THE LOST COLONY

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ACT 1: THE OVERLOOK

ACT 2: THE APPROACH

ACT 3: THE RUIN

Scene 1: overlook

SCENE 1: OVERLOOK

PEPECHTLIACH 1: ZHINCHTEPRATLA

PEPECtaC 1: XINcEoAtA

Ext. A primeval jungle, on a strange world

EXT. JUNGLE-PRIMITIVE WORLD-ALIEN-UPON

BAZZHINCHEDL KITLALIEFRICHI

BAZXI{Ed KITLALegICI

Cast of Characters:

Characters:

Zazaniado:

ZAZANaDO:

Jo'zdiezzanj - Pilot and xenobiologist/clairvoyant ("Jodie")

Jo’zdiezzanj – vlezhdvevlsteprnad, kotliriemefrnad/ petlandrnad

JO`zeZZA| (“JODe”) - vExVEvHEoNAD, KOtIReMEgNAD, PETLANfNAD

Fesheqel - Engineer and linguist/telekinetic ("Fesh")

Fesheqel – Zhdivrzdanjnad, klezhdenriemnad, pradrnad

FEsEQEL (“FEs”) - xImzA|NAD, kExENReMNAD, oAfNAD

Oziez - Gunner and comms specialist/healer ("Ozie")

Oziez – toponineamnad, vrodjenad, pachtanad

OZeZ (“OZe”) – TOPONINEAMNAD, mODJENAD, PAcANAD

Miafa Iiabr - Navigator and archaeologist/teleprojectionist ("Miafa")

Miafa Iiabr – vlezhdjiapljdivrnad, ienshatlriemnad, koetsfredrnad

MaFA Ian (“MaFA”) – vExJapjImNAD, eNsAtReMNAD, KOEugEfNAD

All have training in Telepathy.

Telepath-they.

Shadrnadens.

sAfNADE}.

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Three explorers, two men and one woman, crouch on a knoll overlooking a wide valley. On the other side of the valley they see the ruins of an ancient stone structure, possibly of human construction.

Three explorers, two men and one woman, knoll-on valley-wide observing-over crouch-they. Valley-other-side-upon see-they structure-ancient stone-made ruins-of, human-made-possible.

Tyei zarnad, omei shtiefri iazh chial ziefri, baqldenzhdliez chaniatl zhinchtepratla adriens. Chanifredrapalichi chtens fevrapriazanatlas aiezeloj atleianzhoj, nadenz stokle ekej.

TYEI ZARNAD, OMEI hegI aX CaL ZegI, BAWDEideZ CANIAt XINcEoAtA Afe}. CANIgEfAPALICI cE} FEmAoaZANAtAS AeZELOJ AtEaNXOJ, NADEU HOkE EKEJ.

As they discuss the best way to approach the ruin, a fourth person joins them.

Ruin approach method-best discuss-they while, fourth person them join-present does.

Atleianzh ozhdezhie vinziashiatlas nilozens oqik, nachoia nad ens nieqrens.

AtEai OxEXe VIUasatAS NILOZE} OQIK, NACOa NAD E} NeqE}.

Fesheqel

FEsEQEL

Jodie, what the hell? We agreed you should wait with the ship. Someone has to watch our backs.

(idiom) Jodie? Ship-at wait-you-imperative agree-we PAST. Rear-guard someone must.

Aqle Jodie? Vlezhd`ia vrijo’d zhdaenzh fliedliqish dazej. Velchedl’ deve ichanad.

AWE JODe? vEx`a mIJO`D xAEi FedIQIs DAZEJ. VELCEd` DEVE ICANAD.

JO'ZDiezzanj

JO`zeZZA|

I set the computer to alert me if it detects anything suspicious. It'll be fine. Besides, Fesh, you need me, unless there's another xenobiologist here?

Computer instruct-me PAST alert-it me COND detect-it thing-unusual. Require-you me, FESH, xenobiologist-alternate here-is-COND?

