

FATHOM - EPISODE TWO
"Hard Right"

by
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INT. EAST DIVE ROOM - AIRLOCK

A warning buzzer sounds, underwater.

PUMPS activate, rumbling to life. The water begins to DESCEND.

EVA GRAFF breaks the surface of the water, GASPS outloud.

The buzzer, no longer submerged, is loud and clear.

The water keeps draining, until it's gone. When it is, the buzzer shuts off.

Eva coughs out violently all the sea water she inhaled.

We hear her moving on the metal floor, drenched, exhausted, half drowned.

Water DRIPS everywhere onto metal.

Eva sits against the wall, drained, spent...then hits a button somewhere.

EVA
Hello? This is Dr. Graff. Does
anyone copy?

No response.

She hits the button again.

EVA
This is Dr. Eva Graff, there was a
hull breach in the western dorms.
The water flushed me to the Dive
Room Airlock. I vented it, I'm
alive. Does anyone copy me?

No response. None at all. She hits the button again.

EVA
Dr. Klayton? Commander Freeman? Do
you copy?

Still nothing. Eva's breathing becomes more frightened. She hits the button again.

EVA
This is Dr. Graff, does anyone--

A sound breaks through on the intercom. We've heard the sound before. Eva's breath catches in her throat at the sound.

The Vault Signal. All static and hisses and electricity.

And there is something else underneath it. Now, no longer a hypothesis. Now, it is evident. Plain to hear.

The sound of VOICES...

Hundreds. Thousands. More. Chanting and speaking and chattering.

Eva moves away from the intercom in fear.

We hear her breathing. Becoming panicked.

The voices, in the Signal, don't seem to care. They sound like they're coming closer, closer, CLOSER...

The voices cut off suddenly.

Vanish, as if they never were there. It's so abrupt...we wonder if they really were.

Just the sounds of Eva's frightened breathing now. The dripping, draining water.

MACK (O.S.)

Dr. Graff...

Eva gasps out loud at the sound of the V.I.'s voice.

EVA

God. Mack...

MACK (O.S.)

Are you hurt, Dr. Graff?

EVA

The Signal came through the speakers. There were... There were...

MACK (O.S.)

That is unlikely, Dr. Graff. There is no method by which the Vault Signal could broadcast through Fathom's intercom system.

EVA

Then what did I just hear?

MACK (O.S.)

I do not know, but you are under a tremendous strain right now. Are you hurt?

EVA

No... No, I'm okay. I think.
What's the status of the base?

MACK (O.S.)

My access to Fathom's diagnostics are limited. I can detect the western and northern platforms have sustained damage in the incident, but to what extent is unknown.

EVA

What happened? Dr. Klayton said it was an eddy.

MACK (O.S.)

That is correct. The structural repairs to the platform foundations were not sufficient to withstand the tide surge's impact.

EVA

But your forecast said there wasn't going to be any eddy activity. That's why we started the foundation repairs in the first place!

MACK (O.S.)

Yes, Dr. Graff, my forecast models were flawed. I cannot explain this discrepancy.

EVA

Oh, God, Mack...
(then)
Where's everyone else?

MACK (O.S.)

I cannot confirm the location or condition of any personnel at this time.

EVA

(frustrated)
What do you know?

MACK (O.S.)

I can detect that this platform has undergone significant hull breaches in a variety of capsules. Personnel Quarters 1, 2 and 3 are breached...

EVA
Christ.

MACK (O.S.)
...as well as Lounge 1, the
Fitness capsule, West Obser--

EVA
Is anyone on comms?

MACK (O.S.)
Not that I can detect, Dr. Graff.

We hear the click of the intercom button again, a confirmation tone.

EVA
This is Dr. Graff, does anyone
copy?

The button releases. There is no response. She tries again.

EVA
This is Dr. Eva Graff. I'm trapped
in the West Dive Room airlock,
does anyone copy me?

Still no response. Eva breathes out in frustration.

EVA
I need to get to a dive suit,
Mack. If base comms are down, the
closed circuit network for the
suits might still be up.

MACK (O.S.)
There are four available dive
suits in the Dive Room beyond the
airlock, Dr. Graff.

EVA
Yeah. But how do I get to them?
The moment I open the interior
door...

MACK (O.S.)
I detect that the dive room
capsule is not breached, Dr.
Graff. There is water present, but
the emergency pumps are
restraining it for the moment.

Eva's breathing, as she considers it all.

EVA

Your track record hasn't been great lately with these things though, has it, Mack?

MACK (O.S.)

I'm afraid that analysis is accurate, Dr. Graff. But I assure you, your safety is my utmost priority.

Eva studies the door controls, thinking.

EVA

You're...sure the dive room is pressurized? Sure this time? Not like at Hydroponics?

MACK (O.S.)

I am positive. The dive room is pressurized, it is safe to open the interior door. You can always trust me, Dr. Graff.

EVA

Trust...

A few seconds hesitation, then we hear the beeping tones of the airlock door panel.

EVA

Well...let's find out.

The sound of the pressure door activating, rolling upwards through its hydraulics.

Water floods in from the room beyond...

EVA

Mack!

MACK (O.S.)

As I said, there is water present in the West Dive Room. Allow it to vent.

After a moment, the rushing stops. So does the sound of the pressure door retracting into the ceiling.

We hear Eva moving through the water.

EVA

Oh my God, it's cold.

MACK (O.S.)

It will be the ambient temperature
of the outside water, somewhere
between 3 and 0 degrees Celsius.

More sounds of her moving through water.

EVA

(chilled)

Mack, how do I open one of these
suit lockers?

MACK (O.S.)

Look for the status indicator
lights on the front door of the
lockers. Find one that is green.

More sounds of her moving through water.

EVA

I see one.

MACK (O.S.)

Pull the locker release handle,
framed in yellow, downwards.

The sound of the release handle slamming down.

MACK (O.S.)

Move to a safe distance.

A beep. Then the sound of the suit locker releasing and
sliding backwards, pushing water out of the way as it does.
It finally stops.

EVA

God, I forgot how huge these
things were.

MACK (O.S.)

