

Oblivion Girl – Episode 5

ESSA NARRATION

Skyride Studios presents... Oblivion Girl, episode five. I think I can.

ESSA NARRATION

We'd hidden Alita out in a faraway city called Enyo.

ALITA

How long are you guys abandoning me here?

ESSA NARRATION

And concealed the cash at Kial's place in case anyone decided to break into ours.

Atticus bought first-class train tickets for us to go rendezvous, but we were being trailed. Apparently, Alita's dad didn't trust me enough and sent a few hunters to follow us. It took a while, but we managed to ditch them by slipping out of the back of a store.

BOUNTY HUNTER

Huh? Where'd they go?

ESSA NARRATION

Thanks to that, we arrived at the train station late.

DAEVIN'S BOSS

Take your cash and go home, Daevin. It should last you more than one lifetime. You've caused enough trouble for us here.

ESSA NARRATION

All I heard was blah, blah, blah, money. And I knew exactly who my next victim would be.

That night, I accidentally bumped into his room.

ESSA

Sorry, I thought this was mine.

DAEVIN

No problem. I'm Daevin. What's your name?

ESSA

Essa.

ESSA NARRATION

Next to his suitcase, above his head, sap is safe. Not just any safe, an unlocked and open one.

ESSA

Wanna grab a drink at the bar?

DAEVIN

Sure. Give me one second.

(Locks safe)

ESSA NARRATION

Motherfucker wasn't gonna make this easy.

Throughout the night, I dished out a fake laugh for every bad joke that came out of his mouth.

(Laughing)

It gradually became touchy-feely, frisking around for the key. I practically searched his entire body, but there was no sign of it. Where the fuck did he put it? Up his butt?

ESSA

Could we continue our conversation another time? I'm getting sleepy.

DAEVIN

Sure thing. Good night, Essa. Sweet dreams.

ESSA

Good night.

(Blows a kiss)

Ughhhh...

ATTICUS

How did it go?

ESSA

It didn't. How did it go trying to pick the lock?

ATTICUS

Horrible. I forgot to bring my kit. Had to use bobby pins and paper clips.

ESSA

Atticus!

ATTICUS

I didn't know there'd be lock picking. I thought we were just gonna grab Alita and go home.

ESSA

We were, but why not make a little extra bonus along the way?

ESSA NARRATION

The next morning, I had fallen asleep at the breakfast table. Drool slowly dripped out at the side of my mouth. I hadn't slept a wink.

(Gasping)

I realized my strawberry milkshake had melted and overflowed down the side of the glass.

ESSA

Thanks for waking me, dick.

ATTICUS

I figured you could probably use the extra rest.

ESSA

Who knew pretending to agree with what we will say would be so exhausting?

ATTICUS

A trait you're not accustomed to... obviously.

ESSA

Don't worry, slick. Next time, I'll fix you up in the sexy outfit and let you seduce the target.

ATTICUS

Okay, but just to let you know, red is not my color. Also, you should probably stop calling him 'The Target'. It's a dead giveaway.

ESSA

I don't call him 'The Target' when I'm with him, you dope. What kind of amateur do you mistake me for? Alita. Oh, fuck. Speak of the devil.

DAEVIN

Hello again. Sleep well?

ESSA

So much that I wish they were still closed.

(Fake Laugh)

ESSA NARRATION

My cheeks hurt from forcing a smile, but up they went again. This better be worth it.

DAEVIN

So, are you going to introduce me to your friend?

ATTICUS

I'm her brother. Name is... Aaaatticus.

ESSA NARRATION

Nice job using a false name, idiot. And really, brother? That was the best he could come up with? I guess looking back, I didn't use a false name either.

DAEVIN

My name's Daevin. Nice to meet you. What brings the two of you out this way?

ATTICUS

Oh, us?

ESSA NARRATION

We hadn't thought that far ahead. Good thing I had the talent of hemorrhaging triumphant lies.

ATTICUS

B-business? Y-you?

DAEVIN

Same. What kind of work did you do?

ESSA

My brother sells guns.

DAEVIN

Really? Like a door-to-door kind of thing?

ATTICUS

Yeah, kind of like that.

ESSA

Maybe if you're lucky, he'll cut you a deal.

