

SCENE 1

SFX: Lab ambience.

VIC:

So who is it? Who's the spy?

SFX: Vic bangs the table.

VIC:

Answer me!

SFX: Indra laughs.

INDRA:

Wow. You really think you're gonna get an answer? Just by yelling, banging stuff...losing your temper? Hah. And seriously, you can't suspect *me*.

VIC:

All that I have is what's in front of me right now. And the evidence says one of you is the spy.

CAINE:

Wait. One of *us*?

SU-JIN:

I don't think any of us are betraying each other... right?

INDRA:

I'm getting out of here.

SFX: The door closes.

INDRA:

What the hell, Vass? Open the door!

VIC:

Why do you want to leave so badly? If you're not the spy, you shouldn't be so mad, right?

INDRA:

Says the guy who's losing his head.

VIC:

Why don't you shut up?

LOLA:

Indra, you're *not* leaving.

INDRA:

Oh, *now* you're putting restrictions on me. Okay.

SU-JIN:

Hey, everyone, quit it! I'm shutting off our communications. No more information can leak out right now.

LOLA:

Su-jin's right. I want us to find out who it is. We need to take all precautions, so *no one* is leaving until we find our spy.

INDRA:

Then Caine had better cut Jet off from screen jumping too, right?

CAINE:

Well, only if you're okay with it, Jet.

JET:

It is okay, Caine! In the interest of fairness, I can disable the function until all is solved.

CAINE:

...If you say so, buddy.

SFX: Beep.

JET:

Pardon me...I don't quite understand the situation. Who is the data going to?

VIC:

Obviously to someone from Glasshouse.

JET:

With 100% certainty?

VIC:

Well—okay, no. The haustoria tracks data from its source, not who it's going to. That's a security measure we implemented for ourselves. It's working against me now, but who else could it be?

SU-JIN:

I could just hop on the programming to the haustoria and check it out. Uh...only problem is I'd have to be there physically to take a look at the specific data.

INDRA:

This is a waste of my time.

VIC:

I don't see why you're so eager to leave the conversation.

INDRA:

Stop implying things and say it already. You think it's me.

VIC:

I just think you're trying to get out of talking to us about what's *really* going on. I mean, why *did* you decide to join us? Why go on a mission with everyone? After being so wishy-washy about the whole "Zero Zero thing" you suddenly figure you want to follow Lola?

INDRA:

Ugh, whatever.

VIC:

And I mean follow literally—she's the only person you talk to and you treat me, Su-jin, and Caine like garbage! I think you're up to something, hanging around Lola all the time—especially since you knew her name before she even told you. You hate Domers so much, but you know the most about Glasshouse out of any of us!

INDRA:

Oh, come on.

VIC:

Who's to say you're not a Glasshouse spy yourself?

INDRA:

Well, pardon me for spending my time in servitude to Alphas and Betas to survive! You don't spend time around filth without learning something about it, okay? And I *beg your pardon* for taking time to warm up to people who I don't know or who were directly responsible for me getting hurt! I do believe in this group. Maybe not as fanatically as you do though. Because, maybe you didn't notice, but you follow Lola everywhere too! What are you, her lapdog?

VIC:

Lola saved my life—

INDRA:

Yeah, idiot, she saved mine too! You're not special or have some secret bond with her—

VIC:

Well, I don't think you have her best interests in mind—

INDRA:

Oh, and you do? Maybe you're the spy. Perhaps you're accusing one of us to push blame off yourself, you big fat hypocrite!

VIC:

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, ease back—hypocrite? You're the one who nearly decapitated someone simply trying to help you.

We took you in with your new attitude and it's never been convincing! I can't even water the plants in peace without feeling like I'm gonna get strangled by you!

LOLA:

Flinging accusations at each other is not going to help any of us!

CAINE:

Well, I think it kind of makes sense. Why would someone send information about us to Glasshouse? I feel like motive is pretty important here.

VIC:

Well, that takes the suspicion off me.

INDRA:

I don't have ties with *anyone*, so by that logic, that's the same with me.

VIC:

Come on.

INDRA:

Well, if I did have any ties, you wouldn't be good enough to figure it out anyways.

