

FIND US ALIVE EPISODE 25:

STATIC FADES OUT

HARLEY

Welcome back to life in the Void,
Overwatch Command. It's me, your
favorite Radio Communications
Operator, Dr. Harley. Bringing you
the latest from Site-107.

We are once again upon dry land,
Overwatch Command. We had our fun
until the clock rolled back, and
now it's business as usual.
Security and Containment are on
the hunt for the Dash One
responsible for the flood, but
have found nothing yet. More on
this as it develops.

In other news, there is a hair
stuck to my face and I am
struggling to remove it.

DOOR LOCK BEEPS, CLICKS

DOOR OPENS

LOVE

Hey.

HARLEY

Hey?

PAUSE

HARLEY

Whatcha doing?

LOVE

I'm bored and Lancaster won't hang
out with me because he's "busy."

HARLEY

Where's Raddagher?

LOVE

In her room. She said she's taking
the day because she has sensory
overhaul from all the stress with
the water.

HARLEY

Overload.

LOVE

That's what I said.

HARLEY

So you're just here to hang out?

LOVE

Yeah.

PAUSE

HARLEY

...what do you want to do?

LOVE

Wanna fight or something?

HARLEY

I do not want that, no.

LOVE

I'm so BORED. It's like, 3 hours till my shift starts and there's nothing to DO!

HARLEY

Feels weird, going back to doing regular work after our beach day, huh?

LOVE

Yeah.

HARLEY

It's fascinating how much more people are talking to each other nowadays. It's really different from when I first got here.

LOVE

Yeah, I bet you guys never did anything cool like that before the Shift.

HARLEY

Eh. There was SOME cool stuff that happened every so often.

LOVE

Prove it.

HARLEY

Yeah, haven't you heard about the Research and Records feud?

LOVE
Research and Records have a feud?

HARLEY
(indulgent laughter)
Oh, pull up a seat, Agent.

CLICK

SCENE 2

KLEIN
Personal log; Dr. Beatrix Klein.

As we work on cementing our plans for the controlled detonation, Research is moving forward with some new work regarding anamorphic Dash Ones. So far, the only one we've encountered in the wild was those boxes in the storage room, back before our very first Reset. It was built gradually and entirely by the hands of several separate people. No anomalous movement involved. But we'll see if we can't get a Dash Two to build one for us, if we can get the conditions right.

CLICK

LOVE
Are you fucking KIDDING me?!
There's no way they did that.

HARLEY
Hand to god.

LOVE
I literally don't believe you.

HARLEY
I was working here when it happened.

LOVE
RECORDS?

HARLEY
Records.

LOVE
What did Klein do?

HARLEY

Klein wasn't working here when
THAT happened...

LOVE

...BUT...?

HARLEY

She WAS here for the Mushroom
Incident.

LOVE

Oh my god, what is the "Mushroom
Incident?"

HARLEY

Okay. So it started like this.
Research got this fog machine.

CLICK

KLEIN

Personal Log: Dr. Beatrix Klein.

Today we attempted to get a Dash
Two to make an anamorphic Dash
One. Created it, left it alone in
the testing chamber with a whole
bunch of stackable,
easily-manipulated objects.

And guess what?

Nothing happened.

(frustrated)

It didn't do anything. It just
slithered around the containment
chamber and snarled. It didn't
even look like it was interested
in the objects at all.

Which might have been because it
didn't have any appendages that
could grab objects.

(beat)

But that's besides the point, it
barely even looked at the things.

Really complicates stuff.

CLICK

HARLEY

And this is where Engineering
comes in.

POPCORN POPS, MICROWAVE HUMS

LOVE

Tell me tell me tell me tell me.

HARLEY

So at the time, the Engineers had
this... uhh, contraption? It was
this little box thing with a motor
inside that could make it bounce
around all over.

MICROWAVE DINGS

LOVE

Hang on.

MICROWAVE DOOR OPENS, POPCORN BAG RIPS OPEN

LOVE MUNCHES POPCORN

LOVE

They had a robot?

HARLEY

They had the cutest, dumbest
little robot, and it died the most
tragic death ever.

LOVE

NOOOOOOOOOO!

CLICK

KLEIN

It's been a moment since D-1 has
done anything of note. But I guess
that by itself is a little shady.
He's been quiet for a long time. I
don't like it.

Our last interview with him was...
unproductive. He was being shitty
on purpose. Vague, talking in
circles, being downright mean. But
he hasn't been making Dash Ones,
so that's a plus. I guess.

He's in the containment chamber
with the objects. He's been in
there for about 3 hours now. He's

messed with a couple of them, but we haven't been able to draw any data from it.

