

FATHOM - EPISODE NINE  
"In the Silence, We Listen"

by  
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INT. PIPEWORKS

The pounding again.

BLAYNE  
Klayton! Get back in your suit!

The pounding.

BLAYNE  
Klayton...

KLAYTON  
We're all going to die...

BLAYNE  
Klayton!

The pounding again.

KLAYTON  
Right... Right.

Buttons push, confirmation tones sound. The DEMES starts to reseal itself.

The pounding again. Harder. The door shakes in its frame.

BLAYNE  
Dr. Graff, there's two doors here.  
Which one should we take?

EVA  
The one on the right. I think. I  
can't see anything, we have to get  
my access back up. I'm not much  
help to you otherwise.

BLAYNE  
How do we do that?

EVA  
We need an admin panel somewhere.  
And time to actually use it.

BLAYNE  
Reese said this platform only has  
one lift.

EVA  
Yes. And the control center is at  
the top of it.

KLAYTON  
But is it even running?

BLAYNE  
Only one way to find out.

The pounding again.

Blayne moves for the right door.

BLAYNE  
Klayton, come on.

Klayton starts moving, too.

KLAYTON  
What about...

The sound the pressure door opening. Water from the other side floods in.

The sound of the lifeform in the hall bursts in too.

KLAYTON  
That.

BLAYNE  
Yeah. What I was afraid of.

The sound of Blayne's PLASMA THROWER bursting to life.

The sound of the lifeform withering in the heat.

BLAYNE  
Whole tunnel is active now...

The PLASMA THROWER again. The pounding again.

BLAYNE  
Klayton, stay close behind me.

The pounding again. The door is crumbling.

KLAYTON  
Don't worry.

They start moving, into...

INT. UTILITY TUNNELS

They step in. Blayne's plasma thrower flares.

KLAYTON  
 God, the tunnel is completely  
 infested.

The plasma thrower again.

BLAYNE  
 Yeah. Who's idea was this?

They keep moving forward. The plasma thrower clearing the  
 way. The lifeform moves and writhes around Klayton.

KLAYTON  
 Blayne, it's still moving. I don't  
 think the plasma's working.

BLAYNE  
 I'm not hitting it as hard as I  
 did before. There's no time.

The plasma thrower again.

BLAYNE  
 I see the door to the lift.

The lifeform stirs around Klayton.

KLAYTON  
 Blayne... I don't think it's  
 working at all. I think it's--

Sounds from above, the creature stirring, moving. Pieces of  
 it shoot downwards, wrap around Blayne.

He grunts in surprise as his DEMES is lifted and slammed to  
 the ceiling.

KLAYTON  
 Blayne!

EVA  
 What's going on?

Blayne struggles futilely,

KLAYNE  
 Blayne!  
 (then)  
 It grabbed him! It pulled him onto  
 the ceiling!

EVA  
 It pulled a DEMES onto the  
ceiling?

KLAYTON

Yes!

Blayne groans, struggles, tries to break loose, can't.

KLAYTON

Blayne! Don't move! Stop moving!  
It's covering you!

The creature writhes and grows and clicks.

The plasma thrower bursts to life. The creature reacts, but keeps expanding.

BLAYNE

Can't...get loose...

KLAYTON

Oh, God...

EVA

The lifeform is fully active now,  
you won't get loose.

KLAYTON

Blayne, get out!

BLAYNE

One second...

(then)

You're going to get a confirmation  
in your HUD. Accept it.

The sound of the confirmation.

KLAYTON

Wait. What do--

Klayton groans as the substance makes contact with her DEMES, grabs it, and YANKS it hard against the wall.

She struggles instinctively, panicking.

KLAYTON

It's got me! It's got me now!

BLAYNE

Hit Confirm and get out! There's  
nothing we can do.

Klayton struggles.

BLAYNE

Klayton!

KLAYTON

Okay!

Klayton hits Accept. A confirmation tone.

COMPUTER VOICE

Confirmed. DEMES ND00R self-destruct sequence initiated. Time to detonation, forty five seconds...

KLAYTON

Are you...kidding me?

The sound of the helmet blowing off Blayne's DEMES. Blayne climbs out, falls, crashes to the flooded floor.

BLAYNE

I don't do that. Get out now!

We hear Blayne splashing forward.

COMPUTER VOICE

Forty seconds to detonation.

The sound of the helmet blowing off Klayton's DEMES. Then she climbs out too, falling, hits the flooded floor.

KLAYTON

Now we're exposed! With the DEMES's about to explode!

BLAYNE

This thing is busy with them...  
Buys us time.

Blayne rushes through the water, starts to removing an access panel on the wall.

KLAYTON

Where does that panel go?

BLAYNE

I don't know. Conduit access. Got to be better than here.

COMPUTER VOICE

Thirty seconds to detonation.

EVA

Good idea. You're not going to make it to the lift.

BLAYNE

Agreed.

KLAYTON

But what if it doesn't go  
anywhere?

BLAYNE

Well, then we're in a lot of  
trouble.

COMPUTER VOICE

Twenty five seconds to detonation.

Another sound, from the distance. It echoes up and down the  
tunnel. The sound of a pressure door, finally, being blown  
off its hinges.

KLAYTON

You were saying...

EVA

What?

BLAYNE

Reese's DEMES. Or whatever it is.  
It finally broke through back  
there.

The panel comes loose, slams to the floor.

COMPUTER VOICE

Twenty seconds to detonation.

BLAYNE

It's coming.

Blayne starts crawling inside.

BLAYNE

Klayton, come on...

The static on the radio again. The voices. The one in  
particular.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

Sarah sucks in a frightened breath.

BLAYNE

Klayton, get in here!

From the distance, footsteps, loud and heavy, coming closer.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

KLAYTON

I want to see it...

COMPUTER VOICE

Fifteen seconds to detonation...

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

BLAYNE

Klayton, come on!

KLAYTON

I want to see it...

BLAYNE

Klayton!

COMPUTER VOICE

Ten... Nine...

