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

This episode contains depictions of animal abuse and detailed descriptions of physical violence.

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

'cause my debts will drag me back

Intro fades out

Ext. A CRICKET FARM ON MERCURY

Ambiance of crickets, farm animal sounds

THE KID

Hey!

Footsteps approach and then stop

I said, hey!

Mister?

THEO

Whatever you're sellin', I ain't buyin'.

THE KID

Ain't sellin' nothin'.

THEO

Then I definitely ain't buyin'.

THE KID

I'm lookin' for a man. Long black hair, like yours. Scarred up face, like yours. Name of Thelonius Graves.

THEO

My hair's half to gray and my name's Bill Logan. But you already know that, I saw you talkin' to the foreman.

Get lost, kid. Find you another old man with a fucked-up face to bother.

THE KID

I've come a mighty long way, Mister, uh, 'Logan'. Gettin' passage to Mercury in the off season ain't exactly easy. Or cheap.

My name's--

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

I don't care what your name is, kid. Beat it.

THE KID

I ain't just any kid.

You know June? Juniper Patel?

THEO

... Yeah, I know her.

You hers? Hers and Annie's?

THE KID

I am.

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

Well, shit. How, uh. How's she doin'? How's she been?

THE KID

Dead. Cancer got her.

THEO

Ah. My condolences.

Now, get lost.

THE KID

So it is you, then. Theo Graves. Boy, have I heard a lot about you. Gun-running on Deimos, the shootout on New New Vegas. That was all over the redlines, you know. You can still pull the logs and hear about Theo Graves at the Cicero, fan-firing his pistol and outgunning-- how many Bulls was it? Four? Five? Twelve?

You know, you're not what I expected. At all.

THEO

And what was it you expected?

THE KID

I dunno.

Not a cricket farmer, that's for sure.

 $\mathbf{T}$ HEO

Believe me, I am happy to disappoint. Your Ma tell you about me?

THE KID

Yeah. She liked to talk about the good ol' days.

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

They were good, yeah. 'til they weren't.

(sighs)

Alright, kid. Whatever absolution you're seekin', you've got 'til the end of my break to find it. Come on then, step into my office.

Footsteps

THE KID

... is your office--

THEO

--it's the barn, yeah. Gets us out of the sun, at least.

More footsteps as they walk together

THE KID

Um. The llamas are, uh. Lookin' at me. Are they regular ones, or ...?

THEO

This look like the Saturnian drive? You're on Mercury, kid. Ain't nobody stealin' from cowpokes crazy enough to live out here, guard llamas or no. Anyway, they're just lookin'.

Don't get visitors often.

THE KID

Right. Of course.

THEO

Take a seat. You can flip over one of them buckets. Don't touch any of the bins, though. You ain't had a bad day 'til you've spilled five hundred crickets on the ground. Trust.

Metal, clanking noises

Lemme find a cup and I can get you watered. Might even wash the cup out first, since you're June's kid and all.

Sound of water pouring

THE KID

Thanks ... I think.

THEO

Don't think. Talk. I meant it when I said you got 'til the end of my break. I got work to do and I ain't in the business of makin' social.

THE KID

Do the other farmers know who you are? I mean ... are they like you?

Sound of a bottle opening

THEO

Like me, how?

THE KID

Like, uh.

Wanted, you know.

THEO

Shit, I don't know.

Sound of liquid pouring

That's the thing out here— we mind our business. This ain't a place you raise a family. No one here is 'building a better tomorrow' or whatever it is the terraforming companies got up their asses these days.

But there's work needs doin' and if it's gettin' done and ain't nobody causin' problems, no one cares if you're a killer, or a priest, or both.

THE KID

Or if your name's Theo, instead of Bill.

THEO

That too.

Here, have you a drink so when you get outta my hair you can tell Annie I did one whole hospitality. A regular saint, old Theo.

THE KID

Thanks.

The Kid takes a drink; sputters and coughs

What in God's name did you put in this cup?!

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

Listen, when supply drops come only twice a cycle, you get real creative with what ferments to alcohol. Just be glad it ain't my first batch. 'bout went blind on that one.

Here, a toast. To your Ma.

THE KID

To Ma.

They clink metal cups and both take a drink

THEO

June'd think it was a hoot you were drinking whacker in a barn full of crickets with the likes of me. Annie, not so much. She ever talk about me?

THE KID

Talk around you, more like. When Mom did talk about you, or the old days, it definitely wasn't the same way Ma did.