CLICK

LOVE

Where'd they get that much?!

HARLEY

I dunno, they ordered it in bulk, I suppose. I heard they used Gravett's Black Card for it. Marked it as a business expense.

LOVE

Did they get caught?

HARLEY

(scoff)

No, of course not. It was Gravett's card. Nobody's gonna question HER. Do you know where that woman has BEEN?

LOVE

No.

HARLEY

Yeah, neither do I. Nobody does.

LOVE

Nobody's gonna question why feared Medical Doctor Gravett bought a hundred pounds of upholstery foam?!

HARLEY

Stranger things have happened!

LOVE

WHAT things?!

HARLEY

So SECURITY-

CLICK

KLEIN

Nothing from D-1. Nothing at all.

He was in there all day. Something like 6 hours. Moved a couple of the objects, but didn't do anything more than look at them.

Muttered to himself a little bit.
Nothing.

Which confirms my suspicion.

Ugh. I hate being right.

CLICK

FAN WHIRS

QUIET KNOCK ON DOOR

CLOTHING/FABRIC RUSTLES

DOOR UNLOCKS

KLEIN

Hey, Raddagher. Love told me
you're feeling a little under the
weather.

FABRIC SHIFTS

KLEIN

(Quieter)

Right. Sorry. How ya doin'?

BALLPOINT PEN SCRIBBLES

PAUSE

KLEIN

Yikes. Anything I can do?

MORE WRITING

KLEIN

Alright. That's good. Still, sorry
about that.

PEN SCRIBBLES

KLEIN

Yeah, so I was hoping you could
consult Research on something. I
know you've done some poking
around with anamorphic Dash Ones.
Wanted to pick your brain a bit.

WRITING CONTINUES AS KLEIN SPEAKS

KLEIN

But seems like you're out of
commission today, so we'll get to
it later.

PAPER RUSTLES

KLEIN

Hey, if it's not too much of a
hassle, I'd really appreciate it.
Sure you're feeling up to it?

AGGRESSIVE WRITING

KLEIN

I'm not trying to patronize-
whatever. How long do you need to
write it all down?

WRITING

KLEIN

I'll give you 2 hours. Breathing
room. Sound good?

FABRIC RUSTLES

KLEIN

And let me know if I can get you
anything for your head, alright?

DOOR CLOSES

CLICK

HARLEY

They couldn't get the smell out
for DAYS.

LOVE

God, at least it wasn't- you know,
a worse acid.

HARLEY

Yeah. It burned a bit of the tile,
though. I'll point it out to you
sometime. 10 molar is really
nothing to mess around with.

LOVE

Damn.

HARLEY

Still. Two days off work while
they cleaned it off the stairs.

LOVE

Maybe I should dump some acid down
the stairs.

HARLEY

(chuckling)

Do not do that.

CLICK

KLEIN

Personal Log: Beatrix Klein.

So now things are a lot more complicated. We can say with moderate certainty that Dash Twos do not create anamorphic Dash One instances. We've only observed them being built by one or more people over a much longer period of time. Raddagher's report suggests that the formation of anamorphic Dash Ones take the longest, since the only one we've observed took an entire cycle. And it wasn't even totally finished.

Which means we'll have to engineer a way to test it outside the containment chamber, somewhere in the site. And that, naturally, is going to be a lot more dangerous. Unpredictable. Hard to remove external variables that could impact our results. And hard to guarantee the safety of our personnel.

CLICK

LOVE

'Course it's real.

HARLEY

I don't think it is.

LOVE

It is. I've been there.

HARLEY

(incredulous)

No, you haven't.

LOVE

Yeah I have! I got a 2 month ban because I kicked somebody in the nuts at it.

HARLEY

Prove it. Tell me where it is.

LOVE

It's-

PAUSE

LOVE

(catching on)

Heyyy. You just want to see it for yourself!

HARLEY

Where's the fight club, Agent?

LOVE

Invite only, nerd!

CLICK

KLEIN

Personal Log: Beatrix Klein.

Our cameras are basically useless when it comes to catching anamorphics. You have to look at them from just the right angle to see them, and that angle is probably not gonna be from the upper corner of the room, if we're expecting people to be building them from the ground up.

Geez. Trying to engineer one of these things to happen while still being able to monitor it could be impossible.

Dammit. And we thought looking for regular Dash Ones was a pain in the ass.

CLICK

TENNIS BALL BOUNCES AGAINST LINOLEUM

LOVE

How did they NOT get caught?

HARLEY

They DID. How do you think I know
who did it?

LOVE

Did Security catch them?

