

# Once Upon A WASTELAND

Season Two: "Broader Lands and Better Days"

Episode 3  
"This New Kind of War"

by

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*Based on "Fallout 76" by Bethesda Softworks*

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"THIS NEW KIND OF WAR"

INT. THE SPIDER'S WEB, EVENING

**(Note: the end of Episode 2 is duplicated here; actors should not re-record lines 1-12)**

AMANDA and ODESSA are sitting at AMANDA's table. CINDY bursts in.

1	AMANDA Whoa, Cindy, what is it? Do you have to leave? Did something happen back at the Bunker?	1
2	ODESSA Are you okay? You look upset.	2
3	CINDY I'm okay, I'm fine. It's Beth.	3
4	ODESSA (concerned) What about Beth?	4
5	CINDY That was the Colonel. They were just finishing up their mission. Beth was hanging back with their contact, Hex, exchanging intel.	5
6	ODESSA Beth mentioned Hex. Said she was trying to talk her into coming down here for a visit. They really hit it off.	6
7	CINDY The thing is, when they went back to get her, Beth was gone.	7
8	AMANDA Gone?!	8
9	CINDY Yeah. Hex said that she met up with somebody and they went off to take a look at... something.	9
10	ODESSA At <i>what</i> ?!	10

11 CINDY  
 Hex didn't know. And she didn't  
 recognize the person Beth left  
 with. But not long after that, a  
 bunch of Fanatics attacked the  
 building Beth had been staying in,  
 and practically leveled it.  
 Whatever she was investigating  
 probably saved her life.

(beat)  
 12 But the thing is... Beth is  
 missing. 12

13 ODESSA  
 Missing? Oh, no... 13

(beat)  
 14 But you're *sure* she wasn't in that  
 building? 14

15 CINDY  
 Yes. We're sure. 15

(beat)  
 16 Look, Odessa, I know that you want  
 to march up there yourself, but  
*they will find her*. I promise you. 16

17 ODESSA  
 I need to be there, Cindy. I can  
 help. It's what, a two-day march?  
 Amanda, you can come with. 17

18 CINDY  
 But... I don't think she wants you  
 to. 18

19 ODESSA  
 I know you're trying to make me  
 feel better... 19

20 CINDY  
 No, no... she left a message with  
 Hex before she left. I wrote it  
 down. 20

CINDY pulls out a piece of paper and reads from it.

21 CINDY (CONT'D)  
 "Keep the home fires burning.  
 Looking forward to trying the  
 cobbler recipe Paladin Rahmani gave  
 you. Our friend Craig may know  
 where to find some ingredients. 21

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

Have fun with Amanda and Cindy  
while I'm gone. But not too much. I  
love you."

22 ODESSA She doesn't want me to worry. 22

23 AMANDA How's that going? 23

ODESSA sighs.

24 ODESSA Not well. 24

CINDY's radio beeps.

25 CINDY That must be the Colonel again. She  
might have an update. I'll be right  
back. 25

CINDY goes into the back room.

26 AMANDA So. 26

27 ODESSA So. 27

There is an awkward pause.

28 AMANDA I know what you're going to say. 28

29 ODESSA Beth sent that message in code for  
a reason. 29

30 AMANDA Yeah, because she didn't know who  
might be listening in. 30

31 ODESSA Or because she *did* know who'd be  
listening in. 31

32 (beat)  
Look, Amanda... 32

33 AMANDA We can trust her, Kitten. 33

34 ODESSA I trust *her*. I don't trust the Enclave, and like it or not she's an Enclave officer. We both know how seriously she takes that. 34

AMANDA sighs.

35 AMANDA Hell, it's one of the things I love about her. 35

36 (beat) Look, she called Cindy out *by name* in the message. 36

37 ODESSA "Have fun with Amanda and Cindy, but not too much" could mean a *lot* of things. 37

38 AMANDA (momentarily confused) Like what? 38

39 ODESSA Never mind. 39

40 AMANDA Anyway, I've had to parse a lot of Beth's coded messages, and I think she's trying to tell you that it's okay to bring her in. 40

ODESSA sighs.

41 ODESSA I think you're right. I'm just worried. I can't help it. As soon as I heard "keep the home fires burning..." 41

42 AMANDA Yeah. Knowing a coded message was coming always made me clench, too. But she's okay, and she wants us to do a little legwork until she gets back. That message would've been very different if she felt she was in danger. 42

43 ODESSA They attacked the building she was staying in right after she left! 43

44 AMANDA That part is concerning. But let's not jump to any conclusions. 44

CINDY returns from the back room.

45 ODESSA Hey, dollface. Any updates? 45

46 CINDY No new information, but the Colonel did give me some context. Odessa, she said not to worry. 46

47 ODESSA Everybody telling me not to worry is making me worry. 47

48 CINDY We got lucky. Two people on the team had to be swapped out at the last minute, and their replacements are the best trackers we have. The Colonel wasn't happy about having to send them at the time, but talk about luck... 48

49 ODESSA Do they have any leads? 49

50 CINDY None yet. The trackers are already out in the field. The good news is that it looks like neither Beth nor the team itself was the target of that Fanatic attack. 50

51 ODESSA Are you sure?! 51

52 CINDY I would love to tell you that we're 100% certain, but we're not. 52

53 (beat) Hex is out helping the trackers search for her right now. She feels responsible. 53

ODESSA sighs.

54 ODESSA It's not her fault. 54

55 CINDY I know. But either way, she's not going to rest until she finds Beth. And neither is our team. 55

56 ODESSA Thank you, Cindy. And please thank the Colonel for me when you talk to her. 56

57 CINDY I will. 57

58 (beat) Do you think Craig MacAllan will have any actionable intel? 58

59 ODESSA You knew it was a coded message? 59

AMANDA chuckles.

