

Breathing Space, Fading Frontier  
contains adult language and  
situations, including alcohol use,  
and romantic relationships.

This episode contains depictions  
of large scale disaster and the  
effects thereof, employer violence  
and abuse, including intentional  
neglect of employee safety, and an  
on-screen panic attack.

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

INT. A GRUBBY RENTED ROOM ON ROGERS STATION. - DAY

NEWTON WIGGIN  
It's happening.

FELICITY FUMERO  
What?

NEWTON WIGGIN  
The storm, Felicity.

FELICITY FUMERO  
Oh. Yeah, you've been saying.

NEWTON WIGGIN  
No. I mean that it's happening.

FELICITY FUMERO

Newt ...

NEWTON WIGGIN

It's happening right now, idiot.

FELICITY FUMERO

What do you mean 'now'?

NEWTON WIGGIN

I mean Occulohelios says charged particle emissions are off the charts. They just made up a new rating system to classify the strength of this flare. The live feed from the home office is dead. I got nothing from Venus or Luna either.

The eggheads were right. I was right. It's starting now.

FELICITY FUMERO

Shit.

NEWTON WIGGIN

Those bastards on the board were so sure the threat was overblown that they sent us out to motherfucking Saturn just to get me get me out of earshot.

Guess what, fuckers? I was right. And now they're off the air.

FELICITY FUMERO

Newt, you don't need to sound so pleased.

NEWTON WIGGIN

No time for propriety, hot shot. We need to get you broadcasting.

FELICITY FUMERO

You said the feed ...

NEWTON WIGGIN

We got a camera and a line to this station's transmitter. We've got the redline auth key and we're logged into a blueline central relay. I'll pull facts out of the unencrypted buffer and spoon them straight into your ear. Look, this thing is going to knock everybody inside the belt on their asses. Somebody needs to be providing people with real information and we're the ones positioned to do it.

FELICITY FUMERO

OK. You got a point there. We're journalists. Let's do some journalism.

Gimme five to wash my face, change shirts, and we'll go.

NEWTON WIGGIN

That's the spirit. The truth will out, baby.

Pause

Nova News Network breaking news musical sing plays

FELICITY FUMERO

Good evening. Tonight, on the eve of a new century, the solar system finds itself on the leading edge of a disturbance within our sun, the star on which all our worlds rely, which ties them together. A disturbance unlike any in recorded history. This is Felicity Fumero, Nova News Network, Redline U142, reporting from Rogers Station.

As this situation develops, we will bring you the best

information at our disposal, with what context and guidance we can, in hopes that we may weather together through the storm ahead.

The rapid and drastic increase in radiation appears to have already disrupted communication in parts of the inner solar system, but reports of severe damage to satellites, ships, and orbitals around Venus and Earth were relayed before being lost in the noise. According to scientists with the Occulohelios observatory, we can expect high energy radiation to cause damage to all unshielded ...

Voice fades out

Scene Break

INT. MANDA ACTERBERG'S APARTMENT, DION. RIOT SOUNDS OUTSIDE, YELLING, BREAKING GLASS, POLICE, SIRENS.

#### THE VOICE OF YUKON

(over loudspeaker)

Attention, associates! The YuKon family thanks you for your patience as we strive to improve ourselves for you! We're hard at work upgrading our facilities and infrastructures, and appreciate your understanding.

At this time, a 24 hour stay-at-home order remains in place. Take time off for self care! Connect with your family! Refresh and renew yourself! Take a staycation! Monetary compensation will not be provided for missed shifts.

At this time, all public service buildings including Nutrition Facilities, R&R Centers and MedHealth Offices remain closed, but we're pleased to announce that the delivery fee has been waived for *all* orders delivered to an officially-logged employee address! Let *us* bring your supplies to *you*! Please note that standard processing costs apply.

As we work on ourselves, YuKon security will maintain an active presence in our communities. Our MOUNTIES, security drones, and Robotic Security Officers are here for everyone's safety, but please be aware that due to a slightly increased risk to personnel and equipment, they have been authorized to protect *themselves* as they protect *you*.

We're excited to reveal a brand new YuKon, and appreciate your understanding in this transitionary time. Remember, you put the Yu in YuKon!

