

EPISODE THREE

27

INT. CLARK FARM - BARN - DAY

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We hear tools clanking as Emmett reassembles his prosthetics.

EMMETT (V.O.)

Back at Rebecca's, I dismantled my prosthetics to give 'em a good cleaning. Nothing I haven't done a thousands times. Just not used to being watched.

REBECCA

So that's what the inside of an knee looks like.

EMMETT

Newer models were more contained. First gens like me end up with dirt and sand between every last tendon and muscle so it's good to open her up every so often and clean it out.

REBECCA

This barn's not exactly a hospital.

EMMETT

My legs aren't exactly organic.

REBECCA

Speaking of organic, I should check my seedlings.

Rebecca moves to her makeshift lab, examines a soil sample.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Goddamnit.

EMMETT

What is it?

REBECCA

It's already dead. How am I supposed to make money if nothing will grow?

EMMETT

Have you tried water?

REBECCA

Very funny. The water is fine, it's the soil that's the problem.

EMMETT

I mean *growing* in water.

REBECCA

What like a hydrofarm?

EMMETT

I was stationed in Sao Paulo before The Big Handshake. They fed half the town from a bioreactor, big as a skyscraper.

REBECCA

I don't have time to start a new crop. If I don't have that money in two weeks, I'm done.

EMMETT

So you need something that grows like a weed.

REBECCA

What's a water weed?

EMMETT

Algae.

Algae.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

EMMETT (CONT'D)

That's something.

REBECCA

What good is algae? It's... high in protein.

EMMETT

Good for feed.

REBECCA

I'd still need a buyer. One thing at a time.

EMMETT

So what's the first step?

REBECCA

We build a hydrofarm. But out of what?

EMMETT

What do you have?

REBECCA

Let's take a walk.

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EXT. CLARK FARM - QUONSET SHED - MOMENTS LATER

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Sounds of Rebecca's working FARM, HARVESTER CHURNING UP CROPS, IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATERING CROPS, Etc.

REBECCA

I got a whole farm's worth of crap to work with. What do we need?

EMMETT (V.O.)

Lucky for us I still have the schematics from Uruguay for reference. One more thing taking up space where my memories should be.

EMMETT

First thing you need's a basin. A big one.

REBECCA

The corrugated roof on that quonset shed? I could weld it together.

EMMETT

You don't need it?

REBECCA

It's barely standing as it is.

EMMETT

I know the feeling.

Beat.

REBECCA

Did you just make a joke?

EMMETT

I don't know, was it funny?

REBECCA

Close enough. That's the only difference between us and the machines, anymore. AI never quite cracked comedy.

EMMETT

Huh. I guess you're right. I like that.

REBECCA

So, we have our basin. What else?

EMMETT

We need something to agitate,
circulate, and distribute.

REBECCA

"We."

EMMETT

Might as well help out while I'm
here. Least I can do.

REBECCA

We can pull up the PVC from the
irrigation in the fields. The
paddle on the harvester --

EMMETT

You're talking about dismantling
your farm.

REBECCA

Well if this doesn't work, then it
won't be my farm anymore. C'mon.

EMMETT (V.O.)

We weren't two minutes into
building Rebecca's hydrofarm when
our plan already hit a snag.

We hear the hum of a CROP-MONITORING DRONE nearby.

REBECCA

Drones.

EMMETT

What's Arlin going to do if he sees
you taking apart your farm?

REBECCA

Shit.

EMMETT

Unless...

Beat.

EMMETT (V.O.)

There's always a pattern with AI.
Nothing's random.

EMMETT

There are openings. Every twenty
two minutes there's an opening of
eight hundred sixty one seconds.

REBECCA

That's not a lot of time. We'll need help.

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EXT. CLARK FARM - BARN - DAY

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Unseen under the lip of the roof, Emmett, Rebecca, and Carly hold shovels as they anxiously wait for a drone to pass.

CARLY

Are you sure about this?

EMMETT

Once this next drone passes, we'll have a little over fourteen minutes.

CARLY

No, I mean about digging up our irrigation line. Don't we need that to, oh I don't know, water the crops?

REBECCA

We'll worry about that later..

CARLY

Mama once it's done, we can't undo it. If Arlin catches on...

REBECCA

He won't.

CARLY

It's Emmett right? Please tell her this is crazy.

EMMETT

Don't look at me, I'm just a farmhand.

REBECCA

Ready, Carly? You got your shovel?

CARLY

Ready as I'll ever be.

REBECCA

Emmett, it's on you. Say when.

EMMETT'S COMS

Three. Two. One.

EMMETT

Now.

They break out into a sprint toward the field.

REBECCA

Carly, start here. Emmett, you take the last row.

EMMETT (V.O.)

We each took one. Dug up the irrigation pipes, refilled the holes as best we could, then carry the pipes back to the barn.

