

The Station at the End of the Universe

written by

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Breathing Space, Fading Frontier  
includes mature content such as  
adult language, sexual situations,  
violence, and substance use

This episode contains reference to  
near death experience, implied  
bombing attempt, unnerving and  
terrifying experiences, and  
implied unreality

Additional sensory contact  
warnings can be found in the show  
notes

Intro plays

I ain't got no home to go to  
I ain't got nothing to sell  
But my stars will never leave me  
Even when I'm sold to hell  
I was born under a blue sky  
And I'll die out in the black  
When I'm gone don't no one mourn  
me  
'cause my debts will drag me back

Intro fades out

STATION ANNOUNCER

(sounds like it's coming  
from a speaker)

Attention everyone! The shuttle to  
Mars from the Vesperi SPACE stop  
will be leaving in the next hour.  
Please have your luggage and  
personal items on you before you  
board. I repeat the shuttle to  
Mars will be taking off in one  
hour.

(There is a click as the  
announcement ends)

YUE TANAKA

(in a cheerful,  
announcing way)  
Well it's our last night here on  
Vesperi, friends and foes! But it  
has been a lot of fun spending  
time with you all. We need to do  
this again as soon as possible!

LUKE KINGSLEY  
(nervous)  
Which ones of us are the friends  
and which ones are the foes?

MYLLIS TANAKA  
(teasingly)  
Well if you don't already know Lu,  
I have some bad news.

EMBER SMAUK  
(annoyed)  
I think I know what I am.

DEVAN HEIGHTS  
(comforting to Luke)  
Hey now we're all friends here.  
Don't let Yue's dramatics get to  
you.

YUE TANAKA  
Hey! I'm not that dramatic....  
Right?

LUKE/MYLLIS/EMBER  
(firmly)  
No.

DEVAN HEIGHTS  
(fondly like a parent)  
Of course you are Yue.

YUE TANAKA  
It's been tough to gather the  
whole group since we left Venus.  
We all live busy lives now as  
adults. It's nice to be back at  
the orbital again. It was good to

see the neighborhood. Seeing it I can remember all of the times we dragged the rest of you along with us as we searched for adventure!

MYLLIS TANAKA

And Devan always had to guide us back to our houses! Always reliable.

(Teasing)

I'm sure you still are.

YUE TANAKA

Although I wouldn't mind having visited Caritas. Get closer down to the planet. Not too close of course. Shame we have to leave again after just two weeks.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Yeah, you all need to come back to Vesperi more often. I get so lonely here! Like you need to tell your jobs you need more vacation time.

EMBER SMAUK

We have a lot of time to kill before the next shuttle arrives and before we have to go our separate ways. Does anyone have any ways to pass the time?

MYLLIS TANAKA

As long as it's not like a card game or anything. They're always so boring without gambling.

EMBER SMAUK

(scoffs)

That's because everyone knows not to gamble with you. You cheat.

MYLLIS TANAKA

(indignant)

Wha-what no, I do not cheat, okay,  
I simply am just-

EMBER SMAUK

(interrupting)

We know, we know. 'You're just  
lucky is all'.

(scoffs)

Whatever you say Mylls.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

Hey, let's not get into a fight. I  
don't think the station attendants  
or the other passengers will enjoy  
it. It is pretty late and this is  
the last flight out of Vesperi.

There is a sound of a baby in the crowd and someone coughing  
among the ambience noise of the station.

LUKE KINGSLEY

We could tell scary stories.

(Excited now)

Like we did when we were kids!

EMBER SMAUK

We're not kids anymore Luke.

YUE TANAKA

No, I think it could be exciting!  
Scary stories are made for times  
like these. Hold on, I got one.

YUE TANAKA

(in a hushed I'm trying  
to tell a scary story  
voice)

Have you ever heard of the Station  
at the End of the Universe? It is  
told on planets, ships, and space  
stations alike; told late at  
night. There is no agreement on  
what this station is like besides  
a large mostly metal structure. Or  
where it is exactly. Some say it's  
a bright place, cheerful and

inviting. Others say it's derelict  
and in ruins. Some claim it's  
located in a Black Hole. There are  
some who claim it's endless, so  
large and maze-like that you'll  
never find your way through.  
Others say it's always there, on  
the edge of your peripheral  
vision. Some say it exists outside  
of our perspective of space and  
time which is pretty ridiculous if  
you ask me. Its appearance changes  
depending on who you ask about it.  
You'll always find someone who has  
seen it.

