

Once Upon A WASTELAND

Season Two: "Broader Lands and Better Days"

Episode 1
"Looking More Widely Around"

by

D.K. Trueno

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Anthria Fantasy Works
1000 Scotsburg Trail
Hillsborough, NC 27278
+1 (919) 672-8186

"LOOKING MORE WIDELY AROUND"

INT. FORT ATLAS, MORNING

Scribe ODESSA VALDEZ is getting ready to begin her day, moving small pieces of equipment around and generally organizing/tidying her space. She inserts a holotape into her terminal and sighs. She presses a button, which causes the terminal to beep.

ODESSA

1 Scribe... excuse me, *Senior Scribe* 1
Odessa Valdez, Brotherhood of
Steel, personal log. October 8,
2105.

(long pause)

2 I don't even know where to start... 2
I used to do this regularly back in
California, and I tried to keep up
with it when we left, but it got
harder and harder to find the time.
Paladin Rahmani encouraged me to
get back into the habit, and I
promised her I would. So... here
goes.

(beat)

3 Things have been quiet recently. 3
Well, quieter. Either that or I'm
finally getting used to the cadence
of Appalachia. But whatever the
reason, it's given me the
opportunity to... look more widely
around for the first time since we
got here.

(beat)

4 Leila and I are the only people 4
left from the original expedition.
I felt so... *alone* for so long,
even as more and more people joined
us at Fort Atlas. The only thing
that I could do... The only thing
that felt right was to bury myself
in my work, and there was plenty of
work to do.

(beat)

5 Back home, I felt like everyone 5
looked at me in the context of
someone else. Somebody's daughter.
Somebody's protégé.

ODESSA sighs.

ODESSA (CONT'D)

6 Somebody's fiancée. 6

ODESSA gathers herself.

7 ODESSA (CONT'D) 7
 But that changed when we got here.
 Knight Banks even used to tease me
 about it... he called me
 "Appalachia's Sweetheart." I hated
 that, so of course he kept saying
 it.

ODESSA laughs.

8 ODESSA (CONT'D) 8
 And then, one day, everything
 changed.
 9 (aside) 9
 Ugh. That sounds so cliché.
 10 (normal) 10
 Then, out of nowhere...

ODESSA sighs.

11 (aside) 11
 Remember, Odessa, this is a
 personal log, not an article for
 "Live and Love."
 12 (beat, then normal) 12
 Then I met someone, and everything
 just... clicked. For the first
 time, *finally*, I felt like I was in
 the right place. That this was
 home.

There is a knock at the door.

13 NAVIA 13
 Scribe Valdez? Am I...
 interrupting?

ODESSA clicks the terminal to stop the recording.

14 ODESSA 14
 It's fine, Jess. How did the
 mission go?

15 NAVIA 15
 It went great! But...

16 ODESSA 16
 But what?

17 NAVIA 17
 It still kind of feels like I have
 training wheels on.

ODESSA chuckles.

18 ODESSA
I know. But it's all part of the process. Look at it this way - I wasn't doing this kind of work until I was a few years into my career, so you're obviously doing something right.

19 (beat)
Did you find anything interesting? 19

20 NAVIA
(excited)
Yes! I can't wait to show you! We found a cache of tech that Knight Merriweather said he'd never seen before. Most of it is downstairs, but a few things stood out and he wanted you to see them right away.

21 (beat)
I was wondering, um... 21

22 ODESSA
What is it? 22

23 NAVIA
He wants to get everything in the system as soon as possible. Could we catalog the rest of it? Together? 23

ODESSA laughs.

24 ODESSA
Of course we can. In fact, I'd like that. It's been a long time since I really had the opportunity to be a teacher, and I forgot how much I missed it. Besides, you're a great student. 24

25 NAVIA
You're a great teacher. I've learned more in the past six months than I did in the 24-and-a-half years before that. 25

26 (beat)
Oh! Knight Merriweather is briefing Paladin Rahmani right now, but he wanted me to tell you that he'd like to discuss what we found with you when they're done. 26

27 ODESSA 27
With me? Why? I'm not complaining
or anything, but they usually just
dump a pile of tech in my lab and
leave it at that.

28 NAVIA 28
Um... he didn't say. I was busy
gathering up whatever looked
interesting, but he must've found
something else.
(beat)

29 I'm sorry, I should've been more 29
curious about that side of things,
I was just so interested in the
tech...

30 ODESSA 30
Don't apologize. It's alright, I'll
talk to him later and we'll see
what's going on.
(beat)

31 In the meantime, would you like to 31
get started with that cataloging?

32 NAVIA 32
Yes! This is so exciting!

33 ODESSA 33
It is, isn't it?

There is a knock at the door.

34 CHARLES 34
Scribe Valdez, may I have a word?

35 ODESSA 35
Charles! I didn't expect you to
come by today. Is everything
alright?

36 CHARLES 36
Yes, yes, everything's fine. I was
in the neighborhood and wanted to
discuss something with you.
(beat)

37 Oh, where are my manners? Hello, 37
I'm Charles Watkins. A friend of
Scribe Valdez.

38 ODESSA 38
Don't sell yourself short, Charles.
You're practically family.

39 CHARLES
You flatter me. 39

40 NAVIA
Scribe Jessica Navia. I joined the Brotherhood last year, and started working under Scribe Valdez about six months ago. 40

41 CHARLES
Oh, brilliant! She's wonderful, isn't she? 41

42 NAVIA
She is. 42

43 CHARLES
Don't tell her I said that, though. Can't have her getting a big head. 43

ODESSA laughs.

44 ODESSA
Jess, why don't you head downstairs and get started with the paperwork. I'll be down soon. 44

45 NAVIA
Yes, ma'am. It was nice to meet you, Mr. Watkins! 45

46 CHARLES
And you, Scribe Navia. 46

NAVIA leaves and closes the door.

