

Once Upon a Wasteland
Season One
Part Two: The Book of Amanda

Episode 5:
"The Identical Old Questions"

by

D.K. Trueno

Based on Fallout 76

by

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EPISODE 5:
"THE IDENTICAL OLD QUESTIONS"

INTRODUCTION/OPENING THEME

"Charon" by Mike Eastwood

NARRATOR

(over music)

1	Once upon a time, 27 years after the bombs fell, there were two people - a Vault Dweller, and a California girl. They met, and sparks flew. That's when things got interesting.	1
2	(beat) This is their story.	2

ACT ONE

INT. BETH'S RESIDENCE

VALDEZ putters in the kitchen, humming.

A keypad beeps and the locked front door unlocks, then opens.

3 VALDEZ Beth?! 3

AMANDA enters.

4 AMANDA Sorry, Kitten, it's just me. She 4 *
isn't back yet? She didn't... *
stumble onto yet another hot lead, *
did she? *

5 VALDEZ No. She said she'd be on her way 5 *
home first thing in the morning *
when we talked yesterday, and she's *
been good about contacting me when *
she's gotten delayed. *

6 AMANDA I know she's great at her job and 6 *
everything, but... I didn't expect *
her to still be off chasing clues *
two weeks after... *

7 VALDEZ Yeah. After that intel source tried 7 *
to... hurt me. *

8 (beat, brightly) *
But it's nice to see you. Really 8 *
nice. Thank you, again, for last *
night - especially for dragging me *
home. I don't think I could've *
found my way back on my own.

AMANDA chuckles.

9 AMANDA I figured you could use a night 9
out. You've been stressed.

10 VALDEZ I have. Between the situation at 10
Atlas being so... fluid and Beth
still being gone, it's been...
yeah, I needed that.

11	AMANDA I'm sure talking to her over comms every day helps. How long was it yesterday?	11	*
12	VALDEZ Um... two hours, I think? She said her dad was worried that they were going to kill their last portable power pack.	12	

13 AMANDA 13
You two are rapidly becoming
insufferably adorable. I love it.

VALDEZ laughs.

14 VALDEZ 14
It's been nice. It feels like
there's... I don't know, less
pressure? I can't wait to see her
again, but... I'm kind of going to
miss those chats.

15 AMANDA 15
I get the feeling that you're going
to have lots of opportunities to
"chat."

(beat)
16 Oh, how's your head, by the way? 16

17 VALDEZ 17
It's fine. Sleeping in helped. And
your hangover cure did, too. Thanks
for leaving that.

18 AMANDA 18
Least I can do.

19 VALDEZ 19
You could've stayed, you know.

20 AMANDA 20
Yeah. I know.

21 VALDEZ 21 *
You're not still... skittish about
the other night, are you?

AMANDA laughs.

22 AMANDA 22
I don't get "skittish," Kitten. If
I was worried that you'd try to
drag me into the sack again I
wouldn't have taken you out and
gotten both of us drunk.

(beat)
23 So, am I never getting that t-shirt 23
back?

VALDEZ laughs.

24 VALDEZ Hey, it's comfortable! I promise, 24
though, I'll give it back as soon
as I wash it.

25 AMANDA Nah, you can keep it. It looks nice 25
on you. A little... snug, but good
snug.

26 VALDEZ Can I tempt you with some 26
breakfast?

27 AMANDA I didn't know you could cook! 27

28 VALDEZ Um... I can't. But I did look over 28
Beth's shoulder a few times, and
speaking as a scientist, I'm
reasonably certain that what I'm
working on over here won't kill us.

29 AMANDA Well, since you put it that way... 29

30 VALDEZ Remember - *reasonably* certain. 30

AMANDA laughs.

AMANDA and VALDEZ fill their plates and sit down to eat.

31 VALDEZ (CONT'D) Well? 31

32 AMANDA I've been kicking around the idea 32
of opening the bar early for
breakfast, so if you ever need a
side job...

33 VALDEZ Aww, you're sweet. 33

34 AMANDA I've been called a lot of things, 34
but "sweet" is not one I usually
hear.

35 VALDEZ Well, you are. At least you have 35
been to me.

36 AMANDA I guess I like you. 36

37 VALDEZ I like you, too. I mean, I wish Beth's mission with her dad hadn't turned into a two-week excursion, but I'm glad we got to spend some time together. 37

38 AMANDA Yeah. You're a lot of fun. 38

39 VALDEZ You may want to hold off on that last part. 39

40 AMANDA What? Why? 40

41 VALDEZ Well, since you're here, there's something I've kind of wanted to talk to you about. 41

42 AMANDA Uh-oh. 42

43 VALDEZ It's just that... well, Beth being gone has given me a chance to think about... everything, I guess. And there's something I kind of feel like I have to know before I make any decisions on what I want to do. 43

44 AMANDA Um... okay. What's on your mind? 44

VALDEZ gathers herself.

45 VALDEZ Are you still in love with Beth? 45

46 AMANDA Oh! Wow. I was *not* expecting that. Um... that's... a complicated question. 46

47 VALDEZ It's really not. 47

48 AMANDA I guess it's the answer that's complicated. 48

49 VALDEZ Not exactly what I wanted to hear, but... go on? 49

50 AMANDA I guess... on some level we're always going to love each other. The kind of thing we had doesn't ever entirely go away. It went deep. 50

51 (beat) And I guess where we are right now kind of shows that. But I get what you're asking, and neither our former relationship nor our current friendship is going to get in the way of... having a future with someone else. 51

52 VALDEZ You sound pretty certain about that. 52

53 AMANDA I'm absolutely certain of it. 53

54 VALDEZ Wait. Are you... seeing someone? 54

AMANDA sighs.

55 AMANDA Yeah. For a while now. I've just been trying to figure out how to tell Beth. I'm worried that she... won't take it well. 55

56 VALDEZ What? Why? Because she's still hoping you two are going to get back together? 56

57 AMANDA No! Nothing like that. We are *very* clear that our days as a couple are firmly behind us. 57

VALDEZ sighs.

