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

Even after a few complications, the Misery Loves Company has more or less succeeded in their multi-faceted quest. The hostages and injured Warlord waited on the Kurgan, while the boys stood on a grassy hill on an out of the way planet that Magna had chosen for their rendezvous.

AHAB

I'm impressed. Sincerely. I can't believe that went so well. It's very atypical for us.

CLYDE

Not entirely well.

AHAB

Well, yeah, you were attacked by a technology based fear demon, or a regular guy with a strong magnet. Either or.

CLYDE

It wasn't a magnet.

BERNIE

Listen Clyde I've been hit by pretty strong magnets before. They do weird things to your brain parts.

CLYDE

No, stop bantering for five seconds. He was after my memories, alright? He wanted the lowdown on, well. How I am the way I am.

BERNIE

What, stupid?

CLYDE

No.

BERNIE

Dumb?

CLYDE

No

BERNIE

Hehee

CLYDE

NO. The incident. With Dom. Where my body exploded and turned into a mist of death.

AHAB

That's troubling. Why didn't he just kill you?

CLYDE

I don't know, *AHAB*, why didn't he just kill me. Maybe you should call him and see if he'll come back around and try again.

AHAB

That's not what I meant, you know what I'm saying.

BERNIE

Yes. Kill Clyde. Top priority.

CLYDE

I just feel like, you know, someone trying to understand how to make more people like me is a bad thing. For us, specifically, and the rest of all living things, generally.

AHAB

There's an unusually high number of things and people and locations trying to kill us recently. Do you think there's any correlation to that and the moon?

BERNIE

Is that back on the discussion table or--

AHAB

No. Rhetorical question.

BERNIE

I told you not to call me that

AHAB

Bernie, shutup.

VO

A small ship broke through the atmosphere of the isolated planet.

CLYDE

Kurgan, report.

KURGAN

Two lifeforms aboard. It's Triple Sevens Mercenary Army Warlord Magna and Retired Triple Sevens Mercenary Army General Bloodstorm.

AHAB

Kurgan, remind me to tell you to slow down on the detail you're pouring into names all the sudden. Bernie, please, stop messing with her defaults.

KURGAN

Actually, Company member Ahab, you instructed me to do this following the incident on the ice planet with the Ape Men.

AHAB

Forget I said anything. Just keep doing what you're doing.

KURGAN

I am currently scanning Triple Sevens Mercenary Army Warlord Magna's ship, should I continue scanning Triple Sevens Mercenary Army Warlord Magna's ship?

AHAB

Just, from now on that's Magna and General Bloodstorm.

KURGAN

Understood, Company member Ahab.

CLYDE

Sometimes talking to you guys is exhausting.

BERNIE

You're telling me. Whos ship is that?

AHAB

Bernie.

BERNIE

Yeah boss.

AHAB

Quiet.

BERNIE

Doggone man, one simple question.

VO

Magna's ship landed nearby. General Bloodstorm walked slowly out of the ship, stretching his back.

BLOODSTORM

I'll tell you one thing you raging ulcers might not be aware of, I hate being on spaceships.

AHAB

General Bloodstorm, I didn't know you were coming. We're not exactly dressed for royalty.

BLOODSTORM

You wouldn't look decent in a set of bespoke suits covered in gold. Don't pretend you give a shit. I'm here because I don't have anything better to do and everyone else sucks worse than you do.

MAGNA

Hello boys... Surprise.

BLOODSTORM

Garbage ass trash planet, this place is worse than your pathetic excuse for a homeworld Bernie.

BERNIE

Thank you sir. Please keep talking to me.

BLOODSTORM

No.

BERNIE

I love you dad.

MAGNA

I'm glad for a chance to talk openly. Ahab, what have you found out?

AHAB

Well, for one thing, the sevens are deeply compromised. I can't say by who,

CLYDE

Whom

AHAB

WHOM. But they are. They weren't aware of us hitting them, so anyone who might have heard or been told-- they're clean. By the way, still don't know a lot of details about who's leading that outfit you sent us against, or even what they're called.

CLYDE

Hexil.

AHAB

Also, Clyde got clobbered by a magnet named Hexil.

CLYDE

It wasn't a magnet.

BERNIE

Listen Clyde I've been hit by pretty strong magnets before. They do weird things to your brain parts.

CLYDE

You already said that.

BERNIE

No I didn't.

MAGNA

What about the techs, the warlord.

AHAB

All safe and sound. They're on our ship. They're all messed up. A bunch of techs got killed before we got there, also by Hexil by the way they tell it.

MAGNA

Have you ever heard of Hexil?

BLOODSTORM

I couldn't be asked to give a shit.