Pause

Attention, associates! The YuKon family thanks you for your patience as we strive to improve ourselves for you! We're hard at work upgrading our facilities and infrastructures, and appreciate--

Broadcast cuts off

JAMILLA BATORI

What?

ANGUS SPARACELLO

The lights!

MANDA ACTERBERG  
The hell??

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
Oh my god.

MANDA ACTERBERG  
Everyone be quiet.

Shut up!

Pause

OK. We've lost power. Not just the  
lights. The 8VAC is off, too.

JAMILLA BATORI  
What ... what happened?

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
Who turned the power off?

ANGUS SPARACELLO  
Did we win? Did community  
solidarity triumph over repressive  
capitalism?

MANDA ACTERBERG  
Shut up, Angus.

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
I'm going to look. And open the  
curtains, maybe the street lights  
are bright enough to let us see  
better.

JAMILLA BATORI  
No! Stay away from the windows!  
They've been shooting.

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
I'll keep low.

Sound of movement, curtains rustling

Damn. It's dark out there, too.  
The streetlights are gone.

MANDA ACTERBERG  
Shit. Ok. I've got candles.

Rustling sounds; drawers opening

Somewhere.

ANGUS SPARACELLO  
What do you see, Lynette?

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
Give me a minute. My eyes need to  
adjust.

It's ... strange.

ANGUS SPARACELLO  
What?!

MANDA ACTERBERG  
Here, they're tropical paradise  
scented, but. They light.

JAMILLA BATORI  
What's happening out there?

Lynette?

MANDA ACTERBERG  
Lynette! What's *happening*?

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
They ... they've all just stopped.

JAMILLA BATORI  
What?

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
The drones. And the 'bots.

The armored cars too.

And ... the billboards?

Everything's dead.

MANDA ACTERBERG

What? Dead? Like they were  
damaged?

LYNETTE MOMOKA

No. They look like they're frozen.  
Deactivated.

The drones ... it's like they just  
fell out of the sky.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

Like they just ... stopped  
working? All of a sudden? But  
they're company-owned.

MANDA ACTERBERG

That surprises you? They're  
*company-owned*.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

Yeah, but they wouldn't cut  
corners on their security.

Would they?

JAMILLA BATORI

The backups should be kicking in  
any time now. We'll have lights  
soon.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

Do you think maybe the company ...  
maybe they did it? Turned  
everything off? Maybe this is  
retaliation. You said the HVAC is  
off. What if the atmo is? For Dion  
itself.

MANDA ACTERBERG

Oh, brilliant idea. Maybe they  
just turned off all their own  
equipment. Maybe they just turned



off the air for an entire  
asteroid.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

They might! To get back at us. To  
make us need them. To make us  
break. To keep us from joining  
with the workers of the system in  
our glorious uprising.

JAMILLA BATORI

They wouldn't. They need us.

LYNETTE MOMOKA

It's the whole housing sector, I  
think. I can't see lights  
anywhere.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

Maybe they decided to smother us.  
Or starve us. If they can't beat  
us with their drones.

JAMILLA BATORI

Shut up, Angus.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

I'm just saying. The strike has  
been going on for 3 weeks. That's  
a lot of orders. A lot of money.  
Maybe YuKon has decided to just  
cut their losses.

MANDA ACTERBERG

Are you saying they're trying to  
kill--

JAMILLA BATORI

This isn't a *game* or a *holo*. This  
isn't going to end with us  
marching off into the sunset under  
the banner of the IWM!

ANGUS SPARACELLO

Sure. I know! But this is our  
chance! For community to rise up!

To show solidarity in the face  
of--

LYNETTE MOMOKA

Oh my god! Everyone, get down!

Crashing noise; rubble and debris flying

Silence

JAMILLA BATORI

Is everyone ok? Lynette? Angus?

LYNETTE MOMOKA

Yeah, fine.

ANGUS SPARACELLO

I'm OK.

MANDA ACTERBERG

What the hell was that?

LYNETTE MOMOKA

A YuKopter. One of the remote  
ones. It ... I saw it coming down.  
Like the drones-- it just ...  
fell.

It hit the R&R Center and  
exploded. God, I hope everyone's  
ok.

