

WELCOME TO THE HORIZON

Part 2: Have You Seen This Dog?

By

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Welcome to the Horizon

Part 2: Have You Seen This Dog?

MORNING AT THE HORIZON MOTEL. BIRDS CHIRPING AND ALL THAT NONSENSE. THE DOOR TO THE OFFICE OPENS AND FRANK WALKS OUT.

FRANK

Morning.

VERGE

Morning.

FRANK

Got everything you need over there?

VERGE

Who has everything they need?

FRANK

Good point. Everything you need within reason?

VERGE

Sure.

FRANK

Great.

VERGE

Is it always this quiet here?

FRANK

This time of year, yeah. It's the off season. In a few months there'll be a bunch of skiers on their way up the mountain.

VERGE

What's that about?

FRANK

Skiing? It's a universal law of nature. When there's a big thing there will be, inevitably, a portion of the population that wants to go very fast down the side of it.

VERGE

I see.

FRANK

I notice you don't have a car. I'm going to run into town for some supplies, do you need us to pick you up anything?

VERGE

I've got everything I need, thanks.

FRANK

Okay.

FRANK'S TRUCK COMES SPEEDING UP THE DRIVEWAY INTO THE PARKING LOT. JUNE JUMPS OUT OF THE DRIVER'S SEAT. SHE'S ON THE PHONE.

JUNE

Uh-huh... Oh no... Oh God that sucks... And you looked everywhere?... Uh-huh. I'm so sorry.

(To Frank.)

Edgy Steve.

FRANK

Oh, good.

JUNE

(Back to the phone.)

Well, we haven't seen anything but we'll keep our eyes open, okay... I'm sure he'll turn up... okay.

FRANK

What's happening?

JUNE

You know Steve's dog?

FRANK

Rambo?

JUNE

Yeah. He's missing.

FRANK

Really? Doesn't he keep him on a lawn spike most of the time?

JUNE

Yeah, he woke up this morning and he was gone. He's losing his mind.

FRANK

How upset are we supposed to be about this?

JUNE

Frank.

FRANK

That dog is a fucking monster.

JUNE

I know.

FRANK

It's the meanest dog I've ever seen.

JUNE

Well, of course it is, Frank, it guards the house of a drug dealer. Drug dealers all have terrifying dogs, it's the law.

FRANK

Wait, so his terrifying dog is now loose in town somewhere?

JUNE

It sounds like it.

FRANK

He's such a blight on the community, this guy.

JUNE

Steve's fine. He keeps you on your toes.

FRANK

How can we get him to move his business to another town?

JUNE

I don't know, get skiers to stop liking methamphetamine?

FRANK

What does he expect us to do about it?

JUNE

I told him we'd keep a look out.

FRANK

Tell him to follow the trail of murdered cats.

JUNE

Anyway... Hi, Verge.

VERGE

Hi there.

JUNE

How's everything going over there?

VERGE

Just fine.

JUNE

What are you... what are you smoking there, Verge?

VERGE

Tobacco's really fantastic.

JUNE

I hear it's popular.

(To Frank.)

Do we have a theory on what Verge's deal is?

FRANK

I'm kind of stumped. It's been three days now and they just hang out in their room and occasionally come outside and roll a cigarette.

JUNE

Roll a cigarette?

FRANK

Yeah.

JUNE

Like a cowboy?

FRANK

Please don't say cowboy, I'm still not over our cowboy experience the other day.

JUNE

Okay, but be real with me, I feel a little cooler that they're just hanging out here, right?

FRANK

I hate to admit it, but yeah, maybe a little.

JUNE

How can we become a hot spot for cool drifters?

FRANK

We've met our share of drifters, this is definitely the first one that's been cool.

JUNE

True. Okay, we doing this? Breakfast? Sheep's Eye?

FRANK

Yeah.

JUNE

Okay. Hey, Verge. If anyone wants to check in can you just tell them to pick a room, key's in the bedside table, we'll deal with them later?

VERGE

Seriously?

FRANK

Yeah, also, no one's going to want to check in so don't worry about it.

VERGE

That I can handle.

FRANK

Fantastic.

BREAKFAST RUSH AT THE SHEEP'S EYE. FRANK AND JUNE ARE SITTING OUTSIDE. DEIDRE BRINGS THEM THEIR ORDER.

