

**EPISODE 7**

**EXT. ALIEN BEACH - DAY**

ATMO: ETHAN and MILO emerge through the leyline, inelegantly tumbling to the ground. A consortium of twisted limbs.

SFX: The Push Pack suffers catastrophic failure. SPARKS FLY.

ETHAN

You OK?

SFX: The classic self-pat down, checking for injuries.

MILO

Yeah. Everything's still attached.  
I think.

ETHAN

Can't say the same for the Push  
Pack.

SFX: Broken metal parts sizzle, smoke, and crumble.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Shit.

MILO

Not that it matters. Cameron's  
gonna close the leyline anyway.

SFX: The boys push through tall grass.

ETHAN

I can't believe you gave that evil  
woman the rights to the Push Pack.  
It's the worst thing you've ever  
done.

MILO

I'm really sorry.

ETHAN

Your contrition is irrelevant.  
Noah's most likely dead. And who  
knows what she's gonna do with  
Abigail?

MILO

Don't say that.

SFX: The boys continue to push through tall grass, until...

SFX: Sand crunches under their feet.

MILO (CONT'D)  
Black sand. It's black sand! This  
must be where Dad went!

ETHAN  
What are the odds?

MILO  
The Push Pack must have already  
been programmed for it.

ATMO: Strange wind whistles by.

MILO (CONT'D)  
The Sun looks huge.

ETHAN  
And a weird color orange, too. I've  
never seen anything - That's not  
the moon, is it? And what's that  
other - ?

MILO  
(a beat of recognition)  
Dude, we're not on Earth.

SFX: INCREDIBLY FAINT THUNDER in the distance. You'd almost  
have to know it's there to hear it.

ETHAN  
No way. We're not - This can't be  
another planet.

ATMO: More strange wind whistles by.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Not possible.

MILO  
It's like I'm Neil Armstrong. And  
you're E.T.

ETHAN  
Why am I E.T.?

MILO  
Because you have a flatter head  
than I do.

ETHAN  
Shut up.

SFX: Ethan playfully smacks Milo in the chest.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 (fully comprehending the  
 moment's significance)  
 So this means... Leylines aren't  
 limited to Earth.

SFX: A shriek in the distance.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 What was that?

MILO  
 Probably a bird or somethin'.

ATMO: The beach whispers: Waves crash. Sea foam sizzles.  
 We hang in this moment for a few beats.

ETHAN  
 Let's go look for Dad.

ATMO: The brothers scuttle along the coastline.

SFX: THE DISTANT THUNDER becomes a little more audible.

SFX: Ethan takes a deep, purposeful breath.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 The air feels heavier here.

SFX: Milo takes a deep, purposeful breath.

MILO  
 Yeah. It's like I'm aware of every  
 breath I take.

SFX: THE DISTANT THUNDER isn't so distant anymore.

MILO (CONT'D)  
 Sounds like a storm offshore.

ETHAN  
 Let's move.

ATMO: We rise up to a wider soundscape of the island: Breeze,  
 mist; a few strange, scattered CHIRPS, GROWLS, and HISSES.  
 This alien world is very much alive.

ATMO: We swoop back down to surface level. Rejoin the boys.

SFX: LOUD RUSTLING in the brush behind them.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Something's in the brush.

MILO  
You're being paranoid.

ETHAN  
No, I'm being vigilant.

ATMO: They stop and listen. SILENCE.

SFX: THE THUNDER approaches land.

SFX: LOUDER RUSTLING in the brush behind them. Closer.

MILO  
OK, something's definitely in the  
brush.

ETHAN  
See?

SFX: The rustling creeps even closer.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Hurry up. C'mon.

SFX: The boys jog. The sand crunches under their feet.

SFX: The creature follows behind, just out of sight.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
(while running)  
There's a clearing up ahead.

SFX: The creature pushes its way through tall foliage.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Here. Hide along this cave wall.

SFX: The brothers try to control their panicked breathing.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Are you holding your keys like  
brass knuckles?

MILO  
Yes.

ETHAN  
What are you gonna do, punch an  
alien?

MILO  
Hell yeah, I'm gonna punch an  
alien. If I have to.

SFX: The rustling slowly approaches. Stalking.

ETHAN  
Shh.  
(whispering)  
It's close.

