

ICARUS RISING
"Salvage and Fears"

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FADE IN:

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

JASON sits in the command chair, eyes distant, connected with the ship, fingers run rapidly over the console.

JASON
Systems at sixty-seven percent and rising.

BRANDON stands in front of Jason, worried face, concerned, keeping an eye on his best friend.

ORIRIS strides in from another compartment, a strange device of twisted chrome and pin lights in one claw.

ORIRIS
Good news. Life expectancy. Probable.

BRANDON
What?

ORIRIS
Human chances of survival. More than. Original extrapolation.

BRANDON
Extrapo-whatnow?

Oriris quizzically tilts his head.

ORIRIS
Extrapo-whatnow?

JASON
He said that everyone will be fine.

BRANDON
So... when were we not fine? I mean, apart from when we found an alien space ship in the ground and when the turtles attacked us?

ORIRIS
Turtles.

JASON
The life support systems needed some tweaking to support human life.

ORIRIS
But do now.

BRANDON

Did you know this before we boldly
went where no nerd has gone before?

Oriris tilts his head again.

ORIRIS

What is. Nerd? This species is.
Unknown to Oriris.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - DAY

NAOMI and TOM hold flash lights before them, pan them across
the strange metal walls, talk as they explore.

TOM

When are the lights getting fixed?
Can't see crap.

NAOMI

Jason said about another hour, I
would consider life support to be a
priority, wouldn't you?

Tom shrugs.

TOM

True, I suppose, I quite like being
able to breathe air.

The beam picks out small circular portals in a row, perhaps a
dozen, thick with condensation.

NAOMI

Actually, the cold would kill us
first.

TOM

(Off the portals)
What do you think these things are?

INT. ICARUS - REC ROOM - DAY

Dim lights provide a surprisingly cosy ambience in contrast
to the cold metal of some of the other rooms.

BARTENDER and ASHLEY stand before a curved console inlaid
with alien glyphs. Both ponder it's operation.

BARTENDER

I don't know, any ideas?

ASHLEY

Yeah, right.

Ashley shrugs, goes for broke before Eric can stop her.

BARTENDER

No! Wait!

Ashley hits a button, a digital WARBLE followed by a metallic CLICK comes from the machine.

Bartender dives for cover as Ashley stands, unflinching.

INSERT - MACHINE FACADE

A compartment opens, reveals a blue sphere, perhaps two inches across.

BACK TO SCENE

Ashley grins, pleased with herself, takes the sphere.

Eric cautiously approaches, looks over her shoulder.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

That's breakfast sorted, what's for lunch?

She holds up the blue sphere for them both to inspect.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Assuming that this is actually food.

A door slides aside, ERIC, a shocked expression, limps in.

ERIC

The... huh... bathroom works... I think.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - DAY

Naomi is on tip-toes, tries to see into one of the portals.

Tom holds one of the flashlights steady.

TOM

Maybe we should tell Jason or Iris.

NAOMI

It's "Oriris", like the Egyptian God of death, but with an R instead of an S.

Tom rolls his eyes.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Besides, where's your sense of adventure!

TOM
 "Sense of Adventure?" I don't know
 if you've noticed, Naomi, but...
 we're on a frickin' spaceship!
 (Beat)
 Did you just say "God of Death"?

Naomi pushes a section of metal in, steps back as a loud HISS escapes and the compartment begins to open.

NAOMI
 Bingo!

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Brandon makes exaggerated gestures as he enthusiastically chatters to Oriris. A very one sided conversation.

Oriris tilts his head in his usual manner, antennae twitch, seemingly captivated by Brandon's story.

BRANDON
 ...So the crew switch the frequency
 to the same as the other ship which
 causes a forced sequential feedback
 loop thus catapulting them back to
 their own time! Best. Episode.
 Ever.

ORIRIS
 Fascinating. But fundamental flaws
 in scientific method. Theory
 useless. No basis in fact.
 Universal laws broken on many
 levels.

Brandon opens his mouth, goes to speak--

JASON
 Huh... Oriris, can you give me a
 hand here?

