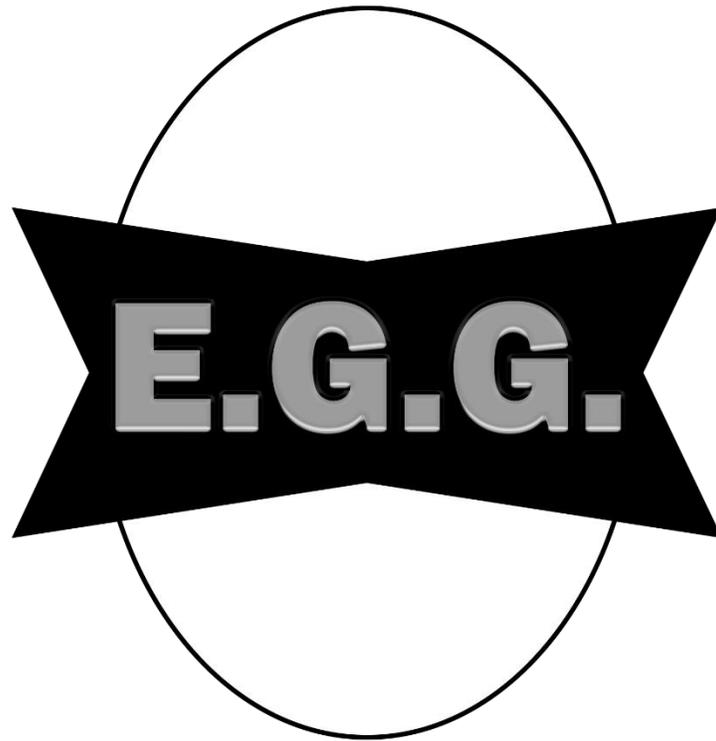


AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. A DAY THAT THE WORLD CAME UNDER SIEGE FROM THE GREATEST THREAT IT HAS EVER FACED. ON THAT DAY, E.G.G. ENDED. FOREVER.



-EPISODE 98-

THE END OF EVERYTHING

E.G.G. SEASON 5 FINALE

PART 1

DOOMSDAY

Josh, Acacia, and Eileen all met in the Inner Shell of Egg Station on the Peak Space Station. It would be the last time they ever did.

“Guys!” Josh exclaimed. “You wouldn’t believe what just happened! I fought a dragon!”

“Psh, that’s nothing!” Acacia said. “I saved a Vietnam vet from an Atrocity!”

“What kind of atrocity?” Josh asked. Acacia shook her head.

“You don’t want to know.”

“Well, Josh knows I’m Lightstream.” Eileen said.

“I’ve known for a while now.” Josh replied.

“Other Josh.”

“Oh, well why’d you go and tell him that!”

“More like what took you so long to tell him.” Acacia said. “You guys have been dating for how long?”

“I’m done keeping secrets from my friends.” Eileen replied. “Which reminds me, Josh, you’ve got to talk to Allyson.”

“Allyson?” Josh asked. “About what?” Suddenly there was a loud crash. The entire base shook, and everyone looked around in fear.

“What the shell!” Josh exclaimed.

“Uh, guys...” Acacia said, pointing out the window.

“What is that?” Eileen asked.

* * *

“DOOM!” Dr. Tanaka yelled, storming into her lab.

“Restrain her.” Doctor Doom ordered, as two Doombots grabbed her beneath the arms.

“Ergh!” Dr. Tanaka screamed. “What have you done to my Arc Reactor!”

“My Arc Reactor.” Doom corrected. “Or have you forgotten who funded this entire project of yours?”

“You said you were only going to use it for its intended purpose!” Dr. Tanaka reminded.

“And I am. I’ve simply had Alby Moreno and A.I.M add a component that will give me control of the impending reckoning.”

“People are panicking.” She informed. “My lab is shining an energy beam into the sky, it’s only a matter of time before the authorities, or S.H.I.E.L.D. is at your doorstep!”

