

FIND US ALIVE EPISODE 28: Sideways

STATIC FADES IN AND OUT

KLEIN

Incident report.

At 17:00 hours, an explosive charge was detonated on SCP-SixtyThreeTwenty. The purpose of the detonation was to test the effect of combustion against the anomaly. The resulting effect shifted the gravity of Site-107 90 degrees North, effectively turning the entire facility on its side.

This environmental effect, like many of the previous effects, has never been observed before in this location. As a result, Site-107 was extremely ill-equipped to handle the resulting destruction. Foundation sites are built to withstand a wide variety of disasters. Gravitational relocation is not usually one of them.

STATIC

HARLEY SIGHS

HARLEY

Welcome back to hell, Overwatch Command. We have fared better.

I don't have too long before they need me to help facilitate communication again. And I don't have anything better to do.

Medical has their hands full, naturally. Lots of long hallways in our site turned suddenly into very long, sheer drops. Got a few new broken bones here and there. Some people got bruised ribs after getting trapped underneath a filing cabinet.

The- other stuff...

Fortunately my chest is more or less fine. Just that; bruised

ribs. Nothing broken or bent out of place. Hurts a lot, aches to breathe deeply, but it'll heal. So will the scalpel-cut in my arm. They gave me stitches, but told me not to cover it up. They worry that if I don't check on it every few minutes, it might start branching into a Dash One, kinda like...

Well. You know.

It was actually Gravett herself who told me to keep it uncovered. She just handed me a wad of paper towels for the bleeding and told me to watch it closely and keep it as clean and dry as I could.

Maybe I'm speaking out of turn here. I hardly know the woman, after all. But she seems different, somehow. I don't know how to describe it. Distant. Maybe a little thinner than when I last saw her.

Security is busy as well. They've been charged with building a system we can use to get around. It's a lot of rope ladders. A lot of makeshift pulley systems that only sometimes work correctly. A lot of carrying people who weren't built for strenuous physical activity. Of course, much of the site is totally unusable right now. We're trying to stick with areas that are absolutely necessary. But we're sleeping in offices and hallways. And we're eating peaches cold out of the can.

Pissing in buckets, again. Except, you know. Worse.

We're building for bare survival, right now. Short term. Ways to transport food and medical supplies. Sticking it out until the next Reset, and hoping it sets things right again.

Klein is up to her neck. Haven't heard much from Love. Haven't heard anything at all from Raddagher.

CLICK

SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT HUMS

WALKIE BEEPS

KLEIN
Come in, Surveillance, over.

LOVE
Yo.

PAUSE

KLEIN
Gimme an update on the situation over there, over.

LOVE
Looks fine so far. Haven't seen anything on the cameras. Um, over.

KLEIN
Keep a keen eye out. It takes us a lot more time to catch Dash Ones with the amount of effort it takes to move around the building. Over.

LOVE
I know, right? I'm so fuckin' sick of sleeping on the wall.

PAUSE

LOVE
O-over.

KLEIN
We all have to deal with it for the time being, Agent. Thank you for your patience. Over.

LOVE
Why are you talking like that? Are you with somebody? Over.

KLEIN
Negative. Over.

LOVE

Then what's the deal? Over.

KLEIN
Elaborate. Over.

LOVE
You sound like Alves. Over.

KLEIN
I'm just doing my job, over.

LOVE
Whatever. Hey, can I go see
Lancaster yet? I want to talk to
him about- about the thing. You
know. Over.

KLEIN
We haven't cleared 3B for
visitation yet. Over.

LOVE
What's 3B?

KLEIN
That's- it's the classification we
gave Lancaster. Over.

LOVE
Why don't you just call him by his
name?

KLEIN
If you need to talk to someone,
you'll have to find someone else.
Over.

LOVE
I don't want to talk to somebody
else, I want to talk to a fucking
therapist. It's kind of a
therapist issue. Over.

