

Gamma's Green Glow (S5, E11)

Rev: The Critshow contains elements of horror, fantasy violence, and adult language. Content warnings can be found in the episode description.

SFX: INTRO MUSIC

Jake: Guys, life is hard for a big-headed man.

Rev: Oh, fuck. I feel that.

Jake: Yeah.

Megan: I don't understand, but I believe you.

Jake: I have been hunting for a bowler hat for a Dr. John Watson costume for weeks. For weeks and weeks. And, I mean, like, I could find them. Like, they exist.

Rev: Yeah.

Jake: But it's like an honest to god, expensive bowler hat. Costume store hats? Man, they're tiny.

Rev: Do you know the size of your head?

Jake: 7 3/8 to 7 1/2.

Rev: What does that translate to ... Inches, do you know?

Jake: 24-ish, I think?

Rev: Yeah. I'm like 23 1/2, 23 3/4.

Megan: I have no idea what my head circumference inches is, but I'm terrified to see how it relates now. [Laughs]

Rev: It's just — it's an odd measurement that anytime you work at a theatre company, they take like all of your measurements. So I always got to hear the size of my giant gourd head screamed across the room to a seamstress.

Megan: [Laughs]

Jake: I just know that any time I tried to buy superhero cowls, like almost everyone makes them in a 23 or 23 and a half inch, and the 23 and a half is always like, uh, it's a little too snug. I can't just wear it for the day. It's gonna get way too uncomfortable.

Rev: Are you going to, once you get this costume finished — assuming you find the hat — are you going to submit to the Halloween costume contest?

Jake: That seems unethical.

Rev: Yes. I was going to point out you can't, because you work here.

All: [Laugh]

Megan: I was waiting for you to say yes, so I could tell you, "Well, that's a terrible idea. Cancel your plans."

Jake: However, if the costume is good enough that you don't recognize me ...

Rev: Oh, then absolutely.

Jake: It seems hard to pull off when it's just a bowler hat. [Laughs]

Megan: [Laughs]

Rev: We've already gotten some submissions. I have been storing them in our private Discord that we have for The Critshow. Like, not — our work one.

Jake: The cast.

Megan: For the CritCast.

Rev: Yeah.

Megan: They're so good. They're amazing.

Rev: Oh, my lord. I cannot wait to start sharing these. So yeah, if you are interested in submitting, make sure to either send those to us at thecast@thecritshowpodcast.com, or tag us on social media, and you can hashtag it #CritOrTreat. And I believe those are due in by ... I think it's like November the 3rd, but it's the Friday right after Halloween, because Halloween kind of falls on a weird day. We want to make sure we gave Halloween weekend. So if you submit your costume, and then if it's related to the show somehow or you get the logo in there or something, we'll put your name in twice. And we will draw three winners at random who's gonna get a spooky box!

Jake: [Ghost noises]

Megan: We're gonna curse at them. I mean, we're gonna curse them.

Rev: Curse at them.

Jake: Fuck you, box.

Megan: I definitely — I guarantee, I'll personally curse at every single box that goes out. I'll open it up, I'll yell, "Fuck you, box," and then close it up real fast to contain it.

Rev: I wonder if they open it, if they'll hear that.

Megan: That'd be great.

Rev: We'll have to be aware of like who's getting the prize.

Megan: [Laughs] Yeah.

Rev: And who they're opening it in front of. Because that could be quite jarring if they're like, "Grandma, I got a package in the mail!"

Megan: "Look, Grandma!"

All: [Laugh]

Jake: Open it, and they just hear a whisper on the wind: "Fuck you, box."

Rev: Well, we'd also like to take a moment to thank the new patrons who joined us in the month of September: Amelia Morgana, Erin Linderman, James McClenning, Jack W, Dominic & Finn, Brandon, Dave, and Fidrych. So thank you to those who joined us in the month of September, and thank you to everyone who joins us on Patreon every month. You can find all the information about that at Patreon.com/TheCritshow.

Megan: I'm pretty sure I have a tape measure in my purse, so I'm gonna go find out how big my head is. I'll be right back.

Rev: OK. Are we going to come back to this information, or ...?

Megan: Someday.

Rev: [Laughs] OK.

Jake: [Laughs] This is next week's intro.

Rev: To be continued!

SFX: RECAP MUSIC

Jake: Can I use one of my Scientist moves, here?

Rev: For sure.

Jake: Because yeah. I mean, it feels like we are very, like ... We're like, we can't use this EMP grenade. Wanna see if I can find any insight into, or can we?

Rev: Yeah.

Jake: Fucking boxcars.

Kim: Think so carefully about when you ask him. These are genie rules.

Rev: And much like a djinn, be very careful how you word your question.

Kim: [Laughs]

Jake: What is the most safe and viable way to utilize this EMP grenade?

