Varud Episode 26a

(0:21 - 0:35)

The four of you cycle on. The landscape doesn't change. It's hours of cycling in what looks like exactly the same conditions as you left shortly after Vík.

(0:36 - 1:04)

You see the mountains to the left, to the right you don't see the sea, but to both sides of the road there is just an endless field of lava rocks covered in a variety of colours of moss. It's really pretty though. Barely a cloud in the sky on this mildly warm morning of about four degrees Celsius, which I think is about 39F.

Toasty warm. Perfect cycling heat. Yes.

(1:05 - 3:52)

There is virtually no wrecks in the road. There are virtually no cars that you can see. A long stretch of nothing for a long time.

Are there a lot of cars like off the road? No. You approach a bridge. As you cycle along, you see that to the left and to the right, there are obviously kind of reflecting the sky above patches of water and in some places fast moving under the road itself and off to the right.

Bridge, mostly washed away. It's about 10 meters fast running water. Well, this is a problem.

Indeed. Just thinking back to when we were trying to cross that other river or the quads. Yes.

This is a real problem. The entire bridge is gone. Yes.

Are there any signs of other people trying to make any kind of infrastructure to cross, like left behind ropes or spikes or anything? Take a look for me. It's a group look in this situation. I've got 24.

I've got 30. 33. God damn it.

You're the gambling man. Hey man, it's above single digits. Yeah.

And bringing up the rear. It is so dark. With a failure.

No, you don't see anything handy to you. You just see that the bridge has been washed out. You can't even see where any of the bits of road left.

You can't even see the support structure in the center. Nothing. It's just gone.

Fuck. I don't even know what river this is. I look at the signs around.

No signs. Fuck. Because I don't remember if I saw them on Google Earth or not.

Okay. Look through my scope up and down the river and try to spot a place with more rock in the river that might indicate shallower area. Yes.

You look over to the left and you see that over to the left, there's just a lot more rock and the river is having to break up to go around it. To the left, you see lots of rocks. To the right, you see that the river has widened and flattened out and you can see some of those, a mixture of sand and rock, little islands in the middle of the river.

(3:56 - 4:33)

Looks like to the left or right, there's bits we can use. Some rocks to the left, some rocks and sand maybe to the right. Do you think we could walk the bikes across to the right? It's much wider to the right.

Wider usually means less depth, doesn't necessarily. It means more water most of the time. I don't know.

We'd have to go closer and look probably. Yes. Let's just kick up the bikes over here and let's walk up and down and see what the situation is.

(4:35 - 5:19)

In that case, can I get one of you to make a survival roll? I'm not real good at it because we have rolled it once and I failed it that time. Are you going to do better this time on your only? With a 35, I'm assuming new guy. What's his name? Colin.

Colin. Does not hire survival. Nope.

All right. Let's argue something to add on to survival. Yes.

Can I help with track to see where people might have come across the river? You can assist with that. Yes. Do you maybe want to try for an assisting? I'm just like, I'm trying to figure out what I might be able to do to assist here.

(5:20 - 6:41)

I mean, you could also do something like maybe spots. You could maybe do survival as well. I'd be willing to do spot and just like see if I can see anything that might indicate that people had been going or like.

That's fine. In that case, both of you who are helping Ola, you guys can roll and depending on

your success level would depend on what bonuses he gets. So roll well, no one of you fumble please.

It's just a failure. This is a good stat. It's a hard success on track.

You get a bonus 20 to your roll. Can I argue spot as a supplementary? Yeah. I think that's fine.

You can supplement and you have a bonus 20 because these guys were helping you out. Okay. So my spot is 17 plus 35.

So 42, I think it is. No, 52 plus 20. So 72.

Come on dice. 69. Nice.

Nice. So that's a success. Normal one.

Okay. Normal success. Yeah.

You guys, I mean, you're out in the kind of rockier parts. I mean, there's no way. As soon as you step off the road, you're basically on lava rock and it's in all forms of slippery and just uncomfortable.

(6:42 - 7:02)

And yeah, you find yourself, oh, this is that kind of nice mossy bit. Yeah. This is kind of bouncy and you make your way down the river a little bit.

And yeah, you find this section where the river is obviously at least on the surface much slower. It looks like it's much wider and you can pretty sure you can see the sand and the rock underneath. So maybe ankle depth in most places.

(7:02 - 7:22)

There's a part where you're like, oh, this might go halfway up my shins. Might go up my knees if you're short. This is probably the safest place.

All right. Rocks in the river, sharps or like completely polished? They're kind of like really polished. They're really smooth at this part.

(7:23 - 8:43)

We're going to take our boots off, aren't we? I'm thinking about it. I mean, we have a doctor if it goes wrong. Yep.

All right. Let's walk our bikes down here. I'm taking two people at a time.

Actually, let me just try crossing it without a bike. Just how bad or good it is. Okay.

Yeah. I'm just going to kick my shoes off, roll up my- Pants. Pants.

Thank you. Trousers. That's why I was hesitating.

British. Roll up my trousers and just go, I don't know, until I don't feel comfortable anymore. The place that you found between the three of you, yeah, you kick your shoes and your socks off.

You roll your trousers up to your knees and yeah, you take those first few steps across the river and you're like, holy shit, this is cold. Holy fuck, this is cold. This is uncomfortably cold.

And you kind of like begin to move a bit more quickly. You're kind of like one of the sand dudes. You're like, yeah, this, oh fuck, this is not comfy.

You step into the next one and that's, oh, that's over the ankles. That's highly unpleasant. Slowly begins to rise up your but it's fast moving, but you're holding your own and you're pretty sure like, yeah, you're almost at the other bank and it's like, it's not fun, but you can do this.

(8:43 - 8:54)

All right. This is no problem. One person at a time, I think.

We're good. One person in case somebody absolutely slips in its ass and stuff starts rolling down the river. All right.

(8:55 - 8:57)

Okay. Yep. I go back for my bike.

(8:57 - 12:28)

Yep. You go back for your bike, having to do this trip three times. Yeah.

You don't have a good time at the end of it. But yeah, you're all managing to like, you know, take your socks and shoes off, roll up your trousers if you want to. Abigail just chooses to take hers off.

Hers are tight. It's like, no, this is not, this is not doing a thing. So yeah, she throws it over the bike.

You guys are able to easily lift your bikes, but it is slow going because your bikes are heavy and you have all the cargo on it, plus your backpacks. It's not comfortable and there is definitely just like, I should have worn more socks. I should have worn more clothes.

God, I wish I had a fire. Oh, I almost fell, but I'm okay. It's okay.

I'm fine. But you'll make it to the other side and you're able to dry off very, very quickly. And you really do wish you had more socks.

All right, guys. When you get your socks on, when you get your shoes on, wiggle your toes. Keep the blood flowing there.

Can we just start cycling again? Yeah, that as well. Get some heat into the body. Yeah.

Yeah. You pick up your bikes again. You continue taking them across the lava fields until you're back on the one road.

We did it, guys. We crossed the river. And nobody fell in it.

I was like, oh, I wanted you to cross the fast part, you bastards. No, we used survival and intelligence to beat Mother Nature. You did.

Good job. You find yourself back on the road. Again, this is like a fairly long straight road.

You can see the mountains to the left. You can see this lava rock field all around broken up with, you know, bits of moss, the dark rocks coming through, black sand in various places. It's just a really long, boring ride.

This stretch is just feels like it's ongoing. Has that mountain actually gotten any closer? Did you leave the bridge far behind you an hour ago? You're not really sure. It's long.

It's uncomfortable. You know, there was a time before, you know, obviously, before Søyjande and all that, when I was genuinely thinking about taking one of those, like, cycle around Iceland things. Yeah? Look at you.

You're doing it now. Yeah, well, this is a bit like I figure I prep a bit more than or maybe less. I don't know what I would be necessarily.

But yeah, yeah, this is definitely one of those things that I really wanted to do, though definitely not the circumstances. I mean, there's a bright side. Which is? Less traffic.

True, true. That's one of the reasons I can't even imagine trying to cycle when I'm in the car with mom and we're driving around the cyclist on the side of the road. It looks scary as shit.

There's a little crack in the road. You jump it. Everyone else is like, oh, jeez.

But I mean, like, so long as you just, like, uphold, like, simple safety things, you know, it shouldn't be that much of a problem, even with cars in there. You know, the whole, you know, stick your arms out when you're indicating which direction you're going and, you know, like, try to keep to the side because, you know, it's much easier to stick to the line on these than it is on a car, I think. Yeah, you got more vision, I guess.

I don't know. I don't like cycling. Can you guys make a spot or a listen for me, please? It's a fail on the spot.

(12:29 - 12:45)

Extreme success on listen. No, on anything. Was it a botch on anything? No.

Okay. Boo. You need a listen? Extreme.

(12:46 - 13:27)

You see up ahead, all of you, you see that there is a split in the road. This is at the point where you kind of should be looking out for places to stay and you're like, probably not going to find anything, are we? However, you notice ahead of you that there is a split in the road. One goes off to the left and heading out towards kind of the highlands area.

And then you have the other one that turns right. Directly in the middle of this, there is a small building. It's not particularly big, has a couple of entrances, car park benches that have long since rolled away.

(13:28 - 14:28)

And what you hear, as you guys are coming to a slow, as you just see this building, you hear the sounds of feet on gravel behind this small building. Zombie feet? You can't tell. I feel like... I'll give you on the extreme.

You're definitely hearing two separate beings. Okay. All right.

I kind of pull the bike over and I say to the group, well, we're going to have to find a place to stay. I'm pretty sure this is as good as any. And at the same time I'm doing that, I'm like, eyes, building, put up two fingers, point at the building again.

So we're probably going to have to make sure that it's safe. So you guys want to just, I don't know, leave the bikes here, start doing the walk? Sure, sure. All right.

(14:30 - 15:01)

I hand the finger to the lips and then I step off the bike, set it down gently and set myself somewhere with the scope. There's no particularly good place to hide. Yeah, I figured, but... Maybe on the other side of the road? Because the roads are usually kind of like... Little camber.

The camber here isn't quite so steep. So you'd have to almost be one of those leapers that are covered in moss. There kind of really is no good place to hide anywhere here except the building.

(15:02 - 15:13)

Yeah. He just kneels in, try to make his... The smaller I am, the harder I am to shoot type of thing, but I'm not going to lay down because then I wouldn't be able to move. Yeah.

(15:16 - 15:47)

As you are announcing this, your bikes come to a stop, you get yourself in some sort of position where you can keep an eye on the building. You see a figure stand up on top of this small building and you see another figure walking around the side of it. The one up on the building is wearing dark charcoal greys, jacket, kind of like canvas, very, very tight to them.

(15:48 - 16:12)

You can see that they have their face covered in a dark grey scarf and they have a thermal hat on, which is black in colour. The person that steps from around the building is shorter, much lighter. You can see that they're also wearing a fairly hefty insulating hat.

(16:12 - 17:07)

You can see that their jacket is pulled very tightly around them and they have the collar up. Their face also mostly covered in some sort of black and grey and red scarf. Also completely, almost wearing blacks and greys.

You see that this figure has in their hand what looks like a sharpened sword. The one up on top of the building crosses their arms. They're in a very kind of feet spread.

You can see that there's obviously they have a pistol at their hip and that they have a rifle on their back. Otherwise, he's not threatening, just standing the figure at the side of the building, although holding the weapon isn't holding it to attack. Humans.

The being up top nods. I might need that translated. Hello there.

(17:11 - 17:47)

Mind if we converse in English? You see the figure look over at the one who is standing on the ground and the figure steps forward a little and she says, I can manage English. All right. Well, hi again.

We are simply weary travellers. My name is Nonni. They take a few steps covering the distance between you just so that they're standing right at the edge of the road and you guys, let's say more centrally on the road.

(17:48 - 20:20)

And you can see that, yeah, their grip on the sword has gotten a little tighter when you say that. We aren't here to cause any trouble. You should probably move on.

This is your place? It is for tonight. Where are you travelling from? You see them like frown. You can only really see their eyes and say, it doesn't really matter.

We have a destination up ahead and this is the safest place for us. Fair. We're coming from Vig.

The bridge is out if you're going over that way, but there's an easy place to cross a little bit down the river. She shakes her head. No, we are crossing.

She indicates the one. We're headed this way. We have a friend.

Yeah, the same route you'd be going. We have a friend who is missing. He's very important to me and we only want people around us that can be trusted.

And you see her head kind of turn in Nonny's direction. Did I do something here? Not here. She takes a few more steps forward.

Oh, you sons of bitches. I immediately go for the crowbar. I grab your crowbar.

She's like, what are you doing? What for the quad? What? She kind of looks taken aback and she says, I've not been on a quad. I want to insight check this. Sure.

I'm going to say this is probably going to be a hard check because you can't really see her face. Yeah, don't worry. I've failed.

Okay. Great. I'll back my cousin up.

Okay. That's an extreme success. She's not been on a quad.

She's not lying, but she's fucking shaming at him. These are not the people from the quad, but she's... What did you do? I don't know. Who are you? Who the hell are you? I'm going to get you to make a pow.

I don't know if Tao just likes walking into rakes or if he's just playing Nani as a rake collector. That's a success. You recognize her bright blue eyes and you definitely see strides of blonde.

(20:22 - 21:25)

Is this my sister, Erna? No. This is your friend, Disa. Oh, holy shit.

Disa. I just immediately drop the crowbar and start going closer to her with white arms. As you get closer, she's definitely standing still.

She's holding the sword and then as you get closer, she drops it and takes a couple of steps forward and throws a punch at you. Oh. You can dodge if you want to.

Yeah. You can try. So a part of me is like, Oli would go in and go like, what the fuck are you

doing? But also a part of me, like I read her face.

He did something to piss her off. It's like, no, no, let's play out. He needs to be punished.

I don't know what he did, but this person truly believes he needs to be punished. Yeah, I failed that dodge anyway, so I'm just not expecting it. So, oh shit.

Yep. I just need to find something. Hang on.

(21:27 - 21:45)

All right. I can suffer some wounds. Yes, I should roll.

Hang on. Yeah, I'll do the same as you do. Blank face is three, right? When you do d6 on your teeth roll.

