

In Transit

Episode 2.16: “No More Than That”

Theme. Fade in - a thin, high pitched ringing sound. The sound of the ship's normal hum. There is no alarm blaring - nothing.

ALECTO: *(Breathing heavily, slightly disoriented)* Shit.

She fumbles for what sounds like straps. The latch lets go, she falls to her feet. She takes a few steps forwards, and the ringing noise gets louder.

ALECTO: Langley? Langley?

She stumbles forwards and puts her hand on the glass.

ALECTO: Solea?!

Silence. She steps backwards - her foot hits something as she does. There's a pause, and she bends down to pick up whatever it is. She fiddles with it in her hands for a moment.

ALECTO: Commander Faraday. Identification number; 1.

There's a moment of deliberation. And then she snaps the badge with her hands and tosses the pieces down on the floor.

ALECTO: Good riddance.

She turns to go. And then a chime comes up on the speaker system. She stops.

HALLEY: Hi. *(Beat)* Um. It's over now. It's all over. We hope you're all safe. We're so sorry for any damage that might have been caused. We will work to return things to their original state and restore any damaged property when we have the time and means to do so. If anyone has sustained any injuries or needs medical attention, please find your nearest Officer or call on the help line. If it takes a while to get to you, we're sorry - we will need to

prioritise based on urgency. Please give us a moment to recover and get in contact with those beyond the wormhole. We will be in contact with you soon.

Chime down.

ALECTO: Thank god.

She heads forwards once again, out of the docking site. The door closes behind her.

The Helm. There is no more chaos, no more alarm. Only the normal beeping of machinery.

CAIRO: Okay. *(He lets out a shaky breath)* Okay.

SAWYER: It's over?

CAIRO: Yeah.

SAWYER: It's fixed?

CAIRO: I think so.

ALNITAK: You're shaking.

He unbuttons the belt that has been keeping him to his chair.

CAIRO: I'm fine.

ALNITAK: Are you sure?

CAIRO: Yeah. I'm - *(he laughs, a bit shakily, but full of relief)* - I can't believe I did that.

ZIGGY: Yeah. Man. That was insane.

SAWYER: Did they teach you to nosedive during training?

CAIRO: Um. It wasn't part of basic training, no.

SAWYER: Damn.

ALNITAK: That's really impressive, Cairo.

CAIRO: What? No - it's fine. The machines did most of the work for me.

SAWYER: Are you okay, Halley?

HALLEY: Yeah. Yeah - I'm fine.

SAWYER: Are you sure?

HALLEY: I'm a little. Um. Worried about the rest of the ship.

CAIRO: *Shit.* The rest of the ship! Can you - um. Send out an announcement?

HALLEY: Saying what?

CAIRO: I don't know. Um. That it worked? That we need to wait to hear back from New Earth?

HALLEY: So you're asking me to wing it?

CAIRO: Yeah?

HALLEY: Okay. Good thing I'm good at that.

She unbuckles herself, stands up and starts to walk towards the back of the ship. She pauses.

HALLEY: Is Sputnik okay?

CAIRO: I don't know. We must have lost contact with them in the nosedive. But according to these readings here, everything on Notos looks good.

HALLEY: And Alecto?

CAIRO: I don't know.

HALLEY: Okay. *(Beat. She presses something. Chime.)* Hi. *(Beat)* Um. It's over now. It's all over. We hope you're all safe. We're so sorry for any damage that might have been caused. We will work to return things to their original state and restore any damaged property when we have the time and means to do so. If anyone has sustained any injuries or needs medical attention, please find your nearest Officer or call on the help line. If it takes a while to get to you, we're sorry - we will need to prioritise based on urgency. Please give us a moment to recover and get in contact with those beyond the wormhole. We will be in contact with you soon.

As she talks, Al goes over to Cairo.

ALNITAK: Hey.

CAIRO: Hey.

ALNITAK: I'm really proud of you, you know? That was insane.

CAIRO: It was fine.

ALNITAK: Cairo, you can't look at me and say you're not the tiniest bit chuffed.

CAIRO: No. I mean. *(He laughs)* I am a bit chuffed, yeah. But I wasn't really thinking about that. I was kind of preoccupied with, like -

ALNITAK: Saving the day?

CAIRO: *(Another laugh)* Yeah. *(Beat)* I kinda only realised what I was doing until I was done doing it. Like - I've wanted this my whole life. To be sat here. At the Helm. Controlling the

ship. *(Beat)* Didn't quite imagine that I'd be shooting the ship downwards so fast we'd lose gravity, but hey. Some things you can't always predict.

ALNITAK: Yeah. *(Beat)* But no more saving the day after this, okay? Doctor's orders.

CAIRO: 'Doctor's orders'. *(He laughs)* I'd assume as a doctor you'd be all for saving lives.

ALNITAK: Yeah. But you're putting my health on the line. You're going to give me a heart attack one of these days. Send me to an early grave.

CAIRO: Don't joke about that.

ALNITAK: Don't *do* it, then.

CAIRO: Okay. *(Beat)* Okay, fine.

There's a pause.

ZIGGY: You two done over there?

CAIRO: What? Oh, don't ruin the vibe, Ziggy.

ZIGGY: What - so I'm not allowed to have a bit of a lighthearted joke? I thought we were about to fuckin' die.

CAIRO: I'm *so* glad to know you still have faith in me.

ZIGGY: Oh, shut up.

SAWYER: Um. So. What now, then?

CAIRO: We, uh. Wait and see what's happened with Alecto down on Notos, I guess.