“That is why I have the Silver Samurai and Shadow.” Doom revealed. “They did such a thorough job of dealing with Fury’s forces last time.”

“Waru!” Dr. Tanaka screamed. “What kind of monster are you!”

“Hold your tongue woman!” Doom demanded. “You now bear witness to a new age.”

“The Avengers, E.G.G., someone will stop you!”

“The Avengers have been drawn away. And E.G.G? They will be no more after I am done. I’ve already given the alert for my sleeper agent to destroy them from within.”

“No! You can’t!”

“I understand you’ve developed feelings for the one known as Westbrook. Unfortunate.” Doom signaled his Doombots, and they began to drag her off.

“Doom! You can’t do this! Someone will stop you! Do you hear me! DOOM!!!”

* * *

Josh rushed into the Peak bridge, followed by Eileen and Acacia.

“What’s going on?” He asked.

“External attack.” Agent Brand replied. “Something’s out there.” Just then, a silver streak of light zoomed by the window, and the base shook. “We’re under attack!”

“Alright! Battle stations people!” Eileen called. She got on her comms. “Jocasta, lock the base down and activate the Mother Egg protocol.”

“Right away.” Jocasta responded.

“Agent Rice, get a fleet in the air and see if you can shoot that thing out of the sky. And if I see that shell shocking Symbiote...”

“Sabrina has it, down on Earth.” Kyle informed. “And copy, I’ll get right on it.”

“Josh...”

“Yeah?” Josh asked.

“My boyfriend Josh, honestly, we’ve got to get this worked out.”

“What’s up Eileen?” Nestman replied.

“Meet me in the Hall of E.G.G. We’re the last line of defense, if whatever that thing is breaches the Peak, we gotta stop it.”

“On my way!” Nestman said.

“Alright you two, let’s move.” Eileen said, motioning to Josh and Acacia.

Kyle entered the Egg Starfighter and fired up the engines.

“On your six Chaos.” A S.W.O.R.D. agent said over comms, as five more spacecrafts fired up.

“Alright, launch! Launch!” Kyle ordered. The ships filed out and began circling the Peak. “I don’t see...” Kyle began, but suddenly the silver streak zoomed past him. “Contact! Engage! Engage!” All of the ships opened fire, but the streak swiftly avoided all of it.

“This guy’s fast!” Kyle shouted.

“Take him down Agent Rice!” Eileen ordered, as she, Josh, and Acacia walked into the Hall of E.G.G., where Nestman and Jake were waiting.

“Please make sure you put everything back on the shelves in an orderly manner.” Jake pleaded. Josh put his arm on a shelf, and swept all of the inventions onto the floor. “Seriously!” He cried. Josh snickered.

“I’m sorry, I just couldn’t resist.” He said.

“Focus Josh!” Eileen ordered, grabbing her Widow Stings. Acacia picked up a pair of Snikt Claws and Josh grabbed a Thwip Blaster.

“What’s out there?” Nestman asked, picking up a Repulsor Blaster.

“No clue.” Acacia said. “But it’s flying around at top speed in space, so, I’m guessing it’s pretty powerful.”

“Hm...” Nestman put down the Repulsor Blaster and picked up a Coulson’s Revenge. “Okay, I’m ready!”

“Kyle, I want good news!” Eileen shouted.

“Can’t... ugh... nail him!” Kyle kept trying to target the streak, but it sped this way and that, staying out of his range. Suddenly it fired a blast of cosmic energy, and hit one of the S.W.O.R.D. ships.

“I’m hit!” The agent cried. “Losing control!”

“Get back to the hangar!” Kyle ordered, as he obeyed. “Target is now confirmed as hostile! Light it up!” All of the ships opened fire once more. The streak fired back, hitting two ships, who retreated.

“He’s knocking us out of the sky!” Kyle cried. “No casualties...”

“Yet!” Agent Brand shouted. “That thing does not make it to Earth, Agent Rice! Now if I have to fly out there, I’m going to personally kick your @\$\$, am I understood! Shoot it down!”

