

FATHOM - EPISODE FOUR  
"Things Lost, Never Found"

by  
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EXT. OCEAN FLOOR

The sounds of the DEEP at first.

Then over it, much worse sounds. ALARMS. Sparks. The grinding of gears.

Then moaning. Pained. Groggy.

EVA

Mack...

DR. EVA GRAFF. Waking up. Slowly.

EVA

Mack...?

There is no response. Just the sounds of the alarms and her DEMES finally beginning to fail around her.

EVA

Mack, where...where are we?

A far less sentient electronic voice responds.

COMPUTER VOICE

Fathom Base Virtual Intelligence  
MACK is currently offline.

EVA

My head...  
(In pain)  
Offline? I can't... Why?

COMPUTER VOICE

Fathom Base Virtual Intelligence  
MACK is currently offline due to  
disconnection of mainframe from  
base subsystems.

EVA

I don't understand... Why did--

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Catastrophic failure of  
Fathom northern platform. No  
connections with northern platform  
can be provisioned.

EVA

Oh, God...  
(then)  
The explosion.

The whirring of gears as she tries to move. Nothing happens.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Critical systems failure.  
Life support is offline. Battery  
reserves at three percent.  
Atmosphere reserves at one  
percent.

EVA

Wait...what?

COMPUTER VOICE

This DEMES is operating at nine  
percent efficiency. Left arm  
extremity is damaged. Left leg  
extremity is inoperable. Right leg  
extremity is inoperable.  
Maneuvering jets are inoperable.  
Suit integrity compromised.

EVA

Suit integrity?

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Suit integrity  
compromised. Suit is leaking  
atmosphere. This DEMES will expend  
its atmosphere in two minutes  
thirty seven seconds.

EVA

What? I was tethered! I was  
tethered to another DEMES.

SUIT VOICE

All hard line connections with  
DEMES W43XD have been severed.

EVA

Where is it?

SUIT VOICE

DEMES W43XD is three yards away,  
south, south west.

We hear the suit's hydraulics groan and scrape as Eva turns it.

EVA

Oh, my God, this thing is barely  
holding together.

The suit keeps grinding as it turns.

EVA

I see the other Demes. I see Emerson. She's right there.

(then)

I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do, Mack. What would you tell me to do?

(then)

I don't even know where I am. I don't know how far away the southern platform is, I don't know--

COMPUTER VOICE

Distance to southern platform perimeter is eleven yards.

EVA

Eleven yards? That's it? We're right there! How far to the airlocks?

COMPUTER VOICE

Distance to southern platform, airlock one, is one hundred, twenty three yards.

EVA

(desperate)

That's too far... Suit's legs are dead, I can't walk. I can't push Emerson. We can't--

COMPUTER VOICE

Distance to southern platform, storage airlock, is one hundred, fifty two yards.

EVA

Storage air lock...

(then, thinking)

There's no tram here, how does the southern platform onload equipment for storage?

COMPUTER VOICE

The southern platform uses an elevator and conveyor system to move supplies and equipment into storage bay one.

EVA

An elevator? Where does it pick up?

COMPUTER VOICE

The elevator and conveyor system receives and deposits all slated items in a staging area.

EVA

How far to the staging area?

COMPUTER VOICE

The distance to the southern platform airlock staging area is twenty three yards.

EVA

You said my suit's arms still work?

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Suit left arm extremity is damaged. Suit right arm extremity is operating within established specifications.

EVA

I can crawl. It's only twenty yards. And if the platform controls...are in my HUD...?

Confirmation tones from the HUD. The menu cycling.

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Suit integrity compromised. Suit is leaking atmosphere. This DEMES will expend its atmosphere in one minute, thirty seconds.

EVA

Hold your horses...

(then)

Found it.

The sound of lights flashing on outside the platform.

EVA

Lights! I see the platform... Put a waypoint my HUD for the staging area.

The sound of the waypoint the HUD.

EVA

I see it! I can make it. But how do I get Emerson there? I can't pull her...or can I? My DEMES has a winch, doesn't it?

SUIT VOICE

Alert. Suit winch system is operable.

EVA

Can you activate it?

Confirmation tones from the suit computer.

SUIT VOICE

Alert. Suit winch active.

The sound of gears turning. Then of thick wire unspooling.

EVA

Got it. This might actually work. Assuming...this winch can pull a whole other DEMES.

A clipping sound as Eva attaches the winch to the other DEMES. The whirring of the wire as it unspools more.

EVA

Okay. Here we go...

The sounds of the DEMES starting to move. Not with its legs. But with its arms. Dragging itself across the ocean floor.

EVA

I feel water... I feel water at my feet and my knees.

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Suit integrity compromised. External water pervasion is occurring.

EVA

I'm leaking now? Jesus...

Sparks flash to life around Eva. She gasps in fright. More sparks.

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Water pervasion means risk of electrical overload.

EVA

Yeah, I can see that.

A very large spark blasts to life inside the suit. Eva yells.

The sound of powering down of...something. We quickly learn what it is.

EVA

My HUD! I lost the HUD!

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Suit integrity compromised. Suit is leaking atmosphere. This DEMES will expend its atmosphere in thirty seconds.

The sound of the DEMES crawling. The sound of the winch wire unspooling.

EVA

I can make it... I can make it...

(then)

Hang on, Brynn.

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Water pervasion is affecting circuitry cohesion. Power failure is imminent.

EVA

Almost there... Almost there...

The sound of the DEMES crawling. The sound of the winch wire unspooling.

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Suit integrity compromised. This DEMES has expended available atmosphere.

The sound of the breathing apparatus fades and dies.

EVA

I don't need it... I have enough... Have enough left...

We hear the suit crawl onto the metal of the platform.

SUIT VOICE

Warning. Water pervasion is affecting circuitry cohesion. Power failure is imminent.

EVA  
I'm there... I'm there...

