VO

FAR OFF IN THE DISTANT SKIES OF WORLDS UNKNOWN THERE FLIES A SHIP CALLED THE KURGAN. ABOARD, SOME OF THE TOUGHEST SONS OF GUNS FOR HIRE THIS WILD UNIVERSE WILL EVER KNOW. THEY ARE THE MISERY LOVES COMPANY.

(theme?)

VO

Ahab and Clyde are departing Golden Bear port in search of Cobb Gnarly's missing mistress on the Crow-Folk planet under siege from an infectious disease.

AHAB

Did you pay for the shuttle while we were there?

CLYDE

Nah, I forgot. I don't think anyone knows it was us.

AHAB

Saved some money then.

CLYDE

Well, I spent extra at the bar, so it balances out.

AHAB

How do you even drink anyway. Where does it go?

CLYDE

Truth be told, I have no idea.

AHAB

Can you get drunk?

CLYDE

Sometimes. My body is a wonderland, Ahab.

AHAB

One way to put it.

KURGAN

Company member Ahab, do you remember when you told me to disregard the object that struck our hull upon leaving Golden Bear port on our last visit.

AHAB

No.

KURGAN

Something struck our hull as we departed, and you told me to disregard it.

AHAB

Still don't remember.

KURGAN

Something struck our hull as--

AHAB

OKAY, Kurgan. Why do you ask?

KURGAN

I believe the object was attached to the body of the ship awaiting our return to port there. A signal was activated, which attracted lifeforms to the ship.

AHAB

And?

KURGAN

They boarded the ship via the escape vessel, and are still onboard.

AHAB

Wait, what?

KURGAN

They've stolen Bernie and several weapons, as well as your nice new vest.

CLYDE

Why would they steal Bernie. HOW could they steal Bernie. He's half the weight of the ship.

KURGAN

Unknown at this time.

AHAB

Kurgan, report, why didn't you stop them.

KURGAN

I did not realize we'd been boarded. Further, you told me to disregard the hull object, so I took that to mean disregard anything related to it.

AHAB

We need to work on your protocols. This---ugh, damn it. Where are they?

VO

At that moment, the life raft jettisoned from the Kurgan, heading into space.

KURGAN

They have departed the ship on the stolen escape vessel.

AHAB

One day, I want one day where everything isn't actively trying to ruin my life.

CLYDE

I'll follow them. Kurgan, turn ship control over to me.

AHAB

Kurgan, guns out. Man, if Cobb's mistress dies or turns feral he's gonna kill me.

CLYDE

Turns feral?

AHAB

There's a werecrow plague on the planet we're going to.

CLYDE

WERECROWS?

AHAB

Yeah. Look, I know I need to start telling you things sooner, but I always assume I'll have more than 15 seconds to talk to you in between horrible events.

CLYDE

No, Ahab. This is the coolest thing we'll have ever done. I wanna fight werecrows more than anything in the world.

AHAB

Wow, it's weird to hear you so excited.

CLYDE

WERECROWS.

KURGAN

Company member Ahab, our escape pod has landed on an asteroid ahead of us.

AHAB

Follow it down. Give me a scan.

KURGAN

Affirmative. The asteroid is uncharted. No more than 10 lifeforms are on it.

AHAB

Sounds like a plan.

CLYDE

Too bad Bernie hasn't woken up. Sure would be funny to watch.

KURGAN

Company member Clyde, I have a landing vector for you.

CLYDE

Got you. How you wanna do this, Ahab?

AHAB

Let's see if we can just pay them off first.

CLYDE

A bold approach.

AHAB

Yeah, I can't be bothered with this right now. I really don't want to have Cobb put a bounty on my head again.

CLYDE

Again?

AHAB

It's a whole thing.

CLYDE

We're clear to depart.

KURGAN

I advise wearing the armored space suit. Company member Clyde, I don't believe you'll have any difficulty on the asteroid.

CLYDE

That's what I get for not needing to breathe.

VO

After Ahab suited up, the boys left the ship. The asteroid was small and barren, except for a little domed outpost. Their life-raft had landed near the dome.

AHAB

Kurgan report, any life on our pod?

KURGAN

Negative.

