

FATHOM - EPISODE EIGHT
"Read 'Em and Weep"

by
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INT. SUBMARINE

Muffled, other worldly voices. And WHISPERS.

VOICE

Klayton...

Moans from KLAYTON as she starts to come to.

VOICE

Doctor...

More MOANS, and then she is awake.

The sounds from inside the submarine come into focus.

Sparks. Failing hydraulics. And, most alarmingly, the sound of WATER pouring inside.

COMPUTER VOICE

(damaged)

Warning. Catastrophic damage detected. Hull breaches detected. Pressurization loss imminent. Power failure imminent. Evacuate craft immediately. Evacuate craft immediately.

KLAYTON

What... What's...?

The voice we heard, we now know, was ALVAREZ.

ALVAREZ

Doctor, you got...to get up.

Alvarez sounds hurt.

ALVAREZ

Got to...hurry...

KLAYTON

I can't...see anything.

ALVAREZ

Lights...out. So is pretty much everything else. Here...

The sound of a flashlight activating.

ALVAREZ

Flashlight.

KLAYTON
We crashed...?

ALVAREZ
Pretty...pretty hard.

KLAYTON
What about Reese? What about
Blayne?

ALVAREZ
Don't know... Hopefully...on their
way.

KLAYTON
Why's your arm in your jacket?

ALVAREZ
I think it's...think it's broken.
Impact threw me...pretty good.

KLAYTON
Let me see it. I can--

ALVAREZ
No time for that...

Water splashes as she moves. She intakes a breath sharply
as she gets it.

ALVAREZ
Hull's breached. We're filling
up...

KLAYTON
So... So what do we--

Sounds from the front of the sub. Sparking. Clicking. Like
something growing and moving.

Klayton breathes in, frightened.

KLAYTON
What was that?

ALVAREZ
Bigger...problems...
(then)
Look... Cockpit...

They move a few steps through the water. They stop.

ALVAREZ

See it?

KLAYTON

Oh, God...

(then)

That...black substance. The one on
the Relay...

ALVAREZ

Got on us... Somehow. Doesn't play
nice with...electronics. Or
mechanics. Shorted everything.
Engines. Computer. Power strips.

The sounds again. The sparking. Crackling. Creeping.

KLAYTON

It's spreading. It's spreading
quickly...

ALVAREZ

I think...think it's attracted to
the electronics. Consuming them.

KLAYTON

(frightened)

We have to get out of here.

Violent sparks. The computer voice dies. The sound of the
atmosphere generators goes silent.

KLAYTON

We just lost power.

ALVAREZ

More than that... The ballast
pumps. They were keeping
back...the water breach... We're
going to...

The sound of water rushing into the sub becomes louder.

KLAYTON

Flood faster...

(then)

What do we do?

Alvarez says nothing.

KLAYTON

Alvarez! What do we do?

ALVAREZ
Have to get...the DEMES unlocked.

He starts moving through the water. Klayton follows.

ALVAREZ
Before it floods in here...

They keep moving through the water.

KLAYTON
How do we get out of the sub?

ALVAREZ
You'll have to blow the back hatch. Controls in...your DEMES. Should still connect. No...other way to...

KLAYTON
I don't...
(then)
Oh my God, the water...so cold.

ALVAREZ
Keep moving.

KLAYTON
I've never...been in a DEMES.

ALVAREZ
You had training...

KLAYTON
I mean, yeah, but...
(Then)
Wait... What...what about you?

ALVAREZ
There's a, uh... Emergency capsule.

KLAYTON
Maybe I should use that. Wouldn't that make more sense?

ALVAREZ
No power now... Connections...for the DEMES, to the floor...gotta be disconnected...manually. You...know how to do that?

KLAYTON
No... No, I definitely do--

Water explodes into the sub, breaking through the walls. It knocks them over. They are plunged under water.

They break the surface, breathe.

KLAYTON

Oh my God... It's...

ALVAREZ

Doctor! Get up! It's all breaking down! Get up!

KLAYTON

It's too... Too much...

ALVAREZ

Get up! You're out of time!

Sparks explode nearby. The sub is in its death throes.

KLAYTON

Okay... Okay...

We hear them moving through the water, towards the lone DEMES at the other end of the sub.

KLAYTON

So cold... So cold...

ALVAREZ

Crawl in...

KLAYTON

Where's...where's...the capsule?

ALVAREZ

Nearby. Hurry. Crawl in.

We hear Klayton get into the DEMES, start buckling in.

KLAYTON

How do I...?

ALVAREZ

The button there. Big green one. It's plug and play.

Klayton hits the button. The DEMES activates. Starts powering up, pressurizing, sealing.

ALVAREZ

Just breathe. Just relax. You're okay now... Gonna be...okay now.

The suit finishes sealing and powering up.

KLAYTON
I think it's... I think I'm good.

ALVAREZ
(relieved)
Stay there. Disconnecting...
DEMES. Look for...controls, in
your HUD...to blow the bulkhead...
You'll be...sucked outside. Right
outside...

Buttons being pressed. Confirmation tones.

Alvarez moves off, through the water.

KLAYTON
I see it. In the sub controls.
It's green, I can still connect.

We hear a compartment open in the floor. Hear gears start to crank. Hydraulics release.

ALVAREZ
(with effort)
Once I get the...the disconnects
done...give you the signal. Then
you blow it.

KLAYTON
But, you have to get in the
capsule first. If I blow the
bulkhead, the sea water--

ALVAREZ
There's no capsule, doctor...

Klayton blinks.

KLAYTON
Wait. Wait, what do you--?

The gears keep turning. Alvarez keeps working.

ALVAREZ
Always...liked you. Sarah. Always
liked you...

The water keeps filling. A moment as Klayton considers things. She gets it.

KLAYTON
There's no escape pod.

ALVAREZ

There is. Just...covered by
that...stuff. Sorry...I lied.

(then)

You wouldn't...wouldn't get in the
DEMES otherwise.

Klayton starts to get it.

KLAYTON

You can't just--

ALVAREZ

My arm's not broken.

(then)

It's... Look...

He pulls his arm free from his coat. Klayton gasps.

KLAYTON

Oh, no... Alvarez...

ALVAREZ

That stuff... Got on me somehow.

(then)

Spreading...like everywhere else.

(then)

Sweet Mary...hurts...hurts bad...

KLAYTON

We can fix it... It's...just
tissue damage, it's--

ALVAREZ

Nah... Nah, don't think so...

(then)

Don't think so...

(then)

You need to blow the back panel,
doc. Need to get out of here...

KLAYTON

Alvarez... Please listen to me.
There has to be a way.

ALVAREZ

Saved my life once. Probably don't
remember. Pressure...tank blew on
North. Cut me up real good.
You...saved me. Fixed me.

Klayton is very emotional.

KLAYTON
(More quiet)
Alvarez...