KLEIN
There are other people in
Psychology, Agent-

LOVE
I don't WANT the other people in
Psychology! Over!

PAUSE

LOVE

Can I come up there or something?
Hang out for a second? Over.

PAUSE

KLEIN
Negative. I don't have time right
now. Over and out.

LOVE
(to herself)
"Over and out," fuck off.

DUMPTRUCK MAKES VARIOUS NOISES

LOVE LAUGHS SOFTLY

LOVE
Are YOU doing okay, Dumptruck?

WEIRD SQUISH

LOVE
I don't even know if you have
emotions.

PAP PAP PAP

LOVE
You're good at hunting Dash Ones.
Maybe if they had you on the team
it would go faster. Free up some
time.

CLICK

HARLEY CLEARS HIS THROAT

HARLEY
(NPR Voice)
And now, a chronicle of my day so
far.

I woke up on the floor. The floor
is where I sleep, for the time
being. It is very uncomfortable.
It is especially uncomfortable
when your body is destroyed.

After waking up, I ate half a can
of pears. My rations today are
that can of pears, and two bags of
snacks from one of the vending
machines.

After that, I sat in my office.

PAUSE

I counted the ceiling tiles, which are now the wall tiles. I forgot how many there are, which means I get to double my enjoyment and count them again. Good news for me, because I have nothing to do in here. I read some more of a book I've already read. I leaned my head out the door and yelled into the abyss, "Does anybody need anything?" and the abyss yelled back, "No, just stay in there and rest."

HARLEY SIGHS

Meanwhile, Security is still working on the rope bridges and ladders. It's not a perfect solution, or even an effective one, but it's better than nothing at all. Marginally. Botany, rat bastards that they are, have been scrambling to save as many plants as they can. So they're very busy. Medical is slammed, as I previously mentioned, but they always are. Nothing new there, besides the broken equipment, lack of floorspace, and large number of new injuries. I heard they spent the morning figuring out ways to get beds into other rooms. Very exciting.

And Containment. They've been busy... containing people.

CLICK

SURVEILLANCE OFFICE AMBIENCE

LONG PAUSE

CHAIR CREAKS

LOVE

God. Can't we turn the feeds or something? So we don't have to watch them sideways?

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

I hate it too, you know. In case that makes you feel any better. At least the screens are wall-mounted.

ANOTHER PAUSE

LOVE

Everything is trashed...

RADDAGHER SIGHS

LOVE

So.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

Pretty fucked up, huh?

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

You know, every- everything that happened.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

I know I'M kinda fucked up about all of it. The bomb not working. Lancaster getting contained, and-

PAUSE

LOVE

The other stuff.

PAUSE. THE EQUIPMENT HUMS

LOVE

You can- you can go back to your room, if you're- you know. I can keep somebody from Security to help you climb up there.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

What I'm saying is nobody is expecting you to stay in here the whole, two weeks or whatever.

Plus, you've got me. To keep you
company and stuff.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE HUFFS

LOVE
(frustrated)
Kinda feels like you're ignoring
me.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE
Whatever.

CLICK

Klein
Site-107 recognizes the existence
of Dash Three instances. Human, or
perhaps formerly human subjects,
influenced by SCP-SixtyThreeTwenty
to aid in self-replication of the
anomaly. Created, as far as we
know, through physical contact
with the anomaly or its
replications, or by an
anomalously-forming injury.

Dash Three instances seem to need
nearly a full cycle to fully..
mature. It is theorized that these
instances constitute the highest
echelon of SixtyThreeTwenty's
self-replication methods, as it is
difficult to rival the dexterity
of human hands and the forethought
of human minds.

Affected individuals retain full
cognition and are in many ways
indistinguishable from their
non-anomalous selves.

It is currently unknown if this
process is reversible.

CLICK

LOUD AMBIENT BUZZING

LOVE

What do you mean, I'm "not allowed?" That's fucking bullshit, how are we supposed to interrogate him?

