

00:00:00:17 - 00:00:33:04

Manuel:

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00:00:38:00 - 00:01:07:01

Narrator:

Observer Pictures Presents Patient Zero This is Episode Two, Day Seven.

00:01:07:26 - 00:01:36:22

Lucas:

It is April 10th at 1830. Today ends the first week of study at the Alpha Sector 2 site. Our findings have been fruitful as we've already been able to expand on the data collected by the drones. Again, proof that humans out in the field are necessary for ecological research. We are—unlike the bots—able to study the ecosystems as a whole instead of simply analyzing individual bits of data.

00:01:37:08 - 00:02:00:06

Lucas:

Restoration of Alpha 2 began nearly a decade ago. In that time, we've seen significant improvement in the soil as well as steady growth of the stronger endemic flora. According to my findings, the climate has significantly improved since phase one began, but temperatures are still high and moisture levels are still below numbers we're hoping to reach.

00:02:00:06 - 00:02:32:11

Lucas:

Our lab-created specimens were designed for the current climate, and they are thriving. Yet the endemic species aren't adapting as quickly to the changing climate, so they have continued to migrate to higher elevations. This is causing a shift in the ecosystem. According to modeling, this shouldn't have a negative effect, but we won't truly know for at least another decade. No matter how much we care for the soil or ensure the moisture levels or bring plants and animals back to the area.

00:02:32:28 - 00:03:01:20

Lucas:

I don't believe that we will ever be able to stop the migration, and I don't believe it's something we should try to stop. Ecosystems are not static. They're dynamic entities that change in time and space. They're like pieces of art. They deteriorate over time. And even when we attempt to restore them to what they once were, they will never truly be exactly as they were in the past.

00:03:02:27 - 00:03:31:11

Lucas:

I don't mean for this to sound depressing. I think it is actually a good thing. We should no longer focus on pure restoration, but instead focus on new growth and saving endangered and threatened species. Thankfully, since the 2099 Conservation Pact, we've seen cloud forests around the world increase in size. I know that we will probably never return to the abundance of the mid-twentieth century, but I have hope.

00:03:32:17 - 00:03:41:24

Lucas:

I have hope that this work of art will have new meaning to this generation and generations to come. Some say I have too much hope.

00:03:42:07 - 00:03:43:23

Angeline:

Quien tiene esperanza, lo tiene todo. (One who has hope, has everything.)

00:03:44:12 - 00:03:45:21

Lucas:

Angeline. Me asustaste. (You scared me.)

00:03:45:21 - 00:03:46:08

Angeline:

Lo siento, pero la cena ya está lista. (I'm sorry, but dinner is ready.)

00:03:49:03 - 00:03:52:13

Lucas:

OK. Solo... Solo minuto. Necesito terminar este registro. (OK. Just... Just a minute. I need to finish this recording.)

00:03:52:19 - 00:03:55:23

Angeline:

Está bien. Mantendré la comida caliente hasta que vengas. (It's OK. I'll keep the food warm until you come.)

00:03:56:04 - 00:04:00:04

Lucas:

Okay.

00:04:00:04 - 00:04:27:22

Lucas:

Um... where... Where was I? Soil! Yes. There was some interesting data in the soil samples I analyzed earlier in the week. I plan to analyze more samples tomorrow just to be sure my numbers are accurate. But for now it seems dinner awaits. And I'd hate to seem rude. I'll continue with this report later.

00:04:29:23 - 00:05:25:01

Narrator:

This episode featured the voices of Manuel Ravelo as Lucas, Beus Lunaire as Angeline, and me, J Cuevas, as narrator. Written, directed and produced by Faith McQuinn. Sound Design and Mix by Joshua Suhy. Casting Assistance by Courtney Holly. Theme Music by Wild Wander provided by Soundstripe Music. For more information, visit Apollyon dot Observer Pictures dot com. If you enjoyed this episode, please leave a review on Podchaser or Apple Podcasts, and, more importantly, tell a friend.