SAWYER: God. I hope she's okay.

CAIRO: She'll be fine. It's Alecto we're talking about. She can handle herself. She's the toughest of us all.

ZIGGY: Can't believe you used to dislike her.

CAIRO: What? No I didn't!

ZIGGY: Well, you *pretended* to dislike her when you first met.

CAIRO: And *you* pretended to dislike me!

ZIGGY: That wasn't pretend.

CAIRO: What's gotten into you, huh? (*Another laugh*) I save your ass and you repay me like this?

There's a chime.

HALLEY: What's that?

CAIRO: Um. I dunno. A transmission?

SAWYER: From New Earth?

CAIRO: God - maybe?

SAWYER: Well, answer it, then!

CAIRO: I am!

He connects.

STRANGER: Hello. We have received your shuttle.

HALLEY: Oh, thank goodness.

SAWYER: Is Harris okay?

STRANGER: The individual in question has arrived in perfect condition. We have been updated on your situation. We are preparing two ships now. They will arrive within the next few hours. You have 45 hours to get all individuals onboard ready for transportation. The first ship will leave in 45 hours exactly, and the second an hour after the first. This will be regardless of how many people are onboard. Thank you for your cooperation.

CAIRO: So, how many people can we -

The line cuts.

ZIGGY: Fuck's sake. It never lets up, does it?

CAIRO: No. But. I mean. It will all be over soon. Won't it?

SAWYER: I kinda don't want it to be. Is that weird?

CAIRO: No. I get you. I don't think I do either.

Alecto walking down the ship. Her comms are ringing. She seems nervous.

ALECTO: Come on - come *on!*

The line connects.

ALECTO: (*Rapidly*) Sputnik?

SPUTNIK: (*Through comms*) Hey! Alecto!

ALECTO: Oh, thank god. Are you okay?

SPUTNIK: Yeah. Yeah, I'm okay! Sorry - I didn't know the lines were back up.

ALECTO: Neither did I. I - um - I've just been trying to call you since -

SPUTNIK: Are *you* okay?

ALECTO: Um. Yeah.

SPUTNIK: Are you still at the docking site?

ALECTO: No. Um. No, I'm not.

SPUTNIK: What happened?

ALECTO: They're dead.

Beat.

SPUTNIK: What?

ALECTO: There was a crash on the ship they were on. Langley was fatally wounded. Faraday wasn't. She told me he'd - like - completely snapped. She sent them both out of the airlock.

SPUTNIK: Oh my god.

ALECTO: But it's okay. Everything's okay - I'm on my way back -

SPUTNIK: No. Gosh - I'm so sorry, Alecto. That must have been horrible for you.

ALECTO: *(A dry laugh)* It's over now.

SPUTNIK: Yeah. *(Beat)* Are you on your way back to the Helm on Eurus?

ALECTO: Yeah. I'm nearly there.

SPUTNIK: Okay. I'll be over in a bit. I've got to stay and sort some things out. The backup generator did *not* like the ships diving. It's - *(there's the sound of a machine)* - being a *real* pain in the arse, hah.

ALECTO: Oh. Do you need a hand? I can turn back -

SPUTNIK: No, no, it's okay! Don't worry about it. I won't be long, I promise!

ALECTO: Okay.

SPUTNIK: But could you stay on the line? I always work better when I have company. *(Beat)* Not that I normally have company. Usually I just end up talking to myself.

ALECTO: Yeah. Of course.

SPUTNIK: Thanks.

ALECTO: I wonder if Harris made it through.

SPUTNIK: I hope she did. *(Beat)* And then it'll be our turn, I guess.

ALECTO: Yeah. I guess it will.

SPUTNIK: We're going to New Earth, right? If we can?

ALECTO: I'd like to - I think.

SPUTNIK: Me too. *(Beat)* *Hah.* You know, when I was younger, I used to watch lots of movies from back on Earth. Um. Or - Old Earth? Do we call it Old Earth now?

ALECTO: I don't know.

SPUTNIK: Huh. Anyways! I used to put them on and just zone out and look at the sky. It was just so *blue*. And it occurred to me, you know, that shade of blue - I've never seen it naturally before? But back on Old Earth it was everywhere. The colour of the sky. The colour of the sea. Just blue. Blue that goes on for miles and miles.

ALECTO: Yeah.

SPUTNIK: I always wanted to see that. That real - *natural* - shade of blue.

ALECTO: I've never thought of that before. *(Beat)* Me too.

SPUTNIK: I want to see so many things. *God*. There are so many things to see, Alecto! *So* many possibilities out there that it makes me feel so small and insignificant. But, like. In a good way. You know?

ALECTO: Yeah. We have a whole world left to explore.

SPUTNIK: Alecto? Do you think that we'll be happy there? Do you think we can -

There's an explosion from the other end of the line. It goes dead. The door to the Helm slides open.
Silence.

SAWYER: Alecto? Are you okay?

ALECTO: Sputnik?

We hear the echo of the explosion from the Helm.

ALECTO: *(Again, louder)* Sputnik?!

CAIRO: What is it? What happened?

ALECTO: Sputnik? *Sputnik?* Spud? Hello?! *Hello!?!*

CAIRO: Alecto?

ALECTO: The explosion. Spud - Spud was on the line - I was talking to them - I heard it through their comms. I -

SAWYER: Alecto -

ALECTO: Sputnik?! Pick up! Hello? *HELLO?!*

CAIRO: Okay. Shit. Okay.

HALLEY: We need to send people. Don't we?

SAWYER: Um. Where were they?