58 VALDEZ 58
Okay. I'm not going to push it. But
keeping secrets always ends up
causing bigger problems, and I... I
just don't want to see her get
hurt, Amanda. And I know you don't
want that either.

59 AMANDA 59
Yeah. I hurt her enough when we
were together. I just... need to
figure out how to tell her.

60 VALDEZ 60
The thing that broke up my
engagement was Derek not being up-
front with me. I don't know *why* he
didn't just tell me, and if I'm
being honest I don't know how I
would've reacted if he had. But *if*
he had, there's a non-zero chance
that I'd still be in California
right now. Married. Probably
already starting a family...

61 AMANDA 61
And... would you be happier if that
had happened?

62 VALDEZ 62
I... don't know. I've thought about
it a lot. Hell, I had the whole
march here to think about it. And
up until about a month ago, I think
I would've said yes.

63 AMANDA 63
Wait. A month ago?

64 VALDEZ 64
Yeah.

65 AMANDA 65
Before you met Beth?

66 VALDEZ 66
About... a week before I met her, I
think?

67 AMANDA 67
What happened?

68 VALDEZ I'm not sure. I just... felt ready to try dating again. There was somebody I had my eye on... 68

69 AMANDA Ooooh, you little vixen! 69

VALDEZ laughs.

70 VALDEZ Stop! 70

71 AMANDA Guy or girl? 71

72 VALDEZ Girl. I was trying to figure out how to ask her out, but then... I ended up getting sent out on a mission to retrieve some tech some an old restaurant... 72

73 AMANDA And you met Beth. 73

74 VALDEZ Yeah. And I didn't look at it this way at the time, but... I stopped thinking about how to ask Casey out. 74

75 AMANDA Wait. Casey? Not "Miss Vault 76" Casey, right? 75

76 VALDEZ You know her? 76

77 AMANDA Only by reputation - Beth talked about her a lot when we first met, and she showed me pictures. Damn, Odessa... 77

78 VALDEZ And then she practically tackled Beth when she saw her at Atlas right before she left with her dad. 78

79 AMANDA Oof. That must have been *really* awkward. 79

80 VALDEZ At least I hadn't quite gotten around to actually asking her. That's a level of awkwardness that I don't know that I could take. 80

AMANDA laughs.

81 AMANDA Beth must think this is all hilarious. 81

82 VALDEZ I... didn't tell her. Yet. It felt weird talking about it after she'd just told me they were... involved in the Vault, and then she had to leave. But it's not like they were serious, like you two were. 82

83 AMANDA (awkwardly) Um... well... that's true, they never did get serious. 83

84 VALDEZ Am I missing something? 84

85 AMANDA Beth should really be the one telling you this. 85

86 VALDEZ You can't just leave a statement like that hanging. 86

87 AMANDA They never got serious, that's true. But it was because Casey wasn't ready to commit. Beth *wanted* to get serious. She was head-over-heels. And I get the impression Casey was, too, but she was still a kid - I think she was 18. That kind of commitment was just... not on her radar. 87

88 VALDEZ The way she "greeted" Beth implies that may no longer be the case. 88

89 AMANDA Is that what prompted you to ask me if I still love her? 89

VALDEZ sighs.

90 VALDEZ I guess it's part of it. I mean, 90
Beth hasn't done anything to make
me feel like she's trying to add me
to a harem or anything.

91 AMANDA But you want to make sure you 91
have... how would you Brotherhood
types put it? An accurate
situational assessment?

VALDEZ laughs.

92 VALDEZ Something like that. 92

93 AMANDA I'm going to tell you the same 93
thing I told Beth - just let it
breathe. You two are very clearly
into each other. Is that going to
shake out into a relationship? Who
knows? But worrying about it isn't
going to help. Just let things
happen.

94 VALDEZ Objectively, I know you're right. 94
But after Derek, I... well, I need
to be careful.

A radio beeps and begins to crackle.

95 BANKS
(over radio, urgently) 95
Scribe Valdez. Scribe Odessa
Valdez, please come in. This is
Knight Alan Banks. Come in, please.

96 AMANDA That sounds important. 96

97 VALDEZ
(concerned) 97
Yeah, it is. Alan said he wouldn't
contact me unless it was urgent.

VALDEZ speaks into the radio.

98 VALDEZ (CONT'D) 98
This is Scribe Valdez. Go ahead,
Knight Banks.

99 AMANDA 99
Oooh, so formal! Sexy...

100 VALDEZ 100
(laughing)
Shh!

101 BANKS 101
Valdez, we need you back at Atlas
ASAP. As in "drop whatever you're
doing and get back here
immediately."

102 VALDEZ 102
What's going on? Is everyone
alright?

103 BANKS 103
Everyone here is fine. I can't talk
about it over comms. Just... come
back as soon as you can, okay?

104 VALDEZ 104
Okay. I just need to get my uniform
back on and... make sure Beth's
house isn't going to burn down
after I leave.

105 AMANDA 105
(sotto)
Hey. I'll take care of all of that.
I mean, not the getting-you-dressed
part. Unless you want me to.

106 VALDEZ 106
(sotto)
Amanda!

107 AMANDA 107
(laughing)
Sorry!

108 VALDEZ 108
Alright, Alan, I'm on my way.

109 BANKS 109
See you in a few. Banks out.

The radio clicks off.

110 VALDEZ
Can you... 110

111 AMANDA
I'll hang out here. 111

112 VALDEZ
Thank you. I'm going to get
changed. 112

113 AMANDA
Offer still stands, by the way. 113

VALDEZ goes into the bedroom to change.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. FORT ATLAS, DAY

There is substantial commotion. CASEY greets VALDEZ.

114 CASEY
Hey, you! 114

115 VALDEZ
Casey! 115

116 CASEY
I was starting to think Beth had
you tied up in a basement or
something. 116

VALDEZ laughs.

