

DERELICT - EPISODE FOUR
"One Singular Moment"

by
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Final Draft
01/26/2024

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INT. SECURITY CHECKPOINT

Silence. The gentle hum of life support. The atmosphere burn on the other side of the hull.

Then the sound of a pressure door opening.

Four people rush inside, most moving slowly and pained.

Raynor. Killian. Chambers. Freed.

FREED

We're through! Get it down... Get the door down!

The crank comes loose. The door ratchets back down. Raynor leaps through at the last moment. It slams into place.

They all sit there, breathing hard.

RAYNOR

Well, this... is fun...

FREED

Are we going to... to have to crank every damn door we hit?

RAYNOR

I don't know...

CHAMBERS

Why... aren't they powered?

RAYNOR

I don't know! The ship seems dead.

KILLIAN

Not dead. Disconnected...

CHAMBERS

Bodies! There are... bodies here.

Everyone looks around them. Chambers is right. There are bodies here. On the floor. Half a dozen maybe.

RAYNOR

Yeah. They look... They're armored. Like security?

FREED

Whatever they were, they got waxed. Bullet wounds. Armor piercings. Shell casings all over the floor.

A sound breaks into the room, shakes everything. Like the call of some kind of giant monster mixed with a freight train horn.

RAYNOR

I think we have bigger problems.

CHAMBERS

What is this thing...

Raynor starts to stand up. Everyone else does too.

RAYNOR

Looked... mechanical to me. From what I could see, which, admittedly, wasn't a whole lot. Looks like we're in a security checkpoint? For whoever docks on the airlock?

FREED

Hence the dead security guys.

CHAMBERS

Control panels. There.

They move to the controls. Freed hits buttons. Nothing.

FREED

Annnnd... they're dead.

RAYNOR

More than dead, look at the screens, they're cracked. They shorted out.

FREED

Remember that little pulse the Crichton was rigged to blow?

The sounds again. This time from right on the other side of the door they just entered from. The room shakes.

CHAMBERS

Whatever that thing is, it's on the other side of the wall.

RAYNOR

Well, it's not coming through that door. It's too big.

CHAMBERS

Then how is it moving room to room?

KILLIAN
A legitimate question....

RAYNOR
If you know something that could help us here, maybe you could start sharing, given we risked our asses getting you off the Crichton.

KILLIAN
Very, very little in this place, angel, that can help you, whether I know it or not...

The sounds again. This time from right on the other side of the door they just entered from. The room shakes.

KILLIAN
But the doc's right. It will be in this room. All too soon.

CHAMBERS
The door. The door out of here. Can we crank it open too?

FREED
These computers are dead. I don't see any other way.

RAYNOR
Go! Same as last time, I'll rip open the mechanical shelf.

They start moving. Raynor rips the cabinet open with the door's mechanics.

She rips the cabinet loose, tosses it to the floor.

RAYNOR
Killian, help me crank.

Together they start manually cranking the door, one turn at a time. We hear the door rise up.

FREED
It's working. Door's rising.

RAYNOR
(With exertion)
Chambers... Freed... Get ready.

Raynor and Killian keep cranking. The door keeps rising.

And then... something else begins to crank. Something much, much bigger. From across the room.

FREED
Holy hell! Are you kidding me?!

RAYNOR
The entire wall is lifting up!

FREED
Why?

RAYNOR
To let that thing in!

KILLIAN
Wanted to know how it moves through doors? Does not need them.

RAYNOR
Crank! Hurry!

The door keeps rising. The wall keeps rising.

The sound again, loud and furious, a freight train, mechanical monster...

FREED
I think we got it! We can get under!

RAYNOR
Go!

Freed and Chambers scramble under.

The sound, the wall almost up.

RAYNOR
Ah, shit! The light!

KILLIAN
Blinds you, whole point of it. Go.

Raynor ducks down, slides under into...

INT. TRAM STATION

Raynor groans, shakes her head, stands gingerly.

FREED
Raynor, you okay?

RAYNOR

That thing...

FREED

You saw it? What does it look like?

RAYNOR

I couldn't see anything. Got a giant light on the front of it. Blinding light. Hard as it is... to believe... that thing's gaining on us.

(then)

Where are we?

CHAMBERS

I think... it's a tram station.

FREED

On a ship?

RAYNOR

You saw the size of this thing. Walking one end to the other would take half an hour.

FREED

Can we get the tram running?

CHAMBERS

It's not here.

RAYNOR

Typical...

The sound again, loud and furious; a freight train, a mechanical monster...

FREED

There's another door.

RAYNOR

Works for me.

They are all up, moving for the door...

...and then the wall begins to lift up again. Rising powerfully up and open.

CHAMBERS

This can't be happening. Already?

KILLIAN
Recommendation. Forget the door.

RAYNOR
And go where?

KILLIAN
The tracks. The tram tunnel
tracks.

The wall keeps lifting.

FREED
I think he's right...

RAYNOR
Seems like we're agreed!

They all start running. The wall keeps lifting. They reach
the edge of the rail tunnel.

RAYNOR
Chambers! Come on!

CHAMBERS
How do we...?

RAYNOR
Crawl down into it.

They scamper over the edge, drop down into...

INT. DERELICT SHIP - TRAM TUNNEL

They start moving in the dark.

Behind them, the sound again, blasting into the room.
Angry. Loud. Mechanical and electric.

FREED
Bloody tears, the light!

RAYNOR
Told you! Don't look at it, run!

They do, all start running through the tunnel.

CHAMBERS
We don't even know how long this
tunnel is... That thing might
catch us.

FREED

In the tunnel? There's no way it could get down here, right?

A rumbling behind them, mechanical sounds. Sounds of giant metal pieces and parts reconfiguring.

KILLIAN

Wishful thinking...

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

They keep running.

FREED

I can barely see anything, it's too dark.

KILLIAN

All you have to do is wait...

Behind them, the sound again, blasting into the room. Angry. Loud. Mechanical and electric.

Then everything lights up around them, bright and blinding.

CHAMBERS

It lit up the whole tunnel!

RAYNOR

Yeah. Because it's right behind us!

The sound of more mechanical pieces and parts reconfiguring. Then a metallic screeching as whatever the massive thing behind them begins to move again.

FREED

How is it doing this?!

KILLIAN

It's using the tracks. Can feel it.

RAYNOR

Up ahead!

They keep running. Something, burned and warped, sits on the tracks in front of them.

RAYNOR

It's the tram...

CHAMBERS

It's burned out. It's wrecked.

FREED

It's blocking the whole tunnel.

RAYNOR

Go through it! Push your way in!

CHAMBERS

It's a heap!

Behind them, the sound again. Angry. Loud. Mechanical and electric.

RAYNOR

Make it work! Hurry!

They reach the wrecked tram, start climbing up and through what's left of the door and the windows.

Behind them, the sound of something massive racing down the tracks towards them.

FREED

Chambers, give me your hand!

They all crawl into...

INT. DERELICT SHIP - WRECKED CARGO TRAM

KILLIAN

Keep. Going.

The mechanical monstrosity, coming fast behind them.

They move, pushing through the wreckage of the tram.

FREED

Cargo tram, looks like. No passenger seats, just storage cars.

RAYNOR

Whatever it was, it's blown to shit.

The mechanical monstrosity, coming fast behind them.

CHAMBERS

It's not going to stop! It's going to hit us!

FREED
He's right...!

RAYNOR
Hold on to something!

The sound is overbearing, loud. Another mechanical, electrical, angry horn sound...

Then everything rocks violently as it slams into the wreckage of the tram from behind.

Everything crumbles and rips itself apart.

Everyone groans loud as they are thrown into the walls and the floor and whatever else is still intact inside.

Everyone starts to come out of their dazed states.

RAYNOR
Ouch...

FREED
Bloody tears...

CHAMBERS
Maybe it wrecked itself?

KILLIAN
Unlikely. That thing does nothing
it has not thought through.

RAYNOR
Your saying it thinks, now?

The tram shakes through its frame as something impacts with it. Impacts and begins CRUSHING it. We can hear debris and sparks and chunks of metal being flattened behind them.

KILLIAN
What would you say?

RAYNOR
It's... crushing the tram! It's
moving forward!

FREED
What is this thing?

RAYNOR
Codex.

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
Do you know where we are?

CODEX
You are currently in the port side tram tunnel.

RAYNOR
How far ahead is the next station?

CODEX
The next station from your current position is Dry Storage Two, approximately 65 yards ahead.

The tram keeps being crushed behind them, one foot at a time.

FREED
We'll never make that. This thing is too fast.

CHAMBERS
Maybe the tram car will hinder it?

The tram keeps being crushed behind them, one foot at a time.

FREED
Does it seem like it's being hindered?

RAYNOR
Codex, we need another way out of this tram tunnel.

A moment. Then...

CODEX
There are two maintenance hatches, three yards from your current position.

RAYNOR
Three yards?! That's under the tram!

CODEX
Correct. The maintenance hatches are located on the tunnel walls beneath the tram car.

KILLIAN
Panels. Floor of the car. Two of
them. Right ahead. They'll come
loose.

