

It's Only Us

Scene 1:

[On stage: Ridenhour, Power and Vecchio] [Power is lying on the ground Vecchio is standing over him]

[setting: nothing much except for paper strewn about and big rocks (chairs upside down)]

[dark; sound cue: earthquake massive rumbling]

DIM LIGHTS UP

Vecchio: Where are we? What happened? Power? Power!? Ridenhour? *(Vecchio crosses over between Ridenhour and Power.)*

Ridenhour: I'm here.

Vecchio: Where are you? I can't see a thing. Power? Ridenhour?

Power: I'm right here! You stepped on me Vecchio.

Vecchio: Oh my god! I'm sorry Power. Are you alright? *(helps Power up)*

Power: Yes, I'm fine.

Vecchio: Ridenhour where are you?

Ridenhour: Over here!

Vecchio: Hold on, I've got a couple of flashlights in my bag. *(pulls out flashlight hands one to Power, full lights up)(all look around)*

Power: Jesus this place is in ruins. That one was really strong. What do reckon it was?

Ridenhour: Probably a 10.6.

Vecchio: *(looking at gadget)* Wow, you were really close Ridenhour. It was a 10.4, but apparently we're right in the center of it.

Power: That explains why it felt like a 19.0.

Vecchio: Exactly. Anyway, we should get out of here. The others will probably be worried. They must've seen the numbers by now.

Ridenhour: Okay. How exactly do we do that?

Vecchio: Well, I really don't know. Let's try this way. *(exit all down center aisle)*

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 2:

LIGHTS UP

(Enter in order: D'ambra, Ayano, Dakota, Finnley)

Dakota: Woah that one was a doozy.

Ayano: Wonder how Ridenhour and them are. Hope they're alright. How big was it?

D'ambra: *(looks at gadget identical to Ridenhour's)* Says it was a 10.4, but the area where Vecchio was was the epicenter of it.

Finnley: You think they're alright? They have to be alright. Right? *(Enter Joceion)*

Joceion: Of course they are. I bet they're on their way here right now. I trust Vecchio. I wouldn't have let him lead a team if I didn't. Besides, my 2nd in command is with them. I'm sure they're just fine. Now, let's clean all this up. Anything damaged isn't useless because...?

All except Joceion: *(sarcastically cheerful)* It may be vital to our situation!

Joceion: Exactly. Start cleaning. We'll start on the east side, then work our way around. *(exit all)*

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 3:

LIGHTS UP

(Enter Vecchio, Ridenhour and Power. Vecchio leads group. Flashlights on.)

Vecchio: Come on. I set a course for HQs coordinates.

Ridenhour: And if there's a boulder in our way?

Vecchio: We'll just have to move it. Or go around.

Ridenhour: Right... how far underground are we exactly?

Vecchio: We are approximately 400 ft below sea level. We'll be fine.

Power: Well, then let's go!

Vecchio: Power, why don't you tell us a story. *(Power cuts in front and now leads.)*

Ridenhour: *(visibly annoyed)* Here we go.

Power: Did you know there was a time when this whole world was filled with animals called unicorns?

Ridenhour: Unicorns? Really?

Vecchio: *(to Ridenhour)* Shut up! *(to Power)* Really? Tell me more?

Ridenhour: Vecc don't encourage him! *(Vecchio sighs)*

(Power continues talking about unicorns; exits.)

Ridenhour: Hey, Vecc?

Vecchio: What?

Ridenhour: We're gonna be okay right?

Vecchio: Of course we are. We've been through worse.

Ridenhour: I know but, we were with the rest of them. Are we gonna be able to get out of here without them?

Vecchio: We will see them all very shortly. Now come on. The faster we go, the sooner you can see Finnley again.

Ridenhour: What? *(Vecchio exits. Flashlight off.)* Hey Vecc wait for me! *(exit Ridenhour. Flashlight off.)*

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 4:

LIGHTS UP

(Enter Finnley and Dakota; looking around at scraps of things)

Finnley: Hey Dakota?

Dakota: What's up Finn?

Finnley: They'll be alright. Right?

