

E3 - The Soldier of Smiles

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[00:24] gail

Finally sacked the place, eh?

[00:26] stel

Has it been a month
since the Battle of Grad?

[00:29] gail

They held out longer than expected.

[00:32] gail

First the border town of Grad, now Lorgeth.

[00:35] gail

We've secured the strategic
points in the north.

[00:38] gail

But they've probably used the time

[00:40] gail

to fortify their capital
with forces from all over.

[00:43] stel

We'll need to proceed carefully, then.

[00:48] gail

Have to wonder how long this
damned war will go on...

[00:53] stel

I'll fight for as long as it takes.

[00:59] gail

What the hell is she smiling about?

SIGN The Price of Smiles

SIGN The Price of Smiles

SIGN The Smiling Soldier

[02:41] lil

Hey, Stella.

[02:43] lil

Do you know what our commander's doing here?

[02:46] stel

He was transferred here, wasn't he?

[02:48] lil

Well, I know *that*.

[02:50] lil

But what I meant is—

[02:52] hu

The rumor that he ignored
an order from above, right?

[02:55] lil

No one's talking to you, Huey!

[02:58] pie

It's an entirely baseless rumor.

[03:01] pie

Even before the war, our commander

[03:03] pie

was assigned missions:
VIP escorts, stamping out terrorists...

[03:06] pie

He always carried out his
orders to the letter.

[03:09] brea

All the more reason for the rumors, I'd say.

[03:13] brea

How'd a guy like him end up leading
a squad like ours, y'know?

[03:16] pie

What do you mean, "a squad like ours"?

[03:18] pie

Warrant Officer Break, don't you
have any pride in our squad?

[03:23] hu

Don't forget, Pierce.

[03:25] hu

The guy's been a real creep from the start.

[03:28] hu

Always looking down his nose
at us one way or another...

[03:31] brea

Like "I'm way too classy to
share a tent with you lot"?

[03:35] hu

That's it! That's exactly how he—

[03:38] lil

The *point* is, he's been
assigned to us for a month,

[03:41] lil

but we still don't know anything about him.

[03:44] lil

I don't like putting my life in
the hands of someone like that.

[03:48] pie

You feel that way, too, Petty Officer Lily?

[03:51] lil

What do you think, Stella?

[03:53] stel

I don't know.

[03:56] com

On the eastern edge of the State of Caldarth

[03:59] com

lies a city called Azaria.

[04:01] com

It's said to be a quiet place
ruled by a local lord.

[04:04] gail

What's its significance?

[04:07] com

According to prisoners we took
at the Battle of Lorgeth,

[04:10] com

there's a chance some supplies have
been left at the local forces' base.

[04:15] com

But we can't afford to lose
forces in another battle

[04:18] com

with nothing to show for it in the end.

[04:21] gail

You want us to perform recon?

[04:23] com

It seems the local lord took
the bulk of his army to guard Hariant.

[04:27] com

Only a small local force should be present.

[04:30] com

Infiltration shouldn't be difficult.

[04:34] gail

That ends the briefing.

[04:35] gail

We'll depart at 0800 tomorrow.

[04:38] gail

Any questions?

[04:40] hu

Sounds like a relaxing change of pace to me.

[04:42] pie

Petty Officer Huey.

[04:44] pie

People who say things like that
tend to be the first to die.

[04:48] hu

Scary.

[04:49] hu

Pierce and Break, once we arrive,

[04:51] hu

you'll stand by in theurgears
on the city's east side.

[04:54] both

Yes, sir.

[04:54] both

Yes, sir.

[04:56] gail

The rest of us will investigate the city.

[04:58] both

Yes, sir.

[04:59] both

Yes, sir.

[05:00] stel

Yes, sir.

[05:16] gail

After we scout the location,
we'll rendezvous here at 2000 hours.

[05:26] hu

For being out in the boonies,
they've got some pretty nice stuff...

[05:30] lil

I knew they were at a different
phase of industrialization,

[05:33] lil

but it's still a shock to see it up close.