Patlanriemtepo bezhik dazej, deshtsiens ik zdatlsiekrens ekenzh zitetlflaka. Devens ik, Fesh, kotliriemefrnadfredr zhia ekenzh?

PAtANReMTEPO BEXIK DAZEJ, DEhSe} IK zAtSelE} EKEi ZITEtGAKA. DEVE} IK, FEs, KOtIReMEgNADgEf Xa EKEi?

FESHEQEL scowls and starts to argue, but is cut off by the other woman, OZIEZ.

Scowls-he FESHEQEL argue-INF begins-he, however other-woman, OZIEZ, interrupts-him.

Vreflens Fesheqel nechtname tlatzens, iai ziefrifredr, Oziez, ens tlantens.

mEGE} FEsEQEL NEcNAME tATZE}, aI ZegIgEf, OZeZ, E} tATE}.

OZIEZ

She's right, Fesh. We need her knowledge, and she's clairvoyant, which we'll also need to delve that ruin. Can't do that by radio.

Correct-she, FESH. Knowledge-hers require-we, clairvoyant-she, also need-we FUTURE delve-INF ruin.

FeSHEQEL

But what if something happens to her? Then we're down a pilot, and there's no other ship in this system.

COND event-bad occurs-her-unto? Pilot-lose FUTURE we, NEG ship-alternate system-within.

Jo'ZDIEZZANJ

Come on, Fesh, we're all essential here. Anyway, we've been scouting this cluster for five weeks, almost a full season, and found nothing. Now, we finally find a planet with actual LIFE and you want me to stay behind? I don't think so.

Fesh, all essential-we. Cluster TIME five weeks scouting-we PAST, season-whole-almost, nothing find-we PAST. TIME, life-having planet find-we, and behind-remain stay-INF desire-you me? NEG think-I.

Miafa liabr

Jodie's a big girl now, Fesh.

TIME woman Jodie-is, Fesh.

FESHEQEL

But –

But -

Jo'ZDIEZZANJ

I'll be fine, Fesh. If it helps I'll stay close to you and that rifle. You can be the big hero.

Well be-I FUTURE, Fesh. COND favorable-is, you-near and rifle-big remain-I FUTURE. Hero-big be-you-able.

FESHEQEL relaxes a bit and hefts his rifle. JO'ZDIEZZANJ and OZIEZ exchange amused looks.

Relax-diminutive-he FESHEQEL and rifle-his hefts-he. Amused looks exchange-they JO’ZDIEZZANJ and OZIEZ.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

(telepathically)

Wears his thoughts on his forehead, doesn't he?

(telepathically)

(idiom)-he, true?

OZIEZ

(telepathically)

Pretty much. Save your power, you're gonna need it.

True. Power-yours conserve-you, it require-you FUTURE.

Jo'ZDIEZZANJ

(telepathically)

Thanks, mom. I'll be good.

Thank you, mother. Good-I FUTURE.

MIAFA LIABR

We got that all sorted, then? Right, weapons check. Jodie?

Solved problem-is-QUESTION? Verify-we weapons. Jodie?

Jo'ZDIEZZANJ

(draws her pistol, checks and loads it)

(pistol-hers extracts, inspects-she, it loads-she)

Ready, Miafa.

Ready, Miafa.

MiAFA LIABR

Fesh?

Fesh?

FESHEQEL

(hefts his rifle)

(rifle-his inspects-him)

Locked and loaded, Miafa.

Ready, Miafa.

MIAFA LIABR

Ozie? Sensors and weapons check.

Ozie? Sensors and weapons verify-you.

OZIEZ

(checks her shotgun)

(shotgun-hers verifies-she)

Weapons ready. Passive sensors, check. Motion tracker, check. Comms... good connection. Check.

Weapons ready. Sensors-passive, verify-me. Tracker-of-motion, verify-me. Communications … connection-good verify-me.

MIAFA LIABR

(checks his pistol)

(pisto-his verify-he)

Let's go, then. Jodie, scry that ruin, please.