(21:46 - 23:36)

Wait, what? When you roll your teeth? Oh, yeah, yeah. And you use them in place of your medicine? I use blank as three. Yeah.

Okay, great. You get smashed in the face across the nose for four damage. I'm pretty far back, but there's definitely like that audible sound of the bolt sliding.

It is mostly just the threat. You do it and then you're like, okay, right there is the bullet I have to pick up. Yeah, it's definitely extra, but they don't know that.

I'm almost unconscious. Oh, God. Yeah.

I'm assuming you eat dirt. Yeah. I think that's fitting.

As you hit the dirt, she screams at you. Okay. When he goes down, I start running forward and then she starts shouting that and I run faster.

She might be absolutely insane. I don't know any of this. So to me, this is just an insane woman at this point.

Yeah. Seeing that this going on, you guys are running around, Abigail pulls out her notepad and she very quickly writes and shows you, Colin. She said that he killed someone.

When I get to him, I basically just put my axe between him and her. I'm just like, can you get up? Can you get up? Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. Fuck. Back up.

I've poked my axe at the woman. I'm just like, okay, we're going to get the fuck out of here, you

crazy bitch. So you just stay right there.

(23:37 - 24:03)

You realize as all this chaos is happening, Colin, you're watching the guy on the roof, just kind of like shake his head, disappear off the back of the building and begin to make his way around. Unarmed. He has a pistol, but he's not aiming it.

He's not aiming any weapons. He's just, oh, fuck's sake. Yeah.

I think the dropping of the sword is the only reason I haven't shot yet. Otherwise I would have definitely shot. Yeah.

(24:04 - 26:36)

She takes a few steps back and turns and almost bumps into the other guy who just has made his way down and he puts his arm around her. All right. I think we have to find somewhere else to stay.

These people are fucking insane. Who the fuck is Deesa? She's my friend. No one wants a friend like you.

I saw what you did. Gummy and I saw what you did. Yeah.

That. I didn't, I wasn't. You're a coward and you killed him.

Yeah. I'm, I know it doesn't mean anything, but I am sorry. She shakes her head.

It's not good enough. I know. He was a good guy and you killed him.

I know. I just, it was, I'm not trying to excuse it, but I just panicked and I'm sorry. I just, I'm sorry.

It looks like she's about to say something. You see the guy kind of, again, like grab her shoulder just like, whoa. I am happy to see you guys alive.

You don't even know what happened to Gummy. This isn't him. It's just me.

Oh, I'm, I don't know what, there's nothing. I'm just sorry. Okay.

He is very sorry. I've got to push it back a little bit. It's just kind of like, you're basically like, you've said you're sorry like six times.

I know, I know. My character's like, okay, we just stop this one. You got your free punch.

He'd probably deserved more, but there is three of us here that did nothing. Do you, can you see it in yourself to give us space here tonight? Don't have to share a space with us, just a safe space

for us. Take an easy persuade.

(26:37 - 26:44)

Shit. Always saying shit isn't easy. You think my persuade is more than 15? God, I hope it is.

(26:44 - 27:01)

It is not. I will have to use luck. Well, if this goes low, it might go well.

I would need to spend 26 points. That's, that's a lot. We will resolve this a different way.

(27:01 - 27:23)

Yes. You see her just look over at you all and she just looks up at the guy and she's like, you can't be serious. And he just tips his head and she just stalks off away from you guys, sort of towards that little car park area where the benches were once were and now blown away.

(27:25 - 28:05)

And you see the guy step forward and he says, where are you going? Why? Uh, we believe that an airplane landed there and we have cargo for it. Seems strong. Fine.

We can have the other side. All right. Um, this is not a threat.

I'm just saying if Deesa comes in with some ill intent, we will defend ourselves. I'm not going to stop her again. She wants to kick the shit out of you, it's fair.

(28:05 - 28:30)

Yeah, she can kick the shit out of him. But if she has a blade or a weapon, it's not our style. Thank you.

Um, what's your name? Doesn't matter. Cool. All right.

No, let's go back to that. Thank you. Thank you for not shooting.

(28:31 - 28:36)

He just kind of waves her hand. Yeah. And he goes off to speak with her.

(28:39 - 28:42)

All right. I gather the group back up. Yeah.

(28:44 - 29:34)

You guys gather your stuff. You find that this little building is a public bathroom split in two, three, male, female, disabled and non-binary. Inside it's fairly big, weirdly very clean.

I mean, obviously there's some like debris in here, but it's not like it's covered in urine or feces, not covered in blood. It's out of the wind and you can definitely make it warm. You can spread your stuff out.

There's even room in here for your bikes. Fantastic. I am definitely giving Noni like side looks the entire time we're setting up.

(29:37 - 29:44)

All right. I guess this is just your sleeping bag now. I put the one on your bike.

(29:45 - 30:04)

Great. Thanks. Just a curiosity.