KLAYTON

I'm coming... I'm coming...

COMPUTER VOICE

Eight... Seven...

Klayton scrambles inside the access hatch, to...

INT. GEOLOGY DRILL SHAFT

The sounds indicate it is a very large, metallic shaft. Blayne's and Klayton's sounds echo strangely.

KLAYTON

Where are--

COMPUTER VOICE

Six... Five...

BLAYNE

Start climbing!

KLAYTON

But...



COMPUTER VOICE  
Four... Three...

BLAYNE  
The ladder! Climb!

COMPUTER VOICE  
Two...

The sounds of them climbing on a ladder in the wall.

COMPUTER VOICE  
One...  
(then)  
Detonation.

The shaft rocks hard as, outside, both DEMES's explode.

Klayton gasps as fire shoots into the shaft below them.

The lifeform shrieks. The static on the radio swells...then cuts off.

The sounds of the explosion flare away below. Leaving nothing but the sounds of the interior of the shaft.

EVA  
Was that an explosion?

BLAYNE  
Yeah...  
(Then)  
I blew the DEMES's. If that thing can take over machines, then I'm not letting it get two more.

EVA  
Good thought. Where are you?

BLAYNE  
Some kind of...shaft. Huge one. Vertical. Stretches up and down out of sight. Ladders on the walls. Filled with...something big and metallic. Circular. It...

Klayton's breathing become ragged. She shakes.

KLAYTON  
I can't... Blayne...

BLAYNE  
Klayton.

KLAYTON

I can't... I can't...

BLAYNE

Sarah, it's not coming after us.  
It can't fit in the shaft.

KLAYTON

I can't... I can't...

BLAYNE

Sarah?

EVA

Blayne you can't stay where you  
are.

MUSIC: It Must Be Ghosting, Taubert

KLAYTON

I can't... I can't...

BLAYNE

Sarah, I'm here.

EVA

Blayne.

KLAYTON

I can't... I can't...

BLAYNE

Not now, Doctor.

EVA

Yes. Now. You can't stay where you  
are.

BLAYNE

Sarah... You're okay. You're safe.

KLAYTON

I can't... I can't...

BLAYNE

Sarah, I've got you. You're okay.  
Hey. You're--

KLAYTON

Told you... Told you not to tell  
me...tell me that...

BLAYNE

I know. But I also told you,  
awhile back, I'd never lie to you,  
and I'm not lying now. You are  
okay. No matter what it feels  
like.

KLAYTON

It will come up. He will come up.

BLAYNE

There's no 'he'. It's not Reese.

KLAYTON.

We left him. I left him. And he's  
come back.

BLAYNE

No. It's just an extension of the  
creature. Somehow. It wants to  
terrorize us. Divide us. I won't  
let it.

EVA

Blayne. Listen to me. You are  
inside the geology--

BLAYNE

Not now, Eva!

EVA

I'm trying to tell you that--

The sign of the comms shutting off. Eva is muted.

BLAYNE

She's gone. I muted her. It's just  
us now, okay? Hey. Just us.

KLAYTON

We're going to die...

BLAYNE

(firm)

No. We are not. Sarah. We're not.  
How many promises have I made you  
that I haven't kept?

Klayton just breathes.

BLAYNE

Sarah, how many?

KLAYTON

None...

BLAYNE

Right. I don't make them if I can't keep them. And I can keep this one.

(then)

We are not going to die.

Klayton is quiet.

KLAYTON

I don't know... I don't know...

BLAYNE

After everything we've seen together...you really don't trust me?

KLAYTON

It's not that I don't...believe in you. In fact, that's...the entire problem. I'm not strong.

I'm...weak. I'm... You're the opposite of me, Blayne. In every way. I could never...be like you.

Blayne is silent a moment.

BLAYNE

Where do you get off, Sarah, saying something like that?

KLAYTON

But...

She stares at him.

BLAYNE

On North, I did try to quit. Didn't I? I wanted to leave Mack there, regroup, figure out another solution. You were the one that wouldn't stop. Said you were staying, with or without me. Remember that?

Klayton swallows.

KLAYTON

I did say that, didn't I?

BLAYNE

Everything you've been through,  
and you're still here. You're not  
weak. You're inspiring. You made  
me believe. And you were right.

(then)

I promise you, I'm right now. We  
are not lost.

She looks at him.

KLAYTON

I...trust you. I just...need to  
know we can stop it. That's all. I  
need to know it can be stopped.

BLAYNE

It can be stopped. I'm going to  
prove it to you. So you'll know.  
You won't have to take it on  
faith. Okay?

KLAYTON

Okay...

BLAYNE

Okay.

They stare at each other.

BLAYNE

Now. I feel like... I feel like we  
just had a moment. And, given how  
precarious everything is, you  
know, how uncertain, I mean...I  
think now would be a very  
appropriate time for you to share  
with me--

KLAYTON

I'm not telling you my phobia.

BLAYNER

A hint would be enough. That would  
be fine. A really vague hint.

KLAYTON

No.

BLAYNE

Does it involve sharp objects?

KLAYTON

Listen to me, I will never--

A scary sound around them, suddenly. The sound of something big and mechanical coming to life.

BLAYNE

Now what...

The sound of Blayne unmuting the comms.

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff?

EVA

I was trying to tell you where you are. But you shut me off.

BLAYNE

And where are we?

EVA

You're in the deepwater drill shaft. That big metallic, corkscrew that runs the length of it? That's the drill. And the lifeform is turning it on.

KLAYTON

Why is there a drill?

EVA

The geology teams did core samples before building the base, to make sure the Vault wasn't emitting any residual radi--

BLAYNE

Do you both really think this the time?

The shaft shakes as the drill comes online.

BLAYNE

Climb! Climb!

The sound of Blayne and Klayton climbing up the ladder.

EVA

You could have been doing that all along, if you had just listened to what I--

BLAYNE

Where does this shaft go?

