

Once Upon A WASTELAND

Season Two: "Broader Lands and Better Days"

Episode 5
"A New and Potent Aid"

by

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"A NEW AND POTENT AID"

FADE IN:

INT. KIRBY HOME - DAY

The doorbell rings. ELISE rises and answers the door.

1 **ELISE** 1
Lily! Please, come in. How are you
feeling?

2 **BETH** 2
Much better. I'm going to surprise
Odessa at Fort Atlas, but I wanted
to see you and dad first.

3 **ELISE** 3
Is something wrong?

4 **BETH** 4
No. Well, *maybe*, but that's not why
I wanted to visit. I just wanted to
see you.

5 (beat)
Where's dad? Out for a walk? 5

6 **ELISE** 6
He's upstairs.

7 **BETH** 7
Upstairs? It's half-ten. That's not
like him.

8 **ELISE** 8
He went for a stroll this morning
after breakfast and it took a bit
more out of him than he expected.

9 **BETH** 9
 (concerned)
Is he alright?

ELISE sighs.

10 **ELISE** 10
We're not sure.

11 **BETH** 11
 (very concerned)
What do you mean "you're not sure?"

ANDREW enters.

12 **ANDREW** 12
We mean that we don't want you to
worry unless and until there's
something to worry about.

13 **BETH** 13
Dad!

BETH hugs ANDREW.

14 **ANDREW** 14
Well, that hug has me feeling
better already.

15 (beat) 15
But to answer your question, I've
just been feeling a bit... run-
down. I thought that it was just a
matter of getting older. I'm nearly
seventy, after all.

16 **ELISE** 16
But it came on so quickly that I
suggested...

17 **ANDREW** 17
 (interrupting)
Insisted...

ELISE chuckles.

18 **ELISE** 18
Alright, I insisted that he speak
with someone about it. Tony has
been the closest thing we've had to
a regular doctor since we left the
Vault, but he's a
neurophysiologist, not a general
practitioner.

19 **ANDREW** 19
Still, he didn't find anything
wrong, including neurologically. He
performed a battery of tests and
everything came back clean. If
anything, he said I'm quite healthy
for my age.

20 (beat) 20
Which is important if I'm going to
keep up with my young bride here.

ELISE laughs.

21 **ELISE** 21
I'm the one who had trouble keeping
up with *you*, my dear. And then when
there were two of you...

22 **ANDREW** 22
Imagine if there had been three!

BETH laughs.

23 **BETH** 23
I can't even imagine what it
would've been like to have a
sibling in the Vault. I think you
made the right call.

24 **ANDREW** 24
At any rate, Tony suggested that I
speak with Dr. Hardy at Fort Atlas
and arrange the use of some of
their diagnostic equipment.

25 **BETH** 25
That's a good idea. Dr. Hardy is
smart, but he's a combat medic, not
an MD. Dr. Flagler will be able to
interpret those results rather more
precisely.

26 **ANDREW** 26
Until that happens, I don't want
you to worry.

27 **BETH** 27
I think you know me better than
that, dad.

28 **ANDREW** 28
I do. But you have enough on your
mind right now, and we will cross
any bridges if and when we
encounter them.

29 **ELISE** 29
And we'll do that as a family.

30 **ANDREW** 30
Like we *always* do.

31 How is Odessa? 31
(beat)

32 **BETH** 32
She's fine. Been spending a lot of
time at Atlas, trying to get a read
on everything that's happened.

BETH sighs.

33 **BETH (CONT'D)** 33
We were supposed to spend some time
together, just us, when I got back.

34 **ELISE** 34
How did you always put it, Andrew?

35 **ANDREW** 35
Crises rarely take a holiday.

36 **ELISE** 36
Indeed. I suppose the more apt
question is how are you doing?

BETH sighs.

37 **BETH** 37
I'm okay. I just... I know that
it's silly, but I know that if
she's at Atlas, she's spending time
with *him*. And that shouldn't make
me fret, but it does.

38 **ELISE** 38
Schatzi, Odessa loves you. I would
tell you if I had any doubts about
that, but I don't.

39 **BETH** 39
I know, mum. I don't either.

40 **ELISE** 40
Then you must have faith. You love
her with all your heart, and she
loves you with all of hers.
Concentrate on *that*. Not obstacles,
either real or perceived.

41 **BETH** 41
 (mildly frustrated)
Sometimes it seems like the
universe is trying to keep us
apart.

42 **ELISE** 42
I know that feeling. But the simple
fact that you found each other in
the first place may mean that the
universe wants you to be *together*.

43 **BETH** 43
Well, then, as long as we can stay
put in *this* universe we should be
fine, right?

44 **ELISE** 44
I think that you'd be fine no
matter what universe you find
yourselves in.

BETH laughs.

45 **BETH** 45
I told Odessa as much. We've been
through so much already, what's an
extra universe or two?

ANDREW chuckles.

46 **ANDREW** 46
Indeed.
 (beat)
47 Now that that's settled, shall we 47
compare notes on the current
situation?

48 **BETH** 48
I was hoping we could. I'm going to
surprise Odessa at Atlas this
afternoon, and as much as she loves
my pastries, she loves intel even
more.

49 **ANDREW** 49
Well, then I believe you may be in
luck. Charles had a very productive
meeting with Knight Carlson.

50 **BETH** 50
Oh, brilliant!