Deep Environment Mechanized
Equipment Suits, or DEMES, are
designed to provide atmospheric
pressure and life support to a
human diver at great depths, while
also facilitating--

EVA

You don't have to comment on
everything I say, Mack.

MACK (O.S.)

I understand, Dr. Graff.

EVA

And I don't need to go for a swim
in it, I just need to use the
comms in the helmet. Got six hours
training in these things before
coming down here...but that
was...a year ago...

We hear beeps on a panel. Then the sound of electronics
warming up. More beeps, confirmation tones.

EVA

God, it's cold...
(then)
Think I got it.

The sound of clips detaching on the helmet. The sounds of
it lifting up from the chassis of the suit.

EVA

What channel do Freeman's work
teams use, Mack?

MACK (O.S.)

The most often used frequency is
channel 19, 27.185 MHz.

More beeps as she tunes the comm array of the suit. We hear
faint static, coming from inside the helmet.

Eva clicks a button on the suit's panel. The static
vanishes as she transmits.

EVA

Does anyone copy on this channel?
This is Dr. Graff, on the west
platform.

The static returns. No response.

EVA

Does anyone copy, this is Eva
Graff, I'm inside the West Dive
Room.

More static. No response.

EVA

Everyone can't be gone... Please,
everyone can't be--

FREEMAN

Eva...Eva is that you?

EVA
 Joe! Yes, it's me. Never thought
 I'd be so happy to hear your
 voice. Where are you?

FREEMAN
 I'm...

Sounds from Freeman come through the radio. He sounds like
 he in great pain.

FREEMAN
Unnh... I'm... I tried to...

EVA
 Joe, what's wrong?

FREEMAN
 Pressure doors came down
 outside...the mess hall. Didn't
 make it... Came down on my legs.

EVA
 Oh, no.

FREEMAN
 Pulled loose...but... They're
 crushed. I think. Both legs... In
 a lot of pain, Eva. In...a lot of
 trouble.

EVA
 Where are you?

FREEMAN
 Circuit...circuitry conduit. Runs
 between the residence water seal
 and...and Control. I think.
 Crawled inside...last second...

EVA
 (thinking)
 Okay. Okay...
 (then)
 Is there...any water? Is the
 conduit pressurized?

FREEMAN
 No water... Not yet... But it's
 coming...

More sounds of pain from Freeman.

EVA
Okay... I'm coming to get you.

FREEMAN
No point... No point...

EVA
Don't give me that, Freeman.
You're not dying in there.

FREEMAN
Eva...

She disconnects the radio transmit button, breathes, starting to get overwhelmed.

Another second, then she presses the button again.

EVA
I want you to start crawling
towards Control. Do you hear me?

FREEMAN
I don't... I can't...

EVA
Start crawling, Joe.

FREEMAN
Think...gonna pass out...

EVA
Joe. No. Stay awake. Joe?

No response.

EVA
Joe.

Still no response.

EVA
God damn.
(then)
Mack.

MACK
I'm here, Dr. Graff.

EVA
How do I...how do I use this dive
suit?

MACK

You are not cleared for Deep
Environment Mechanized Equip-

EVA

I know I'm not cleared, damn it.
How do I use it?

MACK

Operating a DEMES without proper
training is not advised.

EVA

Do I have to give my override
code, Mack, or are you going to
walk me through it?

A pause from Mack. Then...

MACK

As you wish, Dr. Graff. To begin,
climb into the suit, feet first.

The sounds of Eva climbing up and into the big dive suit.

A moment. Then...

EVA

I'm in.

MACK (O.S.)

Slide your feet all the way down
to the bottom. You will feel the
actuators lock on.

The whirring of the actuators at the bottom of the suit.

EVA

I remember this. Same with my
hands, right?

MACK (O.S.)

Correct, Dr. Graff.

More whirring. Then the suit rumbles, powering up.
Electronics hum to life.

MACK (O.S.)

Once the actuators lock, power up
the equipment with using the green
breakers directly under the rim of
the helmet thread track.

Servos spinning as the helmet starts to descend downwards.

MACK (O.S.)
When the suit powers up, the
helmet will seal.

Eva's breathing is tense as it does, it's about to seal her
in.

MACK (O.S.)
Try and breathe normally, Dr.
Graff.

EVA
Thanks, Mack...

The helmet connects with a sound like a mechanical slurp.
There's a hiss as the suit interior pressurizes.

Eva's frightened breathing sounds like it's coming from
inside an empty glass bottle now. Electronics beep and tone
as things continue to activate.

Mack's voice is clearer, inside the sealed suit.

MACK (O.S.)
Move towards the airlock, Dr.
Graff.

EVA
Just...what? Move my feet?

MACK (O.S.)
As normal, yes.

The sounds of servos turning. Big metal feet stomping on
the metal floor. A big machine pushing through the water in
the room with ease.

EVA
Whoa...

MACK (O.S.)
The suit mimics your movement,
albeit with significantly more
torque and power.

The suit keeps moving. Then comes to a stop.

EVA
I'll say... This is...well, it's
pretty fun. Just hope I don't
break through a wall or something.

The powered suit keeps moving.

EVA

I'm in the lock again, but how do I seal it?

MACK (O.S.)

Use your HUD. It appears as a detailed computer overlay in your visor. The airlock controls are at the top right.

EVA

It's eye movement sensitive, right? I just stare at the button I want?

FREEMAN

Correct, Dr. Graff. Until it flashes. Stare an additional two seconds, and it will activate.

A confirmation tone from inside the helmet.

Two seconds later...another one.

Then the interior pressure door begins sealing itself powerfully in front of Eva, rolling down from the ceiling and finally connecting loudly with the floor.

Alarms sound.

A few seconds later...water pours into the airlock.

Eva's breathing increases dramatically.

EVA

I don't know if I can do this, Mack. I mean...I don't know...

MACK (O.S.)

I will help you to the best of my ability, Dr. Graff. Your safety is my primary concern.

The water keeps rising...and then washes over the top of Eva and her suit. The alarms mute as the water blocks their noise. Bubbles and currents fill the soundscape.