VIC:

Why do I spend time around people who want to start fights?!

SU-JIN:

Look, we don't need to talk about our relationships with anyone. I doubt that's why this is happening.

CAINE:

Hey, we're all part of the same rebel group, okay, so-

VIC:

Well, we know you deliver stuff to Glasshouse, so there's that.

CAINE:

You know what, maybe people want to start fights because you're always accusing them of something!

VIC:

I'm just saying—

CAINE:

Ugh. Yes, yeah, I have a job where I visit Glasshouse, but it's not like I'm on their good side, Vic. The only guy they like is Dax, and in case you forgot, he hates me!

VIC:

What about you, Su-jin? You may not act like it, but you're a Delta! You're one of the only people here who isn't an Epsilon!

SU-JIN:

I...

VIC:

Well? Say something!

INDRA:

You're not even asking the person who has the clearest ties to Glasshouse.

LOLA:

I don't think I need to clarify.

INDRA:

Maybe you don't live there anymore, but that doesn't mean you completely disappeared. You'd better spill.

LOLA:

...No.

I cut connections with people if they're in Glasshouse.
Like I would have done with our informants tonight—although
that didn't go as well as I'd hoped.

VIC:

What do you mean? What are you talking about?

LOLA:

They... saw my face.

VIC:

Oh god. Lola...

See, all the more proof that one of you is the spy!

LOLA:

It was an accident, Vic.

VIC:

Maybe you think it was, but it's not! Who was with Lola?

SU-JIN:

We all were.

VIC:

When they saw her face! Who was with her?

CAINE:

...It was me.

VIC:

You were *supposed* to have her back.

LOLA:

They did the best they could.

VIC:

No, because if you tried harder, this wouldn't have
happened.

LOLA:

Vic, *enough*.

VIC:

Fine. Fine!

INDRA:

There you go again. Lola's *loyal* servant.

SU-JIN:

Hey, loyalty's not a bad thing.

INDRA:

It is when it makes you a doormat.

SU-JIN:

You're not wrong. But Vic's just upset, okay? Lay off of him.

CAINE:

Well, that doesn't mean he can start blaming us either. How do we know it's not you, Vic?

SU-JIN:

Well, we can make one elimination. It can't be Indra.

INDRA:

Yeah, that's what I've been saying.

VIC:

What? How do you not see that he's one of the most suspicious people here?!

SU-JIN:

Listen, I'm not working on suspicion—I'm working on evidence. Indra wasn't with the haustoria. They couldn't have brought something to activate it—or touch it, I guess they've got so much machinery it could possibly activate it.

LOLA:

Is there another way of triggering it?

SU-JIN:

Indra was... well, pretty close to dying, he wasn't particularly interested in heading back over to it and touching it.

INDRA:

There you have it.

CAINE:

But that makes the rest of us look suspicious. At least all of us who could physically touch it anyway.

INDRA:

Don't tell me—you're making excuses for your bot?

CAINE:

Well, he can't even touch it, right? He can only screen jump—and even that's pretty new!

SU-JIN:

Okay, the haustoria can get activated physically, but it also has a bunch of software stuff I don't quite understand. You'd have to ask Vic about that.

VIC:

It's possible to activate it remotely if you have the software. And Jet's been here all the time I've been working on it.

JET:

I didn't do anything!

VIC:

I programmed his screen jump stuff around the same time I was working on the haustoria. So who knows?

INDRA:

He *is* from Glasshouse.

CAINE:

You're seriously suspecting *Jet*?

JET:

I wouldn't give Zero Zero's information up to anyone.

INDRA:

He could be lying.

SU-JIN:

He's a bot, he can't *really* lie.

INDRA:

Unless it's programmed into him.

CAINE:

This is ridiculous. I wouldn't write a code like that.

INDRA:

Well, maybe *you* didn't, but it could just be in him. Some code you didn't know was there. He's still from Glasshouse, even if you did put a personality core into him.

CAINE:

Hey, Indra, why don't you just back off, okay?!

JET:

Caine, it's okay! But I should explain. I am an outdated model and much of my personality core already suppresses the original coding. I am a reject, so I am no longer connected to the system anyways.

