

Stranger Things: Season 3, Episode 6: Chapter Six: E Pluribus Unum

INTRO: *Dustin (age 15) and Erica (age 10) are trapped in a ventilator shaft inside a secret Russian lab where their friends Steve and Robin are held hostage. In order to escape the facility, they have to pass a large fan which blocks their movement. Meanwhile, Dustin is filling in the story of the insane supernatural events he experienced with his group friends in the previous season of the show.*

DUSTIN: So, when we set fire to the hub, we drew the Demodogs away so El could close the gate. But now, for some insane reason, the Russians appear to be trying to reopen it, which just destroys everything we risked our lives for.

ERICA: By "we," you're including Lucas?

DUSTIN: Yes, of course.

ERICA (Sceptical): So, all that shit you told me, Lucas was there?

DUSTIN: Yeah.

ERICA (Incredulous): My brother, Lucas Charles Sinclair?

DUSTIN (Exasperated): Yes!

ERICA: I don't believe you.

DUSTIN (Incredulous): Wait, so you believe everything about El and the gate and the Demodogs and the Mind Flayer, but you question your brother's involvement?

ERICA: That's correct.

DUSTIN (Ironical): Makes total sense.

During the argument, Dustin is desperately trying to open an electronic control box on the wall which will diconnect the large fan that prevents them from moving forward.

ERICA: Um, you need help with that?

DUSTIN: No.

ERICA (Sassy): Well, I mean, it's taking a while, so...

DUSTIN (Annoyed): Yeah, no shit, Sherlock.

ERICA: All right, so if we don't find a more efficient method to stop these fans, we're never gonna find help, and your ice cream buddies [Steve and Robin] are screwed.

DUSTIN (Angry): Yeah, with that attitude, they are. Jee-zus!

ERICA: I'm just being realistic. I mean, we've made it about point-three miles in nine hours. Then we had to walk three hours down that tunnel, so I'd estimate ten miles back to the elevator, which should take us approximately twelve-and-a-half days.

DUSTIN (Incredulous): Did you just do all of that in your head?

ERICA (Shrugs): I'm good with numbers.

DUSTIN (has a LIGHTBULB MOMENT): Holy shit. You're a nerd!

ERICA: Come again?

DUSTIN: You... are... a... nerd.

ERICA (Angry): Okay, you better take that back, nerd.

DUSTIN (Grinning): Can't put the truth back in the box.

ERICA: But it's not the truth.

DUSTIN: Let's examine the facts, shall we? Fact one: you're a math whiz, apparently.

ERICA (Defensively): That was a pretty straightforward equation.

DUSTIN: Fact number two: you're a political junkie.

ERICA: Just because I don't agree with Communism as an ideology...

DUSTIN (Picks up Erica's My Little Pony backpack): Fact number three: you love My Little Pony.

ERICA (with defensive scepticism): And what does My Little Pony have to do with this?

DUSTIN (Triumphant): Ah, let's recall the ponies' latest adventure, shall we?

The evil centaur team and Tirek turns Applejack into a dragon at Midnight Castle, and then Megan and the other ponies have to use Moochick's magic to defeat his rainbow of darkness, saving them from a lifetime of enslavement.

All the pink in the world can't disguise the irrefutable fact that centaurs and castles and dragons and magic are all standard nerd tropes. Ergo, My Little Pony is nerdy. Ergo, you, Erica, are a nerd.

ERICA: And how do you know so much about My Little Pony?

DUSTIN: Because I'm ... a nerd.