“Ahhhh!!!” Kyle screamed, unleashing a flurry of missiles. The streak zig zagged around, barely dodging them, then knocked one back, and it hit the Egg Starfighter.

“Crap!” Kyle shouted, spinning out of control. The streak then turned and began speeding toward the Peak. “Heads up! He’s coming your way! He’s gonna crash!”

“Get ready!” Eileen ordered. She, Acacia, Josh, Nestman, and an army of Jocasta drones stood ready. Then, unexpectedly, the streak phased clean through the wall, revealing a silver man, riding a silver surfboard, and heading straight for them.

“Take him out!” Eileen ordered. An array of weapons and energy blasts came his way, but he circled around, maneuvering to avoid every shot, and sped toward them.

“Down!” Acacia cried. He plowed through several Jocasas, as Nestman, Eileen, and Acacia got to the ground. Then, Josh stepped forward, and took aim, the man coming straight at him.

“Josh move!” Eileen shouted.

“Eat webs!” Josh yelled, firing the Thwip Blaster and splattering the man’s eyes with webs.

“Ah!” The man cried. Josh dove out of the way, the man swooped past him, then clotheslined on a doorway, falling off of his surfboard and hitting the ground with a thud. Josh spun his Thwip Blaster and blew on it.

“Nothing like a good old Thwip blast to take down bad guys!”

“Good work Josh.” Eileen complimented, patting his shoulder.

“Well that’s freaky.” Acacia said, pointing towards the surfboard, which was still levitating in midair.

“Okay...” Eileen cleared her throat. “Get that thing in a containment unit and take it to the Humpty Dumpty Hall.” She looked down at the silver man, who was knocked out cold. “And let’s get this guy to the Med Bay.”

“The Med Bay!” Josh exclaimed. “Um, how about a prison cell? Or better yet, the airlock!”

“Josh, he needs medical attention.” Eileen pointed out.

“He’s a bad guy!”

“I’m sorry, weren’t you the one that stopped me from killing Tanner when he was laid up in a hospital bed? Not to mention you had the Enchantress in our Infirmary for months!”

“Okay, Tanner was an old friend being controlled by the Symbiote!” Josh defended. “And Amora, she... uh...”

“She has big boobs?” Acacia suggested. Josh thought for a bit, then shrugged in agreement.

“Well you’re not wrong.”

“Get him to Kristen.” Eileen said, rolling her eyes. “That’s an order.”

“Psh, whatever. Come on Nest-loser, grab his legs.” Josh said.

“Why do I have to get the legs.” Nestman complained, as he and Josh hoisted the man up and set off to the Med Bay.

* * *

Kyle was in the Hangar, patching up the Egg Starfighter, Agent Brand next to him, scrolling through a tablet.

“Anything?” He asked.

“I’m going through Nova Crops database, and I don’t see anything about a silver man in here. I’ve already called Richey though, he’ll be here soon.”

“That’s good.” Kyle said.

In the Humpty Dumpty Hall, Acacia was scanning the surfboard with a device hooked up to a computer Nestman was monitoring.

“These readings are off the charts.” He said. “This thing is lousy with cosmic energy.”

“Weird.” Acacia replied, looking closely at it. “It looks like a surfboard.”

“Well, I doubt it’s that simple.” Nestman said.

“Ooh! What if it’s a surfboard that was bitten by a radioactive alien!” Nestman sighed and facepalmed.

Eileen and Josh were in the Med Bay, looking down at the man, as Kristen checked his vitals.

“He’s stable.” She said. “He’s not... human. So I can’t really do much for him, his body is coursing with cosmic energy, but he should be coming to.”

“Good.” Josh said. “The Silver Surfer has to answer for his attack!”

“Silver Surfer?” Eileen asked. “Really?”

“He’s silver, and he rides on a surfboard!” Josh cried.

“Sure, whatever.” Eileen agreed.