Proceed-we IMPERATIVE. Jodie, ruin-yonder scry-you, please.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ closes her eyes and meditates for a minute.

JO’ZDIEZZANJ eyes-her close-she, TIME minute meditate-she.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

...Multiple large animals in the area, possible carnivores... the entrance seems sturdy enough... it's too far away to tell...

…animals-large group-large area-within, carnivores able-COND… entrance strong appear-it, away-far-excessive know-me able-me…

MIAFA LIABR stands and draws a hand axe. The rest of the team follows suit.

Stands-he, hand axe draw-he MIAFA LIABR. Team-remainder also stand-they.

MIAFA LIABR

Thanks, Jodie. Save your energy. Team, let's move out. Fesh, take point. Jodie, Ozie, you follow. I'll take the rear. Keep an eye on our flanks. Ozie, watch that tracker.

Jodie, thank you. Energy-yours conserve-you. Proceed-we IMPERATIVE, team. Fesh, us lead-you. Jodie, Ozie, him follow-you. Column-end have-I. Sides-our guard-you. Ozie, tracker watch-you.

OzIEZ

On it. Tracking multiple signatures. Keep those weapons ready.

Truth. Indications-many tracking-me. Weapons ready maintain-you.

The party approaches the ancient ruin cautiously, hacking or pushing tree branches and vegetation out of the way.

Ruin-ancient cautiously approach-they team, branches-tree-of and vegetation aside push-they.

MIAFA LIABR

That you breathing so hard, Fesh?

Fesh, hard breathe-you-question?

FesHEQEL

Gravity's a little higher than I'm used to. I imagine you heavy worlders think it's easy, right?

Gravity stronger-is COMP accustomed-me. Easy imagine-I world-heavy-people think-you, truth?

OZIEZ

You need to work out in full G like I do, Fesh.

Full-G-within exercise-you IMPERATIVE COMP do-I, Fesh.

FESHEQEL

Full G for you is twice my home.

Gravity-full-you-for double home-my-is.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

She has a point, Fesh. It'll do you some good, build some real muscle.

Truth speaks-she, Fesh. Benefit-unto-you be-it COND, muscle-true build-INF.

FESHEQEL holds up one hand in a fist. The group falls silent. MIAFA LIABR joins him at point.

Fist-his raises-he FESHEQEL. Silent-become-they team. Line-front joins-him MIAFA LIABR.

MIAFA LIABR

(telepathically)

What do you see?

QUESTION observe-you?

FESHEQEL concentrates, listening intently while scanning the ruin.

Concentrates-he FESHEQEL, intently listening ruin scanning-while-he.

FESHEQEL

(telepathically)

Not see. Hear. Listen.

NEG observe-INF. Hear-INF. Listen-you.

The team listens intently for several seconds. JO’ZDIEZZANZH concentrates, scanning the surroundings. OZIEZ watches the motion tracker, which shows clusters of movement all around them.

TIME seconds-many intently listen-they team. Concentrates JO’ZDIEZZANJ, surrounding-region scanning-she. Tracker-of-motion watches-she OZIEZ, movement-groups them surrounding displays-it.

OZIEZ and JO’ZDIEZZANJ exchange thoughts.

Thoughts-their share-they OZIEZ and JO’ZDIEZZANJ.

OZIEZ

*Do you sense anything?*

*QUESTION anything sense-you?*

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

*No. It’s strange, feels like something’s blocking me. Or trying to. Anything on the tracker?*

*NEG. Strange-is, feels-unto-me blocking-is something. Attempting or. Anything tracker-of-motion reveal-it?*

OZIEZ

*Lot of garbage. There’s too much clutter.*

*Clutter excessive-is.*

MIAFA LIABR motions for the team to huddle.

Commands-he team gather-they MIAFA LIABR.

MIAFA LIABR

We need to get a closer look, but there’s a lot of static here.

Observe-near-more require-we, but static-great-herein-is.

