

Marisha Tapera:

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DiPA:

Observer Pictures present Apollyon. Written and directed by Faith McQuinn. This is episode three, Quarantine.

Pilot:

Folks, we are on descent and will be on the ground in Denver in 10 minutes. Please stow your belongings.

Theo:

Do you want anymore wine?

Jamilla:

No, thank you. Sit down.

Theo:

Uh-oh. Am in trouble?

Jamilla:

No. I have some news. I'm retiring.

Theo:

Really? A bit earlier than expected, but that's great.

Jamilla:

And I'm moving to Colorado.

Theo:

What?

Jamilla:

Savreen has been out for a few years and she loves it.

Theo:

Okay.

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Jamilla:

And I do miss her. It would be great to be closer.

Theo:

I, I ... Have you ever been to Colorado?

Jamilla:

No.

Theo:

What if you hate it?

Jamilla:

I'm not going to hate it.

Theo:

When am I gonna see you?

Jamilla:

You'll visit.

Theo:

You say that as if it's just a simple plane ride. I only see Savreen because of work.

Jamilla:

I know, dear. I'll miss you so much, but I need to get out of Atlanta. I need a quieter life.

Theo:

I obviously cannot stop you. When are you thinking about going?

Jamilla:

Next month.

Theo:

Mom.

Jamilla:

Savreen has a friend who does realty, and they found me a neat little cottage on the outskirts of the city.

Theo:

So, you've been planning this a while. Why didn't you tell me sooner?

Jamilla:

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'Cause of that look you have on your face right now. I'll be okay, Theodora. So will you.

ICRS Computer:

Entry for Ramsey, Theodora requested.

Dr. Singh:

Entry granted. Good evening, Dr. Ramsey.

Theo:

Hello, Dr ...

Dr. Singh:

Singh. Please, have a seat.

Theo:

Thank you.

Dr. Singh:

The guard at the front desk said you wanted to speak with me.

Theo:

Yes, I'd like to see my mother.

Dr. Singh:

Her name?

Theo:

Jamilla Ramsey.

Dr. Singh:

Patient T-9-5-6-3-4. Says her she's been in 25 hours. You won't be able to see her for another 23 hours. I assume the guard told you this.

Theo:

Yes. But I know the proper quarantine protocols and I came straight from the airport, so I-

Dr. Singh:

Airport? Where were you coming from?

Theo:

Atlanta.

Dr. Singh:

You're obviously up the ICRS food chain.

Theo:

Will that help me see my mother?

Dr. Singh:

No. You can see the patient tomorrow.

Theo:

Her name is Jamilla, Dr. Jamilla Ramsey. I don't understand why you can't call everyone by their names.

Dr. Singh:

I'm sorry, Dr. Ramsey, I understand your frustration, but it doesn't matter that you came straight from the airport. You could've come straight from Mars. You, just like everyone else, will still wait the allotted quarantine time. I need to get back to my patients. I suggest you get some rest, maybe grab a bite to eat and come back tomorrow.

Theo:

Will you at least tell me how she is?

Dr. Singh:

According to the records, patient T-9-5-6-3-4 had a body temp increase at last check. It's now 39 degrees. She's still experiencing neuropathy in her limbs with increased severity on the left. Her breathing is labored, but her pulse ox level is at 93%, which is about average for someone who's had AVS for a few years.

Theo:

When did the fever present?

Dr. Singh:

About half an hour ago.

Theo:

When is the next check?

Dr. Singh:

We check every hour. If it increases significantly, we will treat it. But as I'm sure you know, we usually let a fever run its course.

Theo:

Okay. So, how is she?

Dr. Singh:

I've just told you, Dr. Ramsey.

Theo:

I mean her mental state. Is she scared or aggravated?

Dr. Singh:

That's not data we record.

Theo:

(laughs). You have to know that a person's mental state has an effect on their recovery.

Dr. Singh:

I am aware.

Theo:

So, you can understand why I find it important. Why don't you?

Dr. Singh:

Dr. Ramsey, I've been the director here for 10 years, every year we have fewer and fewer patients come through those doors and I am thankful every time I see those numbers tick down. But we still see hundreds of people a year. I wish I could make sure that none of them were scared or angry. That's not what I'm here to do. I'm here to make sure they get to leave on their own two feet instead of rolled out in a sealed container. So, please, go get some rest, eat something and come back tomorrow to see your mother. If there are any significant changes, I will contact you myself.

Theo:

Have a good evening, Dr. Singh.

Dr. Singh:

I will certainly try.

PSA Announcer:

Families are the backbone of our society. Children ensure our future. Children secure our economy. The ICRS supports families. Don't know where to begin? Download-

Gabriel:

Hey, done with your homework?