ALECTO: At the - they were at the - the backup generator on Notos. They said it was acting up.

CAIRO: Okay. Um.

ALNITAK: I'll call someone.

He stands up to go.

CAIRO: Alecto -

ALECTO: *(Again, small, shattered)* Sputnik?

Fade into silence. It lingers, for a moment. And then to the normal hum of the ship. A door slides open. Footsteps.

SAWYER: Hey. *(Beat)* Alecto?

Silence. There isn't a response.

SAWYER: Alecto, can I sit?

Still no response. After a moment, Sawyer sits.

SAWYER: Are you - um. How are you doing?

ALECTO: How do you think I'm doing, Sawyer?

SAWYER: Yeah.

There's a really long pause.

SAWYER: You're really strong.

ALECTO: I'm not.

SAWYER: No. You are. *(Beat)* You're the strongest person I know, Alecto. You've - you've been through so much. So much that I can't seem to really wrap my head around it. You trained for years to be a Sentinel and you left everything you knew behind. Including those you loved. And since then - just - the stuff that you've seen. I don't know what I'd do if I were in your position. I think I'd just curl up into a ball and. I don't know. Stop existing.

ALECTO: I wish I could. I really wish I could.

SAWYER: But you don't. You just. You keep going. After everything you've done you just *keep going.*

ALECTO: I mean. What else am I supposed to do?

SAWYER: I don't know. *(Beat)* But I know that whatever comes next, you're going to get through it.

There's a pause.

ALECTO: There was nothing I could do, Sawyer. That's the worst part. There was *nothing* I could do.

SAWYER: I know.

ALECTO: It's like. With Lyra - when Lyra died, I could blame myself. I could take the anger I was feeling and direct it inwards. But no matter what I did - it would have turned out this way. I could have gone back and found them, but there wouldn't have been enough time. And even if I had, all that would have happened is that I would have - *(she pauses)* - I would have also -

SAWYER: Yeah.

ALECTO: And it was so *senseless*? They just. They were there one second. And the next they're just. Not anymore. But they didn't even - it happened for nothing. It was a backup generator. That ship's going to die anyway. Nothing else was affected - they put the fire out. It was for *nothing*.

SAWYER: Who knows, though. If they weren't there - if they hadn't stabilised the core, it could have been so much worse.

ALECTO: Yes. But saying '*if*' doesn't really help.

SAWYER: Yeah.

Beat.

ALECTO: I can't picture it. I try to -

SAWYER: Alecto, don't do that.

ALECTO: No, but I *want* to. I want to picture them so that I can imagine I was there with them, and they weren't alone when they - *(beat)* - when they - *god*, why can't I just *say* it?

SAWYER: Alecto -

ALECTO: But all I can picture is them waving me goodbye down the corridor. Smiling.
(Beat) Because you can't remember someone as dead, can you?

SAWYER: No. You can't.

ALECTO: *(A sniff)* I'm going to go to the sea when we get to New Earth. For them.

SAWYER: Yeah. *(Beat)* We're heading off soon. Isn't that strange. *(Beat)* Strange how many people didn't want to go. I want to get off as soon as possible. You know?

ALECTO: Yeah.

The door behind them slides open.

CAIRO: Alecto.

ALECTO: Oh. Hey. What are you doing here?

SAWYER: I told them we were here.

ALECTO: Oh.

ZIGGY: Are you okay, Alecto?

ALECTO: No.

ZIGGY: Yeah.

CAIRO: Getting one last look at - well. Everything.

ALECTO: Yeah.

CAIRO: I'm gonna miss this view.

SAWYER: We'll be seeing a whole different side of the universe from New Earth, won't we?
New stars.

ALECTO: Yeah. *(Beat)* This must have been the last thing they saw. Faraday and Langley.

ZIGGY: Yeah. Don't know if he deserved to see something so nice.

ALECTO: I don't know. I feel a bit sorry for him, honestly.

ZIGGY: Faraday?

ALECTO: Yeah. *(Beat)* He's just. He was a person. Who has some horrible things happen to him. And in that regard, I can't help but feel like he didn't deserve it all.

CAIRO: Yeah, but he cut off my hand. So he's at the very least a bit of a dick.

ALECTO: Okay. *(She laughs)* You're right. He was a bit of a dick.

ZIGGY: What do you think it'll be like on New Earth? Without any more shitty
Commanders making people's lives hell?

CAIRO: Alecto and I were talking about this. We think New Earth must have an even *shittier*
Commander.

SAWYER: Will New Earth even have a Commander, do you think?

ZIGGY: There's gotta be someone in charge. Right?

CAIRO: Maybe. *(Beat)* Maybe it's whoever was on the line on the other end of the wormhole.

ZIGGY: They kinda seemed like a dick. Maybe you're right, Cairo.

CAIRO: I'm always right.

ALECTO: God. Can't you be wrong? Just this once? Please? I need a break.

CAIRO: Okay. Okay - fine - I'm sure whoever's in charge of New Earth will be *wonderful*.

ALECTO: Thank you.

There's a pause.

SAWYER: We should all go. Shouldn't we?

ZIGGY: Yeah. Got a ship to catch.

They stand up.

CAIRO: You guys go on ahead. I'll be a minute.

ZIGGY: You sure?

CAIRO: Yeah, yeah.

ZIGGY: Okay. We'll catch you there.

The others start to head. Alecto pauses.

ALECTO: Cairo?

CAIRO: Yeah.

ALECTO: You can stay here, you know? If you want to. Nobody will be angry at you.

