

The Orphans  
Episode I: The Crash

By

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

THE ORPHANS  
EPISODE I: THE CRASH

Scene: 1 The Crash

SOUND: UNDERWATER

NORA

(NARRATION)

The first memory I have is of water. It was soft, peaceful. I felt no fear, no pain, no suffering. I still go back to that memory when I feel afraid. What came next none of us could quite grasp.

SOUND: AN ALARM BEGINS TO SOUND

SOUND: WATER BEGINS TO SPILL FROM THE TANK

SOUND: NORA COUGHING, SPLUTTERING

SOUND: AERONAUTICS SOUND.

NORA

Hello?!

GEOFFREY

Test Evacuation successful, continue pods two through nineteen.

SOUND: PODS OPENING AND SPILLING THEIR CONTENTS ONTO THE METAL FLOOR

SOUND: COUGHING, CONFUSION, SCREAMING.

SOUND: PEOPLE CALLING OUT FOR HELP

GEOFFREY

Evacuation successful. Begin mobile mainframe transfer. And welcome all.

SOUND: THE NEWLY AWAKENED SILENCE THEMSELVES

GEOFFREY

Look, I'm going to level with you, I don't have the time or quite frankly the desire to speak to you for any longer than I already have, I have my own things to deal with, after all we are about to cra-ra-ra. Have a lovely landing!

SOUND: A DEAFENING CRASH

MUSIC: MUSICAL INTRO

ANNOUNCER (NORA)

"The Orphans" Episode one: The Crash.

SCENE 2: The Cull

NORA

(NARRATION)

It was chaos when we first landed. Things came for us.

SOUND: RUNNING, POUNDING FEET, SCREAMING, WIND

MALE VOICE

Go! Go!

OLIVIA

Wait!

SOUND: OLIVIA SCREAMINGSOUND: VICIOUS ANIMALISTIC SOUNDS, HEAVY POUNDING FEET, QUADRUPEDSOUND: SOUND OF SCREAMING, RIPPING TEARING FLESHSOUND: FRANTIC BREATHING AND RUNNING, DISTANT SCREAMING AND ANIMAL NOISESSOUND: A DEAFENING ROAR, THE SCREAMS ARE SILENCED

NORA

(NARRATION)

We kept running until we couldn't stand anymore. There were six of us. Three men, three women.

SOUND: THE NIGHT SOUNDS OF AN ALIEN FORESTSOUND: HEAVY BREATHING, CRYING

RICHARD

What do we do now?

WILLIAM

(QUIETLY)

We need to find shelter.

OLIVIA

What about food!?

VALERIE

(WHISPERING)

Be quiet. They could still be out there.

RICHARD

Don't be stupid, they couldn't have followed us this far.

NORA

No, she's right. Let's just stay quiet for a bit longer, make sure. Is anyone hurt?

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

I am. One of those things swiped me, I've got a gash down my arm.

OLIVIA

I can bandage you up.

RICHARD

With what?

OLIVIA

You can use long leaves to keep cover the wound. Make sure it's not exposed. I'll go get some stuff.

SOUND: OLIVIA RUNS AWAY FROM THE GROUP TO FIND SUPPLIES

RICHARD

What was that thing chasing us?

VALERIE

It was more than one.

WILLIAM

They were big.

NORA

And strong.

WILLIAM

I was running with two others survivors, and one of them pounced on them.

RICHARD

What? We need to name these things.

WILLIAM

Um, I mean...giant bears?

RICHARD

No, that's stupid.

WILLIAM

You name it then.

RICHARD

Okay...ummm... an Untamed.

BAZ

(LAUGHS)

RICHARD

What? It's a good name!

WILLIAM

Fine, we'll go with it. One of the untamed...(laughs)  
I can't do it.

VALERIE

You could just call them dogs.

NORA

Yeah, I like it. It's simple.

WILLIAM

And not stupid.

RICHARD

Hey!

SOUND: QUIET LAUGHTER FROM THE GROUP

WILLIAM

Right, so as I was saying, the dogs are vicious. They took down two survivors at once, they just tore into them.

NORA

Did anyone see how many survivors there were?

VALERIE

There were 15, maybe 20?