EMBER SMAUK

You mean like seen it, or *seen* it?

LUKE KINGSLEY

That's black brass!

YUE TANAKA

It isn't! It's a real place!

DEVAN HEIGHTS

I think I've been to the Station.

YUE TANAKA

Wait, really?

MYLLIS TANAKA

Yeah. It's totally a real place.  
But you can't just take a ship to  
it or anything like that.

LUKE KINGSLEY

What??

EMBER SMAUK

(nervous but trying to  
hide it)

But it's not a real place. It's  
just a scary story meant to scare  
people or-

MYLLIS TANAKA

(ignoring Ember)

Yeah! You don't always end up there by flying through space. Sometimes you just... end up there.

YUE TANAKA

Exactly. Almost everyone has a story about when they ended up on the Station at the End of the Universe.

EMBER SMAUK

(exacerbated)

I-I don't understand. It's completely fake!

MYLLIS TANAKA

I mean you know- um...

EMBER SMAUK

(interrupting in a harsh tone)

What have you been there too?

MYLLIS TANAKA

Okay. You don't have to be rude about it.

LUKE KINGSLEY

Devan h-have you been there as well?

EMBER SMAUK

Oh for the love of- are you serious? There's no way you all believe you've been to this place. It's black brass! People have told them since the beginning of time or something!

DEVAN HEIGHTS

I mean, everyone's had that weird experience-- like when they take a flyway they've gone down a



thousand times and suddenly it leads somewhere else. Or, or they hear a voice over the comm on a greenline frequency that couldn't exist.

MYLLIS TANAKA

(excitedly, like a child)

Yes, yes, exactly! THAT is going to the station.

EMBER SMAUK

Whatever.

YUE TANAKA

Don't believe me? If we've all been there, then we should talk about it. We should share our stories. That's how black brass spread, right? Through sharing it.

EMBER SMAUK

What's the point if it's not even real?

YUE TANAKA

Because it's fun. You know what that is right? Listen. I'll go first and then you can all decide if you want to share your experiences. And I promise as your dearest friend, I will not judge you or think you're making it all up.

MYLLIS TANAKA

(in a joking tone)

And here I was thinking some of us were your foes?

YUE TANAKA

Dearest foes too. Now let me talk!  
(clears throat again  
before starting in a  
hushed tone like before)

Now this is a story from when I was about ten years old. I was home in bed sick from something. Not important! Myllis, my dearest twin, was off having fun with the rest of you, leaving me to entertain myself. Not that I was capable of it. I was pretty much bedridden at the time.

LUKE KINGSLEY

I remember that. Myllis tried to convince me you were going to die.

MYLLIS TANAKA

You cried so hard at the thought. I felt terrible.

YUE TANAKA

I thought I was going to die if I'm being honest. I was sooooo bored. The fever was really bad that day. I remember feeling weird. Like I was floating. And since I had nothing better to do with my sick self, I thought why not use that. I imagined I was out in space, just floating among the stars. No spacesuit needed. Nothing to hold me back from really experiencing being there. I could travel sunward if I wanted, fly right into the sun. I didn't have a great grasp of what being out in space without any protection could do to a person, but that didn't matter. I lost myself in the daydream. Of floating in the stars, chasing ships, watching planets from below me.

(pauses)

That's when things changed. Like something took control of my imagination.

LUKE KINGSLEY

(scared)

T-took control?

YUE TANAKA

Took control. I was floating out in space and then suddenly it was like there was this building in front of me. A station of some kind, but it didn't, it didn't look like any space station I've ever seen. It didn't feel like one. It felt like something had intruded upon my daydream and I had no choice but to approach it. I entered the station through some, some doors. Like a door on a fucking house. There was nothing inside. No, that's not right. There was furniture, plants, things like that. Like this place has. But it was dimly lit and there were no people. I wandered through it and-

There is another moment of silence as Yue struggles to speak.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

You don't have to keep going if it's too much.