51 **ANDREW** 51
One thing that they discussed was
yesterday's incident at Flagrate
Bello.

52 **BETH** 52
That whole thing sounds like it was
terrifying. At least Jess was able
to keep her wits about her.

53 **ANDREW** 53
About that. We have a hypothesis.

54 **BETH** 54
Oh?

55 **ANDREW** 55
I'll let Odessa provide the
details, but we feel that it may
have something to do with the...
invitations you all received.

56 **BETH** 56
So... because Jess wasn't affected
but Carlson and Hargove were, you
think it might be because she's one
of the Seven?

57 **ANDREW** 57
"Might" is carrying a lot of weight
there, but yes.

58 **BETH** 58
I'm not a scientist, but that
doesn't feel like much to go on.

59 **ANDREW** 59
Neither am I, and I concur, but
it's all we have to go on at the
moment.

60 **BETH** 60
We're going to have to test that
hypothesis at some point. Maybe
we'll even be able to turn it into
a proper theory.

61 **ANDREW** 61
I wish I could help there. But I
have been able to leverage some
contacts to provide a bit of
additional context.

62 **ELISE** 62
And I've been doing the same. I'm
not an intelligence officer, but
your father's managed to teach me
some of his tricks.

63 **BETH** 63
And there's quite a bit of overlap,
I've found, between the skills
required to be a diplomat and being
a good spy.

64 **ELISE** 64
That discovery was a bit
disquieting at the beginning, but I
try not to think too deeply about
it.

BETH chuckles.

65 **BETH** 65
It's alright, mum. I won't tell
anybody. Even under threat of
torture.

66 **ELISE** 66
I don't think it will come to that,
but thank you.

67 (beat) 67
I'll go first. Paige had brought me
in on an unrelated matter at
Foundation, and mentioned that he
sent a scout team to Flagrate
Bello to assess the situation
there.

68 **BETH** 68
A scout team? That's a bit...
aggressive for Foundation, isn't
it?

69 **ELISE** 69
It seems that while they remain a
peaceful faction, they're seeking
to expand. There are simply too
many people to house at their
current location, and a large
underground complex, even one that
has been ravaged by Super Mutants,
is an attractive potential landing
spot.

70 **BETH** 70
It is. It's perfect for them, in
fact. It has everything they'd need
- residential space, laboratories,
medical facilities...

90 **ANDREW** 90
 That said, she hasn't mentioned
 anything to Amanda about Flagrante
 Bello, and Charles hasn't seen
 anything indicating that they're
 pursuing anything there. It seems
 that their priorities lie
 elsewhere. At least for now.

91 **ELISE** 91
 The Free States are steering clear
 as well.

92 **ANDREW** 92
 And even the Blood Eagles.

93 **BETH** 93
 So it sounds like we'll have free
 rein to test our hypothesis.

BETH sighs.

94 **BETH (CONT'D)** 94
 I almost wish we had to fight our
 way in. At least that's something
 we have experience with. This?
Nobody has experience with...
 whatever the hell this is.

95 **ANDREW** 95
 I understand your concern. And
 share it. The course we plot seems
 to be one that will almost
 certainly be unchartered. We'll
 have to step carefully.

96 **ELISE** 96
 We?! Andrew...

97 **ANDREW** 97
 I won't be with them in the field,
 but I'm going to support them as
 best I can. I'm not an invalid,
 Elise.

98 **ELISE** 98
 You mustn't push too hard. I know
 you've always joked about being
 carried out on your shield, but...

99 **ANDREW** 99
But I have the most important
 person in my life at my side to
 ensure that I won't be. Alright?

ELISE sighs.

100 **ELISE**
 Alright. 100
 (beat)

101 That's all we have at the moment, 101
 Schatzi. Go. Be with Odessa. You'll
 solve this thing together, I know
 it.

102 **BETH**
 Thanks, mum. I'll come by again as 102
 soon as I can. Please try to keep
 dad out of trouble while I'm gone,
 okay?

103 **ELISE**
 I'll do my best. 103

MUSICAL TRANSITION

INT. THE SPIDER'S WEB, NOON-ISH

AMANDA and BONES are preparing the bar for the evening.

104 **BONES**
 How you holdin' up, boss? 104

105 **AMANDA**
 I'm managing. I feel like 105
 everybody's mom. I'm worried about
 Beth, I'm worried about Cindy, I'm
 worried about Andrew...

106 **BONES**
 Don't forget about Odessa. 106

AMANDA sighs.

107 **AMANDA**
 I wish I could. 107
 (beat)

108 I didn't mean that. It's just been 108
 weird between us since that first
 night we went into the basement.
 Like a dream you can't shake. You
 know it isn't real, but it sure
 doesn't feel that way when we're in
 the same room.

109 **BONES**
 That sounds awkward. 109

AMANDA

110 Yeah. It was awkward enough before, 110
but it was different. That didn't
feel like *cheating*.

(beat)

111 I guess it would be different if we 111
weren't both feeling the same
thing, but we are, and we both know
it.

BONES

112 Is that why she hasn't been around 112
as much?

AMANDA

113 Yeah. We talked about it and 113
decided that would be for the best.
But I miss her. A lot.

BONES

114 I'm sorry, boss. 114

AMANDA

115 So am I. I don't even know if 115
knowing what the hell is going on
would make it better. What I do
know is that I can't go on feeling
like this. It's even worse for her,
with "tall, dark, and hunky" in
town.