Rev: So if you want to use this EMP grenade in a way that it will not be entirely dangerous for the ship. You know, it is not an enormous space. There's a lot of overlapping areas. You know, Megan got the idea that really the only place that you could use it would be inside of the docking bay. That being said, this is a space station. This is an advanced world where space travel is the norm, and EMPs can occur naturally in space. So the emergency gear for a space faring society would probably either be able to survive an EMP, or at least boot back up fairly quickly after being exposed to one. So with one of these suits on, someone could use the EMP in the docking bay, get sucked out into space, let the EMP pulse move past them, and then kick the life support system on. And hopefully, do it all before being pulled into Hydarnes's atmosphere.

SFX: RECAP MUSIC FADES

Rev: Jake, you have just been struck with the radical idea that someone could stand in a spacesuit inside of the hangar, set off the EMP, be sucked out into the vacuum of space, and the suit would not take enough damage to not function properly, so you could kick it on after you were in the vacuum of space. And it would hit the bulk of this creature without hitting any of the sensitive systems inside of this station.

Jake: I love that from the listeners' perspective, we just went straight from you explaining this idea, and you instantly going, "This radical idea!"

All: [Laugh]

Jake: Which seems a little masturbatory.

Rev: I saw the gleam in your eyes.

All: [Laugh]

Rev: There's not a single person here — maybe Kim might not want to be sucked into the vacuum of space — but I feel like the three of you would jump at the opportunity to pull off this maneuver.

Megan: Absolutely.

Tass: Yeah.

Jake: Yeah.

Tass: Yeah.

Jake: Yeah. I will explain this to the squad. I'll go, "OK. Who wants to die like a rock star?"
[Laughs]

Tass: "What? Me. What?"

Rev: Isn't that what we're all here for?

Megan: That's all I've ever wanted.

Jake: "I'm pretty sure that in order to solve this whole problem of where is safe to activate the EMP, that we could do it from the docking bay. And somebody is just gonna have to be brave enough to put on a space suit, powered down, and hit that bad boy, and then get sucked out into the void of space, and then pop it on. Thus surviving, and thus ensuring that the EMP grenade hits most of the monster, and not anything important on the ship."

Tass: "That is terrifying."

Megan: "Even if this EMP goes off and everything that's powered down is mostly unaffected, once that forcefield goes down, everything in the docking is getting sucked out, right?"

Kim: "Yeah. Unless we can find a way to secure stuff."

Tass: "Yeah, that would mean our ship would go down to the EMP as well. And I don't know how long that takes to, like, reboot. Even if we do secure it."

Jake: "Yeah."

Tass: "I'm stuck on how do we secure our entire ass ship? Like, that's tough."

Jake: "Hold on. You've seen Top Gun. They secure whole planes and shit."

Tass: "Yeah. Against the vacuum of space, though? Like, without it ripping apart? Like, us throwing some ratchet straps here and there isn't gonna not rip the ship in half."

Jake: "One way to find out."

Kim: I'm looking around at, like, Carrington and Riley. You know, people who have been to space a lot more often. "I mean, surely there's a way to secure vehicles inside of the hangar. I mean, even just under the chance that the force field situation you have goes out."

Rev: CARRINGTON: I ... Honestly, I have no idea.

Rev: And she looks at Riley.

Rev: RILEY: It's not really something we overly prepare for. And no one never proposed setting off on EMP inside of our space station before.

Kim: "No, but there's always a chance that systems go down."

Rev: RILEY: Yeah, but next to life support, the forcefield keeping out the void of space is the thing that's most heavily protected.

Kim: "Fair."

Megan: "OK. So with this idea in mind, is there anything available that we could use to secure our ship? Or your ships as well, because those would probably go too."

Tass: "Wild guess on this: any sort of engineering who would be located near that area. Probably the first ones to go?"

Rev: RILEY: That'd be correct.

Jake: "All right. Well, let's jump back to the idea of shielding the ship, then. Because that'd be great. I mean, if a bunch of stuff does lose power and we do lose their other ships, ultimately we still need to ferry everybody off of this place. So yeah, having our ship be able to get yanked out and then power up and kind of hover around to start offloading people would be good, especially if it kind of clears a path ... The detonation of this EMP clears a path for everybody to get from the bridge to the bay."

Tass: "I mean, why do we ... OK. Why do we need to? Like I hate to put too fine a point on it, but like, where are we going to take them if everything's chill? Like, if we take this thing out, we're just taking them down to danger town below, where there are monsters running around that we don't even know about yet. I mean, again, if it's that or leave them here and we haven't killed this thing? Yeah, OK. Obviously, we'll take our chances. But if this EMP takes this thing out, their best bet is to stay here anyway and wait for help, right?"

Jake: "Well, the EMP can't hit everywhere this thing has been, or else it would hit the gravity balls, and we'd all be fucked. Like the radius of this is going to leave its stronghold untouched. And that's where we're going to have to deal with it finally. So it might be better to have all of these people not near that, off this ship, for that last fight that we are going to have to engage in."

Tass: "OK."

Kim: "Then what happens to this ship? Because we still need this thing to move, right? Because it's still right over where we need to go."