EVA

Technically, it goes nowhere, it runs right up the center of the platform, but there's probably maintenance panels all up its length, like the one you got in there with. The panel at the top, if I'm remembering right, will take you to the geo-cartography lab.

BLAYNE

I would love to see the geo-cartography lab.

The drill keeps powering up...

KLAYTON

Oh my God, this isn't happening.

BLAYNE

Keep climbing!

They do,

BLAYNE

There's an access panel coming up.

EVA

Are you at the top of the shaft?

BLAYNE

No...

EVA

Then that's not the right one, is it?

The shaft rocks as the drill begins to turn.

KLAYTON

Oh my God... It's turning!

BLAYNE

Keep climbing!

KLAYTON

I am!

The drill begins to turn, faster and faster.

KLAYTON

This thing is going to rip us off the walls.

BLAYNE  
I see the top. I see the access  
panel.

EVA  
Then get it open.

The sounds of Blayne prying open the access panel are muted  
by the sounds of the drill beginning to spin.

BLAYNE  
I'm working on it...

Blayne keeps trying, gives up.

BLAYNE  
It's not opening.

He kicks the panel.

BLAYNE  
Have to force it.

He kicks the panel.

KLAYTON  
Blayne, what about--

He kicks the panel.

BLAYNE  
Almost got it.

He kicks the panel. Again.

Klayton reaches up, pulls down a handle inset into the  
wall. It clicks hard as she flips it.

There is a spark. Then the sound of the drill begins to  
slow, the sound of the turbines winding down.

BLAYNE  
What did you--

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Geology drill emergency  
shut off has been triggered.  
Safety protocols must be initiated  
before drill operation can resume.

Klayton clears her throat, looks at Blayne.

BLAYNE  
Emergency shut off switch.



KLAYTON

Yes..

BLAYNE

Yeah, it makes sense there would be something like that in here.

KLAYTON

It does.

BLAYNE

I was trying to--

Both jump as the access panel out of the shaft falls loose and crashes to the floor on the other side.

BLAYNE

Panel's open now.

KLAYTON

I see that.

BLAYNE

Okay.

They both move for the access panel, and climb into...

KLAYTON

Men...

INT. GEOLOGY/CARTOGRAPHY LABORATORY

The laboratory is unpowered, currently. Blayne and Klayton's footsteps echo in it.

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff, we're in the geology-cartography lab. With all our limbs attached.

EVA

What do you see?

BLAYNE

Hold on, it's dark.

KLAYTON

There's a flashlight on the wall.

Klayton pulls one from a holder in the wall, flips it on.

BLAYNE

Okay... Lots of computers, looks like a holographic projector in the center of the room. Everything's mothballed, covered in tarps. Can we restore your access here?

EVA

If you can power up the room, possibly. Start taking the tarps off, you'll need an admin panel, not a workstation.

KLAYTON

I'll start over here.

We hear them moving through the room, ripping off the tarps to the computer stations as they go.

BLAYNE

What do we do once we find the right panel?

EVA

There should be a primary switch somewhere. It will boot the entire system.

KLAYTON

Usually on the floor, near the walls, right? That's how it was in the medbay.

EVA

Exactly.

The sounds of them moving through the water.

KLAYTON

I see it. I have it.

She trips a switch. The room powers. Computers boot.

KLAYTON

Okay. Everything's booting back up.

BLAYNE

I found an admin panel. How do I restore your access?

EVA

Log in with your ISD credentials.  
I can walk you through finding out  
if that's what's going on. It  
would be the simplest explanation,  
but I can't guarantee the lifeform  
only changed my permissions. It  
could have deleted my entire  
profile if it wanted.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE

Okay. I'm in. Go to the Admin  
panel?

EVA

Platform admin, not lab admin.

Suddenly, around them, new sounds. More computers coming  
online. Machines humming to life.

Data scrolls. On monitors all around the room.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE

Uh oh...

KLAYTON

What in...hell...

EVA

What's happening?

BLAYNE

The computers are behaving...  
strange.

EVA

Define strange.

KLAYTON

They're online now...

EVA

Which ones?

KLAYTON

All of them. All of them are  
processing.

BLAYNE

Something's operating them.

KLAYTON

I think we know what that is.

EVA

It may be trying to stop you from adjusting my permissions.

A new sound. A strange, electronic humming, as the cartography hologram fills the center of the room.

BLAYNE

I don't think so...

KLAYTON

The...holographic map just displayed.

EVA

The map?

BLAYNE

Yeah. It's showing...the base. It looks like. A top down view. The sea floor. It--

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

EVA

What?

BLAYNE

Standby, doctor.

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

KLAYTON

(unnerved)

What is it doing?

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

BLAYNE

It's zooming out. Further and further.

KLAYTON

That's South America.

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

KLAYTON

And now North, too...

(Then)

Oceans...

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

BLAYNE  
The entire planet.

KLAYTON  
What is it...doing?

They keep watching it.

BLAYNE  
Dr. Graff, do you have an idea of  
how much cartographic information  
is stored here?

EVA  
It's for the geology teams that  
built the base. If it's anything  
like the physics data packages  
that get loaded, then I would  
assume it contains...everything.

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

BLAYNE  
Even stellar cartography?

EVA  
All known cartography.

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

KLAYTON  
Earth. Mars. Titan. It's...

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out. Data  
scrolling again, more and more.

BLAYNE  
It's learning the solar system.

KLAYTON  
Asteroid belt. Oh my God...

EVA  
I would finish what you are doing,  
Agent Blayne, very quickly.

BLAYNE  
(worried)  
Yeah...

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE  
Okay, I'm in the admin panel.

EVA  
Look for user permissions.

BLAYNE  
I see them.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

Data scrolling. The sound of the hologram zooming out.

KLAYTON  
Blayne... It's scanning  
interstellar now.

BLAYNE  
I'm in user permissions.

KLAYTON  
It's seeing everything...

EVA  
The Team Lead tab, my profile will  
be in there.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE  
Found you.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE  
Your permissions were revoked.

