

Of That Colossal Wreck - Episode 7

written by

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1. INT. A PIPE OUTSIDE THE WHISTLER'S HIVE

The inside of a large pipe, leading deep into the whistlers' lair. It is hot, and there is the occasional hiss of steam. ANYA and RILEY are making their way along it.

ANYA

Here. This should be the one.

RILEY

Finally. I know you said it was going to be hot in here, but... oof.

ANYA

No other way to get this close to the queen without them swarming us. You saw the schematics.

RILEY

Why would they have a pipe this hot so near to their nest anyway?

ANYA

This close to the reactor there's a lot of ambient heat. They want to keep themselves cool, it's got to be redirected somewhere.

RILEY

Lucky us.

ANYA

What I don't understand is why they'd set their nest up here in the first place.

RILEY

Only one way to find out, I guess. You're sure this is the right one?

There is a muffled whistling from behind the grate.

ANYA

I'm sure.

They lever off the grate. As it is removed, the whistling becomes louder and it's clear there are whistlers right below them. A lot of whistlers.

RILEY

Shit. How many do you think there are?

ANYA

Enough.

RILEY

What is that thing?

ANYA

I don't know. It's huge. Must have punched through the bulkhead.

RILEY

I think... Anya, I think it's a ship of some kind. It must be how they came here?

ANYA

Maybe. Or maybe it's how they nest.

RILEY

I don't see anything that looks like a queen, though. They all look... normal. What's this queen supposed to look like, anyway?

ANYA

Big. Big enough to spawn the rest of them.

RILEY

Hold on, hand me those binoculars.

They take a closer look.

RILEY

Nothing like that. They all look normal. Well, in as far as normal is a- Oh, hang on. Eggs. I see eggs.

ANYA

But not what's laying them?

RILEY

I think...

They make a noise of disgust.

RILEY

Looks like they can all lay them. I don't think there is a queen.

ANYA

It doesn't matter.

RILEY

What do you mean it doesn't matter? Of course it matters. The plan was to take the queen out from afar and run.

Anya does not answer.

RILEY
Anya, what was the plan?

ANYA
The plan was for you to cover me, then
run.

Anya opens her backpack.

RILEY
Is that what I think it is?

ANYA
Found it in a munitions locker. Should
take out this whole section.

The whistlers have gone silent, but neither of them notice.

RILEY
And you with it.

ANYA
We don't have time to argue.

RILEY
So I'm just supposed to let you kill
yourself?

ANYA
And them.

RILEY
No! I refuse, I- Wait. Where'd they all
go?

A hunting whistle rings out from several points along the pipe.

ANYA
Too late.

2. INT. OZYMANDIAS BRIDGE.

LUNA
They've taken some of the explosives.

MIRA
Does anyone know where they might have
gone?

LEVI
Anya wanted to go to the nest.

ZACK
They wouldn't have gone on their own,
surely?

MIRA

Anya's been fighting whistlers and not doing much else for decades.

LEVI

She might have talked Riley into going along.

LUNA

I think they went through the side door. They can't have too much of a head start.

MIRA

Right, does anyone know how to use any of these weapons?

No one responds.

MIRA

Just me, then. Everyone else, grab some flares. We might be able to catch up with them if we hurry.

3. INT. WHISTLER'S HIVE

Inside the hot pipe, the sound of the whistlers echoes from entrances all along it. Anya is hunkered down as Riley joins them.

ANYA

No luck?

RILEY

Looks like they're waiting outside all the vents leading into the heating pipes.

ANYA

It's the same that way.

RILEY

There must be other ways out.

ANYA

There are two. One into the reactor and one into open space.

RILEY

Shit.

The whistling gets loader, then recedes.

RILEY

Shut up! Why don't they just come in and get it over with?

ANYA

Too hot for them. And besides, they don't need to.

RILEY
We can't stay in here forever.

Beat.

RILEY
So what's the plan?

ANYA
Same as it was before.

RILEY
You're still planning to blow yourself up?

ANYA
Hoped to take more of them with me, but at least I'll get the eggs. And it should distract them enough for you to get out of here.

RILEY
No. I'm not going to let you do it.

ANYA
How are you going to stop me? I'm the one with the bomb.

RILEY
If you go out there. I'm coming with you.

ANYA
What are you talking about? No you're not.

RILEY
You going to blow me up as well?

ANYA
This is ridiculous. Just let me go.

RILEY
No.

ANYA
Riley. This is what I'm for. I kill things.

RILEY
That isn't true. You saved us.

ANYA
I almost killed you.