[05:38] lil

Hey, that one would look great on Stella!

[05:42] lil

So would that one!

[05:44] hu

And Soleil wants to keep all
of this to themselves...

[05:50] stel

Yuki Soleil?

[05:52] stel

She really is still a child, isn't she?

[05:56] gail

If you had to kill that princess...

[05:59] gail

what would you do?

[06:02] stel

I'd kill her if I was ordered to, of course.

[06:12] gail

Appreciate the patronage.

[06:14] sol

Thanks for coming by.

[06:19] gail

So this is their food storehouse?

[06:23] stel

I certainly hope they've
left some behind, but...

[06:33] stel

As I thought, it's all
been taken out, hasn't it?

[06:36] gail

Given the state of the conflict,
it's not surprising.

[06:40] stel

Are we struggling for other resources, too?

[06:50] gail

Show yourself.

[06:58] gail

What are you doing?

[07:00] al

Mauli!

[07:02] mau

Alan!

[07:03] al

I told you not to come in here!

[07:05] mau

I'm sorry.

[07:08] al

Put it back.

[07:15] mau

I'm sorry. We'll be going now.

[07:17] stel

Wait. Who are you?

[07:21] al

We live in the administrative building.

[07:24] stel

Administrative building?

[07:25] al

Since no one's using it at the moment.

[07:27] stel

And you're living there, long-term?

[07:31] mau

Hey. You guys work for a laundry, right?

[07:34] mau

What are you doing here?

[07:37] gail

A friend of ours works in this storehouse.

[07:40] gail

We thought we'd drop in on him
while we were on the job...

[07:43] mau

They took all the food out of here yesterday.

[07:47] mau

Your friend probably went with them.

[07:50] gail

Most likely.

[07:52] al

We'd better go.

[07:53] al

We'll get an earful from
the Order if they see us.

[07:56] stel

The Order?

[07:58] al

Let's go, Maui.

[07:59] gail

Wait a minute.

[08:01] gail

The Order would be less likely
to see you in a truck, right?

[08:10] kids

One, two... three!

[08:15] ---

Run!

[08:23] girl

Maui!

[08:24] boy

Alan!

[08:26] girl

Where have you been?

[08:27] mau

The food storehouse.

[08:30] boy

Who are they?

[08:31] mau

They're the laundry guys.

[08:33] mau

They gave us a ride in their truck!

[08:34] boy

No fair!

[08:35] boy

How'd things go at the storehouse?

You find any food?

[08:37] mau

I found some canned fruit, but...

[08:39] al

You know we couldn't take it with us.

[08:42] boy

But the old guy has it.

[08:45] boy

Look! Look!

[08:50] gail

I'm a sucker for sweets, that's all.

[08:52] al

You...

[08:53] gail

Besides, it's close to its expiration date.

[08:56] gail

It would just spoil if we left it there.

[08:58] gail

Better to share it among us, I think.

[09:00] gail

How about you?

[09:07] al

Let the children have some, please.

[09:12] gail

All right!

[09:13] lan

C'mon, Lana! Have some with us!

[09:21] al

Here!

[09:23] girl

So good!

[09:23] al

Calm down!

[09:34] stel

You're not going to join them?

[09:38] stel

I'm Stella.

[09:42] lan

Lana.

[09:45] stel

That's a cute doll.

[09:47] lan

Papa and Mama bought her for me.

[09:51] stel

She's important to you, then?

[09:53] lan

Yeah.

[09:54] lan

They both died in the war.

[10:00] lan

Everyone else is the same as me.

[10:02] lan

They said they brought us
here because it was safe.

[10:10] gail

Did you like that?

[10:12] all

Yeah!

[10:14] gail

Speaking of which, that Order
you mentioned before...

[10:18] gail

Would that be Hariant's chivalric order?

[10:20] kid

Yeah.

[10:21] gail

I've never met them before.

[10:23] gail

Have they been here a while?

[10:25] boy

They have, right?