DEIDRE

Okay, we've got bacon, eggs, and toast.

JUNE

Amazing.

DEIDRE

And granola and fruit for Frank.

FRANK

Thank you.

JUNE

Loser.

FRANK

Hey Deidre, how's everyone doing?

DEIDRE

How are they doing? You mean after the "Relentless Rick Incident"?

FRANK

Yeah.

DEIDRE

Well, everyone's working really hard to explain it away. Celeste is saying it was some sort of government experiment being conducted on us. What's "MK Ultra?"

FRANK

Never mind, forget I asked.

JUNE

How are you doing, Deidre?

DEIDRE

Me? Uh, fine? I think I'm in denial? That's normal right?

JUNE

Totally.

DEIDRE

Great. Frank, do you still want me to tell you about weird stuff?

FRANK

Um, I really don't, but why don't you tell me anyway?

DEIDRE

I guess this isn't WEIRD weird, but, it looks like Trinkett's coming back to town.

FRANK

Seriously?

JUNE

Oh boy.

DEIDRE

Yeah, she called to make sure I still had her keys.

JUNE

It's been a while, where was she calling from?

DEIDRE

She said, Cairo?

JUNE

Of course.

FRANK

That's terrible news.

JUNE

It's fine. When is she coming back?

DEIDRE

She didn't say.

FRANK

You're right, that's not WEIRD weird, but thank you for the warning anyway.

DEIDRE

Sure.

JUNE

This is going to be fun for me.

FRANK

Oh, Deidre. Steve's dog is loose apparently.

DEIDRE

It is?

FRANK

Yeah.

DEIDRE

Rambo?

FRANK

Yes.

DEIDRE

That dog is terrifying.

FRANK

I know, Steve woke up this morning and he was gone.

DEIDRE

That's bad.

FRANK

It's not great, so if you're going for a walk or something, I guess take your bear spray with you?

JUNE

Or a leg of lamb, y'know, to distract him.

DEIDRE

Jeez. Okay.

FRANK

If you see him, call Steve.

DEIDRE

Okay. Is there any way I can *not* call Steve?

FRANK

Call me. Call me and I'll call him.

DEIDRE

Awesome.

JUNE

... So, local mystic Trinket Coralee, coming back to town.

FRANK

Horrible timing.

JUNE

Trinkett Coralee, Purveyor of ancient cures and strange smells.

FRANK

Why does she have to come back to town right now?
Of all the people I don't want to deal with.

JUNE

I've never understood the issue with you two, why
do you hate each other?

FRANK

We don't hate each other, she's just an aggravating
person.

JUNE

There are weird things afoot in town though. Might
be nice to have the perspective of a... whatever
she calls herself.

FRANK

The last thing anyone needs right now is her
drawing some sort of summoning circle in the middle
of town to focus the spiritual energies or some
bullshit.

JUNE

I think it's going to be nice. My chakras are going
to get so aligned.

FRANK

This is such bad news.

JUNE

Hey, speaking of weird shit, how are we feeling?

FRANK

We?

JUNE

Yeah... y'know...

FRANK

... Okay we've got to find a way to talk about this
with less long pauses and allusions.

JUNE

What do you want me to say, Frank?

FRANK

I don't know. Look, I wake up in the morning, I
look in the mirror, it's me. I'm not growing roots
or something, I'm not turning into a werewolf. It's
me.

JUNE

Okay. I mean, I'm fine with "New Frank".

FRANK

Don't say "New Frank."

JUNE

Meet the new Frank.

FRANK

June.

JUNE

Same as the old Frank.

FLAT DOUG

Frank!

FRANK

Hey, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

I'm freaking out.

FRANK

Well, it is a day of the week, so..

JUNE

You're always freaking out, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

My Dad's dog is gone.

JUNE

Baron Munchausen?

FLAT DOUG

Baron Munchausen is gone.

FRANK

How long?

FLAT DOUG

He woke up this morning, no sign of him.

FRANK

Oh, boy.

JUNE

Has he run off before?

FLAT DOUG

No, he hates going outside. You practically have to drag him behind you when you walk him.

JUNE

Okay.

FRANK

That's two.

JUNE

It's just a coincidence.

FLAT DOUG

What's just a coincidence?

JUNE

Nothing. Rambo's missing too, apparently. I got a call from Steve this morning.