60 CINDY Of course I did. Amanda and I used that kind of code back when we were still keeping things under wraps. 60

61 ODESSA (more amused than upset) Were you planning on mentioning that at any point, Amanda? 61

62 AMANDA I was getting there! 62

63 ODESSA I do think that Craig may have some information we can use, but he's not due back in town until tomorrow. He told us he had some "family business" to attend to last time we were at the club. 63

64 (beat) Wait... his family is originally from that area. Not Pittsburgh itself, but not far from there. 64

65 AMANDA Do you think... 65

66 ODESSA No. She wouldn't have phrased it that way if she ducked out on a side mission with him. 66

(MORE)

ODESSA (CONT'D)

It's more likely that she wants me to follow up with him about the new faction Leila briefed me on.

CINDY

67 I think you mean "us." 67

ODESSA

68 You and Amanda deserve some time to yourselves. I'll see what I can find out tomorrow. But until then... 68

ODESSA sighs.

ODESSA (CONT'D)

69 Until then, I think I need to take everybody's advice and try to stop worrying. 69

AMANDA

70 We'll help distract you. 70

ODESSA

71 You two *finally* have some alone time. I can't ask you to do that. 71

CINDY

72 You don't have to. 72

AMANDA

73 We insist. But... 73

ODESSA

74 But what? 74

AMANDA

75 I can't guarantee that we won't, um... have more fun than Beth wants us to, though. Guess she should've thought about that before she ran off with her new friend. 75

ODESSA laughs.

ODESSA

76 Well, I guess we'd better get started, then. Thank you. 76

MUSICAL TRANSITION





CRAIG (CONT'D)

I do still have a reasonably strong network of contacts up there, and I'll get in touch with them immediately...

ODESSA

100 Thank you. And I'm sure that will help. But that's not the reason I wanted to talk to you about this. 100

CRAIG

101 Oh? What *is*? Now you really have my attention. 101

ODESSA

102 Beth left a coded message with Hex. She told me not to worry, and also that I should speak with you. 102

CRAIG

103 And I take it she didn't say why. 103

ODESSA

104 Unfortunately, no, she didn't. But given the context... have you heard of the Order of the Emerald Pike? 104

CRAIG

105 Oh, yes. They're an... interesting bunch. But they don't seem like the types to be involved in something like that. 105

ODESSA

106 Why do you say that? 106

CRAIG

107 They're not like Mothman Cultists; they mostly keep to themselves. 107

ODESSA

108 Yes. To the point that I'd never even heard of them until a couple of days ago. 108

CRAIG

109 That's all down to how they operate - not so much "in the shadows" as "completely out of sight," at least until they take action. I've never been able to get a feel for what they want, and believe me, I've tried. 109

110 ODESSA  
When you say "take action," what do  
you mean? What kinds of things do  
they actually *do*? 110

111 CRAIG  
That's just it. There's no pattern.  
And it's turned them into... almost  
a ghost story. 111

112 ODESSA  
A ghost story? What do you mean? 112

113 CRAIG  
They seem to exist at the periphery  
of major events, and it's been that  
way for a very long time. 113

114 ODESSA  
How long? 114

115 CRAIG  
Centuries, best I can tell. 115  
(beat)

116  
When I was a kid, I was fascinated  
by secret societies, and these guys  
were kind of a pet project of mine  
for a few years. They're very good  
at hiding themselves, but you can  
spot them if you know what you're  
looking for and they pop up  
occasionally throughout history. 116  
(beat)

117  
With something like that, it can be  
hard to separate fact from fiction.  
People build up a mythology around  
them. There are ebbs and flows to  
it, and when they go back to  
lurking in the shadows people start  
to fill in the blanks themselves. 117

118 ODESSA  
Pattern recognition. Our brains are  
wired to recognize patterns as a  
survival instinct. There are  
several competing theories on how  
it works, and Piaget's research on  
the topic is especially  
fascinating... 118

119 CRAIG  
(interrupting)  
Odessa... 119

120 ODESSA  
Sorry. This would've been easier if  
I was still "Courtney." 120

CRAIG chuckles.

121 CRAIG  
You can be anyone you want here. 121

122 ODESSA  
None of this tracks with what we're  
seeing. Paladin Rahmani briefed me  
on intel they'd received  
*specifically* about them. It wasn't  
much, but she knew who they were  
and that they were worth keeping an  
eye on. 122

123 CRAIG  
Did she tell you where she got that  
intel? 123

124 ODESSA  
Not directly. But they ended up on  
our intelligence division's radar  
*somehow*. 124

125 CRAIG  
And that intel made its way to you. 125

126 ODESSA  
What are you saying? 126

127 CRAIG  
I'm saying that when a group that's  
managed to keep itself mostly  
secret for this long suddenly makes  
itself known, it's probably not a  
coincidence. 127

ODESSA sighs.

128 ODESSA  
That, unfortunately, is a good  
point. 128

129 CRAIG  
Also unfortunately, my notes were  
lost during the war. So all we have  
to go on is whatever's still  
rattling around up here. 129

130 ODESSA That's going to be a lot more than we know right now. Are they violent? 130

131 CRAIG Oh, no, they're not violent at all. 131

132 ODESSA Why would a group that's not violent name themselves after a weapon? 132

133 CRAIG A weapon? I don't understand. 133

134 ODESSA They named themselves after a medieval pole arm. That doesn't exactly scream "non-violent" to me. 134

135 CRAIG Oh! I see. Not that kind of pike. 135

136 ODESSA I'm listening... 136

137 CRAIG It's "pike" like "turnpike." A highway. The original Latin is "Ordo Via Viridis" - "Order of the Green Highway," basically. 137

138 ODESSA (mildly frustrated) Why didn't they just say "highway?" 138

139 CRAIG One thing I learned in my research is that some translators rarely pass up an opportunity to get flowery. 139

140 ODESSA Well, "Green Highway" isn't violent, but it's no less confusing. 140

141 CRAIG Imagine researching these guys for more than a decade. 141

142 ODESSA 142  
As much as I enjoy research, I'd  
rather not.

CRAIG laughs.