SFX: THE THUNDER is practically on top of them.

MILO  
(whispering)  
Let go of my arm.

ETHAN  
(whispering)  
Sorry.

SFX: The creature is within mere feet of them. They can hear  
its FRANTIC BREATHS.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
(whispering to himself)  
Oh shit, ohshitohshitohshit...

ATMO: The boys react to THE CREATURE.

ETHAN (CONT'D) MILO  
Ahhhhhhhhhhh! Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!

SFX: The small creature makes A SHRIEK that's a cross between  
a velociraptor and a distressed woodland animal.

SFX: The creature scurries off into the brush.

MILO (CONT'D)  
What was that thing?

ETHAN  
Looked like a hairless raccoon with  
eczema. Or a mole-rat built from  
old hot dog parts.

MILO  
It was kinda cute, though. In a  
perverse and terrifying sorta way.

SFX: Rain drizzles. It has a STRANGE SIZZLE to it.

ETHAN  
We need to find shelter.

MILO  
I mean, the cave's right here.

ETHAN  
I really don't wanna go in the  
creepy alien cave.

SFX: The THUNDER ROARS. The rain swoops in.

MILO  
Well, I don't see a Holiday Inn  
around here. You prefer the scary  
alien monsoon instead?

ETHAN  
Dammit.

**INT. ALIEN CAVE - DAY**

ATMO: The rain pounds the outside of the cave.

ETHAN  
Use your phone light. There ya go.

MILO  
Goes back pretty far.

ETHAN  
What are you doing?

MILO  
Checking it out.

ETHAN  
You don't know what's back there.

MILO  
I'm guessing more cave.

ETHAN  
Stop being an ass. It could be  
dangerous.

MILO  
You don't have to baby me.

ETHAN  
That's what big brothers do. It's  
in our job description.

MILO  
Well, I relieve you of your duties.

ETHAN

Listen to me.  
(emphatic)  
Hey, I'm serious.

MILO

So am I. I did just fine on my own  
when you ran away after high  
school.

ETHAN

I didn't run away.

MILO

Yeah, well you didn't stick around.

ETHAN

Don't guilt-trip me. I was chasing  
something on my own. Until your  
recklessness got in the way. And  
look where it got us.

MILO

Exactly. Look where it got us. This  
place is incredible. How many  
people would love to be here right  
now? To see something that no other  
humans have ever seen before? And  
somehow, you only find shit to  
complain about. That's the one  
constant in the Universe.

ETHAN

You lecturing me now?

MILO

No, I'm judging you. Doesn't feel  
good, does it?

ETHAN

(pouting)  
Noted.

**EXT. ALIEN CAVE - DAY**

ATMO: Time-lapse of the storm passing through. It dwindles,  
until the sizzling rain finally subsides.

SFX: Some faint chirps from small life on the island.

**INT. ALIEN CAVE - DAY**

ATMO: Stubborn silence.

ETHAN

Rain's let up, and the suns are low  
in the sky. Let's go. We're runnin'  
out of daylight.

MILO

Hey. I forgive you.

ETHAN

I never apologized for anything.

MILO

I know. I forgive you for that.

**EXT. ALIEN BEACH - DAY**

ATMO: The brothers trudge through the sand.

MILO

We gotta figure out how to get  
home. If there's life on the  
island, there might be other  
leylines we can find.

ETHAN

Even if there are, what are the  
odds they lead back to Earth? Face  
it, Milo, there's a very real  
possibility that we're stuck.

MILO

If we got here, there's a way to  
get back. Everything's connected.

ATMO: The brothers continue with the trudging.

MILO (CONT'D)

Remember when Dakota said you need  
to be "balanced" to travel  
naturally through leylines?

ETHAN

Yeah?

MILO

So we need to be at peace.



ETHAN  
 "At peace" is not a phrase I'd use  
 to describe us.

MILO  
 We should work on that.

ETHAN  
 We'll go on *Dr. Phil* if we ever  
 make it home.

MILO  
 (noticing something)  
 What is that?

ETHAN  
 What?

MILO  
 On that bluff up there. It looks  
 like a bag or somethin'.

ETHAN  
 Holy shit, you're right. We can  
 climb up this way.