ORIRIS
 Have no hands. Extremity available
 to assist. However.

Oriris moves to Jason, looks at the console.

ORIRIS (CONT'D)
 Oh dear.

JASON
 I'm not familiar with this yet.

ORIRIS
Likelihood of you understanding. At
this early stage. Zero. Suggest
you. Disconnect. For time being.

The tubes and wires retract from Jason's head device, he
staggers from the command console, rubs his eyes.

JASON
Will I ever get used to that.

ORIRIS
Yes. Chose you. Best suited.

Oriris leads the guys through the corridor into the...

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Brandon turns to Jason.

BRANDON
What's going on, Jay?

JASON
Naomi and Tom found Oriris' little
shop of horrors.

BRANDON
Come again?

JASON
Oriris and his crew were an
exploration and recovery team.

BRANDON
Eric mentioned something about
aliens storing stuff at Area 51,
trading alien tech for test
subjects, like a big bring and buy
sale.

ORIRIS
Eric. Correct.

INT. ICARUS - REC ROOM - DAY

Bartender tinkers with switches and dials, examines various
items resembling Earth kitchen utensils with subtle
differences born of another world.

Ashley and Eric have collected a whole container of the blue
spheres from the machine.

ASHLEY
Anyone for blue balls?

BARTENDER

I think... and don't hold me to this... I think I know how to get heat.

He takes a sphere, they regard it for a beat.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

I'll try the obvious.

He cracks it on the side of a "pan" like an egg.

Ashley watches with wonder, Eric flinches.

A beat as they behold the results, then smile broadly.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

As far as I can tell, that, my friends, is an egg.

Oriris, Brandon and Jason enter.

ORIRIS

Confirm cryogenically frozen organic embryonic capsule. Inventory, 37. In your language. Red Horned Fire Swallow. Native of. Sigma Antilles. Delicious.

They continue through and out through a door on the other side of the room, obviously on a mission.

Bartender, Ashley and Eric join them.

EXT. FREEWAY EMBANKMENT - DAY

A summer's day, a haze of hot concrete and heavy traffic.

Naomi and Tom stand on the embankment.

They turn to each other, look about confused.

TOM

Naomi?

NAOMI

Huh, yes?

TOM

Where are we?

NAOMI

I think the pertinent question would be "How did we get here!"

TOM

OK, where's the ship?

NAOMI
Maybe we were teleported here.

Tom snorts with derision.

TOM
You mean just like in Earth Team
Nine?

Naomi looks at him with an incredulous expression.

NAOMI
It's Earth Force Seven and, Tom,
can I remind you...

She jabs a finger to the sky.

NAOMI (CONT'D)
Space?... Ship?... Alien?... Hello?

Tom goes to speak but is interrupted by the sound of carnage.

FREEWAY

Cars SLAM into each other, twisted metal, SCREECH of tires
and a hundred tons of steel changed forever in seconds.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - DAY

The crew are gathered around Tom and Naomi who are prone on
the floor, unconscious, flashlights where they fell.

The compartment they opened reveals a cube of brilliant white
which floats in mid air, rotates slowly on one corner.

Tendrils of pulsating light reach out from it and into the
heads of Tom and Naomi.

It lights the room with a rotating energy.

JASON
What the hell is that thing? Is
that what I sensed powering up?

ORIRIS
Correct. Artifact activated.

Brandon and Bartender stoop to check Naomi and Tom.

BRANDON
(relieved)
They're OK.

Bartender nods in agreement.

ORIRIS
Oh yes. Quite comfortable. And
safe. Physically.

ASHLEY
What do we do?

ERIC
That thing must have done something
to them.

Brandon mans up, starts towards the cube.

BRANDON
We have to turn it off or smash it!

ERIC
No! We don't know what it is! Could
be some kind of mind control device
or something, you could kill them.

ORIRIS
Possibility of neural degradation.
Uncertain.

BARTENDER
What we gonna do?

All eyes turn to Oriris.