I'm not calling him a fucking "it."

Well, can you make an exception? It's important.

Because he's- because he's my fucking therapist, that's why!

Fine. Fuck you.

CLICK

SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT HUMS

LOVE SNORES QUIETLY

COMM CLICKS ON

HARLEY

Hey, is somebody in there right now?

TYPING ON KEYBOARD

HARLEY

Oh. Hi, Raddagher!

PAUSE

HARLEY

Uh, can you send me any feeds you have of AG?

BUTTONS CLICK

HARLEY

Thanks.

PAUSE

HARLEY

How have you been holding up, by the way?

TYPING

HARLEY

That's understandable. Has Love been around, at least?

NO RESPONSE

HARLEY

Are you alright? Because I haven't heard much from you or Love lately. Just thought I'd maybe check in.

TYPING

HARLEY

Okay, that's a little uncalled for.

TYPING

HARLEY

You share an office with someone now, that's going to be a little difficult.

TYPING, CONTINUES AS HE'S TALKING

HARLEY

I'm not TRYING to! You seem like you're struggling and I care about you and I don't want you to just-

ANGRIER TYPING

PAUSE

HARLEY

(disheartened)

Fine. I'll leave you alone.

COMM CLICKS OFF

PAUSE, FABRIC RUSTLES

LOVE

(wearily)

He was just trying to help.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

I'm... gonna go help Security.

CLICK

KLEIN

So Research currently has a few open projects, and I'll be helping

with those, obviously, but I thought you should be kept up to speed. We're trying to find an incomplete anamorphic Dash One instance to observe, but haven't seen anything YET. Engineering is still poking around that half a reality anchor that we found in the walls, but it's been back-burnered a bit, as far as I'm aware. Gravett is doing some kind of project with the rest of Medical, but they've never given me any details. It's probably something to do with the re-injured people. And I'm sure I don't gotta tell you, but I trust Gravett. Not super worried about it.

I'd still advise listening to Psych about morale stuff. I know you've got strong feelings about breaking the rules, but they've been right in the past. Breaking the rules in the name of keeping people sane has its merits, I hope that's sunk in for you by now. Chappel is currently heading them now that Psychology is one short.

Thanks for that, by the way. Organizing the visitation stuff with me. I know it's complicated, we don't want people treating him like everything is normal, but it helps. Helps ease the transition into... whatever the hell is gonna happen next.

Turns out, you were right in the end. About a lot of things. You'll do a good job.

CLICK

HARLEY

Good news, everyone! I made it through my book again! Overwatch Command will be proud to know that while everybody else in the site was doing important, life-saving work, Dr. Harley was in his office, finishing this book for the nine thousandth time.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

HARLEY
Whaaaaaaaaaat?

LOVE
I'm coming in.

DOOR CREAKS OPEN, LOVE STRUGGLES THROUGH

HARLEY
Surprised you didn't just open it
yourself like you usually do.

DOOR SHUTS

LOVE
It's hard to get it open. And the
lock isn't reading cards until
like, the fourth time.

HARLEY
You probably have to scan your
card sideways.

LOVE
Shut up, I already knew that.

HARLEY
What are you doing here, Love?

LOVE
I don't know, I came to hang out?!
Do I have to have some big reason
for every... thing...

PAUSE

LOVE
You look kinda fucked up.

HARLEY
I don't know what you're talking
about, I always look like this.

LOVE
Uh huh.

HARLEY
I'm amazed you have time to come
all the way down here.

LOVE

Yeah, Raddagher wanted- space, I guess.

HARLEY

Mm.

LOVE

Anyway, how you holding up?

HARLEY

(glibly sarcastic)

So great.

LOVE

Everything cool over here? After everything that happened?

HARLEY

Super cool.

PAUSE

LOVE

Really?

HARLEY

Yep.

LOVE

Your chest and everything?

HARLEY

Hurts. Hurts quite a bit.