MANDA ACTERBERG

Good thing everything's shut down.

JAMILLA BATORI

I can't hear a fire response  
truck. It can't be too bad.

LYNETTE MOMOKA

I guess not. But it looks bad.

MANDA ACTERBERG

I'll call it in. Just in case.

Footsteps

Shit. Comm's out too.

JAMILLA BATORI  
Call the emergency tip line.

MANDA ACTERBERG  
That's out too.

JAMILLA BATORI  
What?

MANDA ACTERBERG  
It's all dead. Not even a connect  
tone.

ANGUS SPARACELLO  
It's everything electric.  
Everything that needs power. Isn't  
it?

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
The whole R&R center is catching.  
This looks ... really bad.  
Jamilla, should we ...?

JAMILLA BATORI  
I don't think-- it's not our  
responsibility ...

ANGUS SPARACELLO  
It's YuKon. They're doing it.  
They're just going to let us die.  
They'd rather kill us then let us  
unionize.

LYNETTE MOMOKA  
No. We'll be ok. It's just a power  
outage.

MANDA ACTERBERG  
Lynette. It's more than that.

ANGUS SPARACELLO  
Wait, what?

Manda, do you really think that  
the company--

MANDA ACTERBERG

I didn't say that, Angus.

I said it's something. I didn't say they did it. But this isn't a power outage. Or, not just one. The drones are self-powered. They don't work off the grid. Even if the power died, they'd still run.

So would the emergency services, and the tip comm. They have backups for their backups. This is bigger. And I don't think it's going to just be all right.

LYNETTE MOMOKA

But YuKon will help. Won't they? Manda? They didn't do it, and they're going to fix it.

MANDA ACTERBERG

I don't think YuKon did it, but I don't think they're coming to help us either. I don't think they can.

I don't care about unions. I don't care about company loyalty. But I sure as hell care about my apartment burning down. And since there isn't any *union* or *company* here right now to stop that from happening, I'm going to do something about it myself.

Are you three going to just sit there and act like you're going to get rescued from this situation, or are you going to help me *do* something about it?

Scene Break

INT. A GRUBBY RENTED ROOM ON ROGERS STATION. - DAY

Voice fades in

FELICITY FUMERO

Although we do not have any  
detailed reports as yet, fragments  
of communication from the inner  
worlds have made it through the  
solar wind. Particularly hard hit  
appear to be the orbitals around  
Venus, including the facility at  
Dion, and the daylight side of  
Luna, where surface habitats  
appear to have been unprepared for  
...

Voice fades out

Scene Break

INT. A MAKESHIFT TRAUMA CENTER. LUNA - DAY

Loud crowd noises. Distressed Voices. Medical machinery.

MEDIC

More?

ORDERLY

Yeah.

MEDIC

Fuck. OK. Set him here.

ORDERLY

(with a grunt of effort)

Okay, there you go, buddy. A nice  
bit of wall to lean against.

BAHRAM ATARAH

I don't--

MEDIC

Can you hear me, sir?

BAHRAM ATARAH

Yes. I can hear just fine.

MEDIC

This is a remote vital monitor.  
It's going to sting a bit when I  
apply it.

BAHRAM ATARAH

(snorts derisively)

Drop in the bucket at this point.

MEDIC

(cataloging to  
themselves)

Subject is a middle aged martian  
male. Moderate hypoxia. Vacuum  
burns. General Barotrauma. Level 1  
R.E.D. with exposure. Code 3. No  
alert. Monitor and reassess triage  
level gamma.

(to Atarah)

Sir, your O2 is still low. I don't  
have a spare supply so just keep  
taking deep breaths the best you  
can. OK?

BAHRAM ATARAH

Doing my best.

MEDIC

Good.

(under breath)

I don't like the look of that eye.

(to Atarah)

Follow the light for me. There.  
Yeah.

BAHRAM ATARAH

I'm not seeing much on that side.

MEDIC

I expect not. But you're out of  
danger, I think. Any emboli should  
have collapsed when you  
repressurized. Keep taking deep  
breaths to replenish your O2 and  
wait here. The central team will

be tracking you via the RVM. I'll see if I can have someone come look at that eye.