47 ODESSA
You were "in the neighborhood?" 47

48 CHARLES
Well, that *is* technically true, if only because I was specifically in the neighborhood to talk to you. 48

49 ODESSA
What's going on? Is... 49

50 CHARLES
No, Andrew is fine. In fact, he specifically requested that I ask you not to worry about him. 50

51 ODESSA
That's not going to stop me. 51

52 CHARLES
I know. And I suspect he does as well. 52

(beat)
53 In any case, I understand that the Brotherhood has been doing a bit of poking around in the Mire. 53

ODESSA
(slightly taken aback)
54 That's where Scribe Navia just came from. How did you... wait, never mind. Of course you knew. How could you not? 54

CHARLES laughs.

55 CHARLES
How indeed? But at any rate, strange things are afoot in that area and I wondered if we could compare notes after you've been brought up to speed. 55

56 ODESSA
Of course. Scribe Navia brought back some tech that she and I are going to analyze and catalog, and Knight Merriweather is going to brief me on what happened when he's done talking to Leila. 56

57 CHARLES
You sound concerned. 57

58 ODESSA
It's not normal procedure. I usually just read the official report after it's been filed, unless there's something urgent and I need to be looped in. 58

(beat)
59 It's not *uncommon*, but it's become less and less frequent as we've built out our personnel. So if this is important enough to brief me on directly... 59

60 CHARLES
Then it's something important indeed, at least from the Brotherhood's perspective. 60

ODESSA sighs.

61 ODESSA Beth's going to be home soon and I was *really* looking forward to spending some quality time with her. 61

62 CHARLES Duty often calls at the most inopportune times. Andrew and Elise can certainly attest to that. But let's not make any assumptions. This could well be the kind of thing that the Brotherhood can address without you. You've made great strides in the past year. 62

63 ODESSA We still have a lot of work to do, but it's satisfying to kind of stand back see what we've built here... we've come a long way from just being three people who hoofed it here from the other side of the country. 63

64 CHARLES You have indeed. 64

65 ODESSA I'm just glad this is the last mission Beth has to run for MODUS and the Enclave. 65
(beat, annoyed with herself)

66 If I hadn't gotten myself captured she never would've had to make that deal with the devil. 66

67 CHARLES That wasn't your fault, and I think you know that. Besides, she's seizing the opportunity and getting a great deal of intel not only on all the various areas that these missions have taken her, but on the Enclave itself. 67

68 ODESSA The Pitt sounds fascinating. Terrifying, but fascinating. From what she's told me... well, I just hope I never meet a Trog face-to-face. 68

69 CHARLES 69
 As do I. We have quite enough
 monsters to contend with here,
 thank you. But she'll be home soon.
 Not soon enough from your
 perspective, I'm sure, but soon.

There is a knock on the door.

70 MERRIWEATHER 70
 Scribe Valdez? Oh, hello, Mr.
 Watkins.

71 CHARLES 71
 Hello yourself, Knight
 Merriweather. I was just leaving.
 Odessa, lovely to see you as
 always. Please give my regards to
 Paladin Rahmani.

72 ODESSA 72
 You should stop by her office and
 give her those regards yourself.
 She should be free since Knight
 Merriweather's finished briefing
 her.

73 CHARLES 73
 I think that's a brilliant idea,
 Odessa, I'll do just that. We'll
 talk soon?

74 ODESSA 74
 We will. Please say hello to Elise
 for me, and tell Andrew I hope he
 feels better soon.

75 CHARLES 75
 Of course. Goodbye for now.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. FORT ATLAS, MORNING

PALADIN RAHMANI is in her office. ODESSA knocks on her door.

76 RAHMANI 76
 Good morning, Odessa. Come in,
 please.

77 (beat) 77
 Have a seat. Were you able to
 finish cataloging the items Knight
 Merriweather brought back?

78 ODESSA We were. I let Scribe Navia take the lead... *mostly*... and she did a great job. 78

79 RAHMANI That's good to hear. Her assessments have been consistently strong. Not just from you, but from everyone she's worked with. 79

80 ODESSA She's... enthusiastic, that's for sure. 80

81 RAHMANI Is that a concern? 81

82 ODESSA No, no... it's nothing like that. It's just that she's at about an eight most of the time, and she'll need to modulate that to avoid burnout. 82

83 RAHMANI It's interesting to see a new Scribe with such a similar love for the work yet such a dissimilar approach. 83

84 ODESSA Is *that* a concern? 84

85 RAHMANI No. In fact, it's refreshing, and I'm glad you haven't stifled her... exuberance. 85

86 ODESSA Scribe Takano let me be *me*. It took a while to figure out who "me" was, but she gave me the space to do that. I want to do the same for Jess. She has a lot of potential. 86

87 RAHMANI I believe that different styles and different approaches can not only work, but that they're necessary for a team to operate at its best. Diversity is a core aspect of our strength. 87

(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

It was always a point of contention between me and Elder Maxson.

(beat)

88 Although, if I'm being honest, I 88
wouldn't necessarily mind a team
made up of nothing but Odessa
Valdezes.

ODESSA laughs.

ODESSA

89 That's a *terrifying* idea. 89

RAHMANI

90 Well, if you happen to come across 90
any cloning technology here in
Appalachia I trust that you'll
alert me immediately.

ODESSA laughs.

ODESSA

91 Yes, ma'am. 91

RAHMANI

92 How are Miss Kirby's... adventures 92
in The Pitt proceeding?

ODESSA

93 "Adventures" is one word for it. 93

(beat, sigh)

94 I know she's more than capable of 94
taking care of herself, but... I
worry. Especially considering how
many people Valeria sent this time.
Beth said even MODUS sounded
concerned for their safety when he
was giving her the mission brief.
As "concerned" as a possibly
malevolent AI can be, that is.