SU-JIN:

I don't know about you all, but I'm gonna just take his word for it. We could get into his hardware or software, but I don't like to do that sort of thing to friends.

JET:

Thank you, USER: Su-jin.

CAINE:

Yeah, thank you.

LOLA:

He's not immune to suspicion, though. I think it would be in our best interest to at least take a look through his last communications since we worked on the haustoria.

SU-JIN:

Lola, that's a huge backlog of data. Come on.

LOLA:

You said it yourself, Su-jin. This is an emergency.

SU-JIN:

Jet?

CAINE:

That's not fair.

JET:

If it's necessary, I will.

SU-JIN:

I'm sorry.

JET:

Should I initiate developer mode?

SU-JIN:

I... I'm gonna need the physical chip to run it through one of our systems. I'm going to have to take you completely apart for this. Your log is really advanced but POTEN Co. tech doesn't let you actually look that far back in dev mode.

CAINE:

That's not *fair!*

JET:

Oh. Oh no. W-Will it... will I...

SU-JIN:

I promise we'll put you back together the same way.

CAINE:

No, screw that! He didn't do anything! Su-jin, come on, you know he didn't!

JET:

Just... please make sure I'm still me when I wake up. All my important memories need to stay in there.

VIC:

As long as you're not the spy, you'll be just fine.

JET:

O-okay. Caine-

SFX: Vic turns Jet off abruptly.

SU-JIN:

Vic! What gives?!

SFX: Caine shoves Vic.

CAINE:

What the hell's wrong with you, Vic? He's scared!

VIC:

Stop getting fooled by him! He's pretending!

SU-JIN:

Whether he's lying or not doesn't mean we can just alter him.

Look, I'm gonna take his chip out and you're gonna run it.
But under no circumstances are you deleting or flagging
stuff. Even if he is the spy.

VIC:

You're... you're right. I'm sorry. I just... need a minute.

SFX: Vic walks off.

SCENE 2

CAINE:

It was pretty quiet after that. Su-jin shot me an apologetic look before taking Jet to the workbench. Thinking of him so scared, of Vic's cold gaze being the last thing he saw before...

I guess we were all scared. The tension in the room alive and tangible, a vice grip around throats. But beyond that feeling, I had a hunch. As much as Vic was being a jerk, he was right to be suspicious—I could feel the secrets churning below the surface and I had to figure out who it was. I didn't want Jet to suffer in vain.

SFX: Footsteps.

CAINE:

Hey, Lola?

LOLA:

Yes?

CAINE:

You don't...seriously think that Jet did it, do you?

LOLA:

It remains to be seen.

CAINE:

Well, then, at least... you don't think that *I* was trying to sabotage you?

LOLA:

In the Panel district? No. That was my own foolishness. Saving people... heh. I guess I should leave that kind of thing to people who are good at it. I've berated Vic for that kind of thing in the past, but I think it's because I've never been suited for "that kind of thing."

CAINE:

Well, Vic and Indra would say otherwise. They say that you saved their lives.

LOLA:

Medically speaking, I have. But it's not quite the same.

CAINE:

Well, what happened when we were in the datacombs? Between you and Vic. I mean, ever since we got back, you two have been a little bit weird with each other.

LOLA:

Vic's relationship with trust is interesting. You should know that, what with how your first mission went.

CAINE:

Yeah, no kidding. Maybe that's why he flipped out earlier. I don't think he can trust any of us right now. Maybe some of us are hiding things.

LOLA:

Yes. Perhaps.

SU-JIN:

Hey, Caine, mind if we, um, talk for a second?

CAINE:

Uh...sure we can—whoa, my arm! Su-jin, hey, what's the rush?

SU-JIN:

We need to talk privately.

SU-JIN:

Look, I am so sorry about what happened—that was really weird and I'm honestly a little pissed at Vic. I've never seen him get that riled up—and I've never seen Lola like this either. Something's not adding up.

CAINE:

You don't think it was a coincidence that Lola's face got shown today.

SU-JIN:

I... wouldn't say that just yet.

Look, let me just show you. Indra?

INDRA:

Come on, you're not done with this thing?