CAIRO: No. *(Beat)* No. I'm coming. You can't get rid of me that easily.

ALECTO: *(A brief laugh)* Okay. *(Beat)* As long as you'll be happy.

CAIRO: I'll be happy.

A pause.

ALECTO: What did you call the stars? That one time? Back before Notos.

CAIRO: Confetti.

ALECTO: Confetti. *(She pauses)* Sort of a silly comparison. They don't look like confetti at all.

CAIRO: Wow. Thanks Alecto.

ALECTO: No, I - *(she laughs)* - I didn't mean to be mean.

CAIRO: What do they look like to you, then?

ALECTO: I don't know. They just look like stars.

CAIRO: Real astute.

ALECTO: Cairo -

CAIRO: Okay. Okay. Let's get out of here. Yeah?

ALECTO: Yeah.

Fade in, elsewhere. Halley and Alnitak are helping people get on the ships.

HALLEY: Yes, just down there. There will be someone to show you to your seats once you get on the ship. *(Beat)* Oh! *(Calling)* And label your luggage if you haven't! You don't want to lose it.

Footsteps.

ALNITAK: Hey.

HALLEY: Oh. Hi.

ALNITAK: Sorry. Is it ok if I join you?

HALLEY: Of course. Why wouldn't it be?

ALNITAK: No. Just. Um. I don't know that well, and well, I - *(he laughs, dryly)* - ignore me.

HALLEY: *(A tiny bit amused)* Okay.

ALNITAK: Was that the last of them, then?

HALLEY: For the first ship? Yes. Everyone's onboard.

ALNITAK: They must be nervous.

HALLEY: Yeah. I am too, a bit.

ALNITAK: I wonder what it'll feel like to go through the wormhole.

HALLEY: You're coming?

ALNITAK: Yeah. *(He laughs)* Most doctors wanted to say, so I got the free pass.

HALLEY: It's funny how many people don't want to leave. Even from Notos. They'll be living on Eurys from now on. It's not like they're not leaving their homes.

ALNITAK: I guess people don't really want to leave the life they know behind.

HALLEY: What about you?

ALNITAK: Hm?

HALLEY: Do you want to leave the life you know behind?

ALNITAK: Yeah. Um. Or - I mean - I thought I did. I thought I'd be fine with it, really. But I do feel a bit sad. *(Beat)* I'm mostly excited though.

HALLEY: Yeah. Me too. I feel like I've done enough wrong here. It'll be nice to be somewhere new. Turn over a new leaf.

ALNITAK: Yeah.

HALLEY: Is your family staying?

ALNITAK: Yeah. Um. Dad's got a new job. *(Beat)* I just said bye to them, actually. *(Another beat)* Didn't think I'd be so sad about that, either.

HALLEY: It's family. It's weird.

ANITAK: Yeah. Is - um - your -

HALLEY: My mum's coming. Yeah.

ALNITAK: Right.

HALLEY: Well. Um. Suppose we're just waiting for the others.

ALNITAK: Yeah. I um - *(there's a brief sound of static, and then a notification)* - oh?

HALLEY: What is it?

ALNITAK: Your screen.

HALLEY: Oh. Um. *(A pause)* Is that a popup, or -

ALNITAK: 'Find somewhere private'? What's that about? Is that - like - a joke?

HALLEY: On the official system?

ALNITAK: I - um. I don't know.

HALLEY: Well. Do we? Uh. Find somewhere private?

Another chime.

ALNITAK: 'Yes you do'. Signed. Ei

HALLEY: Ei? Oh - gosh. *(Beat)* Well, is there anywhere -

ALNITAK: There's a break room back where I just came from?

HALLEY: Right. Um. Well. Do we go?

ALNITAK: I guess.

They start to walk.

HALLEY: Maybe they want to say goodbye.

ALNITAK: Oh, god. I'd not thought of that.

HALLEY: But that feels strange. Why us? I've never even met them before.

ALNITAK: I don't know.

They open the door and step in.

HALLEY: Ei?

There's a very long pause. And then a burst of static. As Ei speaks, their voice is incredibly garbled and almost unrecognisable.

EI: Hey.

HALLEY: Hey. Um. Nice to meet you.

ALNITAK: Are you okay?

Static.

ALNITAK: Um. What was that? I'm sorry.

EI: I said - Um. Not - really.

HALLEY: What's wrong?

EI: The - broken. Can't get through. Keep - and out of consciousness.

ALNITAK: Oh. God. Is there anything we can do?

EI: Not really.

HALLEY: We can get Alecto?

EI: I - don't - much time I have left.

ALNITAK: Shit.

EI: You need to - the wormhole.

ALNITAK: Sorry?

EI: There's something - with - you need to -

ALNITAK: Ei?

EI: Be careful. If - and - you -

ALNITAK: Ei, we can't understand you.

EI: I said, you need to -

Static. It fizzles out.

HALLEY: Ei? *(Beat)* Ei?! Oh, gosh.

ALNITAK: What did they say? What do we need to do?

HALLEY: I don't know. Something about the wormhole. I didn't catch it.

ALNITAK: God.

HALLEY: Maybe they wanted us to take them with us? Like - their system, or something?

ALNITAK: How would we even start to do that?

HALLEY: I don't know.

ALNITAK: Ei?

Silence.

HALLEY: The first ship must have set off by now. We should start boarding the second.

ALNITAK: Yeah. Yeah.

They leave the room and start down the corridor.

HALLEY: What do you think happens when Notos eventually fails for good? Do they -

ALNITAK: I don't know.