ATMO: The boys struggle to get up a steep hill on the beach.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 Here. Grab my hand.  
 (insisting)  
 Grab my hand.

SFX: Hand gripping hand.

SFX: Grunts of exertion.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
 There ya go.

MILO  
 Is that him?!

ETHAN  
 Dad?!

SFX: A full-on sprint.

ETHAN (CONT'D) MILO  
 DAD?! DAD?!

SFX: The footsteps come to an ABRUPT HALT. Kicking up sand.

SFX: The boys swallow emotion. Processing visceral trauma.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
He's, uh - So, he's really -

SFX: Some soft whimpers from Milo. Not a full cry.

MILO  
(through stifled tears)  
Maybe it's not him.

ETHAN  
That's his jacket. His bag with the patches. The weird way he crosses his legs at the ankle. It's him.

ATMO: A calm moment to process.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
I mean, we always knew this was a possibility. Doesn't make it suck any less.

MILO  
So this whole time he's been gone, he was really... "gone."

ETHAN  
(exhaling so loud, you can hear the tears forming in the corners of his eyes)  
Dammit, Dad.

ATMO: Pained breaths.

MILO  
We can't just leave him here.

ETHAN  
Do you wanna bury him?

MILO  
Maybe down by the water.

SFX: Some straining to gently move the body.

MILO (CONT'D)  
Hold up. Take off his bag.

SFX: Milo removes a large shoulder bag. Something heavy falls to the ground.

MILO (CONT'D)  
Looks like a transmitter. Let's see if there's anything -

SFX: Milo presses a button.

DR. HARBOR (RECORDING)  
(injured, through labored  
breaths)

This is Dr. Anthony Harbor. SOS. My calculations suggest I'm somewhere in the Alpha Centauri Star System. I came here searching for my wife, Ellie. I thought I could find her, and bring her back to my boys. But she wasn't here. In the process, I messed everything up. To anyone listening, I need you to shut down my research immediately. I thought artificial leylines would revolutionize humanity, but it destabilized the entire system. If it implodes, it could wipe out humanity as we know it. Potentially even life across the Universe. We can't risk having this technology fall into the wrong hands, or - I don't even wanna think about what could happen.

(wincing in pain)

Ow. Feels like I got cooked from the inside out.

SFX: Static on the tape.

ETHAN

It's the message Dad tried to send us. So "find her" wasn't about Dakota Murray. It was about Mom.

MILO

She's still alive? Why would he think she's on another planet?

ETHAN

And he wants us to shut everything down? Kinda late for that.

SFX: Milo digs through the bag.

MILO

He wrote something in this notebook.

ETHAN

What's it say?

**NOTE: Milo starts to read, and then Dr. Harbor's voice begins to blend with Milo's. As Dr. Harbor's voice gets louder, Milo's fades away.**

MILO

(reading the letter)

If you're reading this, "Hi Milo."  
I know if anyone could track me down, it'd be you. Nobody else would be crazy enough to ignore my dire warning. I hope you know I wasn't leaving you behind. I just didn't want you to follow in my footsteps. And yet, here you are.

DR. HARBOR (V.O.)

Not that it matters anymore, but I have more regrets than I probably have minutes left to list them. Sorry I didn't tell you the truth about your mom's disappearance. She was helping me with my research. I thought I was creating humanity's next leap forward. Never crossed my mind that this miracle didn't need to be improved; it just needed to be taken care of. That miscalculation cost me everything... Including my sweet Ellie.

(he chokes up a bit)

There are no words that could earn your forgiveness. But I hope my actions at least prove that I'd go to the ends of the Earth - and beyond - just to hear that adorable snorting sound she'd make when she laughed. I can't remember the last time I heard it. Please give my best to Ethan. I know he's chasing his own phantoms. I'd wish him luck, but he doesn't need it.

MILO

(finishing the letter)

You're both better men than I could ever be. Love you.

(signing off)

Dad.

(beat)

P.S. The sunsets here are almost worth the shitty commute.

SFX: Milo puts the notebook back in the bag.

MILO (CONT'D)  
Dad really believed I'd find him?

ETHAN  
Of course. You've always had a  
fearlessness that Dad respected.

MILO  
How do you know that?

ETHAN  
Because I don't have it. And he  
never let me hear the end of it.