LOVE

Yeah, I bet. You took that file cabinet like a champ.

HARLEY

Sure did.

PAUSE

HARLEY

I've probably gotta get back to work, you know? This wall is not going to draw on itself.

LOVE

Did you draw all those?

HARLEY

Yes, I did.

LOVE

What are they? Hedgehogs?

HARLEY

They're tigers.

LOVE

You suck at drawing tigers.

HARLEY

Let's be honest with ourselves,
there are few things at which I do
not suck.

LOVE

Don't say that.

HARLEY

Handling injuries,

LOVE

Oh, shut up.

HARLEY

Being a decent friend,

LOVE

Are you fishing for compliments or
something? Do you want me to tell
you all about how great you are?

HARLEY

No.

PAUSE

HARLEY

I wouldn't want to make a liar out
of you.

LOVE

Shut up or I'll punch your bad
arm.

BEAT

LOVE

Pretty fucked up shit going on,
though. Right?

HARLEY

I guess.

LOVE

Kinda messed up about the whole thing. Lancaster and- everything else.

HARLEY

Who? Me? Not really. I'm keeping it together.

LOVE

I meant me.

HARLEY

Oh. Have you talked to Raddagher?

LOVE

She won't talk to me.

HARLEY

Me neither.

CLICK

HARLEY

Overwatch Command, I have received a summons.

Klein wants to meet with Love, Raddagher and I to talk about what our 14B work is going to look like now that- that Lancaster won't be working with us. Naturally, none of us are going to be putting serious energy into any of that until the next Reset. Provided the site actually returns to normal. But we at least need to talk about how we're going to proceed. And perhaps I can take on some of the work, considering I'm not doing anything else. I would love something to do. Wouldn't mind picking up the slack.

CLICK

SURVEILLANCE OFFICE HUMMING

LOVE

Hey.

PAUSE

LOVE

Klein wants to see us for a couple minutes.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

We're meeting in Harley's office.
It's the closest thing to a middle
point.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE

Are you gonna come with me? Or by
yourself?

FABRIC RUSTLES

LOVE

Thank you.

CLICK

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT HUMS QUIETLY

JACKET RUSTLES. HARLEY AWKWARDLY CLEARS HIS THROAT

KLEIN

I think we're all in agreement
that we should stop our research
until the site is back to normal.

HARLEY

Agreed.

LOVE

Yeah.

KLEIN

I'll have a lot more time to
dedicate to this project after our
next Reset anyway. So we can
really get going after that.

LOVE

If you're gonna have lots of spare
time next cycle, shouldn't we... do
something? Get everybody together?

KLEIN

Isn't that what we're doing right
now?

LOVE

I mean everybody.

KLEIN

Lancaster can't come, he's in
containment.

LOVE

No, EVERYBODY. Or just
Engineering? We could do something
for them?

KLEIN

Oh! That reminds me. I have to
check back with them about the
state of the reality anchor thing.
See if anything changed since we
flipped over.

LOVE

Okay, but like-

HARLEY

Have you taken down the Dash One
in Lancaster's office?

KLEIN

We haven't gotten around to that
one yet. It might have to wait
until the next Reset.

LOVE

(aside, quietly)

Hey, are you doing okay?

RADDAGHER

Mm.

KLEIN

In the meantime, I have a lot of
stuff to organize right now. I'm
not going to be around to goof off
or anything.

HARLEY

I'd like to take over Lancaster's
part of the research, now that
he's- ineligible.

KLEIN

You'll either have to start from
scratch or you'll need to ask him
what documentation he had from
before he lost it.

HARLEY

I will start from scratch.

LOVE

You won't go see him? Isn't he
your best friend?

KLEIN
Nobody can see him right now.

HARLEY
And also I do not want to.

LOVE
Why not?

HARLEY
Uh, he did *this*, for starters,

LOVE
You don't want to just- see if
he's okay?

HARLEY
He's fine.