FLAT DOUG

What? Rambo?!

JUNE

Yeah, what?

FLAT DOUG

My Dad's dog is wandering around out there while Steve's insane monster is roaming the streets?

JUNE

Rambo's not that bad, Doug.

FLAT DOUG

He bit through his leash one time.

JUNE

That's... that is true, that is true.

FLAT DOUG

It was a chain leash, June.

FRANK

Doug we're all going to keep an eye out, okay? Rambo probably took off into the woods to bring down an elk or something.

FLAT DOUG

I'm going to go ask around inside.

FRANK

Okay.

FLAT DOUG WALKS INSIDE.

JUNE

His anxiety levels are dangerously high all the time, it's unsustainable.

FRANK

...

JUNE
What's wrong?

FRANK
I just wanted to sit here and have some granola.

JUNE
Well *there's* something that no one's ever said.

FRANK
Two missing dogs.

JUNE
Just a coincidence.

FRANK
There's going to be a third.

JUNE
Frank, don't catch Doug's anxiety.

FRANK
We need to learn how to catch these things earlier.

JUNE
What are you talking about?

FRANK
I'm going to go talk to everyone.

JUNE
I just got my food.

FRANK
Then stay out here.

JUNE
Goddamnit.

FRANK WALKS INSIDE THE BUSY SHEEP'S EYE. HE STANDS UP ON A CHAIR.

FRANK
Everybody... Everybody listen up... Thank you. You may have heard that Rambo has gone missing. Now, while that presents it's own problems, seeing as how Rambo is a fucking psychopath, Baron Munchausen is also missing. I need to know right now if anyone else is missing a dog or if you've heard of anyone else that is missing a dog... Anybody?

CELESTE
Frank, I would like to say something.

FRANK

Please, don't.

CELESTE

I'd like to be heard, I think this is important.

FRANK

Fine.

CELESTE

We all remember what happened a few days ago. We were visited by, what can only be described as, a time traveller. An old west outlaw by the name of Relentless Rick. While not all of you subscribe to my theory that we were all drugged as part of an experiment by the nearby secret military base-

FRANK

There's no secret military base.

CELESTE

-Agree to disagree. You may not all agree with my theory. But now there's missing dogs. And I think we can all agree that these dogs are being stolen by the local secret military base and being experimented on.

FRANK

We can all agree?

CELESTE

Are we just going to sit here while there is a rash of dog theft sweeping across town?

FRANK

It's two dogs.

CELESTE

For now. For now it is, but look at Frank here. Look at him. If this wasn't something for us to be worried about, Frank wouldn't be making a speech about it, would he? Would you, Frank?

FLAT DOUG

You just told me it was nothing to worry about, Frank.

JUNE

(To Frank)

Remember how I said to talk to me before you do things like this?

THE DOOR TO THE SHEEP'S EYE OPENS. THE PHONE RINGS, DEIDRE PICKS IT UP.

DEIDRE

Sheep's Eye?

EDGY STEVE

Hi everyone. Sorry to interrupt, I've got some fliers here, everyone please take one, my dog has gone missing, you can see a picture right there. He can be a little irritable, but he's a good boy-

FRANK

Steve.

EDGY STEVE

If you can just take one of these please give me a call if you see anything-

FRANK

Steve.

EDGY STEVE

-Feeling a little out of sorts, know what I mean? He's my north star, that little guy-

FRANK

Steve.

EDGY STEVE

What?

FRANK

We all know what your dog looks like.

EDGY STEVE

I'm just making sure, okay? Trying to stay busy, can't help but think about him being injured out there.

FRANK

Steve, if anything, your dog is the one doing the injuring.

EDGY STEVE

Frank, that is so unfair.

FRANK

Steve, your dog is a fucking monster, okay? It is what it is, we will still help you find your dog, but let's not pretend we're talking about Lassie okay? Your dog is four-legged horror movie.

CELESTE

I don't even drive by your house anymore, Steve. Your dog is terrifying.

FLAT DOUG

Yeah, how did you get him that way, Steve? Are feeding him Ripped Fuel or something?

EDGY STEVE

Wow, I have never felt so abandoned in a time of need than right now.

FRANK

Okay, y'all, focus up please. Obviously making this little announcement was premature, I didn't mean to alarm anyone. We've got a couple of missing dogs. No big deal. Nothing to panic about. Let's all just keep our eyes out for Rambo and Baron Munchausen. We'll find them and then everything can get back to normal.

