

FIND US ALIVE 44 - THE B SIDE

Static.

Harley's office.

Klein and Raddagher speak from the other side of the radio.

HARLEY

You're in *my* office.

KLEIN

I'm in your office.

LANCASTER

And Raddagher is also in your-
Harley's- *your* office?

RADDAGHER

Where's Nari? Is she okay?

HARLEY

She's fine. She's upstairs in her
bed, Kumar said she's alright.

RADDAGHER

(relieved sigh)

KLEIN

And everything is identical in
there?

HARLEY

Exactly as it was when you
disappeared.

KLEIN

You disappeared.

LANCASTER

It's- let's not get distracted, we
all disappeared.

RADDAGHER

But then who's in the real site?

LANCASTER

Well, if they're exactly the same,
there is no "real site."

HARLEY

Alright. Two sites. Maybe the same? Maybe not. How many people are over there?

KLEIN
Alves' headcount found 46.

HARLEY
(sigh of relief)
Excellent. We have 45. 91 total, nobody's missing.

LANCASTER
What's Alves doing?

RADDAGHER
Losing it.

KLEIN
She's not "losing it." She's just being very... granular about everything.

LANCASTER
Authoritarian?

HARLEY
Lanc, focus.

KLEIN
She's really dogging on Security now that Haldi's not here.

LANCASTER
Yeah, Haldi's been- Haldi's been trying to get power over here, too. They're in a meeting about it right now.

KLEIN
Why don't you put Shao in charge?

LANCASTER
Shao doesn't want to do it.

HARLEY
Get on walkie channel 7 for a moment. I want to try something.

RADDAGHER
Got it.

Walkie clicks.

HARLEY

Can you hear this? Check check,
can you hear me?

RADDAGHER

No.

KLEIN

It's not coming through the
walkies.

HARLEY

But it's coming through my
equipment?

LANCASTER

Huh.

KLEIN

Stronger signal, I guess.

Sticky poof. Dumptruck gone.

HARLEY

Oh. Shit.

RADDAGHER

What?

LANCASTER

We lost Dumptruck.

HARLEY

Did he go to your side?

RADDAGHER

I don't know.

LANCASTER

Klein, did you know he could do
that?

KLEIN

Not until recently. He's been in
and out all day.

HARLEY

So he can cross- er, he can go
between the sites.

KLEIN

Yeah, but we don't know where he's been going. I don't know if he's got control over it.

RADDAGHER

Check Love.

KLEIN

Huh?

HARLEY

Oh, she means he might be going to Love's room.

Harley clicks a mouse a few times.

HARLEY

She's right, he's in there-

Pause.

HARLEY

Well, he was there for a moment.

LANCASTER

I can go up and keep an eye out for him.

RADDAGHER

Tell me how she is.

LANCASTER

Of course, I'll keep in touch with Harley.

KLEIN

Harley, you should announce something. Tell everybody we're in contact.

HARLEY

I can't yet, Alves shut my site comm off before we split.

LANCASTER

I can tell Engineering to- to fix it on my way up to Love's room.

Lancaster gets up to leave.

HARLEY

Channel 7? I'll be in touch.

RADDAGHER

Tell me how she's-

HARLEY

We'll keep you updated, I promise.
She's doing fine right now.

Lancaster's voice gets quieter as he leaves.

LANCASTER

Call you when- when I get up
there!

HARLEY

Great.

The door closes.

Static fades in and out.

HARLEY

I've been clicking through the
camera feeds all day, Overwatch
Command. It's a gargantuan weight
off my shoulders, knowing the
others are stable and in
communication with me.

We thought for a moment that they
had escaped. And while we
entertained that possibility, my
emotions were... mixed. Of course, I
would be elated if my friends and
peers escaped our little void. If
they were thrust back into the
real world as quickly as we were
sucked out of it. But with that
glimmer of hope I felt a sickly,
simmering jealousy. Almost a
resentment, that they escaped and
we did not. As though they left us
behind.

But we're all still in here.
Separate "heres" now, but not much
has changed. I'm embarrassed of
the part of myself that is happy
they're still with us. But I would
have missed them terribly if they
had really managed to escape.

KLEIN

Is this the kinda shit you do all day?

HARLEY

Yes. It certainly is.

KLEIN

I like it.

HARLEY

It makes me feel better.

KLEIN

What's it look like over there?

Paper rustles.

HARLEY

Well, it's difficult to keep track of everything going on, but I've started to keep notes.

I can't see into the conference room, but from what I gather, things are going well in there. Lancaster said Engineering is going to get to repairing the site comm as soon as they can, but they're preoccupied with helping Surveillance with something. Records is spying on people-

KLEIN

Spying on people?

HARLEY

Yes, they're sneaking around and eavesdropping on people around corners. A few of them are writing things down on clipboards.

KLEIN

(venomous but funny)

Typical.

HARLEY

Is that normal behavior for them?