HALLEY: Quinn. Langley. Faraday. Sputnik. Now them -

ALNITAK: I know.

HALLEY: It's horrid. *(Beat)* Absolutely horrid.

They turn the corner, and run into the others.

CAIRO: Fancy seeing you here.

ALNITAK: Oh. Hey.

ALECTO: Did the first ship board alright?

HALLEY: They did. The last people got on a few minutes ago.

ALECTO: So it should be -

ZIGGY: Should we go take a look?

ALECTO: We should start boarding.

ZIGGY: Come on. It'll just be a sec. I'm curious to see what it looks like from this end of the ship.

ALECTO: I'm not sure -

CAIRO: Come on, Alecto. We have like, an hour.

ALECTO: Okay. Fine.

They start walking. Sawyer and Halley trail behind.

SAWYER: Are you okay? You look worried.

HALLEY: Um. Ei contacted us.

SAWYER: Ei? They're okay?

HALLEY: Um. I don't know. Not really. They were glitching out so badly we could barely understand what they were saying. But they mentioned something about the wormhole. And how we needed to do something.

SAWYER: Oh.

HALLEY: But I don't know what it could have been.

SAWYER: Maybe they wanted us to find a way to take them too.

HALLEY: Yeah. I just don't know how.

SAWYER: Me either. *(Beat)* Are they still here?

HALLEY: No. They just. Disappeared.

SAWYER: Oh.

HALLEY: That's sad. Isn't it?

SAWYER: Yeah.

The footsteps ahead stop.

ZIGGY: Oh, wow.

SAWYER: What is it?

ZIGGY: Come look at this. That's so cool.

ALNITAK: Is that real?

CAIRO: It has to be.

ALNITAK: It looks like the ship is like. Bending.

CAIRO: It's the way the gravity is bending the light. A wormhole like that is the product of a black hole and a white hole. New Earth must have found a way to like - engineer them and manipulate them. So it's pretty much a similar concept to -like - a typical black hole. How light distorts around it.

ALNITAK: That's so cool.

SAWYER: Wait. So we're like. Standing in front of a black hole.

CAIRO: Yeah. But not a black hole the way *we* know black holes.

SAWYER: So long as we don't get sucked in.

ALECTO: I think if we could get sucked in, we would have already. And Harris made it to the other side okay. So.

ZIGGY: Doesn't that mean we're technically going to a parallel universe?

CAIRO: Oh. Um. Huh. I don't know.

ALNITAK: We're going to be a whole universe away from these ships. Isn't that strange?

ALECTO: Yeah. It is.

A pause.

ZIGGY: There. Gone.

ALECTO: We should head back.

ZIGGY: Yeah. *(Beat)* Alright. Take one last long look guys. You'll never see a corridor like this again.

CAIRO: I'll miss it. All grey -

ZIGGY: And metallic.

SAWYER: With shitty lights.

ALECTO: And narrow ceilings.

CAIRO: Eh. Maybe I won't miss it at all, actually.

ALNITAK: *(Warning)* Guys.

They turn.

ALNITAK: Come look at this.

SAWYER: What is it?

They come back.

ALNITAK: The light's still distorting. See.

ZIGGY: Yeah. But it was just doing that.

ALNITAK: Yeah. Around the ship. But the ship's gone.

ZIGGY: So?

ALECTO: You think something's wrong?

ALNITAK: I don't know. Cairo? *(Beat)* Cairo?

CAIRO: He's right. There's something wrong about that.

HALLEY: Do you think Ei was warning us?

ALNITAK: Maybe.

ALECTO: Well, what is it - Cairo? What's wrong with it?

CAIRO: I don't know. It looks like - it looks like light is coming *out* of it. See?

SAWYER: Do you think the ships are coming back?

CAIRO: No way in hell. Wormholes like that are one way.

ALECTO: Well - well - what? The ship's leaving in less than an hour - we need to get on it.

ZIGGY: We can't get on the ship if there's something up with the wormhole.

SAWYER: Then we stall the ship.

ALECTO: We can't do that. New Earth said they were leaving automatically. Right?

SAWYER: Right.

ALECTO: And there are probably already people *on* the ship now. The ship is going to leave with or without us.

SAWYER: Well - we need to talk to them, then?

ZIGGY: It could be fine. It could just do this normally. We don't know.

HALLEY: But Cairo just wormholes like that are one way. Why would light be coming *out* of it, then?

ZIGGY: I don't know!

ALNITAK: Cairo?

CAIRO: I - um -

ALNITAK: Cairo?!

CAIRO: I think it's collapsing.

Beat.

ALECTO: What.

CAIRO: I think - um. The white hole is releasing more energy than the black hole. So it's collapsing.

ZIGGY: Well, what do we do? How much time do we have?

CAIRO: I don't know.

ZIGGY: Enough time to get the ship to pass through?

CAIRO: *(Snapping)* I don't *know*, Ziggy! *(Beat)* Sorry.

ALECTO: Are you okay?

CAIRO: Yeah. Um. I'm just thinking.

HALLEY: We should tell someone.

CAIRO: Who's on Notos?

ALECTO: What?

CAIRO: Notos. Is it empty?

ALECTO: Yes. Um. Yes - everyone's gone. Everyone left is going to be living on Eurus. It's a safety risk right now to stay there -

CAIRO: Alecto are you *sure* there's nobody on Notos?

ALECTO: Yes.

CAIRO: Okay. Um. If we blow up Notos, it could be enough energy to keep the wormhole open.