Lincoln:

Yep.

Gabriel:

Everything?

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Lincoln:

I forget a math assignment one time and now it's the third degree.

Gabriel:

I think you're confusing your degrees. Well?

Lincoln:

Yeah, dad, I finished everything.

Gabriel:

Great. I'll get dinner started. What do you, uh, what do you feel like?

Lincoln:

Hey, dad.

Gabriel:

Yeah?

Lincoln:

It's really okay if we just get something delivered or whatever. You don't have to act like everything's good.

Gabriel:

I'm not acting, Link, I know it's not. But there's not much I can do right now but make sure you have dinner.

Lincoln:

Have you talked to Theo?

Gabriel:

No. Pretty sure she was going right from the airport to QF, even though there's no way they're gonna let her in.

Lincoln:

Maybe you should call her.

Gabriel:

She'll call me when she can.

Lincoln:

I still think you should give her a call.

Gabriel:

Okay, wh- what's going on?

Lincoln:

Nothing.

Gabriel:

Lincoln, you are a terrible liar.

Lincoln:

Is, is Theo's mom going to die?

Gabriel:

I-

Lincoln:

Okay, look, I've never known anyone who had to go into a quarantine facility. I don't even know anyone with AVS, and when you got home, you looked like the world had ended. This is scary.

Gabriel:

I know. And I'm sorry that you're so scared.

Lincoln:

Is this how it was when you were a kid, every day freaking out like this?

Gabriel:

Honestly, it was worse.

Lincoln:

Holy shit.

Gabriel:

But it- it's not like that anymore. We are light years ahead of where we were when I was a kid. Denver QF is one of the best in the country. Dr. Ramsey's going to be fine. They'll get her stable, they'll get her back on her Redivir dosage. She'll be fine.

Lincoln:

You don't know that for sure.

Gabriel:

You're right, I don't. But I believe in the science and I believe that Theo will make sure that everyone in that facility is doing everything they can to keep her mother alive, to keep everyone alive, because that's the entire point of the work we do.

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Lincoln:

Right.

Gabriel:

I'll call Theo after we eat, okay?

Lincoln:

Okay.

Gabriel:

You wanna help me cook?

Lincoln:

Sure.

Theo:

DiPA, call Reese Williams, audio only.

DiPA:

Calling Reese Williams.

Reese:

It's a bit late, are you okay?

Theo:

I'm sorry, I forgot the time difference. I- I'm in Denver.

Reese:

Already? I thought you were still waiting on your travel VISA.

Theo:

It's mom. She's in QF.

Reese:

Oh, no, Theo. I'm sorry. How is she?

Theo:

Stable. I, I don't get to see her till tomorrow.

Reese:

Do you need me to do anything?

Theo:

Thank you, but I just needed a familiar voice.

Reese:

Do you need a distraction or a shoulder?

Theo:

A little of both.

Reese:

Where are you staying?

Theo:

In a hotel down the road from QF.

Reese:

I figured you'd go to your mother's or stay with Savreen.

Theo:

Savreen is still in Atlanta.

Reese:

And your mother's?

Theo:

The hotel is fine. There's a really nice restaurant downstairs and get this, they have bison on the menu.

Reese:

Actual meat?

Theo:

Yeah. It turns out the bison council is in Denver. The AG Labs base products off of the animals raised here.

Reese:

Okay.

Theo:

There was a pamphlet, I read it while I waited for my food.

Reese:

Did you get it?

Theo:

God, no. Who knows what real meat would do to my digestive system.

Reese:

(laughs)

Theo:

I did have a really delicious corn chowder, though. Denver corn tastes different.

Reese:

It must be the altitude.

Theo:

Yeah. That was part of the reason she moved out here. She swore the high altitude would help her live longer. The director at QF said that my mom is still experiencing neuropathy, um, numbness and pain. Plus, she has a fever. It's low grade, but still there.

Reese:

Hm, and that worries you.

Theo:

Yes. The fact that she's still experiencing them, even after the emergency dosage of Redivir, I ... What if she doesn't make it until tomorrow? I should've tried harder to get in to see her.

Reese:

Did the director seem worried?

Theo:

No. And why would he? My mother's just a patient with a number. He doesn't give a shit what happens to her.

Reese:

Theo, that's not fair.

Theo:

You weren't there, Reese. He wouldn't even call her by name. He said his only job was to make sure she walked out alive.

Reese:

I mean, that is his job.

Theo:

But he should give a damn about the people under his care.

Reese:

Can you imagine working in a quarantine facility, seeing people come in who may very well never leave? He doesn't have the luxury of caring.

Theo:

We all have the luxury of caring.