143 CRAIG 143  
I don't blame you. I spent a lot  
more time than I probably should  
have just trying to figure out if  
that specific translation had a  
hidden meaning. I eventually  
decided that it was just a 17th  
Century translator showing off.  
(beat)

144 144  
Something's bothering you.

145 ODESSA 145  
I'm just worried about Beth. I  
know, she told me not to be, but I  
can't help it.

146 CRAIG 146  
We always worry about the people we  
love. There's no avoiding it.  
Davina and I worry about each other  
all the time.  
(beat)

147 147  
Do you have any siblings? Back in  
California?

148 ODESSA 148  
No. I'm an only child. I was only a  
toddler when the bombs fell. After  
that, building the Brotherhood and  
just *surviving* put any plans my  
parents might've had to grow the  
family on hold and, well...

149 CRAIG 149  
They never quite got around to it.

150 ODESSA 150  
Yeah. But I never sensed that they  
regretted it. It's one of the  
things that Beth and I have in  
common. Not the "only child" thing,  
but having parents who always loved  
us. Unconditionally.  
(beat, wistful)

151 151  
Maybe I'll get to see them again  
someday...

152                                   CRAIG                                   152  
I hope you do. I'm sure they miss  
you as much as you miss them.

                                  ODESSA  
                                  (changing the subject)  
153                                   Um... back to the topic at hand.                                   153

                                  CRAIG                                   154  
154                                   Yes, of course.                                   154

                                  ODESSA                                   155  
155                                   Would you be willing to talk to                                   155  
Knight Carlson? He's the lead on  
this... whatever this is and  
talking to you directly would be a  
lot more efficient than doing it  
through me.

                                  CRAIG                                   156  
156                                   I'm willing to do it as a favor to                                   156  
you and because it might help Beth,  
but I want to reiterate that our  
arrangement does *not* include me or  
my sister becoming Brotherhood  
assets.

                                  ODESSA                                   157  
157                                   I understand. And thank you.                                   157

                                  CRAIG                                   158  
158                                   Now it's my turn to ask you for a                                   158  
favor.

                                  ODESSA                                   159  
                                  (wary)  
159                                   What is it?                                   159

                                  CRAIG                                   160  
160                                   Have lunch with us. It's been ages,                                   160  
and Davina is dying to catch up.

                                  ODESSA                                   161  
161                                   If I can use your radio to make the                                   161  
arrangements with Knight Carlson  
first, you've got a deal.

CRAIG chuckles.

                                  CRAIG                                   162  
162                                   Of course. Right this way.                                   162

**END OF ACT ONE**



174 CARLSON  
How long have you known her? 174

175 DEREK  
Pretty much our entire lives. We  
grew up together. 175

176 (beat)  
Here, let me show you something. 176

DEREK reaches into one of his pockets and pulls out a picture. He hands it to CARLSON.

177 DEREK (CONT'D)  
Is that her? She's so young! 177

DEREK chuckles.

178 DEREK (CONT'D)  
That was in 2096. She was 21, I was  
23. It seems like forever ago. 178

179 CARLSON  
Who are the other people in the  
picture? 179

180 DEREK  
Well, those are her parents on the  
left, and my parents on the right.  
And that's me right there next to  
her. It was a Brotherhood event to  
celebrate my promotion from  
Initiate to Knight. 180

181 CARLSON  
I didn't even know the Brotherhood  
held events for that kind of thing. 181

182 DEREK  
They don't, usually. 182

DEREK sighs.

183 DEREK (CONT'D)  
My parents insisted. I was  
embarrassed, I didn't want that  
kind of attention. At least I was  
able to convince them to keep it  
small. 183

184 CARLSON  
It looks like you had a great time  
anyway. Your parents look very  
proud. Odessa does, too. You two  
must've been close. 184



196 DEREK 196  
You'll never find a better mentor  
than Odessa Valdez, that much I  
know. As a Scribe or as a person.

197 CARLSON 197  
So many people admire her. And  
that's created its own problems,  
but she even handles that with the  
kind of grace I never could.

198 DEREK 198  
What kind of problems?

199 CARLSON 199  
People seem to develop... what's  
the word she uses? "Parasocial  
relationships" with her.

200 DEREK 200  
I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with  
that term.

201 CARLSON 201  
She's effectively a celebrity out  
here, even though that's the last  
thing she wants. Everybody loves  
her. And that leads some people to  
think they have an actual, like,  
personal relationship with her.

202 DEREK 202  
Oh. I can see how that could lead  
to problems.

203 CARLSON 203  
Most of them are harmless enough.  
They think Odessa is their friend  
because they've had a handful of  
interactions and she was polite to  
them.

204 DEREK 204  
"Most of them?" What about the  
others.

CARLSON sighs.

205 CARLSON 205  
There have been a few who... well,  
they thought there was, you know, a  
*romantic* connection.  
(MORE)

CARLSON (CONT'D)

Some of them pursued that, and sometimes they didn't want to believe her when she said she wasn't interested.

(beat)

206

She always put on a brave face, but... it bothered her. She's so much more than that, but people kept coming in here and asking her out, like that was all she had to offer. Fortunately, that's mostly died down now that everyone knows she's not only with somebody, but somebody who can make them *disappear*.

