

## RollPlay Swan Song - Week 10 Part 2

JP: Alright guys, welcome back. Going into the second hour of RollPlay Swan Song, week number ten. Adam, what's going on?

Adam: Okay. So, we're going to cut away from the Swan Song for a minute. As we come back from commercial, we see like a dark room. It's lit dimly, sort of off-camera. The room seems small. There're candles somewhere – the light's uneven, and the view pans across a long, metal tube. It might be like a ship's torpedo or a really minimal metal coffin. There's a stencil on the side, as we pan across it, in white paint. It looks military, maybe, and has the letters 'JOB14/14', and then we hear a dull, mechanical sound, and then a hiss, and steam comes out of the side of this canister. The top starts to open up a little bit, and then we snap-flash to you guys, minus Victor obviously – the crew – running up onto the ship. There's gunfire in the background and we pan across to see a lone man, dressed in the same military garb that your current friends in the ship are now wearing. It's one of these Order of Enunciation dudes.

You hear his radio crackle and we're hearing from inside his helmet, so the gunfire is kind of muted, and in French, with subtitles, we hear someone say to him, 'Remember what he said to Martha and Bethany. We'll meet again.' And then his radio goes off. We get full volume gunfire again. You see people climbing out of this vehicle outside of the warehouse. He's shooting at them, there's gunfire back and forth, he pulls out a grenade, and then he gets shot. You see him go down, and we pan up to see the Swan Song, flying up out of the roof of the warehouse, and we pan back down to see the guy, still holding the grenade, and he lets go of the release and then there's an explosion. The view pans back to the tube, now fully open. There's this splash of blue fluid, and that same soldier, that guy, emerges, coughing and spewing up this fluid. He doesn't have any hair or eyebrows, but you can tell that it's him.

Someone puts their hand on his shoulder to try to calm him and we hear a voice, still off-screen, belonging to the person, but the voice comes through distorted and robotic-sounding – it's obviously cybernetically modified – and says, 'She's given you another chance. Welcome back, Pierre.' And the guy starts to cry, and then we fade to black and come back up on the Swan Song.

So, Sicarian, you're in your cabin right now or in the main-

Geoff: I'm in the mess hall.

Adam: So, your personal com-, you know when you're on Airplane on your phone for a while, then you come and you turn it back on and you start getting all the notifications? Your personal terminal starts doing that. You've all got within range of an exchange satellite, and yeah, you're starting to get messages, but really only one of them catches your eye. It's encrypted, it's like looking for a code, and it seems to be an old, military code that it's looking for. I mean, you know what it is.

Geoff: Yeah. I stand up from the mess hall and walk to my room to access the terminal.

Adam: Okay. So you go back to your room, close the door I assume.

Geoff: Yeah.

Adam: So once you put the encryption in, your video screen comes up and you see Mr Falcon. He looks pretty together. He has a bandage around his head, with a blood stain on it. You can see a ship in the background, and the origin source of the message seems to be a ship called 'The Stranger in the Alps,' and Mr Falcon looks in the camera and he addresses you.

Geoff: Is it a recorded message, then?

Adam: Yeah, it's a recorded message. He says, 'I'm gonna keep this short, Sicarian. Things have got real bad on Oninsa (ph 04.23). New government's taken over. War's kicked up a notch. Pfortenhaur's gonna be here seen. They come here lookin' for you, they're gonna find out where you went. You're gonna wanna deal with this quick. I'm gonna stay in system as long as I can, but if Titan's on his way, well, I hope you'll forgive me for fuckin' off. Try to get in touch. I hope I hear from you soon.' And then it goes off.

Geoff: And do I know that I can-,

Adam: Yeah, you have the transponder code for his ship now, so if you want to reply to the message, you can.

Geoff: I immediately do, yeah. I think I already understand the answer to this question, but there's no phone connection, it's like I send a message to him, right?

Adam: Yeah, the only real-time connection you're gonna have is in-system. Everything else has to be linked through the satellites. The Swan Song will pick it up when it leaves, or the next ship leaving Tovar (ph 05.16) will take it with it.

Geoff: Okay. Then, I just immediately record a message. I'm in my assault armour, so I don't even straighten myself or anything like that, but I just look into the camera and say, 'Mr Falcon. It warms my heart to hear from you. I hope you are well. I noticed that you looked dishevelled, which is unusual for people of our brethren. Hopefully you are okay. Please let me know more in detail what is to be expected. If Mr Titan is actually specifically looking for me or if you're confident that he will find out where I am, any information will help.' JP's hearing weird sounds. Okay. And then he says, 'If you are in need of assistance, please let me know and then I will include my coordinates with you as well. We are currently repairing the ship and we'll be seafaring in no time at all, so I need to know what's going on. Hope you're all well. Mr S.'