ALVAREZ
Just...just be okay, Sarah. Just
make it. Then...I'll have...paid
it back.
(then, fading)
Paid it back...

She looks at him, doesn't know what to say, besides...

KLAYTON
(whisper)
Alvarez...

ALVAREZ
Hit...the button. Blow the
hatch...

KLAYTON
I can't...

ALVAREZ
Got to...

KLAYTON
I can't...

ALVAREZ
Please, Sarah.

KLAYTON
I can't...

ALVAREZ
Please...

A button press. Confirmation tones. Klayton breathes out.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Emergency bulkhead
explosive disconnects primed.

ALVAREZ
 Right... Right...
 (then)
 Chief'll be... He'll take it hard.
 Just...give him a minute. He'll be
 okay.
 (then)
 Funny... Can't stop thinking
 about... This one time...
 (then)
 He and I...we--

Explosions rock the rear of the sub. The entire thing
 shakes. The bulkheads collapse. Violently.

The sub floods almost instantly. Klayton groans hard as the
 pressure shoves her outside.

The DEMES slams into the ocean floor. Hard. Rolls.

Alarms sound inside her helmet. A high pitch whine in
 Klayton's ears. We can only hear her breathing, over it.

Muffled, far off, come voices...

BLAYNE
 It's a DEMES! Reese get over here!

REESE
 Alvarez?

BLAYNE
 No. It's Klayton.
 (then)
 Just hang on, doctor. I've got
 you.

REESE
 Where's Alvarez? Is he in the sub?

BLAYNE
 Sarah, are you okay? You hit hard.

Klayton says nothing. Just breathes.

REESE
 Where's Alvarez? Is he in the
 emergency capsule?

BLAYNE
 Chief, stop. Look at her. Give her
 a minute.

REESE
 What happened?
 (angry)
 Where is he?

BLAYNE
Look at her.

REESE
 You let him go? You let him go!

BLAYNE
Chief! That's enough, get back!
 Now!

REESE
 God damn it. Not both of them...
 (Then)
 Not both of them...

Reese steps away. Klayton just breathes.

BLAYNE
 Sarah, stay here. You're okay. Lay
 right here, I'll be back in a
 second. You're okay.

Blayne moves off too. Klayton just lays there and breathes.

After a moment, a new voice breaks over the comms.

EVA
 "You're...okay..."
 (then)
 It's strange. The way people tell
 you...how you're feeling.

KLAYTON
 Who...?

EVA
 They mean well, I suppose, but
 really, who is anyone to tell
 anyone else something like that?
 It just seems...arrogant.

KLAYTON
 (stunned)
 Eva...?

EVA
 Hello, Sarah. It's been a
 lifetime, hasn't it?
 (MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)
 (then)
 We have so much to talk about.

EXT. OCEAN FLOOR

The sounds of Klayton's DEMES walking.

BLAYNE
 Sarah, how's your DEMES handling?
 Sarah doesn't say anything, just walks.

BLAYNE
 You hit hard when the pressure
 blew you out.
 Sarah doesn't say anything, just walks.

BLAYNE
Sarah...

KLAYTON
 Sorry. Yes. What?

BLAYNE
 Your DEMES?

KLAYTON
 It's, uh... It seems fine. No
 warnings in my HUD, nothing I'm
 noticing.

BLAYNE
 Sarah, are you sure you're--

The sound of a DEMES powering down. The sound of the
 substance growing. Static in the radios.

REESE
 God damn it...

BLAYNE
 What's happening?

REESE
 Suit just lost power. HUD's dark.
 I got no joy here.

KLAYTON
 Reese... The substance has spread
 almost up to your knee joint.

REESE

Yeah. Started on the ankle, spot about the size of my fist.

EVA

It will keep spreading, too, the more he moves.

BLAYNE

Well, he can't just stand here, doctor.

EVA

I wasn't suggesting that, but you do need to get that suit off him as fast as possible.

REESE

Love it when people talk about me like I'm not--

The DEMES powers back up.

REESE

Look at that. Back online. But...

BLAYNE

What?

REESE

My power levels are down. Draining fast. I'm at twenty three percent on battery now.

EVA

It's clearly tapped into the suit's power cycles. Operation's going to get more and more difficult.

REESE

Bucket of optimism, aren't you Eva?

EVA

Should I lie Reese, to spare your feelings? Or do you want to--

BLAYNE

Let's all focus, please. Start moving again. Reese, how far to South from here?

The DEMES's start moving again.

REESE

Not far. Should...be seeing nav lights soon.

EVA

No nav lights. The power's down on the whole platform.

BLAYNE

But you reactivated the X-Core. It's how we knew to come out here.

EVA

That was before the lifeform tapped into the reactor. The safeguards kicked in and shut it down.

BLAYNE

You keep calling it a lifeform, but it didn't look biological to me.

EVA

Does it need to? What makes something alive? I'd argue it's sentience and purpose, an imperative, more than anything else, and I can tell you, it definitely has that.

BLAYNE

If it's not biological, what is it?

EVA

Mechanical. Technological. Some sort of advanced microscopic linked intelligence more than likely.

KLAYTON

Like nano-tech...

EVA

Yes, but if you're comparing the lifeform to our nano-tech -- Blayne's healing system, for instance -- it is orders of magnitude more sophisticated.

(then)

The black, oily murk you've seen in the water?

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

That's its primordial form. What was inside the Vault. It's attracted to anything mechanical or electronic. Once it finds it, it attaches, drains and consumes it...and then it starts to grow. It makes more of itself.

KLAYTON

But... That would mean...

EVA

It's on your DEMES right now. Growing. It's too small to see, but once it builds enough of itself, you will. In a couple of hours, it will shut your suits down, break through the seals, and you'll all be dead.

KLAYTON

This can't be happening...

BLAYNE

How much time do we have?

EVA

I don't know. All I can tell you is, its growth and spread is exponential. The more of itself it produces...the faster it replicates.

BLAYNE

It must...use the raw material it finds. Steel. Plastic. Circuitry. Breaks it down. Repurposes it.

REESE

Like Fritz... The way it dissolved her suit. The way it...dissolved her.

EVA

No. I believe it's indifferent to biological material. It's just waste product, without any value.

REESE

Waste product...

KLAYTON

It was...on Alvarez too. It spread up his arm. It was still spreading at the end. But, slow. Not like what happened to Fritz.

EVA

The mass in the Relay was very large. That's why it reacted so volatile to your presence. The larger the mass, the more powerful. Each nodule of the lifeform seems to be its own structure, possibly its own entity, and, I've observed...

Everyone waits a moment.

KLAYTON

What?

EVA

I've seen two masses of the substance, grow and spread, from opposite sides of a room, towards one another...and then merge.

BLAYNE

Implying...all individual sections of this thing are trying to form into one primary mass?

EVA

That's my thought.