She is completely submerged now. Eva's breathing is forced, frightened.

The pumps of the airlock shut off as the lock fills up. So do the alarms.

Everything sounds compressed and tight inside the suit. We hear the pumps of her air regulator, inhaling and exhaling her atmosphere. We hear bubbles outside as it does.

Eva gasps as the exterior pressure door rocks hard...then begins to powerfully draw upwards, letting the sounds of what lies beyond enter the air lock.

The depths. The deep ocean. Not muted through observation glass this time...now Eva is in it.

MACK (O.S.)

When you are ready, step out of the airlock, Dr. Graff.

Eva says nothing, just sits there, breathing, scared.

MACK (O.S.)

When you are ready, step out of the airlock, Dr. Graff.

Finally...the sounds of big metallic feet, moving on the big metal floor. The sounds repeat...until a new foot step sound materializes.

The sound of big metal feet on rock.

EXT. NORTH PLATFORM

Eva's breathing quickens as she steps into the deep.

We hear the eerie sounds of the ocean.

EVA

(tight)

Mack? Are you there?

MACK

I'm here, Dr. Graff. Your heart rate is accelerating.

EVA

(frightened)

I can't see anything. I can't even see my hands, Mack.

MACK (O.S.)

I suggest finding the suit lights in your HUD.

A confirmation tone. Another. The sound of lights activating outside her helmet.

EVA

Got 'em. But...everything's murky out here. I can still barely see. I don't...

MACK (O.S.)

Most likely, the tide surge and the damage to the platform has stirred up the ocean floor silt. The DEMES will allow you to maneuver regardless. What is it you wish to do, Dr. Graff?

Eva breathes out her tension.

EVA

We have to find Freeman. He said he was trapped in a circuitry conduit. Those are all exposed on the surface, right? Not buried?

MACK (O.S.)

All utility conduits are exposed on the surface at junction points for maintenance access, Dr. Graff.

EVA

(thinking)

Right. And they all lead back to the Control Capsule. Where they come together. And Control...has emergency dive suits...

MACK (O.S.)

Emergency Environment Capsules, Dr. Graff.

EVA

Just big insulated coffins to crawl in with a temporary regulator. Hope someone finds you before your air runs out.

MACK

That is correct, Dr. Graff.

EVA

So, if we can get Joe through the junctions, back to Control...we can get him in a capsule.

MACK

I see your logic, Dr. Graff.

EVA
How do I get to Control from here?

MACK
Follow the guide wires. They are lines of cable, attached to poles to assist with navigation on the sea floor. They should be glowing.

EVA
I can't see anything.

MACK
Move straight ahead from the airlock and you will intersect with a junction.

EVA
Okay. Okay...

The sounds of her suit moving through the environment again.

EVA
I see them. There's a lot of them.

MACK
From that junction, there are seventeen possible destinations, each utilizing a guide wire. Your HUD should highlight and label each. Look for one marked Control Capsule.

The sound of the suit's computer analyzing each of the guide wires.

EVA
Found it.

MACK
Good, Dr. Graff. Follow it.

The suit begins moving again, stomping on the ocean floor.

MACK
By my estimation, you should reach the Control Capsule in twelve minutes, thirty one seconds, barring any additional complications.

EVA
 (sarcastic)
 Well, the way our luck's been
 going, I'm sure we'll be--

Her radio crackles.

FREEMAN
 Eva...

EVA
 Joe! Joe, stay with me this time,
 stay awake.

FREEMAN
 There's...water...in here now.

EVA
 Just hold on. I'm on my way to
 you.

FREEMAN
 You're...? Wait... Where are
 you...?

EVA
 In a dive suit. I'm coming to get
 you.

FREEMAN
 You're in a DEMES?

EVA
 Yeah. Hard to believe, I know.

FREEMAN
 Eva...take that suit...take that
 suit and head...for the tram
 tunnel...

EVA
 No, I'm going to get you out of
 there.

FREEMAN
 You...can't.

EVA
 Yes, I can, I've been thinking
 about it. I want you to start
 crawling towards Control. Mack
 will guide you when you hit the
 junctions.

FREEMAN

Emergency...capsules? Eva, no...

EVA

You seem to be under the impression you have a say in this.

FREEMAN

This conduit...it's just a pipe. I can barely move. Control... Control's got to be a five hundred yard crawl, at least...

EVA

Then you should get moving.

FREEMAN

I can't make it...Eva. My legs...

EVA

Is this Joe Freeman? Guy who always tells that bullshit story about dragging a dead shark underwater with its mouth clamped on his leg?

FREEMAN

(touchy)

That really happened...

EVA

Well, is that who I'm talking to? Or someone else?

FREEMAN

That was...

EVA

What? Different? Yeah, tell me it was different, Joe. Tell me again how you can't make it.

Silence from the other end. Then...

FREEMAN

I don't like you right now...

EVA

Start crawling.

Joe sighs over the radio.

FREEMAN
(conceding)
Alright... Try it...your way...

Sounds of Freeman moving, he's in pain with every shuffle.

EVA
You do sound banged up, though.

FREEMAN
Never...broken this many bones. At
once, anyway.

EVA
Usually, what, you just break one
or two?

FREEMAN
Usually...

EVA
Don't think about it. Talk to me.
You said quarters flooded?

FREEMAN
All three capsules. Breached
quick.

EVA
I was in my room when it happened.
Lucked out, water swept me down
the hall, right into the airlock.
(then)
What about...the others?

FREEMAN
Some got off on the tram, I think.
But...no one in quarters.
(then)
They're all gone.

EVA
What?

FREEMAN
Saw them...through the pressure
door window. Saw the water...take
them. Lights went out. Could hear
them... Heard them screaming.
Nothing I could do. Doors were
sealing...came down right on me.
Pulled...loose. Just lucky...
lucky the circuit shaft was there.

Eva thinks about it.

EVA
(low)
Everyone...

FREEMAN
This platform, anyway. No idea...
about North or East.

Freeman grunts in pain as he keeps moving.

FREEMAN
Water's filling up here. To
my...chest now. Real cold. Cold
helps. Helps the pain...