THEO

Yeah, me and Annie never got on. She doin' okay, with the, uh ... with June gone?

THE KID

She's ... okay.

THEO

She know you're here?

THE KID

I said I had to leave for a few weeks. For work, I told her.

She knew it was a lie. You can tell, when you know someone. See the disappointment. But she didn't say nothin'. Didn't try to stop me. Ma's been dead about a month now, so I think Mom saw it comin'.

THEO

Shit, only a month? I didn't even know she was sick.

THE KID

Yeah, well. You didn't ask.

THEO

No. I suppose I didn't.

But, that raises a question I will ask. Your Ma's dead, kid. Why the fuck are you out here? You got her grieving widow to tend to. The fuck you doin' this far from civilized folk?

THE KID

I'm here because my Ma is dead.

The Kid takes another drink

Ugh. It burns all the way down.

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

Yeah, it'll burn goin' out, too. You're welcome.

Now, you were sayin'?

THE KID

(takes a breath)

Ma sent me to tell you about Felina.

Pause

THEO

I want you to be real, real careful what comes outta your mouth next. You seem like you got a good head on your shoulders, and God knows I owe June enough to pour you a drink and give you an ear, but you listen to me, and you listen good.

You don't know what the fuck you're talking about.

You don't know-- her. What could you possibly know about her?

THE KID

I know enough.

I know she's alive.

THEO

That's not possible. That's ...

How-- what did June tell you? What did she say?

THE KID

Well, she liked to talk about the good ol' days, like I said. She told me about the trouble you and her got up to. The New New Vegas days, man-- she told me a dozen times 'bout when ... I don't know if you remember, it was supposed to be a pallet of nebulizers that "fell" off the back a YuKon freighter, but something got screwed up with the shipping manifests--

THEO

--and it was a pallet of live iguanas fresh from some lab on Luna, yeah. Pets for rich folk,

glowed all kinds of colors. Some of 'em had scales that looked like bits of gold, or silver, but it was just a trick of the light. Took us forever to figure out how to offload them.

June ended up convincing a zoo they were native fauna from Venus. Still not sure how she pulled that one off, but that was June for you.

THE KID

(laughs)

Yeah, she was good at that. Convincing you that whatever she wanted you to do was for your own good, I mean.

She told me all about that, and about how she met Mom. Cleaned up her act. Stopped thievin', put away her guns. Tried to get you to do the same, but you wouldn't. Said that life wasn't for you.

But then you met Felina. In an alleyway on Raven Station, right? Behind the bar? Maybe you should tell it, I don't wanna ...

 ${f T}$ HEO

Get to the point, kid.

THE KID

Right, well. She kept tabs on you, even after you stopped answerin' her comms. That's how I knew to find you here.

Mom knew about that, of course. Didn't like it, but she knew. What she didn't know-- what none of us knew, is that Ma was also keepin' tabs on him.

The last member of your posse.

THEO

Mason.

THE KID

Sheriff Mason for a few years now, actually. He's using a different name, but it's him. Ma made sure of it.

I think ... I think she liked to know where he was, so she could make sure that's where she wasn't. That her family was nowhere near him. She told me about what he did. Not all of it, of course. Those were the stories she didn't like to tell. But I know what happened to your face, and I know ...

I know he shot Felina. I know you saw her get shot.

But she's alive. And she's with Mason.

And I know where to find them.

THEO

That's impossible. That's ...

You come all this way, kid, on what? Some kinda holy quest, some kinda journey? So desperate for that absolution I was talkin' about that you'll haunt an old man with hope? Replace your grief with mine? Evens out that way, maybe. And I deserve it. God knows I deserve it.

Fuck you, and fuck your stories.

THE KID

She's alive, I'm telling you. Ma was gonna tell you herself, but she didn't find out 'til she was too sick to go anywhere.

So she sent me. To tell you. And now you've been told.

THEO

Yeah.

Now I've been told.

THE KID

... and?

What are you gonna do about it?

THEO

Pour another drink, for starters. And then maybe another after that. And while I'm doin' that, you're gonna be headin' back to whichever way you came from. To your Mom. And you're gonna stay there, because you're a good kid, but I don't want you anywhere near me.

I don't want this. I didn't ask for this. I went all the way to goddamn fuckoff Mercury to stay away from this.

Fuck's sake, I'm a cricket farmer! I have *llamas!* They ain't even mine, they wander over from some other cowpoke's pen! I can't keep them straight so they're all called Susie and ...

