

Faith

Hello, everyone. It's Faith. And before we start this episode of Patient Zero, I have a favor to ask. My cast, crew, and I need you to buy us a coffee. (Even though we know Theo would prefer it to be tea.) Please visit ko-fi.com/ObserverPix to donate \$3 or more to get season two of a Apollyon funded.

00:00:21:00 - 00:00:46:06

Faith

Your donation, no matter the amount, will help me pay the amazingly talented people who are responsible for making Apollyon the show you love. That's K-O dash F-I slash ObserverPix. The link is also in the show notes. Thank you so much for your support, and thank you for listening.

00:00:37:20 - 00:01:05:01

Narrator:

Observer Pictures presents Patient Zero. This is Episode Six: Day 9, The Site.

00:01:14:18 - 00:01:39:09

Lucas

We have arrived at the coordinates. This area is as much a clearing as you can get in the lower montane region. There is still a significant canopy of trees, but the flora near the ground is less dense. No flowering plants, which is normal. There's a small pond. I'd say roughly five meters across. [Lucas walks closer.]

00:01:42:29 - 00:01:51:17

Lucas

It appears to be rather shallow, but I'd... have to... *recórcholis*.

00:01:52:06 - 00:01:52:23

Reyna

What is it?

00:01:54:10 - 00:01:57:13

Lucas

Es... un *nido*.

00:01:58:20 - 00:02:01:07

Reyna

Well, it must be good. You're whispering in Spanish.

00:02:01:19 - 00:02:03:05

Lucas

A nest. There!

00:02:04:25 - 00:02:07:09

Reyna

Those are just bubbles. It could be a small current—

00:02:08:02 - 00:02:17:07

Lucas

Oh, it's definitely a nest. Many species of frogs and toads build nests from foam to better protect their eggs.

00:02:17:07 - 00:02:18:24

Lucas

[turns on scanner] I have to get closer.

00:02:19:15 - 00:02:24:03

Reyna

You can scan from here. We don't know how deep the water is or what's in it.

00:02:24:04 - 00:02:27:00

Lucas

Marvin would have pinged anything nearby. I'll be fine.

00:02:27:29 - 00:02:29:01

Angeline

Dr. Soto, *ten cuidado*. (*Be careful!*)

00:02:29:25 - 00:02:30:00

Lucas

Si, claro. (Yes, of course!)

00:02:30:00 - 00:02:33:01

Rodolfo

¡Pero si no sabes lo que hay en el agua! (*But you don't know what's in the water!*)

00:02:33:01 - 00:02:36:26

Rodolfo

The entire point of fieldwork is to discover what's in the water.

00:02:36:26 - 00:02:40:08

Rodolfo

You're not... How do you say? *Irrompible!* (*Invisible!*)

00:02:40:08 - 00:02:42:22

Lucas

Claro. [Lucas carefully walks closer.]

00:02:48:09 - 00:03:05:09

Lucas

The pond is shallow along the edges. Not even a meter deep. My movements haven't disturbed the nest, but I won't risk getting closer. [Lucas runs the scanner.]

00:03:05:09 - 00:03:06:07

Lucas

Dios mio.

00:03:06:21 - 00:03:07:28

Reyna

What now? Are you all right?

00:03:09:06 - 00:03:12:06

Lucas

There's a frog. No, a toad here.

00:03:13:03 - 00:03:15:09

Reyna

You found it? Oh my God.

00:03:15:09 - 00:03:21:21

Lucas

Definitely mature. Unfamiliar with the species. But its bright colors suggest male. [Reyna moves closer. Angeline speaks in the background.]

00:03:21:21 - 00:03:22:23

Lucas

Tread lightly.

00:03:22:23 - 00:03:24:00

Reyna

I am.

00:03:24:00 - 00:03:31:10

Lucas

The coloring is very unusual. It's a deep orange with no distinct pattern.

00:03:31:18 - 00:03:36:21

Reyna

Oh my God, it's beautiful. Marvin pictures did it no justice.

00:03:37:19 - 00:03:39:26

Lucas

Martin's pictures wouldn't do mud justice.

00:03:40:06 - 00:03:42:19

Reyna

You really hate the ground bots, don't you?

00:03:43:01 - 00:03:44:22

Lucas

The coloring is... [Reyna sighs]

00:03:44:22 - 00:03:55:27

Lucas

I can't believe I'm saying this, but it is nearly identical to the Golden Toad. Reyna, this could be a Golden Toad. [Silence]

00:03:55:27 - 00:03:58:04

Lucas

Hmm. I keep forgetting you're just a botanist.

00:03:58:08 - 00:03:59:07

Reyna

Excuse me?

00:03:59:13 - 00:04:07:15

Lucas

Okay. Golden toads were declared extinct... in 1989. We might be looking at a Lazarus creature here.

00:04:07:25 - 00:04:09:03

Reyna
Holy shit.

00:04:09:12 - 00:04:10:21

Lucas
Tell me Betty's ready to scan.

00:04:11:01 - 00:04:14:01

Reyna
Yes. Rodolfo has her powered up.

00:04:14:06 - 00:04:17:18

Lucas
I'll grab her [Lucas makes his way out of the water.]

00:04:17:18 - 00:04:19:03

Lucas
Rodolfo, necesita Betty!

00:04:19:09 - 00:04:25:10

Rodolfo
Okay.

00:04:25:10 - 00:04:27:26

Lucas
OW! What the—

00:04:27:26 - 00:04:36:13

Reyna
Lucas! [The recorder drops and shuts off.]

00:04:36:29 - 00:05:09:00

Narrator:

This episode featured the voices of Manuel Ravelo as Lucas, Juliana Gutiérrez Arango as Reyna, Beus Lunaire as Angeline, and me, J Cuevas, as Rodolfo and 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.