BONES

116 They seem to be getting along okay. 116

AMANDA

117 They are, and that's what worries 117
me. She slapped him, they had a big
to-do in the back, and next thing
you know they're hanging out
together. I know she'd never cheat
on Beth, like *not ever*, but... ugh,
everything was quiet for like a
year and all of a sudden all hell
breaks loose. I figured we'd be
planning Beth and Odessa's wedding
by now, not.. whatever the hell all
this is.

BONES

118 They're still young. They have 118
plenty of time.

119 **AMANDA** 119
We think that, but around here?
Tomorrow's never guaranteed. That's
why I've always been... uh, big on
new experiences, shall we say.

BONES laughs.

120 **BONES** 120
That's one way to put it.

121 **AMANDA** 121
Hey!

122 **BONES** 122
I'm just busting your ass.

123 **AMANDA** 123
I know. I'd just like them to get a
"happily ever after," you know?

124 **BONES** 124
Yeah. I do, too. Seems like most of
Appalachia does. Well, except the
ones who still think they have a
shot with Odessa.

125 **AMANDA** 125
I'm surprised Beth hasn't started
disappearing them.

126 **BONES** 126
Well...

127 **AMANDA** 127
That was different. He was
dangerous. And she didn't pull the
trigger.

128 **BONES** 128
Boss, you know I'm not the kind of
guy who gets sappy, but you should
get a "happily ever after," too.

AMANDA sighs.

129 **AMANDA** 129
It's really hard to wrap my head
around that. I don't want to jinx
it, but... yeah. I guess I never
wanted to believe that I deserved
something like that.

130 **BONES** Come on, Boss... 130

131 **AMANDA** I'm serious, Bones. Hell, I sabotaged my relationship with Beth because of it. It didn't hit me until later, but *man* did that bother me. We were both broken, but when we got together, we started to *heal*. Like, for real. At least at first. 131

132 **BONES** And then... 132

133 **AMANDA** And then... I guess neither of us was ready to get better. We had a lot of... stuff to get past first. It didn't help that we're so goddamn similar. That probably pissed me off more consistently than anything. It was like looking in a fucking mirror sometimes, and I hated it. And I hated *her*. Even though I loved her. 133

134 (beat) What about you? You ever gonna settle down? 134

135 **BONES** Maybe. Still gotta meet the right girl. 135

136 **AMANDA** Well, plenty of them seem to like hearing your voice. 136

137 **BONES** Really? 137

138 **AMANDA** Bones. Buddy. 138

139 **BONES** Sorry, I guess I had no idea I was a sex symbol. 139

140 **AMANDA** Let's not get too crazy. 140

BONES laughs.

154 **SENTINEL**
Um... "cosmic" things is probably 154
the best way to put it.

155 **AMANDA**
Are you being fucking serious right 155
now?

156 **SENTINEL**
What that you've seen makes you 156
think I'm not?

157 **AMANDA**
Okay... fair point. What's your 157
name?

158 **SENTINEL**
 (surprised by the
 question)
Excuse me? 158

159 **AMANDA**
Your name. I'm not going to call 159
you "Mr. Sentinel" or whatever.

160 **SENTINEL**
Er... we don't really have names. 160

161 **AMANDA**
Of course you don't. 161
 (beat)

162 Bones? 162

163 **BONES**
He looks like a "Barry." 163

164 **AMANDA**
I can see that. Okay, Barry, what 164
else?

165 **SENTINEL**
 (sotto, almost pouting)
I don't think I look like a Barry. 165
 (beat, full voice)

166 At any rate, we *watch*, but the 166
scope of what we can *do* is limited.
When something... *bigger* comes
along, well, that's where you come
in. You and the rest of the Seven.
It's not our universe, it's yours.
It has to be up to you.

167 **AMANDA** 167
Back up a second. I don't
understand why you're telling *me*
all of this. Why not Odessa or
Rahmani? Or Beth?

168 **SENTINEL** 168
Everyone has a role to play. I
guess this is part of yours.

169 **AMANDA** 169
You *guess*?

The SENTINEL sighs.

170 **SENTINEL** 170
The Emerald Pike likes to assign
names and *meanings* to things. It's
a very human thing to do, after
all. But the truth is that there's
a lot more nuance to it. Even we
don't necessarily understand it at
the time.

(beat)
171 But based on what I know about each 171
of you... well, I'll just say that
I think the universe picked the
right people for the job.

AMANDA chuckles wryly.

172 **AMANDA** 172
Thanks, Barry.
(beat)
173 So, any more good news? Plagues of 173
frogs and locusts, maybe?

174 **SENTINEL** 174
Well, now that you mention it...

AMANDA
(sotto)
175 Oh, god... 175

The SENTINEL chuckles.

176 **SENTINEL** 176
No, no, I may have some *actual* good
news. We've sensed... a new and
potent aid. It felt like a person -
a man - yet still something...
different.

177 **AMANDA** I understand. 177

178 **SENTINEL** You do? 178

179 **AMANDA** No. 179

180 **SENTINEL** I wish I could elaborate, because 180
that would mean I understand it
myself.

181 **AMANDA** So I guess we should probably find 181
this guy. I don't suppose you know
where he hangs out or anything,
right?