“Unnh...” The Silver Surfer groaned, slowly opening his eyes. “You are all doomed.”

“You’re not dooming anyone from a hospital bed buddy!” Josh exclaimed.

“Why did you attack us?” Eileen asked.

“Apologies, it was not my intention.” Silver Surfer apologized. “I was attempting to reach your planet, and warn them. But I fear I am too late.”

“Warn them about what?” Eileen asked.

“He is coming.” Silver Surfer dreadfully answered.

“You’re not the first person to lay in this room and tell me that.” Josh said. “Less cryptic, who? Who’s coming?”

“The Devourer of Worlds. The one known to many... as Galactus.” Josh and Eileen looked at each other.

“Isn’t that the guy Princess Cortexia said destroyed her Earth?” Josh asked.

“Yeah, and the one Leviathan said wiped out half the heroes in his universe.” Eileen added. She turned to Silver Surfer. “What does he want? Galactus. Why is he coming to Earth?”

“Galactus feeds off of planetary energy.” Silver Surfer explained. “It is how he sustains life. Nine of your Earth months ago, he sensed a surge in your planet’s energy, an unlimited supply that could feed him for eons. He hungers, and he comes as we speak. I have flown across the universe to reach you in time, but I have failed, again.”

“So this guy is literally coming to eat the planet?” Josh threw his hands in the air. “Perfect. I don’t get it, what kind of energy surge did he detect?”

“Nine months...” Eileen pondered. “We were in Japan. Oh no... Josh! The Arc Reactor!”

“That’s right!” Josh exclaimed. “It’s a self-perpetuating energy source! If Galactus gets his hands on that, it’s basically an all you can eat buffet!”

“And your planet will die in the process.” Silver Surfer said.

“Not good.” Eileen said. “Can you help us, Silver Surfer?”

“My name is Noran Radd.” He corrected. “And alas, the journey across the cosmos to reach you in time has weakened me. I spent the last of my energy in battle with you.”

“Then tell us how to stop him!” Josh begged. “We can’t just sit here and let our planet get eaten!”

“He cannot be stopped.” Silver Surfer solemnly replied.

“No, I don’t accept that.” Eileen stated. “The Peak was built after the Skrull invasion to keep Earth safe from anymore alien threats, and I’ll be shelled if we can’t stop this one. Think, Noran, there has to be some way to hurt him, or stave him off!”

“I served Galactus for years.” Silver Surfer replied. “Acting as his herald, and seeking planets for him to consume. My service spared my world, Zen-La. But the suffering of dying worlds became too much for me to bear, and I turned against him. I never came close to defeating Galactus, as he is a force of nature, but I found small success in attacking him with the very cosmic energy he bestowed upon me to serve him.”

“You mean the stuff coursing through your body?” Josh asked.

“And my board.” Silver Surfer added. Josh suddenly perked up.

“I have an idea!” He exclaimed. “Eileen, we need to get to the Humpty Dumpty Hall! Kristen, watch this guy.”

“Got it.” Kristen confirmed, as Josh and Eileen took off. They rushed into the Humpty Dumpty Hall.

“Guys!” Acacia exclaimed. “This surfboard was bitten by a radioactive alien!”

“It literally wasn’t.” Josh replied. “But it was imbued with Power Cosmic, which we can use to stop Galactus!”

“Who?” Nestman asked.

“Big scary guy that eats planets and is apparently coming for Earth.” Eileen informed.

“Oh... Sorry I asked.”

“It’s fine, because we’re gonna invent something to stop him!” Josh exclaimed, pointing toward the surfboard. “Using that!”

“What do we need?” Eileen asked.

“You for starters.” Josh said. “Your Extremis powers, more precisely, also a containment device.”

“Like this?” Nestman asked, picking up a small metal half-circle container, with one button and two prongs sticking from it.

“Um, sure... where did you get that?”

“It was just sitting here with the scrap metal.”

“Alright, and lastly, I need one of every weapon from the Hall of E.G.G!”