RILEY

But you didn't. And without you we'd never have made it as far as we have. We need you.

ANYA

Everyone's on their own in the end. Even if this won't stop them all, it'll hurt them more than I ever have. My entire life, hunting these things, being hunted, it's all I've done. So that's how I end.

A long silence.

RILEY

It doesn't have to be.

ANYA

And what's the alternative? What else am I good for? I've seen how the others look at me. Like I'm something to be pitied. Like I'm broken.

RILEY

We're all broken, Anya. And you're worth more than blowing yourself up to kill a few dozen whistlers.

ANYA

So what else do I do?

RILEY

That's up to you. But I know that you're more useful alive than you are dead.

Beat.

ANYA

You really think so?

RILEY

I do. And so do the others.

Silence.

ANYA

Fine. Take the thing. Green switch on the side should disarm it.

She hands the bomb to Riley, who disarms it with a sigh of relief.

ANYA

So what now? We're still trapped.

Further down the pipe, a pained whistling echoes, along with the sound of ignited flares. The others can be heard calling from further down the pipe.

ZACK

Riley!

LEVI

You down there?

RILEY

We're here!

MIRA

This way! Hurry!

RILEY

I knew it! Ha! Come on, Anya.

4. INT. OZYMANDIAS CORRIDOR.

The walls feel close as a swarm of whistlers pursue our protagonists. Sounds of panting and feet slamming on metal mix with the cracks, pops and chitinous scratches of the whistlers. The chase races through corridors until the group reach the bridge.

LEVI

Mira, the door!

MIRA gets to the door first and holds the Commander's badge to the lock panel - it works like a key card and the door opens with a beep from the panel. LEVI ushers LUNA, ZACK, RILEY and ANYA in before he and MIRA enter. There is a series of violent cracks as a whistler swipes at them, just as the door slams shut. The whistler horde can still be heard just outside the bridge.

ZACK

At least it's quicker to get in with the commander's key.

ANYA

They're not going anywhere this time. There's too many of them and they are very angry.

MIRA

Then we need to find a way out of here. One where they can't follow.

ANYA

Best bet's probably a maintenance tunnel. Something cut off from the main corridors.

RILEY

I'll check the plans, see if there's anything leading away from the bridge.

MIRA

Good.

RILEY activates a nearby console and starts typing.

MIRA

I'll guard the door. Levi, Zack, Luna, gather as many supplies as you can - we probably won't be back here for a while. Anya, help Riley.

ANYA

You're not in charge of me.

LEVI

You know this station better than anyone, Anya. Please?

ANYA

(pause)

Fine.

ANYA walks over to help RILEY while MIRA picks up a weapon, powers it up and points it at the door. LEVI, LUNA and ZACK start opening storage hatches and packing up cartons and pouches of supplies. The whistlers continue to scratch and crack on the other side of the door.

MIRA

Riley? Anything?

RILEY

Still looking. There's a maintenance tunnel through the floor but looks like it just doubles back into the corridors.

ANYA

The whistlers could be halfway over this level by now.

MIRA

Well is there anywhere on another level we could get to?

ZACK

What about those shuttles?

LEVI

This is hardly the time to decide-

ZACK

Just the shuttle bay then. That would be far enough away to give us some breathing room, right?

MIRA
Could we get there?

RILEY
I think we could probably get to the
nearest lift-

ANYA
Most of them don't work.

RILEY
We might be able to fix it?

MIRA
Any better options?

RILEY
None I've found yet. I can keep looking.

Mira thinks for a brief moment. The sounds of whistlers trying to break in seem to surround the room now - whistles can be heard weakly as if travelling through vents.

MIRA
Let's try the lift. I'll do what I can
with the controls here. Levi, cover the
door for me.

RILEY
Right, we should be able to get down
through here.

ANYA
I'll get the tools.

LEVI
Wait - I think there's some communicators
in with the supplies. Take one of these
with you.

RILEY takes a communicator from LEVI and switches it on with a crackle of radio static, while ANYA picks up a tool kit and opens a trap door panel in the floor. They both exit by dropping into the tunnel below. LEVI walks over to MIRA and she hands him the weapon before picking up a communicator and moving over to the console. She switches on her own communicator, which gives another small burst of radio static.

LEVI
How do I-

MIRA
Just keep it pointed at the door and
squeeze the trigger as soon as you see
movement.

LEVI

Right. Thanks.

MIRA
(into communicator)
Riley? Anya? Can you hear me?

There's a moment of empty static until RILEY's voice comes through, crackling as if over a walkie-talkie.

