

Of That Colossal Wreck - Episode 6

written by

Sasha Sienna & Jonathan Sims

1. THE VOICE OF THE OZYMANDIAS COMPUTER SPEAKS TO THE VOID AS IF IT WERE A POTENTIAL SHAREHOLDER IN A SLICK NEW BUSINESS.

COMPUTER

Humanity. Evolution's finest creation. Since the arrival of the first homo sapiens over a quarter of a billion years ago, the human race has ruled and shaped our home world, and brought life and civilisation to dozens of others.

From those early pioneering attempts to settle on Mars, to the first successful colony on Europa, to our newest fully terraformed planet, Kepler, humanity's will to survive and explore has triumphed over the vastness of space.

And now we will triumph over time, with the Ozymandias project: governments, corporations and philanthropists working together to create a vast space station to protect our way of life forever.

Unlike a terraformed colony, the Ozymandias station will have no reliance on Earth or its outposts. Designed to function completely independently, the station will house 1.5 million artificially grown bodies, kept in stasis and implanted with unique memory sets. Thanks to thought donors like you lending their skills and experiences, we can store all the knowledge we need to repopulate the stars should humanity fall.

Imagine the memory of your hometown forming the blueprint for a new Eden, or your grandmother's recipe nourishing a renewed civilisation. Thank you so much for contributing to the Ozymandias project: the ultimate insurance of humanity's legacy.

2. INT. THE BRIDGE OF THE OZYMANDIAS STATION.

The bridge is a large, imposing room, facing a viewscreen that takes up one wall. The rest of the walls are covered in sleek dashboards and command consoles that wouldn't feel out of place in some of the more utopian Star Treks, but without the optimism. This isn't a room that feels dead, so much as one that has never lived. Among the sweeping

rails, high-backed chairs and blinking screens, the central area is laid out like a stage, with a large stasis pod as its focus.

We revisit our protagonists' entrance into the room from episode 5.

MIRA

Riley, the release! Get it closed!

Riley slams down the release lever and the door slams shut. Abruptly, there is no sound except their breath.

RILEY

Did anybody bring a torch?

There is a clunk as the power turns on automatically, and the command centre is illuminated.

RILEY

Never mind.

There is a beat as the lights hum and flicker slightly over equipment that tries its best to gleam. The group catch their breath for a moment until there is a sharp bang on the door behind them. The whistlers are still hunting them.

LUNA

Shit! Can they get through?

ANYA

Doubt it. They're not great with locked doors.

ZACK

That's a relief.

ANYA

No. They'll look for another way in.

The door bangs again.

MIRA

How likely is it they'll find one?

ANYA

Depends. It doesn't look like they've been in here before, so if there is one it's probably well hidden. But they've probably never had a reason to really look before.

LEVI

Well, in that case, we'd better-

He starts to look around for other ways into the room and instead spots the stasis pod in the centre.

LEVI

Wait. That pod. Is that really...?

MIRA

The Commander!

LUNA

They're *real*?

There's a beat as MIRA starts to object.

LUNA

I mean, sorry Mira, I know you all have this... pull to the Commander, I just didn't expect it to be so... literal. Like, there's literally *A Commander*.

ANYA

Maybe. Maybe not.

RILEY

What?

ANYA

It's a fancy pod. Says Commander. But we don't know who's in there. Maybe no one.

LEVI

Let's find out then, shall we? Mira?

MIRA

Right.

They walk towards the pod in the centre of the room. MIRA takes a deep breath, then she starts pressing some buttons on the side. Aside from a beep, nothing happens. She tries again. Beep. Nothing happens.

MIRA

It's broken. Same as the others.

She kicks the pod in frustration.

LEVI

I guess we should have seen this coming.

ZACK

Maybe we can do something. To fix it, I mean.

RILEY

Didn't we set everything on fire last time we tried?

ZACK

Then let's be a bit more careful. We have time.

Though the whistlers outside are quieter now, scratching and shuffling can still be heard from the door.

ANYA

Assuming the whistlers don't get in.

ZACK

Yes, OK, assuming that. But look at this place! There must be something we can do!

RILEY

We might actually be able to access the temperature controls from one of these command centres.

LUNA

But it would keep them away, right? You said they avoid the heat.

ANYA

Sure. Haven't found a temperature that kills them yet, though. Not one that wouldn't kill us too, anyway. So we'll probably have to keep that door closed for a while, to be safe.

Beat.

ANYA

Kind of safe.

LEVI

Riley, why don't you and Anya see if you can take care of that while Mira and Zack work on the Commander's pod? Luna and I will look for anywhere the whistlers might get in and see if we can barricade them somehow.