EVA
Joe, I'm going to get you out of
there. I mean it.

FREEMAN
Don't jinx it, doctor.
(then)
Silly, though... Trying so hard...
For me. Don't even...like me.

EVA
Don't say that, Joe.

FREEMAN
Saying you do? I...miss something?
All those department head
meetings. Nah. Never...never liked
me...
(then)
Never had a...beer together.

EVA
What is that? The metric for
friendship down here?

FREEMAN
Yeah... Metric for friendship...

Eva is quiet a minute.

EVA
Look... I know we haven't always
gotten along, but it's more about
me than you. I brought a lot of
baggage down here.

FREEMAN

Only reason...people take jobs
like this. Running from something.
Hiding from something.

(then)

Which one's...you?

Eva is silent a moment.

EVA

Both. I guess...

FREEMAN

Could...have more in common than
you think. You and I.

(then)

Also...I'm at the first junction.
It's...junction three. Looks like.

EVA

Mack, how does he get to the
Control Capsule from junction
three?

MACK (O.S.)

Commander Freeman is approaching
junction three from conduit 3B, is
that correct?

FREEMAN

That's...that's right, Mack.

MACK (O.S)

Commander Freeman should switch to
conduit 3F. It will lead him
directly to the conduit access
hatch in the Control Capsule.

FREEMAN

Yeah. Thought...you'd say that...

EVA

What's wrong?

FREEMAN

It's just...I gotta get out
of...out of this conduit, down the
ladder into...the junction, then
up another ladder, into 3F.
Legs...aren't really...great for
climbing at the moment.

EVA
Just pretend you have a shark
clamped on you.

Freeman laughs. A little.

FREEMAN
Doesn't feel...all that different,
really.
(then, darker)
There's water in the junction,
too. Rising. I don't know...I
don't know if we'll make this.

EVA
We won't if you lay there staring
at it.

FREEMAN
Okay... Okay...
(then)
Gonna...shut off comms. Don't need
you hearing me...scream like a
baby. Even though you'd like it.

The radio silences as Freeman clicks off.

Eva breathes out her tension into the suit helmet. Keeps
moving.

EVA
Mack, I can still barely see out
here. The guide wire just
disappears into the murk, it's
really unnerving.

MACK (O.S.)
You are not alone, Dr. Graff. I am
here. Your safety means a great
deal to me. I would never allow
you to come to harm.

We hear a smile in her voice.

EVA
Thanks, Mack.
(then)
A girl and her V.I...

MACK (O.S.)
You should be approaching the
Tramway, running between the Dive
Room and the Control Capsule
walkway.

The suit keeps moving.

MACK

Once you are past that, you
should--

MUSIC: Thrymr (Atencio)

EVA

I see it. Mack... God, I see it.
The walkway's completely
collapsed.

We hear the sounds of bending, snapping metal. Electrical
arcs in the water.

EVA

Torn loose from the floor, it's
warped. Just debris, smashed to
pieces.

MACK (O.S.)

I understand, Dr. Graff. Clearly,
the walkway has suffered
overwhelming damage from the tide
surge. The repaired platforms were
not able to withstand the shock.

EVA

It doesn't make any sense. We were
following your repair designs.
They were complete on West. They
were...

(then)

How did this happen, Mack?

MACK (O.S.)

I'm sorry, Dr. Graff. I am unable
to explain the errors in my
calculations. I take full
responsibility for the damage to
Fathom base, as well as any loss
of life. I have failed in my
primary assigned responsibilities.

The suit keeps moving.

EVA

It wasn't...your fault. You
haven't been the same since the
explosions. It was Edgars' fault.
What Edgars did. He started all
this.

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

(darkly)

I'm glad he's dead, Mack. Even if he did it to himself. I'm glad.

(then)

I know I shouldn't...feel that way. Shouldn't be glad someone's gone.

(then)

But I am...

MACK (O.S.)

And why not, Dr. Graff? You are a person of deep feeling. It is not a trait to be apologetic of.

EVA

Feelings are one thing. Actions are another.

MACK

When one has been wronged, a desire for retribution seems logical. If those who commit improper acts do not face consequences, how can a society function as an ordered system?

EVA

You may have a point...

(then)

Look at us. Waxing all philosophic...

The walkway groans and bends in front of her.

Eva breathes out, studying the walkway.

EVA

I don't see how to get through this. It's caved in, there's no way to crawl through, and it's probably ten feet tall, as tall as my suit.

(then)

I could go around...

MACK (O.S.)

If the entire Tram Capsule walkway has collapsed, Dr. Graff, then you would have to circumnavigate almost half the Western platform.

EVA
What can I do, then?

MACK
Your DEMES is equipped with turbo thrust propulsion capabilities. You could simply navigate over the collapsed walkway.

EVA
I don't know. Walking over the ocean floor's one thing...

MACK (O.S.)
If you do not, the odds of Commander Freeman surviving before you reach him are remote.

Eva sighs. Thinks on it, unnerved at the prospect.

EVA
How do I do it?

MACK (O.S.)
The jet controls are next to your hand actuators, in the form of joysticks.

EVA
Yeah. I feel them. What do I--
(then)
Uh...

A sound as the turbo jets kick on behind Eva's suit. She gasps as they push her forward slightly. Then whine down, come to a stop.

MACK (O.S.)
The controls are sensitive, Dr. Graff.

EVA
I see that.

MACK (O.S.)
The control sticks are three dimensional. Move the left for z-axis thrust, and the right for x and y-axis.

The jets sound again, churning the water...and everything else. The sound cuts off.

EVA
I'm stirring everything up more.
Visibility's even worse now.

MACK (O.S.)
I suggest using the compass
indicator in your HUD. As long as
you continue to face the same
heading, then you will know the
walkway is in front of you.

EVA
Clever...

The jets sound again, churning the water. The suit's feet
leave the floor...then slam back down again. Hard.

EVA
Damn it, why is this so hard? What
am I doing wrong.

A sound echoes inside Eva's helmet.

It almost sounds like a sonar ping. A readout scrolls in
her HUD.