They wouldn't happen to be referring to the fucking quad guy, would they? That's a bit insane. No, the quad guys was called Benjamin or something. Who's, what did he say? She said Nelt.

(30:04 - 30:25)

Who's Nelt? He's, he was a friend. He's dead. I'm sorry.

(30:26 - 31:43)

Yeah. Why did you think you killed him? Because I did. Why do you think you killed her? What happened? Um, and I'm like looking around.

Does this feel, does this feel like it's, like, is it echoey? Like, do I think that others might hear this? Um, are you speaking just in the hope that Oli will hear? Or is it okay for the other two to hear? It's okay for the other two. Just like, I don't want this like catch outside. No, no.

It's very unlikely to like echo outside the building unless they had the ear right to the door. So, um, in, um, in Reykjavik, uh, she, her boyfriend, Nelt and me, we were all living in the same apartment together. It was, it was cramped, but you know, when you're working as a student, like full time, you got to make things work.

(31:44 - 32:27)

So, um, so yeah, we were all there together and like, it sort of worked. Like, sure, there were times when it was like, not really right or anything, but you know, friends will be friends and then we give each other sass maybe, but you know, we, we care. Um, then St. John Day happened and, um, like I mentioned before, I was in the morgue when, when it all went down and, uh, the

hospital was not good.

(32:29 - 32:53)

The street was not good, but, um, fun fact, my shift was coming to an end when, you know, the big moment occurred. And no, I like said that, uh, I, I'm not like, uh, I don't drive or anything. Uh, yes.

(32:53 - 33:09)

Yeah. Well, uh, Nelt, my, my buddy, um, he, we kind of had a thing. Going where he would like pick me up and, and all that.

(33:13 - 33:49)

Um, so on the day that it happened, uh, when I was just like trying to get out of there, lo and behold, Nelt's there with his car and, and he saves me. And, um, as I think pretty much everyone was thinking, we just wanted to go home. Like through sheer panic, you know, obviously the first place you think of is home.

(33:52 - 34:19)

So we went there. Um, I don't know what it was. Maybe, maybe just, we weren't in the right mind or something, or we just got a blind spot for something, but neither one of us was really thinking that what had happened, you know, outside on the street, everywhere else was happening there.

(34:19 - 35:06)

So our, our apartment complex that we were living in, where our apartment was, we just sort of, you know, went to it, went inside. And, um, well, I mean, you can see that this is like genuinely a struggle for him and he's like fiddling with his hair and like pulling on it. Um, we suddenly started hearing noises, same noises I'd been hearing in the hospital, out in the street.

(35:09 - 35:35)

And, well, I did what I was doing pretty much the entire time then. I panicked. So I went out the door, but I knew that they were right behind me.

(35:35 - 36:15)

So, so, um, I, I don't know how to drive. And I only had one stupid door between me and the undead coming after me. So I held it shut, except Niels was on the other side as well.

(36:18 - 36:52)

Jesus Christ. And you... And from there it kind of just became, get out of here. So I guess Disa

saw it.

(36:53 - 36:55)

Yeah. That's what she was screaming about. Yeah.

(36:58 - 37:13)

I'm going to give you two a moment. I, uh, while I was curious, you know, my curiosity stayed in enough. And what happened after all of this nonsense is really none of my business and desperation and all that.

(37:13 - 37:22)

But I'll let you two continue to talk. I'll just wait outside. Okay.

(37:25 - 37:33)

Ivy gets up and follows you. And she just very quickly writes, we can't go anywhere alone. Up to you.

(37:35 - 37:41)

Yeah. She comes with. Where were you going? Just outside the door to give them space.

(37:41 - 38:03)

I mean, it's kind of like, I needed confirmation kind of that this wasn't like someone who's killing people before this or like someone who was killing people for fun type of thing. And as soon as I was like, I'm probably not going to get killed in my sleep. Then it's none of my business.

(38:03 - 38:09)

So yeah. Uh, I'm going to roll a single insight just for my character gauging of the story. Okay.

(38:10 - 38:23)

Because, um, somebody may have told me he murdered somebody else yesterday. So there's a, like Colin is saying, there's a trend popping up. It is a normal success.

(38:24 - 38:27)

Yeah. You can believe. Yeah.

(38:28 - 38:30)

Nothing seems out of place. No. All right.

(38:30 - 38:34)

A desperate, scared man. Yeah. He's got, he's got a lot of obvious tells.

(38:35 - 38:42)

Yes. And when he gets up, he sits down next to you. He's not making eye contact.

(38:44 - 39:06)

So I killed my friend. It sure sounds like it. Doesn't it? Well, you know, that old saying, if it walks like a duck, I guess that's me.

(39:08 - 39:14)

Fuck. That's fucked, dude. Yeah.