If you need someone urgently, slap the button the RVM.

Medic leaves; Atarah takes a deep breath

VALE

Rough night?

BAHRAM ATARAH

You could say that.

VALE

Where were you that you caught a taste of vacuum?

BAHRAM ATARAH

Orbit. Passenger shuttle.

VALE

Shit. You're lucky to be alive.

BAHRAM ATARAH

Yes. I suppose.

VALE

Did you crash?

BAHRAM ATARAH

We did. Sort of. We were coming in over the night side, supposed to land at New Houston but that was over the horizon and the storm was ...

We redirected to Lunaris instead. Came in too fast.

VALE

Must have had a damn good pilot for anybody to walk away at all.

BAHRAM ATARAH

I think she was.

I'm sorry. Are you injured as well?

VALE

Eh, just a broken leg. I got a bit trampled trying to evacuate from the surface dome. When the fireworks started, everyone wanted to get down here under a couple dozen meters of good old mother Luna. Not too bad. And we're all safe as can be down here.

BAHRAM ATARAH

That's good.

Pause

VALE

Name's Vale, by the way.

BAHRAM ATARAH

Bahram Atarah.

VALE

Pleasure to make your acquaintance. Where were you coming in from?

BAHRAM ATARAH

The belt. Pallas.

VALE

Heh. Bet you wish you'd stayed out there about now.

BAHRAM ATARAH

Yes.

Have you heard anything about the orbitals?

VALE



Uh ... yeah. Not good. They say  
they're on fire. Or near enough.

BAHRAM ATARAH  
My parents live on Abdeen. Retired  
there.

VALE  
Well, maybe Abdeen was night side  
at the time. Orbitals have escape  
procedures ... you never know.

BAHRAM ATARAH  
I suppose.

Um ... What do you do, Mx. Vale?

VALE  
Oh, just Vale. I'm ... I'm with  
the stevedores guild. Run an  
autoloader most shifts.

BAHRAM ATARAH  
Right. Do you have-- are you from  
Lunaris?

VALE  
Born and raised. Can't afford  
anyplace nicer. What about you?  
Were are you from?

BAHRAM ATARAH  
Mars.

VALE  
Ah.

I hear it's nice.

BAHRAM ATARAH  
It was. I hope it still is.

Scene Break

INT. A GRUBBY RENTED ROOM ON ROGERS STATION. - DAY

Voice fades in

FELICITY FUMERO

As we move into another hour of  
this unprecedented event, I will  
repeat the advice of the experts  
in this matter: Stay inside your  
ships and stations. If you are  
within the orbit of Jupiter,  
prepare yourself for possible  
electrical problems and  
electrostatic buildup. Ships that  
can are advised to move into the  
shadow of the nearest rocky body  
...

Voice fades out

Scene Break

INT. RINGMASTER'S QUARTERS IN THE CARNIVALE DE VAGABONDI STELLARI - NIGHT

Engine noises; warning klaxon; sound of a button being pressed  
and typing noises

ILMATER

Bux, why are we ... Bux?

Smacking sound as she hits the comm

Stupid comms. OK. Emergency lights  
are on. I suppose that means an  
emergency. I hope I don't need  
this.

Fabric rustling noises as Ilmater starts to put on her space  
suit

Sound of hatch opening

GERMID

Oh good. Ms. Ilmater. I think  
something is wrong with the ...

ILMATER

I do believe you are correct,  
Portwait. Power is offline. I  
would suggest going back into your

quarters and making sure your suit is in order.

GERMID

My suit? Is this really the time for--

ILMATER

Your space suit. Like this one I'm putting on right now. There's one in your gear bag. Go put it on. In an emergency, it's good to be prepared. Ramon can show you how if you need. I am headed to the bridge to check in on Mr. Bones.

Sound of hatch opening

Sound of someone pressing keys, flipping switches

Bux, are you all right?

BUXLEY BONES

Yeah, fine. The Zazel's not doing too great though.

ILMATER

What happened?

BUXLEY BONES

I'm not sure. Everything was hunky dory and then ... shit.

ILMATER

What?

BUXLEY BONES

Nothing is responding. It's like the whole electrics are fried. Only time I've seen something like this before, I got hit with an EMP in an active shooting zone.