EVA
Mack, what's that sound?

The pinging sound again...

MACK
It is the proximity motion
detector, Dr. Graff.

The pinging again.

EVA
Motion detector?

Again. Again. Each time with less silence between the
sounds.

MACK
Something is approaching from
behind you.

EVA
What?!

We hear her turn around the suit, presumably looking behind
her.

The proximity detector quickens its pinging. So does Eva's breathing.

EVA

I can't see anything. Everything's stirred up.

The pinging picks up faster. So does a new sound.

A heartbeat detector begins to sound in the helmet.

SUIT VOICE (O.S.)

Warning, operator heart rate is accelerating to dangerous levels.

MACK (O.S.)

A compressed oxygen mixed atmosphere, like the one in your dive suit, Dr. Graff, can have adverse effects when heart rate levels--

EVA

(frightened)

Mack, there's something in the water with me.

MACK (O.S.)

More than likely, it is debris from the damage, floating nearby.

The pinging is faster.

EVA

I don't think so...

The heartbeat detector increases its pace.

SUIT VOICE (O.S.)

Warning, operator heart rate has accelerated to dangerous levels.

The suit moves again. The jets fire.

EVA

I can't get this to work!

MACK (O.S.)

I suggest performing one action at a time, Dr. Graff. Lift the left stick first, then gently push the right stick forward.

The jets fire again...and keep firing this time. Eva groans in concentration. We hear the suit lift off, hear it move through the water...

EVA

Think... I think I got it...

The jets keep blowing. Eva keeps moving...

...and then, finally, it touches down on the other side of the collapsed walkway. Hard.

EVA

Unnhhh...

The jets keep going. Dragging her across the sea floor. Finally she shuts them down. They whine, powering off.

Everything goes back to normal. The pinging has stopped. The jets silence. There is only the sound of Eva's frantic breathing, and the heart rate monitor.

EVA

I did it! Mack...I did--

The debris of the walkway behind Eva rocks hard as something slams into it.

Something big and heavy.

Eva jumps inside the suit. Gasps. We hear her step back in the suit, turn.

SUIT VOICE (O.S.)

Warning, operator heart rate has accelerated to dangerous levels.

The motion detector pinging begins again, loud and incessant.

EVA

Mack...

The debris slams again. Like something trying to rip through it to get at her.

EVA

Mack?

The debris slams one more time...

Then the motion detector begins to ping less frequently, with less urgency. It starts to fade away.

MACK

The object is withdrawing, Dr. Graff. Likely, it cannot penetrate the collapsed walkway.

EVA

What was it?

MACK

I am unable to collate a hypothesis, but from the sonar readings, I detect it was large. As large as your suit.

EVA

Well, that's just great...

Eva's breathing calms, slowing, slowing...

FREEMAN

Still...with me? Eva?

EVA

Joe! The tramway's collapsed, it's completely crushed. I made it over, but...there's something out here, Joe. In the water. It slammed into the walkway after me.

FREEMAN

Only thing...out there is goblin sharks...and sea devil eels.

EVA

I don't find either of those names comforting...

FREEMAN

Jets probably...dislodged debris from the walkway.

EVA

No... There was something. It came right at me. It was there.

FREEMAN

You complain...a lot. Last I checked...your legs still worked.

The heart rate indicator stops playing in her helmet.

EVA

Are you okay? You sound...worse. Are you in the next conduit?

FREEMAN

Took a...lot out of me. Took...too long. Eva...the water...up to my shoulders now.

(then)

This...this isn't gonna work.

EVA

No, stop. We've already done this dance.

FREEMAN

No dance. Is...what it is. Simple math. Water coming in...too fast.

EVA

I mean it.

FREEMAN

(tired)

Appreciate the effort. Just don't...don't have it in me. Just gonna...lay here, I think. Lay here awhile.

EVA

Joe, you have to keep going.

FREEMAN

Pain's gone, Eva. Don't feel... feel much at all, really.

(then)

I'm good here. I think. In the cold.

EVA

Joe...

FREEMAN

Good here...

Eva's breathing becomes nervous, emotional.

EVA

Joe. Please don't give up.

(then)

Please don't...leave me out here.

Just soft static from Freeman's end.

EVA

I don't think...I could take that. Right now.

Silence, static.

EVA

I think...if I lose you, I think... I think that might be it for me.

(then)

I've...done this before, Joe.

A moment. Then...

FREEMAN

Lost someone. So...that's it.

(Then)

Tried saving them. But...nothing doing. Nothing doing.

Eva hesitates for a moment. Then...

EVA

My daughter.

(then)

I lost my daughter.

Freeman sighs over the radio.

FREEMAN

Well... Now I feel just great about myself...

EVA

You didn't know.

FREEMAN

What was her name?

EVA

Alexandra. But she made us call her Alex.

(then)

She was... She had Reiniger's Disorder.

(then)

Stage three at seven. Seven years old, dealing with that. Dealt with it better than I did, frankly.

FREEMAN

This was...before the cure?

EVA

Right before. There was, uh...there was a drug trial. The Mass-Dorian trial, for Retanox-5.

FREEMAN

You were in that?

EVA

Pulled every string I had. Every favor. We were in the finals for the administration test. Spent a whole year, trying not to hope, you know? But...we hoped anyway.

(then)

Last spot came down to Alex and another girl. The other... They said the other girl was "more viable". She was chosen over Alex, she got the last administration dose.

(then)

It worked. Remission of all symptoms. It saved that girl, whoever she was. Saved all the test subjects.

FREEMAN

What about...your girl?

EVA

Alex was...vegetative a week later. Brainstem death in two.

FREEMAN

(low)

Ah...Jesus, Eva...

EVA

I had to make the choice. Angela... My wife. She, couldn't do it. Couldn't sign the papers. So I did. I gave consent.

(then)

I know it's what had to be done. I know there was nothing else to do, but... It still felt like... It felt like flipping the switch myself, you know? Still feels like it.

A moment. Then...

FREEMAN

You made a hard right.

EVA

A what?

