

Episode 1: Dawn

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FADE IN:

TITLE: "AWAKENING"

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

The area is dark and murky, barely lit by the cracks of artificial moonlight from floating cities that have leeches their way in; only thanks to rust and wear over the many years. The area is overgrown, with desks and machinery all covered in vines and leaves. A humanoid machine stands asleep, trapped within a pod that shows signs of weathering. The machine barely has signs of humanity, its head holding a brain encased in a military-grade glass dome.

ROBIN then flies in, observing the area around him. He spots the machine trapped in a pod, and flies around it, as if attempting to inspect it. Robin then finds and accesses a computer. The computer flashes to life, filling the room with blue light. Robin doesn't so much seem to be bothered by this, as he uses his talons and beak to use the computer. Slowly, yet surely, he finds a program within the files called Daybreak.exe and activates it.

The pod whirs to life, electricity turning on its own orange lights, bright enough to replace the blue light in the room. Electricity runs through the machine within, charging it to operable capacity as Robin observes, the battery within getting charged up to 20%. When the machine finishes charging, the humanoid's eyes open. The pod opens shortly after, as DAY climbs out frantically, falling to the floor as his systems re-adjust. He looks around, frightened curiosity and survival instinct in his posture as he clambers. He eventually relaxes.

DAY

Where... am I?

Robin then flies in front of Day, startling him and causing Day to unsheathe a sword from his arm and attempt slashing at him. Robin dodges, having expected the slice. He chirps at Day encouragingly, tilting his head to the side before flying up to the crack in the ceiling. Day gazes at where Robin went. Confused and dazed, he follows.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND - NIGHT

Day finds himself on top of a long abandoned laboratory, his automatically enabled night vision allowing him to see the landmasses floating above and below him as if they were islands and pathways. He gazes in night vision, awed and bewildered at the scenery whilst Robin perches himself on the edge of the rooftop.

DAY

What is this place?

Robin chirps again, fluttering a bit in place before turning around and flying down. Day's body shifts as he continues to follow the bird, the only thought on his mind being nothing else; as he has nothing to think of. The bird leads him to an exposed room near where he awakened, within are skin suits that are genderless. Seeing nothing much else he could do, he decides to wear one of them. The skin clings tightly to his mechanical body for a moment, before filling out.

Robin is fluttering in the air near the robot, waiting above Day as he observes. Day looks over to him, and reaches his hand out curiously.

DAY (CONT'D)

Did you wake me up? Who are you?

The bird doesn't respond but heads deeper into the abandoned laboratory. Day follows, unsure of what to make of his surroundings.

He comes across a room full of file cabinets as the bird leads him on. Curious as to its contents, he opens them up, searching through the files for anything on him. He takes a while to see if there's anything of note inside. He finds a file with his old name on it, and reads it aloud whilst checking out the pictures in the folder. The name "Phaethon Heliadaes" written on it.

DAY (CONT'D)

2004. Part of the Daybreak project,
updated...

He looks at himself, seeing nothing resembling the man he's looking at. He has an expression of both sorrow and grief that is then quickly replaced with confusion. Wordlessly, he trudges onwards, following the bird that had been watching him patiently.

He walks on, eventually finding nothing but a gaping hole to the outside, a pathway leading to somewhere out of his sight.

Without so much of a thought, Robin flies into the dark, taking a left and heading down the void walk. Day stares out for a bit, as if uncertain, but steps out.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND VOID WALK - NIGHT

Day wanders aimlessly through a large, open pathway able to fill hundreds, if not thousands of vehicles. There is a distinct lack of road for the ground, causing his footsteps to be louder as he crunches rocks and gravel. He doesn't pay attention to this. He jumps as a display pops up in his vision.

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

Warning! Estimated temperatures gleaned from the automatic bio-scans have determined that it is negative 270.45 degree Celsius. Heatsinks have been automatically deactivated to ensure unit does not freeze; it is strongly advised to seek shelter or sources of power.

Day's eyes widen in shock, and looks down to see if any ice had been forming. Condensed ice if anything else, but it still sent a jolt of fear through his body.

DAY

(cursing) Am I in space or something?

Getting desperate, he starts running, thinking that by expending more energy, he'd be able to stay warm better. He tries his hardest to get down the void walk, having made practically little to no progress despite being miles away from the laboratory. He runs for what feels like hours, his systems set into overdrive as his energy is slowly depleted.

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

Warning! Energy are getting dangerously low! Unit is encouraged to find a source of energy to recharge from!

DAY

Shut up you damned system, I know what I'm doing!

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

Warning! Power nearing dangerously low levels. Forcing hibernation...