206

DEREK

207

Wait. Is Beth a... mercenary or something? Is she dangerous? I didn't want to ask too many questions when we talked, but...

207

CARLSON

(interrupting)

208

Oh, no, it's nothing like that. Beth has kind of built up her own reputation in Appalachia. She's not someone you'd want to mess with, and she loves Odessa. Fiercely.

208

(beat)

209

It's great to see how protective you still are of her. You're a good friend.

209

DEREK

210

Thanks. I tried to be.

210

CARLSON

211

Tried? I might be... overstepping a little bit, but it seems like you shouldn't be using past tense. I mean... you came all the way here and based on how you talk about her it seems like that friendship might be a big part of why you're here.

211

DEREK

212

That's an... astute assessment.

212

CARLSON

213

If you're ever up for telling stories about Odessa, I'm all ears. They don't even have to be embarrassing ones.

213

DEREK laughs.

	CARLSON (CONT'D)	
214	But the look on your face tells me that you are <i>not</i> up for doing that right now.	214
	DEREK	
215	That is an... accurate assessment, Scribe. Well done.	215
	CARLSON	
216	There's something else I'd like to talk to you about, if it's okay.	216
	DEREK	
217	Sure. What's up?	217
	CARLSON	
218	I don't know the backstory, but my guess is that there is one. But if there's one thing I hope you see while you're conducting your... assessment, it's that we're building something really <i>important</i> here. Something good. And it's something worth keeping.	218
	DEREK	
219	Well, with the caveat that we haven't been here that long, everything we've seen so far supports that. Hell, we started hearing stories when we were hundreds of miles away. People out there know the name of the Appalachian Brotherhood of Steel. You've built up quite a reputation in just a few years. It's impressive. And the quality of the people who are joining your cause is a further demonstration of that.	219
	CARLSON	
220	Wow. Thank you, Paladin Hewitt.	220
	DEREK	
221	Don't mention it, Knight Carlson.	221
	(beat)	
222	Thanks for the talk. I have to have a quick conversation with Paladin Rahmani, then I think I'm going to explore a little.	222

223 CARLSON  
Appalachia is a fascinating place. 223  
Have fun! But be careful, okay?

224 DEREK  
I will. 224

INT. BETH & ODESSA'S HOME, AFTERNOON

DEREK rings the doorbell. ODESSA walks to the door and answers it.

225 ODESSA  
(surprised)  
Derek! What are you doing here? 225

226 DEREK  
I thought it would be a good idea 226  
to wander around Appalachia on my  
own. Really get a *feel* for the  
place.

227 ODESSA  
(skeptical, smiling)  
Mmm-hmm. You've never "wandered 227  
around" in your life.

228 DEREK  
Okay, I wanted to check in on you. 228

ODESSA chuckles.

229 ODESSA  
That's better. 229

230 DEREK  
Leila told me where I could find 230  
you. She said it would be ok. She  
tried to get you on the radio, but  
you didn't answer.

231 (nervously)  
If it's not okay, I can just go 231  
back to Fort Atlas...

232 ODESSA  
It's fine. Come in. 232

DEREK enters the home. ODESSA closes the door.

233 DEREK  
Still no word from Beth? 233

234 ODESSA  
Nothing yet. I've had my radio  
locked on the frequency the Enclave  
is using to keep me updated on  
their search. 234

235 DEREK  
How are you holding up? 235

ODESSA sighs.

236 ODESSA  
As well as can be expected, I  
guess. 236

(beat, changing the  
subject)  
237 How are things at Fort Atlas? 237

238 DEREK  
They're great, actually. Dave is  
working with the junior scribes and  
Randall has been huddling up with  
Knight Merriweather. They're  
already acting like old pals. 238

239 ODESSA  
I had a feeling they'd get along. 239

240 DEREK  
Dave's ready to go home already,  
but I might have to pry Randall  
away with a crowbar. He likes it  
here. 240

ODESSA laughs.

241 DEREK (CONT'D)  
I was talking to your protege. 241

242 ODESSA  
(wary)  
You talked to Jess? About what? 242

243 DEREK  
Mostly making sure that she and  
Dave were getting along. 243

244 ODESSA  
Are they? The whole... Dave  
experience can be a little jarring  
if you're not prepared for it. 244

DEREK laughs.

245 DEREK 245  
You're not wrong about that. But  
they're getting along fine. And  
he's having a blast with the other  
junior scribes, too.

246 (beat) 246  
All three of us are kind of a  
novelty, so that helps.

247 ODESSA 247  
What else did you and Jess talk  
about? You said "mostly."

248 DEREK 248  
Well... we also talked about you.

249 ODESSA 249  
Derek! You didn't...

250 DEREK 250  
(interrupting)  
No, I didn't. As far as she or  
anybody else at Atlas knows, other  
than Leila, of course, we were just  
close friends who served together.

251 ODESSA 251  
Good.

252 DEREK 252  
I did... kind of, maybe show her  
the picture of us at my Knighthood  
ceremony.

253 ODESSA 253  
Not the one where I'm making moon  
eyes at you!

254 DEREK 254  
Well, in fairness, there are a lot  
of pictures like that. And vice-  
versa. But it's the one I always  
keep with me, and I thought it  
would be nice for her to get a feel  
for what things were like...  
before.

255 ODESSA 255  
You... keep a picture of us with  
you?

DEREK  
256 Yeah. I know it's hokey, but... I 256  
guess it was to remind myself of  
the kind of thing we're fighting to  
preserve. That no matter how ugly  
this world gets, there are still  
some things worth fighting for.

ODESSA  
(feigning tenderness)  
257 Oh, Derek... but I guess you're 257  
right.