[10:26] boy

Yeah.

[10:27] boy

In that building.

[10:28] girl

Yeah.

[10:34] gail

I see.

[10:35] gail

Well, seeing as they're valued clients,

[10:36] gail

we ought to stop by and pay our respects.

[10:39] gail

Shall we?

[11:01] kids

Go! Go!

[11:03] stel

Hey, Lana.

[11:05] kid

Not fair!

[11:07] kid

Hey, let me try!

[11:09] stel

If...

[11:11] stel

If you feel like there's nowhere in the world where you belong, don't worry.

[11:17] stel

You'll find your place someday.

[11:21] lan

Really?

[11:23] stel

I was the same as you.

[11:27] lan

Did you find a place?

[11:30] stel

Yes.

[11:39] lan

Here.

[11:42] stel

Thank you.

[11:46] stel

Lieutenant.

[11:47] lieu

I can't get in touch with Special Ensign Owens.

[11:51] lieu

He's running an infiltration right now.

[11:53] lieu

He'll be out of touch until his scheduled contact time.

[11:57] lieu

What's going on?

[11:58] stel

He learned that the Order are here in the base, so he's investigating.

[12:03] lieu

The Order?

[12:04] stel

Yes.

[12:05] lieu

We've just received word from the Hariant scouting party

[12:08] lieu

that the Soleil Army is heading for Azaria.

[12:12] lieu

A battalion, it seems.

[12:13] stel

A battalion? Coming here?

[12:16] lieu

Yes.

[12:16] lieu

*It might be related to whatever
the Order is doing there.*

[12:32] gail

This is...

[12:36] lil

A food plant powered by the new chrars?

[12:40] hu

Just one of 'em is enough
to run a plant of that size?

[12:43] hu

Talk about an exponential upgrade...

[12:45] stel

I suspect the Royal Army is coming to
carry these provisions to the front lines.

[12:52] Lieu

Chief of Staff Fleet.

[12:53] Lieu

What do you recommend?

[12:55] fleet

*At the moment, we can't spare
the forces to engage the battalion.*

[13:00] fleet

Special Ensign Gail Owens.

[13:03] fleet

*Can you obtain the new chrars
and destroy the plant*

[13:06] fleet

before the Royal Army arrives?

[13:10] lieu

What's the matter?

[13:11] gail

I can.

[13:12] gail

But it might result in civilian casualties.

[13:15] fleet

A necessary evil.

[13:17] fleet

If the food produced by that new chrars

[13:19] fleet

were to be distributed across Soleil,

[13:22] fleet

the tide of battle would

swiftly turn against us.

[13:25] fleet

*The longer the fighting drags on,
the more our people will suffer.*

[13:31] gail

Understood.

[13:33] fleet

*Just in case, we're sending two
twelve-gun batteries your way.*

[13:38] gail

You mean...

[13:40] fleet

*If you fail, we'll bombard the plant
from long range and destroy it*

[13:44] fleet

before the battalion arrives.

[13:48] fleet

*We expect the enemy battalion to
arrive in roughly three hours.*

[13:52] fleet

*Thus, the battery will open fire
two hours from now, at 2300 hours.*

[13:58] gail

Roger that.

[14:00] hu

Two hours? Is she insane?

[14:03] gail

I'll fill you in on the plan on the way.

[14:05] gail

Though it's not exactly our speed...

[14:26] stel

Those children are all war orphans, she said.

[14:31] gail

I bet.

[14:37] gail

We're starting the infiltration now.

[14:38] gail

Follow the plan.

[14:40] pie

Roger that.

[14:41] brea

Just leave it to us.

[14:44] gail

I'll be parting ways with you for now.

[14:46] hu

Huh?

[14:47] hu

What are you talking about?

[14:49] gail

You guys just follow the plan.

[14:51] gail

Get that new chrars and blow up the plant.

[14:54] stel

And you, Commander?

[14:55] gail

I've got an errand to run.

[14:56] gail

You're in charge until I get back.