MIRA

Mm. It's better than no plan at all.

LEVI

(smiling)

Good.

LUNA and LEVI, MIRA and ZACK get to work in the background while RILEY and ANYA walk to a control panel by the wall. RILEY starts to open the access panel to the wiring, but ANYA simply presses a button on the console itself. It beeps into life.

COMPUTER

Please enter command key.

RILEY

How did you do that?

ANYA  
Just turned it on. Stuff still works  
sometimes.

RILEY  
Great! What's the command key?

ANYA  
Don't know. Never been asked for one  
before.

RILEY  
(calling)  
Mira? Can you have a look at this?

We move to MIRA and ZACK at the pod as RILEY and ANYA recede into the background. They are working at the pod's controls, trying to trigger the wake-up sequence, but it's behaving like the far-future equivalent of a home printer.

MIRA  
(calling)  
On my way.  
(to the others)  
Zack, are you going to be alright with  
this?

ZACK  
I think so. I should be able stop it  
catching fire again, at least.

MIRA  
Please.

She leaves to join RILEY and ANYA and starts typing into the console the background.

COMPUTER  
(from a distance)  
Please enter the command key.

ZACK  
Right, I'm think I've made it into the  
medical override menu, so if I can just  
figure out how to...

He presses a few buttons which beep helpfully until he gets an unhappy BBRRRMMP.

ZACK  
Woops. OK, I can just go back and-

There's another helpful response from the computer and the medical systems activate - the pod's internal temperature begins to rise as stimulants are administered to the body inside.

ZACK  
Yes! Got it!  
(calling)  
Hey, everyone! I think I've done it!

MIRA and LEVI rush over.

MIRA  
What?

LEVI  
That's great!

ZACK  
Yeah, it's initiated the wake-up  
procedure so just give it a minute and...  
they'll be here. I guess. The Commander.

Zoom back in on RILEY and ANYA.

ANYA  
Huh. Never thought I'd see the day.

MIRA  
I thought you said you didn't feel the  
pull anymore?

ANYA  
I didn't. But it's right here. Hard not  
to feel something.

RILEY  
Yeah, it's... A lot.

ANYA  
Still, looks like it'll be a few minutes  
yet, and we've still got work to do.

LUNA joins them.

LUNA  
Hey. I haven't found any vents or  
anything but there's a smaller door round  
that corner we should check. Any luck  
with the console?

RILEY  
Nope.

They push a button, and parrot the computer as it says

COMPUTER/RILEY  
"Please enter the command key."

LUNA  
That sounds frustrating.

RILEY

It is.

LUNA

There is one other thing I found.

RILEY

What?

LUNA

Weapons.

ANYA

What weapons? Where?

LUNA

All different kinds. Definitely some guns and I think maybe some explosives? There's caches of them - one in the floor over there, and another hidden in that wall. There's other stuff too, maintenance supplies, emergency rations, that sort of thing.

ANYA

That's good. We should stock up.

LUNA

But...why are there so many of them here? Who were they supposed to be firing at?

RILEY

We can figure that out later. After we've make sure that other door's properly blocked. Come on.

We move back to the Commander's pod.

ZACK

Something's not right. There should be movement by now.

MIRA

Are you sure you activated it correctly?

ZACK

I'm pretty sure. Yes, I am sure. It definitely responded - it's doing something, just not necessarily the right thing. We need to get it open.

LEVI

Isn't that dangerous?

ZACK



If the person's still in stasis, sure,  
but not as dangerous as leaving them in  
there if it's just a faulty lid.

LEVI

I think Luna found some first aid stuff -  
I'll go grab it, just in case.

LEVI runs to another part of the room, opens a floor panel and starts  
gathering equipment.

ZACK

Thanks - Mira? Ready on three?

ZACK and MIRA brace themselves to try to force the lid.

MIRA

Right, one, two, three.

On 'three' they both strain to push. The lid doesn't move. The others  
come over to investigate.

ANYA

What are we doing?

LEVI

Zack thinks the Commander might be waking  
up but stuck in there. We're trying to  
open it up. Give us a hand.

MIRA

Right, everyone, lift on three: one, two,  
three!

They push the lid as one, snapping it from its hinges. The lid crashes  
and breaks on the floor as millennia-old dust and air is released into  
the room. They cough on the smell of decomposition. There's a moment of  
silence as they stare at the sight before them.

LEVI

What happened to them?

ZACK

Stasis failure.

MIRA

*Fuck!*

LUNA

I'm sorry, Mira.

There's a rustle of fabric as Luna puts her hand on Mira's arm.

RILEY

How long have they been...like this?