YUE TANAKA

No, no I'm almost done. It felt like something was following me. The same thing that brought me in there. I remember wandering deep and I thought something was right behind me. I turned around as if to confront it or my demise and suddenly Myllis was jumping on my bed to check on me. I was back here. It felt so real. Like I had actually gone there... but I had convinced myself it was just my

fever giving me a really messed up  
dream

(in a forced chipper  
voice)

So that's my story! Who's next?

DEVAN HEIGHTS

Yue...

YUE TANAKA

Don't Dev. Let's just keep going.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Well as Yue's twin, I might as  
well go next. Mine is... pretty  
different.

(clears throat)

Mine also felt like it was just a  
dream, but I knew I was awake.  
This was still back on Venus's  
Bosom.

LUKE KINGSLEY

Don't call it that!

EMBER SMAUK

Everyone calls Vesperi that Luke.  
Have you seen the shape of the  
orbital?

LUKE KINGSLEY

Doesn't make it any better! It  
makes it worse I think.

Sounds of Ember mocking Luke.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Fine, fine Luke. This was back  
home here on Vesperi. I was out on  
an errand for our mother. I don't  
really remember the specifics of  
what she wanted. I mean I've never  
been into shopping. I think I had  
to be like seventeen at the time.  
Best that I can remember.

(pause)

Yeah. Actually there is a lot of weird stuff I remember about that day. So I was wearing orange pants that I had spilled hot pink paint all over. Devan had just moved away to Ganymede last month. And there was that, that um, lingering scent of, of lavender that always seemed to permeate the settlement no matter what. It was a busy day though. Like you'd think we'd be heading for a Sulfur Storm. I'm not the biggest person out there, obviously, so it was rough navigating the crowds. Pushed around a lot and then suddenly it was like... well...

EMBER SMAUK

Go on.

MYLLIS TANAKA

It was like I was somewhere else. There were people still all around me. Like crowds and everything. And I'm not familiar with everyone and I certainly wasn't then, but it didn't seem like the same crowds. Didn't feel like the same places. Like the halls and the rooms. It was blindingly white and a little unnerving if I'm honest. People were talking- I couldn't really understand any of it. But you know I kept going, knowing I needed to complete my errands, but as I continued I couldn't find any of the local stores. Couldn't find anywhere that was familiar. I, I mean until...

LUKE KINGSLEY

Until what?

MYLLIS TANAKA

(forced out)

So until I was... face to face with  
some woman. I can't really  
remember her face or anything, but  
she grabbed me by the arm hard.  
Like real hard.

(A pause then laughter)  
I thought she was drunk on Polar  
or something, her breath did smell  
like it. She said, um...

(taking on the effect of  
an old woman)  
*'You're not supposed to be here!'*  
or something like that and  
suddenly I was back in the earlier  
crowds near the grocery store. I  
always thought maybe I went to the  
wrong place on the orbital. You  
know took a wrong turn somewhere,  
somehow, but I was never quite  
sure. And when I heard about the  
black brass of the Station at the  
End of the Universe, that just  
felt right. I had been to the  
Station.

YUE TANAKA  
(angry but trying to hide  
it)  
Why did you never tell me this?

MYLLIS TANAKA  
Why did you never tell me about  
your experience?  
(laughs)  
Look, we both brushed it off, Yu.  
Don't um, don't think too hard  
about it.

YUE TANAKA  
Fine but if you get kidnapped or  
something, don't come crying to  
me!

DEVAN HEIGHTS  
I ah, I think as the person that  
came up in Myllis's story, maybe I

should be the next to go?  
A-actually, my journey to Ganymede  
is when it happened.

LUKE KINGSLEY

I thought you said that the  
journey was safe. Boring even. Has  
no one told anyone else about  
their experience before?

EMBER SMAUK

Look, I understand if you all  
think it's common to just talk  
about 'going to the Station' but  
some of us don't want to believe  
in that crap.

LUKE KINGSLEY

(dejected)

S-sorry.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

Ember, don't be cruel. We all had  
our reasons for not talking about  
it before. Let me just tell mine  
and then you two can do yours.  
We've been away from each other  
for three years. A lot can happen  
in a short time.