RAHMANI

95 When will she be back? 95

ODESSA

96 Soon, but she's still not sure 96
exactly when. She peeled off to
help someone named Danilo, but that
mission is taking significantly
longer than she anticipated. She's
been gathering a lot of intel on
the Pitt, though, so she feels it's
worth it.

97 RAHMANI Do you? 97

98 ODESSA I'm just glad she's going to be home for good soon. 98

99 RAHMANI You may have the opportunity to work together on Brotherhood business again. 99

100 ODESSA Oh? What's going on? 100

101 RAHMANI When Knight Merriweather briefed you about his mission yesterday, there were a few things that I asked him to hold off on because I wanted to discuss them with you myself. 101

102 ODESSA That sounds serious. 102

103 RAHMANI It may be, but I'm reserving judgment until we know more. 103

104 (beat) Miss Kirby is still officially a Brotherhood freelancer, and this is something we may need to bring her in on. 104

105 (beat) We've heard rumblings about a new faction... if you can call them that. 105

106 ODESSA What do you mean? 106

107 RAHMANI They seem to be less a faction than a... secret society, I suppose. 107

108 (beat) Knight Carlson's Intelligence Division received information surrounding something called the Order of the Emerald Pike. 108

109 ODESSA That sounds... aggressive. 109

110 RAHMANI 110
It does. But their movements, at
least what we've been able to
track, have been anything but.

111 ODESSA 111
We thought the same thing about the
Morningstar. He didn't get
aggressive until he felt the time
was right.

112 RAHMANI 112
And by then it was too late. If he
hadn't had a... preoccupation with
Miss Kirby, we might not have been
able to stop him.

113 (beat) 113
Have you heard anything about how
he's doing?

114 ODESSA 114
It's been difficult. Dr. Flagler
and Dr. Troiani were able to...
roll back the changes that the
machine made, but he's still coming
to terms with what he did.

115 RAHMANI 115
And trying to determine how much of
that came from the machine and how
much came from him.

116 ODESSA 116
Yeah. Beth spent a lot of time with
him, especially at the beginning.
She believes in him, and that's
good enough for me.

117 (beat) 117
Mr. Kirby sent him on a field
mission a couple of weeks ago. Low
stakes, down to North Carolina.
There were three Vaults in the
middle of the state, not far from
three research universities that
had strong Vault-Tec ties. There
was a lot of brainpower there, and
if any of it's still around...
well, it could really help things
here.

118 RAHMANI 118
And we could help them as well.
Establishing those kinds of ties is
the next logical step in building
something that can last.

119 ODESSA 119
I just hope it's in better shape
than Pittsburgh.

120 RAHMANI 120
Things are bad there, I take it?

121 ODESSA 121
Beth said she'd give me all the
details when she got back, but...
yeah. It was a major industrial
center, so it was specifically
targeted during the war. And on top
of that devastation, there's
significant factional fighting.

122 RAHMANI 122
Mutations?

123 ODESSA 123
The ones you'd expect - radroaches,
rodents. But there's also something
called a "Trog." Similar to a
wendigo, based on Beth's
description, but bigger, stronger,
tougher...

124 RAHMANI 124
We haven't encountered anything
like that here. It could be a
mutation specific to that
environment.

125 ODESSA 125
Or manmade, like Super Mutants or
the Scorched plague. Beth's
contacts there indicated that it's
not contagious, at least.

126 RAHMANI 126
Regardless, I'll ensure that all
our teams are briefed, just in case
any of them make their way here.
Based on what Miss Kirby's told you
I hope they don't, but we can at
least be prepared if they do.
(beat, sigh)
(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

127 I don't like the Enclave sniffing around up there. They don't do anything without a reason. MODUS knows something we don't, and I don't like it. 127

ODESSA

128 Beth should be able to get *some* idea of what they're up to. They're familiar with her skillset so they're going to be careful, but she's good at picking up on things people don't even know they're revealing. 128

(beat)

129 The Colonel is the most... inscrutable one in that bunker, but she's not on this mission. That may be the opening Beth needs. But I just want her to come home safely. 129

RAHMANI

130 How are things between you? 130

(beat)

131 I'm asking that as your friend, not your commanding officer. 131

ODESSA chuckles.

ODESSA

132 I know, Leila. 132

(brightly)

133 Things are going well. In fact... there's something that I wanted to discuss with you. Beth and I have been talking about it and I was going to wait until she got back, but since you asked... 133

RAHMANI

134 You want to move in with her. 134

ODESSA

135 I... er, yes, that's exactly what I was going to ask about. 135

(beat)

136 How did you know? 136

RAHMANI chuckles wryly.

RAHMANI

137 Odessa, the only question *I* had was what took you so long. You practically live there anyway. 137

(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

(beat)

138 But we do need to discuss something 138
about this relationship and the
implications inherent in it.

ODESSA

139 That sounds... ominous. 139

RAHMANI

140 I'm sure you're aware of the 140
Brotherhood's official stance on
non-reproductive relationships
involving Brotherhood personnel.
Elder Maxson has been clear that he
feels it is the duty of everyone
who is part of the Brotherhood to
procreate if they're capable of
doing so.

(long pause)

141 Odessa, if we were still at Lost 141
Hills, he would've nipped this
relationship in the bud already.
But...

ODESSA

(interrupting, upset)

142 Leila, I... I can't believe you're 142
saying this. Are you asking me to
either leave Beth or leave the
Brotherhood, just because we can't
have *babies* together? What's next,
are you going to pair me up with
someone to *breed* with, like
livestock?

RAHMANI

(interrupting,
insistent)

143 Let me finish. We are *not* still at 143
Lost Hills. I disagreed with Elder
Maxson's stance on this matter,
strongly, and now that we're on our
own I want to be clear that love is
not a matter of policy in the
Appalachian Brotherhood.

ODESSA

144 I'm sorry, Leila. I... should've 144
given you the benefit of the doubt.
You've always been supportive of
Beth and I being together.