The SENTINEL chuckles.

182 **SENTINEL** Sorry. But given what I know about 182
how these things tend to work, I
think you'll come across him soon
enough.

183 **AMANDA** I kind of got the impression that 183
you could... you know, see the
future and stuff.

184 **SENTINEL** Not exactly. We have a general 184
sense of how things *should* proceed,
and that allows us to do a bit
of... "nudging" when that becomes
necessary.

185 (beat) 185
But that's part of the problem
right now, and why I'm here. We
lost that sense yesterday. We can't
"see" anything. So... well, it
seems you're on your own.

186 **AMANDA** The way you're eyeing up that door 186
makes me think you're about to make
a run for it. Do I need to get the
handcuffs?

The SENTINEL laughs.

187 **SENTINEL** 187
It's time for me to go, Amanda.

188 **AMANDA** 188
Will I... see you again? I have so
many questions...

189 **SENTINEL** 189
I don't know. But I hope so.

The SENTINEL leaves.

190 **BONES** 190
You okay, boss? That was... a lot.

191 **AMANDA** 191
I... I don't know. What the hell
have I gotten myself into?

192 **BONES** 192
Nothing you can't handle. Barry
even said so.

AMANDA chuckles.

193 **AMANDA** 193
Yeah. I guess he did.
(beat)

194 194
Alright. I think Beth's still at
home. I'm going to talk to her
about this. She'll know what to do.

END OF ACT ONE

205 **DEREK** 205
He did. And Dave is... not usually
forthcoming with praise like that,
so he must be *really* impressed.

206 **ODESSA** 206
I taught *him* well, too.

207 **DEREK** 207
And he's turned into a pretty good
teacher himself. Never thought I'd
see the day...

208 **ODESSA** 208
I noticed that he seems a little
more... patient than I remember.
Especially with the Junior Scribes.
Jess is kind of a special case
because she's so advanced, but the
others... it can be like dealing
with teenagers sometimes.

209 **DEREK** 209
I wouldn't wish that on anybody.

210 **ODESSA** 210
Suddenly reminded of what you were
like as a teenager?

211 **DEREK** 211
Hey! I was a good kid.

212 **ODESSA** 212
You were lucky my parents believed
that.

213 **DEREK** 213
Are you saying I was a "bad boy?"

214 **ODESSA** 214
You had your moments.

215 **DEREK** 215
I think you were just a bad
influence.

216 **ODESSA** 216
Only when the situation called for
it.

217 **DEREK** 217
I didn't mind.

230 **ODESSA** 230
Yeah, it was a big mystery. Started hanging out with this big lunkhead I found loitering at Lost Hills and all of sudden nobody wanted to ask me out.

231 **DEREK** 231
You sound disappointed.

232 **ODESSA** 232
Maybe I liked the attention.

233 **DEREK** 233
The, uh... "lunkhead" didn't give you enough?

234 **ODESSA** 234
He had his moments. At least he was pretty.

DEREK laughs.

235 **DEREK** 235
Well, that's important.
(beat)

236 **DEREK** 236
How about Beth? Did she try to use any lines on you?

ODESSA chuckles.

237 **ODESSA** 237
She did. But that was different. It was adorable.

238 **DEREK** 238
What was it?

239 **ODESSA** 239
No way. I'm not telling you that.

240 **DEREK** 240
Maybe I need to up my game! And if she stole *your* heart it must've been quite a line.

241 **ODESSA** 241
I'm still not telling you.

242 **DEREK** 242
Okay, fair enough.
(beat)

243 **DEREK** 243
Do you think the "lunkhead" would approve?

244 **ODESSA** I don't know. Seems like he's still 244
carrying quite a torch.

245 **DEREK** Carried it all the way from 245
California.

SFX: PAPER BAG DROPS, SOMEONE LEAVING QUICKLY.

246 **ODESSA** That's a long way to carry 246
something like that.

247 **DEREK** Thinking about seeing you again 247
made it easier.

248 **ODESSA** Derek... 248

249 **DEREK** Yes, Odessa? 249

250 **ODESSA** Oh no. That bag in the doorway. 250

251 **DEREK** It isn't another message, is it? 251

252 **ODESSA** No. 252

ODESSA picks up the bag.

253 **ODESSA (CONT'D)** It's pastries. *Beth's* pastries. She 253
must've brought them, and... oh,
no.

254 (beat) I need to find her. 254

ODESSA leaves quickly.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. RAHMANI'S OFFICE, EVENING**

RAHMANI, ODESSA, and DEREK are present.

RAHMANI

255 The "what" here seems clear. We 255
 need to get back inside Flagrante
 Bello. What is *not* clear, however,
 is the "how." This would be a lot
 easier if the entrance Beth used
 wasn't covered in a pile of rubble.

DEREK

256 Those Super Mutants had to get to 256
 the surface somehow. We may be able
 to determine access points based on
 their patrol routes.

RAHMANI

257 We may. One potential issue is 257
 manpower. While we haven't had the
 opportunity to test the hypothesis
 that our status as "The Seven"
 grants us some sort of... immunity
 to whatever is happening there, I'm
 still not comfortable sending
 anyone else.

ODESSA

258 Neither am I. Not that I'm 258
 necessarily comfortable going there
 either right now, but that's the
 closest thing we have to a "safe"
 option.

