

FIND US ALIVE EPISODE 27: DASH THREE

STATIC FADES OUT SLOWLY

HARLEY

Good evening, Overwatch Command.

Today is the day. Today is the day
that we detonate the rift.

Today is the day that maybe, just
maybe, we finally get out. We've
collected whatever flammable
substances we have; alcohol,
chemicals, flares. The Engineers
have created a device to set it
off. Containment and Research have
positioned it against the anomaly.
In a couple hours. We'll see what
happens.

PAUSE. HARLEY MAKES A FEW ABSENT-MINDED
NOISES

HARLEY

I know I shouldn't be talking this
way. I'm getting ahead of myself.
It's just an experiment and we
don't know what's going to happen.
We don't know if it will work.

But I can't stop thinking about
seeing the sun again.

CLICK

KLEIN

I wonder how much has changed
since the shift.

What does the site even look like
now? I'm picturing a big crater in
the ground under our mine. They
probably evacuated the town.

Man, I can't wait to see the looks
on their faces. I dunno who I'm
talking about. Overwatch Command,
I guess. The rest of the Ethics
Committee. Everybody at Site-01. I
don't want to sound petty, but
part of me hopes they didn't
believe in us.

CLICK

HARLEY

I was never a terribly ambitious person. It's been a long time since I've had... goals. I suppose I wanted to write a real code. To use my knowledge for something real. But working here, it- it takes something out of you. It takes something away from you.

What would I DO on the outside now? I'm officially acknowledged as a Department Head. I wrote a functional code that gets plenty of use. I've finally received the recognition that I've craved for so long.

And yet, here I sit.

Wondering why none of that... worked.

PAUSE

Most likely, I'll wind up wasting away in my office, like everyone else does.

I don't know the statistics for how many people in the Foundation die every year. It's a pretty grisly amount, though. Enough to change people's career goals from "succeed" to "survive." The lucky ones can even make it through without losing their minds.

But there are multiple ways to lose your mind. Maybe you stare too deeply and too long into the yawning abyss, or maybe you stare too long at a computer screen. Completing a never-ending string of purposeless tasks in a series of days indistinguishable from one another. Attention fixed on a panel of blue light that you know is bad for your eyes, knowing you have no plans to see a doctor about it.

BEAT

At least we have monsters here to
make things interesting.

CLICK

PAUSE, SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT HUMMING

LOVE

So...

RADDAGHER

Hm?

LOVE

What happens if this works?

RADDAGHER

If it works, we escape.

LOVE

Cool, cool.

PAUSE

LOVE

But what happens? To us?

RADDAGHER

They'll probably decommission the
site and transfer us to other
places.

LOVE

Right. Yeah, yeah.

PAUSE

LOVE

And like, I'm going to be away
anyway. Field agent stuff. They
move us around all over.

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

Yeah, it'll be cool. Get to travel
all over the world. See all kinds
of crazy anomaly stuff.

RADDAGHER

Cool.

LONG PAUSE

LOVE

Or maybe I'll fake my own death.

RADDAGHER

What?

LOVE

Yeah. The Foundation sucks. And they don't know I'm alive, I could just fake it. Be one of the poor fucks who died in the Shift.

RADDAGHER

You could just quit, too.

LOVE

What? No I can't.

RADDAGHER

Why not?

LOVE

Because I can't.

CLICK

FAINT BUZZING

LANCASTER

I've always- it's always been an uphill fight, for me. Maybe that's why this- why the Foundation was so appealing to me. I could work with- with things that are impossible to understand. And people who- who get left out in the cold.

'Cause I've been left out in the cold before.

CLICK

KLEIN

T-minus 2 hours.

Before the Shift, I was Head of Research. I was the most qualified rock scientist ever to grace this backwards mineshaft. And I did a great job. I was the best of the best when it came to making random objects disappear into the extradimensional hole in the wall.

I'm not sure what I'll do after. I don't know if I'll stay Site Director. I don't feel like I'm the prime choice, if I'm honest. Kinda hackin' my way through this one. And I haven't done the WORST job with it, but... better quit while I'm ahead, you know? Smarter in the long run if I let it go to someone who knows what they're doing.