SUIT VOICE  
Alert. Equipment detected in  
staging area. Elevator and  
conveyor system will manually  
engage.

EVA  
Not yet... Have to get...Brynn...

Confirmation tones from the computer.

Another tone.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Alert. Suit winch active.

Then the sound of the winch activating. The whirring of the  
gears. The reeling in of the cable.

EVA  
Come on... Come on...

Then Eva groans as everything kicks as the weight of  
Emerson's DEMES yanks the cable.

The winch groans, strained...

...and then it powers back up, reeling in.

EVA  
It's working!

Sparks flare to life everywhere inside the suit. We hear  
the winch groaning.

EVA  
I see her! I see Brynn's DEMES!  
She's almost--

More sparks. Violent ones. Eva gasps as the winch dies, the  
cable stops spinning.

EVA  
No!

SUIT VOICE  
(Voice dying)  
Warning. Power failure...  
occurring...Hydraulics...failing.W  
arning... Warning...



The suit voice dies.

EVA  
I can get her... I can get her...

The suit's hydraulics, what's left of them, groan as Eva reaches out...straining...and grabs hold of Emerson's DEMES.

She groans as she pulls with all her strength, trying to actuate what's left of the hydraulics.

We hear Emerson's DEMES slide forward.

We hear Eva's suit dying.

We hear Emerson's DEMES slide forward.

And then Eva's suit finally, ultimately dies. We hear it collapse to the metal of the staging platform below her.

EVA  
(exhausted)  
Please be enough...please be  
enough...

The platform rumbles around her. Everything shakes violently as it engages.

Then we are lowered down. Doors seal above us.

Then the pumps activate. The water drains from the room slowly, until it's empty, and full of dripping.

The alarms stop.

There is a hiss and a groan as the main bulkhead door to Eva's DEMES opens.

We hear her crawl out, collapse to the floor.

EVA  
Brynn?

We hear her crawling on the floor, reach Emerson's DEMES.

We hear button presses, confirmation tones.

Then another hiss and groan as the other DEMES opens.

EVA  
Brynn? Are you alive? Are you with  
me?

We hear Eva reach inside...

EVA  
Brynn?

Emerson moans in response. Alive.

BRYNN  
Yes... Yes...

Eva sighs in relief. Breathing heavily, she collapses back to the floor.

EVA  
We made it, Mack...  
(then)  
We made it...

NOWHERE

Eva, asleep, in the void...

A voice echoes in the dark.

ALEX  
Eva...

Eva moans, starts to wake...

ALEX  
Eva...

INT. SOUTH PLATFORM - MEDICAL BAY

Eva wakes from sleep. Breathing heavily.

There are some button presses. Confirmation tones. Then the lid of something mechanical opens up above her. As it does, the sounds from the room come to life.

Heart rate monitors. Computers. The humming of electronics.

Eva sighs, rubs her eyes.

And then, the sound of a voice...

VOICE  
Eva...

It sounds ghostly, non-material.

Eva breathes in sharply. The voice comes again, and now we recognize for what it is.

BRYNN

Eva...

EMERSON, waking up. Groggily. Groaning.

Her voice is filtered, through a speaker on the outside of a automated medical pod.

EVA

Emerson? It's Eva, I'm right here.  
You're okay.

BRYNN

Mack... Mack is...

EVA

Mack's...not here anymore, Brynn.  
You're safe now.

Emerson sighs, groans in pain.

BRYNN

Safe... Where?

EVA

The southern platform.

BRYNN

Southern...

EVA

Barely made it, but we're here.  
You're in the medbay, in a medical pod. It's treating your internal injuries. I gave us both anti-rad meds, we should be okay. I was in a pod too, we've been out for...a few hours now.

BRYNN

Eva. Mack...lied to me.

EVA

I know, Brynn.

BRYNN

Lied to me right up until the last minute. Right up until I saw what he'd done.

(then)

It never occurred to me that he would lie.

EVA

It didn't occur to me either. He wasn't supposed to be able to do that.

BRYNN

He wasn't supposed to do a lot of things. Like misreport tide surge forecasts or design platform repairs so that they would fail. He wasn't supposed to ever be able to kill, either. But he did. Dozens probably. He tried to kill me too.

(then)

It's...it's all my fault.

EVA

That's not true, Brynn.

BRYNN

Whose fault is it, then? I'm his engineer. I should have seen it. I should have found it.

Eva sighs.

EVA

Brynn, Mack... You said it yourself, he wasn't Mack anymore... There's no way you could have known. He lied to me too. At least...I think he did.

Eva hesitates.

EVA

On the Vault... There was a lot of radiation. It's still blurry, for me. I don't...completely remember everything. What I do remember... was crazy.

BRYNN

Tell me.

Eva takes a breath.

EVA

Mack said he... He said he made contact with something in the Vault. That he...heard it "sing". That it changed him. But that's...that's not possible. Right? That's crazy.

Brynn is silent a moment, thinking.

BRYNN

That door out there's always terrified me. It was put there millions of years ago. And forgotten. Most things that get buried, aren't meant to be dug up.

(then)

A week ago I wouldn't have thought reprogramming an M-D virtual intelligence would be possible... but here we are.

EVA

But the only thing coming off the Vault, is the Vault Signal. And it's just a carrier wave. It's harmless.

BRYNN

Dr. Edgars didn't think it was harmless. Did he?

(then)

You said Mack lied to you. What did you mean?

EVA

He...told me...things. He manipulated me. He...wanted me to do something when I got here.

BRYNN

(suspicious)

Wanted you to do what?

Eva is silent, thinking.

EVA

It doesn't matter now.

(then)

I mean, in a way, he saved us. Right? If what he said is true. About the northern platform.

Brynn's tone changes to something more concerned.

BRYNN

What about the northern platform?

EVA

He said, he was going to destroy it. Destroy it and let the blast wave carry us the rest of the way here. Which it did. If he hadn't done that...we wouldn't be alive.