MAGNA

Ahab, we're almost as in the dark as you are. The data you retrieved and the information we'll be able to get from our people is the best hope we have. Until then the triple sevens are going to be doing our own internal investigation. We'll find the traitors... I do have... well... This is something else I'm going to need from you.

BLOODSTORM

I told you not to do this. I told her not to do this.

MAGNA

I need to know.

BLOODSTORM

It's a bunch of horsefeathers and applesauce Ahab, I'm just telling you straight up.

AHAB

What do you need?

MAGNA

One thing we kept running into over and over. A name. All the chatter we were picking up from whoever this group is.

CLYDE

I'm going back to the ship. I'll... get the people we saved ready to leave.

BERNIE

I'll help.

AHAB

Tell me the name.

MAGNA

I'm sorry Ahab but--

AHAB

I told you to tell me the name.

MAGNA

Dom.

AHAB

Nope. No. I'm not talking about it.

BLOODSTORM

I told you Magna--

MAGNA

Both of you listen to me. You never told anyone what happened, Ahab. All we have is his old personnel file. We couldn't even get anything about him from the info brokers, not even Cobb Gnarly knows anything about him.

AHAB

He was my friend. He's dead. Whatever they're doing it doesn't involve him.

MAGNA

Ahab, please.

AHAB

And you--

BLOODSTORM

I told her not to bring it up. What do you want me to do, cry for you?

AHAB

Look, it was a very personal thing.

MAGNA

We need to know. Any clues that can help us decipher what this militant group is doing. It's for the safety of the whole galaxy.

(A long beat, Ahab sighs)

AHAB

Dom was the best friend I ever had. He was an AI platform that built himself. I don't know if the details are even true. He told me his original purpose was to open doors. His name stood for Dependable Operations Manager. I don't know how he came to, whatever, be a person. I don't know any of that and I never cared. I'm sure some of this is in his file.

MAGNA

What we don't know, Ahab, is how he died. What happened between the four of you.

VO

Ahab took a deep breath. He hated thinking about this.

AHAB

And this will help you.

MAGNA

Yes, Ahab.

AHAB

Fine. He went missing. We were trying to find him. Right before this, he may or may not have fired a weapon with the intention of killing me. That's what happened to Clyde, why he's... the way he is. He was corrupted, something happened to him. Someone got in his head. I don't know what or how. The Kurgan, which he had just finished building all on his own picked him up.

(Flashback)

KURGAN

I have detected Creator Dom. His personal ship has crashed.

AHAB

So we went looking. We landed on the planet, and that's when it all started going wrong.

KURGAN

Creator DOM is not in the wreckage of this ship, I am searching the planet.

CLYDE

We can follow the debris. He's heavy, he'll leave a trail.

AHAB

Stay close. He had to have been attacked by something powerful, he's too good to get brought down by just anything.

BERNIE

I'm with you.

AHAB

Guns at the ready.

BERNIE

I'm *definitely* with you.

AHAB (In the present)

We hadn't been there twenty minutes when these dropships flew up. They started firing on us, Clyde and Bernie ran off one way, me another. They started dropping off these drones, heavy, massive things. Each ship probably dropped ten or twenty. We were instantly surrounded.

CLYDE

(Yelling) Ahab, keep going!

BERNIE

We'll take care of these cockmonglers. Just you watch. (Gun revving up) C'MON AND TAKE A PIECE.

(SFX: Guns)

AHAB (Present)

One of the dropships was about to fly past me. I grappled onto it and flew off with it. Bernie and Clyde took down as many of the drones as they could.

(SFX: Guns.)

BERNIE

Clyde, get that one!

CLYDE

With pleasure.

(SFX: Single shots, bullets, exploding androids)

AHAB (Present)

The dropship flew me to what I assumed was the main base of whoever was controlling them. It was a gigantic building. Big dome in the middle surrounded by walls. Those drones were pouring out of the base, but I jumped off the dropship, aimed for a crowd of those drones, and hoped for the best. Bernie and Clyde-- well, it wasn't long before even the both of them, almost invulnerable as they are, were overwhelmed by those robot drones. They were fighting with everything they had. One last dropship flew up to them, bigger than the rest, and unloaded this massive tank. It was designed like a bull. Had legs instead of treads these huge tusks came out of its head, guns for days.

BERNIE

You gotta get to Ahab or he's dead Clyde. If it's like this where he is he'll never make it out without you.

CLYDE

I understand.

BERNIE

I'll do whatever I can to keep these guys here.

CLYDE

Kill 'em all, Bernie.

