

SEVENTY-TWO: A SPACE VOYAGE

Written by

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EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII - EVENING

A Twilight sky above turquoise sands and deep indigo/black sea water. In the sky, we see the black hole the planet orbits.

In the distance a violent fire burns, the cause of a wreck.

A gloved hand twitches and we see HANS HARPER (20s) look up through his cracked space helmet. He slowly gets up and looks around the vast space around him to reveal his bright orange space suit. Around his waist his belt with what appears to be a gun hanging from it.

He catches his bearings and in his face we see the realisation of something forgotten.

INT. THE WHITE ROOM (SPACESHIP) - DAYS AGO

Toby (30s) and Flick (40s) are sitting down playing a game of cards with NOVA JONES (20s) as Hans looks at a weatherworn picture of his pregnant fiancée.

TOBY

Hans! We ordered those drinks  
yesterday!

Hans places the picture inside his jumpsuit and smiles to himself.

HANS

Coming right up.

He takes out a vial with a clear liquid and pours a little in each of the three cups before him.

EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII (GROTTO) - EVENING

Hans is walking across the desert and spots an orange jumpsuit...he runs towards it. Nova lies unconscious. He looks beyond her to the flames in the distance and gathers that just like him, she must have either jumped out of the spaceship or dragged herself out after the crash. Hans begins mouth to mouth, followed by compressions to her chest until she exhales and coughs.

Hans helps Nova to a sitting position, kneeling next to her and looking around again. It is clear neither of them knows where they are.

They both look at the fire beyond, sadness spreading over their eyes as they look at what is the wreckage of their spaceship. The wind picks up about them, almost violently

We notice the same gun belt from her waist.

NOVA  
Flick and Toby?

Hans does not look away from the wreckage they escaped. He nods very slowly.

In the distance we see a sandstorm coming their way, which they seem oblivious to.

NOVA (CONT'D)  
Where are we?

HANS  
I...don't know...

Hans stands up, wiping the sand off his suit and helps Nova up.

HANS (CONT'D)  
It's getting dark, we should find shelter--

Hans stops talking and turns to the oncoming sandstorm. He quickly pulls Nova up to her feet and they both start running as the sandstorm gets closer and closer.

The sandstorm engulfs them as we hear Nova scream.

CUT TO:

The aftermath of the storm. Hans lies on top of Nova in a protective fashion. They are both still for a few moments...Hans moves off of Nova and looks around, covered in the planets turquoise dust.

EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII (FOREST) - SAME TIME

There is a hungry grumble as if of a beast, watching as Hans and Nova walk towards them.

EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII - SAME TIME

Hans and Nova walk across the dunes and stop by a pool of water, oasis-like and rush to it, their cracked lips revealing their thirst.

Hans kneels down and places his gloved hand to the water but before his lips can touch the water Nova stops him.

NOVA

Wait.

HANS

We'll be dead soon anyway...

Hans drinks...his eyes closing as he does so, the pleasure and relief evident in his face.

Out of nowhere, he starts to choke, Nova screams and reaches out to him as he writhes in apparent pain and then, it stops and he laughs.

NOVA

You asshole!

Nova walks away from him, towards the forest where the beast awaits.

HANS

I'm sorry, it was a joke...

NOVA

A joke? What is wrong with you?  
Flick and Toby are dead! They're  
dead and we're lost somewhere in  
the fucking universe.

Hans looks away embarrassed.

NOVA (CONT'D)

A joke?

Beat. Nova walks away from him, angry.

HANS

I'm sorry, okay?

Hans looks after her as she continues to walk without looking back.

Hans looks up towards the darkening sky and the black hole in the distance slowly disappearing in the incoming darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII (FOREST) - MOMENTS LATER

The dark begins to set in as Hans and Nova walk through the alien forest.

HANS

Are you ever going to talk to me  
again?

Nova looks back at him.

Beat.

NOVA

I never liked you.

HANS

Funny, that.

NOVA

How so?

HANS

Feeling was mutual. I like a bird  
with a sense of humour.

NOVA

At least we got that in common.

They exchange a glance and share a small smile.

Beat.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

HANS

For what?

NOVA

Saving my life and having me live  
this nightmare.

(Beat)

Do you know where we are?

HANS

Narnia...look! I think I see Aslan.

Nova rolls her eyes.

They walk deeper into the foreign forest and start to see  
fruits hanging from branches, some look like oranges but they  
emit a weird glow.

Hans raises his gloved hand, taps his palm and a torchlight  
shines from it, lighting the way.