(beat)

(MORE)

ODESSA (CONT'D)

145 I guess I've always had this in the 145
back of my mind, and I was hoping
it just... wouldn't come up. When
it did, I assumed the worst.

RAHMANI

146 I understand. And if you want to 146
move in with Beth, you have my
blessing, as your friend. But as
your commanding officer...

(beat, formal)

147 Scribe Valdez, do you feel that the 147
alternative living arrangements
you've proposed will in any way
interfere with the performance of
your duties and responsibilities to
the Brotherhood of Steel?

ODESSA

148 No, ma'am. 148

RAHMANI

149 Your request is approved. 149

(beat)

150 We... don't have any paperwork for 150
this sort of thing, but I'll write
a memo.

ODESSA laughs.

ODESSA

151 Thank you, ma'am. 151

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. THE SAVAGE DIVIDE, AFTERNOON

AMANDA is on her way back home following a meeting with Foundation. ELISE is with her, having assisted in the negotiation.

152
AMANDA
152

You were *magnificent*, Elise, and I don't use that word lightly. It's been a while since I got to see your work up-close, and let me tell you - you still got it.

ELISE chuckles.

153
ELISE
153

Thank you, Amanda.

154
AMANDA
154

You had Paige eating out of the palm of your hand.

155
ELISE
155

Ah, well... don't tell Andrew, but I think he has a bit of a crush on me.

AMANDA laughs.

156
AMANDA
156

I think you may be onto something. I guess Beth isn't the only member of the Kirby family who knows how to use her feminine wiles in a negotiation.

157
ELISE
157

Who do you think she learned it from?

AMANDA and ELISE laugh and continue to walk.

158
ELISE (CONT'D)
158

This is nice.

159
AMANDA
159

Yeah. It is. I miss spending time with you guys.

160 ELISE 160
We miss you too, dear. But we understand the demands of living in this... environment. Especially for you.

161 AMANDA 161
I *do* have a lot going on, but you two have always been there for me. You're the closest thing I've had to parents. Most people don't get a second chance at that kind of thing. Hell, a lot of people don't get a *first* chance, especially out here.

162 (beat) 162
I guess I wanted to say... thank you, you know? I feel like I haven't said that enough.

163 ELISE 163
Are you alright, my dear?

AMANDA sighs.

164 AMANDA 164
Yeah. I guess I'm just... Getting used to having a different perspective on things.

ELISE laughs.

165 ELISE 165
One of the many dangers of getting older; sometimes you get wiser, too.

166 AMANDA 166
I'm not going to jump to any conclusions.

167 ELISE 167
You've grown so much just in the few years we've known you. Could you have imagined where you are now, then?

168 AMANDA 168
I wouldn't even have put money on being above ground.

169 ELISE 169
You see? And now you're a
successful businesswoman who
commands respect from practically
everyone in the region.

170 AMANDA 170
"Practically."

171 ELISE 171
There's no convincing Super
Mutants, I've found. Or Blood
Eagles.

AMANDA laughs.

172 AMANDA 172
True. And that's why I don't let
either of them in my bar.

173 ELISE 173
You have friends who love you, and
you've even found someone...
special.

174 AMANDA 174
That was kind of touch-and-go for a
while, but...

175 (beat, sigh) 175
Maybe I *am* growing up. Hey, only
took 32 years.

176 ELISE 176
Well, if you're willing to listen
to a bit of perspective from
someone thirty years your senior,
it will likely remain an ongoing
process.

177 AMANDA 177
So noted. But if I start, like,
wearing socks and sandals *please*
stop me.

ELISE laughs.

178 ELISE 178
I've successfully prevented Andrew
from doing that kind of thing for
decades now, so I should be able to
do the same for you.

179 AMANDA I'll listen to every piece of 179
advice and perspective you have if
it means I'll look as good as you
do thirty years from now.

180 ELISE You flatter me. 180

181 AMANDA Andrew's a lucky man, that's all 181
I'm saying.

182 ELISE He is. But I'm lucky as well. I've 182
been thinking a lot lately, about
all the things that had to happen
just so for us to even meet in the
first place, much less stay
together for all these years.

183 AMANDA I'm glad it all did happen. Who 183
knows where I'd be if it hadn't?

184 ELISE Oh, I think you'd have managed 184
beautifully.

185 AMANDA Maybe. But I wouldn't be same 185
Amanda I am now. And I kind of like
this version of me.

186 ELISE Cindy certainly seems to as well. 186

187 AMANDA Yeah. And don't tell anybody, but I 187
might like her a little bit, too.

ELISE laughs.

188 ELISE I won't tell a soul. 188

189 (beat) It's funny, both you & Cindy and my 189
daughter & Odessa remind me of
Andrew and I, in different ways.
But the one constant across all
these relationships is that there's
nothing we wouldn't do for each
other.

AMANDA sighs.

190 AMANDA 190
Yeah. I ran away from Cindy... from
everything last year because I was
so afraid of hurting her.

191 ELISE 191
But you came back.

192 AMANDA 192
I did. I think I would've come back
eventually no matter what, but as
soon as I heard that Beth got
herself into trouble again I
figured I'd need to bail her out.
Again.

ELISE laughs.

193 ELISE 193
I know she's grateful for that.
Odessa is, too. You three are as
thick as thieves.

194 AMANDA 194
They're so cute together that it
makes my stomach turn sometimes,
but... it's worth it.

195 (beat) 195
I just wish Cindy could spend more
time with us. Odessa is totally
devoted to the Brotherhood, but she
and Beth still manage to see each
other constantly.

196 ELISE 196
Now, now, you know the two
situations are very different.
Paladin Rahmani has turned the
Brotherhood of Steel into an
integral part of Appalachian
society. It's almost become
difficult to remember what it was
like before they came around; it's
as if they've been here forever.
But the Enclave...

ELISE sighs.