ZACK

It's hard to say without knowing what went wrong with the pod's systems. Maybe a decade, maybe centuries. Possibly millennia.

LUNA

They look so old.

ZACK

Everyone does at this stage of decomposition. They might have aged and died naturally without ever waking up, or the life support system might have cut out suddenly-

ANYA

You said the lid was stuck. Maybe someone else woke them up first. Maybe-

MIRA

Maybe we should just try to figure out what to do next.

There's a pause as they consider this possibility.

LUNA

We could bury them. Back on the farm?

MIRA

Why? They would have hated the farm. It would represent a mission failure. This is where they belonged.

LEVI

We should leave them here. Let them stay at rest like they have been.

RILEY

But we broke the pod.

ZACK

Hmm...we could fix it, maybe. Not well enough for stasis but well enough for, well, a coffin.

LUNA

We've got tools. I even saw a welding torch somewhere...

MIRA

Wait. The badge.

LEVI

I don't think we need-

MIRA  
Riley, that data port on the command  
console-

RILEY  
I think you're right...the command key.

MIRA  
Maybe it's a physical key.

ANYA  
Someone should take it then.

No one volunteers.

MIRA  
Right. I guess I'll...erm...

LUNA grunts as she leans over and unclips the badge from the  
Commander's body

LUNA  
Ugh.

She hands it to MIRA.

LUNA  
Here.

MIRA  
...Thanks.

MIRA walks over to the command console and starts pressing buttons.

RILEY  
(quiet)  
Levi, you saw them, right? The scratches  
on the inside of the lid? Do you think-

LEVI  
(quiet)  
What I think is we're better not pointing  
them out to Mira. She's got enough on her  
plate.

Mira presses the last button.

COMPUTER  
Please enter the command key.

She inserts the key into the port.

COMPUTER  
Welcome, Commander.

RILEY

Yes!

RILEY and ANYA rush to join MIRA at the console.

ANYA

The whole station's on here. It's even bigger than I thought.

LEVI

We saw a layout a while back but the scale wasn't clear. How big are we talking?

ANYA

Vast. At least 20 miles in each direction.

MIRA

Right now we need to focus on this room. See if you can get the temperature any higher.

ANYA

Aye aye, Commander.

MIRA

Don't call me that. The Commander's dead.

3. INT. THE OZYMANDIAS BRIDGE.

ZACK

Is it hot enough yet?

ANYA

Depends how much you want to keep the whistlers away.

ZACK

Hm. Pass us some more water, then.

He picks up a packet of water, tears off a corner and drinks it (writer's note: I'm picturing the water rations in little bags, kind of like Capri-suns).

MIRA

Careful with those. We don't want to run out.

LEVI

We've got loads in here. And we should be able to find more.

MIRA

We don't even know where we're going next.

LEVI

I mean, we've got full plans for the whole station. We can probably even find other hydroponics bays, like the farm-

MIRA

Have you actually looked at the schematic, Levi?

LEVI

Not yet, I've been reading the-

MIRA

Well it's not good.

RILEY

About half the station's showing some sort of problem, and there's a whole section of it that should be there but isn't giving any kind of status signals at all. We think it might be gone.

ANYA

Could have been hit by something. An asteroid maybe.

LUNA

Is that what's gone wrong here? With the station, I mean? However it was meant to work, it obviously wasn't...this.

LEVI

That's what I was saying. I've been reading - well, briefings, I suppose, for the command crew. Whoever built this station left instructions. Apparently, we - everyone, I mean, all the people on the station - were supposed to wake up when a signal stopped reaching us from Earth.

He pauses to take a deep breath.

MIRA

Well? Are we still getting the signal.

LEVI

No. The last time the station picked it up was over 6,000 years ago.

There's a pause as they all take this in.

ZACK

Maybe the receiver's been lost. It could have been on that missing section?

LEVI

Possible. But the central computer's been sending its own signal to Earth and that's still going.

RILEY

So it's more likely that there's just no one left to answer?

LEVI

Maybe they just can't hear us, or maybe they can hear us but can't get here. Or, yeah, maybe there isn't anyone. We don't know.

ANYA

That signal could be what attracted the whistlers.

MIRA

You said there were instructions.

LEVI

Yes, but...I don't think they're much use to us.

MIRA

Let me see-

She pushes past LEVI to reach the screen behind him. The computer beeps as she searches the file.

MIRA

What are these? Contingency plans?

LEVI

Instructions for different scenarios.

MIRA

Computer, find instructions for inoperable station.

COMPUTER

Sorry, file not found.

MIRA

Find instructions for minimal crew.

COMPUTER

Sorry, file not found.

