

2022-07-09 Cave-In

"Here, we'll mine through here! And watch those pickaxes, lads. Too cramped in these tunnels now for the wide swings you were getting away with yesterday. Discipline or death. - "

" 'Discipline or death. No worse way than going in a cave-in.' Yeah, we know, we heard you the first hundred times. Just the three of us left, anyway. Not much else to think about, is there."

"What was that, Private Em?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing?"

"Nothing, Captain."

"That's right, Private Em. No worse way to go. And Pel, put your back into it, man."

"Yessir. Sorry sir. I, I can't put much more into it, sir."

"No you can't, and you shouldn't have to. Em! Quit your lollygagging."

"Yes, Captain. So, Captain. Do you figure, Captain? That we'll ever get out of here, Captain?"

"Less talking too!"

"Yessir."

"Not so fast!"

"But you said to..."

"Watch out for the rubble, lads! Heave -"

"We're through? We're through! Praise be."

"Yeah, but only to the next godforsaken tunnel leading us to godforsaken nowhere!"

"You watch you tongue! We'll be saved yet, bless the memory of those who haven't made it with us."

"Bless them, sir."

"Now... now we break through over there! Under that outcropping."

"Captain, are you sure? That doesn't look entirely stable. Perhaps just further on?"

"Not you too, Pel! Now it's your turn with the main pick."

"Yessir, meant no disrespect sir."

"Well, it's been hard on all, but... careful! That swing was wide! Those cracks... Duck!!"

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"Well, now we have to bless our fearless Captain too. As he said, no worse way to go."

"Yessir."

"Don't you 'yessir' me, Pel!"

"But sir, you're Captain now. Where do we dig next?"

"Sod on all digging, sod on all choices, and sod on all Captains..."

"Yessir."

"... Fine. Over there, by that smooth spot on the wall."

"Yessir."

"Here, let me help swing."