

Of That Colossal Wreck - Episode 5

written by

Sasha Sienna & Jonathan Sims

1. INT. ANYA'S BASE, CHEMICAL ROOM

Anya has made her home in several maintenance areas that connect to each other. This one holds several large tanks. Anya is sat at a table, mixing chemicals. Riley is tied up nearby.

RILEY

So... You going to say anything or...?

ANYA

I'm working.

Anya is clearly not used to talking to people, and her speech is halting and clumsy.

RILEY

It's just... It's boiling in here.

ANYA

Keeps the whistlers away. They don't like the heat.

RILEY

Right.

Pause. Anya continues working.

RILEY

What are you doing?

ANYA

You wasted a bunch of my gas. I've got to mix more.

RILEY

OK.

There is a pause as Anya continues mixing.

RILEY

I mean, I don't want to bother you. It's just I can't really do anything else since you *tied me to this chair*.

They illustrate their point by struggling slightly.

ANYA

Yeah. Sorry.

Riley waits for a follow-up. There isn't one.

RILEY

Why have you taken us prisoner?

ANYA
No.

RILEY
No?

ANYA
You're not prisoners. It's dangerous. Out there. Might get eaten. Might walk into traps.

RILEY
Your traps.

ANYA
Yeah.

RILEY
So... You've tied us up for our own protection?

ANYA
Yeah.

RILEY
Like dogs?

ANYA
Yeah! That's it! Like dogs.

RILEY
Great. Where are the others?

ANYA
Next door.

RILEY
What?

ANYA
Don't worry, they can reach food and water.

RILEY
(sarcastic)
Oh good.

Anya does not pick up on the sarcasm.

ANYA
Yeah. It's a good place here. Old server room next door for computer bits, this one's cleaning systems, so lots of chemicals, and there's a storage area through the service hatch with food, guns, even some medicine. Only two routes

in, as well, so defensible but not a dead end.

RILEY

Oh. That is good, actually. Why am I not with them?

ANYA

Uh... It's... Five people is a lot. I just want to talk to one for a while. Get used to it again.

RILEY

Get used to... talking?

ANYA

Yeah.

Beat.

ANYA

There used to be more. I had more people. Not for a long time, though. A long time.

RILEY

How long?

Anya exhales, trying to think.

ANYA

From when I started counting it was a thousand and eight sleeps until I got a computer working enough to track time. It had to start the count from zero, and got to six years, two months, three days. Then it broke and the next one I fixed went for twelve years, eleven months and, uh, three days again. And that one broke a while ago. Haven't fixed a new one yet.

RILEY

Wow. That is. A long time.

ANYA

Don't really know what months, years actually mean out here. Most of the memories they gave me are gone by now. I kind of remember Earth, but that's probably gone as well.

RILEY

What happened to the other people you woke up with?

ANYA

Whistlers. Killed them one by one. Gave me this face, too, when I got careless. Haven't gotten careless since. I'm slowing, though. Got to rely on traps now, can't fight them like I used to.

RILEY

Right.

There's silence. Anya goes back to mixing her chemicals.

RILEY

Anya, what's the-?

ANYA

Quiet. This is a fiddly process to make very dangerous gas. Please don't distract me.

RILEY

Then untie me.

ANYA

No. You'll get yourself killed.

RILEY

I'll stay with you. We'll all stay with you, ok?

Anya considers.

ANYA

Promise?

RILEY

Yeah.

ANYA

OK.

She continues mixing the chemicals.

RILEY

So... are you-?

ANYA

When I'm done with the gas! Are all people this impatient? Did I just forget?

RILEY

They are when they're *tied to a chair*, Anya!

Riley struggles a bit, tipping over the chair and falling to the floor.

ANYA

Now look what you've done.

RILEY

Ow.

2. INT. ANYA'S BASE, STORAGE ROOM

The others are sitting around, tied to chairs of their own.

LEVI

Goddamn, it's hot in here. Did that old weirdo break the heating or something?

ZACK

I've got some water over here, I think. I should just about be able to reach it.

LEVI

And that's another thing. Why tie us to chairs and leave one of our arms free?

LUNA

So we could eat. I don't see why she would lie about it.

LEVI

Can't we just use our free arms to untie the rest of us? Or, Luna, can you do something with your new leg to break the rope?

LUNA

Like what? I don't think Zack installed the circular saw attachment to it.

ZACK

I knew there was something I forgot.

MIRA

I don't know about you but I can't reach these knots. Wouldn't help anyway. The main door to the room looks welded shut, and the only other way out goes past her.

ZACK

What do you think she's going to do to us?

MIRA

At the moment, I'm more worried about Riley. Luna, you're closest to the hatch. Can you hear them at all?