DAEVIN

No thanks. One is all I need.

ESSA

See, brother?

(Kicking under table)

I told you it's a stupid job. He's been at it a whole month and hasn't sold a single gun.

DAEVIN

Don't be too hard on yourself. I'm sure business will pick up for you once we reach town.

ATTICUS

You're probably right. Would you excuse me? I'm not feeling so well.

ESSA NARRATION

After chowing down on breakfast, Romeo's breath smelled like rotten eggs and wouldn't leave me the hell alone. I was lucky to use the bathroom in peace.

The more he hung around, the more he fell in love with me, the more I hated him. To top it off, he was getting friendly. A little too friendly.

It was evening by the time I saw Atticus again. To be more accurate, I tracked him down. He was at the bar, racking up quite the tab on some imported liquor with floating gold specks.

ATTICUS

And that's why trains are useless when you compare their consumption versus momentum.

BARTENDER

So you don't want another glass then?

ESSA

Brother, there you are.

ESSA NARRATION

Daevin was still glued to my waist, and I needed help to pry him off. I gave him a big, sisterly headlock extra hard.

ESSA

And you ordered my favorite drink for me. Thanks, you're the best.

ATTICUS

Anything for you, sis. Excuse me, bartender. One more, please.

(Pours another glass)

ESSA

Daevin's been telling me all about his interesting life as a miner.

ATTICUS

Funny, he doesn't look that young.

ESSA

No, stupid, he mines precious stones, like the kind floating around in your drink.

DAEVIN

Truth is, a group of us struck it rich not too long ago. We'd been mining in a cave for over a year, found more rare gemstones than we could carry. After we cleared it out, I was put in charge of splitting the loot, even. But the night before, I was supposed to give everyone their share. The gems went missing.

Everyone blamed me. I had to borrow cash from a friend just so I could get away with my life. If I had stolen them, I wouldn't be riding in economy class. That's for sure.

ESSA NARRATION

Something about his story seemed a little off.

ESSA

Yeah, yeah, listen, you're missing the point entirely.

ATTICUS

And that is?

ESSA

The point, my drunken friends, is that it doesn't matter whether he stole the loot or not. The fact that it's missing means someone did. Who cares if it's him, me, or you for that matter? Times are tough.

DAEVIN

If that's the case, you'd be the last person I'd expect to rip me off. I'm a pretty good judge of character. And I can't imagine you're any more evil than a puppy, Essa.

(Laughs)

ESSA NARRATION

I had to give it to Daevin. He was far more dimwitted than I thought he'd be.

ESSA

I'll drink to that.

ATTICUS

Does anybody have the time?

DAEVIN

Yawn Just after midnight, I probably should be headed to bed. Care to join me?

ESSA

Oh, me? Sure, okay.

ATTICUS

Good luck, girl. You'll need it.

ESSA NARRATION

I didn't need luck. I was Oblivion Girl. Plus, Daevin and I were after two completely different things, and I wasn't gonna stop until I got mine.

(Door Opens)

Daevin's room was nice. It even had a built-in private bathroom.

ESSA

Get the bed warm. I'll be right there.

(Goes to bathroom)

ESSA NARRATION

I double-checked the KO canister against my thigh and made sure it was ready to go.

Daevin was already in bed with the covers wrapped around him.

ESSA

Like what you see.

(Laughs)

DAEVIN

Ohhh, yes.

ESSA

I'll give you a closer look. Mind turning out the lights?

DAEVIN

Sure thing.

ESSA NARRATION

He flipped off the lights as I slipped on the gas mask. I made Atticus tuck it away under his mattress before going to the bar.

Smoke flooded out from under the door into the main hallway. I opened a window and waited 30 seconds for it to clear.

(Window opens) (Window closes)

Walking back to Daevin, I poked him a few times to make sure he wasn't playing pretend. I found the key taped to his gun. That sneaky little bitch.

(Opens safe)

To my surprise, there was a full bag of rare gemstones along with the stacks of cash.

ESSA

I guess he was a liar. Santa will have to leave him cold.

ESSA NARRATION

With my back to the bed, I stuffed the loot in my bra. I waited for the nightly patrol to pass before sliding over the door. I didn't need Boy Scouts setting off alarms.

