

FIND US ALIVE EPISODE 17: Monster Testing

[Office noise]

[Harley exhales through his teeth]

LOVE

Oh, don't be such a baby.

HARLEY

It hurts so bad.

LOVE

I still have broken ribs, you know.

HARLEY

I see the light. I'm dying.

LOVE

No you're not.

HARLEY

It hurts more than being shot.

LOVE

(Skeptical)

...No it doesn't.

HARLEY

No, it doesn't, but it still stings.

LOVE

Suck it up, buttercup. I'm almost done. Stop moving around, you'll make it worse.

[Harley groans]

[Static]

KLEIN

Note. Colon. Impact testing.
Period.

So, comma, it didn't do much.
Period. Just as I thought. Period.
No marks left on the Dash One,
comma, but there was one on the
main scip. Period. It's still
there I think. Period. We're going

to test how long before it goes
away. Period.

Because I hypothesize that it will
fade eventually. Period.

[Static]

[Knocking on doorframe]

LANCASTER
Knock knock!

[Silence]

LANCASTER
(Awkwardly)
Uh, where's Love?

RADDAGHER
Peeing.

LANCASTER
Oh. Um. Could you sign this for
me?

RADDAGHER
No. What is it? No.

LANCASTER
It's a petition for my morale
project. Shao told me that if I
get a sweeping majority to-

RADDAGHER
Do I get to be on Love's team?

LANCASTER
...I thought you said you weren't
going to sign it-

RADDAGHER
I want to be on Love's team.

LANCASTER
Y-yeah! Yeah, you can be on her
team. No problem!

[Paper rustles, pen scribbles]

[Beat]

[Chair squeaks]

LANCASTER

Soooo, how are you guys doing?
Seems you're getting along a lot
better lately.

RADDAGHER

Don't you have a job?

LANCASTER

Well- Raddagher, it's 9:30. I get
off at five. And I- what would we
spend- we're not getting paid in
here- no, I don't have a job.

RADDAGHER

...oh.

LANCASTER

It's good to see you making a
friend. I worry about you
sometimes-

RADDAGHER

(Quickly)

Not friends. Coworkers.

LANCASTER

Okay! Good to see you... having
coworkers. I'm glad you're not by
yourself anymore.

[Beat]

LANCASTER

Do you want me to leave you alone-

RADDAGHER

Yes-

LANCASTER

O-okay.

[Static]

KLEIN

Yeah. Yeah, we can't find a
connection between surface
variation and Wild Card effects. I
think it might be totally random

after all. Not unheard of.
Unfortunately.

Alright. What are you guys
thinking for tomorrow? Alright, I
can sign off on that. You've
talked to Alves about safety
measures? Including planning for
breaches? Great. Tell me what
you're planning on using first?

Alright. That's a go from me.
Don't make it yourselves though,
have one of the D class take care
of that. I... don't THINK making the
initial Dash One is going to do
any overt damage, but you can't be
too careful.

Wait, on second thought, have one
of them START the Dash One and
then make it back to safety before
it completes itself. If we DO get
a Dash Two though, terminate
immediately. I'm not up for
monster tests until we have better
safety measures.

Great. Cool. Bye.

[Click]

[Dorm background noise. Strange damp patting sound]

LOVE

Sit. No- SIT. Stop moving around!
Here, like this- NO- ugh.

[Door opens]

LANCASTER

Hey, Love, can I get you to take a
look at this..

What is that?

[Long comedic pause. Dumptruck paps about]

LOVE

This... is Dumptruck.

LANCASTER

...what... IS... Dumptruck?

LOVE

He used to be a potato.

LANCASTER

...and then what happened?

LOVE

I carved a Dash One into him.

LANCASTER

(Stifling laughter)

...Which part is the front... part?

LOVE

I don't... think he has a front.

LANCASTER

Why... what does it do? Why do you...
why did you... why did you do this?

LOVE

I'm training him.

LANCASTER

Love, why?

LOVE

Look, I don't have to explain
anything to you, okay?! Why don't
you get off my dick!

[Various papping]

LOVE

Look. You're stressing him out.

LANCASTER

How can you POSSIBLY tell?

LOVE

I can read him like a book.

LANCASTER

(Amused)

Okay.

LOVE

Like a BOOK, Lancaster.

