

Oblivion Girl – Episode 8

ESSA NARRATION

Skyride Studios presents... Oblivion Girl. Episode 8. Yesterday till forever.

When Commander Merit Badge woke, he moved his tongue around his mouth like he was searching for a piece of food stuck between his teeth.

ESSA

Don't bother. Your cyanide tooth fell out when you hit the ground.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

A fucking wonderful, cheap piece of shit.

Where are you taking me?

ESSA

A place where you'll tell us all your secrets.

ALITA

We're almost there. Should I put the bag over his face now?

ESSA

Yeah, why not? I'm tired of looking at it.

Smooth driving.

ATTICUS

You're lucky I can even get this thing to move at all.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

Where am I?

ESSA

No more questions.

ESSA NARRATION

In actuality, we hadn't gone anywhere. I had Atticus do a few zigzags in town before parking the truck. We walked him down the main street, and I decided to have a little fun by intentionally running his body into nearby objects.

ESSA

Careful! Don't want him brushing against anything poisonous like the last guy. At least, not before we've had our fun.

ALITA

Hehehe.

ESSA NARRATION

We walked Merit Badge up and down the street like a dog. We made stuff up like, "Duck under that branch", and "Watch out for this part of the river".

It was fun watching him avoiding imaginary objects.

ESSA

Time to meet the Doctor.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

Who's the Doctor?

ESSA

You'll find out soon enough.

ALITA

Ah, Doctor! Hello! You brought your tools, I see.

ESSA NARRATION

She reached out and handed Atticus a lighter, a knife, and a canteen full of ice water.

ESSA

We'll leave you to it.

ALITA

Have fun, Doctor!

ESSA

Don't make him bleed out too quickly.

(Glup)

ATTICUS

Hello, my little plaything. I've been hired to tell all your little secrets.

ESSA NARRATION

Alita and I looked at him as if he'd lost his mind. Apparently, it was the best he could come up with on short notice.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

W-what kind of secrets?

ATTICUS

They asked me to talk about Eden. What do you know about him?

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

I don't know anything about Eden.

ESSA NARRATION

We waved the flame close to Merit Badge's arm.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

What was that?

ATTICUS

Sorry, just had to move the cattle prod back into the fire. It was beginning to cool down too much.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

Listen, I got money. I can make you as rich as a king. The others? They don't have to know.

ATTICUS

Why would I release my newest toy without having a little fun first? Tell me that Eden is hiding, and I don't have to snipy snipy.

ESSA NARRATION

Atticus touched the lighter to Merit Badge's thigh.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

AH! Hey, that's hot! Get away from my crotch!

(Water drips)

What was that?!

ATTICUS

Ice water.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

What for?

ATTICUS

We wouldn't want you bleeding out before I finish.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

Please, please don't do this! Garden Grave. That's all I know!

ATTICUS

I already know about Garden Grave. I need more.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

But I... I told you. I don't know.

ATTICUS

Then it's time for a shot of Novocain to numb you up.

ESSA NARRATION

Atticus slid the knife down Merit Badge's arm and made a small prick.

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

Ah! Okay! Fuck! Okay.

Look for an entrance next to the waterfall. I've never gone inside with him, but I've seen people enter and exit there. I swear, that's all I know.

ESSA NARRATION

Atticus and I looked at each other. I nodded.

ATTICUS

Fine. Here's what will happen.

I'm leaving, but five men will remain here with guns pointed at you. You will count out loud for five minutes. If you miss a number, the men will shoot you. If you try to leave... they will also shoot you.

After five minutes, one of the men will take your blindfold off. When that happens, you'll be escorted to the edge of town and free to go. Understood?

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

You're going to have me killed, aren't you...

ATTICUS

You have my word. You'll be safe. Start counting now. Good luck!

COMMANDER MERIT BADGE

(While crying)

One, two, three, four, five, six... Oh, did I say five? Oh, five! Five! Six, seven...

ESSA NARRATION

We piled into the truck and drove off.

Merit Badge sat in the middle of the street, counting like a good little boy. I could only imagine the look on his face when he took the blindfold off and realized it was all make-believe. We left the lighter knife and water there so he could have a fighting chance to get back to civilization. Even if he ran to Garden Grave, we'd have a three-day lead. Which is more than enough time to get in, kill Eden, and get out.

The place crawled with special ops straddling automatic weapons and night vision goggles.

REAPER

Copy that. Sector four is clear.

ESSA NARRATION

We blew up our truck as a diversion.

REAPER

Strike that! We have an explosion in Sector Four! We're headed to check it out!