Dakota: Vecchio, Ridenhour and Power? *(Finnley nods)* I don't know, Finnley. But I do know one thing, Vecchio is determined and he's smart. I know nothing can get in his way. Power's optimistic personality will make them all even more determined to get back here. And Ridenhour is 2nd in command. He is kind and I know he'll also do anything to help Vecchio.

Simple as that. With that in mind, I think they're definitely alive. And they are definitely on their way here. I just don't know when they'll get here.

Finnley: For sure?

Dakota: Yeah for sure. Come on let's continue. We can check this section off. *(exit both) (enter Joceion)*

Joceion: *(out to above the audience)(fake cheerfulness)* Keep up the good work everyone!

(sullenly/worriedly looks at watch) Come on Ridenhour, where are you? *(exits)*

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 5:

LIGHTS UP

(enter Vecchio, Power and Ridenhour. Vecchio leads.)(Power's still talking about unicorns) (Power stops)

Vecchio: Power you okay? You've been stopping quite a lot.

Power: I'm fine. Just dandy in fact. However, we've been walking for hours. It's time to rest.

Ridenhour: Yeah alright. *(Vecchio sets down pack)* Vecchio did you scan the area for Neradas?

Vecchio: Yeah I did. There are some down here, but not anywhere where we are, or are going to be.

Ridenhour: Everyone sufficiently rested?

Vecchio: Yes. Let's move a little quicker shall we? We should be nearing the exit. *(Vecchio picks up pack.)*

Ridenhour: Alright. So Power, what were you saying about those unicorns? *(Power reaches into pocket, presses button)*

Power: Shit!

Vecchio: Language. *(silence)(sudden screeching sound all cover ears)*

Ridenhour: *(yelling)* Oh my god what is that?

Vecchio: I have no idea. But come on the sooner we get out of here the better. According to this *(shows gadget)* it's getting dark out. And we DO NOT want to be outside when it's dark.
(Ridenhour holds on to Vecchio and the three exit. Flashlights off.)

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 6:

LIGHTS UP

(Onstage: D'ambra, Ayano and Joceion) (Ayano is humming a song)(Joceion is pacing)

D'ambra: Joceion, your pacing is making me anxious. Stop that.

Joceion: I'm sorry. I'm just really worried about Vecchio, Power. And Ridenhour.

D'ambra: We all are okay? Ridenhour wasn't just your friend. He was my friend before you even showed up.

Joceion: I didn't mean that I-

D'ambra: Just. Chill. Out.

Ayano: Where'd Dakota and Finnley go?

D'ambra: They were finishing up the south side.

Ayano: Right. *(goes back to humming and writing in a journal) (Joceion goes back to pacing)*

D'ambra: JOCEION KRYSIK! Stop it! Stop pacing! Stop moving! Sit down!

Joceion: I'm your leader! You can't tell me what to do! You voted me as your leader remember?

D'ambra: I voted for Ridenhour! *(Enter Dakota and Finnley)*

D'ambra: Thank the heavens you two are here! *(exits)*

Ayano: Wow. Dramatic. *(exits) (Joceion shakes his head and continues pacing and checking his watch) (Dakota looks at Finnley) (Finnley nods and exits)*

Dakota: Hey Joceion? You alright? *(Joceion looks at Dakota shakes his head and sits down on the ground) (Dakota sits next to him) (Joceion rests his head on Dakota's lap)*

Joceion: Am I the worst leader ever?

Dakota: Joceion...

Joceion: What if they've been crushed to death? What if they've encountered some of the Nerada and are now in a fight to the death with the most vile of creatures? What if I've just lost three of my friends. My 2nd in command, my scientist and my storyteller? And all because I sent them off to look for stupid shit that we won't ever use because I'm an idiot! What the actual fuck?

Dakota: *(quietly)* Language.

Joceion: Sorry. *(pause)* Who did you vote for?

Dakota: What?

Joceion: When we voted for the leader, who did you vote on?

Dakota: *(looks away)*

Joceion: I see. Did anyone vote for me?

Dakota: Ridenhour did. To be real, Ridenhour took out all of the ones that had his name on it, and replaced them with yours.

Joceion: And now, because of his foolishness, I've lost him.