117 VALDEZ
Nah. I've just been working out of
her place while things got sorted
out here. 117

118 CASEY
Where *is* Beth, anyway? I figured
she'd be attached to your hip. 118

119 (beat)
Unless you have *her* tied up in a
basement. 119

120 VALDEZ
Nobody has anyone tied up anywhere,
Casey. 120

121 (beat)
So... what's going on? Alan made it
sound pretty urgent, but he said he
couldn't talk about it over an
insecure comm channel. 121

CASEY

122 I don't know. There's *something* 122
going on, but Paladin Rahmani's
been really hush-hush about it.

KNIGHT BANKS enters.

BANKS

123 Hi. Knight Alan Banks. And you are? 123

VALDEZ laughs.

VALDEZ

124 Very funny, Alan. 124

BANKS

125 Looks like you came back in the 125
nick of time. I think you're
overdue for a trip to the barber.

VALDEZ

126 I think I'm going to let it grow a 126
little, actually. Try something
different, you know?

BANKS

127 Good for you, Valdez. Sounds like 127
the time away's done you some good.
Still, could've used you around
here.

VALDEZ

128 I'm sorry about that Alan, I am. 128
Paladin Rahmani insisted that I
stay at Beth's place and work there
because of... the incident.

BANKS

129 That must've been tough. Hard to 129
work on that... sciency stuff you
deal with if you don't have the
proper equipment.

VALDEZ

(brightly)

130 Oh! That wasn't a problem. 130

BANKS

131 How'd you manage that? 131

VALDEZ

132 The underground facilities at her 132
place are *impressive*.

(MORE)

VALDEZ (CONT'D)

Laboratory, research materials,
communications...

BANKS

133 "Underground facilities?" So, like 133
a mini-vault?

VALDEZ

134 No, not quite. It has some 134
additional fortifications and
radiation protection, but it's
really just an extension of the
main structure.

BANKS

135 Mmm hmm. And how do you access it? 135

VALDEZ

136 There's a hidden control panel that 136
triggers a secret door.

BANKS

137 A secret door? 137

(beat)

138 Valdez, are you telling me she has 138
a *lair*?

VALDEZ

(defensive)

139 It's not a lair! 139

BANKS

140 It's underground, it has a secret 140
entrance, and it's under what
sounds like a totally normal house.

(beat)

141 It's a lair. 141

(beat)

142 Well, super-villain or not, I'm 142
glad you were safe. I was worried;
you were *directly* targeted.

VALDEZ

143 Yeah. And I don't know if it was 143
because of me or Beth, but either
way... I'm a target.

BANKS

144 Speaking of... where is she? 144

VALDEZ

145 She's been tied up. 145

CASEY laughs.

VALDEZ clears her throat.

146 CASEY
Sorry. 146

147 VALDEZ
She went to talk to Dr. Flagler
with her dad, and I don't know
specifics, but that produced a
lead, which produced another
lead... but she'll be back today. 147

148 BANKS
Aw, I was kind of hoping you were
roomies this whole time. 148

149 VALDEZ
No. We did talk quite a bit over
comms, though. And I had someone to
keep me company. 149

150 BANKS
Wow, look at you! Growing your hair
out, making new friends. I'm kind
of digging the new Odessa Valdez. 150

151 CASEY
So am I... 151

PALADIN RAHMANI enters.

152 RAHMANI
May have everyone's attention,
please? 152

The din in the room stops.

153 RAHMANI (CONT'D)
Now that we're all here, I have
some very important announcements
to make. Please join me in the
auditorium. 153

The assembled group goes into the auditorium. BANKS, VALDEZ,
and CASEY sit together.

154 BANKS
Here we go... 154

155 RAHMANI
Two weeks ago, we learned that
Atlas - our home - was breached. I
took immediately took two actions.
(MORE) 155

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

My first priority was to ensure the safety of a member of our family that I felt was in immediate danger. And while it was difficult to send Scribe Valdez away, it was a necessary step.

(beat)

156 But then we had to determine the 156
circumstances of the breach, and
ideally retrieve what had been
stolen from Scribe Valdez. I am
pleased to report that we have been
successful in both of those
endeavors.

Applause breaks out.

VALDEZ

157 Alan, did you... 157

BANKS

158 I had no idea... I was completely 158
out of the loop...

RAHMANI

159 I apologize for the secrecy 159
surrounding this effort, but I hope
you'll understand. When you have a
mole, you have to keep the circle
tight. The circle, in this case,
consisted of myself... and Initiate
Benjamin Carlson. Initiate Carlson,
will you join me, please?

BANKS

160 Whoa... 160

CARLSON

161 Thank you, Paladin. And thank you, 161
everyone. I'll cut to the chase.
Right now, three people are sitting
in the brig, and the data and
journals that were taken from
Scribe Valdez's lab are right here.

(beat)

162 Their interrogation will begin 162
soon, and will be led by Knight
Banks. Catching them was just the
first step; now we have to find out
why they did what they did, and
anything else they may have done.
And we will also find out what this
"Morningstar" wants.

(beat)

(MORE)

CARLSON (CONT'D)

163 We're going to get through this, 163
together. And we will emerge even
stronger than we were before.

(beat)

164 Paladin? 164

RAHMANI

165 Thank you, Mr. Carlson. 165

(beat)

166 I do have one more announcement. 166

Initiate Carlson, you have served
with distinction since joining the
Brotherhood, and your performance
on this project has only reinforced
my already strong opinion of you.
Because of that, I hereby promote
you to Knight, with all the
privileges and responsibilities
that entails, effective
immediately.

(beat)

167 Congratulations, Knight Carlson. 167

Applause breaks out.

CARLSON

168 Thank you, Paladin. I won't let you 168
down.

RAHMANI

169 Thank you, Knight. And thank you, 169
everyone. Let's get back to work.
Dismissed. Ad Victoriam.

BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS

170 Ad Victoriam! 170

Walla picks up as people depart.

BANKS

171 Hell yeah! Hey, Valdez, know 171
anybody who has special training in
interrogation and intelligence
gathering who might be interested
in a little bit of freelance work?

VALDEZ

172 I just might... 172

RAHMANI approaches.

RAHMANI

173 Scribe Valdez. Welcome back. A 173
word, please? In private?

174 VALDEZ
Of course, Paladin. I'll talk to
you guys later. 174

175 BANKS
Let me know what your... what Beth
says, okay? 175

176 VALDEZ
Of course. 176

RAHMANI and VALDEZ walk to RAHMANI's office.