AHAB (Present)

Clyde took to the wind and flew away from all that. Bernie took the beating of his life. He fought the drones, the tank, did everything he could. Eventually he was out of guns, ammo, and ideas. The tank was unharmed. He got pinned down eventually, the tanks feet holding him in place. It aimed one of its cannons right at Bernies' head. Point blank.

BERNIE

I ain't dead yet. You think...you think you can kill me?

(SFX: Charging)

BERNIE

I ain't gonna die today, I ain't gonna die to this, you don't have what it takes! My name is Bernie, I work for the Misery Loves Company, and WE. DON'T. D---

(SFX: Massive laser blast)

AHAB (Present)

Clyde had made it to the base by then. He could hear the blast from there. He was sure Bernie had just given his life to give us time. I had already driven a train of death through that place. One of the best fights of my life. Inside the facility there was this... thing. I don't know what to call it. Maybe it was a weapon. Maybe it wasn't. There was a sphere, maybe 7 stories tall, floating in the room of its own power. Clyde heard me fighting. He went my direction. I was there, fighting DOM. Maybe Clyde didn't understand at first. I had him pinned, I called out to Clyde.

AHAB

Blast him, Clyde!

AHAB (Present)

But before he could figure out to shoot him, DOM took my arm off. Not with a sword, with his bare hands. He threw it across the room. Clyde fired at him, hitting him once or twice, but he ran off.

CLYDE

What the hell is going on here Ahab?

AHAB

Somethings wrong with him Clyde, someone's gotten into his head.

CLYDE

Can we help him?

AHAB

I don't know dude. This whole place is a time-bomb, we have to get out of here. Is Bernie dead?

CLYDE

I don't know. Walk with me, are you okay?

AHAB

Losing a lot of blood. I can still walk.

CLYDE

Bernie stayed behind. There wasn't anything I could do.

AHAB (Present)

As we made our way back to the center room of the base with the sphere, the ceiling opened up and I don't know. Maybe a hundred or more of those drones poured out. They surrounded us. We were dead, and we knew it.

CLYDE

I'm out of cigarettes Ahab.

AHAB

And we're out of luck.

(SFX: Massive explosion, debris)

BERNIE

RIDE THE LIGHTNING YA BASTARDS

AHAB (present)

Bernie burst in there riding that tank. I don't say this lightly, Bernie is an absolute idiot and he's cost me maybe ten years off my lifespan, but in that moment, when he showed up riding that thing with half his damn head blown off, maybe a quarter of his body turned into charcoal, I want you to understand that in that moment he was beautiful. The tank was firing at random, blowing up the drones, killing everything.

CLYDE

Get down!

BERNIE

NEVER DIE!

AHAB (Present)

It bucked him off, and ran through the wall, leaving almost everything but us in that room dead. Bernie went through the sphere. It burst open and started crackling with power.

CLYDE

Bernie!

BERNIE

I... I ain't dead yet boys. Not today.

CLYDE

Dom took Ahabs arm. He's all messed up, Bernie.

BERNIE

Where is he?

DOM

Right here.

BERNIE

Who did this, Dom?

DOM

I did.

AHAB

Someone got in his head, he's not right.

DOM

I was given something, my brother. A chance to obtain that which I've dreamt of. The power I awoke to grasp. I assure you, there was no manipulation, no error. As all who truly live do, I've made a choice. I've tried to leave you, I've tried to kill you, today I make one more decision. You are no longer fit to stand beside me. No longer fit to be on the right side of history. You will never leave this planet. You will not survive.

AHAB (Present)

Clyde looked to Ahab, and to the wildly destablized sphere in the center of the room.

CLYDE

Bernie. I'm going to take the shot.

BERNIE

I got you.

DOM

Please, Clyde. You're the best among us. But even you can't destroy me with a single bullet.

CLYDE

I don't need to destroy you. I just need to destroy that.

DOM

You... No!

AHAB (Present)

Bernie stood up and charged into Dom. For once Dom was surprised by something. I think his advantage in the moment blinded him. As soon as Bernie had him pinned, Clyde fired a round into the sphere. That was enough to do it. Clyde picked me up and flew me outside. We were still close enough to feel the heat when the building went up. Bernie crawled out of there, three quarters dead. He's got ways of dealing with that. But as for me, the scars stay right where Dom put them before we drowned him in fire. So there. Now you know what happened. He took Bernie's eye, Clydes body, my arm, and my best friend. My brother. There wasn't enough left of him to turn into a paperclip. There's no possible way he could have survived.

MAGNA

But that's what I'm trying to tell you Ahab. From what we've been hearing, it sounds like he did.

VO

IS Dom dead? Is it possible he's been resurrected? If so, who could possibly behind it, and why would they do it? Find out next time on the highly charged next episode of the misery loves company in episode 10, \_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_