Don't know if I'll be staying at 107, though. Don't know if there's even going to BE a 107 to stay at. We might be a crater after all, once we get out.

CLICK

LOVE

No you can't!

RADDAGHER

Yes, you can.

LOVE

They don't just let people quit. Everybody knows death is the only way out.

RADDAGHER

Have you ever asked anyone about it?

LOVE

...no.

RADDAGHER

So nobody actually told you you're not allowed to quit?

LOVE

Well, when you're a FIELD AGENT...

PAUSE

RADDAGHER

What about when you're a field agent?

LOVE

I don't know. Forget it.

RADDAGHER

We can talk to Shao about you
quitting-

LOVE

NO. It's- whatever, forget it!

RADDAGHER

But you don't want to-

LOVE

(defensive)

Why do you want me to quit so bad,
anyway?!

RADDAGHER

I don't want you to quit.

BEAT

RADDAGHER

I thought you wanted to quit. I
didn't want you to quit.

LOVE

I don't know. I don't know if I
want to quit or not. It's not so
bad having you here.

PAUSE

LOVE

Okay, okay, okay. If you could do
ANYTHING you wanted when we got
out, what would it be? What would
you do?

RADDAGHER

...go back to work?

CLICK

LANCASTER

I'm- I- I'm not gonna pretend like
I knew about anomalous stuff
before the Foundation. But I did
feel- it- I just always felt like
there- like the world wasn't
telling me something. And maybe
part of that came from- you know,
getting kicked out as a kid. Or
maybe I saw something once- or a
few times- and got amnestitized?

Or maybe I'm just making stuff up
'cause I want to feel special.

Or I'm on the right track and I
was always meant to be right here.

CLICK

HARLEY

We haven't even been here that
long. It feels like forever, but
it's only been a few months. A
fact which seriously impacts the
likelihood that the Foundation has
not yet gotten around to selling
all the stuff in my apartment.

It also means I will probably have
to get a new fridge. It'll be
easier than trying to clean out
what's in there right now. And
whatever it has... become.

But imagine. We'd get to go out,
look up at the sky, taste the
fresh air. Have our eyes damaged
by the sun, in all likelihood. I,
for one, would welcome it. I would
happily trade a prescription
adjustment for a few minutes in
the sun right now.

And to feel the wind, not just the
air conditioning. And smell the
dirt, and hear the birds and
traffic outside your window in the
morning. It's terrible. And I
never thought that I'd miss it.

CLICK

KLEIN

So maybe Site-107 will get
decommissioned. Maybe I won't get
my old job back and they'll
transfer me to another research
position somewhere else. Back to
the grind; new scenery, same gig.

But man I would give an arm and a
leg for any scenery at all at this
point. Hell, I'd even go all the
way to 19. I hear Siberia is nice
this time of year. Whatever time
that is.

If we get out today, I'm going to buy my neighbor's crusty dog a whole cheeseburger. And I'm going to wait until the rest of the day-shifters go home, and I'm going to do donuts in the parking lot until they kick me out.

CLICK

LOVE

That's it? You'd just come back to work?

RADDAGHER

What else would I do?

LOVE

You can't think of anything else you'd rather do with your life?

RADDAGHER

I haven't done other things.

LOVE

You've never gone on vacation? Wouldn't you want to go out on a boat again?

RADDAGHER

I've never been on a boat before.

LOVE

Fine, or gone to the beach, whatever.

PAUSE

LOVE

(disbelief)

...Have you never been to the ocean?

RADDAGHER DOESN'T RESPOND

LOVE

Raddagher! You've gotta be SHITTING me! You're OBSESSED with the ocean, what do you mean you've never been?!

RADDAGHER

I've never left Nevada.

LOVE

You've- oh my god. That's what we're gonna do!

RADDAGHER

Hm?

LOVE

When we get out. We'll get a shitty car and we'll drive until we hit the West coast. Someplace in California. No, wait! Washington. Or Oregon.

RADDAGHER

Why Washington or Oregon?