RAHMANI closes the door.

177 RAHMANI
Please, sit. 177

178 VALDEZ
Yes, ma'am. Have I... done
something wrong? 178

179 RAHMANI
Have you? 179

180 VALDEZ
I... I don't think so, I've been
working at Beth's place, just like
you asked, and keeping you in the
loop, again, just like you asked. 180

181 RAHMANI
Your work has been exemplary, as
always, Scribe. 181

182 (beat)
But how are you? 182

183 VALDEZ
(confused)
I'm... fine? I'm great, actually. 183

184 RAHMANI
I've noticed. Look, Odessa, I'll
get right to it. 184

185 (beat)
We marched together, side by side,
all the way here from California.
Now, I had my own concerns during
that trip, as did Knights Shin and
Thornberry. Knight Connors wasn't
even supposed to be there, but...
circumstances dictated that he
come, too. 185

(wistfully)
(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

186 I'd never considered a world 186
without him, and for a while I
thought I wouldn't have to. And
then I had to say goodbye all over
again.

(beat, gathering
herself)

187 But you... you had to carry a 187
broken heart with you for more than
three thousand miles. And that was
on top of leaving your parents
behind, and your mentor...

VALDEZ

188 Leila, please... 188

RAHMANI

189 Let me finish, Odessa. Look, what 189
Knight Hewitt... what Derek did...
it was unconscionable. To try to
force you to decide between your
duty to the Brotherhood - not only
your family in the figurative
sense, but your actual biological
family - and your love for him
and... well, I know how important
starting your own family was to
you.

VALDEZ

190 Is. 190

RAHMANI

191 Is. I'm sorry, I didn't want to 191
presume.

(beat)

192 But since that happened, you've... 192
shut down that part of you. You're
a passionate person, Odessa, and...
well, it hurt me to see you like
that.

VALDEZ

193 I just... couldn't think about it. 193
About finding someone, maybe even
falling in love again.

(beat)

194 "There is no greater sorrow than to 194
be mindful of the happy time in
misery."

RAHMANI

195 "...e ciò sa 'l tuo dottore." 195

196 VALDEZ
I know you understand, Leila. 196
But... I'm still not sure what
you're trying to tell me.

197 RAHMANI
You were in mourning for a long 197
time, Odessa. And it's alright to
mourn. It's healthy.

(beat)
198 And it's healthy to move on, when 198
you're ready. But you have to give
yourself permission to do that. If
you do one but not the other...
well, it's not fair to you and it's
not fair to the other person,
either.

VALDEZ
(vulnerable)
199 How will I know if I'm really 199
ready?

RAHMANI laughs

200 RAHMANI
I'll let you know as soon as I 200
figure it out myself.

(beat)
201 Joking aside, that's a question I 201
can't answer. It's different for
everyone. But I think you'll know,
and...

202 VALDEZ
What? 202

203 RAHMANI
I have a suspicion that you already 203
do.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. FORT ATLAS, DAY

VALDEZ is putting her lab back together. BETH knocks at her door.

204	Odessa?	BETH	204
205	Beth!	VALDEZ	205
206	I came right here after I saw that you weren't at the house. Amanda said you got called here, and it sounded urgent... is everything okay?	BETH	206
207	Everything <i>is</i> okay. They caught the mole! Well, <i>moles</i> . There were three of them, and they're being interrogated right now. And we got the journals back!	VALDEZ (excited)	207
208	That's brilliant! Was it... anyone we know?	BETH	208
209	No - three relatively new Initiates. There have been so many new people that I suppose it was inevitable that some bad actors could sneak through. Paladin Rahmani has put a moratorium on new recruits until she can get a better vetting process in place.	VALDEZ	209
210	That's smart.	BETH	210
211	So... will you be back to staying at Atlas, then, or...	(beat)	211
212	Paladin Rahmani expects me to move back in immediately, now that it's safe again.	VALDEZ (beat)	212
	(MORE)		

213 VALDEZ (CONT'D) 213
But that doesn't mean I have to be
here *all* the time! And.. well...

214 BETH 214
What is it?

215 VALDEZ 215
Staying at your place got me
thinking...

216 BETH 216
Yes?

217 VALDEZ 217
Maybe you could... teach me how to
cook. I tried while you were away,
but... well, hopefully Amanda was
able to hide the evidence.

BETH laughs.

218 BETH 218
Amanda's good at hiding bodies, so
I'm sure that if there was
anything... incriminating it's long
gone by now.

VALDEZ laughs.

219 BETH (CONT'D) 219
That reminds me... I asked Amanda
about that contact she found. The
one you two were going to try to
get some information out of the
night I left?

220 VALDEZ 220
(wary)
Yes...

221 BETH 221
She said that we should talk about
that together. The three of us. I
tried to get something out of her,
but... she knows all my tricks.

222 VALDEZ 222
I think that's a good idea,
actually.

223 BETH 223
Why? What happened?

224 (beat) 224
Okay, okay.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

But to do that immediately after making such a big show announcing his presence... I don't get it.

VALDEZ

235 Neither do I, but I'm not 235
complaining. I just wish we
could've gotten more information
while you were gone. Amanda's
contacts dried up after... that
first night.

(beat)

236 What did you and your father find 236
out? Oh! The North Star! You said
that you were going to ask Dr.
Flagler about it!

(beat, concerned)

237 How... is he? 237

BETH

238 He was... surprisingly well, 238
actually. Lucid, chatty... but
unfortunately there was still a lot
he couldn't remember.

(beat)

239 He remembered the concept of the 239
North Star, but not what it was. We
had to... end that line of
questioning. He was getting
frustrated, and we didn't want to
risk him spiraling, since he was
doing so well.

VALDEZ

240 Did he give you *anything*? 240

BETH

241 He did, actually. We were able to 241
tease a lead on the people who
spirited his equipment away. That
was *mostly* what we've been chasing
down. And...

BETH opens her backpack and plops a box on the desk.