Oriris' head turns to Jason.

ORIRIS
What we. Gonna do?

EXT. FREEWAY EMBANKMENT - DAY

Tom shields Naomi as the crash ends, a beat of silence then
SCREAMS and calls for help begin, fires start, smoke rises.

Naomi manoeuvres past Tom, makes her way to the accident.

TOM
Wait! Naomi wait!

NAOMI
We have to help!

TOM
It's too dangerous... the police...

Naomi has made her mind up, ignores Tom, runs to help.

Tom watches her, fear on his face, sweat beads on his fore-
head, wrings his hands with anxiety.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - DAY

JASON

Nothing... We do nothing.

A storm of protest from the others.

Oriiris remains silent.

ASHLEY

What? You're kidding!

JASON

Eric is right! We don't know what it is, what it's doing to them.

ERIC

They're alive.

Ashley faces down Oriiris, points a finger.

ASHLEY

(To Oriiris)

You know what this thing is. Turn it off right now!

ORIRIS

Presumption. Incorrect assessment of Oriiris' knowledge on artefact.

ASHLEY

What?

JASON

He don't know what it is.

ORIRIS

Jason. Correct assessment. Knowledge limited.

JASON

We watch them, make them comfortable, if anything changes then we try and... well... we watch them.

EXT. FREEWAY WRECK - DAY

Naomi helps people to the side of the road, reassures an OLD LADY, fires burn, people moan or scream, chaos.

Other DRIVERS help those trapped, carry and drag wounded to safer areas.

As Naomi comforts the Old Lady, she hears a GROAN and WHIMPER from a nearby car, jammed under a flat-bed truck.

A TRUCKER with a cut head, runs to help at the wreck.

TRAPPED DRIVER (O.S.)
Help, help me! I can't get out!

TRUCKER
It's OK, buddy, I'm coming!

TRAPPED DRIVER (O.S.)
Ah, my arm!

TRUCKER
Someone give us a hand over here!

A few other SURVIVORS rush to give aid.

TOM

Tears well up, clutches at his arm, his breath shortens.

NAOMI'S POV - TRAPPED DRIVER

The Trapped Driver is dragged free, obscured by the people helping him, the car begins to burn.

TRUCKER (CONT'D)
Quick!

BACK TO SCENE

TOM

Transfixed, he pulls up his shirt sleeve, reveals a nasty burn scar, jagged, old, subconsciously strokes it.

FREEWAY WRECK

The Driver is pulled free, it is TOM, his arm on fire, his rescuers pat the flames out with jackets and hands.

Naomi looks with astonishment, turns to face her Tom, up on the embankment.

There is a flash of bright white.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - DAY

Brandon checks Tom's pulse, looks concerned.

BRANDON
His heart rate is through the roof!
We have to do something, Jason.

Jason turns to Oriris.

JASON

You have to tell us everything you know about the cube.

ORIRIS

Artefact 778. Discovered four cycles before mission accident. Correction. Earth year 1556 bc. Wrecked vessel. Unknown origin.

ERIC

You found it in a wrecked spaceship?

ORIRIS

Eric. Extrapolation correct.

JASON

What does it do?

ORIRIS

Repeat. Unknown. Early tests. Salvaged artefact.

Brandon stands.

BRANDON

They've calmed down, pulses seem OK now.

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Naomi stands in an aisle, a passage of wood and paper.

Naomi looks about, looks to her fingers, dirty and bloodied from the crash.

NAOMI

Tom!?

A stern LIBRARIAN passes, puts a finger to her lips.

LIBRARIAN

Shhhh!

NAOMI

(Whispers)

Sorry.

Naomi moves to the next aisle - "HISTORY"

Tom sits on the floor, tears on his face.

Naomi hustles over to him, they speak in hushed voices.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

TOM
I... Don't know.

NAOMI
That was you, in the wreck!

TOM
I thought it felt familiar, but
thought it was too weird to
mention.

NAOMI
Hello... Space?... Ship?... Alien?

Tom stands, smiles.