ESSA NARRATION

After they had passed, we snuck our way through the gate.

I was amazed at how beautiful it looked. A small valley hidden away from the outside world. Under the cover of moonlight, we ran past moss-covered ruins and dodged in and out of vine-covered trees. Water droplets splashed my legs as I kicked through countless flowers of every color, shape, and size.

ESSA

I think we should split up.

ALITA

Agreed. That will help me to start eliminating areas.

ATTICUS

I'll watch your backs.

ESSA NARRATION

Atticus climbed to the top of the waterfall while Alita searched behind it. I stuck my head into the water, which was clear and warm. Hundreds of fish swam in schools around me.

ALITA

Hey! I think I found something!

ESSA NARRATION

In front of us was a deep stone well with no water inside. A lit a stick on fire and chucked it down.

As the stick fell, it revealed a small spiral staircase descending downwards into darkness.

ESSA

I think we've found the front door. How about we see if anyone's home?

ESSA NARRATION

(Water Splash)

Super awesome! Now my shoes were soaked!

The air smelled decayed and dusty with a hint of body odor. Above us, skeleton bones protruded out of the ceiling.

The mystery of the body odor had been solved. Wonderful!

At the end of the passageway, we were greeted by a 20ft x 20ft solid gold door.

It was like stepping into Hearst Castle on steroids.

50ft high ceilings with treasures so lavish, just touching them gave me goosebumps. Priceless artifacts dating back to the war were stored here, in hopes of being reclaimed later by the military.

Not only had others forgotten these treasures, but now Eden had them to fund a lifetime of missions.

ESSA

Remind me to come back here after we kill Eden.

ATTICUS

I'm going to have to remind you?

ESSA

Good point. Okay, Alita, you're up. Let's get this done and over with.

ALITA

You got it, boss lady.

(Error on display)

What the... Okay, how about this?

(Error on display)

Oh, you've gotta be kidding me!

I can't get any readings in here! It's just all static.

ESSA

I guess we will have to do it the old-fashioned way.

ESSA NARRATION

We heard footsteps approach and made our way to the closest room.

ATTICUS

Quick, smother the candles!

ESSA NARRATION

I hid on the cross beams in the ceiling while Alita snuck behind a giant marbled statue. Atticus was under a large wooden dining table with a silk tablecloth. The barrel of his gun protruded out of the cloth, silencer and all.

(Footsteps) (Load gun) (Thud)

ESSA

Alita! Help me drag him by his feet!

(Slides body away)

ESSA NARRATION

As much as I loved stabbing people, I didn't want to keep this up the whole night.

I peeked down the hall and saw four more patrols.

I needed some sort of distraction.

ESSA

Hey guys, come check this out.

What's around the corner there?

ESSA NARRATION

Alita and Atticus peered out the doorway, and I gave them a solid push into the hall.

(Thud)

REAPER

Look over there! Intruders! Stop where you are!

(Alarm goes off)

ALITA

Essa! Open the door!

ATTICUS

There's no time, Alita, come on!

(Footsteps) (Gun fire)

ESSA NARRATION

If I knew Eden, he'd be hiding in the most self-absorbed room he could find. I just had to find where that was.

Atticus got pinned into a corner as far as blocks by the side of the hallways.

ALITA

(Kicks open door)

Atticus, stop shooting! Get in here!

ATTICUS

Help me with this bookshelf!

(Thud)

ESSA NARRATION

Together, the Reapers rammed the door, trying their best to break through. The chances were, the door wasn't going to last much longer.

ALITA

Maybe we can go and check out—

ATTICUS

—Shh! What's that sound?

(Explosion)

Oh shit!

ESSA NARRATION

These guys weren't playing around.

Outside the door, the reapers pushed the still-smoking cannon back into the corner of the hall. One of the men reached through the hall and tried to unlock the door. Before he could, he fell backwards with a belly full of lead.

(Thud)

The squad unleashed their automatic weapons into the room, turning a wall into a million toothpicks.

One after one, the squad charged inside.

ALITA

Atticus! I need more ammo!

ATTICUS

Here, take these! They're my last two!

ESSA NARRATION

It didn't take long for the thirty men remaining to push their way inside. Surrounded by guards, Atticus and Alita had no choice but to put their hands up.

(Thud) (Grunt)

ALITA

I'm going to kill Essa.

ESSA NARRATION

I wandered around the castle when classical music began playing from a nearby room. Standing in the room was a man in a butler's uniform with his head bowed, his arms extended to the room next door.

