

[static]

TACITUS

Hello my brothers and sisters. Well well. what have we here today? I cannot say. But I know it should not be here. I should not be looking at this phone. For it did not perish in the wastes but it found a place amongst the clouds. And now it's in my hands. My brothers, my sisters, I don't understand. This recording I hold of one of our caged sisters...listen to her. do not skip a beat. For it shows a much darker side and I'll tell you now if you had reason to reside in your dwellings and not come out on the barricade with me, then all you need to do is listen to what might happen to you.

[static. a dial tunes in]

Pilar

My name is Pilar and my best guess is it's been a little over 2 weeks since they arrived, and I have been aboard this ship for...i don't know. a few days maybe? There's no windows. The light doesn't change, it's just dim. always dim. I've slept two or three times. four times. I was in Baton Rouge. I was at home, cause there was no where to go. the roads were jammed, everyone just left their cars on the highway and starting walking. I think. I remember When those vacuum tube things started sucking people up though I ran down the block to the Rajun Cajun. I'm a regular so B.F. let me in, they have one of those underground storage kitchen whatever. We holed up, I thought we could wait for them to leave and run. But they found us right away. Like they could see through walls. They're big, and strong. Black and hard, like glass. Four arms and tall, tall heads. No face, no neck. I don't know how they talk to us. They didn't talk to us then, I meant later when I got here. When they found us they just tossed us into those damn tubes. I could hear everyone screaming. I could hear everyone in the tube screaming. I could barely breathe, it was like being swallowed. Up though. I guess all the way up into the ship, I felt like i was being pushed up forever. I could hear B.F. right beneath me. I think it was B.F. Everyone kind of sounds the same when they're screaming for their life.

[heavy frustrated sigh. a clunk as she drops her phone to the floor. we hear her talk to herself from a distance]

Pilar

stupid! stupid! why are you doing this? why don't you focus?

[she cries softly. there's a cut and we resume]

Pilar

Sorry about that. It's been tough adjusting. I'm gonna just record my thoughts and try

to...keep a record i guess. Just in case. [desperate sigh] What was i talking about? The bright room? Right! they were talking to us in the bright room. It's weird, this room is just a little too dim, and that room was a little too bright. I wonder if they don't quite know how light works for us since they don't have eyes and are made outta stone or something.

No, sorry. I was in the tube. Being swallowed up. I wonder how Ava did with that. My friend Ava is really touchy about tight spaces. She probably freaked out. Sorry! I'm here. So the tube eventually stops swallowing me, and i'm in this dark place. that was scarier than the tube. there's a little light, but it's dark and full of screaming people. pounding on the walls, that loud ass buzzing noise. It smelled like someone went to the bathroom in their pants. I didn't. Someone did though. Then something happened. We all got kind of herded into the bright room. not all of us, we were separated somehow. did the walls move? I don't remember. I was kind of just pushed along with the crowd. God, there it was. It looked even blacker in the bright room. Like light didn't touch it. it didn't move very much either. Rock people or something. Tall. it just stood there. it did this thing with its arms. i think it was trying to tell us something but i don't know what. everyone panicked and screamed so it stopped moving them and stepped away from us. we're all crowded together, like 15 of us or something. No B.F. No nobody i know. i don't know where my mom is. i don't know where Carol is. I don't know where Rooster is! If they even took the cats. probably not. Rooster's an outdoor cat, so he's probably okay. the fat turd. She's not "fat fat" but she's lazy so she has this like...belly bag that swings around when she runs.

[she takes a moment to cry a little. then she recovers]

Pilar

so now this thing starts talking to us. God. i'm getting goosebumps just thinking about it. I don't like thinking about it. I don't like knowing they're out there, on the other side of these walls, maybe right outside. Sometimes I swear i can hear them roaming around.