LANCASTER

Okay!

LOVE

...Please don't tell Klein.

LANCASTER

I won't if you sign this.

[Paper rustling. Pen scratching.]

LANCASTER

Thank you.

LOVE

Dumptruck. Sic 'em.

[Pap pap pap]

LOVE

...Good try, buddy.

[Static]

[Servers humming, typing on keyboard]

HARLEY

So how'd it go?

KLEIN

We found a beetle.

HARLEY

Just one regular beetle?

KLEIN

No. We Dash Two'd a beetle.

HARLEY

Yeah? How'd you manage that?

KLEIN

We cut a Dash One into its back.

HARLEY

That does not sound like an easy task.

[Harley sips a drink]

KLEIN

Easy enough once you got the mark started. It finished by itself.

Went... surprisingly quickly, too.
32 seconds. Figure on bigger stuff
it'd take... 32 minutes, 3.2
minutes, that kinda thing.

[Typing on keyboard]

HARLEY

Ah.

KLEIN

Anyway, it went from three
centimeters to half a meter in
size. So "becoming huge" appears
to be... a symptom.

HARLEY

Like the spider.

KLEIN

Just like the damn spider.

[Clothing scratching]

HARLEY

(Irritated)

Agh.

KLEIN

What're you scratching at?

HARLEY

Oh, it's just my new tattoo.

KLEIN

Hey, you don't SCRATCH those.
You'll screw up the ink.

[Beat, typing stops]

Wait, did you say "new tattoo?"
What do you mean, "new tattoo?"
Where did you get a tattoo from?

HARLEY

Agent Love gave it to me. It's
just a little circle.

KLEIN

...Do I even want to know?

HARLEY

I'm just doing a little experiment
of my own, that's all.

KLEIN

Alright. Whatever.

HARLEY

So, bugs then? Is that something
we should be really worried about,
being underground and all?

KLEIN

I don't know. Maybe. Your spider
was the only bug Dash Two we've
had outside the testing chamber. I
guess ants are the most common bug
we have down here, but I dunno.

HARLEY

You think it could do a whole
colony at once?

KLEIN

(Laughing)

Don't think I'd want to find out
the answer to that one.

HARLEY

What about animals?

KLEIN

Aside from the lab mice and
Masterson's birds, there aren't
any others in here that we know
about.

HARLEY

You gonna do a test on one of
those mice?

KLEIN

(Excited)

Maybe.

[Click]

[Walkie beeps]

KLEIN

(Calmly)

Dash Two outside Containment.
Green level threat. We got people
on that?

Great. Effective as always,
Containment. Is it terminated?
Great!

What was it? An ant? Cool.

Alright, bring it back to the
chamber. Any sign of spacial
distortion from that thing?

Good. I'll alert Research that
you're on your way.

Well, yeah, but it's not
Research's job. They're not
trained for-

Hey, come on, I could catch that
thing if I really wanted to! I
just don't want to.

Yeah. Yeah. Whatever, CoNTaiNmENT.
We'll see about that. Have you
signed Psychology's proposal?

Good. Because, respectfully, we
are going to- let me check my
notes- hand you your own asses.

Uh huh. Yeah. Alright We'll see
about that.

[Click]

[Office ambience]

[Door opens]

LANCASTER

(Entering)

Hey, I'm working on getting Botany
and Medical to sign, but they said
they were gonna need-

HARLEY

Woah woah woah, stop. You can't
come in here looking like that and

just start talking like everything
is normal,

LANCASTER

What do you mean-

HARLEY

Dr. Lancaster, *what are you
wearing?*

LANCASTER

Cut-offs.

HARLEY

Cut-offs???

LANCASTER

Yeah. We reset soon anyway, who
cares?

[Harley laughing]

LANCASTER

Containment won't sign off unless
they're on this team, because they
can't cooperate with Research. But
we can't have Security and
Containment AND Maintenance on the
same team-

HARLEY

Why can't you move Maintenance?

LANCASTER

Security only signed because I
told them they could be with
Maintenance. They're friends now.

HARLEY

Okay, switch Research with
Engineering.

LANCASTER

But then where do I put Botany?

HARLEY

In jail-

LANCASTER

No.

HARLEY

Fine. Hand me a pen, Daisy Dukes.