NORA

There's only six of us here. They can't have gotten that many. It takes longer than that to eat someone.

BAZ

They weren't eating the bodies, they left them.

NORA

What? So they were just killing us?

BAZ

Maybe.

WILLIAM

Does anyone remember how we even got here?

RICHARD

We ran.

WILLIAM

No, how did we crash?

VALERIE

I can't remember...

NORA

No, me neither.

BAZ

No...I can't remember anything.

RICHARD

Neither can I.

NORA

So no one remembers anything!?

SOUND: OLIVIA SCREAMING IN THE DISTANCE, RUNNING

SOUND: BREAKING STICKS NEARBY, ROBOTIC SOUNDS

RICHARD

What is it?

SOUND: THE ROBOTIC SOUNDS GROWING NEARER, FEET, BIPEDAL

WILLIAM

Shut up.

SOUND: OLIVIA CRASHING THROUGH THE WOODS

OLIVIA

Something's coming!

NORA

Get behind us.

MUSIC: TENSE

SOUND: ROBOTICS CRASHING THROUGH THE TREES

GEOFFREY

HELLO!

SOUND: THE PEOPLE YELP IN SURPRISE

GEOFFREY

I'm Geometrically Fabricated and Functional Reasoning Unit, but you can call me Geoffrey, don't think too hard about the acronym. (long silence) Has the crash damaged your speech centers?

NORA

Umm...No.

GEOFFREY

How curious then that you fail to communicate a simple greeting. It is very rude, if I do say so myself.

WILLIAM

What are you?

GEOFFREY

I am the functional reasoning unit for the Venture contained within a version 8 backup bot. I was transferred just before the crash.

BAZ

No way!

WILLIAM

Venture?

GEOFFREY

The ship you just crashed in. I know you've just been through a "trauma" but please try and keep up.

NORA

Do you know why the ship crashed?

SOUND: THUNDER BEGINS TO RUMBLE IN THE DISTANCE

GEOFFREY

I was hoping that you could illustrate that point. I was transferred to this vehicle, and it appears that my memory banks were damaged before the transfer was complete.

RICHARD

Do you know who any of us are?

GEOFFREY

I'm afraid not, I have no memories predating approximately 5 minutes before the crash.

VALERIE

Did you see those things chasing us?

GEOFFREY

Your specificity is entralling.

NORA

The dogs that attacked the survivors.

GEOFFREY

Well, that explains the corpses.

WILLIAM

How many?

GEOFFREY

Nine. Skulls crushed. Brains everywhere. Horrible way to go, well I assume. This of course isn't counting those who died in the crash.

WILLIAM

(HEAVES)

I'm gonna be sick

SOUND: WILL MOVES AWAY FROM THE GROUP AND IS SICK

GEOFFREY

Oh, I appear to have said something rather graphic.

NORA

But did you see them?

GEOFFREY

No, I'm afraid not, they must have left before I disembarked the ship.

RICHARD

What do you want then?

GEOFFREY

You would think that would be rather obvious.

RICHARD

Pretend it isn't.

GEOFFREY

Well, I would like to return to, well wherever I came from, none too clear on that point myself. And if that is to happen, you are my best hope.

BAZ

Hang on, Backup Bots have a homing signal that transmits as soon as they land.

RICHARD

I thought you couldn't remember anything?

BAZ

I don't... I don't think I do... I just know...

GEOFFREY

Well in any case, my homing signal has been disabled. I cannot access it in my settings function.

WILLIAM

How is that possible?

BAZ

It shouldn't be!

GEOFFREY

And yet, it is.

NORA

Look, we can deal with that later. That storm is getting closer and the sun is setting. We need to find shelter now.

### SCENE 3: SHELTER

SOUND: LOUD RUMBLING THUNDER, POURING RAIN, THE ECHOES OF A CAVE.

NORA

(NARRATION)

We found a cave just large enough for us all to fit. The robot stood guard. None of us quite knew whether  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NORA (cont'd)  
or not we could trust it, but we could trust it more than whatever was out in those woods. We were cold, hungry, and scared and everything started to sink in. We didn't know who we were. It hit some of us harder than others.