EDGY STEVE

Wait, Baron Munchausen's missing too?

FRANK

It's fine.

DEIDRE

Frank?

FRANK

Yeah?

DEIDRE

That was Jessica Shelton on the phone. She needs to know if anyone's seen her Greyhound, Kimbob?

FRANK

... Fuck.

FLAT DOUG

Oh man. They got Kimbob.

FRANK

There's no "They".

CELESTE

I think I'll sit here quietly and wait for everyone's apology.

EDGY STEVE

Kimbob too?! Frank, what's going on?

FRANK

Nobody panic.

FLAT DOUG

Don't tell me not to panic, Frank, there's a fucking dog rapture happening right here in town.

FRANK

Everybody listen!... Okay, there may be something weird going on with the dogs.

CELESTE

Thank you.

JUNE

(To Frank.)

Turns out overreacting was the right call, sorry about that.

FRANK

We're going to figure this out, just like we did with Relentless Rick the other day. Why don't we make a list of everyone in town who has a dog and start making some calls-

CELESTE

Wait!

FRANK

Celeste, c'mon.

CELESTE

Has anyone checked on the mayor?

FRANK

Jesus Christ.

FLAT DOUG

Holy Shit, the mayor. He's a high value target.

EDGY STEVE

If we lose the mayor, it'll be chaos.

FLAT DOUG

Deidre, call TJ, is the mayor OK?

DEIDRE

Ok.

FRANK

Guys. I appreciate that we're taking this seriously but just, real quick, I know we all had an unofficial election a few years ago and elected TJ's dog, Sparker, as the mayor. I just need verbal confirmation that we all know that Sparker the Dog is not the actual mayor.

EDGY STEVE

...

FLAT DOUG

...

CELESTE

...

FRANK

Never mind.

DEIDRE

He says Sparker is fine.

FRANK

Great.

CELESTE

At least we still have a functioning government.

FRANK

The dog is not the mayor!

JUNE

Okay, everyone. Lots of great ideas, so glad we had this meeting. SO glad nobody's panicking. How about we make a list of all the dogs in town and then we'll split up the list, when you're done with your list, give us a call at the Horizon, okay?

EDGY STEVE

And, real quick, everyone, if you happen to see Rambo just remember not to run, okay? He loves that. Also, to get him to release after he bites down, the command word is "Scheherazade."

CELESTE

Meeting adjourned, Frank?

FRANK

... Sure.

WE MOVE TO THE PARKING LOT OF THE HORIZON MOTEL LATER THAT EVENING. THE PHONE IS RINGING INSIDE THE OFFICE. JUNE IS ON HER CELL PHONE.

JUNE

Okay... Okay wow. Both of them?... Just gone... Oh boy... Alright, me and Frank are making a list right now, I'm so sorry Rita.

THE DOOR TO OFFICE OPEN.

FRANK
Holy shit.

JUNE
How many for you?

FRANK
Seven, how many for you?

JUNE
Twelve.

FRANK
Twelve?!

JUNE
Twelve.

FRANK
There are nineteen dogs missing in a town of 600.

JUNE
Yes.

FRANK
... What's happening?

JUNE
I don't know.

JUNE GETS A TEXT.

JUNE (CONT'D)
...Aaaand that's Philip. His Shih Tzu is missing.

FRANK
Who has a Shih Tzu in the mountains?

JUNE
Nobody anymore. That's twenty.

FRANK
What are we going to do?

JUNE
I don't know, fuck. I guess tomorrow morning we start at the top of the list?

FRANK
So tomorrow we're just going to, what, Scooby Doo our way through the woods looking for them?

JUNE
What should we do, hire a team of dogs to find the dogs?

FRANK
Shit... this is bad.

JUNE
Yeah, the cowboy thing the other day was kind of charming, this is not so charming.

FRANK
It's a nightmare.

JUNE
Maybe the dogs are organizing? Maybe they want bargaining power? Maybe it's a dog strike?

WE BEGIN TO HEAR A BICYCLE COMING UP THE DRIVEWAY.

FRANK
Oh shit.

JUNE
What?

FRANK
Trinkett.

JUNE
No.

FRANK
Of all the fucking days.

JUNE
Wait, why are you acting like we're getting inspected or something?