FESHEQEL

Think it’s coming from that ruin? Some kind of Ancient artifact, maybe?

QUEST Ruin-from coming-it think-you? Artifact ancient is COND?

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Can’t tell without getting closer. Or above this vegetation.

NEG know without approach-near-more-we. Vegetation-above or.

MIAFA LIABR

I could flit you in.

Flit-inside-you able-I COND.

JO’ZDIEZZANJ glares at him.

Glare-toward-he JO’ZDIEZZANJ.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Seriously? I can’t get a clear scan of it; how are you going to get me across?

Truthfully? NEG scry-clear-it-me, me across-to how send-you?

FESHEQEL

Yeah, and even if you did, could you bring her back?

COND do-you PAST, COND return-here-her?

MIAFA LIABR thinks about it.

Concerning-it thinks-he MIAFA LIABR.

MIAFA LIABR

We have no choice, then. We’ll keep going, single file, two meter distance. I‘ll take point; FESH, you’re rear guard. Maintain visual and stay in contact.

No choice (decision final-is). Continue-we FUTURE, line-adv, two meter apart. Lead-I FUTURE; Fesh, follow-you. Visually observe-you(coll) others and contact maintain-you(coll).

He taps his head to emphasize.

Head-his touch-him emphasis-reason.

Scene 3: the ruin

SCENE 3: Ruin-at

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The team stands at the base of a great stair, extending twenty meters upward at a steep angle and several meters wide at the base. Around them the ruin looms, all curved lines and arched geometry. Vines and creeping plants cover every surface, reaching toward the dim sunlight above.

Stair-great base-at stands-they team. Rises-it twenty meters steeply angled-it and many meters wide base-at. Loom-around-them it ruin, curved lines and arched geometry. Every surface covered-by-is vines and creeping plants, dim sunlight-toward above reaching-they.

JO’ZDIEZZANJ rubs her forehead.

Forehead-hers rubs-her JO’ZDIEZZANJ.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Does everyone else feel that?

QUESTION that feel-you(coll)?

MIAFA LIABR

Yeah, it’s been getting worse as we get closer. It’s like an itch at the back of my mind.

Truth, worse become-it approach-while-we. Itch-like mind-within-my.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

For me it’s more like tinnitus.

Tinnitus-like to me.

OzIEZ

It’s definitely coming from inside that… structure. FESH, are you doing that?

Ruin-inside-from truly is. QUESTION that doing-you, Fesh?

Small rocks and other jungle debris are floating nearby.

Rocks-diminutive and other jungle debris near floating-they.

FESHEQEL

I don’t think so. Shit! That buzzing is driving me insane!

NEG think-I. (expletive)! Insane-causing/inducing-unto me buzzing-noise!

The rocks all fly away as though from an invisible explosion. There’s a rustling in the undergrowth as small animals scatter.

Explosion-unseen-via-seemingly, rocks all fly-away-they. Undergrowth-within rustling-is TIME animals-diminutive run-away-they.

OzIEZ

Feel better now?

QUEST improved-mental-state have-you?

FESHEQEL

A little. So what’s the plan, fearless leader?

Truth-diminutive. QUEST plan-is, leader-without-fear?

MIAFA LIABR

Dammit, I hate going in blind, but that ruin is hiding something big. Bigger than we’ve found so far.

Unseeing entry hate-I, (expletive), thing-large ruin concealing-is ruin.

He stands and surveys the grounds between them and the ruin.

Stands-he, land-up-to ruin observes-he.

MiAFA LIABR

We keep going, like before. Stay in visual, two meter spread. I’ll take point. The rest of you, watch our flanks and rear. Psionics are useless here, so non-verbal signals only. Ready? Let’s move.

Previous-same-as, proceed-we. Each-other (others-of-us?) seeing remain-you, two meters apart-being-you. Lead-I. Sides-our and rear-our watch-you(all). In-this-place psionics useless-they, therefore only signals non-verbal use-we. QUEST prepared-we? Move-we.