Dakota: I'm sorry Joceion. I wish I knew where they were. I wish I knew some way to help you. But I really don't know. I'm sorry. I wish I did. I wish I had all of the answers for you.

Joceion: I wish I had all the answers too.

D'ambra *(from offstage)*: Dinner time!

Dakota: Shall we? *(Joceion nods and gets up) (offers hand to Dakota, Dakota takes it) (both exit)*

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 7:

LIGHTS UP

(enter Ridenhour, Power and Vecchio. Vecchio leads.) (Power stops) (Ridenhour turns around)

Ridenhour: Power? You alright?

Power: Yup! A bit weary, but I'm just fine. *(Ridenhour turns around)(Power silently falls to the floor) (no one notices)*

Ridenhour: Good. *(to Vecchio)* Vecchio?

Vecchio: I'm fine. You're the one holding on to me.

Ridenhour: Because I'm just making sure I don't lose ya'll. You and Power are the only ones carrying flashlights. I gotta hang on to somebody.

Vecchio: Right. Okay. Whatever helps. Come on. The ceiling gets low here. And it's a bit of a climb. *(points flashlight.)*

Ridenhour: Okay. We'll have to crawl up. Vecchio, you go in front, I'll be in the middle, Power you alright with being in the back? *(silence)* Power? *(Vecchio turns around and shines light, but no sign of Power)* *(Ridenhour looks down)* Ah! Shit!

Vecchio: Language!

Ridenhour: Look! *(points to ground)* *(Power is unconscious)*

Ridenhour: Is he...? *(Vecchio checks for pulse)* *(feels nothing)*

Vecchio: I don't know. I don't feel anything. *(checks pulse.)*

Vecchio: *(looks at gadget #1)* Oh boy.

Ridenhour: Vecchio...

Vecchio: I didn't think...!

Ridenhour: Vecchio what?

Vecchio: He's dead.

Ridenhour: What?

Vecchio: I'm sure it was an accident. He must've pressed the off switch on his heart monitor instead of the button that told him its strength or weakness.

Ridenhour: What?

Vecchio: Power had a heart disease. His heart was failing. He told me when we first met and made me promise not to tell anyone else.

Ridenhour: Why would he do that?

Vecchio: I don't know. But we need to get him, and ourselves out of here now. Or we're about to become Nerada food. *(Vecchio grabs Power's flashlight.)*

Ridenhour: Okay. Let's go. *(picks up Power by the hand and drags him "off stage")* *(followed by Vecchio. Flashlights off.)*

LIGHTS DOWN

Scene 8:

LIGHTS UP

[On stage: Ridenhour, Power and Vecchio] [setting: nothing much except for paper strewn about and big rocks (chairs upside down)]

(Enter in order: Joceion, Ayano, D'ambra, Dakota and Finnley)

Joceion: Ridenhour! *(runs to hug Ridenhour)* Thank goodness you're okay!

D'ambra: Vecchio! *(runs to hug Vecchio)* You're okay! You're both okay!

Ridenhour: Finnley! *(hugs Finnley)* I was worried I'd never see you again!

Vecchio: Or any of you for that matter.

Ayano: What happened?

Ridenhour: When the earthquake hit us, we were collapsed underground. *(Vecchio walks over to join)* We were trying to find our way out, but Power... Well... He did really well! He kept us going and moving forward, just like he always has. Unfortunately, while he was too busy caring for us, we forgot to care about him.

Vecchio: Yeah. *(quietly to Ridenhour)* Thanks for not telling them.

Ridenhour: A promise is a promise. I've just decided to keep that promise too.

Joceion: Well, I'm glad you two are alright. I don't know where I'd be without my 2nd in command and my scientist.

D'ambra: Ahem?

Joceion: OUR 2nd in command and OUR scientist. *(all hug)* *(Ayano pulls out journal and marks something)*

D'ambra: How many is that Ayano?

Ayano: Since Day One?

D'ambra: Yeah.

Ayano: 525 thousand 600 people.

Ridenhour: How many people here in "North America" before Day One?

Ayano: 525 thousand 608. *(Vecchio sets down Power's hat at corner stage.)*

D'ambra: Oh wow. That means we're, *(pause)*

Joceion: ...alone. (*all Power's hat.*)

The End