LUNA

Not really. I think they're just...
chatting.

LEVI
I don't like it.

MIRA
Really, I thought you were desperate to
find other people?

This hits home.

LEVI
This wasn't exactly what I had in mind.
I... I'm sorry. I know it's not been easy
for any of us, but- All the memories I've
been given: big families, building
communities, it's what I'm for. I don't
know where I fit without other people. I
don't know who I am.

ZACK
Well, right now you're the prisoner of an
old lady with quite possibly the only gun
in the universe.

MIRA
I wouldn't be so sure about that, Zack.

ZACK
What?

MIRA
That crate, over in the corner, that
symbol on the side means it contains
potentially lethal armaments. Probably
guns.

LUNA
What? Why are there guns here?

MIRA
This looks like it was a storeroom for
one of the recolonisation teams. Probably
a few thousand of them on the station.

LUNA
And they thought that restarting human
civilisation would require *guns*?

MIRA
There are a lot of potential scenarios
where you might need a weapon.

ZACK

Like maybe your space station has been overrun with hungry aliens.

LUNA

Uh-uh. That's a different thing. These guns weren't put here to defend the station, they were put here to help us "recolonise". Who exactly did they think we were going to be shooting?

MIRA

That's an interesting theoretical, Luna, but right now I think the question is whether we can use these guns to shoot the woman currently holding us hostage.

LEVI

We're not shooting her.

MIRA

No?

LEVI

Not unless Riley starts screaming.

LUNA

I don't think she wants to hurt us.

ZACK

She nearly killed us with chlorine gas. Then she tied us up.

LEVI

I know, but we might be the first humans she's seen in decades. And did you see her face?

MIRA

Yeah. That wasn't a shaving scar.

LUNA

She's clearly had a bad time of it. This whole situation might be even weirder for her than it is for us.

MIRA

Hm. Maybe.

The hatch opens and Riley enters.

RILEY

Hey, how's everyone in here?

LUNA

Riley!

ZACK

You're OK!

MIRA

Has she hurt you?

RILEY

No, Anya's... She's... Nice.

MIRA

Nice?

RILEY

She's just been alone a long time. A really long time.

ZACK

Is she going to untie us?

LEVI

And turn the heat down a bit?

RILEY

Uh, yes. And no. The heat keeps the "whistlers" away, apparently.

LEVI

Oh, well. That makes sense, then, I guess.

RILEY

But I can untie you!

ZACK

Great!

RILEY

She kind of thought she was protecting you. It's a whole thing. Look, she wants to talk to Mira. Alone.

MIRA

Me? Why?

LUNA

And why alone?

RILEY

Anya's not really good with groups yet. She gets nervous.

MIRA

Hm. And why me?

LUNA

You don't have to go.

RILEY
Well, she asked to speak with our
leader...

MIRA
(flattered)
Oh!

LEVI
(a bit hurt)
Right. I see.

RILEY
(quickly)
And I said we didn't really have one. But
that you were the one with the plan to
reach the bridge.

LEVI
OK, that makes sense. You better go talk
to her, oh glorious leader.

MIRA
I suppose I'd better.

ZACK
You do need to untie us first, though,
Riley.

RILEY
Right! Yes! OK, hold still.

3. ANYA'S BASE, CHEMICAL ROOM

Anya is sat on her chair, with her gun trained on Mira.

MIRA
Anya, right?

ANYA
Right.

MIRA
You want to put the gun down?

ANYA
No. Thank you.

MIRA
I'm not going to attack you.

ANYA
I know. Because I have a gun.

MIRA

No, because- Look, you know you left us
in a room with a bunch of other guns,
right?

ANYA
Oh yeah. Yeah, I did.

Beat.

ANYA
So why don't you have a gun?

MIRA
Because I'm not your enemy.

ANYA
And I'm not yours.

MIRA
So why are you pointing a gun at me!

ANYA
In case you do something stupid. Like
leave. Or die. Or leave then die. Because
that's what everyone else does.

Mira sighs.

MIRA
I'm not going to leave without my
friends, alright? I promise.

There's a long moment of consideration, then Anya lowers the gun.

MIRA
Thank you. Now, you wanted to talk to me?

ANYA
Yeah. Riley said you planned to go to the
bridge? The command deck?

MIRA
That's right.

ANYA
Well. I need to tell you that you can't.

MIRA
Why? Have you been there?

ANYA
No.

MIRA
Anya, I understand you don't want us to
die, but we need to reach the bridge. We

have to find out what happened to the
Commander.

Anya lets out an unsettling laugh.

ANYA

The Commander! I remember the Commander!
They put it in our brains, didn't they? I
spent years looking for the Commander.
But don't worry, you do forget. In time.

MIRA

And you didn't think to look on the
bridge?