(takes a deep breath)
I already fought Mason once, and
lost. I lost everything.

THE KID

I'm sorry. I don't know what to say. Ma would know what to say. She should be the one telling you. I'm sorry she's not. I'm sorry it's me, instead.

(takes a breath)
Felina's alive. I swear to you,
she is. My Ma said Mason's got

her, and won't let her go. That means she needs help.

I aim to help her, sir. My shuttle's still waiting. I paid for two tickets out, but I can go by myself just the same.

It was nice to meet you, Mr. Graves. I really mean that. I wish-- well, it don't matter what I wish.

(softly)

But it'd be better. If she was still here.

THEO

Kid.

Wait.

THE KID

(sniffs)

Yeah?

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

Help an old man out 'fore you go?

You see that red bin up there? The-- not that one, yeah, the other one. The one way in the back. The one with all the tape on it.

Get it down for me?

THE KID

Uh. Sure. Give me a second.

Rustling noises

THEO

Now open it up.

Sound of a plastic container opening

THE KID

No. Way.

They're real? Not just-- oh, man, I thought they were made up. If they were real, I didn't think you'd still have them.

Can I--

THEO

Sure, give 'em a turn in your hands. I keep 'em oiled and loaded, so watch the triggers.

Sound of revolver cylinder moving

THE KID

Is it like Ma said? Genuine Martian red brass?? And the grips, they're--

THEO

Europan pearl, yeah. The seafarms down there got waitlists years long. After the Tethys job, they let me skip to the front of the line.

Now hand 'em over. Sounds like we got a shuttle to catch.

Sound of container latching shut

THE KID

What-- really?

THEO

Yeah. Really.

I figure it's either I sit here with the crickets and the Susies until the heat and my bad livin' finally claims me, all the while wonderin' what if, or I face it head on.

That's what June would've wanted me to do. Your Ma wouldn't suffer

a man to waste away when someone needs him.

I meant what I said, though. I lost everything when I went against Mason last. It ain't all like the stories. Sometimes men are wicked without a point. Without remorse.

I need you to know this, 'fore we go. I need you to tell me you understand. People like Mason don't care nothin' about your Ma. Won't go easy on an old man and a kid.

THE KID

I understand.

I do!

 $\mathbf{T}$ HEO

I ain't so sure of that, but I'll take it.

I aim to put Mason in the fucking ground, so we're clear.

I ... I don't know if I can have her back. If she'll take me back. Sure as shit don't deserve it, either way. But I aim to make sure, if it's the last thing I do, that Felina's safe.

THE KID

Me, too.

Do we need, to, um. Is this like an oath thing? Should we swear to it?

THEO

This ain't Solar Scouts, kid. Fuck. Don't make it weird.

THE KID

Right! Sorry. New to this.

Do you need to pack? Or let someone know you're leaving? Or--

 $\mathbf{T}$ HEO

What am I gonna do, bring the crickets?

I got my guns and a grab bag with a clean shirt and to-go hooch in it. Foreman'll figure it out. Let's get outta here.

I fuckin' hate Mercury.

Scene Break

INT. ROSA'S; A DINER ON MARS

Diner ambiance in background; plates clattering, people talking

THEO

I take it back. Mercury ain't that bad.

I fuckin' hate Mars.

THE KID

Me and my moms went to New Philly once. Vacation. Took pictures in front of that big rock formation that looks like ... well. You know.

But I've never been this side of the Rust Belt.

It's not ... so bad.

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

Ain't so good, neither. Shit. Hard to believe this is the same planet New Philly is on. Just a mess of red and all the roads buried in sand. I don't know how folk around here even make it to the general

store without ending up under six feet of Martian dust.

Even the biscuits are sad. Taste like they were grown in a vat.

Speakin' of, you eatin' yours?

THE KID

Uh, no. Here, have at it.

But if you hate them why are you--

THEO

Hot sauce and gravy can make a banquet of any meal, kid. Trust.

THE KID

Even crickets?

THEO

Especially crickets.

THE KID

I'll keep that in mind.

So, um.

Do we just ... wait? How does this work? This is my first, uh. Revenge mission. Or crime, or whatever.

THEO

Ain't nothin' here a crime 'cept these biscuits. And yeah, we wait. For the sheriff, of all things.

I was gonna say I can't believe that smug little fucker turned lawman, but I guess it ain't actually surprising. Mason was always a talker. Charming. Not like June was--she'd get your trust genuine and lasting. She had about a dozen people who said they'd dance at her wedding and I'm pretty damn sure they all did.

