

EPISODE FOUR: Seizing Again

35 INT. TRUCK - DAY

35

Rebecca's truck squeaks to a stop.

REBECCA

We're here. The Dawson farm. If anyone has a big enough pump we can use, it's Dwayne Dawson.

36 EXT. JOHNSON FARM - DAY

36

She kills the engine. Doors open.

REBECCA

Might be best if you stayed here.

EMMETT

You're the boss.

Emmett closes his door. We hear Rebecca walk across gravel and climb the porch steps. A screen door creaks open.

EMMETT (V.O.)

That must be Dwayne meeting her on the porch. He doesn't look happy to see her. Or the likes of me sitting in her truck.

(Then)

But Rebecca seems to be the type that doesn't take 'no' for an answer. Yeah, he's letting her inside now. Wait he's... What's he looking at over there?

We hear the slam of a screen door closing.

EMMETT (V.O.)

They went inside. There's someone else in the barn there. Dwayne's daughter maybe? She Lifting something big and from the looks of it, heavy. A slougher. Might as well see if she needs help.

The truck door opens and shuts. Emmett starts for the barn.

EMMETT (V.O.)

She's tall. Mid-twenties. She's carrying two bags of concrete in each arm. At least 400 pounds.

EMMETT

Hey there. I'm Emmett. A friend of Rebecca's. You served, right?

Seeing Emmett, she drops the bags.

EMMETT (V.O.)

I'll show her my crest.

EMMETT

See? I was Remote Ops.

EMMETT (V.O.)

Now she's showing me her tattoo.

EMMETT

You were logistics? Should've known the way you were hauling that cement like it was hay. Need some help?

ROCKY

(EQ as glitchy gibberish)
What I need help with is my voice processor.

Rocky speaks in a series of DIGITAL GLITCHES and NOISES.

EMMETT (V.O.)

Her voice processor's broken. Cyberattack probably glitched her comms. Left her with this digital stutter. I've heard it before.

ROCKY

(EQ as glitchy gibberish)
I break break but be right back.

EMMETT (V.O.)

Where's she going now? Am I supposed to follow? No, she's coming back.

EMMETT

What's this?

EMMETT (V.O.)
 (reading)
 "Preverbal translator"?
 (to Rocky)
 This links to an intractable,
 right?

ROCKY
 (EQ as glitchy gibberish)
 Open hear words not static.

EMMETT
 All right then.

EMMETT'S COMS
 Download complete.

EMMETT
 Um... say something?

ROCKY
 (her normal voice)
 Can you understand me?

EMMETT
 I'll be. Yes! Yes I can.

Rocky pulls him in for a hug.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
 Oof.

EMMETT (V.O.)
 She's hugging me --
 (as if squeezed too hard)
 -- hard. Very hard.

EMMETT
 All right, all right now.

ROCKY
 It's been so long since I could
 talk to anyone. Oh my god you can't
 know how horrible that feels. To
 not be able to just talk. And you
 can understand me!

EMMETT
 Well, talk away.

ROCKY
 Yes! I'm Rocky. Short for Roxanne.
 That was my mom's name.

(MORE)

ROCKY (CONT'D)

I'm just moving this concrete out
back. Wanna grab that bag?

Emmett groans with effort as he picks up one bag.

EMMETT

Jesus.

38

INT. DAWSON FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

38

We hear coffee being poured then Dwayne joins Rebecca at the
kitchen table.

DWAYNE

You're building a what?

REBECCA

An algae hydrofarm.

DWAYNE

(Not a bad idea)

Soil's locked but the water's good.

REBECCA

We can sell it for feed. You've
still got buyer contacts right?

DWAYNE

Some. But I am not getting involved
in another one of your cockamamie
schemes.

REBECCA

This could be a real solution. For
all of us. At least until we can
get this soil unlocked.

DWAYNE

There's no unlocking that soil.
Best thing to do is keep our head
low and hope they don't go raising
seed prices again.

REBECCA

You're wrong. We have to fight
back.

DWAYNE

Arlin would never let you take away
his milk money.

REBECCA

It's my equipment on my farm.
Completely within regulation.

DWAYNE

He'll find something. He always
does.

REBECCA

He won't even know. At least until
the prototype is complete and then
he'll be too late.

DWAYNE

It's too risky.

REBECCA

I can't keep going like this,
Dwayne. Something has to give.

DWAYNE

Well it ain't me. You should go.

REBECCA

At least let me borrow a pump.
(then)
Please. They'll take my farm. It's
all I have left.

DWAYNE

Well you're not dragging me down
with you. Not again.

REBECCA

I deserve that. I know I do. I'm
just... I'm trying to make it
right.

Dwayne sighs. *He knows she is. But --*

DWAYNE

You're too late.

39

EXT. DAWSON FARM - BEHIND THE BARN - SAME

39

WOMP! Emmett drops the heavy bag on a pile and sits to catch
his breath.

