

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. WHEN THREE FRIENDS UNITED TO CREATE THE FUTURE THAT WE NEVER COULD. ON THAT DAY, E.G.G. WAS BORN.

E.G.G

Experimental Government Gadgets

-EPISODE 16.1-

AVE FALLOUT

Acacia

It was the day after E.G.G. had its final showdown with the Avengers. Storm clouds hovered overhead, but there was no rain. The sky was dull, gray. Captain Acacia Blanco walked through the quiet streets. She passed a few blocks of homes, then came around the corner to a school. The sign read Cedaren Elementary School. Acacia entered to see a young boy rushing through the halls.

“Better hurry or you’re gonna be late.” She said as the boy sprinted past her. She smiled. “Kids.” She walked up to a classroom and opened the door. A teacher stood at the head of the class, reading from a book.

“Sun did not suit Artemis,” she read to the class. “He did not look well in it. Long hours indoors...” She glanced at Acacia, then stopped. Acacia waved and made her way to the back of the classroom.

“Mrs. Aoki?” One of the students asked. She snapped out of it.

“I’m sorry children, where was I? Oh yes. Long hours indoors in front of a computer screen had bleached the glow from his skin...”

About an hour later class was over, and all of the kids left. Acacia approached the teacher.

“I love Artemis Fowl.” She said.

“I know you do.” The teacher replied. She hugged Acacia. “It’s good to see you, Acacia.”

“You too, Fumiko.” Acacia replied.

“So what brings down to Cedaren?” She asked, cleaning the supplies off of students’ desks.

“I wanted to talk to you, this was the soonest I could get time off.” Acacia replied, helping her to clean the desks.

“Oh yes, how’s your new job? E.G.G., was it?”

“Yeah, E.G.G.’s great, some crazy stuff happens there but, it’s great.”

“That’s good to hear.” She sat on top of a desk. “So what’s the news?” Acacia took a deep breath.

“I saw Terry.” Fumiko gasped.

“You... what?”

“I know, it’s hard to take in.”

“Like... how? How did you see him? Was he a spirit from Heaven, or something?”

Acacia cleared her throat.

“Yeah,” she replied. “Yeah, something like that.” Fumiko looked out the window.

“Wow, you weren’t kidding about crazy things happening there.”

“Not at all.” Acacia said, examining a fish tank in the corner of the classroom. “He wanted me to tell you he loves you, very much, and misses you.”

“I miss him too.” Fumiko said, twisting her wedding ring around her finger.

“He, um, he also left me with a mysterious message.”

“Oh? What was it?”

“Seek the heart in the everlasting dominion.” Fumiko looked up.

“He wanted you to find me?” She asked. Acacia turned.

“I don’t know, why would you say that?”

“Because he always called our love for each other our everlasting dominion. And he always said I was the heart that kept it alive. He always told me that as long as I lived, our love would thrive.” Acacia thought for a minute.

“Makes sense why we found this behind your picture in his old room.” She handed Fumiko the file that Clay Quartermain had given to her. She opened it and looked in.

“Oh no,” She said. “This... Terry said... This can’t be right...”

“What does it mean Fumiko?” Acacia asked. Fumiko looked up.

“Acacia, you and all of your friends are in grave danger.” Suddenly the classroom door opened and a young 12-year-old girl rushed in.

“Mom!” She exclaimed, hugging Fumiko.

“Celeste, hello.” She replied. “Did your day go well?”

“Yes mom.” She said, smiling. “I had fun with the other kids. We played softball in the field, and I scored a goal!”

“That’s amazing Celeste.” Fumiko said.

“Well I guess I’m invisible.” Acacia sighed. Celeste turned and her eyes lit up.

“Auntie Acacia!” She said, running over and hugging her. Acacia hugged her tightly.

“Ooh, you’re getting big!” She said, lifting her into the air. Celeste laughed. “Lay off those donuts kiddo!”

“I will, I promise!” Celeste said. Fumiko reached into her purse and pulled out her keys.

“Celeste, go wait in the car, okay?” She said. “I’ll be out in a minute.”

“Okay!” She said. “Goodbye Auntie Acacia! Nice to see you!”

“Bye Celeste.” Acacia said as Celeste rushed out of the room. Fumiko handed the file back to Acacia.

“Mother Egg’s power source.” She said. “It’s an electrically charged reactor, right?”

“Yes,” Acacia confirmed.

“Okay, get everyone out, and shut it down. Then replace it as soon as possible.”

“That’ll take... time.” Acacia said. “But if it’ll help to prevent this, I will. Thank you for your help Fumiko.”

“You are welcome, old friend.” They hugged one last time and Fumiko left the classroom. Acacia watched out the window as she and Celeste got into the car and drove off. Acacia looked at the file.

“For your sake S.H.I.E.L.D.,” she said to herself. “We had better not be too late.” She left the classroom. The file lay on the desk, part of a paper sticking out that read two simple words: “The Imperative”.

Eileen

Eileen had taken a few days off from Mother Egg to go train with the Black Widow on the Helicarrier. She was in the gym, which was currently empty, wearing her training gear, hitting a punching bag. Natasha Romanov walked into the room in her training gear. She approached Eileen.

“Can’t sleep?” She asked. Eileen sighed.

“I don’t know what happened to me Natasha.” She said. “My powers...” Natasha dropped her gym bag and assumed a fighting stance.

“Yeah, those.” She said. Eileen stopped the punching bag then assumed her fighting stance. Natasha began the attack, she kicked and Eileen blocked it. Eileen punched multiple times, but Natasha dodged each on.

