

FUA 20: DASH TWO, REVISITED

[CONTENT WARNINGS: animal experimentation, animal death]

[Static fades out]

[Recording white noise]

HARLEY  
(Clinical)  
Investigation log,  
SCP-SixtyThreeTwenty Dash Two.

As reported by Site-107 Research  
Department.

It is uncertain if we can classify  
Dash Two instances as animals or  
as plants. While we have observed  
Dash Two instances being created  
from both plant matter and  
insects, what little investigation  
we have managed on the corpses  
reveals them to be more  
biologically akin to mammals,  
regardless of initial organic  
material used to create the  
instance.

Dissection has proved immensely  
difficult, given the subjects'  
rapid rate of decomposition.

[Click]

[Broad hall ambience, some walla, footsteps]

HARLEY  
So, cold-blooded.

KLEIN  
Warm-blooded, technically.

HARLEY  
Warm-blooded, but cold still.

KLEIN  
Yes.

HARLEY  
Chilly-blooded.

KLEIN  
Luke-warm blooded.

HARLEY

Even the bug ones?

KLEIN

All of them. Even the bug ones.

HARLEY

You are walking SO FAST.

KLEIN

I'm jazzed, Harley. Only another academic would understand. We have leads and we have information and it feels like my chest cavity is full of bees.

HARLEY

I also have a doctorate too, you know.

KLEIN

I have TWO doctorates.

HARLEY

Is one of them in power-walking?

KLEIN

Yes.

HARLEY

Is the feeling of having a chest full of bees a good thing?

KLEIN

In this case, yes. Did you hear their blood makes Dash Ones EVERY time?

HARLEY

Whose? The bees?

KLEIN

The Dash Twos.

HARLEY

I inferred that based on how much use the incinerator has been getting. Can't chop them up, can you?

KLEIN

Nope.

HARLEY

Please slow down-

[Footsteps stop, sneaker squeaks]

KLEIN

Where was Lancaster last night?

HARLEY

What?

KLEIN

Where was Lancaster? He missed  
karaoke. We were gonna do  
September together.

HARLEY

He's working on the memetic. He's  
been writing a lot about it,  
recently. Must have a really good  
idea.

KLEIN

An idea worth missing karaoke?

HARLEY

I guess.

KLEIN

Huh.

[Click, equipment hums]

RADDAGHER

Six before it worked.

HARLEY

Where did you put the ones that  
didn't? Did you just leave them in  
your trash can, potato mold and  
all?

RADDAGHER

Garbage incinerator.

HARLEY

Effective, I imagine. What trick  
finally did it?

RADDAGHER

Carving into one that was still  
rooted.

HARLEY

That makes sense. Research did all  
those tests this morning using

detached organic matter and none  
of it made a Two.

RADDAGHER

Has to still be alive. And she  
didn't even finish cutting the  
mark.

HARLEY

They tried that with a mouse. Cuts  
just keep going by themselves.

RADDAGHER

Like the lemon tree.

HARLEY

Hey, here's something I can't  
figure out. About this whole  
situation, Love sneaking in to  
Dash Two a whole living potato  
plant.

RADDAGHER

Hm?

HARLEY

How did you sneak past Botany?

RADDAGHER

I memorized their schedules.  
Turned the cameras so they  
wouldn't see.

HARLEY

Interesting.

[Pause]

HARLEY

Want to help me with-

RADDAGHER

No.

HARLEY

Aw.

[Click]

LANCASTER

How did you get yours before HE  
did?

LOVE

I was first in line.

LANCASTER

Did it hurt? It looks like it hurt.

LOVE

You saying you don't trust Medical?

LANCASTER

Er, no, I don't, but also you're dodging the question.

LOVE

No, it didn't hurt. Because I'm not a pussy.

LANCASTER

What does it say?

LOVE

My blood type. And if I'm a registered organ donor.

LANCASTER

Why- We know your blood type, it's in the system...

LOVE

Whatever, I want to have a tattoo and I want people to know up front that I'm a registered organ donor!

LANCASTER

(amused)

Why are you saying that like I'm NOT a registered organ donor?

LOVE

Please. As if anybody would want your shitty organs.