MILO  
That was probably just his way of  
pushing you.

ETHAN  
Well, it worked. He pushed me right  
out of his life.  
(reacting to Milo)  
What's that look? I really don't  
like that look.

MILO  
So Mom's - ?

ETHAN  
Nope. Not doin' this again.

MILO  
What?

ETHAN  
Dad's died twice on us now. I can't  
handle going through the same thing  
with Mom.

MILO  
You heard him. She's out there  
somewhere.

ETHAN  
And you heard him. We need to shut  
it all down before the world ends.

MILO  
But -

ETHAN

No. I'm not having this discussion.  
You really think Mom's been out  
there all these years, just hoppin'  
around from planet to planet?  
There's a huge difference between  
hope and fantasy. Let's bury Dad.

SFX: Dr. Harbor's body being dragged across the ground.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

He's lighter than I thought.

MILO

Well, he's just bones.

ETHAN

Believe it or not, it's the first  
time I've ever handled a skeleton.

MILO

How we gonna get him down there?

SFX: Ethan climbs down the bluff. CRUNCH of his feet hitting  
the sand below.

ETHAN

Pass him to me.

SFX: Milo passes Dr. Harbor's skeleton down to Ethan.

MILO

Got him?

SFX: Dr. Harbor lands in Ethan's arms.

ETHAN

Got him. Careful jumping down.

SFX: THUD of Milo hitting the beach near Ethan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Or not.

MILO

Let's find a spot by the water.

ETHAN

Here?

MILO

This'll work.

SFX: Ethan gently sets Dr. Harbor down in the sand.

SFX: The brothers dig a shallow grave with their hands.

MILO (CONT'D)  
Hold on. This isn't Dad.

ETHAN  
We already went through this. It's definitely Dad.

MILO  
That's not what I mean. The guy couldn't stay in one place for more than 15 minutes, and we're burying him on the beach? That's not Dad.

ETHAN  
Then what do you suggest?

MILO  
I have an idea. Follow me.

**ATMO/SFX: A quick TIME-LAPSE of material gathering as the boys converse.**

MILO (CONT'D)  
Grab those over there. Yep, that's it. I'll get these.

SFX: The boys collect and bundle driftwood pieces.

ETHAN  
There's some fibers in the bark of this tree. They look pretty strong.

SFX: Ethan strains to strip fibers off the tree bark.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
Tougher than I thought.

MILO  
I'll hold it.

SFX: The fibers tear off the bark.

ETHAN  
Let me just - This goes through that loop. Annnnd pull.

SFX: The tension of a taut knot.

MILO  
Who taught you how to tie a knot like that?

ETHAN

Dad made me do two years of Boy Scouts. And I said, "I'm never gonna use this stuff in my entire life." I can actually hear him in my head right now saying -

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(in his best Dr. Harbor impression)

"I told you so."

MILO

(in his best Dr. Harbor impressions)

"I told you so."

ETHAN (CONT'D)

How many times did we hear that obnoxious phrase?

MILO

About a thousand more times than we heard him say, "Good job."

ETHAN

Let's go. It's getting dark.

**END OF TIME-LAPSE.**

MILO

I wanna put him on it.

SFX: Milo places Dr. Harbor's skeleton on the wood.

MILO (CONT'D)

Should we say a few words?

ETHAN

Go ahead.

MILO

OK. Umm. Hmm.

(composes his thoughts)

It's weird, I rehearsed this moment a million times in my head. And now that it's here, none of those words seem to capture what it actually feels like. To spend my whole life chasing after you. And now that I finally have your attention, my compass feels like it points every direction but north. I don't know what that makes me feel.

ETHAN

Free. I bet it makes you feel free. Just like him. Exactly what you always wanted.



SFX: A small wave crests against the shore.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Now let him go. The man's probably seen more of the Universe than any person in history. But he's not done yet.

SFX: The brothers wade into the shallows. They push the raft into the open sea.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Safe travels, Dad. See you at the next destination.

SFX: The boys exit the water.

MILO

Can we just sit here for a second?

ETHAN

Where else we gonna go?

SFX: They plop down on the sand.

SFX: Gentle waves crash against the coastline.

SFX: The stridulation of ALIEN CRICKETS serenades them.

ATMO: We live in this nighttime peace...