“I just felt, I don’t know,” She kicked but Natasha caught her leg and flipped her over. Eileen landed on her feet. “So out of control.”

“Stark was right,” Natasha said, jump kicking Eileen and causing her to stumble back. “Extremis is very dangerous. That idiot should not have injected you with a concentrated dose of a highly unpredictable drug.”

“Hey, Acacia was trying to save my life.” Eileen defended, tripping Natasha. She fell onto her hands and sprung back up.

“Yes, but at what cost?” Natasha karate chopped only for Eileen to block it and monkey fist her in the chest. Natasha fell to the ground. “Wow, that was very good.”

“Thanks.” Eileen said, extending her arm. Natasha grabbed hold and Eileen pulled her to her feet. Natasha pulled a towel out of her gym bag and wrapped it around her neck.

“So it sounds to me like you want to learn to control your powers.” She observed.

“Yeah, I’d like to know what I can and can’t do.” Eileen sighed. “I’d like to know my upper limits and I’d like to be able to enact some form of restraint so I don’t exceed them. Like back on the Helicarrier... I felt like a monster Natasha.”

“Okay, well you should focus on them one at a time.”

“Lightning first!” Eileen exclaimed. “It takes the most rage and energy, and also I’m a danger to everyone around me when I use it.” Natasha thought for a bit.

“Lighting is just energy.” She said.

“Yeah, what are you getting at?”

“All energy can be channeled. Molded. See if you can’t focus it into a ray, or a stream of some sort.”

“I can try.” Eileen held out her hand and shot out a spastic blast of lightning. Natasha jumped back.

“You can’t just come out and do it! You have to focus!”

“Sorry, okay.” Eileen closed her eyes and held up her hands.

“Feel it coursing through you.” Natasha said. “Channel it!”

“I can feel it...” Eileen said. She balled her hands into fists and they began to light up.

“Um, Eileen...”

“Hold on Natasha, I’ve got it!”

“Eileen...”

“Almost there...”

“Eileen...”

“And... Now!” With that, a beam of lightning shot out of each fist and blew two holes in the wall. “Ha! I did it! Did you see that, that was amazing! Maybe I can try and get my fire to come out of my hands too...”

“Eileen!” Natasha shouted.

“What?”

“You’re flying.” Eileen looked down to see herself levitating three feet over the ground.

“Oh.”

Josh

Josh was sitting alone in the Feeding Pen on Mother Egg. He had a paper lying in front of him labeled “Avengers/E.G.G Incident Report.” Under it were blank lines. He had no idea where to start. He buried his head in his hands.

“Come on Westbrook.” He said to himself. “Eileen finished hers, Acacia finished hers, heck I bet if Julian were still here he’d have his finished by now! They’re getting time off, and you’re stuck here cause you can’t fill out this stupid report!” He thought. He began to write: ‘Iron Man was being a jerk, we fought, luckily later we still wanted to be friends’. Josh angrily erased it. He looked at his pencil.

“Am I even allowed to use pencil on these things?” Suddenly the doors opened and Allyson walked in.

“There you are!” She said. She handed him her report. “I finished my Avengers v.s E.G.G. report.”

“Wow, even you’ve finished!” Josh said, taking it. “Thank you.”

“Having troubles?” She asked, pulling up a chair. “You might want to start by using a pen.” Josh looked at his pencil.

“I thought so.” He said, tossing it. Allyson laughed.

“Here, use mine.” She said, handing him a pink fluffy pen. Josh examined it.

“Thanks. It’s very... decorative.” Allyson nudged him.

“Don’t judge!”

“I’m not, I’m not! I’m just wondering what poor pink animal had to die to make your pen.”

“Stop it!” She said, laughing. Josh smiled.

“I’m kidding.” He turned to his report and sighed. “I’ve got no clue where to start.” Allyson smiled and slid her report over.

“You can take a peek at mine.” She whispered.

“Thank you.” He said, opening it and scanning over the contents. “Whoa!”

“What?” She asked.

“Thanks to Director Westbrook’s bravery and fearless leadership, we were able to prevail! Now, I know I’m good, but I had no idea I was that good!” Allyson blushed.

“Yeah, you were pretty great out there.” She said.

“So were you.” Josh added. Allyson smiled. Then she leaned over quickly and kissed Josh on the lips. She immediately gasped and clasped her hands over her mouth. Josh sat there dumbfounded.

“I am so sorry!” She said. “I don’t know what came over me, I… I just… I should go!” She stood up and began to leave the room.

“Allyson wait!” Josh said. She stopped and turned.

“I’m so sorry, I really am, I have no idea what I was thinking.”

“Well, it was probably the same thing that I was thinking.” Allyson looked at him.

“And what were you thinking?” She asked. Josh put his arms around Allyson.

“I was thinking this.” He said, and he kissed her. She wrapped her arms around his neck and began to kiss back. Then she pulled off.

“We shouldn’t...” She whispered.

“Why not?”

“I don’t think it’s... appropriate.”

“Well that makes one of us.”

“Josh, you’re my superior. It’s... unprofessional. I’m pretty sure against some kind of rule...”

“Oh, yeah, it’s definitely breaking the rules.”

“So, we can’t...”

“We can... we just can’t let anybody know.” She looked at him and smiled.

“A secret relationship? That could go very, very wrong.”

“Or, it could work out perfectly.” They kissed each other into the night. Josh never did finish his report.