RILEY
(through communicator)
Yeah! It's working!

MIRA
(into communicator)
Great. Keep us updated. I think I've found the lift you're heading to on the plans so I should be able to monitor its status.

She continues typing and pressing buttons on the console.

LEVI
If we do manage to make it to the shuttle bay, we're not really leaving, are we?

ZACK
Why not? What would we stay for, really?

LEVI
What about the fact that there's still hundreds of thousands of people here stuck in stasis?

ZACK
They'll be stuck in stasis whether we're here or not. This place is too broken for us to try waking them all, and it's not like we can try them one at a time. And how many of them are like the Commander?

LEVI
We could at least try.

ZACK
I'm sorry, Levi, but we'd be more likely to turn those pods into coffins than to get anyone out of them.

LEVI
And if they wake up anyway? Like we did, or Anya's group?

LUNA

What if they don't? Do you really want to spend your life waiting for strangers who might never show up?

LEVI

It's not just about the others. The six of us could build a life together, at least. Leaving the station isn't safe.

As he says this, a whistler bangs loudly against a wall just outside the room.

MIRA

(sarcastic)

Ha!

LEVI

Well it's safer than out there! Maybe there's another farm in some other part of the station. Further away from the whistlers.

ZACK

Sure, we might be able to find somewhere like that if we stayed. But leaving, we could find something so much better.

LUNA

Shouldn't we at least try to find out what else is out there? If there's anyone left from Earth, or other life we could live alongside?

LEVI

Mira, you can't think this is a good idea?

MIRA

I don't. But I don't necessarily think it's a good idea to stay here either. But, if we have to choose - and it looks like we might... I don't know what I'd be outside of the station. I can remember being other places, but they don't exist anymore. The only thing I know I can do is try to keep us all alive, here and now.

Popping/cracking intensifies.

MIRA

Which is what I'm trying to do now, if you don't mind.

5. INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL

The walls are thin metal which echo and clang with any heavy movement. Riley and Anya are trying to tread softly to avoid the attention of nearby whistlers.

ANYA

Still glad you stopped me blowing up the nest?

RILEY

Yeah. Think I'd rather go out trying to live than trying to kill.

Anya considers this.

ANYA

Maybe you're right. I'm sorry for dragging you down there.

RILEY

You didn't drag me. I chose to go.

ANYA considers for a moment.

ANYA

How much do you think the others really want to fly off into space?

RILEY

Well, I guess Zack's keen. Luna too, I think. Obviously Levi doesn't want to, but I'm not really sure why, and I can't tell what Mira wants.

ANYA

But you don't want to go?

RILEY

I...wouldn't have thought so, before. But maybe.

ANYA

Because of the whistlers?

RILEY

No. Actually yeah, a bit. But mostly...well, what would we actually do if we stayed? I hate the thought of just waiting here.

ANYA

Like me.

RILEY

No! You've had the whistlers to deal with, you've been fighting all this time. I guess, I thought maybe that would be

what I could do too but... I don't think that's actually what I want. I'm sorry.

ANYA
Why are you sorry? You're not me.

RILEY laughs.

RILEY
Right.

ANYA
It would be nice if you stayed, though.

RILEY
I'm not saying I definitely want to leave, I just mean, I can see how it might be... hope. For some other life. Something to focus on that isn't just survival. It's-

ANYA
Wait-

They stop walking. A low, popping sound can be heard through the thin tunnel walls, followed by a whistle echoing through the metal.

6. INT. OZYMANDIAS BRIDGE.

Mira is typing frantically at the console while whistlers continue to try to break into the room.

MIRA's communicator gives a short burst of static. When RILEY's voice comes through, it's clear that they're out of breath.

RILEY
(through communicator)
Mira? Are you there?

MIRA
(into communicator)
Yep, I'm here. What's your status?

RILEY
(through communicator)
We've got to the lift but they're pretty close.

MIRA
We'd better be quick then. Can you access the lift's controls?

RILEY
Yes, but there's no power supply. It's completely dead.

MIRA

Shit. Let me look...

She presses a few buttons on the control panel.

MIRA

Looks like it's still connected. I might be able to reroute power.

She begins to type again. Luna approaches her.

LUNA

Mira, can we talk?

MIRA

Er, not really the best time right now.

LUNA

Well, there might not be another time, that's kind of the point.

MIRA

Fine. What's wrong?