RAYNOR
Move, come on!

The tram keeps being crushed behind them, one foot at a
time. The mechanical, electrical, ROAR behind them.

They crawl through the rapidly disintegrating tram.

RAYNOR
Here?

KILLIAN
Move. Let me.

They move out of the way. Killian moves past them, feels on
the floor.

The sound of Killian ripping a panel loose form the floor.

KILLIAN
First one.

Seconds later. Then Killian rips another panel loose.

KILLIAN
Second. I'll go first.

RAYNOR
You do that.

The tram being crushed behind them, one foot at a time.

Killian climbs down, vanishes.

RAYNOR
Well?

The tram being crushed behind them, one foot at a time.

RAYNOR
Killian!

KILLIAN
It's safe.

RAYNOR
You heard him. Get in there.

The tram being crushed behind them, one foot at a time.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

They all crawl forward and down, through the floor, into...

INT. UNDERNEATH THE TRAM

Above them, the tram shakes as it's crushed. The roar from the machine, whatever it is.

FREED

Not gonna last ten seconds down here!

KILLIAN

Only need five...

The sounds of sparking nearby, powerful current.

RAYNOR

Killian, what do we--

KILLIAN

The hatch. Move. Now.

The sound of a maintenance hatch opening..

He shoves himself through it, disappears again.

RAYNOR

Follow him!

The tram being crushed behind them, one foot at a time.

FREED

Don't have to tell me twice...

She scampers through.

RAYNOR

Chambers, come on!

Chambers is frozen. He doesn't move.

RAYNOR

Chambers, snap out of it!

And then everything crashes down around them as the tram is finally crushed completely right above them.

RAYNOR

Chambers!

Chambers groans, breathes in terror.

The sound of the metallic, electrical, mechanical monster.

CHAMBERS

Raynor?!

Nothing, no voices. Just destruction.

CHAMBERS

Freed?!

A loud burst of sparks suddenly. The sound of power dying.

Then another sound. Another hatch, opening.

A voice...

VOICE

Get in. Now.

CHAMBERS

Who are--?

VOICE

Get into the hatch. While you still have time.

Chambers doesn't move. Everything's being torn apart.

VOICE

This is your moment.

Chambers hesitates another second. The sounds of destruction. The roar of the "monster".

VOICE

As you wish...

The hatch starts to close.

CHAMBERS

No, wait!

He starts to move, to crawl, pushing through the debris.

CHAMBERS

I'm coming! Wait!

He crawls, pushes through the hatch, into...

INT. MAINTENANCE CONDUIT

...where he slams down into the floor of a cramped tunnel.

The hatch closes above him. The sounds of the destruction and metallic monstrosity are sealed away.

Nothing but the sound of his breathing. In and out.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God... Oh, God... Oh, God...

A acetylene torch lighting violently.

Chambers gasps in surprise.

CHAMBERS

Who... Where are--

VOICE

Sssshhhhhh. Neither are important questions. Important questions are at a premium here. We will do the asking.

CHAMBERS

I can't see you. The torch is too bright.

VOICE

We do very little without intention, our new little friend.

Through the hatch, the sounds of destruction.

VOICE

We have a long way to crawl. It will be easier without you struggling.

CHAMBERS

Wait.

VOICE

Struggling is... inconvenient.

CHAMBERS

Wait!

VOICE

There is no time to wait...

The owner of the voice preps something, as if to strike.

Chamber's eyes widen.

CHAMBERS

Wait! Wait, wait, wait--

The sound of something heavy and solid contacting with Chambers' head. And then everything goes silent.

VOICE

Weak...

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - THE PAST

The sounds of a police interrogation room, nothing like the sounds of a dying derelict spacecraft.

Chambers sits at a desk, waiting.

The door to the room opens. A man, much older, statesman-like enters. His demeanor is unreadable.

He is not a police officer, but when Chambers sees him, he tightens instinctively, swallows nervously.

CHAMBERS

Hello, sir...

Footsteps as the man moves into the room. The door seals automatically behind him.

Chambers is clearly very nervous.

CHAMBERS

I'm... I'm very sorry... that they bothered you with this. I... I've been in this interrogation room for hours now, I think.

The man says nothing. Just stares at Chambers.

CHAMBERS

I'm sure this matter can be resolved. Satisfactorily.

The man says nothing. Just stares at Chambers.

CHAMBERS

There are misunderstandings that can be--

CHAMBERS SENIOR

Have you spoken to the authorities yet, Wilson?

Chambers stares at him.

CHAMBERS

Only the officers who came to my door. They told me I was under arrest pending an investigation. You should know, sir, that--

CHAMBERS SENIOR

No details were given?

CHAMBERS

No, sir.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

I see... The Commissioner reached out to my office before proceeding with this matter. He and I are old friends, as you know.

CHAMBERS

I appreciate you interceding with--

CHAMBERS SENIOR

(cold)

I've been informed you pushed through a pharmaceutical trial by fabricating consent letters from your superiors.

Chambers hesitates.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

Wilson.

CHAMBERS

You must understand, I believe in the... I believe in the chemical. It can do a great deal of good, it is viable. It just... It's languishing in pre-beta testing and I felt this was the best way to push the product forward. It deserves to be distributed. It--

CHAMBERS SENIOR

Six people are dead, Wilson.

Chambers freezes.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

Six people who participated in your trial, to be clear.

CHAMBERS

I... That's impossible. There can't--

CHAMBERS SENIOR

It is quite possible. The toxicology reports were thorough.

Chambers stares in disbelief.

CHAMBERS

I... I don't understand... I...

CHAMBERS SENIOR

What is it about this situation you find confusing?

CHAMBERS

I... Six people...

(then)

Wait...

CHAMBERS SENIOR

I'm a politician, not a scientist, but as it was explained to me, the chemical you prematurely pushed into trial had a volatile compound reaction with some part of the central nervous system. It had this effect in subjects with a certain gene sequence. That, unfortunately, happened to be... six participants.

CHAMBERS

But. No. No... Wait...

CHAMBERS SENIOR

The compound paralyzed them, then stopped their breathing. They suffocated. As I understand it, most while their family members watched.

Chambers breathes heavily. Starting to panic.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

Family members who are now very interested in seeing the Maas-Dorian Corporation suffer. Francis Dorian and Evelyn Maas, as you no doubt know, do not like to be made to suffer.

(MORE)

CHAMBERS SENIOR (CONT'D)
 Fortunately for them, they have an
 out. You. Who did this ill-
 conceived action all on your own.
 And they will prove it. In court.
 (darkly)
 They will give you to the
 wolves...

CHAMBERS
 Father... I...

CHAMBERS SENIOR
 There are a variety of legal
 loopholes I could exploit, no
 small number of favors I could
 call in.

CHAMBERS
 I'm sorry I've put you in this
 position... Again. I...

CHAMBERS SENIOR
 But I have chosen not to.

Chambers looks at him.

CHAMBERS
 Sir?

CHAMBERS SENIOR
 You are a... disappointment,
 Wilson. And I'm afraid this is the
 last of what I am prepared to
 tolerate.

Chambers swallows.

CHAMBERS
 Father... I know that--

CHAMBERS SENIOR
 Do you remember you and your
 sister's tenth birthday?

Chambers silences, listens.

CHAMBERS SENIOR
 She looked... so much like your
 mother, then. At that age.
 Everyone else thought it was the
 eyes.

(MORE)

CHAMBERS SENIOR (CONT'D)

She had her eyes, certainly, but
it was, for me, the way they fit
in her cheeks.

(then)

I asked what she wanted. A
singular gift. She could have
anything, of course. Do you
remember what she asked for?

Chambers says nothing. He knows the answer... He remembers.

The senior Chambers breathes out, long and slow.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

She asked... for a piano. The same
thing you asked for. At ten years
old, she tabled her own desires...
for you. Because she knew I would
never concede such a thing for my
son. You were meant for greater
things, in my mind, then, but I
could never refuse her anything.
She was my daughter. She was...
your mother all over again...

(then)

I hated that instrument. The
sounds of you tinkering away on it
sounded like... failure. But she
wanted you to have it.

(then)

And you... Let her go.

(then)

Didn't you?

Chambers says nothing.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

(Contained rage)

Didn't you?

CHAMBERS

Yes...

Chambers Senior breathes out. Long and slow. He nods.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

You let... her go.

CHAMBERS

(Barely audible)

Yes...

Chambers' father breathes again. Then...

CHAMBERS SENIOR

We have reached the end of our
road, Wilson.

(then)

You are on your own now.

They consider each other. Then the elder Chambers rises.

We hear his footsteps move for the door.

CHAMBERS

All... all I ever wanted... was to
put what I broke back together. It
is why I have... done everything
I've done since...

The door opens. Chambers senior stands in it.

CHAMBERS SENIOR

And how, Wilson... could you
possibly do that?

Chambers shuts his eyes.

CHAMBERS

All the king's horses... All the
king's men...

Chambers Senior pauses at the door another moment. Then...

CHAMBERS SENIOR

It should have been you.

We hear his footsteps exit. The door shuts behind him.

Chambers breathes out emotionally.