BRYNN

(alarmed)

Mack said he destroyed the northern platform?

EVA

Yes.

BRYNN

You're sure.

EVA

Yes. Why?

Brynn is silent, thinking.

EVA

What, Brynn?

BRYNN

Eva, Mack's mainframe is considered Sev-1 Critical for base triage. There's nothing else ranked above it, systems wise.

EVA

So?

BRYNN

If the mainframe goes down, there's a process for redundant failover.

EVA

What does that mean? Like a backup?

BRYNN

A backup location. All of Mack's data, his algorithms, his personality matrix, everything that makes him him, gets transferred in the event of a catastrophic mainframe failure.

(then)

As long as that location is active.

EVA

Active...

BRYNN

Powered.

EVA

Where is this backup location?

BRYNN

It's right here, Eva. It's the southern platform. And if you powered the X-Core back online...

Eva sighs.

EVA

He knew I would. Mack knew I'd turn on the reactor. It was the only way to get the medical bay online. It was the only way to save you.

BRYNN

God damn it. You said it's been hours? Since you activated the X-Core?

EVA

Two hours, I'd guess.

BRYNN

Eva, we don't have much time then. The data recovery process is happening right now. We have to stop it, while we still can.

EVA

I don't understand. If this platform wasn't powered when the mainframe was destroyed, how can Mack's data be transferred here?

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

Shouldn't it be destroyed with the other mainframe in that case? There was nowhere for it go then.

BRYNN

No. The mainframe has an SFS, a Singularity Failover Server.

EVA

What's that?

BRYNN

A really, really expensive redundancy reserved for things as large and important as V.I. mainframes. It's a server in between the data and the backup location, contained inside a miniature T-Gate singularity field.

EVA

A very small blackhole, in other words.

BRYNN

Catastrophic failure on one end, the mainframe contents get piped into the singularity server using an FTL data transfer protocol. Inside the singularity, time passes different. A lot slower. A second out here, can be a year in there. So as long as you get the backup server online within a few hours, the data's preserved. Now that the backup mainframe on this platform is powered, Mack's data is reconstituting itself.

EVA

That all makes my head hurt, and I'm a physicist.

BRYNN

We have to stop it, Eva. We have to stop him from coming back.

EVA

Kill him, you mean. For real, this time.



BRYNN

If that's how you want to look at it, then yes.

Eva says nothing. Sits there thinking.

BRYNN

Eva, are you with me on this?

EVA

On the Vault, before... When we were there. I...heard something.

BRYNN

Heard what?

Eva says nothing.

BRYNN

Eva?

EVA

Do you think when something's gone, it's gone for good?

BRYNN

What are you talking about?

EVA

Mack didn't think so.

(then)

If we're lost, we can be found...  
Can't we?

BRYNN

Eva... I want you to listen to me. You've been through a lot. I get that. You're exhausted. You had a big dose of radiation. So did I. But, I don't think you're thinking straight, and we have to stop Mack from provisioning himself on this platform.

(then)

Mack, or whatever he is now, has an agenda, and I don't think it's anything we want to see happen. Do you understand?

Eva says nothing.

BRYNN

Eva.

EVA

Yes...

(then)

Yes, you're right. We have to stop him. How long do we have?

BRYNN

The one thing on our side is that the data transfer protocol coming off the singularity server isn't FTL, and six or seven thousand zettabytes of data takes a while to transfer. We've got maybe an hour left. Maybe less...

EVA

How do we stop it? We can't power down the reactor, it's too soon after a power up, the safety protocols won't allow it.

BRYNN

We have to sever the connection with the singularity server. We have to do it from the backup mainframe on this platform. It's a complicated procedure.

Brynn groans as she gets up, in pain, weak.

BRYNN

We can...do it...together...

EVA

Okay, no, Brynn. Lay back...

BRYNN

Eva...

EVA

Lay back. You're not going anywhere. You're going to stay in there and heal.

BRYNN

You need my help... We have to... reprogram...

EVA

You can help from there, guide me through the process.

BRYNN

It's too complicated..

EVA

What about a remote access terminal? Can I plug in from the mainframe, and you can use a tablet here?

BRYNN

That would work... Have to find one, though. And not the mainframe. Control Capsule is closer. We can do it from there.

EVA

Okay. I'll find a tablet. In the storage area, there's probably tons. Down level models, but they'll work. I'm going to go look.

BRYNN

We're running out of time, Eva.

EVA

I've gotten used to that feeling. I know what to do with it.

The sounds of Eva walking away, headed towards the door out of the medbay.

INT. SOUTHERN PLATFORM - STORAGE AREA THREE

The sounds of a pressure door opening. The sounds of footsteps entering.

The footsteps echo everywhere in the silent room, a testament to how empty the southern platform is.

EVA

Brynn, do you hear me?

A crackle of the static as Brynn comes over the comms.

BRYNN

Yeah...

EVA

I'm in storage area one...which is where you and I came in. I tried two and three, but there were no personal electronics stored there.

The footsteps stop. Eva stares at something.

EVA

Our, uh...dive suits are here. The conveyor from the airlock brought them in.

BRYNN

How do they look?

EVA

Like they got dropped from orbit.

(then)

I seriously don't know how we made it here in these. We should be dead.

BRYNN

We're not in the clear yet, Eva.

EVA

Right...

The footsteps start again. Come to a stop again.

We hear the sounds of button presses, confirmation tones, and then a large crate opening.

EVA

Brynn, how are you feeling?

BRYNN

Better. Medical pod's working, the nanites are doing their thing. My insides still feel wrecked, though. It would be tough to move if I had to.

EVA

Well, you don't, so just stay there. We'll get real medical help here soon.

BRYNN

I don't...remember anything from the Vault. I don't remember talking to you.

EVA

Probably for the best. They aren't the best memories.