Tass: "Yeah. I mean, I assume if we can take this thing out, then once its claws are out of the gravity well in there, then it'll start shifting again. It'll be back to the way it should."

Kim: "OK."

Jake: "Yeah. We'll just load all these people right back on board, and they can keep doing their job."

Tass: "Maybe even ..." And I'm like glancing around at them. "Ask a favor to shut off the storm for a couple of hours."

Jake: "Or move like 40 feet."

Tass: [Laughs]

Kim: "Yeah."

Rev: CARRINGTON: I don't see why not, right?

Rev: And she looks at Riley. He nods.

Megan: "OK. So make our way back to the docking bay. Test out some stuff on the way, see what the best course of action is to hurt this thing. Set off the grenade, get the ship back, get people to the docking bay to be able to evacuate if they need to. And then we come try to take this thing out at the gravity well. Right? That's the plan?"

Kim: "So going back to our ship and the docking bay, that means tromping all the way back through the danger zone."

Tass: "I think that's part of it. Because we have to make sure that we can hurt this thing the way that we hope. And if we can? If we can shut down most of it with the EMP and then go in and use what we learn about hurting it in the gravity well? Then yeah, tromping through seems to be our best way to draw its attention away from the well."

Jake: "If we wanted, we could also still like open up the door to a way we don't intend to go, and shoot it and experiment. Like, learn what may or may not hurt it. And then that'll also start to draw its focus there. So we could have more hope that the path we do intend to take will be clear, because it will be vacating that path to come check on where it got shot at."

Tass: "Sounds good to me."

Jake: "All right. So what's our most direct path back to the docking bay? What would be our shortest route?"

Rev: RILEY: Well, the quickest way would be to go through the door at the end of this hallway and then down the ladder. And then you're almost there.

Jake: "And so the way we took to get here was the long way?"

Rev: RILEY: Yeah, one of the longer ways.

Jake: "Well then maybe we should — like a couple of us, maybe me and Tass should go back down one of the longer ways and start doing the blast in there, so that the short way will be clear and safer."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Yes. If you went down the way that you came, I think might be the best place if you're going to do some experimenting. There are three doors that we have, and one of them is connected almost directly to the bridge. I'd prefer not to chance it on that one.

Jake: "Okay. Tass, round two of irresponsibly shooting?"

Tass: "You know I'm in."

Jake: "All right. Kim, Megan, do you guys want to wait up here by this door? So that just in case, like, we do get caught up, you don't waste the opportunity to move through there while it's safe and get back to the ship?"

Megan: "Sure. I don't love the idea of potentially splitting up."

Kim: "Especially since we don't have a way to stay in contact with you. Unless ..." I'm looking around at Carrington and Riley. "You guys don't have, like, a radio system or walkie talkies or something that we can use, do you?"

Rev: She shrugs and looks at Riley.

Rev: RILEY: Yeah. I mean, everything that is in the infected area don't quite work, so ...

Kim: "Yeah."

Rev: RILEY: If they're going in there, you're not gonna have any way to communicate with them unless you brought something.

Megan: "I mean also, it doesn't make sense for Kim and I to split up anyway and take that opportunity if we don't know what you've learned."

Tass: "Yeah, fair. We'll just take a few shots, see what we see, get straight back, and hope that it stays concentrated in that area."

Megan: I look over at Carrington. "Do you have any space suits here available, or is that something we're going to need to find and pick up on the way back?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: Uh ...

Rev: She looks at Riley.

Rev: RILEY: Oh, yeah. You'd have to find them. They'd be somewhere ... Most likely, they'd be inside the docking bay. We do have an area actually back towards the bridge where we have the spacewalk area. There's a couple of suits in there as well.

Tass: "What do you think? Do we want to tromp through the place carrying one of these or wearing one? Or do we want to try to grab one once we get there?"

Megan: "I think if there are some in the docking bay and that's where we need to use it, let's not add unnecessary weight until we have to."

Tass: "OK. Shall we go shoot some shit?"

Jake: "We shall."

Rev: Carrington and Riley lead you back down the hallway, down the ladder, and to that door. He steps close to the door and she's like ...

Rev: CARRINGTON: Could we have your pass while you do this? Just in case you get infected and you don't come back in?

Jake: "What if we don't get infected, but we're trying to outrun this thing, and we need to make it through the door quick?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh, we'll be right here. We're not going to, like, leave.

Jake: "Are you keeping the door open?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: No. God, no.

Kim: "Can you hear us, if we close the door?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: We can see. Little porthole.

Jake: "All right." Yeah, I'll hand it over. Does this seem insidious in any way?

Rev: Why don't you roll Get a Feeling?

Jake: OK. Boxcars again!

Kim: Vampires. They're all vampires.