DEREK

259 Maybe you should stay at Atlas, at 259
 least for now. Let us do some recon
 to make sure it's safe. You know,
 uh... increase the sample size a
 little?

ODESSA

260 I don't know if we have time for 260
 that. People are going to figure
 out that the Super Mutants aren't
 in charge anymore, and somebody's
 going to make a move. We have to
 make sure it's us.

(beat)

(MORE)

ODESSA (CONT'D)

261 And I think the best people for 261
this operation are in this room.

RAHMANI

262 Well, *most* of them. 262

ODESSA sighs.

ODESSA

263 I... don't know where Beth is. 263

RAHMANI

(shocked)

264 What? Is everything okay? I know 264
her father is...

ODESSA

265 She left... *abruptly*. She's not at 265
home, at her parents' house, or at
the Spider's Web.

RAHMANI

266 As you noted, I don't know that we 266
can afford to wait for her to
reappear.

DEREK

267 We could use her expertise, but the 267
three of us are more than capable
of going to Flagrate Bello and
getting the intel we need to figure
out a way forward.

RAHMANI

268 If we do this, we need to stay 268
focused. Odessa, if you don't feel
that you can do that, we can take
Scribe Navia instead. She's one of
the Seven and the only one we *know*
isn't affected.

BETH enters.

BETH

269 There won't be any need for that, 269
Paladin.

ODESSA

270 Beth! 270

BETH

271 Sorry I'm late. Had to clear my 271
head a bit.

272 **ODESSA** 272
Are... you okay?

273 **BETH** 273
What's the plan, Paladin?

274 **RAHMANI** 274
We were just getting to that. But
it seems that the best course of
action is a simple one - the four
of us go to Flagrate Bello, find a
way in, and assess the situation.

275 **DEREK** 275
And get out safely.

276 **BETH** 276
We can't assume that *all* of those
Mutants have been taken out by this
phenomenon. It's entirely possible
that the complex itself is safe and
they're holed up in there. We won't
know *anything* until we get inside.

277 **RAHMANI** 277
Do you have any thoughts on finding
ingress points that aren't blocked?

278 **BETH** 278
I do. When I was putting together
last year's operation, I identified
several potential entrances. Most
of them were blocked or otherwise
inaccessible, but there were...
seven, I think, that I didn't get
to.

279 **RAHMANI** 279
Do you remember where they are?

280 **BETH** 280
All the planning was done here. Do
you still have the maps we used?

281 **RAHMANI** 281
They're in the archives.

282 **BETH** 282
Brilliant. I marked every potential
location, and I can note the ones
that we know are inaccessible.

283 **RAHMANI** 283
Would Knight Carlson have any
insight?

284 **BETH** 284
No. The memory wipe took him back
to a point before he'd even heard
of *Flagrante Bello*. He wouldn't
remember.

285 **RAHMANI** 285
Alright. I'll talk to Knight
Merriweather. Derek, please check
in with Scribe Navia. See if
there's any other actionable intel
we can use.

286 **BETH** 286
I'll go to the armory and see what
kind of new toys you lot have down
there.

287 **ODESSA** 287
I'll join you.

RAHMANI and DEREK leave.

ODESSA closes the door.

288 **BETH** 288
Why did you close the door? We need
to get to the armory.

289 **ODESSA** 289
Beth, *talk to me*.

BETH sighs.

290 **BETH** 290
I'm... sorry I left like that.
Seeing you... and him like that.
Looking into each other's eyes,
obviously sharing a *moment*.

291 **ODESSA** 291
It wasn't a *moment*.

292 **BETH** 292
He was about to kiss you.

293 **ODESSA** 293
What?!

294 **BETH** 294
I'm well acquainted with what
someone looks like when they're
going in for a kiss. His eyes were
flicking down to your lips.

295 **ODESSA** 295
And what about *my* eyes?

296 **BETH** 296
I couldn't see them.

297 **ODESSA** 297
Dammit, Beth! Not that it should
even matter, but my eyes weren't
"flicking" anywhere.
 (beat)

298 **BETH** 298
What I meant was that I have agency
here. I have a choice. If he *had*
tried to kiss me, I would've...
recoiled. Pulled back.

299 **BETH** 299
Would you?

300 **ODESSA** 300
I can't believe you're acting like
this. You're actually questioning
whether I'd be faithful to you?

301 **BETH** 301
No! I know you'd never be
unfaithful. I *trust you*.
Completely.
 (beat)

302 **BETH** 302
All I know is what I felt in that
moment - that if I'd arrived a few
seconds later...

303 **ODESSA** 303
That if you'd arrived a few seconds
later *what?* We'd be doing it on my
desk?

304 **BETH** 304
Of course not!

305 **ODESSA** 305
Then *what?*!

306 **BETH** 306
That I'd have lost you! That it
wouldn't even be a matter of being
unfaithful...
 (MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

that it would be because...

(beat, choking up)

307 Because I'm not enough. That I'm 307
not the person you deserve. The
person you should grow old with.
And whether it's Derek or someone
else... that someone else is going
to show up and...

(beat)

308 And you'll realize... 308

BETH cries.

ODESSA

309 I don't know what I can say 309
anymore, Beth. I've told you how
much I love you. I've shown you
that, too. Over and over.