FREEMAN

I was in the service. Marines. Outlier War. Front deployed, scouts. One day...walked nose first into an ambush. Really...good one. Sergeant and the Lieutenant both go down. Four of us left. My friend...really good friend, takes a slug, right through...through the gut. Gut shot's a bad way to go, you may have heard. And pretty...inconvenient...situation like that. Had two choices, leave him there, or...option B. He asked for B.

(then)

So I did it. Did what he asked.

(then)

I think it was right. But...was a hard right. Hard rights come...with hard prices, and you keep paying 'em...over and over.

(then)

Pain like that...guilt like that, sends you spiraling. Deep down...into holes you don't want to crawl out of. Holes you think you belong in.

Eva is quiet.

EVA

How did you...crawl out?

FREEMAN

(bitter)

Who says I did? I'm down here, aren't I?

A moment, then...

FREEMAN

Your daughter...

(then)

You think...you think you did all you could? For her? Think you...tried everything?

Eva is silent now.

EVA

(low)

I gave it all...

FREEMAN

Didn't...didn't let her down,
then. Didn't fail. You just ran
out of options, is all. No shame
in it...

Eva hesitates, swallowing tears. Then...

EVA

But...you're not out of options,
Joe. You're not done.

(then)

Can you just...see it through?

(then)

For me, Joe?

Freeman sighs out, long and slow, on the radio.

FREEMAN

(quiet)

Eva Graff... Queen of lost causes.

EVA

(just as quiet)

That's me, Joe...

Another second.

FREEMAN

(conceding)

Okay...

(exhausted, hurting)

Okay, fine... You win, Dr. Graff.

You win. Like always...

(then)

Keep going, down here. Keep at
it...

There's tremendous relief in Eva's voice.

EVA

Okay. Okay, good...

(then)

You know, you're one stubborn--

A sound materializes, in the distance, beyond where Eva can see.

A pulse of sound. Like an explosion of energy.

The water ripples around Eva. We hear the sound of a wave approaching.

Then it hits...

Eva gasps in shock.

The suit is shoved backwards. Hard. We hear the servos working as it rights itself, hear the wave moving away through the water.

Alarms go off inside Eva's helmet.

EVA

Mack, what the hell was that?

MACK (O.S.)

It was a Xytrilium pulse from the main reactor, Dr. Graff.

EVA

What?! Why?

MACK (O.S.)

From what I can detect, the cooling systems for the reactor core are damaged and off-line. A pulse of that magnitude indicates it is nearing critical failure.

Freeman laughs weakly.

FREEMAN

Really...really having a day... aren't we?

EVA

Mack, shut off these alarms.

The alarms in her suit silence.

EVA

Joe, what happens if the reactor goes critical?

FREEMAN

Talking...a Xytrilium implosion... Takes the entire base with it.

EVA

We have to jettison the X-Core. I mean...that's the procedure. Right?

FREEMAN

That's the procedure...

EVA

But, that'll knock out power to the whole base.

FREEMAN

Either that...or the whole base gets crushed down to the size of a shot glass.

MACK (O.S.)

A xytrilium core jettison requires manipulation of the explosive overrides on the exterior of the Reactor Capsule, Dr. Graff. As well as the activation of the jettison process from within the Control Capsule.

EVA

Joe can't get to Control fast enough. Mack, can you initiate the process yourself?

MACK (O.S.)

I'm afraid not, Dr. Graff. Certain critical functions of base operation require human input, for security reasons. A reactor core jettison is one of them.

FREEMAN

There's...an access panel in this junction. Mack, can I...tap into Control from here?

MACK (O.S.)

Theoretically, Commander Freeman. Depending on the damage to the connections, it may require wiring modifications to the junction panel.

FREEMAN

I can...handle that. Eva...

The sounds of the suit beginning to move again.

EVA

I'm heading for the Reactor capsule. I think. The guide wires are gone, must have been stripped away, but it should be northwest. Roughly. Right?

FREEMAN

Can't miss it. Core
Capsule...biggest thing out there.
Connects right behind...the
Control Capsule.

EVA

Look at us. Working together.

FREEMAN

Only took...a complete reactor
core implosion.

EVA

(convincing herself)

Okay. Okay. We jettison the
reactor. We get you to Control and
in a capsule. We get out of here.

FREEMAN

Stop...jinxing it...

Eva's suit keeps moving.

FREEMAN

I'm at the panel. Give
me...second. Gotta...expose this
thing's guts. Mack...

We hear the sounds of water from Freeman's end, hear the
panel come loose over the radio.

MACK

I'm here, Commander Freeman.

FREEMAN

Can you...predict how long we have
until the core implodes?

MACK

I believe reactor core containment
will reach critical failure in
seven minutes.

EVA

(Frightened, to herself)

You have to be kidding me...

FREEMAN

Keep counting it down for us,
Mack.

The suit keeps moving. Freeman keeps working.

FREEMAN
Panel's powered. Think I can tap
into Control.

We hear sparks over the radio.

FREEMAN
Damn it...

EVA
You okay?

FREEMAN
Shocked myself. Least of our
worries.
(then)
You believe...believe in God, Dr.
Graff? Now might be a good time to
check in...

EVA
Sorry. Don't believe in God. Or
jinxes for that matter.
Horoscopes, either. Black cats.

More sparks from the radio.

FREEMAN
Hate to break it to you. Black
cats...definitely exist. Seen them
a few times.

Eva laughs a little.

FREEMAN
Sarah... Sarah's a lot like you.
No one to count on...but herself.
No one...to blame. Kind of
envious, really. Sounds a lot
simpler.

EVA
Sarah? Doctor Klayton?

FREEMAN
Yeah... We were... Are... You
know... A thing.
(then)
Talk of the town. For...a minute
or two. Didn't hear?

EVA
 (Ashamed, sad)
 No.
 (then)
 No, I never...paid attention.
 (then)
 You were just...someone I had to
 go through to get things done.

More sparks from Freeman's end as he works.

FREEMAN
 Well...that's okay. When we're out
 of this we can all...have a beer.
 Can all..."bear our feelings". Be
 chums. What do you think?

EVA
 Sounds torturous, but okay.