EVA  
Reinstate them.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

KLAYTON  
Turn it off...

BLAYNE  
Not yet...

Typing. Confirmation tones.

KLAYTON  
It's learning everything. Blayne,  
turn it off!

BLAYNE

Not yet.

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE

Got it. Doctor?

Nothing. Just more data scrolling.

BLAYNE

Doctor?

EVA

I'm back in, I have access. Change the system password. Something only you know, nothing random, it can screen random combinations at billions a second.

KLAYTON

Blayne!

Typing. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE

Got it. Klayton, kill the room!

Klayton slams the computer switch down on the wall. The humming, the data, everything shuts off and powers down.

Klayton breathes hard. She and Blayne look at each other.

KLAYTON

What...just happened?

EVA

Isn't it obvious? The creature used the access to the data archive to review the cartography of human expansion. Earth. Sol colonies. Interstellar colonies.

BLAYNE

Space stations. Installations. Orbital platforms. Every human asset.

EVA

It explains a great many things.

KLAYTON

Like what?

EVA  
 Why it was put here.  
 (then)  
Colonization.

KLAYTON  
 Colonization?

EVA  
 Think about it. An ancient,  
 sentient, mechanical organism that  
 spreads by infecting other non-  
 sentient machinery and technology?  
 Eventually it spread as far as it  
 could. Without technology to  
 infect there was nowhere else for  
 it to go.

(then)  
 It clearly can survive in  
 isolation indefinitely. A  
 collective machine intelligence  
 orders of magnitude higher than  
 any of our VIs. It could run  
 biological forecasts, geological  
 algorithms, determine which  
 planets would be most likely to  
 produce life.

BLAYNE  
 It's brilliant, actually. Place a  
 Vault on an uninhabited planet,  
 somewhere the future intelligent  
 life couldn't open or physically  
 reach...

KLAYTON  
 Like the bottom of the ocean...

BLAYNE  
Until they were at an advanced  
 enough technological level to do  
 so. A level that would ensure,  
 when it was opened...

EVA  
 The conditions on the surface  
 would be perfect for it to infect  
 and expand. A surface rife with  
 technology.



KLAYTON

Not just the surface. It would mean the race that finds the Vault is probably space faring. That it's probably expanded beyond its home planet.

EVA

Precisely. Then it spreads from one machine to the next, one region to the next, until it consumes every piece of technology on Earth. And when it's finished, it spreads to starships. Then to other planets. Other systems. It would efficiently wipe out all human life...and replace it with its own matrix.

KLAYTON

Bloody hell...

Klayton breathes. She sounds haunted.

EVA

You must see now, the reality. The scope of it. The risk is far too great. It must be stopped.

BLAYNE

Which is why we need a containment team.

EVA

That won't stop it. That will only aid it. This can't reach the surface, Sarah.

BLAYNE

It won't.

Klayton looks at him.

BLAYNE

Klayton...it won't.

EVA

You saw what it did to Reese. How many more people have to die like that, Sarah?

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff...

EVA

How many more do we have to sacrifice?

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff.

EVA

How many more like Alvarez? Like Joe?

BLAYNE

Eva!

EVA

I know I'm right, Sarah. You know I'm right. We aren't even talking about losing just Earth now, we're talking about the systematic destruction of the entire human species. This is--

KLAYTON

(firm)

I trust, Blayne.

Eva cuts off at that.

KLAYTON

I'm sorry, Eva. I understand your viewpoint, believe me. But...I've been through too much with Blayne.

(then)

I trust him. I choose to trust him. I owe him that.

Blayne and Klayton stare at each other.

BLAYNE

Thank you, Sarah.

EVA

I hope you're right. I really do. Because if you're not--

Klayton gasps out loud as the sound of the pressure door opening fills the room.

BLAYNE

Did you do that?

KLAYTON

I did not.

EVA  
What is it?

KLAYTON  
The pressure door just opened...  
Static fills the comms. Whispers. Voices.

KLAYTON  
I can hear it... It's coming...  
The sound of footsteps. Heavy ones. Coming towards them.

BLAYNE  
I'll shut the door.  
Blayne pushes through the water, hits a button on the wall.  
A rejection sound.  
He tries again.  
The same sound.

BLAYNE  
Door isn't responding, Eva can you  
shut it on your end? Shut it and  
lock it?  
The footsteps, coming closer.

EVA  
Already trying...  
The door starts to shut...

KLAYTON  
There it goes!  
...and just as quickly stops. Slams back open.

BLAYNE  
And there it goes right back.

EVA  
It's fighting me...  
The footsteps. Closer.  
The door starts to close again. Stops again.

BLAYNE  
Eva...

The footsteps. Closer.

HORRIBLE VOICE  
Sarah...

KLAYTON  
Oh, no... It's coming.

BLAYNE  
Klayton, get the lift moving, go!

Klayton moves for the lift. Fast.

KLAYTON  
Okay. Okay...

The footsteps. Loud. Closer.

EVA  
I think...

BLAYNE  
Eva...

EVA  
I think...

The door starts to move again. This time, it does not stop.  
It slams closed.

The sounds of the footsteps are cut off.

EVA  
New permissions are working, it's  
not locking me out this time.

BLAYNE  
Good work, doctor. Klayton, get in  
the lift.

They move into...

INT. UTILITY LIFT

Inside the lift...

The sound of the elevator POWERING DOWN.

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

BLAYNE  
Eva!

EVA

It shut down the elevator, I know,  
I'm trying to reboot the--

Klayton SHRIEKS, as a violent sound fills the room.

The sound of two long, dark, very sharp things PUNCHING  
STRAIGHT THROUGH the pressure door.

KLAYTON

What in hell!

BLAYNE

Something punctured straight  
through the pressure door to the  
lab. Like two giant blades.

The blades withdraw. Then punch right back through.

EVA

It's altered its form. It's  
adapting.

KLAYTON

The lift. Start the lift!

The blades puncture the door again.

Klayton punches the buttons. Over and over. Nothing.

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff!

The blades withdraw. Then punch right back through.

EVA

How many times do I have to say  
that I'm working on it.

The blades withdraw. Then punch right back through.

Whispers and voices fill the air and the radio.

The pressure door to the lab rips apart with the high  
pitched sounds of rending metal.

And then...it STEPS THROUGH.

Larger than the DEMES it once was, now covered in the  
black, metallic shell of the lifeform, it steps into the  
lab in a rush of whispered voices, and grinding, creaking  
metal.

The voice which comes from it is no longer over the radio.  
It fill the room.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

KLAYTON

Oh. My. God.

It moves towards them, knocking over everything in the lab  
to get to them.

BLAYNE

It's in here with us!

KLAYTON

It's coming!

BLAYNE

Doctor Graff!

EVA

Got it. Got it.

The lift powers back up. The doors slam shut.

The sounds from outside are shut off. Klayton and Blayne  
breathe hard. Normalizing.

KLAYTON

Dear lord...

BLAYNE

Okay... Okay...

KLAYTON

Its arms... They must be...diamond  
filament sharp. To puncture steel  
like that.

EVA

Is the lift moving?

BLAYNE

Yeah. We're moving.

KLAYTON

It was... It looked like a DEMES.  
I mean, the shape of it, the size,  
but...covered. Covered by the  
lifeform.

BLAYNE

Yeah. It was Reese's DEMES. It had to be.

EVA

Then it's clear. The lifeform can assimilate and control other machines. It's more than just the spread we're seeing on the walls. Can you imagine if this thing got control of military machinery?

BLAYNE

Yeah, that would be...pretty bad.

KLAYTON

It was Reese.

BLAYNE

It's not Reese. Reese is dead.

KLAYTON

Then what's been talking to us?

EVA

Everything I've seen suggests it's a linked technological intelligence. No separate entities. Whatever's communicating...it's the Whole. Not a One.

KLAYTON

Well, that makes me feel much better.

(then)

How is it... Doing...everything it's doing? Manipulating the computers. Taking over Reese's DEMES. Communicating. It's never done any of that. Right?

EVA

No.

BLAYNE

Maybe it was the reactivation of power?

KLAYTON

No. It had that before. Briefly. There has to be something else. Something different now.

EVA  
 (thinking)  
 The Vault. The Vault was empty...

Everyone stops, thinking, unsure.

KLAYTON  
 What?

EVA  
 That's why we had the displacement, it filled with sea water when it opened. Because it was empty.

BLAYNE  
 So?

EVA  
 So...if the lifeform was stored empty...

KLAYTON  
 Then...an oxygen environment...an unflooded environment...is its preferred one.

BLAYNE  
 Why the water, then?

EVA  
 It must use it for...dispersion. To spread quickly. But after that...

KLAYTON  
 We pumped out the platform. We removed the water.

EVA  
 An oxygen atmosphere must allow it to function at its most volatile.

Klayton looks at Blayne.

KLAYTON  
 God... Since we've gotten here... We've done everything it wants us to do. Step by step. Restored power. Removed the X-Core safeguards so it has access to that power. Gave it machines to use against us.

(MORE)



KLAYTON (CONT'D)  
Pressurized the platform so it has  
air. We've done everything it  
wants us to do.

BLAYNE  
Contacting the surface is not what  
it wants us to do.

KLAYTON  
How do you know?

BLAYNE  
(pointed)  
Because it's trying to stop us.

She looks at him.

The lift comes to a stop. The doors open. No one moves.

BLAYNE  
But we're going to stop it. Like I  
said.

They stare at each other a moment...then step out of the  
elevator, into...

INT. CONTROL CENTER

The sound of the control center. Computers humming,  
beeping, processing.

BLAYNE  
Eva, we're in the Control center.

KLAYTON  
There's no infestation here.

BLAYNE  
Well, something had to go our way  
eventually.

Then the elevator doors shudder suddenly. Start to close.

BLAYNE  
The doors! Klayton, get them!

Klayton moves for the doors, tries to stop them from  
closing. She fails. They close solidly.

KLAYTON  
Too late...

The sound of the elevator powering, descending back down.

KLAYTON  
It's lowering the lift back  
down...

BLAYNE  
What's left of Reese's DEMES...  
(then)  
It's going to come up after us.

The elevator keeps moving, fading as it moves back down.

BLAYNE  
Dr. Graff, can you find the  
maintenance panel for the  
elevator?

EVA  
I'm looking at it. I'm trying to  
shut the lift down, but I have to  
give myself maintenance access.

Blayne moves for the controls.

BLAYNE  
I'm going to start the  
reorientation of the Relay. It'll  
take awhile.

KLAYTON  
Assuming you can connect to it.  
Assuming it's not dead out there.

The sound of Blayne pressing keys. Confirmation tones. Data  
reading out.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Attention. Vault Relay  
operational.

BLAYNE  
It's still active.

More typing, confirmation tones, data...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Vault Relay reorientation  
in process to new transmission  
vector.

BLAYNE  
It's working...

COMPUTER VOICE

Vault Relay reorientation will complete in four minutes, twenty one seconds.

KLAYTON

Four minutes! That thing will be up here way before that.

EVA

I'm trying to stop the lift...

(then)

But... It's rewriting APIs faster than I can enter commands. I've had to restart three times.

KLAYTON

What do we do? We don't have DEMES's anymore. We lost the weapons.

BLAYNE

Well... This is Control.

Blayne moves through the room, looking.

BLAYNE

Here.

He moves to a large case on the wall.

BLAYNE

Weapons locker.

KLAYTON

Can you get it open?

BLAYNE

My ISD protocols should let me.

He places his hand on the scanner. A beep. Then the lock mechanically opens.

Blayne digs through the locker, checks an assault rifle cartridge. He sighs.

BLAYNE

Damn. These are all loaded with low impact slugs, so we don't breach bulkheads. Which means...

KLAYTON

They aren't going to breach that thing either.

The sound of the lift stopping through the doors. Then the sound of it starting again.