197 ELISE (CONT'D) 197
The Enclave is... rather different
in their approach.
(beat)
(MORE)

ELISE (CONT'D)

198 But that aspect of *your* relationship is one of the things that reminds me of Andrew's and mine, in those early days. He was MI6, I was part of the German Foreign Ministry, and... it was difficult. We loved each other, profoundly, but it did put a strain on things.

(beat)

199 But we did not allow that strain to become a break, or even a fracture.

AMANDA

200 We do love each other. And we're doing our best.

ELISE

201 Don't lose sight of the first while you're doing the second and you'll be fine. A relationship like this takes work, but it mustn't feel like a chore.

There is scattered gunfire.

AMANDA

202 Did you hear that?

ELISE

203 I did.

(beat)

204 Someone's running this way.

AMANDA

205 Go over by that tree until I can figure out what's going on. If anything happens, Atlas isn't far. Tell Odessa and she'll call up the cavalry.

SETTLER

206 Help! Help! They're right behind me!

AMANDA

207 Whoa, whoa, calm down! Who's behind you?

SETTLER

208 I don't know, but they're trying to kill me. I think they're Raiders.

209 AMANDA 209
 If they're Raiders, we've got
 nothing to worry about. Go hang out
 over there with my friend.

A group of RAIDERS approaches.

210 RAIDER 210
 Well, well, well, Amanda Otis
 herself. We heard you'd be coming
 this way.

211 SETTLER 211
 And look who's with her!

212 AMANDA 212
 A Samaritan Snare? Seriously? Ugh.
 So boring. Who trained you morons?

213 (beat)
 And you only brought what, five 213
 guys?

214 RAIDER 214
 Looks like that's four more than
 I'll need. I don't know why
 everybody says you're so tough. You
 don't look tough to me.

215 AMANDA 215
 You'd be surprised.

216 RAIDER 216
 You. That's her girlfriend's mom.
 Get a gun in her ribs to make sure
 Amanda here doesn't try anything
 silly.

A gunshot rings out. The SETTLER's body thuds to the ground.

217 AMANDA 217
 Like that?

218 RAIDER 218
 Jesus! You didn't even look!

219 AMANDA 219
 Didn't need to. If any blood got on
 my friend's clothes you're going to
 pay to have them replaced.

220 ELISE 220
 I think there's some... brain
 matter, too.

221 AMANDA That's going to be a big bill. 221

222 RAIDER Huh. I guess you're pretty tough after all. 222

223 AMANDA Yeah. Now how about you idiots run along before I decide it'd be more fun to kill you than to let you live to tell your friends not to fuck with me. 223

224 RAIDER About that. I didn't bring five guys. 224

More RAIDERS appear silently.

225 AMANDA Okay, a Samaritan Snare with an ambush. Better. 30-to-1 feels a little more fair. 225

226 RAIDER Here's what's going to happen. We're going to take you and Frau Kirby with us back to our place. I'm sure her husband will be happy to pay us whatever we want to get her back. 226

227 AMANDA Oh, buddy... I get that you didn't believe *my* reputation was accurate, but trust me - his is. If anything he's *scarier* than people give him credit for. 227

228 RAIDER I guess we'll find out, won't we? 228

229 (beat) Drop that pistol. 229

230 AMANDA Ugh. Fine. 230

AMANDA tosses her pistol on the ground.

A moment later, a gunshot rings out. A body crumples.

231 RAIDER What was that? 231

232 AMANDA 232
It wasn't me! I'm good, but I'm not
"can fire a gun that's on the
ground five feet away from me"
good.

233 ELISE 233
Amanda! Over here! Hurry!

AMANDA rushes to Elise.

234 AMANDA 234
(sotto)
Good call. Regroup while they're
confused. Granted, I'm confused,
too. Beth's in Pittsburgh, Odessa's
at Atlas, Cindy's back at the
Bunker. Who the hell is helping us?

235 ELISE 235
And why?

236 AMANDA 236
Responders?

237 ELISE 237
Only if they've started using
snipers. That's never been their
style.

Two more shots ring out.

238 RAIDER 238
Shit! What the hell kind of weapon
is that? And how many of them are
there? God damn it, let's get out
of here. She must've found out what
we were up to and set up an ambush
herself! God damn she's good.

The RAIDERS run off.

239 ELISE 239
And now we wait.

240 AMANDA 240
Hopefully they didn't just want to
scare those assholes off so they
could have us to themselves.

241 ELISE 241
Try to remain positive.

242 AMANDA Yeah. You're right. 242
(beat)

243 Okay, somebody's coming. 243

A figure approaches.

244 AMANDA (CONT'D) Holy shit. 244

245 ELISE What is it? 245

246 AMANDA That is the most beautiful man I've 246
ever seen in my life. God damn. If
I was single...

247 ELISE Oh! My goodness. 247

AMANDA chuckles.

248 AMANDA You okay, Mrs. Kirby? 248

249 ELISE Yes. Quite okay, in fact. 249

250 AMANDA Same. Wow, same. 250

(beat, trying and
failing to be casual)

251 Hey, pal, thanks for, uh... you 251
know, all that.

252 DEREK Of course, ma'am. I'm just glad 252
that we happened along when we did.
Those Raiders... well, what they
lacked in competence they made up
for in numbers.

(beat)

253 Are you hurt? You look a bit... 253
flustered.

254 AMANDA No, no, I'm fine. Just hope I 254
didn't scratch my pistol when I
tossed it.

DEREK retrieves the pistol.

255 DEREK Here you go. Nothing a good cleaning won't take care of. 255

256 AMANDA Thanks. I'm Amanda, by the way. This is my friend Elise. 256

257 DEREK It's nice to meet you both. Are you alright, Elise? I saw Amanda here take out the guy that had a gun on you. Nice shot, by the way. 257

258 AMANDA Thanks. I'm pretty handsy. Handy! I'm handy. With my hands. 258

259 (sotto) Oh, god... 259

DEREK laughs.