MACK
 Six minutes until X-Core
 containment failure.

EVA
 (To herself, tense)
 Okay... Shit...

The suit keeps moving.

FREEMAN
 Alright, I'm logged into the
 Control systems. Hopefully. Going
 to approve the reactor jettison...
 (then)
 You'll still have to...manually
 disconnect and launch the core
 from underneath the capsule. Takes
 two of us.

EVA
 So nobody accidentally shoots the
 reactor into space.

FREEMAN
 That's the idea...

The sound of the reactor is audible now.

EVA
 I can see the X-Core capsule now.
 I see Control too.

FREEMAN

Good. Starting...jettison approval.

The sounds of confirmation tones from Freeman's end.

MACK

Commander Freeman, are you certain you wish to initiate an emergency reactor core jettison?

FREEMAN

Pretty sure, Mack...

MACK

May I have your clearance code, please?

FREEMAN

Eleven. Eleven. Four. Fourteen.

MACK

Code confirmed, Commander Freeman. Reactor core jettison primed.

The reactor hum is very audible now. The supports bend and moan. And the reactor sounds...wrong. Broken. Dangerous.

And those sounds are building...

EVA

I'm...under the X-Core capsule, Joe. It's tight under here.

FREEMAN

Look for a red panel.

EVA

I see it, how do I open it?

FREEMAN

In your HUD. Emergency Protocols. Top center.

Computer tones as Eva selects the menu items with her eyes. Another tone as it confirms.

EVA

"Emergency Reactor Jettison"?

FREEMAN

That's the one...

More computer tones. Then...

MACK (O.S.)

Dr. Graff, are you certain you wish to disconnect the reactor connections for jettison?

EVA

Yes, Mack.

MACK (O.S.)

May I have your clearance code, please?

EVA

Thirty one. Twenty one. Nine. Thirty one.

MACK (O.S.)

Code confirmed, Dr. Graff.

A sound as the panel snaps open in the water.

EVA

Okay, I see a red handle... That's...that's it?

FREEMAN

That's it. Pull that...then get somewhere else.

The sound of the reactor is right above us. It's growing louder, more wrong. By the second.

MACK

Five minutes, until X-Core containment failure.

EVA

Alright. Here it goes...

We hear the handle snap down. Then, after a second...a rumbling from the bottom of the capsule.

We hear the connection bolts explosively blowing out through the water from where they connect the capsule to its supports.

EVA

It disconnected! I heard it!

FREEMAN

Yay us. Now get...out of there.

The suit starts moving again, out from under the reactor.

MACK
Main reactor core jettison
procedure initiating in five...
four...

The suit keeps moving.

EVA
Oh, lord...

MACK
Three...Two...

The suit keeps moving. The rumbling from the reactor capsule continues to grow.

MACK
One...
(then)
Expelling exterior panels.

From behind her, the sounds of hydraulics activating as exterior panels on the capsule fold out...then disconnect and slam to the sea floor.

MACK
Exterior panels expelled. Sealing
vent ports.

EVA
(winded)
I think I'm...clear, Joe.

We hear the hydraulics of covers sliding into place over the vent ports of the capsule.

FREEMAN
Never seen an underwater reactor
jettison. My guess...should be a
sight.

MACK
Vent ports sealed. Priming
engines.

We hear what sounds like engines powering up. Big ones. They rumble through the sea floor.

EVA
I'll take copious notes. You get
back to 3F. Start crawling. You
got, what do you think? Three
hundred yards to Control, Joe?

MACK
Jettisoning reactor core in
five...four...

FREEMAN
Something like that... Something
like that...

MACK
Three...two...

Then a bad sound.

This time much closer. And more powerful.

The explosion of energy. The pulse.

The reactor core collapses and buckles, breaks apart.

The water ripples around Eva. The wave rushes at us.

Then it hits...

Eva moans in pain.

The suit is rocked. Hits the sea floor. Rolls. Hard.
Violently. There are electrical sparks inside the suit.
Alarms begin going off in the helmet again.

EVA
(dazed)
Unnnn...

FREEMAN
Eva? Eva, you okay?

EVA
Another...another pulse. I got
circuits fried here, smell burning
wires.

The sound of the fire suppressant, a hissing as anti-
inflammables are sprayed throughout the suit.

We hear confirmation tones from her HUD as Eva selects menu
items. The alarms shut off.

FREEMAN
There was...no launch? Didn't feel
a launch.

EVA
Mack, what happened?

MACK

I believe the energy from the Xytrilium pulse defused the jettison launch before the engines could fire.

EVA

Well, we have to start it over, then. Start it over and--

MACK

The jettison process uses emergency solid rocket boosters, Dr. Graff, not thermal impulse engines. The ignition process cannot be restarted once--

EVA

Damn it, Mack!

FREEMAN

Told you...you'd jinx it.

MACK

Three minutes until X-Core containment failure.

EVA

What do we do?

FREEMAN

Only...one thing. One thing I can think of.

EVA

What?

FREEMAN

You won't like it...

EVA

What?

FREEMAN

We...breach and flood the X-Core capsule.

(then)

Water will...cool it. Short it. Shut the whole reactor down.

EVA

How do we do that?

FREEMAN

Override the pressure doors for the Control Capsule. Everything on the other side of the doors is flooded. Open those...we flood both capsules, Control and the X-Core.

MACK

Two minutes, thirty seconds until X-Core containment failure.

FREEMAN

Overrides are...under the Control Capsule.

EVA

Wait... But that... Wait, a second.

FREEMAN

Out of time, Eva...

EVA

If we flood Control...the water comes through the circuitry conduits too.

FREEMAN

Out of time, Eva...

EVA

Wait! It will flood where you are. You'll be...

FREEMAN

Out of time.

EVA

No.

(then, softer, shaky)

No, Joe.

FREEMAN

Told you...you wouldn't like it. But...no other way.

EVA

There's always a way. We could... What if we puncture the reactor capsule from the outside?

FREEMAN

With what? Harsh language? We got minutes...

EVA

The dive room. You can swim to...

FREEMAN

The water's freezing, Eva. I can't move my legs. It's five hundred yards to the Dive Room. You do the math.