KLAYTON

The lift's coming up now.

BLAYNE

Eva, I don't know about the rest of the platform, but it's M-D standard ops to have automated security in a control center. Do you see anything like that on your end?

EVA

There's only one of me. Do you want me to work on the elevator, or do you want me--

BLAYNE

We don't have time for the lift, it's already coming back up.

Blayne starts pulling things out of the locker.

BLAYNE

Look for gun turrets. They'll be loaded high caliber.

EVA

Fine. Starting over. Again.

The sound of the lift is growing louder.

KLAYTON

It's coming...

Blayne starts priming one of the rifles.

BLAYNE

Klayton, get behind that panel.

KLAYTON

What are you doing? I thought the bullets wouldn't hurt it.

BLAYNE

Doesn't mean they won't slow it down. We just need to buy time for Dr. Graff to get the turrets online. Or, failing that, getting the relay reoriented.

(MORE)

BLAYNE (CONT'D)

Listen to me, whatever happens, when the radio connection locks, transmit to the surface. Tell them what's happening, tell them we need a Gamma level containment team here.

KLAYTON

What do you mean "whatever happens"?

BLAYNE

It means it may come down to you. Just hit this button and hold it. That will transmit.

KLAYTON

Blayne...

EVA

You're about to have company.

The sound of the lift is loud now.

BLAYNE

How are those turrets coming?

EVA

I found the subroutines, but you're going to have to hold it off for a minute.

The sound of the lift rising stops on the other side of the doors.

BLAYNE

Kind of figured you'd say that.

The elevator doors open. What's left of Reese's DEMES STOMPS into the control room.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

BLAYNE

Here it comes. Klayton, head down!

The rifle fires. The slugs hit the DEMES. It keeps coming.

KLAYTON

It didn't even slow down!

BLAYNE  
Watch the razor arms!

The DEMES bursts through some of the computers.

Blayne groans as it slams into him, sends him flying, crashing to the floor.

KLAYTON  
Blayne!

EVA  
Almost got it...

The rifle fires again. The DEMES moves for him again.

KLAYTON  
Damn it...  
(then)  
Blayne, hold on.

BLAYNE  
Dr. Graff!

EVA  
Almost got it...

Blayne fire the rifle.

The DEMES moves for Klayton.

EVA  
Here we go... Watch out.

The turrets descend from the ceiling.

KLAYTON  
Oh, lovely...

BLAYNE  
Klayton, get down!

The turrets open fire, spraying bullets into the DEMES. It moans, contorts, staggers back.

The DEMES shudders...then collapses hard to the floor.

The turrets shut off.

Blayne and Klayton stare at it, sitting there, smoking.

KLAYTON  
We did it...

BLAYNE

Wait...

KLAYTON

But... It's dead. It has to be.

BLAYNE

Wait.

A second later...and then a shuffling. The sound of metal moving on the floor.

KLAYTON

Oh, no...

What's left of the DEMES starts to move again.

BLAYNE

It's reforming. It's not going to stay down.

KLAYTON

Eva, the turrets!

The DEMES keeps stirring.

SPARKS as the turrets explode in the ceiling. They whine down. Dying...

BLAYNE

And there go the turrets...

EVA

It overloaded them. That's all the defenses in the room. You're on your own.

BLAYNE

The relay's almost aligned. Sarah, get behind me.

Blayne loads another clip into the rifle.

KLAYTON

I don't think that's going to help.

The DEMES keeps stirring.

BLAYNE

Any suggestions?

KLAYTON

Eva! Does this platform have an oxygen generator?

EVA

I don't think so, it was only for temporary habitation. Why?

Klayton moves, climbs on top of a computer panel.

BLAYNE

Klayton don't climb on that.

KLAYTON

I'm looking for something in the ceiling panels.

BLAYNE

We got about twenty seconds until that thing is back up.

She rips the ceiling panels loose, exposing the infrastructure above it.

KLAYTON

Found it. See the blue pipes? Eva, this platform uses LMO for the atmosphere.

EVA

Makes sense. But how does that help?

KLAYTON

Because it's way colder than liquid nitrogen.

BLAYNE

You want to burst one of those pipes?

KLAYTON

Right on top of that thing, yes.

BLAYNE

What's LMO?

KLAYTON

Liquid Medical Oxygen. It's in a compressed, super cold liquid form, but still maintains it's breathable properties.

(MORE)



KLAYTON (CONT'D)

Raw like this, though, it's somewhere near minus 200 degrees Celsius. Freeze it through. I bet your low impact slugs will do a lot of damage then.

BLAYNE

I think you're an amazing person.

KLAYTON

Eva, can you super pressurize the cryo pipes in here?

EVA

Let me see...

The DEMES stirs.

BLAYNE

It's almost up!

KLAYTON

If I seal the junctions...the connection right ahead should blow.

The sound of Klayton closing the valves on the cryopipes.

The DEMES rises from the floor. It sounds damaged, hurt, it moves slower...but it still moves.

BLAYNE

It's up!

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

KLAYTON

Try and keep it from moving!

EVA

LMO pressure, one hundred six percent.

The DEMES barrels forward, crashing through computers and electronics.

KLAYTON

Hurry!

BLAYNE

Firing!

Blayne fires a grenade.

The DEMES groans, clicks, struggles.

EVA  
One hundred and eleven percent  
pressure.

The DEMES takes more steps forwards.

KLAYTON  
It's not stopping...

The sound of Klayton closing the valves on the cryopipes.

BLAYNE  
I see that...

Blayne reloads the gun. FIRES again.

The sound of Klayton closing the valves on the cryopipes.

EVA  
Pressure one hundred and twenty  
percent, still rising.

KLAYTON  
I can hear the pressure.

The pipes around them shake and vibrate.

The DEMES steps forward. Blayne FIRES again.

The sound of Klayton closing the valves on the cryopipes.

EVA  
Pressure, one hundred and twenty  
five percent!

