

The Elysium Project

Episode 6: Shatter

Podcast Transcript

Prologue

Introduction:

The Elysium Project

Written and produced by Natalie Van Sistine

Episode 6: Shatter

Prologue

A flashback to Kate's first conversation about getting a prosthetic arm with James. James has just shown her the arm and Kate has said nothing.

James: Do you want to try it?

Kate: Is this a joke?

James: No. You've had prosthetics before.

Kate: And they got taken away because I used them to beat up the kids that made fun of me. The only thing weirder than a stump is a fake arm.

James: This is more than a fake arm. It can be interfaced directly into your nervous system and receive signals from your brain the same way the rest of your body already does. Your abilities from the Elysium formula translate your neural signals to allow it to function with the same precision as a normal limb.... and maybe even more.

Kate: And without your formula?

James: It doesn't work that way. Nothing else is close to making up for what your abilities can provide in translating your brain's intentions.

Kate: So that's the catch.

James: This is the closest to getting your arm back that you might ever get.

Kate paces the room, thinking. She picks up the prosthetic.

Kate: This is almost nice of you.

James: I'm not completely evil.

Kate: Am I allowed to say no?

James: I'm hoping we don't have to find out...

James voice fades out and there is a rushing sound along with a high pitched whine as Kate is pulled into consciousness. She's nearly dead from overdosing on her attempt at recreating the formula, and Jess has just found her and is trying to revive her.

Jess: Come on, it's just some of the formula. Come on, Kate... you're not stupid enough to overdose. Why didn't you just wait for us to get back? Why didn't you wait?

Transitional Cut to Intro

Intro: The Elysium Project.

Intro: Written and Produced by Natalie Van Sistine.

Intro: Episode 6... Shatter.

Scene 1

Ian's footsteps fade in and he takes a seat next to Jess in the sitting room of the hotel.

Ian: Hey. Rachel said you'd probably be down here.

Jess: Just needed some space. And coffee. How are the others?

Ian: Okay. Rachel is watching her now. Alex just finished cleaning the... her puke out of the carpet.

Jess: We should pick up some baking soda tomorrow. It'll get the smell out, keep the hotel staff from noticing before we move on.

Ian: Oh? Really?

Jess: I had to clean up after my mom a lot. It does the trick.

Ian: Oh. What did you do with rest of the formula she made?

Jess: Dumpster, a little ways from here.

Ian: All of it?

Jess: Yeah. Not that it's gonna stop her, but she'll know we tried. And she probably can't bake up anything until we fly out of here now.

Ian: I hope so. Thanks for doing that.

There's a long pause between them, Jess shifts uncomfortably.

Jess: Ian uh... I think... Rachel and I have been talking. We want to find our own place after we go to Seattle.

Ian: Oh, sure. I get that. Rooming like this, it's... it's too much.

Jess: No, I mean... we want to go somewhere else. Just us, by ourselves. I'm not even sure if it would be a good idea for you to know where.

Ian: Oh... You mean splitting up...

Jess: I think it would be safer that way. We just want to start over, make it a clean break. And maybe we could meet up again someday, hopefully when things are better, but for now... it'd be best.

Ian: Sure. I get it.

Jess: You're not mad?

Ian: What? No...! It's just... it'll take some getting used to.

Jess: It's nothing personal, you know.

Ian: I know... I just wish we didn't have to.

Jess: (not looking at him, distant) That'd be nice... wouldn't it?

Alex approaches them, his footsteps fading in.

Alex: Hey...

Ian: Is she okay?

Alex: She just woke up. I didn't know if you guys wanted...

Jess: I'll stay down here for a while yet. Thanks.

Ian: I'll... I'll go...

Music transition. The door to the bedroom opens and Ian enters. Kate rolls over on the bed as Ian sits nearby, watching her.

Kate: Ian...?

Ian: Hey.

Kate: What... happened? Did I...?

Ian: Your formula... it messed you up pretty bad. You almost died.

Kate: I really screwed it up, didn't I?

Ian: Yeah. You did.

Kate chokes down a sob while trying to sit up, only to choke on sudden vomit.

Ian: Hey... hey... don't sit up, okay? Just try to stay still and...

Kate: (sobbing brokenly, almost on the verge of hysterics)

Ian: Kate... I'm glad you're still here.

Kate continues to cry and the scene fades out.

Scene 2

Catherine's life support machine fades in distantly. Nick suddenly stirs as Emma touches his shoulder.

Nick: Huh?

Emma: Hey, sorry. I told Melissa I'd try and catch her after her classes let out, so I'm going down to the coffee shop to use the wifi. (brief pause) I figured you'd want to be awake... in case your mom...

Nick: Oh, yeah.

Emma: Do you want some coffee or anything when I get back?

Nick: Coffee would be awesome. Thanks.

Emma: Sure thing. Did you sleep?

Nick: I guess so. It just comes and goes...

Emma: I'm sure... it'll be okay.

Nick: Yeah. We're not going anywhere, Em.

The coffee shop ambiance fades in, along with the sounds of Emma typing to Melissa over chat.

Emma: The doctor says if she doesn't show any more signs of response, they'll be moving her to long term care.

Melissa: That sucks. Poor Nick. Especially with his dad... with what happened.

Emma: I know. But I'm still kind of worried about what's going to happen next? For both of us, I guess.

Melissa: Have you thought any more about coming here? We could figure something out until you turn eighteen and we don't have to worry about your dad - legally, at least.

Emma: Yeah, I want to, but I'm scared you'll get involved too.

Melissa: Yeah. Little late for that.

Emma: You know what I mean. Do you think I should ask Nick?

Melissa: You can, but I mean... it's *your* decision.

Emma: I know. But... what if I make the wrong one?

Behind Emma, coming down the hallway, is a group of men escorting Nick out of the hospital. Nick is lightly restrained and knows that they're looking for Emma, so he begins to protest loudly as they near the coffee shop where she intended to be.

Nick: Hey! Hey!

Emma: Nick?

Nick: Look, I think there's been some kind of mistake! My mom is upstairs- where are you taking me?!

Emma: Be right back, one sec.

Ben's footsteps fade in as he approaches Emma and sits down across from her.

Emma: Ben-?!

Ben: (abrupt) Don't get up.

Nick: If you're looking for Emma, she left yesterday and didn't tell me where she was going! Hey!

Emma: (trying to stand again) Ben, I have to-

Ben: (slightly louder, firm) Sit. Down.

Emma: Then tell me what's happening.

Ben: He's warning you. He knows you're in here and he knows they're looking for you.

Emma: They?!

Ben: You're still being followed.

Emma: Yeah, by *you*.

Ben: I'm trying to help you.

Emma: Why? *Who* are you?

Ben: Your boyfriend is being dragged out of here and you really want to ask that question?

Emma: *What* is happening?

Ben: Getting you out. As soon as they go through the front, we can take the side exit before they come looking for you.

Emma: It's not my dad, is it?

Ben: Maybe. Could be the people he was working for.

Emma: Maybe?!

Ben: Do you want to ask them if I'm wrong?

Emma: What happens when we get out of here? We call the police?

Ben stands, temporarily ignoring her.

Ben: Come on. I think they're all outside now.

Emma stands and they start walking briskly through the hospital.

Ben: The police are too busy with the terrorist threat. There's not much they can do, even if you can convince them.

Emma: But they're just... kidnapping him in broad daylight!

Ben: We're trying not to have the same thing happen to you.

Emma: Then Nick-

Ben: Is gone.

Emma: I don't want to go with you. Not if we can't help him.

Ben: So you're going to run back and hope they haven't already left yet? You think you can stop a team of grown men from hauling you off too?

Emma: I have... "super powers," remember?

Ben: Ah-ha. And do you know how they work?

Emma: (annoyed) I can... I can figure it out!

The sound of footsteps running up fade in quickly and Ben steps back to face the oncoming men.

Agent 1: Hey, that's her!

Ben: Not now.

There is a whoosh as Emma's Elysium abilities kick in through Ben and the two men are both flung back down the hall and crash distance away.

Emma: You have abilities too?

Ben: I told you I was something else.

Emma: Then who are you working with?

Ben: Myself. Come on.

They begin running again and their footsteps fade out quickly and transition to outdoor ambiance. A metal door crashes open and slams shut. There is a wrenching of metal as Ben bends the handle into an awkward position, forcing the door shut.

Emma: Jeez, what the hell?!

Ben: That should slow them down.

Emma: I-I can't believe you.

Ben: There's not a lot I can do about that.

Emma: Wait, where are you going?

Ben: Where do you want to go?

Emma: This is ridiculous.

Ben: (pressing) We don't have a lot of time-

Emma: Not helping! Ugh... I don't know. None of this is making any sense. And you're sure we can't contact the police.

Ben: It wouldn't help.

Emma: I can't ask Melissa... not now anyway. Not after... What about my dad?

Ben: He *might* not be the one after you.

Emma: I wonder if he'd actually tell me. He acted like he knew who it was last time...

Ben: Or he might try to take you away. Like Nick.

Emma: But that's why you're watching my back, right? Or do you want to elaborate?

Ben: I'll do what I can.

Emma: Great. I just want to know what's going on. And if I can get him to stop... if it's just me he wants... or those other people... maybe they'll leave Nick alone?

Ben: Maybe. Or you're just walking into a trap.

Emma: Well, I'm not going to make it easy for them. Actually, I've got an idea...