He wasn't just any normal butler. He wore a bulletproof vest on the outside of his outfit. His hair was well-groomed, and he had jade-coloured eyes like a cold-blooded killer. Mr. Belvedere followed behind, shut the door, and locked it.

Like that would stop me.

The room was massive. There was so much gold everywhere that you'd need sunglasses just to enjoy it. Strapped around the room were glowing red beacons as C4. A remote detonator was clenched in Eden's hand as he sat, sloppily hunched over a throne with one leg over the armrest.

What a dick.

EDEN

Hello, sister.

Would you please take a seat.

ESSA NARRATION

Only one problem. There wasn't a chair in the room besides the throne he was sitting on.

ESSA

Good to see you too, Ed. I guess you took care of that embarrassing lisp. What's the matter? Got tired of sounding like Daffy Duck?

EDEN

We all have our own obstacles to overcome.

ESSA

You sure are playing it cool for a man with an *incredibly* large bounty on his head.

EDEN

I see.

I suppose Oblivion Girl, destroyer of cities, wants to collect the reward?

You always did enjoy playing Dress-Up Elyssa, but the time for games is over.

ESSA

Speaking of Dress-Up, what's with Mr. Bulletproof Belvedere you got over there?

EDEN

Him? Just my walking shadow. Harmless to those who behave.

ESSA

Well then, tell Shadowboy if he doesn't quit eyeballing me, I'll carve him up with or without the bulletproof jacket.

EDEN

Another time, perhaps.

ESSA

You mean like after I'm done killing you?

EDEN

That's why I bought insurance.

ESSA

I wouldn't really call C4 insurance, but whatever false sense of safety works best for you.

EDEN

What, this old thing?

That's for the grand finale.

What I have is something *better* than C4. Here, take a look.

ESSA NARRATION

A bright light appeared behind me as the projector clicked on. The image was from one of the many secret hidden security cameras placed around the castle.

I watched as Atticus and Alita were led out of a holding room by a group of Reapers. Their faces were bruised, bloody, and beaten. The bastards didn't even go easy on Alita.

EDEN

If I die, they die. However, if you come with me, you all live. It's a win-win.

ESSA

That's fine. I can kill you later.

EDEN

I highly doubt that. Wouldn't you agree, Jophie?

ESSA NARRATION

Jophie emerged from the shadows like the Demon of Darkness, himself. I had to admit that briefly took me by surprise.

Surprised that I didn't smell his god-awful cologne a mile away.

ESSA

You've got to be shitting me. You're working for him?!

JOPHIE

I had no choice... I'm sorry.

EDEN

Speaking of choices, bring them in.

ESSA NARRATION

Jophie was long gone when Mr. Belvedere opened the doors.

As a pack of Reapers dragged in Atticus and Alita with their hands and feet bound, the soldiers tossed them down.

EDEN

So good to see the whole family is here... except for one.

ESSA NARRATION

He bent down to Alita's level and looked for her face-to-face.

EDEN

Don't worry, my dear. Kial's being dealt with as we speak.

ALITA

Y-you better not lay a hand on him YOU BASTARD!

EDEN

And don't think I've forgotten the lovely bar maiden of Mnemosyne.

ESSA NARRATION

Atticus stayed pinned to the floor, imagining all the ways he'd like to kill Eden.

EDEN

But now...

Let's just focus on Essa, shall we?

ESSA NARRATION

He reached out his hand, and a Reaper handed him a pistol.

He pointed the gun at my stomach.

EDEN

Say goodbye... Oblivion Girl.

(Gun shot)

ESSA NARRATION

I closed my eyes and tried not to focus on the pain. You'd think by now I'd be used to it. My vision blurred as my back grew wet from the pool of blood.

ALITA

ESSA! ESSA!

ESSA NARRATION

Such an overly dramatic girl.

ATTICUS

ESSA! Keep looking at me! Essa! Open your eyes! ESSA!

ESSA NARRATION

I'd miss him most of all.

EDEN

Drag these two to the trucks. We can execute them at the ghost town.

REAPERS

Yes sir!

EDEN

Oh yeah, I almost forgot.

ESSA NARRATION

Eden clicked the detonator.

(Explosion)

Atticus and ALita watched in horror as the ceiling collapsed on top of me.

ALITA

ESSA! No! ESSA!

Atticus! Go help ESSA!

Atticus!

(Knocked Alita unconscious)

REAPER

Don't worry, we haven't forgotten about you.

(Knocked Atticus unconscious)

ESSA NARRATION

Atticus watched as the ground crumbled on top of the castle, leaving nothing behind but a giant crater.

Garden Grave had buried its final body.