

Once Upon a Wasteland
Season One
Prologue

Episode 0:
"All Its Benefits, Its Memories, and Its Hopes"

by

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Based on Fallout 76

by

Bethesda Softworks

"SCREENPLAY FORMAT"

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE, NIGHT

We hear a keypad beep, and a heavy door opens. Two archaeologists-for-hire enter the room.

THE HISTORIAN

Well, that's good news.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

What is?

THE HISTORIAN

Since the keypad works, not only does that mean that this place still has power, but it means it's the *right* place.

(beat)

Huh. Rad levels are pretty close to normal in here. Must've really locked things up tight.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Yeah. Good thing, too, that radstorm that's brewing looks like a nasty one. We're probably going to have to hunker down in here for a while.

(beat)

I could've done without the Easter egg hunt to get here, though.

THE HISTORIAN

Nobody's going to pay that many caps for something that was going to be easy. At least it was puzzles and riddles and not, like, Super Mutants riding Deathclaws or something. I thought maybe it was just because we had to come all the way to Appalachia.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Shine that flashlight over here. If this place has power, maybe the lights still work.

A switch flips.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

That's better.

THE HISTORIAN

Holy shit. This place is *pristine*.
And judging by the dust, it's been
a hell of a long time since anybody
set foot in here. Wonder what
happened...

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Focus. Alright, there's a terminal,
but I don't see a door.

THE HISTORIAN

Try the password you decrypted and
see what happens. I really hope it
works.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

I'm charging her an extra 500 caps
if it doesn't. Her cipher key was
supposed to help us decode pretty
much everything.

THE HISTORIAN

Hang on, let me pull it up.

THE HISTORIAN taps at his Pip-Boy.

THE HISTORIAN (CONT'D)

Uh, let me spell it. K-I-R-S-C-H-E.
What does that even mean?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

It's German, you dolt.

THE HISTORIAN

Jeez, sorry. I guess I was busy
*writing the definitive account of
the first hundred years after the
war* and never quite got around to
learning a language that nobody
I've ever encountered speaks.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST laughs.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

I was wondering how long it was
going to take for you to bring that
up.

(beat)

Alright, moment of truth...

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST clacks at the terminal keyboard. It beeps,
and a bookcase - really a secret door - lumbers out of the
way

THE HISTORIAN

Nice!

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Let's see what this old family treasure is all about.

THE HISTORIAN

Just remember, you're an archaeologist, not a Raider.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

How about you wait to see how much gold and jewelry is in here before you say that?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST opens the door.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Huh.

THE HISTORIAN

What?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Well... no gold, no jewels.

THE HISTORIAN

What is it?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Holotapes, mostly. A lot of them. Some... books? Journals? Looks like sciency stuff. And a file cabinet.

THE HISTORIAN

Bring the holotapes out here, we might as well look through them. You know, to make sure we have the right "treasure."

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

There are boxes of them. I'll grab... oh.

THE HISTORIAN

What?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

This one has a big "1" on it. I guess we can start with that one. See what's in there while I check out that file cabinet.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST brings the box of holotapes into the main room and puts it on the table.

THE HISTORIAN begins to look through them as THE ARCHAEOLOGIST surveys the contents of the room again.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

This is one hell of an archive.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST opens a file cabinet.

This thing is filled with pictures.

(beat)

Whoa.

THE HISTORIAN

What, what is it?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

(enchanted)

She's beautiful.

THE HISTORIAN

Let me see!

(beat)

Wow. You weren't kidding. Who is she?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

The back of the picture says
"Elizabeth Laurel Kirby, 2103."

THE HISTORIAN

That means this stuff is more than
200 years old! What else is in
there?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Uh... here she is with somebody
else. Looks a little older here.

THE HISTORIAN

Husband?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Uh, no.

THE HISTORIAN

Oh! Wow. She's beautiful, too. Does
it say who *she* is?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Uh... it says "Beth and Odessa,
2108."

THE HISTORIAN

Whoever Odessa is, it looks like she's pregnant.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Yeah.

THE HISTORIAN

Anything in there on who she was?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Uh...

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST shuffles through more files.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Wait, here's a picture of her by herself. It says... "Scribe Odessa Valdez, 2104."

THE HISTORIAN

So she was Brotherhood.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Must've been. But... it looks like most of what's in these files are just pictures... Chronological order, but no real context. I wonder if those holotapes have any actual info on them.

THE HISTORIAN

Maybe.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST and THE HISTORIAN step back into the main room.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

I don't even know where to start. There are so damn many of them. And I don't even know what half of the labels on the boxes are describing. "Scorched?" What the hell is "Scorched?" "New Enclave" certainly sounds interesting, though...

THE HISTORIAN

I think we should start with *this* tape.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Why that one?

THE HISTORIAN

Because the label says "start with this tape."

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

(chuckling)

Well, kudos to whoever put all this together for helpfully labeling everything.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST inserts the holotape into the terminal and clacks at the keyboard.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Looks like it's all text. I guess I'll start with the introduction.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST reads from the screen.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

(reading)

This is the story of a spy and a Scribe. The story of their love, and how it saved Appalachia from the "Bringer of Light."

THE HISTORIAN

"Saved" Appalachia? I guess it didn't take... sure doesn't look "saved" now.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Shush.

(beat)

Alright, here we go.

(goes back to reading)

Elizabeth Kirby - the spy - was born on April 21, 2081 in Vault 76. Her father, Andrew, was a British intelligence officer and her mother, Elise, was a German diplomat.