Tass: [Laughs]

Rev: So I'm going to give you some different questions for Get a Feeling. There's something unique about Carrington when you try to get a read on them. On this move,

instead of getting a hold 2 on a full success, you get a hold 1, and you get to choose the question. On a mixed success, there's a hold 1 and I get to choose the question. And on a fail, it's a hold 2, and I get to choose both questions. So here are the questions that you get to choose to ask: Am I being honest with Carrington? What are my intentions towards Carrington? Am I hiding anything important from Carrington? What do you want to do that could improve Carrington's day? What do you hope that Carrington will notice about you? And what do I have that I could give Carrington?

Megan: Fuck ...

Rev: So you get to choose which one of those you ask yourself and answer honestly, as opposed to me picking one or picking two. And let me be clear, this is a honest desire to fulfill these things for the character, despite what the player knows.

Jake: Yeah. I guess for starters, I will choose, am I being honest with Carrington?

Rev: Are you?

Jake: As far as I know.

Rev: OK.

Jake: Yeah.

Rev: Yeah. You feel good about how you've interacted with her so far, and how you've presented the team, and just yourself as a person.

Jake: Cool. Now, how does this resolve, like, within my character's brain? Like, if what triggered this was me wondering if there was anything insidious, is that thought just, like, overwritten suddenly?

Rev: Yeah.

Jake: Like, I never — I don't know that I ever had the worry.

Rev: Yeah, it kind of turns into a like, do I have insidious thoughts towards Carrington? As opposed to, do they have insidious thoughts towards me?

Jake: Well then I hand over my badge gleefully.

Rev: Yeah. And she takes it.

Rev: CARRINGTON: Thank you.

Rev: And she pockets it.

Tass: "We ready to do this?"

Kim: "Yeah."

Rev: Yeah. So again, I'm gonna ask you to describe to me what you're doing when this door is opened for you. Are you quietly going in? Are you rushing in and firing? Are all four of you going? Just two of you?

Megan: I mean, the only thing that we have available to us that we have not put on the list of things for Jake and Tass to test is something like projectiles. Physical projectiles, like my bow gun. So I suppose I should probably at least go with. But maybe Kim could be our person on the other side of the door, since we were a little nervous about them not letting us back through.

Kim: Oh, I will make sure that this door opens for you.

Jake: I'm not nervous. I trust Carrington implicitly.

Tass: So they open the door, and I think I'll lead the way in and just go slow and steady. You know, entrapment style, here. Sliding under, stepping over, to try to get to a little bit more of an open spot if there is one.

Rev: Tass, why don't you give me a Keep Your Head Down for the group.

Tass: OK. Eight.

Rev: So yes, you have been able to find a corner of this room. You see that some of these tendrils, these threads, are regrowing, creating new pathways. So you don't feel like this space will be open long. But it is open currently.

Tass: "OK. Do we want to trip one of these now?"

Jake: Yeah. I'm going to look for a good juicy one to take a shot at.

Rev: Jake, why don't you roll Inflict Harm?

Jake: OK. Well, there we go. Karma had to come to me sooner or later. That's a two.

Kim: Oh ...

Megan: Can I help out?

Rev: Would a help out make it so that you get a mixed success?

Jake: If one of these turned into a six instead of a one.

Rev: Then absolutely. How so?

Megan: I think just shining a light and helping figure out what the best of these tendrils are for him to aim at. Since this is our first assault on the room.

Rev: Yeah, roll it.

Megan: That's a nine.

Kim: Oh, no ...

Jake: That three's gonna get me there.

Rev: [Laughs]

Jake: I can feel it in my bones.

Rev: So Jake, you go to fire off your gamma gun. And as you power it on, it seems like the room senses this energy. It's very fast. Faster than you have seen any of this stuff move prior. But a number of these threads slam together and form another of those blob teardrops on the ceiling that drops down onto Jake. So Jake, first take a point of Stress, because trying to inflict harm always causes Stress. You're gonna take one point of damage, armor-defeating, as you feel this start to cling to the exposed skin on your neck and your wrists where the jacket doesn't cover you.

Tass: Can I see — like, is it clear that this is still like, attached? Like, you know, it came down from the ceiling or whatever, like is it all ... Is there still, like a thread, like attaching to wherever this blob came from to fall on to him? Or did it, like ...

Rev: It disconnected.

Tass: It did disconnect. OK.

Megan: Can I try and look at what's happening here or look around the room to see if there's anything that I suddenly think might be a better way to help, other than attacking this thing?

Rev: Yeah, so you've heard this described by them, but you're seeing it for yourself for the first time. Why don't you Survey the Scene of Jake being covered in this?

Tass: While she's doing that, I would like to use the move Take a Moment, and just go off by myself and de-stress, please.

Rev: [Chuckles]

Megan: That's a five. But I'm gonna use Intuition.

Rev: All right. You get a hold 2.

Megan: What can help me?

Rev: So we've discussed a couple of times the idea that this is some kind of techno-organic thing, almost like a virus. It reacted very strongly to the presence of Jake's gamma gun. You think that if you could hit Jake with his gamma gun before it infects him, that would probably be the best way to get it off of him.

Megan: Hit Jake, himself?

Rev: Yes.

Megan: OK. Is there something important that I'm missing?