LOVE

I dunno, because it's not so bright? It rains a lot more. You wouldn't have to wear sunglasses all the time. And the air's cleaner after it rains, so maybe you wouldn't need a mask either.

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

There's Foundation sites up there. There's one in Portland, I think. Maybe you could transfer there. And we could drive to the coast on the weekends, when nobody is at the beach because it's raining.

RADDAGHER

We could get a sailboat.

LOVE

Yeah! On days when there's too many people around, we could just take a boat out to the middle of the ocean where nobody could bother us.

RADDAGHER

We could take Dumptruck.

LOVE

Yeah, because he floats! Maybe we could have a little beach shack to keep our boat stuff in, and I could catch fish and we could eat it for dinner on the boat.

RADDAGHER GIGGLES

LOVE

I could get a big dog and run him around the beach and tie a little bandana around his neck!

RADDAGHER

We could see whales.

LOVE

(excited gasp)

Or SEALS?!

RADDAGHER

We could navigate with the stars.

LOVE

(dreamily)

Yeah.

PAUSE

LOVE

I can't believe I'm planning all this with you before I've even learned your first name.

RADDAGHER

Ingrid.

LOVE

Ingrid?

RADDAGHER

Yeah.

LOVE

That's so dorky...

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

I like it. It suits you. "Ingrid."

PAUSE

LOVE

Can- can I take your mask and stuff off?

RADDAGHER

Why?

LOVE
I w- I want to see you.

PAUSE

FABRIC RUSTLING AND OBJECTS SHIFTING

LOVE CHUCKLES SOFTLY

RADDAGHER
What?

LOVE
Nothing. You just look different
than I expected.

PAUSE

CLICK, DIALOGUE OVERLAPS SLIGHTLY

KLEIN
Ten more minutes.

HARLEY
Maybe I'll finally get a pet.

RADDAGHER
(slightly out of breath)
Um- wait, I- I have to go to- the
bathroom. For a second.

LOVE
Okay! Whatever, weirdo.

CHAIR SQUEAKS, DOOR OPENS

LOVE
Ingrid-

RADDAGHER
Hm?

PAUSE

LOVE
(smiling)
Nothing. Hurry back.

RADDAGHER
(also smiling)
Yeah.

DOOR CLOSES

LOVE COVERS HER MOUTH AND SQUEALS, STOMPS
FEET ON FLOOR

VOICES CONTINUE, OVERLAPPING

HARLEY

Something weird. Like a lizard. Or
a ferret.

KLEIN

(grinning)

I shouldn't be getting my hopes
up.

LANCASTER

Almost there.

HARLEY

Maybe I could-

WALKIE BEEPS

RADDAGHER

I have to tell you something. I
have to tell you.

HARLEY

Whoa, slow down! What's got you so
excitable?

RADDAGHER

Love.

HARLEY

Love?

RADDAGHER

Love!

HARLEY

Why does your voice sound so
clear?

RADDAGHER GIGGLES

KLEIN

T minus 2 minutes. I'll see you
all on the other side.

LANCASTER

I can fix it. I can fix it. I can
fix it.

CLICK

VOICE REVERBERATES AS LOVE SHOUTS DOWN THE HALL

LOVE
Hurry up! You're gonna miss it!

RADDAGHER
(farther down the hall)
I won't miss it.

LOVE
You'd better run! They pushed the button!

RUNNING FOOTSTEPS. RADDAGHER AND LOVE LAUGH

LOVE
Hurry!

RADDAGHER
I'm hurrying!

MUFFLED EXPLOSION

SILENCE

ALARMS, LOUD TREMORS, OBJECTS FALLING AND BREAKING

HARLEY
WHAT-

LOUD METAL CREAKING

HARLEY
Shit-!

HARLEY SCREAMS, CUT OFF BY LOUD METAL CRASHING AND COMMOTION

CLICK

OBJECTS CONTINUE TO FALL AND SHATTER

RADDAGHER SCREAMS IN PANIC

LOVE
Grab my hand! Grab my hand!

RADDAGHER
NARI!