CHAMBERS

I know...

He sits there, lost.

And then everything shifts and morphs to...

INT. DERELICT SHIP - RECYCLING CENTER UNDERWORKS

Chambers wakes up. In pain.

CHAMBERS

Hello...?

(then)

Hello?

(then)

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

Hello, Raynor?

He moans in pain again. Slowly stirs on the floor.

CHAMBERS

Raynor... can you hear me?

(then)

Freed?

No response from comms at all. Not even static.

CHAMBERS

Raynor, if you--

A woman's voice, echoey inside whatever room they are in. Chambers startles at the sound.

WOMAN

We removed your ear piece. You have no way to contact anyone. If it's any consolation, they tried quite frantically to contact you. For the first thirty minutes or so. Then they were distracted by other things. This place has a way of doing that...

CHAMBERS

Who's there? Who are you?

WOMAN

They likely believe you are dead. This place has a way of doing that too.

CHAMBERS

I can't see you... I can't see...
I can't see anything. The
lights...

Chambers moves, then moans in pain. Shuts his eyes.

CHAMBERS

Ugh, my head...

KLYNE

Rendering you unconscious was imperative. There was no gentler option. What is the last thing you remember?

Chambers thinks, breathes, moans in pain.

CHAMBERS

...some...

WOMAN

(impatient)

We must determine if you have a concussion. What is the last thing you remember?

CHAMBERS

Some kind of... machine. A... giant machine.

WOMAN

Ah. Yes. The guardian. Released in dire moments to deal with a very specific threat. Unfortunately for your friends, it does not distinguish between threats. And it does its job very well. What else do you remember?

CHAMBERS

We... we were... trapped in a... burned out tram car. There were... maintenance access doors. The others...

WOMAN

Escaped. Into one of the dry storage bays. That is a primary room. The guardian can reach them there. They will only be able to run so far, I'm afraid.

CHAMBERS

You have to... let me talk to them. I have to talk to them.

WOMAN

(firm)

You have to do no such thing.

Chambers struggles, starts to stand...

CHAMBERS

Listen... to me...

...and then realizes his hands are bound.

CHAMBERS

Wait. Why are my hands bound...?

WOMAN

We bound you for your protection
as much as ours. You will see why
in a moment.

A click as a flashlight activates. Chambers groans at the bright light.

She moves towards him, from the shadows, revealing herself. Her name is KLYNE. A woman, somewhere in her forties or fifties. Her gaze is intense, but somehow detached. She seems to look through Chambers. She holds a rifle. Chambers can just make it out in the dark.

CHAMBERS

Is the flashlight... necessary?

KLYNE

Painful. Isn't it? Pupil
constriction with a head injury.
But you did ask for light.

CHAMBERS

Who are you?

KLYNE

We are... Klyne. Dr. Klyne.

She says the name as if it is unfamiliar to her. Someone else's name.

CHAMBERS

A doctor? Medical? Scientist?

KLYNE

Once we... did impressive things.
Here. Built things. Once they made
us proud. Now...

(Hard)

Those times are past.

CHAMBERS

You're... A survivor. From the
derelict.

KLYNE

Derelict?

She laughs.

KLYNE

This ship is anything but
abandoned. Anything but dead.

CHAMBERS

We came here to help. The corporation sent us.

KLYNE

(displeased)

Oh. We know they did...

(then)

What were you told about this ship?

CHAMBERS

That it was damaged... Slowly disintegrating.

KLYNE

And they told you nothing else? Nothing about what happens here?

CHAMBERS

They gave us each a codex. With information about the ship on it. It reveals things as we... need to know.

Klyne laughs again.

KLYNE

I'm sure it does...

(then)

What is your name?

Chambers is quiet.

KLYNE

You know ours, after all.

CHAMBERS

Chambers... Wilson Chambers.

KLYNE

How nice. Now we are acquainted.

CHAMBERS

Why do you keep saying "we"?

KLYNE

Mmmmmm. Yes...

(then)

Why indeed...

CHAMBERS

Please, can you just... untie me?
Are you... injured? I can help
you.

KLYNE

You can... help?

CHAMBERS

Yes. I'm a doctor.

KLYNE

(angry)
You can help?!

She starts to pull him to his feet.

KLYNE

(angry)
Stand up.

Chambers groans in pain, struggles.

CHAMBERS

Wait... Ouch.

KLYNE

Stand. Up. Wilson.

Chambers stands. He stumbles forward as she shoves him.

KLYNE

Move.

She shoves him again.

CHAMBERS

Okay. Okay!

KLYNE

You are not here to help anyone.

They start to walk through a hall.

KLYNE

There is no one left here to help.
Let me show you all that remains.

They keep walking.

CHAMBERS

Where are we?

KLYNE

The recycling center. Water.
Oxygen. Solid waste. Everything
humans leave in their wake.

The sound of the flashlight going off.

CHAMBERS

Wait. I can't see without the
light.

She shoves him forward.

KLYNE

Walk anyway. It detects
electromagnetic energy.

CHAMBERS

The... machine from above? It can
get down here?

KLYNE

The guardian cannot access this
facility. Only the upper levels.

CHAMBERS

Then, what--

A new sound. An acetelyne torch flaring to life. Chambers
gasps in surprise.

KLYNE

This light... it cannot see.
(then)
The door to your left. Bio-waste.
Were I you... I wouldn't breathe
too deeply.

She taps buttons on a control panel. The sound of a
pressure door opening.

KLYNE

Move inside. Slowly. Move too
fast... it will find you.

CHAMBERS

Wait. What is--

KLYNE

Move.

She shoves him forward into.

INT. BIO-WASTE PROCESSING CENTER

Machines hum. Some kind of liquid churns. Material rumbles through pipes.

Chambers takes two steps in, then grimaces, freezes.

CHAMBERS

Oh... The smell...

(then)

Lord.

KLYNE

Disgusting creatures, humans. We consume and discard and think nothing of what we cast out until it finally decides to consume us.

CHAMBERS

I just see machines. Pipes...

KLYNE

The processing tank. In the center of the room. Closer.

They do. Taking a few steps. We hear the thick liquid sloshing at their feet.

KLYNE

Closer.

Klyne activates something. In her hand. A small device.

It beeps. Like a counter.

CHAMBERS

What's that?

KLYNE

An electronic timer, a simple device, used to initiate other devices. It emits just a tiny bit of electromagnetic energy. Just enough...

There is a stirring of the liquid in front of them. Something inside it moves. Hundreds. Thousands. Millions, maybe, of somethings.

Chambers' eyes widen.

CHAMBERS

What... is that...?

KLYNE

Tell us what you see.

The water continues to stir.

CHAMBERS

It's... A mass of... Something.
Something dark. In the tank. Deep
in the tank...

KLYNE

(hatred)

Yes...

Klyne tosses the timer to the floor, a few feet away. It continues to beep.

New sounds then. From the walls. From the ceiling. All around them.

KLYNE

Look around, Wilson.

(Then)

The walls... The ceiling...

Chambers does. The sounds are growing.

CHAMBERS

My God... It's... covering
everything. The... black... It...
writhes. What is it?

The sounds continue.

KLYNE

Its initial form. When released,
it operates like a swarm. Taking
to the air. Or space. It does not
need an atmosphere.

(then)

Only a small amount escaped into
the Halo. Before the Aperture was
sealed. That... grew into this,
within a few hours.

Chambers stares at the writhing blackness around him.

KLYNE

It processed the crew on this
side. And the invaders who started
everything. Except for the ones
who killed themselves first, of
course. The ones who knew better.

Chambers swallows. He breathes, frightened.

KLYNE

Once the crew on this side of the ship had been consumed, it... moved here. The only source of bio-mass left to it.

(then)

It will consume the contents of the tank, a paltry meal, until that too is gone. If it had access to technology. Machinery. It would assimilate that, and draw power there. But the security lockdown prevented that, of course.

(then)

Much effort on our part was spent luring and trapping it in this place. Much was sacrificed.

Everything writhes around them.

CHAMBERS

I still don't understand the flare... the timer...

KLYNE

It sees electromagnetics... hence the reaction to the timer. It also sees a specific band of thermal radiation. Between .75 and 1000 microns, to be exact.

CHAMBERS

Infrared...

KLYNE

The flare burns much hotter than that. It cannot see our body heat through it.

CHAMBERS

Why are you showing me this?

KLYNE

So that you will understand why you must do what we are going to insist you do.

Chambers just stares, horrified, unsure.

KLYNE

If you really are here to help, there is but one way.

Her eyes finally move to his.

MUSIC: THE MARCH, AEPH

KLYNE

Here is your communication ear-piece, Wilson.

She hands it to him.

KLYNE

Reconnect with your friends. Tell them that you are alive. Tell them to make their way here.

CHMABERS

Why?

KLYNE

So that we can kill them.

CHAMBERS

What?!

KLYNE

You are here to save this ship. It is imperative that does not happen.

CHMABERS

Dr. Klyne, listen to me...

The lifeform writhes and contorts around them.

KLYNE

We know it is confusing. We know it is much to ask. But, you have not seen even a fraction of the horrors on this ship.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne... You've clearly been through a great deal...

