

STATIC FADES OUT

HARLEY

It is Day 30 of our current cycle, Overwatch Command. Two more days until we Reset once again.

By now, we have reason to believe that the large-scale environmental effects the site has experienced are not caused by the Resets themselves. The current working theory is that it's still the formation of large Dash One instances that causes things like blackouts and temperature changes, but proximity to the end of a cycle impacts the severity of the effect.

And I guess it's good that it doesn't work the other way around. Imagine getting stuck with a site-wide anomalous blackout on the fourth day of the cycle and then having to live in the dark for a whole month. Dodged a bullet there.

Research is planning to do some testing into the increased severity of the environmental effects that occur closer to the end of a cycle. And considering how diligent we've been with watching out for Dash Ones, it's likely they'll have some spare time for it these next few days. This time, I'm hoping we can experience a Reset we're actually ready for. Maybe with some extra anticipation, we'll be better prepared to get back onto our feet even quicker.

AS HE SPEAKS, WATER STARTS DRIPPING IN THE BACKGROUND

I won't lie, I'm rather looking forward to the thought of a Reset I can relax through. One where I'll be a little less soaked in adrenaline when I wake back up to that all-too-familiar array of

alarms and tremors and panic. For once, I'd like to not have to worry about something like water coming out of my ceiling tiles, there's water coming out of my ceiling tiles THERE'S WATER COMING OUT OF MY CEILING TILES?

CLICK

WATER DRIPS RAPIDLY

LANCASTER

(narration)

Alright, so I'm working in my office. I have to pee. More than I ever have in my entire life. I stand up to go to the bathroom, and you will not BELIEVE what happens.

DOOR OPENS

LANCASTER

(in scene)

OH- oh, oh, heyheyhey, my office is flooding?! Are you- Is anybody else's office- nooo, the card tower...

CLICK

WATER DRIPPING

LOVE

(narration)

We were just sitting in the office, our shift JUST started, when all of a sudden water starts GUSHING out of the ceiling. Like, it looked like the end of the Titanic movie. It was coming out of EVERYWHERE. And I tried to clean it up with whatever we had in the office, but it was SO much water.

RUSHING WATER, LOVE IS SCREAMING COMEDICALLY

LOVE

AAAAAAAHHHHH! GET IT! GET IT!

RADDAGHER

There's too much-

LOVE
CATCH IT! IT'S GETTING ON YOUR
SLEEPING BAG!

RADDAGHER
I only have these two cups.

LOVE
Throw it into the hallway!

DOOR OPENS

WATER RUSHES LOUDLY

RADDAGHER
There's more water in the hallway.

LOVE
WHAT THE FUUUUUU-

CLICK

HALLWAY AMBIENCE, WATER RUSHING. SITE COMM CLICKS ON

KLEIN
Alright, Site-107, calm down. It's
starting to slow down, we're very
likely not going to drown. Please
calmly make your way to the
cafeteria so we can do a
headcount. So far, we've had no
reports of anyone getting hurt.
Research is testing the water to
make sure it isn't dangerous. So
until such a time as we know it's
safe, please try to come into as
little contact as possible with
the water. I know that's nearly
impossible, but just- stand on top
of a table or something. I cannot
emphasize this enough: don't drink
it. I repeat: DO NOT DRINK THE
CEILING WATER.

Report to the AB Floor as soon as
possible.

CLICK

HALLWAY AMBIENCE, WATER SLOSHES

LOVE STRUGGLES AND SPLASHES

LOVE

Raddagher- Raddagher, help- help
me-

RADDAGHER
Stand up.

LOVE
But- the- the sharks-

RADDAGHER
There aren't any sharks.

LOVE
It's an anomaly, there could be
sharks! Dash Two sharks!

FOOTSTEPS SLOSH THROUGH THE WATER

RADDAGHER
What caused this one?

LOVE
I dunno. I just want to find
something we can use as a boat so
we don't have to SWIM the whole
way.

RADDAGHER
It's only about two feet high.

LOVE
Maybe for YOU.

CLICK

HARLEY
(narration)
It was really scary, at first. It
began so suddenly and there was so
much water so quickly. I really
thought we were going to flood
completely. For several minutes,
my most pressing and urgent matter
became finding a way to keep from
drowning.

Like every other large
environmental effect, it was
terrifying.

But unlike the others, it was only
scary until it wasn't.

WATER RUSHING, DRIPPING

HARLEY

(in scene)

The time is 18 hundred hours and the site is filling up with water, Overwatch Command. Er, not "filling up," exactly. The ceilings mostly stopped pouring down on us about 30 minutes ago. But we are very thoroughly flooded now. From the radio chatter I hear, we have about two feet of water on every floor of the building.