LEVI

They don't call us crew. You know what they call us, all the way through? We're not people, or citizens or inhabitants. We're units.

MIRA  
(distasteful)  
Computer, find instructions for minimal units.

COMPUTER  
In the event that identified suitable habitat is insufficient to support full contingent. Assign minimal units for termination according to the following schedule, until sustainable population is reached. Terminate units with designation DY and values below 50. Terminate units with designation DX and values below 50. Terminate units with designation CY and values below 55-

MIRA  
Stop!

MIRA slams a button on the console and the COMPUTER is silent.

LUNA  
What designations are we?

Nobody answers.

LEVI  
Well, I'm a CY. Don't know what my 'value' is, though.

ZACK  
I'd rather not know.

LUNA  
What were the other scenarios?

LEVI  
I didn't look at all of them. Things like suppressing dissent on the station, what to do if we encountered "alien life sufficiently sentient to hold inviolable right to habitation"...

RILEY  
Let me guess, it wasn't going to be inviolable?

LEVI  
Mm.

LUNA  
That's horrible.

ZACK

Maybe it's for the best this place never worked.

ANYA

I guess that explains why there's so many weapons here. They're better than anything in the rest of the station, too. We should take as many as we can now.

LUNA

I don't want to touch those things.

ANYA

We're being hunted by monsters.

LUNA

I haven't forgotten.

RILEY

She does have a point, Luna.

MIRA

It would be good to have some extra defence against the whistlers.

ANYA

We can do better than that. Look here-

ANYA steps to the console and starts interacting with it.

ANYA

Computer, show station schematic with current temperature.

The COMPUTER makes another helpful noise

ANYA

See here? There's a sort of five way junction, not that far from the missing sectors. It's much colder than anywhere else on the station. And the status readings are all over the place.

RILEY

You think there's whistlers there?

ANYA

I think it's their nest. Where the queen lives.

LUNA

A queen? Like bees?

ANYA

Yeah. Or ants. At least, I'm pretty sure they do. I've never seen her, but it



would make sense with what I've seen of the rest of their social structure.

LEVI

Well then, we'd best stay as far away from there as we can.

ANYA

What? No! I mean we should *go there*. We have decent weapons now, explosives! If we could kill the queen and destroy the nest-

LUNA

You want to wipe them them all out.

ANYA

Yes, exactly.

LUNA

Did you not just hear any of what's been going on? You're just like the people who built this place, thinking they get to decide who 'counts', what the 'value' of a life is!

ANYA

That's not the same. Not even a bit the same. This isn't the whistlers' home, it's ours, and they're the ones killing us off. I'd expect you to see that more than anyone.

RILEY

She's right, Luna. We could actually make this place safe.

MIRA

Anya, how many whistlers do you think are in this nest?

ANYA

I've never seen it so I can't say for sure. I reckon a few hundred.

MIRA considers for a moment.

MIRA

It's too dangerous.

ANYA

Don't any of you understand what they do? They don't just sit in their nest, waiting for prey to walk into it! They'll get all of us eventually if we can't find a way to hurt them back.

LEVI

We don't know that. There are places we can defend...we could go back to the farm.

MIRA

And what? Live out our lives like the people buried there?

LEVI

No, like the people who *lived* there. I was just suggesting an option, you're free to put forward your own idea-

MIRA

I'm thinking! I just need some time to come up with a plan.

LUNA starts to move away to a lonelier spot. ZACK follows her and the sound of Levi and Mira's argument retreats.

ZACK

Hey, you OK?

LUNA

Hm? Yeah, I'm fine.

(she considers)

Actually, I don't really know how I am.

ZACK

Yeah, this is... It's a lot to take in. In a way, I suppose it's nice to have options, but none of them are really-

LUNA

It's not that, it's more- You know it was hard for me, waking up. You all knew who you were immediately but I had to have it explained. And it took a while to make peace with having memories that were, sort of, hand-me-downs. I still felt like a *person*, though. But now, knowing exactly how we've been... manufactured, made to the specifications for someone else's 'scenarios'...

ZACK

Yeah. But then, if you think about it, isn't everyone?

LUNA

I know this must be just as hard for all of you, too, I didn't mean-

ZACK

No, I mean, isn't everyone made, even back on Earth? Sometimes even on purpose even. And when people have a baby, they don't create a fully formed person, but they try their best to shape one. They probably have a life in mind for their child, even if it's just to be happy and loved. Having expectations put on you doesn't make you inherently different to most people. And if it helps, I think the people who built this place would have hated how we turned out.

LUNA laughs.

LUNA

I bet they would.