KLYNE

On the other side of the Aperture... It has much to consume. The science team. The other specimens. The lab cultures. Advanced tech and machines. It will have begun to... reform itself. It is waiting. For the door to open... The door must never open.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne...

KLYNE

Communicate with your friends.
Bring them here. We know it is
difficult, Wilson. But it must
happen.

(then)

You will simply have to trust
us...

CHAMBERS

I won't do that.

KLYNE

You will.

CHAMBERS

(desperate)

You don't understand... I have
to... I have to do what I was sent
here to do.

KLYNE

Why?

Chambers just stares at her.

KLYNE

Why?!

CHAMBERS

(desperate)

Because... it's the only way. It's
the only way I can put... all of
it back together.

She studies him.

KLYNE

So. That is what they offered you.
Redemption...

Chambers says nothing.

The flare sparks. The lifeforms, whatever they are, writhe
around them, stirring horribly.

KLYNE

(intense)

Redemption is the most useless of
motivations. Do you know why?

(MORE)

KLYNE (CONT'D)
 Because redemption... is a
fallacy. There is no redemption.
 There are only the choices we make
 and their consequences. And we...
 We are forced to live with them.
Forever.

The lifeforms, whatever they are, writhe around them,
 stirring horribly.

KLYNE
That is what life is.

Chambers studies her. Intensely. Breathing hard...

She stares at him, studying him, reading him.

KLYNE
 Take your earpiece. Do what must
 be done.
 (then)
 It is as close to redemption as
 you will find here.

Chambers stares at the ear piece. He takes it. But he
 doesn't move...

KLYNE
 (impatient)
 Wilson.

CHAMBERS
 Okay.
 (then)
 Okay...

A beep as the little device activates.

Then...

A blaring pulse of squelching sound.

Klyne yells in shock. So does Chambers.

The lifeforms screeches around them.

Chambers rears up, lashes out, connects a punch with Klyne.

She groans, falls, hits the floor. The flare goes
 skittering away.

Chambers grabs it, scrambles, gets to his feet, starts to
 run.

KLYNE

Wilson!

He dashes ahead.

The lifeform explodes out of the main tank. It descends from the walls and the ceiling.

KLYNE

Wilson!

Klyne's rifle flares to life. Slugs slam into the walls around him. He keeps moving, running to...

INT. RECYCLING CENTER - MAIN ACCESS

Chambers runs, breathing, terrified.

Behind him, he hears the sounds of gunfire. Klyne trying to shoot and survive.

He runs and runs and runs...

And then stops.

Breathing heavy, he listens for any sound of pursuit.

Nothing.

He puts the ear piece in. It beeps. Static as it connects.

CHAMBERS

Raynor? Freed?

Static. Nothing.

We hear the sparking of the torch in his hand.

CHAMBERS

Do you read? It's Chambers.

Static. Nothing.

CHAMBERS

I'm alive. I'm... in the recycling center. I found a... A survivor found me. She's crazy. She... She took my ear piece, but I pulsed it. It distracted her. Let me get away.

He starts moving, down the access corridor.

Still no response.

CHAMBERS

I think she's dead. I think maybe
I...

(then)

I don't know if you can hear me,
but... There's something down
here. I don't know what it is. Or
understand it, but...

(then)

I think things may be more
complicated than--

Sounds rip into the hall. A strange mix. And disturbing.

A mass of chittering and gnashing, from thousands of
sources. And... movement. Scrambling. Humming. From the
same number of sources.

Down the hall. And... coming closer. Fast.

Chambers breathes, alarmed. Frightened.

The sounds are coming.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

He turns, runs, fast. The torch in his hands.

The sounds are coming. Quicker. Filling the hall.

Chambers runs down the hall, looking. He finds a door.

He tries to open it... but it's locked. It doesn't budge.

The sounds are coming. Quicker. Filling the hall.

CHAMBERS

Come on...

He hits buttons on a keypad, next to the door.

A very negative tone from the panel. The door doesn't move.

The swarm is coming...

CHAMBERS

Come on...

CODEX

Attention...

Chambers jumps at the voice.

CHAMBERS

You...

CODEX

This door can only be opened using a security code.

CHAMBERS

What's the code?

CODEX

Turn around.

CHAMBERS

What?!

CODEX

Turn around. Now.

Chambers does...

The swarm is in the hall now, everywhere.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

(then)

It's here! The... whatever was in the--

CODEX

Critical recommendation: Keep the acetylene torch at chest level.

CHAMBERS

Why?

CODEX

For maximum heat dispersal. Any infrared radiation visible through the torch's projections will be detected by the lifeform. Keep the torch between you and it.

The swarm of... whatever it is, fills the hall. Moving forward.

CHAMBERS

It's spreading everywhere! All over the hall!

The swarm of... whatever it is, fills the hall. Moving everywhere.

CHAMBERS

Its going to surround me!

CODEX

It is searching for you. Critical recommendation: open the door to physical processing.

CHAMBERS

You said it was locked with a--

CODEX

The code is 7. 4. 5. 8.

He moves towards the door.

The lifeform shudders, moves towards him. Fast.

CHAMBERS

Damn...

The torch fizzes. The lifeform withdraws.

CODEX

Critical recommendation: keep the torch between you and the lifeform.

CHAMBERS

Yes, I get it.

(then)

But it's hard to do that and type on the keypad...

The swarm moves all around him, closing in, searching.

The torch sparks and fizzles.

Chambers hits buttons on the panel, fumbling behind him. Four of them.

A positive tone. The door opens.

CHAMBERS

It's open!

He moves into...

INT. PHYSICAL RECYCLING CENTER

...and the door slams shut behind him, sealing off the sounds of the swarm on the other side.

The room is full of refuse and junk, pieces and parts or machines.

New sounds now. Mechanical. Pneumatic. Hydraulic. Electronic. Machines breaking things down.

Chambers studies the room.

CHAMBERS

I made it...

(then)

The room is... full of junk. All kinds of pieces and parts.

(then)

I'm... I'm okay. I'm okay...

Sounds from outside. Things slamming and spreading onto the door.

CODEX

That analysis is incorrect.

CHAMBERS

It's trying to get in.

CODEX

You are in the physical recycling center. It breaks down and processes used or broken physical objects into more useful resources for the operation of this vessel.

CHAMBERS

It's a dead end! There's no other door!

CODEX

Correct.

CHAMBERS

Then why did you bring me here?

CODEX

My calculations concluded this course of action represents the highest possible chance of survival.

Door rocks behind him, shakes... sparks and fizzes.

CHAMBERS

Is it a... a high percentage chance?

CODEX

No.

Door rocks behind him, shakes... sparks and fizzes.

Chambers breathes in, frightened.

CHAMBERS

Whatever that stuff outside,
it's... breaking through.

The door rocks. Begins to smoke. To dissolve.

CHAMBERS

Raynor, can you hear me?

Static. Nothing.

The door rocks. Dissolves where it stands.

CHAMBERS

Freed?!
(then)
Anyone?

The door rocks. Dissolves where it stands.

CHAMBERS

I think I'm... I think I'm in
trouble.

The door shudders...

...then bursts apart.

The swarm, whatever it is, blows inside.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

CODEX

Critical recommendation: keep the
torch between you and the
lifeform.

CHAMBERS

I understand that part!

He holds the torch up. It fizzes and sparks.

The swarm moves in, searching. However, it is stuttering,
weak, losing power...

CODEX

Critical recommendation: move
backwards to the far end of the
room.

CHAMBERS

Yes.

(Then)

Yes, I think you're right.

Chambers starts moving backwards through the refuse,
knocking it over, pushing through it. Machines hum and
vibrate around him.

The swarm moves further in.

He keeps moving.

The torch sparks oddly.

CHAMBERS

Uh... This... torch...

He shakes the torch. Keeps moving.

CHAMBERS

It's dimming.

CODEX

Warning. Analysis of heat pattern
indicates expenditure of acetylene
fuel imminent.

CHAMBERS

What?!

CODEX

Upon expenditure, the lifeform
will detect you.

(then)

Do you see the room's processing
machines around you?

CHAMBERS

The ones in the floor? Yes.

CODEX

Critical recommendation: Put as
many of them between you and the
lifeform as possible.

Chambers moves quicker. Backwards.

CHAMBERS

Okay, but--

The torch, fizzes once. Twice. And then dies...

CHAMBERS

The torch died!

The lifeform reacts, skittering towards him.

CHAMBERS

It sees me!

CODEX

Critical recommendation: Run.

Chambers yells, turns and runs. Refuse and junk sprays everywhere as he bursts through it.

The lifeform reacts, moves.

In a few seconds, he hits the back wall.

CHAMBERS

I'm at the back wall. There's...

He turns around, the lifeform is advancing.

CHAMBERS

There's nowhere else to go!

CODEX

Critical recommendation: hold your position.

CHAMBERS

And do what?!

CODEX

Critical recommendation: Hold your position.

The lifeform advances. Slowly. Methodically.

It sparks and contorts, making strange sounds. It is dying.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God... Oh, God...

The swarm keeps advancing.