ANYA

Sealed. Locked up tight. No way in.

MIRA

Well, we need to try.

ANYA

No. You'll die. Everyone else always
dies. You're only safe here.

MIRA

So, what? You want us to just stay in
these three rooms for... the rest of our
lives?

ANYA

Yes.

Beat.

ANYA

No. I don't know. I don't want you to
die. And out there, there's the whistlers
and traps and... I don't want to be alone
again.

MIRA

I understand that Anya, but we can't-

Something catches her eye.

MIRA

What's this?

ANYA

Oh! That's my map!

MIRA

You did this yourself? It's huge!

She starts leafing through pages of diagrams.

ANYA

It's a big place. And I've had time.

MIRA

It's so detailed. And up to date! You've got that cave in... So we're... here?

ANYA

That's right.

MIRA

So we would have come... That must be the farm. Ah, there's the generator room we came through.

ANYA

You got through there alive? Lucky.

MIRA

You're not the only one who can set traps.

Anya makes a noise of pleasant surprise.

MIRA

And then we would have come through here and... Hang on, where's the parade ground?

ANYA

The what?

MIRA

It's a huge room, must be about a mile across. More, maybe. Should be a few levels below this corridor you've got here, but the map just stops.

ANYA

You came from down there? Impossible, that whole area's sealed off. I think there are some vents the whistlers can squeeze through, but not me.

MIRA

I mean, it was a pretty solid door, but me and Riley got it open eventually.

ANYA

You opened it?

MIRA

Yeah, well, I have a lot of technical skills. And Riley's good with mechanics as well, I think they're meant to be a roboticist, so...

Anya doesn't say anything.

MIRA
Anya? What is it?

ANYA
Nothing.

MIRA
Anya, was it the same type of door as
leads to the bridge? The type you can't
get through?

ANYA
You'll die if you try to reach it.
There's so many whistlers. You'll die.

MIRA
Not if you're guiding us.

ANYA
Don't. Don't ask me to do that. I hunt
alone. And you'll be here when I get
back. I do everything alone.

MIRA
You don't have to. Not this time.

4. INT. ANYA'S BASE, STORAGE ROOM

The others are now untied and waiting for Mira's return. They are rummaging through some boxes to pass the time.

ZACK
She does have an awful lot of flares,
doesn't she? And this, what is all this
stuff?

LUNA
That's a soil analyser. Riley, that's a
portable atmospheric filtration hub
you've got there. Careful, it's quite
delicate.

RILEY
Oh! Sorry!

LUNA
No, no, it's- I don't think any of us are
going to be doing terraforming any time
soon.

She sighs.

LEVI

I'm sorry. None of us will get to do what we were meant to.

LUNA

No. Sometimes I wonder if that's such a bad thing.

Beat.

LUNA

Do you think she's OK in there?

RILEY

Anya? I mean, she's been through a lot, but-

LUNA

No, Mira. You don't think Anya's... hurting her?

LEVI

I'm sure she's fine.

RILEY

She didn't hurt me, why would she hurt Mira?

ZACK

So Riley, you think Mira's going to convince our crazy grandma to let us leave?

RILEY

Don't call her crazy. She's just had a difficult life.

ZACK

Sorry, didn't mean to- Sorry. Just blowing off steam. She did kidnap and tie us up.

RILEY

I know, I know. But I kind of... like her? She's not really like anyone else I've ever met.

LEVI

You've met four other people.

RILEY

You know what I mean. But she's survived for so long in this place, against those things. I had a panic attack just seeing one.

LEVI

She's had a long time to get used to the sight.

RILEY
She deserves a little respect, is all.
She's a survivor.

Mira enters through the hatch.

LUNA
Mira! You're OK.

MIRA
Of course I am.

ZACK
How'd it go with... Anya?

MIRA
She's, uh... I think I got through to her.

LEVI
Meaning what?

MIRA
Meaning we're going to find the Commander.

5. INT. OXYGEN PUMP CHAMBER

The six of them are travelling through a room of massive oxygen pumps and turbines. The roar of air and machinery drowns out almost all other sounds. Then, abruptly, the machines go silent, leaving only a distant, much quieter sound of the same machinery operating in another room.

MIRA
Now what?

ANYA
Now we wait for the pumps in the next room to shut off. Then we go.

ZACK
(whispering)
Shouldn't we keep our voices down?

ANYA
Why?

ZACK
(still whispering)
The whistlers!

ANYA

I don't think they have ears.

ZACK

Oh.

LEVI

So how do they hunt?

ANYA

Never been sure if it's heat or some kind of radiation we can't sense. Whatever it is, the human body gives off a lot of it, but it's pretty easily hidden by certain kinds of machinery. It lingers, though. A whistler can track you across half the station if it's got a mind to.