VALDEZ

242 What's that? 242

BETH

243 That is a box of high-capacity 243
holotapes created by the project
lead, Dr. Emily Troiani.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I wasn't able to read them because they don't work in regular terminals or Pip-Boys, but there's a standard holotape that describes what's on them.

244 VALDEZ So... is there some kind of special terminal or interface that can read them? 244

245 BETH It's more than that... you *directly* interface with them. 245

246 VALDEZ Wait. You mean... 246

247 BETH She must have used it as a test to record her thoughts and memories. Based on what's on that other holotape, it's got a fair amount of background. 247

248 VALDEZ Hrm. That... complicates things significantly. 248

249 BETH It does, yeah. There's only one way to get at the information on those tapes, and even if we did have access to the equipment to do it, it's incredibly dangerous. 249

250 (beat, sigh) We were so lucky to even get our hands on them, it kills me that we might not be able to use them. 250

251 VALDEZ How *did* you get them, anyway? 251

252 BETH They made a mistake. I think that finding out that Dr. Flagler still had journals and data... rattled them. So they went back to find out if he had anything else. 252

253 VALDEZ And did he? I took everything that was in his office when we visited, but... 253

(MORE)

VALDEZ (CONT'D)

I suppose that he could've had more stored elsewhere, that he'd forgotten about...

BETH

254 He didn't. At least as far as we know. But we were able to suss out their next destination based upon the questions they asked. 254

(beat)

255 They remained a few steps ahead of us, but, frankly, we're better at this than they are, so we caught up. 255

VALDEZ

256 Were you able to interrogate them?! 256

BETH

257 We were not. Unfortunately, a Super Mutant Behemoth found them just before we did. 257

VALDEZ

258 Oh. And I assume that encounter didn't go well for them. 258

BETH

259 It went very poorly for one of them. The other one turned tail and ran. 259

(beat)

260 The Behemoth lingered around the body, and we didn't want to risk the possibility of... evidence being lost, shall we say, so I created a distraction whilst dad checked out the body. Behemoths are monstrously tough, but not terribly bright, so I was able to lead him away long enough for dad to find those tapes. 260

VALDEZ

261 That's fantastic! And I'm glad you stayed safe. I was worried about you. 261

BETH

262 I'm sorry that I couldn't go into detail when we chatted... just couldn't risk it. But... 262

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I'm really glad that it gave us the opportunity to... just chat, though.

VALDEZ

263 Yeah. Me, too. 263

RAHMANI knocks on the doorway.

RAHMANI

264 Ah, Miss Kirby. I'm glad you're here. I need to talk to you. 264

BETH

265 Uh-oh. Have I done something wrong? 265

RAHMANI

266 No. Well, at least not that I'm aware of. 266

VALDEZ

267 Should I... leave? 267

RAHMANI

268 No, Scribe. You need to be part of this conversation as well. 268

(beat)

269 I've been doing my homework on you, Miss Kirby. 269

BETH

270 You have? 270

RAHMANI

271 You've been... working very closely with one of the most vital members of my team. 271

BETH

272 Of course. Due diligence is certainly the right call. 272

RAHMANI

(reading)

273 Elizabeth Laurel Kirby. Born April 21, 2081. The daughter of Lord Andrew Kirby and the former Elise Dietrich. 273

VALDEZ

274 Lord? 274

275 BETH 275
My father is a peer. A baron,
specifically. Well, was, I suppose.
Noble titles don't mean anything
anymore. Though, technically, that
does make me "The Honourable
Elizabeth Kirby."

276 RAHMANI 276
And he was a legend in the
intelligence community. Your mother
was a diplomat, also very highly
respected.
 (beat)

277 But it's you that I'm interested 277
in, not your parents.

 BETH
 (wary)

278 Go on. 278

279 RAHMANI 279
I'm sure you'll understand, but I
cannot have someone who is
completely unaffiliated with the
Brotherhood working with Scribe
Valdez, or anyone else for that
matter, as closely as you have.

280 VALDEZ 280
Paladin! Beth has been...

281 RAHMANI 281
Let me finish, Scribe.
 (beat)

282 Miss Kirby, you've been working as 282
a freelancer since leaving the
Vault, yes?

283 BETH 283
Yes, ma'am, that's correct.

284 RAHMANI 284
I would like to... formalize your
relationship with us.

285 BETH 285
Paladin... joining the Brotherhood
is... well, it's just something
that I can't do. I have to retain
my independence.

286 RAHMANI 286
I understand that. And beyond that,
I respect it. With that in mind,
here is my proposal, and you don't
have to make a decision right now.
I'd like you to hire you as we
navigate this Morningstar business.
You wouldn't be a member of the
Brotherhood, but you would have
access to our facilities,
equipment, and... our personnel.
And we would, of course, compensate
you appropriately.

287 BETH 287
I... I don't know what to say,
Paladin. It's a very... enticing
offer.

288 VALDEZ 288
Just say "yes," Beth...

289 BETH 289
I... accept, Paladin.

290 RAHMANI 290
Good.

291 (beat) 291
Now. Scribe Valdez, let's discuss
parameters. This issue is my
highest priority. Knight Carlson is
leading the overall effort, but I'm
granting you the autonomy to do
whatever you feel you need to do in
order to get us on the other side
of this. All the Brotherhood's
resources are at your disposal. And
at yours, Miss Kirby.

292 VALDEZ 292
I won't let you down.

293 RAHMANI 293
I know you won't. There's one last
thing, then I'll leave you to it.

294 (beat) 294
You have my explicit permission to
work with Miss Kirby as much as you
both feel is appropriate.

295 VALDEZ 295
Thank you, Paladin.

296 RAHMANI 296
And you also have my explicit
permission to spend as much off-
duty time - such as it is - with
Miss Kirby as you both feel is
appropriate.

297 BETH 297
(surprised, brightly)
Thank you, Paladin.

298 RAHMANI 298
You're welcome. I'm counting on
you. Both of you.

KNIGHT BANKS raps on the doorway urgently.

299 BANKS 299
Paladin! We just got a report -
that group of hostiles we've been
keeping our eye on? They're on the
move, and it looks like they're
headed for Foundation!