FRANK
Because we are.

JUNE
Hey Trinkett.

TRINKETT
Hello.

JUNE
Welcome back, how long were you gone for?

TRINKETT
It was supposed to be three years. I came back early.

JUNE

We missed you.

TRINKETT

I'm sure... Frank.

FRANK

Trinkett.

JUNE

...

FRANK

...

JUNE

So I'm going to go make some more calls.

FRANK

Great.

JUNE

Great to see you, Trinkett.

TRINKETT

Yes.

JUNE WALKS INTO THE OFFICE.

FRANK

So, I hear you were in Egypt.

TRINKETT

No.

FRANK

Deidre told me you were in Cairo.

TRINKETT

Cairo, New York.

FRANK

There's a Cairo, New York?

TRINKETT

Just barely.

FRANK

What the hell you were doing there?

TRINKETT

Research.

FRANK

Research?

TRINKETT

I'm writing a book.

FRANK

Really? What about?

TRINKETT

Frank, you don't care what I'm writing a book about.

FRANK

I really don't.

TRINKETT

Let's move on.

FRANK

Great.

TRINKETT

I didn't want to cut my trip short, Frank, but I was advised to return early.

FRANK

You were advised.

TRINKETT

Yes.

FRANK

Trinkett, by any chance were you "advised" to come back early by a deck of Tarot cards?

TRINKETT

... I don't like your tone.

FRANK

So that's a yes?

TRINKETT TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND EXHALES.

TRINKETT

I've chosen to not let your energy effect mine.

FRANK

Okay.

TRINKETT

I don't enjoy these interactions between us.

FRANK

I'm having a great time.

TRINKETT

Your opinion of me is no secret. I'm asking you to set that aside for one moment.

FRANK

... Okay. Okay fine.

TRINKETT

Thank you.

FRANK

What can I do for you?

TRINKETT

I'd like you to come by my shop tomorrow.

FRANK

Why?

TRINKETT

Because I'd like to speak with you.

FRANK

Why?

TRINKETT

Frank. I would like to speak with you.

FRANK

You're standing in front of me right now.

TRINKETT

I'd like to speak with you tomorrow.

FRANK

Do we need to draw this out? We can't do this now?

TRINKETT

I need to be more focused when we talk and I just got off an airplane and I need to clean that experience off of me before we talk.

FRANK

You were on a plane?

TRINKETT

Yes.

FRANK

You hate planes.

TRINKETT

I do. But it was important that I get back as soon as possible so I made an exception.

FRANK

So this must be very important.

TRINKETT

Yes.

FRANK

So important that it can wait until tomorrow?

TRINKETT

... The work I was doing was very important to me. I wouldn't be here if I didn't feel it was necessary... Something... has shifted. I don't know what it is, but I'd like to speak with you about it.

FRANK

Okay. Fine. I will stop by tomorrow morning.

TRINKETT

Thank you... The energy in town is very strange right now, is there anything strange going on?

FRANK

... Nope.

TRINKETT

No?

FRANK

Just another day.

TRINKETT

Alright. Tomorrow.

FRANK

Tomorrow.

TRINKETT

Thank you.

FRANK

Do you need a ride home? I can throw your bike in the back of my truck.

TRINKETT

I hate your trunk.

FRANK

Okay.

TRINKETT RIDES AWAY ON HER BICYCLE. FRANK LETS OUT A DEEP SIGH.

JUNE
 (From the office.)
 Frank!

FRANK
 What?

JUNE
 We're up to twenty one now.

FRANK
 Shit! Hang on.

FRANK WALKS TOWARD THE OFFICE AS VERGE COMES OUT OF THEIR ROOM.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Hey, Verge.

VERGE
 Evening.

FRANK
 Oh, hey. There's been a, uh, report of a bear in the area.

VERGE
 A bear?

FRANK
 Yeah. So you might want to consider spending the night inside.

VERGE
 That was the plan.

FRANK
 Great, if you see anything let us know.

VERGE
 Will do.

FRANK WALKS INTO THE OFFICE AS A CAR COMES UP THE DRIVEWAY AND STOPS. DEIDRE GETS OUT WITH SPARKER THE DOG.

DEIDRE
 Hi there.

VERGE
 Hello.

DEIDRE

Enjoying your stay?

VERGE

I am. Lovely place.