EMMETT

You were on the ground for Cabal
Christmas?

ROCKY

EMP knocked everyone out. When I woke up, I couldn't speak. Not in any language people understand anyway.

EMMETT

VA couldn't help you?

ROCKY

More like wouldn't. Said I was "otherwise capable" so...

EMMETT

Voice control is neural so if one line of code is wrong, you'd be a vegetable.

ROCKY

I don't care. This is the first conversation I've had in three years. Dad tries to understand but without an implant it's just gibberish to him.

EMMETT

At least you had family to come home to.

ROCKY

Doesn't feel like home.

EMMETT

No, I don't guess it would.

40

INT. DAWSON FARMHOUSE - PORCH - SAME

40

CREAK... SLAM! The screen door closes as Rebecca follows Dwayne to the porch.

REBECCA

It's a risk, I know, but I have to try. I have to do something.

DWAYNE

It's farming. You take the good with the bad.

REBECCA

This isn't farming. We're not farmers to them. We're a problem. And Arlin is the solution.

DWAYNE

Sometimes you have a bad year --

REBECCA

Bad year? Wake up, Dwayne. The Sanders packed in last week. The Goldsteins the week before that. I'll probably be next. How long you think you can hold out? Think about Rocky. Think about her future.

DWAYNE

Everything I do is for my daughter's well being.

Dwayne and Rebecca whip their heads toward a faint BUZZING.

REBECCA

Drones.

DWAYNE

Security drones.

THREE SECURITY DRONES - their buzzing higher, more menacing than the others - descend on the farm.

REBECCA

You due for an inspection?

DWAYNE

No I am not and even if I was, these are security drones. This is 'cause you're here. You bring nothing but trouble.

REBECCA

Dwayne, please --

DWAYNE

Stay away from my family. You and that slougher.

A LEAD DRONE descends to Dwayne's eye level.

LEAD DRONE

Please prepare for inspection.

DWAYNE

I already had my yearly. Not three months ago.

LEAD DRONE
 Association protocol demands
 growers provide full access for
 quarterly inspections.

DWAYNE
 Quarterly? Since when?

LEAD DRONE
 Today. Please prepare for
 inspection.

DWAYNE
 Rocky!

ROCKY
 (EQ as glitchy gibberish)
 I heard, Dad. Not stupid.

REBECCA
 Come on, Emmett. We're leaving.

EMMETT
 Goodbye, Rocky. Nice to meet you.

41 INT. CPA HEADQUARTERS - ARLIN'S OFFICE - SAME

41

CPA COMS
 Thank you for calling the Civil
 Protection Office. Your security
 is our top priority. As Chief
 Arlin Frey --

Arlin plugs some numbers into a keyboard. Moments later,
 SILVAN CASPER, 40s, smarmy and slick, materializes on screen.

SILVAN
 Hello Arlin. To what do I owe the
 pleasure of this call?

Arlin shakes his near-empty bottle.

ARLIN
 I'm out.

SILVAN
 Already?

ARLIN
 And I'm seizing again. I need that
 injection.

SILVAN

What can I say, your credit's maxed out. My hands are tied.

ARLIN

I've been doing some salvage work. Couple military grade appendages. Mint condition minus a couple bullet holes.

SILVAN

(laughing)

Bullet holes? You find 'em like that?

ARLIN

You really want to know?

SILVAN

Probably better I don't.

ARLIN

So? What'll get me?

SILVAN

Couple arms might get a re-up on that Validan.

ARLIN

I need another injection. I need an upgrade.

SILVAN

That's gonna cost you more than slougher scraps, my friend.

ARLIN

What about a neural implant? First gen remote ops. What's that worth?

SILVAN

Working condition? Those are rare. Maybe four, even six month supply.

ARLIN

I need a damn upgrade. I'm chasing my tail here.

SILVAN

There is something I just got in. For our singular clients.

ARLIN

I'm listening.

SILVAN
How much is your future worth?

ARLIN
I've given you every last dime I
got, you think I'm not bought in?

SILVAN
I know you have. I'm talking about
those deputies of yours.

ARLIN
Go on.

SILVAN
You familiar with our Platinum
referral program?

42 INT. BARN - NIGHT

42

Crickets chirp outside the barn.

REBECCA
Go on and get charged up, I'll make
some tea.

EMMETT
We still need that pump.

REBECCA
Well we're not going to get it from
Dwayne. Chicken shit.

EMMETT
Imagine he's terrified of losing
anymore than he already has.

REBECCA
Ever since Rocky got back, with her
voice all messed up. He's changed.

EMMETT
So where can you find one?

REBECCA
The Sanders had a pump, but the CPA
would've seized it all by now.

EMMETT
Who has the largest operation?

REBECCA
That's easy. Chem-O-Grow. Why?

And exciting idea dawns on Emmett.

EMMETT

I know where we can get a pump.

END OF EPISODE FOUR