It took eight minutes for the patrolling guard to walk from one end of the train to the other. Once the coast was clear, I lightly shut the door and tiptoed my way down the hall. Gas masks still dangling around my neck.

(Clicks gun)

I didn't have to turn around to know Daevin was standing behind me. Only it wasn't the Daevin I'd spent the last few days with. This was his real persona.

DAEVIN

Sorry, love, but I can't let you leave without a goodbye kiss.

ESSA NARRATION

Even the way he spoke sounded different. It must be exhausting to always be so fake.

ESSA

Funny, you're supposed to be taking a nap. Do I need to put you in a time out?

DAEVIN

Word of advice, if you're gonna knock someone out with gas, make sure they aren't holding their breath.

ESSA NARRATION

I couldn't figure out if I hated this man or had fallen in love. Either way, he wasn't getting back the gems that easily.

DAEVIN

You can also drop the knife behind your back.

ESSA

So you weren't just feeling me up for your own perverted pleasures?

DAEVIN

Sorry, in our line of work, you can never be too cautious.

ESSA

Well, you're not the only one with precautions. Atticus is mine. He has you in his sights down the hall. Turn around if you don't believe me. I'll make him wave.

ESSA NARRATION

Two-face fell for the bait. Seizing the opportunity while his back was turned, I leaped out the window and jumped on top of the train. This was not an ideal place for a bra full of cash and gems.

Daevin pursued me like some bad cliché from an old Western movie. I led him down the train to the caboose.

DAEVIN

I don't wanna shoot you.

ESSA

That makes two of us.

DAEVIN

Give me back the gemstones. You can keep the money.

ESSA

I guess I have no other option.

ESSA NARRATION

He opened them and saw the gems that had been swapped for normal river rocks. I wasn't lying before when I said Atticus was down the hall. He was hiding in the shadows, rifle pointed at Daevin's head. When I told Daevin he was there, Atticus nearly had a heart attack.

ATTICUS

Ugh.

ESSA NARRATION

When Daevin jumped out the window after me, Atticus snuck into his room and took the gems that I'd left in the safe.

(Laughing)

I'd swapped them with a phony bag of rocks I'd taken from the plants in my train cars. The plan had worked great, except for the fact that I was freezing my arse off on top of the train with a gun pointed at my head.

Attached to the wheels of the caboose were three grenades tied to a fishing line. They ran up and across the top of the roof. All Daevin had to do was trip the streams and blow the wheels, disconnecting our caboose from the rest of the train. There was just one problem. The bastard wasn't moving. He just stood there, gun pointed at me, blathering on and on.

DAEVIN

Where are they, Essa?

ESSA

What? I can't hear you.

DAEVIN

Give me the gems!

ESSA

I'm sorry, I still can't hear you. You'll have to come closer.

ESSA NARRATION

I cautiously walked forward. One foot over the other. As he inched closer and closer, I felt my heart pounding out of my chest.

Reaching the string his foot stepped over the tripwire and onto the other side.

Plan B was a bust.

(Gunshot)

I glanced down with the warm blood oozing down my arm. He was going to pay for that.

ESSA

You're a pretty awful shot.

DAEVIN

Keep it! There's more where that came from.

ESSA NARRATION

Like I could give it back.

ESSA

Well, in that case, I have a going-away present for you too.

ESSA NARRATION

I only have one shot at this. It needed to be perfect. The train rolled over a wooden bridge and I knew it was now or never.

ESSA

Yippee-ki-yay, bitch.

ESSA NARRATION

With my good arm, I flung my knife at him. It missed his body, but I wasn't aiming for that. The knife fell towards his feet, hit the string, which cut the wire, and ripped half of the wheels off the caboose.

(Explosion)

The funny thing about train cars, they don't respond well after you blow them up. The explosion caused the caboose to slowly roll over and tip to one side.

Daevin and I lost our balance and grabbed ahold of the train. We hung off the top of the car and all I could think was that somehow in my gut, I knew this was Atticus' fault.

My good arm kept me from swan diving off the bridge and into the water as my bad arm lost it's grip.

I looked over to Daevin and would let go of his gun so he could climb back up. As the caboose lost speed tipping increased, there was no way I could pull myself up. Within seconds, Daevin towered over me, waiting for me to fall.