By virtue of being employed by the Foundation, I am a man of science. And my scientific evaluation is that this water is VERY clear and surprisingly... warm? And I'm only assuming it's water here, because it could, in all likelihood, be something that just LOOKS and FEELS like water.

Ooh, we're still waiting for Research to determine the safety of the water but my GOD, do I want to know what it tastes like so bad.

CLICK

KLEIN

(narration)

By the time the flooding had mostly stopped, the concern turned to the safety of the water itself. You live in this world long enough, you learn not to trust anything at face value. Whatever we were flooded with COULDA been water. Also coulda contained a slow-acting toxin. Or been carcinogenic.

CLICK

KLEIN SHOUTS OVER THE NOISE OF THE WATER

KLEIN

I strongly advise getting ONTO the tables and completely out of the water.

KLEIN

(narration)
It took a lot longer to get
everyone all the way up to AB.

HARLEY
(narration)
The elevators weren't working.

LANCASTER
(narration)
It ruined a bunch of my notes, but
it's okay.

RADDAGHER
(narration)
Where did it come from?

HARLEY
(narration)
But everybody, except the two
researchers who were testing the
water in the lab, made it up to
the AB floor.

KLEIN SPEAKS THROUGH A MEGAPHONE

KLEIN
Can I have everyone's attention:
Research will have the test
results to us soon. Please remain
calm until then and try to stay
out of the water as much as
possible.

LOVE
(distantly)
Could there be sharks?

KLEIN
Could there- what?

HARLEY
(narration)
And so, packed like sardines on
top of the cafeteria tables, we
began the next phase of the event.
The waiting.

LOVE
(narration)
UGH, we were in there FOREVER.

LANCASTER
(narration)

You know, it- it was actually nice to be out of my office for a little while. Even if it- if it meant being soaking wet and anxious about the possibility that I had just waded through 10 miles of- of asbestos water.

RADDAGHER

(narration)

Wild Card environmental effects don't happen by themselves.

KLEIN

(in scene)

Alright, everybody, settle down! Settle down. I have word from Research, listen up.

WATER RUSHES IN THE BACKGROUND

KLEIN

So there's good news and bad news.

The bad news is that the water HAS damaged some of our equipment. Elevators are down, some of the lights are dead, Botany did their best to rescue what they could, but we might be a little low on crops next cycle. Nothing catastrophic, we'll do what we can. The good news is that our life support systems are adequately flood-proofed and won't be going offline any time soon. The better news is-

HARLEY

(narration)

The water was safe.

KLEIN

(narration)

Just regular water. Not potable without filtering, but no more dangerous than something you'd find in a rain barrel in someone's backyard.

LANCASTER

(narration)

And it was warm as a hotel swimming pool.

KLEIN

(narration)

So now it was a matter of what to do with it.

KLEIN

(in scene)

Alright, 107, let's get to work!

LOVE

(narration)

It was like, almost 2 whole days until we Reset again. We'd need a LITTLE BIT of dry land.

LANCASTER

(narration)

So we started the only cleanup as much as we could.

HARLEY

(narration)

Botany went to see about their plants, Maintenance and Engineering went to check up on any hazards caused by the flooding, Medical relocated a couple things upstairs,

RADDAGHER

(narration)

Surveillance went looking for Dash Ones,

HARLEY

And the rest of us got to work trying to get rid of the water.

CLICK

WATER SLOSHES AROUND

BUCKET POURS INTO SINK

LANCASTER

Isn't this- how is this NOT going to overwhelm our pipe system?

LOVE

It IS overwhelming our pipe system, look at MY sink!

PIPE DRAIN GURGLES AND BUBBLES

LANCASTER

(chuckling)

Whoa.

LOVE

You should be wearing your dumb little shorts for this!

LANCASTER

The shorts were from last cycle, I didn't make AGAIN.

LOVE

Wait, you didn't have them from before?

LANCASTER

NO, I didn't just WEAR JORTS to work! I cut up my pants that one time because I thought it would be funny!

LOVE

It WAS funny.

PIPES GURGLE

LANCASTER

Uh oh. I think it- my pipe's backed up too.

LOVE

You know what that means.

LANCASTER

I- do I?

LOVE

There's only one way to get rid of it.

LANCASTER

And what way is that?

LOVE

Open wide.

LANCASTER

No- NO!

LANCASTER AND LOVE LAUGH. WATER SPLASHES AROUND.

CLICK

KLEIN

Alright, people, she needs a flat bottom and high sides, just like in elementary school! If I'm going to command this cleanup operation, I'm going to need one cool-ass boat. It's all about efficiency! Hand me the duct tape.