Nova looks up at the fruits, hunger in her eyes.

HANS (CONT'D)

Shall we?

Nova hesitates. Before she can say anything, Hans reaches out to a fruit and slowly bites into it, we see the fruit juices erupt and cover his lips, it's dark and thick, like a pulp. A glow, like glitter covers his mouth. He offers the other half to Nova who takes it reluctantly.

She bites into it and smiles. The taste is glorious and the feeling it causes, even more so.

They both smile and laugh at each other and looking around see that their surroundings are clearer, the sky seems to be falling in on them, they both fall back and look up as the stars get closer and closer.

They look at each other and hold hands laughing as they allow the hallucinogenic state caused by the fruit to completely take over.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII (FOREST) - NIGHT

Nova wakes up, Hans is still fast asleep next to her. She looks around and hears the heavy breathing coming from somewhere in the forest.

She notices a pair of eyes glowing and shakes Hans awake.

NOVA

Something is watching us.

HANS

Wha--

NOVA

Something is watching us...

HANS

I don't think --

There is a growl that stops Hans in his tracks.

HANS (CONT'D)

No sudden movements, alright?

(beat)

At the count of three, one. Two.

Thre-

The thing watching them makes a dash and Hans, as quick as a gunslinger withdraws his gun and fires at it.

A beam of light emits from the gun and seems to hit its target because a loud squeal engulfs them.

Hans and Nova run through the forest, away from the beast and although we cannot see it, we hear it hunt them down. Nova withdraws her gun and starts shooting behind her, it does not slow the thing down at first, it continues to chase them until eventually, one of either Hans or Nova's gunbeams catches it and we hear it growl in pain and tumble.

They both carry on running until they are sure the thing is no longer behind them.

HANS (CONT'D)  
What the actual fuck..?

Beat.

NOVA  
Come on, let's go.

Nova and Hans walk away, looking back as they do so in fear of the creature.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET XENPHI VIII (GROTTO) - NEXT

Hans, holding his torch palm up, leads the way until they eventually find themselves arriving in front of a crystal grotto.

They look around, see no other shelter and walk in.

INT. CRYSTAL GROTTO - NEXT

Hans and Nova look around, the only source of light, is the torch on Hans' palm.

NOVA  
It's beautiful.

Hans nods solemnly and takes a seat on the floor. Nova turns around and sits opposite him.

Silence reigns supreme for a few moments.

NOVA (CONT'D)  
What happened, Hans?

Beat.

He throws Nova a fleeting look before looking away from her again.

HANS

You were all asleep...we err, we -  
I noticed the ship getting  
dangerously close...

Hans seems to lose focus as if hypnotised.

HANS (CONT'D)

It drew us in.  
(Beat)  
I thought we were dead.

If there was an iota of honesty, it was in that last sentence.

Nova takes out a small white device with a cracked screen.

NOVA

Locator is not working.

Nova unzips her bodysuit and takes out a folded piece of paper. She opens it and flattens it on the ground. There is a sun in the centre of the paper followed by circular shapes, clearly planets, however, this solar system does not resemble our own. The title says '*Gemysphere Solar System*' following the sun we see the planets marked - *Adirah, Xenovah, Umirah, Xenphi 13, Jumiriyah and Jezthebah* - every planet gets bigger the further they go and colder and colder.

NOVA (CONT'D)

When I last checked the locator we  
were close to Umirah...  
(Beat)  
How long had we been on the ship  
before...

Hans sighs and takes out the picture of his pregnant fiancée. He caresses the picture and the his fiancée's bump.

HANS

Six months, maybe eight. Over a  
year...who knows..

Nova gets up and sits next to him to look at the picture.

NOVA

Did you have a name picked out?

He looks at the picture even more sadly.



HANS

Adhara.

NOVA

Beautiful.

HANS

She must be close to a year old by now.

Beat.

HANS (CONT'D)

Did you leave anyone behind?

Nova nods, suddenly remembering.

NOVA

She is beautiful, caring, talented, smart. When I told her I wanted to be part of this expedition, she smiled and told me she'd be right there waiting for me. She said she'd pray for us.

(Beat)

Maybe there is a god.

HANS

You've been to space. There is no God.

NOVA

Science can't explain how we went through a black hole and came out the other end alive.

Beat.

Nova looks at the device in her hand again.

NOVA (CONT'D)

If only they knew...

HANS

...that the people they least expected to survived a collision with a black hole? Perhaps they shouldn't know. Perhaps they should all stay there, perhaps the earth needs to die, perhaps the human race isn't worth saving...

A tear drops onto the picture as Hans speaks.

HANS (CONT'D)  
Desperation will make men do  
terrible things.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

A spaceship travels through space, whilst in the foreground we see a black hole.

INT. SPACESHIP - SAME TIME

Hans looks out towards the black hole approaching them. The light of it reflecting on his face. He turns to leave.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WHITE ROOM (SPACESHIP) - MOMENTS LATER

Hans walks in and finds Nova, Flick and Toby lying down on three slabs, a fourth one, sits empty. The three of them, seem to be struggling to get up.

Hans walks over to a table where there are three glass tubes. He takes out a vial from his pocket and pours the purple powder into each tube, before mixing in a clear liquid.

He swirls it, walks over to a groggy Nova, holds her head up and gives her the mixture. She instantly goes limp.

A helpless Toby looks up...

TOBY  
What are you--

Hans looks over at him, sadly.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WHITE ROOM (SPACESHIP) - MOMENTS LATER

Hans holds a device in his hand. The screen turns on and the face of an older gentleman appears.

LIEUTENANT SMITH  
Is it in sight?

Hans nods.

LIEUTENANT SMITH (CONT'D)  
The fate of the world is in your  
hands.

HANS  
What if--

LIEUTENANT SMITH  
We'll never know unless you try.

HANS  
I can't--

LIEUTENANT SMITH  
Adhara is dying, you do this and I  
make sure she gets her heart  
transplant. Regardless of the  
outcome. Your baby lives and grows  
to know that her dad was a hero,  
instead of the a petty thief who  
almost murdered her mother in a fit  
of rage.

Beat.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - MOMENTS LATER

We are close in on a helmeted Hans, the light of the Black  
hole shining on the glass. The ship tremors the closer it  
gets, he grits his teeth waiting for impact until...

All goes black

CUT TO:

INT. CRYSTAL GROTTTO - NIGHT

Hans wakes up, sweating. Anxiety and regret taking over his  
every fibre.

He begins to remove the spacesuit until he stands in the  
grotto with just his under-suit as if what he was wearing was  
scorching him.

Nova wakes up and sees Hans having a panic attack, she  
instantly moves towards him and holds him close until he  
stops trying to fight and rests his head on her chest.

HANS  
I'm sorry...

Nova looks down at him, not sure why he is apologising.

A Growl.

They both look to see three pairs of glowing eyes.

NOVA

Fuck.

Nova rushes to her gun and with dexterity shoots. There's a squeal but it does not stop their advancement. Hans shoots his gun too and as they get closer punches the creature, as Nova continues to shoot.

Hans looks at his hand as notices a blood-like substance but its blue rather than red.

As Nova continues to shoot, Hans stamps on whatever it is he knocked out and when all the squeals seem over they run down the grotto, into the darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET XENPHI (DESERT) - SUNRISE

A wide expanse of a desert, the fine blue sand visible again. In the distance we see Nova and Hans walking. Hans seems to be limping, whilst Nova helps him, both are dirty from the struggle, stained with blue blood.

Hans falls down to his knees and we can see his leg is wounded. A bite on his leg.

Nova tries to hold him up, but he is too weak. She looks around, trying to find cover. But Nothing.

Over the horizon, we can see three bare-chested things, their features, monstrous. Their eyes glowing.

Their skin is blue with patches of pink, their nostrils, to the side and wide. Their teeth blue.

HANS

I'm sorry...

Hans whispers...

HANS (CONT'D)

I had to save my baby.

NOVA

What are ... you?

Nova looks up and sees the creatures running at them in full speed. Hunger in their eyes and then...one by one they fall prey to a laser gun shot.

Nova turns around...a bald man in a gas mask and a long trench coat walks towards them, he holds what looks like a rifle.

His face looks weathered behind the mask.

ONE

Well, I'll be damned. You made it through.

Nova steps back to protect Hans, but the stranger smiles.

ONE (CONT'D)

Come.

He walks away.

We can see a number one tattooed on the back of his neck. It is faded.

He stops and turns. Noticing Nova and Hans have not moved.

ONE (CONT'D)

Come and survive. Or stay and die.

He walks off where he came from.

Nova helps Hans up, he is limping...as they walk we see a tattoo on both their necks, Hans is number 72 and Nova 73...

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. CRYSTAL GROTTO - NIGHT

The Locator lies on the floor, the screen turns on and after a few moments reads...LOCATION FOUND.

FADE TO BLACK...

TITLE: OUTAGE.