“I don’t like this plan.” Eileen said.

“I love it!” Acacia exclaimed, grabbing a cart and rushing off. “I’ll be back with those weapons!”

“Trust me Eileen.” Josh said. “This is gonna work!”

“Let’s hope...” She said.

* * *

Eileen stood next to surfboard containment unit, with a pile of every experimental government gadget E.G.G. had ever built laying in the floor. Nestman locked the metal container into a glass box, while Josh typed into a computer and Acacia pulled on her goggles, attaching clamps to Eileen.

“What are these going to do?” Eileen asked in concern.

“They’re a catalyst.” Acacia said, pulling the wires together and sticking them into a socket.

“... For what?”

“To jump start the power transfer.” Josh informed.

“... From where?”

“From the board, through you, to the gadgets, and into the container.”

“... You’re going to pump cosmic energy into me?”

“Not into you, silly. Through you!”

“Whoa, is this safe?” Nestman asked.

“Not in the slightest!” Acacia exclaimed. “Even the most microscopic of miscalculations could blow her into a million pieces!”

“Or scatter her atoms across the universe.” Josh added.

“Or scramble her molecules into jelly!”

“Or transport her into the apex of time and space.”

“Or wipe her entirely from this plane of existence!”

“Okay! I want out!” Eileen exclaimed.

"I have double checked the math." Jocasta informed. "You should be entirely safe."

"Should be!" Eileen exclaimed. "And only double checked? This is my life on the line!"

"It's actually everyone on Earth's life on the line." Josh reminded. "But I understand if you wanna be selfish and risk everything to save yourself."

"Ugh..." Eileen groaned. "Fine. Josh, can you please come kiss me just in case my atoms explode out of existence."

"... A strange request, but, who am I to decline." Josh said.

"Not you!" Eileen cried. "For crying out loud, I was clearly talking to my boyfriend!"

"Oohh..." Josh said. "That does make more sense." Nestman walked over and kissed Eileen.

"Please don't disintegrate." He pleaded.

"I'll try not to." Eileen replied, with a wink. Nestman looked at Josh and nodded.

"Do it." He said.

"Alright, here goes!" Josh pulled a lever and opened the containment unit. Eileen put her hand on the surfboard.

"You know I love you Eileen." Acacia said. "That being said, this is going to be extremely painful."

"Wait, what?" Eileen asked. Acacia slammed a button and Eileen began to electrocute.

"GGGYYYYAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!" She screamed. The board lit up, and energy began to channel from it into her.

“She must release the energy!” Jocasta declared. “Otherwise she will overload!”

“Eileen!” Nestman called. “Release it! Don’t hold it in!”

“Aaaaaahhhhhh!!!!” Eileen screamed, firing cosmic energy from her hands and onto the pile of E.G.G. weapons. They began to morph around in a sphere of energy, combining, merging. Just then, the sphere began to shake.

“These readings are unstable!” Josh cried.

“We’ve got all kinds of power sources merging into one!” Acacia cried. “Combining a Repulsor Blaster and a Midsummer Night alone would blow this whole base out of the sky! Let alone every E.G.G. weapon ever!”

“Eileen has to hold it together and insert the amalgam into the containment unit!” Jocasta informed.

“Grrraaaahhhh!!!” Eileen screamed.

“She can’t!” Nestman cried.

“We’ve got to introduce a stabilizing agent!” Acacia yelled. Josh looked around in a panic, then spotted the sink in the wash station. He rushed over, tugged three times, and pulled it out of the wall.

“What the shell are you doing!” Acacia cried.

“Porcelain is a non-conductor!” He cried, chucking it into the energy sphere. “In a mixture of metal and energy, it should manage it just enough for Eileen to gain control!” The readings started to level out, and the sphere became stable.

“Readings are holding...” Acacia said. “That helped a little, but not for long.”

“She’s got to contain it before it loses control again!” Nestman informed. Josh opened the top of the glass box.