Rev: So you haven't seen any sensory perception elements on it, but it was very aware of the radiation being put off. It seems to be highly intelligent. And I think this goes back into the idea of it being a techno-organic virus. Some element of it is a learning, thinking thing, and it must be absorbing the knowledge of the people that it absorbs.

Megan: I mean, we knew it was intelligent. It created a fucking, like, Saw trap for us by puppeting a corpse.

Rev: Yeah.

Megan: This thing is brilliant. Who did it get that from? What maniac?

Jake: Who was the puppeteer on the crew?

Rev: That was Lieutenant Jigsaw.

All: [Laugh]

Kim: I think we saw his tricycle in the hangar.

Jake: [Laughs]

Megan: He parked in the ship.

Rev: It's the Scooty-Puff.

Megan: "Oh, we gotta — we gotta shock the thing off of him. Hit him with his gamma gun."

Tass: "Oh, shit!" I want to bound over to him and try to rip the gun out of his hand.

Rev: Yeah. Roll Act Under Fire.

Tass: OK.

Rev: What is your primary goal here? Is it to wrestle this away and shoot Jake with it, or wrestle it away without being connected to this mass yourself?

Tass: I would like both, please.

Rev: In a perfect world?

Tass: [Laughs]

Rev: Absolutely, my child.

Tass: Uh huh. I ... [Groans] I think first thing's first, it's not gonna help if we're both infected. So I gotta get it away from him and not get it on me.

Rev: OK. Yeah. Roll Act Under Fire.

Tass: Do we think this counts on the latter half of my Subordinate move, where I can assist him whenever he is kicking ass and I'm nearby? I mean, there's some sort of ass kicking.

Rev: Yeah. Jake, do you feel like you're kicking ass in this moment?

All: [Laugh]

Jake: I'm prepared to.

Rev: Yeah, that's fair.

Jake: I'm in the mindset.

Rev: Yeah. Given a couple more minutes, he may start kicking ass. Yeah, I think so. So this gives you, what, a +3 to the move, instead of whatever you would normally roll?

Tass: It is a +3 bonus, just on top of the roll.

Rev: Oh, wow.

Tass: And this might change my choice, too. Because the text for this is, you can ignore all reasonable obstacles between you and your attempt to help them.

Rev: Hmm.

Tass: So could I get it out of my hand to shoot him like safely, by ignoring the obstacle of this thing getting on me?

Rev: I don't think coming in contact with an alien creature is a reasonable obstacle.

Tass: [Laughs] Now, reasonably ...

Rev: I think reasonable obstacles are like ...

Jake: Chairs.

Rev: Tables.

All: [Laugh]

Rev: Long rooms.

Jake: A stanchion, you know.

Tass: Absolutely fair. OK, so Act Under Fire? Twelve.

Rev: Yeah. So you are able to live the best life. You are able to get the gun, fire it off, and not be touched by the goo that is on Jake. Jake, why don't you remind us? What is the damage that your gamma gun does?

Jake: 2-harm, organic, burning.

Rev: Perfect. Take that. Tass, take Stress. In fact make it two, for shooting your friend.

Tass: [Laughs]

Jake: I am one point away from dying.

Rev: The good news is this glob that's on Jake is very small, especially compared to the one that you saw previously. It does shrink away and fall off of him, and all that is left almost look like metallic crystals in a thin chain. Like all the organic material is gone, but there's all these bits of metal connected by these thin strands laying on the ground.

Tass: Oh. So they're not moving?

Rev: Not at the moment.

Tass: OK. "Shit. Jake, are you OK?"

Jake: [Pained] "No."

Tass: I'm, like, getting an arm around him to, like, pull him back from that.

Jake: [Weakly] "Did the gun do good?"

Tass: "It did so good, bud."

Jake: "I'm going to die. Please get me out of this room and to the first aid."

Tass: "Megan, do you think you could get him back? I want to try one last thing."

Megan: Yeah, I throw my bow gun to Tass and grab Jake. "Try both of these and get out as fast as you can."

Tass: "OK."

Megan: And then I somehow carry Jake out of here. [Laughs]

Kim: Puts Jake in a fireman carry, and ...

Megan: I have tried this in real life before. Didn't go great.

Rev: Yeah, I imagine it's one of those, like, you under his arm kind of helping him along.

Megan: Dragging him. [Laughs]

Rev: Yeah. So Tass, what are you doing as the two of them head towards the door?

Tass: I think I have to start with the bow gun. And I want to try to shoot that, like, leftover metallic stuff on the ground.

Rev: Yeah. At the moment, there's not a roll for this one. There are still a lot of these spider webbing veins in the room, but none of them are plumping up yet in a way where you expect mass is being moved to this room.

Tass: OK.

Rev: Megan, how much damage does the bow gun do?

Megan: That's 1-harm, and the tags are far, quiet, and area of effect.

Rev: So I would say maybe a third of these metallic crystals get hit by these arrows and shatter into a fine dust.