OLIVIA

I hate the rain.

RICHARD

Be happy you're not in it then.

WILLIAM

What's your name? I'm Will.

VALERIE

Oh...I'm...Valerie.

RICHARD

You look like an Valerie

VALERIE

What's that supposed to mean? You don't even remember what a Valerie is supposed to look like. Bet you've got a shit name.

RICHARD

What's and Valerie isn't?!

NORA

I'm Nora.

RICHARD

I'm Richard

BAZ

Baz.

OLIVIA

Umm...Olivia...I think.

SOUND: OLIVIA BEGINS TO CRY

NORA

Hey, don't cry. It's okay, we're safe here.

OLIVIA

How do you know?! For all any of us know those things are gonna come back and kill us in our sleep.

BAZ

That's why Geoffrey's keeping watch.

OLIVIA

Yeah, and who's to say he isn't working with them?!

GEOFFREY

Oh, Excuse me, it is quite rude to talk about someone behind their back.

OLIVIA

Sorry, Sorry.

NORA

Listen, there is a lot that we don't know right now. But what I do know is that we'll figure this out. Together.

OLIVIA

Okay.

NORA

Try to get some rest. We're gonna have a lot of work tomorrow.

OLIVIA

Alright, Yeah.

NORA

(NARRATION)

It hit Olivia the hardest. You could see it behind her eyes. We were lost. Fresh and clean, barely fighting to survive.

#### SCENE 4: The Mission

SOUND: ROBOTICS

SOUND: NORA WALKS UP

NORA

Good morning.

GEOFFREY

In what way?

NORA

What?

GEOFFREY

Do you mean to say that this is a morning which is good, a sure expression of sarcasm considering our rather dire situation. Or do you mean this as a meaningless expression of greeting reserved exclusively for the early hours of a day?

NORA

The second.

GEOFFREY

I see.

NORA

Any activity last night?

GEOFFREY

There was a small mammal crawling up the third tree to the left.

NORA

A threat?

GEOFFREY

No, I believe it simply wanted nuts, as these things tend to do.

NORA

Right. Any sign of the dogs?

SOUND: A DEAFENING ROAR IS HEARD FROM OVER THE HORIZON

GEOFFREY

Is this is the sort of event to which you were referring?

NORA

Yes, thank you Geoffrey.

SOUND: THE OTHERS RUNNING TO JOIN AT THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE

WILLIAM

How far out?

NORA

It seems far off, I don't think we need to worry about it just yet.

OLIVIA

Are you sure?

NORA

Yeah, it was about three, maybe four clicks to the...I don't know, can you call that East? That's where the sun's rising.

RICHARD

Let's just presume.

NORA

Geoffrey, which direction's the ship?

GEOFFREY

Well, If we base this off your estimation of magnetic fields, the ship would be due west of our location.

NORA

Right. We need to get to that ship.

RICHARD

What? Are you kidding?

NORA

We need supplies, we need to eat. That ship is the only source of supplies that we know of.

RICHARD

And what if the dogs are there?

NORA

We need to take that chance, otherwise we're going to starve.

RICHARD

What we need to do is find proper shelter, we can't stay in this cave forever.

NORA

Fine, you Baz, Olivia, and Valerie go and find shelter, find somewhere isolated, somewhere that's gonna be harder for them to get in. Go North. William, Geoffrey, and I will go to the ship and get supplies. We'll meet back here by sunset. Anyone have a problem with that?

SOUND: SILENCE IN THE CONVERSATION

NORA

Right, let's go.

BAZ

Wait. I want to come with you guys.

NORA

Okay, come on.

#### SCENE 5: The Ship

SOUND: DAYTIME SOUNDS OF THE FOREST, ALIEN BIRDS.

SOUND: THE GROUPS STEPS, FOUR SETS, ROBOTIC FEET.

SOUND: FLIES, THOUSANDS OF THEM.

NORA

(NARRATION)

As we approached the ship, we saw them. More than half a dozen bodies mangled across the field. The flies got there before we did. The smell was...I've yet to come across anything like it since.

WILLIAM

(GROANS AT SMELL)

Awe, fuck me.