(beat, a modus)  
258 It *is* hokey. 258

DEREK laughs.

DEREK  
259 That's not the only reason I kept 259  
it.

ODESSA  
(softly)  
260 I know. 260

DEREK clears his throat.

DEREK  
261 So. Speaking of things worth 261  
fighting for, what can I do to  
help?

ODESSA  
262 You mean... to find Beth? 262

DEREK  
263 Yeah. Anything you need, name it. 263

ODESSA  
264 Well... right now it's mostly in 264  
the hands of the Enclave since they  
already have personnel on the  
ground, and based on what Cindy  
said...

DEREK  
265 Cindy? I'm sorry, I'm still getting 265  
used to names and faces.

ODESSA  
266 Oh, that's right. You haven't met 266  
her. She's an Enclave officer and  
Amanda's girlfriend.

267 DEREK  
And I take it she's a friend of  
yours as well? 267

268 ODESSA  
She is. A good one. 268

269 DEREK  
So... Brotherhood personnel  
regularly fraternize with the  
Enclave? 269

270 ODESSA  
Yes, *Paladin*, we do. 270

271 DEREK  
Sorry. I didn't mean to... 271

272 ODESSA  
The reality here is very different  
from the reality at Lost Hills.  
We've learned that the best way  
forward is cooperation. Sometimes  
the hard way.  
(beat)  
273 Things were pretty grim before we  
got here. 273

274 DEREK  
Yeah, Leila told me all about the  
Scorched Plague. 274

275 ODESSA  
Oh, it wasn't just that. Before  
things settled into something that  
started to resemble a society,  
people were at each other's  
throats, even more than usual in  
the Wasteland.  
(beat)  
276 The Blood Eagles are still a  
problem, but there were Raider  
gangs - powerful ones - that made  
everyone's life even more hellish  
than it already was. People had to  
make a lot of difficult decisions  
just to survive. 276

277 DEREK  
Was Beth one of those people? Who  
had do make... difficult decisions? 277

278 ODESSA Beth was in Vault 76 until Reclamation Day so she missed the worst of it, thankfully. But the Vault had its own monsters. 278

279 DEREK Interesting. Our research indicated that Vault 76 was one of the "control Vaults." Where it was actually intended to preserve the best and brightest. 279

280 ODESSA Oh, it was. But I guess it's not all that dissimilar to what happened here. After the war, so many people out here gave into their base instincts. Those Raiders? Most of them were regular people before the war. But society fell apart and they figured out who they really were. And it wasn't pretty. 280

281 DEREK What does that have to do with Vault 76? It's not like the people in there turned into Raiders. 281

282 (beat) Did they? 282

283 ODESSA No. But some of them turned into something much worse. They realized they had power and a captive audience. And they used it. 283

284 DEREK How? 284

285 ODESSA I... don't want to talk about it. But they hurt people. Badly. In ways that would make even the worst Raider turn away in disgust. 285

286 DEREK (tenderly) I understand. 286

287 ODESSA 287  
One of the things that Beth taught me is that looking at everything as a binary proposition is counterproductive *at best*.

288 DEREK 288  
Elder Maxson and the Council would disagree.

289 ODESSA 289  
So would Danny. That's why he and Leila were always butting heads. And it's also why it's been such a difficult thing for me to put into practice... I've had that worldview drilled into me for as long as I can remember.

290 (beat) 290  
So I don't trust the Enclave, but I trust Cindy. I certainly don't trust Vault-Tec, and I don't trust the Overseer and her "nutfruit pie and coffee" act. But I've worked with Vault-Tec personnel who are *good people* in spite of who they worked for.

291 (beat) 291  
There was a philosopher back in the 20th Century who said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things, my mother said, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" So that's what I've tried to do.

292 DEREK 292  
"Look for the helpers." He sounds like a very wise man.

293 ODESSA 293  
He was. And I hope that's what people see when they think of the Appalachian Brotherhood - that we're the helpers he was talking about.

294 (beat) 294  
And helping is exactly what you were asking about. Sorry.

DEREK chuckles.

DEREK  
295 Yes. I do want to help. But I really missed conversations like this, too, so I wasn't about to stop. 295

ODESSA  
296 Well, that's the frustrating part. I don't know if there's anything to do, or even worse, if doing something is just going to get in her way and delay her coming back... or worse. 296

(beat)  
297 But when I got kidnapped last year, she moved heaven and earth to get me back. How am I supposed to just... sit on my hands when I don't know if she's in danger? 297

DEREK  
298 Okay, deep breath. First thing, and this is going to be the toughest part. Look at it objectively. 298

(beat)  
299 Do you trust her? 299

ODESSA  
300 What? 300

DEREK  
301 Do you *trust* her? 301

ODESSA  
302 Yes. I trust her. Implicitly, explicitly, *completely*. 302

DEREK  
303 Good. Her message told you not to worry, right? You know her a lot better than I do, but I'd take that to mean that she has a plan that she's confident in and, well, she knows you're going to worry. 303

ODESSA sighs.

ODESSA  
304 That's accurate. I wish she hadn't been so cryptic. 304

DEREK  
305 You two always keep in touch when she's away, I take it? 305

306 ODESSA  
Of course. I'm sure you remember  
how I am about that. 306

DEREK laughs.