KLEIN

It is.

HARLEY

Alright, then. Apart from that,
Containment and Security are
keeping their distance from each
other,

KLEIN

What's Research doing?

HARLEY

I was getting to that- they're
taking shifts in the lab. They're
not *doing* anything, they're just
preventing anyone else from
getting in.

KLEIN

They're guarding it.

HARLEY

Probably accurate.

KLEIN

And Lancaster?

Click.

Hospital room door opens. Love's EKG beeps.

LANCASTER

Hiiiiii, Love. What's up?

He crosses the room and sits down.

LANCASTER

I brought this-

Guitar strings make a noise.

LANCASTER

I've read that music can be
helpful for coma patients, so...

He plucks out a simple tune.

LANCASTER

I- I really don't know what kind
of music you like, though. You-
you seem like a symphonic metal
person, maybe?

Pause.

LANCASTER
Or maybe it's country?

Awkward country lick.

LANCASTER
Let's pretend it's not country,
how about that?

*Silence for a while. Lancaster starts
strumming at his guitar.*

LANCASTER
I know you would agree with me, if
you were awake. That Haldi's right
and- and Alves shouldn't be in
charge.

And that Klein did a better job.

And I'm- I'm biased. I understand
that. I'm- resentful, now. But
it's not just that, I don't think.
She- we're *not* the Foundation. Er,
we are, but not- not the same one?
We're different now.

Dumptruck's not in here right now.
If Raddagher's right and he's
teleporting back and forth, I'm
going to stick notes to him for
her.

I made a plan with the rest of
Psychology. The juniors should be
spreading word to- to the rest of
the site as we speak.

(chuckling)

You'd be really proud of me. It's
just the kind of- of insane crap I
know you'd love. I just want
somebody else in power. Haldi or
Klein or- I don't know. Somebody.
Somebody who looks at us more like
people.

Pause.

LANCASTER

I actually think you'd love how it is right now. It's such a disaster.

(beat)

God, I miss you.

Click.

Back to Harley's office.

KLEIN

Alves wants everybody up on the AB floor so she can keep track of us.

HARLEY

Let me guess, Security isn't complying?

KLEIN

The field agents aren't either. All two of them, anyway. Everyone knows we're in contact. It's making people bolder. Security knows I'm in here and they keep banging my door down for news from Haldi.

HARLEY

I haven't even heard from Haldi. She's still in that meeting.

KLEIN

Is Wright representing Containment?

HARLEY

Yep.

KLEIN

I knew it'd be them. They're loyal.

HARLEY

They're all loyal.

KLEIN

Hey, you can see the camera feeds, right?

HARLEY

Yes I can.

KLEIN

Teach me how to do it, I wanna
keep tabs over here, too.

Click.

Walkie clicks.

LANCASTER

Great. Keep me updated. Over and
out.

*Lancaster picks a tune on his guitar. The
EKG continues to beep.*

LANCASTER

You know Rivera and Kumari? From
my department? You probably don't,
you- you weren't good with names.
They're, uh, they're canvassing
the building and gathering up
people who are tired of- of Alves'
shit. A lot of people have- a lot
of people are still scared of
Containment and Maintenance.
Nobody's really worried about
Records. They're not scary. They
are snitches, though...

But really I think more people
want to go off-book. We just have
to organize them.

Pause. He keeps playing.

LANCASTER

I mean, I understand why Alves is
doing it. She's half right. The
Foundation's methods have worked
for a lot of problems. But we
aren't adapting to new ones.

I heard Containment talking about
the D-class once. They said
they're- that they're clones. And
I don't think I believe that, but
I wouldn't be surprised. At some
point the Foundation would run out
of- citizens for the citizen
grinder.

And I dunno, being in containment sucked. I mean, not even clones deserve that. It's cruel. And it's "cold."

The site comm clicks on. Pause for a moment, we can hear the static.

HARLEY

Is it working? Am I on? Yes! I can hear the echo. Site-107, this is Dr. Harley. I come bearing some good, albeit uh, complicated-news.

Click. Elsewhere in the site.

HARLEY

I have made contact with those missing from our site. A Wildcard Event caused by the Dash One that went off at the end of the cycle has resulted in a kind of spacial split. Everyone is alive and accounted for.

Click, back to Love's room.

HARLEY

I will be in touch with further details as things develop.

The intercom clicks off again.

Pause for a moment.

LANCASTER

And now we wait.

Click.

Harley's office equipment hums.

Pause.

KLEIN

So...

HARLEY

I'm waiting for something to happen.

KLEIN

What do you think is going to happen?

HARLEY

Things have been... slightly mutinous over here. I'm a little worried that knowing Alves is still with us will embolden Containment to fight back harder against Haldi.

KLEIN

So what? Unified leadership means we fix this faster, doesn't it?

HARLEY

I don't think we're going to get unified leadership, I think we're going to get-

Brief static, TV turning off type noise.

