

THE VAULT

Episode 3 "Amnesia"

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INT. AIRPLANE HANGAR - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

TIGHT on a glass chess piece, a pawn is moved into position.

A well groomed, clean shaved Hale lets go of the pawn.

Across him THE COLONEL a quiet, reserved man studies Hale.

COLONEL

You sure about that?

Hale takes a moment. Surveys the board.

HALE

Yeah. It's a good move.

The Colonel runs through the options in his head.

COLONEL

You know what Lasker once said?

HALE

What?

COLONEL

When you see a good move...

The Colonel moves his Queen to take Hale's Rook.

COLONEL (CONT'D)

Look for a better one.

Hale clenches his jaw.

HALE

You gotta be kidding me.

COLONEL

It's because your looking at the individual pieces.

HALE

How else am I gonna look at it.

COLONEL

Consider this. The chessboard is the like the world, the pieces are the phenomena of the Universe, the rules of the game are what we call the laws of Nature... and the player on the other side is hidden from us.

Hale stares at the board, letting the words sink in.

INT. VAULT 13 / DETENTION ROOM - DAY

Hale awakes on a steel bed in a concrete, barren room. He looks to one side of the room and sees a One Way Mirror.

He looks at his clothes which appear to be loose fitting scrubs.

As if realizing something, Hale starts patting himself down and checking his pants pockets, but there are none.

He looks towards the One Way Mirror and approaches it, slowly at first.

HALE  
Hey. HEY!

INT. VAULT 13 / WAR ROOM - DAY

General Pierce sits at the end of a long desk, going over paper work.

She writes something, then uses whiteout to correct it.

KNOCKING at the door.

GENERAL PIERCE  
Come in.

Amanda takes a few shy steps forward.

GENERAL PIERCE (CONT'D)  
Amanda. Everything okay?

AMANDA  
I was hoping I could talk to you for a minute.

GENERAL PIERCE  
Sure. Have a seat.

The General puts aside her paper work as Amanda sits down.

GENERAL PIERCE (CONT'D)  
What's on your mind?

AMANDA  
There's been rumors.

GENERAL PIERCE  
Rumors?

AMANDA

Yeah. People are talking about a survivor.

The General leans in.

GENERAL PIERCE

(beat)

A survivor.

AMANDA

They say someone was found outside. A man... living in the wasteland, beyond any region we've been before.

GENERAL PIERCE

I see.

AMANDA

Is it true?

The General studies Amanda a moment, reading her... what's she really after?

GENERAL PIERCE

Well, let me ask you this. If it were true... would it make any difference?

Amanda stares back, her eyes piercing now.

AMANDA

Six months ago, I came here asking if we could send a team outside to look for survivors... namely my children, Alex and Samantha. I was afraid that they were all alone out there. You remember what you told me?

GENERAL PIERCE

Yes.

AMANDA

You said the possibility was slim to none. That it wasn't worth the risk.

GENERAL PIERCE

Amanda, that kind of prolonged exposure to fallout is lethal. Not to mention all the other threats that exist out there. And yes...

(MORE)

GENERAL PIERCE (CONT'D)  
it's not worth the risk. We may  
have found a survivor, but we lost  
four people. Four young, trained,  
skilled people. If anything we  
have to be even more careful now.  
What I said, still holds true.  
Nothing's changed.

AMANDA  
You're wrong. There's others.  
That means everything's changed.

GENERAL PIERCE  
What do you want.

AMANDA  
I want you to send another survey  
mission, and I want to be on it.

GENERAL PIERCE  
Absolutely not.

Amanda considers her options.

AMANDA  
You BITCH!

She jumps on top of the table and grips Pierce by the throat.

Pierce grabs onto Amanda's wrists. She could probably snap  
them at will, but Amanda is a mother fighting for her  
children, and her strength is freakish.

Amanda grips tighter... choking the General.

General Pierce pulls her head back and SMASHES her forehead  
into Amanda's nose. Blood squirts everywhere.

Amanda wipes the blood on her white top, and comes back with  
a wild swing at The General... but there's no chance.

The General effortlessly ducks the punch, grabs Amanda by the  
arm, and twisting it behind her back, SLAMS Amanda onto the  
table, LAPD style.

INT. VAULT 13 / DETENTION OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Through the one way mirror, Hatch watches the prisoner. Hale  
sits on the floor with his head against the wall.

INT. VAULT 13 / DETENTION ROOM

Hale has his eyes closed, head against the wall. A DOOR is heard opening off screen.

Hale opens his eyes to see Hatch standing above him, he dangles a pair of handcuffs in front of his face.

HATCH  
Put these on.

HALE  
Why?

HATCH  
The General wants to see you.

INT. VAULT 13 / CORRIDOR 2 - DAY

Hatch walks Hale through a long corridor.