Tass: OK. Then last one, I'm gonna shoulder my blast cannon and take a shot at the ones that are left.

Rev: Yeah. You're doing this in such rapid succession. It's not moving anything here yet. So that does 4-harm, is that right?

Tass: That's correct.

Rev: Yeah. You fire off at this strand laying on the ground. And when the blasting is done, there is nothing left but dust.

Tass: OK. I think I've got my answer, there. And I also have the move Have Fun, That's an Order. So if I cause more than five harm in one fight, I get to remove one of my Stress.

Rev: Oh, nice.

Tass: And so I'm just gonna slowly backpedal out of this room and back down the hall to them.

Rev: I love that you get to remove a Stress because you cause enough damage to Jake as well.

Jake: He just had such a good time shooting me, that ...

Rev: It's been five seasons coming.

Jake: It outweighed the trauma of shooting me.

All: [Laugh]

Rev: Yeah, but the three of you are able to get back to the door. The group sees you approaching the door, and it is opened and you are brought back inside.

Kim: Yeah, I'm just rushing over to them as soon as the door is open. "Oh, my god. Are you guys OK? Jake, are you — you look awful."

Jake: "Thanks."

Kim: "Sorry."

Jake: "I need a Med Bay. Can we go to the ship?"

Megan: Yeah. I look at Carrington. "Do you have, like, a first aid kit or something here that we could patch him up with quick before we can get back to our Med Bay?"

Jake: "I got ... I got one." I hold up my field kit.

Megan: Oh, that's right.

Jake: That has the first aid kit in it.

Megan: Yeah. I want to try to do first aid.

Rev: Yeah, roll First Aid.

Jake: Take +1 Tech on the First Aid move, because the field kit contains an advanced first aid kit.

Megan: OK, cool. So this'll be a +3 for me. Nine. So you'll heal one harm.

Jake: [Pained] That's insufficient, but thank you. I'm slightly further from death.

Megan: I put a little Band-Aid on his arm.

Jake: [Laughs]

Megan: It's a Hot Wheels brand.

Jake: Puts a little Band-Aid on like the back of my neck, and it zooms out to show just the burned trauma all over my body, with one perfect little cars Band-Aid on it.

Megan: I put a little Band-Aid and I give him a lollipop. All better.

Kim: Just slowly sweeping over his body with a Geiger counter.

Rev: [Laughs]

Jake: Stay away from him. This thing's really beeping. Everybody stay back.

Megan: You don't want to see him when he's angry.

Rev: You go to put this Band-Aid on Jake, and his eyes open. But new ones.

Kim: What's the health insurance like at the IPT? Is it good?

Rev: Werewolf serum, baby. Our health system is all werewolf serum.

Kim: It's very werewolf-based.

Jake: It's sort of an under the counter health system, here.

Rev: CARRINGTON: So did you learn anything interesting?

Tass: "Yeah. Yeah, I think if we douse this thing with radiation and then lay into it, we can take it down."

Rev: CARRINGTON: That's good news.

Tass: "Right? Yes. Yes, that's huge." I hand the crossbow back to Megan. "Like it doesn't do a lot. I mean, it's just pinpoint, you know? It's tough when it's sort of a blob. But hitting those little metal pieces with it? Yeah, that seemed to just do damage. And when the outer coating had left all of those pieces, it just seems like we can dust them."

Rev: And I'm going to give you this for free. You were observing the situation as you were doing this. You were doing it as a test. Because of the globular nature of this thing, you imagine that doing it the other way around, specifically for projectiles, wouldn't be effective.

Tass: Right. Like in my head, and I don't know that this is right, but like, just from what I observed, I'm working on the assumption that those little pieces are like in the mix and

just moving around the flow. And there's just no way for us to know where those are to pinpoint them until we get rid of that. So like, I'm kind of feeding that in as I talk.

Rev: Yeah.

Tass: "Yeah. So I think if we douse it, we can hit it. We can do it. We can take down those core pieces that are moving everything."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Great. So how many of those do you have?

Tass: "Uh ... Just the one. The one. We got the one."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh.

Tass: "Yeah ... So the divide and conquer situation does not seem to be in our favor. Which ... That's okay."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Riley, could you make anything that does radiation?

Rev: And Riley looks at her for a moment.

Rev: RILEY: Not as we currently stand. It took over the Med Bay. Anything we have that might give out radiation would be in there. We don't have anything in the rooms that we got left.

Megan: "Um, what would you have used from your Med Bay?"

Rev: RILEY: I don't know. There might be a way to, like, take the x-ray machine, juice it up, make it put out higher levels of radiation.

Megan: "Oof. OK. Because we have a Med Bay, but I also have other things that I'm gonna be trying to work on there. The Faraday cage. Do you want to come with us? And maybe you could try to do something with what we have in our Med Bay, while I work on the other stuff?"

Rev: He turns and looks at Carrington. She looks at the ground for a moment.

Rev: CARRINGTON: How likely do you think you are at succeeding in all of this?