Adam: Okay, awesome. So you beam it off to the exchange satellite, and the next ship that leaves the system will take it with it.

Geoff: Yeah.

Adam: So, what do you want to do, after that?

Geoff: He kind of sits there for a minute and thinks about things, and gets up and he's going to go look for Mr Higgins.

Adam: Okay. So what are you doing, Higgs?

JP: I'm just going up and down. I'm just kinda like checking around the ship. I walk by Piani's room and just poke my head in and I'm like, 'Hey, you should let me know when you tell Pie something, so that he don't come to me and-, look, I told him about God. I don't know what you want me to do about that.'

Wheat: You say that to me?

JP: Yeah, yeah, this is me just poking my head into your room.

Wheat: I just kind of shake my head at Higgs.

JP: 'What are you-, we should get-, we should get him something. We-, if we get him like a machine or something, could he take that over-, what if we got him like a little-, I really want some pizza, man. Can we get him a little pizza machine? You think he could take that over?'

Wheat: 'How about we just repair the fuckin' ship in the first place?'

JP: 'Well there-, I mean-, but-, I got-, we got fifty-, we can do that, yeah. I just wanna get him something. I mean, he did-, he kinda saved us back there. It'd be kinda nice.'

Wheat: 'I think you should just fuckin' leave him alone.'

JP: 'You-, you don't wanna give him a machine, then?'

Wheat: 'I-,'

JP: 'What if-, hold on, listen to me, here. Pie, stop listening in this room! What if we got him a Robot? Do they make those? Have you heard of those?' Do robots exist in this world, Adam?

Adam: I mean, yes, like, the idea of having a drone you could have an AI look through would be possible.

JP: 'What if we had a little drone fly around with us? Think about that, Pie. I mean-, shit! Pie, stop thinking! Think about that, Piani.'

Wheat: 'I want you to fuckin' leave me alone.'

JP: 'Alright, I'm glad you're back. Have a good day (laughter).' I walk out and start walking down the hall.

Steven: As you're walking around the ship, Higgs, do you encounter Prosper?

JP: Yeah, I guess if I see you, I'm just like, 'Yeah, that's true though! That's true though!' and I just keep walking by.

Steven: I just smile and shake my head and as you pass-

JP: I kind of like shoot you the bullet fingers as you do, or the hand finger gun, or whatever. Not bullet fingers, what the fuck?

Steven: 'Mr Higgins! Where should I put my belongings?'

JP: 'Oh, hey, I got that thing, that room cleaned out for you. It's all good to go. Victor was... And I kind of like don't say anything. 'He was into some weird shit, so if you find like some secret compartments with some-, there might be some shit about alien races in there. Who knows? I don't know what else he kept all-, but if you do find anything, let me know. We'll, er-, We'll take care of it for you.'

Steven: 'What kind of weird shit?'

JP: 'Well, the man once had his hand up my ass. So, have fun.'

Steven: 'Mr Higgins, what you and your partner were into is none of my concern.'

JP: 'Well, as we say on the Swan Song, "My business is everyone's business." Have a good day, Mr Trudeau. I'll be around the ship if you need somethin'.'

Steven: 'Ahh, one more thing. This, this 'Victor', was he close with l'enfant?'

JP: 'Who? You mean Pie?'

Steven: 'I believe you refer to them as "Pie."'

JP: 'Can we-, can you stop callin' him that. He's gonna get confused if you call him two names.'

Steven: 'That is their name.'

JP: 'Yeah, it's "Pie." That's the name.'

Steven: 'Very well, Mr Higgins. "Pie."'.

JP: 'Just don't-, look-, you can use the name with us, but if we're off-ship and you're talkin' to him, just use 'Pie.' I don't want him- I don't want him havin'-, Don't talk to him about God, alright? Just don't do that. I don't know what it's gonna do.'

Steven: 'I would never want l'enfant to be...confused.'

JP: 'Now what was your original question-, It's "Pie", goddamnit. What were you talkin' about? What d'you ask?'

Steven: 'Was Victor close with Pie?'

JP: 'Oh, I mean-, not-, they had conversations, I assume. I don't know about what. Probably about ancient shit. Shit like, some race, I don't know. Who knows?'

Adam: Science stuff.

Steven: 'Rectum surgery procedures, perhaps.'

JP: 'Maybe so, maybe so.'

Steven: 'I understand. Thank you, Mr Higgins.'

JP: 'Yup, no problem. You have a good day, "doe."'

Steven: 'That doesn't make sense!'

JP: 'Yeah, I'm workin' on it, I'm workin' on it, Prosper. You have a good day.'