AHAB

Clyde, you get small and check the inside out. I'm gonna knock on the door.

VO

Clyde vanished, slipping through the seals on the main door of the dome. Ahab spoke into a com on the outside.

AHAB

Anyone in there?

(Static)

AHAB

Can I please buy back our stupid friend? About knee height, weighs more than anyone can carry?

(Static)

AHAB

Fun. Fun for everyone. Clyde, can you get me in?

CLYDE (Over coms)

On it.

SFX: Airlock opening

AHAB

What a gentleman. So fast.

VO

Ahab walked into the dome. Prefabricated setups like this were popular with pirates. You could set the outer domes up on practically any world and set up buildings within. Cheap, fast, easy to move. The perfect combination for scum pirates and space-tourist scum alike.

AHAB

Kurgan, what's going on in here?

KURGAN

I no longer sense any forms of life. Bernie is deeper into the facility.

AHAB

What do you mean no longer sense any forms of life.

KURGAN

All ten life signs have disappeared. I detect no atmosphere inside the dome, or the facility within it.

VO

Ahab walked towards the outpost building.

AHAB

Clyde, can you get in there, tell me whats going on? This is starting to get uncomfortably weird.

CLYDE

I don't like it. I'll see what I can see.

VO

Ahab walked around the outpost as Clyde went inside. The thin shielding provided by the dome made everything beyond it look cloudy and grey. He couldn't make out the Kurgan well.

CLYDE

There's not much in here. They've dug down into the asteroid. No lights. No power as far as I can tell.

AHAB

Kurgan, our ship *did* land here, correct? That is our escape pod?

KURGAN

Affirmative. Bernie and the cargo were both removed from it.

AHAB

Where they hell did they go?

KURGAN

Unknown.

AHAB

Can you open that building's door manually Clyde?

CLYDE

I can. Give me a second.

(SFX: Metal grinding, the door opens.)

VO

It was obvious to Ahab that the original occupants of this outpost were long gone. In the midst of the building was now a large hole, burrowed by some unknown being or beings.

AHAB

It might be time to say goodbye the Bernie, Clyde. Is he down that thing?

CLYDE

We're not leaving Bernie in a hole on an asteroid.

AHAB

What is this?

(SFX: Rumbling, whispers)

CLYDE

Dunno. Kurgan, you know what's down there?

KURGAN

I do not. My recommendation is to use a drone.

AHAB

Those things are expensive man.

KURGAN

Feel free to jump in blind, company member Ahab, but I do not recommend it.

AHAB

Fine.

VO

Ahab pulled a small cycloptic drone from his tactical vest.

AHAB

Go on my child.

CLYDE

Bring us visions of the darkness.

KURGAN

You two never cease to amuse me with your melodramatic antics.

AHAB

Thanks for that ego boost.

KURGAN

You're welcome. I'm going to fly down.

CLYDE

You have a visor?

AHAB

Yeah, I'll flip it on.

VO

Ahab put an eyepiece on that linked him to the drones' sight. It flew down into the depths of the hole.

AHAB

I don't see anything.

KURGAN

I'm trying to estimate it's depth.

CLYDE

I can fly down there too.

AHAB

Let the Kurgan work, baby, don't be so impatient. You wanna lose whats left of your stupid body?

CLYDE

Fine, do it the boring way.

KURGAN

I've found Bernie's cocoon. It's in a tunnel.

(SFX: Zap, crash)

AHAB

Well'p, drones dead.

CLYDE

What killed it?

KURGAN

Unknown.

AHAB

This is stupid. Is that even a cave or is it just a big angry mouth.

CLYDE

It's a cave.

AHAB

Ugh.

CLYDE

So we go down?

AHAB

Unless...

CLYDE

We're not leaving Bernie.

AHAB

I wouldn't leave him for good. Just for... awhile.

CLYDE

Yeah yeah. I'll get the ropes.

AHAB

Damn it. FINE. Bring back my flamethrower, if they didn't steal that too.

VO

And down they go. Ahab and Clyde on a rescue mission to save Bernie... and maybe some guns too. What terror awaits them in the depths of the asteroid? Only one way to find out. Tune in next time for Episode 12: The Depths of Friendship, OR, Wade in the water.