CLICK

HARLEY

It looks like most of them are offline. They're all placed close to where the water initially came out, they must have been damaged when it first started.

RADDAGHER

I need to see.

HARLEY

We've got barely even 30 hours left. It'll be fine if you clock out for a little while.

RADDAGHER

(stressed)

I need to see.

HARLEY

Why?

RADDAGHER

Find out why it happened.

HARLEY

I dunno, Raddagher, sometimes anomalous things just-

RADDAGHER

Something happened!

BEAT

HARLEY

Want to call in to Security? They're sweeping the building for Dash Ones right now.

NO RESPONSE

HARLEY

Orrrrrr... Klein and some of the Researchers are trying to build a

boat, I'm sure they could use some expert help?

RADDAGHER

...fine.

CLICK

WATER SPLASHES, LOVE AND LANCASTER SHOUT AND LAUGH

LOVE

No. NO! Get away from me!

LANCASTER

No, come over here, I- I just- I have a secret! I wanna whisper a secret in your ear!

BUCKET FILLS

LOVE

Empty out that bucket, you monster!

LANCASTER

OKAY.

LOVE SCREECHES. LOUD SPLASH.

LOVE

GOD! OKAY! Okay. I need a break.

LANCASTER

You think we could try pouring it into the toilets?

PAUSE

SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

TOILET FLUSHES

LOVE AND LANCASTER CHEER

LOVE

You know, you're a nerd and a loser and all that, but I missed you coming around.

LANCASTER

Yeah. Yeah, me too.

LOVE

Are you gonna start doing stuff
with us again? After we Reset?

LANCASTER

Yeah, yeah, probably. I feel- feel
like I've almost cracked that
project I'm doing. After that,
maybe.

LOVE

But all your notes and papers are
gonna get- reset. Put back.

LANCASTER

That's okay. The important part's
done.

CLICK

KLEIN

(narration)

So the pipes were overwhelmed
almost everywhere. A couple sinks
and toilets worked here and there,
but not enough for the whole site.
Had to tell people that buckets
might be it until we Reset and all
the bathrooms are back in
commission.

LOVE

(narration)

But we've got a buncha shit from
the bathtub moonshine people that
we can use to make enough portable
water for the next day.

LANCASTER

(narration)

Did you just say "portable water?"

LOVE

(narration)

Yeah? What?

LANCASTER

(narration)

It's- it's "potable."

LOVE

(narration)

I'm going to kill you.

HARLEY

(narration)

The only area of the site that ended up mostly dry was AB. We put a lot of effort into clearing the cafeteria so there would at least be SOME space to dry off. We blocked off the area, sandbagging with whatever we could find that worked.

KLEIN

(narration)

It wasn't a MASSIVE space, but it was enough for everyone to be able to sit down. And big enough for some of us to keep building our boat.

LOVE

(in scene)

Hey! I wanna build a boat!

KLEIN

You have to find your own supplies then, Agent. We are not sharing.

RADDAGHER

I'm going to Love's team.

KLEIN

What- wait, no, you can't change teams! You're so good at boats, Raddagherrrrrr!

RADDAGHER

Supplies.

LOVE

Yeah, let's go!

HARLEY

(narration)

But after a few hours of cleaning, sandbagging, safety checks and supply gathering, it became apparent that we had everything we needed for the next day, dry and in our safe zone. Maybe we'd be a little hungry, maybe a little damp, maybe we wouldn't get any sleep and we'd have to pee in bottles. But we could survive that for a day. Easily.

CLICK

KLEIN AND RESEARCHERS
(chanting)
Float! Float! Float! Float!

KLEIN AND RESEARCHERS CHEER

KLEIN
Now for the ultimate test. Will it
support a human being?

SPLASH

KLEIN
NO!

CHEERING

CLICK

RADDAGHER
It's going to be too small.

LOVE
Yeah, duh. It's not for PEOPLE.
The moment of truth.

WATER SLOSHES

LOVE MAKES A FEW APPREHENSIVE NOISES

PAUSE

LOVE
IT WORKS! AHAHA, SUCK IT, KLEIN!

RADDAGHER
You should put him back before
someone sees.

LOVE
...Are you alright?

RADDAGHER
Fine.

CLICK

HARLEY
It's a beautiful day, here in the
void. The sun is shining, the
birds are singing, my imaginary
raft is floating. Could life get
any better than this? Perhaps if I
had an ice cold-

LANCASTER

Tidal wave.

LOUD SPLASHING, HARLEY SPLUTTERS

CLICK

KLEIN

Alves is totally dry right now.

HARLEY

Don't.

KLEIN

What do you think she'd do if I dumped water on her?

HARLEY

Don't.

KLEIN

She'd be real mad, probably.