REESE

(Fuming)

This never should have happened. We never should have been down here. We should have left that God damned thing alone, but we didn't... Now look at us.

BLAYNE

Reese...

REESE

That thing is going to keep spreading and spreading until--

BLAYNE

Reese.

KLAYTON

No, he's right. All we had to do was leave well enough alone. And everyone would still be alive. Everyone would...

(then)

But they're not. Because you let it out, Eva! You opened the Vault.

EVA

I didn't open the Vault. Mack opened the Vault. I tried to stop him. Emerson and I both did.

That stops everyone for a second. Then...

REESE

Wait... Mack? You both told me you destroyed Mack.

BLAYNE

We did. On the North platform.

EVA

Exactly. You destroyed him on the North platform. I didn't know about it, but Fathom has a singularity backup server, and an auxiliary mainframe right here on South.

KLAYTON

What does...what does that mean? Mack...

(hard)

I killed him. Mack was--

Blayne sighs out loud.

BLAYNE

A singularity failover server would transition Mack to a backup location, and it would do it at FTL data transfer speeds.

EVA

Which is exactly what he wanted. To be out of your reach, and have systems with a direct connection to the Relay. You didn't kill him, Sarah. You moved him. If anyone's to blame for opening the Vault, it's not me...it's you.

KLAYTON
That's not fair...

EVA
And blaming me is?

REESE
Is it here? Are we going to have
to deal with the damn V.I. too?

EVA
Mack is gone. Erased. But it cost
Brynn her life. She died
activating his kill switch in the
mainframe. Mack...electrocuted her
through her DEMES.

KLAYTON
Jesus... It just...never ends...
(then)
This place... Mack... The
insanity... It never ends.
(then)
Sometimes I wonder why we even
try.

The sound of Klayton's comms forming a private channel.

BLAYNE
Sarah, we're in a private channel.
What's going on with you?

KLAYTON
Nothing's going on with me, I'm
fine.

BLAYNE
No, you're not. You've never
talked like that before. What
happened back on the sub? With
Alvarez?

Klayton breathes out.

BLAYNE
Sarah...

KLAYTON
I'm fine. Blayne.

Blayne is silent a moment. Then...

BLAYNE

Look, we're all being pushed now.
It gets like this, at the end. It
gets hard, it--

KLAYTON

Jesus, Blayne, I don't need a pep
talk, I don't need...

She breathes out, stops...

KLAYTON

I'm fine.

BLAYNE

You can talk to me. You know that,
right?

She takes another moment. Then...

KLAYTON

It's...just...

REESE

There it is. South platform.

(then)

Straight ahead. Should see the
door for the airlock. It's red.
Blayne should we approach?

Blayne hesitates a moment...and then the sound of the
private channel disconnecting.

BLAYNE

Yeah, Chief, let's move forward.

They keep moving.

REESE

I don't see any of the substance.
At least not on this wall.

EVA

You're lucky then. Last I saw,
before the computers shut off, the
lifeform had covered almost
seventy percent of the exterior.

BLAYNE

Everyone stay sharp, regardless.

They keep moving. Eventually, the sound of their DEMES's
footsteps turn from soft ground...to metal.

Then come to a stop...

REESE

Trying the airlock door.

The sound of buttons pressing. And nothing else. No confirmation tones. Nothing.

REESE

Well, Eva's right, no power.

EVA

So nice to be validated...

BLAYNE

Can you tell if the staging room on the other side is flooded too?

EVA

As far as I know, the only things not flooded are the control center, the X-Core, and the auxiliary mainframe.

KLAYTON

Where are you, Eva?

EVA

Auxiliary mainframe. I've been trapped here for...I don't know, I lost count.

BLAYNE

Don't worry, doctor, we'll get the platform pumped, and you out of there.

REESE

I think we can open the airlock safely with the manual override.

BLAYNE

Do it.

Reese starts working on the door.

KLAYTON

Then what?

BLAYNE

Find a way to contact the surface, get a rescue sub on the way. Plus a containment team.

EVA

A containment team...

(then)

You're sure that's the best option?

BLAYNE

This thing is a highly volatile contaminant, biological or otherwise. We need to isolate it, keep it from spreading any further. I've seen M-D containment teams hold Gamma level threats. They're very good at it.

REESE

You can operate the Relay from the control center. Contact the surface that way.

KLAYTON

Yes, but how are we going to get there? Every corridor is flooded. Which means we can't open the water seal for Control without flooding it.

EVA

We'll have to drain the interior of the platform first, which means reactivating the X-Core to engage the bilge pumps. The problem is, the reactor will just shut down again like it did before.

KLAYTON

Why?

REESE

It's a failsafe. If the reactor computer senses a dangerous power drain, it shuts off to prevent a meltdown. When that...creature made contact with it, it must have taken one hell of a drink.

BLAYNE

Can we override the failsafe? Force the reactor to stay online?

REESE

Yeah. We'll have to go into the utility tunnel, flip the breakers.

(MORE)

REESE (CONT'D)

That's the easy part. Then we disconnect the hardlines to the X-Core monitoring server. That's the hard job, I can do it.

EVA

Somebody will need to manually open the vent shades for the Xytrillium bleed we're going to get.

REESE

Yeah, that too. Controls for those are in the hall above the tunnels, near the X-Core.

BLAYNE

I've opened spacecraft vent panels before. Assume it's similar?

REESE

Pretty much. Hexagonal interlocks on three separate vents.

EVA

When power's reset, I can start the reboot of the X-Core from the terminal here.

BLAYNE

Alright, then. Sounds like we have a plan.

KLAYTON

How much of the interior is infected? How much of the lifeform will we find?

EVA

Without power, I can't check diagnostics. But it needs raw materials to build from...and the energy to do it. Hopefully, the shut down of the X-Core slowed its growth, but...I have no idea what you're going to find inside.

REESE

Doesn't matter. We're committed now. Hell, we were committed the moment we touched down outside the Relay. We're riding this one out...

Everyone is quiet. Then...

BLAYNE
Open the door, Chief.

Reese begins opening the door.

INT. UTILITY TUNNELS

The sound of an arc torch cutting through a pressure door. It stops. Then the door opens manually, underwater. Rough, scraping, grinding.

Two DEMES's move inside. Klayton's. Reese's.

REESE
Okay. We're in the utility tunnel.

BLAYNE
Acknowledged. What are you seeing?

KLAYTON
A lot of infrastructure. Pipes, conduits. None of it's powered. None of it looks anything like I've ever seen, either.

REESE
This was Fathom's first platform. Self contained, so the crews had somewhere to live while they built the rest. M-D drones dug out these tunnels for the piping and ducts, then they surface dropped the rest on top. Pretty impressive. And all for nothing, as it turned out...

EVA
Any sign of the lifeform?

The DEMES's keep moving. Their lights scanning.

KLAYTON
No. Nothing yet.