SAWYER: *What?!*

CAIRO: I'm just thinking - I'm thinking - the reason why the wormhole is collapsing is because the white hole is emitting more energy than the black hole is absorbing. Something must have happened on the other side after the first ship went through. But if Notos was to blow up - if we blew up the nuclear core of the ship - it would emit enough energy to keep it open long enough for the second ship to pass though.

ZIGGY: Well, how are we supposed to do that?

CAIRO: Set the timer on Notos. And then someone needs to control it from Eurus' Helm to fly away close enough to the wormhole and far enough away from Eurus that it won't affect the ship.

ZIGGY: Is that possible?

CAIRO: Yeah.

ALECTO: Okay. Then we talk to Navigations.

CAIRO: Um. *(Beat)* No. No - I'll do it.

ALNITAK: Cairo -

CAIRO: Eurys is never going anywhere again. It's staying here and waiting for New Earth to come back. We don't need Navigators anymore - and most are going to New Earth. It's not fair to ask them to stay. I'll do it.

ALECTO: Cairo.

CAIRO: It's fine. I said it myself. I like life on the ship. I'll stay here. You guys go.

ZIGGY: Cairo that's not fair -

CAIRO: It *is* fair -

ZIGGY: No, that's not fair on *us*, Cairo. You're going to stay and you just expect us to go?

CAIRO: *(A bit sad)* Yeah. *(Beat)* I need to talk to the Navigators still on the ship.

ALECTO: Maybe one of them will stay?

CAIRO: They're all going, Alecto. *(Beat)* Alecto, I want to stay on the ship.

ALECTO: Cairo -

SAWYER: Let him, Alecto.

ALECTO: Yeah. Um. *(Sad)* Okay, Cairo.

CAIRO: I'm going to go - um. I'm going to go talk to the Navigators who are staying. You guys get ready. I'll come - and. Uh. Say goodbye before you go.

He heads off.

ALECTO: Cairo -

CAIRO: I'll be a minute. I'll be fine.

He walks through the door.

CAIRO: *(An extremely shaky breath)* Shit. *(He walks and sits down somewhere)* Shit.

The door behind him opens.

ALNITAK: I'm staying too.

Beat.

CAIRO: Al -

ALNITAK: No. Cairo. I'm staying too. Okay? You're staying on this ship - I'm staying on this ship. Simple as that.

CAIRO: Al, I can't let you do that.

ALNITAK: Yeah. Well, you don't get a say in it.

CAIRO: No. No - that's not fair. That's not fair on you. I won't let you do that.

ALNITAK: I'm doing what I want to do.

CAIRO: Al, you've known me for such little time. You've wanted to get off these ships for so much longer. Just *think* about it. You keep talking about it. You don't belong here. You belong *there*. On New Earth.

ALNITAK: I know. I know I do but - but. These past few months have been the happiest I've ever been, Cairo. I used to just wait and *wonder* when I'd feel happy. And I used to think that

what I needed was a place. A place to escape from everything. But happiness to me isn't a place. It's a person. *You* make me happy, Cairo. Not New Earth. I've never *been* to New Earth. For all I know I might hate it too. I don't know. But I *do* know is that when I'm with you - I don't feel - I don't feel stressed. Or overwhelmed. I just feel. I don't know - I just feel like me.

CAIRO: Al -

ALNITAK: So *fuck* New Earth. If you're staying, I'm staying.

CAIRO: (*Snapping*) You *can't*.

Beat.

ALNITAK: What?

CAIRO: You *can't* stay with me, Al.

There's a long pause.

ALNITAK: There's no controlling Notos remotely, is there?

Silence.

ALNITAK: Cairo. Cairo, tell me. You can't control Notos from Eurus, can you? You have to be on the ship. Don't you.

A really long pause.

CAIRO: (*Sadly*) Yeah.

ALNITAK: No.

CAIRO: Alnitak -

ALNITAK: *No*, Cairo. *No*. You're not doing that. You don't get to do that -

CAIRO: I have to -

ALNITAK: No. No you don't - you *don't* have to. Someone else can be an idiot and sacrifice themselves. I'm not letting you.

CAIRO: Al, I can't let -

ALNITAK: No, *fuck* you, Cairo! *Fuck. You!* You don't *get* to do that. You're *not* doing that! You don't *get* to be the bloody fucking hero and fly the ship away! And then what? Die? Die and let the rest of us live without you? That's *selfish*, Cairo. Fuck you, that's *so* selfish!

CAIRO: I'm not trying to be the hero -

ALNITAK: But you *are!* You can't tell but you *are* - this is what you always do! You have to do this because you don't believe you're a good person until you give everything you have away! But you *are* a good person, Cairo! You're a fucking *great* person and you don't need to do this - you fucking piece of shit -

CAIRO: Al -

Al goes up to him.

ALNITAK: I'm not letting you kill yourself. *FUCK YOU* - I'm *not* -

CAIRO: Al, stop it!

There's a really long pause.

CAIRO: Al. I need to go. I'm not letting anyone else do it.

ALNITAK: Then I'm coming with you!

CAIRO: What is *wrong* with you? You'd come with me and die for nothing?

ALNITAK: If it'll stop you from doing it.

CAIRO: Al, *please*. Please don't fight me on this. Okay? If I don't do this, everyone else might die. And we're running out of time. And I don't want the others to know - okay? I can't let Alecto know. That'd break her, Al. *Okay?* I'm doing this because I love her. And I - *(beat)* - Al, please?

ALNITAK: I will hate you forever if you do this. You know that, right?

CAIRO: Then you'll hate me. And you'll live.

There's another very long pause.

ALNITAK: I'll miss you.