307 DEREK  
I do. That's why I figured you did.  
And if she's anything like me, she  
doesn't like being out of contact  
any more than you do. 307

308 (beat)  
Do you normally speak in code when  
you talk? 308

309 ODESSA  
No. Well, not unless we had to. 309

310 DEREK  
There you go. She sent the message  
in code because *she had to*. Maybe  
because the Enclave was listening  
in and whatever she was working on  
had to stay off their radar, maybe  
for another reason. But *for a*  
*reason*. 310

311 ODESSA  
You're right. I mean, I guess I've  
known all of that all along, but...  
it's hard. Waiting. I did the  
specific task that she asked me to  
in the message, and now there's  
nothing left to do but *that*, and I  
hate it. 311

312 DEREK  
I know. 312

313 (beat, tenderly)  
I think the best thing for you to  
do right now is to spend some time  
with someone who cares about you. 313

314 ODESSA  
(vulnerable)  
Derek, I... 314

315 DEREK  
(still tenderly)  
I didn't mean me. I... think that  
could introduce... I don't know. 315

ODESSA

316 Complications? Confusion? Derek... 316  
I know you don't want to hear this,  
but there's no confusion on my  
part.

(beat)

317 I'm not going to say that you being 317  
here doesn't complicate things - a  
lot - but Beth and I... our  
relationship is not one of them.

(beat)

318 Derek, you know I respect you, and 318  
that hasn't changed, even with...  
everything that's happened. So I'm  
just going to say this as directly  
as I can. I feel like it's my  
responsibility - to myself and to  
the woman I love - to tell you that  
I am *not* interested in...  
rekindling any old fires.

(beat)

319 I don't have romantic feelings for 319  
you, Derek. Not anymore. I just...  
don't.

(beat)

320 I'm sorry. 320

DEREK

321 Don't be. Look, bottom line - are 321  
you happy?

ODESSA

322 Yes, I am. Very happy. 322

DEREK

323 That's all I needed to hear. 323

ODESSA

324 Are you okay? 324

DEREK

325 Me? Of course I'm okay. 325

ODESSA

326 I... actually believe that. And I'm 326  
glad. You deserve to be happy too,  
you know.

DEREK

327 Thanks. 327

(beat)

328 I'm going to head back to Fort 328  
Atlas, okay?

(MORE)

DEREK (CONT'D)

Think about what I said - about spending time with people who care about you. You've made a lot of good friends here. It's okay to lean on them sometimes.

ODESSA

329

I think I will. Thanks for the advice. Talk later?

329

DEREK

330

Hopefully not too much later. Have fun.

330

**END OF ACT TWO**



340 RAHMANI 340  
You *do* have a little bit of grey  
around the temples that wasn't  
there when we left on the  
expedition. But it suits you.

341 DEREK 341  
Thank you.

342 RAHMANI 342  
How is Odessa?

343 DEREK 343  
She's managing. Hates sitting on  
her hands - she wants to be in  
Pittsburgh looking for Beth herself  
right now, but... she trusts her.

344 RAHMANI 344  
She has experience with that kind  
of thing.

DEREK sighs.

345 DEREK 345  
I know how hard it was for her when  
I was out on extended field ops.

346 RAHMANI 346  
But in those cases, you were able  
to stay in radio contact so she  
knew you were okay. That's not the  
case here.

347 DEREK 347  
Yeah. She had her parents, too. And  
Scribe Takano. I'm glad she has a  
strong support network here.

348 RAHMANI 348  
She does. The bonds within the  
Appalachian Brotherhood are every  
bit as strong as they are back at  
Lost Hills. Beth's parents treat  
her like their own daughter. And  
she has Amanda, of course.

349 DEREK 349  
What's Amanda's story?

350 RAHMANI 350  
What do you mean?

351 DEREK I know a Raider bar when I see one. 351

RAHMANI  
(expecting something  
else)

352 Oh. That. 352

DEREK

353 Yes, that. What did you think I was talking about? 353

RAHMANI  
(deflecting)

354 Amanda is a... special case. She's nominally a Raider, yes, and you definitely do *not* want to cross her. She and Beth were... an item before Odessa met her. 354

DEREK

355 And now the three of them are... 355

RAHMANI

356 Good friends. Very good friends, in fact. 356

(beat)

357 I know this might sound... counterintuitive, but I trust Amanda. That is, in large part, due to direct interactions with her, even working with her on operations. 357

DEREK

358 You work with a *Raider* on operations? 358

RAHMANI

359 We work with whomever we need to in order to further the mission of the Brotherhood. If that creates strange bedfellows, so be it. 359

DEREK

360 Maxson would *not* like that. 360

RAHMANI

361 Maxson isn't here. 361

(beat)

362 Look, Derek, this isn't Lost Hills. Elder Maxson empowered me to run this expedition as I saw fit, and that's what I'm doing. 362

DEREK  
363 He also ordered you to re-establish contact as soon as you could. You were always going to have a wide berth, but this was never intended to be a completely autonomous operation. 363

RAHMANI  
364 And when that became an impossibility we had to pivot. 364  
(beat)

365 Based on what you've seen so far, can you honestly say that we're not abiding by the Brotherhood's mission? Its values? 365

DEREK  
366 No, I can't. You've done amazing work here, Leila. All of you have. You've collected and preserved so *much* technology already. 366

RAHMANI  
367 And we're *helping people*. There's more to life than just hoarding technology, no matter how noble the reasons behind doing that might be. I don't want another apocalypse any more than he does. But we can't use that as an excuse to ignore the greater good. 367

DEREK  
368 I understand your position, Leila. I do. And seeing your philosophy in practice, well, it's impressive. 368  
(beat)

369 Look, between you and me, resources are becoming an issue back home. Maxson wants to expand the Brotherhood, but we don't have the manpower to run everything centrally. It's a good problem to have, but... 369

RAHMANI  
370 But it's still a problem. What are you getting at? 370

371 DEREK 371  
There's an appetite among some on  
the council to allow geographically  
distinct chapters to operate more  
or less independently. Some of them  
see it as the only *realistic* way to  
spread the Brotherhood's values.