[Static]

[Servers humming]

[Chair squeaks]

RADDAGHER

They were going to kill it from the beginning. Research doesn't make Dash Twos without a plan to terminate them.

LOVE

That doesn't help.

RADDAGHER

Sorry.

LOVE

Why do they have to kill the ones that aren't even mean? It wasn't even doing anything.

RADDAGHER

The Dash Twos?

LOVE

Yeah. From all kinds of anomalies, I mean.

RADDAGHER

By nature, living anomalies don't fit into any ecological niche, so they could technically be categorized as an invasive species and if left unchecked they could-

LOVE

Yeah, I know. I know. I did the orientation too.

[Comfortable pause]

RADDAGHER

There's one starting in the west corner of the canteen.

LOVE

(on walkie)

Dash One by the salad bar thing,
somebody go get it.

[Walkie beeps]

LOVE

Do you really buy all that stuff?

RADDAGHER

What?

LOVE

Everything about how bad anomalies
are.

RADDAGHER

("obviously")

Yes.

LOVE

Why?

RADDAGHER

I've seen what some of them can
do.

LOVE

When?

RADDAGHER

Breach at 17 last year. They
outsourced remote feeds to some of
us while they restaffed.

LOVE

...Did you ever see anybody-

RADDAGHER

Yes. Frequently.

[Slightly more tense pause]

LOVE

(Sincerely)

...I'm sorry.

RADDAGHER

...Don't be. It's how it works.

[Pause]

LOVE

(changing the subject)
Hey, did the shrink make you sign
that thing?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

LOVE

...Are you actually gonna do it?

[Paper shuffling]

LOVE

...What the hell is all that?

RADDAGHER

Air duct blueprints.

LOVE

...NICE.

RADDAGHER

Nice.

[Pause]

LOVE

Hey, if I show you something, will
you swear on your mom's life that
you won't tell anyone?

RADDAGHER

My mom's dead.

LOVE

Will you swear on her grave?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

LOVE

Alright. Uh, I'll be back in a
sec.

[Static]

HARLEY

And here we are again. From what I
understand, the next Reset should
happen in a few hours, if the
cycle continues.

I'm anxious to see if my theory works! I'd... I'd like to be more useful, if I can.

Raddagher showed me a still from the Two that escaped. It was an ant, so it was about the size of- of a football, maybe? I could have punted that thing across the site with my good leg.

The others are getting ready for it. Psychology's big project. I opted for a unique role in this whole thing, so I'm just staying up here. Got my intercom, got my camera feeds, got a bag of microwave popcorn. Had to win a checkers game against Dr. Few for it.

And now I'm just waiting. Waiting for however the hell this turns out.

Another cycle gone and passed, then. I hesitate to say anything that could jinx us, but this one... didn't feel terrible? We'll see.

Made some progress with the testing on the scip, don't know what's gonna come of that though. Not a ton of information that will help us escape, but definitely some manner of interesting new discoveries.

There isn't anything quite like learning, is there? When you break it down to its bare essentials, we're still academics, underneath all the shadows and supernatural phenomena. We're still kids watching bugs in a jar.

Except for the times that we're kids burning ants under a magnifying glass. Sometimes we are that as well.

[Door creaks open]

But it's fascinating, to watch all
the- oh! Are we ready?

LANCASTER
(Dramatically)
The time has come.

HARLEY
And under your eyes, that's-

LANCASTER
Ink of the ballpoint pen.

HARLEY
Research should study YOU next.

LANCASTER
The time for jokes has passed.
There is only the game now.

HARLEY
Does that mean everybody's ready
and everything? All set up?

LANCASTER
(Breaking character)
Yeah, we're ready.

HARLEY
You excited?

LANCASTER
You have no idea.

HARLEY
You certainly look like it.

Okay, go! Go hide or whatever.
I'll get us started.

LANCASTER
I'll be a changed man when next I
see you.

HARLEY
Sounds good.

LANCASTER
Okay, bye.

[The door opens, closes]

[The intercom reverberates through the site]

HARLEY

(Cecil Nightvale)

A small Foundation research site
where monsters lurk, teams
strategize and all the lights have
been turned off,

Welcome, staff and personnel, to
the first of its kind. Welcome to
Site-107 Capture the Flag.

[END EPISODE]