Scene 3

Ian and Alex are out on the street, picking up food. Alex lingers near an electronics store.

Alex: Wait. Dude... check it out.

Ian: Hm?

Alex: I want to get us one of those.

Ian: A GoPro? What would you even do with that?

Alex: Ian... our abilities and one of those cameras? The money would be printing itself.

Ian: Either that or we get told our special effects are fake.

He starts walking, Alex jogs back up to him.

Alex: Not with what we can pull off. I've been looking into things and I think I might be able to put it on the internet; you know, make some extra cash with it.

Ian: Really?

Alex: Yeah. We'd have to make sure they couldn't trace us or anything. But we gotta practice eventually to keep control and everything... And I'm starting to

think about cars again... like I used to. This morning, there was this vintage Mustang at the hotel-

Ian: Please don't. We can't get you out of juvie.

Alex: I know, I know. You just can't always turn that part of your brain off completely, yeah?

Ian: Yeah. Did you tell the girls? About the videos?

Alex: No, they'd flip. Don't say anything either.

Ian: I won't. Just don't be stupid about it.

Ian's phone begins to buzz.

Ian: Uh... hang on a second. Uh... Emma?

Emma: I'm so glad you picked up.

Alex: Who's Emma?

Ian: I-I'll explain it later. Yeah, what's up?

Emma: I think I need your help... I'm gonna need a place to stay.

Ian: Emma... there's not much I can do.

Emma: Just...until some stuff blows over.

Ian: (surprised, stumbling a bit over his words) Uh, um... I'm-I'm not really sure we can do that.

Emma: (trembling) I don't have anywhere else to go.

Ian: (awkwardly) We're really not running a bed and breakfast!

Emma: I know... but I know it has to do with my dad's formula and I don't know how to use my abilities... whatever it was they did to me... You're the only person I know who could help me right now.

Ian: Okay... We... I guess we can try to figure something out.

Emma: Thank you. That's all I need.

Ian: Yeah, it's fine. Where are you now? We'll come get you - we have to make sure no one's following you first.

Emma: Oh. Uh, I can give you an address, but I need to do something first.

Ian: How long do you need?

Emma: I don't think it'll take long at all.

Scene 4

Emma enters her father's office building and approaches the secretary at the main desk.

Secretary: Can I help you?

Emma: Yes. My dad works here. I need to see him.

Secretary: What's the name? I can call him to let you in.

Emma: James Greyson.

Secretary: Oh? He rarely gets visitors.

Emma: Well, I need to see him.

Secretary: Alright. Just a second...

The speaker crackles with beeping sound, followed by Monica picking up almost immediately.

James: Yes?

Secretary: Mr. Greyson, I have... uh...

Emma: Emma.

Secretary: Emma here.

James: Emma?

Emma: Dad, we need to talk.

James: Where were you?

Emma: With Nick.

James: And I guess that didn't go as well as you'd hoped?

Emma: I need you to tell me about the Elysium Project.

James: ... We'll talk upstairs.

The phone clicks off over the intercom.

Secretary: Are you sure you'll be okay?

Emma: I'm fine.

Scene 5

Emma opens the door to her father's office and enters the eerily quiet space. From behind his desk, James rises. Emma comes to a halt in front of the desk.

James: Are you going to sit?

Emma: No, I'll stand.

James: If you like.

He sits and watches Emma.

Emma: A group of men came and took Nick away. Why did you send them?

James: I didn't.

Emma: I'll go with you if you just let him go...

James: Emma, I'm really not as diabolical as you think I am.

Emma: Dad, I'm serious. I know about Elysium and I'll find a way to tell someone.

James: I know. I'm sorry. There's... there's a lot to say. Elysium isn't something you can just explain... it's something enormous. I don't even know how far it goes.

Emma: Just... try. Please.

James: I was hired by a man named Dmitri Bastios to develop the formula that you were injected with. He found me while I was pursuing my doctorate and the money was too good to turn down. That was over twenty years ago. He's the one who sent Mirage after you and I'm willing to bet that he decided to come after you and Nick now that you're exhibiting symptoms.

Emma: Why?

James: Because of the formula - you're one of his subjects now. He likes to keep an eye on all of his pawns.

Emma: And?

James: And what?

Emma: That's it? After everything that's happened, that's it?

James: What did you expect?

Emma: Where do I start?! You've lied to me for years, you're selling a super drug on the black market, and you've experimented on innocent people-

James: Is that what they told you? Who found you?

Emma: Ian!

James: Ian might be more dangerous to you than Mirage.

Emma: And I'm supposed to believe you?

James: Yes. Besides, I'm guessing he forgot to tell you that we picked every last one of them out of the justice system. And all of them *chose* to participate in the experiment. As much as you hate me, I have had to make a number of difficult choices given the circumstances. And I've always tried to protect you.