CODEX

Hold your position.

Sparks and grinding from a machine as the lifeform covers it.

Another machine is covered. More sparks.

The first machine sparks, dies, flames out.

So does the second...

CHAMBERS

It's... It's covering the machines! It's--

CODEX

Hold your position.

Chambers screams as the lifeform touches him. Wraps around his ankles. He is slammed to the floor.

CHAMBERS

It's on my legs! It's got me!

(then)

I can't! It's dragging me--!

A third is covered by the swarm. It sparks and flames.

CODEX

Critical recommendation: Remain calm.

CHAMBERS

Are you serious?!

Chambers screams in pain.

The third machine sparks and explodes, spraying debris.

Another...

Sparks flare everywhere, louder and louder in the room, becoming unbearable.

Chambers groans in fear, holds his ears, cowers.

And then... a completely new set of sounds.

Sparks. The sounds of millions of tiny machines disintegrating where they stand. Collapsing in on themselves. Dissolving.

The sounds of the lifeform dying... Falling to pieces on the floor, its energy expended...

When it is done, there is only the sound of whatever machines remain.

Chambers breathes out, relieved. Then moans in pain.

CHAMBERS
My... Oh, my legs...

CODEX
Inquiry: what is your condition?

He swallows, rubs his face.

CHAMBERS
I'm okay... I'm...
(then)
It... got me. It grabbed me. It
burned.

He breathes out again, all his tension.

CHAMBERS
It's gone now. It's... I think
it's dead.

CODEX
The lifeform consumes biological material for energy, while also attempting to control technology and machinery. There was a seventy one percent likelihood it would attempt to overtake the machines in this room with the same level of focus as consuming your body for energy.

Chambers thinks.

CHAMBERS
So...
(then)
So it went for the machines... since they were in front of it. It used its remaining energy to try and overtake them...

CODEX
Correct. Its activities with the processing machines caused it to use its remaining energy faster.
(then)
It expended that energy and did not have enough to consume you.

Chambers nods, breathing. Relaxing.

CHAMBERS
You... you saved me.

CODEX
Asset Chambers is a mission
critical asset.

CHAMBERS
Well... Thanks all the same.

He lays there breathing.

CODEX
This device is designed to assist
you in your assignment here.

CHAMBERS
Yes... Yes...
(then)
Well... Then, do you have any
idea... how I can get these...

From the far end of the room, the sound of the door
opening.

CHAMBERS
Wrist... shackles... off...?

There is no sound.

CHAMBERS
(Nervously)
Hello...?

Nothing.

CHAMBERS
Hello?

A GUN SHOT echoes in the distance. A bullet whizzes by.

Chambers yells in fright, ducks down, moves.

Another GUN SHOT. Another bullet.

Chambers moves, slams behind one of the processing
machines.

Another GUN SHOT. A bullet SPARKS against the machine.

Another GUN SHOT.

Footsteps entering. Moving forward angrily.

KLYNE
(pained)
Wilson!

Another GUNSHOT. Another bullet SPARKS.

Chambers can't believe it.

CHAMBERS
Klyne!?

She enters the room, struggling to walk...

KLYNE
(intense)
Hello... Wilson.

CHAMBERS
Klyne...

She keeps moving towards him.

KLYNE
Still bound, we see.
(then)
Did you think you... had killed
us? With that... act of betrayal?

Another GUNSHOT.

She keeps moving towards him. Her voice is ragged, pained, exhausted...

CHAMBERS
Klyne! Listen!

KLYNE
The lifeform does not pay us
the... same attention as others.

Another GUNSHOT.

CHAMBERS
I couldn't... I couldn't do what
you-- I have to--

Another BULLET. He breathes heavy in fear.

KLYNE
Fix things. Yes, Wilson, you told
us. We thought you understood the
truth of that.

Another gunshot. Another bullet.

CHAMBERS

Klyne! Stop shooting! Listen to me!

KLYNE

We are done... listening...
Wilson.
(then)
We are...

The sound of the rifle hitting the floor. The sound of Klyne collapsing next to it.

Everything goes quiet. Chambers sits there a moment.

CHAMBERS

Klyne?

No response.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne?

No response. He moves, looks past the machine.

CHAMBERS

Please don't shoot...

He moves out from behind the machine, looking for her.

CHAMBERS

Please... please don't shoot...

He sees Klyne, laying on the floor.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne!

Chambers, instinctively, is up, moving for her. He reaches her, on the floor.

CHAMBERS

Klyne! Klyne, no. No, no, no,
no...

He reaches her, studies her. She doesn't move.

Chambers puts his head on her chest. Listens. He raises back up.

CHAMBERS

Codex.

CODEX

Query.

CHAMBERS

I think... Dr. Klyne has collapsed. I'm not sure she's breathing. Can you verify?

CODEX

Scanning...

The sounds of the Codex performing a medical scan. The sound of a heart beat.

CODEX

Klyne. Dr. Marina. Band 7 scientific research technician. PhD, biochemistry. PhD, genetic engineering. PhD--

CHAMBERS

What is her condition?!

CODEX

Dr. Klyne is not breathing. Her heart rate is intermittent and fading.

(then)

Alert. Resuscitation of Dr. Klyne is not recommended.

CHAMBERS

What? Why? She's dying.

CODEX

You have only two emergency nano-medical hypos left. Additionally, analysis of voice inflection, pacing, word usage imply systemic mental disorder. Schizophrenia onset. Post traumatic stress. Very likely, Dr Klyne is a danger to herself and others. She has already attempted to kill you once.

CHAMBERS

Those are... very good points. But...

(then)

She's not well. She's... not thinking correctly.

CODEX

Posit. Neither are you.

We hear the sound of Chambers unzipping Klyne's jumpsuit.

CHAMBERS

Have to expose... the chest.
The... heart... Have to inject
near it...

Chambers peels Klyne's top down... and gasps.

CHAMBERS

Good... God.

CODEX

Inquiry. What are you observing?

CHAMBERS

(horrified)

Klyne's skin, it's... It's covered
in... It looks like... whatever
that thing is. The... Whatever
chased me in here...

CODEX

Scanning...

The sound of the Codex analyzing.

CODEX

Dr. Klyne's epidermis has been
covered by the lifeform
encountered previously. Currently,
it covers 79% of her body.

CHAMBERS

Oh, my God... How is this...

The sound of a heart rate flat line.

CODEX

Dr. Klyne is now in cardiac
arrest.

CHAMBERS

Okay... Okay...

Chambers primes the nano-hypo...

CHAMBERS

Injecting.

Then shoves it into her heart.

The sound of it injecting its contents.

Klyne spasms on the floor. Shaking violently.

CHAMBERS

Klyne, you have to be still! You
have to be--

The spasming stops. Chambers sits, holding her, waiting...

The sound of the flatline continues. Continues. Continues.

Then... the sound of the heart rate monitor detecting a
beat.

Chambers breathes out in relief.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne? Can you hear me?

No response. Chambers shuffles closer, leans in.

CHAMBERS

Dr.--

Klyne intakes a giant breath of air.

Chambers, shocked, staggers back, falls.

He grabs her rifle. Primes it. Aims it. Breathes heavy.

Klyne coughs, breathing again, in pain. Then she looks at
Chambers, skeptically.

KLYNE

Do you... even know how to use a
rifle? Wilson?

Chambers stares back.

CHAMBERS

I've... shot pheasant. Clay
pigeons, as well.

(then)

That was... not with a powered
rifle, however. It was a classic--

KLYNE

It was a facetious... question.

She coughs. Swallows.

KLYNE

But...

(then)

You know more than we did... the first time we held one. We had never fired a rifle before a few days ago. Before a few days ago... we had never done many things.

(then)

Perhaps you will... survive longer... here.

She stares at him. He stares back.

KLYNE

You... saved us.

(then)

Why?

Chambers stares at her.

KLYNE

Why?

CHAMBERS

You were... dying. You were...

Chambers studies her.

KLYNE

We watched you, when you arrived.

CHAMBERS

What?

KLYNE

Through the security cameras. We watched you. We could not hear, but we could see. Leaving the individual to die to save the others was the correct choice. You pushed back against it.

CHAMBERS

I couldn't let Stevens die.

KLYNE

And what did that earn you? He ultimately betrayed you. Stole the one escape option you had from this place. Left you to die.

CHAMBERS

I... I'm a doctor. I took oaths.

KLYNE
 (weighted)
 You've watched... someone die...
 before.
 (then)
 And you... blame yourself.

Chambers says nothing. Klyne considers him.

KLYNE
 We... may have more in common than
 we... believed.

They consider each other now.

CHAMBERS
 I saw... Your body... Your skin.

KLYNE
 Yes... Unpleasant to look at,
 isn't it? More unpleasant to live
 with, we assure you.

CHAMBERS
 How did--

KLYNE
 It touched us.

CHAMBERS
 Touched you?

KLYNE
 Days ago. Or hours? Or... Weeks?

Something about that strikes Chambers as alarming.

CHAMBERS
Touched you?!

Chambers, eyes wide, stares down at his legs...

KLYNE
 Why, Wilson? Did it... touch you,
 too?

