

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

Special episode: The End to The Means

FADE IN:

EXT. RAPTOR 'VANGUARD' MISSION

Galactica and the civilian fleet lazily orbit a red planet. Two Raptors depart Galactica's port landing pod.

INT. RAPTOR 429

Lt. Sharon 'ATHENA' Agathon is piloting; Lt. Margaret 'RACETRACK' Edmonson, sat in the rear, is E.C.O.

ATHENA

This is Raptor 429, Vanguard Mission (beat) ready to jump.

DEE (V.O.)

Raptors 429 and 433, Vanguard Mission you are clear to jump.

EXT. RAPTOR 'VANGUARD' MISSION

The two Raptors light-jump away.

INT. GALACTICA, C.I.C.

Lt. Anastasia 'DEE' Dualla at Comms Desk.

DEE

Sir, Athena and Dark Knight are away.

Col. Saul TIGH approaches the console. SOUND: radio show.

RADIO JOCK (O.S.)

So, here we are on the Geminon Traveller, awaiting the imminent arrival of Vice-President Tom Zarek...

CONTINUED:

TIGH

Can you believe this nonsense?

Admiral William ADAMA looks up from a sheet of notes.

ADAMA

A terrorist opening a factory?

INT. GEMINON TRAVELLER, MAINTENANCE ROOM

Sound: radio show. SHOOTER (male, medium build) tucks a pistol into his boiler suit. There is a DISTINCTIVE TATTOO on the back of his hand: closer, it is a RELIGIOUS ICON.

RADIO JOCK (O.S.)

...the same Tom Zarek who 20 years ago was making a career of destroying buildings. Later on the program, we hope to have an in-depth discussion about President...

INT. GALACTICA, C.I.C.

Major Lee 'APOLLO' Adama comes toward the command console and passes a CLIPBOARD to Adama.

RADIO JOCK (O.S.)

...Roslin's plans for getting the economy back on track.

ADAMA

We can't keep losing pilots like this.

TIGH

What about the crew from the Pegasus?

APOLLO

They replaced our losses so far.

TIGH

What about our recruitment drive?

CONTINUED:

APOLLO

We still have more planes than
pilots.

ADAMA

We don't have the resource -
or time - to train raw
recruits.

EXT. RAPTOR 'VANGUARD' MISSION

The two Raptors arrive, FLASHING OUT of their light-jump.

INT. RAPTOR 429

SOUND: proximity ALARM.

RACETRACK

FRAK! 2, no, 5 base stars
and...!

Athena banks the Raptor SHARPLY, grunts at the effort.

EXT. RAPTOR 'VANGUARD' MISSION

Raptor 429 veers away; a missile narrowly misses. Raptor
433 has attempted similar but is CLIPPED by a missile.
FX: missile ruptures exhaust pod on Raptor 433.

INT. GEMINON TRAVELLER, MAIN CAUSEWAY

Vice-President Tom ZAREK is surrounded by JOURNALISTS. At
his side are TWO HEAVIES. He exchanges a look with them as
they walk then holds up his hand.

The Journalists throw questions at Zarek. Among the crowd,
we see former Lt. Daniel 'BULLDOG' Novocek.

ZAREK

It is certainly a great honour
to be opening this new factory
facility but ladies and
gentlemen of the press (beat)

CONTINUED:

ZAREK (Contd.)

Let me speak to the people who
made this possible...

Journalists are pushed back by admirers.

INT. RAPTOR 429

SOUND: proximity and on-board systems ALERTS.

RACETRACK

Missiles inbound. Dark
Knight's been hit.

ATHENA

Where is he?

RACETRACK

Athena, no! Mission rules say
we return. Now, Athena!

EXT. RAPTOR 'VANGUARD' MISSION

Raptor 429 turns about, seeking Raptor 433. Cylon Raiders
are closing fast and shooting.

INT. GALACTICA, C.I.C.

Adama, Tigh and Apollo around the command console.

APOLLO

The Raiders are getting faster.