Mason weren't like that, but he fluffed enough pockets that I'm sure he could make scampering off to Mars as comfortable as possible.

THE KID

That sounds about right. Ma didn't tell me all the details, just where he was and how to find him.

THEO

If that scoop's still good, anyhow. We could be sittin' here eatin' biscuits and Mason's relocated halfway to Venus.

THE KID

Oh, the information's good. Ma made sure of that. She hired two different dog-walkers to tail him. See? Report's even color-coded.

Mason comes into Rosa's once a week to collect "protection money" from the manager. Time varies, but always in the late afternoon. Always on the same day of the week. Orders a coffee, doesn't pay for it. Oh, there is a note in here from the second dog-walker that sometimes he orders a danish. Doesn't pay for that, either.

There's an alphabetized roster of all the waitstaff at Rosa's and a copy of the menu, with addendums for seasonally rotating thrice-fried pies. And--

THEO

Alright, alright. I shouldn't have doubted you. June always was thorough. We used to tease her for it, but then she left and our books looked like a bowl of spilt fuck. Weren't so funny, then.

What's that look for, kid? You ... well, I was gonna say you look like you seen a ghost, but I guess we were talkin' about your Ma. Sorry.

You want a story, don't you?

THE KID

Er, I shouldn't pry. I know it's your life and not just stories. She just didn't talk much about what happened when she left.

THEO

Yeah, I'd have skipped over that part too, if I was her.

Hell, alright. It's best if you know exactly the sort of man we're waitin' to show up.

Me and June met on Deimos. I'm sure she told you all about that. We was just kids, like you. Full of fire, wantin' stories of our own. We ran together for years and picked up a few stragglers on the way, people who came and went. Nobody that stuck around.

Except Mason.

He was nothin' more than an overgrown station rat when we found him. Good little thief. Had some charm about him, like I said, and a helluva chip on his shoulder. Wanted to leave behind what made him. We could relate.

So, we were a trio. And it was fine, for a while. The good ol' days, like your Ma talked about. And in the retellin' it's easy to say the strife started with Annie. Started when your moms met and our

lifestyle didn't suit anymore.
But, truthfully?

Strife started with me.

Sound of someone approaching; clatter of dishes

WAITRESS

Lemme clear off some of these plates for you. Do y'all need anything else?

THEO

No, thanks.

THE KID

Oo! Can I have a thrice-fried pie? With extra tots?

WAITRESS

Sure, hon. I'll pop a fresh one in the fryer for you.

THE KID

Thanks!

Waitress walks off

You were saying, Theo? About Mason?

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

I was sayin' he was ambitious, and I got caught up in it. He started wanting to run bigger jobs, more dangerous jobs. My reputation started to get big. Too big for my own fool head.

June tried to stop me. Tried to warn me. Saw that wickedness in Mason and saw it growin' in me, too. And I wish I could say I was gentle about it, that I was fair. But I told her to fuck off. Called her a coward. Spit on her kindness, her concern.

And then I met Felina.

It was like you said, behind that bar on Raven Station. I stumbled out, drunker'n a yardie on payday, and there she was. She was cryin', scared. I don't know her story, but it weren't a good one. Got her cleaned up, got her safe. She stayed by my side after that.

Bit by bit, I felt June's words starting to sink in. I finally told Mason I wanted out, too. We wanted out. Me and Felina. Mason didn't like that so much, but he said there were no hard feelings. Had one last job planned, wanted me in on it. Then we'd go our separate ways. I agreed, because I'm a fuckin' idiot.

There weren't no job. I didn't realize it 'til we were in a back alley in New New Vegas. My old stomping grounds. Probably he thought that was funny.

He hit me hard, back of the head, and before I knew it, Mason was beating my ass half to death. He was—he was so angry, and I could finally see it like June had. I thought about that, as he made a jigsaw puzzle of my face. Hoped June weren't too disappointed. Hoped once she got the news I was dead that she'd see to Felina, keep her safe.

And then Mason decided he'd worked out enough of his demons kicking my jaw in. Stopped. He was breathin' heavy, covered in my blood. I could barely see and everything was movin' real, real slow.

He-- he brought her out. Had her waiting, tied up. She tried to come to me. I remember that. Cried out for me. God, I've woken up at night, thinkin 'bout this. I've ...

THE KID

Theo, I'm-- I'm sorry, I didn't mean to make you do this. I ...