BAZ

It's alright, mate.

NORA

Cover your mouths. Just power through, we're almost there.

GEOFFREY

Fascinating.

NORA

What?

GEOFFREY

How easily these creatures tore through your delicate little bodies.

NORA

Just keep going.

SOUND: STEPS ON GRASS TURN TO STEPS ON METAL

SOUND: SOUNDS OF THE OUTDOORS FADE AWAY TO BE REPLACED WITH THE SOUNDS OF SHIFTING METALS, AND DEEP CAVERNS.

WILLIAM

Alright, where are we going? This thing seems too big and we need a plan.

NORA

How big is this thing Geoffrey?

GEOFFREY

The Argonaut is precisely 562 meters long, by 393 meters at its widest point, with an overall height of 150 meters.

BAZ

Awe, Great.

NORA

Any idea where we can find supplies?

GEOFFREY

The specificity of your race is astounding. But in any case, yes, follow me.

#### SCENE 6: The Dog

SOUND: THREE SETS OF FEET WALKING THROUGH THE FOREST DURING THE DAY

RICHARD

(NARRATION)

We'd been walking for a couple hours now. It was approaching midday and we didn't have a thing to show for it. The forest wouldn't break, and if we didn't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD (cont'd)

find something soon we'd have to turn back to meet the others in time. Olivia was riding my last nerve. If we didn't get somewhere soon I'd have killed her myself.

OLIVIA

How much longer are we gonna keep walking like this?

VALERIE

Until we find shelter.

OLIVIA

There has to be a clearing somewhere. I'm so tired.

RICHARD

Shut up! Just shut up! Please, can we just have quiet for two seconds without you talking shit?!

OLIVIA

I'm sorry, I'm just saying I think we could stop somewhere, I think it could-

RICHARD

Please, just shut up

SOUND: A DEAFENING ROAR, CLOSE BY.

RICHARD

What?! How are they this close!?

OLIVIA

What do we do!?

VALERIE

Shut the fuck up and climb!

SOUND: CLIMBING TREES

SOUND: SHATTERING TREES, FALLING TREES, LARGE QUADRUPED FEET APPROACHING

SOUND: LARGE ANIMAL BREATHING

SOUND: SNIFF

VALERIE

(NARRATION)

We got high enough just in time for it to come through the trees. It was huge. None of us could get a good look at it. It was a mass of fur and legs, one of the dogs from the ship. Something wasn't right about it. It looked wrong, smelled disgusting, I had to hold back from gagging. I thought the other two were going to lose it. Then came the sounds.

SOUND: CLICKING FROM THE ANIMAL, GUTTURAL. GROWLS.

(CONTINUED)

SOUND: A COLOSSAL CALL.

SOUND: THE CLICKING STOPS, THE ANIMAL TURNS, RUNS AWAY

OLIVIA

Did it just leave? Like it had frightened...?

VALERIE

Or called away...?

RICHARD

Right, let's get moving.

SCENE 7: Vestiges

SOUND: THE COLOSSAL SOUND AGAIN

WILLIAM

What was that?

NORA

I don't know, let's keep going. We're nearly there, right?

GEOFFREY

Yes, in fact it's just up there on your right.

NORA

What is it exactly?

GEOFFREY

An armory.

NORA

Right, look for some kind of container, something to carry everything back in. Stay on guard.

SOUND: DOOR SHIFTING

NORA

(NARRATION)

The second we opened that door a new smell hit us It tore through our nostrils. It was decay mixed with something sickly sweet.

NORA

There's someone in here.

WILLIAM

Alive?

NORA

I don't see how it could be.

BAZ

What do you mean?

NORA

Come have a look.

NORA

(NARRATION)

His neck had been torn open. It looked as though his spinal chord had been severed. His flesh was gray with rot.

WILLIAM

You think the crash did this?

NORA

Maybe.

BAZ

What else could it have been?

NORA

I don't know. Let's just be on our guard in case it wasn't just the crash. This place has killed enough people, I don't plan on being one of them.

WILLIAM

Fuck me, look at that.

NORA

(NARRATION)

There was every kind of weapon you could imagine lining the far wall.