REBECCA

That's good, now back to the barn. Carly cover that up more, the drone's will spot that from a mile away.

CARLY

I'm trying!

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INT./EXT - CLARK FARM - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

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- A PVC pipe CLATTERS on top of a pile of others.

EMMETT (V.O.)

It's slow going waiting for the drones to pass.

- They wait for a drone to hum out of view.

EMMETT

Now.

- The SOUNDS of the trio dismantling the farm BUILDS into a SYMPHONY of corrugated metal WARBLING, pipes CLONKING, and WRENCHES loosening bolts.

EMMETT (V.O.)

The quonset hut came apart easy enough.

CARLY

That's the last one.

REBECCA

Good now slide it off towards me. Careful you don't fall.

CARLY
Bombs away!

The CORRUGATED METAL roof WARBLER as it tumbles to the ground.

REBECCA
Emmett, grab this side.

EMMETT
Yes ma'am.

EMMETT (V.O.)
Working all morning we collected everything that wasn't nailed down and most of what was.

Rebecca, Carly, and Emmett stand back to admire their work.

EMMETT
Quite the haul.

REBECCA
PVC. Roofing. Siding. Paddle blade.

CARLY
Will it be enough?

REBECCA
One way to find out.

31 INT. CIVIC PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (CPA) HEADQUARTERS - DAY 31

We hear a modern phone ringing. BEEBOOP. BEEBOOP. CLICK.

CPA COMS
Thank you for calling the Civic Protection Association, made possible by Chem-O-Grow, Inc. Growing together. Please hold --

Roy shuts it off.

ROY
Kevin, get over here, you're gonna want to see this. You too, Ali.

KEVIN
I gotta finish this paperwork, Roy.

ROY
(With reverence)
Lookie here. The BetterU SleeveXR.
(MORE)

ROY (CONT'D)
 Pretty sick, huh? I just slip this
 beauty past my elbow, turn it on,
 and bam! Twice as strong.

ALI
 (Couldn't care less)
 That's great, Roy.

ROY
 Got the custom paint job too. These
 flames glow in the dark.

The SleeveXR stiffens around Roy's arm as it blinks and HUMS.

ROY (CONT'D)
 Give me your hand.

Roy grabs Ali's hand. She yanks it back and pushes him hard.

ALI
 Don't touch me.

Roy shakes it off confidently.

ROY
 Fine. I'll do it to myself.

Roy SLAMS his hand wide on the table. Using his sleeved arm,
 he unsheathes a knife from his hip.

ROY (CONT'D)
 See this knife?

JC
 Oh shit! He's doing Aliens!

Roy touches the knife to the table between his thumb and
 pointer fingers, then pinky ring fingers, then ring middle -
 the Knife Test from *Aliens*. Faster. Faster.

ARLIN (O.S.)
 Deputy McGee!

The room leaps to their feet, immediately at attention.

ROY
 Yessir!

ARLIN
 What is that on your arm, son?

ROY
 Uh... An Exo-Sleeve sir.

ARLIN

I see that. Which Exo-sleeve did those BetterU suits sell you?

Arlin laughs. The other deputies cautiously join in. Roy laughs the loudest like he was in on the joke the whole time.

ROY

The XR, sir.

ARLIN

Let me see here. This is a fine piece of machinery.

The sleeve hums and chirps as Arlin admires it.

ARLIN (CONT'D)

But. It ain't even skin deep. Under that sleeve you're still just a man. Look here.

He slaps his arm.

ARLIN (CONT'D)

Remember when that coward slougher shot me at the Covic place? Now look, barely a scar.

JC

Damn!

ARLIN

This is the future. Not some fancy exo-bullshit. Nano tech, built right in.

ROY

Very impressive, sir.

ARLIN

Stab me.

ROY

What?

ARLIN

Take that knife behind your back and stab me.

ROY

I don't understand.

ARLIN
Shouldn't be a problem if that
SleeveXR is as fast as they say.

Roy glances nervously at the other deputies.

ARLIN (CONT'D)
Don't look at them. Stab me. Go on.

Holding the knife in his sleeved hand, Roy side-steps around Arlin looking for an opening. Finding one, he leaps in --

WHACK! Arlin slaps the knife out of Roy's hand and it skitters across the floor.

ARLIN (CONT'D)
That's speed. And this...

Arlin grabs Roy's hand - CRUNCH! - and squeezes tightly.

ARLIN (CONT'D)
This is power.

ROY
My hand! Please, you're hurting me

CRUNCH! Arlin's vice grip on Roy gets even tighter.

ARLIN
(to himself)
What the hell?

ROY
You're breaking it!

ARLIN (CONT'D)
This isn't me...it won't
stop... Ehhhh!

Using his other hand, Arlin pries open the frozen hand.

ARLIN (CONT'D)
There. Now quit your whining.

The office is silent apart from Roy's quiet whimpering.