“Get it inside Eileen!” Josh shouted.

“Aaaaahhhhh!!!” Eileen screamed, guiding the sphere into the box. Josh slammed the lid shut. It began to glow bright.

“Uh-oh.” Josh said. “Acacia!”

“Crap!” Acacia shouted, trapping it in a forcefield just as it exploded. “Hrrrrkkk...” She groaned, under the pressure, falling to her knees.

“Hold it!” Josh cried. He watched as Acacia’s forcefield began to glow brighter. “Hold it!”

“Aiiieeee!!!” Acacia shrieked, blood trickling from her nose. The glow suddenly died down, and the metal container fell to the ground, steaming. Josh picked it up.

“The power of the universe... in the palm of my hand.” He said.

“Did it work?” Eileen asked, breathing heavily, Nestman by her side.

“No way to test it, but, Jocasta?” Josh asked. She scanned the device.

“I cannot get a read on its energy level.”

“As in there’s none in there?” Acacia asked in disgust.

“No, as in there is simply too much.” They all looked at each other.

“This is it guys.” Josh said. “We threw in everything and the kitchen sink... literally. A device to stop a force of nature! To destroy the Devourer of Worlds! I call it... The Ultimate Nullifier!” Suddenly

there was a loud explosion, and the base shook. "Oh for Heaven's sake, what now!" Brand's face suddenly appeared on the screen.

"Westbrook, we've got trouble in the Wrench Works." She said.

"We're a little busy at the moment Abs..." Josh complained.

"Well you're the fix-it guys, so go fix it!" Brand yelled. "Cameras are out, so I've already got two guys down there investigating. And you stay out of my safe room!"

"No promises." Josh replied. "You know some E.G.G. guys play poker in there, right?"

"None of them steal my bras. And you should know Richey is on the way just in case you get any ideas."

"Well Nova should be here! Freaking Galactus is coming!"

"Just hurry!" Brand cut the transmission.

"Go on Josh." Acacia assured. "We'll wrap up with the Ultimate Nullifier."

"Alright." He rushed off, patting Eileen's shoulder on the way out. "Good work." She gave a thumbs up, as Josh made his way down the elevator and into the Wrench Works. The base shook again, the lights blinking out this time.

"Really?" Josh asked, annoyed. He took out a flashlight and shined it, then tripped. "Crap! What did I..." He shined the light to see a S.W.O.R.D. agent lying on the ground. "Whoa! Hey, you alright buddy?" There was no response. Josh arched his eyebrows in confusion. He knelt down and tapped him. "Hey, wake up pal." He paused. He checked for a pulse only to find none. Josh jumped back in fear and

got on his comms. "Attention, all agents of E.G.G. and S.W.O.R.D., we've got a man down... he's dead..." All he heard was static. "Hello? Does anyone copy?"

"Get on the ground!" Josh heard, followed by gunfire. He quickly hurried in the direction of the noise and slid around the corner to find another S.W.O.R.D. agent lying against the wall.

"No, no!" He cried, kneeling next to him to find his head twisted abnormally. "Neck snapped..." He clenched his fist and stood angrily. "Who's down here!" He yelled. He took out his Thwip Blaster and began to move quietly. He got on his comm again. "I repeat, there is a hostile in the Wrench Works, two S.W.O.R.D. agents are down, require immediate assistance." He spotted Brand's safe room and hurried into it. He slammed and locked the door, then got onto the computer. He checked the security cameras, which were all fuzzy.

"Come on..." He said in frustration, typing into the computer. He then heard a noise behind him, and whipped around, aiming his Thwip Blaster. "One more step and it's a load of web fluid sticking you to that wall!"

"You wanna trap me in your web?" Allyson asked. "How would Dr. Tanaka feel about that?"

"Allyson." Josh said in relief. "Oh thank goodness. What are you doing down here?"

"I came to get prepped for Poker Night." She replied. "Beck and the guys let me play now... why? What's going on?"

"Someone's down here... Allyson, they've already killed two agents."