DEIDRE

Yeah. Lots of people come here in the winter but this is my favorite time of year. So quiet.

VERGE

So quiet.

DEIDRE

I'm Deidre.

VERGE

Verge.

DEIDRE

Nice to meet you. How long are you in town for?

VERGE

Not sure, actually.

DEIDRE

Oooh. That sounds nice. I went backpacking through Argentina after college. No itinerary, when I wanted to move on I moved on, it was nice.

VERGE

Where's Argentina?

DEIDRE

Where's Argentina?

VERGE

I'm bad with Geography.

DEIDRE

It's uh... south.

VERGE

Got it. Who's your friend?

DEIDRE

This is Sparker.

VERGE

Hi there. Does it talk?

DEIDRE

Only during dinner time.

VERGE

...

DEIDRE

... Um, hey, if you're going to be in town for a while you should come by the Sheep's Eye. I'm the bartender, first drink's on me.

VERGE

... Yeah, okay.

DEIDRE

Great.

FRANK COMES OUT OF THE OFFICE.

FRANK

Deidre, what's going on? What is Sparker doing here?

DEIDRE

Um, my grandpaw wanted to keep him moving.

FRANK

Keep him moving?

DEIDRE

Yeah, so he's harder to find.

FRANK

Harder to...

DEIDRE

Frank, I know it sounds ridiculous but how many dogs are missing right now?

FRANK

Okay. Okay, fine. Hi, Sparker.

DEIDRE

I'll come back and pick him up tomorrow morning okay?

FRANK

Fine. Sparker get inside.

SPARKER BARKS AND RUNS INTO THE OFFICE.

JUNE

(Inside the office.)
Mr. Mayor!

DEIDRE

I'll see you tomorrow.

FRANK

I'll just bring him by the Sheep's Eye, okay?

DEIDRE

Great. Bye, Verge.

VERGE

Bye bye.

DEIDRE GETS IN THE CAR AND DRIVES AWAY.

VERGE (CONT'D)

... So are you the, I don't know, local Chieftain or something?

FRANK

Local Chieftain?

VERGE

People keep coming to you with their problems.

FRANK

They do.

VERGE

Why is that?

FRANK

I don't know. Take any group of people and, given enough time, eventually someone will become the one everyone complains to.

VERGE

So you're just lucky?

FRANK

Just lucky... Verge I was serious about the bear warning, okay?

VERGE

Alright, alright, I'm going inside, bossman.

FRANK

Thank you.

VERGE WALKS INSIDE THEIR ROOM. ANOTHER DEEP SIGH FROM FRANK. AFTER A LONG MOMENT, THERE IS THE SOUND OF SOMETHING IN THE TREES.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hello?

SLOWLY, SOMETHING MASSIVE MOVES FROM THE TREES INTO THE PARKING LOT, EACH STEP MAKES A THUD ON THE PAVEMENT. IT HAS FOUR LEGS AND BREATHES HEAVILY. FRANK DOESN'T MOVE.

FRANK (CONT'D)
(To himself.)
What the fuck.

THE CREATURE WALKS SLOWLY THROUGH THE PARKING LOT, SNIFFING THE AIR.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Rambo?... Rambo what the fuck happened to you?

RAMBO RAISES HIS HEAD TO THE AIR AND LETS OUT A BLOOD CURDLING HOWL THAT ECHOES ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN. THE DOOR TO THE OFFICE OPENS.

JUNE
What the fuck was that? OH SHIT!

RAMBO SEES JUNE AND GROWLS MALICIOUSLY.

JUNE (CONT'D)
Oh shit. Oh shit oh shit. Is that Rambo?

FRANK
Yes.

JUNE
How is he the size of a water buffalo?!

FRANK
I don't know.

JUNE
He's looking right at me.

FRANK
Rambo? Rambo, over here!

JUNE
He's still looking at me.

FRANK
Rambo! Goddamn it!

RAMBO HOWLS AGAIN AND VERGE'S DOOR OPENS. RAMBO TURNS AND GROWLS AT VERGE.

VERGE
What the fuck?!

FRANK

Verge, get back inside!