Geoff: By the way, I think it's my webcam mic that's picking up everything, so-, Just so the mystery's solved.

JP: Yeah and I just leave and start walking down the hall.

Wheat: I just imagine that Mr Sicarian has a fish tank. It kinda sounds-,

Geoff: You might have been hearing Harrison drinking water in the other room, to give you an idea of what kind of webcam we're dealing with.

JP: I mean, I am that impressive in the ear-,

Geoff: I can't fart for the next four hours (laughter).

JP: We're just gonna hear like, 'Breeeeeen.' And Geoff's eyes are gonna go like-,

Geoff: What was that, you guys?

Wheat: Camera goes off. 'I just got disconnected.' I don't know.

Geoff: You can't hear me chewing though, can you? I mean it's very subtle, you know, 'Chomp, chomp.'

JP: I walk back up to the bridge of the ship, by the way.

Adam: So Higgs, you got some messages too and you've got Victors. You've got access to Victor's messages. So, you wanna take a minute to have a look at that stuff?

JP: Yeah, yeah. I already started reading through Victor's messages in his room.

Adam: Okay. So Victor has a series of, over the last four weeks, increasingly urgent, text-based emails from the Sunbeam Multistellar Corporation. The first few are just bank statements, you know, 'This is how much money you owe,' and then it's like, 'Where's our payment? And then the last one is an audio message. But, yeah, do you wanna play that one?'

JP: Yeah, yeah, I read through them and then I play the audio message last.

Adam: Okay, so the audio one's like-, it comes up on-, are you just playing around on your own terminal, or do you want anyone else to hear?

JP: I mean, I'm at the bridge, so I play it on whatever terminal-,

Adam: Oh, you're just playing it through-, okay, cool, so you're just playing it through the bridge speakers. Okay. So yeah, it starts with a little banjo jingle that's like Sunbeam's 'starting the message' noise, and then this corny-sounding cowboy voice comes on, and it's like, 'Well hey, howdy! This is your good friends at Sunbeam Multistellar! It looks like *Victor Kovax* hasn't made a payment in some time. We're looking to collect *several thousand* credits from y'all. We wouldn't want you to get in any kind of trouble, so if you can make your payment *immediately*, that'd be great!' And then it does the little jingle and goes off again.

JP: Yeah, Higgs just kind of reads them and I go to type in-, Did I get the money transferred over already from the people on the ship?

Adam: Yeah, if you look at your account, here.

JP: Yeah, I pull up my account on whatever monitor next to me. What does the statement read, is it-, it's my money plus the 50k?

Adam: Yeah, it's whatever you personally had and then another 50k.

JP: Okay. I pull up the message and-, how much does it say we owe?

Adam: Just over 16,000. So, yeah, it's 8,220 a month and you haven't paid for May or June yet.

JP: Yeah, I just-, we owe 16,000?

Adam: I will check for you exactly.

JP: That's just the rough number, you're saying?

Adam: Yeah, 16,440 credits.

JP: Okay. I hit record on the terminal. I can't record with my hands so it's like off-camera, so I'm like standing there, like that, making sure it's recording, and when I see it's recording I'm like, 'Hey there, folks. I'm Mr Higgins. Victor Kovax, unfortunately, took a bullet to the head. Did not survive it, and I'll be paying you guys from now on. As you know, I am-, I think I own the ship.' I just kind of like look up and pause for a second. 'Oh right, hey there. Here's 20 grand and consider the 4 grand a little bit on top, and we'll talk to you guys soon. Please forward any messages you have over to my com number. It is 696969. Let me know if you need anything and you guys have a great week. Er, how do I turn-, ' and I just lean forward and they just see my head as I'm trying to turn this thing off.

Adam: Okay. As soon as you hit send, there's an immediate message back from Sunbeam Multistellar legal department, and it just says coordinates. It's like, 'Texel station, tomorrow, 4pm,' and then a location.

JP: It says what?

Adam: So, the station that you're going to, Texel station-,

JP: Oh, Tex-,

Adam: Yeah, it's literally just like, 'Meeting invite. Here. Be here at this time.'

JP: Does it have anything else?

Adam: Nope.

JP: Doesn't have a reply?

Adam: It's one of those Microsoft meeting invites.

JP: Does it have a reply?

Adam: You could reply if you want to. There's like a little 'accept' or 'maybe' or 'decline.'

JP: I think about it and like, I go to hit 'no', but then I wait and just hit 'maybe,' and just close it. I drag it over to my schedule.

Adam: You also have two personal messages. You have a message from an unknown, like an encrypted sender and then a message from one 'Heather Monsay.' It's a name that sounds sort of familiar, but you don't really know where it's from.

JP: Sure. I read the one from Heather first, thinking it might be an ex-lover or something.