[14:59] hu

You're crazy, old man!

[15:00] lil

I completely agree!

[15:03] stel

Understood.

[15:04] stel

We'll carry out the mission ourselves.

[15:06] hu

Oh, boy...

[15:07] lil

Stella...

[15:08] stel

Let's go.

[15:10] hu

Freaking hell.

[15:11] hu

Who gave that guy command?

[15:29] lil

The chrars is still running,
so we need to shut it down first.

[15:33] lil

We'll need to use both this terminal
and the one on the installation itself.

[15:39] stel

Understood. I'll handle that.

[15:41] lil

I'm counting on you.

[16:13] stel

I've got one straight ahead.

[16:15] hu

Same.

[16:17] stel

Three, two, one...

[16:32] al

Y-You...

[16:33] gail

Round the others up quickly.

[16:49] hu

Delicious!

[16:54] stel

Lily.

[16:55] stel

I've got it shut down here.

[16:58] lil

Shut down here, too.

[17:00] lil

Stella, behind you!

[17:02] kni

You! What are you doing?

[17:06] kni

Intruders!

[17:12] hu

Perfect timing!

[17:20] gail

C'mon! Hurry up, everyone!

[17:23] sec

Stay where you are!

[17:27] gail

Let's go.

[17:28] al

Wait! Don't go with him!

[17:32] al

I knew it.

[17:33] al

That gun... the man who killed
my father carried the same model.

[17:38] al

You're a Grandiga soldier, aren't you?

[17:42] pie

Be extra careful, okay?

[17:45] brea

I am, chill out.

[17:55] brea

Watch it!

[17:56] brea

Are you people nuts?!

[18:06] brea

Good job, Pierce.

[18:07] pie

Much obliged.

[18:09] stel

Commander, we have the new chrars

and we've set the explosives.

[18:14] stel

How are things with you?

[18:16] gail

I'm in front of the administrative building. I'm still on base.

[18:20] hu

Hey!

[18:21] stel

Keep following the plan!

[18:24] gail

I'll say this one more time.

[18:26] gail

When the plant underground blows up, it'll kill everyone here.

[18:30] al

So don't blow it up.

[18:32] gail

I can't do that.

[18:37] stel

What are you doing?

[18:38] stel

Get in the truck!

[18:39] al

Cancel the detonation!

[18:47] stel

Each time you refuse, I'll kill one of them.

[18:55] stel

Miss...

[19:00] al

You...

[19:02] stel

They're dead either way, so what does it matter?

[19:19] hu

Hey, it's time to split!

[19:44] gail

The Royal Army will be here soon.

[19:47] gail

Keep them safe.

[19:49] al

Don't expect us to thank you.

[19:51] kids

I hope you all die!

[19:53] kids

Murderers! Leave us alone!

[19:55] kids

Murderers!

[19:56] kids

Get away from us!

[19:57] kids

Murderers!

[19:59] kids

Go away!

[20:01] kids

Murderers!

[20:02] kids

Mama...

[20:07] stel

Lana.

[20:08] stel

I'm sorry about—

[20:15] stel

Give back my papa and mama.

[20:19] stel

My home... everything...

[20:25] al

Let's go.

[20:38] gail

This is the nature of what we're doing.

[20:41] gail

Yet you're certain you can fight on,
for as long as it takes?

[20:55] gail

You did an excellent job.

[20:56] hu

We were having a little talk, just now...

[21:00] hu

What if someone had died while
you were AWOL during the mission?

[21:06] gail

It's a commander's job to
trust his subordinates.

[21:10] hu

Oh, clever.

[21:13] gail

Where's Stella?

[21:15] lil

I'm afraid I don't know.

[21:34] gail

Looks like it got to you more than expected.

[21:37] stel

What do you mean?

[21:39] stel

If you mean the all-nighter,
I'm used to night missions.

[21:44] stel

I wonder when our next mission will be.

[21:50] gail

She's gone mad.

SIGN The Choice of Hope

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