260 DEREK That's... good to know. 260

261 (beat) Elise, one of the people I'm with has a formula for an enzyme cleaner that will get that blood out, if you're interested. 261

262 ELISE I am. Thank you. 262

263 DEREK He's not with me right now, but I'm sure we can figure something out. 263

264 AMANDA Well, if you guys aren't busy, you know, being heroes tonight, you can stop by my bar. I'll buy you a round or ten. 264

265 DEREK I think that sounds great. We're new in town and still kind of finding our way around. 265

266 AMANDA It's called the Spider's Web. If you have a map I can put a marker down where it is. 266

DEREK
 267 I do, one sec... 267

DEREK pulls a map from his pack.

AMANDA
 268 That's... quite a map. Looks like 268
 the ones over at Fort Atlas. Nice
 and detailed, that'll make it
 easier to mark the right spot.

AMANDA marks the map.

DEREK
 269 Thanks. We have a few things to 269
 take care of, like finding a place
 to stay while we're here.

AMANDA
 270 I can help you with that. At the 270
 very least I can tell you who *not*
 to rent a room from.

(beat)
 271 Hey, by the way, stranger, never 271
 caught your name.

DEREK
 (slightly hesitant)
 272 It's... Eric. 272

AMANDA
 273 Alright, Eric, we'll see you later. 273

(beat)
 274 And again... thank you. 274

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. FORT ATLAS, AFTERNOON

ODESSA is in her office.

Scribe NAVIA knocks at her door.

NAVIA
 275 Scribe Valdez? You wanted to see 275
 me?

ODESSA
 276 Yes, come in, Jess. Have a seat. 276

NAVIA sits.

277 NAVIA 277
What's up? Am I.. in trouble? Did I
do something wrong?

ODESSA chuckles.

278 ODESSA 278
No, Jess, you didn't do anything
wrong. You've got a big couple of
weeks coming up and I want to make
sure you feel ready.

279 NAVIA 279
I do, ma'am. Well... as ready as
I'll ever be.

280 ODESSA 280
I know that being on your own can
be daunting, but... it's kind of
like what you said yesterday about
"training wheels." Letting you and
the rest of the Junior Scribes
handle things for a couple of weeks
is the next logical step. And you
are ready for this. I wouldn't be
comfortable stepping away if I
didn't believe that.

281 NAVIA 281
Thank you, Scribe.

282 ODESSA 282
And I'm not going far. Paladin
Rahmani and Knight Merriweather
know how to get in touch with me if
something happens that requires my
personal attention. But you're all
familiar enough with both policy
and procedure that you'll have no
problem handling the day-to-day.

283 NAVIA 283
You've trained us well. We'll do
you proud.

284 ODESSA 284
I know you will.

285 (beat, wistfully) 285
You know, I had a great teacher -
Scribe Hailey Takano. She... meant
a lot to me. And the best thing I
can do to honor her is to try to be
the same kind of person for you and
the rest of the new Scribes.

286 NAVIA 286
Are you okay, Scribe Valdez?

287 ODESSA 287
Yeah. I'm sorry, I guess I've
been... inside my head a little
more than usual lately. That's part
of the reason I want to take some
time off. To reset and recharge a
little.

288 NAVIA 288
I understand.

289 ODESSA 289
That's also something I wanted to
talk to you about.

290 (beat) 290
I was always going to be a member
of the Brotherhood; my parents made
sure of that. And growing up,
whenever they weren't quite sure
where I was, they'd always check
with the Scribes first. More often
than not that's where I was. I
figured out pretty early on - *that*
was what I wanted to be.

291 (beat) 291
Fortunately, my parents encouraged
me. I think they were just happy
that I didn't really have much of a
"rebellious" phase like some of my
friends did. Don't get me wrong, I
had my moments, but I was a good
girl, for the most part.

NAVIA chuckles.

292 NAVIA 292
For the most part?

293 ODESSA 293
I... did a few things that they
didn't necessarily approve of.

294 NAVIA 294
I always kind of wanted to have a
rebellious phase. I tried, but I
always seemed to lurch back to the
straight-and-narrow.

295 ODESSA 295
I can believe that.

NAVIA laughs.

296 NAVIA Hey! 296

297 ODESSA It was a compliment! 297

NAVIA laughs.

298 NAVIA I know. I'm just messing with you. 298
But the "good girl" thing? I get
it. But...

299 ODESSA But you're not sure what this has 299
to do with anything.

300 NAVIA (sheepishly) 300
Yeah. I'm sorry.

301 ODESSA Don't be. I'm getting to the 301
important part, but I felt that
some background was important.

302 NAVIA Okay. I'm listening. 302

303 ODESSA I've always loved my job. But over 303
time, it became more than a job,
and not always in a healthy way. It
was... the lens, I guess, that
every other part of my life got
filtered through. There were times
when I stopped feeling like a
person; when I wasn't even sure who
Odessa Valdez was anymore.

304 (beat) It took coming here to jar me out 304
of that. To give me some
perspective, for the first time in
years.

305 NAVIA Wow. I, um... I don't quite know 305
what to say.

306 ODESSA 306
I guess what I'm saying is that I see a lot of me in you and I want to make sure that you don't fall into the same trap I did. It's easy to lose yourself in an environment like this, even if you haven't been part of the Brotherhood since you were a toddler. If that happens, even if you don't burn out it can skew your worldview to the point that you can do more harm than good.

307 NAVIA 307
That's the last thing I want. I joined the Brotherhood because it felt like that was where I'd have the best opportunity to make a difference.

308 ODESSA 308
It is! Thanks to everything Paladin Rahmani has done over the past few years, we're in a stronger position to help people here than I ever thought we'd be.

309 NAVIA 309
You've played at least as big a role in that as she has. I'm not trying to diminish what she's done, she's been amazing. But you're the person people think of when they think about the Brotherhood.