Pause.

Harley clicks his mouse rapidly.

KLEIN

Think you're going to get what? And what was that noise?

HARLEY

One moment, I've lost my-

Buttons click a few times.

HARLEY

(acceptant but exasperated)
I lost the camera feeds.

(beat)

Oh, *that's* what Engineering was doing...

KLEIN

Cool. Great. Call Lancaster?

HARLEY

Calling Lancaster.

Click.

Back in Love's infirmary room.

Lancaster grunts as he shoves furniture across the room.

LANCASTER

I know this room doesn't- count as an important- resource supply- but it *is*- where our other way- to communicate- keeps coming- and going- so...

He stops, catching his breath.

LANCASTER

Geez, we should build a gym or something...

We sent some people down to deliver supplies to Harley, and we have Dumptruck already. Dumptruck could be going anywhere, but he's mostly here. And also you're here, and that's- that's important, too.

Walkie beeps.

HARLEY

Lancaster?

Lancaster reaches for the walkie.

LANCASTER

Yeah?

HARLEY

Do you have something to do with whatever is happening?

LANCASTER

Yes I do.

Click.

HARLEY

For clarification purposes, we designated our copy of the site the A side, and Klein's copy the B side.

Since the beginning of the event, dissenters against the leadership of Dr. Alves were planning

measures to ensure that her methods would not carry over from the B side. Their logic was reasonable. Alves cannot lead a site she is not *in*. The ensuing strike was spearheaded by Psychology, who organized the effort among all personnel and departments willing to participate. Haldi, who was still meeting with Wright and others, was briefed periodically via intranet messaging. Although the plan was initially held off, as the meeting to decide leadership was going tentatively well, the tides turned following my broadcast from the site comm.

Haldi quietly signaled the beginning of the strike only moments after my announcement.

Harley's walkie beeps.

LANCASTER

Harley, you've got five minutes to barricade yourself into your office.

HARLEY

I need an explanation before I do *anything*, Lancaster.

LANCASTER

We've closed off the kitchen and all the bathrooms, if we have communications too we'll have them in a chokehold!

Klein's voice comes through the radio.

KLEIN

Alves just arrested somebody.

HARLEY

Arrested- What do you mean, "arrested?!"

KLEIN

Robinson from Engineering was causing problems up on AB, and she

just had two people from
Containment cuff him and take him
out. It looks like they're going
down to BH, toward D-class
containment.

HARLEY

She's D-classing staff?!

KLEIN

She's detaining them.

HARLEY

Have you told her that that's a
very bad idea considering her
position right now?

KLEIN

She's losing control, Harley.
She's really going off the deep
end.

HARLEY

Klein, I need you to talk to her.

KLEIN

Why do I need to talk to her?!

HARLEY

Because she might listen to you! I
know you have a- a history!

KLEIN

We don't have a- She's not going
to listen to me.

Walkie clicks. Lancaster talks.

LANCASTER

Hello?

HARLEY

Klein, hold that thought.

Lancaster, are you in one of the
bathrooms?

LANCASTER

No, I'm still- I'm still with
Love. There's a little bathroom in
here, though.

HARLEY

What's your plan? Why are you doing this?

LANCASTER

We're cutting off survival resources until Containment and Upper Management agree to put Haldi in charge instead of Alves.

HARLEY

What survival resources?

LANCASTER

The kitchen, all the breakrooms, all the bathrooms. We'll be done barricading in five minutes, and Haldi is- Haldi will tell the others in the meeting about it.

HARLEY

Jesus. You work fast.

LANCASTER

We've been planning it for a while. There's- there's only 50 people in here, it wasn't hard.

HARLEY

I feel a little like everyone needs to get their priorities in order, because I fail to see how either side of this power struggle is going to *put us back together*.

LANCASTER

I don't know, Harley, but there's- there are gonna be people from Alves' side trying to get into your office any second now that they know you're our only line to the other half of the site!

KLEIN

What's he saying?

HARLEY

I'm not locking myself in here! I don't even have any food!

LANCASTER

Yeah, you do. Security dropped you two buckets by your door. One has snacks, the other has water.

HARLEY

When did you do that?

Harley gets up and opens the office door.

LANCASTER

So you're going to be on our side?

Harley picks up a bucket from the hallway.

HARLEY

No. I'm not picking a side. We're all in the same disaster and we *should* all have the same goal. I want to be on everybody's team.

Harley closes the door and locks it.

HARLEY

So if Haldi is busy mutinying and Alves is busy locking people up-

LANCASTER

Did you say she's locking people up?!

HARLEY

Then I am going to stay in here-

Chair grinds against the floor as Harley pushes it against the door.

HARLEY

And I'm not coming out-

He moves another piece of furniture.

HARLEY

Until I've found a way to put us back together. And until then-
(exerted grunt)

Harley moves something else in front of the door.

HARLEY

Nobody gets the comms but me.

END EPISODE