ADAMA

Athena said that each one we
kill is downloaded and starts
again.

TIGH

Gods - our rooks against
veteran Cylon Raiders.

APOLLO

We need new, faster ships.

CONTINUED:

TIGH
Or pilots who don't die.

INT. GEMINON TRAVELLER, MAIN CAUSEWAY

Bulldog notices Shooter's hand reach into his boilersuit. A glimpse of a gun? Two Heavies are behind Zarek, distracted.

Shooter is FOCUSED, he doesn't see Bulldog who turns and looks at Zarek. Bulldog begins to push through the crowd.

EXT. RAPTOR VANGUARD MISSION

Raptor 429 is under attack. Three missiles closing. All SWALLOW DRONES are launched. Two more missiles are launched. Raptor 429 jumps away.

INT. GEMINON TRAVELLER, MAIN CAUSEWAY

Bulldog struggles to get through the crowd. Shooter has drawn a MILITARY SERVICE PISTOL. Zarek and Two Heavies don't see. Bulldog lunges.

SHOOTER
Zarek!

SOUND: GUN-SHOT. Crowd panic.

Bulldog and Shooter struggle on the floor. The pistol is kicked away in the confusion. Bulldog is kicked accidentally by one of the crowd and Shooter escapes.

Bulldog sees the pistol and picks it up. Zarek is lying prone on the floor. The two Heavies turn and see Bulldog.

CREDITS

INT. GALACTICA, 'DOGTOWN' / STARBOARD HANGAR DECK

President ROSLIN follows her aide, TORY Foster, up stairs. SOUND: VOICES QUIETLY CHANTING. Roslin turns, gestures to her SECURITY DETAIL to wait behind. Roslin follows Tory through some CURTAINS, passing RELIGIOUS TOTEMS and IDOLS.

INT. GALACTICA, ORACLE SELLOI'S REFUGE

ORACLE Selloi is meditating at a SMALL ALTAR, eyes closed with her back to the entrance. President Roslin picks up an ICON OF A CHARIOT DRAWN BY A STAG AND A DOG. The Oracle turns around.

ORACLE
You know it is true.

ROSLIN
I needed to hear your dream
for myself.

ORACLE
It is your nightmare.

ROSLIN
You are their witness.

ORACLE
You are their guardian.

The Oracle gestures for President Roslin and Tory to sit. Kneeling on cushions, the Oracle reaches across a low table and taking hold of Roslin's hand, reveals the icon.

ORACLE
Men hurry to be numbered among
the gods again. They hurry
toward the doom they left
behind on Kobol.

INT. CAPRICA, THE FARM, HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

Lt. Kara 'STARBUCK' Thrace is dreaming. Accompanied by LEOBEN Conoy, she is walking down a dark corridor at The Farm [Episode 2.05], carrying THE ARROW OF APOLLO, she wears her flight suit. She is disturbed by MANY VOICES WHISPERING AND SOBBING.

ORACLE (V.O.)
Everything has happened before.
Everything will happen again.

INT. GALACTICA, ORACLE SELLOI'S REFUGE

Tory gazes at Roslin who has her eyes closed. The Oracle

CONTINUED:

closes her hands over Roslin's. (C.U.) The chariot idol.

ORACLE

Great ships that have crossed
The Sea of Night in search of
a home.

INT. CYLON BASESHIP

The flesh-and-metal red interior of the Cylon ship as a mountainous landscape. A HAND GRIPS a prison cell door. A SCREAM. The grip TIGHTENS.

ORACLE (V.O.)

Everything has happened before.
The gods will refuse the men
who are not true. Everything
will happen again.

LEOBEN CONOY (V.O.)

Everything has happened before.
Darkness.

INT. CAPRICA, THE FARM, MATERNITY WARD

Starbuck and Leoben enter the ward. Women lie prone connected to OMINUOUS MACHINES QUIETLY BEEPING. There is someone sat silently in the shadows - it is NUMBER SIX. Starbuck is now dressed as when she escaped The Farm, in hospital gown and leather jacket.