NORA

Thus is it boys, grab as many on as you can. You too Geoffrey. If we are gonna survive, we're gonna need to defend ourselves.

GEOFFREY

If I must.

MUSIC: TRANSITION

SOUND: ROBOTIC LEGS MOVING, FOUR SETS OF FEET

GEOFFREY

You shall find the greenhouse on the right hand side and kitchen on the left.

NORA

Right, Geoffrey you take the greenhouse. Find me seeds, potatoes, something we can grow. Will, I need you to go to the kitchen, we need stuff that will last. Baz, with me. We'll scout ahead and see if there's any tech we need.

WILLIAM

Great.

GEOFFREY

As you wish.

SOUND: THE GROUP DISBANDS

SOUND: BAZ AND NORA BEGIN TO WALK FORWARD

NORA

I really don't like this place.

BAZ

I know what you mean.

NORA

It just feels like...

BAZ

Like death.

NORA

Yeah...I don't want to have to come back here.

NORA

(NARRATION)

Ahead of us was a door, it was larger and grander than anything we'd come across yet.

BAZ

What do you think's behind that one?

NORA

With any luck, something useful.

SOUND: THE PAIR FORCE THE DOOR OPEN

SOUND: RUNNING FEET

SOUND: A HUMAN-LIKE GROWLING

SOUND: POUNCING

SOUND: BAZ SCREAMING

BAZ

Ah, get it off me!

SOUND: THRASHING

SOUND: THE THING FALLS TO THE FLOOR

SOUND: A HUMAN LIKE ROAR, RUNNING

SOUND: A GUNSHOT

BAZ

What was that?

NORA

I don't know, it looked human.

BAZ

Not the eyes.

NORA

(NARRATION)

I looked into its eyes; Baz was right. they weren't human. There were no discernible pupils or irises. Instead there were green curves, twisting up and around the eye, flashes of gold and silver lining the green. Its skin was gray and rotting. Parts of it had been ripped open, its guts were just as gray as the skin. It was the exact same as the body in the armory.

NORA

Something tells me this isn't an isolated incident. Let's check this place for anything we could use, and get out of here quick. You go check the console, I'm gonna check the storage.

SOUND: WALKING ON METAL

SOUND: OPENING CUPBOARDS

BAZ

(FROM ACROSS THE ROOM)

What do you think this place was?

NORA

It looks like the bridge of the ship. Those big metal shutters are covers for the windshield. They deploy before a crash to prevent any more damage.

SOUND: NORA OPENING A CABINET

NORA

Ah yes!

BAZ

(FROM ACROSS THE ROOM)

What have you got?

NORA

Voice recorders! This is great, we can record everything.

BAZ

Umm... Nora... You may wanna come look at this.

SOUND: NORA WALKING

NORA

What?

BAZ

It's you.

NORA

(RECORDING)

This is corporal Nora Evers, we've reported an emergency aboard. It is unclear the origin of the distress, but it has affected most of the crew. We've reported numerous deaths aboard including that of Major Valerie Steel. We've had no choice but to-

SOUND: SCREEN SHUTTING DOWN

NORA

Where'd it go!?

BAZ

I'll try to getting it back.

SOUND: SOUND OF KEYS TAPPING, COMPUTER SOUNDS.

SOUND: A LARGE CRASH SOUNDS. METAL SHUTTERS RAISING

BAZ

Shit.

NORA

What is it?

BAZ

The window shutters, they're opening.

NORA

It's fine so long as it doesn't-

SOUND: THE ROAR OF SEVERAL OF THE HUMANOID CREATURES FROM FAR OFF

NORA

Great. Let's go, now!

BAZ

Wait, look!

NORA

(NARRATION)

Out the window, far out in the distance was some kind of structure. It was huge, Maybe 20 stories high, finishing in a large dome. This was no natural structure, someone had built it. Other intelligent life was on this planet.

SOUND: A ROAR

NORA

We need to go, run!

SOUND: RUNNING SOUNDS

NORA

Get the door!

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING

SOUND: RUNNING FEET

WILLIAM

( FROM FAR OFF )

What's happened!?

NORA

Just go!

SOUND: RUNNING FADES AWAY.

( END )