LANCASTER

Wh- almost all my organs are perfectly fine.

LOVE

ALMOST all your organs?

LANCASTER

Well, I don't have an appendix.

LOVE

Oh. I didn't know you were diabetic.

LANCASTER

That's not- okay.

LOVE

What are you doing in here,  
anyway?

LANCASTER

Oh- I was going to see if  
Raddagher had any archived  
footage. I'm working on- uh, I'm  
working on something.

LOVE

Working on what?

LANCASTER

The- the memetic thing, remember?  
Everybody but us being all distant  
and unfocused.

LOVE

Right.

LANCASTER

So, uh, where is she?

LOVE

She's upstairs getting us dinner.

LANCASTER

Can you ask her when she gets  
back? I'm- I'm looking for um,  
Botany- the camera next to the  
door. She'll know what I'm talking  
about.

LOVE

(fondly)

Yeah. She's practically named them  
all. She like- she knows all their  
numbers and stuff off the top of  
her head. And she knows- like, she  
knows where all the vents go? She  
has blueprints somewhere. It's so  
weird.

[Pause]

LOVE

...why are you looking at me?

LANCASTER

You guys do seem to be hanging  
out a lot.

LOVE  
What of it?

LANCASTER  
I think you made a friend! I think  
you made a friend against all your  
own self-inflicted odds.

LOVE  
NO. We're not FRIENDS- don't be  
FUCKING WEIRD, LANCASTER.

LANCASTER  
Right, right, no, of course.  
That's my mistake. I did forget  
that you're a- a lone ranger, and  
an agent of chaos, and the lord of  
the night, or whatever-

LOVE  
I just DON'T NEED FRIENDS, don't  
make it WEIRD-

[Door opens]

RADDAGHER  
Mac n Cheese.

LOVE  
(immediately brightening up)  
FUCK YEAH!

RADDAGHER  
Bread crumbs on top.

LOVE  
(stammering)  
AJFGKHGAKAHKJG YOU- YOU GOT THE  
BREAD CRUMBS?! I'd fucking kill a  
man for you-

[Pause]

LANCASTER  
I didn't say anything-

[Door squeaks, Lancaster's voice gets farther away]

LOVE  
(crosstalk)

If you're gonna say something, SAY SOMETHING! Get out! Go do nerd shit, nerd! GAWD.

LANCASTER

I didn't say anything! I didn't. Look, I'm leaving! I'm leaving, I'm going!

[Door closes. Short pause follows.]

LOVE

Oh. He wanted whatever footage you've got from the camera in Botany. The one above the door.

RADDAGHER

BF-4-3.

LOVE

(audibly smiling)

Yeah, that's the one.

RADDAGHER

How is your tattoo?

LOVE

Smarts a little.

RADDAGHER

Mine too.

LOVE

Yeah, it better! It's huge! What is all that, anyway?

RADDAGHER

Notes on Anamorphic Dash Ones.

LOVE

Nice. You hear Harley's getting his back done tomorrow?

RADDAGHER

No.

LOVE

It's gonna be so funny.

[Click]

[Return to recording audio]

HARLEY

(clinical)

Recent tests involving the creation of a Dash Two instance through the infliction of a Dash One instance onto a subject have yielded an unexpected result. While still considerably dangerous when aggravated, such instances are significantly more docile and difficult to provoke than those created by paranaturally occurring Dash One instances.

This phenomenon was observed in Subject 4, a potted bamboo plant. After a full Dash One instance was carved into it by D-3, it immediately began its transformation into a Dash Two instance approximately 1.5 meters in length and resembling a salamander or lizard. The subject crawled out of the pot and remained on the floor, watching D-3. When threatened with a blowtorch, subject showed signs of aggravation, but only moved to defend itself, never attacking D-3. All other instances in this experiment showed aggression toward D-class personnel and attacked almost immediately.

Due to this development in testing, future Dash Two tests will be conducted on instances created from plant matter with an artificially applied Dash One instance.

[Click]

[Clock ticking, Lancaster's office ambience]

LANCASTER

But you've seen it, though, right?

KLEIN

Yeah... I have no idea what to do about it.