CHAMBERS
 My legs.

KLYNE
 Show us.

Chambers doesn't move.

KLYNE

Show. Us.

Chambers reaches down, unzips his pants near the ankles, slides them up.

Chambers breathes heavy, staring at the black spots on his legs. About... the size of a quarter. Chambers gasps, breathing heavy.

CHAMBERS

Oh... God! Oh... oh god...

KLYNE

Goodness...

CHAMBERS

What do I do?

(then)

Klyne?!

KLYNE

Is it... providence? Or happenstance? I never can tell... Not with it. Not with... her.

CHAMBERS

The pain, even on such a small area...

KLYNE

Yes...

CHAMBERS

How do you... live with it? It's covering most of you now. How do you stand it? I can't imagine...

KLYNE

The human mind can stand many things, Wilson. And... it has its benefits as well.

CHAMBERS

The pain?

KLYNE

The lifeform, blended with you.

CHAMBERS

I don't understand, I--

KLYNE

It is a shame it ultimately kills the host. We never thought of this research tract.

CHAMBERS

How long?

KLYNE

It depends on many factors. None of them will encourage you.

CHAMBERS

How long?

KLYNE

Two weeks at most. But... You will be mad long before then. The pain. The voices. Look at us. We were not always this way.

CHAMBERS

There must be... something.

KLYNE

There isn't.

CHAMBERS

The medical bay. If we can remove it before--

KLYNE

Removing the surface growth will do nothing. Amputation of both legs below the waist might prove effective in your case if completed soon enough, I cannot truly say...

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

KLYNE

And... who would perform that procedure here?

CHAMBERS

I have to get to the med bay. I'm a doctor. I can run the... amputation procedure myself.

KLYNE

You must accept your place, now. You must continue the work.

CHAMBERS

What work?

KLYNE

We will be gone soon. We... we were wrong about you. But... you will have to become much stronger, we are afraid.

CHAMBERS

I don't understand--

Then an alarm jarringly rips through the room suddenly.

CHAMBERS

What is that?

The sound of new machines starting to power up.

CHAMBERS

What's going on?

Klyne is suddenly alarmed, too.

KLYNE

The lifeform? Did it make contact with the machines here?

CHAMBERS

That's how I drained it of power.

She sighs. The sound of the pressure door beginning to SHUT at the end of the room.

KLYNE

Oh, Wilson...

(then)

You will have to become much smarter, as well.

CHAMBERS

What's happening?

KLYNE

You didn't drain it of power. You gave it power...

(then)

It is activating the recycling system.

The room keeps powering up.

KLYNE
You have seconds... before the
room is sealed.

Chambers stares at the closing door.

KLYNE
Move, you fool! Go!

Chambers is up.

CHAMBERS
Can you move?

KLYNE
No.

Chambers grabs her, starts moving.

KLYNE
Wilson! Stop! Let us go!

Chambers drags her.

CHAMBERS
(With effort)
I'm not... leaving you...

He keeps dragging her...

KLYNE
Wilson!

...and the door SLAMS SHUT with finality.

Chambers drops to the floor, breathing hard.

KLYNE
You really are... an imbecile.

They both lay there.

KLYNE
Now what will you do? The security
barrier is down.

CHAMBERS
Where is the override? There must
be an override.

KLYNE
There is no override.

CHAMBERS

Then... How do we...?

Everything rumbles around them.

KLYNE

We don't.

The machines suddenly start to sink into the floor.

CHAMBERSVRTR

The machines are sinking into the floor! Why are they sinking into the floor?

The room vibrates and shakes. Gears and hydraulics come to life.

And then... the walls shudder. Start to move.

KLYNE

Because this room is a compactor. The walls are moving. Towards us.

CHAMBERS

It's going to crush us?

KLYNE

No. The walls will stop short of that. It simply positions the refuse in the center.

CHAMBERS

(relieved)
Oh. Okay. Okay.

KLYNE

So that the floor can open and drop everything into the plasma furnace below.

CHAMBERS

What?!

KLYNE

We are unsure how we could be more clear.

CHAMBERS

This can't be happening... This can't be happening...

KLYNE

I told you to leave.

The refuse closest to the walls shudders, scrapes along the floor as the walls start to move it.

CHAMBERS

Codex.

No response this time.

CHAMBERS

Codex? Is there... is there a way to deactivate the recycling system?

Nothing.

CHAMBERS

Codex!

The refuse shudders, scrapes along the floor as the walls move it.

KLYNE

There is one way...

CHAMBERS

What?

KLYNE

You will not like it.

CHAMBERS

What?!

KLYNE

Give us your hands. You will be more useful without your bonds.

Chambers holds out his hands. A sound as the handcuffs disconnect.

CHAMBERS

Thank you.

KLYNE

By the door... The control panel... Hurry...

CHAMBERS

Okay.

Chambers is up and moving, as the room rumbles, the walls moving in, all the refuse sliding and grinding with them.

Chambers pushes a button. There is a negative tone from the controls. He tries again. Same tone.

CHAMBERS

It's... It's not working. It's locked out.

KLYNE

Yes. Until the cycle completes.

CHAMBERS

Then why am I--

KLYNE

Hold your hand against the panel. Flat. With your full palm.

CHAMBERS

Why am--

KLYNE

Do it!

The walls keeps moving in, the refuse grinds.

CHAMBERS

Okay...

Chambers places his hand against the panel.

Nothing happens.

The walls keeps moving in, the refuse grinds.

CHAMBERS

Nothing is happening!

KLYNE

Be patient. You have very little of the lifeform in your system at this point.

The walls keeps moving in, the refuse grinds.

CHAMBERS

The lifeform? What does it--

KLYNE

Keep your hand where it is!

Chambers groans as the control panel sparks suddenly. It flickers. A static hum fills the air.

CHAMBERS

What was--

The panel sparks again, flickers more.

CHAMBERS

The panel... It's flickering...

KLYNE

The lifeform is connecting to it through your epidermis. It is powering it, but you will need to control it.

CHAMBERS

To do what?

KLYNE

To shut down the system, obviously.

The panel flickers. The walls keep moving in.

KLYNE

Feel into the panel. Feel through the panel.

CHAMBERS

I don't know how to do that!

KLYNE

It is your passenger. It wants to live as much as you. It will guide you.

CHAMBERS

But... None of this...makes... any...

A sound. Like an electrical hum. And Chambers groans in pain. Then breathes in. And breathes out. Groans again.

KLYNE

There... There...

CHAMBERS

Good... lord...

KLYNE

You feel it, don't you, Wilson? The panel? The connections? The programmed routines? You... you feel it.

CHAMBERS

Yes... Yes...

KLYNE

Search the programming. You can see it, if it is anything for you like what it is for me. Like... like lines in space, connected by colors, connected by shapes, and somehow the colors and shapes and lines... they make sense. They make... sense.

CHAMBERS

I think... I think...

KLYNE

Find the command to stop the system.

Something new now. The sounds of voices. Hundreds. Thousands. Millions.

Echoing and reverberating inside Chamber's mind.

CHAMBERS

I... I hear... voices.

KLYNE

They cannot hurt you. Focus on the panel. The programming. Use the passenger.

CHAMBERS

What... what are they?

KLYNE

Focus! Find the command to stop the system.

The walls keep moving in. The voices grow louder, chittering.

CHAMBERS

I don't... I don't think...

KLYNE

Wilson. You must find it... and trigger it. Find it... and send the power to it...

CHAMBERS

I... see it. I see it.

The walls keep moving in. The voices grow louder, chittering.

KLYNE

Good! Send power to it.

The walls keep moving in. The voices.

Chambers groans.

CHAMBERS

The pain.

KLYNE

Fight through it.

The walls keep moving in. The voices.

KLYNE

Fight through it!

Chambers groans in pain.

The walls keep moving in. The voices.

CHAMBERS

I... don't... This...

KLYNE

Wilson, now! Or we are both going to die!

Chambers groans again, and then...

He collapses. The voices fade away. So do the sounds of the control panel.

The sounds of the walls return. Almost on them...

CHAMBERS

I... couldn't... It was...

Then it shuts off. Everything goes silent.

Klyne starts to laugh. A bitter sound.

CHAMBERS

What?

She keeps laughing.

CHAMBERS

What?

KLYNE

To think... That it should all end
like this. After everything.

Then the sound of heavy, powered machinery coming to life.
Everything shakes and rumbles.

Klyne laughs nearby. Almost maniacally.

And then everything is plummeting.

NOWHERE

Sounds of frantic breathing...

A girl's voice...

GIRL

Wilson!

The breathing is more frantic...

GIRL

Wilson! Don't let me go!

The breathing, moaning, the sounds of machinery.

GIRL

Don't let me go!

(then)

Wilson! Wilson!

A little girl's SCREAM, as if plummeting and falling.

Another voice...

VOICE

Wilson... Tell me.

Disjointed. Strange. It mixes with the sounds of the little
girl.

VOICE

Who did you fail?

The voices continue to merge, repeating over and over.

VOICE

Wilson.

INT. PLASMA FURNACE CONVEYOR

Chambers startles awake.

