Hello!

There is a whistle from up ahead, as though in answer.

Luna's breathing begins to speed up as fear hit her. First one whistler emerges, limbs clicking unpleasantly, then another follows.

LUNA

Hello. Hello to you. T-to both of you.

There is another whistle, with a tone of almost curiosity.

LUNA

I'm not here hurt you.

One of them comes closer.

LUNA

Luna. My name is Luna.

The further one lets out a long, low whistle, which the other harmonises with. The tones shift and merge, as though having a conversation.

LUNA

I knew it. You do talk to each other.
You're not just monsters. You-

There is a cracking sound as one of them begins to split open, revealing a horrible mouth.

LUNA

What is that? Oh my god, is that your
mou-AAAHH!

She screams as the whistler lunges at her.