THEO

It's alright, kid. It needs tellin'. I been hidin' from it for long enough.

He shot her, anyways. Felina. I saw her go down. Saw the blood. Everything went dark for me after that. He'd sold me out for my bounty. Wanted to be the man who killed Thelonius Graves. But he'd taken too long in the alley, too long making a show, and had to leave my body behind. Felina's too, I thought.

Station police threw me out with the fuckin' trash. I got fished out later on by some NoGos lookin' for scrap. They took one glance at me and knew I needed to get the fuck off New New Vegas. Stowed me away. Got me to a doc on another station. It took me months not to eat out of a tube.

Pause

I don't know how to end this story. But that's the long and short of it. I don't know what he's done to Felina, if she's gonna be okay. I want her to be okay. God, more than anything, I want her to be okay.

THE KID

She's gonna be okay. We're gonna make her okay.

THEO

You think so?

THE KID

I'm June Patel's kid. I know so.

THEO

Good, 'cause that motherfucker is about to walk in right now.

Door opens, bell jingles, heavy footsteps

MASON

(to one of the waitstaff)
Rosa! A pleasure, as always. I
don't suppose I could trouble you
for a coffee?

Oh, and a danish would be lovely. You're a doll.

THE KID

That's him? He's, um.

Well, he's old. And about to eat a danish. I don't know what I expected, I guess.

THEO

Yeah, well. Villainy don't keep you young. Or kill your sweet tooth. He's just a man, same as he was before.

He's also the crooked sheriff of a bumfuck Martian settlement and the most vicious fuckin' snake I ever laid eyes on. God, I didn't think I'd ever see that fuckin' grin on his face again. But where's--

Oh my God. There. Do you see her?

THE KID

Felina??

Where?! Where is she?

THEO

There! Over there. With the posse he brought in behind him. Christ, just look at her. I didn't think ... I didn't think I'd ever see her again. She looks perfect, she-- she looks okay, I think. She looks like she might be okay. What if she doesn't know me anymore? What if she--

THE KID

Theo.

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

What? Fuck's sake, kid, we gotta get ready to move, we--

THE KID

Theo.

Felina's a dog, isn't she?

THEO

Of course she's a dog! Kid, you think I'd go to all this trouble for a woman?!

THE KID

Okay, okay! I just, um-- the way you and Ma talked, I thought she was. You know. A person.

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

If you wanna back out, now's your chance.

THE KID

No, no. Definitely not.

But, uh. What are we gonna do? He's got the three guys at the door and Felina on a leash. Do we have ... do we just, um. Shoot? I don't even have any guns.

We should've probably planned this out better. Or at all.

THEO

You don't have guns and you ain't gettin' any. I'm not gettin' you shot up, your Ma's ghost'd kick my ass. Just follow my lead, that's the plan.

THE KID

Follow your lead? What's--

Sound of someone suddenly standing; a chair pushing back

THEO

Mason, you son of a bitch!

Background noise in the diner stops

THE KID

Oh God.

Mason

Well, well! I'd recognize that pretty face anywhere. Thelonius Graves, as I live and breathe.

Didn't I kill you once already?

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

It didn't take.

Mason

Apparently not. You know, I'm not surprised. I never was able to find your body.

THEO

Give me back my doq.

MASON

Ah, ah, ah! She's my dog, now. Finder's keepers, that's how we

always ran things, remember? I couldn't claim your bounty, but I got to keep my little trophy. Like her former master, she was too goddamn stupid to die.

And, see? She's mostly in one piece! My deputies keep her fed and only kick her around when she really, really needs it.

THEO

Give me. Back. My dog.

Mason

You've got a lot of nerve, showing up after so many years to try and order me about. The great Theo Graves, limping and sunburnt and scarred. You look like hell.

You know, I never could get out from under your shadow. Frustrating, that. After you were gone the jobs got scarce. Went from feasting to picking up crumbs, and no one believed I'd killed you. Well, I guess they had me, there.

Felina's mine. And it looks like you're outnumbered. These fine, upstanding young peacekeepers make it four-to-one. Or is it four-to-two? Who's that with you?

Ah! Either way, the odds are against you. Would've been a tough one in your prime, but we're years past that. When was the last time you drew a gun, Thelonius?

 $\mathbf{T}$ HEO

It's been a minute, sure. But it's the only thing I was ever good at. I ain't worried.

MASON

(laughs)
'Ain't worried,' he says! I love
it.