DAEVIN

Give me the gems, and I'll help you up.

ESSA

How about, you just come with me instead?

ESSA NARRATION

I used my bad arm to grab onto his ankle. The caboose lost balance and tipped over the side of the bridge. Both of us plummeted to our watery graves.

Daevin tried to grab ahold of me, but I pushed him away before hitting the water.

DAEVIN

Aaah!

(Splash)

ESSA NARRATION

The caboose landed on top of him. At least he didn't have to swim with one arm.

I watched the caboose sink to the bottom of the river, along with Daevin.

Night fell, and I waited for Atticus to come pick me up. As usual, he was late.

ESSA NARRATION

It took a good mile and a half for it to finally screech to a halt.

Atticus leapt off. By then, everyone had their heads popping through the windows, chattering to each other about the explosion.

Expecting to find my lifeless body strung about the ground being devoured by rabid dogs, he was relieved to see me sitting against the shore. It'd take a lot more than that to kill

me. He ripped off a piece of his trench coat and wrapped it around my arm for a makeshift bandage.

ESSA

Let go of me, I can walk myself!

ATTICUS

No way, you've done enough for now.

ESSA NARRATION

He carried me back to the train while I filled him in on what went down.

ESSA

The knife cut the line, blew the wheels off, and I tipped off the bridge into the river. I saw my life flash before my eyes. I wanna do it again!

ESSA NARRATION

Back to the train, the conductors thought the caboose malfunctioned and detached but didn't know what caused the explosion. After bribing them with half of Daevin's stolen cash, the train got back on its way.

Atticus and I stayed locked in our bedroom, examining the gemstones. They were a type known as jadeite, the rarest on Earth, and now we had a bag full of them. I understood why Daevin's friends weren't too happy when these were missing. We decided to keep them on me for safety. The last thing I wanted was to repeat Daevin's mistake.

Before we knew it, we were in Enyo with enough money to buy Enyo.

ATTICUS

So, where do you think Alita's hiding?

ESSA

It doesn't matter. Won't take me long to track her down.

ESSA NARRATION

Just because she hid out here didn't mean we knew exactly where she was staying. We bought a temporary sling and put my arm in it until we had time to visit a real hospital.

Enyo was a beautiful, small town overgrown with moss, overpopulated with good-for-nothing tourists. The locals were anything but friendly to bounty hunters. The

death and destruction that followed us around wasn't exactly best for business. We tried asking around about Alita but were kicked out of every place. We'd have to find her without their help. That was when I spotted Daevin walking around like some sort of cockroach that wouldn't die.

I ducked behind tourists who thought I was trying to pickpocket them. Daevin's wet shoes squished and slashed as he walked by. It was all for reunions but not after trying to kill a guy by smashing a train on his head.

Curious about where he was headed, I abandoned Atticus and followed Daevin to an outdoor market. He stopped periodically to look at some items, but never bought anything, probably because I had all his money. He stopped again at a fruit stand, and I snuck up behind him with a great idea of how to take him down.

DAEVIN

Enjoying my money, Essa?

ESSA

How did you, but I--

DAEVIN

(Laughing)

You didn't think I'd kill you with all these people here, did you?

ESSA

Funny, I have no problem with an audience.

DAEVIN

I figured. You're so predictable.

ESSA NARRATION

He grabbed my injured arm and pressed his finger into the wound.

DAEVIN

Come now, darling. Let's go someplace we can be alone.

ESSA NARRATION

He dragged me through the streets until we reached a secluded train yard.

ESSA

Really? This is the place you want to have our fight? Aren't you worried I'll drop another train on your head?

(Gun clicks)

DAEVIN

Not exactly.

ESSA NARRATION

Apparently, that was the magical cue for his angry group of coworker friends to walk out of the train carrying weapons.

DAEVIN

I told you. I told you I'd find the person who stole our gems!

DAEVIN'S BOSS

Yeah, you did good, Dae.

ESSA NARRATION

Bastard had set me up from the start. If his little buddy searched me, they'd find a big bag of their gemstones tucked away. Maybe he wasn't as dumb as I thought. Also, what kind of stupid nickname is Dae? Is his sister named Night or something?