REESE
We're headed towards the X-Core connections. If it's penetrated the tunnels, we'll see it there.

BLAYNE

GPS shows me right above you, I'm moving towards the vent controls. No sign of it here either.

KLAYTON

Maybe it didn't spread that far from the reactor.

REESE

(Skeptical)

Our luck ain't that good...

BLAYNE

Okay, stay in touch, keep me updated.

The DEMES's keep moving.

KLAYTON

Chief, how's your suit doing?

REESE

Why?

KLAYTON

The growth... It's covering your entire leg now. It's almost to your torso, Chief.

REESE

Don't call me Chief. Not anymore.

(then)

All that's gone now...

KLAYTON

You earned that title, Reese.

BLAYNE

Lost it, too, didn't I?

(then)

I'm sorry, by the way. For what I said before. Outside the sub. Sorry I... About Alvarez. Didn't have any right to say that.

KLAYTON

He said...you would take it hard. He also said you'd be okay.

REESE

Well, I'm not...

(then)

Found Alvarez in Albuquerque. Owed money to a loan shark, so he could feed his sister. Kinda loan you don't ever pay back. He wasn't an idiot, he knew the score, but he took the money anyway. At least she wouldn't be hungry. Kind of kid he was. Took on weight for other people. Sacrificed for them.

(then)

He tried klepping my motorcycle. Made it about two blocks before the anti-theft VI threw him head first into a dumpster; broke his nose, cheek bone, dislocated a shoulder. Liked him right away, asked him to come work for M-D, once I heard his story.

KLAYTON

You paid his debt?

REESE

Hell no. Man's gotta pay his debts, no matter how unfair. But I...suggested to the shark he let Alvarez pay him back over time and that he freeze the interest. He came around to my way of thinking. Alvarez paid him back his first year at M-D. Paid for his sister to go to welding school, too.

(then, bitter)

He was in line for promotion, once this contract was done. All of 'em, in line for something. Promotions. Raises. More responsibility. Things they were promised. Things they earned.

(bitter)

Things they wanted...

(then)

Not anymore, though... Not anymore...

KLAYTON

It's...not your fault, Chief.

REESE

No? Whose fault is it, then?

(MORE)

REESE (CONT'D)

(then)

Brought 'em here. Put 'em on a path. Didn't I? I'm the only one left. Last man standing gets the blame, because there's no one else to take it.

(then)

It's on me.

Klayton is quiet a moment.

KLAYTON

It's not fair...

(then)

What this place has taken.
It's...not fair.

REESE

Life deals the cards, Sarah, you play the hand you're dealt. Don't get a say in it. Sometimes, all you can do...is read 'em and weep. Read 'em and weep...

Klayton is quiet again, thinking...

REESE

You're not the same since the sub. Light's gone out of you. Because you know the truth. This little story we're in? It's already been written. And it don't end well.

Klayton, still, says nothing...

REESE

There. Ahead of us.

The DEMES's stop.

REESE

On the ceiling...

KLAYTON

Yes...

(then, frightened)

Yes, I see it.

The sound of Klayton initiating the comms.

KLAYTON

Blayne, we've found contamination. A lot of it.

BLAYNE

Yeah. Got it here, too. The ceiling's completely covered, looks like it was spreading down the walls, but...

EVA

But?

BLAYNE

It looks inert, now. Doesn't look active.

KLAYTON

Blayne's right. It looks...dead to me.

BLAYNE

It looks brittle, like dead coral. And it's not spreading. It isn't doing anything.

REESE

That don't mean it's dead.

EVA

Reese is right.

KLAYTON

God, it's everywhere. It must be...half a meter thick.

REESE

At least...

BLAYNE

Are you at the disconnects yet?

REESE

Not yet. We're gonna have to go through this stuff to get there.

KLAYTON

Blayne, I'm not sure about this anymore...

BLAYNE

What do you mean?

KLAYTON

Presumably, this thing...is still in contact with the X-Core. If we turn it back on...

REESE

Everything around us gets a big jolt of juice.

BLAYNE

We don't know it works that way.

KLAYTON

We don't know it doesn't. I mean, Blayne, you can't see it down here. We're going to be completely boxed in with it. The tunnel just gets tighter and tighter moving forward, the growth gets thicker and thicker. If it reanimates...

BLAYNE

Yeah, I get it.

REESE

Turning the reactor back on is the only way to drain the platform and use the Relay remotely.

EVA

Actually, there may be another.

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff?

EVA

Flipping the breakers will reset the platform to its last configuration, correct?

REESE

Yeah. And it's last configuration was the X-Core running at full power.

EVA

Right. So, I'll stop the X-Core power up, and instead shift back to maintenance mode. Limited battery power only. That will keep the lifeform down there from being able to draw off the reactor.

BLAYNE

Which will let us wait until Sarah and Reese are out of the tunnels before we flip on the X-Core.

EVA

Exactly. Without the X-Core powered, everything will stay just the way it is down there.

REESE

The doc doesn't need to be down here, can do 'em both myself, if this is how we're doing it.

BLAYNE

No, I want you both out of there as fast as possible. That means two people, on two tasks.

REESE

Alright, it's your show...

(then)

We're going to push into the infected area, if Sarah's ready.

The DEMES's start moving again.

KLAYTON

(unnerved)

I'm ready...

They move into the tunnel covered in the substance. Their footfalls echo strangely now. There are strange sounds too, eerie, metallic, haunting.

EVA

Everyone take it slow. You too, Blayne. Inert or not, I would be careful about touching it.

BLAYNE

Don't have to tell me twice.

REESE

It's already spreading all over us, you said so yourself.

EVA

Well, I assume you'd prefer not to accelerate the process?

KLAYTON

We should move single file. Reese and I. We'll take up less space.

REESE

Yeah, doc, that's probably smart.

The DEMES's start moving one in front of the other. Strange sounds echo around them. Eerie. Metallic.

KLAYTON

It's... Up close it's definitely synthetic looking. It looks fibrous.

EVA

That was my observation, too. Some kind of molecular fiber. I bet if you put it under a microscope its structure would be geometrical, like a grid.

KLAYTON

Like plant cell nano ridges... Diatom algae...

EVA

I was thinking more like methacrylate polymers...

A new sound now. A fizzing, metallic clicking. Then sparks. Then the sound of Reese's DEMES powering down.

REESE

Well, God damn...

(then)

Losing power again. Little different this time, HUD's flashing, getting power spikes--

KLAYTON

Reese, your suit.

The sounds again.

BLAYNE

What's happening?

KLAYTON

Reese, can you see the wall by the floor, near your leg?

The sounds again.

REESE

Shit. Will you look at that...

KLAYTON

Don't. Move.

BLAYNE
What's happening?

KLAYTON
The inert substance on the wall,
it's...reacting to the active
substance on Reese's DEMES.

EVA
Reacting how?