LANCASTER

Are we going to have to take it away from her? It's- it's still technically an anomalous creature.

KLEIN

I don't know! Have you seen how much better she's been?

LANCASTER

Yeah- no, yeah, absolutely. It's- it's night and day.

KLEIN

I mean, I don't know how long she's had it, but I've only had to break up one fight in the last two cycles.

LANCASTER

Emotional support animal.

KLEIN

I don't know if we can classify it as an animal.

LANCASTER

Emotional support potato.

KLEIN

Do we KNOW it's a potato? It doesn't look like one.

LANCASTER

Maybe it kinda does if you're... already thinking about potatoes.

KLEIN

I do have to admit, it's kinda cute in a backwards sort of way.

(beat)

But she shouldn't have it! Or at least, it should be restrained, or something. We hardly know ANYTHING about these things. It could be dangerous, it could be causing ripple phenomena, it could- it could be doing a NUMBER of things.

LANCASTER

What would you even do to restrain it?

KLEIN

(laughing)

Baby car seat.

[Lancaster laughs]

KLEIN

What does she call it again?

LANCASTER

Dumptruck.

KLEIN

Dumptruck, that's right.

Why, exactly?

LANCASTER

("I don't know" sound)

[Klein laughs again, sobers up a little]

KLEIN

We're going to have to talk to her  
about it one of these days.

[Click]

[Recording audio]

HARLEY

(clinical)

Test log.

D-4 instructed to release subject  
from restraints using provided  
controls. D-4 asks if the  
situation is safe. Research  
personnel answer that it is not.

D-4 releases Dash Two instance  
from restraints. Subject  
immediately becomes aggressive,  
using one appendage to swat D-4 to  
the back of the containment  
chamber. D-4 recovers, expressing  
panic and asking personnel to be  
let out of the chamber. Request  
denied.

Subject approaches D-4, using  
front two appendages to grab and  
hold D-4 onto the ground. Subject  
then vomits a thick substance onto  
D-4 before stalking around the  
perimeter of the containment  
chamber. D-4 is unable to move  
from under the substance. While  
moving about the chamber, subject  
periodically emits a sound akin to  
a roar or screech. D-4 is still  
unable to move, but following the

initial attack, subject appears uninterested. Pacing around the chamber continues until Containment personnel terminate the subject.

Subsequent tests find the substance created by the Dash Two instance to be structurally similar to cement. Test observations suggest the substance dried and hardened completely in less than three minutes. D-4 was broken out of the substance by Containment personnel and promptly brought to Medical for evaluation.

[Click]

[Surveillance office ambience. Servers humming]

HARLEY

(Intercom)

...You're going to have to talk to Klein about it.

RADDAGHER

No.

HARLEY

She already knows! She said she saw it during the night game.

Ow, I should get a pillow for this chair...

RADDAGHER

He's harmless.

HARLEY

How do you know?

[Pause]

RADDAGHER

He's not dangerous.

HARLEY

Just because it's round doesn't mean it's not... screwing up the spacetime continuum somehow, I dunno. I'm not privy to the science.

RADDAGHER  
He hasn't done anything.

HARLEY  
How do you know?

[Pause]

RADDAGHER  
She's happy. She's never been  
happy.

HARLEY  
...Yeah. I noticed.

RADDAGHER  
He makes her happy. I want her to  
be happy.

HARLEY  
(Cheeky)  
You do seem to be awfully fond of  
each other.

RADDAGHER  
(Obviously lying)  
I'm not fond of her.

HARLEY  
(Playfully sarcastic)  
Oh of COURSE you're not. You call  
me to talk about her like four  
times a day but sure, just regular  
coworker stuff.

[Beat. A long pause]

HARLEY  
I'm sorry, I'm not bothering you,  
am I?

RADDAGHER  
I'm not fond of her.

HARLEY  
...But you do understand that if  
you WERE, that would be totally  
okay, right?

[A similarly long pause]

RADDAGHER  
...They say getting attached to  
people isn't recommended.

HARLEY

Okay, that's bullshit though. You know that's bullshit, don't you? You can't just NOT get attached to people. It's human nature.

RADDAGHER

I don't want to.

HARLEY

...Don't want to what?