Reese:

We're not all as strong as you are, Theo. It might break him if he cared as much as you do. I know it would break me.

Theo:

But he can't possibly see that many people, because AVS is under control within the limits, right, Reese?

Reese:

You're probably tired, jet lag.

Theo:

I didn't mean-

Reese:

It's fine. it's really late here and I have school in the morning. Have you talked to Gabriel?

Theo:

No, he called while I was eating. I'll, I'll call him tomorrow.

Reese:

You called me, but not him.

Theo:

Don't read into it.

Reese:

Don't worry, I already have, but now's not the time to get in to it. You should at least send him a message, let him know you're settled.

Theo:

You're right.

Reese:

Good night, Theo.

Theo:

Night.

Gabriel:

Hey, Link, you still up?

Lincoln:

Come in.

Gabriel:

Did I wake you?

Lincoln:

No. What's up?

Gabriel:

I talked to Theo. I figured you might wanna know.

Lincoln:

Is her mom okay?

Gabriel:

She's stable, but Theo hasn't seen her yet, a 48 hour quarantine window.

Lincoln:

I'm sure that pissed her off.

Gabriel:

(laughs). I'm sure it did.

Lincoln:

How's Theo?

Gabriel:

I think she's worried, probably scared.

Lincoln:

You didn't ask?

Gabriel:

It was just a, a couple of quick texts. She said we'd talk tomorrow.

Lincoln:

So, you didn't call her after dinner like you said.

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Gabriel:

I did, and I left a message. But anyway, it's, uh, it's almost 1:00AM, you should be asleep.

Lincoln:

Dad, are you okay?

Gabriel:

Yeah, I'm good, given the circumstances.

Lincoln:

I mean, Theo would call you back, not text.

Gabriel:

She's tired.

Lincoln:

Dad.

Gabriel:

It's nothing you need to worry about, Link, all right? Go to sleep.

Lincoln:

Fine. Hey, dad?

Gabriel:

Yeah.

Lincoln:

If you two are fighting or something, fix it now. She doesn't need to be mad at you on top of everything.

Gabriel:

When did become so astute?

Lincoln:

I had a great teacher.

Gabriel:

Good night, Link.

Lincoln:

Night.

DiPA:

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Incoming call from Denver Quarantine Facility.

Theo:

Connect, audio only.

Dr. Singh:

Good morning, Dr. Ramsey.

Theo:

Dr. Singh.

Dr. Singh:

I know you're scheduled to see your mother this evening, but under the current circumstances, we'll need you to come in as soon as you can. This morning her fever reached 40 degrees and she's experiencing diplegia.

Theo:

How long does she have?

Dr. Singh:

A few hours.

Theo:

DiPA, call Reese Williams, driving mode.

DiPA:

Calling Reese Williams.

Reese:

You've reached Dr. Williams. I am unavailable at this time.

Theo:

Dammit.

Reese:

Please leave your name and [crosstalk 00:14:56].

Theo:

DiPA, disconnect call. Call Gabriel Larson.

DiPA:

Calling Gabriel Larson.

Gabriel:

This is Gabriel, I'm obviously not answering the phone right now. Should you leave a message? Certainly. Will I return your call? Maybe.

Theo:

You're in the lab. Of course you are, I didn't look at the time when I ... Shit. You don't have to call me back. In fact, please don't. I won't be able to answer, and even if I could, I'm, I'm on my way to QF because my mom's not getting better. They've said she only has a few hours and I just, I needed to talk to someone, and you're usually that someone. I called Reese first though because I didn't want you to be the someone this time. I'm gonna have to deal with all of this, and I only have a week because of you. And I know you said you did it for me, I know you said you were sorry, but, shit, Gabriel, I need my best friend right now, but I am so damn mad at you, and all of this is so fucking frustrating. I'm terrified. She is the last of my family, and I don't know what I'm gonna do without her.

Dr. Singh:

We started a morphine drip. It's standard procedure at this stage. She hasn't lost consciousness but-

Theo:

She might, I'm aware. I've been working with ABS for a few years now.

Dr. Singh:

I see. Then I'll save my speech on what to expect.

Theo:

What is your set up for visitation?

Dr. Singh:

We've moved her to an isolation chamber. It's easier than trying to get everyone into proper PPE.

Theo:

So, I won't be able to hold her hand.

Dr. Singh:

No. But feel free to touch the containment wall. She might be able to reciprocate. That way you can at least feel close.

Theo:

Right, feel close.

Dr. Singh:

You can have all the time you need.

Theo:

I could've had more.

Dr. Singh:

I'm sorry, Dr. Ramsey, I really am. But we all have a job to do. When you're ready to leave, the computer responds to voice command.

Theo:

Mom?