Day's body falls over as his internal systems shut off. His eyes close as he enters a deep slumber, leaving the robot without chance to move.

EXT. ANTOLIA CITY STREETS - NIGHT

MAGNOLIA and QUINN are currently loading up an RV, attempting to get a variety of munitions and supplies onto it. Quinn has a look of irritation on his face.

QUINN

I still don't understand why you keep sending out Robbie to do scouting, it's suicide to walk out there!

MAGNOLIA

It's a matter of collecting history and technology that the Conduits hide from us, Quinn. We can't just rely on what's immediately there to win every battle.

QUINN

Sending him out for that isn't as useful as what nearly every other Robin is doing though! Not only is it more dangerous because of potentially getting leads to us, but he's in danger of both the cold as well as the Chasers!

MAGNOLIA

Robin isn't a meal to them.

She heaves a car battery onto the back of the RV, before closing the door on it.

MAGNOLIA (CONT'D)

Honestly, you worry too much, Quinn. I get offense is a good defense, but this is too much. Being a bullhead isn't going to win the battle or the war.

QUINN

(huffs)

I'm just saying, it'd be a lot better to focus on present issues instead of the past. The Conduits are why we're all stuck here, everyone knows that, so why continue pointless treasure hunts?

Magnolia rolls her eyes as she heads to the front of the RV. She opens her mouth as if to respond, but Robin then flies in, chirping in a certain tonality as if to let her know he found something. She gives a self-assured grin.

MAGNOLIA

Alright then Quinn; if what we're finding on the road to our destination anyways won't matter, I'll have Robin do scouting missions on Conduit activity instead. Sound fair?

QUINN

You act like you just found something that'll keep him doing that.

MAGNOLIA

Don't trust me?

QUINN

"Bird" isn't much of a language anyways; you're imagining it.

As if offended, Robin immediately sets his sights on Quinn, and begins pecking at him. Quinn desperately blocks.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Ow, ow, ow! Alright, jeez, I get it, we'll go find your stupid object!

MAGNOLIA

You really need to keep yourself from bringing that on you.

QUINN

And you think he's not cut for being a Copter...

Quinn reluctantly boards the RV with Magnolia

INT. RV - NIGHT

The interior of the RV looks less like a home and moreover as a self-contained space shuttle. Although there was room to be comfortable and live inside it looked as if it was meant to keep heat in and prevent anybody from coming out. As the door closes and the vehicle pressurizes, both Magnolia and Quinn head to closets with glass doors, opening them to retrieve the astronaut suits inside. They have a semblance of style to them.

QUINN

So, what abandoned building we're looking into this time Robbie? Old mansion? Abandoned government building? Lab?

Robin chirps low, then twice high with some dissonance.

QUINN (CONT'D)

That doesn't answer the question and you know it.

MAGNOLIA

He answered it. You just don't know how to hear "yes and no".

QUINN

Oh, I have plenty of experience hearing yes and no. It's just he can't actually talk.

Robin gives him a glare.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Hey, if a dog can speak English, so can you. Yes or no on my three guesses?

Robin chirps low, then twice high with some dissonance.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Ugh.

He puts his helmet on as Magnolia takes out some food from the fridge, holding her helmet with a free hand as she takes a protein bar and starts eating it. She keeps her eyes on the area outside as they leave the city of Antolia.

MAGNOLIA

Even if we don't find it, we're still heading to Demeter, got it Quinn? We need to sneak over some supplies for our group; and the Conduits haven't caught wind of us.

QUINN

As long as none of those worms get us a quarter of the way. I'm not gonna risk my life over a bunch of seeds shared across the Underground.

MAGNOLIA

Funny. I seem to recall somebody liking the fruit trees we've been planting, but it sounds like they don't want them.

Quinn doesn't respond to that as he keeps his eyes on the road. The city eventually leaves sight of them, leaving only darkness and an unpaved road with little guidance.

QUINN

Extra condition: The thing we find has to be able to do damage. We can't be doing word of mouth forever; and somebody has to show they're capable of defending their own group.

Robbie chirps in agreement. Magnolia puts her own helmet on as a safety measure.

MAGNOLIA

Good for me. He knows exactly what he found anyways, and it sounds like it is THAT good.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND VOID WALK - NIGHT

The RV drives down the road off in the distance, causing Day to reawaken; his systems bringing him back to life.

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

Energy source detected! Re-enabling critical systems in order to acquire and consume energy.