SU-JIN:

I'm gonna show Caine.

INDRA:

Fine. Here.

SFX: Indra exposes xir cardioplate.

SU-JIN:

I saw this when we were first working on replacing Indra's comms. Look how the cuts here look.

CAINE:

They're clean.

SU-JIN:

Right? They're surgical cuts, not jagged like the plasma knife you had. Lola said she didn't see xir comms when they came back, so it's possible that they were cut beforehand.

INDRA:

Something's not adding up though—I talked to someone before we fought. My comms should have been functioning. Unless that hacker did something...then it was Lola.

SU-JIN:

I just feel like we should talk to her again. You know, set everything straight.

INDRA:

You're so trusting.

SU-JIN:

It's the least I can do. I'm gonna give this chip to Vic and talk to Lola. You can join me if you want to.

SFX: Su-jin walks off.

INDRA:

No one believes me.

CAINE:

You mean about... Lola.

INDRA:

She did something good for me. Doesn't mean she couldn't have done something bad too. People are complicated.

CAINE:

I get that.

INDRA:

Do you?

CAINE:

Well, the way I see it, Indra, we're both on the chopping block this time. 'Cuz we're both outsiders.

INDRA:

Yeah. Some rebellion. They don't like people like us.

CAINE:

I think they just forgot what it's like to not have anywhere to belong to. I mean, everyone here has a place, whether it's with each other or with their families.

I want to belong here. I really do.

INDRA:

You *do* belong here though. They like you.

CAINE:

(SCOFFS)

INDRA:

Come on. I know I'm abrasive. I don't spend a lot of time around people and honestly, I'd rather not. But at least they trust you.

CAINE:

I thought you didn't like trust.

INDRA:

I don't. Not when people don't deserve it at least.

VIC:

Hey, guys, I need us to reconvene.

SFX: Footsteps.

LOLA:

What is it?

SU-JIN:

The data's not adding up. Vic and I were talking about it. It's not getting sent to Glasshouse. It's getting sent out to the Tollbooth—which kind of puts a hole in our theory about the haustoria.

VIC:

I wouldn't have recognized it if we weren't going through Jet's data logs—it's the same area address as when Jet calls Caine. Tollbooth is about as narrowed down as we can get it.

INDRA:

What'd I tell ya? Suspecting us again.

CAINE:

That doesn't make any sense. Why would someone send it to the worst part of the Metropolis?

LOLA:

I don't know. But it does make all of us—me included—suspect.

INDRA:

No, you know who it makes look suspicious? Me, Caine, and Jet. *Again.*

SU-JIN:

That's not true—

INDRA:

Yes, it is! I get that you all suspect us because we're not from the "original" Zero Zero, but like it or not, we're a part of this too.

VIC:

Here we go again. Then prove why we should believe you.

INDRA:

I hate the woman who stuck me in the Tollbooth. I haven't talked about her much because she's a scumbag who doesn't deserve to be talked about. She was the one who told me about Lola. Her name is Haven. I've always been in bad health—being on the streets all your life does that. Three years ago, my lung finally gave out.

LOLA:

But your cardioplate?

INDRA:

Yeah. Turns out, price of getting a lung surgery was my heart and a contract with Haven to find other people who needed help. Turns out "find" meant either rough them up or convince dying people that working for her was preferable. Honestly, it wasn't. I was so desperate to escape her I was willing to plug into the datacombs to get rid of what she had over me. So tell me why, in any universe, I would be interested in giving her intel?

That's right. You can't. So stop suspecting me.

LOLA:

Caine?

CAINE:

Really? You already know I ran away from Dax to be here.

LOLA:

There's the off chance that you've been running intel to him all this time.

VIC:

Yeah... yeah. Running around fetching stuff from him? This whole place could be bugged!

CAINE:

Wouldn't it be on you and Su-jin to check it? You are the tech experts after all. Besides, if I really was the spy, then I would have brought some sort of communication device with me, right? But I haven't got any comms—I have nothing. So you can search me all you'd like, but I'd be a pretty bad spy with no tech.

LOLA:

I don't have any connections in the Tollbooth beyond those for Zero Zero. My loyalties have always been to this group and nothing else.