RADDAGHER'S VOICE GETS CLOSER

LOVE GRUNTS WITH EFFORT AS SHE CATCHES HER

RADDAGHER BREATHES HEAVILY

LOVE
I've got you! I've got you-

RADDAGHER
Pull me up!

BOTH STRUGGLE AS THEY CLIMB BACK THROUGH THE
DOOR

LOVE
Are you okay? Are you hurt?

RADDAGHER
I'm fine. What happened? Can you
see-

LOVE
Most of the cameras shut off.

WALKIE CLICKS

RADDAGHER
Harley?

LOVE'S WALKIE CLICKS. THEY TALK OVER EACH
OTHER

LOVE
Klein! What happened?!

RADDAGHER
Come in,

LOVE
Are we sideways?! Did we flip
sideways?! What's going on?!

RADDAGHER
Harley, please respond-

LOVE
Look! One of the cameras in BH-9
is on!

PAUSE

LOVE
There's Klein! She's alright!

RADDAGHER SIGHS IN RELIEF

RADDAGHER

Do we have the Comm office?

LOVE

Umm- we've got Lancaster's office!

RADDAGHER

Is he alright?

LOVE

He's not there.

CLICK, DISTORTED AUDIO

KLEIN

I think the site comm is down. Is anybody's walkie making it through?

No. Everybody stays here. If we flip over again, I don't want any more people in the halls than necessary. If I can make it to the Communications office I can see if Harley's site comm is still intact. The rest of you, listen to Masterson and stay in here.

I'm gonna need some help climbing all the way up to the door.

CLICK

OBJECTS MOVING AND SHIFTING

LOVE

Lancaster might have already gone to check on Harley.

RADDAGHER

I'm going too.

LOVE

What's all that?

RADDAGHER

Ropes.

LOVE

Nice.

RADDAGHER

Do you remember the bowline knot?

LOVE

Sure do. Are we trying ourselves
together?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

LOVE

What about Dumptruck?

RADDAGHER

He'll be safer in here.

LOVE

(hesitantly)

Probably, yeah...

DOOR OPENS, AIR WHOOSHES

CAVERNOUS ECHOING, METAL GROANING

LOVE

...Jesus, that's a long fall.

Up or down?

RADDAGHER

Down.

WALKIE CLICKS

RADDAGHER

Come in Harley-

CLICK

RADDAGHER'S VOICE COMES THROUGH A WALKIE

RADDAGHER

I repeat, come in.

LOVE

We're coming to get you! Hold on!

HARLEY GROANS IN PAIN/EFFORT

HE PUSHES AGAINST SOMETHING METAL

HARLEY

(reaching)

Shit, just a little closer-
dammit-

HARLEY'S BREATHING IS LABORED AND PAINFUL

HE TAKES A DEEP, RATTLING BREATH

HARLEY
(crushed)
Help...! Fuck...

HARLEY GROANS PAINFULLY AGAIN

HARLEY
Fuck, somebody hurry-

CLICK

KLEIN'S BREATHING IS LABORED

KLEIN
Oh my god... am I getting too old
for rock climbing...?

Nah... fuck that...

(deep breath)
Okay, where am I?

Psychology- Oh!

KLEIN CLIMBING OVER OBJECTS

KLEIN
Lancaster! Lancaster, are you in
there?

KLEIN GRUNTS, DOOR SQUEAKS OPEN

KLEIN
Lancaster-

KLEIN FALLS, LANDS

KLEIN
OOF-

Wh- Alright. We're good.

PAPERS RUSTLE AROUND. SOMETHING HUMS AND
SPARKS QUIETLY

KLEIN
...holy shit, what HAPPENED in
here?

Lancaster, what were you DOING?

HUMMING GETS SLIGHTLY LOUDER

...Oh, fucking shit.

CLICK

HARLEY GROANS AND STRUGGLES

HARLEY

Fuck-

(shouting)

Can anybody- hear me?! I'm- I'm
stuck-

DOOR THUNKS, HINGES SQUEAK

HARLEY

H-hello-?! I'm in- I'm in here!
Help!