LUNA

(nervous)

No, nothing's wrong, I just- well, you said earlier you couldn't think what your life could be outside the station - well, I didn't want to say with Levi and Zack right there, but... I could be part of your life. Like, a big part. I know that's not enough, but maybe we could be a start and we'd figure out the rest together.

MIRA stops typing.

MIRA

I, erm... I might like that.

LUNA

(sigh of relief)

Good.

Metal scrapes somewhere overhead. The whistlers are getting close to finding a way in. MIRA's radio crackles as RILEY connects.

MIRA

But we can talk about this later. There'll be time. I promise.

RILEY

(through communicator)

Mira? How's it looking on the console?

MIRA resumes typing and clicking again.

MIRA
(into communicator)
Yep, should be working any second, let
me...

As she talks, her words are gradually acquiring more static as we transition to the next scene, where we hear her finish her message through the communicator.

7. INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL

Anya and Riley talk to Mira through the communicator while occasional cracks and scratches of keratin on metal can be heard through the walls.

MIRA
(through communicator)
...know as soon as it lights up?

There's a 'ping' as the power comes back on.

RILEY
(into communicator)
That's it! Give me a second.

RILEY tinkers with the controls, then pulls a switch and the lift cranks and judders into life. It moves for a second, then stops, with the controls giving an 'error' sound.

RILEY
Shit. What now?

They tap a few buttons. There's another whistle. This one feels closer than any of the others since they returned to the bridge.

ANYA
Riley...

RILEY
I know, I know.

Another error sound.

MIRA
(through communicator)
What's happening? Is it working?

RILEY
(into communicator)
It's saying something about an override.
I think you need to call it from up
there.

ANYA
Can we do it from down here?

RILEY
No. The folks who built this place really
didn't want anyone but the Commander
accessing these shuttles.
(into communicator)
Mira?

8. INT. OZYMANDIAS BRIDGE.

Mira is still at the console while Luna, Levi and Zack are scrambling, trying to pack as many things as they can while covering both doors and a vent in the ceiling.

MIRA
(into communicator)
Yup, I think I've found it. One second.

There's a crash and a loud whistle as the ceiling panel is breached. LUNA screams.

MIRA
GO! Get down to the others!

LEVI and ZACK run for the open hatch in the door, carrying packs of supplies.

LUNA
I don't-

MIRA
I'm right behind you.

LUNA drops down into the tunnel as MIRA presses a sequence of buttons decisively. There's a 'bing' of authorisation.

MIRA
Got it!

She runs. The whistler darts towards her and we hear a thud and a clang that could either be her drop into the tunnel or her crashing into the floor.

9. INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL.

LUNA, ZACK and LEVI's footsteps echo heavily as they race along the metal floor.

LUNA
I can't see Mira.

LEVI

She's on her way.

ZACK

Riley!

RILEY

Come on!

Another whistle echoes through the tunnel, accompanied by a loud scratching against the metal above.

ANYA

They're coming.

She flicks a switch on her weapon.

ANYA

I'll cover you.

LUNA, LEVI and ZACK slow down as they reach the lift. There is the sound of sci-fi gunfire behind them.

RILEY

Get in, hurry.

ZACK

You sure it's safe?

RILEY

Nope.

ANYA catches up.

ANYA

Where's Mira?

LEVI

Still on her way.

ANYA

Ah.

LEVI

We wait as long as we can.

A popping, scuttling noise starts to echo down the tunnel, accompanied by a piercing whistle.

ANYA

We already have. We've got to go.

LUNA

We can't-

RILEY

Wait!

Through the noises of the whistler, footsteps become audible, racing to the lift.

LUNA
Mira!

LEVI
She's here!

MIRA sprints towards the lift and throws herself in. ANYA fires her weapon at the whistler as it flings itself after MIRA, cracking and scratching. RILEY pulls a switch and the lift creaks as it starts to descend. If there's such a thing as a dry squelch, that's the sound the whistler makes as it's caught between the falling lift and the shaft.

Everyone catches their breath over the strained echoes of the lift decending.

RILEY
That was...

They exhale.

ZACK
Everyone OK? Any injuries?

LUNA
I think we're alright. Somehow.

The lift stops with a judder, and they exit into a quiet, lifeless corridor.

LEVI
Is this it?

ZACK
Where are the shuttles?

RILEY
They should be straight down this way.

LEVI
Is that where we're going?

MIRA
For now.

LEVI
Right.

They set out, their footsteps echoing harshly against the silence.

10. INT. SHUTTLE BAY

The bay is a hall about the size of an airport departure lounge. One side is made of thick glass and metal and the group's approaching footsteps sound small.