Several Vault People are in the corridor. They whisper and stare at Hale as he walks by.

They all look dirty, malnourished, clothes tattered and torn.

Hale notices an 11 year old girl, ELIZABETH holding onto her mother's hand.

PASSING A VIGIL

Hale looks up to see a wall plastered with Polaroid photos. A group of people with candles and memorabilia cry, and mourn over their loved ones. A black woman, JAHBEZ'S WIFE gives Hale the stink eye.

AROUND THE CORNER

Hatch and Hale turn the corner to see Amanda walking with another soldier towards them.

As they pass each other, Hale and Amanda exchange a look.

INT. VAULT 13 / WAR ROOM

Hatch and Hale walk in.

HATCH  
General.

Hale sees The General wiping blood splatter from her face with a moist towel. She throws the towel in the trash.

GENERAL PIERCE  
The cuffs won't be necessary Major.  
Thank you.

Hatch removes the cuffs.

GENERAL PIERCE (CONT'D)  
Sorry about that, it's just a  
precaution.

The General extends a hand. Hale shakes it.

HALE  
Nathaniel Hale, Private First  
Class.

GENERAL PIERCE  
So you're an airman.

HALE  
Yes ma'am.

GENERAL PIERCE  
We want to ask you some  
questions... namely what you were  
doing...

Hale interjects.

HALE  
Where's my stuff? I had some  
important valuables with me when I  
was captured.

The General just looks at Hatch, like can you believe the  
balls on this kid.

GENERAL PIERCE  
Captured? You're not a prisoner  
here.

HALE  
I'm not? You have a funny way of  
treating your guests then.

Hale relaxes back into his seat, slouching. Hatch walks over  
and kicks the back of Hale's chair.

HATCH  
Show the General some respect. Sit  
up straight.

GENERAL PIERCE

Let's get right to it. What we're you doing out there in the wasteland?

HALE

Wasteland? Look what am I doing here? What the hell is going on?

GENERAL PIERCE

You were found in a field hospital. What happened to your unit?

HALE

I have no idea. I was assigned on a special mission to God knows where, when the V-22 my Squad was in dropped from the sky.

(beat)

No offence, but somehow I'm not buying you as a General... I've known plenty and you don't fit the bill. I want to talk the highest ranking officer.

Hatch walks over and punches Hale across the face. He leans in and whispers.

HATCH

I don't know if you're delusional, or just being an asshole. You're hear to answer questions, not ask them.

Hale spits out a bit of blood.

HALE

See, him I believe as a General.

GENERAL PIERCE

Where we're you serving at the time?

HALE

I wasn't. I wasn't even on active duty.

The General and Hatch share a look of skepticism.

HALE (CONT'D)

Look the last thing I remember I was on holiday.



GENERAL PIERCE

Holiday?

HALE

Yeah I took my wife and son camping up near Lake Skukawaga when I was summoned.

GENERAL PIERCE

By who?

HALE

My senior Officer, Colonel Robert A. Morrison.

GENERAL PIERCE

So you're telling me, the last thing you remember is your squadron being shot down. And that right before that you were on some camping trip?

HALE

No I said we dropped from the sky. We had just left our own airspace who would hit us? It must have been some mechanical failure.

The General stands up and retrieves a worn and used envelope. She spills the contents onto the table.

A small silver revolver, Air Force insignia, a watch, and a crumpled piece of yellow paper.

Hale stares at the yellow paper just as The General snatches it and spreads it wide on the table.

GENERAL PIERCE

What is this?

HALE

(beat)

I don't know.

Hatch stands against the wall, arms crossed.

HATCH

It's got coordinates on it. Like a map.

Hale pulls the yellow paper in, takes a closer look.

HALE

I don't know. Look, I don't  
remember all right? Honestly.

Hale looks up at both The General and Hatch.

HALE (CONT'D)

Where am I? What is this place?

INT. VAULT 13 / AMANDA'S ROOM

In a small concrete room a broken mirror hangs on the wall.  
The place is barren except for the essentials.

Amanda reaches under a steel frame bed. She retrieves a small  
gift box, and sits on the bed.

She opens the box and flips through a few photos. She  
retrieves an old, tattered, slightly burnt, and photo.

ON THE PHOTO

Two kids smiling and waving at the camera.

Amanda's eyes tear up.

INT. VAULT 13 / DETENTION ROOM

Hale sits on the floor again. This time he has the yellow  
paper in his hands. He stares at it.

INT. VAULT 13 / DETENTION OBSERVATION ROOM

Hatch watches Hale through the one way mirror.

INT. VAULT 13 / WAR ROOM

The General flips through a pile of paper work. She closes a  
folder and then just stares ahead, lost in thought.

