

CHARACTERS:

JUPITER (they/them): Sturdy amnesiac. Blessed with a bolt-action rifle but cursed with a scarcity of bullets. Pushes on through their broken foot.

PROFESSOR SCHAEFFER (he/him): An old professor. Died when the bombs dropped. His voice lives on in a recording.

STRANGER/DIAMONDBACK (she/her): A soldier with her own ideals. A dangerous mix.

EXT. UNIVERSITY

Everything is absolutely destroyed -- post-apocalypse in every sense of the word. In the middle of the crumbling buildings lies JUPITER. Their bolt-action rifle is slung over their back.

They wake up, roll over, and stand. They immediately stagger and look down: their foot is broken.

JUPITER

Jesus, okay... now what've we got around here?

They look around and see graffiti on one of the intact walls. It reads: 'IF YOU'RE READING THIS I'M SO SORRY YOU'RE HERE'.

JUPITER

What? Sorry I'm... here? Why?

They approach the graffiti and trace it with a finger.

JUPITER

C'mon. Speak to me.

The building shifts and debris rains down. Jupiter covers their face and coughs.

JUPITER

Okay. Maybe... *don't* speak to me.

A looping announcement plays over the outdoor speakers. It's a recording of PROF. SCHAEFFER.

PROF. SCHAEFFER

This is Professor Schaeffer. If you're hearing this, nuclear missiles are inbound. I'm so sorry you're here and not with your loved ones. Please stay calm and head to the nearest underground bunker.

JUPITER

His message has gotta be at least a hundred years old. What good that does me!

Jupiter continues walking. They come across a map board. There's a big 'YOU ARE HERE!' with an arrow pointing next to Snaketail Hall. The message loops.

PROF. SCHAEFFER

This is Professor Schaeffer. If you're hearing this, nuclear missiles are inbound. I'm so sorry you're here and not with your loved ones. Please stay calm and head to the nearest underground bunker.

JUPITER

Jesus.

Jupiter reaches for their rifle but then decides against it. They then pick up a rotting wood plank and chuck it at the speaker. It almost breaks the speaker off the wall.

PROF. SCHAEFFER

If-f-f you're he-e-earing this... I'm s-s-s-so sorry you're here-here. I'm so-o-o... sor...ry. Please st-stay...

The speaker crackles and powers down.

JUPITER

Um. Okay. Not creepy at all. Okay.

Jupiter picks up the pace and keeps walking until they hear shuffling. They stop, turn, and take their rifle off their back.

JUPITER

Hey! I can hear you, y'know. I know where you are -- now show yourself!

Jupiter reloads their rifle, letting the casing rattle on the ground loudly.

STRANGER

Piss off!

JUPITER

I'm not -- what? I'm not gonna leave!

STRANGER

And that's a goddamn mistake!

JUPITER

I don't even know where I am!

STRANGER sidesteps from behind a building and into view. She has a revolver and is pointing it at Jupiter.

DIAMONDBACK
(into walkie-talkie)
Diamondback here. Armed outsider
spotted near Snaketail Hall... I don't
know.

DIAMONDBACK
(to Jupiter)
Hey! What's your name?

JUPITER
Jupiter!

DIAMONDBACK
(into walkie-talkie)
Jupiter... Okay, no, I --... No, I
don't understand. One leads to two
leads to all of these bums --... Yes,
sir.

Diamondback holsters her gun, puts her hands up, and starts
approaching Jupiter.

JUPITER
What're you doing?!

DIAMONDBACK
Copperhead says to take you back. Take
you back if you want, I mean. Like, I
don't *want to*, but if Copperhead
says...

Diamondback tries a few more steps.

DIAMONDBACK
We have an infirmary. You have
something screwed up with your foot,
right? We can heal you.

JUPITER
I... okay. Okay.

Jupiter slings their rifle over their back.

JUPITER
Yeah.

Diamondback hooks her arm around Jupiter's shoulders, supporting
them. Jupiter hops while Diamondback is a pillar of stability.

DIAMONDBACK

Yeah. And, um... my condolences. I'm so sorry you're here.