EVA

Joe...

MACK

Two minutes until X-Core containment failure.

FREEMAN

If that reactor goes...it takes everything. Whoever survived on the other platforms. Sarah, if she's still alive. I know you get that.

Eva says nothing.

FREEMAN

You can't save everyone, Eva. You know that better than anyone.

The sounds from the reactor continue to build.

FREEMAN

Three panels...near where the walkway connects to the Control Capsule. Find them.

EVA

We don't know this will work...

FREEMAN

We don't know that it won't.

MACK

One minute, thirty seconds until X-Core containment failure.

Eva's breaths are tortured.

EVA

Oh, God, Joe...

The suit starts moving again.

FREEMAN

Do me a favor...will you?

(then)

Tell Sarah... Tell her...

(then)

Ah, shit... I don't know. You'd think...I'd have written this little speech a long time ago.

Tell her...

(chuckles)

Tell her...she owes me one.

EVA

Joe... Joe, I'm so...

FREEMAN

You're alright, Eva. You're alright.

The suit comes to a stop.

MACK

One minute until X-Core containment failure.

EVA

(tortured)

I'm under Control, I see the panels.

FREEMAN

Open 'em...like before.

A computer tone. Another. Then...

MACK (O.S.)

Dr. Graff, are you certain you wish to begin the pressure door override for the Control capsule?

EVA

(tortured)

Yes, Mack...

MACK (O.S.)

May I have your clearance code please?

EVA

(beyond tortured)

Thirty one. Twenty one. Nine. Thirty one.

MACK (O.S.)
Code confirmed, Dr. Graff.

A sound as the panels snap open.

FREEMAN
Handles should be labeled. One,
two, three. Just...trip 'em. One
at a time.

Eva just stands there, frozen, however.

MACK
Thirty seconds until X-Core
containment failure.

FREEMAN
(gently)
Eva... Come on...

EVA
(torn)
Handle one.

The sound of the handle slamming down.

Gears and hydraulics activate above Eva, inside the Control capsule.

EVA
It worked. I heard it.

FREEMAN
Keep going...

MACK
Twenty five seconds until X-Core
containment failure.

EVA
Handle...two...

Another handle slams down.

More gears. Now a rumbling, like pumps activating.

FREEMAN
One more, Eva...

No sound of a handle snapping down. Just Eva's breathing.

FREEMAN
Eva...

MACK

Twenty seconds, until X-Core
containment failure.

EVA

I can't... I can't...do this
again. I can't live with more of
it. It's not fair...

FREEMAN

Fair... Fair's got nothing to do
with it. Not part of the deal.

MACK

Fifteen seconds until X-Core
containment failure.

FREEMAN

Did all you could, Eva. Just...ran
out of options. No shame in it.

The reactor sounds keep building. At a horrible pitch now.

EVA

Hard right...

FREEMAN

Yeah. Hard right.

MACK

Ten seconds until X-Core
containment failure.

Eva breathes in harshly. Then...

EVA

Handle three.

The last handle slams down.

The sounds, from outside, of the giant pressure door above
her and inside the Control Capsule opening upwards.

Joe sighs over the radio, contented.

FREEMAN

Really nice...working with you,
Doctor Graff.

Everything shakes and contorts, the water rocks around us.

The reactor hums loudly. Sparking and wavering.
Overloading.

Building... Building...

Then we hear water rushing through the pressure doors above us, inside the Control Capsule. The platform supports bend and groan. The water keeps rushing through.

Then the reactor, on the verge of failing...starts to wind down... Starts to calm. Starts to die. Quieter. And quieter.

Everything begins to go still.

MACK (O.S.)

The reactor core's temperature is decreasing, Dr. Graff. It is shutting down.

Eva breathes out a giant, conflicted sigh of relief...

The reactor finally dies, winding down, sputtering... until it too, finally, goes quiet.

The sounds of light rigs clicking off all throughout the platform in the water, close and in the distance.

When it is over...everything is almost silent.

Nothing but Eva's breathing, the suit's atmosphere venting, the deep ocean...and the SOFT STATIC from the radio.

Static which used to connect her to Freeman.

EVA

(quiet)

Joe?

Just the soft STATIC... No other response.

EVA

Joe, we did it...

The soft STATIC, that's all.

Eva listens to the sound a moment. She breathes out...

EVA

Goodbye, Joe...

The soft STATIC one more time.

Then a CLICK as Eva switches off the channel. The static vanishes.

Eva breathes out, long and slow. Breathes in, long and slow.

The breaths are tortured. Full of weariness and sadness.

Another moment...

Then the capsule rumbles around and above her suddenly.

It starts to shake. Louder and louder. We hear the supports coming loose.

EVA

Mack?

MACK (O.S.)

The Control Capsule platform is buckling under its added weight, Dr. Graff.

EVA

What?

MACK

Move to safety immediately.

Eva starts moving the suit, stomping over the sea floor as fast as it will carry her.

It's not enough.

The supports collapse under the weight of the now flooded capsule above. It all comes crashing down.

Eva screams as a mass of metal slams into her and drives her massive dive suit to the ground, pinning her there.

Alarms begin sounding in her helmet once more.

EVA

Oh, no, no. No, no, no, no...

Eva groans hard as she tries to move. We hear the suit's actuators groan too, hear the metal debris pinning her bend...but not give.

It all falls back on her. She is trapped.

EVA

Mack? Mack, are you there?

No response.

EVA

Mack, I'm trapped in the rubble.

Still no response from Mack.

EVA

Mack I can't move! Are you--

She cuts off as a sound materializes in her helmet.

We recognize it, we've heard it before.

A sonar ping-like sound. It comes once, then fades away.
The proximity motion detector.

EVA

Oh, no...

The suit groans as Eva pushes again, tries to push herself free. The debris bends...but still does not give.

Another ping. Another.

EVA

No, no, no...

The pings, as we listen, become quicker in frequency.
Repeating faster and faster.

There is no response.

The pinging comes faster and faster...

Whatever is out there...it's coming closer.

END EPISODE TWO