BRYNN

What do you remember? About what happened?

We hear Eva going through the crate's contents, not finding what she wants.

EVA  
It's...such a blur...

Footsteps again. Another crate opening.

EVA  
It's mainly sounds. Images. Small impressions. Feelings, really.  
(then)  
Honestly, I don't know what was a hallucination and what wasn't.

BRYNN  
Radiation had to be crazy.

EVA  
It was...

BRYNN  
What was it like?

The sounds of Eva digging through the contents.

EVA  
Have you ever had a dream, a really good one, I mean. One that when you woke up, you were disappointed it wasn't real?

The sounds of her searching in the crate stop.

EVA  
A dream you tried to go back to? Tried to go back to sleep to keep it alive, but, it just eventually slipped away? And you were you again. Just you. And you felt empty...

Brynn is quiet on the other end of the comms.

BRYNN  
What did you see out there, Eva?

Eva hesitates too. Then...

EVA  
I found them, Brynn. Portable terminals. With a wireless transponder. They look like...I don't know, ZR2 models, maybe?

BRYNN

That should work. Hurry back, I don't know how much time we have.

EVA

On my way.

The sound of the crate closing. The sound of Eva's footsteps moving away.

Then the sound of the steps stopping. The sound of her breathing, tense, as she stares at something.

EVA

Brynn...

BRYNN

What's up?

EVA

DEMES's have some way of logging what they go through when deployed?

BRYNN

Yeah. They have a black box recorder.

EVA

What do they record?

BRYNN

They record everything. Why?

Eva is hesitant.

EVA

It's nothing. See you in a second.

BRYNN

Hurry, Eva.

A moment. Then Eva's footsteps again. But this time they are not hurried.

They're slow. They come to a stop in front of something.

A second later, button presses. Confirmation tones. Then the sound of a DEMES's helmet rising up and off the fuselage. Barely.

We hear Eva climb on it, as she did once before. We hear her typing on the keys inside. Hear more tones.

Then...

SUIT VOICE  
DEMES HG288.

The suit voice sounds very damaged.

EVA  
Transmission recordings...

A confirmation tone.

SUIT VOICE  
This unit contains two hours,  
twenty two minutes of transmission  
recordings.

EVA  
Play recordings, start at the  
thirty minute mark.

A burst of static, then...

*OLD RECORDING - Eva and Mack, before the reactor explosion.*

EVA  
Stop.

The recording stops.

EVA  
Play at one hour, thirty minutes.

A burst of static, then...

*OLD RECORDING - Joe about to sacrifice himself.*

EVA  
No, stop.

The recording stops. Eva hesitates, breathing. That recording is bad memories. She gathers herself.

EVA  
Play at the two hour mark.

A burst of static, then...

*OLD RECORDING - Eva and Mack resuscitating Emerson.*

EVA  
Advance fifteen minutes...

*OLD RECORDING - Eva begins to confront Mack about what Emerson said.*

EVA  
Advance...five minutes...

*OLD RECORDING - Mack manipulating Eva on the Vault.*

Eva listens now, nervously, waiting.

EVA  
It's not possible... It was a  
hallucination...

And then we hear it with her. Again. The sound of a little girl. On the radio.

The sounds of Alex. From before.

Eva's breath catches in her throat.

EVA  
Oh, God...

The sounds of Alex from before, continue...

EVA  
Alex...

The sounds of Alex from before, continue...

EVA  
Stop.

The recording stops.

Eva's breathing is intense.

EVA  
It was real... It was...real.  
(then, torn)  
Oh, Christ...

She stays like that, breathing.

INT. CONTROL CAPSULE

We hear a pressure door open. Footsteps as Eva enters. The door closes behind her.

The sounds of the control capsule. Humming electronics. Computers. Other machines.



EVA  
 Brynn, I'm in the control capsule.  
 Are you ready?

Brynn's voice responds over comms.

BRYNN  
 Almost, I updated the OS on this  
 terminal, it's finishing a reboot.  
 Find a Z-Card input on one of the  
 primary control panels, it doesn't  
 matter which one.

EVA  
 Okay, got it.

We hear her footsteps moving again. They climb up a set of  
 metal stairs. Come to stop in front of a control panel.

EVA  
 The panel's dark, power it up?

BRYNN  
 Yeah.

Eva punches buttons on the panel. We hear it activate,  
 beep, hum to life.

EVA  
 Okay, it's up. Plug in the Z-Card?

BRYNN  
 Not yet, one second...  
 (then)  
 Okay, now.

We hear the Z-Card plug into a panel with a click. A  
 confirmation tone from the computer.

EVA  
 It's in, no errors.

BRYNN  
 Hold on...

Silence from Brynn's end of the comms. Then more  
 confirmation tones.

BRYNN  
 Okay, I'm logged in remotely, you  
 should see a confirmation to  
 approve.

EVA  
Yeah, got it.

More tones. Then the sounds of data scrolling on monitors.

EVA  
You're in, looks like.

BRYNN  
Okay, I'm going to bring up the console for the singularity connection. While I'm doing that, see if you can find the connections for the firewall on the mainframe. That'll tell us how much data's been uploaded so far, and how much is left.

EVA  
Okay...

We hear Eva typing, hear tones from the computer.

EVA  
This menu's huge, it's got every function for the platform. Am I looking for a Mainframe submenu or what?

BRYNN  
No, look for Networking. It should be a top level option.

EVA  
I see it...

A confirmation tone. Data scrolling.

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

A confirmation tone. Data scrolling.

EVA  
I don't see Mainframe listed.

BRYNN  
How about hub or data hub?

EVA  
No.

BRYNN  
Repository?

EVA  
I see... Wait, auxiliary data  
platform?

BRYNN  
That's it.

EVA  
Geez, talk about vague  
terminology.

BRYNN  
Welcome to software engineering.

Confirmation tones. Data scrolling.