EMBER SMAUK

(angry)

Fine. Get- just get it over with.  
I always thought you were the  
sensible one. Maybe I was wrong.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

(sadly)

Maybe.

(In a calmer voice)

Anyway. This was about six years  
ago but I still remember what  
happened pretty clearly. We were  
heading to Ganymede, me and my  
family. There weren't any problems  
with our travel, or at least that

was how it was supposed to be. It was a flight we'd taken, I mean, several times since my mom is- was from there. And my parents were going to go back to Venus in a, in a few months. I was going to stay this time. I had an uncle there who was going to help me with starting my new life. But I guess none of that is really important to the story. It's what happened on the trip there that matters. It had only been a day or so, relatively, since we left Venus. Nothing seemed amiss. But then the power went out.

(There is tension in his voice now)

Our greenline comm wasn't working. Nothing was working. I don't know if you've ever been aboard a ship that went just dead like that. You know more than fear. We all thought we were going to die out there. Who knew when we'd be found. If we wouldn't just be prey for a Vulture. And that's when we saw it. A station just floating out there in space. I got a creepy feeling off of it, but my parents were relieved. It didn't matter that it shouldn't have been there, that we'd never seen it there before. It wasn't attached to anything but... it did mean that we could repair our ship.

YUE TANAKA

I guess we really all are keeping secrets, huh.

EMBER SMAUK

(angrier than before)

You almost died, Devan? This is-  
(upset stuttering)



LUKE KINGSLEY

(softly interrupting)

I'm, I'm glad you're safe, but...I mean how did you manage to survive if...?

DEVAN HEIGHTS

Let me keep going. We would have tried to contact the station but there wasn't a way to. Our relief became fear again when my folks realized we couldn't contact it or fly to it. So unless they spotted us back, well... But they did, they did spot us. I think. Or at least something pulled our ship to the station. I remember hearing a voice on our comm which shouldn't have been possible. The voice made my head hurt. And then I don't remember much about what the station was like. It was dark. Kind of creepy. Unsettling. I remember waiting in an area for too long but also not long at all. There were other people there, some of them looked pretty, pretty messed up. It almost felt like I was sleeping. And then suddenly... I... it was like I woke up and we were back on the ship and leaving. My parents never talked about it again. And I never pressed them on it. I... I just wanted to forget that place even if it did, I guess, save our lives.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Well, you have the strongest case for it being real so far. Unless you hallucinated it in your terror. You really don't seem the type to lie about these things. Actually, I don't know if lying is

even something you're capable of  
Dev. You've always been the best  
of the five of us.

YUE TANAKA

Or as you suffocated and passed  
out! And had some kind of bizarre  
nightmare.

LUKE KINGSLEY

But if it wasn't real then how did  
Devan and his parents survive?

There is a long-drawn-out silence. No one in the group wants  
to say anything.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

I, I don't know what to tell you  
all. I... Everything I experienced  
that day felt like going to the  
Station. Almost too strange to  
believe that it was real at all.  
Like it, like it shouldn't have  
happened.

EMBER SMAUK

(shouting)

Like you should be dead.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

I, I didn't say that.

EMBER SMAUK

(furious)

You didn't have to. You lived and  
waited until now, six years later,  
to tell us you could have been  
lost out in space? Thanks a lot,  
Devan.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. When we  
survived and just kept going, I  
just... I thought it would only  
upset you all. I lived with, with  
a weird story about it but... Maybe

you're right. Maybe it was wrong  
of me to keep it from everyone.

YUE TANAKA

We all kept it a secret. Don't be  
so hard on yourself Dev.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Okay, Luke. Hi! It's your turn.  
What happened to you?

LUKE KINGSLEY

(nervously)

Not Ember?

EMBER SMAUK

(still furious)

Did it sound like I had something  
to share?

LUKE KINGSLEY

Oh, okay.

(takes a deep breath)

I was pretty young when it  
happened. I think maybe five? We  
were traveling from Vesperi to one  
of the Venus settlements on the  
planet. Cloud 87, I think. My dad  
had important business over there.  
I don't think he really wanted me  
to come with him. His  
five-year-old son. But I didn't  
think he wanted to just leave me  
either.