ILMATER

When were you in an active shooting zone?

BUXLEY BONES

I did have a life before I joined  
the circus, boss.

ILMATER

Well, can you fix it?

BUXLEY BONES

Maybe. If whatever hit us only  
tripped some overcurrent  
protection and scrambled the  
central computer. Maybe we can  
reset, or bypass whatever is the  
problem.

ILMATER

Get started on that. Where are the  
*Sandwina* and the *Oakley*?

BUXLEY BONES

The Oak's way out cause of that  
delay at Europa. Probably not even  
past the belt yet. Sandy's near by  
though. She did her rendezvous  
burn two hours ago and was  
coasting in the rest of the way.

ILMATER

Maybe we can make contact with her  
then. See if they can help.

BUXLEY BONES

Or need help worse than we do.

ILMATER

I would be a much happier person  
if you didn't say things like  
that, Buxley Bones. Do what you  
can here and I'll see to the  
*Sandwina*.

Sound of hatch opening; movement

Elexa, are you and your Griffon's  
all right? No injuries?

ELEXA

We're all fine. What's going on?  
The whole ship is dark.

ILMATER

Something like an EMP, according  
to Mr. Bones.

ELEXA

Shit.

ILMATER

That was what he said, yes. The  
*Sandwina* should be nearby. Do you  
think we could signal her somehow?  
The radios in our suits, perhaps?

ELEXA

Worth a shot. I can pop my head  
out of the hanger and give it a  
try. You coming out too?

ILMATER

I think it's best if I do.

ELEXA

Helmet on then, boss.

Sound of helmets being donned; buttons being pressed; air  
woosh noises as airlock cycles

Chime of suit radios turning on

ILMATER

Suit radios seem to be OK.

ELEXA

I'm cranking the hanger doors. At  
least the pneumatics are working  
for now. Don't want to do that  
manually.

ILMATER

There she is. Not far. *Sandwina*,  
this is Alois Ilmater on the  
*Zazel*. Do you read? Repeat, this

is Alois Ilmater on the Zazel.  
Sandwina or anyone aboard, do you  
read?

ELEXA  
She's dark. I think whatever got  
us got them too.

ILMATER  
Not completely. Look at the  
bridge.

ELEXA  
Green and red lights. That's  
belter sign.

ILMATER  
Oh, I never learned sign.

ELEXA  
They're saying the power's off  
there too. Something about a solar  
fart? No, solar wind. Or storm  
maybe.

ILMATER  
Can you signal them back? Let them  
know our status. Then figure out a  
way to dock with them. Better to  
be stranded together than drifting  
apart.

ELEXA  
You got it. I'll grab the rest of  
the Griffons. We can mag-clamp the  
flyers to the Zazel and Sandy's  
hulls. Act as reaction control and  
push them together. Get the ships  
docked.

ILMATER  
Thank you, Elexa. If anyone can  
pull that off, I know it's you.  
I'm going back inside.

Movement sounds; another air woosh as the airlock cycles

Sound of hatch opening

Well, some of the lights are back on. That's a good sign.

Movement sounds

Buxley Bones! How is our ship?

BUXLEY BONES

Well, things aren't quite six ways to Sunday. Five at most. Maybe as low as four. I've got us air and minimum power. Some systems are coming back online after resets but it's slow going. Taking one by one.

ILMATER

Put the radios at the top of your list. I want to talk to the Sandwina and get a distress signal going.

BUXLEY BONES

Got it.

ILMATER

Elexa's outside. Give me a status update in ten minutes. If you or she needs me, I'm going to the galley to speak with the rest of the carnivale.

Movement sounds as Ilmater leaves the bridge; she pauses and begins to breathe deeply and heavily, as if panicked

Distant sound of the airlock cycling; Ilmater tries to regain composure as someone approaches

ELEXA

Boss. You OK?

ILMATER

I'm fine. It's nothing.

ELEXA

You're shaking like a leaf.

ILMATER

Just need a minute. All of this,  
it's a lot.

ELEXA

Take a breath. Happens to the best  
of us. You should have seen me  
after my first solo flight.

ILMATER

It's just-- I'm a Ringmaster, a  
showboat. I'm not qualified for an  
emergency like this.

This is all tightrope, no net, and  
I am winging it.

ELEXA

You know what's pretty good  
training for a high pressure  
situation? The number of plates  
you keep spinning on a daily  
basis, all while dealing with  
every crisis under the sun, and  
putting on three shows a day.

This isn't that different at its  
core.

ILMATER

That's just a show. This feels  
real. I could get us all killed.  
Everyone I care about is on one of  
these ships.

ELEXA

Well, do you trust any of us to  
handle this better?

ILMATER

(laughs)



No. Good point.

OK, no rest for the weary. Back to the crisis at hand. I need to make sure everyone stays calm. You and your team need to get docking underway.

ELEXA

Yes, ma'am.

ILMATER

And thank you.

Movement noises

Crowd noises

Your attention please! I'm sure you're all worried and wanting to know more. I dare say that I am as well.

Our infinitely capable captain, Mr. Bones, is working on restoring the ship's systems, and the inestimable Elexa is going to dock us with the *Sandwina*. The best thing we can do in the meantime is stay calm and collected.

RAMON

Do we know what caused this?

ILMATER

The current indication is some sort of aberrant solar activity.

Clanging sound; electrical whine

GERMID

What's that?

ILMATER

That is, I believe, Mr. Bones at work.

Sharp electrical noise as radio cuts on

BUXLEY BONES

(over radio)

Anybody there?

ILMATER

We're here.

BUXLEY BONES

Comms online. I got a squawk from the Sandy; they're pretty much like us. But there's a tight-beam from the Oak coming through the noise. They're fully operational and want to know the plan.

ILMATER

I'll be right there, Bux. Thank you.

(to the crowd)

As you can see, our situation is improving by the moment. With the Oakley in fine working order, all we need is to stay safe until she arrives. While I am coordinating that, I urge you all to remain here and look after one another. We have gotten through every adversity so far by doing just that and I don't plan to abandon a winning strategy now.

Stick together and we'll persevere in the face of all odds.

RAMON

Thanks, boss.

ILMATER

Of course.

For this carnivale, I am always here.

Scene Break

INT. A GRUBBY RENTED ROOM ON ROGERS STATION. - NIGHT

Voice fades in

FELICITY FUMERO

... I'm sure you viewers will understand that we must pause our coverage for a little while. We at Nova News Network are only human, after all. In the meantime, please maintain your caution as we wait out the effects of the solar storm. And we will keep our thoughts on the people of the inner worlds, Venus, Mars, Luna, and Earth.

Scene Break

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT

Knocking sounds

GABS

Ace? You in there?

Don't make me break this door down!

More knocking

Please, really, don't make me break it down. I got pins and anchors in both shoulders.

Door opens

ALEX

Gabs? What are you doing here?

GABS

Are you okay? Everything is going to shit outside!

ALEX

Yeah, which is why you should be at home where it's safe!

Is ... did you walk here? Your complex is across the city!

GABS

Of course I walked here! The mission comes first. Besides, I still got it in me. I ain't that washed up.

Pause

I'm lying. My everything hurts. Can I come in and sit? Full disclosure, I am very sweaty. Maybe set a towel down.

ALEX

You're exhausting.

Yeah, come on in. I'll get you a glass of water.

GABS

What a pal.

Door closes behind her

Ooh, do you have any more of those wheat crackers like you had last time? The ones with the little seeds on top?

ALEX

Oh my God. You came here to check on me and now you want to eat all of my food?

GABS

But the little seeds, though.

ALEX

(sighs)

I'll check.

GABS

Find me a box of grid squares  
while you're at it.

Impact noise

Ow!

ALEX

Your crackers, Staff Sergeant.

GABS

Rude to throw things at a disabled  
veteran. I'm on a hair trigger,  
over here.

Hey-- for real though, you good?  
You need anything?

ALEX

Yeah, I'm good. I mean, as much as  
I can be. No power, obviously.  
I've got the windows open to keep  
it cool, and to ... well, to look.  
I guess.

Sound of sirens and general chaos outside  
coming in from the window

I feel like I shouldn't, like  
admiring it is, I dunno.  
Tasteless? Bad form?