Jamilla:

Theodora. I told you not to come.

Theo:

And I told you I was coming.

Jamilla:

I'm happy you're here.

Theo:

I am, too.

Jamilla:

I'm s- sorry it has to be like this. I never meant for it to be like this.

Theo:

I know, mom, I know.

Jamilla:

It's not as painful as I thought it would be. Oh, baby, I never meant to put you through this. Have you seen Savreen?

Theo:

She's, uh, she's still in Atlanta. I'm staying in a hotel. I, I got in last night.

Jamilla:

I'm sure she's worried about you. Make sure you see her before you leave, she'll be more than happy to help you with all the arrangements.

Theo:

Please, don't.

Jamilla:

I was gonna take you to Sloan Lake, it's gorgeous, especially at sunset. I wanted you to see something beautiful with me. You need to go see it before you leave.

Theo:

I'll try.

Jamilla:

No, you'll go. Promise me, Theodora.

Theo:

Okay, I'll go.

Jamilla:

Good, good. You never see anything but the inside of your apartment, and the inside of your lab. When you were little, we had to drag you inside the house. Do you remember that?

Theo:

(laughs). I do. I remember you explaining that I might get struck by lightning if I stayed out there in the storm.

Jamilla:

(laughs). And you still didn't budge.

Theo:

You picked me up and practically threw me in the house.

Jamilla:

And you stayed on the floor, soaked to the bone. Your father took pity and wrapped you in a blanket, I was just gonna leave you there, cold and stubborn (laughs). You should spend more time outside, you should. I wish I could leave here, I don't wanna die in this place.

Theo:

I'm so sorry, mom. I wish I could take you out of here.

Jamilla:

The clinic.

Theo:

What?

Jamilla:

Armand said we shouldn't, but we were stubborn, I was stubborn.

Theo:

What clinic, mom? Wh- Who's Armand?

Jamilla:

There's no question that your stubbornness is from me. Your father was such a pushover, do you remember?

Theo:

Of course I do.

Jamilla:

I'm sometimes scared you've forgotten him.

Theo:

Never.

Jamilla:

He was the love of my life. I was devastated when he died. I never let you see that, and I think you resented me because you thought I didn't care, but I cared, Theodora. It almost broke me.

Theo:

Mom, mom, I never resented you.

Jamilla:

I was never as strong as you, but I wanted to be. You are an incredible daughter, you are an incredible human being. I lo- I love you, I love you so, so much.

Theo:

I love you, too. Mom, mom.

Jamilla:

I'm all right.

Theo:

Are you sure? I, I can get someone.

Jamilla:

No need. The morphine is kicking in.

Theo:

We don't have to talk. We can just be here together.

Jamilla:

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I told myself it was to help, and now I'm here. Maybe I got what I deserved.

Theo:

No.

Jamilla:

Dying in this cold place.

Theo:

No. Why would you think that?

Jamilla:

I told myself it was to help.

Theo:

What? What, what were you helping?

Jamilla:

It was really to right my wrongs. I don't think I did enough.

Theo:

What are you talking about, mom?

Jamilla:

I need to rest, Theodora. It's time for you to go.

Theo:

No.

Jamilla:

Please, please, don't stay here.

Theo:

I'm not leaving you. You'll be alone.

Jamilla:

I won't be, not for long. Please, go.

Theo:

Whatever it is, whatever you think you deserve, you, you don't deserve to be alone. I'm not leaving you.

Jamilla:

Stubborn until the end.

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Theo:

I got it from you.

Jamilla:

I'll miss you lots.

Theo:

I love you, more.

Gabriel:

Hey.

Theo:

She's gone.

Gabriel:

Dammit, I'm sorry, for this, for everything. I'm so sorry. I wish I could be there.

Theo:

Yeah.

Gabriel:

What do you need me to do?

Theo:

I don't know. I don't know.

DiPA:

This episode featured the voices of Marquita Richardson as Theo Ramsey, James David West as Gabriel Larson, Pamela Paul as Savreen Khanna, Marisha Tapera as Reese Williams, Janet Simmons as Jamilla Ramsey, Kyle Nishimura as Lincoln, Ramanan Somaskanda as Dr. Singh, Bryan Huey as PSA Announcer, Fred Greenhalgh as The Pilot, Marta Da Silva as ICRS Computer, and me, Drea Silvertooth as DiPA. Producer, Amanda Lorraine. Sound design and mix, Joshua Suhy. Sound recordist, Karl Huber. Original theme, Katherine Seaton. Additional music provided by Soundstripe Music. Virology consultants, Lindsey B. Crawford, PhD and Peter Krug, PhD. For more information, please visit apollyon.observerpictures.com.