KLYNE
Wilson! Wake up!

Chambers groans, pushing the refuse off him. So does Klyne.

CHAMBERS
Did we...?

KLYNE
We did.

CHAMBERS
We fell... we fell through the
floor.

KLYNE
Yes.

The room rumbles around them. Machines activate in the walls.

Beneath them, everything is moving.

CHAMBERS
What's happening?

KLYNE
We are moving, Wilson. We are on a
conveyor.

The sound of the conveyor, driving them forward.

CHAMBERS
There's something... ahead of us.
It looks like... a door.

KLYNE
It is. To the furnace. If we do
not jump before we reach it, the
conveyor will funnel us in with
the rest of the refuse.

CHAMBERS
Oh, God...

KLYNE
Crawl! Over the refuse!

CHAMBERS
I am!

The sound of the conveyor, driving them forward.

They keep crawling, pushing the junk out of the way,

CHAMBERS
And we just... What? Jump?

KLYNE
No, not yet. There is a service
platform coming up. We will jump
there. Otherwise the mechanics of
the conveyor will shred us.

The sound of the conveyor, driving them forward.

CHAMBERS
I see it!

KLYNE
Wait...

The sound of the conveyor, driving them forward.

CHAMBERS
Now?

The sound of the plasma incinerator, growing louder.

CHAMBERS
Klyne?! Now?

KLYNE
Goodbye Wilson.

CHAMBERS
What?

She shoves him forward. Chambers yells as he flies off the
conveyor and lands on...

INT. EM FIELD GENERATOR - SERVICE PLATFORM

Chambers hits hard, groans, rolls, slams into a wall.

The conveyor keeps moving.

Then, the sound of a large door closing...

CHAMBERS
Klyne!

...and then it slams shut.

The conveyor moves another few seconds, and then it shuts
off.

Leaving just the sounds of a powerful humming from some power source... and, a strange, chittering, writhing sound.

Chambers starts to move again, he crawls forward, towards the now shut door.

CHAMBERS

Klyne!

There is no response.

He bangs on the door. It echoes solid and loud.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne!

He bangs on the door. It echoes solid and loud.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Kl--

His radio crackles. Klyne comes over the comms.

KLYNE

Hello, Wilson.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne...

(then)

You shoved me off the conveyor.

Why would you do that?

KLYNE

Because you could not pull us both off. We felt it was better only one of us died, instead of both.

CHAMBERS

But I could have! I--

KLYNE

You can't save everyone, Wilson.

Chambers says nothing. He slides down the door to the floor.

CHAMBERS

You're... locked inside the plasma furnace.

KLYNE

It will power up soon. The end will be... relatively painless.

Chambers swallows.

CHAMBERS

I... Above, with the panel, I...

KLYNE

It was too much to ask of you. You were not strong enough.

The strange, chittering, writhing sounds continue. Interlaced within it, the voices...

CHAMBERS

The voices... They were... Horrible. I could... almost understand them.

KLYNE

You will come to understand them. You will not like what you hear.

The voices grow.

CHAMBERS

I think...

The chittering grows.

KLYNE

What?

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

KLYNE

What?

CHAMBERS

The... lifeform. It's everywhere here. It's... It's covering everything. It's covering... some kind of... machine...

KLYNE

That is the EM field generator for the furnace. It dampens or accelerates the plasma reaction. A powerful piece of technology. It will allow the lifeform to grow and take over the remainder of the ship, once it consumes it.

Chambers stares at it all.

CHAMBERS

I... did this. Didn't I?

(then)

You had isolated it... Trapped it
in the bio-waste center, and I...

KLYNE

You had now way of knowing,
Wilson.

CHAMBERS

But I did do it. This is my fault.
Like... so many other things.

The sound of something powering up. Something large.

KLYNE

You have no time for self pity.

CHAMBERS

Is that sound...?

KLYNE

The plasma furnace. Priming.

CHAMBERS

Oh, no. No, no, no.

KLYNE

This is for the best, Wilson.

CHAMBERS

We have to get you out of there.

KLYNE

No. It's over.

CHAMBERS

There must be a way.

KLYNE

It does not matter now.

CHAMBERS

It does!

KLYNE

Wilson...

CHAMBERS

Is there a way or not?

Klyne says nothing.

CHAMBERS

Klyne!

KLYNE

There is... one possibility.

CHAMBERS

Tell me!

KLYNE

What happened to you, Wilson? To make you this way? This... this insufferable non-realist?

Chambers says nothing.

KLYNE

Tell me. Who did you fail?

Chambers is quiet.

CHAMBERS

You wouldn't understand...

KLYNE

No?

CHAMBERS

No.

(then)

And you would...

Chambers trails off.

KLYNE

Judge you? Is that what you think?

Chambers does not answer.

KLYNE

(haunted)

I sealed them in.

It takes a moment for that to register. Chambers blinks.

CHAMBERS

I'm sorry?

KLYNE

(haunted)

When it happened. When the quarantine broke...

She sounds slightly confused now. As if, as she relates whatever the story is, she is figuring things out.

KLYNE

It didn't really... break, that's not right...

(then)

It was more like... all the containment cells... like they just opened. All at once.

(then)

That should be impossible, but... There was no warning. The lights were all green. We...

She swallows, thinking, reliving it all again. And very hesitant about doing so.

KLYNE

Everything was loose in a second. All the iterations. All the platforms. All the versions.

(then)

The technicians in the back, they... were taken first. They... screamed as they...

(then)

It broke the spell. We all ran.

(then)

I was at the front of the Beta lab. using the sequence encoder. I was closest. I lunged through the first containment doorway, then the second, then...

(then)

Everyone was coming. Yelling in fear, almost there, to the doors...

(then)

They weren't going to make it. The lifeforms were too fast. They would... overtake them. And then... break through, and if that happened... They weren't going to make it. That's what I told myself.

(barely audible)

That's what I told myself...

She shuts her eyes. Chambers breathes out, listening, feeling her horror.

KLYNE

I shut the doors.

(then)

I sealed them in.

(then)

Dr. Fabian, she... stopped. She stopped right in front of the door, she...

(then)

She stared at me. She stared at me as they took her. She stared at me as she screamed and they ripped her to pieces still screaming until there was nothing left to scream and then everything was black and pulsing and writhing and...

She trails off. Another moment. Then she opens her eyes.

KLYNE

I sealed them in...

Chambers is stunned.

KLYNE

How could we judge anyone, Wilson?

Chambers leans back against the door. Closes his eyes.

CHAMBERS

We were... on a cliff. On Earth.

(then)

My sister. She dropped her... She dropped her backpack, it was... It fell onto a ledge. She went after it and I told her not to but she did it anyway, she was young, she was eleven, and she lost her grip and she slid and fell and grabbed onto the rocks and...

Chambers swallows. Remembering. Tortured...

CHAMBERS

I think, I... I could have reached her. I think I could have... climbed down.

(then)

But I just... stared. Stood there. I was... terrified. I...

(then)

She looked at me, she...

(MORE)

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

(then)

Three or four hundred feet to the bottom and she... stared at me as she fell. Locked eyes. I...

(then)

I watched. Watched her become smaller and smaller and...

Klyne says nothing on the other side of the door.

CHAMBERS

I let her go...

They both stay there, unmoving. Remembering.

KLYNE

You were a child. It was not your fault. And if you were made to feel so, then you were wronged.

Chambers breathes out.

KLYNE

Has no one ever told you that, Wilson?

CHAMBERS

No...

KLYNE

Oh, Wilson... I'm afraid there is more pain to come, for you, but I can give you this one solace. From this point on... It will make you stronger.

Chambers nods, clenches his fists, thinks for a moment.

CHAMBERS

Maybe you're right. Maybe redemption is a lie, but, even if it is, it doesn't mean we should stop trying.

(then)

Maybe the trying is the important thing.

Klyne says nothing.

CHAMBERS

Please, Dr. Klyne. Please don't make me... leave without you.

(MORE)

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

(then)

Just... let me try.

(then)

That's all.

A moment. Then...

KLYNE

Okay. Wilson. Okay. You win.

Chambers breathes out.

KLYNE

You will have to open this door.
Into the furnace.

(then)

The door will not open until the
furnace completes its cycle.
Unless... there is an emergency.

(then)

The EM field generator inhibits or
accelerates the production of
plasma in the furnace. If it were
to malfunction, then plasma would
begin generating too quickly. The
security protocols would open all
interior bulkheads. Briefly.

CHAMBERS

Briefly?

KLYNE

The idea, Wilson, I imagine, is to
allow anyone inside the plasma
furnace area to escape... before
it is ejected into space.

CHAMBERS

The furnace will eject into space?

KLYNE

No. The entire recycling center
will eject. Do you see the door in
the opposite wall from this one?

CHAMBERS

Yes. It's sealed too.

KLYNE

Once the malfunction happens and the plasma begins generating beyond a level that can be contained, it will open, along with this door. You will have sixty seconds to extricate both of us... or we will be sucked into space right as a massive explosion of plasma occurs.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God...

KLYNE

It gets worse.