"Oh no..." Allyson clasped her hands over her mouth. "What... what do we do?"

“Abs’s safe room is separate from the rest of the Peak, it has its own power supply.” Josh explained, typing into the computer. “Which is good since the rest of the base seems like it got hit by Zzzax.”

“Oh, I remember when that happened.” Allyson recalled. “The power outage under the Chandler Library. It’s funny, I was trying to tell you that I loved you, but, things always kept getting in the way. Like Zzzax, or the time Gravity Master showed up, or your feelings for Lightstream. Well, Eileen.” Josh looked back in surprise.

“How do you... That’s probably why she said I had to talk to you.” Josh sighed and continued to type. “Look Allyson, I had no idea it was Eileen under there. And I told you, it was just a little celebrity crush, nothing more. My heart was all in it for you. And as much as I feel like we need to talk about this, now really isn’t the time.”

“Right. Because it’s always the wrong time with you.” Allyson angrily replied.

“A giant planet eater is coming to Earth, our base just lost power, and we’ve got a killer running around in the Wrench Works! Yeah, I’d say it’s a bad time.”

“I love you.” Allyson said.

“Allyson!” Josh exclaimed, turning around. “Seriously, now isn’t the...” He noticed Allyson holding a gun. “... Allyson?”

“I love you, so much.” She repeated, tears in her eyes. “I begged him to spare you.”

“Allyson, what is happening right now...” Josh said, strategically keeping his distance.

“He said my feelings for you are weakness. But I’m not weak. I am *not* weak!”

“No, you’re not.” Josh said. “You stood with me, when we fought the Avengers, you helped me defy Fury when he came after my suits... Which is why it’s really hard for me to understand what’s going on right now.”

“For years, I sat here, waiting. Waiting for this moment. To kill you.” Josh’s heart skipped a beat. Allyson’s hand trembled, as tears streamed down her face. “But I can’t do it. Looks like I am weak, after all.”

“... Allyson, did you kill those agents?” Josh asked. Just then Brand came into the room.

“Westbrook, I-” She noticed the scene. “What in the hell?” Allyson aimed, but Josh tackled her just as she fired, causing the bullet to hit Brand’s side. “Gah!” She cried, clutching her wound and falling to the ground. Josh grabbed for the gun.

“Allyson, stop!” He pleaded.

“No!” She cried. She headbutted Josh, causing him to roll off of her. He stood up and went for his Thwip Blaster, but she kicked it out of the way. He swung at her, but she ducked under it, caught Josh’s arm, and kicked him into the wall. She then spun around and roundhouse kicked him in the head, knocking him to the ground. Suddenly a shot was fired and Allyson was hit in the shoulder.

“Gah!” She cried, angrily turning to see Brand, weakly aiming her gun.

“Drop your weapon!” She yelled. Allyson ran at Agent Brand. She took two more shots, but Allyson dodged with ease and knocked the gun from her hand, choking her and slamming her against the wall.

“Allyson...” Josh weakly cried, attempting to stand. “Stop... please...”

“I’m sorry.” She replied. “But I can’t.”

“Ha.” Brand chuckled. “Funny, I always figured you for a pansy.” She narrowed her eyes ferociously at Allyson. “But it turns out you’re just a traitor.”

“Looks like I’m capable of more than you thought.” Allyson hissed.

“You think betraying your friends makes you strong?” Brand smiled. “Oh honey, you have no idea how weak you truly are.”

BANG!

Allyson fired the gun.

“NOOOOOOO!” Josh cried, as Agent Brand slid down the wall, leaving a streak of blood. Josh crawled over to her, and took her into his arms. “Brand! Abigail! Abigail!” He looked up at Allyson. “You just-” Allyson kicked Josh, and knocked him out cold.

* * *

Josh came to. He opened his eyes to find himself chained to the ceiling. He looked back to see Agent Brand, lying dead against the wall. He closed his eyes, tears beginning to fall. He looked toward the computer and saw Allyson typing into it.