372 RAHMANI 372  
How does your father feel about it?

373 DEREK 373  
He's a pragmatist. He doesn't have  
a firm position on it yet, but he  
has reservations about whether it  
will work in practice. We've seen  
what happens out here when people  
are left to their own devices... no  
pun intended.

374 RAHMANI 374  
He's a good man. "Pragmatist" is  
selling him short.

375 DEREK 375  
He wants what's best for people.  
But he views that through the lens  
of the Brotherhood and its core  
values. That's not going to change.

376 RAHMANI 376  
That's something we've always had  
in common.

377 DEREK 377  
That was one of the reasons he  
recommended you so strongly for  
this mission. And why he...

378 RAHMANI 378  
Why he what?

379 DEREK 379  
As soon as the decision was made  
that Odessa and I would be part of  
this expedition, his priority  
became ensuring that whoever led  
the expedition would be someone he  
could trust not only with his son,  
but with the woman his son was  
going to marry and the family  
they'd eventually have.  
(MORE)

DEREK (CONT'D)

There was nobody better than you,  
and a big part of that was that you  
understood the nuance in the  
Brotherhood's mission.

(beat)

380 Danny was brought in because he 380  
doesn't do nuance, and the hard-  
liners on the council needed  
someone like that to be involved if  
they were going to sign off.

RAHMANI

381 I see. 381

DEREK

382 I'm not implying that the only 382  
reason you were chosen to command  
this expedition was because my  
father wanted to protect his future  
grandchildren. You were the best  
person for the job, full stop. And  
from everything I've seen so far,  
you still are.

RAHMANI

383 Thank you. 383

Knight CARLSON knocks on the door.

CARLSON

384 Paladin? Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't 384  
mean to interrupt.

RAHMANI

385 It's fine, come in. 385

CARLSON enters and closes the door.

CARLSON

386 Something strange just happened. 386

RAHMANI

387 Define "strange." 387

CARLSON

388 I was just wrapping up some 388  
paperwork, and this... "appeared"  
in my office, right next to my  
terminal.

CARLSON shows RAHMANI and DEREK a large card and an envelope.

DEREK

389 Appeared? 389

390 CARLSON Yes. I know it doesn't make sense, 390  
but... I looked up and a big white  
envelope was just... there, on  
table. Nobody came in or out, and I  
would've noticed it as soon as I  
walked through the door.

391 RAHMANI You didn't open it? 391

392 CARLSON No, not yet. I wanted to let you 392  
know immediately, before I did  
*anything* with it.

393 DEREK Good call. What's on it? 393

394 CARLSON Just this symbol. I've never seen 394  
it before. How about you?

395 DEREK No... definitely never seen 395  
anything quite like it. It's not  
exactly my area of expertise,  
though. I'll get the team on it  
right away.

396 RAHMANI Let's check with the personnel 396  
stationed at the entrances. They  
might've noticed someone skulking  
around. The public areas are...  
well, public, but someone sneaking  
into your office is disquieting. Do  
you have a notebook with you?

397 CARLSON I don't. We kind of rushed down 397  
here.

RAHMANI opens a drawer in her desk.

398 RAHMANI It's fine, I'll just grab one so 398  
we...  
(beat)

399 Oh. 399

400 DEREK That was an ominous-sounding "oh." 400



413 RAHMANI I'd definitely prefer a 413  
technological explanation to a  
magical one. Do you know if anyone  
else has found any?

414 CARLSON No. It seems like business as usual 414  
out there, and I think anybody who  
found one would be as freaked out  
as I am right now.

415 RAHMANI Okay. So working under the theory 415  
that we're the only three people  
who received them... why us?

416 CARLSON Well, you're all Brotherhood 416  
personnel, but that's the only  
commonality that jumps out at me.  
Should we...

417 RAHMANI Open them? At this point I don't 417  
think we have much of a choice.

418 DEREK Let's just be careful. Someone is 418  
clearly trying to send us a  
message. I hope it's not the...  
exploding kind.

419 (beat) 419  
I'll go first.

DEREK opens the envelope and slides a card out.

420 DEREK (CONT'D) 420  
It's... coordinates. Just a piece  
of paper. Nothing dangerous.

RAHMANI, DEREK, and CARLSON open their envelopes.

421 RAHMANI 421  
Mine has coordinates, too. Let's  
put them on the desk.

The three put the papers on RAHMANI's desk.

422 CARLSON 422  
They're the same coordinates. Where  
is that?

423 DEREK I recognize them. It's the Spider's Web - Amanda's bar. 423

424 RAHMANI That doesn't make sense. 424

425 DEREK No, it doesn't. Unless she started some sort of mystical advertising campaign that we don't know about. 425

426 RAHMANI That seems unlikely. Let's make sure that nobody else got an envelope like this and then head to the Spider's Web. Whatever answers we need are probably going to be there. Greg, copy those symbols and hand them off to your team to see if they can come up with anything. And brief Knight Merriweather. He needs to know about this. 426

427 CARLSON Yes, ma'am. 427

CARLSON leaves.

428 RAHMANI Well, if nothing else I could use a drink right now. 428

INT. THE SPIDER'S WEB, EVENING

AMANDA and BONES are chatting at the bar.

429 BONES What a weird night. 429

430 AMANDA You feel it, too? It's like there's... something in the air. 430

431 BONES Luckily the patrons are operating at their normal level of "weird." 431

The door opens. RAHMANI, DEREK, and CARLSON enter.

432 AMANDA Speaking of weird... what are Rahmani and Derek doing here? 432  
(MORE)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

And that's Knight... uh... Carlsbad  
wit them?