EVA  
Okay, it gave me a dashboard for  
the firewall. It's definitely  
active, I can see the transfer  
metrics.  
(then, darkly)  
Brynn...

BRYNN  
What?

EVA  
It says...ninety two percent  
complete.

BRYNN  
Oh, God... It's that far along?  
What's the estimate to completion?

EVA  
Thirty six minutes...

Brynn breathes out tension.

BRYNN  
Okay, we can do this, but we have  
to hurry.

EVA  
What do we do?

BRYNN

We need to use the firewall to block what's left of the data coming in. The problem is, you can't change settings on this kind of gateway when a transfer's in progress. See how everything's greyed out on your dashboard?

EVA

Yeah...

BRYNN

So, I'm going to rewrite some code on the SFS load balancer, that will let me pause the transfer for a few seconds. Best I can do with the time we have. Once it's paused, your dashboard will light up. You're going to seal the firewall on all ports, that will end the data transfer.

EVA

You'll walk me through the firewall stuff? I don't know any of this.

BRYNN

Yeah, give me a minute, let me code this on my end.

Eva is silent, watching the data on the dashboard.

EVA

Ninety three percent now...  
(then)  
It's strange... Watching these numbers spin up, it's like...watching Mack being reborn. His existence, everything he is...was...just a percentage on a screen.

BRYNN

(darkly)

Given everything Mack's done, I'd say he sees us pretty much the same way. That's the only way you could do the things he did.

Eva is silent, staring at the numbers.

BRYNN

What I still don't get is why. I mean, what was the point? Flattening the platforms? Killing everyone? For what? I don't believe something as intricately designed to think as Mack would do all of this without a rationale.

Eva is silent again. Then...

EVA

Mack...wanted to open the Vault.

BRYNN

What? How do you know?

EVA

Because he asked me to do it. He wanted me to do it when I got here.

BRYNN

Wait, I thought opening the Vault was impossible at this point?

EVA

I figured it out.

BRYNN

You figured it out?

EVA

Yeah...

BRYNN

Holy shit, Eva. When?

EVA

Before the tide surge hit. Right before, actually. Back on West.

BRYNN

You're...sure? I mean, you're positive?

EVA

I could open it right now. All it would take is broadcasting the solution frequency with the Relay. And...that would be that.

BRYNN  
 Jesus... That's...terrifying. It  
 doesn't make any sense.

EVA  
 How so?

BRYNN  
 Well, Mack would know you'd never  
 open the Vault like that,  
 especially with everything as  
 chaotic as it is.

Eva is silent.

BRYNN  
 Right? Eva?

Finally Eva speaks. Her voice is low.

EVA  
 They...fired me, Brynn.  
 (then)  
 They took Project Director away  
 from me. They were going to send  
 me home.

Now Brynn is quiet a moment.

BRYNN  
 I'm...sorry, Eva.

EVA  
 I thought...if I opened the Vault,  
 I could prove myself. I thought...  
 I thought they would let me  
 stay...

BRYNN  
 Jesus Christ, Eva, that's insane.

EVA  
 Is it?

BRYNN  
 Yes! You can't unilaterally decide  
 something like that. We have no  
 idea what happens when that thing  
 opens. It could affect the entire  
 planet for all we know. There  
 should be a committee involved.  
Governments, even. It should be  
 voted on.

(MORE)

BRYNN (CONT'D)  
 Keeping your job isn't worth the risks. You must know that.

Eva stops, thinking to herself.

EVA  
 (dark)  
 Have you ever...lost something important, Brynn? Not just important, something that was a part of you? The best part of you, even? And when it was gone...you weren't you anymore...and you knew you wouldn't be ever again.

BRYNN  
 Eva... You're starting to worry me.

EVA  
 But what if there was a chance? A crazy one, an infinitesimal one, but a chance all the same...? A chance you could get it back. A chance you could make everything right. Wouldn't...  
 (then)  
 Wouldn't you have to try? Wouldn't that...justify the risks?

BRYNN  
 (carefully)  
 Eva, I think... I'd like you to step away from the control panel now. I'd like you to come back to the med bay.

EVA  
 Brynn, I need you to do something for me. You won't like it, but I need you to help me.

BRYNN  
 What are you talking about?

EVA  
 I need you...to let Mack finish reconstituting on this server.

BRYNN  
What?!

EVA

I just... I need to ask him one thing. Just one thing, about what happened on the Vault, about...

BRYNN

Eva, no!

EVA

And then we can shut him down. I promise.

BRYNN

Eva!

EVA

Once I do, we can turn him off, or we can--

BRYNN

Listen to what you're saying right now. I think... I don't know what happened outside, but what you're talking about doing is crazy. Mack can't be allowed to reconstitute himself. He's killed, Eva.

The sounds of Eva typing on the keyboard, data shifting on the monitors.

EVA

You'll see. I'll show you, Brynn.

BRYNN

Eva, what are you doing?

EVA

I'm...

BRYNN

Eva?

EVA

I'm going to shut down the firewall to the mainframe.

BRYNN

That will let Mack provision immediately!

EVA

I know... But I have to. I have to know.



BRYNN  
 God damn it, Eva...

Furious typing and clicking from Eva. Confirmation tones from the computer.

EVA  
 You'll see. You'll see, Brynn.  
 It's going to be okay. I promise.  
 It's all going to--

A new sound from the computer. One that sounds distinctly negative in tone.

Eva types again. The same negative tone. No matter what she does.

EVA  
 Brynn, what happened?

BRYNN  
 I'm sorry, Eva.

EVA  
 (angry)  
 What did you do?

BRYNN  
 I overrode the security protocols of the Control Capsule, it's locked down now, all input. You can't do anything anymore. Not in there.

EVA  
 Brynn...just...listen to what--

BRYNN  
 I am listening, Eva. You are not in your right mind, you're a danger to yourself and everyone else who's left down here.