ZACK

I just mean that... Maybe we're all a product of other people, but that doesn't mean those other people control *who* we are. I can remember teaching a lot of kids in loads of different places and every single one of them surprised me. They all had people trying to mould them and, at some point, they all did something we hadn't accounted for. And whoever decided I should remember all that didn't account for the five of us waking up together, or for Anya spending decades on her own.

LUNA

I guess not. I just really hate the thought of it. What we were meant to do. The more I see of it, the more I can't stand it. How can I be part of a society that would do...all this, let alone resurrect it!

ZACK

It's a hard thing to accept.

LUNA

When we were back in the farm, I collected seeds from all the different plant. I've still got them in my bag. I thought that maybe, someday, I could grow them somewhere new. But now I just wonder whether we ever found life on any of the worlds we terraformed and *I can't remember*. Because they didn't think I needed to know. They thought I needed the desire to take life from one place and

grow it somewhere new, and that's exactly what I have. What I am. And I hate it.

ZACK

And that's why it's *not* who you are. Because you have that hate in you. They'd never let you keep that if they had a choice. All those contingencies, all those scenarios were because, whatever they called us, they knew they were making people. And people are messy and weird and unpredictable. Maybe we remember some things they wanted us to, and we have some skills they gave us, but nobody who lived thousands of years ago gets to decide who we are or what we do now we're here.

MIRA

(from a slight distance)

I didn't say that, Levi! I said you *could* be a *little* bit patronising *sometimes*.

LUNA

(thinking/distracted)

Yeah. Thanks. You're right.

LUNA and ZACK fade into the background noise as MIRA and LEVI's argument comes back into focus.

MIRA

Yes, Levi, I know how dangerous it is! Every possible thing we could do at this point is dangerous!

LEVI

That doesn't mean we can just disregard the risks!

MIRA

I'm not disregarding them, I just think it's worth considering-

ANYA

So my plan's too dangerous but you think getting inside a millennia-old metal box and flinging yourself into space is "worth considering?"

MIRA

It's not a metal box, it's an escape shuttle.

RILEY

But it would be flinging ourselves into space.

ZACK and LUNA join the conversation

ZACK

What's going on?

RILEY

We found an shuttle bay on the station plans. Status updates say most of them are still functional.

ZACK

That's great!

ANYA

Is it? What's out there? We're a lightyear away from the nearest star system and the star charts are all fried so we have no idea which one it is.

ZACK

So, it could be Earth, or Lagadha, or anywhere.

LUNA

Or it could be nothing but rocks and gas.

ZACK

Do the shuttles have lightspeed?

LEVI

We don't know yet.

ANYA

How are you even thinking about this? We're already somewhere we know we can survive, and now we have a way to take care of the whistlers.

MIRA

And by take care of them, you mean feed ourselves to them.

ANYA

This is ridiculous.

LEVI

Anya's got a point. We know we can survive here. We could even focus on something other than just survival.

MIRA

We're not going back to the farm, Levi.

LEVI

Mira, you can't make that call for everyone. You're not in charge just

because you're holding the Commander's badge.

The argument fades out as ANYA takes RILEY to one side.

ANYA

Riley, I know you understand. We need to destroy that nest if we want to survive here.

RILEY

I don't know. I mean, you know whistlers better than anyone...

ANYA

And I say this needs to happen. One swift blow and it's all over.

How can we make them understand that, though?

ANYA

They never will. They're so obsessed with what the weapons were supposed to do, they're can't see what they could do for us now.

RILEY

So what do we do?

ANYA

We do what they need us to. What they can't do themselves.

RILEY

No. I can't just leave them. What if-?

ANYA

Look at them, Riley. They're scared. They can't bring themselves to do what needs to be done.

RILEY

I... I don't know. I'm scared too.

ANYA

Then face those fears. You're the only one I trust to have my back.

MIRA, LEVI, LUNA and ZACK's voices come back into focus.

LEVI

I don't see anything wrong with that! There's beauty in what you think of as a "small life," Mira.

MIRA

I'm sure there is, but we won't get to have one no matter we do! And I don't want to be just another skeleton or mummified corpse to be found by the next unlucky souls who wake up here.

ZACK

Is this still about the farm?

LEVI and MIRA answer simultaneously.

LEVI

No.

MIRA

Yes.

LUNA

Look, I loved the farm, but I don't think I could live my whole life there.

LEVI

We could-

MIRA

Wait - where's Riley? And Anya?

ZACK

I don't know. I saw them talking a minute ago.

MIRA

Shit! Is that so much to ask that people stop just sneaking off?

She sighs angrily.

MIRA

Come on. Before Riley gets themselves eaten.