ARLIN (CONT'D)
Oh stop being dramatic. All of you.
You got that paperwork done?

ALI
Almost, sir.

ARLIN
Well get on it. And ice that hand,
Roy, you're on watch tonight.

Arlin retreats to his office and slams the door. The deputies exchange looks --

JC
The fuck was that?

32 EXT. LAKE OVERLOOK - NIGHT

32

Carly and Ali lay side-by-side at the bank of a small lake. Crickets and frogs exchange greetings all around them.

CARLY
Roy's such an idiot. Ali, I don't know how you put up with it.

ALI
You should have seen him with his precious exo-sleeve. So proud.

CARLY
Serves him right.

They kiss.

ALI
This is nice.

ALI (CONT'D)
I like you. Especially after spending all day with those nimrods.

CARLY
Low bar.

ALI
Ha. Yeah.

Beat.

CARLY
She made me take the guitar back.

ALI
Oh Carly, I'm so sorry --

CARLY (CONT'D)

It's fine. Not like I remember how to play.

ALI (CONT'D)
Couple more paychecks and I'll buy you a guitar.

CARLY

I don't want anything bought with Chem-O-Grow money.

ALI

I don't work for Chem-O-Grow, I work for the Association.

CARLY

Don't be naive. It's one in the same.

ALI

You don't be naive. It's a job. And if you haven't noticed, they're a little hard to come by around here.

Carly softens.

CARLY

You're right. I'm sorry.

(beat)

Can't believe you were at my house this morning and didn't say hi.

ALI

Did that slougher leave?

CARLY

You mean Emmett?

ALI

Okay. Did Emmett leave?

CARLY

Not yet. He's staying another day to help finish the --

Carly trails off, unsure how much she can trust Ali now that she's a deputy.

ALI

Finish the what?

CARLY

Nothing just fixing some old crap in the barn.

ALI

You're not doing anything against regulation are you?

CARLY

What? No! Jeez you've been a deputy for a week and you're already interrogating me.

ALI

I just -- don't want you or your mom getting mixed up in anything.

CARLY

We're just trying to get by. Same as you. And the rest of this godforsaken town.

ALI

I hate it when you talk like that.

CARLY

Well you're in luck cause I gotta get back for supper. Talk to you later?

ALI

(sad.)
Yeah. Okay.

33

INT. CLARK FARM - BARN - NIGHT

33

The MATTRESS SPRINGS SQUEAK against the weight of Emmett as he tries out his bed for the night.

REBECCA

You can sleep here tonight. I know it's not much...

EMMETT

More than I've had in a long time.

REBECCA

Least I could do.

EMMETT

You still need a pump. A big one. I don't suppose you have one of those lying around.

REBECCA

No. But Dwayne Dawson might.

EMMETT

That's good.

REBECCA

Maybe. Dwayne's not one for ruffling feathers. And he's not a big fan of mine.

EMMETT

Find that hard to believe.

REBECCA

He has his reasons.
(then)
Shit. Drones.

A DEEP HUM shakes the walls as a drone moves overhead. It hovers for a moment then moves on.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

They're moving on. Phew.

EMMETT

Guess we did a good job covering our tracks.

REBECCA

Speaking of tracks, I'm guessing you'll want to get an early start tomorrow.

EMMETT

Yes, ma'am.

Outside the barn, a car pulls up.

REBECCA

That'll be Carly. Why don't you join us for supper?

EMMETT

I got a few nutrient packs left. I'll be fine with that.

REBECCA

You do eat right? I'm not much of a cook but I do make a mean lentil.

EMMETT

I said I was fine. I don't need charity.

REBECCA

It's not. It's folks looking out for one another.

EMMETT
I'd just as soon be alone.

REBECCA
Suit yourself then.

Rebecca starts to go, then turns back.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
You should be around other people,
Emmett. Those mods of yours don't
change that.

EMMETT
I know.

She opens the barn door.

REBECCA
I'll see you off in the morning.

EMMETT
I could... stay another day. Help
get the hydrofarm up and running.

REBECCA
I won't say no.

EMMETT
All right then. Goodnight.

REBECCA
G'night.

With that, Rebecca leaves.

EMMETT (V.O.)
She was just being kind, inviting
me in like that. But I didn't want
her kindness.

EMMETT
Open 0421.

As we dip into Emmett's memory once again, the sound distorts
even worse than before

OLIVIA
Daddy! You're --

SOLDIER
If we don't get out of this ravine,
those rebels'll have us surrounded.

SOUNDS OF WAR louder and louder.

EMMETT

STOP!

EMMETT COMS

*Directory Corrupted. File
Unreadable.*

LAUGHTER wafts in from the house pulling Emmett out of his sorrow. He peels back the curtain, looks toward the house.

EMMETT (V.O.)

I can hear them in there laughing,
enjoying each other.

(beat)

I had a family once. I just can't
remember them.

END OF EPISODE THREE