(beat)

Odessa Valdez - the Scribe - was born on July 17, 2075, in California. Her parents were officers in the United States Army, and joined the Brotherhood of Steel soon after it was formed by Roger Maxson. The "Knights Valdez" raised Odessa to be a Scribe, and she was a very, very good one.

THE HISTORIAN

So she was there for the founding of the Brotherhood, but how did she make it all the way here?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

It says here that Maxson ordered an expedition to Appalachia, and another scribe was supposed to go, but she couldn't handle the march. Odessa volunteered to go in her place.

THE HISTORIAN

Wait! She was part of the Lost Expedition? The Brotherhood's been trying to get the full story on what happened to them for what, 150 years? I bet they'd give us a truckload of caps for this stuff.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Just remember, you're a historian, not a Raider. And the last thing you should want is all this stuff sitting in a storage room at the Citadel.

THE HISTORIAN

Smart-ass. Fine.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Oh, this may also explain some things.

THE HISTORIAN

What?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

It says that her fiancé was supposed to go with her. Knight Derek Hewitt.

THE HISTORIAN

Ahhh, now I get it. He must be the reason she was pregnant in that second picture.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Maybe not. It says here that he ended up not going.

THE HISTORIAN

What? Why?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Wow. Whoever wrote this was *not* a fan.

(beat)

The long and the short of it is that at the last minute, he refused to go on the expedition and demanded that she stay, too.

THE HISTORIAN

Demanded?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Yeah. Gave her an ultimatum and everything. Big fight, and the end result was that she stayed with the expedition and they broke things off.

THE HISTORIAN

Sounds like she made the right call. What an asshole.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

I mean, I'm an archaeologist and not a historian, but there are two sides to every story. The person who wrote this would definitely agree with you, though.

THE HISTORIAN

OK, that's the Scribe. What about the spy?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Right, uh... Elizabeth. Had a fair number of nicknames. Most people called her Beth, her parents called her Lily or Schatzi...

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST chuckles.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

...and one person appears to have called her "Princess."

THE HISTORIAN

Interesting.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Yeah, she really was. She had... man, a hell of a lot of special training in the Vault.

(MORE)

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Intelligence, counter-intelligence, espionage, one-on-one combat training... mostly human intelligence, but some signal intelligence, too. And she was tall. Damn.

THE HISTORIAN

How tall?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Look for yourself.

THE HISTORIAN

"Damn" is right. She must've been a force of nature.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

It sounds like it. So, I guess there was some kind of... Super Mutant business that Odessa and the Brotherhood handled, but it doesn't sound like Beth was involved in that. Sorry, I'm kind of skimming to get to the good stuff...

(beat)

Oh! Here we go.

THE HISTORIAN

What did you find?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

They ended up crossing paths when they both stumbled onto a plot to take over Appalachia and started working together.

THE HISTORIAN

I guess that's the "saved Appalachia" part. But...

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

But what?

THE HISTORIAN

That's not what the intro led with.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Oh... yeah, you're right. The love story. I guess that's really what this whole thing is about. In fact...

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST clacks the keyboard.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Wow. There's a lot here about that.

THE HISTORIAN

You keep reading through that and see if there's anything else worth noting. I'm going to go look through some of those journals to see if they're all science and tech or if there's anything interesting in there.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Alright.

THE HISTORIAN rustles through some books and papers as THE ARCHAEOLOGIST pokes at the keys to review the terminal entries.

THE HISTORIAN

Oh, hell yeah!

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

What did you find?

THE HISTORIAN

There's a stasis case in here, and it's full of beer.

(beat)

"Old Possum?" "Blackwater Brew?"
Never heard of those. Well, that radstorm doesn't sound like it's going to get better anytime soon, so I'm willing to give them a try. How about you?

(beat)

Hey.

(beat)

You okay?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

(emotional)

Oh, man...

THE HISTORIAN re-enters.

THE HISTORIAN

What is it?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

This... this is... a lot.

THE HISTORIAN

Are you *crying*?

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Shut up.

THE HISTORIAN laughs.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

She was her North Star.

THE HISTORIAN

Hey, hey. Look, I found a manifest of the holotapes. Most of them are audio. Like... an oral history.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Oooh!

THE HISTORIAN

Not that kind of oral history.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Oh.

THE HISTORIAN

We might as well listen to some of them. Easier than reading off a terminal, at least. And those are usually a little less dry.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Says the guy who writes history books for a living.

THE HISTORIAN laughs.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

So where do you want to start?

THE HISTORIAN

How about at the beginning? This looks like a set. 10 tapes, split up into three groups - The Book of Odessa, the Book of Amanda, and the Book of Elizabeth.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Who's Amanda?

THE HISTORIAN

I don't know. I guess we'll find out. We have at least a few hours to kill before that radstorm passes. Might as well see if that fireplace works, crack open a few of these beers, and listen.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

And who knows? Maybe it's a good story.

(beat)

Hand me one of those "Blackwater Brews."

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST and THE HISTORIAN crack open a beer.

THE HISTORIAN

Here we go.

THE HISTORIAN inserts the first holotape into the terminal. A voice crackles over the terminal's speakers.

NARRATOR

Once upon a time, 27 years after the bombs fell, there were two people - a Vault Dweller and a California Girl. They met, and sparks flew. That's when things got interesting.

(beat)

This is their story

FADE OUT.

CLOSING CREDITS

NARRATOR

"Once Upon a Wasteland: Prologue"
was produced and directed by Brad
Williams and written by D.K.
Trueno.

Featuring Lawrence McNamara as the
Archaeologist and Brad Williams as
the Historian.

I'm your narrator, Ashley Sekhon.

Beth and Odessa's story will begin
with Episode 1: "Such Perfect
Identity of Interests."

THE END

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