For

A

Few

Cathartic

Moments.

Long enough to almost forget we're not on Earth.

MILO

I know we're somewhere in the Cosmos, but this place feels familiar. Could almost be Cape Cod. Ya know?

ETHAN

Yeah, I could see that. Remember that complete shit-show of a vacation?

MILO  
How could I forget?

**NOTE: As the boys reminisce, the sound effects of their memories build in volume and richness, layering over their present-day voices and blending the worlds together.**

MILO (CONT'D)  
I was, what, five or six?

ETHAN  
Five. 'Cause I was seven. We were literally dragging our luggage to the check-in desk, and you spontaneously jumped into the deep end of the pool. Fully clothed.

SFX: Faint splashing in the pool.

ETHAN (CONT'D)  
And you couldn't swim. Dad had to jump in and save you.

SFX: Another faint splash.

MILO  
When he pulled me out, Mom ran to get towels. And nobody noticed that you decided to take off.

DR. HARBOR  
(faintly shouting)  
Ethan! Ethan!

ELLIE  
(faintly shouting)  
Ethan! Ethan!

MILO  
We finally found you posted up at the empty hotel bar, completely oblivious that you did anything wrong.

ETHAN  
(amused)  
Yeah, I was still wearing those giant aviator sunglasses I made Dad buy me. I looked like a mini version of Hunter S. Thompson.  
(another memory)  
And was it the second night when you put your new hermit crab in Mom and Dad's bed while they were sleeping?

MILO

Pinchy. I was worried he'd be scared of the dark, so I had him sleep with them. That always used to work for me when I had nightmares.

ETHAN

Good-old Pinchy. It ended up crawling inside Dad's shirt. He made such a high-pitched scream, I thought I was waking up to a new Whitney Houston song.

SFX: Dr. Harbor SCREAMING in a high-pitched voice.

MILO

(amused)

He was so pissed. But not as pissed as when you buried his watch in the sand, and forgot where you put it.

ETHAN

I wanted to be a pirate. Turns out, I was a terrible pirate.

SFX: Frantic digging through the sand.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

It had to have taken him two hours to find it. And it never worked right after that.

MILO

That whole trip was just one disaster after another. And Mom watched every second of it with the biggest grin on her face.

**NOTE: The memory soundscape now matches the boys in volume.**

ELLIE

(humored)

Anthony, relax. You realize, they're both spitting images of you, right? Now you know what I have to deal with.

SFX: ELLIE does a little SNORT-LAUGH.

MILO

But the worst thing was that damn computer.

ETHAN

I can't believe he lugged a big-ass iMac to the hotel, and spent every free second typing up ideas. Fully in the throes of his leyline obsession.

SFX: LOUD THUNKS of the computer keyboard's keys.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Crazy to think that was our last family vacation.

MILO

That's right. A few years later, Mom was gone. Then a few years after that, you left. And then... Dad. One day I looked around, and it was just me.

SFX: Milo fends off emotion.

ETHAN

I'm sorry.

SFX: Milo composes himself.

MILO

Thank you.

(beat for closure)

When you ran away at that hotel in Cape Cod, it was as if the whole world ended. I know it was only like five minutes, but I felt what it was like to lose you forever. It's an emptiness I can't describe. And Dad - You know how he never showed emotion - That was the only time I've ever seen him cry.

ETHAN

Hold on. Dad cried?

MILO

He did.

ETHAN

I never knew he felt that way. Or that you felt that way.

SFX: The familiar sound of a LEYLINE OPENING nearby.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Look. Up on the bluff, where Dad was. It's a leyline opening. You think Cameron found us?

SFX: The boys scramble to their feet, and head to it.

MILO

No. We opened it.

ETHAN

You sure? Normally our interactions result in complete disaster.

MILO

We did what we needed to do here. Now it's time to go home.

SFX: The leyline gets louder as they approach.

SFX: They struggle to get up on the bluff again.

ETHAN

But we don't have a Push Pack.

MILO

We don't need one. I can feel it. Everything's OK.  
(beat)  
Do you trust me?

ETHAN

I trust you.

SFX: The brothers enter the leyline. It powers up.

ELLIE (O.S.)

(further down the beach)  
Ethan?! Milo?!

MILO

Mom?

**END OF EPISODE.**