(beat)

310 What have I done to make you think 310
you're not enough? Am I that
lacking in self-awareness?

BETH

311 You haven't done anything... 311

ODESSA

312 But I must have. I... I didn't know 312
you felt this way.

(beat)

313 If all I've done, in word and deed, 313
to show you how much I love you
hasn't convinced you... maybe that
means I'm not enough for you. You
have more... emotional intelligence
than I do, maybe you picked up on
something I didn't, but you got it
backwards.

(beat)

314 Beth, when I moved in with you... 314
that was me saying that I want to
be with you. For good. How could I
live in a world without you?
Without *us*?

(beat)

315 But maybe I need to come to terms 315
with that. Because maybe *I'm* not
enough.

RAHMANI knocks on the door and opens it slightly.

RAHMANI

316 Derek and I are ready when you are. 316
We'll meet you at the entrance.

(MORE)

RAHMANI (CONT'D)

(beat)

317 Take all the time you need. 317

*RAHMANI closes the door.***BETH**

318 The one thing I know is that I love you. With every fiber of my being. 318

ODESSA

319 You loved Amanda like that, too. 319

BETH

320 And you loved Derek. 320

ODESSA

321 Since we've been together... since we both said "I love you" that first time, I've never felt surer that I was with the right person. Not even when I was with Derek. 321

(beat)

322 I'm not implying that I didn't love him. I did. Deeply. But it felt like I was *supposed* to be with him, like... of course that's how it was going to play out. We started dating when we were teenagers, the Brotherhood was invested in the idea of the daughter of the Scribes Valdez and the scion of the Hewitt family getting together. Everybody wanted us to be a couple, and there were times where it felt like we were kind of just along for the ride. 322

(beat)

323 But when I met you, it was *different*. I felt like I was *meant* to be with you. That you were my person. And I was yours. 323

BETH

324 And now? 324

ODESSA

325 I still feel that way. 325

BETH

326 My love for you is the one thing that hasn't wavered. All the... concerns I've had, they've all been down to me. That I wasn't enough, that I was too broken. 326

327 **ODESSA** I want to help you heal. But now... I don't know if I can. 327

328 **BETH** You have! 328

329 **ODESSA** Have I? 329

330 **BETH** Yes! In the year we've been together, I've grown so much. And I think you have, too. You've... blossomed. You're more beautiful every single day, in every possible way. I'm so proud to have been a part of that. To be the one who's helped bring that to the fore. And I'm so afraid of losing that. Of losing you. My North Star. 330

331 **ODESSA** You haven't lost me. And I'm glad I haven't lost you. But I think we need to take a breath. 331

332 **BETH** What are you saying? 332

333 **ODESSA** I love you, Beth. I love you more deeply than I ever thought I could love another person. I want to be with you. 333

334 **BETH** But? 334

335 **ODESSA** Both of us are hurt right now. I just think we should take a step back and... 335

336 **BETH** A step back?! 336

337 **ODESSA** Derek and Leila are waiting for us, and we can't put this operation on hold. When we get back from Flagrante Bello, I'm going to stay here at Atlas for the night. 337

338 **BETH** 338
 Odessa, are you...

339 **ODESSA** 339
 We're both pretty raw right now.
 Tomorrow's another day.

BETH sighs.

340 **BETH** 340
 (gathering herself)
 Okay. Let's go down to the armory
 and get this operation sorted.
 We'll get clarity on what's
 happening at Flagrante Bello, and
 then...

341 (beat) 341
 Odessa, no matter what, I love you.
 No qualifiers, no conditions.

342 **ODESSA** 342
 I love you too.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

EXT. FLAGRANTE BELLO COMPLEX, NIGHT

BETH, ODESSA, RAHMANI, and DEREK are at an entrance.

343 **RAHMANI** 343
 Five entrances down, two to go.

344 **DEREK** 344
 I have a good feeling about this
 one.

345 **RAHMANI** 345
 You do? Why?

346 **DEREK** 346
 It looks like this one was
 deliberately hidden. And recently.
 Super Mutants aren't exactly known
 for their attention to detail. I
 think I can...

347 **ODESSA** 347
 Be careful!

DEREK moves some debris, revealing a door.

348 **DEREK** 348
 Okay. We have a door.

RAHMANI

359 Good plan. Lead the way. 359

The group heads down a corridor.

ODESSA

360 This is a *lot* of destruction. Do 360
Super Mutants do anything other
than eat and destroy things?

BETH

361 I've heard rumors, but I hope 361
they're just that.

ODESSA

362 I have a feeling I do *not* want to 362
know about those rumors.

DEREK

363 Speaking of Super Mutants... 363

RAHMANI

364 What about them? 364

DEREK

365 Have you seen any? 365

RAHMANI

366 No. But that's good, right? 366

DEREK

367 Well, yes. But even if they ended 367
up like the ones we found up top,
you'd think we'd have at least seen
a few corpses by now.

RAHMANI

368 Could they have escaped? 368

DEREK

369 It's possible, but I doubt it. 369
They're not exactly subtle... a
mass exodus would've been noticed,
and that likely would've led to
somebody making a move.

RAHMANI

370 I'm surprised, frankly, that 370
nobody's made one yet given the
lack of patrols over the past few
days. I half expected to find a
group of Blood Eagles down here.

371 **DEREK** 371
I think we would've found something
like that if we'd waited. Getting
here as soon as we could was the
right call.

372 **RAHMANI** 372
I agree. But keep your head on a
swivel.