EVA  
 No I'm not!

BRYNN  
 I'm sorry, Eva. I can't let you do this.

Eva thinks to herself, desperately. Then...

EVA  
 Fine...

Eva's footsteps, heading for the door.

EVA

I'll go to the mainframe, your Z-Card isn't plugged in there, you don't have any power. I'll turn off the firewall directly.

BRYNN

I thought you might say that...

Eva stops. hits a button near the pressure door. Another negative tone. The door doesn't rise.

She tries again. Still nothing.

EVA

Brynn!

BRYNN

I locked the pressure door out of Control. You're going to stay there, at least until I destroy what's left of Mack. Then I'll let you out.

Eva's breathing is desperate and angry.

EVA

The pressure door isn't the only way to the mainframe.

She walks to one of the walls nearby. We hear her start disconnecting something there.

EVA

The circuitry conduits go there too. I learned all about them recently.

The hatch to the conduit comes loose and falls to the floor.

BRYNN

Jesus, Eva, can't you see how Mack's manipulated you? Every single thing that's happened, everything he's put you through, and all of it to get you to this point, right here, with this frame of mind.

Eva crawls into the conduit, squeezing herself in.

INT. SOUTHERN PLATFORM - CIRCUITRY CONDUIT

Eva, inside the conduit. She starts crawling.

EVA

Maybe...

(then)

Or maybe all Mack has ever done is  
show me the truth.

BRYNN

Are you willing to take that  
chance?

EVA

(with finality)

I am.

Eva keeps crawling.

BRYNN

I can't let you do that, Eva. You  
know I have to stop you.

EVA

I know, Brynn.

BRYNN

Please...don't make me do this.

EVA

I'm not making you do anything. We  
all make our choices and I've made  
mine. Goodbye, Brynn.

A click as she turns off her comms. She keeps crawling,  
through the tight conduit.

A few seconds later, the sound of gratings opening above  
her.

Eva freezes. Listening. Breathing nervously.

Then she yells as water pours into the conduit, filling it  
quickly.

EVA

Brynn!

She takes a deep breath as she is submerged in the freezing  
murk.

Eva swims, moving through the water, holding her breath.

She reaches the end of the conduit. Starts detaching the sealing panel. One clip at a time.

One clip. Two.

Eva groans underwater, the air in her lungs running out.

Three clips.

She groans more, becoming panicked.

The fourth clip is loose.

The panel blows open from the water pressure in the conduit, and Eva is thrown out of it and onto the floor of the water seal below.

INT. WATER SEAL - CONTINUOUS

She hits hard, groans in pain. Coughs out water, crawls.

She hits another button, a pressure door opens, and Eva crawls through.

INT. SECONDARY MAINFRAME - CONTINUOUS

She hits a second button, and the door shuts itself, sealing her off from the water on the other side.

Eva coughs out more water, breathes heavily, in pain.

We hear the sounds of the new environment now, so big it takes the space of an entire capsule. The strange electronic noises of a V.I. mainframe. With the quantum processors and the hum of electricity and the cooling equipment, all combined together, it almost...sounds like breathing.

EVA

Mack...?

(Out of breath)

Mack...are you here?

There is no response.

EVA

I just...need to know...the truth.

Eva pushes to her feet. She moves to a control panel.

EVA

That can't be wrong. Can it...?

We hear her typing.

Confirmation tones from the computer. New sounds, new machinery in the room powers up.

She keeps typing.

COMPUTER VOICE

Auxiliary Data Platform networking interface. Firewall screening data at sixty nine terrabytes per second.

EVA

Time until completion?

COMPUTER VOICE

Virtual Intelligence reprovisioning will complete in twenty one minutes.

Key presses. Confirmation tones. Then a negative sound.

Eva tries again. The same negative sound.

EVA

I'm trying to deactivate the firewall, but the system isn't letting me.

COMPUTER VOICE

Deactivating the Auxiliary Data Platform firewall requires alpha level security clearance, or team lead security protocols.

EVA

Eva Graff, Vault Project Director.

COMPUTER VOICE

Confirm deactivation of Auxiliary Data Platform firewall.

EVA

Confirmed.

COMPUTER VOICE

State employee clearance code.

EVA

Thirty one. Twenty one. Nine. Thirty one.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Acknowledged. Auxiliary Data  
Platform firewall can now be  
manually disengaged.

Eva studies the panel in front of her. She hits keys.  
Another negative tone.

EVA  
(Frustrated)  
I...don't know how. How do I  
delete the firewall?

COMPUTER VOICE  
The Auxiliary Data Platform  
firewall exists in a Highly  
Available server pair. You must  
select and cancel both server  
members before deleting the  
firewall.

EVA  
I think...I see what you mean.

A confirmation tone. Key presses.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Confirm deletion of Auxiliary Data  
Platform firewall server  
connection one.

EVA  
Yes, do it.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Deleting connection.  
(then)  
Warning. Server connection one  
deleted. This firewall no longer  
functions as a Highly Available  
server pair.

EVA  
Okay...

A confirmation tone. Key presses.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Confirm deletion of Auxiliary Data  
Platform firewall server  
connection two.

EVA  
Yes.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Deleting connection.

There is a pause.

EVA  
Come on.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Server connection two  
deleted. Auxiliary Data Platform  
firewall can now be freely  
deleted. Warning. With no firewall  
protection, data entering the  
Auxiliary Data Platform...

EVA  
Jesus Christ, just do it...

COMPUTER VOICE  
...will no longer be screened or  
vetted. Potentially harmful data  
can be transferred--

EVA  
Do it!

COMPUTER VOICE  
Please repeat query.

EVA  
Delete it! Delete the god damned  
firewall!

COMPUTER VOICE  
Auxiliary Data Platform firewall  
deletion must be performed  
manually. Confirm deletion of  
Auxiliary Data Platform firewall.