NAOMI (CONT'D)
Your arm...

Tom's scar is visible, he pulls his sleeve back down,
suddenly conscious of it.

TOM
The crash... happened a few years
ago. It ruined my life, had a fear
of cars ever since, though I was
pretty good at hiding it.

NAOMI
That was your idea of "hiding"?

TOM
You're the clever one, you
understand all this sci-fi stuff!
Where the hell were we just now?

She shows him her dirty hands.

NAOMI
I can still smell gasoline and
burning.

TOM
But you weren't there. Not really.

LIBRARIAN (O.S.)
Please be quiet!

The Librarian is at the end of the aisle, gives a cold look.

Tom and Naomi whisper.

TOM
I was pulled free by the truck
driver, it was all so fast, I
burned my arm.

Naomi nods with sympathy, looks about.

NAOMI
I know this place.

TOM
So what, this is one of your
memories?

NAOMI
We don't know whether we are
experiencing memories or whether we
are actually here.

TOM
What? Time travel?

NAOMI
Pretty radical, huh?

Naomi pushes her glasses further up her nose, confidently
strides into the main library, looks around at the PEOPLE.

Tom rushes after her.

TOM
Woah, you sure this is a good idea?

NAOMI
No... that's the fun part.

A child with a new toy, Naomi breathes in deeply, savors
every sight, picks up a book and smells it.

Tom raises an eyebrow.

NAOMI (CONT'D)
Love the smell of knowledge.

She stops, sees something that stops her dead in her stride.

NAOMI'S POV - OLD WOMAN AND CHILD

A kind faced OLD WOMAN holds the hand of a GIRL, 9, pig
tails, pretty dress, thick glasses.

NAOMI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Nana.

BACK TO SCENE

Naomi moves towards her GRANDMOTHER and her younger self.

Tom puts a hand on her arm.

TOM
Hey, if we are really here, if this
is really happening and not just
some tripped out dream or vision,
then shouldn't we stay out of this?

She watches her past for a beat, sighs.

NAOMI
You're right.

TOM
I am?

NAOMI
There's nothing I can do to stop
what happens next anyway.

They watch.

Young Naomi skips to the Young Scientist section, picks out a book as her Grandmother checks a history book at the counter.

Naomi's Grandmother smiles, exchanges unheard words with the Stern Librarian, now also smiling and enjoying the exchange.

Young Naomi looks to her Grandmother who returns a fond smile.

The smile melts away, her hand goes to her chest, she collapses, short of breath, a heart attack.

YOUNG NAOMI
Nana!

Older Naomi takes Tom's hand as she watches her history, tears begin to fall.

People move to help Naomi's Grandmother.

Young Naomi tries to get to her Grandmother, is trapped behind the sudden wall of people, swallowed by the crowd.

Older Naomi suddenly breaks away from Tom, rushes forward, pushes through the horde.

Her Grandmother is on the floor, fading fast, the Librarian holds her hand, has placed a folded jacket under her head.

GRANDMOTHER
(Weak)
Naomi, where's Naomi?

Older Naomi falls to her Grandmother's side, takes her hand, speaks through tears.

NAOMI
I'm here, Nana.

Her Grandmother looks into Older Naomi's eyes with recognition.

GRANDMOTHER

My, how you've grown... So beautiful.

Naomi's Grandmother strokes Naomi's cheek, smiles lovingly.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

I'm very proud of you.

NAOMI

I love you, Nana.

Her Grandmother smiles as her eyes begin to flutter closed.

They are engulfed in white light.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - DAY

The tendrils of light snake away from Tom and Naomi, the cube stops spinning, goes dim, shuts down.

Tom and Naomi begin to stir and wake up.

The Crew move forward to help.

JASON

Easy now, how do you feel? Are you OK?

Naomi wipes a tear away, Tom smiles at her.

NAOMI

Good, I feel good.

INT. ICARUS - CHAMBER - LATER

Oriris closes the cube's compartment.

ORIRIS

Good. I feel. Good.

FADE OUT: