

MARS - 'EMILY'

20.

SCOTT

~~Above the atmosphere, you get more radiation exposure, but here on station, we're still inside Earth's protective magnetic field, so staying within the limits isn't too much of a problem. On a mission to Mars, it will be much harder.~~

SC #1

INT. DAEDALUS - MID-DECK - GALLEY - DAY

Later. Ben is taking an inventory of their food supply, making a list of what to take with them in the rover. He pauses, rubs his temples. Takes a swig of water from a bottle.

START

[EMILY (O.S.)]

You need to drink more water.

REVEAL EMILY, watching him.

[EMILY (CONT'D)]

A hundred ounces a day, minimum.

BEN

Standard ration is sixty.

[EMILY]

You need more. Radiation poisoning can cause severe dehydration.

Ben realizes Yue betrayed his trust.

BEN

She told you.

Emily nods. Ben is stunned.

[EMILY]

You should inform the crew.

BEN

The state of my health, until and only if it affects my performance, is not their concern.

[EMILY]

(insistent)

Have you had any symptoms of radiation poisoning?

Ben takes a breath, reluctant to talk about it.

MANDY SHERMAN CASTING

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BEN

A few minutes after we landed, I threw up... some blood in my last stool.

[EMILY]

Dammit Ben, if I knew how much of a dose you received --

BEN

It wouldn't change the treatment protocols.

Emily can't deny it.

[EMILY]

You need to report any new symptoms to me immediately. I'm going to start you on antibiotics to fight off opportunistic infections, and steroids for the inflammation.

BEN

(nods)

The crew doesn't need to know. Understood?

Pissed, Emily is about to object, but decides not to.

[EMILY]

I'll respect doctor-patient confidentiality, if that's what you want.

BEN

(firm)

That's what I want.

// END

~~Yue enters, senses the tension between Ben and Emily, knows what it means. Ben sees her. They lock eyes for a beat, then Yue turns away, guiltily.~~

~~EXT. DAEDALUS - DAY~~

~~The next afternoon, establishing.~~

~~INT. DAEDALUS - MID-DECK - DAY~~

~~Robert is working a JOYSTICK, remotely driving the rover that was pre-positioned at the landing site, bringing it to Daedalus. On the INTERCOM, Robert calls up to the flight deck.~~

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JUN
(to Sam)
What's their power status?

SAM
It'll be several days before the
ASRG is hooked up.
(checks)
Solar cell efficiency is down by an
average of fourteen percent -- they
probably got hit by the proton
storm. Five of the arrays are
still not functional.

AVA
They'll need at least three more
arrays up and running to keep their
life support systems at full power.

JUN
Robert's been building solar power
systems since he was a kid. He'll
make it work.

Jun's tablet BEEPS. She's received a private message from
Emily.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - JUN'S OFFICE - DAY

SC#2 Jun sits at her desk and plays Emily's message.

INSERT - TABLET SCREEN - Emily is in the workshop, speaking
softly.

START →

[EMILY (ON SCREEN)]
Hello, Jun. I'm afraid the news
from Mars isn't very good. Ben is
suffering from sepsis. I've got
him on IV fluids and vasopressors,
but the prognosis is...
problematic.

(beat)
The rest of the crew is doing
alright. Your sister is holding up
well, but none of us are performing
anywhere near peak efficiency.

(then)
I'll transmit hourly updates on
Ben. If the flight surgeon's
office has any novel treatment
alternatives, please let me know
with all due haste.

← END

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~~END GOPRO-STYLE BODYCAM P.O.V.~~

~~Tatiana sets a TINY LIGHTED BEACON on the wall.~~

~~TATIANA (CONT'D)~~

~~Last one.~~

~~YUE~~

~~We'll stop at the next fork.~~

~~INT. BASE CAMP - PRESSURIZED WORKSHOP - DAY~~

~~Javier comes from the AIRLOCK section, stepping into the main living space. Pouring sweat, dirty and--~~

~~ROBERT (O.S.)~~

~~STOP!!~~

~~Javier freezes, hands up. He looks down.~~

~~REVEAL: Robert is on the floor, surrounded by an array of ELECTRONIC PIECES from the CO2 SCRUBBER, broken down into components and organized for cleaning.~~

~~MOUNTED OVERHEAD WORKSHOP CAMERA P.O.V. - Javier examines Robert's mess.~~

JAVIER

What the hell are you doing?

ROBERT

Fixing the scrubber.

JAVIER

Let me rephrase my question: Why the hell are you doing it in here?

ROBERT

I was tired of being in the suit.

JAVIER

You've got to be kidding me.

END MOUNTED OVERHEAD WORKSHOP CAMERA P.O.V.

Emily enters from the AIRLOCK section.

[EMILY]

What's going on?

SC# 3

START →

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JAVIER

What's going on? We've got ten square meters of living space and Robert's using nine of it to play handyman. There's nowhere to sit, there's nowhere to walk, and I'd like to storm out but guess what, Robert? I'm tired of being in my suit, too.

[EMILY]

Come here.

She pulls him through the partition to the AIRLOCK SECTION.

INT. BASE CAMP - PRESSURIZED WORKSHOP - AIRLOCK - DAY

Emily pulls Javier close and whispers.

[EMILY]

Take a breath.

JAVIER

We have to do something soon or I'm going to commit the first Martian homicide.

[EMILY]

You have to find a way to deal with it.

JAVIER

You're suggesting I strangle him.

[EMILY]

Not an option. Close your eyes.

JAVIER

I don't wanna do this right now.

[EMILY]

Doctor says.

He does.

[EMILY (CONT'D)]

Breathe. Now, I want you to visualize somewhere peaceful. Try to remember the most at peace you've ever been.

After a moment.

JAVIER

Okay.

[EMILY]

Where are you?

JAVIER

On the back porch of that beach volleyball bar in Indiana. When we went to your cousin's wedding.

[EMILY]

Describe it for me.

JAVIER

It's raining. The drops are rattling the tin roof.

[EMILY]

Breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth. What does it smell like?

JAVIER

Honeysuckle. I remember thinking, this is the last perfect summer afternoon on Earth.

[EMILY]

Next time Robert drives you nuts, I want you to remember that smell.

He opens his eyes. She smiles and gives him a kiss.

END
←

~~INT. LAVA TUBE - DAY~~

~~Yue and Tatiana come to another fork.~~

~~YUE~~

~~We can do one the old fashioned way.~~

~~Yue bends down to collect some chunks of HARDENED LAVA.~~

~~YUE (CONT'D)~~

~~We can build a cairn.~~

~~TATIANA~~

~~Ah. Piramida iz kamney.~~

~~YUE~~

~~Piramida iz...~~

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~~CHEN
I'm scared. Is Aunt Yue going to die?~~

~~YUN
(comforting)
Don't worry. She'll be fine.~~

CUT TO:

SC #4
INT. OLYMPUS TOWN - AUDITORIUM - DAY

A spontaneous gathering of hundreds of town residents. Angry and frustrated.

They are shouting questions at Emily, Yue, and Robert who stand at the same podium where they greet newcomers.

They are trying to calm the crowd.

START →
[EMILY]

We will know in a few hours if it's an Earth-based contagion, perhaps brought aboard the last transport, or if it is something new--

A distraught MAN, stands and shouts, interrupting--

MAN

New because it's a virus from those fossils?! It's happened before! In Siberia!

[EMILY]

We'll know what we're dealing with as soon as we have sequenced the genome.

MAN

They're saying there were DNA fragments in the fossils. Are you sequencing those?

ROBERT

Please. Everyone go home. We'll keep everyone informed, I promise.

WOMAN

Is it true a cargo ship from Earth turned around and went back to Earth because of the epidemic?

Everyone, even Yue, looks to Robert.

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ROBERT

Yes.

Some gasps among those gathered. Even Yue is surprised.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

There will be some shortages this year.

YUE

All public places will be closed until further notice. Only essential personnel should report to work. Meals must be picked up and consumed at home.

[EMILY]

Masks should be worn at all times. Please take one for every member of your family.

STAFF members place bins of MASKS at every exit.

Emily puts one on.

~~INT OLYMPUS TOWN - LATER~~

~~OPTICAL RECORDERS P.O.V. MONTAGE -~~

~~--The streets and cafes empty.~~

~~--Mask-wearing residents playing cards in their tiny apartments.~~

~~--Cafeteria staff handing out boxed meals to mask-wearing residents.~~

~~ELDER JUN (V.O.)~~

~~Fear of the unknown, the alien, has been with us since the dawn of time. This fear is not rational or logical and it is more infectious than the deadliest plague.~~

CUT TO:

~~BIG THINKERS - "LIFE ON MARS?" #3~~

~~Planetary scientist Jennifer Heldmann and cosmologist Neil deGrasse Tyson describe the threat that indigenous microbes might pose on Mars.~~

END
←

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