Day jolts up, dusting the grime and dirt off himself as he watches the RV come forwards. Unsure of how to handle stopping the RV, time slows down in his perspective as he surveys the situation. He jumps to the side, staying completely out of the range of the lights. Once the RV gets close enough, he jumps, grabbing the top of the RV's back, his fingers digging into the metal and causing a deafening screech that would've been audible if anyone was outside.

He watches in slight bemusement as the RV drives on and returns right back to the laboratory he just tried to leave, watching Magnolia and Quinn enter it, Robin leading them in. He waits for them to be out of earshot, before eventually dropping to the ground and speaking.

DAY

(To himself)

Thought that was something you'd see on TV... then again, this isn't something on TV.

INT. RV - NIGHT

Day then opens the RV, deciding to head inside and quietly close the door. His eyes quickly see the car battery in the RV's storage as he walks in, and he moves towards it. Two of his fingers shift into inlets, causing the disguise to rip as he then inserts the two fingers into the battery to make up the lost energy.

DAY

Alright... since we got some time here, voice in my head, can you talk?

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

The backup system would like to apologize for any inconvenience to restricting the host's will. Actions taken without measure are set to tranquilize the host in case of self-inflicted actions deemed to cause unnecessary detrimental damage to the body.

The RV then locks, and the lights go dim.

DAY

How about this action we just took? That one without measure?

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

Calculating chances of self-preservation... It is 100% possible to break free if required, but it is unwise to engage in combat unless explicitly needed.

DAY

Chances of rewiring the car so we can drive it?

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.)

It is inadvisable to leave organic lifeforms out in harsh conditions.

(MORE)

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It is advisable to attempt to harvest information out of the mysterious faction attempting to capture you.

Day gives a mechanical sigh of stress as he attempts to figure things out. He looks around, spotting and opening a closet that, although filled up with a wide array of clothes, was big enough to fit him. He shuffles his way inside and waits for Magnolia, Robin, and Quinn to return.

ALERT SYSTEM

It is suggested that hibernation mode be re-activated with a scant few systems required for self-defense and eavesdropping purposes. Shall the host consent?

Day gives a small nod, and his servos lock, keeping him in place as everything goes black. He waits, not sure of how much time has passed as Magnolia & Quinn near the RV doors.

QUINN (O.S.)

Look, don't be upset, alright? I know you're pretty attached to Robbie, and honestly despite how much of a butt he is, I like him too. But we can't expect anything to go perfect!

Day hears Magnolia give a defeated sigh.

QUINN (CONT'D)

How about we go get some ice cream later? You know, just you and me? Could maybe get a chance to see the Neon Borealis too, that's coming up soon!

MAGNOLIA

It's not that, it's just... there was person in there, Quinn. And he's just gone; turned into a mindless killing machine looking for humans to kill or just dead to the cold. Can't you imagine being trapped like that?

QUINN

I don't know; have I been downloaded into somebody else's body yet? Moping about it isn't going to solve anything, alright? We good on that?

The sounds of wings flying in the RV caused Quinn to yelp in pain.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Robbie! Back off boy! Stop-

The closet door then swings open, and Quinn enters it without taking a close look. Robin and Magnolia see Day however, but aren't able to say anything as Quinn then closes the door.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Ha! And just so you know you feisty little crow, I ain't driving until you cool your temper. So stop it!

MAGNOLIA

Quinn; there's a naked man standing behind you in there.

QUINN

Good one Mag, what next, you gonna say it's my father coming back to haunt me?

Day doesn't say a single thing, letting the conversation go on. The system activates his oculars, allowing him to stare at Quinn while standing perfectly still.

MAGNOLIA

Uh, are you sure that I'm lying? Because unless an ether bunny has been sneaking up on us so he could plant stuff inside the caravan, that man doll is 100% yours.

QUINN

Oh shut it! You're just trying to make me angry so I can get pecked by Robbie!

MAGNOLIA

No, I'm dead serious Quinn. Turn around.

QUINN

(laughing)

Every now and then I get a little bit lonely, and you're never coming around.

Not being able to resist the temptation, Day decides to speak.

DAY

Turn around.

Quinn jumps and turns around, before promptly screaming as he clumsily exits the closet.

QUINN

BRIGHT EYES!

Both Day and Magnolia laugh as Quinn stumbles to the front of the RV, Day stepping out as Magnolia keeps an eye on him.

MAGNOLIA

Hey Quinn, I didn't think you bought one with a sense of humor.

QUINN

Can you please take this situation more seriously, that guy can break our bones!

DAY

If I did, I would've broken some already.

QUINN

Fair point. So who are you anyways? You definitely weren't in here earlier, and we rarely leave the car unlocked at the city, so obviously you're from here.

