

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. WHEN THREE FRIENDS ROSE FROM THEIR DOOM TO FIGHT ON, VOWING NEVER AGAIN TO GIVE IN TO THE FORCES OF EVIL. ON THAT DAY, E.G.G. WAS REBORN.

E.G.G

Experimental Government Gadgets

-EPISODE 26-

LOVE AND WAR

Josh, Acacia, and Eileen all hid behind a vat of toxic waste as they were fired upon by Syndicate soldiers.

“FYI,” Acacia said, “This is the absolute worst place to take cover!”

“Well I’m sorry!” Josh said. “I’m busy worrying about the newbie over here!”

“Excuse me!” Eileen shouted.

“Don’t even Eileen!” Josh replied. “Acacia and have fought these guys like, 20 times already, and this is your first!”

“Have you forgotten everything else I’ve done!” She exclaimed. “I fought the shelling Avengers for crying out loud!”

“Hey, guys, hug it out later,” Acacia said. “I think we’ve got trouble on our hands. Serious trouble.”

“How serious is serious?” Josh looked around the vat to see the lieutenant of the group. He wore a black costume with a white belt, boots, and gloves. He had a mask that revealed his eyes and mouth, but most importantly, a bullseye on his forehead. Josh’s eyes widened in fear. “Bullseye.” He whispered.

“Who’s that?” Eileen asked.

“Okay, imagine an evil Hawkeye without the bow and arrow.” Josh replied.

“So what, he never misses?”

“Not even once.”

“I can heeeeeear you...” Bullseye said, taking three sharp blades from his belt.

“Oh yeah, and he’s legally insane.” Josh added.

“Perfect.” Eileen said.

“Looks like now’s the perfect time to test our new invention!” Acacia said, taking out a small disk. Josh nodded.

“Do it.” He said. Acacia pressed the center of the disk and slid it out in front of Bullseye’s feet. He looked down.

“What the...” He began, but suddenly it began to beep and spurt out flares. The Syndicate soldiers all screamed and shielded their eyes from the blinding light. Bullseye cupped his hands over his eyes and squinted to see Josh, Eileen and Acacia making a break for it. “No you don’t.” He threw one of his blades, and it pierced Acacia’s leg.

“Gah!” She screamed, falling to the ground. Josh and Eileen helped her up. “He can still aim even when he can’t see! No fair!”

“You’re lucky his vision was obscured,” Josh said. “He was probably going for the kill shot.”

“We need to get out of here, he’s too dangerous.” Eileen said.

“No, we took a vow!” Josh exclaimed. “Follow me.” The three rushed through the factory, where they reached a control room. “Alright, what do we have here...” Josh pressed a button, which set off an alarm. One of the vats of toxic waste began to tilt. Bullseye looked up.

“Time to go.” He said. All of the Syndicate soldiers scattered this way and that as the vat spilled onto the ground. Eileen laughed.

“Look at ‘em run!” She said, high fiving Josh. Acacia looked to see Bullseye making his way towards an exit.

“Oh no, you’re not getting away from me!” She said. She rushed out of the control room.

“Acacia, wait!” Josh shouted, he and Eileen chasing after her. Bullseye climbed to the upper levels to see Acacia running across a bridge. He pulled a lever, and the bridge began to retract. Acacia sprinted across and jumped to the other side. Eileen and Josh stopped short.

“Circle around!” Eileen said, as she and Josh took an alternate route. Acacia slid in front of Bullseye.

“You don’t stab my leg without answering to me!” She said.

“Oh, I’m sorry,” Bullseye said, taking out a deck of cards. “I didn’t know.” Suddenly he began launching the cards at Acacia. They flew past with lightning speed, cutting her in various places.

“Ah, ow, gah!” Acacia held her arms up and backed up as the cards kept slitting her. Bullseye maneuvered around her, keeping her at bay, then rushed into a door. Acacia growled under her breath and rushed into the room after him. She looked around. It was dark, there were giant generators everywhere. She walked carefully. Suddenly she heard a noise. She whipped around.

“Agent Blanco.” A female voice said from the shadows.

“What the... who are you?” Acacia asked.