Megan: "Well, who knows. We're here."

Rev: CARRINGTON: That does not inspire confidence.

Tass: "All I can say is this is what we do. We try to help people out. We've made it so far with varying levels of success. But she's right. We're here."

Kim: "I read all of their mission logs before joining up with them. And for years, everything they undertook was largely a success. Our system has been saved countless times by the actions of these three people."

Rev: Kim, roll Influence Someone.

Kim: That is a six.

Megan: Can we help out with this?

Rev: I don't think you can, because you've already given an answer that didn't inspire confidence in her.

Megan: [Laughs]

Rev: But someone else could.

Megan: OK, that's fair.

Tass: I mean, I could try. Just, "Yeah. I mean, she's right. Like, I mean, I'll be frank. I've died once, and that didn't stop me, so ..."

Rev: Yeah. Roll an Assist.

Tass: OK. Nine.

Kim: Hey, there we go!

Rev: All right, so that does get you up to a seven. So Carrington looks at you for a moment, Kim, then to Tass, looks at Jake and sees the shape that he's in.

Rev: CARRINGTON: I don't particularly love it on the space station. Riley can go with you to help out where your friend is perhaps lacking in the moment when it comes to battle readiness. But I would like to leave here with you when you go.

Tass: "I mean, I think that's acceptable. I mean, even just to further that into a plan, I think we should go as we're planning now. You all stay here, stay behind these doors where you know you're safe. We get ahead. And all things considered, if it goes bad for us, most of you are still safe. Sorry, Riley. I don't mean to lump you in. But, you know, to speak plainly about it, it's not the end of all of you. But if we succeed, we can set off this EMP. The worst case, if even we get that set, all you have to do is abandon this station. You all just come past the other areas that will shut down with that EMP, get in the ship and we get out of here. Best case, we come back here and we kick its ass, and you have your station for whatever you need it for, and have the option to come with us after it's all quiet too."

Kim: "So when you say come with us, you just mean like go to Hydarnes? I should warn you, Hydarnes isn't great."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh god, no. I'll just go wherever you're going.

Tass: "Well first, we're going back down there."

Rev: CARRINGTON: I don't want to go to Hydarnes. There's nothing there but war monsters and fire rain.

Tass: "Yeah. Well, exactly. There's unfortunately some innocent people down there we want to help, too."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Yes, that's fine. I can't wait.

Tass: "Yeah. All right, so you'll chill back up here, and then we'll come get you when we, like, leave-leave?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: No, no, I'll just ride along.

Kim: "We're going like a ways away."

Rev: CARRINGTON: That's fine.

Kim: Just looking at the rest of the group. Like, big eyes.

Megan: "I honestly don't know if that's an option. Not because we wouldn't want it. Just, can we bring someone back through with us?"

Tass: "I don't know why not."

Rev: CARRINGTON: What do you mean, back through?

Kim: "We're talking other dimensions."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh. What's your dimension like?

Megan: "Don't know how to compare it to here."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Food? Housing? Breathable air?

Tass: "Food — fantastic. Breathable air. There is housing. It is not as technologically advanced as here."

Kim: "It's really all focused on just like the one planet. As far as we know. Space travel is in its infancy."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh.

Megan: "Which is why we didn't —"

Rev: CARRINGTON: Why you didn't know about the Striders.

Megan: "Yeah."

Rev: CARRINGTON: I see. I see.

Megan: "Not a common name where we're from."

Rev: CARRINGTON: I see. That's fine. It's an inhabitable planet. Better than Hydarnes.

Jake: "What about your post?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh, I don't work here.

Megan: "But you're in charge."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Well, that's just because they were in a bad situation and they saw fit to put me in charge. They felt most comfortable with me.

Megan: "How did you get here if you don't work here?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh, I wouldn't worry about that.

Megan: "Oh, I mean, I kind of — I'm kind of worried."

Kim: "I'm worrying about it."

Megan: Yeah, I think this is the first moment for the rest of us that this has seemed sus, so.

Kim: Yeah, yeah.

Rev: Are you trying to puzzle her out?

Kim: Yes!

Rev: Roll Get a Feeling.

Kim: Yeah.

Megan: The both of us? Or just ...

Rev: I think so, yeah.

Megan: OK, yeah.

Kim: Yeah.

Megan: Three. [Laughs]

Kim: That is an eight for me.

Rev: Well I think just for fun, I'm gonna spend two of my hold, to give you both a six, and I'm gonna ask you both the same question.

Kim: Oh, that's fun. OK.

Rev: What could you do to improve Carrington's day?

Kim: I tell her that her hair is really pretty, and I think she looks nice today.

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh, thank you. It doesn't really get noticed a lot here. There's been obviously a lot going on. People don't pay much attention to dress and proper grooming.

Megan: "No, it's really long. I used to have really long hair, so I know it's a lot to upkeep, but you've done a really great job."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh, is the blue natural?

Megan: "Oh, I wish. No."

Kim: "Is the silver natural? Because, like ..."