CAIRO: I know. *(Beat)* Please don't tell them, Al. Just. Let them think I'm still alive on Eurys? I know that me asking that of you isn't fair. I know that puts you in a horrible situation - that it probably makes me a horrible person. But Al -

ALNITAK: I won't tell them. I promise.

CAIRO: Thank you.

Another long pause.

ALNITAK: What will happen to you?

CAIRO: I'll fly the ship. And then. I'll just press a button.

ALNITAK: And then?

CAIRO: And then. I don't know. I just become background radiation, I guess.

ALNITAK: *(Sadly)* Like part of space.

CAIRO: Yeah. *(Beat)* That's a nice way to put it. I'll just become part of space.

Beat.

CAIRO: I need to say goodbye to them.

ALNITAK: Yeah. *(Beat)* I really don't want you to leave, Cairo.

CAIRO: *(A weak laugh, dry, but sadly)* Yeah. But you love to watch me go.

Al laughs - for the first time genuinely. Cairo joins in. They laugh together for a moment. It's a moment of deep sadness, but also a recognition that there is something there - that they do care for each other, and this might be the last moment they ever hear one another's laugh. It fades to silence.

Elsewhere. There's an announcement over the PA. The sound of a crowd.

ALECTO: Sawyer?

SAWYER: Yeah?

ALECTO: I don't want him to go. *(Beat)* I told him if he wanted to stay he could. But -

SAWYER: I know.

ALECTO: I'm going to miss him.

SAWYER: Me too.

Footsteps.

SAWYER: Ziggy. You -

ZIGGY: Fine. *(Beat)* He loves the ship. It makes sense.

ALECTO: Yeah. *(Beat)* I always knew this would be temporary. I'm a Sentinel.

SAWYER: You're not anymore, though.

ALECTO: No. I don't know what I am anymore.

More footsteps.

CAIRO: Hey.

ALECTO: Hey.

CAIRO: I - um. Don't know what to say.

ZIGGY: That you're sorry for being a superior piece of shit and abandoning us?

CAIRO: Yeah. Something like that.

SAWYER: Are you staying, Al?

A long pause.

SAWYER: Al?

ALNITAK: No. No - I'm coming with you.

SAWYER: Oh.

Beat.

CAIRO: You must be excited, Zigs. New Earth is a whole new market.

ZIGGY: Yeah.

CAIRO: You'd better do well there. I'm going to be really disappointed if you don't.

ZIGGY: I'll try. *(Beat)* And you try to - uh. Stay out of trouble, okay? I won't be there to save your ass for you anymore.

CAIRO: Hah. Yeah. I'll do my best.

ZIGGY: New Earth is going to be fuckin' dull without you. *(Beat)* I'm going to have to find a new best friend.

CAIRO: Aha! You admit it! I am your best friend!

ZIGGY: You heard nothing.

CAIRO: I'll see you around, Zigs.

ZIGGY: Yeah.

There's a pause.

CAIRO: I'm not going to miss you, though.

SAWYER: *(Dryly, but sad)* Thanks. Not going to miss you either.

CAIRO: Good.

SAWYER: In fact, I'm going to be *happy* to be away from you.

Sawyer and Cairo both laugh.

CAIRO: Try to keep Alecto's job as easy as possible, yeah? Don't -

SAWYER: What? Cause more problems? *(He laughs)* I'll try my best.

CAIRO: I wish we could have gotten to know each other better.

SAWYER: Yeah. Probably would have ended up killing one another, though.

CAIRO: You have a point.

Footsteps.

HALLEY: I got us seats.

SAWYER: Right. We should. Um.

CAIRO: Yeah.

ZIGGY: Feels weird. I might never see you again.

CAIRO: Never say never.

ZIGGY: Never see that mullet again. Good riddance.

CAIRO: Yeah.

HALLEY: Stay safe, yeah Cairo?

CAIRO: I will.

HALLEY: You coming? Alecto? Alnitak?

CAIRO: Can you give us a minute?

HALLEY: Yeah, yeah.

ZIGGY: Bye, Cairo.

CAIRO: Yeah. Bye.

They start to walk.

SAWYER: God. I'm nervous.

ZIGGY: You're always nervous, Sawyer.

SAWYER: It's exciting, though! Isn't it? You could do a whole segment on Take Notes about this, couldn't you Halley?

HALLEY: Yeah. I could. But I think I might retire it, actually.

SAWYER: Huh. Yeah. *(Beat)* I guess we have our whole lives to work out what we're doing next.

The sound of their conversation fades out.

CAIRO: So -

ALECTO: Yeah.

CAIRO: I'm going to miss you the most. I think.

ALECTO: Cairo. Um. *(Beat)* Thank you. For everything.

CAIRO: That's okay.

ALECTO: Spud told me that I might be one of the best people they've ever met. But I think that's you. You're the best person I've ever met, I think.

CAIRO: Alecto -

ALECTO: And I don't know what I'm going to do without you.

There's a pause.

CAIRO: Just live. I guess.

ALECTO: And what comes after that? Living?

CAIRO: I don't know. *(Beat)* Everything.

There's another pause. They hug.

ALECTO: Bye, Cairo.

CAIRO: Bye, 'lec.

They break apart. There's a pause.

ALECTO: See you on the other side.

She walks away.

ALNITAK: Cairo -

CAIRO: I'm really sorry about the trouble, Al.

He turns.

ALNITAK: Hey?

CAIRO: Yeah?

ALNITAK: I - um. *(He wants to say something else, but decides against it)* I really like you, Cairo.