“She was dating Nova you know.” He said. “He’s gonna blow a hole clean through you.”

“Save your petty threats.” She replied in an Eastern European accent.

“Oh, so you’re a murdering traitor and you have an accent.” Josh replied in disgust. “It’s like I don’t know you at all.”

“You never did.” Allyson confirmed. Just then Dr. Doom’s face appeared on the screen. “Lord Doom, the Director of S.W.O.R.D. is dead.” She reported.

“Very good, Allyson.” Doom complimented.

“DOOM!” Josh shouted. “You’re working for Doom! You’re kidding right! We saved you from him all those years ago!”

“You were always a fool Westbrook.” Doom replied. “A fool who has been playing into my hand since E.G.G.’s conception.” Josh was taken by surprise.

“What do you mean by that?” He asked.

“The day S.H.I.E.L.D. was attacked by HYDRA,” Doom explained. “I sent Allyson to investigate. With forged credentials, it was all too easy for her to infiltrate the Helicarrier. That was when she informed me of your idea. Experimental Government Gadgets. When Fury began rounding up volunteers to transfer to E.G.G., I ordered Allyson to do so. Your first base, Mother Egg was primed to have an experimental power source Reed Richards was working on, but I knew the fool Fury had installed the Jocasta program in all of his new projects, so I had to force E.G.G. to replace Jocasta with Richards’ power core.”

“But how?” Josh asked.

“I sent Julian Woodfin to attack your base. He succeeded in crashing it, however, I did not count on you granting the Wuthrich girl with Extremis. So I summoned the demon of the Blanco woman’s long lost friend to warn her of Jocasta being a spawn of Ultron.”

“Madness, Terry Friedman’s demon, when we first met Ghost Rider... You summoned him!”

“Indeed. However, Blanco is dense, and I grew impatient waiting for her to solve Friedman’s riddle, so I sent Woodfin to destroy the base once more.”

“When I let him join E.G.G...” Josh recalled. “And he tried to blow it while we fought the Avengers... Allyson, you were trying to stop him!”

“I did not try very hard, I threw the fight.” She replied. “Beck was more determined, however...”

“After Woodfin failed,” Doom continued. “Blanco finally figured it out, obtained the core from Richards...”

“And we played right into your hand.” Josh solemnly realized. “We replaced Jocasta with Reed Richards’ power source...”

“Yes.” Doom said. “The last step, was staging the kidnapping of Allyson. To draw you away from Mother Egg, where I sent Viper.”

“And she destroyed it once and for all.” Josh said. “But the power source, how did you get it?”

“I shifted through the wreckage and pulled it out myself.” Allyson proclaimed.

“Allyson had formed a relationship with you,” Doom said. “Gained your trust. So I had her exploit that, and remain a sleeper agent in E.G.G. for years. It paid off greatly. To my benefit, she suggested that you complete the Arc Reactor, which now draws Galactus, and your doom. You never even realized, that the greatest threat of all, was one you’ve trusted from the start. But now, you are too late. Allyson, why is he still alive?”

“He is not the Director of E.G.G. anymore, he presents no threat.” She replied.

“If you lay one finger on Eileen!” Josh shouted.

“Silence!” Allyson growled.

“Regardless, have you completed your task?” Doom inquired.

“The Peak will be no more, soon.” Allyson replied. “The path for Galactus will be paved with the blood of S.W.O.R.D.”

“Excellent. I expect you to report back to Latveria when you’ve finished.”

“It will be done, father.” Allyson said. The transmission ended, and Josh’s eyes widened.

“Father?” He asked. “Allyson, what...” Josh couldn’t even find the words. He was overwhelmed with confusion, sadness, anger, and fear. “What is going on?”

“I am the daughter of Victor von Doom.” Allyson proclaimed. “Sole heiress to the throne of Latveria. Allyson Whitcomb was never real. You now stand in the presence of Allyssa von Doom!”

To be Continued...