Emma: Protect me from what? You keep saying this is for my own good but you never said why-

James: Because your *mother* insisted on it.

Emma: What?

James: She never told me why, but she insisted Bastios should never know too much. I always moved you and half a dozen dummy accounts around the world to keep him you relatively safe from him and it worked... At least, until now.

Emma: Well... if they're after me, can you at least tell them to let Nick go? He doesn't deserve any of this after his parents...

James: Emma, I can't stop him from taking either of you away.

Emma: No! There has to be something...

James: If there is... there's nothing I can do to help you.

Scene 6

City ambiance on the roof of James' building. Mirage is waiting on Emma, watching the building.

Bastios: She went to her father directly? We assumed she'd go anywhere else but there. We may have to adjust our plan.

Mirage: Please. *Anything* but this.

Bastios: Force her out of the building when you can do so discreetly. We need to move her away from James in case he tries to interfere.

Mirage: He's not much of a threat.

Bastios: Just take care of it.

Sound of the communication device cutting out.

Mirage: Yes, Mr. Bastios. I do *so* appreciate your calls. It's my favorite part of the day... Ugh.... at least things are *finally* getting interesting.

Elysium *ambiance* *becomes* *more* *prominent* *as* *Ben* *appears* *behind* *him.*

Ben: If that's what you want.

Mirage *is* *thrown* *and* *half* *lands/half* *crashes* *into* *the* *ventilation* *system.*

Mirage: Whoa! Ugh...

Ben: I've been watching you. Figured we could have a talk while Emma sees her dad. Why have you been following us?

Mirage: AHAHAHA! Ohh... that was good... I did not see that coming.

Ben: Who are you?

Mirage: Sorry, I wanted to know who you were before we talked. To be honest, that's still up in the air.

Ben: I asked you first.

Mirage: I was going to guess that you're with the government – Bastios said they had some loose agents floating around somewhere. Oh, and your conversation with

Emma the other night... that was just too good... too, mmm, perfect. But *now* you have abilities and suddenly I wonder if Bastios even knows you exist?

Ben: It's almost like you think we've been having a real conversation. Did I hit you too hard?

Mirage: A sense of humor! This could be fun. Can this be fun?

Ben rushes forward for another hit, but Mirage catches him immediately.

Mirage: Sorry. It was only funny the first time.

Mirage violently throws Ben back against the roof structure.

Mirage: You're so uncoordinated – it's like you've never done this before.

The sound of Mirage's abilities rush back in, knocking Ben back a second time.

Ben: (coughing heavily with his first landing, then a cry as he's thrown again)

Mirage: Which really makes no sense. Maybe not all of us came from test tubes, but you're too *old* for that and you'd be going *crazy* if you didn't already know how to control your abilities. I mean, that's why Emma's freaking herself out – but *you*, you're pushing all of her buttons, so you have to know *something* about this. Except you have the personality of a *brick* ... but you're always there at the right moment- *Ohhhhh*.

Ben gets back up.

Ben: Finished?

Mirage: Far from it.

Ben: So I doubt this changes anything.

Mirage: Orders, sorry. And even if I'm right, I can't just tell you. I'm not sure you could handle it yet.

Ben: Humor me. You said you're that bored.

Mirage: AHAHAHAH! Oh I am. But let's just say... those *suspicious* you're probably having? You're not as crazy as you think. Keep talking to Emma... you'll both figure it out.

Ben: I barely know her.

Mirage: Oh, you'll get the hang of it. And I'd love to meet again. Catch up next week? Do you do coffee? Oh, let's do coffee.

Ben: I'm not letting you leave.

Mirage: Backwards.

Ben: What?

Mirage: You got it backwards. I'm not letting *you* leave because I'm only stalling for the real show.

Ben: I'm not backing down.

Mirage: All right. Then you're coming with me.

Mirage leaps at Ben, invoking his abilities. He slams into Ben and they both phase through the roof.

Scene 7

A booming impact slams into James' office as Mirage pulls Ben through the building until they land in the office itself, knocking Emma and James back. There is a long pause as the dust clears. Slowly, they begin to stir.

James: Emma?

Emma: I'm okay.

Ben: Here. Take my hand.

Emma: What happened?

Debris shifts and Mirage slowly rises and takes a step forward.

Mirage: Hello again... Mr. Greyson.

James: Mirage... tell Bastios I'll give him whatever he wants-

Mirage: We're not dealing with you anymore, Greyson. This is about Emma now.

Ben: Emma, hang on tight to me.

Emma: What do you mean?

Ben: Don't let go.

Mirage: You wouldn't-

Ben: I would.

The window shatters and Emma and Ben are thrown out into empty space.

End of Episode 6