HARLEY

Klein, do not.

RADDAGHER

(farther off)

I need a card to BH-9.

KLEIN

Hey, Raddagher. Love. Traitors.
How'd your boat work out?

LOVE

It worked out GREAT. Not for people though. If you know what I mean.

KLEIN

I get what you mean.

LOVE

Because it's for Dumptruck.

KLEIN

I get it, Love.

RADDAGHER

Can I have your card?

KLEIN

Why?

RADDAGHER

I need to get into BH-9.

KLEIN

What's in BH-9?

RADDAGHER

Wanna check the rift.

KLEIN

I don't think I want anyone going
all the way down there, no.

HARLEY

We have some people patrolling
just to make sure nothing new pops
up.

RADDAGHER

Have they found anything?

KLEIN

Hard for particles to form into
anything when they're underwater,
apparently.

HARLEY

Relax a little bit. We can worry
about it tomorrow.

RADDAGHER

I'm worried about it now.

HARLEY

Raddagher. I promise the world
will not come crashing down around
us if you loosen up and have some
fun for a while.

PAUSE

RADDAGHER HUFFS

CLICK

KLEIN

Uhh. Whatcha doin'?

LOVE

Sand castle.

CANS CLINK TOGETHER

KLEIN

What've you got, pears?

LOVE
Yeah. The tower is all green
beans.

CLICK

LANCASTER'S GUITAR PLAYS SOFTLY

HARLEY
That can't be good for it.

LANCASTER
Who cares? We- It'll be dry
tomorrow anyway.

HE STARTS PLAYING "WOULDN'T IT BE NICE"

HARLEY
(relaxed)
Ah. Wet guitar.

KLEIN
(very far away,
scream-singing)
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF WE WERE
OLDER-

CLICK

LOVE
Harley. Harley. Harley. Harley.

HARLEY
What.

LOVE
Come play chicken with us.

HARLEY
No. I'm relaxing.

LOVE
Please. Harley. Harley. Harley.

HARLEY
How are you even playing chicken?

LOVE
Person on the bottom sits down.

CLICK

KLEIN AND LANCASTER SCREAM-SINGING "SURFIN'
USA"

CLICK

WATER SPLASHING

HARLEY

You are so STRONG!

LOVE

I work out, NERD! Let's kick some
ass!

HARLEY

Terrors of the sea, Harley and
Love!

CLICK

PAUSE, DISTANT WATER MOVEMENT

LANCASTER

Hey, you alright? You've been
sitting over here by yourself for
a while.

RADDAGHER

Nobody is worried.

LANCASTER

We don't have much longer till the
Reset. Everybody's fine.

RADDAGHER

What have you been doing in your
office?

LANCASTER

It- you know, I've been working on
my project-

RADDAGHER

What IS your project?

LANCASTER

I'm trying to find a way to
neutralize the memetic effect,
remember?

RADDAGHER

But what are you DOING?

PAUSE

LANCASTER

Why are you so concerned about it?

RADDAGHER

You're acting weird. You're acting really weird.

LANCASTER

I'm- Okay. We- do you remember when we talked with Chappel together? You said you were trying to be less paranoid, right?

RADDAGHER

...yes.

LANCASTER

Do you think- maybe there's some of that going on here?

RADDAGHER DOESN'T RESPOND

LANCASTER

Because I bet this is a really stressful situation for you, right?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

LANCASTER

I'm sorry I've been distant. But I promise you're not the only one anxious about what happening. It's- it's hard to investigate anything right now. We just have to wait until the site is back to normal, and we can look into what happened afterwards. Right?

RADDAGHER

...right.

LANCASTER

Take 'er easy for a while. It might be good for you.

CLICK

KLEIN

On your marks, get set, go!

SPLASHING

LOVE

You're cheating!

HARLEY
My boat is better than yours!

CLICK

RADDAGHER
Loop it through here.

KLEIN
Like this?

ROPE MOVES

RADDAGHER
No, under this piece here.

KLEIN
I'm gonna be such a great pirate.

CLICK

LOVE
(mouth full)
God. I am starving.

LANCASTER
I got wet chips.

BAG CRINKLES

CLICK

KLEIN
Everybody ready? Ten! Nine!

ALL, EXTRAS
Eight! Seven! Six! Five! Four!
Three! Two! One!

HARLEY
Blastoff!

LANCASTER
Happy New Year!

KLEIN
ZA WARUDO-

RESET NOISE

SILENCE

ALARMS BLARING, EARTH TREMORS.

LANCASTER GASPS, COUGHS, CATCHES HIS BREATH

STRANGE STATIC HUMMING

LANCASTER

It... it worked. I can't believe it
worked.

END EPISODE