They ascend the stairs, single file. The forest is silent all around them, only the sound of the wind in the leaves accompanies them.

Line-ly climb-they stairs. Silent forest-is surrounding, only leaves-through wind them with.

At the top of the stairs, they find a circular portal with a stone door. Its hardware is crusted with lichen and moss, and vines obscure the ornately carved jambs around it. Under the lichens, crudely carved runes are barely visible.

Stair-top at, circular portal stone-door-with find-they. Lichen and moss it cover-they, ornately carved jambs obscured-by vines are. Lichens-under, visible-diminutive-are carved runes.

MIAFA LIABR reaches out with his axe to push away some of the creepers, but drops it and cries out in pain, clutching his forehead.

Axe-with extends MIAFA LIABR, away push-he creepers, but it drops-he and pain-having outcries-he, forehead-his clutching-he.

OZIEZ

MIAFA! Are you all right?

MIAFA! QUEST harmonious-you?

She drops to her knees, hands on her ears.

Knees-onto-her falls-she, ears-her hands-her upon.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

God, it hurts! I can tell it’s coming from inside. We have to get in there somehow!

(idiom), hurts-me it! Inside-from emerging-it know-I. Somehow enter-we IMPERATIVE!

FESHEQEL

Everyone, join hands! If we all shield ourselves, maybe we can push past this!

Hands-our join-we! We shield-us COND, push-beyond-we COND!

The team joins hands in a circle, heads bowed in concentration.

Circularly hands-their join-they team, concentratingly heads-their low.

OZIEZ

Focus your wills! Let it flow through me!

Spirit-your focus-you-all! Me-via flow-it allow-you!

After a minute the team calms down and rises again. OZIEZ is sweating and breathing hard.

TIME minute-after, calm-they and stand-they team. Sweat-she pant-she OZIEZ.

Jo'ZDIEZZANJ

Take it easy, OZI. I have some boosters if you need one.

Harmonious-you be, OZI. Boosters have-I one need-you COND.

MIAFA LIABR

It’s a good thing we have a healer in the squad. I can almost think clearly now. JODIE, can you sense anything beyond that door?

Fortune-good healer squad-in have-we. Almost clearly think-me able-me. JODIE, door-beyond sense-you what?

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

(approaches the door)

(door approach-she)

Nope. Still nothing. It’s like there’s a psychic shield on it. Everything beyond is just … blank.

NEG. Psychic shield-like. Door-beyond, all … blank is.

MIAFA LIABR

We have to open it, then, if we can. JODIE, OZIE, watch our backs. FESH, let’s see about levering this thing.

It open-we IMPERATIVE, able-we COND. Jodie, Ozie, rear-our guard-you. Fesh, thing lever-we attempt-we.

The men start pushing and scraping the door, looking for any weakness. As they work, they tear the vines and lichens away from the doorway, exposing more of the runes. FESHEQEL steps back, studying the writing.

Door pushing-they commence-they men, for weakness examine-they. While work-they, vines and lichens door-from tear-they, more of runes expose. Retreats-he Fesheqel, runes study-he.

MIAFA LIABR

Why are you stopping? We need to get this open!

QUEST stopping-you? Door require-we open-we IMPERATIVE!

FESHEQEL

This writing. I can almost make some of it out. Holy shit, it’s Zdetl!

Writing-this. Almost it able-I read-I. (idiom), Zdetl-it!

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Are you sure?

QUEST Confident-you?

FESHEQEL

Not completely, it’s really worn and probably an old dialect, but yeah… some of the letters are still readable.

NEG fully, worn-very-it, dialect-old-is COND, truth COND… some letters legible-they.

MIAFA LIABR

What’s it say?

QUEST say-it?

FESHEQEL

I think that’s a “PR”… and that one might be “CH…” wait. If I’m right…

That “PR” think-I… that one “CH” is COND… wait. Correct-I COND…

The jungle behind them is silent except for breezes and rustling leaves. JO’ZDIEZZANJ is watching the canopy, a concerned look on her face.