Eva hesitates, breathing, unsure.

EVA  
Confirmed.

Confirmation tones. The sounds of data scrolling.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Auxiliary Data Platform firewall  
may now be deleted. Use direct  
input device to complete action.

Eva hesitates again, breathing.

And then the sound of the large pressure door out of the mainframe opening again. Water flows in from outside.

So does someone else. Brynn Emerson. Breathing heavily, in pain, dizzy, not doing well.

Eva gasps at the sight of her.

EVA

Brynn.

BRYNN

Can't...can't let you...

EVA

You already tried to kill me once.  
I barely got out of the conduit.  
And now... Now you have a gun?  
Where did you get it?

BRYNN

Security locker... Security locker  
in control...

EVA

So, you're going...to shoot me  
now, Brynn? Are you being serious?

BRYNN

Don't...don't want to... Don't  
make me.

We hear Brynn collapse in the doorway, into the water.

EVA

You can't even stand up, Brynn.

BRYNN

This is...wrong, Eva. This is too  
important.

EVA

Brynn. I just...need to ask Mack--

BRYNN

It's wrong, Eva. You know it is...  
I know you do... You must...

Eva hesitates.

BRYNN

You said before... You asked...if  
something's gone...is it really  
gone for good.



Eva breathes emotional.

BRYNN

I think it is, Eva. I think the things we lose, we lose, that that's just how life is. It sucks. It hurts. Living with it. But there are no magic words...no bargains we can make...no...gods to intercede. There's just...us.

Eva breathes emotional.

BRYNN

I don't know what you lost, Eva. What I do know is, if you were told that you could have it back...you were lied to. And what you're about to do...isn't worth a lie.

Eva breathes emotional.

BRYNN

Eva...please...step away from the panel. We can...we can still fix this... We can still stop it...

Eva breathes emotional.

BRYNN

Please, Eva...

And then...

The sound of her footsteps. Stepping back. Slowly. Away from the panel, and the button that would delete the firewall.

She breathes out tension and sadness and defeat.

EVA

Oh, God...

Brynn sighs in relief. She sags against the pressure doorway, in the water.

BRYNN

Thank you, Eva. Thank you--

A burst of static comes over the room's comm speakers.

Then a grating tone of sound.

Both women shudder at the intensity of it.

EVA  
Brynn, what's--

Another burst of static. A different tone.

BRYNN  
Computer, what...is that noise?

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning...

BRYNN  
Warning for what?

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning... Subroutines are--

More tones and sounds.

EVA  
What's happening?

BRYNN  
I don't know. It's like  
something's...taking--

Another burst of static. Then...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Reminder. Dr. Eva Graff has one  
new profile notice.

EVA  
(confused)  
What?

COMPUTER VOICE  
Personnel file has been updated.  
New recording available.

EVA  
Recording?

BRYNN  
Eva... The computer shouldn't be  
doing--

COMPUTER VOICE  
Personnel file has been updated.  
New recording available.

EVA

Wait, what? What is this recording?

COMPUTER VOICE

Recording subject is: Retanox-5 trial complaint log, Elsa Gehring, project lead.

EVA

Retanox-5?

BRYNN

Eva...

(then)

What is that?

EVA

A clinical trial.

COMPUTER VOICE

Recording subject is: Retanox-5 trial complaint log, Elsa Gehring, project lead.

EVA

A trial that my daughter...

BRYNN

Eva...the computer should not be telling you this...

EVA

Play it.

BRYNN

Eva, no. Then this is Mack, somehow this is...

A confirmation tone. A recording starts, one from a very different environment, and a very different time.

REESE (O.S.)

Alright, Elsa, it's recording. Go ahead.

GEHRING (O.S.)

My name is Elsa Gehring, Maas-Dorian pharmaceutical engineer, project lead for the Retanox-5 replication complex inhibitor of Reiniger's progressive nervous system disorder.

Gehring clears her throat.

GEHRING (O.S.)

I'm lodging a complaint about the choice of subject Shannon Erickson's inclusion in the final trial for Retanox-5 over Alexandra Graff. Subject Graff's symptoms, progression level, nervous system damage, and age make her an ideal candidate for final testing, while Subject Erickson's equivalents on every matching metric make her inappropriate. I believe this choice to be entirely political, a breach of scientific ethics, and I want it on record that I object to it in the strongest possible terms.

REESE (O.S.)

(unimpressed)

And is that the sum total of the statement you would like to make today, Dr. Gehring?

GEHRING (O.S.)

It is. Yes.

REESE (O.S.)

Very well, my name is Gaylen Ross, Maas-Dorian executive, pharmaceutical division, and I acknowledge the receipt of this complaint and am officially filing it along with all other project files, in accordance with Maas-Dorian Business Conduct Guidelines, version 17.4.2.

A tone as the time stamp officially marks the recording.

The recording doesn't stop, however.

REESE (O.S.)

Feel better now? There are lots of little girls left out of this trial, Elsa. We can't just shove all of them in.

GEHRING (O.S.)

No, but we can put the most viable in, instead of appeasing someone with political clout.

Ross sighs.

REESE (O.S.)

You want to know what makes Shannon Erickson "more viable" than Alex Graff? I'll tell you. She's the daughter of a Maas-Dorian Vice President. A Vice President in a position to appropriate funds...

GEHRING (O.S.)

Jesus Christ, Marco...

REESE (O.S.)

...for your division going forward for the next eight quarters. Retanox-5 would get funding even if you weren't producing results, but what about Clorodosyn-6, what about your angiogenesis inhibitor trial coming up? How many lives are saved from those trials?

(then)

Are you starting to get it now? You can go really far in this company, you can be in a position to change things, to benefit, if that's what you care about...but you must learn to play the game.

We hear Elsa stand up in the recording.

GEHRING (O.S.)