Well-- how about this? Why don't we step outside? Settle this thing proper, like gentlemen. We don't want to stir up any trouble in front of all these poor, innocent bystanders, do we? And you're not exactly at an advantage here.

So. Me and you, right now. Outside. Winner takes all.

THEO

No.

MASON

I'm sorry, 'no'?

THEO

No. I ain't doin' that.

Mason

Well, then I'm afraid we're at a bit of an impasse--

A single gunshot; Mason cries out in pain

THE KID

Theo!

More gunshots; sound of bodies falling

Slow footsteps as Theo walks up to Mason

 ${\bf M}$ ASON

(surprised)

You motherfucker--

THEO

I said 'no.'

A final gunshot

THE KID

Oh my God. Oh my God. You shot-oh my God, they're all dead. How'd you fire that fast?! I-

THEO

Get Felina.

THE KID

Theo! You're bleeding!

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathsf{HEO}}$ 

Just a graze. Deputy outdrew me but couldn't aim for shit.

You okay? Felina-- is she okay? Did she ...

Dog panting noises; sounds of distress

THE KID

I'm fine! Felina's fine, she just-- I don't think she can see so well. She's scared. Here, I'll let her off the leash.

Leash unclips

It's okay, girl. It's okay. See? We're here to help you.

More dog panting

Тнео

She doesn't ... she doesn't know me. She doesn't recognize me.

THE KID

Here, just come closer. Let her smell you.

THEO

It's alright, girl. Hell, look at you. Grayer than me, even. Nearly as scarred. But you're still my best girl.

You've always been my best girl.

You know me, don't you? I know my face ain't the same, but it--

Felina sniffs Theo, happily licks his face

That's it, that's my girl! I found you, I found you!

Happy dog barks

I missed you. Every goddamn day I missed you.

Pause

THE KID

Um. Theo.

Sorry. It's just, we should, um. We should probably go. There's kind of ... well, everyone's lookin'.

THEO

Well, we done killed the law, so they ain't callin' nobody.

Hey, miss?

WAITRESS

We don't have any money the Sheriff hasn't already been taking. We--

THEO

Oh, no ma'am, I don't need your money. In fact, here.

Sound of Theo unclipping his gun belt

You can have these. I don't need 'em anymore. Sell 'em. Make back what he took and more. Genuine Martian red brass. Grips is Europan pearl. All I ask is when the proper law comes by, you tell 'em all about the old man with the

fucked up face. Nothin' about the kid, here.

Pause

WAITRESS

What kid?

THEO

(laughs)

Y'all have a nice day. We won't bother you again.

WAITRESS

Oh, wait! Here, this finished while you was-- well, here. Have it to-go.

THE KID

Oh, my thrice-fried pie! Hell yeah!

THEO

Alright, kid. Let's get the fuck outta here. I--

Shit, guess I'll see if I can go back to Mercury.

THE KID

No.

THEO

What-- wait, you can't 'no' me, kid. It don't work both ways like that.

THE KID

Sure it does.

No, you're not goin' back to Mercury. You and Felina are comin' with me. You can say hi to Mom. Visit Ma's grave. Get that graze looked at. Get some biscuits that's homemade. We got some land, maybe Felina'd like to run on it. You're retired from outlawing, and frankly, I am too. This was enough to last me a lifetime. I'm fine with eating pies and petting dogs.

THEO

Honestly?

Me, too.

You know, kid, I don't even know your name.

THE KID

My Ma named me after an old gunslinger she used to run with. She said he was rough around the edges, and always lookin' for what's comin', but there was a kindness in his eyes you couldn't mistake. And he tried to do the right thing, even if it didn't always work out. Even if he messed it up.

But she always told me it was the trying that mattered. And, you know what? I think she was right.

Pause

THEO

Ain't that the damndest thing.

Alright. Let's go.

Come on, girl.

Happy dog noises

WAITRESS

Hey, mister?

THEO

Yeah?

WAITRESS

That's a nice dog you got, there.

THEO

Yes ma'am, she is. She sure enough is.

## Scene fades out

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

This episode, Felina, Goodbye, was written and directed by Erika Kaiser and edited by Scott Paladin

Thelonius Patel aka the Kid was voiced by Jeremiah Thelonius Graves was voiced by Scott Paladin Mason was voiced by M. German Felina was voiced by Eloise with additional voice work by Erika Kaiser

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.

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Erika and I, Scott, would like to dedicate this episode to Baby Dog and Eloise and all the other Felinas out there