RAMBO ROARS. VERGE DRAWS THEIR PLASMA PISTOL AND FIRES SEVERAL SHOTS. RAMBO HOWLS IN PAIN AND VERGE ADVANCES ON HIM, FIRING SHOT AFTER SHOT, WALKING TOWARDS THE MONSTER IN THE PARKING LOT AS THEY SHOOT. RAMBO FINALLY GIVES OUT A DEATH RATTLE AND DROPS TO THE GROUND WITH A MASSIVE THUD. EVERYTHING IS QUIET.

VERGE

THAT'S a fucking bear?

RAMBO RAISES HIS HEAD ONE LAST TIME AND HOWLS. VERGE FIRES THREE MORE SHOTS AND IT'S OVER.

VERGE (CONT'D)

Fucking die!

VERGE FIRES THREE MORE SHOTS JUST TO BE SURE. EVERYTHING'S QUIET AGAIN.

FRANK

Uh... Verge?

VERGE

Yeah?

JUNE

Is that a... laser gun?

VERGE

Ah... Plasma, actually.

FRANK

Uh huh. Okay....

VERGE

... I uh... I guess I've got some explaining to do don't I?

JUNE

Maybe just a tad.

RAMBO'S GIGANTIC BODY BEGINS TO VIBRATE AND SHAKE WITH ENERGY.

FRANK

Jesus Christ, now what?

RAMBO'S BODY EXPLODES, PIECES OF HIM FLYING EVERYWHERE. AFTER THE DUST SETTLES, WE HEAR DOGS BARKING.

JUNE
O... kay.

FRANK
That's everyone's dog.

JUNE
Including Rambo.

FRANK
There's Baron Munchausen

JUNE
Hi, Baron Munchausen.

VERGE
... So, I take it this is not normal.

JUNE
Oh no. Nope. This is... This is...

FRANK
... New.

VERGE
Alright... Well, I guess we've both got some explaining to do, don't we?

FRANK
Yeah.

JUNE
I guess we've got to... Call everyone? Tell them to come get their dogs?

FRANK
Okay.

VERGE PUTS THEIR GUN BACK IN THEIR HOLSTER.

VERGE
Well, this was fun.

FRANK
Verge, uh, thank you? Uh... We've got to deal with this right now so... Breakfast tomorrow? We can all tell each other some interesting stories, okay?

VERGE
Sure. Why not?

JUNE
Thanks for uh... killing the huge monster!

VERGE

Anytime. See you in the morning.

JUNE

Yeah.

VERGE WALKS INTO THEIR ROOM. AFTER A MOMENT THEY LAUGH.
INSIDE VERGE'S ROOM WE HEAR "ELDIN", THEIR TANGLE.

ELDIN

What in the world was all that noise?

VERGE

Eldin, I don't suppose it's a common occurrence on Earth for a bunch of dogs to combine into one big dog and then split up again into a bunch of smaller dogs, is it?

ELDIN

What the fuck are you talking about?

VERGE

Never mind... play the message again.

ELDIN

Playing saved message.

LEIF

(Through the Tangle.)

Hey... Please don't delete this... I uh... I have no idea where to start with this message so I'll just start talking and I'm sorry if some of it sounds like nonsense... Every time I'm in a place that looks enough like home, I send off this message to your usual message relay and hope that you get it... I hope you're okay... In fact I hope you're more than okay, I hope you're... I don't know, I hope you finally went sailing... I don't know how much you know about what's going on with me but it's... it's an interesting life. And in that interesting life you see some interesting things, go to some interesting places... There's this place I came across the other day and uh... I don't know, I thought of you for some reason... If you're still always on the lookout for good places to hide for a while, I may have found one for you... It's a nice place. It's weird, but it's nice... Of course what I really hope is that you somehow managed to stop running... that somehow life is different for you... you deserved a different life... Anyway, I think you'd like this place. I think it might hold your attention. Earth always felt like a prison for me but for you... who knows?

(MORE)

LEIF (CONT'D)

The coordinates are embedded in this message, I'm assuming you've still got my encryption key... I hope I get to see you again someday. Until then... Give it a shot, Verge. You never know when something's going to be exactly what you're looking for.

VERGE

... I hate it when you're right... Eldin, deploy a sensor dome on this location, play some nice music and wake me up in seven hours.

ELDIN

Sensor dome deployed. Anything on the agenda tomorrow?

VERGE

A very interesting breakfast.

ELDIN

Alarm set for seven hours. Goodnight, Verge.

VERGE

Goodnight.

THE END.