RILEY

So what do you do?

ANYA

Nothing. It's just they don't usually have a mind to. They've got a huge freezer full of meals. If it gets too hot, if there's a door they can't easily force or get around with a vent, they'll usually give up.

LUNA

Sounds pretty smart to me.

ANYA

What do you mean?

MIRA

Nothing.

LUNA

We've just had some disagreements about how... sentient the whistlers are.

ANYA

Oh, yeah, they are. Got a society and everything.

MIRA

What?

ANYA

I mean, I don't understand it, but when I kill one of them the others do a weird little funeral for it. And there's something they do with harmonies that has a social function, I think.

LUNA

And you're still trying to kill them all?

ANYA

Heh. Not got quite that much ambition.
Just try to stay alive and keep the
numbers down.

LUNA

Have you ever tried to communicate?

ANYA

How? I mean, I can look at them and say
'maybe that's people', but I don't think
they can comprehend me that way. I'm just
a moving thing that looks like food. I
don't think we'd even be able to
recognise the world as they perceive it,
so how are we supposed to talk to them?

MIRA

A very good question.

LUNA

(quietly)

At least I tried.

ANYA

Plus, they killed and ate everyone I ever
knew, so I don't lose sleep over
returning the favour.

LUNA

I suppose not.

In the next room, the fans go silent.

ANYA

Right. On we go, if we keep following the
cycle we should be able to avoid them
almost all the way to the bridge.

They start to move on.

MIRA

Luna? Are you coming?

LUNA

Yeah, sorry.

Beat.

MIRA

Not too far now.

6. INT. THE DOOR TO THE BRIDGE

They stand before a huge, sealed blast door. Anya is nervous, as is Riley. The others contemplate the portal.

ZACK

So this is it? Behind here lies the bridge, the control room, the Comm-

MIRA

We'll see. Doesn't look like it's been opened in a very long time, so let's not get our hopes up.

RILEY

I'm mainly hoping to get through the next ten minutes without being eaten, so-

Levi gives it a light tap with his knuckle.

LEVI

Hm. Seems solid enough.

ANYA

Yeah. That's why I've never managed to open it before. Now, whatever you do to get it open, do it fast. This place is deep in-

There is the sound of a long drawn-out whistle, which is answered by several others.

ANYA

That's what I said.

There is a flurry of activity as Mira and Riley try to get the panel off the side of the door.

MIRA

Come on! Levi, can you give us a hand with this panel?

LEVI

Sure.

ZACK

Uh, what do we do?

LUNA

I think we just try not to get in the way.

ZACK

Anya?

ANYA

If you have any religious memories, a prayer couldn't hurt.

ZACK
Sorry, afraid not.

LEVI
Got it!

The panel pops open.

MIRA
Great! Riley, you know the drill.

RILEY
Yup, hang on.

They start to tinker with the door mechanisms.

ANYA
How long does it usually take them?

LEVI
Less than a minute.

ANYA
OK.

LEVI
OK what?

ANYA
OK, maybe we die, maybe we don't.

MIRA
Shit!

RILEY
What is it?

MIRA
There's some sort of additional security bolt. It looks like the other doors, but it's more secure.

ZACK
I guess that makes sense, it being the bridge and all.

LEVI
Can you open it?

MIRA
I don't know! We're trying!

ANYA
OK, we die.

The whistling returns, it's closer now, and we can start to hear the snap crack of whistlers moving closer. There are quite a few of them. Anya charges up her gun.

ZACK
Uh, Anya?

ANYA
Yes?

ZACK
You have two guns.

ANYA
Of course. This one might break.

ZACK
Right. Or, one of us could use it.

ANYA
Have any of you fired a gun? Even in your memories?

LUNA
No.

LEVI
Sorry.

ZACK
I mean, that's not-

ANYA
Then get behind me and keep those flares ready.

The whistlers are close.

ANYA
Wait... Wait for it...

The whistlers are here.

ANYA
Now!

A trio of flares ignite. The whistlers let out a piping noise of surprise and back off. Anya fires at them.

LEVI
Mira! How long?

RILEY
How long have you got?

ZACK

No time! We have literally no time!

MIRA

Almost...

The whistling, cracking, flares and gunshots are a cacophony.

MIRA

Got it!

The door slides open, cutting through the sound of struggle.

RILEY

It's open! Get inside!

ANYA

Drop the flares! Go!

They hurry through, the whistlers in pursuit.

MIRA

Riley, the release! Get it closed!

Riley slams down the release lever and the door slams shut. Abruptly, there is no sound except their breath.

RILEY

Did anybody bring a torch?

There is a clunk as the power turns on automatically, and the command centre is illuminated.

RILEY

Never mind.