300 BETH 300
Foundation?! My mum is there!

301 VALDEZ 301
What's she doing there? I thought
she was done with those
negotiations?

302 BETH 302
She thought she was. But when I
spoke with her this morning she
said that she had to go over there
today to finalize some things with
Foundation leadership.
(urgently)

303 Odessa, I need to get there, 303
immediately.

304 RAHMANI 304
Alan, assemble a team immediately.
Take Miss Kirby with you.

305 VALDEZ 305
I'd like to go, too. I can help.

306 RAHMANI 306
Under normal circumstances I'd keep
you here, but in this case I agree.
Go. Just be careful.

307 BANKS 307
What kind of weaponry you got with
you, Beth?

308 BETH 308
Not much. Just a pistol and a
combat knife. And no time to stop
at home to pick up anything better.

309 BANKS 309
Valdez - take her down to the
armory and get her set up with a
couple of Crusader Pistols. And a
Plasma Cutter in case she needs to
get up-close-and-personal with
anybody.

310 BETH 310
 (clearly worried)
Thank you, Knight Banks.

311 BANKS 311
We're rolling out in five. I'm
going to grab Carlson.

312 RAHMANI 312
I'll get on comms and warn
Foundation. At least they won't be
caught by surprise.

BANKS and RAHMANI leave.

313 BETH 313
I don't say this often, Odessa,
but... I'm scared. My mum isn't
a... fighter. She's a diplomat. She
had some self-defense training in
the Vault, but nothing that's going
to help with what sounds like an
army bearing down on her.

314 VALDEZ 314
Paige will make sure she's
protected until we get there.

315 (beat) 315
Let's get down to the armory so we
get you kitted out. We want to be
ready when Alan rolls out.

316 (beat) 316
She's going to be okay, Beth. Well
make sure of that. Together.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. FOUNDATION, NIGHT.

BANKS, VALDEZ, and BETH approach cautiously, the sound of gunfire and explosions in the distance.

317 BANKS 317
 Holy shit. This is a *lot* of damage.
 Guards never stood a chance. Damn.

318 BETH 318
 Oh, God...

319 BANKS 319
 Greg - take the team to the main
 entrance. The three of us will
 sneak in through the back door.

320 CARLSON 320
 Yes, sir. Team? Let's move out.

CARLSON leaves with his team.

321 VALDEZ 321
 Let's get inside. They must need
 help. And we need to find Beth's
 mom.

322 BANKS 322
 Yeah. Maybe we'll get lucky and
 find out she got out in time.

BANKS, VALDEZ, and BETH enter Foundation, stealthily.

323 VALDEZ 323
 (quietly)
 Alan. That guy right there, with
 the radio? He doesn't look like a
 settler.

324 BANKS 324
 Maybe. Could be a former Raider
 that's giving Foundation a go,
 though. Might not be a bad guy.

A gunshot rings out.

325 BANKS (CONT'D) 325
 Jesus. OK, he's a bad guy.

326 BETH I don't see anyone around him. He's 326
mine. Back in a moment.

BETH sneaks up to the bad guy and hits him in the back of the head, knocking him out. He crumples to the ground.

327 BANKS Nice work. Remind me never to piss 327
you off.

328 BETH I got his radio. At least we're not 328
completely blind now.

329 BANKS Hopefully they didn't go radio 329
silent.

330 (beat) Let's keep moving. Stay low, 330
weapons hot.

They continue forward.

331 BETH How big was the group? 331

332 BANKS It wasn't huge. Twenty people, 332
maybe? But all this damage makes me wonder if the report was wrong.

333 BETH That or they're carrying some very 333
heavy ordnance.

334 VALDEZ It doesn't seem like there's any 334
kind of pattern. It seems like... destruction for destruction's sake.

335 BETH That's the kind of thing I'd expect 335
out of Blood Eagles, but the guy I took down wasn't a Blood Eagle.

336 VALDEZ No. He looked too... military for a 336
Blood Eagle. Free States, maybe?

The gunfire and explosions stop.

350 BANDIT 2
Epsilon, this is Home Base. Go ahead. 350

351 BANDIT 1
Still no sign of Paige. 351

352 BANDIT 2
He's too stupid and too stubborn to run. He's here somewhere. Find him so we can get out of here. 352

353 BANDIT 1
I passed a room with about a dozen civilians. They're scared shitless. Want me to use them to smoke him out? 353

354 BANDIT 2
Nice thinking. That sentimental old bastard won't let his people die. Good thing Ward's not in charge, that son of a bitch would probably pull the trigger himself if he had to. 354

355 BANDIT 1
Alright, looping back. 355

356 VALDEZ
We can't let innocent people get hurt. You saw all the bodies we passed since got here. They have no problem with killing people. 356

357 BANKS
You're absolutely right. Beth, shut off that radio so it doesn't give away our position. We're almost to the elevator. We'll see what they have guarding it and go from there. 357

The group moves closer to the elevator.

358 VALDEZ
Only two people? 358

359 BANKS
Some of them are downstairs, and Greg's team is probably keeping the rest of them busy. 359

360 (beat)
Beth, would you like to do the honors? 360

361 BETH
I'll need to take both of them out 361
before they can fire.

 (beat)
362 Let me try something... 362

BETH throws a rock some distance away from the elevator.

 BANDIT 3
363 What was that? 363

 BANDIT 2
364 Might be somebody sneaking around. 364
Take 'em out.

 BANDIT 3
365 On it. 365

BANDIT 3 goes to investigate the noise. BETH sneaks up behind
BANDIT 2 and knocks him out, dragging his unconscious body
out of sight.

BANDIT 3 returns.

 BANDIT 3 (CONT'D)
366 It was nothing. Probably just a 366
mole rat or something.

 (beat)
367 This is a hell of a time to take a 367
leak, dude.

 (beat)
368 Hey, this isn't funny. Where did 368
you--

BETH knocks BANDIT 3 out as well, dragging his body to join
his friend.

 BETH
369 I didn't see anybody else. I think 369
we're clear.

 BANKS
370 Turn that radio back on before we 370
head down. Might get a better read
on where they are.