[scared now, but determined] so they have that voice right. it's like high and gillytery i guess i'd call it. but whatever language they speak, it's not english. i don't know how they learned our language, but the way it spoke....it sounded so far away. like someone who took too many pain pills was trying to talk to you over a staticy walkie talkie. Like a howl in a drainpipe. what exactly did it say..."you have all been taken. it is safe. go over. " i remember that. it kept saying 'go over'. what could that mean?? I hated it's gibberish. "go over. you are not alone. here. you are here. in total. you are removed" something like that.

i think it was trying to tell us the whole planet was being kidnapped. then it was something like: "you are removed. your return will be foreign. you are go over. go over. this is safe. this is the best way. Do not remain. The ingathering then the Exuent." I think! i'm pretty sure it said exuent, but I was like "how does this thing know the word 'exuent' but keeps saying "go over" like it means a damn thing. This is the worst part though. before we all got separated and put in our rooms it said "you will not retain yourselves.

You have chosen this. Go over. This is safe. You will not retain yourselves, but you will be familiar." What the hell. what the hell. what does that mean?? and why can't i remember getting from there to here? I don't know how I got here! [now freaking out. a little bit of shock setting in] HEY HOW DID I GET IN HERE?? WHERE ARE WE GOING? IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US JUST KILL ME! WHY ARE YOU KEEPING ME ALIVE? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?? [the phone's been dropped and she slapping the wall with her hands] YOU WANT MY BLOOD? YOU WANT MY BLOOD? YOU WANT TO FRY ME UP AND EAT ME YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A DAMN MOUT-

[cut. click. we resume. pilar now sounds hoarse and flat.]

Pilar

sorry again. i keep losing it i think. gonna make this my last...whatever. my phone's almost dead anyway. I've been thinking really hard for the past day or couple hours or whatever it's been. I really can't remember how they got me in this room. i don't have no memory. it's not like...blank. it's like trying to remember the night after you get blackout drunk. i sort of remember it touching me. i don't know. then i was just in here. the rooms like a big circle. or tear drop i guess. no corners. kinda big. like a master bedroom size. but master bedroom of a shitty apartment. bed in the middle that won't move. really soft though. no blankets or pillow, but you can mold the bed. like clay. i made a pillow and a little shelf to put my head under. they don't turn the lights off. ever. Um. i think they...they're doing something to me. to us maybe. they're changing me i think. it's getting harder to focus, which is maybe just no sleep or whatever. I'm naked though. I don't remember getting naked. I remember I had my clothes when I first got here, i think. But i don't remember where they went. They're not in the room. Nothing is in the room. No toilet. No food. no water. I think i should be dead. or thirsty at least. but i'm not even bored. I don't really know what I do all day. I'm having a harder and harder time remembering one moment to the next. things keep slipping away, I'm still aware enough to be scared, but i can tell whatever they're doing to me, i won't be scared soon. For example, I'm naked. I don't remember getting naked. I may have been naked the whole time, maybe the tube sucked my clothes off, but I'm naked and alone on a space ship and not really worried about it. They're taking us somewhere, peaceful. I'm trying to remember what home was like, try to remember...what they told us. they told us something when we go here. about what the deal is. but it keeps slipping away. like when you drink too much and keep repeating the beginning of the same story. I'll try to remember and record it later. I keep going over it in my mind. again and again, but i keep forgetting. I'll go over it again though. until I forget or change completley. whatever they're doing. I'll go over.

TACITUS

Ok...ok....you know what makes my blood boil? It's not..it's not that we lost her. It's not just a single life, a cry in the night. It is the SILENCE. Where have you been? I'm gonna get tough with you my brothers and sisters, I'm not crazy but I have been spitting sound at you for far too long. It's like everyones going "come on, get out!" How many shouts in the night echoes from a fight that once was do you have to hear before you're inspired to action? Well I tell you what. I'm my own faction. So here you go, I guess I'm just letting you know right now because I sure could use a shout out or a hand on my back for your pal Tack who's been out there all day, every day for you. And you and you and you. You're screwed. Unless you come out. And I'll tell you where and I'll tell you when right now. So jot it down with a pen or scrawl it in your skin: 37 degrees 12 min 39 seconds north. 86 degrees 3 minutes 16 seconds west. That's where you'll find ME. And all the rest. Better come well dressed and let me impress upon you the nature of this: Is that if there's something that you missed, they are coming BACK. And I'm planning my own attack. Because I'm not going down without a fight. So join me where it all began, where the first saucer landed on the planet. How do I know? I've been scouring this bloody world for months. weeks, months, I lost count. This is it now. Come one my brothers and sisters, don't let me down.

[static]