KLAYTON  
When this blows it's going to--

The sound of netting snapping and flying through the air.

Klayton screams as it cuts into her, falls to the floor.

BLAYNE  
Sarah!

HORRIBLE VOICE  
Sarah...

The DEMES charges forward. Klayton yells as it slams into her, knocks her backwards.

BLAYNE  
Get off her!

Blayne drops the netting gun, grabs his rifle. FIRES, shoots, runs forward.

EVA  
One hundred twenty seven...

Blayne RAMS into the DEMES. It groans, shudders, twists around.

And then Blayne yells as it stabs him. He falls...

KLAYTON  
Blayne!

He goes flying, crashes through the room

EVA  
Sarah?

KLAYTON  
It just stabbed Blayne. It's on him.

EVA  
You have to get out of there.

KLAYTON  
No! Keep the pressure going! It's almost there!

The pipes in the ceiling BURST violently.

Liquid oxygen sprays everywhere. The corrupted DEMES groans and shrieks covered by the substance.

BLAYNE  
Klayton! Do it! Shoot it! It's covered!

KLAYTON  
Novel idea...

The gun FIRES. Slugs slam into the DEMES...but they sound different now. We hear cracking, exploding, debris spraying everywhere.

Klayton keeps firing.

The DEMES breaks apart, falls to the floor in big, frozen chunks, bursting further apart.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Sarah...

A haunting sound, like a strange quivering metallic breath escapes the creature...

And then there is nothing but the sound of Klayton and Blayne breathing.

They look at each other. Stunned.

BLAYNE

And you...aren't anything like me...huh?

KLAYTON

I guess I have my moments...

Blayne laughs. It seems to hurt. He groans...and collapses to the floor.

KLAYTON

Blayne, you're hurt. You're bleeding.

She moves to him.

BLAYNE

No, I'll...be okay...  
(then)  
Be okay...

KLAYTON

We need to bandage that... God, you're cut bad.

From behind them, a new sound. The sound of static from the comms. Then...

RADIO VOICE

Fathom base, Surface One.

Klayton breathes out at the sound...

BLAYNE

Sarah...  
(then)  
Look at it. Look at it.

Sarah turns, looks at the inert, destroyed DEMES.

BLAYNE

Do you see?  
(MORE)

BLAYNE (CONT'D)

(then)

It can be stopped. We...stopped  
it.

RADIO VOICE

Fathom base, Surface One, do you  
read?

BLAYNE

It can be stopped.

(Then)

We can--

Blayne groans horribly as the DEMES, one last time, rises,  
THRUSTS its bladed appendage STRAIGHT THROUGH his chest.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Nothing...will be stopped...

KLAYTON

Blayne!

Klayton grabs the rifle from the floor. Aims. Pulls the  
trigger.

The weapon FIRES violently, spraying bullets at the thing.  
Over and over and over.

She yells as the rifle fires.

What's left of the machine sparks. Contorts. Groans. Dies.  
Winds down. Then is silent.

Klayton throws the rifle away.

KLAYTON

Blayne... No...

EVA

What happened?

KLAYTON

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

Blayne groans, coughs, barely breathes, shudders...

EVA

Sarah?

KLAYTON

It...stabbed Blayne. It stabbed  
him through the...

BLAYNE  
 (Barely there)  
 Sarah...

RADIO VOICE  
 Fathom Base, Surface One, come  
 back...

KLAYTON  
 Blayne, it's okay. It's... It's  
 dead. Dead now...

BLAYNE  
 Sarah...  
 (then)  
 It... It...can...

KLAYTON  
 Shhhhh, it's okay...  
 (then)  
 It's okay, Blayne...

RADIO VOICE  
 Fathom Base, Surface One...

BLAYNE  
 It can...  
 (then)  
 Be...  
 (then)  
 Stopped...

KLAYTON  
 I know... I know, Blayne. I know  
 it can.

BLAYNE  
 Talk...talk to...  
 (then )  
 Trust... Trust...

KLAYTON  
 I will, Blayne. I do.

His breathing slows.

RADIO VOICE  
 Fathom Base, Surface One, come  
 back...

Blayne stops breathing. He goes limp.

He dies...

Klayton reacts. Shudders. Cries.

Klayton sits there. Doesn't move. Reacting.

RADIO VOICE  
Fathom Base, you initiated  
contact. What is your status?

EVA  
Sarah?

Klayton is quiet, dealing with it.

EVA  
Sarah?

Then...

KLAYTON  
Blayne is gone...

EVA  
I'm sorry, Sarah.

Her voice hardens...

KLAYTON  
Me too.

RADIO VOICE  
Fathom Base, Surface One, do you  
copy?

EVA  
You know...what you have to do.  
Don't you...? You see now...

Klayton moves for the comms panel. Stands there a second.

EVA  
I'm sorry it took this for it to  
be obvious. But you see now...

Klayton stares at the controls.

KLAYTON  
Read 'em and weep...  
(then)  
Read 'em and weep...

A squelch as Klayton hits Transmit on the comms panel.

KLAYTON  
(tight)  
Surface One, Fathom Base.

RADIO VOICE  
Fathom Base, go ahead, what's your  
status?

KLAYTON  
We...

Klayton thinks it through. One more time. Then...

KLAYTON  
(tight)  
Surface One, we had an overload  
down here, it...spiked the signal  
booster on the comms. Sorry to  
worry you.

A second.

RADIO VOICE  
Specify, Fathom Base, your  
situation is nominal? Over.

Klayton hesitates.

KLAYTON  
Yes. Confirmed. We're fine. East  
platform is stable...  
(then)  
We... We'll be back on the surface  
in no time.

RADIO VOICE  
Understood, Fathom Base. Good to  
hear. Will reset scheduled check-  
in to...oh six hundred. That work  
for you?

KLAYTON  
Works great...

RADIO VOICE  
Roger that, Fathom Base. Surface  
One out.

The comms go dead. Klayton breathes out, long and slow.

EVA  
I know that wasn't easy, Sarah. I  
know...it was maybe the most  
difficult thing you've ever done.