REESE
It's...moving...pulsing. It's hard
to describe. Right near the wall
where my leg is.

KLAYTON
And...darkening.

BLAYNE
Darkening is probably bad...

EVA
Incredible...
(then)
Just the proximity to another
active version of itself is enough
to reconstitute it. It must emit
some kind of magnetic field.

KLAYTON
An oscillating field, yes, but
what could be absorbing it on the
other--

BLAYNE
I agree, it's fascinating, but
maybe something to think about
later. Can you tell if it is
reactivating?

KLAYTON
The only movement is in a small
part of the wall near Reese's leg.
It's not spreading to the rest of
the contamination.

EVA
It's likely that the mass is just
too big to be able to use the
power from Reese's stowaway.

REESE
Gonna try moving my leg away.

KLAYTON

Careful...

Reese moves his DEMES. The sparking and creaking stops.

KLAYTON

It stopped. It's inert again on the wall.

EVA

I think it's just a superficial reaction, I don't think you're in any danger, but I do think you should keep moving. The longer you stand in any one position, the more likely Reese's contamination can use the inert substance to accelerate its own growth.

REESE

Well, ain't that a great thought.

BLAYNE

The faster you get this done, the faster you can get out of there. Just stay away from the walls.

The DEMES's start moving again.

KLAYTON

Problem is, the walls are getting closer and closer...

(Unnerved)

And...the tunnel splits ahead.

REESE

Yeah, we part ways here. I'm going right, find the monitoring connections for the reactor. You go left. Look for the hardline switches.

KLAYTON

What am I looking for?

REESE

Three, big, yellow levers. They'll be inside a plexisteel shell, surrounded by a whole bunch of cabling ducts.

KLAYTON

And the exit is down my tunnel?

REESE

Yeah. Once we do this, I'll come find you.

BLAYNE

Be careful, stay in contact.

REESE

Right...

They move off, down separate tunnels. Klayton moves, scanning everything with her light.

The strange sounds echo around her.

EVA

Klayton, how is the spread of the lifeform where you are?

KLAYTON

Severe. And it's not just spread. It's growth. It must be two meters thick, it's getting really tight in here. I can't believe it did all this in just a few hours.

EVA

I told you. Exponential growth. Once it connected with the X-Core... There wasn't any stopping it. If the computer hadn't shut down the reactor...

KLAYTON

Yeah...

Klayton keeps moving.

EVA

Are you okay, Sarah? You've been very quiet. Since the sub. You've barely offered any opinions. It's not like you.

Klayton doesn't respond.

EVA

Our connection is private, Sarah. Blayne can't hear us, if you're worried about that.

Klayton still doesn't respond.

EVA

You had to do it, didn't you? With Alvarez. That was his name?

(then)

Whatever it was, you had to do it. Push a button. Pull a lever. It killed him. But it saved you. That's what you won't say out loud. Even to Blayne. Isn't it? Because saying it out loud...makes it all very real.

Klayton still remains quiet.

EVA

I think you know you can tell me. I think you know, I would understand.

(then)

I was with Joe, you know. At the end. And I had to do it, too. It saved me. It saved everyone. And it killed him...

(then)

I could have saved Joe, Sarah... And I didn't.

Klayton is quiet a moment more. Then...

KLAYTON

I could have too...

EVA

The truth is, even if we try to save someone...there's no guarantee we can. I've been on both sides of that knife. They each cut just as deep.

KLAYTON

How do you live with it?

EVA

I came down here. I tried to distract myself.

KLAYTON

(hopeful)

Did it work?

EVA

No. It blunted it. Muted it. But it was always waiting. When things were quiet. And dark.

(then)

Is that what this is about, Sarah? Pain? You have a lot of it to deal with, don't you? Right now, the luxury is...you don't have to. You're too busy trying to survive. But...what if you do survive? What if you make it? All that pain, then? You know it's going to come to the surface.

Klayton swallows.

KLAYTON

(quiet)

I...haven't felt like this before. Even when it was dire, even when I thought I was going to die...I still...

EVA

Had hope.

KLAYTON

(scared to say it)

Yes...

EVA

You're like me, Sarah. We are, both of us, cursed with foresight. There's no way back to the East platform. Even if there was, we would just bring the lifeform with us. We would just accelerate its spread.

(Pointedly)

None of us can ever leave this platform again. You see that.

Klayton just listens.

EVA

The problem, of course, is... Agent Blayne. He suffers from a particular kind of neuroses. One that, in most situations, serves him and Maas-Dorian very well. An inability to give up.

KLAYTON

How could that be a liability?

EVA

Because, a time is coming, Sarah, where hard choices will need to be made. And if we don't make those choices...then everyone on the surface of this planet is going to die. You've seen the power of the lifeform, its ability to spread, a containment team will not stop it. All we are doing, by summoning a rescue sub, is giving the lifeform the path it needs to reach the surface, and begin to spread there.

KLAYTON

Are you... Are you saying...?

EVA

I'm saying once the lifeform consumes what remains of Fathom...there is nothing else for it to consume. That is how you isolate it, that is how you contain it. It will remain here, harmless, in the depths, unable to spread.

KLAYTON

But, that means... Everyone on East...

EVA

Must be sacrificed as well, yes. I don't mean this as a slight, Sarah, merely as a fact. Next to me, you are the most intelligent person on this platform. Agent Blayne will never subscribe to reality. That what is happening here is a lost cause. Agent Blayne will never sacrifice himself, not because he is a coward, but precisely because he is not. He will fight on, until the end.

KLAYTON

You're...insane. Eva. You're...

Klayton jumps as the comms flash suddenly.

BLAYNE

Klayton, are you there?

EVA

It doesn't sit well with me, Sarah, believe me, knowing what's coming...but everything I've been through has given me a level of insight. Occam's Razor, as it turns out, is a very sharp blade indeed.

BLAYNE

Sarah? Do you read? We're ready here.

EVA

I'm sorry, Sarah. You will have to choose, between Agent Blayne's idealism and the necessity to sacrifice ourselves for everyone else. I don't envy you this.

KLAYTON

What if it doesn't come to that...

BLAYNE

Dr. Graff, are you on comms?

EVA

Then...I will be wrong. And all that will be left is the pain. I don't envy you that, either. But...

(Then)

I'm not wrong.

(then)

Patching us back in...

The sound of the comms opening up.

BLAYNE

Doctor?

KLAYTON

Blayne... Yes. I'm at the triggers. There are...three. Like Reese said.

REESE

All yellow, right?

KLAYTON

Yes. Three yellow levers.

REESE

Those are the override breakers.
You have to trip all of them. Left
to right. Pump each one up
once...then pull it down all the
way. Hard. When I say. Not before.

KLAYTON

Yes, got it.

REESE

Blayne, are you ready with the
vents?

BLAYNE

I'm at the manuals, yeah.