373 **DEREK** 373
At least we've still got power down
here. That's a good sign.

374 **BETH** 374
It is. Vault-Tec has always had
excellent redundancy built into
their power delivery systems. If
the Mutants had managed to destroy
that, well... it's doubtful there
would be *anything* of value left
intact.

375 **RAHMANI** 375
Let's operate under the assumption
that they're still here. Somewhere.

376 **BETH** 376
It's so quiet...

377 **RAHMANI** 377
Don't say it.

378 **BETH** 378
...*too* quiet.

379 **RAHMANI** 379
Odessa, when you were down here
last year, did you discover
anything about why those Mutants
were locked up in here in the first
place?

380 **ODESSA** 380
No. We didn't even know they were
here until Beth heard them when she
was exploring. Whatever Vault-Tec
was doing with them, it was a
mystery.

RAHMANI

381 And it still is. Maybe finding *that* 381
 out will help us understand what
 this phenomenon is. And how to stop
 it.

ODESSA

382 Perhaps. There seemed to be so many 382
 different projects and experiments
 housed down here that they could
 just as easily be unrelated.

RAHMANI

383 I hope we find out soon. We can't 383
 count on the phenomenon just
 disappearing on its own. For all we
 know it's going to expand and put
 more people in danger.

DEREK

384 At least we're not fighting our way 384
 through those Mutants right now.

There is a clattering noise ahead.

DEREK (CONT'D)

(sotto)
 385 Hold up. Did you hear that? 385

ODESSA

(sotto)
 386 I did. 386

DEREK

387 Weapons ready. Let's see what it 387
 is. *Carefully.*

The group slowly advances. The familiar pulse of the portal starts up.

ODESSA

388 Oh no. I was really hoping not to 388
 hear that sound again.

DEREK

389 It feels like it's coming from the 389
 same direction as that noise. Is
 everybody okay?

ODESSA

390 More or less? It's just like when 390
 Beth came back. I wouldn't call it
 "pleasant" but I don't feel any
serious negative effects.

413 **ODESSA** It's affecting all of us, but if we 413
were going to end up like those
Super Mutants it would've happened
already.

414 **DEVON**
(sotto) 414
"Super Mutants..."

ODESSA rifles through random parts.

415 **ODESSA** Ugh. No spare relays in here. I 415
think I might be able to cobble
something together.

416 **DEVON** Thank goodness. 416

417 **ODESSA** *Might.* 417

418 **DEVON** I'll take my chances. I'm a lot of 418
things, but "engineer" is not one
of them.

*ODESSA does some futzing inside the console. There is an
electrical zap.*

419 **BETH** Odessa! 419

420 **ODESSA** I'm fine! Okay, here goes nothing. 420
See if you can shut it down now.

421 **DEVON** I'll try the emergency shutdown. 421
Always appreciate it when designers
build those in. And when they make
it a big red button.

DEVON hits the button. The portal spins down and disappears.

422 **DEVON (CONT'D)** Well. That was exciting. 422

423 **RAHMANI** Does this mean we're safe? 423

424 **DEVON** 424
It does.
 (beat, to Odessa)

425 **DEVON** 425
Good job.

426 **ODESSA** 426
Thanks. I'm not entirely confident
that it will hold, though, so I'll
work on something more permanent.

427 **DEVON** 427
Well, that was some quick work, and
I appreciate it.

428 **ODESSA** 428
Are you with Vault-Tec?

429 **DEVON** 429
Vault-Tec?

430 **ODESSA** 430
This is a Vault-Tec facility, so I
thought you might be an old
employee of theirs.

431 **DEVON** 431
Sorry. Never heard of it.

432 **BETH** 432
 (incredulous)
You've never heard of Vault-Tec?
Have you been living in a cave?

433 **DEVON** 433
No. Well, not exactly.

434 **RAHMANI** 434
Let's start from the beginning. I'm
Paladin Leila Rahmani, Brotherhood
of Steel. This is Paladin Derek
Hewitt and Elizabeth Kirby. And
you've met our Senior Scribe,
Odessa Valdez.

435 **DEVON** 435
So you're all with the "Brotherhood
of Steel?"

436 **BETH** 436
I'm not. I'm not *with* anybody.
I'm... unaffiliated.

437 **DEVON** 437
I see. Well, it's nice to meet you.
All of you.

438 **RAHMANI** 438
And you are?

439 **DEVON** 439
I was Devon McKnight.

440 **RAHMANI** 440
Was?

441 **DEVON** 441
I'm... something different now.
Still trying to figure out what.

442 **ODESSA** 442
I don't understand.

443 **DEVON** 443
That's alright. Neither do I.

444 **ODESSA** 444
O... kay?

445 **DEVON** 445
We've taken care of the immediate
problem, but we have a much bigger
one to deal with.

446 **ODESSA** 446
Making sure it doesn't happen
again?

447 **DEVON** 447
In a way. It looks like this
machine opened its first portal a
couple of months ago based on the
logs stored on the console. That's
bad.

448 **RAHMANI** 448
How bad?

449 **ODESSA** 449
And why?

450 **DEVON** 450
Very, and because that put you on
the radar of the Untainted.

BETH

451 The "Untainted?" I do *not* like the 451
 sound of that. Who are they?

DEVON

452 A group... a species, I suppose, 452
 that uses portals like this one to
 invade and plunder any time a new
 one opens.