GABS

Yeah, I get it. It's hard not to  
look. There's crowds of people  
outside, all just ... starin'.  
Stopped in the middle of their  
commutes, middle of their  
breakfast. Nowhere to go, nowhere  
to be. None of it matters right  
now.

ALEX

I've never seen a sky like it.

GABS

Me neither. Northern lights on steroids.

ALEX

It's beautiful.

Pause

I'm scared of it. It's going to get a lot worse, before it gets better. We're the lucky ones, and it's still gonna be ...

GABS

A shitshow.

ALEX

Yeah.

GABS

Well, we can make the best of it.

No power for a while, I figure, but we can consolidate supplies. Keep our heads low. Stuff like this, you gotta just wait out. You know?

ALEX

Yeah. I guess so.

GABS

What's on your mind, Ace?

ALEX

It's just ...

It's my platoon. Last they could tell me, they were out past Venus, which ...

GABS

Shit.

ALEX

Yeah. Exactly.

GABS

We can send out feelers once we start getting communication chains back up. Campbell knows some people, and I got a few contacts that might still be willing to speak to me. Either way, we'll find out if they're alright.

ALEX

Right, yeah. That'd be good. We just gotta hunker down.

GABS

Right.

ALEX

Yeah.

GABS

It's a good plan. Hunker down.

ALEX

For sure.

GABS

(sighs)

You got a bag packed already, don't you?

ALEX

Of course. You?

GABS

Yeah.

I left Mr. Cat with Campbell. Told her it'd probably be a while. She understood. She always understands.

ALEX

That's good-- wait, you carried your cat all the way to Campbell's apartment?

GABS

The mission! Comes! First!

Anyways, yeah, it sucked and Mr. Cat could stand to lose a few pounds.

You sure about this? I hate to say it, but our reckless hero days are over. Our combined disability percentage is, what? Like 150%?

ALEX

That's one hell of a pep talk. But ... yeah. Don't get me wrong, I know it's the opposite of what we're supposed to do. But getting off planet should be easy, since everyone's going to be scrambling here to deal with, well. That. So I figure slipping out the other way shouldn't be too bad.

I just gotta know they're okay. I owe them that much. It's like ... there's a part of me that only they can understand, and that part of me needs to know. Needs to see.

Needs to fight that terrible, beautiful sky a little bit, maybe.

Why are you ... what are you doing?

GABS

Orbital buddy secret handshake. Bring it in.

ALEX

There's ... there's no such thing. I can't over-emphasize how much we do not have a secret handshake.

Also you're still very, um.



Sweaty. I'll just stay over here,  
if that's okay.

GABS  
Fine, be that way.

ALEX  
You don't have to come with me,  
you know.

GABS  
I do. Have to come with you, I  
mean. But it's because of me, not  
because of you, so don't worry  
about it.

ALEX  
Okay.

Thank you.

For your service.

GABS  
I can't stand you, do you know  
that?

ALEX  
Yeah, I know.

Now hurry up and eat your crackers  
so we can figure out how we're  
getting off this rock.

Scene fades out

End of Part One. Next time, on Breathing Space, Fading Frontier--

Clips from upcoming scenes play in quick succession:

FELICITY FUMERO  
22 hours we were on air, and it's  
still going.

Comm beeps

ISHNA DIAZ

--didn't think it was ... Hello?  
Jemma?

EVIE YURISDOTTIR  
You look like shit.

FELICITY FUMERO  
(startled)  
What?! Are we OK? What happened?!

ISHNA DIAZ  
Is power out over in your sector  
too?

YURI ARTUROSIN  
Etienne and I are at Arcturus.  
We're OK but the station took a  
bad hit.

JEMMA FALCANO  
My dad's stranded at the port  
right now.

ETIANNE CALSDOTTIR  
I saw it on the scopes. The outer  
hull lit up like a nova when the  
solar winds started hitting it.

EVIE YURISDOTTIR  
Oh shit, do we know how that ship  
is doing?

NEWTON WIGGIN  
Right. Let's get going. Sooner we  
recoup, the sooner we can report  
the fucking news again.

Join us on December 31st, for Part Two and the conclusion of We  
Interrupt This Program, our Season One finale.