A pause.

CAIRO: *(Understanding what he means)* Yeah. Me too.

Fade into the Helm. Footsteps. Someone walks to a seat and sits down.

CAIRO: *(Letting out a very shaky breath)* Okay.

He moves forwards. He hesitates. He sits back down. He reaches into his pocket and grabs something - plays around with it for a moment. Some beeps. And then a video starts to play.

SPUTNIK: *(Mid sentence)* - And so we're on our way to the -

CAIRO: Spud! Don't say anything! It's a surprise, remember?

ALNITAK: Oh, come on. They can tell me if they want. Right, Sputnik?

CAIRO: Spud, please!

SPUTNIK: Okay, fine, fine! *(They move the camera around)* And here's Alecto! She's all dressed up, see! She looks really pretty.

ALECTO: *(A touch flustered)* Oh. Um. Thank you, Sputnik.

SAWYER: Why are you recording us?

SPUTNIK: For memories! Come on! Don't you think, like, years down the line we're going to want to see this? It'll be nice!

ZIGGY: They have a point.

SPUTNIK: Yeah! Plus, this is the first time in *so* long that things have been good. Don't you think it's nice to get this on tape -

ALNITAK: Not while you're waving that camera in my face.

SPUTNIK: Oh. Sorry!

CAIRO: Al, stop moping about.

ALNITAK: I'm not *moping*.

CAIRO: (*Amused*) You *are*. Look, come here -

ZIGGY: Bets on how long it takes them to get together.

SAWYER: Two weeks.

ALECTO: What? You think?

SPUTNIK: What are we talking about?

SAWYER: Nothing.

SPUTNIK: Wait, guys! Let me get a shot of all of us.

ALECTO: (*Laughing*) Sputnik -

SPUTNIK: Yeah! Come on! I want to be able to see all of us together in one shot! So we can remember.

ALECTO: (*Amused*) Okay.

In the recording, Spud runs over and puts the camera down somewhere.

SPUTNIK: Okay, three, two, one! Smile!

There's a beat.

ALNITAK: Urgh, what was that face, Cairo?

CAIRO: What? I was being funny!

ALNITAK: It was horrible!

Sputnik, giggling, runs over to collect the camera. The video cuts. There's a moment of silence.

Cairo, in real life, laughs too - but sadly. He takes another long, shaky breath, and then presses something.

CAIRO: Okay. Let's go.

Elsewhere. We hear the sound of the sea - waves crashing against the shore. The wind, and fresh air. It goes on for a while, before we hear Alecto. She sounds peaceful - a bit melancholic. A bit sad, maybe.

ALECTO: Hey.

Um. So. I'm at the seaside. Finally made it. There is a sea on New Earth, apparently. Don't know how much it chalks up to the one back on Old Earth, but I like it. It's pretty. It's blue. *Really* blue. And it looks like it goes on forever. Forever and ever and ever. It's peaceful.

Um. New Earth's okay. It's strange. It's open. It's disorienting - a bit. Gravity's a bit weird. The people who live here tell me I walk weird, but I don't believe them. But it's nice. *(Beat)* I find myself missing Eurus, sometimes. Sometimes I'll leave my house and be surprised by the sky and open air. But it's always a nice surprise.

So. God - where to start? Sawyer and Halley moved in together. An apartment complex somewhere in the city. She's writing a book on her experiences on the ships. Everyone on New Earth is so interested in us. Sometimes I feel like a bit of a celebrity walking down the streets. But they're all really nice, you know? Good people. Good place. And - um - Sawyer's - uh - he's working with kids. Or, he's training to right now, at least. Said he was treated awfully by the Officer system when he was younger. He wants to fix that by doing some good instead. I think that's a good idea.

Um. Ziggy's - well - they're Ziggy. Bouncing around from one job to the next. I don't think they've exactly found what they want to do just yet, but they're getting there. I meet up with them on occasion. We all do. We'll go for lunch. Go for walks. It feels strange, without you there, Cairo. But we always keep a seat for you. Just out of habit, I guess.

Al's - um. Started coming to hang out with us too. Painfully awkward guy - bless him - but he's opening up to us, a bit. I think he misses you the most. He doesn't talk about it often, but I think he carries a bit of it with him. He used to look so sad all the time. But he's starting to laugh more. He doesn't look so sad now. I can see why you liked him so much.

He's the one that started us all on going for nature walks. Now we meet up every week to go on one. We've practically done it all. We've seen forests. Fields. Mountains. I bet you would have loved mountains, Cairo. They're massive and tall and you can see the whole world from them. You can see the stars too. You can even see where we were - where our ship was - from here. Just a tiny pinprick in the sky. So. Um. Whenever I'm out at night, I just look up and give you a little wave. *(Beat)* That might sound silly. But, yeah.

Cairo. *(Beat)* I think I know what you did. *(Beat)* And I just want to say. Whether you're still out there or not. I hope you're happy. And that I forgive you.

Um. It took me a while to find my feet. They offered everyone who came from the ships therapy when we got here, and it took a bit, but I finally caved. Thank god I did. When I told my therapist all the stuff that happened - god, you should have seen the look on her face. *(She laughs)* But I'm doing better. I'm not quite there yet. But I will be. *(A pause)* I was talking to her the other day, and she asked me what I plan to do with my life, now that I'm here.

And I thought of what you said to me. The last time we saw each other. And when I asked you, you told me to just live. And so, I told her. Live. I'm going to live. And so, that's what I'm going to do. For you. And for Sputnik. I'm going to live.

And no more than that.

Fin.