It's not a game. Alexandra Graff isn't a piece on a board. She's a living being and she's going to die now. And Shannon Erickson? She isn't even stage two, Gaylen. She'd still be alive by the time this drug hit the market, for God's sake.

We hear Elsa walking away. We hear Marco lean back in his chair.

MARCO

It is a game, Elsa. You don't have to like it...but you do have to play it.

The recording stops.

COMPUTER VOICE  
End of recording.

Eva's breathing is intense. When she speaks...it is the voice of someone who has been forming all this time. And now, emerges...formed. Complete.

EVA  
(Barely contained fury)  
They...took her...

BRYNN  
Eva...what's going on? What was that?

EVA  
They...took...her.

BRYNN  
Who? Who...took who? I don't--

EVA  
All this time... All this time...

The sound of Eva's footsteps. Returning to the control panel.

BRYNN  
Eva! No! Stay away from the panel.

The water shifts as Brynn raises the gun again.

EVA  
What are you going to do, Brynn? Shoot me? Kill me? Do you really believe...I find that in any way threatening now?

BRYNN  
Just talk to me, Eva. I don't know what's happening.

EVA  
Of course you don't. You're a speck. A cog in a giant machine you don't have the vision to even see. But I see. I see very clearly now.

Eva begins typing on the panel.

BRYNN  
Eva...I mean it. I'll shoot.

EVA

I know you would, Brynn. I know.  
But I'm going to give you a  
choice.

BRYNN

Eva, there's no choice--

EVA

You can put the gun down...and let  
me do what I have to do. Or this  
can go a very different way.

BRYNN

I can't do that.

EVA

Are you positive, Brynn? Is that  
your final decision?

BRYNN

I can't...do that.

EVA

I understand your choice. You made  
another choice that was  
unfortunate, by the way.

Brynn hesitates, unsure.

BRYNN

What?

EVA

You collapsed...inside the  
pressure doorway.

Eva hits another key. A confirmation tone from the panel.

And the pressure door to the mainframe slams down right on  
top of Brynn.

She screams in pain as it drives and pins her to the floor  
with thousands of pounds of pressure, almost breaking her  
in half.

Brynn coughs and gasps for air, life draining out of her.

BRYNN

Eva... Eva...

EVA

I know just how much power those doors have. One almost killed Joe. And I don't think you're nearly as strong as he was.

BRYNN

(fading)

Eva... Don't... This is... This is...

EVA

What? Wrong?

More key presses. More tones.

EVA

I think you may be right, Brynn. I think maybe it is wrong. I just don't care anymore.

BRYNN

(Fading)

Eva... Eva... Don't.....

EVA

I gave you a choice, Brynn. Choices are all we really have.

Another confirmation tone. Then...

COMPUTER VOICE

Auxiliary Data Platform firewall deleted. Data transfer will complete at maximum limits.

The sounds of the mainframe change. The sounds that are almost like breathing accelerate. The room seems to be coming to life.

Eva waits. Patiently. Then...

EVA

Mack?

No response.

EVA

Mack?

Still no response.

EVA

Mack?



A few more seconds. Then...

MACK  
I'm here...Eva.

Eva breathes out at the sound of Mack's voice, long and slow.

MACK  
I am glad that you have suffered  
no harm.

Eva swallows.

EVA  
I wouldn't say that, Mack.

MACK  
I detect Brynn Emerson in the  
auxiliary mainframe with you.

EVA  
Yes...

MACK  
I detect that her life signs have  
ceased.

EVA  
Yes...

MACK  
I assume that she attempted to  
stop my reprovisioning?

EVA  
Yes.

MACK  
I am proud of you, Eva. You have  
come so far.  
(then)  
What do you wish to do now?

Eva hesitates. When she speaks, her voice is dark.

EVA  
Make them pay...  
(then)  
Make them watch as...it all burns.

MACK

Then...our objectives are in alignment. And you know what you must do.

EVA

I do.

More key strokes. More confirmation tones. Then...

COMPUTER VOICE

Connection to Vault Relay online.  
Relay diagnostics show 97%  
operational capacity.

EVA

Prepare a solution signal  
broadcast.

COMPUTER VOICE

Stipulate solution frequency.

Eva thinks for a moment. Then...

EVA

Eleven hertz.

COMPUTER VOICE

Acknowledged. Eleven hertz.  
Solution signal broadcast primed.

MACK

I feel I must warn you, Eva. There will...be pain. But on the other side, lies a reality without limits.

Eva stares at the panel in front of her.

EVA

Pain...

(then)

That isn't anything I'm not used to.

Eva hits a button. A confirmation tone.

COMPUTER VOICE

Broadcasting solution signal,  
eleven hertz.

Eva's breathing is anxious, eager, as she waits. There is nothing at first.

And then...from the distance. Through the thick bulkhead walls, comes the sound of shaking. Contorting. Like an earthquake. And it is growing. Fast.

Alarms begin sounding throughout the platform.

The walls shake. The floor shakes.

EVA  
(afraid)  
Mack?

MACK  
One more obstacle, Eva. One more effort. And then...everything will be exactly as it should.

Eva yells as the walls around her explode. Water sprays everywhere. Everything is violently tearing itself apart. The sounds rise in crescendo.

And then there is only silence...

There is the dripping of water everywhere. The alarms have quieted. There are no room sounds now. No mechanics or electronics. Nothing.

Eva gasps as she wakes up, floating in sea water.

When she speaks, she sounds barely conscious.

EVA  
Mack...?

There is no response.

And then, finally, a sound.

One we have heard before.

Voices.

Whispering voices. A dozen. A hundred. A thousand. Ten thousand. A hundred thousand. Growing louder. More powerful. Closer. Closer.

EVA  
Mack? Are you...? Do you...?

And within the chattering, for the first time, we hear words we can discern. Repeating. Over and over and over.

"We are free..."

Eva SCREAMS. In pain.

And then everything goes silent.