(pause)

For five years old, traveling  
between settlements is pretty  
boring. I had a book to read,  
something about ancient art  
practices. More advanced than I  
really understood but my dad had  
high hopes and the pictures were  
pretty. It was ten minutes before  
I was asleep.

YUE TANAKA

Another dream then.

LUKE KINGSLEY

(flustered)

It-it didn't feel like a dream! I was on the shuttle. My dad was talking to someone on a comm. There was a girl across from me. Seemed about my age but she was... strange. She didn't look unusual but she was alone and that was weird. Humming something to herself. She grabbed my wrist suddenly and said they were waiting for us. I didn't understand. Who were they? Where were we going? My dad is going to be so mad if I just ran off. Where could we even go when we're between an orbital and a settlement? But I couldn't stop her!

MYLLIS TANAKA

Why? You couldn't fight back?

LUKE KINGSLEY

Look at me! She was stronger than a child should be.

(pauses)

That wasn't the strangest thing. The shuttle stopped suddenly and then the door opened. I-I tried to call out to my dad but she dragged me onto a platform. One that shouldn't have been there.

(pauses)

She-she pulled us down dim hallways and then into a control room? It had a lot of machines. And a large screen. It showed different places in the settlement but nothing looked familiar. She walked up to this button and then turned to me saying, 'Want to blow

it up?' I-I heard voices from outside of the room and I was so scared I just took my chance and ran off. I thought I was just going to get lost but then it was.. I was back on the shuttle sobbing in fear claiming some girl was going to blow up Caritas. My dad said it was just a nightmare but, I could still feel how much my wrist hurt from her pulling me.

(Uncertain)

I-I don't know.

EMBER SMAUK

That's terrifying. Got an excuse on why you didn't tell us?

LUKE KINGSLEY

I thought it was a nightmare and it terrified me. I didn't want to relive it and then it never felt right to bring it up. I thought I could just forget it.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

(calming)

You're safe Luke. Nothing happened. Nothing exploded. I, I can't imagine carrying that for fourteen years.

YUE TANAKA

I know I'm the dramatic one but Dev yours is so much worse to keep from the rest of us. You could have died.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

(guilty)

I-I know. I know. It was my job to take care of you all. I, I just thought it was the right thing.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Ah yeah, Devan? You were wrong.

YUE TANAKA

What about you Ember? You're the only one who hasn't said anything about their experience.

EMBER SMAUK

(groans)

That's because I don't have one to share.

LUKE KINGSLEY

I thought you said something strange happened to you earlier. Or, ahh, you told me earlier.

EMBER SMAUK

(sputtering)

No, that's... well it's, it's kind of...

MYLLIS TANAKA

Oh, come on! Spit it out Em!

EMBER SMAUK

(frustrated but nervous)

Someone, fine someone handed me like a business card, a fucking business card, and they said they'd be expecting me there, but the location doesn't make any sense. Like nothing's there, I checked.

(pauses)

It's fine, it's fine though. It's fine because it's just a joke. Some asshole pulling a prank to freak me out. It's not true. I'm not going to some fake made-up station used to haunt nightmares. All of your experiences can be explained if you think about it. It's not real.

LUKE KINGSLEY

(in a quiet voice)

But what if it is?

EMBER SMAUK

Then I'll be the only one next  
with a story to tell.

There is a crackle of an intercom.

STATION ANNOUNCER

The shuttle has arrived! Please  
board as quickly as possible. This  
will be the last shuttle leaving  
Vesper Station for the evening.  
Once again, the shuttle to Mars is  
leaving.

YUE TANAKA

Well, friends and foes, it looks  
like our time together is over. It  
has been fun getting to spend time  
together, the five of us.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Maybe we will all have more scary  
stories to share next time. Who  
knows. We all have a friend now  
who's been to the Station.