(then)

There is only one way to cause a malfunction of the EM field generator, Wilson, in your position. Can you guess what it is?

Chambers breathes out.

CHAMBERS

My... passenger.

KLYNE

There will be more pain, this time. Assuming you can even succeed, of course. You failed at controlling a simple panel before. The EM field generator is significantly more--

CHAMBERS

I quit. I stopped. I was...

(then)

I can do it.

KLYNE

Wilson, we feel it's necessary to tell you... The way the lifeform ability works. The more you use it, the more it spreads. And using it to do this...

CHAMBERS

I won't be able to... remove it. Will I? Even with amputation.

KLYNE

We don't believe so.

The furnace begins to heat up. The sound becomes louder.

KLYNE

Wilson... You do not have to do this. In fact, you would be foolish to try.

CHAMBERS

What do I do?

Klyne is silent a moment.

KLYNE

You should leave us. You made a similar choice recently, and--

CHAMBERS

(hard)

What do I do?

Klyne is silent a moment.

KLYNE

As you wish.

(then)

The bulkhead in front of you. The one painted red.

CHAMBERS

Yes.

KLYNE

Behind it is the field generator. Touch it.

Chambers stands up.

CHAMBERS

The... lifeform is covering it.

KLYNE

We assumed. You will have to feel through it. It will be... more difficult. It will fight you, once it knows what you are doing.

CHAMBERS

Why?

KLYNE

You will be trying to cause the ejection of the recycling center.

(MORE)

KLYNE (CONT'D)

Which will be discarded into the planet below and vaporized. That will destroy it.

Chambers stops.

CHAMBERS

That's why you're... letting me do this. Isn't it?

(then)

To destroy the lifeform. To stop it, like you've been trying to do, this whole time.

Klyne is silent a moment. Then...

KLYNE

You have your reasons, Wilson. We have ours.

(then)

Does it change anything?

Chambers is silent a moment. Then...

He moves forward.

CHAMBERS

Touching the bulkhead.

KLYNE

Remember... there will be pain. And the voices will be... distinct. You will be directly interacting with the lifeform, not just the field generator.

CHAMBERS

I understand.

KLYNE

Touch the bulkhead. Like the panel before. It may take longer for you to find the machine and its systems. Give the passenger time to grow and work.

CHAMBERS

Okay...

KLYNE

One... Two... Three...

The sound again, like electricity and swarming voices, it fills everything. Chambers groans in pain.

Klyne's voice breaks through the sounds, but in a different way this time.

It sounds like a part of the other voices, blended with them, echoing back and forth.

KLYNE

Wilson? Can you hear me?

Chambers groans, breathes.

KLYNE

Wilson?

CHAMBERS

I'm here... I hear you.

KLYNE

What do you see? What do you feel?

Chambers groans, breathes.

KLYNE

Wilson?

CHAMBERS

Lines... in space, connected by color... connected by shapes... And... they make sense.

KLYNE

You should see the glowing of the generator. It should radiate.

CHAMBERS

I see it.

A moment. Then... a sound. A humming. Vibrating. Pulsing.

KLYNE

Good.

(then)

Look for the line the power is flowing through.

CHAMBERS

What does that--

KLYNE
 Like a line, Wilson. A glowing
 line in the dark, connecting all
 the other shapes...

The humming intensifies.

CHAMBERS
 I... I think I see it...

KLYNE
 Feel into it... It's open. It will
 feel hot. It will feel flexible.

CHAMBERS
 Yes...

KLYNE
 Let your passenger move into it.
 Direct it there...

The sounds of voices intensifies.

CHAMBERS
 Okay...

The humming intensifies... and then sparks and grows.

KLYNE
 Yes! Hold it.

CHAMBERS
 It... hurts...

KLYNE
 It will hurt more.
 (then)
 The lifeform will detect you. It
 will know what you are doing.

And then the voices rise.

CHAMBERS
 I hear them.... They...

KLYNE
 You must focus this time, Wilson.

The voices. Horrible and powerful. Angry. Menacing.

CHAMBERS
 Oh, my... God...

KLYNE

Focus.

CHAMBERS

(frightened)

They... They...

Chambers breathes, frightened...

KLYNE

Wilson!

CHAMBERS

Okay... Okay...

KLYNE

Push into it, allow the subroutine
to come to life. Allow the
passenger to flow into it.

The humming, sparking, the voices.

KLYNE

Hold it...

Chambers groans in pain.

CHAMBERS

This is...

KLYNE

Hold it...

CHAMBERS

The pain...

KLYNE

Hold it...

Chambers groans. The humming intensifies.

CHAMBERS

I don't...

KLYNE

Hold...

CHAMBERS

I don't... think...

KLYNE

Hold. It.

CHAMBERS

I... don't...

The humming becomes a roar. Chambers groans in pain even louder...

...and then the sound of heavy, powered machinery winding down. The voices recede.

Chambers collapses in a heap into the refuse.

He moans, breathes...

CHAMBERS

Did we...? Did...

KLYNE

Well done, Wilson.

Alarms begin sounding.

The sound of the door into the furnace opening.

KLYNE

Well done.

Bad sounds now. Fire. Heat. Radiation.

The plasma in the furnace is blossoming.

The alarms continue to sound.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne!

Chambers is up, he moves through the door, grabs her.

KLYNE

You still... are an imbecile.

CHAMBERS

Hold on to me. Push with your legs if you can.

KLYNE

I can...

They start moving out of the furnace.

CHAMBERS

Keep going...

The sounds of the furnace, blossoming. The sound of the alarms.

CHAMBERS

Keep going...

The sound of the door starting to seal.

CHAMBERS

It's... closing.

Chambers keeps pulling. Klyne keeps pushing.

KLYNE

We won't make it.

CHAMBERS

We will.

Chambers keeps pulling. Klyne keeps pushing. The door is shutting.

KLYNE

We won't--

CHAMBERS

We will!

Plasma and fire explode from behind them....

...and toss them forward. They roll through the door, just as it closes.

We hear the sounds of the recycling center detaching from the ship. Hear it being shot into space. Hear it exploding.

Then the sounds are gone. The alarms silence.

Chambers and Klyne lay there.

CHAMBERS

You were right... That was more... difficult.

KLYNE

I'm... afraid... it will get moreso... Wilson.

Chambers sits up, looks at her.

CHAMBERS

Klyne! The... lifeform... Your body...

KLYNE

Yes.

CHAMBERS

But... Before. The spread
wasn't...

KLYNE

I told you, the more you use the
power, the faster the spread.

(then)

Did you really think you did it
all on your own, Wilson?

CHAMBERS

You... You helped me?

KLYNE

Only a little...

(then)

There is an equilibrium, between
the EM field and the plasma
furnace. In order to ensure the
furnace would blossom, I... I
tapped into it, and increased it
as you deactivated the field
generator.

CHAMBERS

Klyne...

KLYNE

It was necessary. For many
reasons.

He stares at her.

CHAMBERS

You knew... This whole time. That
the lifeform had spread. That I
wouldn't be able to shut down the
recycler above. That... I wouldn't
be able to leave you.

KLYNE

I... hypothesized.

CHAMBERS

You lied to me.

KLYNE

We told you... there was more
pain... to come, Wilson. And that
it would make you stronger. That
was not a lie.

Klyne shakes, coughs.

CHAMBERS

Klyne...

KLYNE

Marina...
 (then)
 My name is Marina.

Chambers nods, lifts her head. Holds her.

CHAMBERS

Marina... Marina, stay with me. We
 can get you help. We can--

KLYNE

Listen...
 (then)
 Listen...
 (then)
 You heard them... You heard it...
 (then)
 When you felt the generator.
 (intense)
 You heard it.

Chambers swallows.

CHAMBERS

The voices. I heard, yes. I...

KLYNE

You understood...

Chambers says nothing.

KYLNE

(intense)
 You understood.

CHAMBERS

Yes...
 (then)
 I understood. What it intends.
 What it... would do.

Klyne breathes out in relief.

KLYNE

Good... Good...
 (then)
 This ship...
 (then)
 You see now...

She is fading.

CHAMBERS

Marina?

KLYNE

The... lifeform...

(then)

Not the... only thing... being
created here.

(then)

There are... worse things...

(then)

Beyond the... the Aperture. Worse
things...

(then)

Don't... open... the Aperture.

CHAMBERS

Marina... Please don't go. Please
don't...

KLYNE

You're going to be... okay,
Wilson. You're going to be...
strong...

And then she is gone.

MUSIC: Haunting a Ghost, Taubert

Chambers stares down at her. Stunned. Unsure. Exhausted.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne?

A moment more, then he leans back against the bulkhead
wall. The sounds of the room wash over him.

CHAMBERS

Dr. Klyne?

He closes his eyes.

And then... new sounds. Maybe inside the room. Maybe in his
head. Who is to say...

The sounds of VOICES. Whispering. Chittering. Growing,
steadily, ever louder.

Chambers intakes a frightened breath. Listening.

CHAMBERS

Stop it.

The voices continue to grow louder, more intense.

CHAMBERS

Stop it.

The voices reach a fever pitch.

CHAMBERS

Stop it!