RAHMANI

433 Amanda, I'm sorry to barge in like 433  
this.

AMANDA

434 Barge away. But I get the feeling 434  
you're not here to unwind after a  
long day at Fort Atlas.

RAHMANI

435 We're not. This is going to sound 435  
strange, but hear me out. We all  
found envelopes that we're  
reasonably certain were intended  
for us.

AMANDA

436 "Reasonably certain?" 436

RAHMANI

437 They didn't have our names on them, 437  
just symbols, but how we discovered  
them carries that implication. They  
all had a card inside with the  
coordinates of your bar.

AMANDA sighs.

AMANDA

438 I got one, too, but it didn't have 438  
coordinates. Probably because I  
found it *here*.

The door opens again. CINDY and ODESSA enter.

ODESSA

439 Amanda! 439

CINDY

440 Something very strange is going on. 440

AMANDA

441 You two got envelopes, too? With 441  
the bar's coordinates inside?

ODESSA

442 Yes. How did you know? What the 442  
hell is going on?

443 AMANDA 443  
These three got the same thing, and  
I'm guessing that they just kind  
of... showed up for you, too?

444 ODESSA 444  
Yes... they did. Cindy and I were  
just discussing that before we came  
inside. I don't believe in magic,  
but if I did, well... that's what  
it seemed like.

445 AMANDA 445  
As for what's going on, I have no  
idea. But... ugh, I think I might  
know how to find out.

446 ODESSA 446  
At this point I'm wide open to  
suggestions.

447 AMANDA 447  
The card in my envelope had a  
picture of stairs. All of yours had  
coordinates and brought you here,  
so I guess I'm supposed to lead us  
into the basement.

448 ODESSA 448  
That's... ominous, but it almost  
makes sense. I mean, it doesn't  
*make sense*, but it's about as close  
to logical as I think we're going  
to get.

449 RAHMANI 449  
We're all armed. Just in case.  
There's no telling what we're going  
to encounter.

450 AMANDA 450  
Good call. I'll lead the way.

451 RAHMANI 451  
I'll be right behind you. Derek,  
take our six. We don't need  
anything sneaking up on us.

452 DEREK 452  
Yes, ma'am.

453 AMANDA 453  
Bones, keep an eye on things up  
here.

(MORE)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

If anything happens, it's all hands on deck. Contact the Brotherhood, the Enclave, Foundation, everybody.

BONES

454 You got it boss. And hey... please be careful, okay? 454

AMANDA

455 When am I ever not careful? 455

(beat)

456 Okay, I see your point. We'll be careful. 456

AMANDA opens the door and the group descends the stairs.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

457 What the hell? I feel... I don't feel right. 457

ODESSA

458 I feel it too. It's like how I felt in the dream... or whatever it was. Anybody else? 458

DEREK

459 Nothing out of the ordinary here. How about you guys? 459

(beat)

460 Looks like whatever it is is only affecting you two. Want me to take point? 460

AMANDA

461 No, I got it. Just a twinge of... 461

ODESSA

462 Cosmic angst? 462

AMANDA

463 Yeah. Something like that. 463

The group arrives in the basement.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

464 Everything looks pretty normal down here... 464

ODESSA

465 I have an idea. 465

DEREK

466 What are you thinking? 466

467 ODESSA 467  
A couple of months ago, there was  
an explosion down here. Amanda and  
I checked it out, and it turned out  
to be an old Hallucigen gas  
canister. We ended up getting  
knocked out and having some very  
vivid dreams.

468 AMANDA 468  
Vivid and weird.

469 ODESSA 469  
Do you remember it at all? The  
dream? We never talked about it...

470 AMANDA 470  
Like it was yesterday. We found  
a... cavern, I guess? And we kept  
going deeper and deeper, until we  
got to the end and there was this  
mysterious figure who told us we  
weren't supposed to be there yet.

471 DEREK 471  
"Yet?" That's... pretty weird. But  
dreams can be that way, even ones  
that aren't helped along by  
hallucinogenic gas.

472 ODESSA 472  
I had exactly the same dream. And I  
remember it as vividly as you seem  
to.

473 AMANDA 473  
So, you're saying... what, that it  
was some sort of multi-user shared  
hallucination?

474 ODESSA 474  
What if it wasn't a hallucination  
at all? What if it really happened,  
and we were just made to believe it  
wasn't real?

475 AMANDA 475  
I think I see where you're going  
with this. We go into the room  
where we got knocked out by the  
gas... or thought we did.

476 ODESSA 476  
There was a door in that room in  
the dream, but not when we woke up.  
If it's there...

477 AMANDA 477  
Then we go through it and see what  
happens?

478 ODESSA 478  
Exactly. And I think it has to be  
all six of us. We got those  
envelopes for a reason. I don't  
know what that reason is yet, but  
this is the best way to find out.

479 AMANDA 479  
Here goes. Everybody ready?

AMANDA opens the door.

ODESSA sighs.

480 ODESSA 480  
The door's there again. Everybody  
sees it, right?

481 RAHMANI 481  
We do. Well, at least *I* do. If  
anybody *doesn't* see it, speak up.

There is a pause. No one replies.

482 ODESSA 482  
I'm not sure if I'm relieved or  
not.

483 AMANDA 483  
Only one way to know which one you  
should be. Hope it's a big space on  
the other side, we've got quite a  
caravan here.

AMANDA opens the second door. Everyone slowly walks into the  
next chamber. The door closes behind them.

484 ODESSA 484  
This doesn't look like what I  
remember...

485 AMANDA 485  
Yeah. It's like we skipped the  
middle part and...



BETH (CONT'D)

496

Alright, everyone. Here's where  
things get complicated.

496

**END OF ACT THREE**