RILEY

This is it.

ZACK

It's huge.

MIRA

It should be. There's space for nine shuttles.

The voices and footsteps get a little further apart as they explore.

LUNA

Well, there's definitely not more than eight. This bay's empty.

LEVI

This one too.

ANYA

This one's still here. Next one, too.

ZACK

Look at the size of them... Hang on, looks like there's a status panel. Mira, could you...

MIRA

Sure.

She taps a few buttons.

MIRA

It's fuelled, stocked and functional. Designed to carry up to 300 passengers for up to two years. And yeah, it has lightspeed.

ZACK

Sounds like a pretty good option...

RILEY

We still don't know what's out there.

LEVI

I say we vote on it. Whatever we do, we do together.

RILEY

Seems fair.

There's a pause as no-one wants to be the first vote.

ZACK

I vote we go. There are a few star systems we could easily reach in this thing. We don't know what's there, of course...

LUNA

I say we find out. I vote to go.

RILEY

I... Yeah, me too. I'm sorry, Levi.

LEVI

No, you know what? I vote to go as well.

MIRA

Really? You're sure?

LEVI

Yeah. I think I am.

ZACK

What made you change your mind?

LEVI

You remember the graveyard we found back at the farm?

ZACK

I never went to see it myself, but yeah. I remember.

LEVI

You missed out. It was kind of lovely, actually. Flowers had grown all over it, with just these markers poking through - there must have been a hundred of them - but there was one that hadn't been filled in. It was just a pit in the ground, next to the rest, with a body laying at the bottom. Just bones, curled up like they might have just fallen asleep there and never woken up. They must have buried everyone they'd ever known until they were the last one alive.

The more I think about it, the more I realise that if we stay, if we go back to the farm or find another one, like I wanted, that's the best case scenario. And I don't want to be the last one left. I don't want any of us to be. Maybe I still will be, just on a ship instead of a station, but I think I'm going to choose to hope for something better. Or

try, anyway. Besides, some of the other ships are already gone.

ZACK

Maybe there are others already out there.

RILEY

We don't know for sure.

LEVI

But I say let's find out.

MIRA

So it's decided. We go.

ANYA

No.

RILEY

No?

ANYA

I'm not going.

RILEY

Anya, no. We're not just going to leave you here on your own.

ANYA

You've all only been here for, what? A month? But I've lived here for decades. If there is anything else out there, it's not for me.

RILEY

But you'd be-

ANYA

Alone. I'm very used to it. And I was thinking... maybe other people will wake up, like you said they might, and maybe I can help them. If I'm still here. Maybe I'll even send them on after you.

RILEY

I- I could stay. Help you out.

ANYA

No you couldn't. Thank you, Riley, for everything, but you belong with them. Not with me.

MIRA

If you're sure about this, then you should take the badge.

She gives ANYA the Commander's badge. ANYA laughs.

ANYA
I guess that makes me the Commander.

MIRA
I guess it does.

ANYA
Thank you.

MIRA
Permission to disembark, Commander?

Anya turns a lever and a pair of heavy glass doors slide open.

ANYA
Permission granted.

LEVI
Goodbye, Anya. Keep safe.

ANYA
I'll try my best.

They hug and LEVI walks through the doors into the airlock chamber beyond.

ZACK
Come on, Luna. Let's see what's out there.

ZACK
Can't wait. Goodbye, Anya.

They walk into the airlock.

RILEY
Will you be OK?

ANYA
I'm not the one heading out into a vast and uncaring universe.

RILEY
I'm not so sure about that.

ANYA
I've survived many, many years on my own. I'll manage.

They hug.

ANYA
But I will miss you.

RILEY

I'll miss you too.

RILEY joins the others in the airlock and the door closes behind them. There's a moment of silence until another pair of heavy doors starts to slowly slide open in front of them.

LEVI

(aside to Mira)

Think you can keep us alive out there, as well?

MIRA

I'll try. Things'll be different though, on a ship, day in, day out. We'll need you a lot more than we need me.

LEVI

Do you think we'll find anything?

MIRA

All we can do is hope.

The doors finish sliding into place with a deep click. We move back to the shuttle bay hall, where ANYA is watching as the shuttle door closes behind them. The whole room rumbles deeply as the shuttle slowly powers up and vast, industrial sounds layer atop one another through the layers of glass and metal, as the shuttle begins to push itself out from the station.

ANYA

Good luck.

The noises of the shuttle start to fade as ANYA begins to walk away. As the shuttle turns to silence, her footsteps become more distant, and more alone.