INDRA:

Well, what about Haven?

LOLA:

What do you mean?

INDRA:

Come on, Lola, quit hiding it. Su-jin's the one that pointed it out to me.

SU-JIN:

Indra, hang on.

INDRA:

No, let's drag it out into the light. Spill—what *actually* happened to my comms? No games. No questions. Just the truth.

VIC:

Get your hands off her!

INDRA:

Not until she tells me.

Well?

LOLA:

I'm sorry. I should have said it right when you woke up. Haven didn't know me just because she's in the medical field. I was Haven's mentor.

INDRA:

What?

LOLA:

Before I left Glasshouse, she and I went through the same educational program. I was younger than her, but I was chosen to be her mentor. We were... friends.

She knew I was defecting, and she promised to take care of my parents. I just... I needed to know what happened to her. What made her that way. I—

SFX: Indra slaps Lola.

INDRA:

You're selfish.

LOLA:

I didn't think—

INDRA:

Yeah, you didn't.

SFX: Indra walks off.

INDRA:

Thanks for the truth, at least.

VIC:

Lola, are you okay?

LOLA:

I deserved that.

VIC:

No, you didn't, xe-

LOLA:

Vic. I need some time alone. So does Indra. Just finish working on Jet with Su-jin, will you?

VIC:

If that's what you want.

LOLA:

I think it's what we need.

SCENE 3

SFX: Su-jin rescrews Jet's panel back in place.

SU-JIN:

Alright, let's plug Jet back in and let him charge.

VIC:

Yeah.

SU-JIN:

Vic?

VIC:

Huh?

SU-JIN:

You don't look too good.

VIC:

Pfft. Yeah, you think?

SU-JIN:

This whole thing's kind of got you on edge more than I expected it would. You kind of blew up more than a couple times today alone.

VIC:

I thought Zero Zero would finally be it, Su-jin. My home. My family. I guess it was stupid to think I'd have anything like what I used to, but... it's been so good before all this. I don't know. Everything's changed so much in the last few months.

SU-JIN:

Yeah. I know. It's not their fault though.

VIC:

Then whose is it?

SU-JIN:

...You're not on edge because you're doing anything, right?

VIC:

Pfft. Nope. Nice try.

SU-JIN:

I didn't think it'd be *fair* to leave off my options.

VIC:

...Was that supposed to mean something?

O-Okay, maybe I haven't been entirely fair. Okay, whatever. I'm gonna go look after Jet. Maybe you'd better let Caine know about it.

SU-JIN:

Sure thing.

SFX: Footsteps.

CAINE:

Hey! Uh, so how's Jet? Is he okay?

SU-JIN:

We're pretty much done. I did the best I could, but we'll just have to wait until he's awake.

CAINE:

I don't know about you guys, but I seriously can't figure out who the spy could be.

SU-JIN:

I don't think it's any of us.

CAINE:

What? Not even yourself? I noticed you didn't say anything earlier...well, not that you really could have with what happened between Lola and Indra.

SU-JIN:

Yeah, I kind of wonder what things are gonna be like after this. Um, to answer your question though... Caine, you know how I told you that I live with my moms?

CAINE:

Yeah?

SU-JIN:

They don't know anything about Zero Zero.

CAINE:

Wait, seriously? You never told them?

SU-JIN:

Yeah. No one knows except my sister Eun-hi.

CAINE:

Su-jin...

SU-JIN:

I keep thinking that I'm going to tell them—one day, I'll really tell them, and they'll understand. What I'm trying to do, who I want to help... that they'll see that I've been doing this for all of them and all the people we see suffering too. But maybe it would hurt them less if I just... disappeared off with Zero Zero. No one'll miss the middle child, right?

CAINE:

Don't you do that. You hear me? I mean it for real, Su-jin, you'd better not.

Before Sebastian...left, he told me that he was leaving. And I think it was like, me and my sister Val were the only ones that really knew about it. It was a crazy amount of pressure and...when he left, it tore my whole family apart. Just trust me when I say you should tell them if you're going to leave. At least they won't spend the rest of their life looking for you.

SU-JIN:

You're right. Sorry, Caine.