REESE

Okay. After I disconnect the hard
lines for the health monitors,
we'll open the vents and flip the
breakers concurrently. One at a
time. Blayne goes first then
Sarah. Once the connections are
restored, Eva will stop the
reactor from going back online and
put us back in maintenance mode.
Hopefully...

KLAYTON

Got it.

BLAYNE

Understood.

REESE

Alright...
(Then)
Standby.

Seconds pass. Then...

REESE

Monitoring lines disconnected,
headed to your location, doctor.
Blayne, open the first vent.

Seconds again. Then, from above, the sound of something big
and metallic opening.

BLAYNE

First vent open.

REESE
Klayton...

KLAYTON
Here goes...

Klayton primes the switch upwards...then slams it down.
No sounds as a result.

KLAYTON
I did it...but I don't hear
anything.

REESE
You won't until the second one.
Blayne, you ready for the next
vent?

BLAYNE
Ready.

REESE
Do it.

The sound of something big and metallic opening again.

REESE
Klayton, second switch.

Klayton primes the switch upwards...then slams it down.

This time, we hear the sound of electronics priming. A
humming beginning to build...

...and, maybe...sounds around Klayton. Like voices...

KLAYTON
Does...anyone else hear...?

BLAYNE
What?

The sound fades away. Nothing.

KLAYTON
Nothing. It was nothing...

REESE
Almost back to you, Sarah. Blayne,
don't wait on me.

BLAYNE
Opening the third vent.

KLAYTON

Okay...

A second. Then...

The sound of something big and metallic opening again.

KLAYTON

Last one...

REESE

Do it, Sarah.

Klayton primes the switch upwards...then slams it down.

The humming comes again, and this time...remains.

KLAYTON

All switches flipped. I hear...
power. Around me.

EVA

That's the X-Core coming back
online. Any activity from the
lifeform?

KLAYTON

Not yet...

EVA

Good. I'm stopping the reactor
boot, standby.

The sound of the reactor coming online slows, then stops.

EVA

Okay, we're in lockdown again.

Klayton breathes a sigh of relief.

EVA

Reinitiating maintenance mode.

A moment. And then, around us, we hear the sounds of power
restoring, flooding into the conduits around her.

Around her, also, other sounds. This time, no doubt.

Movement, metal bending. And voices. The walls shake...

Klayton's breathing becomes frightened.

KLAYTON

Reese?

There is no response from the radio.

And then, in her radio, static bursts to life. In the static we hear something else. Whispers. Voices.

KLAYTON

Blayne?

Still no response. Just the chittering, whispering, unintelligible voices...

KLAYTON

Is anyone reading?

The shaking among the walls continues. Growing louder.

Klayton's breathing becomes panicked.

Something emerges from the dark in front of her. Klayton gasps, steps back.

REESE

Hey. Doc. You went off comms, you okay?

When Klayton settles down, she notices the sounds are gone. The shaking, the metal groaning. The whispers.

Her breathing is ragged and harsh none the less.

BLAYNE

Reese? Did you find her?

REESE

Yeah, right here. She's okay. Spooked, though.

KLAYTON

Blayne...

BLAYNE

What happened? Where'd you go?

KLAYTON

Nowhere, I thought I heard...

EVA

Heard what?

KLAYTON

In maintenance mode, there's no power down here? I mean, no more power than before?

REESE

Some of the conduits are powered now, yeah. But nothing like when the reactor was online.

KLAYTON

Reese...

The sounds of metal clicking, growing, morphing.

REESE

If it took that kind of power for this thing to grow this thick and big, I don't reckon...

KLAYTON

Reese.

Reese looks down. He breathes out loud, long and slow.

REESE

Son...of a...

EVA

What is it?

KLAYTON

The contaminant on Reese's DEMES. It's...

REESE

Interacting with the mass on the walls.

EVA

There isn't enough power in maintenance mode to reanimate the lifeform. There can't be.

KLAYTON

Tell that to it!

(then)

The entire wall...it's...it's writhing.

Another sound. A fizzing, a metallic clicking. Sparks.

BLAYNE

Get away from it! Get away from it!

Too late. The sounds intensify as the substance on his DEMES reacts with and SPREADS, connects with the substance on the wall.

KLAYTON

Reese!

REESE

God damn.

The substance on the wall, suddenly comes to life. Reese GROANS as his DEMES is yanked and slammed into the wall.

BLAYNE

What's happening?

REESE

(struggling)

The...stuff on my leg, it...

KLAYTON

It grabbed him! The wall grabbed him!

EVA

Don't struggle! It will spread faster.

Reese's DEMES groans, trying to pull loose.

REESE

Got my arm now! Can't...pull loose!

BLAYNE

Reese, calm down!

REESE

Can't pull loose!

KLAYTON

Stop moving.

REESE

Can't--

KLAYTON

Stop!

Reese's DEMES stops.

REESE

Okay... Okay, fine...

The sound of the spreading, growing metal, slows.

BLAYNE

Klayton, what's his situation?

KLAYTON

It's... He's pulled against the wall. It's covering his entire left side. I can't tell where the DEMES starts and the wall ends.

EVA

There isn't enough power to reanimate the entire expanse. It's likely just enough for the wall immediately around the DEMES.

BLAYNE

Is it spreading?

KLAYTON

The whole wall is moving! But, it's spreading slower now that he's motionless.

REESE

Aw, shit... Aw shit, give me a break...

BLAYNE

Klayton, step back. Stay away from it. I'm on my way to you. I've seen how fast it can spread. If it's growing slow, then we have time to get Reese loose.

EVA

I don't think that's going to be possible. We have a problem.

BLAYNE

What?

EVA

I'm locked out of the terminal in the mainframe. It's not accessible anymore.

BLAYNE

You're locked out? You have team lead access.

EVA

I'm locked out regardless. And... I'm pretty sure I'm watching the xytrilium reactor APIs being rewritten.

KLAYTON

What?

REESE

What does that even--

EVA

I think...the lifeform is...

(then, stunned)

It's rewriting the source code for the reactor controls as we speak, specifically...the power up procedure.

KLAYTON

It can do that?

EVA

Apparently.

KLAYTON

How can it do that? It's a substance, it's an inanimate--

EVA

Listen to what I'm saying. It's recoding the entire API at a speed that's...

(then)

I think you'd better get out of that tunnel, Sarah. Fast.

BLAYNE

I'm on my way to you now.

EVA

You won't have time. It's already written and pushed a new priming procedure...

KLAYTON

We can't leave Reese! We can't--

Klayton gasps at a new sound. A bad sound. All around them. The sound of the reactor beginning its powering up.

KLAYTON

The reactor started priming.

EVA

I'd say you have less than a minute before the X-Core comes back online.

Reese starts to laugh.

EVA
And once that happens...

BLAYNE
The entire tunnel comes alive.

REESE
Well, don't that beat all...

EVA
Reactor priming, 54%...57...

