

EPISODE 1.05 : KEEP CALM. CARRY ON.

\*Note: italicized font indicates that a character is thinking.

[ATHENA OPENS THE VESSEL DOORS TO LOOK OUTSIDE, AND THEN CLOSES DOOR.]

Um... by the looks of it, it seems to be quite light out... I haven't gotten used to this whole natural light dark thing yet, but I bet I will in the long run.

[ATHENA SIGHS.]

Well, if there's any time to attempt to become an extroverted individual, blending in with society, I guess this just might be a good time. Off into the world I go, then.

[ATHENA IS NOT AWARE OF WHERE SHE IS LOOKING. SHE COLLIDES INTO A MAN, AND OBJECTS DROP ONTO THE GROUND.]

ATHENA: Oh, my gosh, I'm so sorry I didn't look where I was going. Stupid me.

FORREST: No, it's quite alright. I'm not in my right mind today, either. Ah, shit. My dry rations.

ATHENA: Here, let me help you. I'm the one who helped caused this mess, anyway.

FORREST: Oh, wow, thanks. Say, you're not from here... From... London, are you? We're in the middle of a war. Where is home for you, anyways? Shouldn't you be back home?

ATHENA: Ummm... uhhhhh... *what do I even say? What IS there to say to a random individual whom I've just met? Now he wants to know my whole life backstory? Geez. Okay... I grew up in a really unpopulated area. It was pretty... the view was gorgeous. But, although it was nice to look at, nobody had the transportation methods to get to where I lived. Couldn't walk. So, no transportation methods meant not hearing about current events.*

FORREST: ... Huh. You're... strange. Describing your hometown and but not describing your previous surroundings... Did you live in the countryside?

ATHENA: Yeah, yeah, that was it, the countryside. I lived in the countryside.

FORREST: I love it there. The air is much cleaner than city air.

ATHENA: *What the hell is he talking about? Countryside? City? Oh, god...*

FORREST: But back on subject, practically everyone knows about the war. It's been going on for about a year. Actually, a little over a year. Third of September, last year.

ATHENA: I'm sorry? No, that can't be possible. We never - uh... In my... *don't you dare, Athena...* \*clears throat\* I thought London, as you have called this place before, was fine. It seemed fine to me.

FORREST: *What the hell is she talking about?* -

ATHENA: *What the hell is he talking about?*

[PAUSE.]

FORREST: *She's really* -

ATHENA: Here you go, your things...?

Athena hands a knapsack to Forrest.

FORREST: Oh, uh, that's really lovely of you. Thanks. Well, then, since we've been talking for this long, maybe you could accompany me on my daily walk? Although I walk alone often, it's nice to have someone to walk alongside. And when the weather's actually nice and not foggy or rainy, it's one of my favorite past times. The blue skies always give me a distraction from... the situation the country is in now.

ATHENA: Yeah, that'd be nice. I'd like that.

[CHANGE OF SURROUNDINGS. THE FOOTSTEPS OF TWO PEOPLE ARE HEARD AS FORREST AND ATHENA START THEIR WALK.]

FORREST: So... I didn't quite catch your name. Mine's Forrest... What's yours?

ATHENA: *Athena, Arithmos 60* - My name's Athena.

FORREST: Athena. That's a really pretty name. Suits a pretty girl, like you.

ATHENA: Um... hah. Thanks.

[SILENCE STILL ENSUES.]

ATHENA: Oh, um...

FORREST: Yes?

ATHENA: I have a question.

FORREST: I have an answer.

ATHENA: You know I'm not... quite used to this... city... environment we are in, right?

FORREST: Yeah, countryside girl! [FORREST LAUGHS.]

ATHENA: Hah hah, yes... I'm seeing these signs all over London's buildings... I saw a couple in particular, saying, "Keep Calm and Carry On..." What do they mean? Why are they there? I'm not familiar with the phrase.

FORREST: Well, let's see -

ATHENA stops in her footsteps, for she thought she heard others, even though she knew there was no one around. Only Forrest was by her side.

[FORREST TAKES A COUPLE STEPS AHEAD AND STOPS.]

FORREST: Are you alright, Athena?

ATHENA: Yeah, yeah, I just had a feeling of something being off. Thought someone was following me, something like that. I don't know, it was strange. I got nervous, I guess.

FORREST: Quite alright. It's easy to get frightened anywhere you go these days. Catch up, now, I have that answer waiting for you!

ATHENA walks back up to speed with Forrest as they continue their walk.

FORREST: So, that saying "Keep Calm and Carry On"? It's pretty well-known here. It's something to cheer us up amidst these depressing times. A lot of the posters around the city are meant to do that. Although times are tough, we gotta push through and, as they say, carry on! Things will be better in the long run. That's what I genuinely believe.

ATHENA: Gee, I'm sorry things aren't good for you.

FORREST: Yeah. Me too.

The two walk in silence, reflecting on the somber conversation.

FORREST: Hey, I gotta head off here. It was nice talking to you. I'm sure I'll see you around again, if you're here often. You know what, take my phone number. I'd love to do something with you again. Here's my number. Ring me whenever you want!

ATHENA: Oh uh... thanks. Nice meeting you, too -

FORREST: Gotta run! Ah, shoot, I'm late!

[FORREST STARTS INTO A RUN.]

Talk to you soon, Athena!

[ATHENA STARTS THE WALK BACK TO HER VESSEL. SHE UNFOLDS THE PIECE OF PAPER, A NUMBER HASTILY SCRIBBED IN PENCIL.]

ATHENA: *What a strange outing today. Just as you said Athena, things are going to take some getting used to... with this whole war thing and all.*

[PAUSE.]

*Forrest was sweet, though. Now, what in Thurt's name is a phone number and how do I use it? What do I even do with something like -*

[A UNKNOWN EXPLOSION SUDDENLY SOUNDS AND ATHENA'S EARS START TO RING.]

[OUTRO THEME AND CREDITS.]

Athena was written and produced by Victoria Dubendorf. Forrest was voiced by Hedley Knights.

A big thank you to Lee Rosevere for producing Athena's music. Lee's music can be found on Bandcamp, Free Music Archive, or wherever you stream. Athena will be released every two weeks. While you're waiting for the next episode of Athena to come out, check out some other cool podcasts, like We Fix Space Junk, a sci-fi sitcom about two people traveling through space, all the while working for... let's just say... an odd company.

Until then, stay safe, and be curious.

[END.]