CAINE:

I'm okay.

SU-JIN:

I'm sorry anyways.

SFX: Jet starts up.

CAINE:

Jet?

JET:

Start-up complete.

Hello?

CAINE:

Hey! How are you, buddy? Are you okay?

Quick, what's the first thing I ever said to you?

JET:

Um... processing! The first thing you ever said to me was, "Wow, this thing's on? It's on! Oh boy! Hm, that was a weird thing to say. Sure glad no one heard that--"

CAINE:

OKAY, alright, that's enough! Alright, well, it's good to see you're back together, Jet.

JET:

I'm still me!

CAINE:

Yeah, you are. Thank god. And thank you, Su-jin.

SU-JIN:

`Course.

VIC:

Well, I ran through all of his backlogs—he's pretty much clean.

CAINE:

Pretty much?

VIC:

There's a couple calls from Dax. All blocked, but I thought I should ask.

JET:

Huh. That's funny. I didn't think Dax had access to my system. I didn't personally get to see those, but I must have automatically had them blocked since Caine installed so many protections on me.

SU-JIN:

Wait, how did Dax have access to Jet...?

VIC:

Another dead end. They could be roaming around here right now as we speak and we don't even know.

CAINE:

Maybe it's not any of us. We might have just come into contact with someone who happened to hack our stuff. Or a completely new person...

SU-JIN:

Caine, do you remember what happened when we were in the Numitron? You picked up the haustoria.

CAINE:

Yeah, yeah, I remember that. I shocked my arm pretty bad for it too.

SU-JIN:

Is that why you're still wearing those bandages on your hands?

CAINE:

Uh...no? I've always worn these.

VIC:

Yeah, you were wearing them even back in the Kvadrata. They help you get a better grip or something?

CAINE:

Uh... I guess.

SU-JIN:

Why are they wrapped up all the way to your elbows?

CAINE:

What are you asking these questions for, Su-jin? They're just bandages.

SU-JIN:

If you don't mind me asking, I want to know what's under them.

CAINE:

Nothing.

I'm serious, it's nothing!

VIC:

Come on, Caine.

CAINE:

Ugh, fine! I don't see the point.

SFX: Caine unwraps their hands.

VIC:

Whoa. That's a pretty nasty scar.

CAINE:

I have the bandages on for a reason. So you guys don't look at it. I've had it since I was a kid.

SU-JIN:

From what?

CAINE:

I... don't know? I guess I got it when I was around eight or something. Look, it was probably just from an accident from when I was a kid.

SU-JIN:

No...that's a surgery scar.

Caine, you're sure this is the hand you touched the haustoria with?

CAINE:

Yeah, it's my dominant hand—wait, what are you getting at?

SU-JIN:

Vic, where have you seen this kind of scar before? I know you have.

SFX: Vic takes Caine's hand.

VIC:

You got this when you were eight?

CAINE:

I think so.

VIC:

Oh my god.

CAINE:

Vic, why are you looking at me like that?

VIC:

It's not just a surgery scar... this is where people install trackers.

SU-JIN:

Caine... you're the spy.

END EPISODE.

Hi, Eli Ramos here, creator and editor of Under the Electric Stars. If you liked this episode, please share it with your friends and rate and review it wherever you're listening to us. You can find us and our transcripts on our website at undertheelectricstars.com, or on social media: we're @utes_podcast on Twitter and undertheelectricstarspodcast on Tumblr. We have a Patreon with early access, behind the scenes, and other bonus content at [mxeliramos](https://www.patreon.com/mxeliramos). That's M-X-E-L-I-R-A-M-O-S. Please support us if you have the means. This episode was edited by Arizona Johnson. Our voice talents are as follows: Kevin Paculan as Vic Vass, Rey Ángel as Indra, Rhea Anne as Caine Reyes, Christine Kim as Su-jin Yi, Chaitrika Budamagunta as Lola Sunn, and Robin Guzman as Jet. Additional voices were provided by Fran Carr. Thanks to Jordan Davis, Fran Carr, and Ezra Lee Buck, \$20 Patrons on our Patreon. And to everyone, thanks for listening, and see you in Metropolis West soon.