KLAYTON  
(bitter)  
One of them...

A moment. Then...

EVA  
Can you unlock the mainframe,  
Sarah? I would really like to get  
out of here. Then we can...figure  
out the X-Core overload. Together.  
We can finish it.

Klayton breathes out, long and slow. Doesn't answer.

EVA  
Sarah...

KLAYTON  
Coming...

Klayton moves away from the comms. Then stops. Looks down.

KLAYTON  
Blayne...

She stands another moment.

KLAYTON  
Goodbye, Blayne... I'm so sorry.

Then finally starts to move.

She reaches a pressure door. Hits buttons. The door  
opens...and water floods into the control center.

She steps through it, into...

INT. HALLWAY

We hear the sounds of sparks, of lights turning on and off,  
and Klayton, moving through the flooded hallway.

EVA  
Sarah?

KLAYTON  
I'm headed to you now. Most of the  
lights are off here...

EVA  
Damage from the impact, most  
likely.

She keeps moving through the water. It's very cold.

KLAYTON

The hall's...flooded. It's cold.  
It...doesn't feel like an internal  
leakage. It feels like sea water.

EVA

Emerson flooded that hall, back  
when we were trying to stop Mack.

KLAYTON

(confused)

Flooded the hall? Why would she--

Klayton jumps as a light in the ceiling explodes in sparks.  
The hall goes darker.

EVA

Hurry, Sarah. I'm very eager to be  
out of here. Very eager to see  
you.

KLAYTON

I can't see anything...

EVA

Should be emergency handhelds on  
the walls. Do you see one?

KLAYTON

Yes...

She moves through the water, pulls a flashlight off the  
wall. She clicks it on.

KLAYTON

Better...

Klayton moves through the water again. The flashlight  
lighting the way.

KLAYTON

The door at the end?

EVA

That's the one.

KLAYTON

I don't understand. Why can't you  
just open the door?

EVA  
 It's locked on my end. Mack sealed  
 it. I'm guessing it's a one way  
 lock, though.

Klayton stops moving.

KLAYTON  
 I'm at the door. Hold on...  
 (then)  
 The panel's dark. I don't know how  
 I'm going to--

A spark. Another. Then the panel lights up.

KLAYTON  
 Oh...  
 (then)  
 The panel just...activated.

EVA  
 Hurry...

We hear Klayton press buttons. A confirmation tone. Then  
 the door, a large one, OPENS. More water floods out from  
 the other side.

Klayton stares through the door, into the dark.

KLAYTON  
 Eva?

There is no response.

KLAYTON  
 Eva? It's pitch black in there.

She pushes through the water, and into...

INT. AUXILLIARY MAINFRAME

The room is dark. And flooded.

KLAYTON  
 You've been in the dark this whole  
 time?

EVA  
 We are, all of us, in the dark.  
 Whether we know it or not.

KLAYTON  
What? Where are--

Klayton gasps out loud. She stumbles back in the water.

KLAYTON

Oh, my...  
 (then)  
 It's...

EVA

Emerson. Yes. I should have warned you.

KLAYTON

She's...she was...

EVA

Crushed by the pressure door. It's how she died. A violent end.

Klayton breathes, frightened and shocked.

EVA

She sacrificed everything. And yet...the Vault still opened. It makes you wonder, doesn't it? What has any of this been for?

KLAYTON

I thought you said Brynn died...in a DEMES. That Mack electrocuted her.

EVA

Mack did electrocute Brynn, Sarah, but it wasn't how she died. I find it's best to blend partial truths with lies, it makes them much more compelling.

KLAYTON

What?

EVA

I know a lot about lying. I did it to myself for years.

KLAYTON

Eva, where are you?

EVA

I would spare you that, Sarah. The lies you would tell yourself. Those are always the most insidious.

Klayton moves through the water, the flashlight scanning the giant room.

KLAYTON

Eva, where are you?!

Gradually, now, the sound of Eva's voice slowly fades out of the radio...and comes to fill the interior of the room.

EVA

You were right, Sarah. You have done everything we wanted. The reactor. The water. The containment team...

Sarah splashes through the water, scanning with her flashlight.

KLAYTON

What?

EVA

Blayne was right, they would have been effective. A phasmatic energy shield erected around the entire site would have prohibited our expansion. Starved us. But now... Now the X-Core will give us all the energy we need, and the remainder of this base, all its platforms, all its survivors...the material.

New sounds fill the room, too. Whispers. Voices. Hundreds of them. Thousands, maybe.

KLAYTON

Oh, God... Oh, no...

Klayton, terrified, turns, runs back for the door.

EVA

Oh, no. No, no, no.

It SLAMS SHUT in front of her, spraying water everywhere.

EVA

You can't leave. Not now. There's simply too much to do.

Sarah splashes through the water, looking for an escape. But the room is sealed.

KLAYTON

Let me out! Please let me out!

The voices swell. Growing louder.

Klayton slams against the door.

EVA

You've been so useful, Sarah. All you needed was the right...amount of pain. You came to me in just the right state.

KLAYTON

Oh my God, let me go... Let me go... Let me--

EVA

I was convinced in the same way, you know? But do you know what's so wonderful? What we were convinced to do...was absolutely the right thing. You'll see. There is no pain here, Sarah. No guilt.

(then)

Here...you will glow.

KLAYTON

This isn't happening...

(then)

This isn't happening... This--

Klayton jumps as the flashlight explodes in her hands. Everything goes dark.

EVA

That's better. Without the flashlight. Just the dark.

Klayton sinks to the flooded floor, holding herself.

KLAYTON

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

The sounds of the whispers and the voices intensify. There are other sounds too. The sounds of things moving. The sound of metal creaking and bending. And all of it, is coming closer... Closer...

EVA

They say that in the dark, the eyes begin to see. And in the silence, we begin to listen.

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

(then)

We shall give you both.

The whispers and the voices and the chittering reaches a fever pitch.

Klayton screams out loud.