(39:16 - 39:47)

And I just shake my head. This, this is, um, this is not exactly something I thought I'd ever say. Like I know I, I, I've, uh, I've hinted at it, but, um, that was, um, more heat of the moment than anything else.

(39:50 - 40:05)

Oh, man. I mean, if you hadn't noticed, I'm not exactly great under, um, under intense pressure. No, you, you seem to act rashly.

(40:06 - 40:12)

Yeah. You do the first thing that comes to mind. Oh yeah.

(40:14 - 40:36)

Three months ago, that was self-preservation. Scared for yourself. It's just, I've been, remember when we were in the cabin and we were being like, just the usual quiet and everything, anytime there was like a slightest hint of noise outside? Yeah.

(40:38 - 40:55)

Yeah. Imagine listening to that and thinking to yourself, hey, you've done this sort of thing of like, if shit hits the fan, you'll just leave them all behind to die. I know this is something that I can do.

(40:56 - 41:06)

I don't like the idea of it. And I like it even less knowing that, hey, I can do this to friends. Surely I

can do it to family.

(41:06 - 41:24)

Surely it's just, I am, it's not just that I'm, that I'm afraid of like dying or, or anything of that. It's, it's that I might be the reason people die. That scares the shit out of me.

(41:27 - 41:40)

There definitely is something wrong with you, Nonni. Yeah. What do you want to do about it? And I suddenly look at Ole.

(41:43 - 42:02)

Is there anything we can? Well, who was Njaltutisa? It was a friend, just like mine, roommate. All right. She's never going to forgive you.

(42:05 - 42:20)

But I think probably the only thing I would want to hear out of your mouth, if Njalt had been my friend, was complete, what's the word I'm looking for, take ownership. You fucked up. You were a pussy and you got your friend killed.

(42:23 - 42:35)

But I saw what you did, what, yesterday, when shit hit the fan. You didn't do self-preservation. True, but.

(42:35 - 42:39)

You could have let them drive you off. They would have kept you fed. You were important to them.

(42:40 - 42:48)

Yeah, they probably wouldn't have treated you well, but they wouldn't have starved you. Maybe. But.

(42:49 - 42:57)

I'm trying to make a point and you seem to not be getting it. You're a bit slow. It's actually kind of shocking how slow you are sometimes.

(43:00 - 43:07)

You have changed. You're still fucked up in the head. Not saying otherwise, but you have

changed.

(43:08 - 43:27)

It's not all about you anymore. And also who we are in a moment of pure blinding panic is not who we really are. While I don't like people who use it as an excuse when you're drunk out of your mind, it's not really you.

(43:27 - 43:37)

It's that stupid ego, superego shit. You know that? I've heard of it. Yeah, like there's more to us than just us.

(43:38 - 43:44)

There's so much more to us. Some people freeze when they saw the zombies. Some people ran away.

(43:45 - 43:58)

Some people refuse to acknowledge them. We all acted differently and there's something inside of you. But you've been trying to do good.

(44:01 - 44:14)

That's why I've been so focused on this goal, on Anna's mission and everything. I don't know. It just gives me something to focus on.

(44:17 - 44:35)

Fucking distractions, huh? But I mean, speaking of changing things, you've certainly changed as well. Yeah, I'm really good at killing shit. I don't really like that.

(44:35 - 45:10)

Like you mentioned it before, you hadn't been there when we talked of the cafe and so on. But like you said, that was more because you were focused on your own things going on. I feel like, at least from what I've been seeing, that you've been focusing not as much on that and more and more on like what the group needs, what the group wants, and how to get what the group is looking for.

(45:11 - 45:30)

So far I've been seeing a guy who's been willingly stepping into bad situations, taking the heat and so on. I'm not trying to throw shit, but neither you nor Bryce were doing it. Yes.

(45:30 - 45:39)

I'm not trying to be mean here. I can't be mad at Bryce anymore, so it's only you and you're not exactly having a great day. Huh.

(45:42 - 46:00)

Somebody had to. Glad that whatever I'm doing isn't getting us more killed than it has already. Maybe that's what you'll be doing.

(46:01 - 46:10)

Hm? Leading. You're funny. You're fucking funny.

(46:11 - 46:21)

It's a new world, man. Who knows what's over the horizon. Apparently old friends with bad news.

(46:22 - 46:28)

All right. Let's not make them sit out in the... Look out the windows. Beautiful sunset.

(46:29 - 46:39)

Complete cold winds. Okay, well, whatever. Beautiful sunset with the cold winds outside.

(46:41 - 46:50)

You and Abigail just sitting outside. You walking around a little bit? Yeah, no reason not to, I guess. Just burning time.

(46:51 - 47:02)

Yeah, doing a little burning of time. Abigail, like, she stops. She's kind of like watching you and then she begins to write something and she brings it over to you.

(47:02 - 47:21)

It just says, am I safe with you? For the time being. I mean, who's safe anywhere these days? You see that she smiles. She indicates the obvious fucking up of one side of her face and then she pulls out the note again.