KLAYTON
Can't you stop it! Shut the terminal down?

EVA
I told you, I'm locked out...

The reactor continues powering, the sound fills the tunnel

REESE
Gotta get out of here, Sarah.

KLAYTON
No...

REESE
You know it. You know you have to.

KLAYTON
I'm not...leaving anyone else...

BLAYNE
Reese is right, Sarah.

EVA
Sixty eight percent... Seventy.

KLAYTON
I'm not leaving anyone else.

The reactor keeps powering, the sound fills the tunnel.

REESE
Yeah. Yeah...
(then)
I get that that's gonna be a big hurdle for you.

KLAYTON

We'll figure it out. Blayne's coming. We'll figure it out.

REESE

Awful sorry about this. I am. I just...don't think you would do what you gotta do otherwise.

KLAYTON

Listen to me. Listen--

Reese's DEMES starts to move again. The legs, the arms, all of it, pulling against the substance.

KLAYTON

Reese, no! Don't move!

REESE

Gotta get out of here, Sarah.

KLAYTON

No, stop! Stop moving!

The sound of the substance spreading all over Reese's DEMES returns. Louder than before.

REESE

Read 'em and weep, doc... Read 'em and weep...

The sound of the substance all over Reese's DEMES.

KLAYTON

Reese!

The substance covers the DEMES...and then breaks through in a shower of debris and sparks and water.

Reese screams...as the interior of his suit floods with water and with the black substance.

EVA

Quit standing there!

BLAYNE

Sarah! Go!

Klayton's DEMES turns, starts moving, pushing through the tunnel, its footfalls echoing off the covered walls.

The reactor continues to build.

KLAYTON
I'm going... I'm going...

EVA
Your tunnel dead ends at the
pressure door to the recycling
center pipeworks.

BLAYNE
I'm almost there.

EVA
Good. Because she's got seconds.

Klayton keeps running. The reactor keeps powering.

BLAYNE
Almost at the door.

EVA
Eighty eight percent... Ninety
one.

KLAYTON
The tunnel just keeps going...

EVA
Ninety one.

BLAYNE
Just keep going.

EVA
Ninety four percent...

Klayton keeps running.

EVA
Ninety seven.

KLAYTON
I see the door!

EVA
Ninety nine...
(then)
Reactor primed.

Around her, the sound of the X-Core coming full online.
Everything shakes, the humming of the reactor whines.

KLAYTON
It's here. It's...it's alive!

A horrible, wailing, screech fills the interior of the tunnel. Static explodes on Klayton's radio. Static full of voices and whispers and other horrible sounds.

She breathes, frightened...

EVA

Run!

Klayton does. She turns, stomps ahead.

Behind her, the substance spasms and grows and moves.

BLAYNE

I'm at the door, trying to open.

KLAYTON

I'm almost there.

BLAYNE

Um...

KLAYTON

Um, what?

BLAYNE

The door panel's rebooting. I can't open it yet.

KLAYTON

What?!

BLAYNE

Just...one second.

The substance spreads behind her, coming closer.

KLAYTON

I may not have that long!

BLAYNE

Working on it...

KLAYTON

Blayne! It's almost here!

The substance swells behind her, almost on her, filling the corridor...

KLAYTON

Oh, my God...

The pressure door opens.

BLAYNE
Get in! Run!

Klayton moves, fast, pushes through the door. The tunnel comes alive behind her.

INT. PIPEWORKS

The door slams down as the lifeform repowers outside.

BLAYNE
It's sealed. Door's sealed.

EVA
It won't matter.

The room start to shake. The sound of crackling, flexing metal.

BLAYNE
Shit... It's waking up in here too.

KLAYTON
What do we do?!

The sound of something configuring on Blayne's DEMES.
The lifeform inside the room reanimates, comes to life.

BLAYNE
Shut your eyes!

The sound of the plasma thrower. Klayton yells.
The lifeform screeches. Whispers explode over the radio.
The plasma keep burning. Burning. BURNING.
Then it shuts off.

Just silence now. Nothing. No metal, no crackling, no whispers. Just Klayton's breathing, and the air filtering out of her DEMES.

BLAYNE
Klayton... I got it. The plasma killed it, in this room anyway.

EVA
That might be optimistic...

Klayton breathes hard, doesn't respond...

BLAYNE

Klayton?

Klayton breathes hard, doesn't respond...

BLAYNE

Klayton, you're okay... You're okay.

KLAYTON

No.

(then)

Don't tell me how I fee. I'm not okay. I'm not at all okay.

Blayne stares at her.

BLAYNE

Reese...

(then)

There wasn't an option. There was nothing you could do.

KLAYTON

Blayne...

BLAYNE

You know that. Right? It wasn't your fault.

KLAYTON

Blayne...

BLAYNE

It wasn't your fault. You--

KLAYTON

Blayne.

Blayne stops, stares at her.

KLAYTON

Your left arm. Your suit arm.

Blayne looks at his suit. The substance is visible there now. It crackles, fizzes...grows.

KLAYTON

And my right shoulder.

The substance is visible there too. It fizzes...grows.

KLAYTON

It's...visible now. It's growing.

Blayne sighs.

BLAYNE

Aw, nuts...

INT. PIPEWORKS

The sound of pumps, behind the walls. Water DRIPS everywhere, now that most the water has been cleared.

When a DEMES moves now, its footfalls are extra loud on the floor. The sound of its respirator has no bubbles.

EVA

Top floors are clear now, tunnels should be drained in about thirty minutes.

BLAYNE

Even with the platform free of water, I think we should keep using the DEMES's as long as we can. We don't know if the air in here is contaminated somehow.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Battery reserves at thirty three percent. Atmosphere reserves at seventeen percent. This DEMES will expend its atmosphere in thirty one minutes, thirty seven seconds.

EVA

You'll be lucky to get close to that. With the lifeform growing, your battery will be drained long before your air runs out.

BLAYNE

Is there any way to know how much time we have?

EVA

Klayton, when you last saw Reese, how far had the contaminant spread?

Silence from Klayton.

BLAYNE

(gently)

Sarah...

KLAYTON
(distant)
I'm sorry. What?

EVA
How far had the contaminant spread
on Reese before he died?

KLAYTON
It was... It had covered both
legs.

EVA
Nothing on the torso?

KLAYTON
Not that I saw.

EVA
Well...if you first noticed the
contamination after the Relay, and
that was...how long ago?

BLAYNE
Two hours. Give or take.

EVA
Then, roughly, four hours for
complete coverage of a DEMES. Of
course, the real variable is, at
what point does it break through
your pressure seals? That's when
it kills you.

Klayton breathes out, stressed, frightened.

EVA
Armor is going to be weaker around
the joints, the neckline of the
suit. Depending on the spread and
the amount of--

BLAYNE
Got it. Thank you, doctor. Let's
cut the figure in half, give
ourselves an hour left.