Rev: CARRINGTON: It is.

Kim: "This, mine, takes a lot of effort to get to that."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Are you kidding me? Like that comes out of a ... What, a bottle or something?

Kim: "It's like a bleach and a toner situation. It's like many, many hours, many hundreds of dollars."

Tass: I am looking around the room at everyone else with the thought of, what the hell is going on?

Kim: "You know, Megan and I live together back on the system. Having someone else who's helping pay rent could really be beneficial. We're thinking of getting a cat."

Jake: [Pained] "Do you like cats?"

Rev: And I think this is actually been answered. I think I unintentionally answered this one for you both. What do you hope that Carrington will notice about you? I think she's complimenting you both on your hair as well in return, unless you've got something else you'd like her to notice.

Megan: I think that she's in charge here, so I feel like she has, like, a bunch of authority and stuff. So I want her to say I'm good at fighting. Even though she hasn't seen me fight, I guess. [Laughs]

Rev: Yeah. And what about you, Kim?

Kim: Gosh, I want Carrington to take note of the fact that I'm trying to kind of, like, keep my eye on, like, multiple balls, in terms of being aware of the mission that we're having to do while also like the things we have to do on Hydarnes, and stuff like that.

Rev: CARRINGTON: I appreciate that offer. It would be very nice, actually, probably to have a place to crash, arriving in a new location. I can tell ... Both of you. Both of you are

very good at what you do. You had some wonderful ideas, Megan. They were stunning. The idea of these EMPs and finding a way to use it in a way that it just wouldn't affect the ship and it protects the people. It's such a good thing. And Kim, being aware of this organization, and just knowing that there are issues with multiple planes, the creature, the crew's safety, the things down on Hydarnes. It's a very large skill, to be able to juggle that many balls.

Kim: "Hey, thanks. And you know what? I'm a recent arrival to the system that we're going to. So, you know, I can ..."

Rev: CARRINGTON: Oh!

Kim: "I can help show you around. Or at least, you know, we could be new together."

Rev: CARRINGTON: We could have some what's new in the world — or what's new to this world, adventures.

Kim: "Yeah, exactly."

Rev: Tass, roll Survey the Scene.

Tass: [Panicked] OK. I'm gonna use an Intuition, please.

Rev: OK.

Tass: Because I don't think my four is gonna do it.

Rev: All right. You get a hold 2.

Tass: I think the most important question is not the one that comes to mind first. I think the first one ... I think the closest to what the hell is going on is, is there something important that I'm missing?

Rev: You notice that whenever anyone is looking at Carrington and talking to her, there's a softness that comes over their expression, whether or not they're aware of it or not. And it seems like there is some kind of low level telepathy radiating out from her, that just

... You want to protect her, you want to do what's best for her, you want to help her out. And you feel that that tug now, as you are becoming aware of it.

Tass: OK. So if there's that bit of awareness about it, what can help me?

Rev: You get the impression that it's stronger when it is intentional, instead of just the kind of low level general essence of it that's coming off of her. So the effect becomes stronger when people have questioned her in your presence. So you want to try to avoid like conversational conflict with her if you want to stay out of the effect of this.

Tass: OK. Oh, geez. I think I'm just shaking my head at this whole situation, and, "Yeah. OK. Cool, cool, cool. Like, yeah, we'll get you out of here. Listen, anybody that wants to get out of here, we'll get you out of here. But like, we sure wouldn't mind destroying the monster. Like, I think that's probably ... Everybody wants that, yes?"

Rev: CARRINGTON: Sure, Why not?

Tass: Oh, no. A thought occurs to me that I don't think I could stop myself from. And it's the thought of like, as she says, "Sure. Why not?" Like the idea of like, is that genuine? Like, is she on this monster's side?

Rev: [Laughs]

Kim: No!

Tass: I don't think I can stop it. Like she says it, and I think, oh, she really isn't on this monster's side. Is that real? Is she goading us into something?

Rev: I appreciate the honesty.

Megan: [Laughs]

Rev: There is no roll here. You can ask one question.

Tass: [Laughs]

Rev: That's a beautiful moment of character honesty. I appreciate that.

Tass: Dammit. [Laughs] I think what I have to answer here is, what do I really want from Carrington? And it's that I want her — I really, really want her to stay legit, as far as all of this dealing with the monster is concerned. Because I don't want to have to shoot her.

Rev: You have this thought, and her eyebrow quirks up and she smiles a little bit and turns towards you, and she takes a step over to you and rests a hand on your cheek.

Rev: CARRINGTON: I'm only not concerned about the monster because it's not my ship. But I, under no circumstances, wanna die here in this place, above this planet. No, I think Earth sounds quite the treat.

Rev: And for a brief moment, Tass, your mind kind of flares up into a panic, because you realize none of you ever said Earth.

Tass: Mmhmm.

Rev: But then the calming touch on your cheek washes all that away. And you know that with Carrington by your side, it's all gonna be fine.

SFX: OUTRO MUSIC

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