There is someone else in the room. A stranger DRESSED IN RAGS. Caprica Six points. Leoben gestures for Starbuck to go toward the stranger. She approaches the figure wearing an ORACLE'S ROBES. The stranger looks up. It is Adama: he SPEAKS WITH THE ORACLE'S VOICE.

ORACLE (V.O.)

Hiding under mountains. Those
left behind. The lost, the
forgotten, all afraid and ever
alone.

INT. GALACTICA, ORACLE SELLOI'S REFUGE

Roslin opens her eyes, startled: the Oracle appears to be

CONTINUED:

speaking in Leoben Conoy's voice.

LEOBEN CONOY (V.O.)

The demons are all they can see. No hope. Everything will happen again. You cannot play God and hide from the things that you've done.

INT. CAPRICA, THE FARM, MATERNITY WARD

Adama lowers his head. The hood again hides his face. His voice SLOWLY CHANGES. Starbuck approaches the figure.

ORACLE (V.O.)

We all make our children pay for our mistakes.

ROSLIN

Our children?

Roslin is now dressed in Starbuck's clothes and frightened, she turns to Caprica SIX who simply smiles. Dr. Gaius BALTAR is sat next to SIX holding her hand. He looks TERRIFIED. Roslin is curious and leaning forward, lifts the Oracle's hood and finds she is looking at herself.

ROSLIN (as Oracle)

Everything will happen again.

INT. GALACTICA, C.I.C.

SOUND: radio chaos as Press reacts to Zarek being shot.

ADAMA

Dee, set Condition One throughout the fleet...

GAETA

Dradis contact! It's Raptor 429, sir.

TIGH

Confirm that!

DEE

It's Athena, sirs!

CONTINUED:

ADAMA

Something's wrong. Put her on speaker and Mr. Gaeta prepare to distribute jump coordinates.

(to Tigh)

This could be a prelude to a Cylon attack.

ATHENA (V.O.)

...waiting for us. Five, maybe more base-ships, attacked as soon as we appeared...

TIGH

How the hell did they get ahead of us? And so many?

ADAMA

Prepare fleet to jump and Mr. Gaeta (beat) distribute coordinates 'Nebula'.

TIGH

Nebula? Jumping that far?

ADAMA

Dee! Check all ships have Tylium reserves online.

(To Tigh)

I won't let us get caught again.

TIGH

And what about our other problem?

INT. ORACLE SELLOI'S REFUGE

Roslin hears a MAN SCREAM. She opens her eyes. She has been CRYING. Tory - also crying - puts her arm Roslin.

ROSLIN

I saw. It was so real. Why?

ORACLE

We all know truth when we hear it.

CONTINUED:

Roslin STAGGERS as she stands. Oracle rises and bows.

ORACLE

One suffers more than most.

ROSLIN

Was there ever a way to
measure?

ORACLE

A lower demon once beloved of
Hephaestos, who once stood
before Zeus on Olympus...

ROSLIN

A Cylon?

ORACLE

Salvation. You must ask the
demon to forgive you.

INT. GALACTICA, PORT HANGAR DECK

Athena steps down from Raptor 429. CHIEF Petty Officer Galen Tyrol is gob-smacked.

CHIEF

Lieutenant, what did you do
to my Raptor?

Athena turns and looks at the Raptor. The armour is BLISTERED and POKED with MUNITIONS SCORING. A MARINE TROOP in the background are DUMB-STRUCK. Racetrack steps out.

RACETRACK

A spit of paint, she'll be
fine.

CHIEF

And Raptor 433?

ATHENA

Dark Knight and Enigma took
the worst of it.

CONTINUES....

While the story here - and this spec script - are of my own devising, the characters, names and titles used are copyright to Universal Studios up to and including 'Battlestar Galactica' I guess.

If you'd like to read more, please get in touch via email at: andrew@bentleysteed.com.

If you are David Eick or Ronald D. Moore, please get in touch as I'd love to have a go at writing for the new series, Caprica.