Josh and Eileen made it across to the other end. Eileen kicked the door open and Josh aimed his gun.

“Acacia?” Eileen called. “Where are you?” At that moment Acacia emerged, dragging an unconscious Bullseye by one leg.

“No way, you got him!” Josh exclaimed, putting him in cuffs.

“Yeah,” Acacia replied. “I mean, all he does is throw things, take out his hands and you’ve got him.”

“That’s great Acacia!” Eileen said. “Let’s get him to S.H.I.E.L.D.”

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Josh, Eileen and Acacia walked into E.G.G. Base.

“Did you see the look on Fury’s face when we told him we bagged Bullseye?” Josh said. “He was totally impressed! I think he respects more!”

“I’m sure he does.” Eileen said. “Especially after you told him that all of the Syndicate soldiers escaped.” Josh frowned.

“Come on, so we let a few shrimp escape, but we caught a trout! Fury needs to prioritize. We’ll round them up.”

“Honey bun!” Harry called, walking into the room.

“Harr-bear!” Acacia said, kissing him. Josh sighed.

“Is there any specific reason you’re still here?” He asked.

“I still need protection.” Harry replied, putting his arm around Acacia.

“Bull.” Josh said.

“Josh, Harry can stay as long as he wants.” Acacia said. Josh grumbled under his breath and walked off.

“Hey, you wanna go out tonight?” Harry asked.

“Sure thing!” Acacia said. “Oh wait, I promised Quartermain I’d meet him tonight about business. Sorry.” Harry frowned.

“You know I don’t like that guy, right?” He asked. Acacia laughed.

“Is it because he calls you a rich city boy, or the fact that he’s had a crush on me since the day I joined S.H.I.E.L.D?”

“Both.” Harry said. Acacia smiled.

“Don’t worry Harry, you’re still the number one guy in my life!”

“Thanks.”

“Well, I’m gonna hit the showers.” Eileen said. “A long day in factory filled with toxic waste is the only thing that’ll make you feel like you’re dirty inside and out! Oh, and make sure set up that Flare Disk for mass production, field test was a complete success.”

“Will do!” Acacia said, walking off with Harry.

Meanwhile, Josh walked down the tunnel to Allyson’s room. He knocked on the door.

“Allyson!” He whispered. He knocked again. “Allyson, you in there?” The door opened and Agent Becket stepped out. “What the? What are you doing in there?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “It’s not like I’m Allyson’s best friend or anything. What are you doing here Director?” Josh squinted.

“Scoot kid.” He said. Agent Becket shrugged and walked off. Allyson came to the door and smiled.

“Hey you!” she said.

“Hey yourself.” Josh replied, kissing her. Allyson smiled.

“I heard you took down Bullseye.” She said.

“Yep, single handedly, he didn’t stand a chance!”

“Really?”

“Yep!”

“You?”

“Uh-huh!”

“By yourself?”

“You got it!”

“... That’s a bit hard to believe...”

“Oh whatever!” Allyson laughed.

“I’m just teasing.” She said, wrapping her arms around his neck. “I’m sure my big, strong, handsome boyfriend can take down any super villain that dares to cross his path.” They kissed each other passionately.

“Am I interrupting something?” Josh and Allyson abruptly stopped and turned to see Acacia leaning against the wall, arms folded. Allyson’s eyes widened in fear. Thinking fast, Josh pushed Allyson away from him.

“Take your lips off me woman!” He shouted. “How dare you defile your Director in that manner!”

“Josh, please.” Acacia said. Josh looked at Allyson, who just looked down. He rubbed the back of his neck.

“Listen, I can explain...” He began. Acacia held up her hand.

“No need.” She interrupted. “I won’t turn you in.” Josh looked up.

“You won’t?”

“Well, I can see that you two clearly make each other happy. Why would I ruin that?”

“Really? Acacia, that’s so cool! If I’d have known you’d be this chill about it, I would have told you a long time ago!”

“Hey, we’re friends. I’d never do anything if I felt it was going to hurt you.”

“Thank you Acacia. And, if you could, please, please, please don’t tell Eileen!”

“I won’t.” She reassured. Josh sighed with relief.