Magnolia then stares into his eyes.

MAGNOLIA

Wait a second. Did you come from that laboratory? Your eye color matches what the Daybreak project said about the old-age cyborg in there.

DAY

Questions of my own first, then yours. What year is it?

Magnolia gives a shit-eating grin.

MAGNOLIA

Robbie stays, suck it Quinn!

QUINN

Hold it! Don't you forget the extra agreement, he has a week to fight a Chaser or Robbie is going to do the more vital scouting missions!

MAGNOLIA

A month!

QUINN

Two weeks, final offer!

DAY

Whoa, hold up, you guys haven't given ME any reason to work with you. Why am I being left out of this?

Day feels something poking at the back of his head. He looks behind to see Robbie flying behind him. The message was said without a sound.

DAY (CONT'D)

Alright, but only for a bit. I've got people of my own I want to find.

Magnolia gives a small victory pump as Day turns around.

MAGNOLIA

The year is 2131 by the way. Welcome to our group; Lilith's Truth.

DAY

Does that make you Lilith?

MAGNOLIA

No, it's more of a thematic name. Long story as to why.

DAY

Second question then. Can you fill me in on everything that has happened so far?

Quinn starts the RV, causing it to roar to life.

QUINN

How about we take it slow, and explain things on the way?

Day gives a nod.

DAY

Was thinking the same pace since it sounds like you two have time to kill.

Suddenly, the RV tumbles across the ground, as if something had hit it, causing everyone and everything inside to bounce around.

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O)

Threat detected! Initiating tools for combat integrated into the host's body.

Day is quick to stand while Magnolia and Quinn slowly recover. He rushes out the door, one of his hands having changed into a large, spiked ball, the other a rifle. The RV has become a mess, with significant damage all around with visible indentations and cracks on the glass. Day kicks the floor of the RV, forcing it upright as he then exits through the door.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND VOID WALK - NIGHT

Day steps outside of the roughed up RV, attempting to see in the darkness. His night vision enables him to see a small pack of three large, elephant-sized worms that are moving around to face him with malicious intent in their body language.

Instinctively, Day fires his rifle at the CHASERS, causing them to roar in pain and fury as they come upon him, digging holes into the earth from their failed attempts at biting him as Day leaps side to side. The worms leave little room to breathe as they lunge from the earth. Day jumps over one of them and shoves his sword into its back, pulling it down all the way as he fell on the other side, the beast falling.

The pack shows no fear as one of them swipes at his leg with the back end of its own, tripping him for a moment and causing him to flip frontwards, spinning in the air. Magnolia and Quinn come out with assault rifles with flashlights attached to help, firing at the chasers whenever they could.

QUINN

The heck are so many chasers doing here?!

MAGNOLIA

Shut up and keep firing!

The fight goes on for a fairly long time, the worms mainly focusing on Day as he fends them off, gaining dents and skin tears on his body as he slices the bullet riddled monsters apart. Eventually, the worms see it as too much effort to fight them all off, and retreat into the earth. Quinn puts away the rifle and then walks over to Day with a smile.

QUINN

Welp. I guess Mag was right about this all being worth it after all.

DAY

Right about what?

QUINN

You remember the Robin you saw, right? Little mechanical bird that found you?

DAY

So you do train cyborg animals to scout for your group.

QUINN

It's not exactly the most odd thing, if that's your concern. With how the world is at the moment, nearly anything that isn't trying to kill you has to lean on humanity in some shape or form.

DAY

(beat)

Are we still on Earth by the way? This doesn't-

QUINN

Hold up, you telling me you missed The Reset too? Not even about the new energy?

ALERT SYSTEM (V.O)

It is advised you inquire about as to what the alternative energy sources could be. Backup power sources drained from the lab appear to be inferior in quality to the battery acquired inside of the RV.

Quinn whistles in awe.

QUINN

Dang, we really gotta catch you up if you're gonna be any good out in the Void. What's your name by the way?

Day seems to be in thought.

DAY

I suppose you could call me Day.

QUINN

Day, huh? Listen, we're heading to a place called Demeter, controlled by tyrants; know what that means? Think you could cover us?

DAY

I don't think I have many other things to do.

Day pauses for a brief second.

DAY (CONT'D)

But I do want to find out what happened to me after all had been explained. This
(beat)
Body isn't what I'm supposed to have to begin with.

Quinn gives a cheshire grin as he holds out his hand.

QUINN

A journey of self-discovery it is then. Let's-

Magnolia then shoves Quinn to the side.

MAGNOLIA

Have Quinn drive while I get you to talk to me about what was life like in your time!

QUINN

Hey!