KLEIN
We did what we had to.

RADDAGHER
Told you all.

KLEIN
Don't start.

RADDAGHER
Should've listened to me.

HARLEY
Yeah, maybe we should have. But we
didn't, so playing "I told you so"
isn't going to fix anything, is
it?

RADDAGHER
I was right.

KLEIN
We get that you were fucking
right, okay? If you want to lord
it over us now, go ahead! Get it
out of your system!

HARLEY
You didn't actually DO anything
about your little hunch, though,
did you?

RADDAGHER

What?

HARLEY

You couldn't have tried checking his office? Looking around a little more? Considering what an excellent detective you apparently are?

KLEIN

Alright, don't be a fucking asshole, Harley,

HARLEY

No, you were right! You were right all along. And what were you planning on actually doing about it? Watching it all happen on the security cameras?

RADDAGHER GROWLS

HARLEY

That's what you do, right? You just watch?

RADDAGHER

You let this happen by being a bad friend.

HARLEY

Ohh, so now it's MY FAULT?!

KLEIN

Oh my GOD, can you two fucking knock it off?! Jesus, Harley, since when are you like this?!

HARLEY

Don't you have somewhere else to be? I'm surprised you managed to pack this little team meeting into your schedule.

KLEIN

Are you seriously holding that against me?! I'm the fucking site director, what do you think I-

LOVE

WHAT THE FUCK IS THE MATTER WITH ALL OF YOU?!

THE OTHERS STOP YELLING

LOVE
Somebody fucking died!

PAUSE. LOVE CHOKES BACK TEARS

LOVE
What's the matter with you all?!
You'll just throw her in the
incinerator and act like it didn't
happen? You keep going with your
jobs and shit like we didn't just
LOSE one of us?! I thought by now
it would be different than the
Shift! When a hundred fucking
people got killed and everybody
just went "that's the Foundation"
like it's no big deal! Are you out
of your minds?!

KLEIN
(quietly)
It's best not to dwell on it-

LOVE CONTINUES TO FALL APART

LOVE
I'm not asking anybody to fucking
dwell on it! I KNOW people die
here all the time, I KNOW you have
to get fucking used to it! I don't
WANT to get used to it! I don't
want to be TOTALLY FINE after one
of my people gets killed! Do you
forget people just like that? Do
they just disappear for you as
soon as they're gone?! Because
that's "how it works?!" Fuck you!
What if it was one of us?! What
if- what if it was Harley- was the
one who fell down that hallway?!
Would you all just keep on- would
you all just pretend that- like
none of it ever mattered? Wh-what
if-

SHE CUTS HERSELF OFF, SNIFFLING

FOOTSTEPS AS SHE LEAVES, STEPS ON LADDER

WE CAN HEAR HER CRYING AS HER VOICE GETS FARTHER AWAY

LONG PAUSE. FLUORESCENT LIGHT HUMS

RADDAGHER SNIFFLES UNDER HER MASK

CLOTHING RUSTLES AND FOOTSTEPS AS RADDAGHER LEAVES

KLEIN
(muttered)
I'm gonna go, too.

HARLEY
Yeah...

QUIET STATIC FADES IN AND OUT

SURVEILLANCE AMBIENCE

LOVE SNIFFLES, HER VOICE IS THICK FROM CRYING

LOVE
I'm gonna leave you alone. You
don't have to worry about it.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE
I just have to find somewhere else
to go. My room is all fucked up
and it makes me claustrophobic.

NO RESPONSE

LONG PAUSE. LOVE SNIFFLES AGAIN

LOVE
You said some pretty fucked up
shit to Harley today, you know.

NO RESPONSE

LOVE
You really should say sorry.

RADDAGHER
Him first.

PAUSE

LOVE SIGHS

LOVE
(defeated)
Fine. I'm just gonna go.

DOOR CREAKS OPEN, CLOSES

RADDAGHER SNIFFLES

END EPISODE