“Thank you Acacia, I don’t know what to say…”

“Just come hug me already.” She said, holding out her arms. Josh smiled and hugged Acacia.

“Thank you so much!”

“No prob.” She said. She turned to walk away, then stopped. “Are you planning on ever telling Eileen?”

“No. Not at all. Ever.”

“Okay then. Just remember, she’s your friend too.”

“She told me to my face she’d turn me in!”

“Hm, I don’t think she’d do that.” Acacia walked down the tunnel. Josh exhaled deeply.

“Well that was too close!” He said.

“Yeah,” Allyson said. “I was sure she’d put the kibosh on us! Can we trust she won’t tell Commander Wuthrich?”

“Yeah, I think she’ll pull through.” Josh answered. “Like she said, we are friends.”

“Good.” Allyson said. “Now, I’m not through with you yet.”

“Ooh, I like the sound of that!” Josh moved in but she put her finger on his lips.

“Inside my room, this time.”

“Good call.” Josh and Allyson walked into her room for the rest of the night.

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Acacia knocked on Eileen's door.

"Come in." Eileen called. Acacia walked in to see Eileen sprawled across her bed, staring at the ceiling in complete boredom.

"Hey, you okay?"

"Nothing... to... do..." She said. "Dying... of... boredom..." Acacia laughed.

"Funny." She said. Eileen sat up.

"What's up Acacia?" she asked.

"Nothing much," she replied. "Just, something that's been on my mind lately."

"Well you know you can tell me anything." Eileen said. Acacia exhaled.

"Eileen do you... do you think Josh was picking favorites when he made you second in command." Eileen looked up, shocked.

"Acacia," she said. "How long has this been troubling you?"

"I don't know, it's just, Josh has known you longer, so when he was choosing ranks, I think maybe..."

"Acacia, I'm sure that had nothing to do with his decision."

"So, you think you're more qualified than me?"

"What? No! Of course not."

“Then what?”

“Acacia, listen. I think that all of us are natural leaders. Shell, sometimes I think I’d be a better leader than Josh!”

“How so?”

“I don’t know, just some of the decisions he makes sometimes... they’re not really thought through.”

“But you have to listen to him, and I have to listen to both of you.”

“Acacia, come on. It’s not like that. Look, I’ll talk to Josh about a joint leadership, so we all can be the same rank, and make group decisions. We’d all have the same amount of power.”

“That’s my point Eileen, why didn’t Josh suggest that from the beginning?” Eileen stopped. She thought for a little bit.

“I... I don’t know...”

“Whatever, don’t worry about it.” Acacia said, getting up. “I’m just being stupid. Things have been working fine so far, why question them now. I’ve gotta go meet Clay, I’ll see you later.”

“Acacia.” Eileen said. Acacia looked back. “I think you’d be a great director.” Acacia smiled and left the room. Eileen sat, thinking to herself.

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Clay Quartermain stood in an alleyway, bundled up in the cold night.

“Clay.” He turned to see Acacia and smiled.

“Howdy darlin’, care for a dance?” He asked. Acacia smiled.

“You’re funny Clay.”

“Well, I try. So what’d you wanna meet for? You said you had special surprise.”

“I do.”

“Did you dump that that rich city boy yet?”

“No, Clay.” She said, taking out a gun. “I’m dumping you.” Quartermain jumped back.

“Jeez Acacia! What in Sam’s hill do you think you’re doin’!”

“Making this world a better place.” She said. Clay reached for his gun, but Acacia shot him first. He fell to the ground. Acacia smiled. “As it is written.”

Epilogue

Acacia’s eye’s fluttered open. She slowly sat up, but was stopped by a sharp pain in her leg.

“Ah!” She cried, grabbing it. She looked down at the wound. “Bullseye.” She said, examining the cuts on her arms and body from the cards. She looked around only to see that she was trapped in a metal room. “What the, where on Earth am I?” She turned and spotted a window. She slowly moved towards it and pulled herself up.

“Oh no.” She said. “Acacia, you’ve really gotten yourself into it this time.” Outside of her window, Acacia saw stars, moons, and the planet Saturn.

To Be Continued...