ODESSA

453 But the portal is closed now. We 453
 should be fine as long it stays
 that way, shouldn't we?

DEVON

454 That's the problem. When a portal 454
 opens, it creates a pathway. A
 connection to a kind of hub where
 those pathways converge.

ODESSA

455 And once that pathway is created, 455
 the Untainted can open a portal
 from that hub.

DEVON

456 Exactly. Fortunately, they haven't 456
 gotten to you yet. But it's only a
 matter of time. How much time is
 anyone's guess.

RAHMANI

457 So what do we need to do? 457

DEVON

458 That's the long pole in the tent, 458
 I'm afraid. We have to close off
 the *pathway*, and that's a lot more
 difficult than just spinning down a
 portal.

(beat)

459 Are you familiar with string 459
 theory?

ODESSA

460 No. I'm sorry. 460

DEVON

461 It's alright. We'll talk it 461
 through. You might know it under a
 different name. That happens
 sometimes;

(MORE)

DEVON (CONT'D)

the same concept, but the nomenclature evolves differently.

ODESSA

462 What do you mean? 462

DEVON

463 These pathways link... I guess "universes" is the best way to put it. It's also possible to use them for short-hops within the same universe. That's kind of a... specialized thing, though. I've never seen that done with technology. 463

BETH

464 So it could be possible to open one of these portals from, say, Pittsburgh to here? 464

DEVON

465 You have a Pittsburgh! I love Pittsburgh. 465

BETH

466 You... might not love *our* Pittsburgh. 466

DEVON

467 I don't know where "here" is, but that can be done, yes. I take it you have personal experience with that? 467

BETH

468 I do. Just passed through one a few days ago. 468

DEVON

469 That means the Sentinels are in play. Good. 469

ODESSA

470 You know the Sentinels? 470

DEVON

471 Very well. They can be... well, a little frustrating to deal with sometimes, but they're on our side. They want to prevent the expansion of the Untainted as much as anybody. Even me. 471

472 **BETH** What do you mean, "even" you? 472

DEVON sighs.

473 **DEVON** It's a story for another day, but 473
the Untainted and I have a history.
The details don't really matter,
but the long and the short of it is
that I ended up getting shunted
into a space between universes -
the Nexus. It's connected to that
hub I mentioned, but whoever
created it did it in a way that
they can't touch me or anything
else in there. It exists in a
"state of grace."

474 **ODESSA** I think the best course of action 474
is to get something more permanent
in place inside that console, and
then we can work on shutting down
the pathway.

475 **DEVON** That sounds like a solid plan. One 475
thing to keep in mind - I have to
be back in the Nexus when that
pathway closes, so you'll have to
complete the process yourself.

476 (beat) 476
I can only stay here for a limited
amount of time. I'm not sure how
long, but it's not "forever." After
that, well... it's like a body
rejecting a transplanted organ.

477 **ODESSA** I understand. 477

478 (beat) 478
The portal appeared under this
arch. Is that part of the
apparatus, or was that a
coincidence?

479 **DEVON** It's not a coincidence. Best guess, 479
whoever built this was trying to
stabilize the portal, but they
didn't quite get there.

BETH walks to the arch.

480 **BETH** 480
Its design is... different from
what I'd expect from Vault-Tec. I
wonder if they had some sort of
outside help.

ODESSA walks to the arch.

481 **ODESSA** 481
You're right. It reminds me of some
of what I saw when I was with
Amanda, in the passageway under her
bar when I thought we were
dreaming. It looks... modern and
ancient at the same time.

The console sparks to life. A portal opens.

482 **DEVON** 482
Beth! Odessa! Get away from there!
 (beat)
483 They're caught in some kind of 483
temporal eddy.

484 **RAHMANI** 484
Can you shut down the portal?

485 **DEVON** 485
I think so. I was watching Odessa
while she fixed that relay, and...

486 **DEREK** 486
You *think*?!

*DEVON runs to the console and futzes with the electronics.
There is a sharp woosh and the portal shuts down. BETH and
ODESSA collapse.*

487 **RAHMANI** 487
Oh, no. Are they alright?!

ODESSA and BETH stir.

488 **ODESSA** 488
Ugh... what happened?

489 **BETH** 489
I don't know. But whatever it
was... ugh, I don't like it. I was
at home, and then I... wasn't.

490 **ODESSA** 490
Yeah, I was in my lab, but... this
is *not* my lab.

491 **RAHMANI** 491
Devon - could the portal have
caused memory loss?

492 **DEVON** 492
I hope that's all it is.

BETH stands.

493 **BETH** 493
Let me help you up.

BETH helps ODESSA to her feet.

494 **ODESSA** 494
Where the hell am I?

495 **BETH** 495
I don't know...
(beat)

496 496
Oh. Elizabeth Kirby. Pleasure to
met you, uh...

497 **ODESSA** 497
Lieutenant Commander Odessa Valdez.
It's nice to meet you, Elizabeth.

498 **BETH** 498
Please. Call me Beth.
(beat)

499 499
Lieutenant Commander, eh? That
doesn't look like a Navy uniform.

500 **ODESSA** 500
(shocked)
What the... it isn't. It's
definitely a uniform, but...

501 **DEVON** 501
I'm afraid this situation just got
significantly more complicated.