Jungle silent-is exception breeze and leaves rustling-they. Canopy watches-she JO’ZDIEZZANJ, face concerned look having.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Um, guys?

Em, people?

MIAFA LIABR

Got an idea, FESH?

QUEST idea have-you, Fesh?

FESHEQEL

Maybe. Let me try something. Step aside…

COND. Attempt-me something allow-you. Side-toward move-you…

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Guys? Whatever you’re going to do, make it fast! There’s something in the forest.

Whatever do-you FUTURE, fast IMPERATIVE! Forest-within something.

MIAFA LIABR

There’s lots of things in the forest.

Forest-within Many things are.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Not funny, MIAFA. I’m telling you, something big is out there.

NEG amusing, Miafa. You-all telling-I, thing-large there is.

MIAFA LIABR

FESH?

FESHEQEL

(raises his hands, mimes opening a door. The dust of ages rains down as the portal scrapes against its fittings.)

(hands-his raises-he, door opening gestures-he. Falls dust-ancient while against fittings-its door scrapes-it)

Almost got it…

Nearly…

In the forest behind them, the treetops begin rustling more intensely. A tentacle appears from the canopy, then a second, larger one.

Forest-within them behind, treetops rustling-begin-they. Canopy-from appears-it tentacle, then tentacle-larger.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Now would be a really good time!

Excellent TIME this COND!

A crack has opened between the portal and its jamb. MIAFA LIABR looks over his shoulder. His eyes widen in fear and he grabs the door and begins to pull, trying to help FESHEQEL open it.

Between portal and jamb opened-is PERF crack. Over shoulder-his looks-he Miafa Liabr. Fearful wide eyes-his, door seizes-he and pulling-begin-he, help-purpose-he Fesheqel open-they door.

OZIEZ raises her rifle toward the creature emerging from the jungle. More tentacles appear from the upper branches, then a large, bulbous body follows.

Rifle-hers aims-she OZIEZ creature-toward emerging-it jungle-from-it. Upper-branches-from appear-they more tentacles, then appears-it body-large body-bulbous.

OZIEZ

Is that door open yet?

QUEST TIME door open-is?

FESHEQEL

(grunting and straining)

Almost got it! HA!

Almost! HA!

The door grinds open another meter, then stops. Without waiting, the team dives into the dark space beyond. Behind them, the creature slithers and crawls up the stair and stops at the doorway. It probes the open portal with a tentacle, then crawls away.

Another meter scrapingly open-it door, TIME stop-it. NEG wait-they, space-dark-beyond-into rush-they team. Up stair to doorway slither-it creature. Open portal tentacle-with probes-it, then away crawls-it.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Good job, FESH. Another few seconds and we’d have all been dinner for that thing.

Task(work?)-good, Fesh. More-diminutive seconds, that thing eaten-by-we.

OZIEZ

Did you figure out what the runes said?

Runes decode-you PAST?

FESHEQEL

(breathing hard)

(breathing heavily)

Hold on… got to.. catch my breath. Whoever carved it had terrible handwriting or was in a rush. Probably the latter. Anyway, the one word I could make out was probably “PRAKOPECHE”.

Wait… must… breath-my regain-INF. It carved-by person-who handwriting-terrible-theirs PAST, hurried-they or. Hurried COND. “prakopeche” COND read-I PAST.

The team huddles in silence for a while in the dim light streaming through the open door.

Light-faint-in door open streaming-through silently huddle-they team TIME-for.

OZIEZ

You realize what this means, right? The last people to visit this place…

Understand-you meaning-this, truth? Visitors previous…

FESHEQEL

Were Zhdantia. And they set that trap to keep things OUT.

Zhdantia-they PAST. Trap set-they PAST things enter prevent.

JO'ZDIEZZANJ

Well. Shit.

(idiom, expletive)

Cut, fade to credits

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK for another exciting episode of VLEZHDIZAR!