HARLEY

Yeah, but it was during the
Security-Engineering alliance, so
they were in cahoots the whole
time.

LOVE

So this was BEFORE the thing with
the dead fish.

HARLEY

Yes. Cafeteria table pyramid
incident, Ice Microchip War, THEN
the dead fish thing.

LOVE

Wait, wait, wait, you can't just
skip over the ICE MICROCHIP WAR-

CLICK

FAN WHIRS. SOFT KNOCKING AT DOOR

LOCK CLICKS

KLEIN

(quietly)

Hey! I didn't think you'd be
awake.

RADDAGHER

Night shift.

KLEIN

Right. Feeling any better?

RADDAGHER

Yes.

KLEIN

Good. Glad to hear it. Can I come
in? I've got something to run past
you.

RADDAGHER

Yes.

CLOTHING SHUFFLES, DOOR CLOSES

PAUSE

KLEIN

...Are you gonna turn a light on?

RADDAGHER

No.

KLEIN

Oh. Alright. Well.

You're very... perceptive. Research needs to find an anamorphic Dash One instance so we can monitor it. You notice a lot of things that other people don't.

RADDAGHER

First one.

KLEIN

Yeah, like the first one. Think you could help us spot another?

FABRIC RUSTLES

KLEIN

Awesome. Maybe you can work with them to set up some kind of algorithm or something to detect them. They can rebuild that stupid robot of theirs.

RADDAGHER

What?

KLEIN

(chuckling)

Nothing.

CLICK

LOVE AND HARLEY LAUGH

LOVE

We should do that!

HARLEY

We should NOT do that.

LOVE

Why not? We have enough mice, don't we?

HARLEY

It's not about the mice, it's about doing the same strategy two times. They'd anticipate it.

LOVE

(crosstalk)

They'd be expecting it, right.

PAUSE

LOVE

I wouldnt have expected a lot of you guys to do stuff like that.

HARLEY

You'd be surprised. Everyone's a bit less of a hardass than they let on.

LOVE

Everyone?

HARLEY

Just about.

LOVE

What about Alves? She never even goes to movie night.

HARLEY

You remember when we did the little boat race during the flooding?

LOVE

Yeah.

HARLEY

She was keeping score on a little notepad. I saw. Drew stars next to one of the numbers.

LOVE

You're lying. You're making that up.

HARLEY

Doubt me all you want. But people have a natural predisposition for goofing off.

(fancy, poetic rambling)

And as our time in the void drags on, so builds the urge to do a bunch of stupid shit all of the time. We have no gods and no

masters, we have only time and the
unlimited machinations of our
feverish imaginations.

LOVE

And a bunch of anime DVDs.

HARLEY

(still fancy)

And a bunch of anime DVDs.

LOVE

I like it. I like messing around
with everybody.

HARLEY

Good. It probably will not stop
any time soon.

LOVE

We've gotta get the 14bs together.
Do something fun. Play a game or
something.

HARLEY

I'm sure Klein has something in
that media collection of hers.

LOVE

But I don't want to play unless
Lancaster's gonna be there too.

HARLEY

I'm sure he'll agree if we harass
him enough.

LOVE

Let's go.

HARLEY

Where?

LOVE

Let's go harass him. I'm sick of
this shit.

CLICK

OFFICE AMBIENCE. STRANGE STATIC HUMMING.

OFFICE CHAIR SQUEAKS.

METAL CARVES INTO WOOD.

POUNING ON DOOR

LOVE
(muffled)
HEY! Open up!

HARLEY
(muffled)
We've come to harass you.

DOOR OPEN

LANCASTER
Yes? What? I'm kinda busy in here.

LOVE
(mocking)
"i'M BuSy!" Shut the FUCK up.
We're gonna hang out tomorrow and
you HAVE to go.

LANCASTER
Okay, but I-

HARLEY
What are you doing to that pencil?

LANCASTER
I'm learning how to whittle.

LOVE
You're supposed to use a knife,
dumbass.

LANCASTER
Well- I don't have a knife! And
Medical wouldn't let me borrow a
scalpel, so this is what I've got.

HARLEY
WHY would you ask Medical if you
could use a SCALPEL to whittle?!

LANCASTER
Shut up. Whatever. What do you
guys want me to do?

HARLEY
Spend some time with us tomorrow.
Open up your apparently incredibly
packed schedule.

LOVE
OR ELSE.

HARLEY

Or else.

LANCASTER CHUCKLES

LANCASTER

Okay. Fine. You win. What are we
doing tomorrow?

LOVE

Dunno. Something awesome and cool.

LANCASTER

Sounds great.

END EPISODE