(47:21 - 47:40)

I meant, are you in this for the long haul? Are you just looking to get out of here? I want you to think about this logically. We're about to head out on a very long stretch of potentially nothing.

With all of the best things behind us.

(47:41 - 48:01)

All the best places to find equipment, gear, help, people, settlements. We have backpacks full of gear. I met you with four bullets and now I have over 30.

(48:04 - 48:19)

I think that now, yesterday, the night before, probably would have been my best bet to take everything from all of you. She nods. I don't think I'd be waiting.

(48:21 - 48:40)

There's nothing really to wait for. The more days that you're all alive, the more resources you use, the more of a risk you are, the more your burdens become my burdens. I don't really know you.

(48:40 - 48:50)

You don't really talk much. She smiles. I don't know your relationship with the others and with the people that I knew that the others knew.

(48:51 - 49:02)

I don't really know all of that. She writes, Bryce was my boss. I didn't know Maggie.

(49:04 - 49:25)

When the situation happened, I got bit really early. And he and Dmitry and this lovely older Icelandic gentleman came back and saved me. I would have been eaten alive, immune or not.

(49:26 - 49:38)

He saved my life. And when I realized I was bit, I thought I was dead. So I was almost alone for three months.

(49:40 - 49:50)

I was bitten a lot. I died, almost died so many times. And then one day I saw a group of assholes breaking into a pharmacy.

(49:51 - 50:07)

So I locked them in, but they made it out. They hunt me down and it was Bryce and the cousins. And I think I'm just a mission for them.

(50:09 - 50:18)

Get me to the airport and get me away. I like them. I like them a lot.

(50:18 - 50:29)

I trust them. But I don't know if we're friends. I'm not sure that we have that luxury.

(50:29 - 50:43)

In the apocalypse. That's fair. I don't really have a reason for self-preservation, you know.

(50:44 - 51:11)

I don't really have a heart for all of the dirty business that comes with the things that need to be done. You never killed anyone? I mean, I've been there, but no, they never really made me pull the trigger, so to speak. I mean, my hands aren't clean or anything.

(51:11 - 51:23)

I mean, you all know what I was doing. But they all knew that I wasn't really like all that. They were sure looking for your friend, though.

(51:25 - 51:32)

Bryce. She nods. They figured that he had something to do with it.

(51:33 - 51:57)

I mean, he's the only person with a reason, you know, that anyone really suspected. But not like anything could really do anything about it until all this went down. But as soon as it did, and there was a group of them, they went looking to see if he was there.

(51:59 - 52:11)

But he wasn't. I saw what the guys in South Foss became. Is that where you left? Yeah, pretty much.

(52:14 - 52:20)

She nods, and then she writes. Then I think I'm pretty safe with you. Yeah.

(52:22 - 52:34)

I just don't like how senseless it was. It was like fun to them, you know? She nods. It's clear she knows.

(52:35 - 52:45)

They really wanted Bryce. I'm glad to say they didn't get him. I was glad when he wasn't there.

(52:49 - 53:12)

I mean, I hadn't seen yet some of the terrible things that they would do to people and what they'd become. But the times that I had seen people die before were much like with Magnus. Stupid accidents, things that muddy business, things that the captain didn't want.

(53:12 - 53:23)

But once again, didn't really feel one way or another when they happened. And inconvenience at best. Inconvenience at worst.

(53:26 - 53:52)

But, you know, you just hope things like that don't happen. But without leadership, without control, and in a world like this, they think that that cruelty is the reason that they're alive. So any opportunity they get, they use people instead of helping them, instead of letting them pass.

(53:53 - 54:13)

Instead of neutrality is aggression. That's why I left. I saw the friendly faces that I once knew, that I once understood, used those friendly faces to lure others into agreeing to bad deals.

(54:17 - 54:37)

I saw them take other friendly faces and discard them for fun, for their own definition of survival. And it was senseless. They had more than enough.

(54:38 - 54:53)

It's scary that people are just as much monsters. They are. To hear that you're not, the cousins probably wouldn't agree.

(54:54 - 54:59)

They don't have to agree. So long as we are safe. That's all that matters.

(55:00 - 55:06)

And then you see these two coming out. Not much in the past matters anymore. She smiles.

(55:08 - 55:19)

Abby looks over and kind of shrugs, waves her hand. You can see she puts the notebook back in her pocket. Not much to be said.

(55:19 - 55:35)

You were there. So we good? Yeah. I don't have any problem.

(55:35 - 55:54)

Like I said, things that happened after all this mess, I don't really tend to judge people by. I think that if you were a bad person, your kill count would be a bit higher. It's a desperate time.

(55:54 - 56:01)

Things aren't always black and white. It's really all I've got to say about it. I just needed to feel safe in my bed.

(56:03 - 56:10)

And I don't think that you're a threat. Or at least I'm going to hope. Well, yeah.

(56:10 - 56:16)

She writes. I still trust you. Thank you.

(56:18 - 56:30)

I stayed at a house with this guy for three months. It's not dangerous. I mentioned that you don't owe an apology.

(56:30 - 56:42)

You owe a genuine, just, I fucked up on piece of shit to Lizzie? I think you said her name? Deesa. Deesa. I'm no expert.

(56:42 - 57:07)

What do you guys think? Should he just leave it alone, or? I think it would be unwise to go in there with both of them on your own. Oh, yes. But if you would like for one of us to go in there and offer to them a word, if you want to have a word with them, see if they would be willing.

(57:09 - 57:16)

Arrange something. All right. We'll try to keep you two spread apart.

(57:19 - 57:30)

And we'll keep weapons in, you know, in their places. And see what happens. Only if you want to, though.

(57:30 - 57:40)

No big deal. I owe her. I owe her at the very least that.

(57:41 - 57:59)

So, I, yeah, I wouldn't mind the help. I'm thinking, go in there, explain that you would like a word with her. We can step outside along the boy.

(58:01 - 58:09)

Yeah. Why don't you go back in there and one of us will give a knock on their door and see if they want to have a word. Okay.

(58:09 - 58:15)

Thank you. Yeah, no worries. Tap, tap, tap.

(58:17 - 58:32)

Tap, tap, tap, tap, tap, tap. Yes, you can see that the guy opens the door. He has a fair amount of stubble on the go now that his scarf is no longer wrapped around his face.

(58:32 - 58:56)

And you see that he's just almost completely bald, hair shaved back. He has quite dark eyes and he looks at you. What? I don't know who you are or which one of you had problems with a fellow over in the other bathroom here.

(59:00 - 59:32)

But I think that, I think you might have things to say to, you know, get them out there. If you're willing to listen or your friend or whoever it was that was affected by his actions or willing to listen, he's willing to have a conversation. I'll let you know when he closes the door.

(59:33 - 59:40)

Just tap on our door. None there. Roll a persuade.

(59:43 - 59:50)

That is a fail. Sun begins to set. The light begins to slowly go out in the bathroom.

(59:52 - 1:00:13)

Until you are mostly plunged into darkness. There is no knock. Do you guys want to do or say anything other than letting you guys rest in peace? I think that I let the, like, night gets pretty dark

before I scoot over to Olli, find him in the dark somewhere.

(1:00:14 - 1:00:16)

Olli, you find yourself. Uh-huh. Nonni.

(1:00:17 - 1:00:27)

That's where these magazines are coming in, all right. Oh, thank God, privacy. Somebody make a sound.

(1:00:28 - 1:00:35)

No, so I try to find Olli. Let me try that one more time. I try to find Nonni.

(1:00:36 - 1:00:51)

Yep, not very far away. Yeah, just a little bit close to him. Just like, when we hurt somebody, we are not owed an apology.

(1:00:53 - 1:01:02)

No, I'm shit at this. We are not owed, sorry, let me try this again. Actually, raise my voice a little bit, but of course I'm speaking in hush tones.

(1:01:04 - 1:01:17)

When we hurt somebody, we are not owed forgiveness when we apologize. We don't apologize to make ourselves feel better. We apologize to let them know that we regret our actions.

(1:01:20 - 1:01:36)

This may be something you have to carry with you for the rest of your life. Then, um, then I'll do that. That's what a brave person does.

(1:01:37 - 1:01:50)

A coward demands forgiveness. Thanks, man. And with that, I think that's a good point to leave you for the night.

(1:01:53 - 1:02:15)

Hello, and thank you for listening to episode 26 of Varus Dead Iceland. Um, yeah, it's, uh, it's about time we got a little comeuppance for Nonni. Uh, yeah, I, I, I do regret a little bit that how much I played to be on Disa's side in this scene.

(1:02:16 - 1:02:28)

I feel like Oli should have just like threatened to kill them in that moment. Like it, he, he had no reason to be this defense, like this mean to Nonni. Like, I, I kind of do regret it a little bit.

(1:02:29 - 1:02:44)

Um, if you're enjoying the show and you want access, for instance, to, uh, an ad-free version or maybe a little bit of a, um, early access, you can go check out our Patreon. Uh, yeah, there's not much to say about the Patreon. It's got our stuff on it.

(1:02:44 - 1:03:00)

Uh, it helps support the show and hopefully helps us make another season of this stuff. Um, if you are enjoying our stuff and want to check out some of the other stuff that you can have access to, uh, right now for free, uh, check out The Sprouting. I've already glazed it in the, in a different outro.

(1:03:00 - 1:03:03)

So just listen to the ad. If it sounds interesting, go check it out. Have a fantastic day.

(1:03:04 - 1:03:49)

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