310 ODESSA 310
Stop. I'm just a scientist, and I'm holed up in my lab most of the time.

NAVIA chuckles.

311 NAVIA 311
Well, both of those things are true, apart from the "just" part, but you've made a stronger impression "out there" than anybody else. Well, Knight Shin also got some... uh... strong reactions before he left, too, but I'm talking about *positive* stuff.
(beat)
(MORE)

NAVIA (CONT'D)

312 I never felt comfortable saying 312
 this out loud, but... you're the
 reason I wanted to join. The reason
 I felt like doing something like
 this was possible. And a lot of
 people admire you. It's not just
 me. There are little girls out
 there *right now* fighting over which
 one of them gets to be you when
 they play. Little girls who want to
 be scientists, whether it's with
 the Brotherhood or somewhere else.
 Because of you.

(beat)

313 No pressure. 313

ODESSA laughs semi-uncomfortably.

ODESSA

314 No, none at all. But speaking of 314
 pressure...

NAVIA

315 Uh-oh. 315

ODESSA

316 I want you to supervise the other 316
 Scribes while I'm gone. Kind of
 like a... team captain.

NAVIA

317 Really?! Me? Are you sure? 317

ODESSA

318 I'm very sure, Jess. I've seen how 318
 the other Junior Scribes are around
 you. You've earned their respect.
 They'll listen to you.

NAVIA

319 Thank you. I won't let you down, I 319
 promise.

(beat)

320 And I hope you enjoy your time off. 320
 You deserve it. I promise, Fort
 Atlas will still be standing when
 you get back.

ODESSA laughs.

ODESSA

321 I'll hold you to it. You're going 321
 to do great. Let's go tell the
 others.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. THE SPIDER'S WEB, EVENING

There is a bustling crowd inside. AMANDA and BONES are at the bar.

322 AMANDA 322
It's too bad Beth's not back yet.
This is exactly the kind of night
she's always loved.

323 BONES 323
It's definitely her kind of crowd.
Odessa's coming, though, right?

324 AMANDA 324
Yeah! She said she had a few things
to button up at Atlas but she was
going to change and head right
over.

325 (beat) 325
I'm glad she's finally taking some
time off. She deserves it. And, she
needs it.

The door opens.

326 BONES 326
Check this guy out. Haven't seen
him around before.

327 AMANDA 327
That's the guy I was telling you
about! The one that saved our bacon
today!

328 BONES 328
Boy, you weren't kidding. That is
one very handsome man.

329 AMANDA 329
Aww, you're handsome, Bones. In
your own way.

BONES laughs.

330 BONES 330
Thanks, boss. What's his deal,
anyway?

331 AMANDA 331
He's new in town. There's no way
somebody like that flies under the
radar around here. We didn't
exactly have time for a long chat,
but you can tell he's former
military, probably an officer based
on how he carries himself.

332 BONES 332
That armor is impressive.

333 AMANDA 333
Yeah, I noticed that, too. Marine
armor. But no logos or insignia so
my guess is that he's
"unaffiliated."

334 BONES 334
Like Beth.

335 AMANDA 335
Yeah. Except he apparently roams
the countryside looking for damsels
in distress to swoop in and save.

BONES laughs.

336 BONES 336
I can't even imagine you as a
damsel in distress.

337 AMANDA 337
Me either. Elise and I definitely
had the "in distress" part covered,
though. And with Beth out of town
and Andrew under the weather who
knows how that would've played out?

338 BONES 338
So what do you think?

339 AMANDA 339
He seems pretty genuine. He didn't
feel "off." I did notice a little
hesitation when he told me his name
so he might be on the run, but he
wasn't acting like it. I mean, look
at him schmoozing. He's a charmer,
that's for sure.

340 BONES 340
Nobody reads people better than
you, boss, so if your gut says he's
okay, he's probably okay.

341 AMANDA 341
Yeah. Part of the reason I invited
him over was to feel him out a
little more.
(beat)

342 Not like that! 342

343 BONES 343
Whatever you say, boss.

344 AMANDA 344
Besides, Odessa probably won't mind
a little eye candy to get her
revved up for when Beth gets back.

345 BONES 345
I think he spotted you. Look at
that smile...

346 AMANDA 346
Eric! Over here!

DEREK joins them at the bar.

347 AMANDA (CONT'D) 347
Did you have any trouble finding
the place?

348 DEREK 348
Nah. No problem at all. I'm sorry
that I'm flying solo tonight... my
friends send their regrets, but I
did get that enzyme cleaning
formula for Elise.

DEREK hands over the paper.

349 DEREK (CONT'D) 349
I was hoping she might join us.

350 AMANDA 350
She would've loved to be here, but
her husband isn't feeling well.
She's at home taking care of him.
I'm sure she would've loved to see
you, though!

DEREK
351 Well, next time I see her I'll have 351
to find out how well that solution
worked. I don't think Dave ever
tried it on... brain.
(beat)

352 And I hope her husband feels better 352
soon. It's nothing serious, is it?

AMANDA
353 Nah, Andrew's the toughest guy I 353
know. He'll be back kicking ass in
no time.
(beat)

354 Come over and sit down with me. My 354
friend is on her way and there's no
reason we can't pregame a little
until she gets here.

DEREK
355 That sounds good to me. 355

AMANDA
356 Bones, set us up with some shots 356
and bring them over to my table?

BONES
357 You got it, boss. 357

AMANDA and DEREK go to Amanda's table and sit.

AMANDA
358 So, how long have you been in town? 358

DEREK
359 Just got here yesterday. Found a 359
safe place outside Morgantown to
set up camp. It's been a long trip,
we were just glad to finally make
it here.

AMANDA
360 Oh, really? Where did you guys come 360
from? Most people here came from
pretty close-by... Virginia,
Pennsylvania, Ohio...

DEREK
361 Out west. 361

AMANDA
362 Oh! Maybe you and my friend can 362
compare notes! She's from "out
west," too!