BETH switches on the radio, which crackles to life.

 BANDIT 1
371 I repeat. Abort. Abort. Abort. We 371
have a member of the Royal Family
here. Abort. Abort. Abort. All
teams, leave immediately and head
back to base.

372 BANKS 372
 "Royal Family?" What the hell is
 that supposed to mean?

The elevator begins to move.

373 BANKS (CONT'D) 373
 They're coming up. They want to
 retreat, I say we let them. Too
 many civilians still around to
 start a firefight.

374 BETH 374
 I agree. At least we'll have these
 two to interrogate when they come
 to.

375 BANKS 375
 Let's get out of sight.

Several bandits get off the elevator. BANDIT 1 spots the two unconscious bandits.

376 BANDIT 1 376
 God dammit. Sorry, guys, can't drag
 you all the way back to base.

BANDIT 1 fires a single shot into each bandit's head.

The group of bandits leaves, quickly.

377 BANKS 377
 We're clear. Let's get downstairs
 and see how bad it is. And if,
 like, the Queen moved into
 Foundation while we weren't
 looking.

The group enters the elevator and goes downstairs.

378 BETH 378
 Let's find those people they were
 talking about and make sure they're
 alright.

379 BANKS 379
 Exactly what I was thinking. I'm
 not seeing any bodies, so that's a
 good sign.

VALDEZ opens a door.

380 VALDEZ
In here! 380
(beat)

381 I'm Scribe Odessa Valdez with the 381
Brotherhood of Steel. You're safe
now.

382 ELISE
Odessa?! 382

383 VALDEZ
Mrs. Kirby! 383
(beat)

384 Beth! Your mom is in here! 384

BETH rushes in.

385 BETH
Mum! Are you hurt? 385

386 ELISE
No, Schatzi. I'm fine. But I 386
shouldn't be.

387 BETH
What happened? 387

388 ELISE
These... people were looking for 388
Paige, but they couldn't find him.
I overheard them making plans to
use us as bait to draw him out.

389 BETH
Smoke out the leader. A solid plan. 389

390 ELISE
And a brutal one. They were going 390
to kill one of us to get his
attention.

391 (beat)
They were going to kill *me*, Lily. 391

392 BETH
Oh my God! 392

393 ELISE
The man I assume was in charge told 393
one of the others to grab someone
from our group at random, and I was
the unlucky winner.

394 (beat)
But he took one look at me and got 394
very upset.

395 BETH 395
Upset? Why?

396 ELISE 396
I wish I knew. It felt like he...
recognized me, but I'd never seen
him before in my life. He said
some... colorful words and pulled
something up on his Pip-Boy. The
next thing we knew, he was on the
radio aborting the mission.

397 BETH 397
Did you hear him say something
about the "Royal Family?"

398 ELISE 398
I did! I assumed it was some sort
of code. Though the other
conversations I overheard were
quite straightforward...

399 BANKS 399
Mrs. Kirby, I'm Knight Alan Banks.
I'm a friend of your daughter's.
The "Royal Family" thing aside, can
you think of any reason why your
presence here would cause them to
abort the mission?

400 ELISE 400
Maybe they were afraid of me?

401 BETH 401
Why, did one of them not clean
their room?

ELISE laughs.

402 ELISE 402
No, Knight Banks, I can't. I'll
think about it, but... right now
I'd just like to go home.

403 BANKS 403
Of course, ma'am. On behalf of the
Brotherhood, I'd like to offer you
an escort.

404 ELISE 404
Thank you, Knight. Under most
circumstances I would decline, but
in this case I think that would be
for the best.

INT. FORT ATLAS, MORNING

*

BETH knocks on VALDEZ's doorway.

411 VALDEZ
Hi! How's your mom? 411

412 BETH
She's good. Still a *little* shaken
up, but she's resilient. 412

413 VALDEZ
And your dad? 413

414 BETH
He wants to go out and kill them
all himself, but I think she
prevailed upon him to... not do
that. But he's champing at the bit
to do *something*. 414

415 VALDEZ
I can't blame him. His wife and
daughter are in the middle of...
well, whatever this is. 415

416 (beat)
Did you figure anything out with
that "Royal Family" thing? 416

417 BETH
No, at least nothing concrete or
even particularly compelling. 417

418 (beat)
But based purely on context, they
said she was a *member* of this
"Royal Family." So she wasn't the
focal point. 418

419 VALDEZ
I thought the same thing. And from
that, we can infer... 419

420 BETH
That *I'm* the focal point. 420

421 VALDEZ
Yeah. I'm sorry. 421

422 BETH
So am I. 422
(frustrated)
(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

423 I hate this. I feel like I'm... 423
 putting people I care about in
 danger and I don't even know why.

VALDEZ

424 Well, look at it this way - it may 424
 have saved your mother's life last
 night.

BETH

425 That's true, I suppose. But that 425
 luck's going to run out, sooner or
 later. We need to figure this out
 before that happens.

(beat)

426 And you're clearly in his 426
 crosshairs as well.

VALDEZ

427 I'm a big girl, Beth. And not only 427
 do I have the might of the
 Brotherhood behind me... I have
 you.

BETH

428 That you do. 428

PALADIN RAHMANI knocks on the door.

RAHMANI

429 Scribe Valdez, I wanted... 429

(beat)

430 Oh. Am I interrupting? 430

BETH

431 Not at all, Paladin. Scribe Valdez 431
 and I were just discussing the
 incident at Foundation and how it
 relates to what we already know
 about the Morningstar and his plan.

RAHMANI

432 Ah. Your report was very 432
 illuminating, Scribe. When we have
 a better understanding of how Mrs.
 Kirby - and, by extension *Miss*
 Kirby - figure into this, I expect
 to be read in immediately.