KLAYTON
To do what?

BLAYNE
Same plan as before. Use the Relay
remotely to call for help.

(MORE)

BLAYNE (CONT'D)

We have the pumps on now, we can access the control center. We're getting there. We can clear out halls and rooms with the plasma throwers. I've used half of my fuel, that's bad, but Klayton hasn't used any of hers. We can make it work.

EVA

Room to room, flaring it up with super heated plasma. You really think the platform can take that?

BLAYNE

What's the problem here, doctor? Do you have another suggestion?

EVA

Yes, I do. We start acknowledging reality. We don't do anything.

Blayne is quiet a moment.

BLAYNE

Clearly...I'm missing something.

EVA

You've seen the lifeform in action now. You've seen its volatility. Any ship you summon down here will be immediately contaminated, and when it goes back to the surface, the lifeform will go with it. Then everything up there will be exposed.

BLAYNE

There will be a containment team.

EVA

It won't matter.

BLAYNE

(impatient)

You don't know that.

EVA

I do. The lifeform is more than just a simple contaminate, much more.

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

It took over the platform computers, it rewrote our APIs, APIs written in a language completely foreign to it. Do you understand? That implies three-dimensional thinking, problem solving...awareness. And a very high degree of intelligence.

(then)

If it can do all that with the computer systems for this platform, do you really think it can't do the same with a containment team's dive suit controls? Or the cockpit computers of a transport sub? It's clear now, Blayne. Anything that comes down here is going to get infected. And if this thing makes it to the surface...

BLAYNE

You were the one who said we had to stop it. You said stop it...or "watch the world burn", if I remember right.

EVA

And the way we do that is to isolate it. Trap it here. Let it consume the rest of Fathom, and then it will be out of raw materials and power. Then it will go inert. Just like it did before you turned the lights back on.

BLAYNE

And everyone on East? What about them? The fifty survivors there?

EVA

It's not a pretty choice. Or an easy one. I'm sorry for those lives, I know them better than you do, I worked with them for years, but if the math comes down to sacrificing fifty people to save the lives of billions...then it is a simple calculus, Agent Blayne. No one must ever come down here again.

BLAYNE

Okay, if you're right, and I don't believe you are, even if we didn't call for help, Maas-Dorian would still send an investigation team. You were head of research here, you know how much money this facility represents, they'd never abandon it.

EVA

They would if it were unrecoverable. If there was no way to access it. If there was a Xytrillium reactor implosion, for example.

Blayne is stunned.

BLAYNE

You want...to overload the X-Core?
Let it melt down?

EVA

It would destroy the base entirely, deny the lifeform any further building blocks, and it would discourage M-D from ever trying to recover it. It checks every box.

BLAYNE

And kills everyone on East. And kills us.

EVA

That's what makes it a sacrifice. That's what makes it a hard call. Hard calls, at least so I thought, were what ISD was created for. Or is that only for ISD agents without newborn sons?

Blayne swallows.

BLAYNE

What did you say?

KLAYTON

(quiet)

Blayne...

EVA

Only the truth. That your judgement is impaired. That you're biased. That you can't see the situation for what it is.

BLAYNE

You've got some nerve, doctor.

KLAYTON

Blayne.
(then)
Eva may be right.

BLAYNE

What? You agree with this? You're willing to sacrifice everyone on East? Yourself?

KLAYTON

(nervous)
I... I'm not...willing...

BLAYNE

Then what?

EVA

Tell him, Sarah. Tell him what you think.

BLAYNE

Yeah, Sarah, tell me. You think the situation is unrecoverable? This is the path you think we should take?

KLAYTON

(Quiet, tense)
I...can't breathe...

BLAYNE

You want to make a choice that leads to the death of everyone on the Eastern platform?

KLAYON

(panicked)
Can't breathe...

We hear buttons start to be pressed. Confirmation tones.

BLAYNE
 Fifty people you've worked with?
 That you've treated? Fifty people
 that--

Klayton's DEMES begins to open, depressurize, the helmet
 begins to detach and open.

BLAYNE
 Sarah!

KLAYTON
 (panicked)
 Can't breathe... In this thing...

Blayne moves towards her.

BLAYNE
 Sarah! The water's gone, but we
 don't know if there are any
 airborne properties--

KLAYTON
I can't breathe!

Her DEMES stops opening. We hear her voice unfiltered now,
 hear her breathing raggedly, in and out.

KLAYTON
 I can't breathe...

BLAYNE
 (concerned)
 Sarah...

Klayton keeps breathing. Then...

KLAYTON
 Smells like...
 (then)
 My dad was a space welder. Orbital
 platforms. He said the fumes stuck
 to the environment suits, that he
 could smell them in the airlock
 after. He said that welded metal,
 in space, he said...it smelled
dead.
 (Then)
 That's what this place smells
 like... Dead metal.

BLAYNE
 Sarah...
 (MORE)

BLAYNE (CONT'D)

(then)

I shouldn't have lost it like that. Not with you.

Klayton keeps breathing.

BLAYNE

Can you please...reseal your suit for me? Please?

KLAYTON

I'm not sure it matters. I'm not sure, what we've let loose down here, that it can be stopped. If it could be stopped...

(then)

That would mean we could be forgiven.

BLAYNE

Sarah...

(then)

It can be stopped. I promise. Calling the surface is the only way to do that. And it's the only option that gives everyone who's left a chance. You can't... We can't take that away from them. We have to try.

Klayton doesn't say anything.

BLAYNE

Sarah. Don't...give up on me. If you gave up on me, I don't...

(Then)

Just trust me. A little more. A little longer.

Klayton breathes, thinking, torn...

KLAYTON

I... I don't...

BLAYNE

We've seen the worst of it now. We know what we're dealing with. We've seen the worst--

A sound bursts over the radio. Mixed with static. Whispers. Voices. Hundreds of them. Thousands.

KLAYTON

Oh, no...

Another sound pushes it's way through the surface. A single voice. One we almost recognize.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Nooooo....

Klayton gasps at the sound. Her breathing frightened.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Nothing...will be stopped...

HORRIBLE VOICE

We...are eternal...by design...

HORRIBLE VOICE

You...are impermanent...by circumstance...

KLAYTON

Is that...Reese?

BLAYNE

That is not Reese.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Nothing...will be stopped...

Then they gasp at a loud, jarring sound. The sound of something POUNDING on the door into the ROOM.

KLAYTON

He's...outside the door.

The pounding again.

BLAYNE

It isn't Reese.

HORRIBLE VOICE

Nothing...will be stopped...

EVA

You need to leave that room now.
You need to get to Control.

The pounding again.

BLAYNE

Klayton, get back in your suit.

The pounding again.

BLAYNE

Klayton!

The pounding again.

KLAYTON

We're all going to do die...

BLAYNE

Klayton!

The pounding again.