363 DEREK She is? Well, I can't wait to meet her, then. Given that she's *your* friend I bet she's a blast to be around. 363

364 AMANDA Flatterer. 364

365 DEREK Guilty. 365

AMANDA laughs.

366 AMANDA She's great, though. I think you'll like her. She's been really busy at work, but she's finally taking some time off. Tearing herself away from that stuff can be tough. 366

367 DEREK What does she do? 367

368 AMANDA She's a scientist. 368

369 DEREK Oh! One of the guys I'm here with is a scientist, too. Now I really wish they'd been able to come with me. 369

370 AMANDA I'm sure they'll have a chance to hook up at some point. 370

DEREK chuckles.

371 DEREK I like having people smarter than me around. Keeps me honest. 371

372 (beat) I had a... friend, back home, always kept me in check, was never shy about calling me out on my bullshit. 372

AMANDA laughs.

373 AMANDA That sounds a lot like my friend. She does not suffer fools gladly. I'm just glad she's on *my* side. 373

BONES arrives with the drinks.

374 BONES
Here you go! 374

375 AMANDA
Thanks, Bones. 375

(beat)
376 Eric, this is Bones. He's my right- 376
hand man around here. Knows where
all the bodies are buried.

377 DEREK
Nice to meet you, Bones. This place 377
is great.

378 BONES
That's all on the boss here. I just 378
kind of help out where I can.
Including burying bodies.

379 DEREK
Good to know. 379

380 BONES
If you guys need anything, just let 380
me know.

BONES leaves.

381 DEREK
So, I have to ask, your friend... 381

382 AMANDA
(guarded)
Yes? 382

383 DEREK
Are you two... 383

384 AMANDA
Together? Like, a couple? No, no, 384
we don't have *that* kind of
relationship. Maybe in another
life, but... definitely not this
one.

(beat)
385 But if that's a roundabout way of 385
asking if I'm single, the answer is
also no.

DEREK chuckles.

DEREK
386 It wasn't, but good to know anyway. 386
I'm... not looking for anything
like that.

AMANDA
387 Well that's going to disappoint a 387
lot of people around here.

DEREK laughs.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
388 So what's the deal there? Got a 388
special friend waiting for you back
"out west?"

(beat)
389 Sorry, we don't have to talk about 389
that if it's an... uncomfortable
subject.

DEREK sighs.

DEREK
390 Well... I mean, it *is* an 390
uncomfortable subject, but I don't
mind talking about it. Kind of
helps me process it.

AMANDA
391 Did somebody break your heart? Does 391
Bones need to get his special body-
burying shovel ready?

DEREK
392 I wish. That would've been a lot 392
easier. No, I broke somebody *else's*
heart and I lost her, maybe
forever.

(beat)
393 Everything was perfect, until it 393
wasn't. We were going to get
married, have kids... be happy, you
know? And then I screwed it up.

AMANDA
394 What did you do? Did you cheat on 394
her?

DEREK
395 No! I'd never do something like 395
that.

396 AMANDA 396
Okay, okay, calm down! That's the most common male relationship-ending fuckup, so it was a logical conclusion to jump to.

397 DEREK 397
I guess you're right. But it wasn't that. I just... there were a lot of things - big things - happening all around us, all at once. Career stuff, family stuff, all of it coming to a head at the same time, for both of us. I felt... overwhelmed, and I reacted badly. I tried to bring everything back under control, but... but I did it in such a ham-fisted way that it ruined the one thing that should've been a constant. Her. Us.

398 AMANDA 398
She was your North Star.

399 DEREK 399
Yeah. That's a beautiful way to put it.

400 AMANDA 400
Think you'll ever get her back?

401 DEREK 401
I don't know. I've held onto the hope that she'd find a way to forgive me ever since she left, but... I don't know.

402 AMANDA 402
You never stopped loving her. I get it. I had a relationship before this one. We loved each other, but it just wasn't tenable. And when it ended, it hurt. I... I didn't know I could hurt that much.

403 DEREK 403
Sounds familiar.

404 AMANDA 404
Well, that's one thing about Appalachia - it's a great place for second chances. You seem like a decent guy. I hope you get yours.
(beat)

405 AMANDA (CONT'D) 405
We'd better start drinking. I don't
want us to be all mopey when my
friend gets here.

DEREK laughs.

406 DEREK 406
Sounds good to me. Cheers.

407 AMANDA 407
Cheers.

They clink glasses and drink.

The door opens. ODESSA enters.

408 AMANDA (CONT'D) 408
Perfect timing. Here she is! You're
gonna love her, I promise.

409 DEREK 409
Oh my God...

410 AMANDA 410
Yeah, she's a total babe, right?

411 DEREK 411
No, I... I'm not ready for this.

412 AMANDA 412
Ready for what?

ODESSA approaches the table.

413 AMANDA (CONT'D) 413
Hey, kitten! We were about to get
started without you. You got here
just in time!

414 (beat) 414
Kitten? Are you okay? Babe, sit
down, have a drink. What's wrong?
Did something happen at work? Is
Beth okay? Talk to me.

ODESSA slaps DEREK.

415 AMANDA (CONT'D) 415
Odessa! What's gotten into you? Why
did you do that? This guy saved not
only my ass today, but Beth's
mom's, too!

416 ODESSA
You bastard. How dare you! How dare
you just *show up* here like this! 416

417 AMANDA
Odessa, I need you to tell me
what's going on *right now*. 417

ODESSA seethes.

418 ODESSA
Did you tell her who you were? 418

419 AMANDA
(exasperated)
Who is he?! 419

420 ODESSA
(trying to maintain
control)
This is Derek Hewitt. 420

421 AMANDA
Wait... *the* Derek? 421

422 ODESSA
Yes. *The* Derek. The man I was going
to marry. The man who broke my
heart. 422

END OF ACT THREE