ESSA

Hey, D-bag. I hope you're wearing your Sunday best, because I'm going to bury you in it.

DAEVIN

All we want is the gems you stole, Essa.

ESSA

Well, I ate them, so you're either going to have to wait a while for them to reappear, or come gut me like a fish.

DAEVIN

Nothing's ever easy with you, is it?

(Gunshots)

ESSA NARRATION

Damn. Men are stupid.

I searched around for Daevin as panicked men ran all around me, but he would dart away before I had time to attack. Suddenly, from behind, I felt the wind shift as he tried to flank me.

(Second Sun)

DAEVIN

Ah, fuck! That's bright!

(Gunshots)

Take this, you fucking bitch!

ESSA

Um, hello?

ESSA NARRATION

A train car slid its side door open.

ESSA

Is that Macro?

MACRO

Oblivion Girl, good to see you again. You won't get away from me this time!

(Knife stab)

ESSA NARRATION

He paused and looked down at the knife I had thrown into his chest.

MACRO

Oh.

(Fall over)

ESSA NARRATION

He blacked out from the pain and fell backward into the train car as it started to roll away.

(Gunshot)

ESSA

You got one more shot, D-bag. Better make it count.

DAEVIN

What are you? Why won't you just die?!

(Empty gun)

ESSA

I guess I counted wrong. Let me reintroduce myself. The name's Oblivion Girl, destroyer of cities. Does that name ring a bell?

DAEVIN

You? Your Oblivion Girl?

ESSA

You're damn right. And this is the second time you've tried killing me. But you can't. You know why?

DAEVIN

Why?

ESSA

Because you can't kill death itself.

(Kick)

DAEVIN

Fuck my nuts!

ESSA

That's for trying to set me up. And thanks for bringing all your friends here. Now I can rob them too.

(Spit) (Coughing)

And that's for shooting me in the arm when I wasn't paying attention.

DAEVIN

Makes sense.

ESSA NARRATION

I took whatever expensive stuff I could find off the bodies and started to walk away.

ESSA

Oh, if I ever see you again, I'll kill you. I just want to be extra, super clear about that. Have a nice life, D-bag.

ALITA

Come on, Atticus, please. Just one more hand before she gets here!

ATTICUS

No way! If Essa finds out—

ESSA

—If Essa finds out what?

ATTICUS

Tell her, Alita.

ALITA

No way. She's scary. You tell her.

ESSA

How about you both tell me, now?

ESSA NARRATION

Long story short, Alita had spent a lot of our money on a fancy hotel. To make matters worse, she gambled the rest away at the hotel's casino.

HOTEL SECURITY

Excuse me. We can't allow you to leave until you paid your bills.

ESSA NARRATION

Yeah, like that, stop us. Atticus pressed the barrel of his rifle against the chain and shot. The handcuffs shattered into a million pieces.

I choked her with my one good arm.

ALITA

Thanks for that. So good to see you guys. I'm ready to go home now.

ESSA

Keep talking. I want to listen to your voice as your life slips away.

ESSA NARRATION

It took five strong security guards to pull me off her. Before I knew it, I had a tug of war with them as they used all their strength to reel Alita back in. Unsuccessfully, I might add.

Alita's body was perfectly horizontal as her face turned red, purple, and then blue, just like a rainbow. I soon lost interest in the game and let go.

(Yelling)

HOTEL SECURITY

Listen, you may be stronger than us, but we're not letting you get on *that* train until *her* bill has been paid.

ESSA

Fine, you want cash, fucking take it.

ESSA NARRATION

I said, throwing the rest of Daevin's money into the air.

(Cheering)

HOTEL SECURITY

That money belongs to the Ruppert Casino!

MAN IN CROWD

(Laughing)

Yeah? Well, not anymore.

ESSA NARRATION

For the remainder of the train ran back home Alita sat and stared out the window. She didn't really have a choice since we had locked her in the room with us.

(Handcuffs click)

ALITA

But what if I have to pee?

ESSA

Don't worry. We won't stop you.

ALITA

Uhhh... a little help here, Atticus?

(Snoring)

Don't pretend to be asleep!

ATTICUS

Wake me when we get home.