VALDEZ

433 Of course, Paladin. You'll know 433
 when we know. But as of right now,
 it's all speculation.

(beat)

(MORE)

VALDEZ (CONT'D)

434 Have we gotten anything out of the people who looted my lab? 434

RAHMANI

435 Nothing. Knight Banks has been working on them non-stop, but they keep denying that they had anything to do with it, saying they've been framed. 435

BETH

436 Is that... possible? 436

RAHMANI

437 No. Knight Carlson conducted a thorough investigation, and he was briefing me every step of the way. He'd had his eye on them from very early on in that investigation. 437

BETH

438 So... what took so long? 438

RAHMANI

439 He was hoping that they would give the materials they stole to someone. That way, we'd at the very least have a bit more clarity on who else was involved. 439

VALDEZ

440 But they never did. 440

RAHMANI

441 No. They just... sat on them. It seemed strange to me; you'd think if they'd had such an elaborate plan to take the tapes and journals, and to delete the corresponding data from our systems, that they would've had a plan to get everything to whoever they're working for. 441

BETH

442 It *is* strange. Like they only had... half a plan. And that doesn't jibe with what we've seen from the Morningstar so far. Everything has been precise. 442

(beat)

443 Perhaps something... unexpected happened that threw them off? 443

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

My mother wasn't supposed to be at Foundation, and seeing her made them flat-out abort that mission... they weren't able to pivot.

VALDEZ

444 I was thinking about that. It was almost like they were... programmed, but their programming wasn't sophisticated enough to change plans on the fly. 444

BETH

445 Hmm. Based on what we know so far about the technology the Morningstar seems to be accumulating, could that be used to "program" someone? 445

VALDEZ

446 Well, the information we have is... incomplete, but what I've read indicates that the technology wasn't ready for that kind of thing. But they were working toward getting it there. 446

BETH

447 Perhaps that attack is evidence that he's getting closer. 447

(beat)

448 Paladin, could you tell Knight Banks that I'm at his disposal if he'd like to give me a shot at interrogating the prisoners? As long as that falls within my brief as a freelancer, of course. 448

RAHMANI

449 It does, and I'll let him know. 449

(beat)

450 Thank you both for the briefing. It's good to know that we're making progress, and I have every confidence that progress will continue. 450

(beat)

451 There's one other matter that I'd like to discuss with you. I haven't made the formal announcement, but I'm about to. 451

(beat)

452 I'm concerned about burnout. 452

(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

Everyone has been working so hard, and the last two weeks have been especially difficult, knowing that there was likely a spy in our midst but not knowing either who that spy was or what they might do next.

BETH

453 I'm well acquainted with that kind of pressure. It's important to have a... safety valve to blow off some steam. 453

RAHMANI

454 To that end, I've decided to... throw a party. 454

VALDEZ

455 A party? 455
456 456
457 457
458 To allow people step back and celebrate everything we've accomplished. And to celebrate *each other*. 458

BETH

459 It sounds like a brilliant idea. 459

RAHMANI

460 Thank you, Miss Kirby. Initiate Barksdale has already started making arrangements. We'll have it on Saturday. 460

BETH

461 If there's anyone who can plan a party on this scale in two days, it's Casey. 461

RAHMANI

462 I concur. And that will also give everyone a bit of time to... ask any potential plus-ones. 462

VALDEZ

463 We can bring dates? 463

RAHMANI

464 Guests. They can be dates, siblings, friends, crushes... I don't want anyone missing someone while they're celebrating. 464

(beat)

(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

465 At any rate, party or no, there's always work to be done. I need to get back to mine. Thank you both. 465

VALDEZ

466 Thank you, ma'am. 466

BETH

467 Thank you, Paladin. 467

RAHMANI leaves.

BETH (CONT'D)

468 That was... a surprise. 468

VALDEZ

(cheeky)

469 Are you implying that members of the Brotherhood don't know how to have fun? 469

BETH laughs.

BETH

470 I would *never* imply that. 470

CASEY knocks on the doorway.

VALDEZ

471 Hi, Casey! How goes party planning? 471

CASEY

472 Very well! There's plenty of space, and I'm sure I can scrounge some decorations. 472

BETH

473 It's going to look brilliant, Casey. I have full and complete faith in you. 473

CASEY

474 Thanks, babe. 474

BETH

475 And... as much as I'd love to stay and chat, I need to check in on mum and dad. I'll give them your best. 475

(beat)

476 Bye, you two! Don't get into *too* much trouble while I'm gone. 476

VALDEZ

CASEY

Bye!

Bye!

BETH leaves.

	VALDEZ (CONT'D)	
477	What's up, Casey? Do you need help with the party? Event planning isn't... something I have a lot of experience with, but I'll do my best.	477
	CASEY	
478	It's not about the party. Well, it kind of is, I guess.	478
	(beat)	
479	Will you...	479
	(beat, sotto)	
480	Oh, boy...	480
	VALDEZ	
481	Will I what, Casey? Put up decorations? Set up chairs?	481
	CASEY	
482	No, it's not that. Um... will you... go to the party with me?	482
	VALDEZ	
	(shocked)	
483	Um... you mean...	483
	CASEY	
484	Yes, Odessa. I'm asking you on a date.	484
	(beat, reflective)	
485	I guess if I didn't at least ask I'd regret it for a long time. I'm already regretting not doing it sooner.	485
	(beat)	
486	I'm still a little... fuzzy on the situation with you and Beth, but whatever it is, it seems... complicated, so...	486
There is an awkward pause.		
	VALDEZ	
487	I'm sorry, this was... kind of unexpected.	487
	CASEY	
488	Was it?	488
	(laughs)	
489	I guess I was too subtle.	489
490		490

491 VALDEZ
Casey, I... 491

492 CASEY
Look, I already know "Scribe
Valdez" is *amazing*. But I'd love to
get to know *Odessa* better, and this
seems like a good opportunity to
maybe start doing that.
(beat)

493 And I... wouldn't have asked if I
didn't get the feeling that you
might want to get to know *me*
better, too. 493

494 VALDEZ
I don't know what to say. 494

495 CASEY
(playfully)
Well, "yes" would be a good start. 495
(beat)

496 Look, I'm not a homewrecker. If I
misread things and you and Beth are
together together I'm not going to
do anything to get in the way. But
if you're not... well, just think
about it, okay? No pressure. 496

CASEY leaves.

497 VALDEZ
Yeah. No pressure at all. 497

END OF ACT THREE

*