LUKE KINGSLEY

Please don't say that. I never  
want to think about it again.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

I'm sure it'll be fine. No matter  
if it's real or not, we all  
survived our encounters. I-I mean  
most people do. I'd imagine that's  
why people talk about it all the  
time. Why else would there be a  
word for what happened to us?  
Ember, you shouldn't be scared to-

EMBER SMAUK

(defensive)

I'm not scared!

(firmly)

I'm not scared.

DEVAN HEIGHTS

It's just, it's one more thing we  
all share now. Connected together,  
even as far apart as we are.

YUE TANAKA

(giggling)

Can't separate this squad!

MYLLIS TANAKA

Oh like the blue string of fate!

EMBER SMAUK

You mean red?

MYLLIS TANAKA

No, isn't red for romance? Blue is  
for friends! Trust me, it just  
feels like a friends color.

EMBER SMAUK

I guess.

LUKE KINGSLEY

We should get going. I can't be  
late for my new job.

YUE TANAKA

Be sure to get us souvenirs from  
your ranch, Lu.

MYLLIS TANAKA

Something cute, oh oh and cool.  
Like us!

DEVAN HEIGHTS

Stay in touch everyone. Especially  
you Ember.

EMBER SMAUK

If a mysterious station doesn't  
eat me first, sure.

LUKE KINGSLEY



Be safe everyone. I'll miss you.  
It was fun? I mean most of it was  
fun. Not this part.

MYLLIS TANAKA  
(in a cheerful voice)  
Miss you all until the sun goes  
out and consumes us all!

EMBER SMAUK  
Still the worst way to say  
goodbye.

MYLLIS TANAKA  
And you're still no fun.

YUE TANAKA  
So long, Venus. Until we return  
home again.

There are sounds of people walking and boarding a spaceship.  
Once it fades there is a brief pause of eerie silence.

Thank you for joining us for this  
episode of Breathing Space, Fading  
Frontier.

This episode, Station at the End  
of the Universe, was  
written and directed by Charlie  
Neal and edited by Kale Brown

Yue Tanaka was voiced by Ayumi  
Shinozaki  
Luke Kingsley was voiced by  
Charlie Neal  
Myllis Tanaka was voiced by Paige  
Koch  
Ember Smauk was voiced by Eryn  
"Cerise" Dearden  
Devan Heights was voiced by Quill  
Turner  
with additional voice work by Kale  
Brown

Our theme, Blues for the Black,  
was composed by Michael Freitag  
with vocals by Jeremiah and lyrics  
by Scott Paladin.

You can find links to learn more  
about our cast and crew in the  
show notes and more information  
about our show at our website,  
[breathingspace.lawofnames.com](http://breathingspace.lawofnames.com).

Breathing Space, Fading Frontier  
is a Law of Names Production

## Nebula Cola (after Station at the end of the Universe)

Funky music plays throughout

NARRATOR

There are few things that bring me  
greater joy while I'm traveling  
this vast System we call home than  
a refreshing beverage. And that's  
why I reach for Nebula Cola.

Can being opened, soda being poured into a glass,  
carbonation bubbling

Nebula Cola's expertly crafted  
formula was designed to boost the  
mood, fortify the body, and  
sharpen the mind using a carefully  
curated list of proprietary  
bioprinted ingredients that you  
won't find in any other  
commercially-available carbonated  
beverage. All those benefits, and  
it still has a crisp and tangy

cola taste that satisfies any  
thirst!

Nebula Cola is the number one soft  
drink in the System. With flavors  
like Nebula Cola Classic, Nebula  
Cola: Sunspot, Nebula Cola: Void,  
and Nebula Cola: Stardust, there  
is something for everyone!

And now: try new Nebula Cola:  
Black. The same great Nebula Cola  
taste with a caffeine kick of  
coffee for those long hauls across  
the System.

Nebula Cola, For Astronomical Thirst!

Music fades out. Record scratch, music returns

Your favorite soft drink just got even better!

Nebula Cola is now a proud member  
of the YuKon Family of Fine  
Products! No more trips to the  
store. No more Waystation Mart  
runs! Place an order with YuKon  
and get that supercharged  
supernova of thirst-quenching  
power you love delivered to you  
anywhere in the System in just 24  
Terran hours!

Nebula Cola. Now, at the speed of  
YuKon.

Music fades out, for real this time