LANCASTER

(behind door)

It's jammed-

HARLEY

Lanc?! Thank- agh- thank GOD-

DOOR SLAMS AGAINST SOMETHING A COUPLE TIMES

LANCASTER

I think- I think I can-

LANCASTER GRUNTS AS HE SQUEEZES THROUGH THE
CRACK

HARLEY

I can't move it- it's too heavy-
can you help get it off?

NO RESPONSE

HARLEY

(labored)

I'm really not joking, here-

LANCASTER

Okay, hang on. Just- wait a
second. I wanna try something.

HARLEY

Alright,

LANCASTER

I know how to fix it.

HARLEY

Yeah- you move the filing cabinet-

LANCASTER
(increasingly distorted)
No, the memetic effect.

HARLEY
What?

KNIFE BLADE RINGS

HARLEY
...Lanc?

LANCASTER
Hold still for a second.

HARLEY
Lancaster, was that a knife?

LANCASTER
It's a scalpel.

HARLEY
(panicked negotiating)
Okay, waitwaitwait. What are you
doing with that?

LANCASTER
I just have to try something out.
It's gonna confirm my theory.

METAL CREAKS AS HARLEY TRIES TO MOVE AWAY

HARLEY
No! No- listen, whatever your
theory is, you don't have to-

LANCASTER
You don't understand, it worked
for me! Look!

FABRIC RUSTLES

HARLEY
...Is that-

LANCASTER
A Dash One.

HARLEY
How long has that been there?!

LANCASTER
Since the Night Game. It formed
after one of those ants bit me.

HARLEY

We should talk to someone else,
first. A third party-

LANCASTER

It'll work. Everybody just needs
to get one.

HARLEY

What?! Nonono, don't-

LANCASTER

It won't hurt.

HARLEY

Stop!

SMALL SCUFFLE, STRUGGLING NOISES

METAL CREAKS, HARLEY WHEEZES

LANCASTER

See? You're making it worse. Hold
still.

HARLEY

(being crushed)

Lancaster- Orion, listen to me,
please don't do this-

KNIFE SLICING. VARIOUS HARLEY PAIN NOISES

SOMETHING SLAMS AGAINST THE DOOR

LANCASTER

Kinda in the middle of something
in here!

HARLEY

HELP! HELP ME!

A FEW LOUD KICKS AGAINST THE DOOR. WOOD
CRACKING

KLEIN

Put the knife down, Lancaster.

LOVE

What the FUCK?!

HARLEY

KLEIN-

LANCASTER

No, I'm almost done! It'll just be a few minutes.

KLEIN

I found the anamorphic Dash One in your office, Lanc.

LOVE

The WHAT?!

KLEIN

It was on the wall behind the door. Out of view of the camera.

RADDAGHER

I knew it.

LANCASTER

Yeah, I did that, but I also figured out how to fix everybody!

RADDAGHER

I knew it was you!

KLEIN

You need to drop the fucking scalpel before you say another word.

HARLEY

CAN SOMEBODY GET HIM OFF OF ME-?!

LANCASTER

No, it's fine! I know what I'm doing!

LOVE

What the fuck is on your LEG,

KLEIN

Nothing we can't remove.

LANCASTER

What?

KLEIN

Love, get the knife.

LOVE SNARLS, SOUNDS OF A STRUGGLE

RADDAGHER

You're bleeding-

HARLEY

Yeah, I know!

RADDAGHER STRUGGLES AS SHE MOVES THE FILING
CABINET OFF HARLEY

METAL CREAKS, THEN CRASHES ON THE FLOOR

HARLEY GASPS AND COUGHS

LANCASTER HITS THE GROUND

LANCASTER

Just let me try it- Just let me
try it! I promise! I promise it'll
work!

KLEIN

I've got my own theory to test
first. Hold him down.

LOVE

Get his feet!

RADDAGHER

Got it.

LANCASTER STRUGGLES. CLOTHES AND OBJECTS
MOVE AS THEY FIGHT

KLEIN

We have to get that off your leg.

LIGHTER CLICKS

ROAD FLARE SPARKS

LANCASTER

No no no no no, Klein, wait-

FIRE SPARKS, FLESH SIZZLING. LANCASTER
SCREAMS

END EPISODE