RADDAGHER

Get attached to people.

[Pause. Harley chuckles.]

HARLEY

It does suck sometimes, doesn't it?

[No response]

HARLEY

Want to talk about something else?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

HARLEY

Do you want to hear about my back tattoo?

RADDAGHER

Okay.

HARLEY

Good, because it hurts very much, and I've been in here with no shirt on all day, and it's only a matter of time before somebody walks in.

[Click]

[Recording audio]

HARLEY

To date, seven tests have been conducted involving Dash Two interaction with human subjects. So far, despite frequently injuring D-class subjects, no Dash Two instance has been observed to terminate or attempt to terminate

a human subject. Instead, Dash Two instances' observed motivation is only to restrain them using a variety of methods that change based on how the instance is biologically composed.

Observed methods of restraint have included the following; web-like materials, burying victims in heavy or sticky substances, trapping victims using anomalous manipulation of surfaces, and brute force.

The purpose for this behavior had not yet been determined.

Observation of afflicted D-class personnel continues, with no noticeable changes.

[Click]

[Office ambience. A computer hums.]

[Door closes]

LOVE

Hey.

KLEIN

Have a seat, Agent.

LOVE

Oh, God.

KLEIN

You're not in trouble, just sit down.

[Chair squeaks]

KLEIN

So, I know about Dumptruck.

LOVE

You can't have him.

KLEIN

That's what I wanted to talk to you about.

LOVE

Bite my ass, he's mine. I'm not giving him to you. You'll have to pry him from my dead cold hands if you want to take him from me. I've been working so HARD and it's WORKING and-

KLEIN

That's not what I'm asking.

LOVE

...It's not?

KLEIN

No, it's not. I've elected to let you keep it.

LOVE

Him.

KLEIN

"Him-" How do you know it's a boy?

LOVE

I feel it in my heart.

KLEIN

Whatever. You can keep him on one condition.

LOVE

What?

KLEIN

I need you to observe him. Keep track of stuff it does. Pay attention to correlations and weird shit. And report back to me or Dr. Masterson.

LOVE

Sometimes he sticks things to himself, like he's a vacuum or something-

KLEIN

Alright, I don't mean right now, write it down, okay?

LOVE

Okay.

KLEIN

Okay?

LOVE

Does Alves know? Or the Research  
and Containment people?

KLEIN

Strictly speaking, no. They do  
not. That's why I need your  
discretion on this. I need to know  
everything it does. Just to make  
certain it isn't dangerous.

LOVE

Pretty sure he's too round to be  
dangerous!

KLEIN

Love, I'm serious.

LOVE

Me too.

KLEIN

Alright. Then you're free to go.

LOVE

Thanks, Klein! You're the best!

KLEIN

Don't mention it.

[Door opens]

[Voices muffled and distant as the door  
closes]

LOVE

She's letting us keep him!

RADDAGHER

Really?

LOVE

Yeah! She said-

[Door closes. Klein sighs.]

KLEIN

This better work out.

[Walkie beeps]

KLEIN

Hey, Lancaster, you available?  
Over.

[No response. Walkie beeps again]

KLEIN  
Earth to Lancaster, come in  
Lancaster, over.

[Still no response]

[Walkie beeps]

KLEIN  
Harley, is Lancaster with you?  
Over.

HARLEY  
No, he's working on some big thing  
in his office. Over.

KLEIN  
Alright. Could you grab him for  
me? You're closer. Over.

HARLEY  
Everything hurts and I'm not  
getting out of bed. Over.

KLEIN  
Wh-? Oh my god. Did you get your  
whole back done today? You're  
supposed to get them in parts.  
Over.

HARLEY  
I got the whole thing done today  
and I have some regrets. Over.

KLEIN  
Yeah, I bet you do. Does it look  
good? Over.

HARLEY  
Dunno. Still got the bandages on.  
Over.

KLEIN  
Alright. Got to go talk to  
Lancaster. Turned his walkie off  
or something. Over.

HARLEY

Yeah, that's a little weird. Tell  
him to charge it more. Over and  
out.

KLEIN

Over and out.

[Papers shuffle, footsteps, door opens and  
closes.]

END EPISODE